

## CHAPTER XXXV.

Departure from New Madrid.—Night-watch for Steamers.—Scenery of the Ohio River.—Mount Vernon, Ornithology.—No Undergrowth in Woods.—Spring Flowers.—Visit to Dr. Dale Owen, New Harmony.—Fossil Forest of erect Trees in Coal-measures.—Movers migrating Westward.—Voyage to Louisville.—Professional Zeal of one of “the Pork Aristocracy.”—Fossil Coral-reef at the Falls of the Ohio, Louisville.—Fossil Zoophytes as perfect as recent Stone-corals.

*March 27, 1846.*—WE took up our quarters in the wharf-boat at New Madrid in readiness to sail by the first steamer bound for the Ohio, for I wished to visit New Harmony in Indiana, and there was some risk of being detained several days. The first steamer we hailed, was bound for St. Louis, the next for the Cumberland river, Tennessee, and a third which might have taken us to Mount Vernon, in Indiana, where I meant to disembark, was unwilling to lose time by stopping, the captain shouting out that she was full of passengers, and heavily laden.

Before retiring to rest, I engaged with the keeper of the boat that he should appoint a good night-watch, and an hour after dark, I was awakened by the loud puffing and splashing of a steamer, evidently close at hand. Going on deck, I found the faithless black sentinel fast asleep. It was already too late to hail the vessel, but we made out that she was the Nimrod, and I afterward learnt, that in the course of her voyage she was snagged, both her chimneys thrown down, and her boiler pierced, so that we had a narrow escape. I now gave the keeper of the wharf-boat to understand that the whole town of New Madrid should be informed next day in what manner their night-watches were kept, which piqued him, and he then lighted a large fire on the bank ; but having no longer any faith in the sentinel, I could not sleep, so I determined to keep a look-out myself. Fortunately another steamer soon appeared ; and, almost before she was fairly alongside, a party of active negroes leapt upon our deck, each