





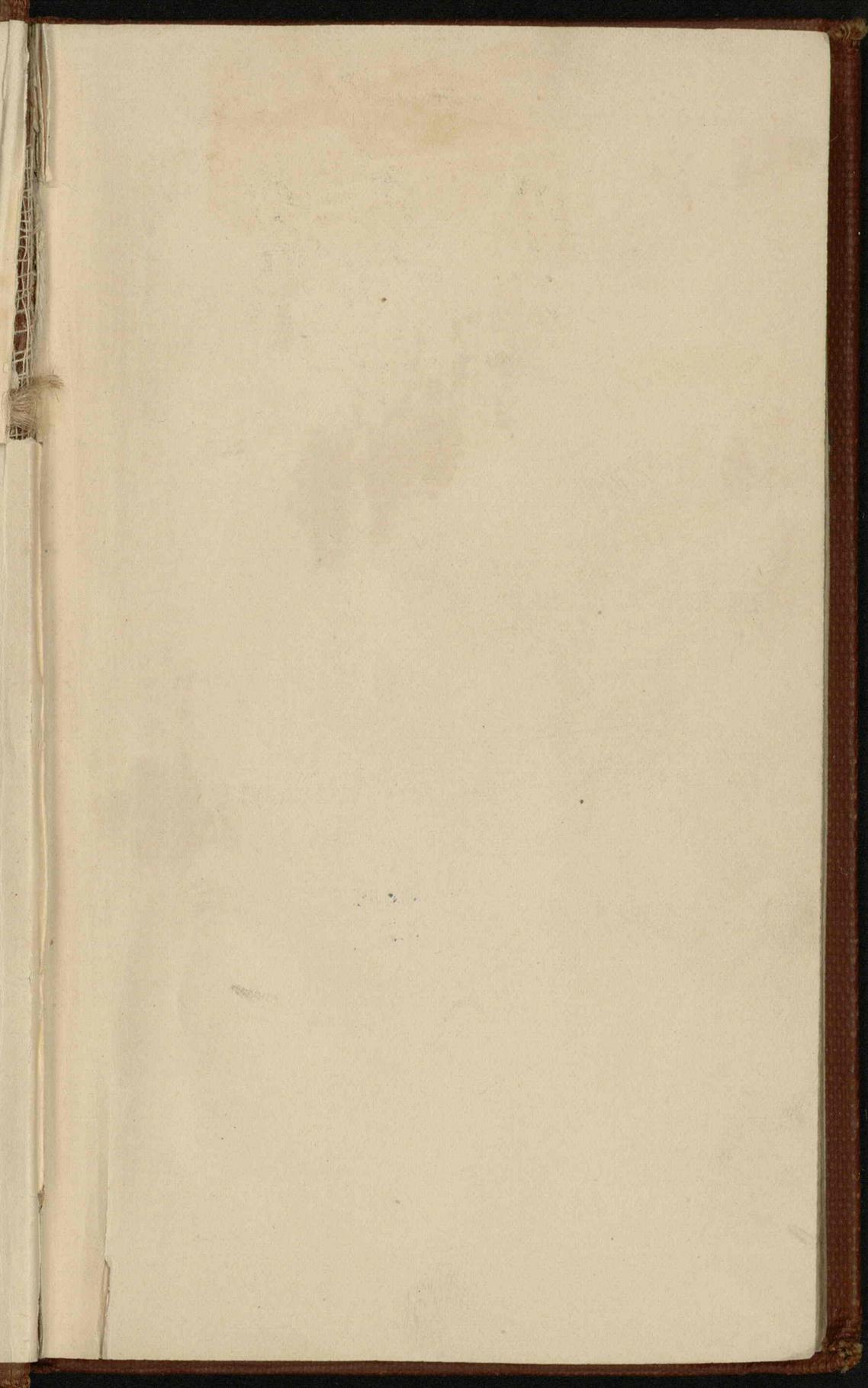
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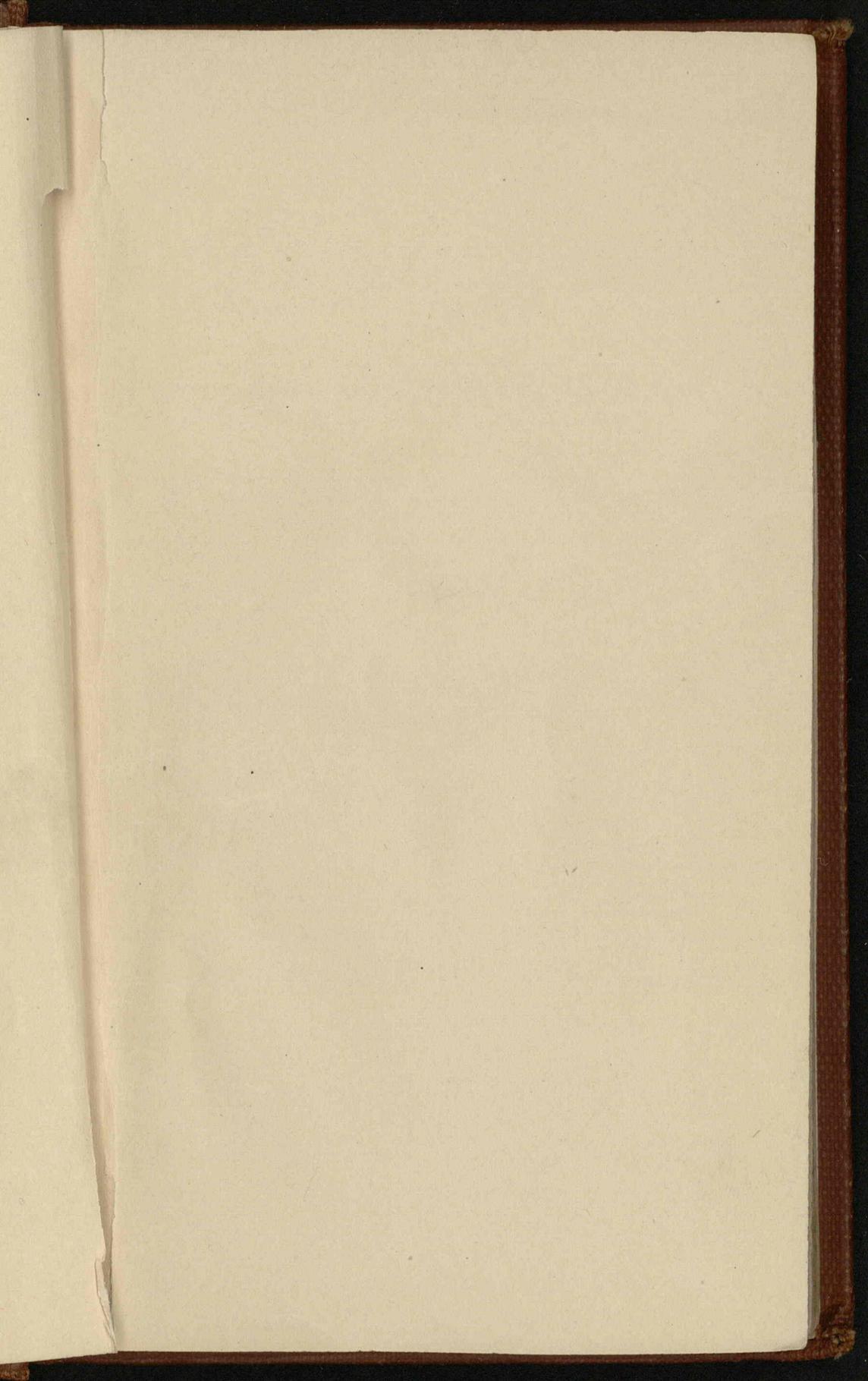
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Book .028

**Rare Bk.  
Coll.**









THE  
LIFE,  
ADVENTURES,  
AND <sup>265</sup>  
570  
UNPARALLELED SUFFERINGS

OF  
ANDREW OEHLER,

CONTAINING

An Account of his Travels through France, Italy, the East and West Indies, and part of the United States; his imprisonment in France, Germany and Spain: and the latitude, soil, climate, productions, manners and customs of the different countries.



WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

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Trenton. N. J.  
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.

.....  
1811.

E164  
.028  
Rare Bk. Coll.

*District of New-Jersey, to wit.*

BE it remembered, That on the first day of June, in the thirty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America, Andrew Oehler, of the said district, hath deposited in this office the title of a book the right whereof he claims as author, in the words following, to wit,—“The Life, Adventures, and Unparalleled Sufferings of Andrew Oehler, containing an account of his travels through France, Italy, the East and West Indies, and part of the United States, his imprisonment in France, Germany, and Spain, and the latitude, soil, climate, productions, manners and customs of the different countries, written by himself.” In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, “An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned,” and also to the act entitled “An act supplementary to an act entitled An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints.”

ROBERT BOGGS, Clerk of the District of New-Jersey.

W. G. H. op. 11/12

## PREFACE.

THE following narrative is presented to the public, more especially to my friends and acquaintance, in order to give them a history of the adventures, peculiar sufferings, and providential circumstances which I have passed through, than from any view to pecuniary advantage; and especially as it will serve to explain many things which have not had the advantage of a candid investigation, and have often been viewed in uneven scales. My steady and firm determination has been to set every material circumstance in a critical point of view: many things of small consequence have been purposely omitted, as my friends ought not to be embarrassed with reading over that sum of action which is every where common. I have endeavored to write in the most profitable and entertaining style, and have studied brevity and conciseness throughout the whole work. As for the truth of what the candid reader will find here recorded, I ask no man to believe, and shall entreat no man's charity, well knowing that the candid and learned amongst men will form no conclusion without first laying down a foundation, built on the strong basis of reason and good sense. To characters of this description I can be generous and candid enough to say, that as they read they may receive the pleasure of believing that these relations are real facts, and a colouring as true as possible given to every circumstance: for the information of the curious and inquisitive amongst the rising youth, I have spoken largely on the most material things relating to the different countries: and with respect to the exhibitions herein mentioned of some extraordinary feats performed at the times related, they will find the most

prominent parts explained at the latter end of the narrative. The peculiar sufferings and imprisonments in Europe and the southern parts of America, through prejudice and jealousy, and the different scenes of prosperity and adversity alternately following, explain the mutability and uncertainty of all human things, which may be as clearly seen as face to face in a glass.

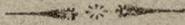
That a profitable and advantageous improvement may arise to all, the rising generation in particular, who may please to peruse these sheets, is the sincere wish of the publick's humble servant,

ANDREW OEHLER.

# LIFE, &c.

OF

## ANDREW OEHLER.



I WAS born in Alstadt, in the district of Franckfort on the Maine, in Germany, (a free and independent city, which abounds in all the luxuries and necessaries of life), on the 16th day of March, A.D. 1781. My father's name was Ryneheart Oehler; the son of Anthony Oehler, who was a lieut. in the militia under the Prince of Hesse: my father's business was, trading from Franckfort to Holland in wines, brandy, timber, &c. My mother was the daughter of the Episcopal minister of the same district: her name was Catharine Assumus: she was religious and well educated, and used to take great pains in instructing her little family:—this I can well remember from the time that I was quite young. My father was captain, before his marriage, in what was called the seven years wars, that engaged Austria, France and Russia against Frederick the Great! king of Prussia. He had five sons and five daughters, and as I was his youngest son he took care to keep me under his more immediate inspec-

tion, and used to take me along with him as a constant attendant in all his business to Amsterdam; from the time I was six until I was ten years of age, he used to make two voyages there in a year: during this short period I had, at intervals, been instructed in the common branches of education which were generally taught in the city. But my brother George being of an enterprizing turn, was willing that I should be brought up in a different manner from what I then followed, and wished me to be placed at school and prepared for a better kind of business. There was, I believe, some altercation and debate on the subject, yet the opinion of my Father must be first regarded, and I was placed at the taylor's shop to learn his trade first; and as the chief object of my brother George was that I should be brought up under his superintendance and instructions, he was promised by my father, that when I had served three years at that business, I should spend the rest of my time with him in the mercantile line, until I should be twenty-one years of age; this my father had determined on, that if ever I should be unfortunate in the world, (and he had not an independent fortune to give me), that I should not be left without any means of subsistence; and his ideas were very good, as by experience I have found that my trade has often been of very singular use to me in instances, when, without it, I must inevitably have perished. I do not expect that he had any prognostications of my travels, but this he

knew, that the Germans were a people subject to travelling more than any nation on earth; as it is a common saying in Germany, that 'the Germans are great travellers;' and it is a very common saying among them, that 'no man is so sure of a good living as he that has a trade.' I was accordingly bound to a taylor, to be instructed in the best manner possible in the taylor's trade, from the time that I was ten until I was thirteen years old; and my father was willing to pay something extraordinary in order that I might acquire my trade quick, or as I was very young, that I might acquire so much knowledge of it that I should be able at maturer age, with a little more insight, to follow the business respectably: this I believe must have been their intention; and according to the common saying, 'what is sown in youth, by early impregnation, is rooted,' *i. e.* is remembered; at that time I acquired such a degree of information that I was, when necessitated afterwards to make use of it, well enough skilled to make easy advancements to new acquirements, and without expence to myself, or any particular trouble, to attain a respectable degree in the same line of business.

But whilst my father was providing a degree of good acquirements for his children, misfortunes began to spring and bud on his own foundation; and although I might be inaccurate should I attempt to give in detail an account of the progress of these misfortunes, yet I will observe, that they were occasioned by the pro-

ceedings and the rash conduct of the French Revolution, through the plans, ungenerous and unprincipled, of the National Convention of France; they plundered, burnt and destroyed. This, however, they say was not under the instructions or superintendance of the Great General Bonaparte, who they pretend to say is of a humane and generous disposition.—Be it as it may, his property was taken from him with savage cruelty and inhumanity.

Whilst my father decreased in property, my brother George increased, and continued to establish himself more and more in the mercantile line of business, in Franckfort upon Maine. All this time I was growing discontented in the place of my apprenticeship, for my master, although thought well of at first, having found himself possessed of my time for so long a period, treated me with the greatest disingenuity; and finding myself powerfully pressed by my father, and that a master must be my patron and not my father, and no relief, I grew entirely discouraged.

My master was one of those men who had no heart in combat with either his superiors or equals, but cruel and extremely ungenerous to his subjects and dependents; the true mark of a cowardly and dastardly spirit: for my part, I too sensibly felt the indignities and rough usage which he gave me the short time that I tarried with him, ever to consent to being bound out a second time, although I had faithfully served until I had finished my apprentice-

ship. This man's usage to me was cruel and almost indescribable.

Immediately after this, my brother George, who had been waiting my release from my apprenticeship, made a new application to my father to bind me to him to serve one more apprenticeship in the mercantile business. Had my father at first bound me out to a person of a humane and gentle disposition, I might have been willing to have accepted of this generous offer of my brother; but the proverb (the burnt child dreads the fire) held, unfortunately, true with me in this critical and unfortunate period; for having been so cruelly abused by my master, Mr. Crembalboyne, I had concluded that all masters were thus cruel to servants. In a fatal moment I concluded, that I never would be under another master as an apprentice; but fearing my father would bind me to my brother, I resolved to use one violent effort to prevent it. It was now that I left all my friends in Franckfort of Maine, and threw myself into a world of troubles, perils and sufferings, perhaps unequalled in some respects for several centuries, as the succeeding history will shew. And indeed the consideration of my disobedience to my parents, my unparalleled ingratitude to my brother George in particular, which was the prime cause of all my sufferings and calamities, bears no inconsiderable part in the trials which I endured.

It was the 27th of May, 1794, that I left my native place, without the consent of my fa-

ther or any of my acquaintance, and took my departure for Strasburgh. Here I came into a new train of reflections, in the fourteenth year of my age, on quitting all my former friends and acquaintance, and launching forth in an unknown world of strange and unforeseen events. I had with me a trifling sum of money in my small purse, which I had laid up during my three years' apprenticeship. This little sum, which was accumulated by receiving small presents from gentlemen to whom I had been sent by my master with clothes; was the whole of my dependence for support until I could get employment; however, one of my sisters having been married to a gentleman who now lived in Strasburgh, I concluded, as I had calculated, to call on her for some assistance: (this place was situated about fifty leagues from Franckfort, where my father lived): her husband was a native of Strasburgh, and a respectable French merchant. I arrived here on the 10th day of June. This fair and well inhabited city lies about one league West of the river Rhine, and within the limits of Palentine, in 43 degrees and 36 minutes of North latitude, and 8 degrees 10 minutes East longitude: it is very handsomely situated; the public streets are straight and handsome; the alleys are beautifully adorned with trees of an elegant kind, and well fitted to refresh the weary traveller, or the inhabitants of the city after the labours of the day are over. I have seen about one thousand people walking in them on a pleasant summer's

evening ; they are situated near the play-house, and at a convenient distance from the bustle of the city. There is in this city a Roman Catholic church called the Minster, which I myself have seen at fifteen leagues distance on land, and it is reported to have been seen by others in a clear day at the distance of twenty leagues with the naked eye : however, it is remarkably high and elegant, built of stone and marble, with ornamental images, which beautifully and surprizingly grace the outside of the building : it is reported there, that four kings made themselves poor in rearing this costly and magnificent fabric ;—how true or false soever this may be, it is beyond all doubt that it cost an immense sum of money and labour to build it ; but it is a great part of the religion of the Roman Catholics to build costly and magnificent houses of worship in all countries. This city is situate in a healthy climate, and well watered, but the great hindrance to its populating is its great distance from the sea,—about one hundred and fifty leagues ; small boats only can come here by water, and the conveyance is chiefly by land : the number of inhabitants are about fifty thousand ; since the French Revolution, the French language is generally spoken here.

After I had been in Strasburg, one day, and was a little recovered from the fatigues of my journey, I put on the best suit of apparel I had brought with me, and made enquiry for my sister : her husband being a noted man, I was

soon directed by a young gentleman, (who accompanied me) to the place of her residence. I made myself known; she welcomed and received me with great affection, and immediately introduced me to the gentlemen and ladies who happened then to be in the house on a tea-party: some of them were of her husband's relations. After I had sat some time in the company and felt myself very happy in the agreeable conversation that passed, my sister called me into another apartment, and enquired more particularly of many things in her father's family at Franckfort of Maine; amongst the rest of her interrogatories, What had been my employment? I answered that of a taylor; but how much surprised and astonished was I to hear her exclaim, 'you are no relation of mine, but an impostor! make the best of your way out of my house,' &c. She gave me no time to enquire into the cause of this sudden change, but immediately withdrew, and shut the door in passion and apparently with deep resentment! and added to this, her countenance denoted every degree of displeasure imaginable, and that nothing remained for me to expect, or hope, for any thing like friendship to be received from her in any future period.

Here I was in a strange country, without friends or acquaintance, and one hundred and fifty English miles from my father's house, having fled for safety from the hand of tyranny: my money was not all spent;—but, to

have the character of an impostor ! and that given me by a sister whom I loved and esteemed, and from whom I had hoped for protection and deliverance ; and added to this the scandal and disgrace which would naturally follow, was more than my tender heart would well bear,—and all this for having obeyed my father's commands in suffering myself to be taught the trade of an honest mechanic.—It pierced me to the soul ! I wept and cried, was tossed to and fro by various passions ; those of love and fear being predominant, produced inexpressible grief ! My sister's pride would not suffer her to acknowledge that any of her family was a tradesman ; the young gentleman who accompanied me to the house came out of the parlour, and found me in the entry or porch in this lamentable situation, so impressed with grief, and in a flood of tears, that it moved his gentle heart with pity, and with an affectionate tone of voice he put his hand on my shoulder, and said, young man, never mind it, but take courage ; perhaps the road may turn after a while ; and as he evidently saw that it was my sister's pride, at finding that I was a mechanic, which caused her to reject me, he advised me to bid her an everlasting and eternal farewell and leave the house ; accordingly seeing one of the maids just passing by, I sent in word, that I wished to see my sister once more before I left the house.—I believe she did the errand, for in a few minutes my sister came out, then taking hold of

her hand I said, 'I bid you now an eternal and everlasting farewell! if now you are too proud to acknowledge me your brother, because of my decent occupation which my father has seen fit to give me, how much soever you may reflect or repent of it hereafter, yet remember, that you shall never see my face again! I will see you no more forever! but bid you an everlasting, and an eternal farewell?' Here my reader will conclude, that my resentment was raised, perhaps a little too high; it was high I will acknowledge, but when we look at defamations and dishonor, cast at us by the persons who have always professed themselves our friends, such things as these fall on us like sudden claps of thunder with a seven-fold weight! We are confounded at the suddenness of the shock! and taught the mutability of all human things, as it were in a moment of time! We are surprised at the deceitfulness that can reign in the human breast! and whilst these subjects present themselves to our view, every discordant passion stands on the pinnacle of the soul! and creates the most inexpressible anxiety, grief, fear and dismay! If the consequences are important, we give a few minutes to reflect, and strike a full and a decisive blow! And this indeed was the case in the abovementioned circumstance with myself, although former affections, still not wholly eradicated, obliged me to perform it with tears and grief. This being done, I gently turned myself round from

my sister and went down the steps at the door and passed off from the house. Now it was that heaven touched the heart of steel! My sister instantly felt a gleam of pity for the dejected and afflicted son of sorrow; she knew that I had taken that course from my father's house in preference to many other places, in order to see my long absent and beloved sister; that I had placed great dependance on her humanity and affection for me, when I left the place of my nativity, and that the strong presumption that I should enjoy her friendship and protection was the prime cause of my venturing to break the shackles of my former slavery; and whether I was right or not in such proceedings, she knew that I had acted conscientiously and with good regard to propriety; and whether she considered the great distance and perils of the way, if I should be obliged to return home, or the perils of the sea if I were to flee to another country; or of bad company, or unfortunate events in the city, I know not; but this I well remember, she was powerfully affected, and instantly melted into a flood of tears: with tenderness and sympathy she called me back, acknowledged me to be her brother, and again once more invited me into the parlour; a reconciliation soon took place between us, and I found myself under the protection of a brother-in-law, a merchant of the first respectability in the city: my sister was also very affectionate and kind, and under their hospita-

ble roof I solaced myself in pleasures for about eighteen months. During all this time they spared no pains in educating me in the different branches and sciences of Strasburg fitted to the capacities of youth, together with military discipline: here I did nothing but what my natural inclination and ambition approved; my brother-in-law and my sister being so far my superintendants as to preserve me from the immoralities of the city. As they had during this time become acquainted with my circumstances when I left my father, by letters written from Franckfort of Maine, where my father lived, and doubtless being informed of his intention of bringing me into the mercantile line of business with my brother George, as I had before related, they generally humoured me in such exercises and employments as tended to give me instruction and lead my mind that way.

There were several letters written by my father and my brother George, wishing me to return to my native place, but all to no purpose; for I cared little about the advice of my sister to go back, so long as I found that she and her husband used me so politely, and seemed so much pleased with my company. My father using no authority, I was established in my opinion of things and measures, and thought that it was best for me never to return.

It was in this city that I regaled myself with pleasures, and saw my happiest days; it was a place of many curiosities; and one thing

which would be entertaining to the reader, amongst many others that are not seen in other countries, is a description of the very elegant clock which is fixed in the Roman Catholic church in Strasburg. A full description of it cannot conveniently be given in this small narrative, but it may be observed that it does not go in all its parts at present: its curiosities have been the admiration of all Europe, as in the work there may be seen the operation of the sun, moon, and planets, the chime of bells and the artificial cock, (which stands on the top of the tower), that at a certain hour would crow entirely natural. For a full description of this work, I refer the reader to the *Methodist Magazine*, printed in Philadelphia, 1799, Vol. i, Page 471: but two or three of its greatest curiosities I will here briefly mention; there are four little bells whereon the quarters of the hour are struck; at the first quarter comes forth a little boy and strikes the first bell with an apple, passes on, and stops at the fourth bell until the next quarter; then comes a lusty youth, and he with a dart strikes two bells, and succeeds to the place of the child; at the third comes forth a man in arms, with a halbert in his hand, and strikes three bells, he succeeds to the place of the young man; at the fourth quarter comes an old man with a staff, having a crook at the end, and he with much ado, being old, strikes the four bells, and stands at the fourth quarter, until the next quarter:—immediately to strike the

clock, comes death, in the room above the other; and this understand, that at each quarter he comes forth to catch each of those former ages away with him; but at a contrary side, in the same room where he is, comes forth Christ, and drives him in; but when the last quarter is heard, Christ gives him leave to go to the bell which is in the midst, and so he strikes with his bone, according to the hour: and he stands at the bell, as the old man doth at his quarter-bell, till the next quarter, and then they go in both together. The last thing which I shall mention more particularly, and which was hinted before, is the tower at the top of the work, wherein is a noble, pleasant chime which goes at three, seven, and eleven o'clock, each time a different tune; and at Christmas, Easter, and Whitsunday, a thanksgiving unto Christ;—and when this chime has done, the cock, (which stands on the top of the tower on the north side of the main work), having stretched out his neck, shook his comb, and clapped his wings twice, crows twice; and this he does so shrill and natural that it would excite astonishment in any one;—and if they chuse, who attend the clock, they can make him crow more times. From this tower are conveyed all the instruments of those motions which are in the aforesaid things. But as was before observed, this clock does not now perform in all its parts; the circumstances are as follows;—the gentleman who was the chief workman, and who invented the curiosities in

this clock, told the inhabitants of the city of Strasburg, that in consequence of his not being fully compensated for his labour in inventing and performing the work for them, he would be under the necessity of travelling to another city, and building another of the same kind; but that he had determined that the work should be superior in elegance and fame to that performed in Strasburg; upon this, the jealousy of the priests of the Roman Catholic church immediately arose, and they confined him in the common prison. In order to revenge himself, or make his escape, or both, he told them that there was something important still deficient in the work, and some assert that the clock had stopped, and needed repairing: be that as it may, he was taken out of prison and accompanied to the Minster under guard until he had finished the work. But whilst he apparently completed the work, he made such alterations in it as to prevent it from going longer than two or three weeks in some parts of it; he moreover told them, that if they confined him in the city of Strasburg, it would not prevent him from writing to the inhabitants (I think of Vienna in Germany) and directing them how to perform the work themselves. When they discovered the possibility of his doing this, they cut out his eyes to prevent him from writing, and confined him again in prison, where he died a short time after; his corpse was carried forth from prison and interred; his funeral was much honored

by the citizens in general, though pretendedly despised by the Roman Catholic priests.

But to return to my former employments in Strasburg; as I have related, they were all pleasant and entertaining, and could any thing have made me contented at that time I might have found it here, in a place where the chief productions of the soil were wheat and wine in plenty, with a variety of fruits, united with a respectable people of very amiable and courteous deportment; nevertheless, the planet which directed my unfortunate travels, was just beginning its most energetic influences; whereupon my ambition for seeing new countries, and for acquiring a far higher degree of the knowledge of the world, began to make me weary and discontented in this best of places; accordingly I made known my intentions to my sister and her good husband, who used all their influence to dissuade me from my intentions, but all to no purpose; I remained fixed in my determinations, and accordingly I prepared for my journey; and after taking an affectionate farewell! of all the family and my new acquaintances, I took stage and set off for Basle in Switzerland, leaving behind me the pleasant climes of Strasburg to the possession of all its happy inhabitants. Thus, on the 19th day of Dec. in the fifteenth year of my age, I took my departure for exploring the magnificent cities and countries of Europe, and after an unpleasant passage of ten days, I arrived in Basle, in a country

convulsed with arms and mad with revolutionary wars! Here liberty without substance seems to be the order of the day; but how this will end, and the pretensions of the French declaring in favour of their liberty, time only, the true test of all things, will determine. This city lies on the river Rhine, about 24 leagues from the city of Strasburg; not entirely level, but conveniently situated for trade: merchandise is conveyed to and from this city chiefly by land carriages, as goods cannot be conveyed by water but in small craft, such as boats, &c. Their chief advantage in trade is to and from Franckfort of Maine. It lies in latitude 44 deg. nearly; good soil, produces chiefly grain, wine, and other articles of trade common with the European countries; they have a temperate climate, the air is clear from gross contagious diseases, and it is called a healthy country; their language is German; their religion is a mixture of Protestant and Roman Catholic, about an equal number of each; their houses are built of wood and stone, in the common form of buildings in this country; the streets are not very much to be praised for their elegance, being mostly narrow; it lies on the river Rhine; they are generally plain in their dress and language; but honest and well meaning people. I remained in this city fourteen days; then I began travelling from one town to another through the mountains of Switzerland seeking employment at my trade; seven weeks passed

off in the greatest state of anxiety and wretchedness ! during which time, I suffered every hardship, (death excepted,) which human nature was capable to endure, but could find no employ at my trade ; and now my money being gone, famine and every other affliction attendant on a state of poverty stared me full in the face : still I continued travelling until I was obliged to part with some of my best clothing to get me a pair of shoes, and a temporary subsistence : on the 26th day of the same month I arrived at Newfchatel, thinking to get into business : here I went into business of the worst kind imaginable, seeking employment but finding none, no not the least encouragement ; and doubtless owing to my mean appearance ; having been, as I before related, obliged to part with some of my best apparel ; I had not a coat, excepting one suitable for the summer season ; and to complete my misfortunes, as I was passing along by the side of a lake not far distant, on a sudden a gale of wind deprived me of my hat, by blowing it off into the water. In this sad and dismal plight I entered houses and shops, seeking for employment, but the people laughed me to scorn, declaring that I was some profligate vagabond : in this manner they scoffed at my misery and seemed delighted with my wretchedness. It was now that I remembered the excellent advice of my beloved sister and her good husband ; and it was now that I wished myself back in Strasburg under their hospitable roof :

but, alas! the sad difference! almost naked and half starved. I left the city of Newshatel for Louisiana. Soon after my departure, the snow began to fall so fast, that the heavens were dark over me; it filled all the path which I travelled; I was alone without a guide, without money, without food, without clothing; extreme cold, storm, fear, terrors, and confusion were my only attendants; the reflection on my past misfortunes and present despicable situation, created in me a wish that I had never been born! but it is impossible for words to declare, or those who have not experienced the like calamities, to conceive the melancholy situation which I was then in: this is the situation in which I travelled over the pathless mountains, vallies, and forded the creeks of Switzerland. I believe for about twelve or fifteen miles in this gloomy and distressing storm I travelled, and ascended the craggy rocks and deserts, famished with hunger and benumbed with cold, until I saw nothing left but to lie down and perish! Never before was I so well able to prize a good house, and such agreeable accommodations as I had left in Strasburg. Here I would give one word of advice to youth, which is, that they always ask counsel of the wise and experienced, especially of such as are friends not only to decent and virtuous conduct, but of such as are well acquainted with the world, and with the uncertain fortunes of a travelling life; the want of which has been the destruction and misery of

thousands. Perhaps the virtuous part of mankind are ready to observe, that my disobedience to my parents when I left Franckfort of Maine, produced and brought on these unparralleled sufferings; and at the time I was reluctantly forced to reflect on my misfortunes in this point of view; and I verily believe, that a disobedience to parents and the moral commands of superintendants, brings down the severest punishments from the hand of the Supreme Being; indeed I then received it in this point of light, and thought that my situation was worse than death, and that the all-wise disposer of every circumstance and event, was now repaying my stubbornness and rebellion against them, on my own head; and it was doubtless the case; for I here found no relief, until I applied to that almighty being, whom I had so heedlessly disregarded before; and now, in this distressing situation, I fell down on my knees, and implored heaven to compassionate my unfortunate case. Just as I ended my prayer, night began to approach; I however pursued my journey, but the fatigue which I had endured, and the chill proceeding from the coldness of the storm, so overcame me, that I almost despaired of seeing the light of another morning: my spirits sunk within me! I expected nothing but to perish! and consequently to die a miserable death! Here my necessity again led me to put up another petition to heaven for relief, and the reader will naturally conclude that my prayer

was of the most fervent and importunate kind, as it really was : I think that if in any thing I was ever sincere I was in this ; I then travelled on a few rods, and turning my head round I espied a light not far off, glimmering through the trees ; my fainting spirits now revived ; I concluded that heaven had condescended to hear my request ; I took immediate courage : yes, hope enkindled joyful surprise at my sudden and unexpected deliverance ! it seemed as if designed by heaven for my relief ! I was so overjoyed that it appeared something like supernatural, and with great difficulty I made my way to the place from whence the light proceeded, which proved to be the cottage of an old man. I made my way to the door of the house and desired admittance ; the old gentleman came to the door and bid me come in ; I immediately entered, and was seated by the fire until conveniently warm, after which he gave me the best refreshment his little cottage could afford. After supper the old gentleman asked me many questions, by what accident I came hither, &c. After I had related every material circumstance of my case, he seemed much affected with my sufferings ; I then took my leave of the hospitable old gentleman for the night, and repaired to the lodging which he had kindly provided for my rest, with the following lines strongly impressed on my mind,

agreed that I should sleep in the house that night for trial, and he lighted me to bed; but before he left me, insisted on treating me with a bottle of wine; then taking the candle in his hand he bid me farewell, saying, perhaps I shall never see you alive again. I went to bed, but not very well contented, and to tell the truth, I was somewhat intimidated, and often laid very still and silent to hear. About twelve o'clock, I heard a noise of thunder, and saw flashes of lightning in the house; this so terrified me and shook my resolution, that I was lost in surprise, and scarcely knew where I was for a few minutes; I sprang out of my bed, and ran to the head of the stairs, there I was met by a cask (which came thundering down over another pair of stairs above,) that knocked me immediately down on the floor. I now found that my former boasting was but talk only, and that (as the common phrase is) doing was the naked truth. I had formerly played with the notion that there was a Devil, but I was now much afraid that I had been mistaken, and was so terrified, that I cried murder with a voice as loud and shrill as possible: however, the way was passable down stairs; thence I made my escape, and acquainted the people of the occasion of my fright; having some jealousy still, that they were too passive and easy to be wholly ignorant of this business; but they affirmed that they had no hand in the business, and represented to me, that it was something super-

natural, and had happened almost every night : I then said, if that be the case I will return once more, whether they be good spirits or evil ones ; they endeavoured to dissuade me from my purpose, by every forcible argument, that I might loose my life, &c. but the result was I was determined to know, whatever might be the consequence, whether there was just cause for my fears or not. I then took a lighted candle in my hand and proceeded up the same stairs I came down, and from thence proceeded up the garret stairs,—where I found the master of the house, and the machinery with which he had caused the thunder and lightning. I demanded of him his reasons for making such a noise to frighten strangers ; he then told me as follows ;---this house, said he, was lately owned by a noted miser, who took all advantages of making property, by extortion, and grinding the faces of the poor ; this miser has lately died, and this house is to be sold in a few days at public sale :---that he had done all this, in order to infuse into the minds of the people a belief that the house was haunted ; so great is the superstition of this part of the country, that such pranks have great weight with the ignorant and deluded populace ; he said farther, that he intended to buy the house himself, as nobody would bid against him, and consequently it would fall to him a dead bargain : he then offered me one hundred and fifty dollars to keep the secret to myself, and assist him in his undertaking, which I promised to

do; the bargain being finished and the plan laid, I returned to my chamber. I ought to have mentioned there was given me (when I went to bed) a candle and a sword, which I had dropped in my fright at the foot of the garret stairs; this candle I newly alighted, took my sword, and proceeded into the chamber, and from the front window cried murder! and fire! with all the force in my power. He kept still in the garret, until I had collected one half the city; they came running in great haste into the house; but when these deluded people heard the artificial thunder and saw the flashes of lightning, they were as much terrified at it as I was at first, and retreated in great haste and confusion; I followed them with prayers and intreaties to come and deliver me, and as I appeared to them as one going into convulsions, and in danger of immediate death, some of them put on courage, made one violent effort, and venturing into the chamber, took hold of me and carried me out: they immediately reported the terrible and frightful scene of horror which they had witnessed, and were readily believed by the credulous and bigotted Swiss, who place implicit faith in all manner of necromancy. The merchant taylor soon after purchased the haunted house which was worth about six thousand dollars, for nine hundred; he paid me the one hundred and fifty dollars according to agreement.

I now bought me decent wearing apparel, and felt an inclination increase once more to

travel ; that I might learn more of the world ; my mind was solely bent on seeing new countries and new things : this may appear strange to one whose chief happiness consists in eating always of his own bread and warming himself by his own fire ; but, it must be remembered, that the general voice of the people in all countries is, recommending a knowledge of the world to the youth ; and the natural propensity of my heart caught fire at every expression of this kind, and life seemed to me as of no value whilst I must spend my days in a corner : but I did not see the slavery that attended it : all that I had undergone before in travelling appeared as nothing ; but go I must, hazarding life with all its domestic pleasures and happiness for this one great and noble attainment, a great part of which has been very much like the wise man's experience, nothing but vanity and vexation of spirit. Howbeit, I proceeded and bought me a horse, and every thing else to complete a full equipage fitted for my journey, and on the 29th day of February, 1796, I left Louisana, and with it all the fine country of Switzerland ; a country in which I had undergone many hardships and severe trials ; and having suffered so much in my travels there, nothing appeared pleasant and inviting enough to fix my attention sufficiently to spend with them one week longer : accordingly I bid a final farewell to my small number of associates, and gladly set off for Andover in Italy.

I arrived at Andover, after a pleasant journey, on the 24th day of March following. I was now once more a stranger in a strange land, ignorant of the language, modes or customs of the inhabitants: here the people, as well as in Switzerland, are superstitious in the extreme; and far more tenacious and jealous, of their forms of religion, and of every thing else which have any connexion with it; and yet they seem to be very little influenced in their morals by the principles which they profess; and I have generally observed, that the more tenacious any denomination of people are, of the dry forms and ceremonies of religious exercises, the less sincerity appears in their profession: they soon found that I little regarded their cases of conscience, doing penance, praying souls out of purgatory, &c. but they soon began to despise me in their turn: they are called remarkable for their address, affability and generosity to strangers; but I conceive it must be to such as are of their sentiments, and accord with their superstitious religion. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that Italy must be considered as a rival or superior to any kingdom in Europe for many things; her architecture, painting, sculpture, magnificent cities, elegant palaces, and lofty towers, are so many monuments of her fame! Rome, the capital of Italy, lies in lat. 41 deg. and 54 min. North latitude. and 12 deg. and 45 min. East longitude. I felt such an aversion to the inhabitants of this country, that I

determined my stay should be very short with them ; and in three days set off and left them, with a view of going to Marsellies in France, at which place I arrived on the 24th day of April : but as a farther description of Italy, may be pleasing to some of my readers, I add, the Italians are said to be about twenty millions ; many things have been said concerning these atalians, and often very contradictory ; the settled boundaries of this nation are fixed far towards the East and South West by the Adriatic and the Mediterranean seas ; and Northward it is bounded by the high and lofty mountains called the Alps ; this long chain of mountains begin at the river Var, and run an irregular course, with many windings, and end near the river Arsia ; they divide Italy from France, Switzerland and Germany ; the principal mountains of Italy are the Alps, which make the separation above mentioned ; one of the principal and most remarkable rivers in Italy is the Po, a river as rapid as any in the world ; it takes its rise near mount Rese, the highest of all the Alps ; and after receiving upwards of thirty small rivers, discharges itself into the Adriatic by seven different mouths : the Adaigne also rises out of the mountains called the Apennines, at a small distance from the great capital, the famous city of Rome, and empties itself into the Tuscan sea : there are other rivers in Italy of lesser note. Italy produces all the necessities of life in great plenty ; and all the luxuries

of the old and new world, which are so much admired by travellers, are to be found here in abundance ; these consist of corn and other grain, the richest of wines, and the most choice fruits, such as citrons, oranges, olives, prunes, raisins, almonds, sugar, oils and mulberries in the greatest profusion : their manufactures consist of silk in great abundance, gold, silver, iron, sulphur and elastic. The original language of the Italians is derived from the latin language, which is the same spoken by the ancient inhabitants of Rome ; but being mixed with the Goths and Huns, it has so mingled the language, that it is almost reduced to a kind of jargon ; but by the labors of the refined and polished, it is now brought to a proper standard. For ages past Italy has been the seat of convulsions, wars, and bloodshed ! many have been the throes and eruptions of this nation ! It was invaded by the Carthaginians, led on by the famous generals, Hannibal, Charlemagne, and Francis the First ; but above all, and more than all the others, Napoleon Bonaparte has covered the soil of Italy with human blood ! in contending for its dominions.

In this place I sold my horse, and worked at my trade two months ; after which, on June the 14th, I left Marselles and took my journey on foot for Bordeaux, where with much difficulty, not being accustomed to travelling on foot, I arrived July the 14th. Here I tarried but three weeks, seeking for employ-

ment, but found none; my stock of money being by this time nearly exhausted, I felt somewhat uneasy and discontented; but it happened that as I was one day walking with a friend of mine, we met a master taylor, to whom my friend introduced me as a good workman, and with him I got employ for two weeks, in which time I saved some money, for my necessities before had taught me now to be very sparing of what I earned; but to do this I was obliged to keep myself out of almost all kinds of what they called civil company. Bordeaux is a large and flourishing city; it is a sea-port, and a place of the greatest trade of any in France.

I left this place on the 22<sup>d</sup> day of August, and pursued my journey towards Paris. I travelled a very dry and sandy road; the weather also proved extremely hot, and I was very uncomfortable; my feet blistered, my money was expended, and famine once more stared me in the face! I travelled two days without any subsistence but water, and once in a while a raw turnip, a few grapes, and such vegetables as I found by the road, and in the fields by the way-side. The case of the French nation at this time was very distressing, and to mention one thing which may be ranked amongst many, is the allowance of bread which was given to every family according to the national allowance; the property, provision, and every thing else, was in the hands of government, and the nation experienced a uni-

versal scarcity; one ounce of bread only was allowed to every person; so that if there was a family of ten persons, they were allowed but ten ounces of bread each day, and provision of every kind was scarce; but this is well known to those who have read the history of the Revolution; hunger, at last, that messenger that unbolts every lock, would bear off no longer, and I was obliged to implore the assistance of the generous peasantry for relief; for hunger by this time had worn me down to such a degree, that I was almost exhausted of strength and ability to travel; at length I came to a farmer's house hard by the way; I approached the door, and told the good woman my situation, and entreated her compassion for a little food, but she cast on me a disdainful look, and said that she had nothing for herself; and probably she told very near the truth, for I doubt if she had much; such was the situation of the miserable inhabitants at this period of the revolution: as I stepped out of the door of the house, I found a crust of bread, which I took up and soaked in water and eat it up with as good an appetite as ever I eat the best of food, although it was extremely hard and doubtless had laid there for days; such is the extremities of hunger with many of the inhabitants of a famishing country: the night however soon came on, and I was compelled to take up my lodging under the covert of a tree, where the heavens only were my covering, and the cold ground my

bed of rest ; after a hard night's lodging here, I arose and pursued my journey toward Paris, the capital of France. There I soon arrived in my destitute situation, on 1st Sept. 1796 ; here again I found myself surrounded with great and magnificent buildings ! riches in abundance, and an immense people ; but I was pining for want of food, and entirely destitute of friends ; here I went into an inn, and began to inquire for business, and was directed to a merchant-taylor in the city ; here I called for food and lodging, but had nothing to pay, though I had encouragement that I should soon be able to get some by my labour ; there was also one quarter of a dollar due to the man who directed me to this place, for his labour in conveying me in his carriage to this inn, and he being an inhabitant of a distant part of the city, would insist on having his money paid immediately ; I had no face to ask him to credit me five minutes ; how to pay him I did not know, and being put to my word hard, and in a great strait for my character in promising to pay money when I had not one cent about me, nor knew where I could get any, brought me to a nonplus ; if I had made known my destitute situation to the inn-holder, I conjectured for certain that he would have disdained to relieve me ; and making fiction answer for reality, I immediately made myself appear affluent and full of money ; called for a bottle of wine, supper and lodging ; after which I informed the good

host, that I had no small money in my pocket, and would thank him for the use of a quarter of a dollar a short time, until I could get some money changed; this being expressed with a high and princely sound, and feigning a majestic appearance, it answered just to my wishes; he immediately answered, yes, as much as you want, if it be ten dollars. I tarried with this gentleman until the next morning, and after breakfast, he went with me to the merchant-taylor to whom he had formerly recommended me, and after having agreed to work with him, I told him, that there was my expences yet due to my good host for my entertainment, that a piece of gold which I did not well like to have changed into small money, was the smallest piece that I had by me, would therefore thank him to settle my small expence and place it to my account; this request he readily granted; I immediately went to work, and found him generous, courteous, kind and affectionate; he proved an excellent acquaintance; I tarried with him eighteen months in this large and flourishing city: here is the residence of the rich, the brave and the learned; here by my industry and frugality, I was soon able to restore my clothing; but my employer always treated me with the greatest friendship, and his family conducted toward me with the greatest respect and familiarity; and recommended by my generous employer, I had the honour of being admitted to the acquaintance of several

very respectable gentlemen in the city, all of whom favored me with their friendship; when there was an opportunity and agreeable weather, I often passed away a leisure hour in viewing the novelties and curiosities of the city; I here enjoyed myself with more satisfaction than ever I enjoyed any part of my life; the road is said to be long that has no turn, my friends were increasing in the city, people of note and fortune favored me with their salutations: my credit now flowed with rapidity and gained fast; then I thought that it might be advantageous to set up for myself, but the difficulties attending, where a person must go chiefly on credit, and where I could not command a capital of my own, eventually discouraged my plan: I therefore thought, that it would be safe to defer it, until I could proceed on surer grounds; seeing the necessity of more property, I offered myself as foreman in the royal palace, so called, *i. e.* a place of great trade and filled with stores and hotels; it is one of the finest places in Paris: to this employment I was recommended to Mr. Hoffman, one of my own countrymen, and with him I agreed as master-workman of his shop: I shall now mention some things concerning this gentleman, he was a man nearly sixty years of age, and his wife, Mrs. Hoffman, a young woman of twenty-four years of age; she was both handsome and insinuating, and given much to pleasure and high life; she was brought up and educated in this great and

dissipated city, and consequently was much like to the rest of the inhabitants, given up to all kinds of luxury, passion, and dissipation, as will be more fully seen in the following sheets. It will not be amiss here, to give some account of the inhabitants and a general description of the city. Paris is divided into three parts; the first part is called the Old City, the second the University, and the third the Town; which third part, is in the middle of the city. The University and the Town are called New-Paris, containing more works of magnificence and grandeur than profit and utility: some of its palaces are showy and splendid; and some of its streets, squares, hospitals and churches are superbly decorated with a profusion of paintings, tapestry and images: in the Thuilleries there are yet standing hundreds of statues, representing kings, queens, generals, princes, statesmen, indians, and almost every thing else which can decorate and aggrandize the great capital: but what appears the most extraordinary, is the tapestry of the gobelines, of unequalled and unparalleled beauty! in the palace of the Thuilleries are to be seen the valuable collection of superb ornaments which were brought from Rome; like the history of ancient ages, they have changed their places, and taken their residence in another kingdom; have beautified themselves by being transported to France: they consist of paintings brought from Rome, and other parts of Europe, during the wars of

France under the reign of the present Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte. The library, the gilded hall, and the royal hospital for invalids, are superb; the streets of Paris are mostly very narrow and crooked; the houses are very high, many of them seven stories: in Paris there are many coaches and hacks which dazzle the eyes to behold; they are employed chiefly by strangers; and in fact, the greatest part of the trade in Paris arises from the influx of foreigners that frequent this great metropolis. France is situated between 70 and 83 deg. East longitude, and 42 deg. and 51 North latitude; it is six hundred miles long, and five hundred and sixty miles broad; its climate in general is mild and healthy, and its soil is excellent, and produces almost every luxury of life in abundance: there are some mountains in France of particular note; those are the Pyrennees in the South and in the West, which are the greatest in France; the principal rivers are the Loire, the Rhone and Seine, which latter runs through the middle of Paris; and two others, all which are large and navigable. The religion and language of France differ but little from the capital, the city of Paris; their religion, with few exceptions, is Roman Catholic, and their language is latin and German chiefly, and one of the most universal of the living languages, and is calculated rather to express familiar sentiments than sublime. The arts and sciences in France have not been so far cultivated, as in some

other parts of Europe ; the reason of which is, the many wars and revolutions both domestic and foreign, in which they have been engaged ; we may witness the present calamities, the devastation and destruction that has issued and sprung forth from the last revolution which commenced in 1790 ; and instead of being brought to a crisis, and settled in a peaceable and liberal government, they seem almost ripe for a new one to burst forth on the heads of their posterity ; and although they have of late destroyed and trampled on every thing sacred and moral, yet it must with justice be said of the French nation, that it has produced men of very eminent talents ; some of them have been men of great military skill.

But to return,—I had not been long at Mr. Hoffman's, before his lady began to frequent the work shop, which it was said she was not known to do before ; and on a certain day, in the afternoon, she gave me an invitation to take tea with her ; I immediately refused, but after pressing me some time, and saying that it was Mr. Hoffman's request also. I consented and went ; but was surprised to find none at table but ourselves : this handsome and well bred lady discoursed with great freedom and an unusual degree of sociability ; but as the passion of love had never entered my heart, and withal concluding that it was either the fashion of the place, or the general disposition of the women, I took no particular notice of her familiarity for that time. The next day

she came into the shop as before, and invited me to take tea a second time ; I consented, and now she treated me with more boldness and familiarity than before ; several days passed off in the same manner ; and I soon perceived that her fondness for me increased : she invited me into the different apartments of her house, and into her bed chamber, and shewed me the costly and shining furniture ; adding, these, sir, are all mine, not Hoffman's ; and in many expressions, there seemed so many strong intimations (not necessary here to trouble the reader with particulars) that they could not be passed by unnoticed ; and caught in the snare of fatal and unlawful passion, I too soon fell before its destructive influence ! Destructive ! I say, and which ended in loss of property, fear, shame, and imprisonment ; if we had not been too often influenced by the same principles which led us at first to make this unjust and illegal connexion, I should have had more excuse for the fault ; but being cast on the scale of temptation, by first giving place to the delusive enchantment, it is hard telling where the progression will end ; there is no evil habit which a man may give himself up to, that ever grows weaker by a continuance in it, but on the contrary increases its strength under the habit :—this is probably the case with all the principles and habits of virtue, as far as I can learn either from my own or other men's experience : this was, however, the case with myself, as the

following lines will disclose. Two or three months passed on, when, instead of being convinced of the wickedness and folly of our proceedings, she proposed to leave Mr. Hoffman and spend the remainder of her days with me; and it appeared that she did not much relish the company of the venerable old gentleman; such, reader, are the fatal effects of parent's desires after riches for their children in their marriages; for to say the best of this match, it was imprudently made, as there was near 40 years difference in their ages. She was a great limner, and would paint many things to the life; and often kept her paintings by her side, in order that if any question was put why she was in her chamber so often, that she was employed in painting: she pretended to instruct me in the French language, but the business was but a pretention, as the reader will judge: I suspected that her husband had some notion or jealousy of our familiarities, and accordingly mentioned it to his lady, and told her that I conceived it was wisdom for us to desist; but this only added fuel to the fire of her passions. I then mentioned, that there was reason to suspect that all was on the verge of discovery by her husband, and that he was probably only waiting for full and demonstrative evidence of the facts; and if so a fire would soon be kindled that never would be extinguished: this I did, in hopes to gain her full consent to relinquish and forsake that, which might eventually be

the destruction of us both! But it was no sooner mentioned than, as before, she backed those objections with other arguments which she had deemed conclusive, although they did not satisfy me, nor banish the perplexing fears which continually troubled my breast. I saw that I was the person who was the most in danger of the evil consequences which might flow from this unlawful intercourse, therefore I used every possible argument which might tend to moderate her desires; and when she had time to consider and adjust the arguments, she seemed more composed and resigned. The reader may think that I was acquainted with a person of singular character; to this, I answer, that she was never before esteemed as wanting virtue; but we must remember, that circumstances alter cases, and Mrs. Hoffman probably justified herself by this consideration, that her case was singular, and different from that of most others; her parents having pressed her into marriage, entirely against and contrary to her own will and inclination; and for my part, if I should give my opinion on a subject of such a delicate nature as this, it would be that parents advise their children, and give reason why they so advise, and then leave them to their own choice; they certainly know best where the shoe pinches that wear it; and they only ought to determine what dispositions will best accord with their own. And again; who shall have the right of choosing for me a companion that

shall attend my steps in all the most important concerns of this and a future world, and have their influence in directing my happiness or misery, for years after their heads are laid in the dust! I answer none; but this still did not justify me in acquiescing in things subservient to the prejudice and passions of another. However, fortune still seemed to favor me, for about this time, on a certain day, as I was carrying a suit of clothes to a gentleman in a distant part of the city, I accidentally passed by a lottery-office, as they were drawing the lottery; the owners of tickets undrawn, persuaded me to purchase one of them, which on the same day came out of the wheel a prize of two thousand five hundred dollars. I returned home and informed Mr. Hoffman and his lady of my good fortune; they both expressed themselves in terms very pleasing and flattering at my fortunate adventure and advancement; and in a few days, he proposed to take me into partnership with him in all his business. I now gladly accepted of his proposals, well knowing that I could very easily advance my capital with but little trouble, for he had a good run of custom, besides a very genteel stand for new customers and public business. Accordingly we proceeded and entered on a large scale in his line of business.

Now it was that my days were tranquil and delightful; prosperity attended my steps, and shone in every path; I wanted for nothing to make me joyful and happy that the city of Pa-

ris could afford. At Mr. Hoffman's request I often waited on his lady to different parts of the city, the country, and every place of pleasure: by this time I found that he had no idea or jealousy of our familiarity; but this mode of proceeding only served to augment irregular passions, and create a natural aversion to her husband. The former proposals were now mentioned again, but as soon repulsed by the objections before named, and enhanced by the consideration of Mr. Hoffman's late kind and friendly conduct toward me. I proceeded to make additional and new objections not before named, and enhanced by the consideration of Mr. Hoffman's late kind and friendly conduct toward me. I proceeded to make additional and new objections not before named, and told her that I must consequently be resolved against any further illegal connexions: and having formed this resolution, nothing now remained but to put it in execution; in order to this, I fixed a plan to ride out into the country a few miles distant from the city of Paris, and from thence wrote a short letter to Mr. Hoffman, informing him I was unwell, but that doubtless I should feel myself better shortly; nevertheless had determined to settle my business in Paris immediately, and return to my own native country; that I should return soon to Paris, and wished him to take an account of our stock in trade, and be ready to settle and adjust all our accounts when I should come back. He received the letter as he sat

at tea, the contents of which so agitated and confused the kind and infirm old gentleman, that the cup fell from his hand. I confess, that I was too sudden in my plans for the old gentleman's interest; but his wife was the occasion of it. The letter was written in the German language, which his wife could not understand, and he did not let her know its contents; but being so suddenly affected by my sudden resolution, he cast towards her a look unusually singular, as though he had said, be not too inquisitive: his wife hereupon thought, that in his countenance she read the contents of the letter, and began to excuse herself, saying, it is none of my fault, &c. &c. He was crafty and politic enough to let her proceed in her declarations of innocence and virtue until she had exposed the whole affair of all our familiarity, before unknown to him. I have many times thought that there was something very singular in jealousy; the fatal effects of which was here the destruction or wretchedness beyond description of us both; for although she was doubtless ignorant, yet I too well knew the fatal consequences. The women concluded that I had betrayed her; and therefore after a short conversation between her and her husband, the whole riddle was explained, with several additions, which she intended should be a barrier to her own safety. He immediately issued a warrant against me, and I was seized by a band of the Parisian soldiery, who by force conducted

me to a loathsome dungeon! where I remained until the next morning. Let the reader imagine what was my dubious and frightful situation! Let him say how changeable is the state of man! And let it teach him the mutability of all human things! So said a slave in the histories of antiquity; it is related of a certain ancient emperor of Egypt, that had his charriot drawn by four kings whom he had taken in battle, and having observed that one of them kept his eyes much on one of the wheels, he asked him why he did so; to which he answered, it teaches me the mutability of all human things, for I observe that that part of the wheel which is now up, is presently down, and that part which is now down, is presently up again: thus a consideration of the changeable situation of human affairs consoled my long and disconsolate hours; although gloomy, dismal apprehensions would sometimes appear, yet being naturally of a courageous disposition, I thought with myself, that although they will not tell me for what they confine me here, yet I have committed no crime worthy of imprisonment, and especially of death! My innocence would often give me courage; I had no idea that the small affair had so accidentally been divulged; at other times I concluded, that I had some powerful and secret enemy who might prosecute a secret plan against me that would cost me my head, and indeed although the barbarities of the revolution was chiefly past, yet even then they took

away the life of many individuals for almost nothing. I expected nothing but death, with all the horrors of the guillotine! Weeping and tears were my constant companions!

After the chief part of the night had passed off I fell into a dose and slept; I awoke, and looking around me, espied a small chink in the wall which let in a glimmering of light, and soon after the jailor came to my apartment, and asked me if I should like to take a little fresh air, and invited me to come into the house; he gave me some refreshment, and liberty to walk out at a distance from the house, and said I am not afraid of your going off, for you do not look like a man that is guilty of any great crime, &c: here I found some pleasing ideas saluting my contemplative hours, in rehearsing to myself the follow lines,

Nature with all her charms of art,  
Her blooming blossom blows;  
How soon her fading colours die,  
Exposed to cruel foes.

But see on yonder landscape rise,  
The flow'ry meads in view;  
They rise and charm the lofty skies,  
And hail the spring anew.

Just so the rough and boist'rous sea,  
On life's tempestuous waves;  
They sudden rise, and frightfully  
Prepare their dismal graves.

Amidst the roaring frightful storm,  
Whilst all on board opprest;  
The winds shall cease, and waves be calm,  
To give the sufferers rest.

Here my contemplations were interrupted by the call of a new set of officers and soldiers, who conducted me to the place of trial before the justice's court; the first question which he put to me was, are you guilty of this charge, viz. of violating the chastity of the wife of John Hoffman? At this question I was utterly astonished! to which I answered with a degree of contempt that I was not; that having done nothing to delude or force her virtue, I could answer this question in the negative very freely, and in good conscience: but as I had no evidence in my favor present, was obliged to be silent on that head; but without romance or jesting, I respected the woman too much to expose her, until I should receive some information how the matter came to be divulged. The reader will recollect, that as this charge was quite unexpected, I had not time to think what pleas to make, but stood confounded, amazed and astonished, to think how it could be possible for a lady of Mrs. Hoffman's cast and honor to use me so deceitfully and inhumanly, and withal to charge me with the violation of her chastity; but the thing that I had feared, now came upon me, and I am ready to conclude, that Providence has more to do in the affairs of men, than many are willing to believe. But to return; I was here ordered to a common gaol until I could have my trial: here I could not be liberated, for if it should be proved that I had violated her chastity, it

had been death, or labour for several years in the public service with criminals; but if the truth could have been known and proved in court, the laws of France would have set me free: this was more wished for than hoped, and when I considered the sudden transition from a state of wealth and opulence, to poverty and disgrace, from that of honor and preferment, to scandal and dishonor, without a friend, and in prison, these thoughts of my former respectability and honor rendered me wretched beyond description:

When ev'ry hand would grasp the prize,  
The stroke is given and glory dies.

However, my situation in prison was not so intolerable and dishonorable as I had feared; for eight days only, was I used as a common prisoner; my lodging was on straw, and bread and water my food; but after that, I was taken out, and invited into a room in a better and more respectable apartment; and as I entered the room, I was much surprised to find it neatly furnished: a good bed, a handsome table, and good victuals; in fact, there was every thing sufficient to accommodate a gentleman of character. Here I continued until I came before the court, and received my acquittance.

I shall now for a moment return to the family of Mr. Hoffman. Stung to the soul, he was bent on revenge, and eager to make a prize of my property, which was wholly in his

own hands, he used all the means in his power to get me convicted and executed! As for his wife, when she came to find out that I had not been treacherous and deceitful, she greatly relieved me and alleviated my sufferings, by sending me bread, wine, and other small refreshments; and I believe that it was owing to her influence that my accommodations in prison were so generously advanced. She seemed fully sensible of the wrong charge laid at my door, by the jealousy of her own heart, and the guilty fancy which played in her own imagination, whilst she painted out to herself the contents of my short letter. The guilty mind is never free from fear and conjecture, and such was the situation of Mrs. Hoffman. Whilst I was in prison, a fire broke out in Paris, and destroyed upwards of one hundred and fifty houses. My property, and that of Hoffman's was entirely consumed; at this misfortune I was heartily glad, as far as it respected Mr. Hoffman's property and my own; for his expectation of holding my property was what made him so set on my destruction! A man's property may sometimes be the instrument of his own wretchedness. After three months imprisonment, I was brought forth for trial, and the day before examined by a few persons in a neighbouring office. The jailor was uncle to Mrs. Hoffman; he, his wife, and the state's-attorney were all present: it seems that they thought before my trial, it would be best to examine

me ; the latter, perhaps authorized by some of my friends, asked me if I was guilty or not ; to which I answered him, not guilty of the charge laid against me, *i. e.* by force violating her chastity. Mrs. Deuboune, the wife of Mr. Deuboune the jailor, having conversed with Mrs. Hoffman quite often before, whilst I was in the prison, had doubtless acquired a familiar acquaintance with the chief pillars of this mystery, and hearing me declare myself innocent, she arose up, and said she believed me free from the charge ; she also begged the gentlemen to give me a discharge as quick as possible ; that I had suffered long enough, &c. Her husband said only a few words in my favor, but nothing against me ; for he seemed willing to let her talk all. Some other gentlemen arose ; all spoke in my favor ; I had an idea that this was my place and time of trial, until a well built and brave looking gentleman arose, who before had been sitting in perfect silence ; he spoke to this purport, that he could say nothing there, but that the next day he would do all for me that lay in his power : after this, I was dismissed and the jail-keeper hailed me back again to prison until the next day, when I was taken out and conveyed to my place of trial ; as I was riding there, the manner of my conveyance told me, in awful and terrific accents, that my fate was already determined, and I expected an existence but a little time longer in this world.

In Paris, when a man is condemned to die, he is taken from prison to the place of execution in a waggon of large size, boarded on all sides around, and over the top; covered all over with black leather on the outside: at the hinder part is the door to enter in, and then the criminal is (when entered) locked fast, and shut up in impenetrable darkness! I was led on and conveyed into this great carriage, the door was locked, and now nothing appeared before me but certain and immediate death! The driver drove on at an unusual rate, and it was with difficulty that I could keep myself on the seat in the dismal place; but the thoughts of immediate death kept me in a continual tremor: my dismal imagination was continually employed about the manner of my execution, and the lamentable circumstances of my death! having driven the carriage four or five miles the door was opened, and I invited to come forth. Here I found myself at the place of my trial, instead of my execution, and Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman both appeared against me in court. As I passed up before the judges appointed for the trial of criminal causes, the chief judge spoke of me as of one already condemned! but passing out, and returning again, he cast on me a smiling countenance, though he said nothing; indeed I needed no additional fright, I was already miserable enough. However, in a short time, the states-attorney (as men of his office are called in America), took me privily

into another apartment, and spake friendly to me, and said, now my son, tell me the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and I will befriend you all that is in my power; I then rehearsed to him the substance of the whole affair; I told him the whole truth briefly, and gave him as clear an account as possible. He returned, seemingly well satisfied, and I was soon called up. Mrs. Hoffman was asked the question, if I was the man who was accused of the crime in question? She answered that I was the accused, but was innocent. I was immediately discharged from the bar of justice, to full liberty. I found myself once more at liberty, and though a free man, I walked the streets of Paris with a heavy heart, and heavy looks, and a downcast countenance; these were my miserable attendants; for with my confinement I lost all my property and most of my friends. I could not content myself in Paris an hour longer, but where to go, and what to do, I did not know; for my property, friends, credit, and every thing else were gone and departed from me. All Paris itself, with all the beauty and novelties of the city, appeared to breathe the accents of misery, wretchedness, and wo! The countenances of my former acquaintance turned from me with disaffection and disgust: this was the case in general, and my life was rendered miserable beyond description! the carriage and deportment of my most affectionate and dear-

est associates warned me to flee from the streets and habitations of Paris.

Now I wished that I had never been born ! now I reflected with sorrow that death had not relieved me from the shackles of mortality before I was left subject to the alluring enchantments of this deluding and wretched world ! I was silent as the house of death ! sorrowful as those who experience the fate of shipwreck, and mournful as the grave ! The sun shone, the moon gave her feeble light, the planets rolled on and united to cast forth their flying particles of light ; but it was only to add sorrow to sorrow, and misery to my wo, to increase the terrors of my distracted mind ! To me the pleasant and exhilarating beams of life had withdrawn their shining, and the clouds returned after the rain ! the disgrace, wretchedness and misery of my imprisonment, (although alleviated in some measure by the keeper of the prison), wore down my natural vivacity ; but still as long as there is life, there is hope ; and determined to escape in future the inexpressible calamities of the past, I set out and travelled from Paris to Versallies, a distance of twelve miles, and offered myself as a journeyman in the tayloring business : but here I found no employment ; they had heard of my misfortunes and imprisonment in Paris, and as a tale loses nothing in travelling, be the distance ever so great, so this affair, rendered extremely odious by exaggeration, made my situation helpless and deplo-

rable ! I will not attempt to justify my conduct, by complaints of my misfortunes ; no, rather let them be a warning to all who look for the protection of that kind and benignant providence which supports all. However, finding myself hedged in on every side, my spirits sunk, and my courage fled ! that exhilarating and animating disposition of soul with which I had been formerly blessed, now fled as on the wings of the wind ; as my ideas cast back on the wretchedness of the past, so they alternately cast forward with more pungent dread on the wretchedness of the future ! to be more miserable than I was then, appeared impossible, and death, alas ! that terror to kings, and king of terrors ! was now my friend ; from his majestic and awful countenance it was that I breathed the vital air of hope ; it was then I concluded, that better are the dead who are already dead, than the living who are yet alive, especially in my situation ; and now, disarmed of all his terrific appearance, I embraced him as my best friend ; and having collected a confident expectation of being better and less miserable in a future state than in this, I prepared myself for the awful event ! and when I had fully consulted the propriety of suicide, on which I had now determined more fully, I soon put in order my small preparations, and walked to the suburbs of the city.

As I travelled along, with my pistol and ammunition, I often looked at that bright lu-

minary the sun, and its genial influence on the pleasant groves and spires of the temples ; but although brilliant and animating to the man of pleasure, they were all to me as melancholly as the hearse that contains the sable bier ! to me, time was no more ! the angel spoken of in the apocalypse, had cried to my imagination, yea, to my very soul ! that time shall be no longer ! and the end of all things was now at hand ! and as I travelled on, death seemed to converse with me as complaisant as a friend ; he told me, that he was the end of all my sorrows ; where the wicked ceased from troubling, and the weary were at rest : that this life was but the first short stage in the existence of man ; and that, if I did not like the unfortunate scenes and stages of the first, I had an undoubted right, to move my station onward, and take my lot in the yet undiscovered employments of that better and less fluctuating stage of existence ! I concluded that by my afflictions, I had been brought down to a state of penitential sorrow and repentance, suiting well enough the character of all such as were ready and fitted to leave this afflicted and wicked tabernacle in the earth. Thus being no better mistrusted, I believed that if any persons felt themselves prepared, their sins forgiven and they at peace with heaven, as I believed that I then was, they could conscientiously put an end to their own existence here, and be happy hereafter ! that if they believed that they should be happy, they would be so ;

and that these things would be according to their faith. Having well prepared myself to meet the fatal blow, I mended my pace: but unwilling to leave the world without giving my friends in Franckfort some account of the reasons of my untimely exit, I thought of writing a short history of my misfortunes, directed to them, which the public might find after my death. The substance of what I then wrote was as follows:

Dear Brother,

Since I left Franckfort I have passed through various scenes, both prosperous and adverse. I was eventually established in good business in the city of Paris, with about twenty five hundred dollars capital; but being unfortunately and unjustly imprisoned, the fire consumed my property, my friends are vanished and my reputation is lost; in consequence of which I have but a few minutes longer to call myself an inhabitant of this world. Having no ink by me I draw these lines with my own blood, which you will keep in remembrance of him whose fate will prevent him from seeing the face of his friends until he meets them in a future and unknown world, where he expects shortly to be.

Your affectionate brother,

ANDREW OEHLER.

Just then a poor old man, whose tattered garments spoke his misery and distress, passed by me, and as he passed, he humbly asked

me for a little money : thousands in France were reduced to his wretched situation, by the unparalleled situations of the revolution ; he found me penniless ; but unwilling to pass by his humble request, and viewing myself at the end of the race, I took the gold ring from off my finger, and gave it to him very freely : this ring was given me in Strasburg by my sister, when I left her house, that I should keep it in remembrance of her kindness and affection for me. As I passed on in search of a place convenient to accomplish this important business, I espied an entrance opened just by me, which led into a common, around a garden fence, where I might be secreted ; having entered, and arrived at the long wished for spot, I kneeled down and prayed ; thinking myself better prepared, I presented the pistol to my breast ! just before I attempted to draw the trigger, I thought best to kneel down and pray away a remaining doubt ; I thought, that I felt now entirely ready ; expecting that the merciful and all-wise Creator would pardon my sin in this thing if there was any, and convey me into the land of peace ; but wishing to beg of him all the favor possible, should there be any iniquity in the action, I kneeled down the third time, and prayed earnestly ; and thought that I felt now the true love of God and my neighbor influencing my whole soul ! I also conceived that I was at peace with God, and fully willing to die : I arose, and presented the pistol a third time at

my breast ; and now, one moment would have determined and closed the scene ! but just by the enclosure which covered me from the streets opened a garden gate, and an old lady presented herself immediately before me ; and seeing me in the alarming situation which exhibited itself to her view, she cried out, and with a lamentable and an alarming voice said, for God's sake ! young man, what is the matter ? what are you about ? At this instant the pistol fell out of my hand, and the temptation vanished from me : having come to my senses a little, I stood still for some time, with amazement and surprise at what I had been about ! the goodness and mercy of the Supreme Being, at once, so poured in upon me to that degree, that it overpowered me as much with gratitude and thanksgiving for my deliverance, as the temptation had done before, when I viewed myself on the borders of the eternal world ; *in a flood of tears*, I immediately fell on my knees, to return my thanks to the God of heaven for my deliverance ; and more than all, that I should be so near to striking the fatal blow ! and be prevented in such an unexpected and wonderful manner. Surely, the Supreme Author of nature could not have had in view my worthiness or merits, but must have calculated on the scale of his own great goodness and grace, by which he upholds the world. The good old gentlewoman seemed wonderfully animated at having been the instrument of my deliverance, and advised me

to take courage again ; that fortune might yet favor me, as it had thousands before who had been in a worse situation than myself ; she invited me into her house, and entertained me two or three days : I told her my misfortune, and she made use of all the arguments in her power to encourage me and keep up my spirits.

I had full reason to take courage now, and once more step forward ; for the consideration of the mercy of God in my late deliverance, gave me good reason to believe that he was on my side ; and I then concluded, that if God himself was for me, all that should militate against me could not prevail ; this thought alone was enough to set me on my feet once more, and being now more confident than ever of his protection, it was no matter where I was, what business I was in, provided it be lawful ; whilst my protection seemed secure, and being cut off from employment in my occupation, I must look out for some other business, which soon presented itself, viz. to list myself in the war, then carrying on against the Austrians. Accordingly, I enlisted myself a hussar. I was then under military subordination, and good order was generally kept in the army.

Being once more in some employment, I had time to reflect on what had passed before ; and here I cannot but remark, that whilst I was imploring the aid of the Supreme Being, the interposition of his providence prevented

my fall! This may seem trifling to those who have neither trouble nor sorrow; but to myself it appears like a special reality; and those scriptures which formerly I heard with indifference, are now remembered with reverence and experience: we read somewhere in the language of the prophets, "Call on me in the day of thy trouble, and I will hear thee, and thou shalt glorify me;" and again, "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them," *i. e.* when a person is in extreme want, and perishing in distress, they are invited to call on God in prayer, let their case and circumstances be what it may, *viz.* temptations of any kind that bring trouble and distress; and perhaps the mariner at sea in a violent storm has often experienced deliverance in this way from the hands of a benign providence; when he may not have (as yet) received grace sufficient to give him a title to heaven; and I believe that God the Father will hear all that sincerely pray, according to his will, in the name of his Son Jesus Christ; *i. e.* pray for such things as are agreeable to his own honor and glory; and that answering of the prayers of the needy and afflicted is not the privilege of the Christian only, but of all such as have not yet sinned away their day of grace; they having still, through the merits of the great advocate, an undoubted liberty to apply for assistance; for, as said an ancient apostle, "He is the propitiation for the sins of

the whole world ;” and again, it is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet, by inspiration, “ Look unto me all the ends of the earth, and be ye saved :” and many other such scriptures, which plainly declare, that all mankind are on level ground with respect to their part or privilege in these things ; and if so, the Son of God now intercedes for all, and accordingly every man may safely be advised to esteem himself possessing these privileges ; not that I would advise him to consider himself condemned, by an irrevocable decree of the Almighty before he was born, for if he will consider the scriptures rightly, he will be obliged to believe that he is a probationary creature, and in a probationary state ; and my opinion is, that mankind will never find reason to complain of any partiality in the Deity in the great day of judgment, when all things must be placed in a true and clear light ; every mouth will be stopped, and the guilty confess themselves justly condemned ; that the foreknowledge of God, and the doctrine of the divine prescience governing all things, makes no difference with the human family ; and the most orthodox presbyterians, in the state of New-York have, not many years since, republished Dickenson’s “ Five Points,” wherein it is acknowledged, that the Deity predetermined that his foreknowledge should never militate against the happiness of any of his creatures ; and that he predetermined to give more grace, even to the reprobate, than ever they would

make use of. Thus the presbyterians, when objections made against the doctrines published on the decree of election were answered, fell directly into the sentiments of the church of England, the methodist, free-will baptist, new-lights and quakers; so that, when brought to the test of critical examination, we may observe the chief difference between the leaders of all these denominations consists in forms, manner, and an ungrounded prejudice, and often an unjustifiable attachment to tradition, or sensual and worldly motives; and I have generally observed, that the more tenacious any denomination or particular sect are of their manner and form of worship, the less I have generally found of that sum of all true religion, the love of God and their neighbor, without which all other professions and abilities shall profit us nothing. And here let my readers be candid and charitable enough to believe, that I do not undertake to give them that advice, which I myself am not willing to follow; for the consideration of the great favor shewed to me in this remarkable deliverance, had a very powerful and lasting effect on my mind; I believed that my petition was so immediately answered, that I ever afterwards considered it an invaluable privilege to have a God of power and grace to apply to in the time of danger! and in nothing of great importance (since that time) have I been willing to proceed, without desiring the approbation and blessing of that same benign and gracious

preserver of men to attend it, desiring above all things to be guided by his protection: and my candid and solemn advice to all men now dwelling on the face of the whole earth is, that they by no means ever proceed on any thing very important, and especially in affairs of eternal consequence, without applying to this great fountain of light and grace, for direction and assistance; and if I should at any time in my life hereafter, err from this general rule in my former life, and appear dilatory in the performance of this duty, let my reader remember, that I shall by no means justify my own conduct, although I hope that I shall never be left so devoid of gratitude as not to improve such an unparalleled and inexpressible privilege; for surely the life and eternal salvation of the soul are things not to be trifled with; and I have no reason to doubt, but that if I had then put an end to my own existence, I should have been miserable forever.

But to return to my enlistment. In about one week after I joined the army, we received orders to march against the enemy in battle; but although I regretted that I must fight against my own countrymen, yet it was not in my power to prevent it; we marched accordingly; and the French being courageous in fighting for their expected liberty, (unhappy men), rushed forward with great pride and ambition; the contest was hot and obstinate on both sides; and the French had the good fortune to gain a complete victory;

and it was computed that both armies left fifty thousand dead on the field of battle ! Some of my young readers may be entertained with a brief account of this awful work ! indeed it is a business which cannot be performed with indifference. As I was one of the dragoons, I was, with my fellows, placed on an eminence a little space back of the army, and we all had a clear view of the Austrians, moving towards us on quick march ; they, at first appearance, were three or four miles distant ; this was in a level country in Alsace in France, a few miles from Strasburg. When I first saw the numerous regiments of the enemy, filling the whole country on the right hand and on the left, and pressing forward to destroy us, and knowing them to be strong and valiant in battle, my heart began to beat with fear and dread ! but a competent portion of animating spirits were given to every one of us ; and the music commenced playing the most cheerful and animating tunes ; this answered well the purpose intended ; viz. to raise the courage of the soldiers. As the enemy drew near, within about one hundred rods of our army, they had gotten engaged in good earnest ; our cavalry, in some parts, were commanded out ; especially on the right wing, which was first engaged : at length it came warm on the left wing where I was stationed ; our regiment, had got within about sixty yards of that of the enemy ; fury, death and destruction was increasing through the ranks ! the cannon roaring !

the mighty falling! the blood running in brooks! and the groans of dying men were darting the melancholy sound through the air! Just now it was that our regiment of horse received the brave command; they were fighting for liberty, and full of revenge; therefore pressed forward in the highest ambition, and engaged the German horse; we soon cut them up, and dispersed them, and fell immediately upon the infantry: the work was terrible here! as we had the advantage; many lay dying and cursing the day that they were born! one half of our regiment of horse were cut up and destroyed! but we had recruits from other regiments; and in the whole, I was four or five hours engaged in this manner, excepting a few short retreats ordered, in order to gain recruits; the whole army was engaged seven hours; and at last, took several prisoners both of the horse and of the infantry.

We remained at Alsace, the place of victory, for near three weeks, during which time we had several skirmishes with the enemy, in one of which we took several of my former friends and acquaintance. From Alsace we marched about fifty leagues up into the country toward Switzerland, where we encamped.

I was now resolved to fight no more against my own countrymen, and determined to desert the French service as quick as possible: there was also official accounts that the Russians were coming on us with rapid marches! this helped forward my former resolutions, and

having engaged two more of my companions in arms, on the 25th of Sept. 1798, we set off in the night, and had the good fortune to pass all the centinels. When at first, I proposed this hazardous expedition to my two companions, they startled at the thought; and asked me, if I did not remember the reading of the warning and admonitions about an hour past, given to all who should be under a temptation to desert the army? viz. all who should desert with a horse and armory were immediately to be shot! all who deserted without a horse, under arms, were to be enslaved during life; all who deserted in their regimentals, without horse and arms, were, if taken, to be condemned to be sold as slaves for a certain number of years, to the benefit of the government. To this I answered, that I perfectly recollected every feature of their threats; but it had little effect on me, for the probability was that to tarry in the army would be death! and nothing worse was threatened if we should be taken by the centinels; besides if we left our horses and arms, there was less to be feared still; but notwithstanding that, I was determined to go with my regimentals and sword; and as has been related, we all agreed; night fast approaching, we summoned up all the resolution possible; and promising, under the strongest obligations, to stand by each other in every danger presenting itself through the flight, until our escape should be fully effected, we set out.

The centinels were placed round the encampment, within one hundred yards of each other; and two of them being placed each side a piece of wood, we thought it most prudent to pass through these woods. Night being come, and a general silence observed through the camp, we proceeded to the perilous business; and in order to make as little noise as possible, and ensure the pass, we crept along on our hands and knees until we were in the middle; about this time we made a small rustling amongst the leaves; the centinels hearing the noise, fired, and discharged a few shot at us; it was no time now to be idle, and we were obliged to make quick steps; we then sprung up, and fled with all haste; we had one fence to surmount, and the balls flying merrily round us; we felt ourselves pretty light, and were obliged to fly wherever we could; there was no chusing which way to run, and coming athwart a small river, we dashed ourselves in, and swam across as quick as possible; and on the other side finding some of the soldiers out on the scout, I supposed after fruit, I was aware that I might be taken up under suspicion. To prevent this misfortune, I run my sword into the ground, and complained and murmured at not finding some potatoes, which it was said were buried there; this drew suspicion from me; by this policy I had almost lost my two companions, who took me for one of the soldiers out on patrol, but seeing them stand at a dis-

tance from me, I gave them the countersign and regained their confidence. We then proceeded forward for Switzerland: the night being very cold, we suffered much, for we were obliged to ford several rivers and small streams of water; indeed the rivers were so deep that we were obliged to swim several of them. We travelled all night, as we expected toward Switzerland; but to our surprise and amazement found ourselves, in the morning, within cannon-shot of the French camp. Cold, hungry, and worn down with fatigue, my two friends proposed going into the camp and giving ourselves up; but I again encouraged them to look forward and travel, hoping for the best. Accordingly we set off again, without food or any kind of refreshment: they at one time began to despair, but I said every thing in my power to keep up their courage, and they eventually followed me over mountains and rivers, not venturing to travel the road, through fear of being taken up. At night we lodged in an old barn, in the morning we pursued our journey, and by twelve o'clock we reached the stream that divides France from Switzerland; this river we swam across. Being now out of danger, we began to think of refreshing ourselves; but neither of us had any money, and we were obliged to cast lots, to determine which of us should part with some of our clothing; the lot fell on myself, and I was obliged to part with my coat: the day following, one of my comrades was

obliged to do the same. On this day, the 28th of Sept. we arrived at Neufchattel, in the same miserable and wretched situation that I was in when there once before. I was generally known here, having entered the town pretty much in the same plight. We began to ask for business amongst the taylors, but for some time to little purpose; the people now declared, that I must be some abandoned vagabond, and not worthy of being employed, or I should not have appeared amongst them twice in the same despicable situation: howbeit, one of them more humane than the rest, treated my misfortunes with more respect and becoming decency, and offered me his assistance. In his employ I soon gained the character of a good workman: here I had some thoughts of setting up for myself, but having as yet earned only a small sum of money, I wrote to my relations for assistance: they soon sent me an insolent letter, but no money, except what my youngest sister of her free bounty was pleased to send me. With indignation I read the letter, and from that moment I determined never to behold the face of any of my father's family again; my sister excepted, who had taken notice of me in the time of need. I now drew up a firm resolution to depart for America, as soon as my business would admit of it. On the 25th day of May, 1799, I left Neufchattel, and on the 2d day of June following arrived at Strasburg, the same city which I left when I first set out for traveling; but

what sorrow and reflection seized my breast, when my ears were saluted with the death of my friendly and affectionate brother-in-law ! He was no more seen to tread the delightful walk, to sit beneath the pleasant and shady bower, or brighten the joy and magnificence of his dwelling ! Sorrow now pervades the apartments of his house ! the consolation and joy of his friends are turned into mourning ! despair is on every countenance, and sack-cloth covers his pleasant paths ! He fought bravely ! he fell in the cause of his injured country ! My sister was now gone, I knew not where, and no one could tell me ; her joyful days had vanished as a dream, and as a cloud that covers the sun when thunders and tempest rise ! as the sudden destruction of a fair city ! and as the flower falleth in the field ! so her glory had vanished ! Thus all that was near and dear to me in Strasburg had passed away, and the glory of my best and ablest friend was mingled with the dust.

I immediately left this city, and took my departure for Franckfort. In walking the streets here I met my brother George, but did not speak to him. I proceeded to make enquiry for my youngest sister, who I found in a very low state of health ; to her I made known my intentions of going to North America : she was much surprised, and used every argument in her power to dissuade and prevent me from accomplishing my purpose ; she had a peculiar regard for me, and entreated me ;

but her entreaties were in vain; she then cast herself on her knees and plead in tears. I was fully bent on the voyage, and told her that it was out of her power to prevent or alter my mind. She then gave me what money she had, and the next day being the 18th day of June, I took a solemn and affectionate leave, and departed for Friesburg; which, passing through, I proceeded on my journey, and arrived at Hanover on the fourth day of July. Here an accident happened which is very singular. On a certain night, in the inn in which I lodged, I was taken very ill, and got up out of my bed and went out: returning to my bed, I missed my way; there were several doors in this hall that opened into different rooms, and passing into a room adjoining mine, I struck my feet against the body of a dead man which lay on the floor! It threw me down across the body, and feeling around me, I found blood on the floor and on his clothes; and having an idea that he was murdered, I felt over his head and neck, and found that his throat was cut from ear to ear! This was about 2 o'clock in the morning, and all in the house in bed. I immediately called out for assistance; the host arose and came in with a light; he saw me covered with the blood occasioned by falling over the dead body, and instantly concluded that I was the murderer, and that the cry proceeded from the expiring man, who lay on the floor, instead of from myself; I was seized, put in irons, and con-

veyed to prison. This was the second time that I was imprisoned in the course of my travels; and both times unjustly, and eventually declared innocent. In this prison I waited several weeks, or near two months, for my trial; the trial came, and all the evidence this brave court could find against me was a bare and naked supposition, without any corroborating circumstances whatever attending, or agreeing with the supposition; the very common thing called suicide, was not allowed to make any part of the plea in favor of my own life, although I declared the whole circumstance of finding the man in his awful situation with surprize and amazement! My countenance and my language declared my innocence; yet they accounted me only daring, and grown bold in infidelity; and accordingly they consigned me to that punishment which the wilful and unprovoked murder of my fellow countryman deserved; and I was obliged to hear the terrible and awful sentence of death! read off to me in the court. Knowing that I was innocent of his blood, I bore it with a greater composure than people generally do, who are condemned justly, and where they have been guilty; but a few days before I was to be executed, *i. e.* to be beheaded, for that was to be the manner of my death, it came to pass, as if heaven designed to clear the innocent, that on examining his papers, they found a letter amongst them, left

behind him for the satisfaction of the public ; which was to this purport :

“ Being deprived of my parents, the only object of my heart, which renders life an insupportable burden to me,—I am determined to put an end to a miserable existence, by cutting my own throat ! Therefore, accuse no man of my death, should I be found in this situation.”

The acquisition of this writing was of infinite importance to me ; and the manner in which the kind inhabitants of Hanover informed me of it, was most pleasing, elevating and satisfactory, especially at a time when death apparently drew so nigh, as within three or four days ! The jailer and the inn-holder where the suicide or supposed murder was committed, with several of the most respected in the city of Hanover, came joyfully into the prison, and informed me of the writing which they had found ; with a pleasing and joyful countenance, they took off my chains, and declared to me my innocence ; they left open the prison doors and went out, telling me, I might take my pleasure in walking through the house wherever I pleased ; but that it would be best that I should tarry in the house until they had procured my discharge from the judge of the court ; that the messenger was already gone, and would shortly return with it : he accordingly soon returned, and they delivered to me my final acquittance and freedom : this was to them a day of joy and

gladness ; and probably they had an idea that I ought to feel myself more elated than themselves ; but I, having calculated on soon leaving this miserable and wretched world, for a better habitation beyond the skies, had my mind at that time so far reconciled to my situation, that I seemed to desire life, only as a mean of doing good on the earth ; I thought that my peace was made with heaven ; all my sins were wiped away by the merits of the Son of God ! and my mind now reconciled in peace ; I was willing to leave the world ; the fear of death had vanished from me.

I know that it is possible for mankind to be deceived and deluded in these things, and it might have been so with me ; yet I did not doubt then, and have often thought since that time, that if I had then made my exit, I should have been happy afterwards, in a better state of existence than in this world ; but on mature deliberation, I felt thankful to heaven, to that God who governs in the kingdom of providence, and with pleasure I sung the following beautiful lines :

The counsels of th' Almighty wise,  
Are never failing skill ;  
He treasures up his vast designs,  
And works his sovereign will ;

When he reveal'd his gracious name,  
And changed my mournful state ;  
The rapture seemed a pleasing dream,  
The grace appear'd so great.

Loud hallelujahs to the Lord !  
 Let earth and skies resound,  
 He saves the needy with a word,  
 And all their foes confound.

I was now released from prison, and thought once more of prosecuting my voyage to America: but being destitute of money to bear my expences, my former enemies turned to friends, and furnished me with near fifty dollars to help me on my journey; they also gave me letters of recommendation, and I then set out for Bremen, where I arrived without meeting with any thing material by the way, on the 20th of Sept. Hanover is a flourishing and a thriving city: it stands on the river Seine, and contains about fifteen thousand inhabitants. Bremen is a place somewhat smaller, and carries on a considerable trade by the Weser. I waited here seven weeks before I could procure a passage, during all which time I was out of employ; my expences for some necessary clothing, besides my necessary expences at public inns, reduced my small purse of money, and what to do in this situation or how to proceed I was at a loss to know, but at last was necessitated to run in debt for my passage until I should arrive at Baltimore.

We left Bremen on the 26th day of November, and after a severe and dangerous voyage, in which I was a greater part of the time sea-sick, we arrived in Baltimore. Our passage was fourteen weeks; in a storm that met us we were driven far North, out of our

course. When I arrived at Baltimore, I showed my letters of recommendation in order to borrow money to pay for my passage; but my friends, or those who became such by virtue of the letters which I delivered them, being Germans as well as myself, they knew the disposition of their own nation, that they were great travellers; and fearing that my natural disposition for roving would prove a disadvantage to me, they advised me to bind myself out until I had earned the full sum required for my passage; and that sum being sixty five dollars, was too much money to think of hiring of strangers. Accordingly, I engaged to work with a Mr. Welkens two years for this sum, which he advanced to my captain. I had not been long with this man before he made me foreman of his work-shop; when I had been with him six weeks, he said that if I would hear to him, he would put me in a way to make a fortune. I asked him in what way? The way he told me was, that he had six thousand dollars worth of property in his hands but that he owed for the whole of it to different persons in the city; and if I was agreed he would make it all over to me, and then go to jail and take the benefit of the insolvent act; and when he should be set at liberty, we would divide the property between us. I could not help rejecting such bare-faced villainy, with scorn and indignation, and plainly told him that I could not, and that

my conscience would not suffer me to deal so unjustly and ungenerously with any man. I felt myself in bondage whilst I was necessitated to live with a man of such a character, and so devoid of principle; and when three months were expired, by the assistance of my friends, I offered him double the money which he paid for my time to let me go free; but he refused it. I had formerly thought a little hard of those who pretended to be my friends, because they did not at first advance the money themselves; but they satisfied me that their intentions toward me were friendly; they knew that it was much better for me to tarry steadily at one place in Baltimore, in the state of Maryland, until I could learn the English language, the manners of the inhabitants, and make myself known, and raise my credit as a workman: this was a piece of wisdom in them, and I had reason very soon to thank them for it; for I found that I learned many things very advantageous to me afterwards. At the end of six months from the time of my arrival, I again made my employer another offer of double the money; but he again refused. A few days afterwards I told him plainly that I would work for him no longer; he threatened to prosecute me, and I told him to do it immediately; determining that he should have very good fortune if he found me in the city one day longer; and by the aid of my friends I procured a passage to Alexandria, a city in Virginia: to go there was not just now

my choice, but I did it only to escape a law-suit with Welkens.

Baltimore is a pleasant and an agreeable city: lies in lat 39 deg. 21 min on the North side of Patapsco river: this pleasant and agreeable city, is built on the bank, or side of the river, in form of a half-moon; the river is called the bason, in which the water at common tides is about five or six feet deep; it lies low, yet the streets being handsome y paved, it is tolerable healthy, and business of every kind is current and prosperous here, and as good a place for my business as any in the states of America. Here are different professions of religious people, viz. the German, Calvinists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Quakers, and New-Quakers. The number of inhabitants, including Fells Point, and the precincts, according to the census of 1800, was 26.514, of whom 2.843 were slaves. Market-street is the principal street in the town, and runs nearly a mile and a quarter in length, East and West, parallel with the water; it is crossed by several very handsome streets leading from the water up into the heart of the town. On the North and East part of the town, the land<sup>r</sup>ises, and affords a fine prospect of the city and bay; the town—the bay, as far as the eye can reach—the Point—the shipping both in the bason and at Fell's Point—rising ground on the right and left of the harbour—a grove of trees on the declivity to the

right—a stream of water breaking over the rocks at the foot of the hill on the left—all conspire to complete the beauty and grandeur of the prospect. There is a bank established in this town, with a capital of three hundred thousand dollars, by the name of the Maryland Bank; there is, besides, a branch of the Bank of the United States. A new bank, was established by law in 1796, with a capital of five millions of dollars, called the Bank of Baltimore; a public library has lately been instituted in the town. Some idea may be formed of the amazing trade of this place from the number of vessels which are said to have passed up to Baltimore in 1795, which were 109 ships, 162 brigs and snows, 350 schooners and sloops, 5464 bay craft; and before the embargo was laid on the American shipping, it was thought that the trade in this port increased double to any other port in America. A battery and barracks have been constructed, and some guns mounted for the defence of the town in case of invasion. The ladies here are generally polite and well educated; and I do not recollect of seeing a greater number of industrious, discreet, amiable, genteel, and handsome women in the course of my travels in North-America, than there is in Baltimore, in proportion to the number of inhabitants.

There are colleges in this state, viz Washington College was instituted in 1782, at Chestertown in Kent County, and was honor-

ed with the name of Washington College, after President Washington: the second is at Annapolis, and called St. John's College; it was instituted in 1784, to have 25 trustees, with power to keep up the succession by supplying vacancies, and to receive an annual income of 9,000*l*.

The Roman Catholics have also erected a college at George Town.

In 1785, the Methodists instituted a college at Abington, in Harford county, by the name of Cokesbury College, after Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury, bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The college edifice was of brick, handsomely built, on a healthy spot, enjoying a fine air, and a very extensive prospect. This building was burned to the ground some years ago, and the society purchased a large and elegant building in Baltimore, where they had a flourishing seminary; but in the year 1797, this was likewise consumed by fire: since that period they have made some ineffectual attempts to carry their original plan into operation, but it is believed that their funds have not proved adequate to the purpose. The truest religion was always the most persecuted; and if the remark holds good here, the Methodist must have the pre-eminence, and be considered as holding the purest principles and doctrines of religion.

But to return; I was now in Alexandria, a city in Virginia, situate on the banks of the Potomac river; it is handsomely built, and

lies about eight miles from the city of Washington. Here I turned dancing-master, a business much esteemed and of reputation with the people of Virginia; here I tarried, and taught school, I think about two months. This city lies in the district of Columbia, on the South West bank of Potomack river, in Fairfax county. Its situation is elevated and pleasant. Its soil is clay. The original settlers, anticipating its future growth and importance, laid out the streets upon the plan of Philadelphia. In 1805, it contained about 700 houses, many of which are handsomely built; and about 5000 inhabitants. This town, upon opening the navigation of Potomack river, and in consequence of its vicinity to the city of Washington, will probably be one of the most thriving commercial places on the continent. The inhabitants are very genteel in their dress and deportment, and are a very pale and wholesome looking people. The houses are mostly built of brick, and the streets are very level; and upon the whole, the situation of this people, are almost enviable; their trade is chiefly in grain and tobacco, or at least was so in the year 1800.

I left this place for Port Tobacco, on the 11th day of Feb. 1800. In this small place I found no employ, and proceeded forward to Leonard Town, in Maryland. Being short of money, I was under the necessity of teaching a fencing-school in this place, where I remained near two months. Having cleared about

eighteen dollars, I proceeded on to Norfolk, across the same river Potomack. This seaport lies bordering on Chesapeak bay, or James river. I labored about two months at my trade. This is one of the greatest places for trade in Virginia; and contained in the year 1800, about 6.900 inhabitants. Nothing peculiar, or worth relating, happened in this place; but having a generous offer, and a desire yet to see more of the world. I started for St. Domingo, on the 20th day of March, 1801. We arrived at this place on the 7th day of May following: this was at the time of the insurrection on the island amongst the blacks. A few days after my arrival, I took a walk into the interior with a view of seeing the country; but having gone too far, before I discovered my error, I was taken in ambush by a party of blacks, and carried before Toussaint, their chief commander, who immediately demanded my passport. I told him that I had none, and proceeded to give him an account how I came there, in hope that he would give me a passport back to my vessel; but all this was to no purpose; he sternly replied, that I must either join with them, or death should be my portion immediately! I was willing if possible to live yet long enough to see my native land; I agreed to join them out of policy, in hopes of an opportunity to leave them to advantage; this I was determined on the first good chance which I could meet with. Their famous general, after hav-

ing examined me with many questions of my abilities in war and discipline, in which he required that I should mark out the mountains, rivers, &c. and the enemy advancing; and that I should tell him in what manner I would command in order to defeat the enemy and gain the victory; being more willing to command than to obey, I answered him, and informed him as fully and discreet as possible: he instantly clapped his hand on my shoulder, and with a smile said, well done, very well done, Sir; I will give you the command of one of my regiments, and do you perform valiantly and you shall have your reward. Accordingly, the next day he gave me the command as colonel over a regiment of fifteen hundred men, and a handsome suit of uniform. We received orders immediately to prepare for a sham fight, in which I came off with honor. After this, it was not long before we came to an engagement, in which we defeated the whites, and took great spoil. Another battle soon followed. I secured eight hundred joannes in different parts of my clothes. Some days after this we came to another engagement, and we were entirely defeated; the situation and circumstances of this battle were as follows; Toussaint and his army lay about five miles from the sea, and in a place which was about fifteen miles from St. Louis, where he had retreated to recruit his army. Although we had formerly gained the victory over the whites in battle, yet knowing that they expect-

ed recruits from France, we were continually on the look out. Toussaint at this time had with him about eighteen or twenty thousand men ; and being informed of the approach of the French, with the light-horse in full spirits, marching down on us with great haste, he prepared himself for battle ! He gave me orders to march at a distance from him on his right wing, about three miles, in order to check a part of the enemy who might be sent round upon his rear ; this stand I took, at near three miles distant from him, as observed ; in my rear was the sea ; on my right was a small river and lofty mountains. I took this stand without precipitation or fear, expecting only a few of the enemy to combat with ; but being obliged to defend this passage, there was no other stand to take where I could calculate on a safer place for retreat in case of necessity ; however we did not calculate much on retreating, and the event proved fatal ! for Toussaint, engaging the right wing of the enemy, and the contest being very hot and obstinate, they gave way, and retreated before him ; he having observed that they were pressing down on me, sent orders immediately that I must defend my post until the last man was killed on the spot ! Doing different from his orders I knew would be immediate death ! and I was obliged to fight. Six or eight thousand came down upon us with great courage and force, and well they might, seeing themselves to be four or five times the number ; but the little hand-

full of black men gave them a very warm reception; I think that I never saw any kind of men fight so furious, and that appeared so little daunted at the view of death! But they believed that slavery was worse than death! they were very strict in their discipline, and if one of them stooped down whilst they were marching, or created the least disorder, he was shot through immediately. When the enemy came within shot, I gave orders to the platoons to stand firm to their posts, and repulse them or die on the spot! The platoons of the enemy advanced, and gave the first fire; it was returned with spirit; we had not engaged them on their right but a few minutes, where I had concluded to make my retreat if possible, and indeed the enemy engaged us first on our left to cut off our dependance on, and relief from the main army, before the enemy's horse advanced; the platoons of the enemy ceased firing, and they cut up the chief of this regiment in a few minutes. Such a furious, stubborn and unequal engagement I believe was seldom, if ever fought; to see such wretched havoc made of human flesh and blood, although they were men of colour, was intolerable! this was, however, not a time for the exercise of the feelings of humanity; and my only care devolved on the security of my own life; my only way of escape was on the right, and with all the power of flight I passed the river, and climbing over the ragged and lofty mountains, I hastened toward the sea; and

finding two pieces of hewed timber, fastened together, about two feet in width, sixteen feet in length, and swimming two inches out of the water, I ventured to embark on them; with a small stick, which I found on the shore, I paddled out to sea. When about one mile from the shore, I was taken up by a British vessel bound to the city of Alexandria in Egypt; this may be thought by some timorous people to be great presumption in me, to venture into the broad ocean, commit myself to the mercy of the waves, and be liable to be swallowed up every minute; but, to tarry on the shore was death! and there was hope in this adventure, for the sea was very calm, and at no great distance I saw several vessels from whom I expected relief, and by this means my life was saved.

My readers will expect a brief description of this island. It lies between the 17th and 21st degrees of North latitude, and the 67th and 74th of West longitude, being in the middle between Cuba and Porto-Rico; and is 450 miles long, and 150 broad. The face of the island presents an agreeable variety of hills, vallies, woods and rivers; and the soil is allowed to be extremely fertile, producing sugar, cotton, indigo, tobacco, maize, and cassava root. I was informed, that before the revolution this island was one of the most enviable spots on the earth; it was the garden of the world! such was the French part of St. Domingo in 1789, but, alas! it is no more; destructive

ravages of an unrelenting insurrection, of frightful massacres, and conflagrations, have laid waste all those beautiful settlements; reduced the buildings to ashes, and laid low in dust, or scattered in exile its wretched inhabitants. In two battles in which I was obliged to fight, before the last, and in which we gained the victory, they put all the white inhabitants to the sword, and took the spoil; this spoil was delivered to the chief general, who divided it as it pleased him amongst his officers, and the officers distributed among the soldiers, as they saw fit. The black man of this place were far more sensible than those which I find in North-America, or it might appear so; as black men, possessing their liberty, have more room for the exercise of their talents, than those who are in a state of slavery. In short, this island has now a black Emperor, by the name of Cristophe: he has declared himself Emperor of Hayti, and St. Domingo may now be considered as an empire of blacks. How long he will hold his dominions against the arms and opposition of the European Nations, time only will determine.

But, as I before related, I was now in a good ship, bound to Alexandria; this was far from my wishes, as my only and chief desire was to get a passage back to America; but glad of any fortune which relieved me from my captivity in St. Domingo, prepared myself to be contented with my lot. The money which I had about me, amounting to

about 12.800 dollars, was sufficient to bear my expences, without labor or difficulty, to any part of the world. We arrived at Alexandria on the 16th of Oct. this same year, A D. 1801. Egypt like many other refined nations of antiquity, has greatly degenerated into a state of rudeness, ignorance and barbarity, *i. e.* if what history has said of their former grandeur, riches and glory be true, for at the present time they are a most worthless, abject people. The streets of Alexandria, are now continually filled with fortune-tellers, those who practice slight of hand, and almost every other evil practice imaginable: some of almost all nations are to be found here, but strangers resort here only for traffic, and to make money. This famous city lies on the Levant coast: it was once the emporium of all Europe, and by means of the red Sea, furnished them with the riches of the Indies: it owes its name, to its ancient founder Alexander the great. Mahometanism is the prevailing religion throughout Egypt; and the Coptic language, and the modern Greek, is the common language. There are no men of learning in Egypt worthy of notice in history.

The greatest curiosities of note in this ancient and noted country, is their pyramids of prodigious height; their antiquity is beyond the bounds of history itself; and their original histories and uses are still unknown; the basis of the largest covers eleven acres of ground, and its perpendicular height is 500 feet, but

if measured obliquely to the terminating point it is 700 feet. In short, the pyramids of Egypt are the most stupendous, and, to appearance, the most useless structures that ever were raised by the hands of men.

As I once mentioned something of the practice in legerdemain and slight of hand, I shall now mention a concluding curiosity which is found in Egypt, viz. a certain people here, that appear to some entirely a mystery; they are called *Psylli*, who have the faculty of enchanting the most venomous serpents, so that they shall have no power to bite or hurt them, though they retain all their mischievous qualities with regard to others. Some of them will handle the most venomous reptiles of this kind as if they had been laces, and some of them will eat living serpents, beginning at the tail, and proceeding all the way up to its head, without the creatures offering to resent such a violent injury; and such of them as practice these things, appear mysterious, and will not say any thing about it, from whence they derive their power or authority. But I believe it is all done by slight of hand.

The productions of Egypt are grain in plenty, corn, mellons, dates, figs, plantains, sugarcane, olives, flax, cotton, indigo, &c. It abounds in cattle and many other things. I think that at former times it must have produced every thing necessary for human subsistence, in profusion, (if the scripture be true), which I cannot say that I have any reason to

doubt; and that if it was as well cultivated as formerly, it is probable it would produce in the same abundance: but there has been so many overturns, destructions, &c. in Egypt, and good husbandry, has been so discouraged by the irregular establishments of conquerors in past centuries, that it is no wonder it presents a scene of destruction and dissipation, as it is at the present period; and Egypt may thank its last conquerors and governors for its present wretched situation; for human language is insufficient to describe the misery of an Egyptian village! The huts of the Irish are palaces compared with the Arab's style: each dwelling is entirely of mud; in form like an oven, ten feet square, high enough in the middle for a man to stand upright; here the whole family live, eat and sleep. A miserable people! the curse of the whole earth. I was tired of such a wretched place of residence, and quit them as soon as possible.

I will not omit mentioning one thing more, viz. the extraordinary dress of the women; the left shoulder and half of the left breast is naked in their best dress, as they walk the streets; they are but thinly covered with chains of gold and laces, loosely hanging round and over their breast; their gowns reach but a few inches below their knees; but for a substitute, their stockings reach some distance above the knee, and are adorned with very handsome ribbons, crossed six or eight times from the shoes up across the leg, under the short

clothes; their shoes are made of morocco leather, or very good silk, and their gowns are generally of red and white chintz, silk, muslin, &c: upon the head they have a very flashy and rich kind of head-dress, adorned with jewels, according to their several abilities; and upon the whole, a stranger on his first appearance in the streets of Alexandria, would hardly know what kind of creatures they were at first sight; but by their pride and seeming importance they must think that they make a very fine and splendid appearance. The more I have travelled the world, the more I find that fashion has made every thing look decent and elegant.

However, I prepared for leaving this place, as I have already observed, and enquired for a passage for the continent of America, but could find none. Finding a vessel direct for China, I bought a parcel of coffee and other merchandize, with an intent to trade with the Chinese. I embarked on board of her on the 30th day of Oct. and sailed for Canton. After this voyage I was determined to sail for America. We had a pleasant voyage until we were within three days sail of Canton. Our captain was a small, slim man, of an innocent character; and although the chief part of the cargo was owned in France, yet the captain as well as myself had a very handsome property on board the ship; but missing in his reckoning I expect he run his vessel too near the land, and when he endeavoured to

bring her off, the wind being heavy and blowing a very fresh gale would not permit; it increased to a storm. grew exceeding violent, and drove us on a bar; the ship was immediately wrecked, and fast filling with water; all the hands on board, were in great consternation and amazement, the night was dark, neither moon nor stars appeared, the heavens were covered with universal darkness, and we could not tell how far we were from the shore; at first thought, we expected that every soul of us would be inevitably lost, but our captain, whilst the women were crying and wringing their hands in the cabin, and their husbands, with the sailors, looking with amazement and confusion on each other, ordered the long boat to be hoisted over into the sea. I observed this movement of the captain, as I run back and forward on deck; and went to my trunk to take out the money, about three hundred joannas, which I had deposited there in my purse for trade with the Chinese. Just as I returned to the side of the ship, I heard the sound of the captain's voice on board the boat; I also observed two or three men in it, by help of the flash of lightning which came just then, attended with rolling thunder; but striving to save my property, had like to cost me my life: for when I espied the boat, she was started off from the ship, and I sprung into it, leaving my money on deck. It being dark, I fell on the gunnel of the boat, with one leg and one arm in the water; one of the sailors took hold

of me, and drew me into the boat; the captain let her drive before the storm, we had oars in the boat, but the sea was too rough to make any use of these; we were, however, soon under way enough to fill the helm; how far we were from the shore we could not tell, but having often thrown the lead on board the ship, and finding but shallow water, we deemed that we could not be far from land; but before we had been driven many minutes, we had taken in considerable water, and was every minute terrified with the apprehension of sinking to the bottom! We soon struck on land, it was so dark that we were unable to tell whether it was the main land, an island, or a bar of sand; but feeling around the boat with one of our oars, we found that it was land; and quitting our boat, we hailed each other with tears of joy for the happy deliverance from the general fate of our unfortunate fellow-sufferers on board the ship! They only who knew by lamentable experience my feelings for the poor sufferers, can have any idea of their wretchedness and misery! When we left the ship, some of them were running back and forward in the vessel; some praying and crying for mercy, and the cabin ringing with the shrieks and lamentations of the poor passengers! They knew that the long boat was put out, but the prospect to them appeared at the best but a trifle better than death! To tarry on board was certain destruction! and they were all preparing to leave the ship as

soon as they could clothe themselves sufficiently to endure the storm; and had not the captain pushed off the boat just as he did, it would doubtless have been so filled that the whole company would have sunk to the bottom.

As soon as we found ourselves safely on land, we composed ourselves as well as the circumstances would admit, under a tree, until the morning light; we then arose and looked after the ship, but could see nothing of her: beyond a doubt, she stove to pieces and went to the bottom with every soul on board! We had no fire, and no tinder-box to kindle any; but by rubbing two pieces of wood together, we soon brought fire. On this desolate and uninhabited island we continued three weeks before we had any relief; here we subsisted entirely on the fruits of the different trees and shrubs that grew on the island. We travelled over part of the island at different times, but found nothing but wild beasts, reptiles and vermin that inhabited this terrible desert. We saw the tracks of beasts that were uncommonly large, and with which we were entirely unacquainted. I had heard the roaring of a lion when I was young, and here I heard the same sound at a distance on the island: the captain said that as he travelled out a small distance, he often heard the roaring of lions! and would often say that our lives were in danger; but they came not near in the day, and at night we made a fire sufficiently large to affright them from us: we had heard that no-

thing terrified these beasts so much as fire. We passed away the time here, in hunting after something to eat, and wood to keep up our fire; in this manner we subsisted three weeks, as I observed, before we saw any relief, when fortunately one night we discovered a ship, by her lights, not far off; we immediately hailed her with all the art and strength in our power; she answered us, and the captain sent his boat on shore and took us on board. When we came on board, we found that she was bound for Charleston in the state of South-Carolina in North America; at which port, after a pleasant passage, we arrived on the 16th day of Feb. A. D. 1802. I was now in a good country, but having lost all my property, was again as poor as ever.

The island in the East-Indies on which we suffered this ship wreck, lies in lat. 22 deg. North, and about 95 deg. East longitude.

Being now in America, I concluded to begin to work again at my trade. I entered into the employ of Mr. Inglesby, the first merchant-taylor in this city; but as might be expected, after a ship wreck, very short of cloathing; however this was not a thing that I was entirely unacquainted with, and I soon recruited a fresh stock. With this gentleman I worked three months, until I acquired both clothes and money. The poor captain was not so well provided for; he, nevertheless, found a passage to France, by a vessel out of Charleston. I was advised to go to Beau-

fort, which I did, and commenced business for myself. I carried it on with good advantage for a few months; but all things did not suit me here, and I grew discontented and returned to Charleston, where trade and business was more brisk and lively, and flowed in from every part. I hired an apartment in a public house, and carried on business; several of my old companions coming to see me, we took a walk on a certain evening, and seeing several young gentlemen very busy and very earnestly engaged in some seeming business of importance, we stepped in to see what they were about, and soon found it to be a gambling-house. Observing many that won great sums, I thought that I must try my fortune too; I accordingly soon commenced the business, and having a good run of luck, I won 550 dollars; thus, for the first time in my life, I commenced gambling; the next day, being the 15th day of Aug. I waited with intolerable impatience for the approach of night, that I might have another opportunity of increasing my purse, for I had a great opinion of my own abilities in this new business, and withal, I thought it was a very easy way of making money and acquiring an estate. Night approaching, I repaired to my new occupation, with exhilarated spirits and abundance of success, in my own imagination; but fortune however favorable before, was not willing to encourage a practice, which was so much the source and fountain of every kind

of evil; and especially had such a tendency to destroy my own soul; and during this night it deprived me not only of the money which I took from the bank, the night before, but also took away all the money which I had before in my purse. I then returned to my lodging with a disconsolate and heavy heart, and resolved never to gamble any more during life, let the temptation be what it would.

This district contains about 57.000 inhabitants of which 16.000 are computed to be whites. It is the only considerable town in South Carolina, and is almost surrounded with water; the refreshing sea-breezes, which are regularly felt here, render Charleston more healthy than any of the low countries in the southern states; on this account it is the resort of great numbers of gentlemen, invalids from the West-India islands, and of the rich planters from the country, who come here to spend the sickly months, (as they are called), in quest of health, and of the social enjoyment which the city affords; and in no part of America are the social blessings enjoyed more rationally and liberally than in Charleston; unaffected hospitality, affability, ease in manners and address, and a disposition to make the guests welcome, easy and pleased with themselves, are characteristics of the respectable people in Charleston. The land on which the town is built is flat and low, and the water brackish and unwholesome. The streets from East to West, extend from river to river, and running

in a straight line, not only open beautiful prospects each way, but afford excellent opportunities, by means of subterranean drains, for removing all nuisances, and keeping the city clean and healthy. These streets are intersected by others nearly at right angles, and throw the town into a number of squares, with dwelling houses in front, and office houses and little gardens behind. Some of the streets are conveniently wide, but most of them are much too narrow, especially for so populous a city, in so warm a climate. Besides narrow streets being a nursery for various diseases, from their confined situation, they are found extremely inconvenient in case of fires, the destructive effects of which have been frequently felt in this city. The houses lately built are brick with tiled roofs: some of them are elegant and well finished. The public buildings are a state-house, an exchange, armory, poor-house, two large churches for Episcopalians, two for Congregationalists, or independents; one of these lately built is of brick, of a circular form, the diameter of the circle within the walls 88 feet, an elegant edifice, erected at an expence of more than 30.000 dollars; one for Scotch Presbyterians, one for Baptists, one for German Lutherans, two for Methodists, (a large house for worship being lately finished by them), one for French Protestants, besides a meeting house for Quakers, a Roman catholic chapel, and a Jewish synagogue.

In 1787, it was computed that there were

1600 houses in Charleston, 9.600 white inhabitants, and 5.400 negroes; and what evinces the healthiness of the place, upwards of 200 of the white inhabitants were above 60 years of age. In 1791, there were 16 359 inhabitants, of whom 7,684 were slaves; in the year 1800, there was 18.712, of whom 9.053 were slaves.

I mentioned my passing through Beaufort: a description of this place was neglected on account of its being small, and not of much note in the commercial world; but I will just mention that it is a very healthy place; it is an island, and lies about sixty miles South of Charleston; its growth is very rapid, and contains about 150 houses.

Having given a general description of Charleston and its inhabitants, I proceed with my journal; and as I noticed, I lost all my money, and determined to leave the uncertain fortunes of gaming for a steady and respectable employment in some other line of business. I now took my departure for Columbia, at which place I arrived on the 26th day of August. In this place I remained two months: this is the seat of government, and a college has been built here since I left the place; its situation is West of Charleston, about one hundred miles; it is a very pleasant place; the chief products, are grain and cotton; there are only two long handsome streets, with a few cross ones at right angles,

in this town : it lies half a mile from the river, with four stores, and public inns in plenty, and very good accommodations and civil behavior amongst the inhabitants ; the soil is very good. During the time that I tarried here, I became acquainted with a certain French Doctor, and in fact a gentleman ; he was disinterestedly my friend ; his name was Delaine : he proposed putting me in a fair way of making my fortune, by sending me as super-cargo on a voyage to the West Indies in a vessel of his own ; but he had a notion of sending me to college, to acquire the knowledge of the English language, navigation, &c. This plan of his originated from friendship to me, as he always told me he had a peculiar fancy for my turn and disposition. But something particular in my views of business and enjoyments at that period, prevented me from accepting of his kind and generous offer ; and I shall ever mention his name, the name of Delaine, with expressions of the highest respect and esteem.

Being desirous of seeing more of North-America, and finding nothing peculiar to prevent my travels, I set off once more, and took my leave of this friendly gentleman. Full spirited I left the place, and proceeded to Augusta in Georgia, about sixty-five miles from Columbia. At this place I arrived on the 3d Nov. 1803. Here I remained about eighteen months, and carried on my business with very good success : I employed eight or

ten journeymen the chief of the time, and had plenty of employ; here I furnished myself with books on philosophy and chemistry; these books I studied with attention and pleasure during my leisure hours. Georgia was a climate by far too warm for my constitution, especially if I subjected myself to labor, and accordingly I did nothing at my business, but cut out and sold the work, and by this means had often an opportunity to peruse my books: these books infused the notion that I could build a *balloon*; and being minded to make money a little easy sometimes, as well as my neighbors, after several fruitless attempts I succeeded in building a small one, and let it go up; but before I completed this one, I had made as many as eight or ten, which cost me five or six dollars each, besides all my trouble, and was often heartily laughed at before I had made one to answer my purpose: indeed almost every where I went they would laugh about my *balloons*.

I now bought me a horse and chair, settled my business, and taking with me about eight hundred dollars, departed for Nashville, in the state of Tennessee.

Georgia is a state of some commerce; its length is 260 miles, and its breadth 250: it lies in lat. 31 and 35 North, and 5 and 10 deg. 40 min. West longitude from Philadelphia—Bounded East by the Atlantic ocean, South by East Florida, West by the Cherokee nation, Northeast and North by South Caro-

lina; it is sickly in this state, during the months of July, August and September. Savannah, Oakmulge and the Ocone, are the only great rivers in Georgia. The seat of government now, is in Milledgeville, in the new purchase which was made in 1806; in this place are already 200 houses; the beautiful state-house here, cost the state of Georgia 110,000 dollars; it stands in the centre of the city on an elevated part. This town, is situated within one quarter of a mile from the river Ocone, about 180 miles from Savannah.

But, as I said, I was now in Nashville on the 16th day of April 1805: with six hundred dollars which I had in my pocket, I concluded to try my ingenuity, and proposed to build a balloon, and gave out a subscription paper, to find what the people would subscribe to see it rise; and being fond of novelty, they subscribed eight hundred dollars. When my balloon was completed and the time appointed for the exhibition, the people assembled, about ten thousand! and contributed about five hundred dollars more. All things being ready, I entered the balloon, and gave orders to cut the ropes and let it ascend; they obeyed orders, but it ascended only four or five feet, before it fell again: on examination, I found that there were three holes cut through it, by which the inflammable air escaped and passed out, which prevented it from rising; we mended the balloon, and made new inflammable air and infused into the balloon, but

it bursted, bearing heavier on these places than others; and I then gave up the business, and offered them their money back again: some of them took it back willingly, others reluctantly; but eventually all received it: these holes, were cut by designing men who had previously laid wagers in heavy sums, that the balloon would not rise; but having addressed the people, informing them of my misfortunes, they expressed themselves in terms the most grateful and friendly on my behalf; the cost of this air balloon was six hundred dollars, which, with other expenses, amounted to the chief part of what I possessed in the world.

The gentlemen of character seemed to commiserate my situation; they followed me to the public house where I put up, and one Gen. Robinson came to me and in an affectionate and friendly manner offered me two hundred dollars; I was unwilling to accept it of him, as I believed that it was given from his own private property, but he crowded a one hundred dollar bill into my waistcoat pocket; after him, Maj. Lewis came and insisted that I should take of him one hundred dollars more, which I did; after him came I think Mr. Jones, a tanner; he lived about six miles from Nashville, about South-East, and without suffering me to express any reluctance to his generosity, gave me two hundred dollars, saying, that if I ever possessed independent property, I might send it back to him

x Gen. James Robertson  
founder of Nashville

again; and that if I would consent to set up any business in Nashville, he would let me have in advance one thousand dollars. These friendly donations from gentlemen of the first character, very seriously affected me and drew tears of joy from my eyes. This sum of four hundred dollars was restoring two thirds of my expence in building of the air-balloon. Thus, by the vulgarity and envy of a few ill bred men, ten thousand honest and good citizens lost the satisfaction of seeing this great improvement in nature, for which they came many of them ten and fifteen miles; so it is sometimes, that, as said the wise man Solomon, one sinner destroys much good; there are always some people, who live as a moth to the community at large; those characters, that are not profitable either to God or man, or to themselves, are generally of short duration on the earth; for the supreme judge and governor of the world reckons them as chaff, and like the husbandman sweeps them away as the chaff of the summer threshing-floor: soon they receive their payment, or shortly will, according to their works.

Being tired and provoked by the inhuman conduct of this people, I settled all my business and departed for Natches, in the Mississippi Territory. In this journey we were very much discommoded by the heat and small flies, or musquitos; the afflictions and trouble we had with these creatures were intolerable. It was on the 22nd day of August, that I set

out on my journey for this fifteen hundred mile voyage, and all the way by water. In our passage, there were six of us in company, these turbulent creatures, like an army of unrelenting fruiers, seemed determined to eat us up, if possible, before we had arrived at the end of our journey, for we could have no rest day or night; in the day time we would make out to travel well, but in the night season it was impossible to rest; and if it had been possible that we could have laid still, we should have been deprived of every drop of blood in our veins by the morning light; but it was impossible; however, we slept by turns, and those who kept awake brushed off the musquitoes from those who slept, until we had descended these Mississippi waters. This river is from a mile to a mile and half wide; as we descended, we observed that on the left side the banks were uneven, sometimes rising into hills, at other times sinking into almost a level with the river; on the right hand, the banks were very level, and afforded a very handsome prospect where the land was cultivated and cleared up; but in general it was a wilderness, or rather a thicket of canes, shrubs, &c. We went on shore to tarry and take our rest at night, for the stream, *i.e.* the waters of the Mississippi, were so rapid that we were unable to proceed in the night season.

Nashville, the place where I built my air-balloon, was a place of some importance, though not of much trade; it is situated in

latitude 35 deg. 45 min. North. It is called after Brigadier-General Francis Nash, who fell on the 4th of October, 1777, in the battle at Germantown, in defence of his country; is a growing town, situated on the banks of Cumberland river; the U. States superior courts, the district court for West Tennessee, are held twice a year at this place. The court for the District of Mero, and for the county of Davidson, are also held here. It is about 200 miles from Knoxville, and has now about 500 inhabitants. Nothing could be made here by buying any articles of trade, and transporting down the river; howbeit, on my passage I came athwart some very good whiskey, and very cheap, and expecting to make something of the bargain, I bought 500 gallons of it, and embarked it to sell at Natches. When I arrived at this place, I offered it for sale at an advanced price, but could get no more than what at first it cost me, losing my trouble, expence, &c. I was about three weeks on this passage, and nothing peculiar happened necessary to mention, except what I have written.

In Natches I arrived on the 22nd day of August, 1805. Knowing that I was now capable of building a balloon that would rise, I concluded to satisfy my curiosity for once, in having the pleasure to rise up in one of them that I might have the satisfaction of viewing the beautiful country of America, in one beautiful landscape; to see the distant hills, the vallies and rivers, and in short the face of the whole

country, as far as the eye could extend, I considered as no small satisfaction. Accordingly, I should have given out subscriptions for the purpose, as it is a place where novelty and curiosities are subject to meet with great encouragement; but finding my own purse too light, I concluded to abandon the idea. However, to satisfy the curiosity of the inhabitants, I made one of paper, and let it go. It rose up and went out of sight, we never saw it any more; this balloon was about twenty feet high, and cost me about fifteen dollars.

Natches is situated about lat. 31 deg. 30 min. North, about a quarter of a mile from the Mississippi, and is an incorporated city, containing about two hundred houses, and six hundred inhabitants; they trade chiefly from Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio; their articles of commerce are mostly cotton, indigo and grain; their exports consist in cotton and indigo; they are chiefly Episcopalians and Presbyterians. Fruits are plenty here, such as oranges, pears, peaches, apples, figs, water-mellons, &c. &c. It was said that snow is seldom if ever seen in this latitude. This country bids fair to become in a few years a wealthy, powerful part of the United States.

I left Natches and went to Point Coupee, a French settlement: it lies about 150 miles from Natches and New-Orleans, from each an equal distance; a handsome and well regulated settlement on the bank, the West side of the Mississippi: the people are

very hospitable and kind to strangers, very rich and wealthy; their trade is carried on to New-Orleans chiefly, and the soil affords almost every kind of fruit pleasant to the taste; the productions for exportation are sugar, cotton, indigo, rice, oranges, figs, apricots, &c. Peaches, plumbs, and a few apples for common use are found here; the prospect is very delightful: on the whole it is in my opinion the best and pleasantest place in North-America: to see the vessels passing the river, and so many handsome buildings on both sides for near one hundred and fifty miles, increases the beauty of the country beyond description, giving it an elegance and beauty excelling any thing in the United States of America. I made another air-balloon here, in form and quality like that in Natches.

From this place I took a passage by land and went to New-Orleans, where I arrived on the 18th day of November. Here I built me another air balloon, the exhibition of which brought me something handsome; I believe it cost me about one thousand dollars, and the sums of money which I took in by subscriptions amounted to about twenty-five hundred dollars! A great number of spectators attended the exhibition of this (to them) strange phenomenon! I gave orders to my attendants to cut the ropes; they immediately obeyed, and the balloon arose and ascended about half a mile, with myself only in the chair; when I let out the inflammable air, and descended. I had an agent to collect this

money, who took it with him and absconded ; where he went I knew not, but I entirely despaired of ever seeing him again : this man I had been acquainted with before, and he had been well recommended to me as a just, respectable and honest man ; he was a Spaniard, and as the Spaniards have the name of being very honest to their trust, I thought that I had the more reason to confide in his veracity. I have found by fatal and sad experience, that it is not this nation or that ; but a traveller must confide in him only whom he has found to be an honest and generous man whoever he may be, whether he be Turk, Jew, German, Frenchman, Scotchman, Irishman, Englishman or American ; an honest man is an honest man, let him belong to what nation he may ; and what chiefly concerns me, is first to find out the principle of a man, whether he be a man of ability and virtue ; if he is so, I am done with either jealousy or prejudice against him on account of his nation or pedigree.

Having lost almost all my money, I knew not which way to turn, or what to do ; but by accident I found that there was always business enough for all, provided that they were disposed to take hold of it ; *i. e.* there was a gentleman in town that understood the nature of Legerdemain very well. Necessity drove me to him. I went and conversed on the subject of my loss, and on the uncertainty of fortune ; he was one of my former acquaint-

ances, and acquiesced cheerfully in my sentiments respecting many things, and as I was a stranger as well as himself, and thrown in debt and difficulty by means of my absconding agent, he offered me his assistance, which I accepted; he instructed me in his art, and received me into partnership in all his exhibitions, by which fortunate circumstance, I was able to make remittances to my creditors, and also acquired money to perform my journey to the Havanna, in pursuit of my absconding agent. Four or five days concluded this short voyage; it is but a few days sail from New-Orleans.

Havanna is the capital of the island of Cuba, and a place of great strength and importance, and contains about 2000 houses, with a great number of churches and convents. It was taken by the English in the year 1762, but restored in the subsequent treaty of peace. A small part of this island only is yet cleared, and the chief part of the plantations are on the beautiful plains of the Havanna; they are cultivated by about 25.000 slaves. The other inhabitants are about 30.000. They are Spanish, and their religion the Roman catholic. The latitude of this island is between 20 and 23 deg. 30 min. North, and 74 and 55 deg. 15 min. West longitude. The soil is called the best of any in America, and produces all the commodities known in the West-Indies. The climate is very hot, and often very sickly; there is a fine breeze of wind from the main

land every forenoon, beginning about nine or ten, and lasting until near twelve o'clock; there is an afternoon breeze which comes in from sea; it begins at about three o'clock and lasts till in the evening; this makes a great part of the day very comfortable. The dress of the inhabitants is very old fashioned; the men are of a very dark complexion, like the Spanish nation in general; the ladies are of much fairer complexion, though not so fair as the French, English, or American ladies; their food is not prepared with that elegance or taste, which might be expected from the wealth of the inhabitants. Their religion is of the spurious kind; they will attend mass in the forenoon, confess their sins and receive the sacrament, and in the after part of the day attend the ball-room, and other places of merriment with dancing, playing on instruments of music, and all kinds of indulgences, the same as on any other day of the week.

I sailed from New-Orleans on the 22d of Dec. and arrived in Havanna on the 25th, and being disappointed of seeing my agent, who had absented himself before my arrival, I was again in low circumstances. I had now no other way but to build an air-balloon again; not having money sufficient to erect it, I made use of a letter of recommendation which I received of the Spanish Governor in New-Orleans; by virtue of this letter I acquired the friendly aid of a mer-

chant in the city of Havanna, to perform a few achievements with fire-works, though he was not willing to assist me in the building of a balloon: in the performance of these works I met the entire approbation of the public in general, and those of note in particular; by these exhibitions I received six hundred and seventy five dollars.

Taking with me a complete recommendation from the Spanish Nobility in the Havanna, I immediately embarked for La Vera Cruz, at which place I arrived on the 19th day of Jan. 1806. I had a very agreeable passage and a quick voyage to this place. On my arrival, I presented my letters of recommendation to the governor, and requested his permission to exhibit in such feats, as I should find most convenient; he granted me my request, but here again, I had not a sufficiency of money to proceed: however, according to my former fashion, I applied to my best friends, the nobility; I called them my friends as they were the most fond of plays; by their assistance I was able to proceed, and built a balloon in about three weeks; I prepared, and made ready for exhibition; but before I began my exhibition, I took care to secure the money subscribed by the inhabitants, which amounted to two thousand four hundred dollars. After which, I arose and ascended about one mile up in the air; and then descended, at a distance of about two miles from the place where I went up; I believe there

were eight or ten thousand spectators, to view this scene of novelty : in about three weeks after this, I erected an illuminating fire-work ; this so attracted the attention of the people, that it became the object of their admiration and applause ; they made full compensation for my labor in all these achievements. In about two weeks after this last performance, I received a recommendation from the governor and nobility at Vera-Cruz, to the governor and nobility of Mexico ; but as we are about to leave this island, I will here give a short description of it. It is situate on the gulph of Mexico, between lat. 20 and 25 deg. North, and carries on a great trade with Mexico in Spanish America. The soil is very good and fertile, producing cotton, coffee, rice, sugar, and grain, and fruits of various kinds which are common in the West-India islands. The climate is very hot, but fine breezes from the sea are common in the fore and after part of the day ; in July, August and September, it is generally sickly ! The manners and customs of the people, are much like those of the people of the Havanna ; it is a place of commerce with all parts of Europe, and is a great place for shipping.

On the 12th Oct. I left Havanna for New-Mexico, and arrived there on the 18th day of the same month in 1806. This city lies in lat. 19 deg. 26 min. North ; it is the oldest city in America, of which we have any account ; by the account of its inhabitants, it

was founded long before the discovery of this western world by Columbus, in the year 1492, for, it is said to be founded by the natives, as early as the year 1325. It is situated, in the charming vale of Mexico, on several small islands, in lake Tetzuco, in North lat. 19 deg. 26 min. and 276 deg. 34 min. of West longitude from Ferro. This vale is surrounded with lofty and verdant mountains ! and formerly contained no less than forty eminent cities, besides villages and hamlets. The city is subject to frequent inundations, as is easily accounted for from its local situation, the lake in which it stands being the reservoir of the waters flowing from the neighboring mountains. There are various opinions concerning the ancient population of this city ; such historians as are mostly to be relied on, say that it was nearly nine miles in circumference, and contained upwards of 60.000 houses, containing from four to ten inhabitants each ; others have reckoned 120.000, and some 130.000 houses. By a late accurate enumeration, made by the magistrates and priests, the present number of inhabitants exceed 200.000. The ancient inhabitants of South-America seem to have been emigrants of different nations, from the ancient inhabitants of this northern continent ; this opinion, I have drawn from their having built such commodious and elegant cities, at such an early period, and their having, according to the history of their ancestors, lived much after the customs and

traditions of some of the eastern nations; but when it was by them discovered and at first inhabited, is unknown.

The greatest curiosity in Mexico is their floating gardens. When the Mexicans, about the year 1325, were subdued by the Colhuan and Tapanecan nations, and confined to the small islands in the lake, having no land to cultivate they were necessitated to form moveable gardens, which floated on the lake: their construction is very simple; they are made of light wood, or willows twisted together and so firmly compacted as to form a sort of platform that is sufficiently strong to bear up the earth which makes the garden; on this foundation they lay light wood and bushes which float on the water, and over them spread the mud and dirt which they draw up from the bottom of the lake. Their regular figure is quadrangular, or nearly square; their length and breadth various, generally from 6 to 8 rods long, and about half as wide; they swim about a foot out of water: these were the first fields that the Mexicans owned after the foundation of Mexico; there they cultivated the maize, great pepper and other plants, necessary for their support. From the industry of the people, these fields soon became numerous. They now cultivate flowers of every kind upon them. I was never on one of them, but daily saw them floating by the city on the lake. Every day of the year, at sun rise, innumerable vessels or boats, loaded with various kinds of

flowers and herbs which are cultivated in these gardens are seen arriving by the canal, at the great market place of Mexico. All kinds of plants thrive in them exceedingly; the mud of the lake makes a very rich soil, which requires no water from the clouds. In the largest garden there is commonly a little hut and a little tree, to shelter the cultivator or gardener from the sun or rain; they move these gardens at pleasure, and wherever they please. That part of the island where these gardens are, is the most delightful part of the island; here the traveller may enjoy the highest satisfaction, being surrounded with every possible gratification. The buildings, which are of stone, are convenient; and the public edifices, especially the churches, are magnificent! and the city has the appearance of immense wealth.

The trade of Mexico is carried on in three great branches, which extend over the whole world. By La-Vera-Cruz, it is extended throughout Europe; with the East Indies, by Acapulco, which is about 210 miles to the south west of Mexico; and with South-America, by the same port; and although the two places mentioned, are keys to the trade of the eastern and European world, yet Mexico is to be considered as the centre of commerce for this part of the world; for here the principal merchants trade and reside, and the greatest part of the business is negotiated. The East-India goods from Acapulco, and the European from Vera Cruz, also pass through this city; hither all

the gold and silver comes to be coined, here the king's fifth is deposited, and here are wrought all those utensils and ornaments in plate which are every year sent through Europe.

History informs us that the empire of Mexico was subdued by Cortes in the year 1521. Montezuma was at that time emperor of Mexico. In the course of the war, he was treacherously taken by Cortes, and held as a prisoner. During the imprisonment of Montezuma, Cortes and his army had made repeated attacks on his subjects, but without success. Cortes was now determined, as his last resource, to try what effect the interposition of Montezuma, might have, to soothe or overawe his subjects. This unfortunate prince, at the mercy of the treacherous Spaniards, and reduced to the sad necessity of becoming the instrument of his own disgrace, and of the slavery of his subjects, advanced to the battlements in his royal robes, in all the pomp in which he used to appear on solemn occasions! At sight of their sovereign, whom they had been long accustomed to honor, and almost to revere as a god! the weapons dropped from their hands, every tongue was silent, bowed their heads, and many prostrated themselves on the ground! Montezuma, addressed them, with every argument that could mitigate their rage, or persuade them from hostilities! When he ended his discourse, a sullen murmur of disapprobation ran through the crowd; to this, succeeded reproaches and

threats; and their fury rising in a moment, they violently poured in whole flights of arrows and volleys of stones upon their unhappy monarch! two of the arrows struck him in his body, which, with the blow of a stone on his temple, put an end to his life.

Guatimozin succeeded Montezuma, and maintained a vigorous opposition against the assaults of Cortes. But he, like his predecessor, after a noble defence was forced to submit. Previous to this, being aware of his impending fate, he had ordered that all his treasures should be thrown into the lake. While a prisoner, on suspicion of his having concealed his treasure, he was put to the torture; this was done by laying him on burning coals; but he bore whatever the refined cruelty of his tormentors could inflict, with the invincible fortitude of an American warrior. One of his chief favorites, his fellow-sufferer, being overcome by the violence of the anguish, turned a dejected eye towards his master, which seemed to implore his permission to reveal all that he knew; but the high spirited prince darted on him a look of authority mingled with scorn, and checked his weakness by asking, "Am I reposing on a bed of flowers?" Overawed by the reproach, he persevered in dutiful silence and expired. Cortes, ashamed of a scene so horrid, rescued the royal victim from the hands of his torturers, and prolonged a life of new indignities and sufferings! Cortes died in Spain, in the

year 1547, in the 62nd year of his age. En-  
vied by his cotemporaries, and ill requited by  
the court which he served, he has been admir-  
ed and celebrated by succeeding ages. By  
his own desire he was carried to Mexico, and  
buried there.

This is the place where, and the people  
amongst whom, I had the misfortune to spend  
the most prosperous and most afflictive part  
of my life; prosperous in the course of my  
first acquaintance with them, and afflictive, on  
account of the superstitions of the people,  
during all the remainder of the time which  
I spent amongst them. When at first I en-  
tered the city, I presented my credentials to  
the Governor and nobility, desiring their ap-  
probation for the exhibition of the things  
which were performed in Vera-Cruz; I gain-  
ed their consent and approbation, and im-  
mediately proceeded to construct an air-balloon,  
which I accomplished in six weeks. By the  
assistance of those who were friendly to the  
novelty of the exhibition, I received subscrip-  
tions to the amount of six thousand seven  
hundred dollars. I then proceeded to the  
exhibition, and ascended in the balloon about  
three miles up in the air, and without difficulty  
descended again. This was matter of agree-  
able surprise and astonishment to the ignorant  
and superstitious Mexicans. As I was well  
paid, and had collected the money subscribed  
for my expence in this business, I was very  
well satisfied. I should have ascended higher,

but the probable difficulty of alighting on account of the lakes and rivers, if the wind had arisen, prevented; as in those parts of America sudden gusts of wind with showers of rain are apt to rise unexpectedly and with but little warning; and the movement of a balloon should be slow, if we go with safety.

Having now exhibited one of the most curious philosophical novelties which the inhabitants of this city had ever witnessed, I was contented with the praise and adulation that I continually met with from persons of every class and description. I concluded that they had much more than rewarded me for my expence and trouble, and on the whole they appeared a very kind and generous people. In return for their gratitude I determined to exhibit something still more pleasing and entertaining if possible; and accordingly prepared in three weeks after my descent in the balloon an illuminating fire-work, and exhibited it gratis, in return for their liberality. This also met the high approbation of the people, and in particular those of the learned and nobility; the next day I received an invitation from the Governor of Mexico, to come and dine with him; to this invitation I was obliged to signify my assent through fear of an exception being taken, if I refused what they termed a high honor; though I cannot say but that I had some fears with respect to the friendship pretended in the invitation. When I came to the Governor's house, I found several officers of distinc-

tion, and a great number of the nobility present, where we spent the day in all possible splendor. The people here having a much more exalted opinion of my abilities, than what I had formerly thought myself to possess, flattered my pride to the highest degree imaginable; they treated me like a prince! their addresses evinced the greatest possible attention, and they extolled me to excess, even to the clouds! but this is always the case with those who are brought up in superstition and bigotry; at one moment we are almost gods! and at the next we are almost demons unfit to live. By such bigoted people as these, Paul and Barnabas, at the commencement of the Christian aera were first declared to be gods come down to them in the likeness of men! and in a short period of time afterwards they were stoned and dragged out of the city!

But to speak of my days of prosperity in Mexico. I now thought that my days of trouble and anxiety on the earth were finished! and pleasures were now returning, to console the heaving sigh, and bless the afflicted son of sorrow! I had money in plenty, but needed it not; my friends in this noble city had given the spontaneous flow to the full supply of all my wants; here were my happiest days, and I only waited a few more rolling suns to waft me on the prosperous gale of riches, honor, joy and independent happiness! My days were now as pleasant and calm as the eve of summer, and not a murmur or unpleasant

countenance from morning to evening appeared, and I contemplated fortune, with all its train of attendants, for my happy companions. And now my ambition peculiarly inspired with a desire to please, prompted me forward; and I conceived that I must continually feed the luxuriant expectations of these people with some new phenomenon! I accordingly gained the Governor's permission to erect a machine that would attract the lightning from the clouds: my utensils being in readiness, I took the advantage of a very warm and sultry day when, according to the common course of nature, the showers and lightning passed over us; and, as I perceived them coming near, I advanced with my machinery to the top of a very high tower in the city, and prepared it to attract an unusual degree of the lightning. Some of the nobility were attendant with me on this occasion, and I pointed with my finger to a certain point, saying there is the place where you will see the livid lightning descending. I spoke this with some doubt as I knew not exactly the nature, or power of the clouds; I trembled for my honor, lest it should not be much increased by this operation; however, it fully answered my expectations and the lightning descended and struck on the point to which it was directed. This new electrical work pleased to the life, especially the higher ranks of nobility: the lightning poured down with such rapid, livid flame, that I found myself in danger, and was obliged to withdraw

with my instruments. This strange phenomenon in an illiterate and uncultivated part of the world, drew again the admiration and public applause to excess; but having a few of the first characters with me, who had read Doct. Franklin on electricity, and who well knew the nature of such things and that there was danger of the city's being damaged by the lightning, I was then advised to withdraw the machine; and as a very heavy cloud seemed to hang over us, I was afraid that it was not safe to continue it, and accordingly withdrew it as above mentioned. When I returned from the exhibition, some of the inhabitants eyed me with a mixture of jealousy and admiration, as though it had been something supernatural.

After this was done, to draw the attention and please the inhabitants, I prepared my machines for something of a more extraordinary nature. I first engaged three rooms in a public house or hotel, and prepared machineries for the exhibition of several extraordinary, and (to them) surprising feats; this exhibition was intended to be the last that I should exhibit in the city of Mexico; and was given as a present for the generosity and kindness of the inhabitants, and in particular those of the first in reputation. Accordingly I invited the Governor and his lady, and about forty or fifty of the most noted and respectable inhabitants, *i. e.* ladies and gentlemen of the city. In order to make the exhibition as new and surprising as

possible, I made all the preparation necessary for the accomplishment of my purpose, little expecting that I was preparing to cast myself from the pinnacle of honor and applause to the disgrace and miseries of a loathsome dungeon, as will be seen in the succeeding history.

The appointed hour being come, I entered my apartment, and having this honorable company all before me, proceeded to the performance of the achievements for which I had prepared; the hearts of my attendants were now all highly primed with the expectation of seeing some wonderful performance! and every feature and every countenance indicated the anticipation of high satisfaction; and now my chief concern was that they should not be disappointed; and probably their expectations were drawn up to the high pitch by the appearance of the rooms, for they were furnished and equipped with several utensils and apparatus for the performance. As I was determined to quit this part of the world and retire to my own native country, after this performance was over, I felt myself somewhat ambitious to record a pleasing fame in this famous city; and accordingly led on the performance to the extent of my abilities.

And first, I prepared three rooms in an inn for the exhibition, and lined the walls with black tapestry throughout; over the tapestry I hung skeletons of the dead; in the first room sat a candle, just sufficient (by its glimmering light) to bring to remembrance the

solemn mansions of the dead ! The second room was prepared with additional gloominess, and was still more frightful ! The third, and last, was increased in every solemn and frightful form, and seemed to the spectator as though he had entered the gloomy house of demons and departed ghosts, who with implacable malice stood fixed and ready to seize upon their prey ! In this room, I had fixed all these utensils and accoutrements necessary for the various feats of the awful scene, a few trifling things excepted. On entering into this room, the spectator, on stepping on the floor, was unexpectedly shocked with a strong touch of electricity ; stepping forth on an insulated platform, amongst his fellow spectators, he saw their countenances pale and frightful as death ! The room was in perfect darkness ; but the rays of light, which were emitted from two burning candles, just lighted and placed so as to discover frightfulness and horror ; these were prepared for the solemn occasion, and placed by the side of the wall. The spectators were informed that I was about to raise a departed spirit, and that I should probably converse with him, and ask him several questions, which he doubtless would readily answer ; but I bid them not fear or be terrified ; that I would assure them, that the spirit which I would raise should not hurt them, but only answer the questions which I should ask him ; and at my command, should disappear. I then proceeded with my achievements to bring

him forth, at which we heard the rolling of heavy thunder over our heads, a heavy shower of rain immediately followed, and both of our candles went out apparently of themselves, and left us in impenetrable darkness! I should have mentioned that prior to this I addressed the gentlemen in company, saying, gentlemen, is there one of you who is willing that I should raise his father, or friend, at the present time. I was answered by one of them, that if it should please me, I would do well to raise his father; and this was the noble sire, who was to come forth. But the candles having refused to give us light, the thunder continued to roll, the rain to descend, and the wind to blow extremely; cranking lightning flew around the room in every direction! With a solemn and commanding tone of voice, I bid the spirit or ghost of the deceased to come forth! when I had called the third and last time, he made his appearance in the room, and demanded of me an answer to the important questions, Why I had called him up from the dead? Why I had disturbed his rest and repose? I answered him, and in an authoritative voice, demanded of him to tell from whence he came; whether from the dismal and doleful deep! the infernal pit! or from the happy regions of endless felicity above! He immediately told us that he came down from above, from the glorious world of light, the place of consummate happiness and felicity! I questioned him in several parti-

culars, in all which he answered me in a proper and intelligible order, although his voice was hollow and mournful! When I had done conversing with him, I told him that I should soon give him liberty to depart, but that as he had extinguished our lights at his approach, he would be requested to light them up again at his departure. The gentleman who had told me that I should do well to raise his father, had now both seen and acknowledged that it was the ghost of his father in very deed! that it was both his countenance and form, although his voice was somewhat hollow, and consequently more like that of a ghost than that of a living person. His appearance was of a lucific cast, and afforded light enough to view him in every feature. Having finished conversation in every important question, I now gave him liberty to disappear; he immediately received the precept and departed, but as he left the room, he forgot not to obey the injunction laid on him at his departure, and our candles lighted up again of themselves: at first the tops of the snuffs appeared red with fire, as it will if a candle be blown out, but it immediately rose up into a steady blaze. After this, the candles suspended their lights again, going out of themselves; and the atmosphere throughout the room was all on fire; *i. e.* the whole room appeared a solid flame of fire; yet none were injured! To see what they understood was a real ghost, without the sign

of fiction—to hear awful thunder, great rain, and wind—to view the cranking lightning running round the room—hear me converse with a departed spirit—and then see the candles going out and lighting up of themselves—the whole room filled with flames of fire!—was to them truly astonishing: they could not but believe I must be assisted by supernatural agency. Ignorant of philosophy and the powers of nature, they judged these appearances to be real and substantial facts; yet when seen through and understood, they appear no longer mysterious; and though they appear wonderful and strange to those who are not conversant in them, yet they are wholly the productions of art, as will be seen in an explanation at the latter part of this narrative.

When this latter part of the play was performed, I thought that I heard a murmuring amongst the spectators, and immediately withdrew the exhibitions; I then made up towards the Governor to speak to him, but instead of using me with free and sociable complaisance, as was his general manner, he turned himself round, cast a disdainful look back at me, and sheared off with disgust and silent contempt. I spoke to him, but received no answer. The whole company seemed to conduct themselves toward me, as though they knew me to be in league with devils, and to have produced my achievements from the infernal regions of the deep, and I now saw that my fortune was lost in

the beautiful clime of Mexico. I expected this was the opinion which they had formed of me, on account of the artificial light that was infused through the room at the close of the feasts; my having endeavoured to please the curiosity of these people, entirely out of friendship, was now like to bring me into trouble, and being in doubt about the consequences which might flow from the superstition of these people, I went to my lodgings with a heavy heart: besides, I knew that the Roman Catholics are in general very cruel where they undertake to afflict; however I had but little quiet the first part of the night, after which I fell a sleep and did not awake until 4 o'clock in the morning, when to my astonishment my room was visited with a guard of soldiers who without waiting for ceremonies, burst open my chamber door, and seized me as they would a person whom they thought was some kind of a supernatural creature; they were so furious and ignorant that they scarcely gave me time to dress myself, before they had put me in irons or rather chains! From thence they forced me to a tower or an old shattered building apparently falling to wreck in the city, and opened one of the doors: here the captain of the guard, in language very humane and pathetic, thus addressed me,—Young man, you are now about to be consigned to a dungeon! to a dungeon, from whence you will never return! The sun just then rising, and beaming above the horizontal plain, and o'er the

distant hills, he pointed his finger to the bright luminary, and said, You may now, for once, and the last time, take a view of yonder sun, and pointing with his finger, said, behold him now, I say for the last time, for you will never see him again, spreading his golden rays abroad, to lighten the inhabitants of the world! What was my surprise at this new and unexpected destruction! It had never been told me that I was guilty of any offence against the laws of the country, or that I had offended God, or the ministers of the established religion; they never pretended that they were going to imprison me for any particular fault, and as I was conscious of none, I expostulated with the captain upon the unreasonableness of the conduct. I requested him, that if in any thing I was guilty of doing wrong, for the sake of the humanity which he, and which all ought to possess, that he would but once present me before the Governor, that I might have a trial, and have the opportunity of making if but one plea for my life! and that, if in the feats which were performed the night before there was any thing criminal, I would answer in a clear and satisfactory manner to the charge, or endeavour to reconcile myself to this awful condemnation! But he said that his orders were, to commit me to that dungeon without consenting to hear any thing which I had to say in my own behalf. All this he spoke in the French language, in order that I should understand, and that I should

fully know the worst of it. I entreated him to give me fifteen minutes time to write a letter to my relations, but all in vain.

To be sent down one hundred and fifty feet (for that was called the depth of the pit), into the heart of the earth, and without being allowed to speak so much as one word in my own defence, was more than any person could ever have made me believe before: that the brave, kind and generous Governor; that those who claim characters worthy of noblemen and gentlemen of Mexico; that the religion of all the priests of the famous and noble city! I say that all these generous and hospitable people should condemn any person to an eternal banishment and exile from the inhabitants of the world, and according to their religion, to hell itself at death! which they eventually intended; I say, to believe all this, was more than I or any other person could be capable of believing, who was unacquainted with their dispositions: and although the Spaniards are said to be honorable in some particular things, yet in cruelty and deceit they are excelled by none; their religion is of such a nature, generally, as to influence them in direct opposition to all the doctrines of the gospel of the Son of God. For my part, I never had the pleasure of seeing one of them who conducted like a real and sincere worshipper of God, whilst I tarried amongst them. But again; to think of descending so suddenly from the height of honor, friendship

and pleasures, to such unjust and disgraceful punishment as this, filled me with amazement and almost distraction! But, they knew no mercy; and instead of hearing my expostulations and arguments in favor of the feelings of humanity and mercy, they seemed to value my life as of trifling consideration; and so I believe they valued the lives of the chief part of the inhabitants: they hurried me to the place by which they would send me down to this dismal and frightful abyss of woes! Seeing nothing left, but that I must resign myself to this inconceivable wretchedness, I endeavored to look to the God of heaven for his merciful interposition in my behalf; my soul, strung up to the highest degree of surprise, was now the seat of ten thousand anxieties and distresses! far from friends and relatives, all hope had taken an everlasting flight! It was now that I found the necessity of prayer; and in the most dismal part of my life it was that I cried for favor once more to the Most High. I wrung my hands in bitter reflections! a flood of tears flowed spontaneous from my heaving bosom! an existence, far worse than death seven times repeated, was then my unhappy lot! Well might the ancient prophet say, "let me fall into the hands of God, but let me not fall into the hands of man!" After they had heard me make my mournful petition, and spent myself in my complaints, they forced me to enter the dungeon, but were obliged to do it by violent

force of the guard. This dungeon was undoubtedly made for the reception of those unhappy wretches who have the misfortune to deny their modes and forms of religion, for such persons as these, they have a tradition, that they can never punish too much ; and I have sometimes thought that my having apparently (as they concluded) turned water into wine, which added to the other feats mentioned, caused a jealousy still greater to spring up in their hearts, that I was endeavoring to counterfeit the miracles of Christ, and that I was deistically despising the great author of all our religion. Howbeit, I shall give a brief and concise description of this dismal pit, and of my imprisonment and sufferings during the six months of my stay there.

This prison is constructed in a manner entirely unknown in many other parts of the earth where I have had the fortune to travel ; it is dug down, I suppose, about one hundred and fifty feet under ground, and to such an extreme depth, probably, to prevent the cries and groans of the wretched prisoner from being heard and troubling the people in the city ; the diameter, I think, was about fifteen feet, and holds its bigness nearly to the bottom ; the way they enter it is by winding stairs, which are built on the sides, all of hewn stone ; a rope reached from the top down to the bottom of this dungeon, by which the prisoner lets himself down the stony way with safety and less difficulty ; these stairs on the

sides are built out about three feet from the wall. When we had reached the bottom, (for the captain descended with me with a light in his hand), I found that it was paved with stone; there was also a small stone stool to set on to rest myself and to eat my food; there was some straw on the paved floor for my bed, which it was conceived I should want but a few weeks. The feelings of this gentleman were very sensibly touched on this solemn occasion; he told me that I must there stay, during my existence on earth, and that we should see each other no more until we met again in an eternal world, in the great day of judgment, and he hoped in heaven! He advised me to make my peace with God, the judge of all, and prepare myself for death! (concluding doubtless, and from good reasons too, that my dissolution was now nigh at hand!) that I should be fed with bread and water only, during my miserable existence there: he left me with tears and a melancholy heart! There was a door, I suppose about twenty feet above my head, which he passed up through, and I heard him sigh as he shut down the door over my head; but it is more than probable that his feelings were tender, being moved by the lamentable sound of my own voice, *i. e.* my distracted and distressing cries, in the moment of his shutting down the door. He ascended and left me in the dismal place which he himself esteemed far worse and more deplorable than death! This captain,

or rather gentleman, was a Frenchman in appearance, though a Spanish officer; but he knew that my state was inconceivably wretched: he had knowledge, in former days, of the French customs, and the habits of their country; but as he was obliged to leave me by the authority of the state, his concern for me was entirely without profit or avail: the feelings of my heart at this crisis is not to be told.

Such is the uncertainty of human life, such the uncertainty and mutability of all human things, that all may ask the high, the most important question, Where is happiness? where is now, (said my soul), where is now my dependence on the friendship of the Governor, and where my dependence on the noblemen of Mexico? where is my dependence on the friendship of the great? Once it was, whilst flourishing in this city, that I could repeat these lines:

My fame increased my friends arose,  
High as the arched skies;  
I feast on every flower that grows,  
And glory never dies.

I envied not the king his throne,  
Nor fear'd his dreadful power:  
I took the prime of every rose,  
And feasted every hour.

I now considered myself as forever banished from the society of mortals; and well I might, for not one in a hundred that have been put in these dungeons and pits of woe, have ever

seen the light of the sun afterwards. Here I was obliged to cast my deep thoughts, first on time past; and secondly, on eternity to come; then on the nature of a right preparation to meet them all: I now considered that my glass of action was run, my die was cast, and my time on the earth was at a period! And first, for time past; I considered that I had seen many fair opportunities of making an honorable and agreeable living in the world, which I had refused, and that heaven had rewarded most justly my disobedience to my parents, in coming away from them in my younger years; that the God of providence had also rewarded my ingratitude to him for his favors granted me in Paris, when he providentially gave me 2.500 dollars by a lottery, and I had the presumption and impenitence to give way to intoxicating and unlawful pleasures, far distant from that humility of mind which ought to have been produced by such singular favors, well adapted to give me an opportunity to consider of my latter end, if my heart had been rightly disposed. And after this my peculiar deliverance from punishment, to which add, the peculiar hand of providence in Hanover, where I escaped, from the impending and destructive sentence of condemnation which awaited me there; in short, my whole life now appeared a scene of wonderful mercies! my whole life appeared like a dream when one awakes, and myself

confounded with a sense of my rebellion against the God of heaven.

A dream just now came into my mind which I had dreamed on my passage whilst sailing toward America. I thought that I saw in my dream, that three heavens were successively opened just over my head; the first heaven contained nothing that was very remarkable; the second was the residence of beings, and of actions far more expressive of elegance and grandeur supernatural; the third was apparently blessed with inconceivable light and glory, and in its effulgent beams was placed a glorious throne of inaccessible light! and one sat thereon high and lifted up, in his hand was a bright and furbished two edged sword: I thought that he descended and come even to the humble spot just over my head where I stood on the earth, and spake to me in a friendly and loving voice, and said, (giving me the sword), take this sword and make good use of it, walking in the ways of virtue, and the religion in which you are engaged and you shall arrive to great honor in the new found land, *i. e.* America, as I then understood it. In this same dream I thought that I afterwards saw my parents, who both embraced me; that I was dressed in very handsome uniform, with my sword by my side. But not having fulfilled the conditions, the promise is of none effect, but void. Here I am under the necessity of relating, that I had been all through this voyage of a very

religious turn of mind ; and although we had several passengers who were all very merry and of facetious dispositions, yet this could not prevail on me to neglect the reading of my bible ; but I had strong reasons, being just then escaped from a shameful and ignominious death in Hanover. I was more sensible of this important and great truth, this world is not our rest ! and the promise of my being exalted to greatness was annexed to my continuing in obedience to the commands of God, all which I had too fatally forsaken ! This reflection now came home to my heart with ten fold weight ; and I said, the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and I am not saved ! If I could have repented, I needed not their Romish priests and friars to pardon my sins ; for, having been trained up under the inspection and superintendance of the church of England, I knew better than to be taught by the blind superstition of the papist. I, indeed, endeavored to pray, and to call on that God who afflicts that he may reclaim, and often punishes that he may bring to repentance ; but how my prayers were performed I cannot well remember, only that they were the petitions of a helpless and despairing sinner, ready to perish !

My thoughts were forced forward toward a never ending existence in an untried and unknown state ; and that state soon to commence. I must now, for the short pleasures and gratifications of a few months on earth,

be hurried into a miserable hereafter, and without an evangelical and saving faith in the Son of God, (which I do not know that I can ever obtain), to the place where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched! Here I have no friend to console the flowing tear, or encourage the fainting heart; cast out, not from a house of poverty and wretchedness, from the perplexities of pursuing creditors and constables, from the distresses of poverty and contempt, from a state of war and trouble, nor from months of confinement in a common prison in the city; but from the shady bower of prosperity and peace; from the laurels of honor and the friendships of the great, and the mighty; from the happy prospect (above all) of soon regaling myself in all the joys of happy and virtuous life in my own country. O, my God! have I been so unmindful of thy favors! have I so deserved thy judgments! What will my dear friends, and people who are my relations say, what will they feel, when they shall hear of my miserable and unhappy exit? Having finally exhausted my strength in bitter reflections and inexpressible grief whilst I sat upon the stool, I was obliged to seek rest, and feeling round me, I collected the straw together and laid me down, and endeavoured to compose myself as well as my circumstances would permit

I had nothing now to do but prepare myself for death and a judgment to come! I saw more clearly than at any former period, that

every man in his best estate in this life, (literally speaking), is altogether vanity! happiness but a name! that there was no dependence on any thing under the sun! I considered on all my labors, and the various employments in which I had been engaged whilst in the world, and wherein I had promised myself happiness and honor, and saw them all, in the glass of experience, to be but vanity of vanities and vexation of spirit.

Having been confined in this dreary and desolate mansion, as I supposed, three or four days, I began to conclude that my fortune, temporal and spiritual things both cast into the scale together, was not so unfavorable as what I had concluded; that my imprisonment might be the effect of kindness from the author of my being intended only for my good and final salvation in the end; the thought very solemnly past through my heart, that I had tasted my share both of joys and sorrows amongst the inhabitants of the world; that I had seen different Kingdoms, cities and villages; that I had been in different employments, that I had run my race, spent my days in great activity, and had soon finished my course; my glass was run! I had no hopes now of ever beholding the sun with the inhabitants of the world! and seeing that my destiny was fixed, and my die was cast, I had now the full sum of my business all before me; which was, to accept of this awful dispensation of providence, and prepare myself for my final disso-

lution! to be reconciled to a confinement like this was not easy to flesh and blood, yet I considered that if I could look on this imprisonment in the aforementioned view, it would make my situation more tolerable. I believe that at this critical period the God of all grace assisted me in the conclusion which I drew up in this solemn hour, for had I been wholly left to struggle with the temptations of the spirits of wickedness, it was more than probable that I should have put an end to my life in a short time. But I was ready to believe, that if I had lived longer in a tempting world like this, that it was quite probable that I should have continued in sin, until sudden death perhaps without an opportunity of repentance, might cast me into irrecoverable ruin! and I very well knew, that many of my former acquaintance had been hurried out of time, unprepared and without warning; and if that mighty and awful providence which governs the lives and actions of men, has thus favored me, above thousands and millions of my fellow creatures, what reason have I to complain: to this I answered none; I then concluded that I was yet happier and more favored than many of the nobility who were walking the pleasant streets of Mexico. This disposition of reconciliation to my unfortunate lot, had this wonderful effect, *i.e.* to make me thus so well composed, in a place where, but a few days before, I viewed my situation with the utmost horror! as I had now nothing to attract my

attention to the earth, it was easy for me to make a resignation of myself to the feet of the divine mercy, and willingly subscribe myself voluntarily to the conditions of salvation prescribed in the everlasting gospel; and this I thought I did most fully and without reserve, for I was entirely dead to all hopes and enjoyment of things on earth. Having been in this desolate prison I suppose near two weeks, I felt myself strangely resigned to my sequestered and melancholy state; my food was let down to me by way of the air holes which went up, I believe, on a slant, through the sides of the dungeon, by some contrivance with ropes, once a day, and my drink likewise; it never consisted of any thing better than bread and water, I had the good fortune to have bread that was of the best quality; the darkness of the dungeon, although at first it was so thick that I could see nothing for two or three weeks, yet at that time my eyes having been as it were used and naturalized to the place, I could now discern some rays of light, which I concluded penetrated through the crevices which were left me to air the dungeon; and in two or three months I could observe things around me nearly as cloudy as I now can by moonlight; this difference I conceive was not made by the letting in of more light, but through the means of habit and use, for when I was afterwards brought out to the light of open day, I could by no means bear it. The heavy and damp air of

the prison after about four or five months, much impaired my health ; and doubtless the want of free circulation aided and helped forward the decay, for the dungeon being small there was not much room for walking or exercise, and I grew so weak that I could stand or set up but very little and very seldom too, but was necessitated to lay myself down on my straw. I now concluded that my dissolution was nigh, and the time of my departure at hand ! I felt my moments of time draw slowly on, and, full willing to die, I felt myself decay with a composed mind, my weakness was so great that it was a labor with me to arise and take my food when it was sent down into the dungeon, and had I continued much longer there, in all probability I should have been past recovery by the art of man.

When I had been here, I think about six months, I dreamed a singular dream, *i. e.* that I saw the sun, the glorious luminary of the world arising and spreading his golden beams over the western hills ; that I alone was drawn up before the judge of the world, and passed through my trial, and was declared innocent, justified, acquitted and set at liberty ! I awoke, and found myself in the body. Whilst I laid ruminating a few hours on what the meaning of this singular dream might be, there was a sound of a rumbling over my head ; I listened, and directly it seemed to increase ; the officer was drawing nearer and directly lifted up the

last trap or great door opening into my solitary apartment! At this I cast up my languid eyes and beheld a light; having been so long accustomed to darkness, the effusion of the light so suddenly bursting upon my eyes, overpowered the sight, and I was obliged to cover them with my dirty habiliments, that like myself had gotten well inured to the dungeon! Presently he came to my lonely bed, and found me lying pensive on the homely couch; he tapped me gently on my shoulder, and said, Young man, would it not be more pleasurable to you to quit this horrible place and become an inhabitant of the world of light, than to tarry here and pine away in such a loathsome dungeon? The question turned my mind, indeed, from my meditations, but it was only for a moment; and as I had full faith in the dream at that time, that my final dissolution was near, and I should be soon transported to realms of everlasting happiness and eternal felicity, I really chose to decline the offer of coming again into a world of sin and temptations, and esteemed it like exchanging heaven for earth, the realms of bliss for a world of anxiety, deceit and cruelty. I answered him, No; that I chose to remain in my present situation; that I believed I had not long to tarry there, but hoped that soon I should be in a better world, and desired that he would let me alone, as of choice I had rather be where I was, and that I should soon be happy: to this he immediately an-

swered me, that I must not be discouraged; that my fortune might turn; that it was probable that the storm was past; he said that the thick clouds and rains of affliction were scattering, and I was likely yet to prosper and do well; that it was my duty to preserve my life; that if I wished not to live for my own sake, yet I ought to think of doing some good to the inhabitants of the world: he said, you may yet prosper and be happy; and taking gently hold of my clothes he bade me follow him. He spoke quite affectionately and with a voice of humanity, I suppose at seeing my misery. As he spoke these words, I concluded that as providence had sent for me out of the dungeon, it was my duty to obey, and hesitating no longer, I immediately arose and followed him. I have often thought that this gentleman (for so I must call him) had an idea that I was delirious, and that my imprisonment had deprived me of reason; doubtless this would naturally follow, and be the effects of an emaciated body worn down by long confinement; but he was ignorant that my answer originated from the consolation received by my remarkable dream! Perhaps hundreds who may read these pages, may be ready to say that I am relating a thing very singular and almost incredible: to this kind of readers I shall only say, that many things which appear singular and uncommon to one, will appear to another quite probable and very easy to believe; and for myself I can say, that I have

passed through many scenes of affliction which now appear like a dream; yet let this be remembered, that I have been very particular in this narrative, and published nothing but what I have critically considered; I have thrown out every thing spurious in a former manuscript unintelligibly drawn, and recorded nothing here but what will bear the test of debate, founded on the firm basis of truth. I just mention this for the satisfaction of my friends and of those who take pleasure in reading only such books or narratives as are founded on fact.

But to return; I followed the officer up the stony and desolate way, until we reached the top of the dungeon; when I came above ground, and especially into the broad street of the city, I could not bear the effulgent rays of light! for the sun shone clear, and in lucid rays poured his transparent beams on the fair pavements of the streets; I covered my face, and gave up myself to be conducted wherever my gentle leader was pleased to convey me. He soon led me to the Governor of the city, who when viewing me in my forlorn and wretched condition, with pale and meagre visage, my beard grown three or four inches in length hanging down over my face, my dress which was altogether of silk (suited to the climate) torn and tattered against the stony pavements and straw and dirt, being worn into a wretched representation of superstitious tyranny and cruelty, all presenting the ingrati-

itude of the ignorant and inhuman conduct of the inhabitants : my unjust and cruel punishment caused the heart of the Governor to melt, and his eyes to drop a tear of compassion ! He appeared very much afflicted, for having sent me to this wretched place of confinement. Being overcome and much affected with the view he had of my misery, he withdrew to weep and dry up his tears ; but he soon returned, and commanded that I should be decently apparelled, and my beard taken off as quick as possible ; his orders were immediately obeyed, and I soon appeared before him as in former days. This superstitious, though generous hearted man, now began to explain to me the true cause of all my misfortune, and likewise of my deliverance ; he said that I should be compensated for all my unlawful confinement, and further added, that he never meant to deal by me in the manner that he had done, but was necessitated so to do in order to silence the clamours of the Spanish monks and friars, who are very numerous, and have great influence in the government, and withal are ignorant and superstitious in the highest degree ; so absolute and predominant are they in these parts, that whatever they say is almost the law of the country ; such influence has the veil of sanctity in some parts of the world, that like a torrent, it carries all before it ; and to my great injury, such was the case with the clergy of the city of Mexico.

But to proceed; the reader would perhaps be pleased to know how and in what manner I obtained my release from this worst of bondage. It happened that a nobleman, called Marquis Cornelius, came from old Spain on a visit to the Governor of Mexico; being at dinner together on a certain day, the Governor of Mexico in the course of conversation informed the Marquis of some astonishing feats that were lately performed by a young gentleman from Europe, which appeared so obvious to the clergy to be a compound of the basest witchcraft, that they caused him to be taken and confined in a dungeon during life. The Marquis being a nobleman of great rank and influence, and very desirous of seeing some of those feats performed in his presence, told the Governor that I was no wizard or sorcerer, but that my performances were the result of a good education, &c. and that my imprisonment was both cruel and unjust; he insisted on my innocence and the blind superstition of the people and the clergy; that for his part he should like much to see an exhibition of these feats himself. This opinion of the Marquis, flowing from a fund of superior knowledge of the nature of things, was the sole cause of my final release, and discharge from my impending dissolution; and it was some pleasure to me to come out of my dungeon in the manner I did, for I was at once honored and respected by the citizens, *i. e.* the noblemen and gentry of the city.

Being now at liberty in this fair and flourishing city once more, I could not help feeling a degree of thankfulness to the author of my being for my singular deliverance; although (whilst in prison) I had felt myself so much reconciled to my fate; but few of us know what we are until we are tried, neither do we know what we should be in many or I may say in any new circumstances, until experience tells us. When I had clothed myself in new apparel, and was again dressed in a respectable and suitable habit, I began again to feel myself recovering strength, and to act and conduct myself with my former agility and ease of manners. By the influence of the Marquis, the Governor was, probably, induced to make a public confession, for his having ungenerously consented to my imprisonment; he gave an invitation to the first characters of the city to attend and take dinner with him in his own house on a certain day; and when all were collected with him, I was invited to be present. The Governor wished me to go to my former lodgings, and make search for the property which I had left there at the time of my imprisonment; I accordingly did, but found that the host, or landlord, had removed and gone to Peru in South-America, at a vast distance from Mexico, and was entirely out of my reach; my property which he carried off, was a trunk with clothes, and more than six thousand dollars, chiefly in gold. The Governor had requested that whatever might be

the event, I should return to him immediately. I accordingly did, and related to him the circumstances of my loss; I believe, that he had not any idea of my having so much property or cash at that time in my possession, or it would have been thought, agreeably to the principles of my imprisonment, that it was in the diocese of the Governor or clergy, and they would have taken it for the benefit of the state: they (the clergy) are like insatiable, greedy, hungry wolves of prey in grasping at property, and as they had influenced the Governor to intend my imprisonment during life, they certainly would have (somehow or other) took good care of my effects; whether they did this in reality, and only sent me to the place of my former lodgings out of pretence for a covering of their theft, I cannot tell; howbeit, it was an affair too delicate for me to enquire much if any thing about; and again, it was more than probable, that as it was cash, and not goods, the landlord had secreted it, pretending that there was nothing left with him but the cloathing; this was most probably the case, from his having quitted his country in the manner in which he did.

But, be this as it may, I returned to the Governor, and informed him how the circumstances were; he and the noble Marquis declared their sorrow and affliction on account of my loss of the property, as well as my unhappy imprisonment; however we were all invited to partake of the sumptuous dinner, after

which they requested (the Marquis in particular) that I should explain to them the whole business; *i.e.* my intentions in entering the city of Mexico, and how I had performed the public exhibitions, especially the last, and wished that I would explain to them the way that I raised the ghost and lighted up the room in such a remarkable manner. It now became, on several accounts, necessary that I should give an explanation; and first on account of my own credit, secondly on account of the Marquis, and thirdly on account of the noblemen of Mexico, who all had a hand in encouraging the plays. And now they had the satisfaction of hearing the whole explained to them, which I did as fully as was in my power; they were all perfectly satisfied, and acknowledged that there was nothing mysterious or wicked in the performances more than in any other public amusements and plays. I believe, however, that my having made it appear that I turned water into wine, was the greatest occasion of offence, and was the chief means of my imprisonment; and as it might have helped the Deist to argue against the true miracles of the Son of God himself, I concluded that I did entirely wrong in the performance of this sleight; and indeed, I now see better the evil effects of all such things, and am sensibly convinced of the folly and absurdity of all such proceedings, as it is a foolish and unprofitable way of spending both time and money, which might be much better employed, and am fully

determined never to make such an unprofitable and unchristian use of my abilities again. They have lately appeared to me to be things that the devil makes use of, in order if possible to draw and attract the attention of the world toward its seeming mysteries and curiosities, until they shall have spent that time about them, which they had allotted them for making a preparation for an eternity of better improvements hereafter.

But to return to the Governor; he having heard and understood the nature of these things, immediately presented me (in presence of a numerous assembly) one thousand dollars; he further added, that if I would stay in his dominions, he would make me a present of two thousand acres of land lying in the country, I think not more than sixty or seventy miles from the city of Mexico; but I must take the oath of allegiance to the superstitious laws, and I suppose religion too, of the country; and then obligate myself to cultivate such a part of the land, build on it, &c. &c. To be obliged to live in the country, under these conditions, would have been to me a second imprisonment. I however (to please the Governor) formally accepted the land as well as the money, lest my refusal should have displeased him; but my only motive in so doing was to get out of the country as peaceably and quick as possible, for I began to abhor Mexico, and with it the Spanish name. And now I took an everlasting and eternal farewell of the

Governor, and all my friends in the city. I took my departure in a French vessel, bound to New-Orleans; my intentions were now to sail first to New-Orleans, and from there to the United States of America. We had a very pleasant voyage, until we came to the mouth of the Mississippi; (none but those who have experienced can tell the pleasure which I felt, when I had got free from the worse than Spanish savages, and was quitting the shores): at this place we fell in with an English man of war! She appeared very willing to give us battle, but our captain knowing better the way up the channel, and withal having but few guns to fight with, was induced to make use of policy in decoying the British vessel, and accordingly she went on a bar, and we safely proceeded on our way and landed at New-Orleans on the 7th day of January, 1807.

On my arrival here, I went and visited my former friends, who all received me with all the demonstrations of joy and distinction as formerly, and even more so, on account of my long absence. But to say something more concerning the British ship. After she was grounded, our captain commanded and fired into her, set her on fire, and she burnt until she sunk; whilst she was burning the men endeavored to get from her; some of them came on board of our ship by a generous invitation of our captain, and I believe that they were set free when we had arrived at New-Orleans; the others, indeed, who did not chuse

to come on board of our ship many of them drowned endeavoring to swim on shore ; the captain himself escaped.

To return to my travels ; the reader will recollect that I was now in the city of New-Orleans, and well received by my old friends : as I happened, however, on a certain evening to be in a public house, I fell into conversation with two gentlemen who were much in the same situation with myself, and under the same necessity of seeking their fortunes ; I discoursed with them from time to time, and eventually contracted an intimacy ; we agreed to unite in some trading business, and making one general fund of our property, we drew writings and entered on business ; our purpose was speculation ; the whole of our stock amounted to about three thousand dollars ; and as they understood my character pretty well, as I had been there before, and well recommended, they wished me to take the chief of the business on myself ; and placing an uncommon large share of confidence in me, by committing to my care all the money, I endeavored to lay a plan to get them and myself an independent fortune as soon as possible ; they were both of them honest Germans, the one was John Lewis and the other Abram Johnson. They were undoubtedly a couple of pretty honest men themselves, or they would not have trusted all their fortune in your possession, the rogue would say. But stop, sir, and consider first there is no such thing as do-

ing any kind of business unless we have faith enough to trust somebody ; and although they have the best recommendations in the world, I will allow that unless we ourselves see something in them to help forward and establish these recommendations, we are still doubtful that the person recommended is not what (perhaps) he is recommended to be ; that the persons who have recommended him, may have been entirely deceived in his character ; and, if I should take him for an honest man, as he is said to be, he may make me repent of it when too late. These observations are good ; but, what if we are made to believe, from a gentleman's own declaration of his life and principles, which he delivers to us from the simplicity of his heart and in a disinterested manner, or before he has any idea of being profited by his declaration, we may then have good reason to believe him ; but nevertheless, there is no certainty in any thing under the sun, and we are always necessitated to trust ; such however was the case with us all ; I think that we had an unshaken confidence in each other.

We bought a boat, sufficiently large to carry our goods, which were merchandise of different kinds, and immediately we proceeded up the Mississippi, to the town of Nachitoches, up the Red river in the Louisiana Territory, on the other side of the Mississippi ; but before we arrived at the place of our intended trade, we were obliged to take licence of the

commander in chief, who had had dominion, and governed this part of the continent, after which, we proceeded up Red river to the place of commerce, sold our goods, and purchased wild horses, which are to be had here for a mere trifle, *i. e.* from one to two dollars each; we purchased four hundred of them, and tying them together in a convenient mode for driving, we hired a pilot, and commenced our journey back; we proceeded towards the Natches; having hired some indians and a good Spanish pilot, we had in a few days made great progress in our journey, and although we travelled through such a vast and terrible wilderness, yet there was a way or road cut through which was quite passable. We had gotten within about ten miles of the Spanish and American line, when we met with, and were attacked by a banditti of Spanish bravadoes, or robbers, who lie in the woods and amongst the rocks; they follow robbing for a living; they are bold, and determined in whatever they undertake; having many of them seen through the falsity of their own religion, and not having had wisdom enough to find out a better, or something to help them to the support of a moral character, they are entirely cast out as the bond-slaves of satan, and have given themselves up to the devil without fee or reward. Having previously dispatched our Spanish guide to look out the way, we entertained afterward a strong suspicion that he had informed them of the great booty that was

behind, and what confirmed me in this opinion was his appearing in sight of us a second time. When we were attacked by this club of wretches, the ideas that struck me were very disagreeable; I knew that such a banditti of villains would not be found in such a place as this on any respectable business; however, they came up to us, and demanded of us the property or horses; we were obliged to yield to them without resistance. After this sudden and unexpected loss, I and my companions rode on our journey together, and I heard a murmuring with them at the loss of all in such an unjust manner; for my own part, my resentment was raised to the highest pitch imaginable; I told them that if they would go back with me, as we all had pistols and swords, we would be revenged on as many of them as possible: they answered that life was sweeter to them than property, &c. I told them that as they were only armed with knives and clubs, there was not much danger in my opinion, and we might perhaps scatter and drive them, and gain the property; for my own part, the aggravation was far greater and heavier than what it could be on them, for by the Spanish robbery and cruelty I had before been robbed in New-Orleans, and in Mexico; and now again robbed of all my property and dependence for subsistence in a country where they received not the least aggravation to the crime; no, not so much as a pretence: these thoughts passed through my mind like light-

ning, and there was not time to mention them now to my companions, and if I had, I did not expect that it would have much influenced their conduct, as the human heart is liable to feel but very little the dishonors and aggravations done to others; but from selfish motives, I had the fortune, or rather misfortune, to influence and encourage them so much, that they both agreed to go back and do the best they could. We rode on, having each of us a pair of double barrell'd pistols, well charged, and all in readiness for a sudden and spirited attack. I felt at this time so much injured and imposed on by these inhuman wretches, that I thought but little about my own life, and accordingly rushed on them with violence.

I discharged one of my pistols, at which one of them fell: I immediately discharged the second, and brought down another. I made what use I could of my sword, and both of my companions were doubtless engaged, and did execution; yet, how much or how little they did I could never tell, as I had as much to do as I could turn my hands to; the banditti surrounded me, and fiercely fought me with knives and clubs; in this battle I lost sight in a few minutes of my companions; whether they were killed or fled, I could never learn; however, I wounded two or three, besides the killed, and took my flight as fast as possible. I concluded that my companions had fled, and pursued the way

on that point of compass which I supposed they had gone, but to my surprise I had taken a different way from what I had expected, and was soon put to a stand by finding the Red-river just before me : this brought me up to short quarters : the Spaniards pursued me hard, and expected, doubtless, that I was now a free victim to their savage rage : but heaven designed for me a better fate, and although I was on a bank six or eight feet above the surface of the river, I put the spurs to my horse, and being naturally high spirited, he courageously sprung into it and soon waded me over to the other side, out of their reach. This river was quite deep, and my horse sunk down with me entirely under water for a few seconds ; but, being now safe on the other side of the river, the first thing which came under consideration was, how to find my way out amongst the civilized inhabitants. To trouble myself about my loss, was now impracticable, and my thoughts were wholly occupied in finding my way through the trackless wilderness ; the sky was overcast with thick clouds, so thick that I could not discover the sun, and could only tell the point of compass by the moss on the trees, and by the limbs and boughs of the trees ; as I had heard it observed that the North side of the trees were generally mossy, or the moss on the trees was always on the North side, and that the largest and heaviest limbs grew on the North side of the trees : by these remarks I was able to

keep a pretty steady course to Natches, which lay in about a north-east direction from where I then was ; here I was in a destitute situation, because I knew not where to go, or in what direction to steer in order to find a path to travel in ; and although I knew nearly the point of compass which the Natches lay from me, yet how to get there through a wilderness of creeks, swamps, and wild beasts, I knew not ; but, live or die on my passage, I was obliged to set off and do the best in my power, and trusting in the God of providence whose protecting hand supports us all, I mounted my horse and set out on this dubious and melancholy journey.

Thus, taking my journey through this trackless and melancholy wilderness, I travelled through swamps, ditches, and creeks : every thing of a disconsolate nature was my lot, in this tremendous desart, that could deject the thoughts and afflict the heart of man. I took up my rest at night in this lonely wilderness. The next day was still more distressing, for as I advanced on the way, the passage grew worse ; I had such melancholy thoughts about ever getting through safe, that my appetite for food seemed entirely to leave me, although I had some with me, and might have taken sufficient refreshment. At night I rested myself under a tree, and reposed myself as well as possible until the morning. I arose and pursued my journey ; as for my horse, he fed at times on such things as the desert afforded ;

on this unfortunate day I travelled about six miles over a miry piece of ground, and every minute I was in fear that my hazardous journey was at an end, for I was often in danger of sinking into the mire; at length looking forward, I saw the whole face of the country covered with water; this put me quite at a stand for a few minutes; however, I concluded that some way might be found out to pass on another side, and rode backward, and on the right hand and left, but found no way possible; at last making a virtue of necessity, with the fox in the fable I forbore to complain, and ventured myself forward; I could perceive no stream flowing from any point of compass, therefore, prepared myself to cross a miry and watery swamp; these swamps I had learnt were very common in this part of the country: here I stood for some time, with a dejected and melancholy heart, death was the consequence if I should not reach over, and the bottom was all mud and mire, without doubt; however, I was more afraid of losing my horse, than meeting with much difficulty in getting across myself, unless I was interrupted by the tortoise or water-snake; but considering that we seldom know what we are able to undergo until we are put to the trial, I thought it better to venture, than to stay and perish where I was; accordingly I mounted my horse and proceeded to the dreadful task; I ventured into the swamp, went about four hundred

yards, when I found that my horse was sinking in the mire; this terrified me, and my heart begun to sink; I recovered a little of my courage, and by a violent effort spurring up the beast, he sprung out again; I then proceeded forward, but not knowing what might yet happen, I took off all my clothes, (my shirt excepted) determined to save myself (if possible) by swimming, if my horse should fail me, and proceeded forward about fifty yards further; here my horse stuck fast in the mud, being now two or three feet deep in mud and water, with the probability of its being ten times worse. I was obliged to leave him, in this wretched state to perish and die, or extricate himself as well as he could. I left him, with saddle, portmanteau and all my clothes on his back: it was a melancholy sight; but it was out of my power to prevent it; I could only pity the poor creature; and as he was an extraordinary good beast, and very faithful, I felt the loss of him the more. When I quit his back the water was breast high and the bottom a very soft quaggy mud; I was afraid to stand on the bottom, lest I should endanger myself, and swam to a distant tree and rested; then looking back once more to my horse, I saw him give one more struggle, one more effort to extricate himself, and follow after his master;—but in vain! his feet were too fast in the mire, and having spent all his strength in struggling to get out, he sunk down: I saw him fall on one side

unable to keep an erect position any longer, and not knowing but my own fate would be nearly allied to his, I had enough to do to take care of myself, and plunging again into the pond soon swam to one tree, and then to another: thus I proceeded about one hundred and fifty rods across this dismal place, and arrived safe on dry ground! I now once more looked back and saw the good and faithful beast, expiring and sinking down in the mud and water, with saddle, portmanteau, and all my clothes, some money, my watch, and every thing which was of any value to me. He was one of the kindest and best of horses that the country afforded; thus my all was gone, and I was obliged to shift for myself as well as I could. I never before believed that I could feel so much pity for a beast, as I now felt for my poor horse. Here I sat down to rest and wept; and now, considering myself as bare of property as I came into the world, (my shirt excepted), I thought best to keep my way forward until I reached some white inhabitants, tell them my misfortune, and humbly ask for their assistance; here, almost distracted, worn down with fatigue, fears and hunger, I was almost ready to despair and die in the wilderness; but whilst there is life there is hope, and I concluded that in a short time I might reach some inhabitants. I travelled the remaining part of that day without seeing inhabitants of any kind; I satisfied my faintness and hunger with berries and plumbs

which were in the woods; night at last came on, and I was obliged to take up my lodging for once more in a howling and tremendous desert, without any covering but such as the God of nature afforded me! in this deplorable situation I spent a very restless night! I knew not, but often feared, that I should be destroyed before I awoke, if I dared to close my eyes in sleep. However dangerous it may appear at night, in such an uninhabited and trackless desert, yet, it was not so dangerous on the account of wild beasts as in the day, for at night they are generally all of them in their dens, or at their places of rest. I slept but little, and at the dawn of the day, I awoke, and proceeded on my journey. This day I concluded to travel as near as possible in an easterly direction; nothing happened material during the day, excepting this, that I grew extremely hungry and faint with my fatigue; when the night again approached, and the sable curtain of darkness was fast spreading its gloomy wings over the face of the horizon, just now, looking round about on every side, I espied a light as of fire shining and gleaming through the trees; the sight of this light gave me a transport of sudden and unexpected joy, as this was a savage and inhospitable wilderness; I was afraid, on a second reflection, that I might encounter indians, who would soon put an end to my life; but venturing still nearer, I found that they were white inhabitants, who were out in the woods, and

for what end or business I knew not; drawing still nearer, I found by their conduct and language, that they were making sugar. Of the company there were three men and four women; decency obliged me to stand and call to them at some distance, and I asked them if it was in their power to shew favor to a poor and distressed traveller? And, briefly relating my misfortunes and wretched situation, they were immediately moved with my helpless condition, and gave me a gentle and kind invitation to their camp! The reason of my being obliged to stand and call on them at a distance was, as I would be understood, that the laws of delicacy demanded it, as I was, as has been related, almost naked. They all appeared to sympathize with me in my sorrows and woes, and imparted to the supply of my necessities, of such things as they had: they gave me victuals and clothing; the food, indeed, was dry and indifferent, but it was the best that the camp afforded, and as for the clothing, what they gave me was the only garments which they could part with; one of the men gave me his doublet, or outside waistcoat, and one of the ladies gave me her spare petticoat, which I made to answer instead of pantaloons; the men were not in circumstances to part with any of theirs. I had joy for my happy deliverance on one hand, and sorrowful reflections for my loss on the other, but I had now pretty good company, and we passed off the evening as cheerfully as my cir-

cumstances would admit; my rest with them was tolerable comfortably, and early in the morning they gave me a portion of their provisions, and direction to go the most direct way to the Mississippi river, which they said was not more than ten miles distant.

I now took new courage, and travelled, on without meeting with any thing material, until I reached the river opposite the town of Natches. I gave my signal to be carried over and was quickly conveyed across the river to the town. I had formerly been in this place, as the reader will recollect, and sold five hundred gallons of whiskey to a merchant who lived still in the same place. He was very much surprised to see me in such a wretched and forlorn situation, and asked me (no wonder) what I followed, or intended to follow; I then related to him (in short) the various scenes and changes which I had passed through since I had seen him last: he compassionated my case, and recommended me to a respectable taylor by the name of John Collins. He furnished me with clothes; I took new cloth out of his store, and made them up myself; I had also made the petticoat into a form somewhat like pantaloons, at the camp where it was given me; having no needle or thread there, I had made use of pins to pin the sides.

At the end of two weeks, whilst at work with Mr. Collins, I went with one of my new acquaintances to a public house to drink with him a glass of wine. I fell into conversation with a gentleman, late from New-Orleans:

he informed me that his intentions were to spend the summer season in those parts. I soon found that he was no American by his language as he spoke broken English. I then spoke to him in the French language, and he answered me in French, and immediately interrogated me in the German: this raised my curiosity to enquire of what nation he was, and where was the place of his nativity. He informed me that he was lately from Germany, and followed a commercial line of business. On a more particular inquiry, I found that he was from the very same place where I was raised. He then asked me my name: I answered him that my name was Andrew Oehler, and furthermore told him the place of my nativity: at this information, with which he appeared extremely pleased, he asked me if I remembered one John Grossman, an old school mate of mine at the time I was bound to the taylor's trade: I answered him in the affirmative, and related some things concerning the boy which he knew to be perfectly correct; he then enquired of me my present profession, expecting, doubtless that I had by that time acquired a better and more lucrative employment: I related to him in a brief and concise form the singular adventures which I had passed through, together with my fortune in all my enterprises, both prosperous and adverse since I had left my native country. At the relation of my unfortunate tale of wo he appeared to be sensibly impressed with my loss,

and my melancholy situation! he now gave me a pressing invitation to return to my native country, to my friends and relations, and partake with them of the plenty of flowing riches in which they abounded; but I informed him, that it was out of my power to comply with his request at present. that I was not in circumstances sufficiently equipped for such an expensive voyage, and totally unsupplied with money; just then he further asked me if I was not a brother to George Oehler the merchant in Franckfort of Maine: I replied that I was: he then discoursed with me on several parts of my father's family more largely and of my brother George in particular, until he was perfectly satisfied that if I had intended to impose on his seeming credulity, that I should have been thwarted in the imposture in more than twenty instances; having explained many things so accurately, and asked him so many questions concerning the welfare and condition of my relations and friends, that he appeared perfectly satisfied beyond a doubt, that I was a brother to George Oehler the merchant in Franckfort on the Maine: he then said, if you will go with me to your brother, I will engage to defray the expence and outfit of the voyage; and further informed me that my brother and father were in partnership in trade and commerce in mercantile business, which they followed very extensively, and that he was sent on speculation; that he came into this country to enquire into the sale, quality

and prices of the different commodities and articles of commerce, and to carry the best information possible back to the company, for that on his information depended the extension of their commerce to this part of the American continent; that he should tarry in those parts about three months and then return to Germany, and if I would go with him, he would engage that my brother should introduce or place me in profitable business where there would be no doubt I should do extremely well. I then candidly informed him of the resolution which I had formed, *i. e.* never to enter the bounds of my native country again. My thoughts were then bent on my afflictions when I wrote to them for a little money, and received in return from them an insolent and degrading letter; though, indeed, my youngest sister was of another spirit, and when I visited her afterwards and informed her of my intended journey to the American colonies, she did by argument, every thing in her power to dissuade me from the hazardous voyage; and finding that my plan was not to be altered, gave me all the money she could raise to assist me on my voyage. I informed him of the letter which I received in Paris, and that owing to the exaggerated tale of my imprisonment there, it probably was that I had received such an insolent answer in the time of my distress; that if I was in fault, still it was not of such a criminal nature as what they expressed in the ridiculous letter,

and that my accuser acknowledged that I was innocent of the charge, of the crime laid against me; the letter also intimated their willingness to believe the worst, which to me argued a profession of prejudice, originated long before an account of my having left them in my younger years; their prejudice having founded itself on the actions of my youth, a trifle would keep up the blaze, and it might cost more than I should be able to perform to bring it down to a tolerable degree of gentleness; therefore, I should be happier, in my judgment, to tarry in this country until, at least, I should acquire so much property as to visit them in an independent form, or in a manner independent of them. Here our social communications ended. The next day he presented me with the generous sum of two hundred dollars, to assist me to go into business; I shall ever remember such a friend. I gave him my bond for the money, and the day following bought me several kinds of goods in order to prosecute a trading voyage amongst the indians; with these goods I took four hundred dollars worth more on credit, then I purchased a small boat sufficient to carry them, hired two men to assist me, and on the 26th day of August 1807, took leave of all my good friends at the Natches, and sailed up the Mississippi until we entered the Hoosack river in order to trade with the Hoosack nation. This settlement of indians is about fifty miles from the mouth of the Hoo-

sack river, which empties its waters into the Mississippi. This tribe of savages were very friendly and hospitable, and willing to trade, and with them I exchanged the chief part of my goods for skins, or furs of different kinds. Amongst them were some French and half coloured inhabitants. Having finished my business, I with my two men put on board our load of furs, and made the best of our way down the river toward the Natches. On our journey there was only one circumstance of any consequence that happened, and that was a pretty serious affair; I shall be brief, and relate it in the following manner: on our passage a gale of wind unexpectedly sprung up, and we were compelled to make the shore; and we went in near to a house; we went into the house after tying our boat, and found there two men and two women. After an introduction, as is common, we politely asked of them something to eat and told them that we should be glad to pay them generously for it, as we had been some time without food; but by their conversation it appeared that they had nothing to eat for themselves: I then told one of my hands to return to the boat, and bring some provisions, with a bottle of spirits; he immediately obeyed, and we made a comfortable dinner: we invited the gentlemen of the house to drink some of the spirits; they very willingly accepted, and were soon pretty merry. I requested my men to take a look at the boat and see if nothing had hap-

pened to it ; in the mean time, our hosts threw themselves into a conversation about free masonry, and insisted on my leading them into the secret. I told them that it was out of my power to comply with their request ; but they sternly told me, that if I would not comply with the request quietly that I should be forced to it ; and instantly they dragged me out of the house into a piece of woods not far distant ; here they appeared determined to use force, and being in danger of my life, I cried for help : at this critical moment, my two men came running to my assistance, and we were all soon in a sharp combat. Whilst the combat lasted, one of the women, no less wicked or inhuman than the men, loosed our boat and sent her drifting down the river. My two men, being too strong and courageous for my enemies, overpowered them, and gave them a handsome correction. Having seen how agreeably the affair had turned with my enemies, I looked around, and saw our boat floating down the river, I immediately ran to the shore on the river side, and finding a small canoe, I called to my two men and we got into her and made after our boat ; she had unfortunately stuck in a tree top, which lay fastened in the river at the but end ; one of our oars were broken in two pieces about in the middle, and as for the rudder of the boat, it was entirely broken to pieces. Seeing the danger that we were in from the current of the river, of losing our

boat and property, we were obliged to call on the enemy for assistance, and offered them a keg of spirits or a barrel of flour, if they would assist us in getting off the boat. They, after a short pause, fell in with the offer, and came to our assistance; one of them who appeared most backward at the first invitation, afterwards put himself the most forward in the business, and in order to extricate the boat which was entangled in the tree-top, he got his feet on the fore part of the gunnel of the boat, and his hands against the tree-top to push off the boat, when on a sudden the boat went off; unable to spring back into the boat, he hung over the water with his hands hold of the limbs; in this deplorable state he called out for help. With one of our oars broken and rudder shattered to pieces, we were unable to make our way back to him against the torrent of water which so swiftly set us down the stream; and accordingly we proceeded on our voyage with the other blockhead in the boat. There appeared a special providence in the sudden destruction of this wretched man hanging in the tree; he doubtless held on by the limbs until his strength was so exhausted that he was too weak to swim against the strong current of the river and perished: I have remarked that sooner or later my enemies have generally seen an end to their boastings; and I have often seen them fall into the snares which they have spread for my feet: for my own part, I have endeavored to use all

men in a just and decent manner, and those who have put themselves forward and shewn themselves my enemies, have been prompted by the depraved principles which those characters only possess who tread on the liberties and destroy the rights of the stranger, because he has no protector. Ye sons of Belial! and all ye flagrant children of wickedness! hear the awful warning from the mouth of the Supreme Judge, who rules in the armies of heaven above, and amongst the inhabitants of the earth beneath! delivered by the mouth of his holy prophet to the ancient rebels of the house of Israel, and will remain in force to the end of time:—the words are nearly in this form, “What mean ye, that ye grind the faces of the poor, and turn away the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of host.” Here the character who grinds the faces of the poor, and turns away the stranger from his right, are denominated characters which are devoid of the fear of that God who rules and governs all rational intelligences: and again, those who have any belief in the scriptures, would do well to remember, that to this character, devoid of the fear of his God, is united several other traits of character of the darkest hue which any man of sense or thought would tremble to think himself related to; such as, first, they walk with slanderers; 2<sup>nd</sup> they will deceive every one his neighbor, and will not speak the truth; 3<sup>rd</sup> they have bent their tongues

like bows, and taught them to speak lies and falsehood; 4th they weary themselves to commit iniquity; 5th their habitation is in the midst of deceit; 6th they refuse to know or hear the truth; 7th their tongue is an arrow shot out; 8th they speak peaceably to their neighbor with their mouth, but in heart are spreading snares for their feet; 9th destruction and misery are in their ways; 10th their feet are swift to shed blood, as is above related; 11th they are entire strangers to peace; 12th there is no fear of God before their eyes;— and to end the awful and solemn catalogue, many of them are full of sin, bond-slaves of satan! and led captive by him at his will, into all manner of wickedness! But worse than all the rest for the poor wretches, they are threatened, that their feet shall slide in due time; when they shall have filled up the measure of their iniquities, then their destruction shall come upon them as a whirlwind, and they shall not escape!

I believe, that I have given a general portrait of the character of these two wretches; and whilst I am writing, methinks I see one of them fall into the passing torrent to rise no more; as for the other on board our boat, we then threatened him, that we would convey him on the Natches, and there have him tried at the court appointed for the trial of criminal causes. He feared the event, and leaped out of the boat into the river; we were then passing a point; he swam toward it, and we saw the less criminal wretch arrive safe on the shore.

In four days after this we arrived safe at Natches. Our friends were agreeably disappointed at our having made such a short and prosperous voyage. I now disposed of my little cargo, paid off my hired men and my creditors, and found myself possessed of six hundred dollars free of debt and of every incumbrance. In a few days I took my departure for New-Orleans: this was on the 2d day of Nov. 1807. From Natches, New Orleans lies about 300 miles down the Mississippi; as we passed down, I had a fine opportunity to view the country-seats and plantations on each side the river: the buildings, extending along the sides of the river on each plantation are very elegant and handsome; the plantations on which these buildings stand are beautiful and the houses are about a quarter of a mile from each other; they are handsome and well cultivated; they extend into the interior of the country, and form a delightful prospect from the river. The original inhabitants were from Nova-Scotia and Germany; the former were French, driven here by the persecutions of the English about the year 1755; the latter have imbibed the customs and language of the French.

I ought not to omit mentioning a singular and unfortunate event which happened at the Natches just after my arrival there this last time, *i. e.* there were a great number of buildings on one of the lower streets, next to the water, (between sixty and an hundred) the ground

above those buildings at first opened about one inch, when the inhabitants began to notice it; it increased still wider and wider, until it was opened about a foot; the people then moved their goods out of their houses, moving them into the back part of the town; the shore part adjacent to the water was still sinking down under the water by slow degrees; and by slow degrees, the large crack in the ground grew too wide to pass over; unfortunately for one man, who was a barber, he neglected too long to pass the line, and was carried with all the buildings into the river. It was said, the sound or noise of the fall when these buildings were precipitated into the river, was heard at a distance of five miles. It was afterwards discovered, that a stream of water had made its way underneath, and washed away the ground on that side next to the river; the heaviest part of the street lying over toward the water and overballancing the other part, was the occasion of this vast fall of buildings. Some have attempted to account for this extraordinary phenomenon, or remarkable circumstance, and pretend, that the extraordinary dissipation of the inhabitants of that part of the town drew from the hand of providence the strange catastrophe! Dissipation and wickedness will surely bring judgments sooner or later, but yet accidents often happen to the just as well as to the unjust; as it happeneth to the good man so it happeneth even to the fool or wicked man, saith Solomon; *i.e.*

the conduct of providence is in many respects toward all men alike; or, we are not able to tell in this world the good from the bad by their prosperity; and the reason is given, namely, that man may live by faith and not by sight. It seems that the operations of the heart are secluded from the world in impenetrable darkness. But the ways of Providence are often incomprehensible.

I arrived at New-Orleans on the 22nd day of Nov. 1807. This was now the third time that I visited this city. On my arrival here, I was informed that corn was very high at Pensacola; I purchased twelve hundred bushels for that market, and took my departure with it from New-Orleans on the 4th day of December; and in four days sail I landed safely with my corn in Pensacola. Here I sold my corn, and cleared a handsome sum of money for my adventure. Having now, for the last time, visited the city of New-Orleans, I shall give a brief description of it, especially as it has been lately ceded to the United States of America by the Spanish Government. This city is the capital of Louisiana, and this place, indeed, with the whole of the Louisiana Territory, was sold to the American government for fifteen millions of dollars. This large and extensive country lies West of the Mississippi; being bounded on the South by the Gulph of Mexico; on the East by the Mississippi; on the North by unknown lands; and on the West by New-Mexico.

There are several rivers in this country, the chief of which are the Natchitoches and the Mexicano rivers; at the wet season of the year, when the Mississippi rises high, the waters pass over a large tract of land West of New-Orleans, and form this small city into an island; it is across these low grounds, on the West side principally, that the vast quantity of surplus waters, which flow into the Mississippi above, are discharged; the channel of that river alone, which is upon an average not more than three fourths of a mile wide, could not vent the fiftieth part of these surplus waters, if it was not conveyed over these low grounds, through ten thousand channels, towards lake Barataria and other lakes on the North coast of the Gulph of Mexico and St. Bernard's Bay, and others towards the confines of Mexico, which makes all the country to the West and South of the Mississippi, a low, uninhabited country for many hundred miles up; and what is worse, all the labor and art of man cannot prevent it.

The Mississippi is the principal river of Louisiana, and the largest in the United States. It rises in White Bear lake, lat. 48 deg. 15 min. N. Its course is southerly, and its tributary streams large and numerous. In lat. 37 deg. N. long. 5 h. 55 min. 38 sec. W. from Greenwich, it receives the Ohio, a noble river, 1188 miles long. The confluence of these two mighty rivers, does not present a scene grand or romantic. The country is

level, and the prospect of their union is not different from the meeting of sounds or rivers on the sea-coast. These rivers unite in that immense swamp through which the Mississippi passes into the Gulph of Mexico. This swamp extends from the high lands in the United States, to the high lands in Louisiana, through different parts of which the river has had its course at different times. It is generally from 36 to 45 miles wide, and at every inundation is many feet under water; the greater part of it being on the West side of the river. From the mouth of the Ohio to the southern line of the United States there are but two or three places not covered with water a part of every year, and those for a time are annually inundated. On the east side are eleven places elevated above the highest floods. Like the Nile, and all rivers subject to inundation, the banks are higher on the margin of the river than at a distance from them. Those swamps and lakes which communicate immediately with the Gulph of Mexico, never become full, consequently streams run from the Mississippi into them till its waters fall. On these periodical and temporary streams valuable saw-mills are erected in the vicinity of New-Orleans. On the low back swamp, something of the above description, is the place where I lost my excellent and highly valued horse as aforementioned.

New-Orleans is an inland city, and is about 100 miles from the mouth of the Mississippi,

the only way of access to it; this city lies in a very advantageous situation, and promises to become a place of great commerce: it contained, in 1804. about 8000 inhabitants, of French, Spanish and slaves; but since that time, it having been ceded to the government of the United States, its population has been rapidly increasing; it is now a fair and populous city, or was at the time I was there; the increase since must have been very great. The number of houses in New Orleans, is greater in proportion to its number of inhabitants than any other city in the United States of America; this is chiefly owing to their having mostly been built but one story high, and consequently will not, according to their number, contain more than half as many persons in each house. It contains about 3000 houses, and from fifteen to twenty thousand inhabitants; thus the number of houses in this city are half equal to those of the city of Philadelphia, but the number of inhabitants in the latter would amount to that of three to one of the former. The greatest inconvenience with the inhabitants of New Orleans is the impure state of the water; but still this inconvenience is in a great measure made up by the mode which they have invented to purify the waters of the river, which flows from and is the same with those of the Mississippi; the mode of purification is in the following manner: they take about twenty gallons of the water and pour it into a large cask which is prepared for

the purpose, having a sufficient bed of sand of a clean white kind placed in the bottom of it, through which the water makes its way by slow degrees, drop after drop ; these waters then are of a cold and medicinal nature ; any other water but this of the Mississippi, put in the same state of purification, will immediately grow flat and unsavory ; but this is, when purified as clear as crystal, and will keep pure and cold a long time.

The religion of the inhabitants is chiefly Roman catholic, and the morals of the people consequently of a dissipated cast, like those of Vera Cruz and New Mexico in general.

The animal productions are much like those found in the uncultivated parts of the southern states ; and with cultivation the land will yield all the various productions in their greatest perfection, which are found either in the most southerly parts of the United States, or the West-Indies. Its timber is excellent and abundant. The climate in New Orleans or Louisiana is very changeable ; in summer it is regularly hot. In the latitude of the Natches Fahrenheit's thermometer ranges from 17 to 96 deg. ; the average degree of heat is stated to be 14 deg. greater than in Pennsylvania. The climate of Louisiana varies as it extends northward ; its southern parts are not subject to such degrees of heat as the same latitudes in Africa or some other parts of the world, nor its northern parts the same degree of cold as the corresponding latitudes in Europe,

owing to the thick woods which cover the country and to the great number of rivers which intersect it; the former prevent the sun from scorching the earth, the latter cause a great degree of humidity which softens the air and prevents extreme cold. The prevailing diseases on the lower part of the Ohio, on the Mississippi, and through the Floridas, are bilious fevers. In some seasons they are mild, and are little more than common intermittents; in others they are highly malignant, and approach the genuine yellow fever in the West-Indies. The inhabitants of New-Orleans are many of them English and Americans, yet there are a mixture of French, Germans and Spaniards, although they are mostly French inhabitants. This country is not well suited to the health of the inhabitants of the eastern states of North-America, and those who have emigrated from these eastern states, have in general experienced a decline of health and constitution, unless great care and a critical degree of temperance prevent.

But to return to my voyage at Pensacola. I observed that I cleared a handsome sum for my adventure; a few hundred dollars was the reward of this speculation: from this place I commenced travelling on the 15th day of December 1807, and steered my course direct for the Mobile by land: towards night I put up at a respectable looking tavern, and desired entertainment; but by enquiry, found that the landlord and his lady both were ab-

sent, and that the two young ladies who were in the house, had the charge of it whilst the host was from home. I desired entertainment, but on the aforesaid account was refused; however, on a second consideration, was admitted; after an agreeable evening in conversation was passed off, I retired to my lodging, being tired with my fatigue; I was prevented from sleep as early as usual, and by musing on my intended journey, lay wakeful until after midnight: at this time I heard a person and saw a light enter the outer door, through a shattered part of the door which entered my room. I cast my eyes and saw a person with a lighted candle in his hand, apparently painted black; he proceeded straight forward, and went up the stairs into the chamber, as I supposed, to the room where the young ladies were in bed: his being painted, or else a real black man, his having laid off his shoes and going softly up the chamber stairs, all strongly prognosticated some alarming event soon to follow; my suspicions were not ill founded, for in a few minutes afterwards I heard cries for help, and the most mournful entreaties ensued! At this alarming crisis, the floor over my head gave a passage to the blood of the murdered innocents! and arising in great surprise out of my bed, I took my clothes in my hand, made my way to the door of the house, and from thence to a neighboring family, and related the awful circumstance! This house was about one hundred rods dis-

tant from the inn: in the house I found an old woman, two young men and two young women: the young people were sitting up, and appeared to have been passing away a few hours in social conversation. I entered the house in haste and consternation, and quickly related the dreadful circumstance. On my first entering the house, they looked at each other and smiled at my odd appearance, as I had my clothes in my hand, but soon altered their tone, and the old woman, bursting out with an uncommon noise and anxiety, and with her hands over her head, cried out, O Lord, my husband has murdered these two cousins of ours, as he told me he would, in order to get their share of the property, that it may fall to our children! Immediately after she uttered these words, she fell into the arms of the young ladies, her two daughters. Upon this, the two young men following me, we soon arrived at the inn where the dreadful murder was done.

On our entering the house, we found the murderer with his hands and garments covered with blood! When he first discovered us, he endeavoured to make his escape; but with activity and superior strength, we secured him. We then went to the chamber where the two young ladies lay in bed, and found their throats cut from ear to ear in a most shocking manner! We immediately charged the guilty wretch with the murder, upon which he made a candid confession of the

whole ; he said that he had committed this horrid murder on the two young women in order that his children might be possessed of their property ; for by the laws of the country there, the property would have fallen to the children of this murderer on the decease of the two murdered young ladies. We bound the wretched and miserable man, hand and foot, and conveyed him to the first justice at hand, who committed him to close custody. The next day we all were called before a jury of inquisition to give in our evidences concerning the horrid deed. Whilst I was before the jury, I took particular notice of a tall man of a dark complexion who was present ; he cast on me a look of disdain and revenge several times, and treated me with the utmost contempt : some of those who stood by, informed me that he was the brother of the murderer.

The next day I proceeded on my journey towards the Mobile ; this fellow, as I was afterwards informed, took his start of me some time beforehand, and went the same way. When I had proceeded on my journey about two or three miles, and where there was no buildings, in a lonely place, I saw this man just by me, he very suddenly started from behind a tree, muttering and saying that I should be paid well for the part which I had acted : he then stepped just before me, and with angry savage looks, he lifted his hand to strike me, but the ground being sandy I made a hasty retreat ; pretending that I had dropped my

walking stick, (for I was on foot), I took up with my left hand a handful of sand, and threw it suddenly into his face; this answered well my intended purpose for this man was tall and strong, and was able in ten minutes time to destroy me; the sand, however, blinded his eyes; he now had enough to do to rub them, and whilst this took up some of his attention I gave him two or three strokes on his legs, at which he fell down, and being blinded entirely, he knew not where to find his antagonist. I kept out of his reach, excepting at times I drew up towards him, and in order to prevent him from raising gave him a few blows over the head and face with my staff; finding himself so unexpectedly worsted, he cried out for mercy. At this critical moment, the two young men who were my fellow-witnesses came up to us, and enquired into the cause of the affray; instantly I gave them an account of the particulars, and that I was in danger of my life, had not fortune favored me when I threw the sand in his face; they expressed their joy and satisfaction at my fortunate and unexpected conquest, whilst the miserable wretch was ashamed as a thief is ashamed when he is taken in his theft. These two young gentlemen invited me to return with them, and tarry with the family until the two young women should be interred. I accepted of their invitation, and returned and tarried until the funeral was over, and then took my departure

for the Mobile, where I arrived on the 16th of Jan. 1808.

Here I bought one thousand dollars worth of corn, and a few articles of merchandise, and proceeded up the lake called the Mobile, or the bay of Mobile. The Mobile is a commercial village; by the bay it has a free trade both at sea and into the interior of the country; but as I have given my subscribers reason to expect a narrative of my travels, they will not expect me to entertain them with things quite foreign from the chief object in view. Should I give an account of every thing which I have seen and heard of that was peculiar in these travels, it would make a volume of two thousand pages, instead of two hundred, as I promised them. To return once more; I shipped my corn on board of a French armed schooner; she was going directly to Pensacola, where I had determined to carry my corn, and from thence elsewhere. When we had been about one day out we were attacked by an English privateer; the English captain, seeing us in a schooner of about 12 guns, thought that his demand was capture, and ordered us to strike our colours; this was answered by a broadside from us and an immediate and a hot engagement took place. Many were killed on both sides, but our decks were soon covered with the dead! and our captain, despairing of conquest, thought best to abate the fury of the battle; this, however, only encouraged the enemy, and they boarded us.

Now the work was still more serious, and our men resisted in close quarters. The carnage was dreadful! We were soon forced to yield to superior force, and resigned the vessel. And now, when the enemy had taken all our cargo, and made us all prisoners of war, brought us out of the lake to sea, and bent their course for England, I was in a distressed condition! The last cent of my property was taken from me by the enemy, and myself a close prisoner of war! My prospect was disagreeable in the extreme; I might possibly be exchanged but perhaps my property was inevitably lost! although I was only a passenger. If this should be the case, as by appearances I concluded that it would be, I had no other view, but to relieve myself from slavery, by fleeing as soon as possible to Germany, to the protection of my brother George; for England is a place, where the poor grow still poorer, and the prospect of rising any other way than this, would be entirely without probability; but this degree of humiliation it was not in my power to obtain; I therefore contemplated my sufferings in the most discouraging form, and reluctantly sailed o'er the tempestuous waters!

I was contemplating in silent grief and perplexed thought; I looked and saw the captain, with the glass in his hand, and immediately the form of his countenance was changed! With an agitated appearance he spoke to one of his officers expressing his fears that

an enemy was near at hand! He was soon surrounded with his officers in council. In about one hour the enemy, a Spanish frigate, came up, and our captain commanded him to strike his colours. The Spanish commander poured in a full broad side upon us, as he probably deemed it the most effectual answer to the insulting demand. The vessel was of much larger force than that of the British, nevertheless the British engaged her with all fury: upon the second fire of the Spanish frigate, we lost one of our masts, and soon after they shot away the other: we were entirely dismasted now, and the captain compelled to strike his colours to the Spanish commander, who made us all prisoners of war!

I did not know how the Spanish would use their prisoners, and feared that fortune had given me a disadvantageous change; but on a second consideration, finding myself about to be carried to a rich country, where, if I gained my liberty, which it was probable that I soon should, there was a greater probability of rising to respectability and property, from these considerations I began to feel more reconciled. In a short time the Spanish commander came forth to examine and take a view of the prisoners, and looking me full in the face, spoke in a friendly, affable, and courteous manner to me, and finding out my name, said, that he knew me perfectly well, and had the pleasure of my acquaintance when I was a public actor in the Havanna. This was of

singular importance to me, as will hereafter be seen. My passage was now very agreeable, as the captain treated me with the greatest respect and generosity: we soon arrived at the Havanna, where I was set at full liberty, and by the influence of this gentleman my property was all restored to me.

Here I had the pleasure of paying a new visit to my old friends and acquaintance, especially the Governor and nobility, who were my patrons on former occasions; they all received me very kindly, and in particular the Governor; and when I informed the Governor of the manner in which I came there, and the stock of goods which I had to dispose of, he seemed much pleased with my good fortune, especially with my having turned trader and left the profession of actor. I received invitations from several of the nobility to pay them visits, and tarry with them a day or two; to some of which I consented. I disposed of my little cargo and purchased coffee, sugar, &c: and on the 8th day of May 1808, took my departure for Pensacola; at which place I arrived in good spirits on the 26th. Here I sold my coffee and sugar for cash in hand, and to great advantage.

On the 2nd day of June I left this place with five in company. Soon after we left Pensacola, we overtook a post-rider, and requested him to keep company with us in order to guide us, especially as he was acquainted with the road; and in return, promised to

bear part of his expenses of travelling. To this he consented, and we travelled five days without meeting with any thing material worth relating, excepting that the indians would often draw near and round about us at time of meals. These poor creatures, living nearly exhausted and deprived of food, like the wild beast of the forest, they are at times ravenous. A consideration naturally falls in here, of the Supreme Benefactor of men toward the white people, who have the privileges of civilization and education, who have that kind of religion which teaches them, not the principles of the heathen savage tribes, to obey the dictates of depraved passions; but that teaches them to improve the full exercise of their abilities in a manner which raises them to a state of comfortable subsistence, where every necessary want is supplied, and where faculties and abilities are improved in preparation for a future and perfect state of enjoyment hereafter. O thou preserver and disposer of men! what have I rendered to thee, for all thy mercies and benefits shewn to me! Although I have from time to time been delivered from imprisonments and death! yet how unthankful! how much like the hardened Israelites, have I buried thy mercies in forgetfulness! I am yet alive, and still have the prospect before me of being useful and living happy and joyful amongst my friends in the world; and my chief concern will, or doubtless ought to be, to live and feel myself thankful to that

divine and gracious providence which has granted me such great and unparalleled favors !

On the sixth day there fell a considerable rain, and it continued raining seven days successively : as we pursued our journey, we found the creeks and small passages, bridges and rivulets entirely overflown, and we were compelled to swim our horses two or three times a day, for five days successively ; we travelled in this storm through necessity, when at length we came to a large creek ; our guide told us that it was the last and most difficult to pass ; when we came near, we found the adjacent grounds so overflown, that it struck terror into the most bold and daring amongst us. On taking a full view we all judged it impossible to cross without endangering life in the most imminent degree, and accordingly retreated to some distance and encamped. We remained here about twenty-four hours, when our provisions began to fail us : during our encampment the rains fell in great abundance ; it also thundered in the most tremendous manner ! We were all now ready to exclaim, vain and feeble are the efforts of man ! I call it an encampment ; but it was under a large tree, where the wind and rains kept us from any kind of repose. In this situation, James Lewis, one of our company, began to rail and blaspheme even against heaven ! The rains, thunders and lightnings were his pretence for his blasphemy ! We all en-

deavored to pacify him, but all in vain! I then left the company, and took up my lodging in the crutch of a tree at a small distance from them, lest his presumptuous blasphemies might draw down vengeance! As the water under this tree was ankle deep, it might appear almost impossible for a person to slumber here, yet I really did, owing to being so deprived of rest on the night before; but a sudden shock of thunder and lightning, striking close by, awaked me perfectly, and so affrighted me, being sudden and unexpected, that I fell on the ground! In the same thunder-bolt, a splinter from an adjacent tree struck Lewis in the arm and broke it; having some medicines by me, I bound up his arm as well as I could. The rain continued to fall, and having no prospect of bettering our condition, we with one consent resolved the next morning on crossing the creek, be the event what it would.

Accordingly we set out, and came to the creek, and being very much surprised at the height of the water, we requested the post-rider to enter first; which he was obliged immediately to agree to; and accordingly he entered on the dubious and melancholy task! We followed him about a quarter of a mile, until we arrived at the bank on the other side of the overflowing waters. When we were on this bank, we held a council on our horses; the horses were weary and up to their necks in water on the bank, for the freshet

was over the bank. Our leader told us that there was a log just below us, which was the pass over the creek. We had an idea of swimming our horses across the creek, but the stream set down so strong and with such a mighty current, that we were doubtful of the consequences; our horses were full weary of swimming, for we had now swam them nearly one hundred rods already, and the strength of the poor creatures appeared to be nearly exhausted; we were, therefore, afraid to venture ourselves on their backs across this rapid and furious stream. The post-rider, who had been in the path before, was now nearly as much at a stand to tell what to do as ourselves; but eventually we all concluded that our horses were too weak ever to swim back with us, and too weak to carry us over the stream. Nothing now remained, but that we get off of our horses, take off our saddles and portmanteaus, and send the horses over the stream without us, whilst we would endeavor to find the log or string-piece crossing below. We now dismounted, and standing up to our breasts in water, we took off the load from the horses, and let them go over at the fording-place. Whilst we held council on our horses the post-rider, our guide, observed, that by the looks of the river below, (the trees being his way mark), the log appeared to be overflown, yet said that he thought it safer to try to pass the log, than by swimming the horses; accordingly,

we proceeded down the bank, with our guide before us, in search of the log. As we drew near, the post-rider supposed that the log was overflown five or six feet, but on examination we found it but three feet under water; the current setting down vehemently, his heart failed him, and he petitioned to the company to take the lead, saying, that there was no great danger, as the log was fastened, being well fixed between two trees at each end, and that it was about two feet wide: however, all hearts failed them, and we were obliged to draw lots to make a captain for the accomplishment of the dangerous enterprise! On casting lots it fell on me to go forward, and seeing nothing in my opinion but a great probability of death before me, I cut me a staff, and turning myself round to my companions, said to them one and all, these rolling and majestic floods appear to threaten us with immediate death! and call us to prepare ourselves for the awful event! we are here, far distant from any possible assistance from the arm of flesh, and as the waters will probably be rising after the rains, we must now immediately (if ever) make our escape; it is a serious time, and we have all need to call on the God of all grace, and implore his assistance to help us to perform the dangerous and melancholy task! Eternity appeared to us all (I believe) in a serious point of light! The desponding travellers turned their desponding eyes one upon another; in their looks

I saw the important question, what shall we do? who shall save us? We were all standing up to our arms in water, with our saddles, portmanteaus and bridles on our backs; it was not more than four rods across the creek, which was now risen to a river and covered the whole ground and meadows about three feet deep, one hundred and fifty yards beyond it. I told him that we must either cross over or perish, and we could not but perish in passing over, therefore we must try. I then with my small staff stepped upon the end of the log; the possibility of crossing to the other side appeared extremely doubtful, and we were all of us almost in despair. I now saw the necessity of trying to pray to that God, who I believed was able to save; and stepping upon the end of the log, begun to exhort my companions, in feeling and moving lines to prepare for death! after which, I made my petition to heaven in the following manner:

“O thou great and glorious God! thou art all wise, powerful and merciful, and thou art infinite in all thy perfections! thou art that God, who art merciful and full of goodness; we are in a lamentable and distressed situation! eternity is before us! and we know not what to do! it appears that in a short time, we must all give an account before the awful seat of judgment, for the deeds done in the body! and what shall we say to thee, O thou preserver of men! Thou hast made us and not we ourselves, we are the creatures of thy

power; and our situation and distress forces us to call aloud to thee for thine assistance; we are shut up, and the arm of flesh cannot save us; to go backwards we cannot, and to go forward we dare not, as it seems immediate death! surely, unless a miracle of thy power prevent, we shall all be swept away into a dismal, watery grave! but if it can be consistent with the dispensations of thy grace to grant us the assistance of thy gracious providence, to prolong our lives and save us from the impending destruction which threatens us! we hope to spend them in thy fear: but, if otherwise thou hast determined, may we all receive that grace to prepare us for death, which will be necessary to prepare us for thy peaceable and everlasting kingdom!

It would be impossible here to describe the dismal situation which we were in! Indeed I have given but a faint shadow, and words cannot express the affecting and terrific scene which now passed before us. The short petition now published, is but a very short and concise piece, when compared to the great reality: it was the greatest trial, and I saw the eternal world nearer to me, than ever I did either before or since that time; for destruction appeared almost inevitable! just as I ended my prayer, I looked up and saw my horse struggling and floating down over the log. I then immediately threw away my saddle into the water; this I called a providence in my favor, as I was relieved of a

great part of my burden, for I valued my horse as nothing in comparison of my own life. With my staff in my hand to feel out the way, I now set myself out and crossed the log, and all the company followed, but Lewis; his guilty conscience probably kept him back. We all got over safe, calling out to Lewis to cross over after us: he being very much intimidated, would not venture, but offered me his horse and all his property, which amounted to about three hundred dollars, if I would go to him, and help him over. Not for his property, but out of the bowels of pity, I was moved to assist him. This Lewis was not the person of that name with whom I was in trade. I cannot help remarking the cowardice of this man in the time of apparent death! He was the man that a short time before could blaspheme (with high courage), not only the winds, rains, thunders and lightnings, and him that sent them; but must undertake to d--n me, for having checked him in the time of his presumptive blasphemies. He was so audaciously presumptive that I was afraid that the next shock of thunder would strike us dead and send us into the eternal world all together! This occasioned my retreat from my company to a distant tree, where, as I said, finding the water ankle deep, I climbed the tree, and sitting in the lower branch of the tree, I there was obliged to hear the thoughtless language of an almost infernal and inhuman tongue, until a sudden stroke

of lightning shattered a distant tree, and broke the arm of the wretched victim !

I was at this time called upon to bind up his wound, which I was inconveniently able to perform, as we had no shelter from the rain. Having been in battles in Europe, and seeing the modes in which the physician proceeded with broken limbs and mangled flesh, and having medicines by me, which I always carried, I was able to make a tolerable good shift in this business. Lewis was now beholden and obliged to the very man, on whom he had just before been casting the most blasphemous expressions. During all this time, his heart appeared big and highly exalted with courage ; he never would concede to make any acknowledgement of his crime in this audacious and blasphemous action ; but, wretched man ! although he appeared to excel in courage, and a spirit of valour, even against heaven itself, in these his blasphemies ; yet, see now his cowardice, when death in reality opens the door of entrance, and seems steadily to look him in the face ! O Lewis ! thou pitiful, sorrowful son of wretchedness and wo ! Where has now thy courage fled ? Hast thou been all along too strong for omnipotence and so ignorant that thou hast but lately thought that God the great, the almighty, was greater, more powerful, and more wise than thyself ? Canst thou now tread on the threshold of heaven, and defy omnipotence itself ? Surely whilst the thunders and lightning rolled through

the heavens, thy presumptuous heart presumed to lift itself up! But where art thou now? Surely, said my soul, according to the poet, of the natural man,

Man is but vanity and dust,  
In all his flower and prime!

How often have I remarked, the most wicked and presumptuous sinners, when they are brought into dangers and approaching death, are greatest cowards; and they then begin to cry out. Wo is me, I am undone! Whereas those who are afraid to sin and tempt the God of omnipotent power with oaths and blasphemies, are a people of a different kind; and when death approaches near them, they have courage to make their prayer to the almighty God, and find themselves often saved from impending destruction! How often do I hear men make use of the name of God in an uncouth and unmeaning manner, as though they were such people of courage that they feared the face of none that live, but when brought down by sickness, are the greatest cowards on the earth. This is like the case of poor Lewis. O thou wicked and blasphemous sinner, who art so hardened that thou thinkest thou fearest not God above or men below, remember, that those who appear to be the greatest men of courage here, in fighting and oaths, blasphemies, and every degree of wickedness, will be soon found to turn the greatest cowards, and the poorest wretches

that are to be found on the face of the earth ! as miserable and as wretched as this man was. By his entreaties and fervent petitions I was prevailed on to go over and assist him in crossing the dangerous pass, and accordingly went over to him, and bade him to take hold of my coat, which he did ; I turned myself and went back ; we went on very well until we were half way over, when it seemed to me as a just and an awful providence would have it, he slipped with one of his feet, and doubtless the affright given to the poor wretch by the danger, occasioned an inattention to the hold which he had on the skirt of my garment ; he let it go and was instantly swept off and sunk out of our sight ; his clothes were wet and heavy, and they immediately carried him to the bottom.

During this sad catastrophe, the other four companions stood looking on us with longing expectation ; myself only came back safe ; and here, notwithstanding all our efforts in favor of the salvation of the poor man, we were obliged to say, in the lines of the Poet,

Great God ! how wondrous are thy works,  
Thy ways how justly wise ;  
When man blasphemeth thee to thy face,  
How terribly he dies !

So they who did thy laws despise,  
To tempt thee to thy face ;  
How quick they sink away and die,  
Devoid of heavenly grace.

At some unseen and awful day !  
When sinners rest secure ;  
Thy wrath, like chaff sweeps them away,  
Nor will it long endure !

Death like an overflowing stream,  
Sweeps us away : our life's a dream ;  
An empty tale ; a morning flower ;  
Cut down and withered in an hour.

Teach us, O Lord, how frail is man,  
And kindly lengthen out our span ;  
Till a wise care of piety,  
Fit us to die and dwell with thee.

Thus, we saw his end. I have often thought of the meaning of that threatening in Deuteronomy to the wicked Israelites, given in the song of Moses in the 32nd chapter of this book, "their foot shall slide in due time ;" and again, of that more fearful saying in the scriptures, of the presumptuous wicked, that their "sun shall go down at noon;" seeing him so unfit to die, I was moved with pity to try to assist him, which was the occasion of my going back after him. I ought to mention, that after I had made my petition to heaven for relief, I lost almost all my dread and fear of the impending dangers. I thought that I felt all my sins forgiven, and a firm trust in the God of providence, and I went back after Lewis, without much fear or intimidation ; and taking his baggage on my shoulders, and directing him to take hold of the skirts of my coat, I returned ; and coming back again, when we were about middle way, he slipped his feet, and as he slipped, I suppose through surprise, let go of my coat, as I before observed, and the stream carried him off ; he immediately was seen no more. I arriving safe, went with my companions, wading near to the middle in water, until we ar-

rived on high ground. We took care of our horses. I had Lewis's instead of my own. We endeavored to get fire by rubbing of wood together ; this endeavor proved fruitless, the wood being wet, I then took a vial of phosphorus out of my portmanteau, with which I soon created a fire ; and finding some old wood, we were able in a short time to dry some of our clothes : then, with the consent of the company ; I took Lewis's horse and property as mine, which he freely offered me before his death for my assistance in trying to help him over the water. We now proceeded on our journey about twelve miles, and came to an indian house, where we took refreshment after the indian manner ; from thence we proceeded on our journey for about two days, when my horse gave out ; and my companions were obliged to leave me at the house of one Cully, an indian king. Here I remained eight days, until my horse got well ; then I furnished myself with a fresh supply of provisions, and set off on my journey.

This was the 23rd day since my departure from Pensacola. I fed my horse and dried my provisions in the sun this afternoon ; here I was attacked by a company of six indians : they approached and examined my saddle and bridle, and smelling my bread and meat, they each of them took a share of it by force : upon this, I ran down a hill and made a loud call, as though I was calling several companies to my assistance, which the indians hearing,

fled and left their booty ; then I proceeded and travelled on until night, when I rested and encamped under a tree very discontented. I was in a wilderness at a great distance from any habitation. In the morning when I awoke, I looked for my horse, but could neither see nor hear any thing of him : I then took my portmanteaus on my shoulder, for fear of a second accident, and walked round my place of encampment for some time, hunting for my horse, but could see nothing of him. I returned with a heavy heart, because I was upwards of two hundred miles from any white inhabitants ; and my provisions on my return I found were all gone. I had now neither horse to ride, or provisions to subsist on. I now sat down on my saddle to meditate on what was best to be done in this disconsolate situation, and finally concluded to take the best of my clothes and my money, and make the best of my way to Georgia ; and proceeded forward about a quarter of a mile, when I heard a loud call behind me. I looked back and saw an indian boy, I concluded about sixteen years of age. I waited until he came up to me : he asked me where my horse was : I answered in broken indian language that I did not know, but I expected that he was stolen ; he then said, that if I would give him five dollars he would bring him to me. I offered him one dollar, but that would not answer. I was then forced to give him his demand, and in about twenty minutes he

brought him to me. I was struck with rage and indignation at the perfidy of this young savage, but reflecting that there might be others concerned in the business much more crafty and perfidious than himself, I forbore to take vengeance. I took my horse, and proceeded on my journey seven days successively, and without meeting with any material difficulty, until I came to the Oakamudge river, which is the dividing line between the indian nation: here I found myself in a dilemma; I rode up and down for five or six miles, but found no place to cross. Being determined once more to get amongst the white inhabitants, I drove my horse into the water to ford the river by swimming, and my horse stumbling over rocks threw me over his head, but having hold of the bridle, I made my way over the river, a dangerous place to pass; my clothes being wet, I dried them in the sun on the other side; as I was mounting my horse, I espied a very large rattle snake, about four feet in length: I endeavored to make my escape from it, but unfortunately it struck the foot of my horse: nevertheless, I went on my journey some time before my horse fell. I went forward to a house and called to a man to view my unfortunate loss, and to get some advice concerning the possibility of his being cured; but when we returned to him we found him dead.

I hired a horse to carry me to Augusta, at which place I arrived on the 25th day of June,

A. D. 1808. Here I rested myself several days, and after all my losses, trials, and difficulties, I had still a handsome property left. When my acquaintance here found out my circumstances, many of them solicited me to join with them in some business; this I declined, preferring to place my property in land interest. I had seen so much uncertainty in trading, and other business of a speculating kind, (although I had lately been fortunate), that it seemed a surer way to save my money by laying it out in some substantial property. I accordingly purchased sixteen hundred and twenty acres of wild, uncultivated land. There is eight lots of this land, 202 1-2 acres in each lot, which is of good soil, and will probably in a short time sell for a very advanced price; this land was purchased by the state of Georgia of the Creek nation, in A. D. 1806, and given by lottery to the several inhabitants of whom I purchased my rights. I bought one of these lots within about four miles of Milledgeville, the seat of government, in the same purchase. I esteem this lot as the most valuable. In about three weeks after my entrance here, I came on to Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania, and here I enquired for the price of lands in those parts where I had purchased; finding that the Embargo had made impressions on all kinds of speculations and commerce. I thought it was best to keep the land until it could be more advantageously sold; indeed, I wanted my interest to be put into a more stable use

than wild and uncertain speculations ; but still I did not wish to have it all lay in property, that I could make no immediate use of ; and seeing but a few new tenements erected on these lots, and having paid a large sum of money away for them, I was willing to own not quite so much property of this kind, and wait so long for the use of it, and therefore concluded, (upon second thought), I would sell the whole of the lots for as good advance as possible, and then embark for my native country in Germany ; but not being able to get a price to my mind, I concluded to let it lie as it was, assured that in a few years it must be a very valuable and independent property. I felt myself willing to go on in my former industrious mode of procedure, and try to collect together a sufficiency for a comfortable subsistence until times altered ; this was a new and an unexpected idea, but it was such as I was obliged to concede to, it being the only alternative ; it appeared like forced work, but it was not, as I could not make convenient sale of the land, and I was unwilling to sell it under its real value.

I had nothing of great consequence now to do, and undertook reluctantly my dissipating trade of exhibitions for a short time. Like to a fish out of water, so I was out of my element, and soon removed to Trenton in New-Jersey, where I expected better employ, but found none, and was obliged to exhibit again. In a few days I called for my bill, when I found

that my out go was more than my income and far exceeded my profits. From this time, I firmly resolved never more to perform any of the slight-of-hand exhibitions, and freely gave up all my instruments and accoutrements to my partner. With indignation and contempt I left and despised the whole business; I saw that it was all nothing but a perfect imposition on the public; I therefore determined to seek my fortune by the same industry by which I had acquired the most respectable living in the world, and according to this resolution I went into Easton, in the state of Pennsylvania, at which place I arrived on the 6th day of September, 1809; in this place I remained about four months, and from thence I went to Bloomsbury, a small village in New-Jersey, where I remained but a short time, and then removed to Asbury, in the same county, where I now reside.

In my journey to Philadelphia, I passed through Lancaster, an important town in the state of Pennsylvania: this town stands on Conestogo Creek, about sixty-six miles northwest from Philadelphia, and is said to be the largest inland town in America. It contains a handsome court-house, a number of churches, about one thousand houses, and five or six thousand inhabitants. It has a college by the name of the Franklin College. It is the seat of government for the State. The buildings are large and elegant, and chiefly built of stone: the State-house stands in the middle of the

town, facing four of the principal streets. The language spoken here is chiefly German. I left this place in a few days and proceeded to Philadelphia, as the reader will recollect. This city is the fairest and the most regular built of any which I have seen in North-America. It lies in latitude 39 degrees nearly North, and stands on the West bank of the Delaware, on a level situation about one hundred and eighty miles from the sea. It is a regular city, all the streets crossing each other in right angles. Its public religious buildings are, five churches for Quakers, six for Presbyterian, three for Episcopalians, two for German Lutherans, some for Baptist and Methodist, and for almost every other religious denomination of christians; and they appear to be very kind in tolerating and giving liberty to all christian denominations. Its other public buildings are a state-house and offices, a city court-house, a carpenter's hall, a hall for the philosophical society, and dispensary, a hospital and offices, an almshouse, a house of correction, a public linen and cotton factory, a public observatory, three brick market-houses, and two public goals, one of them having been lately built; besides a college and academies. There are near eight thousand dwelling-houses and seventy or eighty thousand inhabitants of almost all the different nations on earth; I have seen even some Algerines and Chinese in this city. Philadelphia is laid out from the Delaware to Schuylkill, about two miles in width, and is set-

ted about one mile in width and between three and four miles in length. This city was laid out by the famous William Penn, in the year 1690, and is the second city in the United States for commerce. The streets are wide and elegant; some of their walks on the sides are most elegantly paved with tiles and brick: it is also conveniently watered by pipes leading from Schuylkill, which leads the water into every story of the houses throughout the city. This is done by a water machine which stands in the centre of the city, which conveys the water with surprising ease and facility to every part of the city, even to the third story of their dwelling-houses. The state of Pennsylvania is situated between 39 deg. and 48 min. and 42 deg. of North latitude, and between 74 and 81 deg. of West longitude. It is about 280 miles long and one hundred and sixty broad. It is bounded on the North by the 42nd degree of North latitude, East by the Delaware river, south by a line drawn parallel with the 43rd minute of the 39th deg. of North latitude, and West by Virginia, the Connecticut lands, and the Western Territory. It is divided into twenty five counties. There are six large rivers in this state, and nearly one third of it is mountainous, but a large portion of the soil is very good and many of the mountains admit of cultivation almost to the top. Wheat is the staple commodity of the state, which is raised in great plenty. The government has given no

preference to any religious society, but the Quakers are the most numerous; Presbyterians are the next class in numbers; the Lutherans are the third; and after them there are various denominations, among which are the Moravian. The commerce of this state is very flourishing and extensive. The centre of trade is Philadelphia. They have some of the most excellent laws for the encouragement of the poor and industrious, even in many of their public gaols there is employment with reasonable wages given to prisoners; many of them, therefore, are encouraged to labour, and soon pay off their debts, and sometimes bring small sums with them out of the gaol; some of these gaols appear like large factories, where almost every mechanical branch is carried on: these establishments are said to be owing to the influence of the Quakers, who love industry and wish every man to pay his honest debts. There are but few crimes punished with death by the laws of this state; murder, arson, and a few others are; but hard labor for a term, or for life, is the punishment for most of the crimes which in other states are punished with death.

Trenton, in New-Jersey, lies about eighteen miles north-east from Philadelphia. It is the seat of government, and the principal town in the state, and contains between three and four hundred houses; it is very pleasant, and handsomely built, and has a considerable inland trade. It has one handsome main street, one or two back streets, one cross street, and several

allies, and many of the dwelling-houses are very regularly and elegantly built. The inhabitants in general are industrious, humane, and enterprising; they have a state-house, market-house, and houses for public worship. Here I labored at my trade about three weeks with Mr. John Morris; from thence I went to Easton, from Easton to Bloomsbury, and from there to Asbury, a pleasant village in the same county, which is now my present place of residence.

I came here on the 26th day of February, 1810. I feel myself happy that I live in a country where every man enjoys his liberty and is protected in the full enjoyment of his property. I have seen several nations, of different manners and descriptions, both in the line of agriculture and of commerce, and have had the advantage of learning from them various modes and manners. I have often looked back on the course of my former life, even from childhood to the present time; and the things most worthy of my remark are, that I have experienced so many different scenes, from unexpected quarters, and where I had the least reasons to look for them. In the first place, that so early in life I should take my lot in the changing and uncertain fortunes of a travelling life, when I left my father, and especially my sister in Strasburg. 2nd. That when I travelled over the mountains, rocks and ditches, and was lost in the night in the deserts of Switzerland, that I should then think of cal-

ling on the God of my youth for succour, and find such immediate deliverance. 3rd. That when I should have otherwise been condemned, that the person in Paris should come forward in court, and confess that I was perfectly innocent of the charge; and that when I was about to deprive myself of life, that such a peculiar providence should send the old woman out to prevent me in the manner in which she did. 4th. That when I was in prison in Hanover the circumstance of the writing being found in the pocket of the man who committed the suicide, thereby clearing me from being beheaded, according to the laws of that country. 5th. My wonderful escape from the field of battle in St. Domingo. 6th. My deliverance from ship-wreck in an island in the East-Indies. 7th. My imprisonment in Mexico, and my very singular and remarkable deliverance. 8th. My singular fortune, and escape in getting through, when my horse was left in the miry swamp. 9th. My singular and wonderful deliverance from British imprisonment, when taken in the bay of Mobile. 10th. My wonderful deliverance in crossing the creek, as lately related, in the Creek nation.

The ten things now mentioned are very peculiar and important, and are of very singular import: they must mean that the providence of God, the universal Governor of the world, has had a peculiar care and guard over my life. But his goodness and tender mercies are over all the works of his hands, and although

many think that things are governed by chance, accident, and what is called fortune, yet when I consider the singular providences which have paved the way to my deliverance from sufferings, imprisonment, and death, it has often caused me to draw up a more rational conclusion, and forced me to acknowledge an all-wise, merciful, and Supreme Being, who both impartially regards and governs the actions of men. The reader will see a few of my thoughts on this subject in the following pathetic lines :

The earth was not from nature brought,  
Nor sprung from dark abyss ;  
But by the power which every hour  
Declares the work is His.

He governs all, both great and small,  
He calls the stars by name ;  
Just so he views the smallest dews  
Which power and mercy frame.

When Prelates frown and press us down,  
And death appears in view !  
We often fear his dreadful power,  
Forget his mercies too.

When I through fields of blood did wield  
The bright and glittering sword,  
His power did save from dismal grave  
By an almighty word.

When storms affright in gloomy night,  
And lightnings blaze around,  
When India's shore with thunders roar,  
And all our thoughts confound ;

To see that power in peril's hour,  
Our threat'ned lives secure,  
Whilst others sink beneath the brink,  
And fall to rise no more.

See honors flow and riches grow,  
As tho' 'twould ne'er be night ;  
In Spanish climes where joyful times  
Were like the morning bright.

See darkest shades of death pervade,  
And spoil the happy birth ;  
The hand that gave prepares the grave,  
And sinks it to the earth.

In dismal deep we solemn weep  
 To him who gave us breath ;  
 He hears our cry, forbids to die,  
 And frees from threat'ning death.

He bids us learn his bowels yearn  
 To teach us all his ways ;  
 He sets us free, that we may see  
 His chief peculiar grace.

When in the savage desert lost,  
 Nor friendly arm to save ;  
 Almighty power, in solemn hour,  
 Restor'd me from the grave.

When o'er the seas with gentle breeze  
 We pleasantly did sail,  
 Our ship we lost all on the coast,  
 But soon our joys prevail.

When o'er the flood on banks we stood,  
 Nor help nor friends were nigh ;  
 Deep call'd to deep, and we did weep,  
 And pray'd to the Most High.

This arm of might in darkest night,  
 When dangers flow'd around ;  
 Did see the tear of humble prayer,  
 And made his grace abound.



## APPENDIX.

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An explanation of the abstruse parts of the preceding narrative, the subject of which has for ages past kept the nations of Europe in enthusiastic darkness, even to the present day, and which were performed in the manner following :

*Of the raised Ghost.*—I first prepared three rooms, and then lined them with black cloth or tapestry throughout, even the floors : the walls are covered with the skeletons of dead people ; there are likewise pictures of ghosts and devils hanging round the rooms : in the third room stands a large electrical machine and an altar covered with black cloth, with a dead scull, a large book, and two burning candles standing on the same : before the altar stands an insulated platform, whereon the spectators stand : these rooms are made as frightful as possible with the black cloths, skeletons, and dark glooms of the night : the spectators are surprised at the entrance of the first room ; this is increased on entering into the second : the gloomy appearance of the second room, the sable covering, and the frightful appearance of the skeletons, are viewed by the light of a small glimmering candle placed there to light the frighted spectators through into the third room : on entering this room, they pull off their shoes : entering the door, their surprize increases by receiving a shock. Stepping forward with earnest expectation, the spectator places himself on the platform before mentioned ; here he immediately finds himself in a free perspiration by means of the electrical machine ; when he casts around his eyes on his company, he beholds their countenances pale and changed, like the countenance of death : this alteration of countenance proceeds from the burning of a lamp prepared for the purpose : the two candles are still burning on the altar : they now see flashes of lightning and hear the roaring of thunder, followed by a sound of a storm of wind, with a shower of rain : after this, with a heavy crack of thunder, the candles cease to burn, going out of themselves. Now the spectators are all in total darkness : then I command the spirit to come forward : with a heavy sound of rattling chains and a groaning noise the spirit makes his appearance before the spectators : he appears white, or of a fiery cast, and the flames emitted from him afford the spectators sufficient light to view him in perfect shape : I speak to him and receive from him answers in a solemn and regular manner : he disappears at my command, and the candles light up of themselves, and the whole room is

filled with flaming fire, a fire which is not in the least degree injurious to the company, *i. e.* the whole air in the room is on fire; after which the company is dismissed.

The whole of this work is done in the following manner: first I procured me a magic lantern, on the glass of which I painted the image of the spirit that I wished to raise, and placed it in front of the magnifying glasses which are in the lantern; then I procured a box four feet high, four feet long, and two feet wide; on the top of the box, in the middle or centre, I cut a hole of six inches in length and one inch in width; exactly under this small hole I placed a small pan filled with coals; in this pan I put a smoking powder which immediately ascended with a heavy, rolling smoke: there is a second hole cut through the box on the top, about one foot square: I put the magic lantern in the middle of the box; on the lowest side, opposite this lantern, I placed a looking-glass in slanting form, with the top leaning against the back side of the box. This glass casts the reflection of the image up through the large hole into the midst of the pillars of smoke, its appearance in full size and exact form of a man, and in just such dress as I please to paint out on the glass. All these works are shut up from the view of the spectators.

This was the way in which I raised the spirit in Mexico, for which, and a few other things, I suffered my imprisonment in that superstitious city.

But to proceed to mention how I conversed with this spirit. I had a friend standing in an adjacent room, by a hole cut through the partition, who by a long tube fixed at the place where the mouth of the spirit appears and reaching into the room back, speaks the words which by the spectators are supposed to be spoken by the spirit: their coming out of the end of the tube drives the smoke a little apart, and makes an appearance like the moving of the lips of a person when he speaks: this has a very natural appearance; but perhaps a spirit, if there be any, can speak without motion.

The rolling and sound of thunder was made by the rolling of small cannon-balls over the floor above their heads, which was performed by two friends placed there for that purpose.

The lightning round the room, preceding this thunder, and running in a crinkling form, was done by mixing fine pounded powder with spirits of wine, and rubbing it on strings which were hung round the room in a crinkling form, and at proper times touched with the snuff of the burning candle, suddenly creates the flash; the room being dark with black tapestry, and the thread and powder black, the deception is not in the least perceived: the flashes of lightning are created by pounding of rosin to a powder, and filling up a tube, leaving room in the middle to let through the breath, which when blown through drives out the dust into the blaze of the candle and flashes extremely: this candle, though concealed, prevents not the flashes from casting their beams and flying particles through the room.

The wind is the next thing that comes under consideration. This seeming wind is created by the person who stands in the room next to the room where I stand myself, by his rubbing with brushes the paper or tapestry on the wall, whilst another man or myself shake or rattle the window which is near to the place where I stand myself. The reader will recollect that in this affair we are all in perfect

darkness, and are ignorant of the operations ; but if it is well done it appears exactly and perfectly like a storm of wind.

The shower of rain was artificially made in this form, *i. e.* I had prepared a cylinder, the outside of which was not more than one-eighth of an inch thick ; inside I placed small ribs at a little distance from each other : in this cylinder I put about three pounds of fine shot, when I placed it on posts in the manner of a grindstone, with a crank to turn by ; when ready for the shower of rain, this cylinder being placed in an adjacent room was turned round very swiftly, and the shot falling continually down on and between the ribs of the cylinder made a sound as of abundance of rain : these things are in themselves simple and not calculated to deceive sensible people ; but still when we consider the near relation which they have to reality in the sounds, the continual agitation the spectators were under, the darkness of the room, and the mind filled with sudden admiration at the quick succession of extraordinary events following each other, without giving them time for reflection, no wonder that they were filled with astonishment and surprise, and especially as they had no idea of my having any assistants in the exhibition of the scene. In addition to these things I might have mentioned the sudden going out and lighting up of the candles of themselves at the departure of the spirit. This circumstance being small, has been omitted, yet for the information of the curious I briefly mention that it is commonly supposed by people who believe in spirits, that when a spirit appears where there is a burning light they always put out the light ; the light on the appearance of this spirit went immediately out : when he had liberty to depart, I ordered him, as he was about to leave us, to light up the candles, and immediately there appeared a red spot of fire on the top of the snuff of the candles, and directly it increased and lighted up into a blaze. This was full proof in Mexico that I dealt with spirits in a distant state of existence : but, though apparently clear to them that these feats were super-natural, I can inform the public that they were altogether simple, and for the explanation of the first, *i. e.* the candles going out on the appearance of the spirit, it was done in the following manner : the candles were placed on a stand at the side of the wall, and tubes placed so that through the ceiling the air was conveyed to the blaze of the candle, by which it was extinguished ; on the departure of the spirit the candles alighted again in this manner ; the first candles were secretly conveyed away, and two others put on the stand, candles and candlesticks of the same likeness ; the wicks of these latter were touched with phosphorus, and having heated the point of my sword, at the departure of the spirit I touched the top of the snuffs, and they soon kindled to a blaze. This was the fashion in which the mystery was concealed. Thus much for the exhibition and feats performed at the raising of the ghost.

## A description of an Electrical Machine in a plain and simple manner.

I took a large smooth glass globe or cylinder, about 14 inches long and 8 inches in diameter; at each end there is a small neck wherein I fix an iron crank; then I procure a bench with two posts to receive the crank, and place the cylinder on the stands: I fixed a handle on one end of the cylinder to turn it by; in the middle of the cylinder, on the hinder part, I fixed a spring of steel; on the spring I fixed a cushion or rubber made of black silk, and filled it up with horse-hair; on one side of the cushion or rubber I fixed a piece of buck-skin, on which I put a thin coat of amalgam which I made of quicksilver and zinc mixed together, which rubs against the glass: the spring of steel is insulated with glass, to prevent the fluid from flying away which is collected by rubbing of the cushion against the glass; to strengthen the electricity I procured a piece of black silk and fastened it on the cushion and let it hang over the glass: then I procured a conductor made of tin or of brass about fifteen inches long and three inches in diameter; on one end of the conductor I put a large brass hollow ball about six inches in diameter; through the end of this ball I fixed a small wire about three inches long, and at the end of this small wire I fixed another small brass ball about half an inch in diameter, on which I fixed the small chain to receive the electricity. On the other end of the conductor I fix a narrow plate of brass about ten or twelve inches in length, with brass wires projecting out towards the glass cylinder, the points come within a quarter of an inch of the cylinder and are fixed about half an inch from each other; these points receive the fluid from the cylinder and draw it back to the large brass ball; from thence it runs into the electrical receiver: this receiver is a glass jar which holds about a quart: in this jar I put gum-water enough to make a thin gluey coat around the inside, within about two inches of the top, and then put in a half pint of brass filing and turn it round until the filing creates a second coat on the glue these brass coats are half an inch thick, if an inch thick, it would be better: on the outside of this jar I put a coat of tinvile, within about two inches from the top, even with the inside coating. The philosophy of this is, to prevent the fluid from flying out at the top of the jar, for if the outside was covered even with the top, the vessel would have no power to contain the electrical fluid. The mouth of the jar is stopped with cork; through the cork I put a brass wire reaching down into the bottom of the jar; all around this brass wire are fixed small wires leading to the sides of the jar in every direction: in order that the brass filing may receive the electrical fluid, the main wire reaches about six inches out of the jar; above the cork and on the top is fixed a brass ball two inches in diameter: the cork of the jar must be sealed up with bees-wax; after which put the brass ball of the jar to the ball of the prime conductor and set the machine on motion, *i. e.* turn the cylinder swiftly round to create the electrical fluid: this fluid immediately passes into the jar, through the conductor. A person touching the outside of the jar with one finger, and the brass ball with the other, receives an immediate shock. The conductor stands on two glass tubes.

To the jar I fixed three conducting rods, *i. e.* three glass vials about 8 or 10 inches in length; in each of these vials I fixed a wire in the same manner in which I fixed the wire in the jar, with a small brass ball about half an inch in diameter; then I fasten a brass cord around the jar and the other end on the wire of one of the conducting rods, and with one other wire I unite the other two conducting rods. When I would electerize a person in particular parts of the body where there are acute pains, I touch the first conducting rod which is united with the jar, to that part of the body or limb, and the last mentioned conducting rod to another part of the person: the electrical fluid passes out of the first conducting rod, through the person, and into the other two conducting rods; from thence it rebounds back through the person suddenly, and creates the shock, passing into the jar.

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### A NEW DISCOVERY IN ELECTRICITY.

The machine and conductor is made of the former description, except the cylinder and cushion, &c.

FIRST I made a cylinder of rosin, 14 inches long and 10 inches diameter: this cylinder hangs, and turns with a crank in the same form as above described. I fastened two vials one on each post where the cylinder runs in. I next formed a wire that reached from one post to the other with about fifty brass points fastened to the wire, so that the ends that hang down just touched the cylinder of rosin, which collects the fluid and carries it to the conductor by a wire that reaches from the points to the conductor or jar; then there is a cushion made of fox-tail that rubs against the cylinder; this is fastened on a spring just behind the cylinder, opposite the conductor, insulated with glass to prevent the fluid from falling back into the ground. If this be done according to the description, you will find more fluid from this machine than any other invention.

This experiment I made on the 24th day of January, 1811.

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### ANOTHER DISCOVERY IN ELECTRICITY,

ON A MORE SIMPLE PLAN.

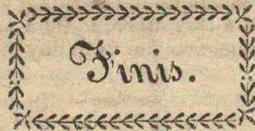
FIRST I took a round piece of a board about 18 inches in diameter; I covered the board with rosin about one half inch thick; then I took a tin plate 15 inches in diameter, with a glass handle fastened in the centre of the tin plate, then rolled the coat of rosin with a fox-tail and put the plate to the rosin. During this time, touch your finger to the plate, and touch the plate to the jar, and then you will receive a shock.

A DESCRIPTION HOW TO TAKE LIGHTNING  
OUT OF THE ELEMENTS.

I TOOK a keg of rosin and put an iron rod in it about 15 feet long, with a brass point on the top, and likewise a brass wire tied to the rod and reaching down to the ground. This machine I erected on a high tower: it will attract electrical fluid from the clouds; and if a jar be applied to this wire, it will fill in a second with electrical fluid.



The preceding narrative is presented to the public, with many imperfections: their indulgence I shall only ask until a better and fairer opportunity shall allow me to make a fuller and better explanation of these works at some future period.



The preceding narrative is not  
to be taken as a final  
conclusion, but as a  
preliminary statement of  
the facts of the case.

*[Faint handwritten scribble]*



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