

valley of the Ohio and the country west of the Alleghany mountains, taking the railway to Providence, and a steam-boat from thence to New York. Afterwards we went to Philadelphia by Amboy, passing through the beautiful strait which separates the mainland of New Jersey from Staten Island. This winding channel is, in parts, only half a mile, and even less, in width, with many elegant villas and country houses on Staten Island. Its banks are often well-wooded, and it resembles a river, or Homer's description of the broad Hellespont, which, as Gibbon observes, the poet had evidently likened to a river, and not to an arm of the sea.

The trees in New England are now only beginning (in the first week of May) to unfold their leaves, after an unusually mild winter. They remain leafless for nearly seven months in the year, although in latitude 42° and 43° N., corresponding geographically to Southern Italy. In New Jersey the scarlet maple is putting forth its young leaves; the horse-chestnuts and lime-trees are in bloom; the lilacs flowering in the gardens, and the Judas tree conspicuous with its purplish pink blossom. The dogwood also abounds in the forests, with such a display of white flowers as to take the place of our hawthorn.

We reached Philadelphia without fatigue in less than twenty-two hours, a distance of 300 miles from Boston, having slept on board the steam-boat between Stonington (Connecticut) and New York. We proceeded from Philadelphia to Baltimore, and from thence ascended the beautiful valley of the Patapsco, for 60 miles, to Frederick. Between Baltimore and Frederick, I passed over highly in-