

distance of six or eight miles, and its elevation above it being about 100 feet, with a gradual inclination towards the water, it is supposed to have once formed the southern boundary of the lake, and to have been thrown up by the action of the waves. Being formed of sand and fine gravel gives to that opinion some foundation; and that such banks can be formed by the action of the sea is very evident upon many parts of the English coast. From having been always referred to the Ridge-road, when I found fault with American highways, I expected to travel upon a perfect level, instead of upon a road broken, as this is, by frequent abrupt and deep ravines. From this time I was told that I ought to see one somewhere far back in the west, several hundreds of miles distant in the Ohio country, which was not inferior to any Macadamized road in Great Britain; but, as my curiosity never carried me so far away from the Atlantic as the Alleghany Mountains, I can only speak of those highways over which I did travel, not one of which would have escaped an indictment in the old country. In some States, as in New York and Connecticut, turnpikes are frequent; but this collection of tolls did not tend visibly to the improvement of the roads. The gate is generally formed of a hurdle, or a long narrow frame with numerous vertical bars, which is drawn up in the manner of a portcullis by ropes into a roof built across the road, until the traveller has passed.

There is no attraction in the scenery to lead a person upon the Ridge-road, being carried through a flat and uninteresting country, with only a narrow strip, never exceeding a mile in width, redeemed from the surrounding forest. In no part of our journey were the waters of the lake visible, though but so few miles distant. Settlements, however, are forming rapidly, and, from the clouds of smoke which hung over various parts of the forest, it may safely be predicted that not many years will elapse before the thick veil will be withdrawn. Three miles from Lockport, we left the Ridge, and entered upon a rough, shaking, "corduroy" road, a new species of *railway* they might call it, being formed entirely of split trees and rails laid across the road, without any