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into rivulets of different magnitudes, fertilizing the country in all its parts.

Springs.] There are five noted salt springs or licks in this country, viz. the higher and lower Blue Springs, on Licking river, from some of which, it is said, issue streams of brinish water; the Big Bone lick, Drennon's licks; and Bullet's lick, at Saltsburg. The last of these licks, though in low order, has supplied this country and Cumberland with salt, at 20 shillings the bushel, Virginia currency; and some is exported to the Illinois country. The method of procuring water from these licks, is by sinking wells from 30 to 40 feet deep. The water drawn from these wells is more strongly impregnated with salt than the water from the sea.

Face of the Country, Soil and Produce.] This whole country, as far as has yet been discovered, lies upon a bed of lime stone, which in general is about six feet below the surface, except in the vallies, where the soil is much thinner. A tract of about 20 miles wide, along the banks of the Ohio, is hilly, broken land, interspersed with many fertile spots. The rest of the country is agreeably uneven, gently ascending and descending at no great distances.

No country will admit of being thicker settled with farmers, who confine themselves to agriculture, than this. But large stocks of cattle, except in the neighbourhood of barrens, cannot be raised.

This country in general is well timbered. Of the natural growth which is peculiar to this country, we may reckon the sugar, coffee, papaw, and cucumber trees. The two last are a soft wood, and bear a fruit of the shape and size of a cucumber. The coffee tree resembles the black oak, and bears a pod, which incloses good coffee. Besides these there is the honey locust, black mulberry, wild cherry of a large size, buck-eye, an exceedingly soft wood, the magnolia, which bears a beautiful blossom of a rich and exquisite fragrance. Such is the variety and beauty of the flowering shrubs and plants which grow spontaneously in this country, that in the proper season the wilderness appears in blossom. The

The accounts of the fertility of the soil in this country have, in some instances, exceeded belief; and probably have been exaggerated. That some parts of Kentucky, particularly the high grounds, are remarkably good, all accounts agree. The lands of the first rate are too rich for wheat, and will produce 50 and 60, and in some instances, it is affirmed, 100 bushels of good corn an acre. In common, the land will produce 30 bushels of wheat or rye an acre. Barley, oats, cotton, flax, hemp, and vegetables of all kinds common in this climate, yield abundantly. The old Virginia planters say, that if the climate does not prove too moist, few soils known will yield more and better tobacco.

Climate.] Healthy and delightful, some few places in the neighbourhood of ponds and low grounds excepted. The inhabitants do not experience the extremes of heat and cold. Snow seldom falls deep, or lies long. The winter, which begins about Christmas, is never longer than three months, and is commonly but two, and is so mild as that cattle can subsist without fodder.

Chief Town.] LEXINGTON, which stands on the head waters of Elkhorn river, is reckoned the capital of Kentucky. Here the courts are held, and business regularly conducted. In 1786, it contained about 109 houses, and several stores, with a good assortment of dry goods. It must have greatly increased since.

Population and Character.] It is impossible to ascertain, with any degree of accuracy, the present number of inhabitants; owing to the numerous accessions which are made almost every month. In 1783, in the county of Lincoln only, there were, on the militia rolls, 3570 men, chiefly emigrants from the lower parts of Virginia. In 1784, the number of inhabitants was reckoned at upwards of 30,000. From the accounts of their astonishing increase since, we may now safely estimate them at upwards of 100,000. It is asserted that at least 20,000 emigrated here in the year 1787. These people, collected from different states, of different manners, customs, religions, and political sentiments, have not been long enough together to form a uniform

uniform and distinguishing character. Among the settlers there are many gentlemen of abilities, and many genteel families from several of the states, who give dignity and respectability to the settlement. They are in general more orderly, perhaps, than any people who have settled a new country.

Religion.] The Baptists are the most numerous religious sect in Kentucky. In 1787 they had 16 churches established, besides several congregations where churches were not constituted. These were supplied with upwards of 30 ministers or teachers. There are several large congregations of Presbyterians, and some few of other denominations.

Literature and Improvements.] The legislature of Virginia have made provision for a college in Kentucky, and have endowed it with very considerable landed funds. The Rev. John Todd has given a very handsome library for its use. Schools are established in the several towns, and, in general, regularly and handsomely supported. They have a printing-office, and publish a weekly gazette. They have erected a paper mill, an oil mill, fulling mills, saw mills, and a great number of valuable grist mills. Their salt works are more than sufficient to supply all the inhabitants, at a low price. They make considerable quantities of sugar from the sugar trees. Labourers, particularly tradesmen, are exceedingly wanted here.

Curiosities.] The banks, or rather precipices of Kentucky and Dick's rivers, are to be reckoned among the natural curiosities of this country. Here the astonished eye beholds 3 or 400 feet of solid perpendicular rock, in some parts of the lime-stone kind, and in others of fine white marble, curiously checkered with strata of astonishing regularity. These rivers have the appearance of deep, artificial canals. Their banks are level and covered with red cedar groves.

History.] The first white man who discovered this province, was one James M'Bride, in the year 1754. From this period it remained unexplored till about the year 1767, when one John Finley and some others,

trading with the Indians, fortunately travelled over the fertile region, now called Kentucky, then known to the Indians, by the name of the Dark and Bloody Grounds, and sometimes the Middle Ground. This country greatly engaged Mr. Finley's attention, and he communicated his discovery to Colonel Daniel Boon, and a few more, who, conceiving it to be an interesting object, agreed, in the year 1769, to undertake a journey in order to explore it. After a long, fatiguing march, over a mountainous wilderness, in a westward direction, they at length arrived upon its borders; and from the top of an eminence, with joy and wonder, descried the beautiful landscape of Kentucky. Here they encamped, and some went to hunt provisions, which were readily procured, there being plenty of game, while Colonel Boon and John Finley made a tour through the country, which they found far exceeding their expectations, and returning to camp, informed their companions of their discoveries. But in spite of this promising beginning, this company, meeting with nothing but hardships and adversity, grew exceedingly disheartened, and was plundered, dispersed and killed by the Indians, except Colonel Boon, who continued an inhabitant of the wilderness until the year 1771, when he returned home.

Colonel Henderson, of North-Carolina, being informed of this country by Colonel Boon, he, and some other gentlemen, held a treaty with the Cherokee Indians, at Wataga, in March, 1775, and then purchased from them the lands lying on the south side of Kentucky river, for goods, at valuable rates, to the amount of £.6000 specie.

Soon after this purchase, the state of Virginia took the alarm, agreed to pay the money Colonel Donaldson had contracted for, and then disputed Colonel Henderson's right of purchase, as a private gentleman of another state, in behalf of himself. However, for his eminent services to this country, and for having been instrumental in making so valuable an acquisition to Virginia, that state was pleased to reward him with a tract of land, at the mouth of Green river, to the amount of