

more manly and independent part compared to shopkeepers in country towns in Britain, who, in tendering their votes, act only the part of a sort of door-mat, foot-stool, or lackey to the influential lord of the manor, or it may be to the manufacturing lord of the village, whose chief qualifications for a seat in the House of Commons are frequently only a heavy purse and local *influence*, by means of which alone, such have been known—however unpopular to the people—to succeed in defeating some of the most accomplished, popular, and valued of British statesmen.

We selected New York as the place where we should see the system of electing by ballot carried out under the most disadvantageous circumstances, and, so far as our experience goes, we felt somewhat agreeably disappointed that it did not turn out more in accordance with our previous erroneous ideas of the matter, and pleased that it is conducted in a manner, upon the whole, vastly superior to the open voting system of Great Britain and Ireland—where bribery and intimidation, in innumerable instances, defeat the ends of honesty and fair play.

THE SHAKERS.

"Shaker seeds and herbs," and "Shaker flannels," are amongst the multifarious signs exhibited at doors, and in the windows of retail stores throughout the United States—the excellence of these articles, as sold by a section of the Society of Friends in America—generally known as "The Shakers"—having rendered them famous throughout the country. The stranger in America who is desirous of seeing something of one of the "Institutions" peculiar to this country, may easily visit one of the Shaker villages when at New York, by taking the railroad, or steamboat up the Hudson, to Hudson City, 118 miles from New York, and thence for a few miles per rail to Lebanon Springs, in the County of Columbia, State of New York. In this trip, the tourist can enjoy the trip up the Hudson—visit Lebanon Springs, and the Quaker Settlement, two miles from there—the Catskill Mountains, in the vicinity—noticed elsewhere—and all in the course of a few days, at comparatively little expense.

The Society whose establishment we at present purpose noticing, reside at the Shaker village of New Lebanon, as we have said, two miles from Lebanon Springs, in a beautiful and fertile agricultural district. The village is situated on the face of a hill, and commands a fine view of the valley in the vicinity and surrounding country.

The village is exclusively tenanted by the members of the Community. The principal building consists of a large Meeting-House, where the devotional exercises are conducted, and in the summer time, on Sundays, in the presence of vast numbers of strangers who are sojourning at the Springs. The Extract House is another of the chief buildings. In it is the Laboratory, where the herbs, and tinctures from them, are pressed by means of crushing mills, vacuum pan, etc., under a skillful chemist, one of themselves. The estimation in which such are held, may be judged of from the fact, that in one year about 14,000 pounds' weight have been sold—the extracts of butternut and dandelion forming two of the principal ones sold. In another part of the village is the Seed House, formerly the old Meeting-House, near which is the Tannery, Dairy, and workshops where wooden-ware, door-mats, etc., are made. The Herb House, with its drying rooms, store rooms, etc., is another portion of the manufacturing premises. There, about 70 tons of herbs and roots—the produce of about 75 acres of their garden land—are pressed annually, by means of a hydraulic press of 300 tons pressure. In various parts of the building may be seen both men, women, and children busily engaged in the different processes of manufacturing the articles named, or packing them up ready for market.

The Community at New Lebanon consist of about 500 persons, divided into eight families, as they are called, each family being presided over by two elders and two elderesses, each of whom have an equal position in the management, and to whose orders the members yield perfect obedience.

The management of the temporal affairs of the Society is entrusted to trustees, who are