

\_\_\_\_GOTTLIEB MITTELBERGER\_\_\_\_

*Journey to Pennsylvania in the Year 1750,  
and Return to Germany in the Year 1754*

*Containing Not Only a Description of the Country According to Its Present Condition, but Also  
a Detailed Account of the Sad and Unfortunate Circumstances of Most of the Germans  
That have Emigrated or Are Emigrating to That Country, 1756, EXCERPTS*

In 1750 the German schoolmaster Gottlieb Mittelberger travelled to America with four hundred other emigrants. So distressed by the fate of many who were sold into indentured servitude by “Dutch man-dealers and their man-stealing emissaries,” he returned to Germany in 1754 and published an account to dissuade others from emigrating to America. In stark contrast to this warning, however, is the second half of his book, a personal and often admiring view of Pennsylvania in the early 1750s. Presented here are brief sections from the topics he surveys, including the colony’s fast-growing population, its religious diversity and tolerance (and the “godless life of some people in this free country”), its open-doored courts for the common man, its capitalistic fervor and growing prosperity among free white colonists, the fashion sense of its wealthier citizens, and the arduousness of its travel.



**P**ENNSYLVANIA is one of the English settlements or colonies in North America. It borders on the sea, and is just in the centre between the other English plantation lands. Far above it in the north are Nova Scotia, New England, New York, and New Jersey; below it, in the south, Maryland, Virginia, Carolina, and Georgia. From the city of London to the point where we lose Old England out of sight we count 325 English miles; then, from land to land, that is from the last land in Old England to the first land in Pennsylvania, 3600 such miles, from there to Philadelphia 125 miles, which makes together 4050 English miles . . . This city lies, as above stated, 125 English miles or 40 hours journey from the open sea, higher up in the land, hard by said river into which most of the rivers of this colony empty. The other waters flow into the other great main river of Pennsylvania, which is called Susquehanna, and empties into the Chesapeake Bay. In Philadelphia we can see the open sea through a field-glass.

LOCATION

Said city is the capital of Pennsylvania where all the commerce is carried on. It is already very large, regularly and handsomely built, and laid out with broad streets and many cross-alleys. All the houses are built of stone or brick up to the fourth story, and roofed with shingles of cedar wood. It takes almost a day to walk around the town; about 300 new houses are built every year. It is thought that in time it will be one of the largest cities in the world. The principal language and the law of the land is English. It has no walls nor ramparts, these being deemed unnecessary. On two sides the city has navigable waters, toward morning the above mentioned Delaware,

PHILADELPHIA

National Humanities Center, 2009: [nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds](http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds). Gottlieb Mittelberger, *Journey to Pennsylvania in the Year 1750, and Return to Germany in the Year 1754, Containing Not Only a Description of the Country According to Its Present Condition, but Also a Detailed Account of the Sad and Unfortunate Circumstances of Most of the Germans That have Emigrated or Are Emigrating to That Country, 1756*; trans. Carl Theo. Eben (Philadelphia: John Jos. McVey, 1898). Spelling and punctuation modernized by NHC for clarity. Sidebar titles added by NHC. Map of this page: detail from *A Map of the British and French Settlements in North America*, by John Hinton, 1755; courtesy of the Library of Congress, Geography & Map Division. Complete image credits at [nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/becomingamer/imagescredits.htm](http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/becomingamer/imagescredits.htm).

and toward midnight the Schuylkill River, both of which join below the city. Many large and small merchant-vessels are built there near the water.

The trade of the city and country to other countries and colonies increases perceptibly from year to year. It consists in fruit, flour, corn, tobacco, honey, skins, various kinds of costly furs, flax, and particularly a great deal of flax-seed or linseed, also fine cut lumber, horses, and all kinds of tame and wild animals. In return the incoming vessels bring all sorts of goods, such as Spanish, Portuguese and German wines, the best of which cost a rix-dollar, the most inferior a florin per quart. Also spices, sugar, tea, coffee, rice, rum, which is a brandy distilled from sugar, molasses, fine china vessels, Dutch and English clothes, leather, linen, stuffs, silks, damask, velvet, etc.

## TRADE

*“There is actually everything to be had in Pennsylvania that may be obtained in Europe, because so many merchantmen land here”*

There is actually everything to be had in Pennsylvania that may be obtained in Europe, because so many merchantmen land here every year. Ships are coming from Holland, Old and New England, Scotland, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Maryland, New York, Carolina, and from the West and East Indies. By “West Indies” the people of Pennsylvania mean the Spanish and Portuguese America, and also the American Islands, whether they belong to the English or to other nations.

In Philadelphia there is a new and splendid court or town house, which is very high and has four doors and four entrances. It is 100 feet long and 100 feet wide, stands free, and has tall English plate [glass] windows. In this town there are already eight churches, three English, three German, one Swedish, and one Quaker church. In the last named one can often hear and see a woman preach in English, but no singing is heard in this class [sect], because they don’t believe in singing. After the sermon is over, he who has objections against the sermon steps forth and explains his opinion; and then one can often hear two persons disputing before the whole assemblage, which lasts sometimes longer than the sermon.

## RELIGIOUS SECTS

A *gymnasium* [college] has also been established in the city, where several languages are taught; for in this city and country people from every part of the world can be seen, especially Europeans, of whom one could count more than a hundred thousand. The Germans are most numerous among the inhabitants of Pennsylvania. Many of these Germans study diverse languages in said *gymnasium*. . . .

Coming to speak of Pennsylvania again, that colony possesses great liberties above all other English colonies, inasmuch as all religious sects are tolerated there. We find there Lutherans, Reformed,



Catholics, Quakers, Mennonists or Anabaptists, Herrnhuters or Moravian Brethren, Pietists, Seventh Day Baptists, Dunkers, Presbyterians, Newborn, Freemasons, Separatists, Freethinkers, Jews, Mohammedans, Pagans, Negroes and Indians. The Evangelicals and Reformed, however, are in the majority. But there are many hundred unbaptized souls there that do not even wish to be baptized. Many pray neither in the morning nor in the evening, neither before nor after meals. No devotional book, not to speak of a Bible, will be found with such people. In one house and one family, 4, 5, and even 6 sects, may be found. . . .

No trade or profession in Pennsylvania is bound by guilds. Everyone may carry on whatever business he will or can, and if anyone could or would carry on ten trades, no one would have a right to prevent him; and if, for instance, a lad as an apprentice, or through his own unaided

#### TRADES

*“Everyone may carry on whatever business he will or can, and if anyone could or would carry on ten trades, no one would have a right to prevent him”*

exertions, learns his art or trade in six months, he can pass for a master, and marry whenever he chooses. It is a surprising fact that young people who were born in this new land are very clever, docile and skilful; for many a one looks at a work of skills or art only a few times, and imitates it immediately, while in Germany many a one has to

learn for years to do the same thing perfectly. But here many a one is able to produce the most artful things in a short time. When the young folks have gone to school for six months, they are generally able to read anything.

The land of Pennsylvania is a healthy land. It has for the most part good soil, good air and water, many high mountains, and also much flat land. It is very rich in wood; where it is not inhabited a pure forest in which many small and large waters flow. The land is also very fertile, and all sorts of grain grow well. It is quite populous, too, inhabited far and wide, and several new towns have been founded here and there, as Philadelphia, Germantown, Lancaster, Rittengstaun [Reading], Bethlehem, and New-Frankfurt [Frankford]. There are also many churches built in the country, but many people have to go a journey of 2, 3, 4, 5 to 10 hours to get to church. But all people, men and women, ride to church on horseback, though they had only half an hour to walk, which is customary also at funerals and weddings. Sometimes one can count at such country weddings and funerals 300, 400 and even 500 persons on horseback. It may be readily imagined that on such occasions, as also at the holy communion, no one appears in black clothes, crapes or cloaks.

#### LAND & TOWNS TRAVEL TO CHURCHES

. . . When someone has died, especially in the country, where on account of the intervening plantations and forests people live far from one another, the time appointed for the funeral is always indicated only to the 4 nearest neighbors; each of these in his turn notifies his own nearest neighbor. In this manner such an invitation to a funeral is made known more than fifty English miles around in 24 hours. If it is possible, one or more persons from each house appear on horseback at the appointed time to attend the funeral. . . .

It is no unusual thing in this country to hear a totally unlearned man preaching in the open field, for the sectarians say and believe that the scholars of the present day are no longer apostles, and that they are only making a trade of their learning. Nevertheless, there are many excellent preachers in Pennsylvania who, by the grace of God and by their indefatigable toil, have converted many souls to the Christian faith. I myself have witnessed how our evangelical ministers have baptized and confirmed many adult persons, both white and black. Such an act is always attended by a large concourse of people. But I am sorry to say that there are also quite unworthy preachers who give offense to many people, and who furnish the sectarians with arguments to the great annoyance of our ministers. . . .

#### RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

The preachers in Pennsylvania receive no salaries or tithes, except what they annually get from their church members, which varies very much; for many a father of a family gives according to his means and

***“To many a one’s soul and body, liberty in Pennsylvania is more hurtful than useful.”***

of his own free will 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 florins a year, but many others give very little. For baptizing children, for funeral sermons and marriage ceremonies they generally receive a

dollar. The preachers have no free dwellings or other *beneficia*. But they receive many presents from their parishioners. The same is true of the schoolmasters. But since 1754 England and Holland give annually a large sum of money for the general benefit of the many poor in Pennsylvania, and for the support of 6 Reformed English churches and as many Reformed English free schools. Nevertheless, many hundred children cannot attend these schools, on account of their great distance and the many forests. Many planters lead, therefore, a very wild and heathenish life; for as it is with the schools, so it is also with the churches in the rural districts, because churches and school-houses are usually built around at such places only where most neighbors and church members live.<sup>1</sup>

The preachers throughout Pennsylvania have no power to punish anyone, or to compel anyone to go to church; nor has anyone a right to dictate to the other, because they are not supported by any *Consistorio*. Most preachers are hired by the year like the cowherds in Germany; and if one does not preach to their liking, he must expect to be served with a notice that his services will no longer be required. It is, therefore, very difficult to be a conscientious preacher, especially as they have to hear and suffer much from so many hostile and often wicked sects. The most exemplary preachers are often reviled, insulted and scoffed at like the Jews, by the young and old, especially in the country. I would, therefore, rather perform the meanest herdsman’s duties in Germany than be a preacher in Pennsylvania. Such unheard-of rudeness and wickedness spring from the excessive liberties of the land, and from the blind zeal of the many sects. To many a one’s soul and body, liberty in Pennsylvania is more hurtful than useful. There is a saying in that country: Pennsylvania is the heaven of the farmers, the paradise of the mechanics, and the hell of the officials and preachers. . . .<sup>2</sup>

**PROVISIONS & CROPS  
DOMESTIC ANIMALS**

Provisions are cheap in Pennsylvania, but everything that is manufactured and brought into the country is three or four times as dear [costly] as in Germany. Wood, salt and sugar, excepted. Otherwise we can purchase in Germany as much with one florin as here with 4 or 5 florins. Nevertheless, the people live well, especially on all sorts of grain, which thrives very well because the soil is wild and fat. They grow chiefly rye, wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat, corn, flax, hemp, fruit, cabbage and turnips. They also have good cattle, fast horses, and many bees. The sheep, which are larger than the German ones, have generally two lambs a year. Hogs and poultry, especially turkeys, are raised by almost everybody. In this country the chickens are not put in houses by night, nor are they looked after, but they sit summer and winter upon the trees near the houses. Every evening many a tree is so full of chickens that the boughs bend beneath them. The poultry is in no danger from beasts of prey, because every plantation owner has a big dog, if not more, at large around his house.

***“Even in the humblest and poorest houses in this country [colony] there is no meal without meat”***

Even in the humblest and poorest houses in this country there is no meal without meat, and no one eats the bread without butter or cheese, although the

<sup>1</sup> In an English publication, which treats of the condition of the immigrants who have settled in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, etc., the following is reported among other things: From the most trustworthy accounts which we have of these provinces, it appears that the number of immigrants there has increased exceedingly within the last few years. They consist for the most part of Palatines, Franconians, and Swiss. In the Colony of Pennsylvania alone there are over 100,000; of these about 20,000 belong to the Reformed, nearly as many to the Lutheran, and about 1700 to the Roman Catholic region. The rest consists of Anabaptists, Moravians, Brethren of Zion, Rondorfers, and other Separatists. As among the latter almost everyone is his own teacher, it may be said of them that they have their tenets (if the inanities of these people may be so called) better by heart than many of the other denominations; for although not a few pious and illumined Christians may be found among the latter, by far the majority live in the deepest ignorance, which must be ascribed to the want of sufficient preachers and schoolmasters, the inhabitants lacking the means for their support. The author of this publication closes with the wish that the nation of Great Britain might duly consider the condition of their brethren, both in a spiritual and worldly aspect, and do for them what is necessary to have in them a constant bulwark in America against all their enemies. [Footnote in original Mittelberger edition]

<sup>2</sup> Later in *Journey* (p. 122), Mittelberger writes: “There is a current saying to the effect that Pennsylvania is the paradise of women, the purgatory of men, and the hell of horses.” [NHC note]

bread is as good as with us. It is very annoying, however, that nothing but salt meat is eaten in summer, and rarely fresh meat in winter.

On account of the extensive stock-raising, meat is very cheap. One can buy the best beef for 3 kreuzers a pound, pork and mutton for 2 kreuzers and 3 hellers. Besides, one can buy at the market of Philadelphia many kinds of meat, venison, poultry, fish and birds, as one chooses, for very little money. I don't think that there is any country in which more meat is eaten and consumed than in Pennsylvania. . . Market is held twice a week in Philadelphia; it always attracts a great concourse of people. The ordinary meat stalls which are over 100 feet long, hang on both sides full of all kinds of meat, which is always bought up and consumed by the numerous population, not to mention the many fish, game, all sorts of poultry, and especially the marvelously large lobsters, whose claws are each as large as a man's hand. . . .

All trades and professions have good earnings. Beggars are nowhere to be seen, for each country or township cares and provides for its poor. In the country the people live so far from one another that many a one has to walk fifteen minutes or half an hour to get to his nearest neighbor. The reason is because many a farmer has 50 or 100 and even 200-400 acres of land, laid out in orchards, meadows, fields and woods. Such a one has usually 10, 15 or 20 acres in orchards alone, from which a great deal of cider and brandy is made. . . .

#### FARMS

Every farmer pastures his cattle, horses and sheep on his own farm, or lets them run about in the bushes, and brings them home in the evening and morning to have the cows milked, and then lets them run at large again all night till morning; so that the animals find their own food and need not be fed daily as in Germany. No cattle are stabled during the summer, except when a cow is to calve; but frequently one seeks and finds the old and the young together in the forest, or a cow comes unexpectedly home with her calf. Throughout the whole province no shepherd or cowherd is needed, because all cattle and sheep are kept in fenced fields or let run at large in the fields, where they find plenty of food and moreover spoil much in many places. . . .

. . . It is quite surprising how dense the forests are, and what beautiful, smooth, thick and tall trees they contain. There are many kinds of trees, mostly oaks, but they are not so fruitful as those in Germany. After these there are also beech-trees, but not many. Birch-trees are rarely found, but I saw some that were very tall and as thick as a thick oak-tree. I have already spoken of the poplars; they have soft wood which looks snow-white inside; there are many of them. Walnut-trees are exceedingly plentiful; this beautiful coffee-brown and hard wood is precious and useful, because all sorts of fine and elegant household furniture are made of it. When cut, a great deal of it is shipped to Holland, England, Ireland and other countries where it brings a high price. . . The greatest ornament of the forests are the beautiful and excellent cedar-trees; they grow mostly in the high mountains. This wood has a very strong odor, is as light as foam, and especially precious for organ-pipes; for the pipes made of said cedar-wood have a much finer and purer tone than those of tin, of which I have seen sufficient proofs. All houses in Philadelphia are roofed with shingles of cedar-wood. When a heavy rain pours down upon it, this wood sounds like a roof of copper or brass.

#### FORESTS & WOODS

The most wonderful bird, not only in Pennsylvania, but perhaps in the whole world, is a small bird which is rarely seen. This little bird is not quite so large as a May-bug, but only as large as a gold-bird. It glitters like gold, and sometimes it appears green, blue and red. Its beak is rather long, and as sharp as a needle; its feet are like fine wire. It sips only the honey from the flowers; hence it has the name of a sugar-bird. It builds its nest in the flowers in a garden; the nest is not larger than a cupping-glass, but there are generally 4 or 5 young ones in it. It moves its wings with indescribable swiftness, making a loud hissing with them. When it does not fly, one can hear it sing very softly and gracefully when one is fortunate enough to get quite near it. I will not say for how much this little bird is sometimes bought by great people. But they do not live long, as it is impossible to furnish them with their proper food.

#### HUMMINGBIRDS

One of the beauties of Pennsylvania are the fire-flies that fly about so plentifully by night in the summer time, that it seems as if it were snowing fire. Some years ago a newly arrived German man was badly scared by them; for as he was working in the field late one evening, and some fire-flies, which were totally unknown to him, were flying about him, our honest Hans was so frightened that he dropped everything and ran hastily home. As he came in fear and trembling to his family, he said: "O God, shield and protect us! How many fiery spirits fly about in this country! O God, would I were in Germany again!" . . .

#### FIRE-FLIES

Of the savages, or Indians . . . there is a great multitude; they live even beyond the Ohio [River] . . . These savages live in the bush in huts away from said waters, and so far inland that no one is able to find the end of the habitations of these savages. The farther we get into the country, the most savages we see. . . .

When the savages come to the city of Philadelphia and see the handsome and magnificent buildings there, they wonder and laugh at the Europeans for expending so much toil and cost on houses. They say that it is quite unnecessary, as one can live without such houses. Still more they wonder at the garments of the Europeans and their costly finery; they will even spit out when they see it.

#### INDIANS

When a savage couple are betrothed, the man gives his affianced bride a piece of a deer's leg into her hand, whereby he gives to understand that he will nourish his future wife with meat. His affianced, on the other hand, gives him an ear of corn, in token that she will provide her future husband and children with bread. Thus they care for each other and remain together until death parts them.

Old savages have often been questioned about their descent and origin, and they have answered that all they know or could say was this; that their great-grandparents had lived in these same wildernesses, and that it was not right that the Europeans came and took their lands away from them. For this reason

*“. . . it was not right that the Europeans came and took their lands away from them. For this reason they must move farther and farther back in the wilderness to find game for their food.”*

they must move farther and farther back in the wilderness to find game for their food. . . .

In Pennsylvania everything is paid for with stamped paper money, for which one can have and buy whatever one wishes. . . . If anyone counterfeits or prints such stamped paper money, he is hanged without pardon. Besides the paper money there is no other currency but gold, French and Spanish dollars, the last named having a large circulation.

#### MONEY

If anyone contracts debts, and does not or cannot pay them at the appointed time, the best that he has is taken away from him; but if he has nothing, or not enough, he must go immediately to prison and remain there till some one vouches for him, or till he is sold. This is done whether he has children or not. But if he wishes to be released and has children, such a one is frequently compelled to sell a child [into indentured servitude]. If such a debtor owes only 5 pounds, or 30 florins, he must serve for it a year or longer, and so in proportion to his debt; but if a child of 8, 10 or 12 years of age is given for it, said child must serve until he or she is 21 years old. . . .

#### DEBTORS

On the whole, crimes are punished severely, especially larceny. If anyone steals only a handkerchief, a pair of stockings or shoes, or a shirt, or the like things of little value, and suit is brought against him, he is tied to a post in the public market, stripped to the waist, and so terribly lashed with a switch, or a horse- or dog-whip, to which knots are sometimes attached, that patches of skin and flesh hang down from his body. But if such a culprit should subsequently steal again, and were it only an object worth 20 florins, or a horse, short work is made with him. They place him in a cart, drive him beneath the gallows, throw a rope round his neck, hang him up, drive the cart away beneath him, and let him dangle; sometimes the culprit suffers long and dies miserably. For in this country it does not matter who plays the hangman; for 5 pounds or 30 florins

#### CRIME & PUNISHMENT

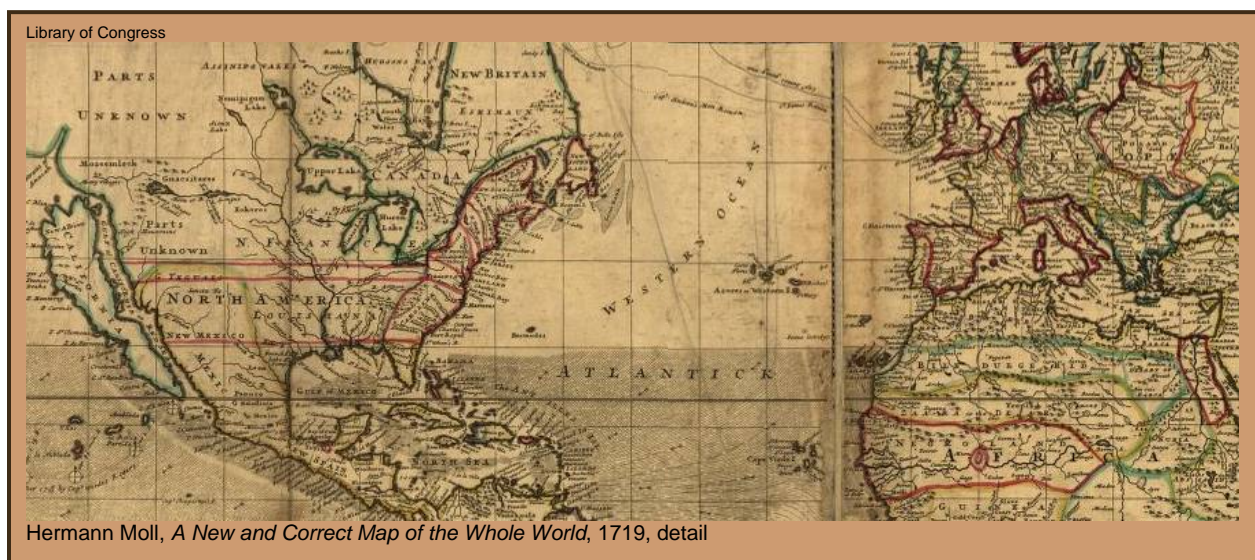
anyone will do it. During the time while I was there such an execution took place, when an unskilled hangman had to hang a thief, which took him so long that some distinguished gentlemen who were present grew impatient and called out to him to know why he was fooling around so long with him. But the hangman was quickwitted and answered boldly: If you, gentlemen, can hang a man better than I can, just come on. The consequence was that the gentlemen were laughed at by the people. . . .

English women in Pennsylvania<sup>3</sup> and in all the English colonies have all the qualities and privileges of women in old England. They are exceedingly handsome and well formed, generally gay, friendly, very free, plucky, smart and clever, but also very haughty; they are fond of dress and demand great attention from men. The English men make much of them and show them great respect. A man must not think of marrying a woman unless he is able to support her without expecting work of her. Otherwise she would make him unhappy or even desert him, for they must not be asked to do any household work except such as they will do their own free choice. They are fond of receiving visits and attending parties; whether the husband likes it or not, he must not even show a dissatisfied mien. I would rather beat three men in England than box a woman's ear but slightly; and if such a thing is done by her own husband and she complains to her neighbors, his life is not safe. But if such a thing happens repeatedly, he had better put a safe distance between himself and her, as she can send him to prison, if not to a galley, for a long time. No one can compel her to receive her husband again. That English women are generally very handsome is not surprising, for they are tenderly nurtured from their childhood; they eat and drink no coarse food and beverages: they need not work and are not much exposed to the sun. In court the evidence of one woman is worth as much as that of three male witnesses. It is said they received this great privilege from Queen Elizabeth.

## WOMEN

Respecting the extent of America, they say in Pennsylvania that that continent is much larger than Europe, but that it is impossible to explore it on account of its immeasurable pathless forests and its great and small rivers. Nor is Pennsylvania an island, as some simpletons in Germany believe it to be. I have had occasion to speak of the extent of this continent with an English traveler who had been far in the interior of the country among the savages. He told me that he had been more than 700 English miles, which is 233 Swabian hours' journey from Philadelphia, purchasing skins and all sorts of furs from the savages. He had spoken on that very same topic with an Indian, a very old fellow, who had given him to understand in English that he and his brothers had one time journeyed from the place, where the meeting with said English traveler had occurred, straight through the land and through the bush toward the setting sun, and that according to their

## "EXTENT OF AMERICA"



<sup>3</sup> "English men and women," i.e., colonists of English birth and/or heritage [NHC note]

estimate they had gone 1600 English miles. But seeing that there was no hope of finding the end of this country they had returned. . . The old savage also said they had met on this journey many great waters, besides smaller rivers, all of which they had crossed by swimming.

In the Blue Mountains various rich ores have been found which are kept concealed as yet as much as possible; this ore consists for the most part in copper, sulphur and iron, and promises a rich yield. . . .

In Pennsylvania there are already four printing offices, two of which are in Philadelphia, one in the English and the other in the German language; the third is in Germantown and the fourth in Lancaster.

#### TRADES & MANUFACTURES

There are also various flour-mills, saw-mills, oil-presses, fulling-mills, powder-mills and paper-mills, lime and brick-kilns, and not a few tanneries and potteries. In Philadelphia there are also German and English apothecaries, and I know of no art or trade that is not to be found in that city and in that new land. Even glaziers and scissors-grinders are already going around, which appears very strange and ridiculous to the English people.

Nothing is lacking in this country except, as I have stated before, the cultivation of the vine,<sup>4</sup> but I have no doubt that this, too, will come in time. It is no wonder, therefore, that this beautiful country, which is already extensively settled and inhabited by rich people, has excited the covetousness of France. And actually, while I write this, it is rumored that the French had made a raid into Pennsylvania in November, 1755, and had taken Lancaster, a surprise rendered easy by the dissensions between the Governor, Mr. Morris, and the Assembly, which latter had refused to vote money for the defense of the country. But according to my humble opinion, Pennsylvania cannot stand a long war. There is nothing for which it is less prepared than a war, especially because so many Quakers are there who will not quarrel or fight with anybody. For this reason no magazines or stores have ever been established and filled with grain or provisions. Hitherto everyone has sent his annual surplus products to Philadelphia to be sold there, and from there they are shipped by sea to provinces; I believe, therefore, that for want of provisions in this war time there must soon arise an indescribable dearth. . . .

#### DANGER OF WAR

In the province of Pennsylvania, and especially in the city of Philadelphia, the Sabbath-breakers who buy and sell on Sunday, when there is no necessity for doing so, are fined 5 pounds or 30 florins for each offense. Even a baker who bakes bread and sells it on Sundays or holidays is fined 30 florins. A shop-keeper selling goods on Sunday has still less claim to indulgence. Grinding flour is prohibited under the same penalty. A waggoner or teamster who drives without necessity into the field or country has to pay the same fine, because this is considered as his every-day occupation, like that of any other profession. Nevertheless, there is a great confusion on account of the many religious denominations and sects; for especially in the rural districts it is very ill kept. The holidays and apostle-days are not observed at all. As the inhabitants live scattered and often very far from their churches, it happens that many a man keeps divine service with his family in his own house, while many others plow, reap, thresh, hew or split wood and the like, and thus Sunday is disregarded by many. For want of an annual almanac many do not even know when it is Sunday, and thus the young grow up without the necessary divine knowledge, like the aborigines or savages.

#### “SABBATH-BREAKERS” RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

In Pennsylvania and the other English colonies there are innumerable negroes, or blacks, who have to serve all their lives as slaves. From 200 to 350 florins are paid for a strong and industrious half-grown negro. Many are given in marriage by their masters in order to raise young blackamoors by them, who are sold in their turn. These blacks are likewise married in the English fashion.

#### ENSLAVED BLACKS

<sup>4</sup> Grape production and wine-making. [NHC note]



According to their color the inhabitants of Pennsylvania may be divided into 4 classes. There are, 1. WHITES, *i.e.*, Europeans who have immigrated, and natives begotten by European fathers and mothers; 2. NEGROES, *i.e.*, blacks brought over as slaves from Africa; 3. MULATERS or MALATERS [mulattoes], *i.e.*, such as are begotten by a white father and a black mother, or by a black father and a white mother; these are neither white nor black, but yellowish; 4. DARK-BROWN, mother; these are the savages or Indians, the old inhabitants of the country.

#### ETHNIC DIVERSITY

As to the number of people in Pennsylvania, it must be confessed that the female sex in this new country is very fruitful; for people marry young in this land, and many immigrants arrive every year. In Philadelphia or in the country; when one comes into a house, one finds it usually full of children, and the city of Philadelphia is fairly swarming with them. And if one meets a woman, she is either with child, or she carries a child in her arms, or leads one by the hand. Many children are born every year.<sup>5</sup> Those that are born and brought up in this country grow very fast. They are full-grown at the age of 15, rarely later than 17 or 18 years but they seldom grow old. They resemble herein the trees of their forests. Europeans who emigrate to the country grow much older than those that are born in it. I, at least, have seen few of the latter that were 60 or 70 years old. On the other hand I met people who came to the country as children 75 years ago with the first immigrants. These told me how it looked in the country at that time, and how much misery they had sometimes to endure. . . .

#### CHILDREN & LONGEVITY

Old people of eighty years and more told me much of their former sad condition; that for a long time there had been a great lack of God-fearing preachers, and the sacraments, baptism and holy communion; and when a preacher occasionally came to a place, many a one was obliged to make a journey of 10, 20, and even 30 hours to hear him; while now most people would not make an hour's trip to hear him, but would even despise him. The many sects lead people astray, and make them heterodox, especially many of our young German folks who are easy to seduce, because they have often many years to serve with them, so that they even forget their mother-tongue. Even many adults and old people have changed their faith, merely for the sake of their sustenance. . . .

#### EFFECTS OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

In Pennsylvania the following custom prevails among all people, high and low, in the city and in the country. When anyone enters a house or meets another, he first presses the hand of the father and mother of the family; then he salutes in the same manner with his hand all other persons, as many as there may be, and it happens sometimes that he will find a whole room full. Such salutation and handshaking is customary with strangers as well as among the most intimate friends, and the mode of addressing each other is among the English as well as the Germans: "How are you, good friend?" And the answer is "So middling." This pleasant custom springs in part from the many English Quakers in Philadelphia, and in part from the Indians themselves, who were among the first among whom this custom prevailed. To speak the truth, one seldom hears or sees a quarrel among them. Even strangers trust each other more than acquaintances in Europe. People are far more sincere and generous than in Germany; therefore our Americans live more quietly and peacefully together than the Europeans; and all this is the result of the liberty which they enjoy and which makes them all equal.

*"To speak the truth, one seldom hears or sees a quarrel among them. Even strangers trust each other more than acquaintances in Europe. People are far more sincere and generous than in Germany; therefore our Americans live more quietly and peacefully together than the Europeans; and all this is the result of the liberty which they enjoy and which makes them all equal."*

<sup>5</sup> Pennsylvania is said to have 200,000 inhabitants. [Mittelberger note]