

The time had now arrived when I had promised Andrew my best assistance to settle him; for that purpose I went to Mr. A. V. in the county of —, who I was informed had purchased a tract of land, contiguous to — settlement. I gave him a faithful detail of the progress Andrew had made in the rural arts; of his honesty, sobriety, and gratitude, and pressed him to sell him an hundred acres. This I cannot comply with, said Mr. A. V. but at the same time I will do better; I love to encourage honest Europeans as much as you do, and to see them prosper: you tell me he has but one son; I will lease them an hundred acres for any term of years you please, and make it more valuable to our Scotchman than if he were possessed of the fee simple. By that means he may, with the little money he has, buy a plough, a team, and some stock, he will not be incumbered with debts and mortgages; what a raise will he have; had he two or three sons as able as himself, they would think it more eligible for him to purchase the fee simple. I join with you in opinion, and will bring Andrew along with me in a few days.

Well honest Andrew, said Mr. A. V. in consideration of your good name, I will let you have one hundred acres of good arable land, that shall be laid out along a new road; there is a bridge already erected on the creek that passes through the land, and a large swamp of about thirty acres. These are my terms, you may sell, but I will lease you the quantity for seven years you shall pay no rent; whatever you sow and reap, and plant and gather shall be entirely your own; neither the king, government, nor church, will have any claim on your future produce; the remaining part of the time you must pay me twelve dollars and a half a year; and that is all you will have to pay me. Within the three first years you must plant 50 apple trees, and clear seven acres of swamp within the first part of the lease it will be your own advantage; whatever you do more within that time, I will pay you for it at the common rate of the country. The term of the lease shall be thirty years, how do you like it, Andrew? Oh, said he, it is very good, but I am afraid, that the king, or his ministers, or the governor, or some of our great men, will come and take the land from me; your son may say to me, by and by, this is my father's land, Andrew you must quit it. No, no, said Mr. A. V. there is no such danger; the king and his ministers, are not just to take the labour of the settlers; here we have no great men, they are subordinate to our laws, but I will do all you desire, I will give you a lease for seven years, you may make it longer, if ever you are dissatisfied with the land, a jury of your own country shall determine all our improvements, and you shall be paid according to their verdict. You may sell the land, or you may, you may previously dispose of it, as if the land was your own. Ex-

pressive, yet inarticulate joy, was mixed in his countenance, which seemed impressed with astonishment and confusion. Do you understand me well, said Mr. A. V. No, Sir, replied Andrew, I know nothing of what you mean by lease, improvement, will, jury, &c. That is honest, we will explain the things to you by and by. It must be confessed that those were hard words, which he had never heard in his life; for by his own account the ideas they convey would be totally useless in the island of Barra. No wonder, therefore, that he was embarrassed! for how could the man who had hardly a will of his own since he was born imagine he could have one after his death? How could the person who never possessed any thing, conceive that he could extend his new dominion over this land, even after he should be laid in the grave? For my part, I think Andrew's amazement did not imply any extraordinary degree of ignorance: he was an actor introduced upon a new scene, it required some time ere he could reconcile himself to the part he was to perform. However he was soon enlightened, and introduced into those mysteries with which we native Americans are but too well acquainted.

Here then is honest Andrew, invested with every municipal advantage they confer; become a freeman, possessed of a vote, of a place of residence, a citizen of the province of Pennsylvania. Andrew's original hopes and the distant prospects he had formed in the island of Barra, were at the eve of being raised; we therefore can easily forgive him a few spontaneous ejaculations, which would be useless to repeat. The short tale is easily told; few words are sufficient to describe this sudden change of situation; but in his mind it was gradual, and took him above a week before he could be sure, that without disbursing any money he could possess land. Soon after he prepared himself; I lent him a barrel of pork, and 200 lb. weight of meal, and made him purchase what was necessary for his ideas.

He set out, and hired a room in the house of a settler who lived the most contiguous to his own land. His first work was to clear some acres of swamp, that he might have a supply of hay the following year for his two horses and cows. From the first day he began to work, he was indefatigable; his honesty procured him friends, and his industry the esteem of his new neighbours. One of them offered him two acres of cleared land where he might plant corn, potatoes, pumpkins, and squashes; that very season. It is astonishing how soon men will learn when they work for themselves. In a month with pleasure two months after, Andrew holding a two horse plough, and tracing his furrows quite straight; thus the spade man of the island of Barra was become the tiller of American soil. Well done, said I, Andrew, well done; I see that God's speed and direct your works; I see prosperity delineated in all your furrows and head lands.

Raise this crop of corn with attention and care, and then you will be master of the art.

As he had neither mowing nor reaping to do that year, I told him that the time was come to build his house; and that for the purpose I would invite the neighbourhood to a frolic; that thus he would have a large dwelling erected, and some upland cleared, in one day. Mr. P. R. his old friend, came at the time appointed, with all his hands, and brought victuals in plenty; I did the same. About forty people repaired to the spot; the songs and merry stories went round the woods from cluster to cluster, as the people had gathered to their different works; trees fell on all sides, bushes were cut up and heaped; and while many were thus employed, others with their teams hauled the big logs to the spot which Andrew had pitched upon for the erection of his new dwelling. We all dined in the woods; in the afternoon the logs were placed with skids, and the usual contrivance; thus the rude house was raised, and above two acres of land cut up, cleared and heaped.

While all these different operations were performing, Andrew was absolutely incapable of working; it was to him the most solemn holiday he had ever seen; it would have been sacrilegious in him to have defiled it with menial labour. Poor man, he sanctified it with joy and thanksgiving, and honest libations—he went from one to the other with the bottle in his hand, pressing every body to drink, and drinking himself to shew the example. He spent the whole day in smiling, laughing, and uttering monosyllables: his wife and son were there also, but as they could not understand the language, their pleasure was altogether that of the imagination. The powerful lord, the wealthy merchant, on seeing the superb mansion finished, never can feel half the joy and real happiness which was felt and enjoyed on that day by this honest Hebridean: though this new dwelling, erected in the midst of the woods, was nothing more than a square inclosure, composed of twenty four large clumsy logs, let in at the ends.

When the work was finished, the company made the woods resound with the noise of their three cheers, and the honest wishes they formed for Andrew's prosperity. He could say nothing, but with thankful tears he shook hands with them all. Thus from the first day he had landed, Andrew marched towards this important event; this memorable day made the sun shine on that land on which he was to sow wheat and other grain. What a wamp he had cleared lay before his door; the essence of future bread, milk, and meat, were scattered all round him. Soon after he hired a carpenter, who put on the roof, and laid his floors; in a week more the house was properly plastered, and the chimney finished. He moved into it, and purchased two cows, which found plenty of food in the woods—his hogs had the same advantage. That very year he and his son sowed three bushels of wheat,