

branch, which, giving way, caused him to be hurried downward to the very brink of a precipice, where he saved himself by catching hold of a projecting bough. Thus they advanced, for the remainder of that day, in the evening of which they took advantage of a small space of level ground to remain until the morning. About noon they succeeded in gaining the summit of the ridge ; and in order that they might view the surrounding country, they with some difficulty ascended a barren crag that reared itself high above the others ; for, without having met with this, the trees would have excluded every prospect. Having reached its loftiest pinnacle, they turned their eager eyes to see if they could behold any traces of the mighty seas of fresh water which had been described to them by the Indians ; but to their sorrow, as far as the sight could stretch, only vast woods met their anxious gaze.

While thus engaged, they sometimes heard the piercing cries of the hawk in pursuit of his prey ; far under them, and among the trees, the drumming of the partridge and the tapping of the woodpecker, could be clearly distinguished. Being somewhat disappointed, they silently commenced wending their lonely way down the side of the mountain ; but, notwithstanding their utmost exertions, they could not succeed in descending the range that evening, and were compelled by the approaching darkness, to seek a spot where they might rest. Early in the morning they awoke, and continuing their descent with renewed energy, soon surpassed the formidable obstacle which the hills had opposed.

Having rested for the remainder of that day, they again began to cross the level country, and continued doing so for many days, without having seen a single human being since their departure from the farm, when, one day in a glade of the woods, they saw a band of Indians among the trees, who having approached, spoke in a pleasant, but to them unknown language. Their gestures betokened their surprize at beholding people so different in colour to themselves, and armed with what appeared to them only polished sticks. While thus employed, a flock of wildgeese flew high above their heads, at which the Indians discharged their arrows, but they fell short of their intended mark ; when Price and Wilmington, raising their guns fired, and to the astonishment of the natives, two of the flock came fluttering to their feet. The Spectators crowded round the Europeans, and with much curiosity began to admire the weapons which they had formerly despised. Their wonder was not diminished when they saw what they imagined pounded ciaders put into the muzzles of the guns, and then, on pulling a small piece of iron, a flash of fire accompanied with smoke and a loud report, immediately followed. The chief, by signs, appeared to ask them to accompany him, that the rest of his tribe might see what seemed to them exceedingly wonderful ; and having followed him, they soon arrived at a place where several Indians were engaged in erecting small wigwams of bark. The chief, however, made them understand that this was only their