

## CHAPTER XXXIX.

New York, clear Atmosphere and gay Dresses.—Omnibuses.—Naming of Streets.—Visit to Audubon.—Croton Aqueduct.—Harpers' Printing Establishment.—Large Sale of Works by English and American Authors.—Cheapness of Books.—International Copyright.—Sale of Eugène Sue's "Wandering Jew."—Tendency of the Work.—Mr. Gallatin on Indian Corn.—War with Mexico.—Facility of raising Troops.—Dr. Dewey preaching against War.—Cause of Influence of Unitarians.—Geological Excursion to Albany.—Helderberg War.—Voting Thanks to the Third House.—Place-hunting.—Spring Flowers—Geology and Taconic System.

*May 7, 1846.*—ON our return to New York, we were struck with the brightness of the atmosphere in spring, arising not merely from the absence of smoke, but from the quantity of solar light as compared to England, this city being in the same latitude as Naples. The unsullied purity of the air makes gay and brilliant colors in dress and furniture appropriate.

Every fortnight the "Journal des Modes" is received from France, and the ladies conform strictly to the Parisian costume. Except at balls and large parties, they wear high dresses, and, as usual in mercantile communities, spare no expense. Embroidered muslin, of the finest and costliest kind, is much worn; and my wife learnt that sixteen guineas were not unfrequently given for a single pocket handkerchief. Extravagantly expensive fans, with ruby or emerald pins, are also common. I had heard it said in France that no orders sent to Lyons for the furnishing of private mansions, are on so grand a scale as some of those received from New York; and I can well believe it, for we saw many houses gorgeously fitted up with satin and velvet draperies, rich Axminster carpets, marble and inlaid tables, and large looking-glasses, the style in general being Parisian rather than English. It was much more rare here than at Boston to see a library forming part of a suite of reception-rooms, or even a single book-case in a drawing-room, nor are pictures so common here.