

LETTER III.

Michigan.—Ferry Steamer.—Detroit.—State Agricultural Show.—Railway Hints for Home, to Prevent Dust, and communicate with Driver.—Shelter for Engine Driver.—Illinois.—Extent of the Rich Valley of the Upper Mississippi.—Chicago.—Its wonderful Progress.—Railway Investments.—Development too rapid.—Encouraged by high Prices of Agricultural Produce.—Money Panic succeeded by Failure of Crops, and unhealthy Season.—Immigration suspended.—Capacity of Country for rapid Improvement.—View of the State of Illinois on a Line of Seven Hundred Miles.—Settlers from Vermont.—Galena—Dunleith 35

LETTER IV.

General View of the State of Illinois.—Comparison of Soil and Extent with England.—Dunleith to Mendota.—Vast Wheat Fields.—Experience of a Scotch Carpenter.—Farming by Shares.—Cost of Farm-houses.—The River Illinois.—Coal Lands of La Salle.—Corn Starch Factory.—Bloomington.—Settlers from New York State.—Account of his Operations by Pioneer of Settlement.—Unusual Failure of Wheat Crop.—Discouragement caused by this.—Temptations of Credit System.—Instance of Purchase and Cost of making a Farm.—History of an early Settler.—The Banking System of the Country.—Profits of Banking.—“Shin Plaster” Banks 48

LETTER V.

Springfield.—Appearance of Country.—Cattle Show.—Stock Farming.—Experience of a successful Farmer.—His Mode of laying his Farm to Grass.—Novel Implements.—Merino Sheep Farming.—Account of it by the Owner of a large Flock.—System of managing Prairie Land recommended.—Sowing Grass Seeds on Snow.—Valuable Meadow.—Price of Merino Sheep.—Superiority of Prairie to Timbered Country.—The Governor of Illinois.—The Public Officers of State.—Manners of the People.—Decatur.—Lost on the Prairie.—The American Settler.—Mutual Help.—Fences.—Pana and its Neighbourhood.—Settlement of French Canadians 59

LETTER VI.

Pana to Centralia.—The Grey Prairie.—Best Wheat Soil.—Fruit.—Tobacco.—Vines.—Silk.—Rich Mineral District South of Centralia.—Lines of Communication with Ocean by New Orleans and Chicago.—Probable Market for Wheat in Cuba.—Description of Grey Prairie.—Value of Oxen.—German Settlement.—Large Purchase of Land by Kentucky Grazier.—His Plan and Prospects.—Farina.—Trading Spirit of the People.—Urbana.—Complaints of Wheat Failure.—Peach Growing.—Large Grazing Farm.—Management of Stock.—Uniformity of Soil.—Coldness of Weather.—Steam Plough.—Machines for economizing Manual Labour in greater Demand.—Bement.—Kentucky Settler.—His