

ward to get into or out of, one could stretch himself and sleep comfortably. Then there was the novelty of the thing, which was in itself an enjoyment. The scenery was frequently splendid, and during the trip I witnessed the most sublime display of the northern lights I have ever seen before or since. After we struck the New York Central railroad we left the boat, and reached Albany in due time without any accident, although we descended to the city on an inclined plane. At Albany we took a steamer on the Hudson River, and next day we landed safely in New York. The trip from Wisconsin took us thirteen days, which was considered an unusually quick voyage.

While in New York we presented our letter of introduction to the widow of Alexander Hamilton, and mother of William S. Hamilton, our neighbor out in Wisconsin, who had given us a note to her. Mrs. Hamilton, while on a visit to her son out in Wisconsin, a few years previous, had been a guest of my mother's and we were most graciously received and spent a pleasant evening at her house. Her conversation was charming and instructive, and, notwithstanding her great age, she looked the picture of health.

Having completed our business, we started on our homeward journey by way of Philadelphia, and thence to Chambersburg, at the foot of the Alleghany mountains. Thus far we came by railroad, but now we had to take the stage-coach again. We started out of Chambersburg at nightfall, and reached the summit in the morning, where there was a tavern called the "Summit house."¹ Here a halt was made, and we were told we could have our breakfast. The stage, happily, was not crowded; but having been jolted all night and somewhat chilled, we were anxious for a good breakfast. We had hardly sat down to the table, when the driver blew his horn, and called all aboard. He would not wait for us, but started ahead, and we were obliged to run after him. We succeeded in stopping him, and

¹ Still maintained as a house of refreshment, on the "Cumberland pike," above Uniontown, Pa.—ED.