

York cannot afford two men to wait upon each omnibus. The driver has to perform the part of conductor and guard also; and this he is cleverly enabled to do. An open window behind him enables those in the inside to tell him when they wish to get out; they pass their fare through the window to him; he pulls a cord which, working on pullies, opens the door at the tail of the vehicle, and he scarcely checks his horses while the party walks out. Meanwhile, should a passenger, who has not passed his fare through the window in the roof, seize the opportunity and try to escape, the driver pulls the cord again, slams to the door, and catches him by the leg. If people have not their change ready when they wish to get down, it is their own fault, and he carries them on. He may not delay his other passengers and stop the omnibus while they are fumbling for their money.

The weather was very hot; and the men in the streets were mostly dressed in brown linen frock coats. The ladies were much smarter; and selected such glowing colours as they thought best suited to their own complexions.

Scarlet and yellow and the brighter hues seemed most in vogue—the general style of female dress being an exaggeration of Parisian fashions.

At the post office, I found a very inconvenient custom to prevail; the direction of letters addressed to the post office, or to persons whose address is not known, is printed and hung up outside the window for a certain number of days; if not called for within that time, the letters are destroyed. I am surprised that a commercial community, whose correspondence must be so dependent upon winds and waves, should tolerate so clumsy a contrivance for lessening the work of clerks. Very many more letters arrive in either the London, the Liverpool, or the Southampton post office than in that of New York; but it is not found necessary to resort to such a barbaric plan to prevent accumulation.

I was recommended to Mr. Beebee, the money-changer; and a most respectable gentleman I found Mr. Beebee in his little cellar in Wall Street. I consigned to him a large sum in Bank of England notes, for which he gave

me a memorandum, allowing for them their fair value and interest, unless he heard by return of post from England that they were forged! We smiled at this symptom of the habits and experience of men of business in New York. But a New York man of business could not willingly see so large a sum of presumed-to-be-genuine money carried beyond his reach without attempting to get something more out of it than what he could make over and above the six per cent. interest he was to allow us for the deposit: and thus the conversation was carried on:—

“ Well, sir; I guess you’ll make some stay in New York city?”

“ No; we purpose leaving it to-morrow or next day.”

“ Going to Boston or Baltimore and Washington?”

“ To neither; we shall go up to the Lakes and into the Far West!”

“ What! not remain to see our first-rate seaboard cities?”

“ Every city must be more or less alike; and I can judge of the peculiarities of those of

your old States by what I see of New York. I know almost every city of Europe: and I think I shall be better able to study America and American character in the country."

"Well, sir; but this money. I can tell you of a mode of investing it here so that it will be surely doubled before you want to call for it. Some coal mines have lately been discovered so placed that we shall be able to drive all competition out of New York. The shares are now low; but, in a few days, will be at a premium. Let me introduce you to my friend here who will give all particulars."

The friend thereupon held out his hand, shook mine with warmth, and began talking with a frankness that, in Europe, could have only sprung from lengthened acquaintance. I observed this throughout the United States: Americans are formal and distant till introduced—it matters not by whom; but that ceremony having once taken place, they break off whatever they might be saying to shake hands, and seem to consider you, thenceforth, as one of themselves.

Mr. Beebee gave me maps and prospectuses

of the coal mine, which he urged me to study and distribute when I should have first secured for myself as many shares as could be bought with the money I had deposited with him ; and his friend insisted on taking me to the office of the young company, where I was shown great maps of the mines on the scale of about a yard to a mile. I was very polite ; promised to think the matter over ; and proceeded on my way ; admiring this first specimen of American smartness.

I met Captain Parsons in the street, and he took me into a little shop, hung with white and pink glazed calico, and in the centre of which was a clean counter and half a dozen bottles of wine or spirit, and insisted upon treating me to my first glass of American liquor. What would I have ? “ Sherry cobbler”, “ mint julip”, or a “ brandy smasher”, — or any of half a dozen other delicacies which he named ? I chose the far-famed sherry cobbler, and curiously watched the lad behind the counter squeeze a little lemon into a large tumbler full of small lumps of bright, transparent ice ; lay over them one or two bits of