

**NEW WORLD NOTES: BEING AN
ACCOUNT OF JOURNEYINGS
AND SOJOURNINGS IN
AMERICA AND CANADA**

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New world notes: being an account of journeyings and sojournings in America and Canada by
John Clay

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NEW WORLD NOTES.

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NEW WORLD NOTES:

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An Account of Journeyings and Sojournings
in America and Canada.

BY

JOHN CLAY, JUN.,

KERCHESTERS, KELSO.

KELSO:

J. & J. H. RUTHERFURD, 20, SQUARE.

1875.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE papers forming this volume appeared in print before being collected together in their present shape. The first thirteen of the series were published in the *North British Agriculturist*, a journal which exercises a wide and beneficial influence on Scottish agriculture; and the remainder first met the public eye in the columns of the *Kelso Chronicle*, a local newspaper of old and high standing. They were written at intervals of a somewhat busy life, and now appear with little alteration on their original form. Having been written amid the interferences of many other claims on the attention, and in "free and easy" phraseology, the author is conscious that they are open to criticism on the score of literary finish; but he trusts the general reader will find some things in these pages to awaken his interest, increase his knowledge, and stimulate thought.

J. C.

KERCHESTERS, July, 1875.

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NEW WORLD NOTES.

I.

Virginia.

THE writer of this and some following articles visited America during the summer of 1874. He stayed over three months in the country, and during that time travelled over a considerable portion of the States and Canada. As a matter of course, it was but a cursory glance he obtained of that immense continent, of whose size some estimate may be made when it is kept in mind that the above State is nearly equal in extent to the United Kingdom. He went there with no intention of settling, but more through curiosity to see a country he had read and heard so much about, to see its people and their institutions; and in travelling through it, he made a few notes upon the land, agriculture, and inducements for emigration to that immense and, as yet, but partially-developed continent. Such notes he has much pleasure in placing before the public, in the hope that they may help to guide any who

at the present moment are turning their attention to that great country, or that they may afford some information to others who have no intention of leaving their native land. They are the simple observations of a farmer from the banks of the Tweed, and may be taken for what they are worth.

The State of Virginia was originally settled by Englishmen, and is one of the oldest and first constituted in the Union. It is bounded on the east by the Atlantic, and possesses many fine harbours and sheltered bays, formed by the rivers Potomac, Rappahannock, and James. Norfolk, perhaps the finest harbour in the world, is situated at the bottom of the estuary formed by the latter, and is rapidly becoming an important place through its shipping and railway interests. Between Virginia proper and West Virginia, the Alleghany Mountains run. They are, more correctly speaking, good-sized hills, never rising much over 4000 feet above the sea level, are richly wooded, and abound in iron and coal mines, both most important items as regards the welfare of a country. Taking a bird's-eye view, the State is in general flat, well-wooded, and beautifully watered with, in some cases, navigable rivers. It is intersected by various lines of railway, which will, no doubt, soon be increased. The roads are numerous, and perhaps of the worst description we ever came across. However, the inhabitants appear to get along with them, such as they are. The forests of Virginia are still large, and will turn out profitable. They consist largely of pine, oak, and hickory, which are increasing rapidly in value; and as most