

VIII.

CAPT. JOSIAH SHACKFORD,

who had formerly been master of a small merchant vessel, settled on a large tract of land near Portsmouth, Ohio, about 1805. Towards the close of the last century he was in Cadiz, Spain, with his ship, and being ready to sail, said to his crew who were going on shore, that he should sail at 6 P. M. His crew, thinking he would not weigh anchor till their return, did not make their appearance at the hour set for sailing, and Capt. Shackford put off alone with no companion but his dog. In this manner he actually crossed the Atlantic, being out a period of seventy days, and landed at Demarara, South America—having lost his reckoning, as he intended to make the West Indies. Arriving there, he was arrested on a supposed charge of having murdered his crew, and was held until proof of the facts stated above were obtained, when he was released. When he was subsequently in London, Sir Joseph Banks, who had heard of his remarkable act of daring, sent for Capt. Shackford to make him a visit, for the purpose of obtaining information from him. On being asked by this philosopher how he felt when he was on the middle of the Atlantic ocean, alone, he replied: "When I was hungry, I ate; when I was thirsty, I drank; when I was sleepy, I slept."