

of substantial food with a plentiful allowance of the delicacies of the season. During dinner, brandy, or rum and water is the usual beverage, few take wine unless they are entertaining a friend. After dinner two or three may linger in the room smoking a segar, but it is by no means customary. The Americans spend little time at table, seldom much more than a quarter of an hour, retiring to their commercial engagements, or reading the newspapers. There are frequently many permanent boarders at these houses, who generally take their seat at the table before travellers: and it is a common custom, when young married people do not live in the family of the bride's father, for them to live in a boarding house, and not to think of any other residence till their increasing family makes a private establishment more desirable.

In the religious freedom of America, Jews have all the privileges of Christians. The Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and the Independent meet on common ground. No religious test is required to qualify for public office, as a mere verbal assent to the truth of the Christian religion is in all cases satisfactory. As to the probable continuance of the present system in regard to the various civil and religious pri-