The air of Pittsburgh and its environs is very healthy: the intermittent fevers, so common in the southern states, are not known here, nor are the inhabitants tormented with mosquitoes during the summer.... Whatever the state of the weather may be, the waters of the Allegany are clear and limpid, those of the Monongahela, on the contrary, become turbid whenever there are a few days of successive rain, in that part of the Allegheny mountains where it rises.

— François André Michaux, *Travels to the westward of the Alleghany Mountains* (London: J. Mawman, 1805), 71-72, 81. The author, son of well-known botanist André Michaux, was commissioned by the French minister in 1802 to study the forests and agriculture of the United States.

There are also two dramatic societies in Pittsburgh, one composed of students of law, and the other of respectable mechanicks. They occasionally unite with each other in order to cast the pieces to be performed with more effect. The theatre is in the great room of the upper story of the courthouse.... On the whole however, the dramatic societies, exhibit in a very respectable manner, a rational entertainment to the inhabitants of Pittsburgh about once monthly through the winter.