

of nakedness even in situations where wood is treated as a nuisance. I would remark, also, that a great improvement, in shelter and beauty, would be effected, by frequently substituting hedges for rail-fences. An English farmer near Geneva, I was informed, has miles of fine hawthorn hedges, four feet high, and completely belying the assertion that thorns will not succeed in America. His practice is to plant in a *trench*, not upon a ridge or bank, as the great risk of failure is from the summer drought.

Before reaching Albany, I travelled the greatest part of one day through the valley of the Mohawk, and upon which lie the rich German flats. It is a noble country, and the land of the first quality, but farmed too often in a slovenly manner.

The country of Michigan, which I have selected as a sample of new settlement in the west, is at present quite *the rage*, and has, in a great degree, supplanted Ohio, Illinois, &c. It lies between $41^{\circ} 31'$ and $45^{\circ} 40'$ N. Lat., and $5^{\circ} 12'$ and 10° W. Long., to the westward of Lake Erie, and including an immense extent of country capable of improvement, with fine water privileges. Detroit, an old French town, is its capital. By a reference to the map, it will be seen that Michigan can readily avail itself of New York, New Orleans, or Montreal, as Markets, and must, of course, derive from such facilities of intercourse considerable advantage. The climate is temperate and healthy. Winter sets in generally about the middle of November, and continues till about the middle of March. At Detroit, in 1818, the mean heat of January was 24° ; and in 1820, the mean heat of July was 69° ; of December 27° .

The soil is in general a good fertile loam, upon limestone; and, in some places, a calcareous earth is turned up, mixed with the common soil, which is extremely productive. Clay is also prevalent in some parts.

This territory is better watered than any other in the United States. There is an abundance of game, deer, bears, hares, ducks, turkey, quail, &c. and it is finely diversified with lakes and brooks, rising in most parts from copious springs.

Besides other sources of information, I happened to travel, at different times, with two Michigan settlers, who said much in its praise, and, although it is quite usual for that class of persons to magnify the advantages of a country where they