

**LETTERS FROM THE ILLINOIS, 1820-1821.
CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE
ENGLISH SETTLEMENT AT ALBION AND ITS
VICINITY, AND A REFUTATION OF VARIOUS
MISREPRESENTATIONS, THOSE MORE
PARTICULARLY OF MR. COBBETT, PP. 1-75**

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RICHARD FLOWER

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1820. 1821.

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AT ALBION AND ITS VICINITY, AND A REPUTATION OF
VARIOUS MISREPRESENTATIONS, THOSE MORE PARTICULARLY
OF MR. COBBETT.

By RICHARD FLOWER.

WITH A LETTER FROM M. BIRKBECK; AND A PREFACE
AND NOTES BY BENJAMIN FLOWER.

*Thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the GOOD LAND which he hath
given thee:—beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God.*

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

DIVINE COMMANDS.

London:

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1822.

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Price One Shilling,

LETTERS from LEXINGTON and the ILLINOIS, 1819;
containing a Brief Account of the English Settlement in
the latter territory, and a Refutation of the misrepresen-
tations of Mr. Cobbett.

P R E F A C E.

Two of the following letters have before appeared in a respectable periodical publication, in which the editor has impartially inserted the communications of writers of different opinions, on the subject of emigration;* but as they may be said to be a continuation of former letters, and connected with those now for the first time published, I have thought proper to insert them.

Readers who are desirous of forming just opinions on this subject, are requested to bear in remembrance the precise stations described in the following pages. However unworthy or base may have been the motives of certain writers, who have grossly calumniated the English Settlement, there are others,

* Monthly Repository, Aug. and October, 1820.

to whom it would be uncandid to impute such motives, but who are chargeable with misrepresentation, which appears to have arisen from their not having considered that the spots they are describing are not those described by others; and that, of course, it is not fair to charge others with statements they have never made.

I have publications before me in which Mr. Birkbeck and my brother are charged with unfairness in their statements, because they do not apply to the situations the writers had chosen, one or which was fifty, and the other four hundred miles from the English Settlement. There are at the Illinois as in almost all other countries, situations pleasant and unpleasant, healthy and unhealthy, and that emigrant does not act a very wise part, who fixes on a station unless he had carefully examined it himself, or at least had the recommendation of some intelligent friend who would scorn to mislead him.

Emigration to America, after all that has

been written on the subject, and the various advantages it certainly presents to different classes of society, is an affair of such importance, that those who propose it should seriously reflect on the turn of their own mind, their disposition, habits, circumstances, &c. Some who have emigrated to America find themselves as unhappy there as they were in their own country. Those who are averse to labour, fond of luxuries, and whose minds are rivetted to the artificial distinctions of society in Europe, have found to their cost, that America is not the country for them; and unless they can learn wisdom, and form resolution sufficient to alter some of their habits, and if not to despise, to regard with indifference most of those distinctions, they can never be reconciled to Republican manners and institutions. - Respecting a few persons of this description at the Illinois, one of the principal settlers exclaimed: —“ What are such people come here for ?”

For the Notes to the following letters, with
“ all their imperfections on their head,” I am

solely responsible.—I am not without apprehensions that there may be even candid readers, who may think that in my *Reflections on Infidelity, Civil Establishments of Religion, &c.* I have somewhat wandered out of my way; to such readers I beg leave to offer a word or two by way of apology. True religion, I consider as [the most important concern of life; and were I, when reflecting on the state of society which too generally characterizes this globe, even its most civilized parts, and on the various follies and vices which have so sadly deformed mankind—on the adversity of the righteous, and the prosperity of the wicked,—were I not, amidst such reflections, supported by divine consolations, suggested by a firm belief in the *Being and Providence* of God, and of the truth of the christian system which assures us that “all things shall be subdued and reconciled to HIM,” I should indeed be “of all men the most miserable;” and, as I am firmly persuaded that the success of the gospel is not more hindered by open infidelity than by

the corruptions of christianity, I have from the circumstances which are stated in the following letters respecting the state of religion at the Illinois, thought proper to express myself on the subject with my usual freedom. So little has been done towards the restoration of primitive christianity in this country for the two past centuries, although there has been of late, an unusual bustle in the religious world,—so inveterate are the evils resulting from STATECRAFT and PRIESTCRAFT united, that although I believe with a firm and unshaken faith, *that the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ,* I confess my ignorance as to the period, and the means by which those glorious events predicted in the sacred writings will be accomplished. I cannot however but indulge the hope that mankind will, by observation and experience, under the blessing of heaven, grow wiser; and that in the formation of new settlements, many of the evils referred to, may with proper care be avoided. With this hope, I