

On Emigration America 1819

*Observations on Emigration
To
The United States
Of
America.*

Illustrated by Original Facts.

By William Savage.

LONDON :

1819

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ADVERTISEMENT.

In offering to the Public the following Observations, I am actuated by no other motive than a desire to give information to a great number of persons who decide to emigrate to the United States of America, without duly weighing the consequences, and the contrast between that country and their native land.

Thousands, and tens of thousands, have hastily resolved, and as hastily carried their resolution into effect, without consideration; the result has been poverty and discontent in by far the greater number of instances ; very few, comparatively, have succeeded ; and great numbers, who had the means and could bear to be ridiculed as being unsteady, and not knowing their own minds, have returned.

The questions may be asked—Why I write on this subject ?—What information do I possess ?—and whence was it derived ? The questions would be fair, and I think it will be better to anticipate them, by stating the answers, that the reader may know the authority for the opinions and facts in the following pages.

I had a serious design myself of going to America, and residing in Kentucky ; but before I carried the design into execution, I thought it reasonable, and an act of justice to my family, to endeavour to know something of the country to which I intended taking them ; and this I had an opportunity of obtaining, from having a number of friends and acquaintance who had emigrated to Kentucky : I held a correspondence with some of them ; some returned, with whom I conversed ; some have been in England on business ; and I have been favoured with copies of letters to friends and relations from others.

I thus became possessed of a great deal of information respecting the manners, customs, and mode of living, with many facts that were told me of those I was acquainted with ; which proved sufficient to deter me from pursuing my intended plan of emigration : and I shall feel gratified if this sketch shall be the means of causing one family to pause and satisfy themselves of the probability of bettering their situation, before they embark in such an undertaking.

The facts I have stated were told me by friends, in conversation, who had no motive for deception ; and who felt that relating to me anecdotes of those I knew would be interesting.

The instances I have adduced as illustrations are of Yorkshire persons, and generally from my native district ; this has arisen from the interest we take in inquiring after those we have been acquainted with ; and I have no doubt but every district in England could furnish similar instances.

This explanation I trust will be satisfactory as to the sources from which I have derived my information ; the facts have never before been published, on which account they may excite some interest ; and they may be equally relied on, as if a person had been in Kentucky and related them from his own knowledge, and perhaps more so ; because they are derived from the experience of numbers, who were resident in the country, and whose information was greater than a stranger's could have been, with less likelihood of being deceived.

I commenced writing these Observations for a different purpose ; the causes that induced me to change my intention are not material to state, for they are of a private nature, and not sufficiently interesting.

I have thought a low priced pamphlet the most likely to be seen and read by those who are most interested in the subject ; I have therefore given it in that form, and compressed the observations, and limited the number of facts, considerably within what I had the means of stating.

Feeling conscious of their truth I venture to lay them before the Public, thinking they may be useful ; and as I dislike anonymous publications of this nature, I avow my name, that the reader may judge what confidence to place in the statements.

20th Nov. 1819.

ON EMIGRATION.

“ Look before you Leap.”

At this time, when various causes, both political and private, have widely diffused among the inhabitants of Europe a spirit for emigration to foreign climes, where it is generally supposed more freedom and fewer burdens exist, to affect the population than in their native countries, it has been thought that a few observations, pointing out some of the disadvantages which attend those who bend their steps to the principal focus of emigration, might be advantageous, as a caution, for their future proceedings.

The value of these Observations must entirely depend on their accuracy ; for, if any fact that may be stated should be controverted, it will of course materially depreciate them in the eyes of those to whom they are addressed.

The United States of America have been for many years the magnet that has attracted the Disaffected in Politics—the Swindler—the Ruined Tradesman—and the Agriculturist with small capital, who has been weighed down by the effect of the taxes of this country—by the laws and customs of other countries—so as to prevent him ameliorating his condition in life, and making some provision for his surviving family.

A number of books have been written and published by interested persons, recommending the United States as a land of freedom ; the inhabitants liberal ; and particular districts as flowing with milk and honey ; and where the Settler might obtain, from the fertility of

the soil, and the temperature of the climate, all the necessaries, and even the luxuries of life, comparatively without labour.

These books in general have been published by those who had purchased large tracts of land, at the extremity of a country that could hardly be said to be settled, and on the frontiers of the Indians ; and who, for the purpose of selling this land at a great profit, represent the part of the country where their purchase is situated, however true or false, as a terrestrial paradise.

The relation of a few plain facts will strip this land of freedom, plenty, and happiness, of many of its advantages ; and, in the eyes of the unprejudiced and the disinterested, will perhaps reduce it far below England, even with all her burdens, in the real comforts of life.

I shall speak more particularly of what are termed the Western States : and as Kentucky took the lead ; has now a great population, arising from emigration ; is the country to which nearly all the Settlers bend their course ; from which the ramifications extend—and as its climate, and the fertility of its soil, have been so much praised, it may fairly be taken as a specimen, from which we may deduce the advantages and comforts to be derived by an individual, or a family, making choice of America for their future home.

I will suppose a family landed at Baltimore, which is the port most generally chosen, as being the most convenient for travelling over the Alleghany Mountains to Pittsburg or Wheeling, the places of embarkation on the Ohio, to fall down the stream to Kentucky.

The emigrant in the first instance, has, either to purchase a waggon and horses, at an extravagant price, or else to hire them, at a rate equally extravagant, to transport his family, implements, luggage, &c. over the rough Alleghany Mountains on paths, which cannot be called roads, for 150 miles ; he then arrives at Pittsburg on the Ohio, where he has frequently to wait some weeks at a considerable expense, before he can purchase or hire, a boat to convey his family and property down the Ohio, a distance of 332 miles, when he arrives at Kentucky ; but, as this is only travelling, to arrive at the place of his destination, I shall not lay any stress on the inconveniences and expenses attending the journey; although some travellers have spoken almost with horror of the dreariness of the way, and of the effect on the mind in passing down the river for such a distance, amidst forests for days together where the rays of the Sun do not penetrate through the trees, and where no human being is to be seen ;—all is dull, solitary, gloomy—nothing to cheer, nothing to enliven the mind ;—the eye sees nothing, but the sky over the head, and the banks of the river bounded with trees, through which it in vain attempts to penetrate. The only consolation is, that this dreadful solitude will terminate when he arrives at the end of his journey.

Arrived at the end of his journey, and once more among human beings, he naturally becomes anxious to select a situation on which he can settle—this is an affair of difficulty, and on which his future prospects and comforts depend, although at the outset it may appear easy as the imagination can possibly conceive ; for who could suppose difficulty in purchasing land for a farm, when he is surrounded by millions of acres, some covered with forests of immense extent, and the other parts extensive plains, without a tree growing on them, and every inhabitant about him anxious to sell.

We will presume that he has made choice of a piece of land situated near a town, or near what is called a village ; and that he has sufficient money at his command to pay for his purchase—here then commences a system of deception, which he will find acted on in every transaction he engages in with the inhabitants. Every person wants to sell ; and it is a lamentable fact, that they practise every art to deceive, that want and cunning can devise ; and

hesitate at no falsehoods to take advantage of the honest mind—the inexperienced—or the unwary.

The farm that he has selected may have some land cleared, and a log house on it ; but the price that is asked startles him, being considerably more than he calculated on ; not being aware of the great difference in the value of what is termed settled and unsettled land ; and having calculated on purchasing at the prices he has seen stated in Europe : but he and his family have travelled some thousands of miles with great fatigue and expense, and have at length arrived at their favourite destination. Although disappointed in the first instance, they cannot retract ; and, unless he resolves to penetrate the gloom of the forest, far removed from any other settlers, or society, he must resolve to purchase at a price far exceeding his first supposition, perhaps one tenth of the quantity of land that he felt confident of obtaining for the same sum, and which drains his small capital to the dregs.

He is assured by the vendor that he has had a higher price offered repeatedly for the land, and produces documents to prove his assertion ; so that the emigrant is at last tempted to believe he is making a good purchase—the bargain is closed—the money is paid—and he is put in possession of his farm .

During the treaty he receives no information from the neighbours to undeceive him ; they remain passive observers at the least, although they more frequently assist in deceiving him respecting the price of the land, in order to enhance the value of their own : and it is only when too late to rectify the evil, that he discovers he has been tricked ; and that he has parted with the whole of his ready cash, when some of it would be of the most essential service ; but his anxiety to get quickly settled, that he might not lose time, has prevented him using necessary caution in dealing with interested and artful persons — a little delay, and some observation would have enabled him to discover, that there is no cash in the district ; and that the superior price which was said to be offered for the land, was in produce, for which there is only a very distant market, and that price, too, most probably exaggerated for the purpose of obtaining more than double what he would have been able to have purchased for with hard cash, if he had been acquainted with the character of those he was dealing with, and the tricks they resort to, to defraud the inexperienced.

Thus fixed on his own estate, without money, and without labourers to cultivate his land, at an immense distance from any market where he can sell his scanty produce, our adventurer sits down a Kentucky Farmer—to labour more, and to suffer greater hardships, than any cottager in England—till his constitution is broken, and his spirits depressed, when he becomes as anxious to sell his land, as he was in the first instance to purchase ; but, alas ! he now finds the difference between buying an estate in America, and selling one—he can find no purchasers among his neighbours, except for produce, and he is 800 miles from a market where he can turn that produce into money. He is thus obliged to tug at the oar, sinking under bodily labour—living hardly—without friends—and desponding.—He must drag on a wretched existence to the end of his life, or part with his property for a mere trifle—unless he resolves to become himself a deceiver, and endeavour to overreach some new comer, in the same manner that himself was overreached. But—his honesty is not put to the proof ; he has not an opportunity ; new parts of the country are explored ; extensive tracts are purchased by new speculators ; new districts become the fashionable resorts of emigrants—for there is as much rage for new settlements as for any other fashion—the district that he is in becomes neglected—there is no purchaser—and he thus drags on an existence in a life of misery.

Thus it is with persons in most instances who go to America with small capitals as cultivators of the ground, even where there is no disputed title to the estate, and where there

is some society. At the best it is a situation far from enviable. We shall soon see other modes of deception practised, and other hardships endured, which, when combined with the great distance from a market, will make this sketch, comparatively, appear ease and affluence.

The next fact that I shall state will be still in a settled part, and where the newcorner is defrauded still more ; for, in the first instance, he had only been overreached in the value of his land ; but the land itself still remained his property,

There is one tax levied in America, that appears moderate, and has been laid for the purpose of stimulating industry, extending the cultivation of land, and preventing extensive speculations ; but the Settler finds in practice that it presses heavily on him, on account of the want of cash—this is a land tax of one Dollar for every hundred acres of uncultivated land in the possession of a Settler. It may appear a mystery, that this tax should be converted into the means of defrauding the emigrant, but so it is ; and I will describe the manner.

It is too customary for men to purchase more new land (the American term for land not previously settled), on account of its comparatively low price, than they can cultivate, owing to the want of labourers ; and in many instances as a speculation, to hold till the value has increased, by reason of the increased population, which always raises the price of land in the immediate neighbourhood of such population ; but, as I stated before, another district has become the favourite, and this is neglected. In this case the cultivator has no market for his small produce—the speculator has no purchasers for his land—and neither has the means to pay the tax. The result is, what is usual in all cases where taxes are not paid, the Collector distrains, and as much of the land is sold by the Sheriff of the County, as will satisfy the arrears of the tax, and the expenses.

The emigrant is frequently tempted to be the purchaser, for two reasons—the first is, the low price at which the land is sold ; for the inhabitants are shy of purchasing at these sales, except on very low terms, their motives for which will soon appear ; the other reason is, he supposes, as in England, that a title from the Sheriff of the county is one of the best that can be procured. He now takes possession, and begins with spirit to cultivate his small farm, which has not entirely exhausted his capital. He congratulates himself and family, on having been so successful in his purchase—for none of the inhabitants interfere, to give him information—and exerts himself to erect a house and outbuildings, to cultivate a garden, and plant an orchard ; he clears land, he breeds poultry, and pigs, and looks forward to independency and comfort ; while the person whose land was sold to him, looks at his progress and improvements with a malicious gratification.

When three years have nearly elapsed, and the Settler has built himself a house ; has brought his garden into a good state of cultivation ; has planted an orchard, which is thriving, has cleared his land ; and thinks his hardships are at an end, he is overwhelmed with ruin, that comes upon him like a violent thunder storm in summer, which breaks upon the traveller on a sunshiny, placid, day, and bears down all before it, in ruin and destruction.

The law of the United States is, that land which has been sold under a distress for taxes can be redeemed within three years, by the original proprietor, on paying those taxes and the expenses. This law was framed no doubt on humane principles, that the industrious Settler in a new country should not have his little property wholly alienated from him, for a tax, without giving him time to exert himself for its redemption : but this humane clause has degenerated into a species of swindling, than which perhaps there is not a more atrocious specimen on the face of the globe. This accounts for the apathy of the Americans in purchasing at these sales ; and they are too strongly bound together in this chain of iniquity, to

inform a well meaning stranger, ignorant of their laws, of what he has to expect, as to the result of his purchase.

When three years are thus nearly elapsed, the original proprietor pays these arrears of the tax, for which the land was sold, and the expenses, and claims under the law to be put again in possession of his property ; this must be complied with ; and the unfortunate Settler is ousted out of his purchase, and the fruits of his labour and capital—he is obliged to give up his house ; his out houses ; his garden ; his orchard ; his cultivated land ; the improvements made by the exertions of himself and family, without any remuneration but the original purchase money, while the old proprietor prides himself on his finesse, and the great improvement of his property which he has obtained gratuitously ; and leaves the ruined emigrant to bewail and curse his folly, that ever tempted him to become an inhabitant of the State of Kentucky.

Reader, this account is not a fabrication ; would to God that numbers of emigrants could not bear witness to the truth of it. It is continually practised where opportunities occur.

With regard to the titles of land, the law suits respecting their validity are innumerable ; and an emigrant purchasing a farm of a farmer, is nearly certain of having included in the bargain three or four actions at law, to determine whose property it really is. These actions, it is true, are not so expensive as actions at law in England ; but the expense is still a serious consideration : and the uncertainty and anxiety attending them are harrassing to the emigrant, who has already paid the purchase money, and they prevent him making exertions for the improvement of the farm. For what man would bring into action the whole of his energies and his capital, to improve his purchase, pending these suits of law, that may not be decided for years ; and which, when decided, may probably strip him of the property that he has paid for, and turn him adrift without any recompence.

About the year 1802, Henderson's Grant, a large tract of land, was puffed of, as being one of the most favourable situations in the Western States, with respect to climate, soil, healthiness, and navigation, being situated on the Green River, and near the Ohio : in consequence numbers of families were induced to take up lots ; that is, to purchase lots of this land, of the resident proprietor, as he represented himself, and paid the purchase money. It being well known that this tract of land was originally a Grant from the American government, and that General Hopkins, the resident proprietor, was one of the heirs to the original grantee, the title was held to be undoubtedly good : the Settlers cultivated their farms, but without being able to obtain an assignment of them ; some excuse or other bring always made for the delay. This passed on for some years, when it was discovered that the Grant was not so healthy as it was at first represented, and many of the Settlers became desirous of selling their farms, and removing to some more favourite spot ; when it was too late discovered, that there was another party (a joint heir as I have understood) who must accede to the assignments to render them valid, but who refused to execute them, and thus the business remains at the present time. The purchasers, after having erected buildings, and improved their lots at a great expense of labour and money, are doubtful of being able to retain them ; and are unable to sell them—for the fact is too public for deception. They are thus condemned to reside upon an unhealthy spot, without the means of redress, and in a state of uncertainty, which paralyses their efforts, and renders them dissatisfied and desponding.

In speaking of Henderson's Grant, I will mention another circumstance, which maybe a caution to single men who possess property, and who emigrate to the Western States of America.

Mr. John Slater, a friend of mine, was partial to America, and decided to spend the remainder of his life in that country : he went over in the year 1805 ; and the manners and conversation of General Hopkins were so agreeable to him, that he resolved to become a resident on Henderson's Grant. He purchased some lots on it, and sate down to cultivate his land, and enjoy those pleasures that he had anticipated ; but he did not live to realize his expectations—whether it was owing to the unhealthiness of the Grant, or some other cause, he died in about fourteen months after his arrival, possessed of considerable property, which of right descended to his sister, in England. This property was completely unembarrassed ; and there was no plea whatever to prevent the successor taking immediate possession, on identifying her claim—but, a person on the spot, an intimate acquaintance of the deceased's, availed himself of the opportunity, and appropriated the whole to his own use ; and after thirteen years attempt there does not appear a probability of the rightful owner recovering any part of it. The practice of the law of the Western States being so lax, as to make it extremely uncertain whether the holder can ever be obliged to restore what he has so unjustly taken possession of.

If my friend looks from the grave on the transactions of this world, how will his soul be grieved at the direlection of the man who professed himself to be his friend : high spirited himself, he detested a paltry, or a mean action; for his mind was cast in an honourable mould, and was composed of honourable materials.

In these immense and uninhabited tracts, where accurate surveys have never been made, it is not uncommon for government grants to double on each other ; and when a purchaser has arrived at the place of his intended settlement, to find part of his land already occupied by a previous purchaser, who is in possession, and whom it would be both unjust and impossible to dispossess. What then can be done ! the last purchaser feels aggrieved, a law suit is the consequence ; and he generally endeavours to get rid of the difficulty, by selling his farm ; and the new comer finds, when it is too late, that he has purchased a law suit as well as the land ; and that he must either defend it, or give up part of his purchase. Thus disputed titles, and their consequent effects—lawsuits—harrass the Settler, drain his pocket, prevent exertion, and keep him in uncertainty and anxiety respecting his property.

These are some of the inconveniences attending the purchase of land, in even a settled part of the country ; the enumeration might be much extended, without departing from truth.

When an Emigrant resolves to go beyond the boundary of the settled country, on account of the cheapness of land, and set at defiance the difficulties of such a situation, he often finds a part of his purchase located ; that is, already occupied by some man of desperate fortune, who has pushed into the woods, and taken possession of a favourable spot, where he has built a log house, cultivated a small garden, perhaps cleared a little land, and, by the help of his gun, drags on a solitary, wretched, existence, cut off from society. This man it is difficult to dislodge, for I believe the laws of the United States do yet afford him some protection in the possession of the land he has located. This becomes a serious loss to the purchaser.

It will thus appear, that the Emigrant should use every precaution in his power before he purchases land in Kentucky. He ought to examine his intended purchase on the spot, and on no account whatever trust to description ; he should clearly define the boundaries ; he should satisfy himself, as far as possible, that the title is good : he may then purchase ; and the chances are more than equal that he will be overreached ; and when he enters to the possession of his land, that he also enters into a law suit to defend it.

Above all, no man should ever purchase unsettled land in the States of America that is advertised for sale in Europe. If he should be so imprudent, he is sure to be deceived; for he may be certain it is land that no person who knows it will buy ; and that it is in situations which will preclude it from being inhabited, till all the more favourable ones, which are almost innumerable, are occupied.

I will mention one instance : A native of Yorkshire, who came originally from Selby, and was settled in the metropolis in the medical profession, was seized with the mania of emigrating to Kentucky, and purchased ten thousand acres of land in that state at a public sale by auction in London ; a friend of his, Mr. Slater, whom I mentioned before, remonstrated strongly with him, on his imprudence in making this purchase ; and earnestly besought him to forbear buying any more till he was on the spot, in order to examine it personally, and to judge for himself of the quality and situation ; but deaf to reason and advice, head-strong in his own opinion, and swayed by the lowness of the price, he purchased in the same way two other lots ; the whole of his purchase amounting to thirty thousand acres, at an average of one shilling and six pence an acre ; a price he held to be so cheap, that, let the land be ever so bad, the situation ever so unfavourable, it must be a great bargain, and would ultimately enrich his family, and place his descendants in affluence.

He embarked for America, to take possession of his purchases ; and on his arrival found his friend's predictions fully verified. His land was barren, situated on rocky mountains, far removed from any Settlers ; no roads, no river in the vicinity ; and totally unfit for cultivation or settling. In fact, it was such land, and in such a situation, as no person in America would purchase. He consoled himself, however, when he found that his land abounded with coal, and calculated that he should be enriched by working it ; but this consolation was not of long continuance : his friend, who knew the customs and manners of the people better than himself, assured him, that the low price of land enhanced the price of labour, for any man could purchase a few acres by working a few months ; and every one preferred living upon his own property, however poorly, to being a servant ; so that it was difficult to procure labourers to work even above ground ; and he would find it impossible, while land continued so plentiful, to find men who would work in the bowels of the earth. Nay, that if it were possible to raise the coal—to transport it to Lexington, and pitch it in the marketplace ; then to send the bellman round the town to inform the inhabitants there was coal to distribute gratis to those who would fetch it ; that it would still remain on his hands, as the inhabitants would not burn it, preferring wood.

Thus his visionary expectations vanished ; his property wasted ; he became dissatisfied ; the tax collector each year sold part of the land for non payment of the land tax ; and this enthusiast in the purchase of land in America died a disappointed man ; and his son, anxious to return to England, sold the remainder of his father's purchase, amounting to many Thousand Acres, to a person in America, who knew the lots, for—FIFTY DOLLARS !

My veracity may be called in question, but I will conclude the statement : it may be supposed that the son, in his anxiety to quit America for ever, made an improvident bargain—No, it was not the son who made an improvident bargain, for—the purchaser followed him many miles, to induce him to retract and return him the purchase money.

I do not mention the name of this individual, who was ruined by his speculation ; but it is not the less a fact. It is sufficiently well known to many in England ; and is a matter of notoriety in Kentucky.

The emigrant, who has been ruined by the chicanery of the Kentuckians—the deluded labourer, who has been tempted to go to this land of plenty, where wages are so high, and provisions so cheap, and who has sold his all to enable him to pay his passage—the small farmer, who has been misled by false reports of the fertility of the soil, and the fallacy of not having to pay rent or taxes, and whose resources have been exhausted by transporting his family and implements—are obliged to turn their backs on the settled parts of the country, and advance into immense forests, to take up their dreary residence among the wild beasts ; or select a spot on one of the extensive plains, which the Americans term “ Barrens,” where perhaps there is not a tree to be seen for miles.

It is impossible to describe justly the misery of these situations, or bring it home to the feelings of those who have passed the whole of their lives in civilized society ; whose eyes have ever been habituated to view cultivated grounds—inclosures with growing fences—roads leading from one town to another—villages and mansions with parks, interspersed at short distances from each other, with detached farm houses : or, if they have occasionally met with a plain, of a few hours journey across, still they beheld flocks of sheep, or herds of cattle, grazing, which enlivened the scene, and gave to the mind the feeling of being in an inhabited country, among civilized beings, and where the next rising ground would open to their view a country in a high state of cultivation, and the inhabitants busy in their respective occupations. They have only travelled a few hours, as it were with a bandage over their eyes, or in the dark—they recover their sight, and all is again animation.

Not so in the wilds of America : the Adventurer, disappointed in the result of his speculation, is obliged to commence his dreary and silent journey, without one of these gladdening objects, to select some lonely spot for the future residence of himself and family.

The place he pitches on to locate, if he has not purchased land in the unsettled country, is frequently one hundred, or one hundred and fifty miles, or even more, from a town, or village ; without roads of any description ; in a forest impenetrable to the rays of the Sun, and of an extent to set at defiance any attempt to explore its boundaries, and in which he and his family, for some time, are in danger of being lost, if they stray a short distance from their dwelling ; on the banks of a river, for the sake of water, and for the chance of seeing an occasional passenger, who steals his poultry and provisions, if he has any, and can find an opportunity ; where the first thing he does is to build a log house, and clear a small portion of land, to sow a little wheat and maize.

In this residence the inhabitant is never enlivened by the busy hum of men ; there is no society, even to quarrel with, to rouse the dormant faculties ; no social neighbour to chat with on passing events ; no newspaper to inform him of the occurrences of that society of which he has ceased to be a member ; no traveller to stop and detail the transactions of the surrounding neighbourhood ; no village feasts, weddings, or christenings, where friends and relations meet in social intercourse ; no market where he can go once a week to sell the produce of his land, and procure in return the necessaries and comforts of life ; no interesting bustle with his fellow labourers in getting in the harvest, nor any harvest home to celebrate with good cheer and jollity the housing of the bounty of Providence in the productions of the earth ; no mill to grind his corn, to add to his domestic comforts ; no joint of meat for his family’s Sunday dinner ; no means of education for his children, whose prospects must be heartrending to the feelings of a parent ; no medical assistance if he should be ill of a fever, which are common in these situations, or if he break a bone, or cut himself with an axe in felling a tree ; no help but what himself can afford if his wife should be in “ that situation which all women wish to be who love their lords ;” no sound of bells from the parish church to summon him on

Sundays to worship the ALMIGHTY, and return him thanks for the blessings he enjoys—for, alas ! he is far removed from all the comforts and blessings of civilized society.

No sounds strike his ear, but those he causes himself, except the echo of the sound of his axe, or the report of his gun, which only serve to make solitude still more solitary ; for here dismal silence has reigned for ages : his food limited, scanty, and uncomfortable ; his clothes such only as he can make in this desolate situation ; without the least prospect of ever bettering his condition, hope deserts him in this world ; he becomes sullen and morose ; and the only exertion that a feeling of piety can elicit is, to pray to the SUPREME BEING, that he may have fortitude to endure his situation, and not become a victim to despair.

Of other evils attending this miserable life in the woods, there is one which is so atrocious, that the mind revolts with indignation at the thoughts of it ;—there are a number of persons in Kentucky who reside entirely in the woods, and subsist on the produce of their guns, and on depredations—lawless and brutal, they are the connecting link ; or, I might more correctly say, they are the disconnecting link, between the Indians and the Settlers ; strong, active, and fearless, owing to the life they lead—without religious or moral feelings—they plunder and murder the Indians without any provocation, or plea, but to obtain their property ; and plunder in like manner the Settlers when opportunities suit : these “ Hunters” , as they are termed, occasionally fall in with the residence of the solitary Settler ; and repeated instances have occurred, when the husband has been from home with his gun, for him to find on his return, his cabin plundered of his winter stock of provisions, his wife violated, and some of his daughters carried off, respecting whom he never hears tidings ; and of whose melancholy fate he ever remains in total ignorance.

In the scale of morality, the Indian ranks as a demi-god, compared with these diabolical beings in the shape of men.

Can any young man of common feeling and spirit, when he is plighting his faith at the altar “ to love and cherish till death” an amiable and lovely female, whose affections he has gained by assiduous attentions, look forward to plunging her into such a life of misery as the unhappy settler endures, without feeling sensations of horror ? No ! forbid it every manly feeling ! They dictate to protect from the rude blasts of this world—as far as human powers will permit—the tender and affectionate contributor to his comforts and happiness ; the firm and faithful friend ; the patient and incorruptible partner of his sorrows and misfortunes—his beloved wife.

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