

ors, or pioneers, tracing out a new line of road with the trunks of tall trees felled on every side, over which we had to leap our horses. Then we made a circuit to get to windward of some large stumps which were on fire, or, if we could find no pathway, hurried our steeds through the smoke, half suffocated and oppressed with the heat of the burning timber and a sultry sun. Sometimes we emerged suddenly into a wide clearing, where not a single clump of trees had been spared by the impatient and improvident farmer. All were burnt, not even a shrub remaining for the cattle and sheep, which, for want of a better retreat, were gasping under the imperfect shade of a wooden paling, called in America a Virginia, or snake fence.

The appearance of the country had been so entirely altered since Mr. Roy surveyed the ground two years before, and marked out the boundaries of the new settlements, that he lost his way while explaining to me the geology of "the ridges;" and after we had been on horseback for twelve hours we wandered about in a bright moonlight, unable to find the tavern where we hoped to pass the night. In the darker shade of the forest I saw many fire-flies; and my attention was kept alive, in spite of fatigue, by stories of men and horses swallowed up in some of the morasses which we crossed. I shall always, in future, regard a corduroy road with respect, as marking a great step in the march of civilisation; for greatly were we rejoiced when we discovered in the moonlight the exact part of a bog, over which a safe bridge of this kind had been laid down. At length we reached a log-house, and thought our