

Kemble's, whose colourings struck me as too affected, too violent. Yet is it difficult not to overstep "the modesty of nature;" a difficulty none of our actors ever attempt. Still, our beloved bard exists, if not to the public, at least in our closets. Of our two publics, I do verily believe the American will be the first to recover some little perception of his omniscient beauties. In this respect their pits and galleries are not so very contemptible as ours, and do not laugh and roar so very often in the wrong place; and are infinitely more sparing of that noisy applause so prostituted among ourselves.

The gods here, indeed, make noise enough, but not at all meant as flattering to the actors. But to one or two more positive concerns. The city is well supplied by the Fairmount Waterworks—the facility is enviable—the great reservoir being only three miles off, on its hill, on the left bank of the Schuylkill, as if nature had so meant it, as an inexhaustible supply of pure water for this great city; it commands the highest buildings, and is conducted very cleverly along all the streets. The water and fire plugs are constantly turned on, rushing along the gutters in all directions, cleaning the streets, or putting out fires, on which attempts, at least, there is a constant and vast consumption.

The markets here equal the New York ones in richness and profusion; the one held in the greatest commercial street, Market or High-street, is full half a mile long, under covered arcades, in the centre of the street, from the wharf on the Delaware (where the first section is the fish market) up to Ninth-street; but the country wagons (and pair) backed into the pavement each side, and, side by side, extend almost to Broad-street, or the centre of the city, a full mile. The profusion is quite charming. The things, in their season, not seen with us, are the Indian corn, to boil as a vegetable; sweet potatoes, much eaten and very good: persimons, hickory nuts, and shelled nuts, ground nuts, cranberries, huckleberries, pumpkins and calabashes, water melons, dried apples and peaches (cut small), scur krout, and fifty other roots and fruits peculiar to this country. All the poultry large and fine, but looking yellow and ill-plucked; but very moderate in price, comparatively.

Considering the great quantities of the supply, the prices appear rather high—certainly very much higher these last five-and-twenty years; poultry and meat, of all sorts, less than in London; butter and eggs dearer. Fish is cheap. They have no soles; but among others we have not is the shad, an excellent fish; I think it is a distant cousin of the salmon. I do not see any turbot or John Dory, but their piles of oysters are prodigious.

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