

fish, to guarantee their good quality, and guard the public against imposition, in cases where the articles would be injured if opened and examined by the purchaser. It is scarcely necessary to state, that where the prey is so abundant, there will the eagles be gathered together; and besides the aspirants to vacant offices, there is a crowd of lawyers and paid agents of private individuals and companies, who have to watch the passage of private and public bills through the legislature. During the whole session, they fill the Governor's ante-room, and the lobby of each house; and, as they are equal in respectability, number, station, and influence, to the two other houses put together, besides that they spend, perhaps, more money in Albany, we dignify them with the name of 'the third house.'

"Are they," said I, "suspected of giving money-bribes to legislators?" "No; but they may convey a party of representatives on a railway trip, to make them acquainted with the merits of some case relating to a canal or railroad, and then entertain them with a dinner before they return." "In Massachusetts," said I, "people speak with more respect of their assembly." "No doubt, for in that state there is much less to give away, and therefore less corruption and intrigue. Besides, we have only 160 senators and representatives, whereas the assembly at Boston is far more numerous, so that it is not so easy to bring the influence of 'the third house' to bear upon it."

In the public museum at Albany, Dr. Emmons showed me a fine collection of simple minerals, rocks, and fossils, made by himself and other geologists to whom the state survey was intrusted. He then accompanied me across the Hudson River, to examine the slate and limestone eastward of Albany. Here, from the summit of Greenbush Hill, we enjoyed a magnificent view of the Catskill Mountains, and the Helderberg range in the distance. In the foreground was the river, and Albany itself, now containing a population of 40,000 inhabitants, with its domes and spires clustered together, in the higher parts of the city, and lighted up by a bright sunshine.

The day following, Dr. Emmons and Mr. James Hall went with me to explore the chain of the Bald Mountains, north of