

The first of these individuals whom I met, was a fellow-passenger in the track-boat from Buffalo to Rochester, upon the great Erie canal. He appeared to be one of those characters so numerous in the States, who are always ready to make a move when they consider it likely to better their condition, or even to offer reasonable hopes of a fair return, for indulging their love of enterprise. He and a brother had, in this way, explored Michigan a few years ago, and had picked up various lots of land, near intended towns, harbours, &c. for which they paid 5s. 7½d. per acre, and which can already be sold for 22s. 6d. per acre. They intend to dispose of some, and to occupy part themselves, as he likes the country for a residence. He considers it superior to Ohio, as being more healthy. The country is in some places under heavy timber, and in others it is open prairie, where a settler has nothing to do but to start his plough. The soil is in general a loamy blackish sand, very productive. Eighty acres may be purchased in the Government Land-office for L.22, 10s. A Mr Gilbert, who realized a fortune as a contractor for work on the Erie canal, has transferred his capital to and fixed his residence in Michigan. He vested L.2250 in land, which, at 5s. 7½d. per acre, makes a tolerably extensive domain. He is farming and improving with great spirit, and this autumn he will have 400 acres in wheat. As a proof of the admixture of calcareous matter in much of the soil, Mr Gilbert had a tract of what he considered to be very sterile sand, and not worth 3s. an acre to sell. His men having been sent to procure some of this sand, to be employed in building, they found their hands *blistered*; and, upon a farther investigation, the calcareous matter in the sand has proved so useful, that Mr Gilbert would not take 25s. an acre now for what he had previously esteemed of so little value. Wheat is selling readily at Detroit for 4s. 6d. per bushel; the return is from 20 to 40 bushels per acre.

My other Michigan friend is established in the town of Upsalante, a city which does not yet figure in any map. He holds land and farms, but his proper avocation is somewhat miscellaneous. He has built a large tavern, opened a warehouse or store, and runs the stage for sixty miles.