

propped the wheels and body of the carriage, until the horses were enabled to do their part of the duty, and extricate the coach, which was now driven up to the house, where a rude breakfast had in the meantime been prepared. This was voraciously eaten by those who had no particular repugnance to it. The remainder of the journey, performed as it was by daylight, was unmarked by similar disaster, or even by risk, although our bones continued to ache from the violent joltings of the preceding night.

Some idea may be formed of the infamous state of the roads from the fact, that, during one portion of the journey, we made only 11 miles in 12 hours, and were altogether 25 hours in reaching our destination, a distance of 50 miles. It has often since been my fate to encounter difficulties of this kind in Canada, and occasionally in the States; but nothing I have ever since experienced, has at all approached this memorable journey between Utica and Syracuse. Whoever wishes to satisfy himself, must try it at the season of the year I have named; and should he complain of the vileness of the road, he will in all probability have the consolation to learn, as I did, that had he deferred his journey for a month or two, he would have found it better.

Our first entrance into Syracuse had nothing to tempt us to remain there longer than a change of conveyance would require, for on desiring an Irish porter to unstrap a trunk from behind the coach, as it stood before the principal hôtel, he replied that "He would be d—d if he did. If I wanted the trunk off, I might unstrap it myself." As soon, therefore, as I could get the baggage removed, we proceeded by the horse cars which run between Syracuse and Auburn, a distance of 25 miles, and reached the latter place about nine o'clock the same evening.

As a "set off" to the insolence of the Irishman, I feel pleasure in here recording the very obliging conduct of an American, one of my fellow-passengers, from Utica. From the first moment of our being thrown together in American stage-coach misery, this amiable man, who was a substantial farmer on his way to visit a rich daughter at Seneca Falls, perceiving that I was a stranger, and even suspecting me to be on my way to Canada to fight against the Patriots and Sympathizers, was most forward in tendering that assistance which he conceived my ignorance of the customs of the country so much demanded. Often, when I sought in vain for the aid of the driver, would this good Samaritan tender his services, frequently lifting my luggage with his own hands whenever it might be necessary, and always ascertaining, not only that it was properly secured, but that no parcel was deficient. This certainly was disinterested kindness, and induced wholly by a benevolent disposition. As such I felt it, and my sense of the service was heightened by the very fact that he did not seem to think himself privileged to force his conversation upon me farther than I was disposed to invite it. On parting with him, I gave him my card, took his name, which I now forget, and promised, if ever I should visit the neighborhood in which he resided, to make it an especial point to call upon him.

The evening of our arrival at the beautiful and neat cottage-studded village of Auburn was Saturday; and as we were not inclined again to run the risk of being cooped up with eight fat "insides," after paying for one third of the places they occupied, we determined on passing the night and part of the following day in Auburn, for the double purpose of resting from the fatigue and jolting we had so recently endured, and (if possible) visiting its celebrated Penitentiary. On the next day, therefore, after having despatched a somewhat late breakfast, we bent our course towards that imposing pile of building. The governor was already gone to church; and on my stating to the porter the object of my visit, he informed me that the Penitentiary was never open on the Sabbath to others than the officers connected with the establishment. I however left my card, requesting that he would acquaint the governor, on his return, that the gentleman whose name it bore was a stranger travelling through the country, and intending to depart from Auburn on the following morning. I added that I would call again between one and two o'clock, when I trusted I should find an exception to the rule had been made in my favor.

At the hour named, we returned, and met the governor near the principal entrance. He received us very kindly, and expressed his ready assent to my request. He then, after some little conversation of a desultory kind, led the way, attended by the chaplain of the establishment, into the body of the building, and showed us whatever was to be seen. In consequence of its being Sunday, the whole of the convicts were in their cells, (these latter some six hundred in number, and filling corridors of stone, which rose, tier after tier, above each other,) and as we passed along, the expression of the countenances of those, who, attracted by the unusual sound of a footfall on that day, had instinctively moved to the front or open grating of their cells, was profoundly melancholy to behold. The sympathies of the human mind appeared to have been withered up in each breast, for almost every face bore the stern impress of a fixed and stubborn despair, which no ray of light or hope could ever again penetrate. One man only, of the number of those whose faces I beheld, suffered the rigidity of his features to relax even for a moment, and he was a Negro. This man absolutely seemed pleased when he saw me with a counte-

nance not many shades lighter than his own; but it was evident that his was the idle and vacant smile of a mere animal and gratified curiosity.

From the cells, which (necessarily fetid from the close confinement of so great a mass of human beings, notwithstanding the attention that is paid to the enforcement of a system of cleanliness among them, I was not sorry to leave), we were conducted to the large, commodious, and airy apartments of the women, and thence to the spacious chapel. Our inspection being finished, the governor led us again to the lower basement, where the dining rooms and kitchens are situated. The latter were well furnished with meat, of which the best quality is given to the convicts, and the bread had so tempting an appearance that I expressed a desire to be permitted to carry away a small piece of it as a sample. There were two of the convicts (cooks) in the kitchen at the time preparing the next meal for their companions, and the governor addressing one of them, desired him to cut a small square off a loaf. The man did so without replying; but, a moment afterwards, seemingly at a loss how to dispose of it, he turned to the governor, and said briefly, and in an enquiring tone, "Paper?" "Yes, put it in paper, and tie it up." This was the only sound of the human voice we had heard from that mass of living matter, during the period of our visit. It vibrated harshly on the ear, as though the man had, in infringing the regulations, done violence to himself; and for days afterwards, that peculiarly uttered word "Paper?" came, at intervals, inharmoniously to my recollection.

From the building itself, and after having pointed out the very excellent arrangements of the keepers' department, which is necessarily on an extensive but simplified scale, our polite conductors led the way across the court to the different work-rooms, where almost every description of trade is in the course of being carried on; but what most excited my curiosity and attention was the extreme beauty of many of the carpets that are made in this establishment. From the whole, a handsome revenue is derived, and this, after deducting the expenses of all connected with the prison, is paid into the State Treasury. From Captain Basil Hall's description of them, I had some curiosity to see the narrow passages in which the keepers, or overseers, have the power of being ever near the workmen, and are thus enabled to detect unseen any violation of the prescribed rules of the place. They were carefully pointed out to me by the obliging governor, and I found them exactly as described. The narrow corridor, enclosed on either side, and running along the outer extremity of the work-rooms, is provided with an estrade elevated some feet above the floor of the apartments, and is lined in such a manner that the footfall cannot be heard by the acutest ear. The inner side of the corridors, which are of wood, are perforated at certain distances, much after the manner of loop-holes for musketry, so that the distance of the eye from that surface of the partition which is visible from the work-room, is so great as to prevent it, applied as it is to so narrow an aperture, from being seen by those within, while it, on the other hand, commands a view of the actions of the convicts. Our examination of the work-rooms having been concluded, the worthy governor introduced us to a very neat garden—also the fruit of the labour of the convicts—which adjoined the building, and on which much pains and horticultural taste had been expended. Soon afterwards, we took our leave, deeply impressed with the urbanity of those who had cheerfully sacrificed to strangers so much of a day devoted, not more to religious exercises than to their own necessary leisure; and returned, with gratified curiosity, but oppressed spirits, to the hôtel.

Having agreed with the coach agent to be conveyed on to Rochester, a distance of sixty-four miles, in an "extra," for which I was to pay the moderate charge of thirty dollars, we left Auburn on the afternoon of the same day, and under a much more decided feeling of independence, it will be presumed, than when we saw the fat men get into the coach at Utica. The driver was in good spirits, the horses seemingly delighted that they had not a greater weight to drag, and away we darted from the crowded front of the hôtel, amid the flourishing of the whip, which was a bad imitation, both in sound and execution, of that of a French postillion. The day had been ushered in with a genial warmth, not usual in America at that season of the year, and it was this consideration chiefly which had induced us to avail ourselves of the afternoon to get on as far as Geneva, between which pretty village and Auburn there was, we had been informed, some picturesque views to be obtained; nor were we disappointed. The undulating nature of the country presented so many features to be admired, so many attractive *coup d'oeils*, that it was impossible to restrain a desire to revisit them when the season should be far advanced, and the foliage, that great adorer of the works of Him who clotheth the hill and the valley in all the gorgeousness of nature's beauty, more fully developed.

One remarkable feature in this day's journey was the enormous length of a disproportionately narrow bridge traversing the Lake of Geneva (one mile and eight rods in extent), over which we passed at the close of the day, of course at a walk. This, to a nervous person, must be exciting in a high degree. The starting of one of the horses, the meeting of another team—the throwing off a wheel—all are accidents that might be apprehended from one who, looking from