

Harrisburg is a small town situated off the left bank of the Susquehanna. A market-place, supported by columns, forms its centre. The houses which surround it are built of brick. The court of justice is a large and elegantly constructed building; and the churches rival those of the chief towns in the United States.

It contains fourteen hundred inhabitants; one half of whom are Germans, and the other Americans, who have emigrated from the Northern States. Notwithstanding the pleasure that I received in viewing its environs, I was obliged to leave it the day after my arrival; for the only public conveyance, able to be procured, is the mail-coach, which only goes through it once a-week during bad weather.

Carlisle is only eighteen miles distant from Harrisburg. I arrived in it in a few hours, without having seen any thing worthy of notice on the road. It is, in my opinion, the most unpleasant town in the United States. Being built on a dry and unequal ground, surrounded with forests of pines, I endeavoured to discover what could attract the first inhabitants to settle there. I was informed that this place had been chosen during the war for the head-quarters of the American troops, and that the desire of gain had first attracted sutlers and speculators. It contains some churches, a court of justice, and small barracks, which are falling to decay. The water is hard, and of a bad quality. The weather since I left Philadelphia had been mild and agreeable; but the day previous to my departure from Carlisle, it was extremely cold; and during the night there was so great a fall of snow, that the conductors of the mail-coach judged it imprudent to proceed. Having provided myself with a horse and guide, I proceeded to Shippensburg, thirty miles from Carlisle. It is easy to believe, that the country covered with snow could not appear very fine. The forests of pines along the roads, prove the barrenness of the lands. The north-west wind, which blew with uncommon violence, was so cold, that I rather endeavoured to shelter myself than to observe the country. There were scarce ten houses in the thirty miles. Fatigued and benumbed with cold, we arrived at Shippensburg, which the inhabitants honour with the name of a town, but which cannot be considered more than a village. There are no public buildings; and the inhabitants seem to possess those rustic manners which characterise the people in the vicinity of the mountains.

Through their incivility I was obliged to proceed on foot. The excessive price of horses, which they proportion to the wants of travellers, and the opinions they entertain that Frenchmen will purchase ease at any rate, engaged them not to diminish in their demands. I therefore determined to accompany the waggons