

gage was in a flatboat; after sailing a few hours they again desired to land, but as they always turn the bow up stream when a halt is made they in this instance had not calculated the distance properly required to make the turn; the result was, the propelling wheel struck the shore and broke. After repairs lasting until evening we proceeded and arrived at Wheeling, here a halt of a few hours was again made. This city was founded by Germans but the language is lost; one seldom finds a German-speaking person; in the night we again started.

15th This day the Captain made inquiries for me on the boat. I found him on the deck busy with a day book; he sat down by me with an interpreter and put a hundred questions to me. Why had we come to this country? How large was our country? How formed, what were its products, what wages? How was the climate? What our religion, government, laws etc. During the whole conversation he expressed a pitying astonishment. No wonder, said he, that so many thousand human beings come to this country. He said further, a day laborer can earn so much here in a month that he can buy a piece of land larger than many a husbandman has with us. I also put several questions to him, principally referring to our company. He said he had heard our people had but little money left, but as our land had already been bought for us we had not that to provide for, so that there was no risk of our starving; to be sure our beginnings would be hard, and he deemed it better that we stay in St. Louis and get work of which there was plenty, then in the next spring go on our land with more means and experience. And he strongly endorsed what we had often before heard, that 20 acres was little better than nothing, that it would not pay the labor to build a house and barn on such a small tract. And he strongly urged upon me the unwisdom of going upon land with such a trade as I had, which he counted one of the best in America; and with which I could earn \$2.00 per day in St. Louis. That with my slight body and strength I would be too weak to clear the wilderness. That I should work for wages a