Appendix 3: Seeing America from Afar

As economic pressure mounted at home and transatlantic travel became easier, emigration from England to the United States increased. Publishers and individuals capitalised on this phenomenon with emigrant guidebooks, usually letters or other first-hand accounts from those who had made the move. Not all accounts of emigration were encouraging; nor were they all explicitly aimed at prospective emigrants. Fiction, poetry and personal narrative satisfied the interests of potential emigrants as well as the merely curious. Online excerpts represent a few samples of what both sorts of readers might have been reading in the years leading up to and through the 1840s. See also Howitt's translation of Frederika Bremer's *Homes of the New World* in Appendix 2.

William Cobbett, *The Emigrant's Guide; in Ten Letters, Addressed to the Tax-Payers of England; Containing Information of Every Kind, Necessary to Persons who Are about to Emigrate; Including Several Authentic and Most Interesting Letters from English Emigrants, now in America, to their Relations in England*. London: Mills, Jowett, and Mills, 1829.

Initially a loyalist and defender of all things English, Cobbett (1763–1835) spoke out increasingly against government corruption, the privileges of wealth, unfair taxation and industrialization. Known as a radical pamphleteer and the publisher of the Political Register *(1802–1835), Cobbett's complex and varied political positions resist assimilation to such labels as "radical," "liberal," "conservative" and so on*.

As to tradesmen and farmers, those amongst them who are willing to continue to be underlings all their life long; those who are too timid to venture beyond the smoke of their chimneys; those who cannot endure the thought of encountering things which they call inconveniences; and especially those who cannot be happy unless they have slaves[1] to serve them, will do exceedingly well to remain where they are. There is a description of persons who are quite willing to be slaves themselves, provided they are able to play the tyrant over others. This character is now become a great deal too general; and all persons of this character ought to remain where they are; for, never will they find a slave, not even a black one, to crawl to them in AMERICA.

25. Provided a man be of the right stamp; provided he be ready to encounter some little inconvenience in the removal; provided he be a man of sense, and prepared to overcome the little troubles which the removal must necessarily give rise to; and, especially, provided that he be of that character which will make him happy without seeing wretched creatures crawling to him, his age is of little consequence; and the age and number of his children are of little consequence also. I have known men of sixty years of age go to America, take a family with them, settle that family well, and, after living many years surrounded by them, leaving them with a certainty that they would never know want. There are thousands of tradesmen and farmers at this moment in England, that know not what to do; know not which way to turn themselves; know not, whether

[1] servants

to keep on business or to leave off, fearing, do what they will, that they shall lose the earnings of their lives. They look wildly about them, in anxious search of hope, and every where they behold the grounds of despair. They think of emigration: they hesitate: there are the fears of their wives: there are their own fears and doubts; and, while they are hesitating, doubting, and fearing, their money goes away; and, at last, they must land in America as mere labourers or journeymen, or they must remain to pine away their lives in penury, and, perhaps, to die with the moral certainty that their bodies will be consigned to those who will mangle them to pieces for the improvement of science.

26. Why, if such people were, even after they had spent their money, to land in America with nothing but their clothes on their backs, their emigration would be an improvement of their condition: they would, with one half of the industry which they have been accustomed to practise here, possess more of money and of estate than they ever possessed here; and this, bold as the assertion may appear, I pledge myself to prove in the next letter. But these things are demanded in order to ensure success: first, health of body with tolerable strength; second, a willingness to labour, and a character sufficient to enforce obedience in the family; third, an absence of that base pride which will not suffer a man to be happy without having somebody under him.

27, There is one other quality, without the possession of which, all the rest are of no use; namely, that quality which enables a man to overcome the scruples, the remonstrances, and the wailings of his wife. Women, and especially English women, transplant very badly, which is indeed a fact greatly in their praise. It is amiable in all persons to *love their homes*, their parents, their brethren, their friends, and their neighbours; and, in proportion as they have this love in their hearts, they will be reluctant to quit their home, and especially to quit their country. English women have an extraordinary portion of this affection; and, therefore, they are to be treated with all possible indulgence in the case here contemplated, provided that indulgence do not extend so far as to produce injury to their families and themselves. Some of them, by no means destitute of these amiable feelings, have the resolution voluntarily to tear themselves from ruin and slavery for the sake of their children. Others have not this sort of resolution; and there are some who are obstinately perverse. It is a misfortune when this happens to be the case; but it is a poor creature of a man who will suffer this obstinacy to make him and his children beggars for the remainder of their lives. Nothing harsh ought to be done or attempted in the overcoming of this difficulty;

but, harshness and firmness are very different things: this is one of the great concerns of a family, with regard to which the decision must be left to the head of that family. …

86. I SHALL speak first of the farmer; but before I do that, let me suppose the case of a farmer, who is able to work and who has little money; and let me suppose the same of a tailor, shoemaker, carpenter, or other handicraft business. If such a man have little money, not enough to purchase a farm worthy of the name; and at the same time somewhat approaching towards a sufficiency, his best way is to purchase, or rent, a suitable place to live in with his family, and to go to work himself for some other man. We see that John Watson, after recovering from illness, set to work, and that his wife, though with a growing family, took in sewing, and that presently they had two cows, two calves, and nine pigs. We find him, at a later period, with a farm, which he had earned in a year and six months, besides keeping his family. His farm was not great, to be sure; but he had earned it, and kept his family too. The daughters, if eleven or twelve years of age, and strong, should go out to help, as it is called, and the best of employers would be happy to have them. The same with regard to the boys. The expense of living becomes next to nothing; and, if a man land with only two or three hundred pounds, the addition to the sum soon enables him to purchase a farm. In the meanwhile he may *farm on shares.* ... There his industry and skill have their full reward: he is a farmer at once; and nothing but want of health (which will depend in a great measure upon himself) can prevent him from being in that happy state. …

90. The price of the produce of a farm, is not all that is to be taken into consideration here; there is the price of the articles which are to be purchased by the family, and which generally come from cities and towns situated on the edge of the sea; or from manufacturing places which are almost all near the sea. Tea, sugar, coffee, all articles of great consumption, hardware, crockery ware, and numerous other things, together with all the articles of clothing, except the making of them; all these are of much lower price when brought to a farm at about 20 or 30 miles from New York, than they can be when carried to a distance like that of Utica. These things ought to be considered; and the farmer, before he purchases, will do well to make inquiries respecting them. When he has got the prices of farm produce at any two given places; and the price of the articles wanted to be purchased, he will find that he has the means of deciding with precision on which of the two spots is most advantageous to lay out his money. He will also take into view the relative facility of procuring stock for his farm; the relative price of waggons, carts, and other implements, not leaving wholly out of his view the convenience or inconvenience of mills, roads,

and water carriage; the nature of the soil and situation as to health; and, lastly, he will set a due value on the nature of the neighbourhood; and well consider whether it be such as is likely to afford an agreeable intercourse between his family and himself, and those by whom he is surrounded. Having determined upon the spot, and taken up his residence, the sooner he gets acquainted with his neighbours the better for him; and he will do well to bear in mind, that they know the country better than he, and that he ought not to deviate hastily from their mode of cultivation, management, purchasing and selling.

Frances Trollope, *The Domestic Manners of the Americans* 2nd ed. London: Whittaker, Treacher & Co., 1832.

Frances Trollope, mother of novelist Anthony Trollope, spent two and a half years in America from 1828 to 1831, including a year in Cincinnati, where she, her husband and several other sons operated a bazaar to provide Americans with goods unavailable elsewhere. The business failed, but the resulting book, published after her return to England, was successful at home and deeply irritating to Americans, especially Ohioans, whom it portrayed as uncultured drudges, overly focused on pecuniary matters to the exclusion of more elevated concerns.

CHAPTER 5: Cincinnati – Forest Farm – Mr. Bullock

Though I do not quite sympathise with those who consider Cincinnati as one of the wonders of the earth, I certainly think it a city of extraordinary size and importance, when it is remembered that thirty years ago the aboriginal forest occupied the ground where it stands; and every month appears to extend its limits and its wealth.

Some of the native political economists assert that this rapid conversion of a bear-brake into a prosperous city, is the result of free political institutions; not being very deep in such matters, a more obvious cause suggested itself to me, in the unceasing goad which necessity applies to industry in this country, and in the absence of all resource for the idle. During nearly two years that I resided in Cincinnati, or its neighbourhood, I neither saw a beggar, nor a man of sufficient fortune to permit his ceasing his efforts to increase it; thus every bee in the hive is actively employed in search of that honey of Hybla, vulgarly called money; neither art, science, learning, nor pleasure can seduce them from its pursuit. This unity of purpose, backed by the spirit of enterprise, and joined with an acuteness and total absence of probity, where interest is concerned, which might set canny Yorkshire at defiance, may well go far towards obtaining its purpose. …

The "simple" manner of living in Western America was more distasteful to me from its levelling effects on the manners of the people, than from the personal privations that it rendered necessary; and yet, till I was without them, I was in no degree aware of the many pleasurable sensations derived from the little elegancies and refinements enjoyed by the middle classes in

Europe. There were many circumstances, too trifling even for my gossiping pages, which pressed themselves daily and hourly upon us, and which forced us to remember painfully that we were not at home. It requires an abler pen than mine to trace the connection which I am persuaded exists between these deficiencies and the minds and manners of the people. All animal wants are supplied profusely at Cincinnati, and at a very easy rate; but, alas! these go but a little way in the history of a day's enjoyment. The total and universal want of manners, both in males and females, is so remarkable, that I was constantly endeavouring to account for it. It certainly does not proceed from want of intellect. I have listened to much dull and heavy conversation in America, but rarely to any that I could strictly call silly, (if I except the every where privileged class of very young ladies). They appear to me to have clear heads and active intellects; are more ignorant on subjects that are only of conventional value, than on such as are of intrinsic importance; but there is no charm, no grace in their conversation. I very seldom during my whole stay in the country heard a sentence elegantly turned, and correctly pronounced from the lips of an American. There is always something either in the expression or the accent that jars the feelings and shocks the taste. …

We visited one farm, which interested us particularly from its wild and lonely situation, and from the entire dependence of the inhabitants upon their own resources. It was a partial clearing in the very heart of the forest. The house was built on the side of a hill, so steep that a high ladder was necessary to enter the front door, while the back one opened against the hill side; at the foot of this sudden eminence ran a clear stream, whose bed had been deepened into a little reservoir, just opposite the house. A noble field of Indian-corn stretched away into the forest on one side, and a few half-cleared acres, with a shed or two upon them, occupied the other, giving accommodation to cows, horses, pigs, and chickens innumerable. Immediately before the house was a small potatoe garden, with a few peach and apple trees. The house was built of logs, and consisted of two rooms, besides a little shanty or lean-to, that was used as a kitchen. Both rooms were comfortably furnished with good beds, drawers, &c. The farmer's wife, and a young woman who looked like her sister, were spinning, and three little children were playing about. The woman told me that they spun and wove all the cotton and woolen garments of the family, and knit all the stockings; her husband, though not a shoe-maker by trade, made all the shoes. She manufactured all the soap and candles they used, and prepared her sugar from the sugar-trees on their farm. All she wanted with money, she said, was to buy coffee, tea, and whiskey, and she

could "get enough any day by sending a batch of butter and chicken to market." They used no wheat, nor sold any of their corn, which, though it appeared a very large quantity, was not more than they required to make their bread and cakes of various kinds, and to feed all their live stock during the winter. She did not look in health, and said they had all had ague in "the fall"; but she seemed contented, and proud of her independence; though it was in somewhat a mournful accent that she said, "Tis strange to us to see company: I expect the sun may rise and set a hundred times before I shall see another *human* that does not belong to the family."

I have been minute in the description of this forest farm, as I think it the best specimen I saw of the back-wood's independence, of which so much is said in America. These people were indeed independent, Robinson Crusoe was hardly more so, and they eat and drink abundantly; but yet it seemed to me that there was something awful and almost unnatural in their loneliness. No village bell ever summoned them to prayer, where they might meet the friendly greeting of their fellow-men. When they die, no spot sacred by ancient reverence will receive their bones – Religion will not breathe her sweet and solemn farewell upon their grave; the husband or the father will dig the pit that is to hold them, beneath the nearest tree; he will himself deposit them within it, and the wind that whispers through the boughs will be their only requiem. But then they pay neither taxes nor tythes, are never expected to pull off a hat or to make a curtsy, and will live and die without hearing or uttering the dreadful words, "God save the king."

CHAPTER 9: Literature

In truth, there are many reasons which render a very general diffusion of literature impossible in America. I can scarcely class the universal reading of newspapers as an exception to this remark; if I could, my statement would be exactly the reverse, and I should say that America beat the world in letters. The fact is, that throughout all ranks of society, from the successful merchant, which is the highest, to the domestic serving man, which is the lowest, they are all too actively employed to read, except at such broken moments as may suffice for a peep at a newspaper. It is for this reason, I presume, that every American newspaper is more or less a magazine, wherein the merchant may scan while he holds out his hand for an invoice. …

The only reading men I met with were those who made letters their profession; and of these, there were some who would hold a higher rank in the great Republic (not of America, but of letters), did they write for persons less given to the study of magazines and newspapers; and they might hold a higher rank still, did they write for the few and not for the many. I was always drawing a parallel, perhaps a childish one, between the external and internal deficiency of polish and of elegance in the native volumes of the country. Their compositions have not that condensation of thought, or that elaborate finish, which the consciousness of writing for the scholar and the man of taste is calculated to give; nor have their dirty blue paper and slovenly types the polished elegance that fits a volume for the hand or the eye of the fastidious epicure in literary enjoyment. The first book I bought in America was the "Chronicles of the Cannongate." In asking the price, I was agreeably surprised to hear a dollar and a half named, being about one sixth of what I used to pay for its fellows in England; but on opening the grim pages, it was long before I could again call them cheap. To be sure the pleasure of a bright well-printed page ought to be quite lost sight of in the glowing, galloping, bewitching course that the imagination sets out upon with a new Waverley novel; and so it was with me till I felt the want of it; and then I am almost ashamed to confess how often, in turning the thin dusky pages, my poor earth-born spirit paused in its pleasure, to sigh for hot-pressed wire-wove.

CHAPTER 10: Removal to the country – Walk in the forest – Equality

At length my wish of obtaining a house in the country was gratified. A very pretty cottage, the residence of a gentleman who was removing into town, for the convenience of his business as a lawyer, was to let, and I immediately secured it. It was situated in a little village about a mile and a half from the town, close to the foot of the hills formerly mentioned as the northern boundary of it. We found ourselves much more comfortable here than in the city. The house was pretty and commodious, our sitting-rooms were cool and airy; we had got rid of the detestable mosquitoes, and we had an ice-house that never failed. Beside all this, we had the pleasure of gathering our tomatoes from our own garden, and receiving our milk from our own cow. Our manner of life was infinitely more to my taste than before; it gave us all the privileges of rusticity, which are fully as incompatible with a residence in a little town of Western America as with a residence in London. We lived on terms of primaeval intimacy with our cow, for if we lay down on our lawn

she did not scruple to take a sniff at the book we were reading, but then she gave us her own sweet breath in return. The verge of the cool-looking forest that rose opposite our windows was so near, that we often used it as an extra drawing-room, and there was no one to wonder if we went out with no other preparation than our parasols, carrying books and work enough to while away a long summer day in the shade; the meadow that divided us from it was covered with a fine short grass, that continued for a little way under the trees, making a beautiful carpet, while sundry logs and stumps furnished our sofas and tables. But even this was not enough to satisfy us when we first escaped from the city, and we determined upon having a day's enjoyment of the wildest forest scenery we could find. So we packed up books, albums, pencils, and sandwiches, and, despite a burning sun, dragged up a hill so steep that we sometimes fancied we could rest ourselves against it by only leaning forward a little. In panting and in groaning we reached the top, hoping to be refreshed by the purest breath of heaven; but to have tasted the breath of heaven we must have climbed yet farther, even to the tops of the trees themselves, for we soon found that the air beneath them stirred not, nor ever had stirred, as it seemed to us, since first it settled there, so heavily did it weigh upon our lungs.

Still we were determined to enjoy ourselves, and forward we went, crunching knee deep through aboriginal leaves, hoping to reach some spot less perfectly airtight than our landing-place. Wearied with the fruitless search, we decided on reposing awhile on the trunk of a fallen tree; being all considerably exhausted, the idea of sitting down on this tempting log was conceived and executed simultaneously by the whole party, and the whole party sunk together through its treacherous surface into a mass of rotten rubbish that had formed part of the pith and marrow of the eternal forest a hundred years before.

We were by no means the only sufferers by the accident; frogs, lizards, locusts, katiedids, beetles, and hornets, had the whole of their various tenements disturbed, and testified their displeasure very naturally by annoying us as much as possible in return; we were bit, we were stung, we were scratched; and when, at last, we succeeded in raising ourselves from the venerable ruin, we presented as woeful a spectacle as can well be imagined. We shook our (not ambrosial) garments, and panting with heat, stings, and vexation, moved a few paces from the scene of our misfortune, and again sat down; but this time it was upon the solid earth. …

We got home alive, which agreeably surprised us; and when our parched tongues again found power of utterance, we promised each other faithfully never to propose any more parties of pleasure in the grim store-like forests of Ohio….

CHAPTER 12: Peasantry, compared to that of England

Mechanics, if good workmen, are certain of employment, and good wages, rather higher than with us; the average wages of a labourer throughout the Union is ten dollars a month, with lodging, boarding, washing, and mending; if he lives at his own expense he has a dollar a day. It appears to me that the necessaries of life, that is to say, meat, bread, butter, tea, and coffee, (not to mention whiskey), are within the reach of every sober, industrious, and healthy man who chooses to have them; and yet I think that an English peasant, with the same qualifications, would, in coming to the United States, change for the worse. He would find wages somewhat higher, and provisions in Western America considerably lower: but this statement, true as it is, can lead to nothing but delusion if taken apart from other facts, fully as certain, and not less important, but which require more detail in describing, and which perhaps cannot be fully comprehended, except by an eye-witness. The American poor are accustomed to eat meat three times a day; I never enquired into the habits of any cottagers in Western America, where this was not the case. I found afterwards in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and other parts of the country, where the price of meat was higher, that it was used with more economy; yet still a much larger portion of the weekly income is thus expended than with us. Ardent spirits, though lamentably cheap, still cost something, and the use of them among the men, with more or less of discretion, according to the character, is universal. Tobacco also grows at their doors, and is not taxed; yet this too costs something, and the air of heaven is not in more general use among the men of America, than chewing tobacco. I am not now pointing out the evils of dram-drinking, but it is evident, that where this practice prevails universally, and often to the most frightful excess, the consequence must be, that the money spent to obtain the dram is less than the money lost by the time consumed in drinking it. Long, disabling, and expensive fits of sickness are incontestably more frequent in every part of America, than in England, and the sufferers have no aid to look to, but what they have saved, or what they may be enabled to sell. I have never seen misery exceed what I have witnessed in an American cottage where disease has entered.

But if the condition of the labourer be not superior to that of the English peasant, that of his wife and daughters is incomparably worse. It is they who are indeed the slaves of the soil. One has but to look at the wife of an American cottager, and ask her age, to be convinced that the life she leads is one of hardship, privation, and labour. It is rare to see a woman in this station who has reached the age of thirty, without losing every trace of youth and beauty. You continually see women with infants on their knee, that you feel sure are their grand-children, till some convincing proof of the contrary is displayed. Even the young girls, though often with lovely features, look pale, thin, and haggard. I do not remember to have seen in any single instance among the poor, a specimen of the plump, rosy, laughing physiognomy so common among our cottage girls. The horror of domestic service, which the reality of slavery, and the fable of equality, have generated, excludes the young women from that sure and most comfortable resource of decent English girls; and the consequence is, that with a most irreverent freedom of manner to the parents, the daughters are, to the full extent of the word, domestic slaves. This condition, which no periodical merry-making, no village *fête*, ever occurs to cheer, is only changed for the still sadder burdens of a teeming wife. They marry very young; in fact, in no rank of life do you meet with young women in that delightful period of existence between childhood and marriage, wherein, if only tolerably well spent, so much useful information is gained, and the character takes a sufficient degree of firmness to support with dignity the more important parts of wife and mother. The slender, childish thing, without vigour of mind or body, is made to stem a sea of troubles that dims her young eye and makes her cheek grow pale, even before nature has given it the last beautiful finish of the full-grown woman.

Selections from *America & England Contrasted, or, The Emigrants Handbook and Guide to the United States* 2nd ed. (1842) pp. 12–3, 36–7.

This book consisted largely of encouraging accounts by emigrants to America of their personal experiences. The first here is by a Mr. Buckingham, who wrote about his time in upstate New York. Although the actual influence of such emigrant handbooks has been questioned by scholars, there is no doubting their popularity, at least as measured by the number published (Erickson 35).

"In the general appearance of the surface of the country, England is far superior to America. The great perfection to which every kind of cultivation has there attained; the noble mansion of the wealthy gentry; the fine parks and lawns; the beautiful hedge-row fences; the substantial stone farm houses and out-buildings, and the excellent roads and conveyances which are seen in almost every part of England, are not to be found here. But though in these outward appearances, American farming districts are inferior to England, yet in all the substantial realities the superiority is on the side of America.

"In America, the occupier of a farm, whether large or small, is almost invariably the owner, and the land he cultivates, he can therefore turn to what purpose he considers it the most fitted for – hence all the disagreeable differences between landlords and tenants – the raising of rents, after expensive and laborious improvements; or ejectments for voting at an election, or interference in parochial affairs, in a way not pleasing to the lord of the soil – together with the interference of clerical magistrates, so fertile a source of annoyance in England, are here unknown. There being no tithes here, great or small, for the support of a state clergy, all that large class of troubles growing out of tithe disputes and tithe compositions, are here unheard of. The labourers being fewer than are required, and wages being high, there are neither paupers nor poors' [*sic*] rates, and neither workhouses nor goals [*sic*] are required for the country population, since abundance of work and good pay prevent poverty, and take away all temptation to dishonesty. There being no ranks or orders, such as the esquire or baronet, the baron and the earl, the marquis and the duke, each to compete with, and outvie the other in outward splendour, which so often lends to inward embarrassment as in England, the country residents are free from foolish ambition which devours the substance of so many at home. … The consequence is, that

with more source of pleasure and fewer of dissatisfaction, the American country gentry and farmers are much better off, and much happier than the same class of people in England, and in short scarcely anything ever occurs to ruffle the serenity of a country and happy life in the well settled parts of America.

"If the contrast is striking between the American and English farmer, it is still more so between the farm labourers of the two countries. In England it is well known what miserable wages the farm labourers receive, ten to twelve shillings perhaps the average." (The highest it should be.) "What scanty fare they are obliged to subsist upon. Flesh meat once or twice a week at the most! And how perpetually they stand in danger of the workhouse, with all their anxiety and strife to avoid it; with no education themselves, and no desire to procure any for their children. Here (America) there is not a single labourer on the farm who receives less than a dollar a day, or twenty-four shillings per week, while many receive more; and those that are permanently attached to the farm receive that sum or equal to it throughout the year. And where they are resident on the farm, they have as good living as prosperous tradesmen in the middle ranks of life enjoy in England. Three substantial meals a day, and in hay and harvest time four, with abundance and variety at each. …

"The consequence is, that the farm labourers and their families are well fed, well dressed, well educated in all the ordinary elements of knowledge, intelligent in conversation, agreeable in manners, and as superior to the corresponding class in England as all those advantages can indicate. …

"The greatest difference of all, however, between the agricultural population of England and that of America, is to be seen in their relative degrees of intelligence. In England, none, I presume, will deny the fact of the farmers and farm labourers being among the least intelligent and most uneducated portion of the population; here, on the contrary, they are among the most informed. A great number of the occupiers of farms are persons, who having been successful in business in cities, have retired at an early period of life, bought an estate, take delight in cultivating it on their own account for income, and as from four to ten per cent. is realised on farming capital where carefully attended to, it is at once a safe and profitable investment.

"These gentlemen having a good deal of leisure, little parish business to attend to, and a taste for books and love of information, read a great deal more than the busy inhabitants of commercial cities, and have the power of exercising their judgment and reflection more free from the bias of party views and sectarian feelings, than those who live in large commercial cities. Their previous education and ample means dispose others also to works of benevolence, and the consequence is that while their conversation is more intelligent, and their manners greatly superior to the English farmers generally, they devote a large portion of their time and means to the establishment of Sunday schools, district schools, societies for mutual improvement, country libraries, temperance societies, savings" banks; and, in short, everything that can elevate those below them, and make them happier in their stations. …

"The Mechanic's and Labourer's Guide" has some statements on the situation in which a mechanic with a large family is placed, which we deem most important to be generally known. It states that:

"In America, whatever be the extent of a man's family, and whether girls or boys, they will not be found the very heavy burthen they too frequently are in old countries. Except in the difficulty of getting them over there, number will be no disadvantage, owing to the constant demand there is for their services. It is the custom to send children out to employment at the early age of nine or ten years, and very desirable situations, with fair remuneration, may readily be obtained for them. It is plain, therefore, that they are likely to be a benefit rather than an incumbrance to the parent so soon as they are at all able to be employed. There may be said to exist also a prejudice in favour of "old country" children, the same as for adult help, particularly in the case of females. In advertising for female aid, a customary plan upon most occasions is to specify that English or American would be preferred, or that none other need apply. Girls from the age of eleven and twelve are sought after as day-helps, either to nurse children or attend about house, getting from half a dollar to a dollar a week and board, while the adult female help, (there are no servants in America) will get from five to eight dollars a month and every necessary. Girls are also early employed in trades. In all employment which comes within the province of the needle, there is a great demand for them, not. withstanding their being already so numerous. …

This last summer there have been about six hundred new houses built in Cincinnati, as large fine houses as you can see in England, most of them brick, and some few with stone fronts, but all of them covered with shingles, that is small split boards. There is a beautiful boat landing, paved with stone, with a regular descent from the great freshes that come down the river Ohio; there is no tide, We have good works that carry water all over the city, but poor people have to pay dear for it. This Is a fine place for hogs, there have been thirty thousand killed this winter for the pork houses, where they barrel it up and send it to the seaports; we can take a basket and go to the slaughter-houses and get as many pig-hearts and lights as we please for nothing. Hosiers and basket- makers are very scarce; I wish many times my poor neighbours were here for the sake of having plenty of food, but l don't went one to come thinking of getting a living without working. …