

## CHAPTER II.

Detained at Albany—Wreck of the "Empire" Steamer—American Indifference to human Life—The theatrical Riot and Massacre caused by Mr. Forrest's Jealousy of Macready—Sympathy of the Lady for the Captain of the "Empire"—High-sounding names of Towns—The Hudson—Hotels at Albany—Description of Albany.

WE came to the handsome town of Albany in a fast and beautifully-decorated steamer; but we might almost as well have been on board a slow one, as we find we can not go on till to-morrow to Buffalo. The steamboats and railroads do not communicate as conveniently as they might do for travelers, and I hear this is done expressly to please the hotel-keepers, by forcing travelers to remain a night at Albany. I was much disappointed; and so full were my thoughts of the great cataract, that I might well expect to have a nightmare of Niagara to-night, which would not be a pleasant introduction, or preface of an introduction to "the Falls."

The Hudson is a beauteous river; but, in the midst of its loveliness, it was very *triste* to come upon the wreck of the splendid "Empire" steamer, which was lost two nights before we started. I believe she ran foul of a large merchant vessel in the dark, and went down very shortly afterward. Numbers of lives were lost; many dead bodies had been picked up, and as soon as they can penetrate into her sleeping cabins they expect to find many more. They were slowly attempting to raise the steamer when we passed.

Then was I a second time struck by the American indifference to human life, which I had before observed at New York. The first time, it was on occasion of the frightful massacre of citizens at the miserable theatrical row occasioned by Mr. Forrest's professional jealousy of our Macready. It seemed to excite wonderfully little horror, indignation, or regret. One or two of the newspapers kept up an agitation about the matter; but I do not think I have yet heard a single person stigmatize the shooting some five-and-twenty citizens on such an occasion, as uncalled for or severe. I have heard some say it was perfectly right; and that it was a pity so few had paid the penalty of their misconduct; I heard even harsher things said than that, but forbear to repeat them, lest it should be thought that I exaggerate.