

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Louisville.—Noble Site for a Commercial City.—Geology.—Medical Students.—Academical Rotation in Office.—Episcopal Church.—Preaching against the Reformation.—Service in Black Methodist Church.—Improved Condition of Negroes in Kentucky.—A colored Slave married as a free White.—Voyage to Cincinnati.—Naturalized English Artisan gambling.—Sources of Anti-British Antipathies.—Progress of Cincinnati.—Increase of German Settlers.—Democracy of Romanists.—Geology of Mill Creek.—Land Tortoises.—Observatory.—Cultivation of the Vine.—Sculpture by Hiram Powers.

April 5, 1846.—FROM New Albany we crossed the river to Louisville, the metropolis of Kentucky, and found the Galt House the best hotel we had been in since we left the St. Louis at New Orleans. On our way through the streets, we saw written in large letters, over a smith's shop, the word "blacksmithy," and another inscription ran thus:—"Cash paid for coon, mink, wild-cat, beaver, musk-rat, otter, bear, wolf, and deer-skins;" which reminded us that this city, being the first place where large vessels coming up the river are stopped by the Falls, is the natural emporium for the produce of the western hunting grounds. A more noble site for a great commercial town can not be imagined; and several merchants expressed to me their opinion, that Cincinnati, founded at a later date, would not have outstripped her rival in the race, so as to number now a population of nearly 100,000 souls, more than double that of Louisville, but for the existence of slavery, and a large negro population in Kentucky. Besides the disadvantages always arising from the partition of a country between two races, evils which emancipation can not put an end to, Kentucky suffers from the decided preference shown to the right bank of the river by the best class of new settlers from the northeastern states, who choose the free state of Ohio for their residence, instead of the slave state on the left bank.