

Emigration 1820

America
AND
The British Colonies.
An Abstract,
OF
All The Most Useful Information
Relative To
The United States of America,
AND
The British Colonies
OF
Canada, The Cape of Good Hope, New South
Wales, And Van Diemen's Island.
Exhibiting At One View
The Comparative Advantages and Disadvantages
Each Country offers For Emigration.
Collected From
The Most Valuable and Recent Publications.
To Which are Added,
A few Notes and Observations.

Oui et non sont bien court à dire ; mais avant que de les dire, il faut penser longtemps.
—ROCHEFOUCAULT.

BY William Kingdom, Jun.

LONDON :

1820.

TO
THE RIGHT HONORABLE
THE EARL OF EGREMONT,
&c. &c. &c.
THE FOLLOWING COMPILATION
IS DEDICATED,
WITH THE PROFOUNDEST RESPECT,
BY HIS LORDSHIP'S MOST OBEDIENT
AND VERY HUMBLE SERVANT,

WILLIAM KINGDOM, Jun.

PREFACE.

THE information contained in the following pages was principally collected by the author last autumn, for the guidance of a friend and himself, both of whom, at that period, entertained some intention of emigrating.

The choice of the country wherein we may probably pass the remainder of our days ought not to be made hastily, nor yet without a thorough conviction that the spot we do fix upon is,

at least, as eligible as any other that offers an asylum : to make this decision with justice to himself and family, a man should first be acquainted with the general habits and peculiar localities of each particular country ; the acquirement of this knowledge has hitherto been in the power of but few, most of the accounts of our Colonies having been published in large and expensive volumes, and unfortunately but little adapted to the finances of the generality of emigrants : to obviate these difficulties has been the author's chief aim, and he has endeavoured to collect, into as small a compass as possible, every particular respecting the British Colonies, and the United States of America, that might be of service to the emigrant ; to which he has presumed to add a few observations of his own.

The publications he has consulted are those which have obtained the greatest share of public approbation, and the extracts which he has taken from them such as appeared to contain the information most sought for by persons who would probably feel more interest in the domestic manners of the people, and the means of life, than in the public resources and political situation of the countries of which they treat.

The utility, and indeed the immediate necessity of such a work, at a moment when thousands of British subjects are on the point of quitting the country, will no doubt be acknowledged, and may plead some excuse for the author's undertaking a task, to which he fears neither his talents, nor his experience, render him wholly adequate.

London,
November, 1819.

UNITED STATES

OF

AMERICA.

THE port in the United States to which the emigrant should sail must depend upon the place where he intends to settle ; to a very great proportion of them the countries west of the Aeghany mountains, that is OHIO, INDIANA, KENTUCKY, and the ILLINOIS, appear to hold out the fairest prospect of success, and to these points Baltimore is the best port, the route by way of New Orleans being subject to many disadvantages [1].

As economy, of both time and money, will probably be an object of consideration with the generality of emigrants, they will find but little advantage in wasting either at Baltimore ; their better way being to proceed to Pittsburg [2], or Wheeling, on the Ohio, to which places waggons go every day ; the charge, both for passengers and luggage, to the latter place, is from five to seven dollars per cwt. [3] Persons who wish to go cheaply merely send their luggage by this conveyance, and walk alongside.

The waggoners travel with great economy ; many carry a camp kettle in which they cook their food, and some sleep in the waggon, but there are numerous inns on the road where a bed may be procured, though not at so moderate a rate as might be expected, considering the general indifference of the accommodation afforded. When the emigrant arrives at Pittsburg, or Wheeling, he finds, great numbers arriving there daily, and therefore but little chance of procuring employment ; if he intends to descend the Ohio, he had best inquire for one or more families going to the same neighbourhood, whom he may join in the purchase of an *ark*, a kind of vessel in which families descend that river ; these arks are built for sale, for the con-veyance of families ; they are flat-bottomed, square at the ends, and all of the same size,

being fifty feet long and fourteen broad ; they are covered, and will serve three or four ; families, as they carry from twenty-five to thirty tons each ; their usual price is seventy-five dollars, and they sell for nearly as much six or seven hundred miles lower down the river ; there are pilots who conduct the boats over the falls, for which they charge two dollars.

On arrival at the Ohio, the next step is an important one, and as emigrants are of many descriptions it will be best to apply our remarks to each class separately. We will suppose the *first class* to be labourers, who have more bodily strength than ingenuity or education ; if a man of this class will work he has nothing to fear in America, as there are plenty of farmers who will employ him ; he cannot expect full wages at first, but if attentive, he may, after the first year, obtain from twelve to fifteen dollars per month, and board, which includes a liberal supply of cyder and brandy ; the latter must not be indulged in too freely, or the emigrant will acquire a bad habit, and ruin his prospects ; if his conduct be correct, he may associate with the sons of the neighbouring farmers, many of whom know that their ancestors became proprietors of land from a similar beginning.

The *second class* of emigrants are tradesmen, who are too poor to commence business for themselves ; their object, therefore, is to procure work ; this can seldom be obtained in the sea-ports, but easily in the country ; or, should they turn agriculturists, they have all the advantages of the first class ; the countries west of the Alleghany, mountains are the most advantageous to persons of this, and the former description ; when they arrive on the Ohio, the facility of descending that river opens to them a vast field, in which labour must find a good market for ages yet to come.

The emigrant possessed of property, say from 200*l.* to 1000*l.* is advised to deposit his money in a bank, or purchase government stock immediately on his landing. He should not be too hasty in determining what line of business to engage in ; should he decide on mercantile business, or keeping a store, he should by all means get a situation in a merchant's counting-house, or in a store, for a year at least. If he adopts agriculture, he ought to procure an assistant who understands the management of crops, and the mode of working land.

For most trades, Ohio, Indiana, and the Illinois are the best countries ; the profits being greater, and the expense of living much less ; the climate is also more suitable to Europeans. Those who keep journeymen are advised not to exact that servility of behaviour which is expected in other countries. Those who go to America with the intention of farming should take with them some seed wheat of the best kinds ; perhaps the Syrian wheat would be most advantageous ; also a small quantity of lucerne, saintfoin, and vetches, as well as a small bag of hay seeds from a good meadow ; farming implements may be had in any part of the United States.

There is a choice of climate from 29° to 44° of north latitude, being suitable to the growth of sugar, cotton, and grain ; those who mean to grow sugar must go south of 29½°, cotton south of 36°, and for corn the best is from 36° to 41°. The rye harvest commences in June, that of wheat soon after, oats next, and afterwards the hay crop ; then come potatoes, and lastly Indian corn. The first work after a settlement is to plant a peach and apple orchard, and place them alternately, say one peach between two apple trees, the latter thirty feet asunder : the peach tree soon comes to maturity and is short-lived ; they will be of little value when the apple tree requires room. In the woody regions the ax is the chief implement in the settler's hands, but in the Illinois, the North-west territories, &c. the *prairies*, or natural meadows, will allow him to settle without much trouble.

Agues are very prevalent on the new settlements near the rivers ; some of the valleys are as healthy as the uplands, but this is where the river does not overflow its banks, nor where there is any stagnant water in the neighbourhood. Dew and rain should be avoided, and the settler is recommended to change his linen after a profuse perspiration. The purer the water is the better ; if there be sulphur in it, a piece of bright silver will turn black ; a little of the inner bark of oak infused in a glassful turns the water black if it contain iron ; paper stained blue, by the petals of any flower of that colour being rubbed upon it, turns green by being dipped in water impregnated with alkali, and red if an acid.

The settler may with little trouble brew his own ale, barley being cultivated west of the Alleghanies, and hops grow wild in great abundance ; this beverage is supposed to be a preventive of the ague. Bark and laudanum are also efficacious ; these latter articles the emigrant should have by him.

In the commencement of the settlement of any particular district, the progress of improvement is slow until a grist and a saw mill are erected, after which it is much more rapid ; by the help of a saw mill every planter in the vicinity is soon able to erect a frame-house, and the grist mill enables them to grind their wheat into flour fit for a market.

Doctor Franklin says, “ America is the best place in the world for those who will labour ; they can earn more here than any where else ; our governments are frugal, they demand few taxes ; the husbandman and the mechanic are in honour here, because their employments are useful ; the only encouragements we hold out to strangers are, a good climate, fertile soil, wholesome air and water, plenty of provisions, good pay for labour, kind neighbours, a free government, and a hearty welcome ; the rest depends upon their own industry and economy.”

Almost every description of labourers are sure of employment in America. At New York, in July 1816, common workmen received rather more than a dollar per day, and carpenters, bricklayers, &c. near two dollars. Artisans also receive better pay than in Europe. The laborious classes are, however, strongly recommended not to loiter away their time in great towns, but to proceed direct to the interior, where they are more certain of procuring work ; a residence in a large town, and the cheapness of liquors, are apt to generate a habit of drinking, which would blast their progress for ever ; for the drunkard is here shunned, despised, and abhorred, and shut out from all decent intercourse [4].

Men of mechanical science, who can apply their knowledge to useful and practical purposes, may be very advantageously settled here ; but mere literary scholars meet with little encouragement, unless they will devote themselves to the education of youth.

From the 35th to the 43d degree of north latitude will be found most congenial to Europeans. New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri territories lie between these parallels..

We think young men cannot go too speedily to the fine regions beyond the Alleghany mountains. There is some difference in the kind of labour ; he who used the spade must now use the ax, and he who used to dig ditches must learn to maul rails and make fences.

Bradbury recommends the Missouri for a settlement, because the transit to New Orleans may be made at any time, whereas the Ohio river is not navigable during the months of August, September, and October. Settlements and plantations already formed are often to be purchased on very moderate terms. This country will be much benefited by the steam-boats

on the Mississippi, great numbers of which are now building in the ports of the Ohio. Coal is universally spread throughout these regions.

The sugar region reaches from the coast to the latitude of $31\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, and its growth only commenced in 1800. There is an extensive tract suitable for that purpose, which is now settling very fast. In the year 1811, some plantations on the Mississippi produced 500 hogsheads ; the cultivation is rapidly increasing, many planters having made their fortunes thereby.

The region proper for cotton extends from $31\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ to 36° . The culture of cotton requires but little labour ; the seeds are planted three or three and a half feet asunder, and after the plants have acquired some strength, they are weeded and earthed up, and require no further care until the pods are ripe ; they are then collected, and the cotton is separated from its seeds by a machine called a saw-gin. As there are public gins in almost every part, where planters may have their cotton cleared and packed on moderate terms, poor men may become cotton planters, and a numerous family is then an advantage, as females and children can collect the pods and take in the cotton ; the ground also requires but little preparation.

The shepherd, and the husbandman, collect together their vast flocks by the aid of salt alone, the efficacy of which, Bradbury says, he saw in his own horse, -which he could attract by a show of salt when that of corn had no effect.

In Michaux's Travels it appears that the manner of collecting the cattle every evening is by sending with them into the plains, or woods, for the first few weeks, two or three old milch cows accustomed to the place, round whose necks are fastened small bells. The cows come back every evening to be milked ; the rest of the cattle herd with these, following the noise of the bells, and when they return to the farm, a handful of salt, or something of which they are equally fond, is given to each, as an inducement for them to return again. In a short time the cattle become familiar with the place, and having been accustomed from the first day to return, they regularly walk to the farm every evening.

The OHIO river (signifying beautiful) from Pittsburg to its mouth, where it flows into the Mississippi, is supposed to be 1188 miles, and receives in its course 13 rivers.

The mineral resources of this part of the country are at present but little explored ; coal, salt, iron, lead, nitre, and saltpetre, have already been discovered.

The wild animals have nearly disappeared from the inhabited parts ; the wolves sometimes take a sheep, or a pig, but they are becoming scarcer : the squirrels are the greatest enemies to the farmers, but their increase is prevented by the riflemen, who sometimes kill 2000 a day.

The unsettled lands belonging to the United States uniformly sell for two dollars per acre, with four years to pay it in, or one dollar 64 cents cash.

Few Europeans who have been accustomed to sedentary employments can submit to the fatigue of clearing a forest ; but the back-woodsmen, disliking population, are ever ready to sell their improvements and retire farther into the woods ; these improvements consist of a log-house, a peach, and perhaps an apple orchard, together with 10, 20, 30, or 40 acres of land, inclosed and partly cleared, for which seldom more than from 50 to 60 dollars are demanded in addition to the original cost [5].

The land-tax takes place in five years after the purchase, and is 120 cents on 100 acres of first rate land, 100 cents on 100 acres of second rate land, and 60 cents per 100 acres of third

rate land [6]. Some districts of land may be purchased of the speculators for half a dollar per acre, which would answer for sheep.

There are two modes of clearing land : one by cutting the trees round so as to kill them, and then clear away the underwood, which is very little ; the other is cutting down the trees, collecting them together and burning them : this is frequently done in the following manner, and is termed a “ frolic.” The neighbours (even unsolicited) appoint a day, when, as a frolic, they shall for instance, build the new settler a house ; on the morning appointed they assemble, and divide themselves into parties ; one party cuts down the trees, another lops them and cuts them into proper lengths, a third with horses or oxen drags them to the intended spot, another party makes shingles for the roof, and at night all the materials are on the spot ; the night of the next day the family sleep in their new habitation ; no payment is expected, nor would it be received ; it is considered a duty, and lays him under an obligation to assist the next Settler.

The winters here are so mild and short as to render very little labour necessary to provide food for cattle during that season. Most farmers scatter the seeds of pumpkins in the field when planting the corn, and nothing more is necessary than throwing the pumpkins into the waggon when ripe ; they are so little trouble that they sell for a dollar per waggon load, and generally weigh from 30 to 40 pounds each ; cattle and hogs are fond of them.

The vine flourishes in this region, and the wheat can scarcely be surpassed either for quantity or quality. Vegetables grow in the same perfection as in England, except the cauliflower, and some species of beans. Water melons, musk melons, squashes, sweet potatoes, cucumbers, &c. arrive at great perfection. The fruits are excellent and abundant, particularly peaches and apples.

Very little agricultural labour is performed by the women, who are chiefly employed in domestic manufactures : almost all grow some flax, and south of latitude 39°, they have what they call a cotton patch, although cotton is not usually grown north of latitude 36° : few are without sheep : thus they are furnished with three staple articles, out of which they spin almost sufficient for the clothing, &c. of the family : some have looms and weave it themselves, others employ weavers who follow it as an occupation. The manufacture of woollen is much facilitated by carding machines, these being generally established throughout the United States.

A small sum, the saving of two or three years of a prudent working man, will enable him to purchase one or two hundred acres of land : from this cause labourers continually become farmers. All are aware that turning wild land into cultivation will occasion some hardships and privations ; but the ease, security, and independence which are certain to follow make ample amends.

Provisions in the western territories will long remain low in price, because of the great distance from a foreign market [7].

The population of these territories is only one to one and a half square mile, or 960 acres : the average population of England and Wales is 192 to a square mile, and in Lancashire 400.

Wages in this territory are, to a labourer or husbandman 15 dollars per month, with board, &c. Carpenters, masons, &c. about one and a quarter dollar per day, or a dollar and board. Shoe-makers about four shillings for making a pair of shoes, and for a pair of boots eleven shillings.

...it will appear, that an industrious man may easily support his family ; as one day's pay will purchase 50 pounds of flour, or 20 pounds of beef, or 3 bushels of potatoes, or 27 pounds of pork, or 8 fowls, or 4 ducks, or 2 geese.

With respect to the manners of the people west of the Alleghany mountains, it is impossible there should be any uniformity ; they are composed of emigrants from every state of the union, mixed with English, Irish, Dutch, Swiss, German, French, and almost every other country in Europe. That species of *hauteur* which one class of society in some countries shows to another is here entirely unknown : the justice on the bench, or the officer in the field, are obeyed while exercising the functions of their office ; but should they treat the least wealthy of their fellow-citizens with contumely, they would soon find they could not do it with impunity. Travellers from Europe should be informed of this part of the American character : let no one here indulge himself too freely in abusing the waiter or ostler at an inn ; he may probably be a citizen, and does not conceive that in discharging his duty he should submit to insults ; but this feeling is purely defensive. Bradbury says, " I have travelled ten thousand miles in the United States, and never met with the least affront or incivility, and near two thousand miles in parts where there were no taverns, and where travellers are obliged to appeal to the hospitality of the inhabitants : in no instance have I appealed in vain, although the furnishing a bed in some cases has been evidently inconvenient ; and, in many instances, no remuneration would be taken. In the western territories few houses have either locks or bolts to their doors ; no people behave better to their neighbours; and, I believe, no country of equal population exhibits fewer crimes against the laws."

Nothing more strongly proves the superiority of the western territory than the vast emigration to it from the eastern and southern states ; during the 18 months previous to April 1816, 15,000 waggons passed over the bridge at Cayuga, containing emigrants to the western country.

In the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, the climates of which are most congenial to Englishmen, there remained near 40,000,000 of acres unsold on the 30th September, 1811 ; these lands are disposed of at the land offices in the great towns ; the price is two dollars per acre, one-fourth of the purchase money to be paid down, and the remainder in four years ; and not less than 160 acres can be bought at these offices.

The state of the Ohio is situated between $38\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and 42° of north latitude, and between $80\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and $84\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ of west longitude ; it is bounded on the north by the divisional line between the United States and Upper Canada, passing through the middle of Lake Erie and Michigan territory ; on the west by Indiana, and south and south-east by the river Ohio, which separates it from Kentucky and Virginia ; and east by Pennsylvania : its length from north to south is 228 miles, its mean breadth about 200 ; and contains, according to Mr. Drake, 40,000 square miles, or 25,000,000 acres. The rivers of this state run north into Lake Erie, or south into the Ohio. The Ohio washes the south-eastern frontier of the state 509 miles. Some parts of the state are hilly ; but the hills are mostly capable of cultivation to their very summits. The bottoms, or plains, of the Ohio are of very unequal widths ; some of the hills approach nearly to the river, while others are two or three miles distant. There are usually three bottoms, rising one above another ; the lowest bears a heavy load of beech, sugar-maple, buck-eye, elm, honey-locust, black walnut, spice-wood, dog-wood, plum, crab-apple, and grape vines. The hills are covered with oak, chestnut, sassafras, &c. The north-western corner contains a district of rich land, but too swampy for healthy settlements.

CINCINNATI, the largest town in the state, stands on the north bank of the Ohio ; its distance by land from Pittsburg is 300 miles ; by water 524 miles ; from Baltimore by land 420 miles ;

and from New Orleans by water 1,736 miles ; most of the streets are 66 feet wide. The number of buildings in July, 1815, was 1,100, and the population 6,000 ; it may now be calculated at 1,300 houses, and 8,000 inhabitants : about 30 houses are of stone, 300 of brick, and the remainder of wood. There is a steam saw-mill of twenty horse power, drives four saws which cut 800 feet in an hour: also a cotton and woollen manufactory, which runs 3,300 spindles for cotton, and 400 for wool. There are four other spinning concerns, which together contain 1,500 spindles ; and a woollen factory capable of producing 60 yards of broad cloth per day ; it began to work in 1815. Cables and cordage are made for exportation ; and six tons of white and red lead are made weekly. There are two glass factories, and an iron-foundery ; and two weekly newspapers.

The exports of Cincinnati consist of flour, corn, beef, pork, butter, lard, bacon, whiskey, peach brandy, beer, pot and pearl-ashes [8], cheese, soap, candles, hats, hemp, spun-yarn, saddles, rifles, staves and scantlings, cabinet furniture and chairs. East Indian and European goods are imported from Baltimore and Philadelphia ; lead from St. Louis ; rum, sugar, molasses, and dry goods from New Orleans ; salt from Kenaway salt-works ; coal from Pittsburg down the Ohio ; arid boards and shingles from Alleghany.

No country can promise more to the industrious, if we look to the soil, the climate, the low price of land and taxes, and the certain prospect of a market for surplus produce. Improved lands are worth from 4 to 25 dollars per acre.

All the useful handicrafts are wanted. Farmers chiefly make their own clothing. Sheep answer well : many horned cattle and hogs are reared and sent to market.

Shoes, from 3 to 4 dollars per pair; Wellington boots, from 8 to 9 dollars ; Hessian boots, from 11 to 12 dollars ; superfine blue cloth, from 13 to 15 dollars per yard ; making a coat, six dollars ; American hats, from 7 to 10 dollars ; mechanics' board and lodging, per week, 3 dollars.

A good milch cow, 15 dollars ; a good working horse, 40 dollars ; and a sheep, three dollars and a half.

The average produce of land, per acre, was,

Wheat 25 bushels

Oats 30 . . .

Indian corn . . 50 . . .

Hemp grows well, crops of hay are heavy, and so is grass of all kinds.

The timber of the Ohio State, besides what has already been described as growing on the banks of the river, consists of the cucumber tree, white pine, spruce, hemlock, larch, sycamore, wild cherry, aspin, red mulberry, service tree, hornbeam, and cotton tree. The soil is loam ; in some places deep black vegetable mould, clay, and gravel. There is a stripe of country bordering on Lake Erie, three miles wide, covered with two or three inches of black mould, growing hickory, chestnut, and oak ; this soil is congenial to the growth of corn and fruit, but not so well adapted for grass as the land on the southern side of the state, which has a moister and deeper soil, and clothed with beech, black walnut, &c. The order of the earth's strata is, first, vegetable mould, loam, or clay ; second, gravel or sand of various depths ; third, ash coloured free-stone, compact slate, or blue clay ; fourth, quicksand, where water is

obtained. The fossils are, coal, salt lecks at the depth of two hundred feet, sulphur, chalybeate and aluminous springs : there are also alum, copperas, iron ore, gypsum, limestone, millstone, grindstone, and whet-stone.

The population of Ohio, in 1816, was 450,000 ; and there were 27 newspapers printed in the state ; many of them, however, were only published weekly.

THE INDIANA TERRITORY lies between $37\frac{1}{2}$ and $41\frac{1}{2}$ of north latitude ; length, from north to south, is 204, and breadth, from east to west, 155 miles.

It contains 39,000 square miles, or 24,960,000 acres. The population, in 1815, was 67,793, not two to a square mile.

The Ohio washes the southern boundary ; its winding course being 472 miles, and is navigable all the way. The Wabash is also navigable about 400 miles for keel boats, and is about 300 yards wide at the mouth : there are, besides, many other rivers and creeks. In the northern part of the state there are 38 lakes, from two to ten miles in length ; and probably a great many of smaller dimensions. Mr. Buck, an American surveyor, says, “ The prairies on the Wabash, near Fort Harrison, are the most rich and beautiful I ever saw ; they are from one to 15 miles in length, and from one to five in breadth : the streams are bordered with excellent timber, from half a mile to a mile wide.”

In choosing a farm, it is best to have part prairie, and part woodland. Although the country is in general well watered, good mill seats are scarce. Steam mills will, doubtless, be erected as soon as the country is sufficiently settled to export flour. Corn is easily raised here ; and cattle, as little or no fodder is requisite. The timber round these prairies consists chiefly of oak ; many of them are destitute of water, but it may be had by digging 20 or 30 feet. Horse mills are common ; the miller takes one-eighth for toil, the customers finding their own horses.

Wheat weighs 68 lbs. per bushel, which sells for 75 cents ; flour, three dollars per 100 lbs ; butter and cheese, from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 35 cents per pound ; honey, 50 cents per gallon ; maple sugar, 25 cents.

European goods are exorbitantly high. Salt, at the works, one dollar per bushel ; at other places, two dollars.

The banks of the Wabash are, in many places, subject to overflows, but the floods do not last long, nor are they dangerous. The winters are mild, the severest not having more than four weeks frost, during which time the snow is from six to nine inches deep : the winter begins about Christmas, and continues till the middle or end of February. The population of Indiana has nearly doubled since 1815, and is now upwards of 120,000.

Farms, containing a log-house, and 15 or 20 acres, sell as high as eight or 10 dollars, *per acre*, above the original cost, but in some instances less.

Considerable quantities of cotton grow in this state. The vine, the species of mulberry adapted for the silk-worm, and the sweet potatoe, will flourish wherever the reed cane grows, which is found as high as north latitude $37^{\circ} 50'$. Rice and indigo, it is supposed, would do well in some parts of this state.

The forests of Indiana contain an abundance of game ; great numbers of deer are yearly destroyed by the inhabitants ; bears are numerous, and wild turkeys particularly so. Deer are mortal enemies to the rattle-snake, and often designedly kill them by jumping upon them. Farmers are much annoyed by squirrels, moles, and mice; the mole is particularly troublesome in meadows and corn-fields.

Iron ore and chalybeate springs are plentiful ; it is said a silver mine has been discovered. The water in some places is so deeply impregnated with copperas, that linen washed therein turns black ; some of the inhabitants have, in consequence, deserted these places.

THE ILLINOIS TERRITORY lies between $36^{\circ} 57'$ and $41^{\circ} 50'$ north latitude ; from north to south its length is 347, and its mean breadth 206 miles. It contains 52,000 square miles, or 33,280,000 acres. Its population, in 1810, was only 20,000, chiefly resident on the banks of the Wabash, Mississippi, Ohio, and Kaskaskia rivers. No state has such internal navigation ; and nearly 1000 miles, or two-thirds of its boundaries, are washed by the Wabash, Ohio, and Mississippi.

The Illinois river runs in a southern direction for nearly 400 miles, is upwards of 400 yards wide at its mouth, and has twelve tributary streams.

The Kaskaskia is the next river in size, and navigable 130 miles. An inhabitant on the banks of this river writes (20th January, 1817), “ It waters the finest country I ever saw ; neither flat nor mountainous, but suited to Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, hemp, tobacco, &c. Several mills are building. The inhabitants of it’s banks may not be so polished as some others, but none are more hospitable, moral, or religious.”

This territory has six kinds of land : First, bottoms, bearing honey-locust, peach, black walnut, beech, sugar-maple, buck-eye, pawpaw, &c. ; this land is inexhaustibly fertile, having been annually cultivated without manure for more than a century [9]. The second sort is found at the mouth and confluence of rivers ; being below high-water mark, it is frequently inundated, and, though fertile, is unhealthy. Third, dry prairies, lie from 30 to 100 feet higher, a dry rich soil, well adapted for cultivation, and destitute of trees. The prairies of the Illinois river are estimated at 1,200,000 acres, and, in point of productiveness, inferior to none. Fourth, wet prairies, are cold and barren, abounding in ponds and swamps, and covered with a tall coarse grass. Fifth, timbered land, moderately hilly, watered, and of rich soil. Sixth, hills of a sterile soil, destitute of timber, or only covered with small oaks, or pines.

The space between the rivers Wabash and Illinois is extremely fertile and beautiful, being one continued prairie, or natural meadow.

Copper, lead, and coal are found in this state. Between 2 and 300,000 bushels of salt are made annually, 26 miles below the mouth of the Wabash, and sold, at the works, at from 50 to 75 cents per bushel.

KASKASKIA is the principal town of this state, and situated 11 miles from the mouth of the river of that name, and six miles from the Mississippi ; it contains 160 houses, some of which are stone.

The buffalo has nearly disappeared ; deer, elk, bears, wolves, foxes, opossum, and racoon remain. Wild turkeys, geese, ducks, and quail, are plentiful ; as well as pigeons, blackbirds, and paroquets. Most kinds of fish are found in the rivers and lakes. Cotton is raised for domestic use ; tobacco grows to great perfection, as well as corn, hemp, &c. &c.

The state of KENTUCKY lies farther south, and is extremely fertile ; but slavery being allowed, such white people as work are looked upon with contempt ; any description, therefore, would be useless ; being totally unfit for the English emigrant.

Mr. Birkbeck gives the following particulars of the United States :

—The urbanity and civility which prevail at a distance from the large towns are very great ; refinement is more rare indeed ; and so is extreme vulgarity. At the taverns in the towns east of the Alleghany mountains, all is done on the gregarious plan ; every thing is public by day and by night ; whatever be the number or quality of the guests, they have their entertainment *en masse*, and they must sleep *en masse*. Three times a day the great bell rings, and 100 persons collect from all quarters to eat a hurried meal, composed of almost as many dishes. At breakfast there is fish, flesh, and fowl ; bread of every shape and kind ; butter, eggs, coffee, tea, and more than can be thought of. Dinner is much like breakfast, except tea and coffee ; and supper is breakfast repeated ; soon after which, you assemble again in rooms crowded with beds, where, after undressing in public, you are lucky if you have not a partner, besides myriads of bugs.

PITTSBURG is an important place ; steam-engines of great power are made here, and applied to various purposes ; and it contains sundry works, iron founderies, glass-houses, &c. &c. which are likely to increase, being an *entrepot* for the merchandize and manufactures supplied by the eastern to the western states.

Shoemakers, tailors, &c. earn two dollars per day, yet many of them are so imprudent that they remain journeymen through life ; their surplus earnings are spent in excursions, entertainments, and balls : those who are steady and prudent rapidly advance to wealth. A shoemaker, who left Ireland four years ago, as poor as Irish emigrants usually are, staid one year at Philadelphia, then removed hither, and was employed by a master at 12 dollars per week ; he saved his money, married, paid his master 300 dollars for his business, and is now in a fair way to be rich. The Americans (continues Birkbeck) are great travellers, and generally better acquainted with this vast expanse of country than the English are with their little island, A farmer and his wife, well mounted, have just alighted at the inn here (Washington) from the neighbourhood of Cincinnati, going to visit their friends at New York and Philadelphia, a distance of 700 miles : he tells me of a newly instituted society at Cincinnati, called the Emigrant Society, designed to obtain correct information, and communicate it to the poorer class of emigrants, also to protect them from imposition.

It is supposed that artizans in general will succeed in any part, and that labourers of all sorts will greatly improve their condition : they will, if saving and industrious, soon acquire wealth enough to enable them to migrate farther in quest of land, of which they may become proprietors. There is little doubt of it's being greatly advantageous to an industrious family to exchange a rented farm in England for a freehold west of the Ohio, and the latter would not require more capital than the former. An old Irishman emigrated 14 years ago with his wife and two children, and now owns 118 acres of land, and pays eight dollars a year in taxes. A German, of the name of Somerset, felt the toils of an earliest settler, and first used the axe in the neighbourhood, and went 54 miles for flour four times in the first summer. He could get plenty of venison with his rifle, but nothing else, even for money.

Trees form an excellent criterion of the quality of the soil by their species and bulk.

Land is rapidly rising in price in all well settled places ; 50 dollars per acre is frequently talked of, and 30 is asked for a large tract of land, without improvement, 50 miles from Cincinnati.

There is no instance of insanity in this State, though it contains 100,000 inhabitants.

A good cow and calf are worth here (near Mr. Birkbeck's settlement on the river Wabash) from 12 to 15 dollars ; a two year old heifer, six dollars ; a stout horse for drawing, 60 dollars or more.

The land carriage from Philadelphia to Pittsburg is from 7 to 10 dollars per 100 pounds. Razors ; pocket knives, &c. should be taken ; good gun-locks are difficult to be procured ; no heavy articles will pay carriage.

Wolves and bears are very numerous, and the latter very injurious to the newly settled districts ; hogs are their constant prey ; neither wolves nor bears will attack man unless wounded, they then turn on the hunter with great fury.

PRINCETOWN though at the farthest limits of Indiana, but two years old, and containing about 50 houses, affords respectable company, and not one decidedly vicious character, nor one who is not able, and willing, to maintain himself.

The steam boats on the Mississippi, Ohio, &c. travel at the rate of about 60 miles a day, heavily laden and against the stream ; they are from 50 to 400 tons burthen.

SHAWNEE Town is 1200 miles from New Orleans, which distance may be performed by the steam boats in 20 days : this is the nearest point on the Ohio to our intended residence 45 miles distant, from which we have a navigable communication by the Wabash. Not a settlement in this neighbourhood is of a year's standing ; no harvest has yet been reaped, and our approach may probably remove many of them, unless our dollars can prevail upon them to try agricultural labour, instead of trusting to the precarious supply of their beloved rifle : half a dozen of these people have already offered to sell us their all, fat cattle, hogs, and their first crop of corn just now maturing ; if we purchase, they will go farther, and build other cabins. That our friends in England may have an idea of our real position, let them consider that our two families (that of Mr. George Flower and my own) are about to be fixed upon two adjoining estates of 1440 acres each, which we have chosen from a beautiful prairie and its adjoining woods. Here we are preparing to build ; builders have offered themselves, and materials are at hand ; we are also preparing for gardens and orchards, that we may really sit down under our own vines and our own fig trees. Cattle and hogs thrive well on the food they find and require little care, except to protect them from the wolves and bears, keeping them tame by frequently giving them salt. On these estates we may hope to live much as we do in England ; but this is not the country for fine ladies and gentlemen.

The report of our intended settlement spreads far and wide ; and such is the attraction of population to capital, that many entries are already made, and applications daily occur. Our design is to build cabins, with enclosures of two acres and a half each, along the sides of a section, which is reserved as a cow pasture. These cottages and enclosures, with a well between two, may be rented by persons who resort to us for the sake of good earnings. Here then is a town about to rise before us, and it is the intention of Mr. Flower and myself to purchase one or two townships in the Illinois territory, where the country is partly prairie and partly woodland. A township contains 36 square miles, or sections, each containing 640

acres ; the whole, 20,040 acres ; these lands we shall probably offer in sections, half sections, quarters, and eighths, that is in portions of 640, 320, 160, and 80 acres. To prevent the sufferings to which poor emigrants are exposed, it is a material part of our plan to have in readiness for every poor family a cabin, an enclosed garden, and a cow and a hog, with land for summer, and winter food for cows proportioned to their number. We wish it to be understood, that we would not bind others, nor be bound ourselves, by any ties but those of natural interest and good neighbourhood, nor be subject to, any law but the law of the land ; yet we hope that no persons will attempt to possess themselves of these lands on account of the low price at which we shall offer them, unless they intend to reside thereon ; and our opinion is, that it would be more advantageous to the resident proprietor to possess a capital of from 4 to 5*l.* per acre, rather than burthen himself with more land than he has the means to manage.

We shall have a good market for our produce, either from the growing population, or by exporting down the Ohio.

We have no wish to form a society entirely English, nor indeed any society distinct from the people at large ; we would extend our proposals to emigrants of any nation having the requisite capital; a combination of capital and people is the only thing which can prevent many privations, and even sufferings, in these remote regions. Such persons as wish for, and cannot otherwise obtain information, will please to direct their inquiries to Morris Birkbeck, Princetown, Gibson County, Indiana, America.

- [1] Mellish's American Traveller contains an accurate description of the roads, &c. and may be purchased in any part of the United States.
- [2] Pittsburg is 250 miles from Baltimore, 310 from Philadelphia, and 400 from New York ; Wheeling is 96 miles down the Ohio from Pittsburg.
- [3] The *Dollar* is equal to 4*s.* 6*d.* sterling, and a *Cent* is the hundredth part of a dollar, or little more than a halfpenny.
- [4] Bristed says the lower class of Americans are terribly addicted to drinking.
- [5] Vide page 54.
- [6] Vide page 64.
- [7] It may be necessary to impress upon the attention of some readers that the low price of provisions is advantageous to the labourer or workman only, and not to the farmer.
- [8] Far method of making pot and pearl-ash, vide Canada.
- [9] It appears that a party of settlers located in this state, on the banks of the Wabash, more than 100 years since, and were so completely secluded from the civilized world, that the males married with the Indians.

America and the British Colonies : An Abstract of All the Most Useful Information Relative to the ... (1820)

Author : William Kingdom

Publisher : Printed for G. and W. B . Whittaker

Year : 1820

Language: English

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Source : Internet Archive

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Edited and uploaded to www.aughty.org

November 22 2013