

Werk

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and two portions ample for three. The *table d'hôte* restaurants, on the other hand, often give excellent value for their charges (comp. p. 9).

Soup, fish, poultry, game, and sweet dishes are generally good; but the beef and mutton are often inferior to those of England. Oysters, served in a great variety of styles, are large, plentiful, and comparatively cheap. In America wine or beer is much less frequently drunk at meals than in Europe, and the visitor is not expected to order liquor 'for the good of the house'. Iced water is the universal beverage, and a cup of tea or coffee is included in all meals at a fixed price. Wine is generally poor or dear, and often both. It is much to be regretted that, outside of California, the native vintages, which are often superior to the cheap imported wines, seldom appear on the wine-list; and travellers will do good service by making a point of demanding Californian wines and expressing surprise when they cannot be furnished. Liquors of all kinds are sold at *Saloons* (public houses) and *Hotel Bars* (comp. p. 10). Restaurants which solicit the patronage of 'gents' should be avoided. The meals on dining-cars and 'buffet cars' are generally preferable to those at railway-restaurants. Tipping the waiter is, perhaps, not so general as in Europe, but is usually found serviceable where several meals are taken at the same place. Cafés, in the European sense, are seldom found in the United States except in New Orleans (p. 415) and a few other cities with a large French or German element in the population. The name, however, is constantly used as the equivalent of restaurant and is sometimes applied to first-class bar-rooms.

VI. Post and Telegraph Offices.

Post Office. The regulations of the American postal service are essentially similar to those of Great Britain, though the practice of delivering letters at the houses of the addressees has not been systematically extended to the rural districts. The service is, perhaps, not quite so prompt and accurate. The supply of letter-boxes is generally abundant, but the number of fully equipped post-offices is much lower (proportionately) than in England. Stamps are sold at all drug-stores and hotels, and often by letter-carriers.

All 'mailable' matter for transmission within the United States and to Canada and Mexico is divided into four classes: 1st. Letters and all Sealed Packets (rate of postage 2 c. per oz. or fraction thereof); 2nd. Newspapers and Periodicals (1 c. per 4 oz.); 3rd. Books, etc. (1 c. per 2 oz.); 4th. Merchandise and Samples (1 c. per oz.). Postal cards 1 c.; reply postal cards 2 c. A 'special delivery stamp' (10 c.) affixed to a letter, in addition to the ordinary postage, entitles it to immediate delivery by special messenger within certain limits. Letters to countries in the Postal Union cost 5 c. per 1/2 oz., postal cards 2 c., books and newspapers 1 c. per 2 oz. The *Registration Fee* is 8 c.; the stamp must be affixed to the letter before presentation for registration, and the name and address of the sender must be written on the envelope. Undeliverable letters will be returned free to the sender, if a request to that effect be written or printed on the envelope.

Domestic Money Orders are issued by money-order post-offices for any amount up to \$100, at the following rates: for sums not exceeding \$2 1/2, 3 c.; \$2 1/2-5, 5 c.; \$5-10, 8 c.; \$10-20, 10 c.; \$20-30, 12 c.; \$30-40, 15 c.; \$40-50, 18 c.; \$50-60, 20 c.; \$60-75, 25 c.; \$75-100, 30 c. For strangers these are not so convenient as the money-orders of the *Express Companies* (comp. p. xvii), as identification of the payee is demanded, unless this is specifically waived by the remitter. — *Foreign Money Orders* cost 10 c. for each \$10.

Telegraph Offices. The telegraphs of the United States are mainly in the hands of the *Western Union Telegraph Co.*, with its headquarters in New York (p. 14). and the service is neither so