

So many writers have described the Academy at West Point, that it is almost a work of supererogation to introduce any remarks of an extended nature upon it here. Be it sufficient, therefore, merely to observe that the buildings composing the barracks are two in number and of stone, the one three stories in height, the other a story higher, the whole of the grounds appertaining thereto being not less than two hundred and fifty acres in extent. There is, independently of the barracks, above named, a large stone building for military exercises in winter, and for the reception of the different models, &c., and another built in the Gothic style, with three towers, for the reception of astronomical apparatus, the middle tower being a revolving one. There is, moreover, a chapel, an hospital, a mess-room, two cavalry stables, a magazine, a laboratory, soldiers' barracks, a store, and numerous dwelling-houses, some of them for the officers connected with the institution, others for more private families connected therewith.

The whole of the ground attached to the academy, and exclusive of the sites of the different extensive buildings, was ceded to the General Government by the State of New York. For those who love to roam in this neighborhood, or to pass their time in examining at their leisure the several component parts of this excellent establishment, in which the number of cadets is limited to one for every acre of ground, may obtain good accommodation in a spacious hotel overlooking the landing.

We reached New York about two o'clock in the afternoon, and at the recommendation of my new formed American acquaintances, desired the driver of the hack in which my luggage had been placed, to proceed to the Globe Hotel in the Broadway, and not far from the Battery, one of the most fashionable promenades in New York. The Globe is kept wholly in the French style, the lodgers dining at small tables, and *a la carte*, but this system of dining is, in New York, far more expensive than it is in Paris, while the price for rooms is most exorbitant. I had only a bed room (not a very large one either) on the second or third floor, and yet for this I paid as much as one would for a suite of rooms in London. Namely ten dollars a week, and this exclusive of fires which were charged at a good rate, as extras. There are, however, comfortable baths both hot and cold belonging to the establishment, and the former I found on landing from the steamer a very great luxury, as I had only to go from my room, in my dressing gown and slippers, in order to reach it. A very pretty girl superintended these baths, thus completing the resemblance of the style of them to a similar establishment in the fascinating French capital.

During my stay here, which was about a fortnight, and indeed only a few days after my arrival the young American lawyer, to whom I have alluded as being one of my *compagnons de voyage*, on the route from Albany, left his card with a note inviting me to dine with him on the following day. This was a piece of politeness I was not prepared to expect, but the mere invitation to dinner was not the only mark of attention I received. We were to dine at seven o'clock at some Italian restaurateur's whose name I do not now recollect, but my provident host came to me by appointment, as early as three, in a handsome carriage in which he proposed we should visit, before dinner, the most fashionable and remarkable streets at the west end of the town. Everything worth seeing was pointed out to me, during our drive through streets and squares that would do no discredit to the west end of London. But the object which particularly attracted my attention was the vast reservoir then in a train of completion for the reception of the waters of the Croton—a river whose course has been, by the aid of numerous aqueducts, turned into New York, supplying the whole of the city with this necessary of life.

The Croton waters are among the wonders of the world. The undertaking is one of great magnitude and utility, and reflects the utmost credit on the public and enterprising spirit of those who first planned the introduction of this mighty mass of water into the city. The tunnel is of solid mason work, seven and a half feet wide, nine feet high, and not less than forty miles in length. The dam across the river is placed at its point of entrance, and after having meandered through a more level country, between two hills. One of these hills—that on the south side—is of solid rock, the other offering excellent earth for the construction of the dam. This last is not of any great length, but is ingeniously made of the most substantial masonry. Its greatest elevation exceeds fifty feet above the natural bed of the Croton, while the water thus thrown back, forms a lake of nearly four hundred acres in extent, three feet in depth, and containing on an average 100,000,000 gallons for each foot in depth from the surface. The water is conveyed into the aqueduct by means of a tunnel cut into the rock, forming the south side of the hill. At the distance of every mile, there is erected over the aqueduct, for the purpose of ventilation, a hollow tower of white marble the effect of which, when seen from the river, is highly picturesque. There are, moreover, at intervals of three miles, means constructed for turning off the water whenever any necessary repairs may render such a course desirable, but the most magnificent part of this stupendous structure is, as I have elsewhere observed, the great arch at Sing Sing which, traversing a deep ravine, has a span of not less than eighty-eight feet. The quantity of land purchased for the erection of these works is nine hundred acres, at an average cost of five hundred pounds

an acre. The water is conducted over the Haerlem river which separates the island of New York from the mainland, by means of a bridge 1,420 feet in length, and having sixteen stone piers, six of which have their foundations laid in the bed of the river. The main reservoir is situated near Bloomingdale, a beautiful spot a few miles north of the city. This covers thirty-five acres of ground, and is divided into two sections—the north having twenty feet of water when full, and the south twenty-five feet—both containing more than 160,000,000 gallons. From this vast reservoir the water is conveyed through what is called the fifth avenue to the distributing basin at Murray Hill, covering about five acres of ground and containing 20,000,000 gallons. From this point, the various dwellings are supplied, by means of iron pipes. The descent from the dam of the Croton is very gradual, and averages not fifteen inches to the mile. The whole cost of this gigantic and most useful undertaking, was originally estimated at 10,000,000 of dollars, but even this large sum was insufficient for the magnitude of the works, and \$4,000,000 more was required.

At the time I was in New York the works had not yet been completed, but in the course of the following year the basin at Murray Hill, at which numerous hands were employed, was finished, and the aqueduct opened with great ceremony, and in the presence of a vast assemblage of persons. It required some time to convince the inhabitants, generally, of the great benefit which had been conferred upon the city by this magnificent and stupendous design, but its usefulness is now everywhere acknowledged, and there are few houses in New York that are not supplied with the clear pure water which they may well feel proud to see forced from its native bed into their cisterns, and from a distance so great.

A day or two after dining with the young lawyer, my earlier acquaintance, Mr. Newbold, came by appointment, and taking myself and portmanteau into his carriage, drove me to his handsome and picturesque residence at Westchester, a few miles out of the city. Here I remained three days. The weather was bleak and damp, and I had not the advantage of seeing the extensive grounds in that state of perfection which, from the beautiful view they commanded of the Hudson and East rivers, it was clear was their attribute in the season of foliage. The whole of the rich loamy valley in which the house was built was hermetically closed, and a garden tastefully laid out extended from the house to the pebbly shore; but although there was scarcely any evidence of vegetable life along the serpentine walks, the eye and scent were gratefully regaled on entering the spacious hot-house, where almost every description of plant and flower were gathered in a profusion rarely to be met with in a private gentleman's conservatory, and were then being subjected to the inspection and pruning hand of their elegant-minded mistress, who having no other family to attend to, invariably devoted an hour or two of each morning to the nursing of her sweet-smelling favorites.

If I found Mr. and Mrs. Newbold amiable in their character of travelling companions, and courteous to one whom they knew only as a stranger in the country, and who they were consequently desirous of setting at his ease; much more strongly was this amiable feeling developed now that, a guest under their roof, they felt called upon to render to me every rite of hospitality. Nothing could exceed their delicate care and attention. My bedroom had been fitted up in the most elegant, nay, luxurious style. The bed was soft and deliciously inviting to repose, and before retiring to this, I always found a foot-bath, with napkins white as the pure sheets which nightly received my willing limbs. Then there was always a cheerful fire blazing in the shielded grate, without which it was impossible at this chilly season of the year, to have appreciated half the comforts by which I was surrounded; and on this fire bubbled the pure liquid contained in a neat and polished brass kettle, the very appearance of which induced a desire to "brew something hot" before getting into bed. And thus it evidently was intended I should do if so inclined, for, on a small round table near the luxurious arm-chair which fronted the fire, and on a silver tray, stood decanters containing both wine and spirit, with sugar, lemon, and all the necessary appliances.

With all these temptations to sit late, it might be inferred that my hour of rising was not particularly early, but such was not the fact. The Americans generally are fond of early breakfasts, and at eight o'clock every morning—the servant having always entered my room soon after daylight, stealthily and with as little noise as possible, for the purpose of renewing my fire, which was never wholly extinguished—I found myself seated at the breakfast table, and sipping the delicious coffee made by the hands of the fair mistress of the mansion herself. And what a profusion of good things crowded the breakfast table! Ham, eggs, rump-steaks, mutton-chops, roasted clams (these latter being a description of oyster, though much inferior in flavor), hot rolls, toast, corn bread, buckwheat cakes, the richest and most highly flavoured dried venison, and preserves of the rarest kind—all these, with delicious tea added to the coffee, formed such a tempting assemblage, displayed as they were on the snow-white breakfast cloth, that it really was a matter of some difficulty to choose from them.