

From Flint's Valley of the Mississippi.

The Arkansas, its Grapes, and Cypress Swamps.

"We continued to float on through this deep and inundated forest, when at right angles to our course we discovered another opening. It was the Arkansas, moving on with a majestic current of water, of the colour of annatto dye.—This is the next to the Missouri, and from its mouth by its meanders to the mountains, is commonly computed about 2,000 miles. Its course has been traced in these mountains at least five hundred miles, and it is believed that the source of the Arkansas has not yet been explored by our people. One singularity distinguishes this river from any other of the United States. Where it winds along among the mountains, all agree it is a broad and deep river, and carries a great volume of water. But no sooner does it emerge from the shelter of woods and mountains into a boundless and arid plain, composed to a great depth of quicksands, than it begins to disappear; and in a hundred miles from the very elevated mountain, near which it enters upon the plain, it is fordable during the summer. Still lower down it is a stream, according to the well known phrase of the country, 'sunk in the sand,' that is, it trickles amidst the banks of sand and pebbles, so as, in many places, to exhibit a dry channel of burning sands from bank to bank."

Here on these vast sand plains, which will for ages be the Syria of America, the home of elk and buffalo, are the wild fields of those native grapes, that all travellers in these regions have spoken of in terms of such admiration.—They are said to be conical in shape, large, of a beautiful blue, and transparent. The driving sands rise round the stem, that advances still above the sand. This sand performs the office of pruning, covering the superfluous growth and foliage, inflicting no wounds, and affording a most admirable method of ripening the clusters in the highest perfection by the reflection of the sun from the sand. In the expedition of Major Long, the extreme sweetness of these grapes is recorded, and other travellers have borne the same testimony. They speak of vast tracts covered with these rich clusters. I shall have occasion elsewhere to speak of the classes of this native grape, which are so much extolled in the internal provinces of Spain. They are common, through the pine woods of Louisiana, and known by the name of the pine woods grape."

This grape ripens in June. It would probably be an admirable grape to cultivate. There are also varieties of autumnal grapes that ripen on the sand plains of the sources of Red River.—The hunters assert that they are richer than any cultivated grape."

At a distance of a mile or two from the river, there are, first, thick cane brakes, then a series of lakes, exactly resembling the river in their points and bends, and in the colour of their waters. These lakes are covered with the large leaves, and in the proper season the flowers of the "nymphen nelumbo," the largest and most splendid flowers I have seen. I have seen them of the size of the crown of a hat—the external leaves of the most brilliant white, and the internal of a beautiful yellow. These lakes are so entirely covered with the large conical leaves, nearly of the size of a parasol, and a small class of aquatic plants, of the same form of leaves, but with yellow flowers, that a bird might walk from shore to shore, without dipping its feet in the water—and these plants rise from all depths of water, up to ten feet."

Beyond these lakes there are immense swamps of cypress, which swamps constitute a vast portion of the inundated lands of the Mississippi and its waters. No prospect on earth can be more gloomy. The poetic Styx of Acheron had not a greater union of dismal circumstances. Well may the cypress have been esteemed a funeral and lugubrious tree. When the tree has shed its leaves, for it is deciduous, a cypress swamp, with its countless interlaced branches, of a hoary grey, has an aspect of desolation and death, that often as I have been impressed with it, I cannot describe. In summer, its fine, short, and deep green leaves invest these hoary branches with a drapery of emerald.—The water in which they grow is a dead level, two or three feet deep, still leaving the innumerable cypress 'knees' as they are called resembling regular beehives, throwing their points above the waters. This water is covered with a thick coat of green matter, resembling green

buff velvet. The mosquitoes swarm above the water in countless millions. A very frequent adjunct to this horrible scenery, is the moccasim snake with its huge scaly body lying in folds upon the side of a cypress knee; and if you approach too near, lazy and reckless as he is, he throws the upper jaw of his huge mouth almost back to his neck giving you ample warning of his ability and will to defend himself. I travelled forty miles along this river swamp and a considerable way on the edge of it, in which the horse sunk at every step, half way up to his knees. I was enveloped for the whole distance with a cloud of mosquitoes. Like the angel Avernus, I did not remember to have seen a single bird in the whole distance, except the blue jay. Nothing interrupted the death-like silence, but the hum of mosquitoes."

There cannot be well imagined another feature to the gloom of these vast and dismal forests, to finish this kind of landscape, more in keeping with the rest, than the long moss, or Spanish beard. This funeral drapery attaches itself to the cypress in preference to any other tree. There is not, that I know, an object in nature which produces such a number of sepulchral images as the view of the cypress forests, all shagged, dark, and enveloped in the hanging festoons of moss. If you would inspire an inhabitant of New England, possessed of customary feeling, with the degree of home sickness which would strike to the heart, transfer him from the hill and the dale, the bracing air and varied scenery of the North, to the cypress swamps of the South, that are covered with the long moss."

This curious appendage to the trees is first visible in the cypress swamps at about 33 degrees, and is seen thence to the Gulf. It is the constant accompaniment of the trees in deep bottoms and swampy lands, and seems to be an indication of the degree of humidity in the atmosphere. I have observed that in dry and hilly pine woods, far from streams and stagnant waters, it almost wholly disappears; but in the pine woods it reappears as you approach bottoms, streams, and swamps."

I have remarked, too, that where it so completely envelops the cypress, as to show nothing but the festoons of the dry gray moss, other trees are wholly free from it. It seems less inclined to attach itself to the cotton wood tree, than to any other."

This moss is a plant of the parasitical species, being propagated by seed, forms in a capsule that is preceded by a very minute but beautiful purple flower. Although, when the trees that have cast their leaves are covered with it, they look as if they were dead, yet the moss will not live long on a dead tree. It is well known that this moss, when managed by a process like that of preparing hemp or flax, separates from its bark, and the black fibre that remains is not unlike horse hair, elastic, incorruptible, and an admirable and cheap article for mattresses, of which are formed most of the beds of the southern people of this region."

EXECUTION OF DEVAUGHN.

The sentence of the law yesterday carried into execution at Alexandria, on the body of Jonathan Devaughn, convicted of the murder of Tobias Martin, a respectable citizen of Washington; his trial having been removed, by a change of venue, from this place to Alexandria. The execution took place about half a mile north of the town, about two o'clock, in the presence of an immense concourse of people. To the last moment he preserved the same hardihood and unmoved or unfeeling spirit which he has displayed from the moment of his apprehension. A more desperate and irreclaimable criminal perhaps never expiated his crime on a scaffold."

STEAM CARRIAGE.

An extraordinary sensation was created on Thursday evening in the neighbourhood of the Regent's Park, by the sudden appearance of Gueyney's newly invented steam carriage, or self-moving machine, which coursed round part of the new road, up the ascent of the Albany road, at the rate of ten miles an hour, carrying several persons inside and behind. It seemed to move with the most perfect ease, and without any appearance of smoke whatever. The conductor evidently held the carriage under complete command; and whenever the crowd which gathered about it became troublesome, shooting away from them with speed equal to that of a mail coach."

JOHNSTON'S NARRATIVE

Of his Capture by the Indians.

This is in many respects a curious book. Mr. Johnston (of Bolcourt county, Virginia) is the individual from whom the Duke de Liancourt received much of the information touching the Indians, which he afterwards published in his Travels. The capture of Mr. Johnston took place in 1790, on the Ohio. At that time the whole of the district which now counts a population of one million of people, did not contain the habitation of a white man. The very spot where our traveller was way-laid by a band of prowling savages, is now the site of a populous town, and he was dragged a prisoner through solitary forests, which now surround us; "the busy hum of men." There were a few wretched unmanageable barks, which have since been displaced by superior steam-boats. It was in one of these miserable arks, as they were called, that Mr. Johnston, with three other males and two females, set out on a voyage of business down the Ohio. The story of their capture is interesting. It reminds the reader of the delectable pathos of the crocodile, who dived into the water by mimicking the cries of a child."

"After a short time, we saw distinctly that the smoke ascended from a fire on the north western shore, and we began to turn towards the south-eastern, when we perceived two white men on the opposite side of the river, where the fire was. They called to us, and implored us to receive them on board our boat, declaring that they had been taken prisoners by the Indians some weeks before, at Kennedy's Bottom in Kentucky; had been by their captors across the Ohio, and had been so fortunate as to escape from their hands; that they were suffering from the most violent fever, and that, unless we could procure some medicine to the power of their enemies, unless they were rescued by us from the miserable fate which awaited them. They continued down the bank of the river abreast of us, and repeated their story with cries and wailings, until the suspicions which had risen in our mind, under their first appearance, began to be shaken. At length they pressed their tale upon us with so much earnestness, and stated so many minute particulars connected with it, that our feelings were excited towards them, and we discussed the question of going on shore."

We had just required from them the names of the Indians to whom they belonged, and from their side of the river; but they denied that they were any fire. This falsehood, consistently disproved by the evidence of our eyes, ought to have determined us to shoot our ears against all they told us. We proceeded, however, with the discussion. They said they were, in fact, the first settlers on our frontier, to think lightly of danger from Indians, urged us to land. Mr. May, Mr. Skyles, and I opposed it. We had great stress on the fact, that the two white men had not told the truth with respect to the fire, and therefore were not worthy of a credence; and that, if they were under the necessity of kindling fire in the cold weather which then prevailed, and were unwilling to acknowledge they had any, let us might suspect they were Indians on shore. By this time our progress on the water was so much faster than theirs on land, that we had gone far before they could reach us. Flinn then proposed a scheme by which, according to his mode of reasoning, all the hazard of landing would be thrown upon himself alone, without exposure to the rest of our party. He said we had gained on them so much, that if there were any Indians we must be greatly benefited, and might as well land, and be ready to retreat, if necessary, than to remain on the water, where we might be taken and murdered without our having any means of defence. On the contrary, should our fears prove groundless, we could put back and take him and the two men on board.—Believing this plan could be carried into effect in safety, and our hearts at the same moment yielding to the feelings of humanity, all on board immediately and tacitly assented to this proposition. About effecting that, in crossing the current we should cease to move as rapidly as we had while going directly with it. The consequence was, we were so long in getting to the shore, that by the time we had reached it, and put Flinn on to our astonishment and dismay, we beheld a party of Indians, completely armed after their manner, standing on the shore. Their number was not great since none but the swift-footed could gain the spot where we landed as soon as the boat reached it. We therefore determined on resistance. Mr. Skyles and I took up our guns for that purpose; but the main body of the Indians, who had concealed themselves from view by lying on the bank ground as they ran, some distance from the river began to come up. When Mr. May perceived their number thus increasing, he remonstrated against so unequal a contest, and urged that our attention should be directed to the single object of getting back into the current. But the height of the water, was such, that our strong branches of a large tree which bent from the bank, and while we vainly endeavoured, by all the means in our power, to extricate ourselves, the whole body of Indians, fifty-four in number, after firing a scattering shot as they came up, took a position not farther than sixty feet from us, and sending the air with a horrible wailing, poured the whole fire into our boat. Resistance was hopeless—to get into the shore impossible."

In this state of despair, we protected ourselves from their fire by lying down in the bottom of the boat, but not until the Indians had killed Holly Fleming, who had taken shelter behind me, and received a ball in the corner of her mouth which passed close over my left shoulder. Skyles was wounded by a rifle bullet, which raged across his back from one shoulder to the other. Our enemies continued to fire into the boat with unintermitting fury, and when they were killed the firing ceased, and all was quiet on board. Mr. May, who had not taken off his nightcap since he awoke in the morning then rose on his feet, and taking it from his head, held it up as a signal for surrender. Seeing him rise, I reminded him of the danger to which he would be exposed by standing up, and treated him to lie down again. But it was too late. About the moment when I spoke, the fire recommenced, and this excellent man fell dead by a ball through the brain, while I supposed that he had taken my advice and had lain down of his own accord. Nor did I discover my mistake until, casting my eyes on him a short time afterwards, I saw him covered with blood, and the mark of the ball in his forehead, too plainly indicated his fate. Once more the fire from the bank was discontinued. Flinn, by the time he had reached the top of the bank; were killed; Mr. May and Dolly Fleming, were killed; Mr. Skyles was wounded; Holly Fleming and I remained unhurt. The savages then made their arrangements for taking possession of our boat, and immediately carried it into effect. About twenty of them plunged into the water and swam to us, with tomahawks in their hands, while the rest stood with their rifles pointed towards us; for the purpose of destroying us in the event of resistance to the boarding party. When I found them climbing up the side of the boat I rose, and reaching my hand to the Indian nearest me, assisted him in getting in, proceeding then to the others, I helped as many of them on board, in like manner, as I could."

The narrative then details the events of this captivity which are sometimes very distressing, and at others very singular. It became partially a farce with the tribe, through the aid of a cookery. They had captured some flour, sugar and chocolate, which were given to him to concoct into edible shape—"I was furnished with the undressed skin of a deer, which was most disgustingly stained by having been used as a saddle on the horse of the Indians; this was now to be the sole employment of a tray, I commenced my new employment by baking a number of loaves in the ashes. There was more dough than the fire would contain, and I made the remainder into small dumplings and boiled them in a kettle of chocolate. They were then mixed with sugar and with the chocolate, which is the usual mode of cooking. They were so delighted with this new, and to them delicious dish, that they appeared to consider me as a very clever fellow as a cook, and continued me in that employment so long as I was their prisoner. Such a task would not exactly suit our friend Alderman. The Indians have many of the amusements of 'good society.' They game, drink, give balls and are fond of dinner parties. At cards their principal game is 'Noay,' the winner being entitled to a certain number of sticks of tobacco, or other articles. Their favorite drink is made of berries, and is very palatable. They do not like to see their affectionate of Champagne. Their dances were generally interrupted by the words 'kon-no-kah,' 'we-sa-too,' 'shoos-sa-ka-in,' which appear to us quite as rational as 'dos-a-dos,' 'dem-que-que-que-que,' 'chasse-a-drole,' &c. The chief courtesans, who were very numerous, were wild turkeys, and young bears roasted whole. These are great delicacies no doubt, but not quite equal to de veau en tourte, rosbif de mouton, or calipash and calipae. Mr. Johnston, though his master was singularly kind and merciful, and many severe penalties to endure, and most when many were enumerated his forced marriage, with an antiquated piece of squaw-hood. Finally they arrived at Upper Sandusky, where our captive was ransomed through the humanity of a French trader, Mr. Duchouquet. It was afterwards in Mr. Johnston's sketch of the Indians' character and manners, that I have inserted several of the most interesting and curious anecdotes. This portion is made up partly from the author's own observation, and partly from other writers. We need hardly repeat that we have read the book with much pleasure. It is another contribution to the knowledge of the 'original people of this Continent,' a people who are rapidly following from the north into poverty, and will in the lapse of another century cease to exist.—N. Y. Enquirer.

LIVERPOOL RACING.

We congratulate our sporting friends on the success of their late race, which has just been established in the vicinity of Liverpool. All the town knows, that a number of choice spirits assemble, during the summer evenings, on the green contiguous to St. George's hotel, Everton, for the purpose of enjoying the delightful exercise of bowling. Among the group may be seen the portly lawyer, the bulky physician, and the wealthy merchant, who there invigorate themselves after the toils of the day, by impelling the bowl across the smooth green sward. A few evenings ago the party met as usual, but the bowlers could not follow their usual pastime. What was the cause? Various plans were proposed, and successively rejected. At length a foot-race between two of the company was proposed. A son of Esculapius challenged a foreign gentleman to run him a race along the gravelled walk. The challenge was, that the former would run fifty yards with the heaviest man in the company on his back, in a shorter time than the latter would run one hundred yards unincumbered. The challenge was accepted, and the wager was glasses round. But a difficulty now arose to determine which of the gentlemen present possessed the greatest gravity. We have already said, that there was a portly lawyer in the company. All eyes were instantly fixed on him; and he was requested, with one consent, to act the part of jockey on the occasion. Our friend loved a good joke almost as well as he loves a good dinner; and he, without hesitation, accepted the situation. The man of physique stooped to receive his learned rider, who mounted as quickly as he could, the broad back of the biped. The foreigner then took his stand beside his competitor. The signal for starting was now given, and off set the parties, at full speed, down the gravelled walk. Esculapius, notwithstanding he carried the lawyer, like Coke upon Lindol, soon outpaced his unincumbered competitor, and scudded away with his load of law with as much ease, as if he had a mere boy upon his shoulders. His rival and the rest of the company struggled after him in vain. But how shall we describe the catastrophe which befel him when he was within a few yards of the winning post? A most unfortunate nut of the most even in the world, it is thickly strewn with sharp stones. Well, when Esculapius was in the height of his career and when the goal was full in view, his foot struck against something. He stumbled, he totter-

ed, and down came Law and Physik with a concussion which shook to its very foundation the tower of Everton church. Alas! Alas! Alas!

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Drought in the West-Indies.

Capt. Knapp, at Newburyport, from Martinique, says "there never was so dry a season before known, in Martinique, not a drop of rain had descended for more than six weeks, and vegetation was entirely parched up; the planters are in despair, the cane cut is but one third grown; they ask forty sous for molasses on the estates, and there will be but little at that price."

LATE FROM ENGLAND.

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Mr. Calcraft is talked of for some situation, but the Government says "we have not heard any particular one named, at present, as likely to be offered to the Hon. Gentleman."

These arrangements have caused great satisfaction. The Observer says they have given the coup de grace to the Opposition. THE GREEKS. The following is the substance of news from Constantinople to the 10th of April, received at Trieste on the 8th of May. "Lord Cochrane, who arrived in Greece with a brig, a large schooner, and about 700,000 franks, which were remitted him by the French Philhellenes, declared to the Assembly at Egina that he was come to assist the Greeks in recovering their liberty, and that he desired to be appointed High Admiral of their fleet. The Hydriots did not at first seem inclined to obey a foreigner, but Lord Cochrane declared that he could not serve except on this condition, and that otherwise he should withdraw, they consented, and his Lordship having been unanimously appointed High Admiral, had a squadron equipped composed of his two vessels, the American frigate Hellas, the Perseverance (steamboat) and four chosen Hydriot ships, in all eight sail, with which he is gone on a secret expedition. It is thought that the Admiral will go to Negropont and Setionni or towards the Mediterranean.

It is said that the Porte is much alarmed at the arrival of Lord Cochrane, and that it uses every exertion that its fleet may put to sea as soon as possible under the command of a certain soleiman of Alexandria, who is resolved to measure his strength with the English Admiral. Eight men-of-war, two frigates, four corvettes, and two brigs, have already sailed from the Dardanelles. They will be followed by thirty-six other men-of-war and many transports."

LORD COCHRANE'S PROCLAMATION.

"Greece—Your most dangerous enemy, discord, is overcome; what remains to be done is to see as soon as possible under the command of a certain soleiman of Alexandria, who is resolved to measure his strength with the English Admiral. Eight men-of-war, two frigates, four corvettes, and two brigs, have already sailed from the Dardanelles. They will be followed by thirty-six other men-of-war and many transports."

"Oh Grecks! having attained this object, lay not your arms so long as the ferocious Mussulman treads the sacred land of your fathers.—Let a noble emulation for glory animate your young seamen and the heroes of the Continent—let them hasten in arms to take their stations in the national fleet. Then, if independence and the possession of all your rights are sufficient to enable you to stop the passage of the Hellespont, and carry the war into the states of the enemy, the haughty Sultan—the sanguinary destroyer of your countrymen—will become the victim of his own subjects. The Mahomedan power will destroy itself: the banners of the Cross will again float on the walls of St. Sophia—Greece will again have laws—her cities will rise once more from their ruins—and her future glory will equal that of the past. But think not, Oh Grecks, that your country will be free, unless each of you hastens to her assistance and defence."

"From on board the Greek vessel Hellas. The first Admiral Commander of the maritime forces of Grecks. (Signed) "COCHRANE."

"14th April, 1827."

Coar, March 10.—For some days past there have been in circulation copies of the following letter, which is considered as authentic, and is stated to have been addressed by Stratford Canning to the members of the committee of the National Assembly at Egina. The copies are in Greek.

To the Committee of the National Assembly at Egina.

"Perth, 8th Feb. 1827. Gentlemen, in the month of May, last year, you transmitted to me a despatch, signed by the President and 110 Members of the Assembly at Epidaurus, who tallied themselves the legitimate depositaries of the power of the Greek Nation, united with the military Chiefs and the Clergy, in which the mediation of my Government was asked, to put an end to the present war, and was authorized in it to negotiate, and treat to obtain the peace that was destroyed."

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Mr. Calcraft is talked of for some situation, but the Government says "we have not heard any particular one named, at present, as likely to be offered to the Hon. Gentleman."

These arrangements have caused great satisfaction. The Observer says they have given the coup de grace to the Opposition. THE GREEKS. The following is the substance of news from Constantinople to the 10th of April, received at Trieste on the 8th of May. "Lord Cochrane, who arrived in Greece with a brig, a large schooner, and about 700,000 franks, which were remitted him by the French Philhellenes, declared to the Assembly at Egina that he was come to assist the Greeks in recovering their liberty, and that he desired to be appointed High Admiral of their fleet. The Hydriots did not at first seem inclined to obey a foreigner, but Lord Cochrane declared that he could not serve except on this condition, and that otherwise he should withdraw, they consented, and his Lordship having been unanimously appointed High Admiral, had a squadron equipped composed of his two vessels, the American frigate Hellas, the Perseverance (steamboat) and four chosen Hydriot ships, in all eight sail, with which he is gone on a secret expedition. It is thought that the Admiral will go to Negropont and Setionni or towards the Mediterranean.

It is said that the Porte is much alarmed at the arrival of Lord Cochrane, and that it uses every exertion that its fleet may put to sea as soon as possible under the command of a certain soleiman of Alexandria, who is resolved to measure his strength with the English Admiral. Eight men-of-war, two frigates, four corvettes, and two brigs, have already sailed from the Dardanelles. They will be followed by thirty-six other men-of-war and many transports."

LORD COCHRANE'S PROCLAMATION.

"Greece—Your most dangerous enemy, discord, is overcome; what remains to be done is to see as soon as possible under the command of a certain soleiman of Alexandria, who is resolved to measure his strength with the English Admiral. Eight men-of-war, two frigates, four corvettes, and two brigs, have already sailed from the Dardanelles. They will be followed by thirty-six other men-of-war and many transports."

"Oh Grecks! having attained this object, lay not your arms so long as the ferocious Mussulman treads the sacred land of your fathers.—Let a noble emulation for glory animate your young seamen and the heroes of the Continent—let them hasten in arms to take their stations in the national fleet. Then, if independence and the possession of all your rights are sufficient to enable you to stop the passage of the Hellespont, and carry the war into the states of the enemy, the haughty Sultan—the sanguinary destroyer of your countrymen—will become the victim of his own subjects. The Mahomedan power will destroy itself: the banners of the Cross will again float on the walls of St. Sophia—Greece will again have laws—her cities will rise once more from their ruins—and her future glory will equal that of the past. But think not, Oh Grecks, that your country will be free, unless each of you hastens to her assistance and defence."

"From on board the Greek vessel Hellas. The first Admiral Commander of the maritime forces of Grecks. (Signed) "COCHRANE."

"14th April, 1827."

Coar, March 10.—For some days past there have been in circulation copies of the following letter, which is considered as authentic, and is stated to have been addressed by Stratford Canning to the members of the committee of the National Assembly at Egina. The copies are in Greek.

To the Committee of the National Assembly at Egina.

"Perth, 8th Feb. 1827. Gentlemen, in the month of May, last year, you transmitted to me a despatch, signed by the President and 110 Members of the Assembly at Epidaurus, who tallied themselves the legitimate depositaries of the power of the Greek Nation, united with the military Chiefs and the Clergy, in which the mediation of my Government was asked, to put an end to the present war, and was authorized in it to negotiate, and treat to obtain the peace that was destroyed."

And down came Law and Physik with a concussion which shook to its very foundation the tower of Everton church. Alas! Alas! Alas!

"T. fell down and broke his crown, and P. came tumbling after."

The blood flowed, in copious streams, from the nostrils of Esculapius; but he sprang, like Atlas, from the earth, with Hercules' strength he threw the lawyer behind his back, and pressing on with quickened speed, reached the goal before his competitor had completed two-thirds of his task; he declared the victor amidst the plaudits of the spectators, who congratulated him on the prodigious strength which he had displayed in winning the race with the Statutes at Large, upon his shoulders."

Drought in the West-Indies.

Capt. Knapp, at Newburyport, from Martinique, says "there never was so dry a season before known, in Martinique, not a drop of rain had descended for more than six weeks, and vegetation was entirely parched up; the planters are in despair, the cane cut is but one third grown; they ask forty sous for molasses on the estates, and there will be but little at that price."

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