

CHAPTER XI.

FROM Washington, where the winter was very mild, and we were beyond the limits of sleighing, I went once more by rail to Baltimore, and thence to Philadelphia.

Since I had heard the eloquent discourse of the preacher there, on the 24th of November, I had travelled up to this time (February 8th) several thousand miles over great part of the Union, and was now better able to judge, than I had been before, of the future of the American people. There can be no doubt that the republic, even if she do not extend her present limits, will attain in the course of 100 or 150 years to an amount of wealth and population, which the world has never yet witnessed in any one nation. By the census of 1850 we learn that she has now, in round numbers, 3,000,000 of square miles, nearly ten times the area of the United Kingdom and France combined. The whole of this lies south of 49° N. latitude, and without the tropic, and is fitted for the growth of that most productive kind of grain, the maize, or Indian corn, whereas the whole of Great Britain and the north of France are beyond its limits. The powers of this plant in supporting a dense population are well known. I have seen them estimated as equal to those of potatoes, and, at least, they are double those of wheat. From the meteorological data afforded by the charts of the Smithsonian In-