

The severity of the climate moderates even in the same latitude, and the whole tide of emigration seems to be flowing in this direction. We may possibly be all wrong, and it may ebb again. But the land is better — the forests easier to clear away — the communication to New Orleans, always open ; whereas the rivers of this country are frozen up nearly half the year. And although New Orleans is a very distant market, yet, from its geographical position, it has such easy access to the whole of South America, the ultimate market for almost all the surplus produce of this part of the continent, that its distance makes but little difference in the prices the farmers obtain. But I am anticipating my progress. I shall, of course, give you every information when I reach that fruitful land.

You will naturally expect, in a letter from this place, some account of the far-famed Falls of Niagara, whose roar booms through the welkin, to an immense distance, like the voice of the receding earthquake. I can only say, that as all the very fine and very graphic descriptions which I had seen, have failed, completely failed, to convey to my mind any adequate idea of them, it is not for me to presume to draw a portraiture of a scene so magnificently grand ; Walter Scott ought to take a trip to this country on purpose to see them." * * * * *

The next letter we received from him, was dated at Cincinnati, and stated that there was one circumstance which Mr Birkbeck had neglected to mention, and that was, that there was no good water in that fine district of country, which he had described as so well suited, in point of view, to the English emigrant.

My brother, however, so far from despairing, thought the prize he was in search of so nearly within his reach, that we might venture to sail in the following spring, and he would meet us at Philadelphia. But his promised land appeared to be still so doubtful and distant, that it threw disunion, if not discord, into our councils. Some slight mention was made, too, in some of his letters, of intermittent fevers ; cheapness of farming productions, and one or two other trifling circumstances, which led, at least, the oldest that remained, to break the compact