

At 9 o'clock, we took our seats in the cars of the Mount Savage Rail Road, but in consequence of some accidental delay, we were not under way until 10. This rail road, passing through the valley of Wills's Creek to the mouth of Jennings's River, and thence by that of the last named stream, to the Mount Savage Company's Iron Works, has been built at the expense of that company, for the purpose of giving them the means of communication with the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, and with the Canal when it shall be completed to Cumberland. The principal use of it at present consists of the transport of iron and coal, and the conveyance of passengers and merchandise between Mount Savage—which is already a considerable town,—and Cumberland. It consists at present of a single track, with a wooden superstructure and plate rail, but the road way is sufficient to admit of the laying of any additional track which may become necessary. It has an ascending grade, in some parts of more than 100 feet in a mile, but as there will be little demand for the transport of heavy loads upward, this is of little consequence. The mountains which enclose the valley through which the route passes, and those which form the whole region of the iron and coal mines, are less lofty and precipitous, and the ravines and vallies less narrow and confined than I had supposed. The mountains, it is true, are of considerable height, and some of their faces are steep, presenting the strong features of mountain scenery, but in general they are not so abrupt as to make them unfit for cultivation. There is a pass near the mouth of Jennings's River, called the Narrows, which is enclosed on both sides by steep mountains, and farther upward the valley is bounded by a bold face of the mountain, consisting of limestone rock several hundred feet in height, bearing the marks of frequent slides of rock from top to bottom, which is called the *Devil's Race Course*. We were informed that it was the practice of persons in want of limestone rock, to resort to this enormous quarry, and to discharge it by its own gravity from the top to the bottom of the precipice. Here we were informed limestone is obtained for the use of the furnaces and other works at Mount Savage.

Mount Savage, which lies in a basin enclosed by hills not too steep to afford pleasant sites for buildings, presents the appearance of a large and thriving manufacturing establishment. It is the property of a company who are I believe chiefly Englishmen, and it is under the superintendence of Col. Young, a gentleman who has the reputation of being in every way qualified by his intelligence, skill and energy to be entrusted with so responsible a charge. The establishment is rapidly growing from month to month, and the population of the village, entirely dependent upon it is at present not less than 4,500, and this number is likely to be doubled in a very short period. The buildings appropriated to the various branches of manufacture are very large and commodious. That in which the operations of forging and rolling iron are carried on is of immense size, and said to cover an acre of ground. There are other buildings for the various other operations of the iron manufacture.