

houses 9 miles - the uplands are chiefly oak & chestnut lands. I staid this night at Mercer in a Tavern where drinking and singing songs was kept up nearly all night. - Mercer is a village of 40 or 50 houses the Capital of Mercer County - it stands on an eminence, and seems to be in a decline -

15<sup>th</sup> On leaving Mercer I saw a man before me on horseback. I soon overtook him & found he was travelling to Pittsburgh. I rode on in company with him and entered into conversation about the Country generally. We lived near the Coniscent Lake about 10 miles from Madville. I related to him what took place at Custards. he then told me of two cases which happened in his neighborhood - one of a woman another of a child destroyed by Panthers - we started now on this morning when we stopped for breakfast we overtook another Gentleman travelling in the same direction - He was travelling to Chambersburg in Penn<sup>a</sup>. exactly where I was going - so we kept company for 6 days - this day we rode over clay hills covered chiefly with oak, apparently a poor Country till we came to