

Philadelphia June 1798.

This Country is preparing for War with France. — It is a circumstance worthy observation, how suddenly a whole Nation can change their Sentiments with their Politics. — The different Light in which the English & French were viewed, — even when we first arrived in ninety six, — & that in which they are now respectively held, fills me with astonishment. — I though I have seen this in its progress yet, so violently does the tide now flow in favor of the English Nation & against the French, that there are moments when I think Magic art must have worked it. — In truth I believe that the insolence of the French themselves have effected it. Others have only availed themselves of the opportunities offered. — The Dispatches from the three American Commissioners, now at Paris, have given astirably the death blow to the French interest here for the moment. Volunteer Regiments have been raised with the most astonishing celerity, every Man of an age to enlist is a Soldier, & a very fine appearance they make. — General Washington has allowed himself to be named, by the President, Commander in Chief, & in consequence broke the resolution he had formed, at retirement, never

to stray farther from Mount Vernon than the City of
Washington. — His duty obliged him to pass ten days in
Philadelphia. — The Alien Bill has also gone rapidly
through both Houses. — Though the American character
is in general cold & phlegmatic — Political changes are
like Electrical Shocks. —

The Alien Bill has given full employment to
Mr. Lister & his Secretaries, in furnishing the French with
Passports, — amongst others Volney called the other day
to thank Mr. L. — for the Passport so readily granted to him.
No person of his Nation seemed less disposed to trust
his safety to the Americans, — in the event of a War. —

North America 1798

Tour to New York & the Eastern States
Sept. 9th 1798.

He spent a fortnight in Philadelphia after the alarm of yellow-fever, had considerably thinned the City of Inhabitants of all ranks. - The contents of the Shops were transported ~~near~~ transported a mile from Town, & placed on each side of the road, in the form of Booths at a Fair. - It is a melancholy circumstance, that the difference in opinion amongst the Medical People, - both as to the nature, ~~the cause~~ & the treatment, of this disorder, seems to have rendered it universally fatal; & the terror entertained is so great, that the most affectionate connections & friends separate from their families. ~~Disasters~~ connections leaving them to the care of Negroes, or to the West India Trench, for it is singular, that neither of these Classes readily catch infection.

The lower ~~order~~ of People are forcibly carried to an Hospital, provided for the purpose at some distance from Town, where their situation is so very wretched, that to escape this, they are often tempted to conceal their complaint till it is past cure; & in 97, which was the first of the appearance of this fever, (or at least for many years) & when the Deaths sometimes

exceeded a hundred a day, the effects were deplorable. indeed, the yellow fever, like the *Haroun-Rod*, seems to swallow up every thing else, - it puts an end to comfort, tranquillity & to society, as the contagion is in the air, - all fly to the Country, but anxiety flies with them. - the Malady engrosses all their attention, & all their conversation, - if it continues, it must prove fatal to Philadelphia as a Mercantile City. -

Though we lived in one of the principal streets in Town for more than a fortnight ⁱⁿ a retirement, which hardly any part of the Country could have afforded us, - for as no person comes from the Country to Town, & no intercourse subsists amongst the poor, that were in Town, - your doors continue shut, your days are quiet, & your nights disturbed only, by the barking of Dogs, & by the slow movement of a Cart, carrying the Dead Bodies to Interment. -

We had remained in Town, in order to write for the Packet, that being finished we quitted Philadelphia on the 2^d. of August, & arrived at New York on the 24th. - We found that the more than usual heat of the season, & having been entirely without, what is called *lynets*, (that is violent storms, of Thunder, Lightning & rain, which

never fail to cool & purify the air,) had aided to create
a considerable degree of yellow fever here: & the badness
every day brought by the Post from Philadelphia,
damps & alarms the Inhabitants of this place greatly.
In 99 I understand, the panic was so great that all
intercourse was stop^t between Philadelphia & the
adjacent Places, no Mails, or Stages, ^{coaches} were allowed;
But people now, particularly at New York, seem
pretty well convinced that the disease is not quite
so contagious, & even profess no doubt whether it is
generated in their own Country, ~~imported~~ ^{imported} from
the West-Indies.

On Friday the 7th of Sept. we crossed ^{over} a distance
of three quarters of a mile, ~~intended to be~~ Long Island.
This Spot is beautifully diversified with waving
grounds, Woods, & pastures; — at the small Town
where we landed, a carriage was procured, & we
rode nine miles through a most pleasing
Country, & excellent natural roads, & passed through
the Town of Flatbush. — The Houses & Churches
very pretty; & one very handsome building called
the Academy, where many people at New York
send their sons for Education. — We reached ~~which~~
to dinner; a large commodious House on the Bay, with
a bathing House on the Beach. — This House is

at present crowded with Persons, who have quitted Philadelphia, & Newyork, on account of the Fever; We dined at a Publick Table, pretty well filled.

Long Island is a hundred & twenty miles Long, it was settled by the Dutch, of which Nation the greatest proportion of its Inhabitants now consist. — The Churches, Houses &c. are all in the Dutch taste. — On this Island too, we trod on classic ground, the English army having landed, & had had an important engagement here. — It is also famous for its fruits; particularly the Newtown Pippin, the best apple in the World, ^{the merit of} which must depend upon the soil, for the same Trees will not produce the same apple any where else. The name is taken from a Village on this Island called Newtown.

We returned to Newyork, in the evening, after one of the pleasantest days I had part in any excursion. —

We find the increase of fever become so serious at Newyork, while the accounts from Philadelphia are ^{so} dreadful, that we have determined to go on to ^{directly} Boston by land. —

Our first intention was to have rather Rhoads Island in our way, & to have made the journey

chiefly by Water, but besides our having heard that ^{the place is} it is com-
pletely filled with Emigrants from the great Towns;
we find that a quarantine of 7 days must be performed,
& we determined to set out for the Eastern States by
land, & perhaps to see Rhode Island on our way back.

We ~~traveled~~ ^{walked} almost the length of the Island of
New York, & crossing the river over a very pretty bridge
at Harlem, nine miles from the City, - slept at a
small but prettily situated Village, called East Chester.

at the distance of 7 miles. - Next morning we proceeded 11 miles to
Nyack, & made an excellent breakfast on the Black Fish,

which I have seen only not caught & barbequed in America. - Pined at Stamford 3 miles,
the road being very bad, - we slept at Newark 12 miles,

& found this House, like all the others filled with the
Inhabitants of the Cities, fleeing from the prevailing
malady. - On Friday morning we breakfasted at
Fairfield 9 miles, - one of the prettiest & most healthy
looking Villages in the United States.

We now began to remark a striking
Difference ^{between} the appearance of Connecticut - ~~from~~
& that of ~~from~~ the middle or Southern States. - a mild & hilly
scenery, extremely similar ^{to some parts} of the old Country - as
Great Britain is called, & there is in the dress & ~~manners~~
manners of the Inhabitants ^{a degree of} cleanliness & simplicity
resembling the Peasantry of England - no stumps

of Trees, indicating a newly cleared Country. — None of those flat, & long lines of Woods so frequent ^{elsewhere} ~~in the parts~~ of this Country. — Hills & Dale, Rocks, Trees, & Rivers, make up the Landscape. — The soil, it ^{is true} ~~may~~ appears less fertile, but the hardy industry of the Inhabitants, seems to compensate for that ^{Disadvantage} ~~in some measure~~. — Their Farm Houses are good, & comfortably finished. — the people seem healthy & happy, & what is not always to be met with in the United States. The lower Clafs are ^{indeed} ~~civil~~ ^{civility} is one of the articles, you cannot purchase for money in ~~America~~ ^{though} ~~you may~~ ^{to be seen}, in most cases, exchange it for civility.

From this pretty Village to Stratford 8 miles & 5 more to the Ferry at Milford, on Long-Island Sound, of which we sometimes had a very pleasing view. — From hence to Newhaven goes the Country in the Neighbourhood of this Town assumes a different appearance. — Newhaven lies round the head of a Bay near Long Island Sound, & is on three sides surrounded by high mountains, & beautifully wooded small Hills. — ~~It is~~

at Newhaven, the seat of justice of the Country is held, & there are a number of good Houses, handsome publick buildings, & a College. — The centre of the Town is ornamented by a

large ~~square~~ square, planted with regular Rows of Trees.
encircled by a range of well built Houses. In its vicinity
is a burial ground, where we were shown the graves
of the three Regicides who, took shelter in the New-
England States, after the accession of Charles the second;
They lived, it is said, esteemed, & wore, at their own request,
buried, at their ~~Deaths~~, under a rough unhewn Stone,
with the initials of their Names, ^{this} ages & dates of their
Deaths; & a boat five miles from Norhaven, is the
cave, in which, either one ^{or} two of them, lived two
years, while a strict search was making for them.

To avoid the punishment
so greatly desired—

Early on Saturday the 15th we proceeded
on our journey, & breakfasted at Norford ten miles;
the scenery of Hills, crowned with wood varied by
rich Vallies continues, ^{at the distance we came} about 14 miles to the Town
of Middleton, ^{which is} less beautiful than that of Norhaven,
but the prospects abound, together with the
Prison of Connecticut, on which it stands, ^{must} render
this a pleasant abode. The Prison at Middleton,
^{as is the case} almost empty, ~~as well as~~ in many Towns of this state, prove the
moral & orderly behaviour of the lower class of
people, ~~in this~~ ^{in this} Eastern England, indeed, in this
point, much excels any of the other States of
North America. Travelling on Sunday, being
contrary to the established custom here, We quitted

when we all day
remained the rest
of Sunday.

Middleton very early next morning reached Hartford
15 miles before the hour of Church. This is a City
of some importance; - the Country however has not
improved on us; - from Hartford we proceeded on Monday
to Suffield 14 miles; - ~~the~~ the Towns, but particularly
N. R. the Villages, of Connecticut are charming; - generally
having a pretty green in the centre; the Houses neatly
painted & a look of ~~neatness~~ ^{neatness} throughout. - The Cottages
& Farm Houses ⁱⁿ the Country however began to lose
much of their comfortable aspect - They are universally
of Timber, but usually painted & trailed in ^{around} all the
Farms are ~~proprietors~~ ^{proprietors}, But as all the ~~Proprietors~~
are Farmers, little distinction can be perceived: No
Gentlemen's seats, no pleasure grounds, Parks, or Lawns.
From Suffield we reached Palmer 22 miles
that night. During this day's ride we crossed the Con-
necticut River, the road hilly & the land poor, now
& then a lake, or small stream enlivened our way.
Palmer is rather a romantic situation, surrounded
with wood & a lake in front. From thence we went
on & breakfasted at Brookfield 14 miles; - the road
romantic & interesting. Hill above hill crowned with
wood. The Postroad was for a mile or two upon
a ridge; - on one side a deep hollow, through which
ran a stream, & the opposite Mark covered with

Trees, which were just ^{beginning to} ~~beginning to~~ ^{assume} that beautiful change of colour, produced by an American Autumn, & which, if justly delineated in painting, would to a European eye appear fancy; yet painting cannot produce more brilliant, or varied colouring, than those exhibited by an American Wood, from the middle of Sept. to the middle of October, or, till a serious frost or heavy rains destroy them.

The great population, as well as the apparent comfort, so observable in Connecticut, diminishes very considerably as you approach the State of Massachusetts. From Brookfield to Shrewsbury 28 miles, we passed through Worcester, a pretty Town, the houses particularly neat. Upon reaching the poor little ^{hamlet} ~~village~~ of Shrewsbury, we found a gentleman had been left there from a Stage Coach, sick; - sudden illness is at this moment every where the ^{the} ~~sign~~ of yellow fever.

Copiers of Death: We were at first refused admittance. Our horses could not go on to the next stage; & upon Mr. Weston's assuming the landlady (who appeared to be a humane good woman), that we were less apprehensive than most others, &

Lord Henry Smith - we were allowed to enter, & passed a very disagreeable night in the chamber adjoining to that of the sick man, who really had the yellow fever & died two days after.

anecdote of him, }
of Mr. Weston }
an offer to visit }
him as an English }
stranger - mentioned }
by his being a little }
depressed. }
The following day an incessant rain deprived us of the view of an improving Country, through a tract of 24 miles to Boston. - We breakfasted & dined

are inconsiderable Villages; & within three miles of Boston passed through Cambridge, where there is a University of some note. — The approach to the City of Boston is very fine, a causeway elegantly paved inf joining a very handsome Bridge from ^{which} we had for two miles, a picturesque view of the Town & Harbour; & the small but pretty Town of Charlestown joined to it by another Bridge. — On entering Boston the streets appeared narrow, & some of them mean; but the inequalities of the ground on which it stands, afford very fine prospects; & on one of the most charming of these

^{Prospicuousness} is situated the House of Mr. Jeffray, a Scotchman, & Gentleman, with ^{whom} we ^{have} ^{been} very hospitable invited to take up our quarters.

The Town of Boston, the Capital of the New England States, is situated on a Peninsula at the bottom of Massachusetts Bay. — The harbour is capacious enough to contain 500 vessels; whilst the entrance is so narrow as scarcely to admit two Ships abreast. — There are 15 Islands within view, these are said to afford good pasture, & pleasant summer retreats for the Inhabitants; — one of them is fortified, & on another the light House is placed. — On a rising ground, in the centre of the Town, there is a handsome building called the State House, from the top of ^{which} the prospect is truly noble. — Massachusetts, is an immense still

higher, on ^{which} ~~is~~ a monument of the exploits of the War, -
with the American Eagle on the top. -

From the State House you look down to a very
pretty walk, called the Mall; lined with large Trees. -

Boston must make a fine appearance from the sea, -
indeed, in every point of view, ~~it~~ including the Harbour;
it perhaps offers the finest compnd in the Continent. -

Near to the small Town of Charleston, - and
to Boston by the Bridge, over Charles River, - is
Monk's Hill, famed in the revolutionary War. -

Boston is remarkable, in the higher class
for hospitality, & in the lower for regularity of
manners. - there is more plainness & simplicity,
of living, less show & ostentation, than ⁱⁿ any other large
Town in the United States, & the Inhabitants of
New-England, though the first to take up arms
against great Britain; seem to have likewise
been the first to see the advantages of a friendly
alliance with her. - There are more publick
Schools in these States than in any others. The
Towns, the Villages, the Country abound with them,
& the duties of Religion are more strictly observed
than else where. - The face of the Country, the
stone enclosures, Indust^{ry} & plainness of dress, bear
a resemblance to the North of England & to Scotland;

N. P. New England is certainly the oldest settled of any part of the Continent that we have seen; & there is a marked difference from the other States, & the inhabitants value themselves upon being the uncorrupted descendants of the English. Puritans, who quitted England for religious ^{liberty} reasons. ^{Eastern} This part of this ^{State} country being remarkable for the beauty of the Bridges, - We set out, accompanied

by Lord Henry, & by our kind host Mr. Jefferys on the 5th of October for New Hampshire & the Province of Maine. - We reached Salem 19 miles to dinner, this a small Sea Port, the ^{road} to it extremely good, the Country Rocky, & not much cultivated. - Salem contains some good buildings, & there subsists a primitive simplicity of manners, living, & dress, which an increase of riches has no way ^{altered} diminished. A Man lately died in this vicinity at the age of 84, who was born on the day on which Peregrene died, at the same age of 84. This Peregrene, it was the first English Man born after the arrival of this Country Men in America.

From Salem we went to Groenwich, the Aganawam of the Indians, - a small Town of some ^{from Salem} 12 miles, & the second Town settled by the English. adventures. - The Country is picturesque, beautified by lakes & rivers. - a stone Bridge of two arches, over the River Groenwich, There are few or

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no Bridges of Stone in this Country. — We dined in an Island, three quarters of a mile in length, joined to the Continent by two handsome Wooden Bridges. over the Merrimack River, 16 miles from Greenwich. — We passed through Newburyport, a pretty Town of considerable Trade, ~~it is~~ a sea port. — The scenery about the Merrimack Bridges is extremely romantic & pretty; — a good Inn, is the only building the Island contains, & 7 miles ^{farther} on, we reached a very comfortable Inn called Hampton Falls, where bad weather detained us till Monday the 8th of October. We then proceeded to Portsmouth, the Capital of New Hampshire, 15 miles. — Thus far the road was the best we had seen in America. — The Country varied & pretty, but the Inhabitants & Houses bore less the appearance of Industry & of comfort, than in Connecticut.

Portsmouth is a flourishing ~~sea~~ port in Piscataqua River — two miles from the Sea. — after dinner we reached the beautiful Bridge, over the Piscataqua, six miles from Portsmouth, & ^{one of} the principal object of our journey; — This Bridge connects the Continent to York Island & consists of one arch. 244 feet ^{in length} ~~in length~~ ^{it is} of Wood, but large foot paths finely constructed, painted white; — there is a ^{large} parapet with a parapet on each side, and a division in the middle for

on Wednesday the 10th of October.

The position of Portland is justly esteemed very fine, it stands on a promontory in Case-bay, it is a place of considerable trade. — The buildings are neat & stand compactly, the upper part of the Town has rather a sombre cast, though the Country about it is open & pretty ly varied, & ~~the Bay is little~~ inferior in beauty to that of Boston, every thing being upon a much smaller scale. — From a rising ground, well fortified, & overlooking the Harbour, the prospect was, indeed, charming. A number of small Islands, picturesquely placed in the curves of the Bay, & justly wooded, rendered ~~the~~ the view, to my taste, more beautiful, though less extensive, than that from the Harbour of Boston. —

We now retraced our steps, & leaving Portland in the evening, slept at a House ten or twelve miles distant. — Next day we reached Goat-Island, & taking leave of our beautiful Bridges, turned to the right. But six miles distance reached Raxter to dinner. — This, like almost all the small Towns of New-England, is at the head of a Navigable River. — the River of Raxter is a Branch of the Piscataqua. — The sloping grounds on which these small Towns are generally placed, give them additional beauty. —

Their orchards are rich in apples, & Cyder, ~~often~~ ^{bad} -
is the common beverage, of New England - particularly.

The woods of these Eastern States appear less
magnificent & interesting than in the middle & Southern
States. - they consist principally of Firs. - You have
no Magnolias, Tulips, & Gum Trees &c, to regale the senses
of smelling & seeing. - From Exeter to Haverhill
18 miles, - the Merrimack River runs beautifully
through this Town, & over the River is a fine Bridge
of three arches. - The Country around affords fine
prospects, & a great many small lakes, - from Haver-
hill to Boston 28 miles, - where our Party arrived
on the 13th of October, extremely pleased with this
excursion. -

On Monday the 22^d of October Mr. Weston found
himself obliged to quit Boston, where we had
received the greatest kindness & attention. - We not
only left our friends with reluctance, but we were
obliged to leave Lord Henry Stewart, who accompanied
us a few days, - after our return from our ex-
cursion - being seized with a fever, which at first
looked ill, (for the yellow fever had made its way
to Boston before us,) & we remained till the Doctor
could ascertain that it was not that malady: but a
fever of cold, which however rendered him too weak

to accompany us in the journey, we proposed to make;
 We left him Convalacent, & in kind hands, - to follow us at
 leisure, - & we proceeded to Providence, in the State of
 Rhode-Island, 44 miles. - The ^{road} was pretty good, & the
 Country well wooded, yet mild in its appearance. - Providence
 is a well built Town at the head of the Navigation of
 Narraganset Bay, & of considerable importance. - We
 wished to have gone from hence, in one of the regular
 Packets to Rhode-Island, but the wind proving adverse,
 & Mr. Weston having no time to lose, we hired a Carriage,
 & driving 19 miles, through a pleasant mild Country,
 reached a Ferry of a mile over, & landed on Rhode-Island.

This Spot is, in the Summer season, the
 Montpelier of North America; the salubrity of the air,
 constant coolness, & comfortable accommodations, bring
 a great resort of people from all quarters, & though
 subject to fogs, it is esteemed the healthiest residence in
 the United States, & has one of the most secure & con-
 venient Harbours. - The road 44 miles through the
 Island to Newport, the principal Town, - this ride
 offered a great variety of fine views, but to my eye,
 the Country failed in a very essential beauty, namely
Trees, except some old Orchards, not a Tree was to be
 seen, - The long residence of both the English & French
 Armies in this Island, is said to have reduced both

its wood its wealth - prior to that period I have no doubt of its having merited the lavish praises bestowed upon it.

The Town of Newport is divided into what is called the Town, & the Point; at the latter strangers reside, - all provisions are here cheap, & plenty; - there is a great variety of excellent fish, particularly the black-fish, of which I forget the Indian name; - From Tamminghill, a rising ground about a mile from Town, the Fortifications are renewed in good order; - from thence we had a very commanding view of the whole Island 16 miles long. -

We also saw the Harbour, where the Fleets of Admiral Hood & of de Grasse, lay prepared for action, in sight of the Inhabitants of Newport, when a violent storm arising disabled the greatest part of both. - The field of Battle was likewise ^{out}granted for Rhode Island was a very busy scene during the Revolutionary War, & must always be a place of Maritime consequence.

We quitted Rhode Island on the following evening & returned to Providence, from whence we set out on Thursday about noon for New London 58 miles, - sleeping the first night at Preston, a small Town on the Mahegan River; - the Country wild & little cultivated. Next morning we breakfasted at Norwich; a very bustling Town on Long Island Sound; - from this our present destination, of New London, the Country is very

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Romantic & beautiful, the wildly wooded hills charming views of the River, a tolerable road, & the addition of fine weather, rendered this a very agreeable journey.

A few miles from Norwich we passed the remains of the Tribe of Mohegan Indians, corrupted by their mixture with the Whites, but retaining their natural distinctness, & speaking English enough to enable them to sell, the produce of the little land they still possess, & the Wampum they make, for spirits. — They subsist on the Fish caught in the River, & the Rabbits & Birds from their small remains of Wood; — their possession, it is said, is reduced to three miles, an extent extremely fertile, which, with an annuity from the United States, enable them to diminish their numbers daily by the use of spirituous liquors.

We passed the day at New London with an English family of our acquaintance. — This is a Place of great trade, & situated at the head of the Sound, with regular Packets to New York. — The wind being once more against us, we betook ourselves to land Carriage; & reached New Haven 64 miles, on Sunday morning; here we remained all day, still hoping a wind to carry us ~~from~~ hence to New York. — Being unwilling to pass over again the rough hilly road we had gone to Boston, & anxious to view the beauties of Long Island Sound

T. W. Stewart & his
wife —

Sound of which we had had frequent pleasing views.
as we passed along it. - But there was no commanding
Wind, - it would not blow from the right quarter, We
therefore left Norhaven on Monday morning & retraced
our steps to New York.

The malady however still raged, & rendered
it unsafe to remain, for the same reason we were
prevented from returning to Philadelphia. - Thus
situated, & wishing to draw near to bathe, We took up
our quarters at a small Inn called Bungeston, about
half way between New York & Philadelphia; where
we expected to be quiet & retired. - The House was
kept by an old German Tory, & his two Daughters -
we had always put up at it, in our journeys that
road, & were always received with pleasure, & treated
with a neatness & attention quite pleasing. -

Old Irvington New Jersey 1. Nov.
1898

During our continuance with our good old Tories at
Irvington (between New York & Philadelphia) The Season
being, as autumns often are in North America, very fine,
walking was one & indeed, our chief amusement.

One charming morning we bent our course to
a less frequented part of the Country, & through a ~~large~~
~~tract~~ of wood, terminating on a riding ground, which
afforded an extensive prospect. amongst several
Houses, scattered about the Hills & Vales, we were struck
with one, near the road of a singular Structure. We
opened the rustic gate & walked round, doubtful
whether it was inhabited; - the Sound of a voice however
induced us to enter. - It was Sunday. - We found a Negro-
Woman sitting in a very dirty room, reading aloud;
- as we afterwards found, a Publication of Dr. Priestley's -

There was through the whole a look of
ruin & confusion which excited our curiosity. - The
Piazza, by which we entered, was filled with packing
cases, & in an unfinished Chamber, through which
we had passed, were the scattered remains of very
fine furniture. - a quantity of Music lay upon an
elegant Inlaid Table, & a broken Pane of Glass was
filled by a Song, - all near sad except the countenance
of the Woman, that indicated the triumph over her

better. — she received no civility, & soon explained the
 strange derangement we saw. — The House had been
 "built by an Englishman, who had some years before,
 "brought over to this Country a very handsome property,
 "which had been squandered away in the fatal way
 "of buying Land, & building Houses; without knowledge,
 "judgement, or advice; when, by following his profession,
 "of a Musick Master, in which he was eminent, he
 "might have increased his fortune. — Every person
 "with whom he had dealings imposed upon him; —
 "The opening, opening, & shrunken Doors, indeed, proved
 "that his Carpenter had rather some advantage of
 "his ignorance. — a considerable portion of this
 Money had been expended upon fine furniture,
 very ill suited to the simplicity of the House. — The
 remainder had been wasted (as the Negro Woman
 said) by the indulgence of his Wife, their disease of
 moving about, together with eating & drinking
 alone; for she added that they kept no company,
 were not, indeed, known in the Neighbourhood, except
 to those whose interest it was to impose upon them;
 "she ~~had~~ she had been their Servant, & her black
 "Husband managed their Family (& assisted to ruin them
 no doubt) which was, with the House & Furniture,
 under an execution, & soon to be brought to Sale —

The Musical Instruments, with some other articles, were already sold. The owners were wandering about, she said, without house or home. — The most pitiable part of this story was, that four fine children were the victims of their Parents' folly: — Owing their existence; (as the Black Lady, humbly observed,) to the folly of their Parents, for the Father, restrained ^{by} the Mother, from following his Profession, had nothing to do but to get them. —

Thus we exclaimed! on quitting this House of ruin, must ever be the fate of unsteadiness, persons professing the means of comfort & ease, — in England, desert their Country, either from Politics, or whim, & visit a distant land, unconnected, unsupported, squandering the Competency with which Providence had blessed them, on wild romantic schemes, not even worthy of success. —

W^d Kingston Inn 8th Dec^r 1798

The prevalence of yellow fever still detaining us at Kingston, - It was on one of the finest Winter days possible, that in taking our walk, we proceeded through a wood, near which the high road to New York lays, & where, ^{are} some poor, but highly picturesque Cottages. These were endeared to me, from my having been particularly struck with them, on my first arrival in this New-World. -

We amused ourselves in the wood gathering Hickory nuts, with which the ground was covered, - when, at a little distance we perceived two female Children, the eldest not more than seven years, ^{was} with a small hatchet, labouring to split the rotten stump of a Tree. - We advanced, & M^r. diston assisted their work by splitting the wood, with which they ran off immediately, having first received each a piece of Money. - the Cottage, to which they bent their steps, was but a few yards distant, - A Man leaned over the railing of a small inclosure & kindly invited us to enter, & he would give us better nuts than those we had been gathering. - We were within the door ere we perceived that our Host was intoxicated, - His Habitation consisted of a single Apartment, clean &

recently furnished; at the side of the fire sat a Woman with an Infant in her lap, whose looks more strongly expressed of that discontent, & haughtiness, naturally resulting from seeing a Husband drunk early in the forenoon. — She received us with cold civility, while the Husband, after giving us some excellent Nuts, held forth vociferously, & lifting a Bottle, yet half full of spirits, invited us to drink, confessing he had been already too free with it. His trade was making Shoes, which, by his own account, he performed successfully; & the comfortable appearance of his Abode indicated that he had not yet, reduced his family to poverty. — But when I began to drink, said he, I make a day of it, & then for work.

He talked of Politics, of the French, — of the spirit their perfidy had at this moment sowed in America, of his own skill in his trade, of making Shoes, & lastly of his fine Children; — Our young friends had entwined the fire by their burthen, & with the one, in its Mother's lap, formed a group round the chimney. — Come hither said the Father, to the eldest Girl, & let me show this Gentleman & Lady a curiosity. — He put back her hair, & showed us a hole in her skull, in which one might have laid a Birds Egg. — This, continued he, she got by a piece of Iron that I let fall upon her head, — a quantity of her brains came out

It was a long illness, but she has got the better of it & is as
 hearty as any Child in the House. - He appealed to the
 Mother (who sat silently & sadly viewing this extravagance,
 & perhaps recollecting with horror, that he had, in his
 drunkenness, given this unlucky blow,) for the length
 of time the Girl had been ill, who with a deep sigh
 replied, three Months - her mild forbearance, & very
 melancholy expression of countenance sufficiently
 impressed upon us, what must be the misery of a
 sober, industrious Woman, of feeling, tied to a Drunken Man.

We found occasion, in this our second little
 morning's adventure, to lament the blind folly
 of a reasonable Creature, thus imbibing the Cup
 of life, by the indulgence of one fatal propensity.

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