

She then returned to the edge of the precipice, and viewed the bottom of it, as the certain spot to end all her troubles, or remain on the top to pine away in hunger, or be devoured by wild beasts. After furious meditation and devout exercises, she determined on leaping from the height, and accordingly jumped off. Although the place she had to alight was covered with uneven rocks, not a bone was broken; but being exceedingly stunned with the fall, she remained unable to proceed for some time. The dry season caused the river to be shallow—she travelled in it, and where she could, by its edge, until she got through the mountain, which she concluded was several miles. After this, as she was travelling along the bank of the river, a venomous snake bit her on the ankle: she had strength to kill it; and knowing its kind, concluded that death must soon overtake her. By this time Mrs. Scott was reduced to a mere skeleton, with fatigue, hunger, and grief; probably this state of her body was the means of preserving her from the effects of the poison; be that as it may, so it was, that very little pain succeeded the bite, and what little swelling there was, it fell into her feet. Our wanderer now left the river, and after proceeding a good distance, she came to where the valley parted into two, each leading a different course.—Here a painful suspense again took place; a forlorn creature, almost exhausted, and certain if she was far led out of the way, that she would never see a human creature. During this doubt, a beautiful bird passed close by her, fluttering along the ground, and went out of sight up one of the vallies. This drew her attention, and, whilst considering what it might mean, another bird of the same appearance, in like manner fluttered past her, and took the same valley the former had done. This determined her choice of her way; and in two days, which was on the 11th day of August, she reached the settlement at Clinch, called New-Garden; whereas (she is since informed by woodmen) had she taken the other valley, it would have led back towards the Ohio. Mrs. Scott related that the Indians told her, that the party was composed of four different nations, two of whom she thinks they named Delawares and Mingoes.

She further relates, that, during her wandering from the 10th of July to the 11th of August, she had no other subsistence but chewing and swallowing the juice of young cane stalks, sassafras leaves, and some other plants she did not know the name of; that, on her journey, she saw buffaloes, elks, deer, and frequently bears and wolves; not one of which, although some of them passed very near her, offered her any harm. One day a bear came near her, with a young fawn in his mouth, and on discovering her, he dropped his prey and ran off. Hunger prompted her to go and take the flesh, and eat it; but on reflection, she desisted, thinking that the bear might return and devour her; besides, she had an aversion to taste raw flesh.—Mrs. Scott continues in a low state of health, and remains inconsolable for the loss of her family, particularly bewailing the cruel death of her little daughter.