

CHAPTER VI.

Social Equality.—Position of Servants.—War with England.—Coalition of Northern Democrats, and Southern Slave-owners.—Ostracism of Wealth.—Legislators paid.—Envy in a Democracy.—Politics of the Country and the City.—Pledges at Elections.—Universal Suffrage.—Adventure in a Stage Coach.—Return from the White Mountains.—Plymouth in New Hampshire.—Congregational and Methodist Churches.—Theological Discussions of Fellow-Travelers.—Temperance Movement.—Post-Office Abuses.—Lowell Factories.

Oct. 10, 1845.—DURING our stay in the White Mountains, we were dining one day at the ordinary of the Franconia hotel, when a lawyer from Massachusetts pointed out to me “a lady” sitting opposite to us, whom he recognized as the chambermaid of an inn in the State of Maine, and he supposed “that her companion with whom she was talking might belong to the same station.” I asked if he thought the waiters, who were as respectful to these guests as to us, were aware of their true position in society. “Probably they are so,” he replied; “and, moreover, as the season is now almost over in these mountains, I presume that these gentlemen, who must have saved money here, will very soon indulge in some similar recreation, and make some excursion themselves.” He then entered into conversation with the two ladies on a variety of topics, for the sake of drawing them out, treating them quite as equals; and certainly succeeded in proving to me that they had been well taught at school, had read good books, and could enjoy a tour and admire scenery as well as ourselves. “It is no small gratification to them,” said he, “to sit on terms of equality with the silver fork gentry, dressed in their best clothes, as if they were in an orthodox meeting-house.” I complimented him on carrying out in practice the American theory of social equality. As he had strong anti-slavery feelings, and was somewhat of an abolitionist, he said, “Yes, but you must not forget they have no dash of negro