

go down to the Mississippi, and buy, for a few dollars, some acres of land, near a wooding station. The husband will fell timber, run up a log cabin, and receive ready money from the steamboats, which burn the wood. At the end of ten or fifteen years, by which time some of their children will have become profitable servants, they may have put by 2000 dollars, bought a farm, and be living in a frame-house."

The very moment of our arrival at Evansville, a fine steamboat, the Sultana, came in sight, and we found, among the passengers, some agreeable acquaintances, whom we had known at New Orleans and Natchez.

As some of these large vessels are much more expensive than others, Americans of the richer class, when making a long voyage, choose them purposely, as in England we take places in a first-class railway carriage, that they may be less thrown into contact with ruder travelers. One of our friends, a naval officer, speaking of the improvement of society in the western states, said that dueling and drinking had greatly diminished in the last fifteen years. He related one of the strange scenes he had witnessed at a dinner-party, only a few years ago, at the house of a judge, in a town on the banks of the Mississippi. A quarrel had arisen, when one of the guests took out a pen-knife, and stabbed the judge in the side, so that the blood spirted out. The judge himself immediately drew out a bowie knife, and his antagonist, at the same instant, a pistol, and it then appeared that every other individual was armed with knives or pistols. The narrator admitted, that as he was traveling, he had also pistols upon him. Fortunately some cool, judicious persons of the party interposed in time to prevent farther mischief.

I fell into conversation with an intelligent well-dressed passenger, who, as we sailed by the town of Utica, in Indiana, remarked that it was too near the large city of Louisville to thrive greatly; and in speculating on the future prospects of the west, he said that by the census of 1840, it was proved that the Atlantic states had about nine and a half millions of inhabitants, while the states lying west of the mountains, and between the great lakes and the Gulf of Mexico, numbered about six millions