

Minister told me that the first part of my sermon was very much like his.

*Monday 10th.*—In the evening at 8 o'clock, after the railway cars came in from New-York and Albany, I went on board the *Ocean* steamer, which had about three hundred passengers—gentlemen and ladies. The steamers, especially the *Mayflower*, that run in connection with the railroads of the West, are most splendid and highly finished steamers; their cabins are like palace-parlours. At 9 o'clock our *Ocean* began to move through fields of broken ice: I was very much afraid that her paddles would be broken; however, we got through safely. The steamer then ran through the middle of Lake Erie all night and half a day without staying at any harbour, until we reached the city of Detroit, which is about 300 miles. The passengers in the steamer were so numerous that they could not all come to the first table. At meal times, some gentlemen, fearing that they could not come to the first table, practised this artifice. They generally took up a newspaper and began to read it, in pretence of being deeply engaged in reading, and seated themselves in front of the plates, and so be in readiness when the signal would be given, to take their seats at the table; but notwithstanding their acuteness they would sometimes lose their seats and plates in the following manner: The ladies (these lower angels) as every body knows, must have their seats provided for them at all risks, as the waiters always informed the ladies first when the meals were ready, and afterwards the gentlemen; but sometimes a few of the ladies were a few minutes too late; and a gentleman who had been hitherto seated comfortably before a dish of some rich sort, hearing the approaching steps of a lady and the rustling of a silk gown, jumps up on his two feet, and to show that he is a highly polished gentleman, he offers the lady his seat and walks away, as many do, grudgingly, to wait a long hour for the next table. But on these occasions, when I find myself seated so comfortably, I generally appear to be deaf to the sound of the approaching steps of these lower angels, and hasten to get some article on my plate and begin to eat a mouthful or two, that none of these beauties would desire to take my seat and plate. The victuals that lay on the table were of all sorts, and the sweetmeats were too various to enumerate: all that I can say about them is that they were very fine.

I know the shores of Lake Erie well on the British and American sides. They incline to be flat. The soil is of clay, and some parts of it are sandy; but, taking it altogether, both sides of the lake are good agricultural countries, and

heavily timbered. In its forests, timber is found of all sorts. There are a few ports on the British side, and small villages; but, on the American side, ports are more numerous. There are even two or three cities. The city of Cleveland is the most beautiful city on Lake Erie. It is situated on a high bank, and has a fine view of Lake Erie. Canals and railroads come into this city from all parts of the country, as well as vessels and steamers. This city is doing a great deal of business. There are other small cities on the shores of the lake, belonging to the Americans. The lake itself is very shallow, and, consequently, when the wind blows high it is very rough always. Its waters abound with white fish, salmon trout, and other fish. The best sorts of fish are the white fish and trout. The entrance of Detroit River is garrisoned by the British. The village and the garrison are called Amherstburgh. The scenery around this village is beautiful, and the country is level, and abounds with timber of all sorts. The whole length of Detroit River is beautiful, and the country on each side of it is picturesque, especially the Canadian side. The only fault the country has, is, that it is too flat, consequently there is a great deal of stagnant water, which makes it very unhealthy in the summer, and thus the people have the ague and the fever, which is very prevalent here in the summer season. The river is about 30 or 40 miles in length, and is a beautiful river. Now comes the city of Detroit. It was formerly a French city, but now it belongs to the Americans, and is the capital of Michigan. It has many fine buildings and many fine streets. It is becoming very important, and is a great city of business in the west. The railroad to Chicago begins here, so that one going thither, might go by the railroad, or around by the lakes in a steamer. The word Chicago is a corruptible form of the word Shekakong, which means the "place of a shunk."

Opposite Detroit is a little village called Sandwich, on the British side, where there is a British Post Office. The country around it appears to be a fine farming country; all the ground in the District of Detroit is flat, and the land is well timbered with all sorts of timber, but it is a very bad country for the fever. If any person wishes to catch it he may go there in summer.

*Wednesday 12th.* Remained all day in the city, saw nothing worth relating; but I shall relate the following circumstance. As I was passing one of the grog shops in the streets, I heard a man talk very roughly, and he swore to the master of the house that if he did not give him another glass of whiskey, he would lay him flat on the ground, in two seconds; the land-