

SOUTHERN INDIANA IN 1819.

AN EXCURSION INTO THE NEW PURCHASE.

From the Madison Indiana Republican, February 27, 1819.

VERNON, Feb'y 16, 1819.

GENTLEMEN:—Capt. Campbell and myself have just returned from an excursion made into the Delaware lands, and should you consider the following sketch worth an insertion in your paper for the amusement of your readers, and the information of emigrants and persons wishing to explore these lands, it will gratify some of your readers.

We travelled the new cut road from this place to Geneva (on Sandy), a new town laid out on the old Indian boundary line, about eight miles from this place in a N. W. direction. We then took a new cut road (opened to Flat Rock sufficient for waggons), which bears nearly N 45 W. The first stream we crossed after leaving Person's mill on Sandy, is called little Sandy; the second, Leatherwood; the third, Fallen Timber Creek (all appropriate names). We next passed a remarkable beaver dam, in which the ingenuity of these animals is wonderfully exhibited. The 4th stream is Flat creek, the 5th Deer creek, the 6th Crooked creek; all of which streams will answer for light machinery, and run to the S. W., the bottoms generally gravelly and water very clear. We next came to a stream by the name of Clifty, sufficient for any kind of water works, and about ten miles distant in the new purchase. I think, without exaggeration, that every quarter section that may be laid out in this ten miles, will be fit for cultivation and will be settled. The lands are of a black, sandy quality, timbered with black ash and beech principally. The general face of the country is rather inclined to a plain, with the hollows rather wet. The lands on Clifty are very rich and well timbered on both sides of the stream with blue ash, walnut, sugar tree, honey locust, beech, &c.

After crossing this stream we came to a most beautiful walnut ridge, about one and a half miles north of Clifty. We next

crossed Middle creek, then Grassy creek, then Tough creek, Stillwater and Pleasant Run, all of which are small mill streams running to the S. W., some of which have very muddy bottoms, and lie between Clifty and Flat Rock at the distance of seven miles. In this seven miles the lands are principally very rich and level, the valleys rather wet, and timbered principally with oak, black ash, walnut, sugar tree, poplar, hickory, &c, until we came to the lands immediately on Flat Rock. These lands exhibit a scenery I never expected to see in Indiana. They resemble the rich lands on the two Elkhorns in Kentucky, for richness and timber, and to appearance, abound on both sides of the stream, which has a gravel bottom and is about 80 yards wide. On the north side of this creek we found only one stream (Sugar creek) until we arrived at Driftwood [Blue river], about eight miles in a S. W. direction from where we crossed Flat Rock. The lands between these two streams are level and very dry, timbered with white oak, black oak, walnut, honey locust, underbrush, spice wood, dog wood and hazel. We found beautiful rich and level lands on both sides of Driftwood, and well timbered. The river (by counting our horses' steps) was 180 yards wide where we crossed it. I think there are very few springs in this country, but believe water may be had with very little labor. To sum up my views on the subject, I am of the opinion that if Jefferson County would make a good highway in the direction to this place, that Madison would be the key on the Ohio river to one of the best tracts of country I have seen in this State; and a delay will speedily bring forward some other point as the country is now settling. We met two families and teams on the road to this Eden.

Yours With Esteem,
JOHN VAWTER.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION OF 1851.

The "practical printers" of Madison formed themselves into a "typographical society" August 30, 1851.