

cially announced that the boat would stop opposite Buffalo to take on passengers. And now the day has come, and the hour is near for the unique and notable event, and the scene presented to the mind's eye is lively and gay. There lies the neat, new steamboat at her dock, her colors flying, her deck covered with ladies and gentlemen; steam is up; smoke is pouring forth, and now the signal gun sounds out the notice, "We start in half an hour." But here are twelve yoke of oxen hitched to one end of a hawser, the other end of which is fastened to the boat, and between oxen and boat are two skiffs afloat under the hawser to hold it out of the water. And there is that practical business man, Capt. Sheldon Thompson, ox-whip in hand, ready to apply the "horned-breeze," or "horn-breeze," to do by "towing" what wind and steam, together, could not do in their own proper ways, viz., to take the boat up through the swift rapids into the quieter waters of the lake. And now, time is up, lines are cast off, the whip is cracked, and the oxen bow their necks under the yoke; the boat "hangs" a moment,—will she go? Steam and oxen are doing their best, however, and they succeed. The boat begins slowly to move, and the excursion is commenced. Yet, many times the ox-led "steamer" seems to "hang" in her course, when, by the crack of the whip, the "horned-breeze" is urged up to the rescue. The rocky, bluff shore, the place of the "Old Ferry," and of the strongest rapids, is reached, and now, with plenty of "haw, gee, buck," and ox-whip "The Excursion" gets into quieter waters. Bird Island is passed, and the river current soon left behind. The "horn-breeze" returns to the shipyard as "Old Boreas" is fabled to return to his cave. A little further on the boat "heaves to" and stops, as advertised, "opposite Buffalo," off the shallow mouth of the creek. Here are several yawl-boats filled with the Buffalo installment of excursionists, few, however, at most, for the whole town of Buffalo, even up to 1820, had scarcely more than two thousand inhabitants. While these board the boat,