

York by sea. There is another near Atlantic City used for an hotel.

The trip up the Hudson River was a most delightful excursion, and I was fortunate in having a very fine day, Sept. 27th. We went up in the "Albany" as far as Newburgh, General Washington's head-quarters, and came back in the "Vibbard." They are both magnificent paddle-wheel steamers, beautifully furnished, and very fast; they have beam engines, working overhead on deck, with a stroke of twelve feet. The "Vibbard" is said to have done the fastest voyage on record, from New York to Tarrytown, *27 miles in one hour!* Also from West Point to Newburgh, 10 miles in $20\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, which is at the rate of *over 29 miles an hour!* Each boat has three funnels ("smoke stacks" they call them) abreast, which look peculiar. There were notices printed up in the saloons "*Gentlemen will not smoke, others musn't!*"

The scenery on the Hudson River is very lovely, especially at the Palisades, a vast trap-dike, forming a range of cliffs 20 miles long, and 300 or 400 feet high; they are beautifully wooded, and the autumn tints were just beginning to look glorious. Nearly opposite the highest point we passed a town called *Hastings*, where the treaty for the evacuation of New York by the British, was signed by Washington, 1783. Near West Point, celebrated for its Military Academy — "the Sandhurst of America" — the river winds amidst beautiful mountains, from 1,200 to 1,500 feet high, covered with lovely woods to their very summits, and nothing can exceed the glorious views on either bank.

I left New York on October 1st, in the Cunard s. "Servia," a magnificent vessel of 7500 tons, commanded by Captain Cook, Commodore of the Cunard Fleet, and had a most delightful voyage. We had 250 saloon and over 300 steerage passengers; most of the latter were returning emigrants, which showed, I fear, that trade is as bad in America as it is at home. It was a glorious day, and we had a fine view of New York City, the harbour, Staten Island and the bay, not forgetting the Elephant on Coney Island! Our pilot left us about 4 p.m. off Sandy Hook Lightship, and we started across the Atlantic, on our way home, in a dead calm.

We had a few days roughish weather, and heavy seas, but altogether the passage was a very fair one. The "Servia" is the finest ship I was ever on; she is over 550 feet long, and we had a clear run of 120 yards on deck for our walks. Her speed was 17 knots (= 20 miles) an hour, and best run 385 knots (but she has done 410). We had not been on board more than a few hours before some one confided to me that "he guessed she was a beastly old tub!"