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The UNITED STATES.

SITUATION and EXTENT.

Length ^{miles.} 1250 } between { 31° & 46° North Latitude.
Breadth 1040 } { 8° E. & 24° W. Long. from Phila.

BOUNDED north, by Canada, and the Lakes ; west, by the river Mississippi ; south, by East and West Florida ; south-east and east, by the Atlantic Ocean and Nova-Scotia, from which it is separated by the river St. Croix.

The territory of the United States contains about a million of square miles, in which are

	640,000,000 of acres.
Deduct for water,	51,000,000

Acres of land in the United States 589,000,000

Of this extensive tract, two hundred and twenty millions of acres have been transferred to the federal government by several of the original states, and pledged as a fund for sinking the continental debt.

Lakes and Rivers.] It may in truth be said, that no part of the world is so well watered with springs, rivulets, rivers, and lakes, as the territory of the United States. By means of these various streams and collections of water, the whole country is checkered into islands and peninsulas. The United States, and indeed all parts of North-America, seem to have been formed by nature for the most intimate union. For two hundred thousand guineas, North-America might be converted into a cluster of large and fertile islands, communicating with each other with ease and little expense, and in many instances without the uncertainty or danger of the sea.

There is nothing in other parts of the globe, which resembles the prodigious chain of lakes in this part of the world. They may properly be termed inland seas of

of fresh water ; and even those of the second or third class in magnitude, are of larger circuit than the greatest lake in the eastern continent.

The principal lakes in the United States, are the *Lake of the Woods*, in the north-west corner of the United States, 70 miles long and 40 wide.

As you travel east you come next to *Long-Lake*, 100 miles long, and about 18 or 20 wide.

Thence you pass through several small lakes into *Lake Superiour*, the largest lake in the world ; being 1600 miles in circumference.—There are two large islands in this lake, each of which has land enough, if suitable for tillage, to form a considerable province. The Indians suppose the *Great Spirit* resides in these islands. This lake abounds with fish. Storms affect it as much as they do the Atlantick Ocean : The waves run as high ; and the navigation is as dangerous. It discharges its waters from the south-east corner, through the straits of St. Marie into *Lake Huron*, which is next in magnitude to Lake Superiour, being about 1000 miles in circumference. This lake, at its north-east corner, communicates with *Lake Michigan*, which is 900 miles in circumference, by the straits of Mikkilimakkinak.

Lake St. Claire lies about half way between Lake Huron and Lake Erie, and is about 90 miles in circumference. It communicates with Lake Erie, by the river Detroit.

Lake Erie is nearly 300 miles long, from east to west, and about 40 in the broadest part. The islands and shores of this lake are greatly infested with snakes, many of which are of the venomous kind. This lake, at its north-east end, communicates with Lake Ontario, by the river Niagara, 30 miles long. In this river are those remarkable falls which are reckoned one of the greatest natural curiosities in the world. The waters which supply the river Niagara rise near two thousand miles to the north-west, and passing through the lakes Superiour, Michigan, Huron and Erie, receiving in their course constant accumulations, at length, with astonishing

astounding grandeur, rush down a stupendous precipice of one hundred and forty feet perpendicular ; and in a strong rapid, that extends to the distance of eight or nine miles below, fall near as much more ; the river then loses itself in Lake Ontario. The noise of these falls, (called the *Niagara Falls*) in a clear day and fair wind, may be heard between forty and fifty miles. When the water strikes the bottom, it bounds to a great height in the air, occasioning a thick cloud of vapours, on which the sun, when he shines, paints a beautiful rainbow.

Lake Ontario is of an oval form, about 600 miles in circumference. It discharges its waters by the river Iroquois, which, at Montreal, takes the name of St. Lawrence River, and passing by Quebec, falls into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. *Lake Champlain* forms a part of the boundary between New-York and Vermont, and is about 80 miles long, and 14 broad. *Lake George* lies south of lake Champlain, and is about 33 miles long, and narrow.

The principal river in the United States is the *Mississippi*, which forms the western boundary of the United States. It receives the waters of the Ohio and Illinois and their numerous branches, from the east ; and the Missouri and other large rivers from the west. These mighty streams united, are borne down, with increasing majesty, through vast forests and meadows, into the Gulf of Mexico. This river is supposed to be about 3000 miles long, and is navigable to the Falls of St. Anthony, in lat. 44d. 30m. These falls are 30 feet perpendicular height. The whole river, which is more than 250 yards wide, falls the above distance, and forms a most pleasing cataract. This river resembles the Nile, in that it annually overflows and leaves a rich slime on its banks ; and in the number of its mouths, opening in a sea that may be compared to the Mediterranean.

The Indians say that four of the largest rivers in North-America, viz. St. Lawrence, Mississippi, Bourbon, Oregon, or the river of the west, have their sources within about 30 miles of each other. If this be fact,
it

it proves that the lands at the heads of these rivers are the highest in North-America. All these rivers run different courses, and empty into different oceans, at the distance of more than 2000 miles from their sources. For in their passage from this spot to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, east ; to Hudson's bay, north ; to the bay of Annian, west, where the river Oregon is supposed to empty ; and to the Gulf of Mexico, south, each of them traverses upwards of 2000 miles.

The *Ohio* is the most beautiful river on earth. Its gentle current is unbroken by rocks or rapids, except in one place. It is a mile wide at its entrance into the Mississippi ; and a quarter of a mile at Fort Pitt, which is 1188 miles from its mouth. At Fort Pitt the Ohio loses its name, and branches into the *Monongahela* and *Alleghany* rivers. The *Monongahela*, 12 or 15 miles from its mouth, receives *Tobogany* river.

The country watered by the Mississippi and its eastern branches, constitutes five eighths of the United States ; two of which $\frac{1}{2}$ are occupied by the Ohio and its branches ; the residuary streams which run into the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantick, and the St. Lawrence, water the remaining three eighths. The other considerable rivers in the United States will be mentioned in their proper places.

Bays.] The coast of the United States is indented with numerous bays, some of which are equal in size to any in the known world. Beginning at the northerly part of the continent, and proceeding south-westerly, you first find the bay or gulf of St. Lawrence, which receives the waters of the river of the same name. Next is Chebukto Bay, in Nova-Scotia, distinguished by the loss of a French fleet in a former war between France and Great-Britain. The Bay of Fundy, between Nova-Scotia and New-England, is remarkable for its tides, which rise to the height of fifty or sixty feet, and flow so rapidly as to overtake animals which feed upon the shore. Penobscot, Broad and Casco Bays, lie along the coast of the Province of Main. Massachusetts Bay spreads eastward of Boston,

and is comprehended between Cape Ann on the north, and Cape Cod on the south. Passing by Narraganset and other bays in the State of Rhode-Island, you enter Long-Island Sound, between Montauk point, and the Main. This *Sound* is a kind of inland sea, from three to twenty-five miles broad, and about one hundred and forty miles long, extending the whole length of the island, and dividing it from Connecticut. It communicates with the ocean at both ends of Long-Island, and affords a very safe and convenient inland navigation.

The celebrated strait, called *Hell Gate*, is near the west end of this sound, about eight miles eastward of New-York city, and is remarkable for its whirlpools, which make a tremendous roaring at certain times of tide. These whirlpools are occasioned by the narrowness and crookedness of the pass, and a bed of rocks which extend quite across it.

Delaware Bay is sixty miles long, from the Cape to the entrance of the river Delaware at Bombay hook; and so wide in some parts, as that a ship, in the middle of it, cannot be seen from the land. It opens into the Atlantick north-west and south-east, between Cape Henlopen on the right, and Cape May on the left. These Capes are eighteen miles apart.

The Chesapeek is one of the largest bays in the known world. Its entrance is between Cape Charles and Cape Henry in Virginia, twelve miles wide, and it extends two hundred and seventy miles to the northward, dividing Virginia and Maryland. It is from seven to eighteen miles broad, and generally as much as nine fathoms deep; affording many commodious harbours, and a safe and easy navigation. It receives the waters of the Susquehannah, Patomak, Rappahannock, York and James rivers, which are all large and navigable.

Face of the Country.] The tract of country belonging to the United States, is happily variegated with plains and mountains, hills and vallies. Some parts are rocky, particularly New-England, the north parts of New-York and New-Jersey, and a broad space, including

cluding the several ridges of the long range of mountains which run south-westward through Pennsylvania, Virginia, North-Carolina, and part of Georgia, dividing the waters which flow into the Atlantick, from those which fall into the Mississippi. In the parts east of the Allegany mountains in the southern States, the country, for several hundred miles in length, and sixty or seventy, and sometimes more, in breadth, is level, and entirely free of stone.

Mountains.] In all parts of the world, and particularly on this western continent, it is observable, that as you depart from the ocean, or from a river, the land gradually rises; and the height of land, in common, is about equally distant from the water on either side. The *Andes* in South-America form the height of land between the Atlantick and Pacifick Oceans.

That range of mountains, of which the Shining Mountains are a part, begins at Mexico, and continuing northward on the east of California, separates the waters of those numerous rivers that fall into the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of California. Thence continuing their course still northward, between the sources of the Mississippi and the rivers that run into the South Sea, they appear to end in about 47 or 48 degrees of north latitude; where a number of rivers rise, and empty themselves either into the South Sea, into Hudson's Bay, or into the waters that communicate between these two seas.

The Highlands between the Province of Main and the Province of Quebec, divide the rivers which fall into the St. Lawrence north, and into the Atlantick south. The Green Mountains, in Vermont, divide the waters which flow easterly into Connecticut river, from those which fall westerly into Lake Champlain and Hudson's river.

Between the Atlantick, the Mississippi, and the Lakes, runs a long range of mountains, made up of a great number of ridges. These mountains extend north-easterly and south-westerly, nearly parallel with the sea coast, about nine hundred miles in length, and from
sixty

sixty to one hundred and fifty, and two hundred miles in breadth. Numerous tracts of fine arable and grazing land intervene between the ridges. The different ridges which compose this immense range of mountains, have different names in different States.

The principal ridge is the Allegany, which has been descriptively called the *back bone* of the United States. The general name for these mountains, taken collectively, is the *Allegany Mountains*, so called from the principal ridge of the range. These mountains are not confusedly scattered and broken, rising here and there into high peaks overtopping each other, but stretch along in uniform ridges, scarcely half a mile high. They spread as you proceed south, and some of them terminate in high perpendicular bluffs. Others gradually subside into a level country, giving rise to the rivers which run southerly into the Gulf of Mexico.

Soil and Productions.] The soil of the United States is equal to that of any country in the world. Its productions will be mentioned in the account of the particular States.

Animals.] According to M. de Buffon there are 200 species of animals only existing on the earth. One hundred of these are aboriginal of America.

The following is a catalogue of the animals common to North-America.

Mammoth	Monax	Marten
Buffalo	Grey Squirrel	Minx
Panther	Grey Fox Squirrel	Beaver
Carcajou	Black Squirrel	Musquash
Wild Cat	Red Squirrel	Otter
Bear	Ground Squirrel	Fisher
Elk	Flying Squirrel	Water Rat
White Bear	Black Fox	Musk Rat
Wolf	Red Fox	Houfe Mouse
Moose Deer	Grey Fox	Field Mouse
Stag	Raccoon	Moles
Carrabou	Woodchuck	Quickhatch
Fallow Deer	Skunk	Morse
Greenland Deer	Opossum	Porcupine
Rabbit	Pole Cat	Seal
Bahama Coney	Weasle	

These are divided into three classes ;

1. Beasts of different *genus* from any known in the old world ; of which are the Opossum, the Raccoon, the Quickhatch, &c.
2. Beasts

2. Beasts of the same genus, but of different species from any on the eastern continent, of which are

The Panther	Fallow Deer	Ground Squirrel
Wild Cat	Grey Fox	Flying Squirrel
Buffalo	Grey Squirrel	Pole Cat
Moose Deer	Grey Fox Squirrel	Porcupine, &c.
Stag	Black Squirrel	

3. Beasts which are the same on both continents, viz.

The Bear	Otter	Field Mouse
White Bear	Water Rat	Mole
Wolf	House Rat	Morse
Weasle	Musk Rat	Seal, &c.
Beaver	House Mouse	

The MAMMOTH is not found in the civilized parts of America. It is conjectured, however, that he was carnivorous, and that he still exists on the north of the Lakes. Their tusks, grinders, and skeletons of uncommon magnitude, have been found at the salt licks, on the Ohio, in New-Jersey, and other places. The Indians have a tradition handed down from their fathers respecting these animals, 'That in ancient times a herd of them came to the Bigbone licks, and began an universal destruction of the bears, deer, elks, buffaloes, and other animals which had been created for the use of the Indians : That the Great Man above, looking down and seeing this, was so enraged, that he seized his lightning, descended to the earth, seated himself upon a neighbouring mountain, on a rock, on which his seat and the print of his feet are still to be seen, and hurled his bolts among them till the whole were slaughtered, except the big bull, who presenting his forehead to the shafts, shook them off as they fell ; but at length missing one, it wounded him in the side ; whereon, springing round, he bounded over the Ohio, the Wabash, the Illinois, and finally over the great lakes, where he is living at this day.'

The OPOSSUM is an animal of a distinct genus, and therefore has little resemblance to any other creature. It is about the size of a common cat, which it resembles in some degree as to its body ; its legs are short, the feet are formed like those of a rat, as are its ears ; the snout and head are long like the hog's ; the teeth like those of a dog ; its body is covered thinly with long
bristly

bristly whitish hair ; its tail is long, shaped like that of a rat without hair. But what is most remarkable in this creature, and which distinguishes it from all others, is its false belly, which is formed by a skin or membrane, (inclosing the dugs) which it opens and closes at will. In this false belly, the young are concealed in time of danger. Though contrary to the laws of nature, it is believed by many, that these animals are bred at the teats of their dams. It is a fact, that the young ones have been many times seen, not larger than the head of a large pin, fast fixed and hanging to the teats in the false belly. In this state, their members are distinctly visible ; they appear like an embryo clinging to the teats. By constant observation, they have been found to grow into a perfect fœtus ; and in proper time they drop off into the false belly, where they remain secure, till they are capable of providing for themselves. From these circumstances, it seems that the Opossum is produced, in a manner, out of the common course of nature. But it appears from the dissection of one of them by Dr. Tyson, that their structure is such as is fitted for generation, like that of other animals ; and of course he supposes that they must necessarily be bred and excluded in the same way as other quadrupeds. But by what method the dam, after exclusion, fixes them on her teats, if this be the manner of production, is a secret yet unknown.

The BUFFALO is larger than an ox ; high on the shoulders ; and deep through the breast. The flesh of this animal is equal in goodness to beef ; its skin makes good leather, and its hair, which is of a woolly kind, is manufactured into a tolerable good cloth.

The TYGER of America resembles, in shape, those of Asia and Africa, but is considerably smaller ; nor does it appear to be so fierce and ravenous as they are. The colour of it is a darkish yellow, and is entirely free from spots.

The CAT of the MOUNTAIN resembles a common cat, but is of a much larger size. Its hair is of a reddish or orange colour, interspersed with spots of black. This animal is exceedingly fierce, though it will seldom attack a man.

The

The ELK is shaped like a deer, but is considerably larger, being equal in bulk to a horse. The horns of this creature grow to a prodigious size, extending so wide, that two or three persons might sit between them at the same time. But what is still more remarkable is, that these horns are shed every year, in the month of February, and by August, the new ones are nearly at their full growth.

The MOOSE is about the size of the elk, and its horns almost as large. Like the elk, it sheds its horns annually. Though this creature is of the deer kind, it never herds as do deer in general. Its flesh is exceedingly good food; easy of digestion, and very nourishing. Its skin, as well as that of the elk, is valuable, making, when dressed, good leather.

The CARRABOU is something like the moose in shape, though not nearly so tall. Its flesh is exceedingly good, its tongue in particular is in high esteem. Its skin, being smooth and free from veins, is valuable.

The CARCAJOU is a creature of the cat kind, and is a terrible enemy to the elk, and to the carrabou, as well as to the deer. He either comes upon them unperceived from some concealment; or climbs up into a tree, and taking his station on some of the branches, waits till one of them takes shelter under it; when he fastens upon his neck, and opening the jugular vein, soon brings his prey to the ground. The only way of escape is flying immediately to the water, for as the carcajou has a great dislike to that element, he will leave his prey rather than enter it.

The SKUNK is the most extraordinary animal the American woods produce. It is of the same species with the pole cat, for which, though different from it in many respects, and particularly in being of a less size, it is frequently mistaken. Its hair is long and shining, of a dirty white, mixed in some places with black. Its tail is long and bushy like that of the fox. It lives chiefly in woods and hedges; and is possessed of extraordinary powers, which however are exerted only when it is pursued. On such an occasion, it ejects
from

from behind a small stream of water, of so subtle a nature, and so powerful a smell, that the air is tainted with it to a surprising distance. On this account the animal is called by the French *Enfant du Diable*, the Child of the Devil, or *Bête Puante*, the Stinking Beast. The water which this creature emits in its defence, is generally supposed by naturalists to be its urine; but Mr. Carver, who shot and dissected many of them, declares that he found near the urinal vessels, a small receptacle of water, totally distinct from the bladder, from which, he was satisfied, the horrid stench proceeded. The fat of the skunk, when externally applied, is a powerful emollient, and its flesh, when dressed without being tainted by its fœtid water, is sweet and good.

The PORCUPINE or HEDGE HOG is about the size of a small dog, though it is neither so long nor so tall. Its shape resembles that of a fox, excepting its head, which is something like the head of a rabbit. Its body is covered with quills of about four inches in length, most of which are, excepting at the point, of the thickness of a straw. These quills the porcupine darts at his enemy, and if they pierce the flesh in the least degree, they will sink quite through it, and are not to be extracted without incision. The Indians use these quills for boring their ears and noses to insert their jewels, and also by way of ornament to their stockings, hair, &c.

The WOODCHUCK is a ground animal of the fur kind, about fifteen inches long; its body is round, and its legs short; its fore paws are broad, and constructed for the purpose of digging holes in the ground, in which it burrows; its flesh is tolerable food.

The RACCOON is an animal of a genus different from any known on the eastern continent. Its head is much like a fox's, only its ears are shorter, more round, and more naked. It also resembles that animal in its hair, which is thick, long and soft; and in its body and legs, excepting that the former is larger, and the latter both larger and shorter. Across its face runs a broad stripe including its eyes, which are large. Its snout is black, and roundish at the end like that of a dog; its
teeth

teeth also are similar to those of the dog, both in number and shape ; the tail is long and round, with annular stripes on it ; the feet have five long slender toes, armed with sharp claws, by which it is enabled to climb trees, and run to the extremities of the boughs. Its fore feet serve it instead of hands, like those of the monkey.

The last quadruped which shall be particularly described, is the BEAVER. This is an amphibious animal, which cannot live for any long time in the water, and it is said can exist without it, provided it has the convenience of sometimes bathing itself. The largest beavers are nearly four feet in length, about fourteen or fifteen inches in breadth over the haunches, and weigh fifty or sixty pounds. The head of this animal is large ; its snout long ; its eyes small ; its ears short, round, hairy on the outside, and smooth within ; of its teeth, which are long, broad, strong and sharp, the under ones stand out of its mouth about the breadth of three fingers, and the upper about half a finger. Besides these teeth, which are called *incisors*, beavers have sixteen grinders, eight on each side, four above and four below, directly opposite to each other. With the former they are able to cut down trees of a considerable size, with the latter to break the hardest substances. Their legs are short, particularly the fore legs, which are only four or five inches long. The toes of the fore feet are separate ; those of the hind feet have membranes between them. In consequence of this they can walk, though but slowly, while they swim as easily as any aquatick animals. Their tails somewhat resemble those of fish, and these, and their hind feet, are the only parts in which they do not resemble land animals. Their colour is different according to the different climates which they inhabit. In the most northern parts, they are generally quite black ; in more temperate, brown ; their colour becoming lighter and lighter as they approach towards the south. Their fur is of two sorts, all over their bodies. That which is longest is generally about an inch long, though on the back it sometimes extends to two inches, gradually shortening to-

wards the head and tail. This part is coarse and of little use. The other part of it consists of a very thick and fine down, of about three quarters of an inch long, so soft that it feels like silk, and is that which is commonly manufactured. Castor, so useful in medicine, is produced from the body of the beaver. It was formerly believed to be his testicles, but late discoveries have shewn that it is contained in four bags in the lower belly.

The ingenuity of the beavers in building their cabins, and in providing themselves subsistence, is truly wonderful. When they are about to choose a habitation, they assemble in companies, sometimes of two or three hundred, and after mature deliberation, fix on a place where plenty of provisions, and all necessaries are to be found. Their houses are always situated in the water, and when they can find neither lake nor pond convenient, they supply the defect by stopping the current of some brook or small river. For this purpose they select a number of trees, carefully taking those above the place where they intend to build, that they may swim down with the current, and placing themselves by threes or fours round each tree, soon fell them. By a continuation of the same labour, they cut the trees into proper lengths, and rolling them into the water, navigate them to the place where they are to be used. After this they construct a dam with as much solidity and regularity as the most experienced workman could do. The formation of their cabins is no less remarkable. These cabins are built either on piles in the middle of the pond they have formed, on the bank of a river, or at the extremity of some point of land projecting into a lake. The figure of them is round or oval. Two thirds of each of them rises above the water, and this part is large enough to contain eight or ten inhabitants. They are contiguous to each other, so as to allow an easy communication. Each beaver has his place assigned him, the floor of which he curiously strews with leaves, rendering it clean and comfortable. The winter never surprizes these animals before their business is completed; for their houses are generally finished by the last of September,

tember, and their stock of provisions laid in, which consists of small pieces of wood, disposed in such manner as to preserve its moisture.

Upwards of one hundred and forty American *birds* have been enumerated, and many of them described by Catesby, Jefferson, and Carver. The following catalogue is inserted to gratify the curious, to inform the inquisitive, and to shew the astonishing variety in this beautiful part of creation.

The Blackbird	Spoonbill do.	Crow Blackbird
Razor-billed do.	Summer do.	King bird
Baltimore bird	Black head do.	Kingfisher
Bastard Baltimore	Blue-winged Shoveler	Loon
Blue bird	Little brown duck	Lark
Buzzard	Sprigtail	Large Lark
Blue Jay	Whitefaced Teal	Blue Linnet
Blue Grosbeak	Blue-winged Teal	Mock bird
Brown Bittern	Pied-bill Dobchick	Mow bird—
Crested Bittern	Eagle	Purple Martin
Small Bittern	Bald Eagle	Nightingale
Booby	Flamingo	Noddy
Great Booby	Fieldfare of Carolina	Nuthatch
Blue Peter	or Robin	Oyster catcher
Bulfinch	Purple Finch	Owl
Bald Coot	Bahama Finch	Scrotch Owl
Cut Water	American Goldfinch	American Partridge
White Curlew	Painted Finch	or Quail
Cat bird	Crested Flycatcher	Pheasant or Moun-
Cuckow	Black cap do.	tain Partridge
Crow	Little brown do.	Water Pheasant
Cowpen bird	Red-eyed do.	Pelican
Chattering Plover	Finch Creeper	Water Pelican
or Kildee	Storm Finch	Pigeon of passage
Crane or blue	Goat Sucker of Ca-	White crowned pigeon
Heron	rolina	Parrot of Paradise
Yellow-breasted	Gull	Paroquet of Carolina
Chat	Laughing Gull	Raven
Cormorant	Goose	Rice bird
Hooping Crane	Canada Goose	Red bird
Pine Creeper	Hawk	Summer Red bird
Yellow-throated	Fishing Hawk	Swan
Creeper	Pigeon Hawk	Soree—
Dove	Night Hawk	Snipe
Ground Dove	Swallow-tailed do.	Red Start
Duck	Hangbird	Red-winged Starling
Hathera Duck	Heron	Swallow
Round-crested do.	Little white Heron	Chimney do.
Sheldrach or	Heath cock	Snow bird
Canavals do.	Humming bird	Little Sparrow
Buffels head do.	Purple Jackdaw or	Bahama do.

The Stork	Red Thrush	Large white-billed
Turkey	Fox-coloured	woodpecker
Wild Turkey	Thrush	Large red-crested do.
Tyrant	Little Thrush	Gold-winged do.
Crested Titmouse	Tropick bird	Red-bellied do.
Yellow do.	Turtle of Carolina	Hairy do.
Bahama Tit-	Water wagtail	Red-headed do.
mouse	Water hen	Yellow-bellied do.
Hooded do.	Water witch	Smallest spotted do.
Yellow rump	Wakon bird	Wien
Towhe bird	Whetfaw	

Catesby observes, that the birds of America generally exceed those of Europe in the beauty of their plumage, but are much inferiour to them in the melody of their notes.

The WATER-PELICAN inhabits the Mississippi. Its pouch holds a peck.

The LARK is a lofty bird, and soars as high as any of the inhabitants of the airy region : Hence the old proverb, ‘ When the sky falls we shall catch larks.’

The WHIP-POOR-WILL is remarkable for the plaintive melody of its notes. It acquires its name from the noise it makes, which to the Anglo-Americans sounds Whip poor will, but to the Indians Muck a wifs. A striking proof how differently the same sounds impress different persons !

The LOON is a water-fowl, of the same species of the Dobchick. It is an exceedingly nimble bird, and so expert at diving, that it is with great difficulty killed.

The PARTRIDGE. In some parts of the country there are three or four different kinds of Partridges, all of them larger than the Partridges of Europe. What is called the Quail in New-England is denominated Partridge in the southern States, where the true Partridge is not to be found.

The WAKON-BIRD, which probably is of the same species with the Bird of Paradise, receives its name from the ideas the Indians have of its superiour excellence ; the Wakon-bird being in their language the bird of the Great Spirit. It is nearly the size of the swallow, of a brown colour, shaded about the neck with a bright green. The wings are of a darker brown than the body. Its tail is composed of four or five feathers,

feathers, which are three times as long as its body, and which are beautifully shaded with green and purple. It carries this fine length of plumage in the same manner as the peacock does his, but it is not known whether like him it ever raises it to an erect position.

The WHETSAW is of the cuckow kind, being like that a solitary bird, and scarcely ever seen. In the summer months it is heard in the groves, where it makes a noise like the filing of a saw, from which circumstance it has received its name.

The HUMMING-BIRD is the smallest of all the feathered inhabitants of the air. Its plumage surpasses description. On its head is a small tuft of jetty black; its breast is red; its belly white; its back, wings and tail of the finest pale green; small specks of gold are scattered over it with inexpressible grace; and to crown the whole, an almost imperceptible down softens the several colours, and produces the most pleasing shades.

Of the Snakes which infest the United States, are the following, viz.

The Rattle Snake	Corn do.
Small Rattle Snake	Hognose do.
Yellow Rattle Snake	House do.
Water Viper	Green do.
Black Viper	Wampum do.
Brown Viper	Glass do.
Copper bellied Snake	Bead do.
Bluish green Snake	Wall or House Adder
Black Snake	Striped or Garter Snake
Ribon do.	Water Snake
Spotted Ribon do.	Hissing do.
Chain do.	Thorn-tailed do.
Joint do.	Speckled do.
Green spotted do.	Ring do.
Coachwhip do.	Two-headed do.

The THORN-TAIL SNAKE is of a middle size, and of a very venomous nature. It receives its name from a thorn, like a dart, in its tail, with which it inflicts its wounds.

The JOINT SNAKE is a great curiosity. Its skin is as hard as parchment, and as smooth as glass. It is beautifully streaked with black and white. It is so stiff, and has so few joints, and those so unyielding,

that it can hardly bend itself into the form of a hoop. When it is struck, it breaks like a pipe stem; and you may, with a whip, break it from the tail to the bowels into pieces not an inch long, and not produce the least tincture of blood. It is not venomous.

The TWO-HEADED SNAKE. Whether this be a distinct species of snakes intended to propagate its kind, or whether it be a monstrous production, is uncertain. The only ones I have known or heard of in this country, are, one taken near Champlain in 1762, and one preserved in the Museum of Yale College, in New-Haven.

The snakes are not so numerous nor so venomous in the northern as in the southern States. In the latter, however, the inhabitants are furnished with a much greater variety of plants and herbs, which afford immediate relief to persons bitten by these venomous creatures. It is an observation worthy of perpetual and grateful remembrance, that wherever venomous animals are found, the God of Nature has kindly provided sufficient antidotes against their poison.

Of the astonishing variety of Insects found in America, we will mention,

The Glow Worm	Gnat	Fire-Fly or Bug
Earth Worm	Sheep Tick	Butter Fly
Leg or Guinea do.	Louse	Moth
Naked Snail	Wood Louse	Ant
Shell Snail	Forty Legs or Centipes	Bee
Tobacco Worm	Caterpillar	Humble Bee
Wood Worm	Adder bolt	Black Wasp
Silk Worm	Cicada or Locust	Yellow Wasp
Wall Louse or Bug	Man gazer	Hornet
Sow Bug	Cock-Roche	Fly
Horn Bug	Crieket	Sand Fly
Flea	Beetle	Musketo
		Spider

To these may be added the insect, which of late years has proved so destructive to the wheat in many parts of the middle and New-England States, commonly, but erroneously, called the Hessian Fly.

The ALLIGATOR is a species of the crocodile, and in appearance one of the ugliest creatures in the world. They are amphibious, and live in and about creeks, swamps

swamps and ponds of stagnant water. They are very fond of the flesh of dogs and hogs, which they voraciously devour when they have opportunity. They are also very fond of fish, and devour vast quantities of them. When tired with fishing, they leave the water to bask themselves in the sun, and then appear more like logs of half rotten wood thrown ashore by the current, than living creatures; but upon perceiving any vessel or person near them, they immediately throw themselves into the water. Some are of so monstrous a size as to exceed five yards in length. During the time they lie basking on the shore, they keep their huge mouths wide open, till filled with musketoes, flies, and other insects, when they suddenly shut their jaws and swallow their prey.

The alligator is an oviparous creature. The female makes a large hole in the sand near the brink of a river, and there deposits her eggs, which are as white as those of a hen, but much larger and more solid. She generally lays about an hundred, continuing in the same place till they are all deposited, which is a day or two. She then covers them with the sand, and the better to conceal them, rolls herself not only over her precious *depositum*, but to a considerable distance. After this precaution, she returns to the water, and tarries until natural instinct informs her that it is time to deliver her young from their confinement; she then goes to the spot, attended by the male, and tearing up the sand, begins to break the eggs; but so carefully, that scarce a single one is injured, and a whole swarm of little alligators is seen crawling about. The female then takes them on her neck and back, in order to remove them into the water; but the watchful birds of prey make use of this opportunity to deprive her of some, and even the male alligator, who indeed comes for no other end, devours what he can, till the female has reached the water with the few remaining; for all those which either fall from her back, or do not swim, she herself eats; so that of such a formidable brood, happily not more than four or five escape.

These alligators are the great destroyers of the fish
in

in the rivers and creeks, it being their most safe and general food ; nor are they wanting in address to satisfy their desires. Eight or ten, as it were by compact, draw up at the mouth of a river or creek, where they lie with their mouths open, whilst others go a considerable distance up the river, and chase the fish downward, by which means none of any bigness escape them. The alligators being unable to eat under water, on seizing a fish, raise their heads above the surface, and by degrees draw the fish from their jaws, and chew it for swallowing.

Before the setting in of winter, it is said, not without evidence to support the assertion, that they swallow a large number of pine knots, and then creep into their dens, in the bank of some creek or pond, where they lie in a torpid state through the winter without any other sustenance than the pine knots.

The GUANA, the GREEN LIZARD of Carolina, the BLUE-TAILED LIZARD, and the LION LIZARD, are found in the southern States, and are thought to be species of the same genus with the crocodile and alligator.

In the little brooks and swamps in the back parts of North-Carolina, is caught a small amphibious lobster, in the head of which is found the eye-stone.

Population.] From the best accounts that can at present be obtained, there are, within the limits of the United States, upwards of *four millions* of inhabitants. This number, which is rapidly increasing both by emigrations from Europe, and by natural population, is composed of people of almost all nations, languages, characters and religions. The greater part, however, are descended from the English ; and, for the sake of distinction, are called Anglo-Americans.

Government.] Until the 4th of July, 1776, the present Thirteen States were British Colonies. On that memorable day the Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled made a solemn declaration, in which they assigned their reasons for withdrawing their allegiance from Great-Britain. At the same time they published articles of confederation and perpetual union between the States, in which they took the style of

The

The United States of America, and agreed that each State should retain its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power, jurisdiction and right not expressly delegated to Congress by the confederation.

These articles of confederation, after eleven years experience, being found inadequate to the purposes of a federal government, delegates were chosen in each of the United States, to meet and fix upon the necessary amendments. They accordingly met at Philadelphia, in the summer of 1787, and agreed to propose the present Constitution of the United States for the consideration of their constituents. It was soon adopted by all the States, except North-Carolina and Rhode-Island; and they afterwards joined the Union. The Western Territory is a distinct government, under the Constitution of the United States.

Manufactures.] Among the articles manufactured in the United States are, meal of all kinds, ships and boats, malt and distilled liquors, potash, gunpowder, cordage, loaf sugar, pasteboard, cards and paper of every kind, books in various languages, snuff, tobacco, starch, cannon, muskets, anchors, nails, and very many other articles of iron, bricks, tiles, potters' ware, mill stones, and other stone work, cabinet work, trunks and Windsor chairs, carriages and harness of all kinds, corn fans, ploughs, and many other implements of husbandry, saddlery and whips, shoes and boots, leather of various kinds, hosiery, hats and gloves, wearing apparel, carpets, coarse linens and woollens, and some cotton goods; linseed and fish oil, wares of gold, silver, tin, pewter, lead, brass and copper, bells, clocks and watches, wool and cotton cards, printing types, glass and stone ware, candles, soap, and several other valuable articles. These are tending to greater perfection, and will soon be sold so cheap as to throw foreign goods of the same kind entirely out of the market.

Under this head I cannot omit to observe the impolicy, and I may add, the immorality of importing and consuming such amazing quantities of spirituous liquors. They impair the estates, debilitate the bodies, and occasion

caſion the ruin of the morals of thouſands of the citizens of America. They kill more people than any one diſeaſe, perhaps than all diſeaſes beſides. It cannot be then but that they are ruinous to our country.

It appears from the beſt calculations that can be obtained, that in the courſe of the years 1785, 1786, and 1787, TWELVE MILLIONS of dollars were expended by the United States, in purchaſing Weſt-India ſpirituſous liquors ; and perhaps nearly half that ſum for ſpirits diſtilled at home.

The expenditure of this immenſe ſum, a ſum which would well nigh cancel our whole national debt, ſo far from benefiting us, has entailed diſeaſes, idleneſs, poverty, wretchedneſs and debt, on thouſands, who might otherwiſe have been healthy, independent in their circumſtances, and happy.

Experience has proved, that ſpirituſous liquors, except for certain medicinal uſes, are altogether unneceſſary. In the moderate uſe of wine, which is a generous and cheering liquor, and may be plentifully produced in our own country ; of beer, which ſtrengthens the arm of the labourer without debauching him ; of cider, which is wholeſome and palatable ; and of molasses and water, which has become a fashionable drink ; in the uſe of theſe liquors, labourers, and other people who have made the experiment, have been found to enjoy more health and better ſpirits than thoſe who have made only a moderate uſe of ſpirituſous liquors. The reaſon of this is made obvious by a careful calculation lately made, from which it appears that malt liquors, and ſeveral of the imported wines, are much more nourishing and cheaper than ſpirits. In a pint of beer, or half a pint of Malaga or Teneriffe wine, there is more ſtrength than in a quart of rum. The beer and the wine abound with nourishment, whereas the rum has no more nourishment in it than a pound of air. Theſe conſiderations point out the utility, may I not add, the neceſſity of conſining ourſelves to the uſe of our own home-made liquors, that in this way we might encourage our own manufactures, promote induſtry, preserve

preserve the morals and lives of our citizens, and save our country from the enormous annual expense of four millions of dollars.

Military strength.] The following estimate may serve until a better one can be made. Suppose the number of inhabitants in the United States to be 4,000,000. Deduct from this 560,000, the supposed number of negroes; the remainder will be 3,440,000, the number of whites. Suppose one sixth part of these capable of bearing arms, it will be found that the number of fencible men in the United States are 573,000. This, it is conceived, is but a moderate estimate.

History.] America was originally peopled by uncivilized nations, which lived mostly by hunting and fishing. The Europeans, who first visited these shores, treating the natives as wild beasts of the forest, which have no property in the woods where they roam, planted the standard of their respective masters where they first landed, and in their names claimed the country by *right of discovery*.* Prior to any settlement in North-America, numerous titles of this kind were acquired by the English, French, Spanish, and Dutch navigators, who came hither for the purposes of fishing and trading with the natives. Slight as such titles were, they were afterwards the causes of contention between the European nations. The subjects of different princes often laid claim to the same tract of country, because both had discovered the same river or promontory; or because the extent of their respective claims was indeterminate.

In proportion to the progress of population, and the growth of the American trade, the jealousies of the nations, which had made early discoveries and settlements on this coast, were alarmed; ancient claims were revived; and each power took measures to extend and secure its own possessions at the expense of a rival.

These measures proved the occasion of open wars
between

* As well may the New-Zealanders, who have not yet discovered Europe, fit out a ship, land on the coast of England or France, and, finding no inhabitants but poor fishermen and peasants, claim the whole country by *right of discovery*.

between the contending nations.—In 1739, war was proclaimed between England and Spain, which was terminated by the treaty of peace, signed at Aix la Chapelle, by which restitution was made, on both sides, of all places taken during the war.

Peace however was of short duration. In 1756, a war commenced between the French and English, in which the Anglo Americans were deeply concerned. This war was concluded by the Treaty of Paris, in 1763.

From this period, peace continued till the 19th of April, 1775, when hostilities began between Great-Britain and America. At *Lexington* was spilt the *first blood* in this memorable war; a war that severed America from the British Empire.

Here opened the first scene in the great drama, which, in its progress, exhibited the most illustrious characters and events, and closed with a revolution, equally glorious for the actors, and important in its consequences to mankind. George Washington, Esq. a native of Virginia, was appointed by the Continental Congress to command the American army. He had been a distinguished and successful officer in the preceding war with the French, and seemed destined by Heaven to be the saviour of his country. He accepted the appointment with a diffidence which was a proof of his prudence and his greatness. He refused any pay for eight years laborious service; and by his matchless skill, fortitude and perseverance, was instrumental, under Providence, of conducting America, through indescribable difficulties, to independence and peace. While true merit is esteemed, or virtue honoured, mankind will never cease to revere the memory of this Hero; and while gratitude remains in the human breast, the praises of WASHINGTON will dwell on every American tongue.

In 1778 a treaty of alliance was entered into between France and America, by which we obtained a powerful and generous ally; who greatly assisted in establishing the Independence of the United States of America.

On the 30th of November, 1782, the provisional articles of peace were signed at Paris, by which Great-Britain