

which Professor Faraday has remarked as being so deficient in England.

I passed from Montreal, by railroad, to Lake Champlain, and there embarked on the steamer. We had a pleasant steam down the lake, the country on both sides being mountainous, and wooded in the uplands, but most of the low grounds were cleared and cultivated. We stopped at Troy for the night, and the next morning left for New York by the Hudson River Railroad. Some distance below Albany, we observed, on our right, the Catskill mountains to the west of the river. They are a favourite retreat during the heats of summer, and there are several hotels there. Below this place, on a rocky and wooded promontory extending into the Hudson, is situated the military academy of West Point, where all the youths who receive commissions in the American army are educated.

I learnt that appointments to this place are in the patronage of the Secretary of State, or the President himself, which, in a country like this, ought not to be—the boys should be selected by a competent board of examiners—there should be no favour or disfavour shown to any family in the land. However, it would be much more in accordance with the rest of American institutions, if the soldiers were enlisted young, encouraged to continue their education, and promoted to commissions as they merited them.

Shortly after we reached New York, coming first to a terminus in the suburbs, where the engine was detached, and horses put on, by which the cars were taken through great part of the city. We found, after-