

## A VISIT TO AMERICA BY THE ALLAN LINE.

*To the Editor of the "Wigan Examiner."*

SIR,—Indisposition and other unavoidable causes have prevented the fulfilment of my long-standing promise to relate in lecture my experience and observations during my visits to America. The lecture season is past, but as there are many in this and the surrounding districts who contemplate a pleasure trip across the Atlantic, whilst a considerable number of our working people are bent upon emigration, and requests for guidance are from time to time addressed to me by both of these classes, it may be an advantage to them if I briefly summarise some of the information and suggestions I trust to present to them respecting America more amply in the form of a lecture.

First, a word in reply to the enquiry as to the line of steamers. Most unhesitatingly and emphatically I recommend the Allan Line, and for these reasons. The St. Lawrence route is the shortest, safest, cheapest, most comfortable, and most interesting.

(1). It is the Shortest. In summer it is only five days and a half ocean sail from Moville, near Londonderry, where the boats take in the Irish mails. The rest of the passage is in view of the land and in comparatively smooth water.

(2). It is the Safest. First, because there is much less traffic by this route, and secondly, safety is really and truly the first consideration of the Company. The owners of this Line are not frantically straining every nerve to beat the record by a few minutes, but enforce most rigidly their rule, which I can testify from experience is observed, that in case of fog the speed must be reduced to dead slow. Another guarantee of extreme carefulness is, I venture to think, afforded by the fact that the steamers are not insured.

(3). It is the Cheapest. The Through Fares by this Line to inland places in Canada and the Western States are lower than by any other route. Where time is an object, and the desire to see as well as to sail, I would recommend the direct route to Quebec.

(4). It is the most Comfortable. The absence of the rush and excitement inseparable from a large crowd is no small factor in the restoration of the weak, the over-worked, and the jaded. I have circumnavigated the globe, I have sailed in many ships on many seas, but I never spent a happier week in my life than on board an Allan Steamer. Steerage Passengers will find the accommodation excellent, and the food good and abundant, while for a few shillings they are relieved from the expense, inconvenience, and trouble of providing their own bedding and eating utensils for the voyage. I found everything to be very satisfactory—the accommodation good, and the places well ventilated and airy.

(5). It is the most Interesting. The sail through the Gulf and up the river of St Lawrence is exceedingly fine. The St. Lawrence is one of the grandest and most interesting rivers in the world.

Canada is developing with extraordinary rapidity, and affords a grand field for the English emigrant. From all I have heard of the experience of the Wigan colliers who have returned from Pennsylvania, I expect that they would do much better in the coal district of Nova Scotia, but of this I hope to be able to speak with greater confidence after personal observation and enquiry.

Ince Vicarage, May 21st, 1890. (CANON) THOS. F. FERGIE.