[illegible] Pleasant and [illegible] and well-[illegible] and gentlemanly [illegible], evidently con-[illegible] to passengers to [illegible] steamboats. I wish [illegible] were more generally [illegible] the officers of roads and [illegible] many of whom put on, with their coats, more airs than graces, and, [illegible] in their little, brief authority," wear [illegible] as if they were diadems. Were I [illegible] steamboat superintendent, the first [illegible] of my printed code of instructions to the [illegible] should run thus: "Be polite and [illegible]; there is nothing that will cost you or your employers less, or which is more for your [illegible] interest." I do not know is this pre-[illegible] be in the written law of the Lexington and Louisville Road; but at least the agents observe it; though this may be only because, being gen-[illegible] and good fellows, they find it, from the [illegible], inscribed upon their understandings and their hearts. At any event, their attentiveness to our comfort, their readiness of good offices to all who came or went, gave (as you know it may, well do) additional pleasantness to the fine weather, the charming country through which we glanced along, and the sprightly occasion which had set us in motion. We enjoyed our way; we enjoyed the very crowd of strangers that went along with us. There was no fault-finding, no complaining; nothing seemed to go amiss. All was hilarity and good-will. Now, the Kentuckians are a remarkably good-natured and amiable people; but I could not help re-marking much of the good spirit which I saw to be the fact that they who had us in charge did their best to make every thing cheerful and agreeable. Had they been sores or boorish, we might all have been ill-tempered; the land-scape would have lost its beauty, the day its splendor, the road its smooth speed; we should have grumbled, instead of being gay, and quar-reled along that whole way, which, under the propitious influence of good conductors, rang with our jokes and our laughter. Such is the power of these officers!

Well: our special party was of eight, and, as you will presently see, rather distinguished, myself excepted. Placing them in the natural order of their merit, I will describe them. We were four of each sex; a happy adjustment, thus accounted pairing and would have not left a lad without his lass, but that (alas!) the lasses were three, the lads but one; three of our gender being seniors a little reverent, tho' neither potent nor grave. The dame in chief was a fine queenly lady, just verging into that period which silly women dread (and with reason) when the charms pass from the person to the mind. Arriving there, the merely pretty are discarded; while they who possess the bet-ter grace of the woman begin a new reign, and if they captivate as less, command us more. This lady has passed, perhaps, the fourth year of her accession to this second dominion. I dare not more closely define her age; for an infirmity so to that is, you know, the very last that lin-gers in the dear creatures, no matter how sensi-ble they may be. Let me add, however, that Mrs. [illegible] is the niece and was a great favorite of the prince of the statesmen of our time. To her has been entrusted the breeding-up of the three children of his brave son, who fell with so much honor at Buena Vista—that royal battle which may be said to have unmade a Mexican dictator and made an American President. Two of these children—a girl of seventeen and a boy of fourteen—were of our company; both highly promising, and bearing, in mind and manners, the evidences of the care and competency of their adoptive mother. The daughter has the form and the lineaments of her grandfather; the latter most closely copied, as to expression; but not faithful to his ugliness. For she is good-looking; while he, you know, would by no means have made a pretty woman. I am great-ly mistaken if she has not inherited as large a patrimony of his sense as a woman can well know what to do with. Our third female was a daughter of the present Chief-Justice of the State; a grand-niece of the most renowned of American Judges. A little younger and still quieter than her cousin, just described, she is remarkably silent. Now, that is a rare and an admirable quality, in a woman, which though it strongly implies that she has parts, yet is a bar to one's finding them out expeditiously. I saw reason, however, to suspect that she is clever. Indeed, her family are seldom otherwise. A fine gamesome girl of twelve, who promises to be everything charming, except a beauty, made our fourth female. She is another niece and adopted daughter of our lady in chief. So much for that sex; now for the other.

Except the fine lad already mentioned—too young for me to judge of his capacity, unless I were his teacher, but from whose quiet, gentle and ingenuous character I should augur very favorably of his understanding—we were all either ex or actual editors and authors. To the honors of that gentle craft the male chief of our party added other laurels: he is the author of "*What I saw in California*"—the best book yet written on that country; he led, as its captain, one of the earliest and best conducted exploring expeditions thither; he took the field there, under Kearney, as a soldier; he was, after the conquest, made Alcalde of San Francisco, and was probably one of the best judges they have ever had, in that not very well-governed country; and making a large fortune there, by a few judicious investments, he has, like a wise man, returned to a civilized region to enjoy what he has attained, and to spread its benefits among those he loves and the poor. Now, I call this a fine example and the man a rare character; for he has shone in peace and in war, as a soldier and a judge, in letters and in money-making; has known how to make a fortune honorably, and how to employ it ele-gantly, amiably and beneficently. Our next companion was the late editor of the Cincinnati Gazette, the present chief of the Louisville Courier; a gentleman, the merits of whose professional career (for, thank Heaven! the Press is at last growing into recognition among us, so, what it should be, a profession, and one of the most leading ones,) are even exceeded by those of his private life. His cleverness as a public writer, his integrity as a politician, are not more remarkable than his personal modesty and amiability. Nor is he undistinguished by the elegant talents of the poet and the man of letters. Last and least of the party was its present historian; who, having thus made you acquainted with the actors, will, at some future time, relate to you the adventures of our ex-pedition. H. SECRETARIO.

LOUISVILLE, September 28, 1853.

Louisville—now grown into a populous and handsome as well as busy city—lies, you must recollect or learn, in a sort of depressed plain, or wide bay of the land, and reaches to its upper edge. Back of it and below it spreads this level, in a suburb and country-houses, which are every day receding before the rapid growth of the town. They at first present, as you leave the busier quarter, streets chiefly of elegant habitations, where people of fortune seem to have sought refuge from the dust and din of business, or space for statelier residences and more ornamented grounds. The aspect of many of these streets is very delightful; for the flowers are very pretty, the lots large and deep, and the lushness of the climate and soil give a charming exuberance and variety to all the natural ornaments of such retreats—trees, shrubs and flowers. These are showered, all along, in the greatest beauty and profusion. Now and then, you come upon large and opu-lent mansions, which they absolutely embower, in a half tropical luxuriance.

I am stepping for the senses, not compiling a statistical account. The latter I leave to the gentry of the census bureau, or to geographers, or to any body else who is blest with a genius for figures. Before, however, we bid farewell to Louisville, let me remark that it merits a special attention, as the point where Mrs. Har-riet Beecher Stowe saw all that she can *pretend* personally to know of slavery. Now she avows, in the introduction of that footsteet of fictions, her "Uncle Tom's Cabin," that she never was in a slave State, except during a short visit to Louisville. All her further knowledge of the peculiar institution she honestly to have been de-rived either from what had been told her by her husband, brothers, or with the fugitive slaves

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