

to be able to look stupid ; and our children thus got rid of many tormentors.

We were now on the high track followed generally by the agricultural emigrants to the West ; to Michigan, Wisconsin, and the northern parts of Illinois. They can come up to Buffalo by the canal or railroad, as we had done ; and thence find unbounded water carriage by the Great lakes ; even a ship canal from Michigan to the Mississippi river enables them to go down it to New Orleans, and circumnavigate the greater part of the settled portion of the continent of North America. I myself had been strongly recommended to settle my sons in the State of Ohio on lands that should have been already partially cleared ; while others again reminded me that, by so doing, I should allow the pioneer to reap the first great benefit of emigration ; and should have to sink capital in paying him for improvement that the emigrant himself finds amusement, excitement, and profit in making for himself. All this was to be investigated. I myself had a fancy for the State of Indiana ;

perhaps, because I had never been able to find out anything about it. At all events, we would go for a time to Cincinnati; see all Ohio, traverse Indiana and Illinois; and then, making St. Louis our head-quarters for a few months, attempt an excursion into Iowa, a new State which I had heard very highly spoken of.

Travelling as we did, I spent my time in conversing with people of all classes; and having in view the one object, to become thoroughly acquainted with the United States, I acquired a fund of information which I scarcely know how to condense; though I collated and methodised it at the time, and rejected all that I believe was not to be depended on.

The stewardess on board this Erie steamer was much interested in our large family; and behaved to my children with great attention and civility. She took us to be emigrants, as we represented ourselves; and told of the many others whom her steamer had conveyed to the Far West, and who were now settled in comfort and affluence. She made us laugh, by an account she gave of one English family

who had lately passed back again, and returned to England, after a trial of only two months, disgusted with something that had displeased them. Poor people! we laughed at them; and little thought what we ourselves should be doing within the same period.

I must now copy Louie's statement.

“ We arrived at six o'clock in the evening at Sandusky City, a large straggling place, something between a town and a village, with a very scanty population and ill-built houses. We went immediately to the hotel, a large handsome building, called the Townsend House; but I felt a cold chill creep over me as I saw the bedroom destined for four of us girls. It was a large room, with four bare white-washed walls, and but little furniture besides a couple of double beds covered with musquito curtains,—the first I had seen since I left my beloved Italy. Three large windows, in which almost every pane of glass was either cracked or broken, did not tend to make the room more cheerful and inviting. We were tired with our day at Niagara the day before; and Lucy and some of us had had little sleep

during the night in the steam packet ; and we retired to rest as soon as we had filled the places of the broken panes with towels as well as we could. We attempted to let down our musquito curtains ; but, at the first touch, they fell, not being securely fastened. Not a single window-sash fitted into its frame ; papa said they had been all made of green fir wood, which had shrunk ; there were no weights and pulleys to raise them by, but pegs that were put into holes under the raised sash, as we have since found to be the general plan in the backwoods. Next morning, after breakfast, as two of my sisters were looking out of the window, the sash fell and hurt them ; they narrowly escaped dying by the guillotine in America !

“ In short,” she continues, “ it was with no feelings of regret that we quitted this very disagreeable place, and set off in the cars for Cincinnati, the “ Queen city of the west”, and one of the few towns in the United States of America which English people know, or care to know, anything about. Indeed, since our return to the “ old country”, I have been sur-

prised and disappointed at the utter want of interest displayed by our country people on the subject of America. They seem to consider North America as a great desert, in which there are five or six large towns, such as New York, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore. As to South America, it is another large desert, peopled with parrots and monkeys, and containing silver mines. And this ignorance is the more surprising, because now so many people visit the western hemisphere, and write descriptions of their travels. Of the government and constitution of the country, every state of which is as large as all England and Scotland, and has independent laws, and a president of its own,—of all this, they know nothing: it is Hebrew to them.”

Pretty strenuous criticism this of my daughter! However, we must not question the experience of a young lady whose thirteenth birthday had occurred when we were on board the *Kate Hunter*, and who wrote down her impressions a year and a-half afterwards.