

I accompanied my luggage to the station-house at Sandusky, and found again here the same inconvenient plan of labelling and ticketing luggage, which I had first seen adopted at Albany, and which is general throughout the States: a brass token, with a number engraved upon it, is sewn to a leathern thong, and tied to each article, the owner of which is expected to put another brass token, engraved with the corresponding number, into his pocket. This the owner of one or two packages could easily do; but the custom-house officer at New York had counted forty-two packages as belonging to me; and it was no pleasant matter to have to find pocket-room for forty-two brass tokens as large as penny pieces. Then at the end of every journey, when the luggage was to be reclaimed, every holder of a token had to produce it as the number on the corresponding one tied to each trunk was called out; and as, of course, the numbers did not follow one another regularly, a most perplexing scene of confusion and delay always arose when any passenger had more than one or two packages.

I in vain endeavoured to make them understand the plan of fixing one and the same letter to all the luggage of one and the same owner, which might be reclaimed by the production of one check. They then declared that they could not understand me. I have no doubt they have adopted the plan since. They have no revered antiquated prejudices to prevent improvement.

But we were seated in cars like those I have before described, and were advancing along the "Lake Erie and Mad River Railroad". I regret that I can give no appropriate description of the "Mad River"; but, truth to say, I could never find it, see it, or hear of even its locality. The train passed onwards through forests of Scotch fir trees of no great size; nature has set them so close together, and the soil is so poor, that their growth is stunted. Striking at first, the effect soon became monotonous. The electric telegraph was conducted beside the railway: and our chief interest was soon derived from watching the many birds that perched upon its wires, of plumage and shape different from those of

Europe. Stray clearings appeared among the woods here and there; where the soil was a little better, the trees had been destroyed, and a few acres brought into cultivation; and a frame farmhouse might be seen on some slight elevation amid the forest in the distance. But such spots were few and far between; fir woods stretched darkly on every side, and no fence separated them from the line of the railway. The driver's whistle was, however, often and oftener heard; I marvelled what could cause such frequent warnings; and at length discovered that stray cattle were lying across the rails, and as the country became more inhabited, of course these became more frequent. About once in two hours, the trains stopped to take in a supply of wood fuelling; this was kept neatly cut and piled under sheds beside the log or frame cottage of the wood-cutter.

Dost know the difference, reader, between a log and a frame-house? The latter is, as its name implies, a framework of sawn timber, covered over with weather boards, like most of the barns and farm buildings in the south

of Hampshire ; the log-house is made of the whole boles or stems of trees laid one upon the other, and the one rudely "tenanted" into the other at the four corners. On the inside, the interstices between the boles are filled up with straw or clay. The frame-house is always painted white to preserve the boards ; the log-house is generally whitewashed for neatness sake.

Whenever the trains stopped, as I have said, to take in wood, boys came into the cars with great jugs of lemonade and iced water, of which almost every passenger took a draught. Iced water and ice, the commonest necessary of the poorest as of the richest throughout the United States, is a luxury that may be said to be unattainable even to the wealthy in Europe. When the next station was a town, these water boys offered us cards and hand-bills recommending the several hotels in it.

But we were rising on the higher ground that parts the waters that flow into Lake Erie from those that incline southwards towards the Ohio River. The soil was better in quality ; the country gave evidence of being more

settled; fences began to hedge in the clearings from the railway; the guard's whistle was more seldom in requisition to arouse the cattle, sheep, or horses that had strayed from the forests and laid themselves to sleep on our line. Reader, if thy dwelling is in the country, desire a hedge-carpenter to put up for thee in thy grounds a wood fence without posts or nails, and mark how the poor man will stare! To fix up a timber fence without posts or nails! Impossible! And yet the land of the United States, where it is fenced at all, is fenced in by such. I desired my three daughters, from whose memoranda I occasionally quote, to write a description of a "worm fence", as it is called, in the fewest possible words. That given by Lucy was unintelligible; Agnes covered her page with sketches and drawings, which are inadmissible here; Louie wrote as follows: "a number of poles are laid with the ends crossing one another in a zigzag line on the ground; others are laid on them again in the same manner, and so on until the fence is of a sufficient height. Its appearance is not unlike a half unfolded screen." I cannot im-