

## Emigrant in America 1846

*America, Its Realities and Resources : Comprising Important Details Connected with The Present Social, Political, Agricultural, Commercial, and Financial State of The Country, Its Laws and Customs, &c. &c.*

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“Amicus Plato, amicus Socrates, sed magis amica veritas.”

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I.

The emigrant mechanic and tradesman—Their position on arrival—Some trades far better remunerated than others—Advice how to proceed on arrival—Journey inland—Inconvenience in removing a large family westward—The English and American operative and tradesman—The separate national characteristics of the people—New England States—Middle States—Southern and Western States—Mechanics from the old country—Remunerative prospects of the various trades of House Carpenters—Cabinet-makers—Farmers—Carvers—Gilders Shipbuilders—Masons and Bricklayers—Painters—Plasterers Blacksmiths—Coachsmiths—Coopers—Sawyers—Machinists—Silversmiths—Coach-makers—Glass blowers—Merchants,—Clerks, &c.

THE mechanic or tradesman of sober and persevering habits, will generally receive a fair remuneration for his time and trouble in America :—this will be assured to him as of the acquired fruits of his industry and efforts. But the same, in like manner, may be said to reward any similar exertion, in almost any part of the United Kingdom—ensuring the same requital—the same measure of recompence, and without the necessity of his expatriation, or of his forswearing the land of his birth—of his childhood and riper years, and with which all his former associations are indissolubly connected.

Should we indeed venture upon an advice to the English operative or tradesman intending to migrate, and who proposes to abandon the comforts, if any he possesses,—the means, that with honest industry and perseverance, are still within his reach in the old country, for the more tempting, though often the mere imaginary acquisition of independence, or increased gain in the United States, and which is incessantly held before him by designing and interested parties, as of easy and certain procurement, we should certainly counsel him to pause—to stay in his career, and again consider the probable consequences of any hasty and ill-digested measure of this kind, which, if once resolved upon, and carried out in all its varied and consecutive details, may bring with it a train of evils for which he is the least prepared, and expose him to difficulties, far greater in their consequences—more disastrous in their results, being far more difficult to overcome, than any from which he may possibly have escaped. Whatever may be his capabilities, his means of profitable acquisition, the dependence and extreme friendlessness of his situation as a stranger, whether amidst the crowded streets of the large Atlantic cities, or the more unpretending and quiet districts of the interior states, is sufficient to appal his energies, at least to restrict the ardour of his enterprise, and oppress him with those “compunctious visitings” which it were easier and more natural to encourage under such circumstances, than to get rid of.

Many, no doubt there are, who lured by the plausible, though frequently distorted statements of those of their friends who have preceded them, have hearkened to their counsel, and committed their fortunes to the doubtful certainty of the prospects held forth to them being ever realised, to repent them of their error, when perhaps, it were too late to arrest the consequence of their precipitancy. These kind friends point out in most minute detail, the plenty—the superabundance with which they are everywhere surrounded ; without stating the wearisome and never ending effort that is necessary for its attainment, the other and unequal sacrifices that they are compelled to make, to secure any of the most trifling advantages so earnestly insisted on in their communications ;—the many years of cold neglect, frequently of sorrow and disappointment, for the one of sunshine that they can ever meet with, with the almost certain and early inroads that climate is sure to make upon the European constitution, unsuited as it most certainly is, to its varied and extreme changes, for which no advantage, however extended—no benefits, however easily secured, can at all compensate. Could the kind and indulgent friends, who so inconsiderately enter on these statements, be induced to throw aside this unreasonable hyperbole, and speak of the country in the promptings of a more reasonable and correct judgment, describe it merely as they find it, and not such as they might wish it to be, we are quite satisfied, that the film which has dimmed the perception of many an enthusiast, and represented emigration to the United States as the panacea for every ill and untoward difficulty in the old country, would very soon be removed, and a fitter and more wholesome estimate of its advantages supervene instead. But, these people, in their exaggerated belief of American prosperity and wealth—its ready application to themselves, their wants and wishes, having irrevocably turned their back upon their own country, and disconnected themselves from its welfare, generally find out, when they come to taste of this new state of being, in which their inherent restlessness—their folly, rather than their good sense, had placed them, how very short it falls in the reality of their previous estimate, and the uncertain and tottering foundation on which all their former high wrought anticipations as regards it, have been based.

This comparative seclusion from the world, from all intimate friendly intercourse with those around us, might, perhaps, be in some way bearable if self-imposed, or of our own seeking ; but is somewhat more difficult to be reconciled to, when proceeding from an unreasonable and unjust proscription—the easily discernible antipathy of the great majority of those whom we are compelled to live amongst, and whose dislike evinces itself on every occasion that may arise to call it forth. It is from this, the difficulty of identifying the foreigner with the native citizen in one common brotherhood of social and kindly interchange, that has continued them to this hour as distinct and separate classes in the Republic ; has associated the German with the German ; the Swiss, French, and other emigrants from the European continent, with those of their own country ;—the emigrants from Great Britain, especially the Irish, who constitute so large a majority of the entire, almost exclusively with each other, who group and cling together on the instinctive principle of a conjoined support and preservation, and are always found to inhabit some certain districts of the country to themselves ; or if, from the nature of their pursuits are resident in towns, live in some distinct and separate locality, which by common assent is set apart for their particular occupancy. It is, perhaps, easy to account from all this, the frequent anxiety, the desire of those who may have already settled in the country, to induce others of their countrymen or kinsfolk to follow their example ; who in the recommendation they so often give them to emigrate, are impelled by a desire to draw a circle of immediate friends around themselves ;—spirits of a more congenial kind than any they may hope to meet with among their newly-made acquaintance ; hoping by such means to smooth away the difficulties of their situation, and in some way reconcile them to the disappointment of their altered condition. Such conduct, no doubt, is peculiarly selfish and ungenerous ; it is unfeeling, and withal unjust :—but we query if mankind, in their general intercourse, are not commonly swayed by motives equally as reprehensible ; and that the happiness of many whom, under a misplaced confidence we class as of our friends, are not often made to rest upon the chance difficulties and troubles that

fortune, in its capricious mood, may sometimes choose to assail us in the world, or mayhap are otherwise induced for the purpose of securing some personal or imaginary benefit to themselves.

There are some trades far better remunerated than others ; those, for instance, that depend for support and patronage on the necessities and wants of others, rather than their caprice ; and on the production of those articles of necessary comfort, more suited to the plain and unpretending habits of a Republican people than of luxury and refinement, the needful appendages of aristocracy and wealth. The spirit of improvement that never flags, the desire to increase existing means, whatever they may be, that identifies itself with the native character of the American citizen, will generally find employment for the useful operative, and secure him a fair and reasonable subsistence. To this end we would advise his remaining as short a while as possible in any of the eastern cities ; these are generally crowded with the adventitious and unsettled of every class, as well with the numerous settlers that arrive from Europe in almost every season, as the American, with whom he is generally denied all reasonable competition. He will always find it more conducive to his interests to turn inland, than to waste his time in fruitless efforts near the sea-board. The instructions we have offered in a preceding chapter, will serve to guide him, in the easiest and most expeditious route to the western territory, making Buffalo, or Pittsburg his first resting-place, and from where he can shape his course into whatever district of this vast country, his inquiries may instruct him as the best suited to his capabilities and enterprise.

The incumbrance of a family, under such circumstances, is always a very considerable drawback as tending to retard his progress and speedy settlement, whilst every day's delay adds to his expenses. We apprehend that there is no remedy we can apply to this inconvenience, beyond a moderate share of patience, except that the emigrant can make some arrangement for their temporary domicile at Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, or some other of the large inland towns, where it is very probable he will always meet with some of his own countrymen, who may take an interest in instructing him in this detail, and enable him to prosecute his inquiry without further trouble or difficulty on this score ; it will always be very easy to send for them when permanently settled in his new location.

The artisan of America possesses many advantages over the generality of the same class in England, both in point of education, general aptitude and intelligence, though seldom as efficient, or as good workmen. They are a persevering, frugal, and industrious class, and by these means, are generally enabled to secure to themselves far more of the comforts and necessaries of life than the English operative. They are in general of sober habits, though the quantity of beer and spirits used in the United States, greatly exceeds the amount consumed by the same extent of population in England. Yet, there are seldom any drunkards to be met with in the streets, none of the depravity and crime, that originating in these excesses, exhibit themselves with such fearful recurrence in the old country. It is, perhaps, that the American being more habituated to the use of strong liquors, almost from his childhood, is seldom inconvenienced by the same consequence, as the less accustomed of English tradesmen to similar indulgence.

No European nation comprises within its limit a more diversified or chequered population than the United States ; amounting according to the last census, (1840,) to 17,069,453, including 2,487,355 slaves ; 386,293 free coloured persons, and 14,189,705 whites ; the latter, made up of the descendants of almost every people, with a considerable increase in each succeeding year, from the influx of European emigrants that crowd its shores. But, as the greater proportion are of British origin, they resemble the parent country more than any other : while living under the same suppositions laws, and speaking the same language, they present in the national characteristics of the population of the different states, but few shades

of real variety. The entire are distinguished by the same absorbing and eager appetite for the acquisition of wealth, the great ruling passion of every American, of every profession and grade, and to which their energies are at all times directed.

The New England States are, perhaps, freer from this admixture of foreign emigrants, than perhaps, almost any other part of the American Union ; and consequently, preserve a far more uniform character with its population. Property is here more equally divided—religion and the precepts of morality more strictly observed and attended to—education more advanced, and industry and frugality, the distinguishing traits of every citizen.

The middle states are of a different complexion : composed of the descendants of English, Dutch, French, German, Irish and Scotch ; are lax in moral habits, far less advanced in education, and are by no means as active as their northern neighbours in their industry and business pursuits.

The south, on which the brand of slavery is affixed, presents in its population, the character of moral degradation—of depravity and licentiousness, not certainly to be found, to any near extent, in the other parts of the Republic. Education, is here comparatively neglected, and an inactivity and indolence partly generated by a relaxing and enervating climate, the distinguishing mark of the entire population.

The western states, that present an extended, and almost unlimited, field for industry and active enterprise, are of late years assuming an importance and character, in no way secondary to any other part of the Republic ; and are distinguished, in their mixed population, by the characteristic features of such of the other sections of the country, from where emigration has set in, in the greatest numbers. They somewhat more resemble the hardy, the industrious and untiring citizen of the northern and eastern states, than of the three other divisions we have noticed.

The northern and eastern states, comprise within their territory, what may be considered the thew and sinew—the strength and nerve of the Republic ; its prop and mainstay, in time of war, and in peace, the principal promoters of its prosperity and welfare. With an ardent and intelligent population, remarkable for their energy and patient industry, they unite within themselves, four-fifths at least, of the manufacturing population of the entire Union ; and while thus administering to the wants, and preserving the nation from a dependency on foreign aid, for many of the necessaries and luxuries of life, secure profitable employment to a large number of a comparatively dense population. They are, in fact, the pioneers and labourers of the far west, as indeed the business men and factors of a great proportion of the Republic, particularly of the southern states ; where the majority of the population, from a native indolence of disposition, are of themselves unfitted to many of the arduous and more laborious duties of an active business, or commercial life.

Mechanics are not always certain of employment in the eastern states, or cities. The great influx of foreigners and strangers from other parts, has sometimes the effect of increasing the supply beyond the demand. But the spirit of improvement that within the last few years has brought so many and thriving towns into being in the interior, and increased to an incredible extent, the size of those previously in existence, promising within a few years more, to outstrip the fairest cities of the eastern seaboard, will ensure the artizan a more steady demand for his industry and effort—a more certain employment than were he to remain land-locked, in, or near to any of the Atlantic cities, where, with increased competition, he may sometimes find it difficult to get along.

*House-Carpenters*, as of the most useful trade in a newly explored country, are always in great request, and ensure good wages, averaging from nine to ten dollars per week in

summer, and from eight to nine dollars in winter, with constant employment :—they are generally in great demand in the south, where their wages are somewhat higher, and unaffected by the winter season. There is, in the United States, a great deal of elaborate and fancy work, in the variety of wooden buildings, the ornamental part of churches, and larger dwelling houses, made to imitate stone, which it so clearly resembles, as to often deceive the nicest observer, and which gives employment, at advanced wages, to the most competent workmen, who certainly are not excelled by those of any other country. The seaports also give constant work to a numerous and efficient class, in preparing and furnishing those superior accommodations on board their merchant vessels, surpassing every other shipping in the world. They, in like manner, receive some better wages, and are always sure of steady employment.

*Cabinet-making* is also a tolerably good business ; wages about eight dollars per week in the Atlantic states, though somewhat less in the interior. But this disparity is made up by the differences in the general expenses of living, house rent, fuel, &c. Veneering is much used in making up furniture, and generally executed in a very superior manner. There being no duties imposed on the introduction of foreign mahogany, it is imported in large quantities, and of the finest description, from Saint Domingo and elsewhere. Furniture of all kinds, is generally of the best materials, more reasonable in its cost than in England, and in a great part modelled after the latest Paris and London fashions. The import duties being also considerably reduced on the importation of foreign marble, such is admitted into all parts of the United States at a comparatively moderate cost, and made to form a considerable and elegant auxiliary in the manufacture and making up of household furniture ; large quantities of which are exported to foreign markets, especially to the states of South America. The value of these shipments in the year 1837 amounted to 265,421 dollars, in 1838 to 281,683, and in 1842 to 299,997 dollars, with the amount progressively increasing. Chair-making of the inferior kinds, manufactured principally from the maple and cherry tree, is, in many of the states, especially in New Jersey, a distinct and profitable business, and is extensively carried on, both for domestic use, and for exportation. Journeymen are proportionably and equally well paid with cabinet-makers. The statistical returns made by order of the Federal Government, 1840, states the annual value of the furniture manufactured in the United States, at 7,555,405 dollars, with a capital invested therein of 6,989,971 dollars, giving employment to 18,003 persons.

*Turners, carvers, and gilders*, especially the former, are in fair request. These trades, which are in great part dependent upon each other, are better supported in the Atlantic states than in the interior ; the wages about ten dollars per week. Carvers receive something more, and from the demand for imitations for the highest specimens of architectural work, also the ornamental carving of ship-building, are well rewarded, according to the capacity and skill employed.

*Ship-building* is certainly one of the most remunerative and best supported trades in the United States. A good hand need never remain idle, either in the Atlantic, or northern states, bordering on the lakes ; or even in the interior, on any of the large western rivers. He is always tolerably sure of employment and good wages, generally averaging about twelve dollars per week. In the southern ports, where there is also a great demand, the wages are somewhat higher, varying from fourteen to fifteen dollars per week. There are few, who with steady conduct, and the practice of the least frugality, may not be able to put by money, and at the same time live comfortably. Caulkers, mast, block, and sail makers, are also proportionably good trades, and well paid. Nothing can surpass the symmetry and beauty of the American merchant shipping, finished off and provided, as they certainly are, in the best possible manner. They are a credit to the nation, and well worthy of the imitation of ship builders, and ship owners of other countries. The value of ships and vessels built in the United States in 1839, according to official returns, is estimated as the average also of other years, at 7,016,091 dollars.

*Masonry*, especially *bricklaying*, is an excellent trade throughout every part of the United States. The taste for improved brick buildings, which are every way superseding the old style of frame houses, ensures to a good workman constant employment, and remunerating wages. Nothing can exceed the elegant—the perfectly unique style and finish of some of these buildings, surpassed by none other in any part of the world. The fronts are usually made of a peculiarly fine description of brick, which is moulded to a perfect smoothness, and jointed in the work with an extraordinary neatness and precision, altogether unusual in the buildings of the old country, the entire coloured red, the joints neatly marked out in white lines ; the whole relieved with white marble or tastefully ornamented with cut stone window lintels, sills, marble steps, balustrades and porticos of the same material, which, together with outside green Venetian blinds, or shutters, indispensable to every respectable house in the summer season, presents an exceedingly neat, cleanly and cheerful appearance, the usual characteristic of the generality of the American cities.

Substantial brick buildings are everywhere putting aside the old style of wooden houses, and enlarged and improved thoroughfares assuming the place of the crowded, pent-up streets of the early settler, in the eastern cities. The rapidity in the execution of any new design with this latter object, is generally in keeping with the “ go a-head” principle on which every undertaking in the United States, dependent on general or individual industry and perseverance is conducted. The task has only to be assumed by the corporation or municipal body of any city or town entrusted with its revenues, and the management of its affairs, when every difficulty is made to give way to its accomplishment.

We happened to be in the city of New York when it was determined to enlarge and open Chapel street, then a narrow and confined way, and to which our business directed us on this occasion ; when we observed placarded on the doors of several of the houses on either side, printed notices, directed to their several occupants or owners, intimating to the effect, that the late grand jury of the city of New York had presented each house a public nuisance, and that in consequence such house or houses were required by the corporation of said city to be levelled to the ground, or otherwise removed out of the way, some fifteen or twenty feet from their then frontage, or according to the width required to be added in the intended enlargement of the said street, within six months from the date of such notice ; otherwise that proceedings would be instituted against the owners or occupants of said houses respectively, and the houses levelled by the corporation, at the cost and expense of these several parties. A committee, or jury, it is true, was empanelled to assess the amount of any actual injury to be sustained by these individuals, and to whom some very inadequate compensation, as we were afterwards assured, was made. Some of the houses were accordingly prostrated, and the asserted nuisance abated in the others, by a device that is seldom practised in this country, and an entire new street, or rather an old street with entire new features created instead, that now forms the convenient thoroughfare of West Broadway.

It appeared that several of the houses, principally of large size two-story brick buildings, in some instances, three stories, had small gardens or yards in the rear, attached or belonging to them, which suggested the contrivance of removing back the entire buildings the required distance, instead of their being pulled down. The project was one well suited to the inventive mind and faculties of the American citizen, and was finally accomplished in every instance, without the occurrence of a single casualty, and without the inmates of some of the houses deeming it necessary to leave them while in progress of removal. The plan has since been adopted in other parts of the Republic, with similar success. The process, which is simple, is stated to have been also lately put into practice in the city of Boston, of which the following has been published :—

“ A very neat and successful operation was performed in Lincoln-street, in the removal of a block of two large three-story brick dwellings a distance of some ten or fifteen feet, for the

widening of the street. The new foundation for the houses had been, of course, previously prepared, and the houses themselves placed on a sort of railway, preparatory to their removal. The movement was effected by means of jackscrews, acting in a horizontal direction. The construction of the tracks, or ways, was novel, and extremely simple. They consisted of double lines of cast-iron plates inserted between the foundation of each of the walls of the building itself; and for wheels, or rollers, cannon-balls of equal size were placed between two lines of plates, the upper plates being inverted. As the foundation of these ways consisted of the original foundation of the building, there could of course be no hazard of yielding, as the whole building rested on walls of equal size ; it was moved without any dislocation or cracking of the walls in any part, or of the finishing. The operation has been accomplished with entire success. We understand also, that it has been done with very moderate expense, compared with the advantage gained of placing the whole edifice on its new foundation, without the slightest injury, and without hazard of serious accident.”

The extreme severity of the winter months in the northern and eastern states, partially closes the season of out-door employment for about three months in each year. But with the present facilities of transport, the industrious and persevering tradesman can, at a very trifling cost, make his way south, where he need seldom remain a day idle. The time employed, with the expenses of his journey, will be soon compensated to him by the increased wages he will receive, besides removing to a more congenial climate, at this particular season. The wages in the northern and eastern cities, for either masons or bricklayers, vary from one dollar and fifty cents to one dollar seventy-five cents per diem ; in the south, from two dollars to two dollars and a half per day ; the working hours the same, from seven o'clock in the morning until six in the afternoon, with one hour allowed for dinner.

*Plasterers*, as a necessary auxiliary and successor to the bricklayer, are in request proportionate to the demand for the latter. In winter months, in like manner, their wages are subject to deduction in the northern and eastern states. For this reason they should also go south, during this prohibitory season, where they will be tolerably sure of employment and good wages, averaging from fourteen to fifteen dollars per week. In the eastern states they receive about twelve dollars per week.

*Painters*.—Painting is an excellent trade, from the immense quantity of work of this description done throughout every part of the union. Both the in and outside of every house is largely indebted to this class of tradesmen for its embellishments—its cleanliness and general comfort. Sign-painting is also executed in a very superior manner, evidencing much skill, and general good taste in the conception, as in the general execution of the work. Wages vary from one dollar seventy-five cents, to two dollars per diem.

*Blacksmiths, Coachsmiths, Whitesmiths*, are, with common industry, sure to do well, particularly the former, which trade has rapidly advanced in its general improvement within the last few years, occasioned by the demand and steady encouragement given to home or domestic manufactures. The western country affords better prospects than the Atlantic states. Wages rate equally high, averaging from ten to twelve dollars per week, employment constant, whilst living and other general household expenses are much less.

*Coopering*.—A tolerably good trade as to wages ; but by no means so certain as some others of constant employment in the eastern or Atlantic states. In the inland or western states, the demand is considerably greater, and wages equally good ; as 'tis here that all provisions, such as beef, pork, butter, flour, &c , are made up and forwarded for shipment to the sea-board.

*Sawyers*.— This is by no means a remunerative trade, from the endless number of steam saw mills throughout every part of the country, with which manual labour is unable to compete.

*Machinists*, especially where a workman is gifted with any extraordinary talent and proficiency in his business, meet with encouragement, more particularly in the large manufacturing cities. Wages from twelve to fifteen dollars per week, and in particular instances, such as the above, as high as twenty dollars.

*Cutlers*.— This in America, is rather an indifferent trade ; as most of the cutlery used through-out the United States, is imported from England : none but first-rate hands can ensure employment.

*Tailors* are paid well, if first-rate workmen, particularly in the eastern states. New York is the principal mart, where an immense quantity of clothing is made up for the southern markets ; many mercantile houses employing from two to three hundred hands daily. Women also assist in this trade, to which in like manner they serve an apprenticeship, confining themselves to the lighter work of waistcoating, light trowsers, &c., which are usually made up of jeans, nankeens, China crape, black stuffs, mohair, and the variety of light fabrics, at which females, when fitted for this employment sometimes earn from four to seven dollars per week. A good cutter will always receive steady employment and good wages, and are usually engaged by the year at salaries, varying from six hundred to one thousand dollars.

Americans, though seldom encumbered with a very large wardrobe, are always neatly and well dressed ; their clothes far better and more fashionably made (after the latest London and Paris style) than of the same classes in England. Some, nevertheless, are not satisfied without their regular London tailors, and importing their clothes from England. Yet, a foreigner may be readily distinguished in any of the large cities of America, if only by his generally awkward slouching gait, and the style and mediocre cut of his entire vesture. Wages generally run from nine to twelve dollars per week.

*Boot and Shoe-making* is a tolerably good trade, though much interfered with in the western and middle country, by the competition of the Massachusetts and other New England states. There are towns in these districts, Lynn and Northampton among the number, where no other branch of business is carried on, and where immense quantities of all descriptions of boots and shoes, &c. are made up and forwarded to every the remotest part of the Union. Neither the quality of the materials, nor the work is generally of the best, and is certainly very far inferior to English manufacture, even of a medium kind. The leather is usually very indifferent, being always prepared by the quickest process that will allow it to be brought to market at the least cost. It yields to the most temperate use, notwithstanding the care that may be taken in its preservation, as it is seldom permitted to remain in the process of tanning sufficiently long to ensure its durability.

*Hatters* secure good wages, and if first-rate hands, are sure of constant employment. American hats, though tolerably well finished, and well looking, when new, are nevertheless, of a very inferior kind, and by no means lasting. They soon lose colour and shape, and in comparison with British manufacture, are every way a bad article. The cost of the best American hat is five dollars, or one guinea. Wages are uniform throughout the states, averaging from ten to twelve dollars weekly, a first rate finisher may obtain from fourteen to fifteen dollars.

Silk hats are also in general use, and are better made, but somewhat dear for the article produced, being seldom less than from three dollars to three dollars and a half each.



*Curriers and Leather-dressers* are rather indifferently paid, though in considerable request, especially in the eastern and middle states. New York is the principal mart ; several of its wealthiest merchants being engaged in this trade. Wages from eight to ten dollars weekly.

*Tanning* is a somewhat better trade than the former, and better paid. American leather is, nevertheless, a sorry article, forced into the market by the speediest process, over which legislation has no control ; it is rarely fit for any severe or reasonable wear.

*Saddle and Harness-making* is generally a good trade, in any part of the Republic, but is principally confined to the large cities. A considerable business is done in this line in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, as well in the state of New Jersey, principally for the southern market. Wages vary from nine to ten dollars.

*Engineers, or Steam-engine Superintendents*, are but indifferently paid, and by no means considered according to their general usefulness. The policy is a bad one ; as, where so much depends upon the capabilities and proper understanding of their business, a better encouragement would, no doubt, give employment to a more efficient and better class of men. The numerous and deplorable accidents that so frequently occur in American steam-travelling, though, perhaps, might not be altogether put an end to, would, no doubt, be materially lessened, and a somewhat better security be afforded to property and human life.

*Goldsmiths, Jewellers, &c.*—An excellent and well-supported trade, though in its infancy, and principally confined to New York, and a few other of the larger cities. Wages, to the best workmen, who are mostly foreigners, from fifteen to eighteen dollars per week.

*Silversmiths.*—Nearly equal to the foregoing trade, but also in its incipiency, and is principally confined to the larger cities, where there is a fair proportion of solid plain-work done, though none of the higher or more elaborate description to be met with in England. From twelve to fifteen dollars per week is the wages usually given to the best hands.

*Coach-making* is but a tolerably good business, and by no means so general, or as extensively carried on, as either the comforts of the people and amount of population would warrant. All description of vehicle, save, indeed, the stage-coaches, which are cumbersome and unwieldy machines, are very slightly built and put together. There are several extensive factories in the eastern states, especially at Troy, in the state of New York, and Newark, state of New Jersey, that export largely to the southern and foreign markets. The average wages to good hands is from ten to twelve dollars per week. The late statistical returns represent 5,551,632 dollars as the invested capital in this branch of trade, giving employment to 21,994 persons.

*Watchmaking.*—As yet unknown as a trade in America, at least as regards the manufacture of any new work ; the entire business being confined to the cleansing and repairing watches, time-pieces, &c. imported from Liverpool, Geneva, and other parts of the European continent ; the English watches being esteemed by far the most serviceable. The supply is at all times fully equal to the demand, which is very considerable, as the precision of the American in regulating the disposal of his time, and apportioning it to his advantage, has made it an indispensable auxiliary in his daily pursuits. Scarcely an individual, however restricted his means, that will be found without a watch in his pocket, and these very frequently of a most expensive kind, being, perhaps, the only article of dress in which he indulges any fancy for ostentation, or an extravagance so frequently beyond his means. The average invoice value of watches, time-pieces, &c. annually imported into the United States for the three years, 1837, 1838, and 1839, according to the official returns, amounted to

841,594 dollars ; the importation of the succeeding years, 1840 and 1841, have scarcely averaged half this amount.

*Glass-blowing—cutting—casting, &c.* affords but medium encouragement, though this branch of manufactures is somewhat extensively carried on in the eastern or Atlantic states. Cutters receive better pay than in any other branch of this trade. A great deal of stamped, or cast glass, is made for common wear, and which is sold at a reasonable cost, answering all the purposes of domestic use.

*Clerks*, or those seeking employment in counting-houses, or merchants' offices, will find it extremely difficult to procure situations, or salaries commensurate with their necessities in any part of the states in which they may be employed. The sons of the most wealthy and influential citizens are the frequent competitors for these situations. In the United States every man, whatever his means, turns to some or other useful employment; and it becomes an object to all, especially to those who intend trade as a future pursuit, to seek early practical instruction in some situation of this kind. The business of most retail houses is seldom so extensive that it may not be got through with some trifling aid, some limited addition to the proprietor's own immediate family. Many of the retail dry or soft-good stores, particularly in the state of Philadelphia, are attended by females, who, in all other, as in these establishments, are brought forward and put to use wherever their services can be made available. By this means the supply of shop and office labour is frequently increased beyond its demand, and the necessity which could give it employment. The usual salary to a clerk, whether in a merchant's office, bank, or other establishment, seldom averages more than from 250 to 300 dollars. There are some who are paid beyond this sum, perhaps 600 dollars ; and, in some few instances, 1000 dollars per annum. But situations of this kind are exceedingly rare.

*Shopmen*, on the whole, are somewhat better remunerated, their services and labour being generally considered greater. Foreigners are very seldom admitted to any of these situations, for which they are generally considered unfitted ; their want of knowledge of the country, the manners and general business-habits of its people, independent of the prejudice that exists against them throughout every part of the Republic, makes it at all times a matter of extreme difficulty their securing any appointment or provision of the kind.

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