

The famous old State-house did contain Peel's Museum, but of late years Barnum finds all museums, and joins a theatre to it. When the play is over, you walk about among the stuffed specimens, if you are not tired enough already; and very awful specimens they are. The expression given exceeds all power of face, particularly if it is meant to express serious dignity. They have made a rare example of our Queen, who stands among the Union's own great men in a glass case; but I think a whole living band in wax was the most stunning thing. It was lucky that the barrels, or the bellows, were on an intermittent plan, and had some mercy on one's ears.

The best things are the Indian dresses, weapons, and ornaments, always perfect in their kind, and beautiful.

One of the lions of Philadelphia is the Mint. I am ashamed to say I did not see it, though very easy of access, as all the public buildings are in America, very much to their credit. On the whole, Philadelphia is a very rich, fine, pleasant city, embracing almost every luxury known to the rest of the world. It is healthy, too, the fever and ague being confined to the banks of its two rivers. Mysterious as the Maremma of Tuscany or the Pontine Marshes—for it is not exactly from dense forests, or more or less elevation, or the presence of water. They say they have less of it than twenty years ago, when most of the villas and country seats were shut up and going to ruin. Still, here any Englishman may live very pleasantly (when quite disgusted with his own government), if he is a man of fortune, and if he defies excessive heat and excessive cold, and can laugh at mosquitoes. The same thing may be said of almost any city of the Union, except that the heat and the mosquitoes keep getting more and more awful as he passes to the southward beyond Virginia, or westward towards the Ohio. True, there are other things to consult besides mere physical comforts. I have no letters, and will not pretend to judge of the best tone of society. From what I so far see, I should say the Americans here care less about sociability and intimate friendships than we do. They rarely give dinners, but *thés dansantes* occasionally, where, however, youth is indispensable. The married and middle-aged are barely tolerated, and *wall-flowers* must make up their minds good fifteen years before it becomes essential with us.

By good luck, I am spared any anathemas against the monster-hotels. They abound here, as in all their cities. As barracks they are perfect—much more comfortable, perhaps, than our Horse Guards' at Knightsbridge. I see they have nearly finished a giant structure to outdo all the others in Chestnut-street, to make up two or three hundred beds, and cut the Astor out if possible (for there is an immense rivalry

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