

Journal Of A

Voyage To America.

Richard Lane Freer

1862

August 16th 1862.—Left Prince's Dock, Liverpool, in *Lion* steamer for *Great Eastern* at 10 a.m., on board at 11, engines put in motion at 2 o'clock, cleared out under half speed till 3.30. Stopped, discharged pilot, ahead under full steam at 4.10. Dinner at 5, dined at 6 o'clock, first saloon tables are crowded, obliged to go into the second ; scramble for food, nothing could be worse. Captain polite and full of apologies, queer lot of people, six Yankees to an English-man ; got a bottle of champagne after some trouble ; potatoes and peas after meat, pudding after cheese ; came below to write this at 7.30, and put on warmer clothes. Eleven o'clock wrote letters to drop at Queenstown ; a walk on deck, which is now comparatively clear, 250 yards without impediment ; a final pipe and some indifferent sherry and water close the first day. Speed, sixteen miles an hour ; Holyhead long past.

Good manners ! An hour before dinner went into the first dining saloon and pinned our cards on the table cloth where we desired to sit, which appeared the general custom ; coming down afterwards, found the cards removed and their places occupied by others ; remonstrated, and had them replaced, but on returning at dinner time they had been again removed and the seats taken. The scramble began, and reasoning on the breach of ordinary etiquette was in vain ; we were consequently obliged to go to a side table in the second cabin, which I suppose we must accept as our places during the voyage ! The only plan seems to be an hour before-hand, if you would come honestly by a place.

Sunday 17th.—No hot water to be had for shaving, breakfast at 9, at 11 bell went for service—the Church of England in the drawing room, Wesleyan, Independent, and Roman Catholic on deck ; the latter performed by a Bishop, who came forth in full episcopal attire, with three attendant priests ; a few sailors and some of the steerage passengers formed his congregation. Everything was orderly and quiet, though the singing of each sect occasionally reached their neighbours. The most numerous assembly was the Church of England, but a large proportion walked up and down deck, now taking a mouthful of doctrine of one sort, now of another. Half-past 12, luncheon ; 3 o'clock, Church Service on deck, band accompanying the hymns ; the Wesleyan preacher distributed tracts. Rate, fourteen miles an hour. At 4.30 paddle and screw engines stopped an hour for repairs. Dinner far better than yesterday, less scramble ; the Bishop (but I don't know where his see is) was opposite ; plum pudding was served second course without sauce ; his Lordship was displeased, and questioned the waiter, who told him there was none. He then looked down the table, and in the distance he observed a bottle of sherry. The waiter told him it was the private property of the gentleman near whom it was placed. " Then take my pudding to the gentleman," said his Lordship, " and ask him to pour some over it." The waiter did as he was told ; the gentleman stared, and complied ; his Lordship made a profound bow. Under sail and steam till 10 o'clock, night windy, with dark clouds, vessel with more motion than before, sea fine and bright. Tea as usual ; several pleasant men at our table. " Papa, lend me your toothpick," said an urchin of six. " Yes, my boy, but mind and give it me back."

Monday 18th.—Rolling considerable all night ; awakened soon after 12 by our neighbours wanting a light, and had but little sleep afterwards. After breakfast came on deck, strong wind ahead and good deal of sea, good many steerage passengers sick ; speed, thirteen knots. One o'clock luncheon, weather worse, the breeze became a gale and the sea running high, barometer falling. Five o'clock dinner, a falling short of guests from sickness ; the band played below and made things more cheerful. Seven o'clock, wind somewhat subsided, and sea quieter, raining hard, sat in one of the monkey houses and smoked till tea time. Went to bed early, and made up by a good night's sleep the want of it on the preceding night.

Tuesday, 19th.—Up at 7, morning bright and clear, walked the deck till breakfast at 8.30. Heavy squalls and rain from 10 till 10.30, stayed in the smoking room until rain ceased, walked the deck for some time, and made out ship on starboard bow steering E.N.E. Went below to grand saloon, saw first Mother Carey's chickens ; wind still fresh and right ahead, the day's work from noon yesterday to

same time to-day shews a run of 390 miles ! A meeting was held at 2 o'clock to devise sports and amusements for the voyage ; the band played on deck, and the afternoon passed cheerfully. The dinner and attendance at our table are improved, though it is still the refuge for the destitute, and worse supplied and served than any other. The Bishop is dull ; I can't yet find out as to his see, but his education is Irish. The wind keeps up, and the weather is unlike August ; to bed by 10 o'clock, leaving the com-mittee of amusement sitting.

Wednesday, 20th.—The night was uncomfortable, no sleep till morning, heavy sea and gale of wind, more motion than I have yet felt, and my neighbours calling steward, doors flapping, and noises of many kinds kept me awake till 4. The morning broke dull and heavy, the sea rough and tempestuous winds ; noon, things improved, and preparations were being made on deck for the Great Eastern Races ; made since noon yesterday, 350 miles.

The Bishop is not so dull as deep ; his diocese is ••• Had a good deal of talk with his Lordship, and a good deal of information from him. After luncheon went on deck for the races ; Clerk of the Course and Stewards with white handkerchiefs round the arm, strolled about with as much importance as though the fate of the Derby or the Oaks was in the scale. Running, walking, and sack running were the sports ; in the latter there was more than one serious fall. The stars and stripes floated ahead, the Union Jack at the mizen, and various flags and signals draped the shrouds and stanchion ; the band played between the races, the bell rung for starting, the course was kept by sailors with broom sticks, and a couple of hours were pleasantly enough passed away. The chief steward has 95 subs and three females ; there are about 1000 souls on board. No sleep again, noise shocking ; about 30 people in dining saloon singing and making a noise until 2 o'clock in the morning. When you consider that not more than one man out of three dances—some because they are too old, some because they are too shy, and some, perhaps, from religious scruples, and of women certainly not more than half their number, it becomes a question whether this minority has a right to inflict the nuisance of a ball on board a passenger ship. The dining saloon was cleared before tea, and we were in-conveniently crowded into the remaining one ; the band was brought below, noisy quadrilles and polkas disturbed the hour when quiet people, wearied with a long day, were retiring to their couches. Long before this there had been a crash of crockery from the lurching of the ship, and the lamps could scarcely be made to retain their places, but nothing could cure the dancing mania. But this was not the worst. After the ladies had retired, the gentlemen betook themselves to claret cobbler and other pleasing drinks ; healths, speeches, and songs succeeded one another, each followed with cheers, bravos, and rapping on the table worthy only of a supper at a second-rate tavern. To my mind, such scenes accord but ill with the solemnity of the midnight hour on the wide roaring waste of Atlantic waters. The gale increased in violence, and about 4 o'clock everything in my cabin was in motion ; the dressing table was denuded, the heavier articles rolled from side to side, and I was not sorry about 6 o'clock to sink into a restless slumber.

Thursday, 21st — Rose about the usual time ; the breakfast table more thinly attended than before, and the guards fastened on them to save the crockery from falling. Foretold the weather we might anticipate for the day ; the wind southerly, and all sail set to steady her, the rain falling in heavy gusts, the ship rolling considerably ; no chance of the sports of yesterday being renewed. Remained below from luncheon till dinner, the weather too unpleasant to in-duce us to go on deck. Dinner about the usual hour ; worse than usual noise and confusion, increased by the noisy band, which was placed in our saloon under the false notion of raising dejected spirits and restoring vigour to sickly stomachs. Retired into my cabin with a supply of ice, and derived as much consolation from a bottle of champagne as circumstances would admit. Staggered in to tea, not from the effects of the potatoes, which had been very limited, but from the deep rolling of the ship, which far surpasses what I had been led to expect. The scene at tea was wild and noisy ; but what shall I say to that which awaited us when we went on deck at 10 o'clock.? A quiet smoke was the object of the visit ; my own feelings were literally those of dismay when I looked around me, the night was dark and tempestuous, the wind howled and roared (as it appeared from every quarter), rain drove with violence on deck, and the ship reeled to and fro so that it was difficult to retain one's seat. Half a pipe, and then beat a retreat, with little expectation of an agreeable night. After, however, what I had met with above, matters appeared very tolerable below ; and I shortly turned into my berth. I suppose matters gradually improved, for I soon fell asleep, and when I awoke a few hours afterwards, found the ship more steady.

Friday, 22nd.—Morning hopeful, the sea more calm, and the wind gone down considerably ; saw barque on port bow steering our course, but we soon left her astern. The disasters of last night were, as we anticipated, not slight ; an oil cask getting adrift and nearly squeezing the vitals out of an unfortunate salt, who was jammed between it and the bulwarks ; the vang of the foretopsail parted in the night and hurt several hands. After breakfast went on deck, and enjoyed a smoke and a walk with one of the very few gentlemen (the Hon. Francis Lawley) on board, who is a very agreeable companion. Races on deck, as on Thursday ; the repetition fell flat, the novelty was gone, and though the sun shone bright the wind was cold. The coldness of the wind is owing to our nearing the coast of Newfoundland ; the thermometer, which has usually stood at 70° in our cabin, now marks 53°. We had the band after dinner again to destroy the only five minutes for conversation with our neighbours. Went on deck, and smoked in the saloon till half-past 8, the ordinary tea time, and on coming below found that meal to have been advanced by half-an-hour, to allow more time for the concert which was to come off in the grand saloon. A gentleman who had had some tea of his own lent me his pot, and with some boiling water poured on the stale leaves had all that I required. After thus refreshing myself, went for a short time into the concert room, but as I am no penny-a-liner, I will refrain from a laudatory description, and as I have no wish to be cynical, will say nothing ill-natured of so stupid a performance. There was a recitation which might have been thought passable in the taproom of a village public, and, I am told, after-wards (for I did not hear it) an oration on matters in general which would scarcely have satisfied a provincial debating club. The tumult breaking up was not equal to that of the ball, and had little to disturb me after going to bed.

Saturday, 23rd.—The morning fine. We are told that we passed a huge block of floating ice, and the chilliness of the air would make one readily believe it, and there appears no reason why it should not be true. After breakfast, took an hour's exercise on deck. A respect-able and benevolent-looking old gentleman, whose name they tell us is Baxter, one of an eminent firm of a Conservative electioneering house in London, preached on deck (as he does daily) ; his manner is enthusiastic, but quite free from hypocrisy, and I am quite sure the old gentleman's object is good, though I somewhat doubt of the effect produced.

The Bishop and his chaplains paced the deck, but kept clear of the heretical preacher ; but I think there is more honey than gall about the prelate, who certainly never says an unkind word about anyone, or gives us reason to suppose that his sentiments are in an opposite direction. After luncheon, the day clouded over, and in the evening drizzling rain set in. After dinner, were unable to go on deck, and contrary to regulations, smoked in cabin. Ten o'clock saw me in my berth, the night still wet and windy ; sea rough, as though of no great depth. Cape Race, we were told, was passed at 9 o'clock.

Sunday, 24th.—The morning, which was lowering, cleared up after breakfast. About 11 o'clock we saw a French man-of-war, under reefed topsails, and afterwards several brigantines fishing on the banks, which showed we were no great distance from the Newfoundland shore ; the weather was too boisterous for any religious meeting on deck, but services were held in the grand and in the second saloon. After luncheon, we went on deck, when all hands were mustered and the roll called. Last Sunday, there were prayers on deck for the men, but to-day there was a gale that rendered it impossible ; and I was soon glad to beat a retreat below. After dinner, the Bishop, arrayed in his violet robes, gave a sort of lecture in the grand saloon, but unfortunately I did not hear of it until tea time, having been occupied in my cabin. He began, I am told, as follows :—" You may some of you probably ask whether we have Bibles ? I answer that we have ; but you may say, Do we believe in them ? I reply, indeed, that we do, and that we believe in them a great deal more than you do, for we believe in the Apocrypha, which you reject. Do we allow the laity the use of the Bible ? To this I say, Most freely ; but we do not allow individual opinions to be formed by their perusal, because the interpretation of the Word of God rests now, as it always did, with the Church." This, I believe, is a fair sample of the style of discourse, which, after putting to flight some of the more evangelical of our passengers, lulled the rest in about twenty minutes into an orthodox doze. Went to bed at 10 o'clock ; the ship became quite quiet, and slept soundly.

Monday, 25th.—The sun rose brightly ; the sea was calm ; gladly opened port to the fresh, invigorating air and genial rays. After breakfast, went on deck,—saw several brigantines and a shoal of porpoises. Passed a tranquil day, and dined as usual. After dinner, retired to cabin, and smoked. At 9 o'clock, a ball took place ; the dancers were few in number, and did not appear to be in boisterous

mirth. The saloon was intensely hot, and after looking in for a little time, went to bed. Whether I slept better than usual, or the festivities were less exuberant than on the night of the first ball, it is difficult to say ; but it must be fairly owned I fell asleep, and slept undisturbed by the bacchanalian rites of which on the previous occasion I felt myself at liberty to complain.

Tuesday, 26th.—Morning brilliant ; the sea calm, promising a fine day. Went on deck after breakfast, and had a long conversation with an intelligent gentleman, who gave me a great deal of information about New York, which I shall probably find of great value. Paid a visit to the M.D., who turns out to be an old Hereford Collegian, whose society will probably be agreeable on my return passage. After dinner, a public meeting was held in the large dining saloon, to compliment the Captain, and congratulate each other, on the success of our trip. It struck me at the time that this was somewhat premature, and would better have been deferred till we were safely anchored off New York.

Escaped the meeting, which was hot and vociferous, and spent the greater part of the evening in the doctor's cabin, not, however, enjoying much of his society, as he was perpetually on the wing, and there seemed to be a much larger number of persons on board than we expected, both amongst crew and passengers, who required his services. The night was beautiful ; stayed on deck till past 11. The whole vault of heaven was spangled with a brilliancy we never see in our climate ; watched the comet, shooting stars, and the brilliant flashes of lightning, with great delight, and was scarcely in bed by 12 o'clock.

Wednesday, 27th.—The past night was extremely hot. Soon after 1 o'clock we passed close to a fine lighthouse, and in that neighbourhood it was we discovered in the morning that we had scraped over a rock, and done such injury to our bottom as to make it requisite to set all the steam pumps to work. After breakfast, occupied ourselves in packing. The heat was great, the thermometer in cabin out of the sun standing at 80° ; unfortunately there was a thick haze on the water, so that we were unable to see much of the banks, which on both sides appeared extremely jutting ; the water was as smooth as it is possible to conceive, neither swell nor ripple. I regret to find that the opinion entertained of the damage done to the vessel is very unfavourable, and this is borne out by the water being visible in the hold, and by the ship having heeled over and never recovered her position. Had intended to leave part of my luggage on board for the return, but I think it advisable to take everything out with me, and make myself independent. Soon after luncheon, the Custom House Officers came on board. It was not that their search was at all stricter than in other places, but from having been told that it was scarcely more than a form,

I felt some annoyance in having to open every package on deck, beneath a broiling sun, and that with 800 passengers equally anxious to get over the disagreeable task. The scene was one of confusion and tumult, but nothing compared with what took place when the passengers began to leave the ship. A happy few, who had got their baggage overhauled, and agreed to pay a dollar a-piece, escaped with some difficulty by the first boat, and went straight to New York. Such, alas, was not the case with the multitude, among which we were unfortunately to be numbered. We got off, as we thought by good luck, in the second boat, a small steamer ; but instead of being conveyed to New York, were taken to a landing place about two miles from the *Great Eastern*, called Flushing, which we reached a little before 3 o'clock, and waited while the convoy was employed going backwards and forwards to the Great Ship, and bringing off the remainder of the passengers. We then entered the railway cars, whilst the luggage of the whole of the passengers was huddled together in luggage cars, undirected and without discrimination. We had then 12 miles to travel before we reached the depot in Twenty-six Street, when the scene of confusion which took place positively baffles all description. Hungry and wearied, but unwilling to go without our luggage, we were detained fully three hours, and at length, fatigued and almost exhausted, reached the Metropolitan Hotel at 12 o'clock, and obtained some moderate refreshment, the most grateful part of which was a bottle of champagne and plenty of ice, the latter of which seems to be a luxury of which the Americans avail themselves to a large extent ; at every meal it is provided in plenty, and there seem to be but few shops where a draught of ice water is not to be obtained. Went to bed tired out.

Thursday, 28th.—My rooms were at the very top of the house,—had to ascend six flights of stairs, and being immediately under the roof, the heat was oppressive. Slept tolerably well ; breakfasted in the great public room ; the waiters were all blacks, civil and attentive. The Hotel is situate in the best

part of Broadway, a huge street, which traverses the city a length of many miles. After breakfast, went to the railway depot, in hope of recovering one of my bags, which contained articles for toilet use ; but my hopes were in vain, no bag was forthcoming; therefore proceeded to supply the loss by purchasing new articles. After this, proceeded more leisurely to examine the vast street in which we dwell, which is certainly one of the most picturesque and magnificent in the world. It is now seen in a state of great excitement, with flags and banners suspended across it, bearing patriotic mottoes, encouraging en-listing ; this, of course, gives an aspect of peculiar brilliancy. Dined at hotel soon after 6 o'clock, and then joined my friend Mr. Lawley, at the New York, who joined in a long ramble over the more celebrated parts of the city. The heat of the day was excessive, the thermometer standing at 86° in the shade ; but in the evening there was a storm of short duration, which cooled and refreshed the air. I retired to a new apartment, which was two pairs of stairs lower, much more cool and pleasant ; was awakened about 2 o'clock by troops passing under the windows—bound, of course, for the South,—after which everything became quiet till day-light.

Friday, 29th.—Breakfasted between 9 and 10, and then proceeded to the office of the *Great Eastern*, From all that I had experienced, and from all I now hear, fully made up my mind not to return by her to England. Indeed, had I desired to do so, my stay here must have been prolonged, as it is confessed by the agents themselves that it will be impossible for her to return on the 9th (I am bound to say there was no want of liberality exhibited towards me ; half the fare was returned without any scruple) ; so went to the office of the Cunard Line, and secured the best cabin in the *Persia* that I could, for the return on the 9th. After this, went to the New York Hotel, to call on Mr. Lawley, who accompanied me in a most delightful drive. We went along the Fifth Avenue, passing by the great hotel in that street, probably the very largest in the world, through the central park, a large tract of ground showing still much of its natural character in rock, and enlivened by lakes, which, winding amongst those natural features, sometimes spreading out into a broad expanse, at others narrowed by the rocky pro-montories, produced a variety of scenery, which, when the trees grow, which are now but in their infancy, will in half a century hence make this one of the most delightful and beautiful parks possessed by any city. We then drove along the Bloomingdon Road to Jones's Hotel, commanding a most enchanting view of the Hudson. I ought to have remarked that we saw the *Great Eastern* at her anchorage ; the huge leviathan with her six masts catching our attention without looking for her. We had altogether a very pleasant drive of two hours and a half in a very respectable carriage, the moderate charge for which was 8 dollars, together with a request for *buono mano*, for driving to my hotel. Dined afterwards with Mr. Lawley at the New York ; after dinner, went to hear some Nigger Minstrels, whose performance was remarkably good ; they are no more real niggers than those who act the same part in our own country ; well pleased with the performance, and went afterwards to the bar-room of the St. Nicholas Hotel, a large but dingy edition of a Parisian café, where indulged in one of the national drinks (a mint julep) before going to the hotel.

Saturday, 30th.—Strolled about after breakfast ; the magnificence of the shops (or stores, as they are called) is surprising ; most of them rise to the height of six stories in a highly picturesque, if not a very correct, style of architecture. Marble is used in profusion in the doorways, pavements, and balustrades, while many of these fine buildings are entirely of iron, nor are these at all deficient in general effect and beauty. Lunched with Mr. Lawley, Dr. Mackay, and Mr. Sliman (both these gentlemen being friends of Mr. Lawley), at Delmonico Restuarant, which is conducted entirely in the French style, and well served ; then bid adieu to my kind friend Mr. Lawley, and walked about till dinner time, after which, went to a theatre adjoining the hotel, which is of great space and beauty; here we witnessed a comic ballet, well put upon the stage, which was followed by a performance on the trapeze. Not very well, and went to bed early.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

“ Nearly all of the uptown fashionable churches, which have been closed for the past five weeks to enable the dominies, deacons, and congregation generally to enjoy their summer retreat, will be opened on Sunday next for the fall and winter campaign.”

Sunday, 31st.—The religious feeling of New York may be fairly judged by this advertisement, and in accordance with it, found many of the principal churches closed. One of the principal drawbacks to this city is the want of cabs; a close succession of omnibuses is constantly plying up and down Broad-

way, and the cars on rails, drawn by horses, ply in the main avenues; these seem used by the inhabitants, who of course thoroughly understand their course upon every occasion. There are only a few carriages in the streets for hire, and the charge for these is enormous, so that a cockney sadly misses the independence of a cab to go where he pleases. This we felt more on Sundays than other days, as there are no omnibuses out. Tried to walk in the morning to Trinity Church, which is fully two miles down Broad-way, but was obliged to give it up and return ; there appears to be far less Sunday trading here than in London, confectioners' and greengrocers' shops even being closed, and scarcely any being open but tobacconists. The great amusement of the people of the better class is driving ; hundreds of those light vehicles peculiar to America, and which from their liability to upset are likely to remain so, are dashing about the streets in every direction. Went in the afternoon to South-ferry, then crossed to Staten Island, a most lovely place, crowded with picturesque villas and luxuriant gardens; an avenue of large weeping willows particularly attracted my attention, as being larger and more beautiful than any I had before seen; the catalpa and the stagshorn flourish here with great luxuriance.—I omitted to mention in journal of yesterday, Barnum's Museum, which we visited. He has a giant and a dwarf, with an immense quantity of rubbish of every possible description ; but that which renders it a really interesting exhibition is the aquari of fish from the seas of the West Indies ; these are admirably managed, and contain fish of various descriptions, some of them more beautiful and brilliant in their hue than is generally supposed of the inhabitants of the deep; there is also a good-tempered seal, who floundered in and out of the water, made his bow, and ground a barrel organ at the nod of his keeper. The whole of the evening after dinner was occupied in making arrangements for the start to-morrow.

Monday, September 1st.— Called at 5 o'clock, dressed by gas light, got a cup of cold coffee, paid bill, and started at a quarter-past 6 in the carriage of the hotel, with several other passengers, for the Hudson river quay. Under weigh at 7 o'clock, in a very large and powerful steamboat Nothing can possibly exceed the beauty of the scenery we have passed through this day, which has certainly been that of the greatest enjoyment since I left home. It would require an able pen and many pages to give an adequate description of the Hudson river ; its broad expanse of waters, its towering rocks (or palisades as they are called), its beautiful banks so richly clothed with timber, which in our country we see only in the form of shrubs, with cedars, pines, catalpas, and junipers springing out of the fissures of the rocks, and many of them towering to a vast height; and countless numbers of picturesque and pretty villas which are thickly studded for many miles, with the blue distant mountains, and bright rapid stream, produce a scene of unequalled magnificence and interest. Met an American young gentleman going to his college at Albany, who very politely gave me every information respecting the many thriving towns which are met with at short intervals on the voyage ; the distance is about 145 miles, which we accomplished in nine hours. During the latter part, the Katskill mountains, which rise at no great distance on the right bank, formed a grand and imposing feature. The railway from New York runs parallel with the river the whole way, and no doubt is a very pleasant line, as it commands an excellent view of the river. We met a number of steam tugs towing down groups of barges, sometimes amounting to twelve or fourteen in number, deeply sunken in the water and laden with wood, which looked like floating islands; the river also was enlivened the whole way with trading schooners and sloops, which were making their way both up and down. Must not forget that our voyage was enlivened at intervals by tunes upon an organ, the pipes of which were actually filled by steam instead of wind ; the sound was somewhat peculiar, and some of the pipes were out of tune, but at all events it was a very passable curiosity. On arrival at Albany went to Delevan House, which is both spacious and comfortable. The evening turned out wet, with thunder and lightning, so unable to go about the city, much to my own disappointment and that of my young friend, Mr. Russell, who was kindly anxious to do the honours of it. Soon after 8 o'clock had a capital supper, which I was really in want of, having had only a slight luncheon on board the steamer. One large room in the hotel on the ground floor is dedicated to hair-dressing, and most luxuriantly fitted up, where placed myself under the hands of most accomplished artistes, and besides getting hair cut and dressed in the newest Parisian style, had a razor passed over chin, and am thus a step forward for the morning.

There is also a counter in the spacious hall where newspapers and the latest publications are to be had at their usual price, as well as excellent cigars. There are also two billiard rooms, each containing three tables ; in short, a first class American hotel (which this is) gratifies every reasonable want. Went upstairs at 10 o'clock, fatigued with the long day's work.

Albany, *Tuesday, 2nd*.—After breakfast, walked about the town, which is wretchedly paved, but contains some handsome buildings ; the main street runs parallel with the river, with branches at right angles up the side of a considerable hill ; these side streets are planted with trees, and of handsome width. The principal public buildings, which are on the summit of the hill, are important in size, and command a fine view. Telegraphed to the Clifton hotel, Niagara, to secure good rooms, and started nominally at 12.20, but really at 1 o'clock, on our long journey. At St. Johnsville, which we reached at 2.30, the train stopped to allow the passengers to dine, which was far too early in the day, considering the distance we had to perform. The car was crowded, and did not appear to be very comfortable ; it was far inferior to our own first class, though in some respects better than the second. The price was very moderate, being only three and a half dollars each for the distance of upwards of 250 miles. People were jumbled together in a very odd sort of way ; there was certainly not another gentleman in the car, while some would have been rough passengers in an English third class. The country was extremely flat ; nothing whatever of interest to be seen the whole way ; part of the land was tolerably well cultivated, other parts half cleared, and the rest remaining in its primeval state of forest. We passed through Syracuse, a well-built town of some size, though most of its houses were of wood. At Rochester, another town of some importance, the train divided, a part passing to the south (to Buffalo) while we held on our course to Niagara, where we left our train, and crossing in a carriage the Suspension bridge, arrived once more on British dominion, tired out when we reached Clifton house, and glad to get some supper and go to bed.

Wednesday, 3rd—The situation of the hotel commands an excellent view of the falls, and my rooms with a balcony from them, open directly on the view ; very comfortable, and after breakfast started to lionize the place. The first object was the Horse-shoe Fall, arrived at which we took off our coats, and were clothed in oilskin, together with india-rubber clogs and hoods. Thus accoutred, descended a flight of steps and a shelving path cut out of the rock till we arrived at such a depth as to be able to walk beneath the mighty volume of water which poured over our head. It was a busy and strange scene, with mighty air and warring torrent, which it seemed almost impossible to escape, and it required a calm head to realize the position and assure ourselves of our comparative safety. Reached the summit suffused in perspiration from exertion consequent upon the steepness of our path. After restoring ourselves to personal comforts, visited the museum containing many objects of natural curiosity, and ascended the cupola, which commands an extensive view of the falls. Near this spot is a lofty archway framed in wood, erected on the visit of the Prince of Wales, upon which many of the evergreens still remain withering in the sun. Then took a carriage, and in company with Captain Butler and Mr. Savory, drove down to the Suspension bridge, which we crossed, and arrived again on American territory. This bridge is of enormous height, with a passage for carriages suspended beneath that which carries the railway. We went down the bank about a mile to a spot where the river has hollowed out the bank, and from its headlong rapidity forms a thousand whirlpools ; from the rock on both sides shoot up trees of almost every description, with foliage of a size to which my eyes are unaccustomed. The guide was a well-spoken man, born without any arms, though instead of a right one he had a single finger which was furnished with a nail like that of an ordinary hand. From thence we passed through the American town, which possesses a very large hotel (the International), and also a dépôt of Indian goods beautifully worked by the squaws, some of whom we saw, and whose nearest village is about five miles off. After viewing the American fall, we went over to Goat Island, which is situated between that and the Horse-shoe. Here the view looking down into the vast abyss, with rainbows glittering in the spray, and standing within a few feet of the precipice, is perhaps the most astounding which this unrivalled locality offers ; it far surpasses anything pen can describe or the pencil can paint, and is doubtless the most glorious and astounding spectacle which the whole world presents. We then went on to the Horse-shoe Fall, and crossing a small bridge of planks ascended a small tower upon a rock which stands as a little island in the midst of the boiling and roaring rapids, but a few yards from the edge of the fall. We heard some awful tales of those who either from accident or folly had been carried down into the raging gulf, and whose bodies entangled in the rocks beneath have never been seen again ; one of two young men, who with foolhardiness occasioned by drinking had ventured too near the rapid in a boat, which was immediately swamped ; one body was hurled away to be seen no more ; his companion was cast upon a huge log of timber whose progress had been stopped by the rocks. Here he remained for hours ; attempts were made to serve him by passing out boats with ropes attached to them, which were swamped before they reached him. He remained there the whole night ; the next morning a raft was constructed and sent down the stream with some food on it, and ropes for him to lash himself to it. He did not taste the food, but tying

himself to the raft, the attempt was made to draw him back. The ropes, however, caught on some rocks, and it was found impossible to haul it in ; one more trial was made with a small boat, which reached him safely, but he had no sooner got into it than he was washed out by the raging surge and hurried over into the abyss and lost for ever, after so many hours of unspeakable agony. Came home to dinner at 5 o'clock, delighted with the excursion. In the evening drove out again, and ascended a tower of wooden framework 650 feet in height, erected on the spot where the battle Lundy's Lane was fought. From its summit is commanded a view of unparalleled extent. Lake Erie, the city of Buffalo, the Alleghany mountains on one side, while on the other we saw Brock's monument, and the eye stretched over Lake Ontario. We then proceeded a few miles above the Horse-shoe, to a spot near the rapids, where there is a spring strongly impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen gas, which ignited from a match, and emitted a large body of flame a yard in height. This was within a few yards of the river, which rushed by with incredible speed. Returned to the hotel to tea, with a day's work such as I have never performed before, or ever shall again ; no scenery in the old world can at all compare in sublimity and grandeur to that which I have this day witnessed, and it is such as amply to repay the long journey.

Thursday, 4th.—The wind had veered to the south and blew hot and oppressive, making any exercise in the sunshine very fatiguing. The thermometer stood at 86° in the shade. Passed the morning with Captain Butler and Mr. Savory, who started by the mid-day train for Buffalo. Enjoyed the luxury of a bath, and strolled about till dinner time. After dinner started in a carriage from the hotel with a very fine pair of horses (which would have done credit to a London turn out) for Brock's monument, a distance of seven miles ; the road is totally unformed, but marked out by a snake fence, the little brooks and streams which cross it being passed by rough planks thrown over trees. It was for the most part many inches deep in sand—more agreeable to those who were seated in the carriage than the fine-looking animals which drew us at a good pace. A few clusters of cottages, and some comfortable farm-houses, all built of wood, were the only objects in our drive. A part of the country still bears its primeval forests, part is half cleared, the trees being cut down within a yard of the ground, and the rest is well cultivated. There was little to attract our attention till we reached the monument, which is situated on a large knoll to the left of the road, and on the left bank of the river, immediately above the Canadian town of Queenstown, and opposite the American one of Lewistown. The monument erected to the memory of General Brock, who fell on the plains beneath in the year 1812, is a column of 200 feet in height, of no regular order of architecture ; at the four corners are the British lions, and on the summit a statue of General Brock ; there is a corkscrew staircase to the capital of the column, from whence the most magnificent view is obtained of the surrounding country, and a reach of many miles of the vast river Niagara down to its mouth in the lake Ontario, whose broad waters reach to the horizon. We had the good fortune to witness a glorious sunset flinging its golden light over the vast tract of country on which we looked. Twilight here is very short, and in a few minutes the sun was lost, and we returned beneath the brilliant moon, which amply lighted up our road, and found the falls looking (if anything can be) more beautiful under its beams, than in the broad glare of day ; the air was enervating and close. Had tea and went to bed early.

Friday, 5th.— Breakfast at nine o'clock ; the morning hot ; lounged about taking a reluctant last farewell of this unequalled spot ; at twelve o'clock left in the omnibus for the American side. About half a mile from the Suspension bridge is the place where Blondin crossed the river on his rope ; the sides are here nearly of an equal height, and it makes one sick to look into the yawning abyss and think that any one should be so foolhardy and so regardless of his life ; yet after all a slip from the rope at the Crystal Palace would be as bad as one here, both must terminate in instantaneous death. We met with no trouble in the American custom house, the officer in charge very politely taking my word that our trunks contained nothing beyond wearing apparel ; the cars started for Buffalo at one o'clock ; the heat was very great, but the journey was not unpleasant ; the country nearly a dead flat. We had some fine views over Niagara, and at half-past two o'clock the magnificent expanse of Lake Erie burst upon us when we reached Buffalo. This is a large bustling commercial town, well built, and containing some handsome edifices, but except in the principal street most miserably paved ; a gentleman's coachman in England would tell you they were impassable. The Roman Catholic cathedral is a very handsome stone building of a bastard kind of decorated Gothic, but producing a considerable effect ; it is of stone within, with two transepts, the roof also stone, the windows are filled with miserable attempts of stained glass, the seats are of pine, and the area very large ; the floors about the altar are covered with the most gaudy and inappropriate carpeting, and the decorations of that trivial and

trumpery description which too frequently desecrates such buildings. Dinner ; strolled down to the lake, and enjoyed to the utmost of my ability, with a broiling western sun and little wind, a sail upon the bosom of Lake Erie. There is a quantity of shipping actively employed in this port, every vessel being taken in and out by steam tugs, which appear to be incessantly plying. Returned, strolled a little about the town, in which there does not seem any peculiar attraction ; had a sherry cobbler, and retired early to bed as a preparation to getting up at four o'clock.

Saturday, 6th.— Rose at 4 o'clock ; got a little boy in the street to direct us to the railway dépôt, in which, made a mistake and got to the N. Y. C. instead of the B. N. Y. and E. E. R. ; got right at last and found portmanteau, and fairly aboard the cars by 5 o'clock. The one in which we travelled was spacious, and during the early part of the journey not crowded ; it was ventilated by means of a current of air driven through water, on each side of the car, and forced in through a grating in the floor. The necessity of having the windows open was thus prevented, and the comfort obvious of fresh air unmixed with the clouds of dirt, grit, and cinders by which we should have been otherwise suffocated. About every half-hour, a boy passed up and down the cars distributing gratuitously iced water. About 9 o'clock we stopped at a small station called Hornsville, for a very rough and indifferent breakfast, for which we were allowed twenty minutes, when we resumed our seats. The country now became exceedingly beautiful ; our road lay through defiles of hill and rock, clothed with forest, with here and there small farms, and partly cultivated land ; and this continued until we reached Deposit, where a dinner more rough and uncomfortable, and it may fairly be said more unclean, than our breakfast awaited us ; soon after this, our route lay along the banks of the Delaware, and through a wild mountainous country; the Wye, the Avon at Bristol, the Rhine, and the Danube were in succession brought to my remembrance, evidencing the beauty, the variety, and the difference of scale of the scenery through which we passed. During the afternoon, the cars became very crowded, and the heat excessive. Later in the day, we were again allowed fifteen minutes for tea, but did not venture on that meal. The views as we approached New York, and arrived in sight of the Hudson, were very fine, heightened by the effect of a cloudless and brilliant moon, nearly at its full. We left the cars on the banks of the Hudson, about a quarter to 10, crossed the great ferry, had a long walk to Broadway, where we got into a drawling 'bus, and reached our hotel, the Metropolitan, where we were kindly welcomed at half-past 10, having thus been between 15 and 16 hours, through the heat of the day and the cool of the evening, on this journey of between 300 and 400 miles. Got some supper, a bottle of champagne, and a pipe, and went to bed, heartily tired.

Sunday, 7th, —

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

“ Church Reopenings.—As we announced last Sunday, nearly all the fashionable churches in this city and Brooklyn will be re-opened for divine service to-day; and we notice also that a number of pastors who have been for a long time absent on tours for recruiting their health, have returned, and will resume their labours to-day in their respective churches.”

The notice above, copied from one of the daily papers, forms a pendant to that of last week.

Rose late, after the fatigues of yesterday ; got up our baggage that had been left here, and put things tolerably straight, gave up the notion of going to morning service, as the church is two miles distant down Broadway; the heat was so excessive that we could only go a very little distance on the shady side of the way. Sunday is publicly observed here, inasmuch as the omnibuses do not run ; the shops are almost universally closed, but there does not appear to be any legal restriction on the subject, inasmuch as we observed a few, and those not for articles of necessary consumption, open. The people are generally better dressed, and the ladies (both white and coloured), whose dress is always a caricature, were still smarter than on week days, sticking-up bonnets with a most ridiculous quantity of artificial flowers, are the prevailing fashion, but it must be added that *crinolines* are not more than half the size of those we meet with at home. A fine Sunday is a day on which we may fairly judge of the good looks of a population, when all have their faces clean and their best dresses on, but it must be owned that New York is sadly deficient in good looks, both of men and women, and even boys and girls ; it is impossible to walk down the street without being struck with the difference between the hard care-worn and ill-at-ease visages of every class of every age, and of both sexes, with the bright happy pleasing countenances which every town and every village in England display. We

encountered the heat, and crept down the shady side of Broad-way to the four o'clock service at Trinity, the principal Episcopal Protestant Church here. On our way we saw a vast quantity of newly enlisted troops being marched off to the seat of war ; pluck they may have, but a more miserable looking set of soldiers can scarcely be conceived. Trinity Church is imposing from its vast size ; there are two side aisles separated from the nave by arcades, the whole is pewed with handsome oak, the panels of the doors being filled with carving ; there are no galleries except one at the west end of the church, which contains the organ, a fine instrument and well played, the effect of the swell was particularly good. The chancel was evidently built without the intention of being occupied by a choir, and is consequently much too short for the sixteen boys and eight men, who, vested in surplices, together with the clergy, now occupy it ; the service was conducted with a good deal of solemnity, but to my ears was rather disappointing ; the chanting was too rapid and not sufficiently close, the trebles overpowered the other voices ; the anthem was well sung, though in rather too theatrical a style ; there was a long string of children to be baptized after the second lesson ; the sermon, which occupied about twenty minutes, was a very ordinary affair, at the conclusion of it there was a hymn well sung, which was the best part of the service.

Monday, 8th.—After breakfast walked up Broadway, made a few little purchases ; on returning to the hotel had an extremely comfortable hot bath ; the female servants who act as chambermaids are all Irish of the lowest and most illiterate class, the waiters and other servants blacks, many of whom are very good-looking fellows, they are attentive and civil ; having rested after the bath, went down Broadway and called on Mr. Slimmon, to whom we had been introduced by Mr. Lawley, and who had been kind enough to act as our banker (he is a Scotchman and a merchant in dry goods, as they are here called, which means all sorts of drapers' goods), he promised me an introduction to the captain of the *Persia*, and with real liberality and kindness offered to advance any cash I might need : then got into a 'bus and went to Fulton Bay, which crossed and landed at Brooklyn. Brooklyn was, not many years ago, a sort of suburb to the City of New York, to which the inhabitants crossed for the benefit of its Tea Gardens, and its fine views ; it is now become a populous town : entered a street railway car, drawn by horses, and went about three miles to the Greenwood Cemetery, which is without doubt the largest in the world, containing as it does upwards of 600 acres. A very elaborate archway and entrance are now being constructed, the style—overdone florid Gothic. The alto relievo over the archway representing the resurrection of our Lord, the restoration of Lazarus to life, and other Scripture subjects of a similar kind, are very vigorous and effective ; the ground itself is as beautiful, and as well fitted for its purpose as any that can be conceived ; the undulations are pleasing, and give an infinite variety ; there are several lakes of water, and besides an infinite quantity of the most charming ever-greens, there are fir timber trees. The views of the city of New York and the neighbouring islands, together with the large expanse of water, are grand and imposing ; the monuments themselves are not in worse taste than Pere-la-Chaise, or any other cemetery ; many of them are magnificent in their material, being of the finest marble, and raised without any regard to cost, indeed, in nothing the Americans do, do they spare money, and its lavish, expenditure both here and in public and private undertakings, astonishes a European. Did not get home to the hotel till 6. 55 P.M., and by these five minutes saved dinner in the public room, as the dinner concludes at seven o'clock. Went upstairs, had a smoke, and went to bed early.

Tuesday, 9th.—After breakfast went to the office of the *Persia*, paid the remaining part of our passage money and got our tickets ; strolled about the rest of the morning ; the carriages here (both private and those to be hired) remind me of the gondolas in Venice, being painted black without any relief, the resemblance is further carried out by the construction of the roofs of the carriages, which, unlike ours, are wagon-headed. The price charged for hiring carriages that stand in the street, and are well appointed, appears to us extravagant. Wanted to take a drive to the Central Park after dinner, and the driver asked five dollars, which, with a *douceur* to the coachman, would have been equal to ;£1 sterling, therefore took an omnibus and went down to the quay, where we sat till it was dark. Enjoyed the dinner to-day, which will be my last, better than any meal I have made since I have been here, inasmuch as I had a fair appetite. Had a bottle of cabinet wine, which comes from the Missouri, a very light but pleasant sparkling wine, a good deal resembling St. Peray. Packed up, and made everything ready for departure in the morning.

Wednesday, 10th.—Rose at six o'clock, got a hurried breakfast, and started at seven, in the carriage of the hotel, for Jersey city, the carriage crossing the ferry and conveying our luggage ; the

coachman imposed upon us, charging three dollars for a quarter of an hour's drive, an American gentleman interfered, and we got off at two-and-a-half dollars, which after all was a great deal too much. Got on board the *Persia* by 8.30 A.M. Found I had a very comfortable cabin, and setting which to rights occupied some time. At nine o'clock got under steam, and very shortly bid adieu to the spires and lofty buildings of New York, as well as the pretty villas which stud the coasts of the surrounding islands ; the sun was hot, but the day as beautiful as can be conceived. There are about fifty first-class passengers, and seventy or eighty second, which appears like a family party after the multitude we had on board the *Great Eastern*, The cleanliness through-out, and the order which prevails, form a striking contrast with that of the gigantic vessel. Lunched at twelve o'clock, and had an excellent dinner at four, having also sociable and agreeable companions at table ; had also good seats through the kindly offices of Mr. Slimmon with the captain. There is a cow on board, which has made many voyages, and appears perfectly domesticated and happy ; there are also a goat and two dogs, belonging to two passengers, which do not seem so well pleased with their voyage. Sat on deck after tea enjoying a glorious moon and smooth sea, having first witnessed a sunset in all its splendour. In berth by ten o'clock, found the sheets very wet, but passed a tranquil night, and don't feel the worse this morning.

Thursday, 11th.—The day was calm and beautiful, not an incident throughout which claims remark. Dined at four o'clock, and having eaten no luncheon, which is daily placed on the table at twelve o'clock, was enabled to do justice to an abundant and well-served meal. After dinner smoked till tea time, and after that resumed walk on deck till nine o'clock, when retired for the night.

Friday, 12th.—Rose at usual time; breakfast at 8.30 A.M. The sea calm, the day fine. Soon after noon saw a slight bank of clouds rise out of the western horizon, the first, we are told, that have been seen for four days or nights, and we ourselves can witness to this being the truth for three days. The night was bright and starry, and the whole day passed so monotonously that have nothing to record. Walked rather later than usual, not leaving the deck till nearly ten o'clock.

Saturday, 13th.—The horizon was surrounded with soft low clouds, and there was also a great deal of fog, the temperature being considerably lower, announcing our approach to the cod banks of Newfoundland, over which our track lay ; we were later than usual at breakfast, and in consequence abstained from luncheon ; saw the four turtles which were in the middle deck, two of them still living, and disporting themselves in a large tub of water, while two others had met an earlier doom by hanging up near their unconscious friends, with their throats still bleeding, in preparation for the Sunday's feast ; the evening turned out cold and cheerless, and obliged to shorten walk on deck and retire early.

Sunday, 14th.—The day gloomy, more sea, and the wind still ahead—anything but a cheering or agreeable day. Service in the principal cabin at ten o'clock ; a large and attentive congregation. The sermon a commentary on the Gospel for the day. The weather continued so disagreeable that deck walking was unsatisfactory, and after a basin of soup at luncheon had only to look forward to dinner. This event took place at the usual time ; the turtle was very good, and cold punch was handed round after it, and amongst other viands was a sucking pig ; the captain sent his steward round to ask me to take wine with him, and the meal was rather more protracted than usual. Went afterwards on the middle deck, and getting under the shelter of the starboard life-boat, to protect me from the falling spray and mist, contrived to smoke a pipe. Went to tea, and did not turn out again. The sea was a great deal rougher than it had been, and the fog very dense, the whistle sounding at frequent intervals to give notice to any vessels that may be in our track. The noise, which was very harsh and discordant, was continued till ten o'clock, when, we are told, the fog in some measure cleared off; the wind still dead ahead, so that we depend solely on our engines, and can scarcely expect anything but a protracted passage.

Monday, 15th.—The sun came out about nine o'clock, and endeavoured, at intervals through the morning, with no great success, to dispel the fog and gloom: feeble as were those attempts, they, in some measure, relieved the monotony of a fog at sea. Passed part of the morning on deck and again after luncheon, till the air became damp and cold. Dinner as usual, after which sat in cabin till tea time ; after tea, pleased to find the wind had hauled to the southward, and that we had sail set, and that we were making greater way than we had hitherto done, the damp fog having partially cleared off. Sat under the lee of the starboard paddle-box, and smoked till ten o'clock.

Tuesday, 16th.—The night had been favourable to progress ; as the late moon rose, the wind had improved, and we found this morning that more sail was set, and that yesterday was the best day's work we had done. Passed an hour-and-a-half after breakfast on deck, pleasantly amusing ourselves watching amongst other things the two top-gallant sails being sent aloft ; their weight is very considerable. A sharp rain drove us below, where remained till dinner endeavouring to read, which, from the darkness of the day and the smallness of our port, was not a very easy undertaking. Sat down to dinner as usual, the fog signals were gloomy and harsh music, but later in the evening the need of them had passed away. Amongst our passengers are two Hindoos, merchants of Bombay, and we are told, of great wealth ; they have the dark complexion, the sharply-chiselled features, and the lustrous eye peculiar to their race ; they eat at one end of a table together with other passengers, but their food is specially prepared for them by an attendant of their own, who in a greasy gaberdine and dirty yellow cap, and most unclean hands, both cooks and waits upon his masters, whose religion will not permit them to partake of food prepared with far greater cleanliness if by Christian hands. The fog having partially cleared off in the evening, did all that could be expected in inhaling the sea breeze by remaining on deck till 10.30 P.M.

Wednesday, 17th.—A wet, gloomy, miserable morning ; could do nothing but get to the smoke-room on the middle deck, after breakfast, and while away an hour, after which dipped into some books and attempted reading, which I find does not lead to much profit. Dinner at the usual hour. Cleared up in the evening and got on deck, but the wind, which had hitherto been slightly in our favour, had died away. Went below at ten o'clock.

Thursday, 18th.— The night was not so agreeable a one as some I have passed ; the sea rough, the vessel rolling considerably, the wind shifting, causing a perpetual alteration of sail ; and the fog horn (as the Yankees call it) sounding at frequent intervals, prevented steady sleep : the morning was less promising than the night ; nothing could be more dismal, thick mist and rain and a rolling sea ; yet we are consoled by knowing our progress is fair, and that we ran yesterday 321 knots. After breakfast, went into the smoking-room for an hour, as the weather was too bad for deck, and did literally nothing till dinner time, that most happy break in the tedium of a day ; had as usual an excellent meal set before us ; commenced with turtle, and we were fully equal to performing our parts. After dinner, went on the middle deck for an hour and then to tea ; after this, went again on the same deck and smoked a pipe ; the sea had become much calmer, and the heavens were bright with stars. Went below at nine o'clock.

Friday, 19th.—The night was tolerably calm, and though there was a good deal going on on deck I was not disturbed until I was awoke by the men getting the cable from the locker, which positively precluded further sleep. The day was fine, the sun bright, but the wind, which was ahead, chilling the brightness of the day, and the expectation of seeing land before the sun went down, seemed to excite good spirits and more cheerful faces amidst our dull fraternity. Passed the day between the deck and cabin making arrangements (like many others) for landing. Dinner over, after a quiet smoke, went on deck and distinctly discerned, though at a great distance, the coast of Ireland. Walked up and down for some time and found the air chilly, and came down to tea. After taking counsel with the captain and postmaster, resolved on being set on shore with the bags at Cork harbour, under the impression that by going up with the mail from Cork to Dublin I should be enabled to cross the next morning, and thus get home on Saturday night ; (how vain were my calculations will be seen hereafter). Set to work vigorously and packed, no easy matter in the dull light permitted in state-room, and everything being completed, the luggage was brought up, and only waited for the arrival of the small steamer from Queenstown; she reached us at 12.40 P.M.; and though the night was dark, succeeded in getting safely on board her, reached Queenstown at 1.30 A.M. ; we then had to undergo the examination of luggage by the Custom officers, which a fee of a few shillings expedited very much.

Then embarked on board the *Robert Bruce*, a small steamer which conveys the mails up to Cork ; nothing at this moment could surpass the fineness of the night, or the beauty of the scenery, but ere three quarters of the distance, which is not more than fourteen miles, was effected, we were enveloped in a dense mist, which increased to such an extent that further progress was impossible. We let go anchor, and remained in the middle of the stream in a cold dark fog till long past dawn, our case then seemed almost hopeless, we made several abortive attempts to proceed, but in vain ; till at length, about 6.40 A.M., the mist partially cleared away, and we entered Cork about 7.15 A.M. ; this was of

course ruinous to my scheme. Washed and dressed, and made myself as comfortable as I could ; had a very rough indifferent breakfast at the Victoria Hotel, and started by train at ten o'clock for Dublin ; there is very little to be seen in the route, but the transit was rapid, and everything connected with the rail remarkably well conducted, that contrasted very favourably with the Yankee car track on which we have lately been travelling. At 4.10 P.M. arrived in Dublin, getting a glimpse of the Phoenix Park and the vice-regal lodge ; on reaching the Prince of Wales hotel, in Sackville Street, ordered a hasty dinner, and walked about for an hour ; having partaken of dinner and a glass of whiskey toddy, out of compliment to the country, and, I must add, to my own great comfort, took the rail to Kingston and embarked on the mail boat at 7. 20 P.M. The passage, I believe, was an extremely favourable one, but, as being fatigued with the last night, slept most placidly, and unable to give any circumstantial account. Had my foot on shore at Holyhead at twelve o'clock, thus completing to a day the six weeks since I left England, in which I have done and seen enough to occupy the whole lives of most people. Had no trouble in the examination of my luggage, and was immediately in the train, which bore us over Anglesea, through the tubular bridge, the beautiful scenery about Carnarvon and Bangor, and landed us safely and expeditiously at Chester, at three o'clock ; there being no possibility of proceeding, so that my hopes of reaching home in the morning were entirely frustrated; got a cup of tea, and betook myself to a very comfortable bed in the Queen's Hotel, which is a very excellent one, by four o'clock.

Sunday, 21st.— Having no duties to perform, and well wearied with previous fatigue, did not breakfast till twelve o'clock, after which walked about, and went to the Cathedral at four o'clock ; there was a very numerous congregation, the service was well performed in its peculiar way (for peculiar it must be when the priest reads, and the choir intone) ; the service was of a florid style, and the anthem, though well performed, too operatic for my taste. The Bishop was seated in his throne, and pronounced the grace after service (a practice which I had never heard before) ; there was no sermon. Dined at 6.30 very quietly, and it must be owned, very pleasantly. Scarcely went out after dinner, and went to bed at a quarter to 11 o'clock.

Monday, 22nd.— Left Chester by early train for Shrewsbury, and arrived at Bishopstone in the afternoon, after being absent six weeks.

In the summer of 1861 whilst yachting, a fall from a rope ladder caused an injury to the lower part of the spine, painful at first, but all ill effects appeared in a few days to have passed away. However it undoubtedly was the germ from which sprung the disease that terminated in death : a short time after, a slight irritation consequent upon the fall, pervaded the nervous system, this was increased by the shock caused by the Great Eastern, when near her destination, striking upon a rock. It was in August, 1862, that the Archdeacon proceeded in her on a voyage to America, taken not only for pleasure, but with an endeavour to allay with a few weeks of travel his thirst for change, and restore to his system a tone of quiet he then found wanting. On his return, being anxious to land quickly, he embarked in an open boat, and reached Cork harbour before his fellow-passengers. During this passage he contracted a cold, which terminated in diphtherite. He went from home for a short time in the winter, in the hope that a change of air would prove beneficial; but so anxious was he to take part in the Christmas-day services in his own church at Bishopstone, that he returned home for that purpose. With his accustomed resolution he continued to discharge his public duties. In Easter week, 1863, he delivered an able speech at the Annual Meeting of the Hereford Diocesan Church Building Society. On the day following he preached at the re-opening of Stoke Prior Church, and on the next he took part in the re-opening of Helenswick Church. In the succeeding week he delivered his charge, and with his usual hospitality, entertained the Clergy at luncheon in the College Hall. On Ascension Day he endeavoured to preach in the cathedral, but was unable to fulfil his intention. He was present, however, at the re-opening of the cathedral, June 30th, 1863, both morning and evening, though still suffering severely from the effects of his malady, which never left him. The last public act of his life was one which testifies to the kindness and geniality of his nature. It was to officiate, in spite of the illness which was wearing him down, at the marriage of his young relative and friend J. A. Clutton Brock, Esq., to the daughter of the Rev. H. T. Hill, of Felton, Rural Dean. Ere this the irritation of the spine had completely upset the nervous system, the weakness of the throat after diphtherite was a salient point, and the powers of deglutition were almost destroyed; the stomach became paralyzed, the powers of attrition at a stand-still. Gradually, but surely, the enemy advanced, the body wasted, and at last the

lungs succumbed ; consumption completed the task of destruction, and the end of his honourable and useful life was a quiet death in the rectory of Bishopstone, on Tuesday, August nth, 1863, in the spot to which he was fondly attached during life, and from which, as he wished, he was not separated in death:

The Archdeacon had some years before his decease written a desire to be buried as privately and as unostentatiously as possible ; to lie in a common open grave, and to have the parish pall to cover him. These orders were obeyed, but it was impossible to refuse the urgent request of the clergy of the diocese to attend ; and the influx of the clergy and laity, not only from the immediate neighbourhood, but from distant parts of the country, was so great, that long ere the mournful cortege had left that paradise of an earthly home with the remains of the revered and beloved, the parishioners, joined by a vast concourse of people of all grades, thronged the churchyard, and gazed with tearful eyes into the long, humble, and narrow grave that was soon to close on him who was the life and soul of healthful recreation, the wise counsellor, the liberal patron, the sincere friend, and the kind pastor.

As the mournful procession streamed, like a dark line, over the fair and lawn-like expanse of meadow between the rectory and the quaint and beautiful little church the good Archdeacon had during his life-time studied to beautify and adorn with a hand as liberal as his taste was lofty, the bell tolled, the organ pealed out one of the sublime compositions of Handel, and the eyes of many were dim with tears, whilst others sobbed audibly.

At the entrance of the grave-yard the officiating priest, the Rev. Rowland Hill, the Archdeacon's Sexton carrying the archidiaconal mitre enveloped in crape, and the choristers of Bishopstone habited in white surplices, advanced to meet the remains about to be committed to their last and sad resting place.

On moving into the sacred edifice, the organ, presided at by G. Townshend Smith, Esq., of Hereford cathedral, gave forth its melancholy tones in the voluntary "When the ear heard him," from Handel's Funeral Anthem.

The whole concourse of persons present displayed the greatest order and feeling, and not a sound was heard save the priest's voice reading the service as the procession passed into that exquisite little Church, lighted with several hundred wax tapers, mingling their brilliancy with the dim light that streamed through the stained glass windows, thus giving a strange and funereal aspect to the place.

On the cortege leaving the church, Mr. Baker, the organist of the church, played the "Dead March in Saul," until the mourners had grouped themselves round the grave. There the latter portion of the service was very impressively recited, and all in turn approached the grave to take one last look at what contained the mortal remains of one so loved and revered by all.

A beautiful *immortelle* (composed of white and violet verbenas) reposed on the lid of the coffin, and the thoughts of the many hearts, for the moment, passed to the sad mourner, and scene of desolation, and each felt a new accession of grief. In solemn silence all withdrew, when the masonic brethren of the deceased approached the grave, and with heads uncovered dropped each therein the last symbol of their love—a spray of the sweet acacia—and then departed.

Memoir, extracts of speeches, diary of journey to America &c., in memoriam R.L.F. [compiled by H ... (1866)

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