

have been enabled to see some small objects that had escaped their notice. Moreover, giants do not in general go to the Prairies, as they require a good deal of creature comfort and nourishment, and the "hard doings" of those parts would hardly suit them. Besides, yachting in the West Indies is in its infancy, and the equinoctial forests of Guiana, and the unequalled scenery of the valleys of Chacao and the Aragua, and the lake of Valencia, although by no means "virgin scenes," yet have not been so often described by the pen of the tourist as the prairies and cities of North America.

I never had the slightest *penchant* for republics; I left England strongly biassed in favour of our government and institutions, and I returned with all my predilections strengthened by a comparison with those of our cousins in the West.

Yet although such was my feeling, there is no denying that many of their institutions are admirable, and far better suited to their habits and wants than any engrafted from the old country could possibly have been; and, on the other hand, most unprejudiced Americans admit that