

A SECOND VISIT  
TO  
THE UNITED STATES.

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CHAPTER XX.

Darien to Savannah.—Black Baptist Church and Preacher.—Negro Prayer.—Negro Intelligence.—Bribery of Irish Voters.—Dirt Eaters.—Railway Expedition on Hand-Car.—Geology of Georgia.—Negroes more progressive in Upper Country.—Indifference of Georgians to Winter Cold.—Want of Elbow-Room in Pine-Barrens.

*Jan.* 9, 1846.—WHEN I had finished my geological examination of the southern and maritime part of Georgia, near the mouth of the Altamaha river, I determined to return northward to Savannah, that I might resume my survey at the point where I left off in 1842,\* and study the tertiary and cretaceous strata between the Savannah and Alabama rivers.

On our way back from Hopeton to Darien, Mr. Couper and his son accompanied us in a canoe, and we passed through the General's Cut, a canal so called because, according to tradition, Oglethorpe's soldiers cut it out with their swords in one day. We met a great number of negroes paddling their canoes on their way back from Darien, for it was Saturday, when they are generally allowed a half holiday, and they had gone to sell on their own account their poultry, eggs, and fish, and were bringing back tobacco, clothes, and other articles of use or luxury.

Having taken leave of our kind host, we waited some hours at Darien for a steamer, which was to touch there on its way from St. Augustine in Florida, and which conveyed us speedily to Sa-

\* See "Travels in North America," vol. i. pp. 155-174.