Account of the French Settlement.

men take 72 in a day. Of all the colonies of beavers, which inhabited this country and raised so many dams, only a few scattering families remain. We have destroyed these communities, images of happiness, in whose midst reigned the most perfect order, peace, and wisdom, foresight and industry. Wolves, more cunning and warlike than the former, live at our expense and as yet escape our deadly lead. It is the same with the original elk. It is only seen in this part of the state, for our hunters will soon make it disappear, for, you know, that, wherever man establishes himself, this tyrant must reign alone. Among the birds we have the pheasant, drumming partridge, wild pigeon, different kinds of ducks, goose, and wild turkey, &c. Our chief place, situated on the banks of the pretty Beaver River, and from thence so appropriately named Castorville, begins to grow. It is still only, as you may justly think, but a cluster of primitive dwellings, but still it contains several families of mechanics, of which new colonies have so frequent need. Several stores, situated in favorable places, begin to have business. The Canadians, on the right bank of the river, come thither to buy the goods which they need, as well as sugar and rum, which, from the duties being less at our ports than at Quebec, are cheaper with us than with them. The vicinity of these French settlements are very useful to us, in many respects. Cattle are cheaper than with us, as well as manual labor. Such are the causes of communication between the inhabitants of the two sides, that it is impossible for the English government to prevent it.

Our colonists are, like others, a mixture of many nations; we have some, families of Scotch and Irish, but the greater number come from the northern states, which, as you know, is the "officina humani generis" of this continent. Many of the settlers have already made considerable improvements. One of these families from Philadelphia, besides a hundred acres well enclosed, has begun a manufacture of potash, where the ashes of the neighborhood are leached; another of the Quaker sect has settled on the route to Kingston, where he has already built a saw mill, and a considerable manufactory of maple sugar, where he made last year about 16 quintals. The head of this family is a model of intelligence and industry; the goods which he brought, easily procured him much labor at a good rate. He paid twelve dollars per acre for clearing his land; besides this he furnished to the potash makers the great iron chaldrons and hand labor, and retains half of the salts, the value of which, with the first crop of wheat, pays and more all the expenses of clearing, fencing, and harvesting. The average yield per acre, being 24 to 28 bushels, and the price of wheat 6 to 8 shillings, it is easy to see that there is still a margin to cover accidents, and that the second crop is clear profit. Among these families we have some, who, driven from their country, by fear and tyranny, have sought in this an asylum of peace and liberty, rather than wealth, and at least of security and of sweet repose. One of these, established on the banks of Rose Creek, came from St Domingo, where he owned a considerable plantation, and has evinced a degree of perseverance, worthy of admiration. One of the proprietors! has a daughter, as interesting by her figure as by her industry, who adds at the same time to the economy of the household, the charms or rather the happiness of their life. Another yet is an officer, of cultivated mind, sprightly, and origin; who, born in the burning climate of India, here his health is strengthened. He superintends the

* An acre commonly yields 200 bushels of ashes, which are worth 8 cents the bushel.
† S. Mitchel* His daughter married Marsille, and afterwards De Zotelle.