

that there was no fire in the house. Next day, the girl, who was an Irishwoman, had found out that we were Catholics, and exclaimed, 'Sure, if I'd known that, I'd have lighted the fire again, and have boiled the water meeself sooner than that you should have gone without it.' From this time, she was particularly civil and obliging."

After another day's acquaintance, this woman prayed, with tears in her eyes, that we would take her with us. There was a great deal of ill-feeling against her religion, she said, in New York, and she wished to get into a Catholic family. I knew that servants would be more and more scarce the further we went; and as the people of the hotel gave her a good character, my wife consented to her wishes, and I took a place for her to Buffalo.

An American hotel is, in fact, a boarding-house. The highest charge made by any in New York for private bedroom and the use of public sitting-rooms, for tea and breakfast with cold meat, and for dinner of every delicacy, is two-and-a-half dollars per head; the

lowest charge is one dollar and a-half. A dollar may be counted as 4*s.* 2*d.* These charges, which include all service except that of porter, are very moderate for a single person: very high when applied to a family of children. Private sitting-rooms and meals in private may, certainly, be had; what may not be had for money? But the innkeepers do not like to be so put out of their way; further west, nothing would induce them so to alter the arrangements of their establishments. Travellers who so exclude themselves in a country whose people live in public, deprive themselves of a great means of becoming acquainted with it. They are disliked; they are thought proud; and are left to themselves. The Battery Hotel is a good second-rate house; both it and the Atlantic are, or were three years ago, the only houses near the sea; all the others—a mile or two up Broadway—are too distant for those who escape from the porters on the quay at half-past ten o'clock at night.