

tinues Louie, "a lady asked Lucy for how much she would sell her parrot,—a grey one, and a great rarity there, where they have the green parrots only. Outside the saloon ran a small balcony, on which I stood, with two of my brothers, nearly all the time, looking at the beautiful banks of the Hudson on each side of us. Every now and then, there were breaks in the masses of forest trees, disclosing pretty villas and châteaux built of wood."

"Bright and beautiful shone the sun," writes Agnes: "in fact, it was a day to make the beautiful scenery of the Hudson banks appear more beautiful still; and nothing but the scenery could make us stand out under the burning sun that was pouring down upon us. But one does not go on the Hudson every day."

At last, my satirist of America had found something in it to admire!

I was amused to observe the construction of the railroad which, as I have said, runs parallel with the river. It often skirted the waters, and cut across shallows in the bends of the ravines. In these cases, what think

you, friend shareholder, the rails rested on? No brick or stone arches; no raised embankment; no piers even for the sleepers to lie upon were there. Wooden piles were driven into the ground, and to these the very sleepers were nailed. The rails lay upon them; and from the deck of the *New World*, I could see the whole fabric shake and tremble as the trains rattled over them, smoking and whistling, and seeming to shout defiance to our steamer.

“Oh my poor shares!” exclaimed an English speculator, to whom I described the engineering of the line.

All the company (not the railway shareholders, but ours of the *New World*) went down to dine. I could not introduce all my children to the *table d'hôte* of these holiday folks; and I bespoke a dinner for us at a separate table. There we eat at our leisure and comfortably; not being obliged to swallow our dinner in ten minutes.

When we went on deck again, the river banks were no longer broken and picturesque, as in the lower half of the Hudson. The

hills were more depressed and rounded ; the water was sluggish, and often broken up by low muddy islands ; the banks were overgrown by reeds ; and, at three o'clock, when we had proceeded one hundred and forty miles from New York, and were within sight of Albany, the *New World* ran aground ! There was no noise, no objurgation : every one seemed either to have expected the event, or to be used to it, or to be aware that the managers would do the best they could ; and the first assurance I had of the fact, was from seeing the passengers pass to the deck of a little steamer that had come alongside of us. In this, we were uncomfortably crowded ; but we soon reached Albany. Our luggage was to come up in the *New World*, which would float again when lightened of its passengers. We walked to the hotel ; and I went to the agents from whom I had purchased my tickets and booked myself "through" to Buffalo.

I explained to a man whom I found there, that my luggage was on board the steamer, and that I required to have it moved, accord-

ing to contract, to the hotel for the night, and to be supplied with tickets for Buffalo. He met me civilly, but with much demur; the head clerk was out; and the key of the office could not be found. However, perceiving that I was not to be put off, as, doubtless, hundreds of poor emigrants had been by the same "agency", the head clerk was found, the key of the desk was found; and the requisite number of first-class railway tickets were given in exchange for my New York receipt. The removal of the luggage I could not get them to undertake. They declared that I had more than the proper quantity, and that their New York correspondents could not have intended to charge them with the conveyance of it. Rejoicing that I had, at least, secured my railroad tickets, which they had evidently not intended to give me, I hired other porters, and returned to the hotel.

The fare from New York to Albany by the night boats is one dollar, or fifty cents, or as little as, owing to the usual competition, passengers please to pay; that by the *New World* and *Rein Deer*, the only two day boats, is two

dollars and a-half. I was charged sixty cents a head for breakfast on board, and five dollars for our dinner, without wine ; and two dollars for extra luggage. But we had passed over a distance of one hundred and forty-five miles.

Albany, so called after the Duke of York and Albany, afterwards James the Second, and one of the oldest towns in the country, is well situated on a rising ground above the river. Its streets are tolerably well built for an old town, and contained about fifty thousand inhabitants. Delavan's Hotel, there, is a large, half-furnished building ; it was conducted with the regularity of a military boarding house, but without refinement or consideration for the comfort of its customers ; it was a sort of caravanserai, where men walked in or out, and smoked about the passages and corridors, at their pleasure ; the only regulation being that they should take their meals at beat of gong, or not at all, and pay the established price for their board. The ladies' sitting-room here, also, was large and handsomely furnished : the bed-rooms were very plain.

“ Next morning,” writes Louie, “ we were