

of the disguises in which it would certainly be dressed, and so adding any item to the host of facts already heaped together on the subject ; I began to listen to old whisperings which had often been present to me at home in England, when I little thought of ever being here ; and to dream again of cities growing up, like palaces in fairy tales, among the wilds and forests of the west.

The advice I received in most quarters when I began to yield to my desire of travelling towards that point of the compass was, according to custom, sufficiently cheerless : my companion being threatened with more perils, dangers, and discomforts, than I can remember or would catalogue if I could ; but of which it will be sufficient to remark that blowings-up in steam-boats and breakings down in coaches were among the least. But, having a western route sketched out for me by the best and kindest authority to which I could have resorted, and putting no great faith in these discouragements, I soon determined on my plan of action.