

elsewhere; he is surprised to find himself recognized by a cordial shake of the hand, accompanied with the air and manner of an old acquaintance. He will soon learn, that while in England the manual salutation reserves itself for expressing as plainly as a sign can speak, "Here's a hand, my trusty friend," in America, it is also commonly used to express, "How do you do, sir?" And a return to his hotel, after the temporary absence of a day or two, would ensure the equally cordial grasp of his host. I remember being excessively flattered on evening at the hand of a young lady, proffered evidently without art or affectation on our second meeting or thereabouts; but then I had only been a short time in the country."

His account of the amusements current in Halifax in the twenties of the last century is unconsciously amusing. He lards his page with cheap scraps of foreign languages, like one of Ouida's guardsmen.

"There are no regular public assemblies in Halifax. A theatre conducted by amateurs, is opened five or six times during the season; but a dearth of female performers renders it not peculiarly attractive. Quadrille cards have lately been issued every fortnight by one of the regiments in garrison, and have been received in the light they have been intended—as an earnest of social harmony and amusement.

"Picnic parties in summer, and sleighing excursions in winter, complete the scale of *divertissemens*. The latter are peculiar to the climate. The quantity of snow that falls in the course of the winter, and remains on the ground without being carried off by the mild intermittent weather we experience during the same period in England, forms, when trodden down, a road almost equal to the finest railway. The snow then becomes sufficiently firm for the grasp of the horse's hoof when rough-shod, and yet so soft as to prevent any injury arising from too rapid action; friction is reduced almost to its minimum, and vehicles