

have the forward saloon on deck spread comfortably as a dining room. This, we think, could be done without any great inconvenience, as the hour for dinner comes generally when the *Empress* is cutting her way smoothly through the beautiful basin of the Annapolis River.

On the wharf at Annapolis is to be encountered one of the most unpardonable nuisances. The train has been run down to the wharf to receive the luggage and passengers from the boat, and this is a great improvement; but just imagine the whole company having to scramble up into the cars with the greatest difficulty and even danger, for want of a step of about 8 inches high. At the stations the steps on the cars are easily reached, but on the wharf at Annapolis, where there is no station, and where the people take their places and deposit their parcels, it is extremely awkward. Gentlemen with long legs may easily manage it, but children, and ladies with long dresses, have a hard time. Then when it comes to mothers with babies, the scene is very touching. Those with satchels and travelling bags have courage enough to throw them on the platform first, and then scramble up or be pulled up after them; but mothers, as a general thing, have an aversion to throwing their offspring about, or lending them to strangers. If they put them on the platform, few things are more certain than that they'll roll over the steps on the other side, or topple down between the cars and crack their little cranium. Many, many hundreds have prayed that they may live to see the day when the Windsor and Annapolis Company will be able to procure a small portable step of rough boards which will enable travellers to take their seats for Halifax without such serious inconvenience as at present.

Another great discomfort is the want of suitable refreshment places. Between Annapolis and Windsor no arrangements are made for providing tea and coffee, and travellers must fast from 12 till they reach Halifax, about 8.30. What is more surprising is that at Windsor the train stops sufficiently long to enable parties to procure tea and coffee, if proper arrangements were only made for supplying it on the train's arrival. The Windsor Hotel is within 30 yards of the cars, and yet such is the lack of enterprise in the proprietor, that nothing can be had by passengers, however hungry or thirsty, and however ready and able to pay for it. The Windsor Hotel has never enjoyed a very good reputation, and it certainly will not be much improved under the management of its present proprietor. On one occasion we were among a party of travellers who applied for a cup of tea or coffee or milk. The Minister of Customs from Ottawa, and Cyrus Field, of Atlantic Cable fame, were present, and were anxious to procure tea or coffee; but instead of giving us what we asked for, or a polite or civil reply, the landlord treated us to a torrent of abuse, because we had not taken the trouble to telegraph to him from Annapolis how many cups of tea and coffee we wanted. He was determined we should not get anything, and of course carried his point. The tea kettle was filled with cold water, and the room full of passengers were sent off hungry and thirsty, while the landlord stood at the door with a red angry face, pulling his long reddish whiskers, and declaring that it served us all right, and guessing that the public would have to do as they were told if they wanted to get tea and coffee at his house. A live Yankee, under the same circumstances, would make a fortune in a few years, but we expect to hear daily of the collapse of our ruddy friend who has set himself so determinedly to punish that strange and whimsical creature, the travelling public. No doubt, as travel increases between St. John and Halifax, these and other drawbacks will be removed. Symptoms of the coming change are already visible. The enterprising little man who has lost his lower extremities, undertakes to provide sandwiches and lemonade and ginger ale, and the daily newspapers, and stumps up and down, out and in, to the amusement as well as the convenience of the passengers. We expect to hear of him knocking the wind out of the Windsor Hotel tyrant,