

# BARKER'S

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EXTRACTS FROM A JOURNAL OF 1843 & 1844.\*

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*New York.*

MY DEAR FRANK,—You, no doubt, considered my last a heavy infliction, but I was really driven to it in order to expose the injustice of such hasty and uncalled for condemnation, as I there attempted to refute,—my further desire was to exhibit the facilities with which strangers may make erroneous impressions; and I also meant to shew, that because religion is left, in this country, to struggle through, unaided by the State, an illnatured, ignorant person might have cried out—“Christianity is uncared for in the United States,” and the Americans are an irreligious people.

How false and unjust such an accusation would have been, I shall now endeavor, briefly, to make manifest. In this country, as I said before, the support of religion is left to the voluntary contributions of individuals, and yet religion, so far as I have seen, is cared for,—a comparison between large cities, in this country and Europe, would, by no means, result to the disadvantage of the United States. To me it has afforded unmixed pleasure to witness, on Sundays, the throngs of persons directing their footsteps to the sacred edifices, and seldom late.

I can freely assert, that in Saratoga, the Hotel where I lodged, having nearly three hundred boarders, appeared entirely deserted during the hour of divine service, and, as I said before, every evening at nine o'clock, prayers were read in the dining room, in the most devout manner, for those who chose to attend.

It should be recollected “that in our young country,” the population is thinly scattered; their means also, when first commencing a settlement, are scanty, and great allowance is to be made for the numerous difficulties which are incurred at the outset. I believe there are few instances, *after a reason-*

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\* Continued from the October Number, page 291.