

his memory, as he often spoke of them in his later years. When the vessel drew near the place where they were, he resolved to shoot one to learn the real nature of the mysterious being, and raised his gun for that purpose, but was prevented in the act by the Captain of the ship, who explained the imprudence of the course he was about to pursue. Amongst sailors there was a superstition that the slaughter of one of these beautiful little creatures brought upon the ship a sad end; another tradition made their appearance take place just before a great storm. The gun was taken down, however, and the ship was saved.

By almost constant travelling for twenty-two years, his financial resources, which had been large at first, began to fail. His capital, however, still amounted to about two thousand dollars; but it became more and more evident to him that his travels must soon come to an end. Pleasure had been his chief object in travelling, and it had rendered him useless in practical life. He had acquired the art of making himself interesting in all sorts of company; he was a skilled musician and could play on a variety of musical instruments, including the flute and the fiddle. But all these accomplishments were of little avail when he was forced to face the grave problem of earning his daily bread. Under these circumstances he alighted from his long rambles at Philadelphia about the year 1804 and cast about to find employment of some kind. With the money he still had he bought a horse, a pedlar's van, and a supply of goods, and set forth to make his living or perhaps his fortune. But all hopes proved vain; as a pedlar he was a failure, and became almost reduced to poverty. What a contrast his condition now was to that in which his life had begun! Too independent to return to Denmark and impose himself upon his friends there, he wandered up and down for some time and finally settled at Salina in New York State. Here he took a house and afterwards married a widow by the name of Myers; she had kept house for him for some time before this. Their marriage was solemnized by Magistrate Kinney, who will be mentioned later, and it took place when Werneck was forty-two years of age; this would be about the year 1806.

Widow Myers already had a family of three sons* by her first husband;

*Their names were Peter, Leonard and David. Adjoining Salina was Onondaga Lake, a small sheet of water around which a carriage road ran, and at the opposite side of the lake stood the town of Liverpool. In the latter place, Peter Myers spent his life, having married a widow with one child. He was a blacksmith—a good tradesman, but indigent. His chief work was to make and repair potash kettles for the salt works near at hand. When visited by his half-brothers John and George, in 1829, some men brought two kettles to him to be repaired, and with difficulty persuaded him to work while they wore his guests. His fee was two dollars per kettle, at which price it was possible for him to have become rich. He has been spoken of in very good terms.

Leonard, the second son, at the death of his father, had been adopted by a wealthy Presbyterian. When the latter died, he left all his property to Leonard, who removed to one of the new Western States. There he invested his capital in a distillery and mills on an extensive scale, which before long were destroyed by fire, the loss resulting in his financial ruin, and himself and family narrowly escaping with their lives from the conflagration.

David, the third son, removed to Canada and spent the greater part of his life at Stroud, where he kept a tavern in the early days.