

We catch a glimpse of some public gardens and coloured lamps and avenues, and another calls out, 'It is Kreuznach, and the band is playing!'

We whirl along another spacious thoroughfare, and a third calls out, 'It is the Boulevard Poissonnière!' when it is mildly suggested, that, after all, this may be no more Kreuznach than the Hudson was the Rhine, and that it might be better, on the whole, to call it Saratoga.

It was with great diffidence that we ascended the steps of the monster hotel, and found ourselves in a large central hall. We were conscious that we were travel-stained, and had scarcely sufficient moral courage to ask the clerk for rooms. We knew that the smart young men standing around were regarding us; and oh! so snowy were their white neck-ties, which they wore in the middle of the day. And then, to make matters worse, this pernicious ranch-woman had donned in the morning a costume of light blue serge, in which she had done some yachting the year before; and we knew, though we dared not look, that there must be stains of the salt sea foaming on it. Finally, our inward rage and humiliation were complete when, having been furnished with our keys, we entered the lift to be conveyed to the floors above; for here we found ourselves confronted by three young ladies—but the human imagination refuses to recall the splendor of the attire of these angels in human form. Each of them had a jeweler's shop on her hands.

However, we dried our eyes in silence, and made as brave an appearance as possible when we assembled together in the saloon below.

'Look here child,' said Queen T—to our ranch-woman, as she lifted a white object from the table. 'Do you see that? That is a fork. You take it in your left hand, and you lift your food to your mouth with it, instead of with your fingers, as you have been accustomed.'

'It's a thorough good lickin' you want,' said this child of nature doggedly. It was all we could get out of her.

Then we went out for a drive; and a mighty fine show we made, with our green gauze curtains to keep out the dust, and *with our two horses*. The lieutenant was perched up beside the driver. Occasionally he disappeared from our sight altogether,

hidden away by the dense clouds of brown dust that came rolling in the wake of some carriage. And the further we went out into the country, the deeper the dust in the roads appeared to become, until our German friend had assumed the guise of a baker; and there was scarcely any difference between the color of his hat, his beard, and his coat. But we came to our journey's end at last, for we reached a series of deep gullies in the sand; and in each of these gullies, which were a good bit apart, were some more or less temporary buildings, mostly of wood; and at each of them we found a gentleman in a tall black hat, who in the most courteous manner offered us a glass of the saline water he was prepared to sell, informed us of its chemical qualities, presented us with a prospectus of his company, and was generally most affable. It was a terrible temptation. We might have remained there all day, drinking gallons of the water—for nothing. And indeed we began to pride ourselves on our connoisseurship; and if the present writer had only the various prospectuses by him at present, he could pick out the particular spring which we unanimously declared to be the finest. We had to tear ourselves away.

'After all,' said Bell, with a sigh, 'they manage these things better at Carlsbad.'

Then we drove away again through the thick sand, and in process of time found ourselves on the broad, bare avenue which leads out to Saratoga Lake. And here we found ourselves still further ashamed, notwithstanding our two horses, by the fashion in which the people shot by us in their light little carioles, their toes perched up, their swift little trotters apparently running away with them. In spite of the dust, we could see the diamonds flashing on the fingers and shirts and neck-ties of the brown-faced, brown-bearded gentlemen, who appeared to have come right up from California. We reached the lake, too—a large, calm extent of silvery gray water, becoming somewhat melancholy in the evening light. We gathered some flowers, and bethought ourselves of another lake, set far away among lonely woods, that we had seen in the by-gone days.

'Once upon a time,' says Queen T—, as we are standing on the height, and looking abroad over the expanse of water, 'I can remember there were two young people