Anchor was now dropped at a pier where the ship's cargo of iron was to be unloaded, and the passengers lost no time in setting foot on the much longed for shore. With the aid of Captain Bohlin they obtained lodging in a mediocre boarding house, and the comments and observations made by Unonius at this juncture and during his sojourn in New York are not only true and striking but in his inimitable style of writing conducive to real merriment.

We were like lost sheep and did not dare to leave the house for fear of getting lost in the mass of moving people, as we knew not a single soul nor the language spoken around us. We thought it best to keep indoors 'under civil arrest' until the captain would return to our rescue. However, mealtime came and the table was set for us as well as for other guests, and, after having been designated our seats, we remained standing, and a simple prayer was said according to table manners in Sweden. This attracted the attention of all present, some looking on in astonishment, others with mingled respect and ridicule, but the majority with only slight notice, like something they had seen and heard sometime or other, but which seemed too commonplace to take part in. With good appetites the bountiful meal was consumed, and I must with shame confess that we arose from the table this time without prayer to avoid criticism and to prove that we in Rome could do as the Romans do. Thus, we ended our meal without thanks to Him who gives us our daily bread. And just that easily do we drift from Him because of shyness of being adversely observed by the world.

OBSERVATIONS IN NEW YORK

They remained one week in New York in order to obtain reliable information on the conditions in the West and to choose a place on which to settle, but found to their surprise that little, if anything, was actually known here of the western states. They were fortunate to make the acquaintance of a landsman, returning to Sweden, who had lived in Illinois for a considerable time. He advised them to go there and also described in glowing terms its favorable agricultural conditions, its wonderful climate, and the abundance of
suitable land from which to choose. They became much impressed and accordingly decided to go there.\textsuperscript{3}

**DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK**

After long, deliberate consideration of the pros and cons of the meager and unreliable information and advice which they had obtained, the party finally came to an agreement with a transportation company for conveyance to Chicago. The sum agreed upon was $12 per person, including meals en route, which was thought most liberal in view of the great distance to be covered and no extra charge for baggage. They received a receipt for the money paid, which circumstance proved very valuable in later events.

They made a final visit to the good ship *Minnet* and bid their adieux to Captain Bohlin with their sincere thanks to him and his crew for the skill shown and kindness extended in safely transporting them this far and for unselfishly assisting them in many ways while in New York. Here Unonius records:

In a foreign port one feels a sort of attachment to the ship which serves as transport from one’s native land. It rises like a monument in the memory of the event. It serves as a binding bridge between it and the far distant shore.

The seventeenth of September.

Late in the afternoon they embarked on the steamer *Rochester* and headed up the Hudson river. With them was Polman, who had decided to join his future with theirs. They were now left entirely to themselves among a mixed

\textsuperscript{4}Unonius in this chapter of his *Memoirs* gives an extensive description of the family life, manners of the people, the social, economic and political situation, and the geographical development together with many other observations of the then existing conditions in New York and the country as a whole. All of this information is irrelevant and does not come within the scope of this volume, but was meant by him to more particularly serve as advice for subsequent emigrants.