

57. To show the magnitude of some hotels, that of Holt's makes up 300 beds, contains 165 rooms, and can dine 1000 people at one time. The city water being bad, this house is supplied from a well, 600 feet deep, and cut through a solid rock. From the difficulty of procuring a proper supply of soap, in some hotels, wherein your bill is paid personally at the bar, I could almost have imagined myself in a caravansary, it being the superstition of Turkey never to give soap, from an idea that it will wash away love.

58. Even a first rate bookseller will stoop to the placard of 'A half price book store.' There are 180 in New York. Periodical literature, foreign and domestic, is conveyed by post, to all parts of the Union, at three farthings per sheet, if under 100, and but three halfpence if above 3000 miles. Annual amount of book sales circa \$10,000,000. Those imported from Europe in 1829, for 30 public institutions, amounted only to \$10,829. The chief publishing cities are Boston, New York and Philadelphia. Number of books in the public libraries of America, do not exceed 400,000, less than those in Oxford university. Major Downing's letters, lately appearing anonymously in the New York Daily Advertiser, have excited much interest in the political world: they are happily conceived, and the satire, though keen and just, is managed with great tact and good humour. The New York Society library, after an existence of 80 years, contains but 16,000 volumes. The British government has just presented to those public libraries, amounting to 21, through Mr. Rich of Red Lion square, London, complete sets of all the works now printing by the Record commission, the value of each set is £300. American literature is looking up. Bloodgood of New York is about publishing anecdotes of Sir Walter Scott, for which he gave the Ettrick Shepherd 100 guineas. Whilst Messrs. Carey, Lea & Co. of Philadelphia, the chief American booksellers, generally pay \$30,000 annually to authors and editors; and have published within the last five years, 50 original, 12 translated, and 17 edited works. The best English ones are constantly reprinted—of which the Messrs. Harper issue the most—and by the introduction of a single note, then made copyrights, which is not granted here to a foreigner, though readily to an American in England. It is not unusual to receive, reprint, and publish all on the same day. The reprints, rather carelessly executed, average 300 annually. At present they possess no standard work of their own. The original publications for 1833, were 272; of those 23 have been reprinted in England—including 8 annuals for 1834, which, however, do not sell, because of a preference to those from Great Britain. No work of humour answers, maugre the exertions of the Boston comedians, in their periodical intitled 'The American Comic Annual.' Dr. Franklin in vain attempted to establish a magazine: the succeeding 20 years produced 14 other failures; 1810 however saw 24: there are now probably 100. Boston is

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