

DR. SAUGRAIN'S NOTE-BOOKS, 1788.

COMMUNICATED BY EUGENE F. BLISS.

I.

STAY OPPOSITE LOUISVILLE.

I arrived in Louisville March 29th, 1788. I crossed the Ohio Sunday morning, the 30th of the same month. I wrote to Monsieu La Size and to d'Orcantille etc. April 13th. I thought when I arrived at the fort,¹ where I still am, April 20th,—considering the politeness shown me,—that I should be badly off, since we easily tire of giving hospitality and of showing attention to a man of whom we have nothing to expect and who has no money, but I was mistaken, for the longer I am here the more attention I am shown. The surgeon and the officers are the best men in the world and take the greatest care of me. My feet are doing well and in ten or twelve days I think I shall be able to walk. It has needed, however, a long time to bring this about. I shall not lose the big toe of the left foot and the first joint of the second toe of the same foot. My neck is quite cured and my hand could not be better. I have got off with the loss of the perfect use of the index finger of the left hand.

We set out from Pittsburgh March 18th. The Indians attacked us on the 23d and I was three days in the woods. A Kentucky boat brought us in two days to the Falls.

Louisville is a very unhealthy place and I have no trouble in believing it, considering the negligence of its inhabitants, who let the water stagnate in the lower parts, although it would be little trouble to draw it off. There is nothing remarkable except an old fort,² of which I speak simply to tell of the city, for it would not be worth while to speak

¹Fort Steuben.

²Fort Nelson.

of some heaps of dirt made for earthworks which would overawe only savages. I say nothing of the environs; I have not yet seen them. As for the other side of the Ohio, they have built the fort where I am. At first view it is a charming place and superb trees produce this effect. One who has not been over the environs of the fort except for two miles would judge the place healthy, but a little farther off are swamps which make the place unhealthy, which is asserted by four or five persons, for I have not myself seen them. We are going to-morrow or the day after to see a creek, called in English Silver Creek. There are several mines, they say, and I have here the reputation of a great mineralogist and as I found at Fort Pitt a little silver in a lead mine, some of which they gave me to assay, they believe in this part of America that I am going to find all the gold of Peru. So they bring specimens in abundance and the greater part are only iron or copper pyrites. I wish, my learned friend, you were here, for there is a lead mine that yields abundantly, but with a considerable quantity of bismuth, as I judge. The mine is not yet regularly worked. I shall bring you specimens from it and we will see together, we two men, if it is good, better than one. This will be perhaps a good thing. It is found fifteen miles from the Falls. I make myself useful to all. I have made them a furnace and we make fixed alkalies for all the doctors roundabout. It is good to know something, one makes himself useful, and I amuse them also with some experiments in electricity.

The number of boats that come down is considerable; here comes the seventeenth and a great number of them will continue to come. The number of them, however, is not so great as at Limestone,³ where there comes and stops a prodigious number. I understand now that it is not well to have a salt spring too near your house, for the cattle amuse themselves by licking the ground, eat little and consequently become lean. Salt is not dear here;

³Now Maysville, Ky., on the Ohio River sixty miles above Cincinnati, named after James May. Its first name was derived from its situation at the mouth of Limestone Creek.

it is got from the springs. There is no doubt in my mind that all this country has been covered by the waters of the sea, or has been a lake. I shall bring you some stones, which, I think, will convince you when you have seen the incrustations of sea shells which occur. A few days ago some surveyors, working along the Little Miami, found hung up in a tree a blanket in which there was much linen, cloth etc. It is presumed that this was from a boat which met the same fate as our own. The savages could not carry off everything. Although I have very little money, I have yet been obliged to have two shirts made. They sold me the linen at a dollar a yard, or aune of the country. It is terribly coarse, but it is white. It is true there is some which is much less coarse, finer and cheaper etc., but it is the cloth of the country,—Salt is worth at the Falls two dollars the bushel. (It is, you see, dearer than I thought.) It is made, as you know, at the salt springs which are found about here in abundance. If one wishes to go for it himself and does not wish to take the trouble to boil the water, it comes at a dollar a bushel. It is generally very white. I shall bring specimens of different salt springs in case they wish an analysis of them. There is here at the Falls and in the neighborhood quite a large quantity of flintstones, of which the savages formerly made use to point their arrows and of which now are made gun-flints, which are not too good. Nearly all Kentucky (Kientuke) is filled with a cane which gives very good fodder for cattle of every sort. This kind of fodder has one great inconvenience when once the cattle have eaten off the leaves they do not put out again. (It will be Kentucky's fate some day to find herself stripped of pasturage.) There are turtles here and in great plenty. The soldiers often go for them and we eat them. A sort of soup is made of them which is quite good. Geese and turkeys are very common. Ducks, plovers, quails etc. The noise of the drum and fifes drives away the deer. I believe you have to go two and three miles to kill any of them.

The 25th. I have been to visit the famous creek of Silver Creek, but unfortunately the waters are so high that we

could not even see the creek. The waters have overflowed but I was rewarded for my trouble—for my feet still pain me—by seeing a very abundant stream of mineral water. This water is impregnated with a considerable quantity of iron and especially at this moment when we have had much rain here. I brought back some of the water to the fort and, having put into it an infusion of oak-bark, it gave me the ink with which I am writing to you,—after, however, bringing it over the fire and boiling it for two hours, it is as blue as at this moment, but I think it will fix.⁴ I do not know whether it contains copper, but having here only fixed alkalies it gave me a precipitate of high color. This spring is called Calybia, a name which the doctor here has given it. It is distant from the fort a mile or a mile and a half. I went from there to Clarksville⁵ (Carlqueville). Much has been said of the beauty of the little town. There are at present only seven or eight houses, which is surprising. The air is drier there than at Louisville. They assure me they are free from fevers. The situation is fine and it is only four years since the first house was built. The lands there are splendid and even amazing in goodness, but no one goes there. I can give no other reason for this unless it be that men wish to go where there are men.

Louisville is very unhealthy and has people enough, and the hope of doing business has brought them there. Ah, my dear, what a singular emigration! There have come since the letter I wrote you from the Falls, the duplicate of which will go off with this one—there have come down since the date of my letter, which is of the 21st, to to-day, the 3d of May, thirty-four boats, each more crowded than the other, seventeen which had come and thirty-four—fifty-one boats arrived, some come every day. It is only four or five days ago that walking in the woods here I found some resin, which I call copal, although I am not positively sure that it is. But the tree from which I got it is very much like that of the Mississippi. I bring you some. They

⁴The writing made with this ink is dark brown, perfectly distinct after the lapse of a century.

⁵"Situatd on the north side of the Ohio, one mile below the Rapids, and in view of Louisville." Scott's U. S. Gazetteer, 1795.

call the tree sweet-gum in this country. They were very much surprised at the fact that I found any of this resin; those who had lived here three years had not found it, such good observers they are, and to honor my sojourn in the fort they have planted one in the garden to which they have given the name Saugrain-tree. I intend to leave the fort very soon.

There has just arrived to-day, May 7th, come from Post Vincennes (veinsone), a boat. It had fourteen rowers and eight or nine passengers. It was attacked 150 or 160 miles from the fort and the Indians killed two men, (they do not know whether the Indians lost any). They believe there were forty of them. They all fired upon the boat and yet two men only were killed, and I believe it is fear which in such cases makes them so awkward. After the accident, and some miles below the place where they were attacked, they sent two men to inform the fort of it, but either they have been taken and killed by the savages, or the bad weather has detained them. They have no news of them. This same boat which has just arrived is the very one which is to take me to Fort Pitt. There will be quite a number of us and a part will go by land to help the boat in case of attack. This boat which is very large will be accompanied by two smaller ones and I believe if the Indians attack us we shall give them a bad turn. An excellent opportunity is presented and I am going to avail myself of it. Col. Blaine⁶ is going as far as Carlisle and I intend to travel with him, that is to say, we shall see the whole of Kentucky (quintaque) and we shall go on horseback as far as Limestone, where we shall await the boats which are to take us to Muskingum⁷ (Mousquingome); from there another or the same boat will take us to Wheeling (Wouilique), where I shall do my best to borrow a horse to take me to Fort Pitt, Philadelphia, etc. I am making a little book in which I shall keep exact account of everything interesting

⁶ This was probably Ephraim Blaine, Commissary-General of the Northern Department in the War of the American Revolution, the great-grandfather of James G. Blaine; in this opinion I am supported by John Ewing Blaine, himself a great-grandson of Ephraim Blaine.

⁷ Marietta, founded this same year, 1788.

which shall present itself. I pray the savages may not catch me again. The route is not very safe. I do not, however, believe it very dangerous when the journey is made with four or five persons well-armed, but unhappily we are only Col. Blaine and myself. I have no arms and I doubt if he has any. But, "nothing venture, nothing gain," says the proverb, and I have such a desire to see Kentucky that fear is nothing to me. We shall set out to-morrow. I feel sorry to leave the fort, those who live in it are so amiable and I am so pleased with them. The same boat reports to us that a great many people are sick at Post Vincennes and it seems to me that fevers rage there as here also.

II.

OBSERVATIONS UPON POST VINCENNES.⁸

There are there nearly 300 houses or cabins and those who inhabit them are nearly all French. There are a priest and a barn that serves for a church, which, like the priest, is good for nothing. I am assured that the good man is tired of preaching the gospel and parishioners of listening to him too. My own opinion is that some fine morning he will go to preach to them, the (illegible), in short, he won't be the first one. The River Wabash, upon the banks of which the town is built, is very little exposed to overflows and only in the low grounds. The country is very healthy according to all accounts. The doctor, however, told me that six soldiers had had the fever in the great heats, which, however, have moderated, and that there died at the same time very suddenly four sick with the fever. I attribute these sicknesses and deaths quite as much to whiskey as to the soil. Besides in the number

⁸ These observations upon Post Vincennes are in the same little note-book with Dr. Saugrain's account of his stay in Fort Steuben. Probably his informants were some of the passengers who came from Post Vincennes in the boat just mentioned.

Scott's U. S. Gazetteer, 1795, says that Vincennes contains about 200 indifferent wooden houses, that the inhabitants are mostly of French extraction, that the lands in general are rich and that grapes grow spontaneously, of which is made a pleasant red wine.

For the origin of the name see The New International Encyclopedia under Vincennes.

of 200 soldiers it is not surprising that four of them have died.

The climate is perhaps that which approaches nearest that of Paris except that the cold is greater. If you can trust their thermometer, which may be defective, it goes down to twenty degrees Réaumer. It rains there less than in Paris. The vegetation is wonderfully forward; the lands are excellent; they are prairies, very fine, which is a very great advantage for having cattle fat and in abundance. Clearing is easy there; there are no trees to be cut down, or very few; it is even a disadvantage for one is sometimes obliged to go a league to get some. It is also advantageous to settle upon the bank of the Wabash, because wood comes to your door, and one has a great quantity of it for six or seven skins,⁹ which will be explained in the end to dull curiosity. The danger from Indians is nothing according to what they say. As for me, I should not wish to have a house more than a mile or two from the town and to have two good neighbors. It is very hard to bring here by land goods etc. from the Falls for the road does not let them pass save with great difficulty. By water it is easy enough and a boat, quite large, with six oars comes up-stream with ease enough. Living is very dear there and a fowl is worth as much as a dollar (piastre), and everything in proportion. Judge of the want of industry of the inhabitants; thus they pass for the idlest of all America. So a man thinks himself happy there when he has a carbine, two pounds of powder and balls in proportion.

Nearly all the inhabitants pass their time in the chase and in the woods and the rest do just enough to live, what do I say? just enough not to die of hunger. A crop of Indian corn is the only grain they raise, although wheat grows exceedingly well, but its culture demands some care. All the gardens, that is to say, all of them which are cultivated, for they do not lack size, could dance in the Tuileries. The vine grows excellently, as also in Illinois, where they make wine, in small quantity it is true, but in

⁹ I am not aware that Dr. Saugrain has anywhere mentioned the use of skins as currency, save in this instance.

a very funny manner. They go into the woods to gather the grapes which are found on vines encircling the trees, and an indifferent sort of wine is made. In Paris, idleness charming in its ease, if you live in America!

As wheat is not cultivated, flour is very dear and costs six dollars a hundred-weight. The houses of the French are not in their structure like those of the American for in these last are only logs of wood placed one upon another. The French make mortices and adjust each piece of timber and fill up the rest with earth, and straw or dry hay etc. The inhabitants speak French badly, nothing surprising. There are two or three sites for water-mills, but there is only one horse-mill and it does not work. Here men and women wear for head-dress handkerchiefs, thus they don't use much powder or many hats. Shoes are very dear—but they wear them little—as well as other things used for clothing. They are no better supplied with linen than most Americans. There is found quite a large number of families mixed with Indians; this is not the best thing, although it is not a great evil. The houses are surrounded with palings. It takes three years for the peach to bear. If one wishes to have peach, apple or other fruit-trees he must bring them. Horses are quite rare and dear. Cattle are not so in the neighborhood of the Falls and from there one must get them. They can be had for eight or ten dollars nearly and even cheaper. Butter is worth six, seven and eight sous a pound and board costs two dollars and a half a week. Coffee and tea are the two best articles. Sugar also, but only in the winter, for they make a great quantity of it at the beginning of spring, and I find it very good. The tree which, as they say, gives a sort of coffee resembles much the locust or species of acacia. They say that in some degree it supplies the place of coffee of the Isles. I am not in condition to judge, considering the season, but I have with me a specimen of bean they have given me.

III.

DIARY OF JOURNEY FROM LOUISVILLE TO PHILADELPHIA.

MAY 11, 1788. Set out from the Falls at 3 o'clock, May 11, 1788. We have made 12 miles. The lands are quite good and seem to me easy to clear, as the trees are small. Col. Blaine, my travelling companion, is a little ill. God grant that he may be well to-morrow, for if he falls ill, I shall be obliged to return to Louisville and take the boats which are soon to go up. I fear much for them for there are a great number of Indians along the Ohio and I learned yesterday that a boat had been taken by the savages. There were eight persons aboard and it was laden with whiskey and flour. The Indians broke open and pulled in pieces the barrels they could not carry away. As for ourselves we have seen no traces of Indians. To-morrow we have a hard day's journey to make, and the day after one still worse, considering the distance of settlements and the number of Indians who (a few words illegible) they say are hereabout.

12th. I arrived at Bardstown¹⁰ a little fatigued in consequence of our having made 30 miles to-day. I can say nothing of the town; it is night, and I put off till to-morrow speaking to you about it. The road is broad and quite pretty; had it not rained so long I believe it would have been charming. The settlements are quite distant from one another and some are very pretty. At one o'clock we crossed Salt River. It is not broad, but is very deep. There are two ferries or "bacs" to cross it. It abounds in fish and yet the ferryman confessed to us that he had not fished at night. Three miles from the ferry are salt springs which furnish a great quantity of salt. They are dangerous and the savages come often to visit them and it is rare that they do not meet someone, whom they kill if they can. At present all the plantations I have seen are put to barley.

13th. The town of Bardstown is not very large; there are, however, two or three stone houses and a court-house now building, which will be handsome and large and must

¹⁰ At first called Bairdstown from its founder, David Baird.

cost very dear. I judged from this that the people of the place love lawsuits. We set out from Bardstown at 10 o'clock and arrived in Danville¹¹ (denvil) at seven in the evening, 43 miles. The road is generally very bad, which is perhaps due only to the rain and to the goodness of the lands, which are excellent. There are few settlements along the road. We went a little from our way to see some of them, and I saw two which were extraordinary each in its own way. One of them has a spring four or five steps from the settler's house, which gives a considerable quantity of water, and a canal, producing a charming effect. The other spring issues from a cavern big enough to hold seven or eight persons, flows the space of 30 feet, and sinks again into the ground, coming out afterward some distance off, where it falls into a small creek. These two springs are never dry. We passed one of the branches of Salt River. There is no ferry, it is forded. The number of creeks and brooks I crossed on the road is quite large, but I think that in dry times the greater part have no water or very little. I expect to remain to-morrow at Danville.

Of the 14th. Danville is not large; there is nothing remarkable except a little river that abounds in fish; it is named Dick's River. No stone houses are built here. It has just rained considerably. We set out about four o'clock, and we went six miles into a very charming settlement as to the people who inhabit it. There is little land cleared, but below the house is a superb creek which turns five or six millstones. There are also in the neighborhood three or four springs which never dry up and this is the finest land in the world. We have rejoined here Mr. Blaine's son, who is going to return with us as far as Limestone. I think the young ladies will accompany us as far as Lexington (lexenetone) where we shall go in two days, Col. Blaine having business on the way. These two ladies are very pretty and come from Philadelphia. I believe they will return at the fall of the leaves.

Of the 15th. This morning a great number of people passed through here. They have come by boat, by land

¹¹ So called from its founder, Walker Daniel.

etc. There will be about fifty of them, and they are nearly all armed; thus they have no fear of Indians. There have just arrived two men from Richmond (richemone) overland. There were seven of them when they left Richmond. They were attacked on the way by savages. One was killed. They separated and the four others have not yet arrived. God grant the Indians have not entrapped them! We set out at two o'clock. I saw some superb country. We crossed Kentucky (Kuintuke) River at the close of day. The banks of this river are piles of rock extraordinarily high, at least in the neighborhood of the place where we crossed. They say that everywhere its banks are as high. We lodged three miles beyond.

Of the 16th. At one o'clock we arrived at Lexington,¹² the capital of Kentucky. This city is not large, but it is the largest in the country. It is quite pleasantly situated. There are several springs that afford excellent water. I have noticed that, generally speaking, this country is well watered. We found ourselves present at the time for holding court, which brings in quite a large number of people. I think we shall remain here two days, and shall use two days in getting to Limestone.

Of the 17th. The weather is good, the rain has ceased, that is to say, there has been none since one o'clock and they say they have never seen such rainy weather as this. There is this year a surprising number of caterpillars. They have stripped all the sugar maples of leaves; they have touched hardly any other tree. It is thought, however, that this will cause little harm. It would be a great loss if this tree should die. It furnishes sugar to a great part of the inhabitants. There is a little less idleness here than elsewhere. They much wish that I should remain here a few days to examine a mine which is found some 30 miles from Lexington; it is a lead mine; it is believed to contain much silver. I should like to have a specimen of it, but if the thing is not impossible, at least it is very difficult, for there is but one person of this town who has any from

¹² Settled in 1779, though the site was named four years before in commemoration of the battle of Lexington, Mass.

the mine and he is absent. I am going to get letters at Mr. Wilkinson's (Wilqueson) (Here a few illegible words).

Of the 18th. Remain in Lexington.

Of the 19th. Set out at seven o'clock. We got to Bourbon¹³ at eleven o'clock; we departed thence and made only five miles. We passed the night in that place, because Col. Blaine had business.

Of the 20th. We set out at three o'clock. We dined at Blue Lick (Saline bleu). It is a very extraordinary thing to see eight or ten feet apart two springs, one of which is very salt, the other fresh. A great quantity of salt is made here by evaporating the water. It takes as many as 1000 gallons to make a bushel of it. It sells on the spot at two dollars a bushel. They evaporate the water in kettles. They purposed to evaporate a great quantity of it at once, but it did not succeed and the joinings of the pipes was the sole cause. Here is the design after a fashion.¹⁴

From Blue Lick we went to a little town four miles from Limestone Creek. This town is quite large; it is called Washington (Wagentone). From there we went to Limestone, whence I intend to depart to-morrow, seeing that the boats have arrived from the Falls. They have met with no accident along the route.

21st. We set out at three o'clock in a boat which goes as far as Muskingum, laden with goods for the Indians, who come together there to make a treaty.¹⁵ We go in company with another boat that goes as far as Fort Pitt, and I think I shall take it at Muskingum, and two dugouts. We are in all 68 armed men and 49 who are not. Thus we have nothing to fear from Indians.

22d. Nothing new. We make short progress in a day; the current is very strong; it is very rainy.

23d. To-day we have met seven boats bound for Limestone. There is no danger for them.

¹³ In Bourbon Co., Ky. It was first called Hopewell, then Bourbontown, finally Paris.

¹⁴ Here in the original is a little sketch looking quite like the boiler and smokestack of a locomotive engine.

¹⁵ This treaty was concluded January 9th of the next year, 1789.

24th. It rains hard and we are very uncomfortable. I think we shall arrive to-morrow at Big Kanawha (big-canaoue).

25th. I thought to arrive to-day, but the weather has been very bad.

26th. We arrived at seven o'clock in the evening at Big Kanawha, a new place in a charming situation, but very dangerous from Indians. A month ago they killed two whites and eight days ago two whites killed four savages. It is always so much the less. These savages crossed the River Kanawha on a raft. They were stealing horses. One was killed on the raft, the others then threw themselves into the river. They were killed without trouble.

27th. We have remained all day at the Kanawha.

28th. We set out at ten o'clock and have seen nothing remarkable.

29th. We have met four boats which are going to Kentucky, and we passed the night at a new establishment some distance from the Little Kanawha. To-morrow we shall be at Muskingum.

30th. We arrived this evening at Muskingum, where I intend to remain five or six days. There are no savages here just now. Those who came went home to plant corn. They were about 100 in number and will come back in six weeks, the time for which the treaty is fixed. This city¹⁶ will be charming, considering the number of inhabitants who are to come to inhabit it. It is the finest situation I have thus far seen for founding a city.

31st. I dined to-day at Genl. Harmar's, who seems to me to be an agreeable man. He has been in France and I have already told you all the etc. I intended going to see the ruin of an old fort to be found a mile from here, but we remained too long at table. The party is put over until to-morrow. I crossed the river to see an establishment just forming. I have also seen the surveyors, who by order have drawn the lines both of the town and of the farms. This place is superb, and one day perhaps this will be the largest city of America. A single objection is the lack of

¹⁶ Marietta.

water on the farms, for the town has enough, but it will be supplied from wells, which here furnish excellent water.

I remained eight days at Muskingum, and I departed on the 9th (of June). We stopped the 12th at McIntosh (maquintoche). It is an old American fort. It is nearly all in ruins. There are an officer and 12 or 13 men. This fort is situated at the mouth of the Big Beaver. Nothing of note happened to us on our way to Fort Pitt, where I arrived in quite good health. I arrived in Fort Pitt June 17th and I left it July 11th at four o'clock in the afternoon. We were a company of three, to wit, my companion in misery, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Brason, who is the postmaster of Philadelphia and who came to establish a post-office. He brought me news of you. This, though old, gave me great satisfaction. He was directed by Dr. Franklin to give me money if I was at Pittsburgh, or to send me some if I was still in Kentucky (quintoque), or if in short I was heard from etc. We passed the night at James Miers¹⁷ 12 miles from Pittsburgh. The road was practicable, which was quite a surprise, considering the rain which has been considerable for nearly two months through the whole of America, which has never before happened according to all the settlers.

The 12th. (July) We set out from James Miers' at three o'clock in the morning. We accomplished only 22 miles to a place called Greensburg (griene bourg), where we came at eleven o'clock in the morning. It is a very small town and yet the seat of government, where assemble the magistrates of all the county. Curiosity, I think, caused me to be invited into different places, for generally these inhabitants are not very hospitable.

The 13th. I arrive very much fatigued. We have made 40 miles, which is very much, considering the terrible rains which have fallen these nights, and more than a third of the day my foot has pained me much. I made a little incision in it this morning before starting; it bled a good deal. I was not, however, much disturbed. It has troubled me very much that after five months it is not yet cured.

¹⁷ Perhaps this is Dr. Saugrain's French equivalent for the English Mears.

The place where we sleep is called Stonycreek. I am going to put a little caustic on my foot this evening.

The 14th. We have made 40 miles and have come to Bedford (belfort) at seven o'clock in the evening. We crossed the Alleghany Mountains. The road is abominable, but yet not so bad on this side as the other route by which I went to Fort Pitt with M. Andrin. Two miles from Bedford we crossed a very small stream, quite shallow, one of the branches of the Juniata. My foot has caused me less trouble than yesterday, but the caustic acted too violently. Bedford is nearly half the size of Fort Pitt. It has a school and a court house, which both seemed to me well kept. In the school only the English language is taught.

The 15th. The postmaster and I turned aside to take the courier's road, who does not take the usual road from Fort Pitt. This turned us away a little from the Philadelphia road. We made only 36 miles. The side-road we took is abominable. They have made a new road to cross the mountains,—Blue, Laurel etc.—and it is quite good. As I wished to see the end of it I was obliged to go eight miles more than the rest of the company, but I rejoined them without much trouble, for they went slowly so as to wait for me. The place where we pass the night is between two mountains upon which nothing can grow for they are nothing but rock. As it is a tavern it has the money of travellers, and what will not be done to gain it! As for me I could not live in a place where they see the sun only two hours in the whole day, and I believe I should die of grief.

The 16th. The rain has prevented our making more than 18 miles. We stopped at Chambersburg (chemperbourg), which is at this distance nearly from the place where we passed the night. Chambersburg is a pretty little city, much larger than Pittsburgh. It has many stone and many brick houses; a pretty little creek formed by a spring four miles from town. This little creek falls 37 feet into a branch of the Conococtague, which passes by the whole of one side of the town. This fall and the water of the creek give to the inhabitants 15 or 30 revolving mills,¹⁸

¹⁸ Revolving mill. See *Century Dictionary* under "Mill."

a kind found not only in the town, but also in the neighborhood, and the industry here is remarkable. They make gunpowder, very good according to what they say, which sells at only half a dollar a pound. It is very doubtful if we shall go to-morrow as far as Carlisle, although the road is not long. It rained all day and night and consequently we should not fail to have a bad road. I have been told there has been here little rain this summer, as also in this vicinity.

The 17th. They are mistaken whoever they may be and here is the proof of it. The roads are quite practicable and we arrived in Shippensburg (chiperboursge) in very good time, where we had breakfast and we got to Carlisle at five o'clock in the evening. This town is quite large. There are here quite large magazines belonging to the United States of America, and arms were made here in war times. This town is famous just now by the dissentions of its inhabitants, a part of whom are for the new constitution and a part do not wish to have it. We met on the road a large number of wagons which carry families to Fort Pitt, whence they will take boats to go to Muskingum.

The 18th. We set out this morning from Carlisle and at noon we crossed the River Susquehanna. It is of considerable breadth, half a mile lacking four fathoms. We made 44 miles and to-morrow we shall go to Lancaster to breakfast. We passed through two towns but I shall give you only their names, they are of little consequence; one is called Elizabethtown and the other Middletown. My foot has given me much trouble. I give it to all the devils and may they carry it off, is what I wish for it: so may it be! I did not see Lancaster in my journey to Pittsburgh. I am pleased to be about to see it. I am told it is a beautiful town.

The 19th. I have seen Lancaster; it is a charming town and quite large. Though having no communication with any river, it is quite commercial. This town is almost entirely inhabited by Germans. It is in this town that the best rifles are made. Nearly all America makes much of them. In this place a prodigious number of them is

made. The court-house is very fine, as also several churches. I cannot give you a long description of them, for I was there only two hours. We sleep 37 miles from Lancaster.

The 20th. At last here I am in Philadelphia and the first thing I did was to repair to Dr. Franklin; him I found sick and for 23 days he has not been out of his bed. He arose to receive me. He has shown me much attention and has much commiserated me. He has offered me all possible help. He finds himself much better and has invited me to dinner to-morrow at his house. I shall not fail, although I am quite ill with my foot and have no change of clothes.

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