

## CHAPTER XXII.

Macon to Columbus by Stage.—Rough Traveling.—Passage of Flint River.—Columbus.—Recent Departure of Creek Indians.—Falls of the Chatahoochie.—Competition of Negro and White Mechanics.—Age of Pine Trees.—Abolitionist “Wrecker” in Railway Car.—Runaway Slave.—Sale of Novels by Newsboys.—Character of Newspaper Press.—Geology and Cretaceous Strata, Montgomery.—Curfew.—Sunday School for Negroes.—Protracted Meeting.

Jan. 21, 1846.—HITHERTO we had traveled from the north by railway or steam ship, but from Macon, on our way south, we were compelled to resort to the stage coach, and started first for Columbus. For the first time we remarked that our friends, on parting, wished us a *safe* journey, instead of a pleasant one, as usual. There had been continued rains, and the roads were cut up by wagons bringing heavy bales of cotton to the Savannah railroad. We passed Knoxville, a small and neat town, and, after dark, supped at a small roadside inn, on pork chops, waffles, and hominy, or porridge made of Indian meal. Here we were told that the stage of the night before had been water-bound by the rising of the rivers. We went on, however, to the great Flint River, where the stage drove into a large flat-boat or raft. The night was mild, but dark, and the scene which presented itself very picturesque. A great number of negroes were standing on both banks, chattering incessantly, and holding in their hands large blazing torches of pine-wood, which threw a red light on the trees around: The river was much swollen, but we crossed without impediment. It was the first stream we had come to of those flowing into the Gulf of Mexico.

Our coach was built on a plan almost universal in America, and like those used in some parts of France, with three seats, the middle one provided with a broad leather strap, to lean back upon. The best places are given to the ladies, and a husband is seated next his wife. There are no outside passengers, except