

use the sweet waters of the Elbe; a little lower down they became brackish. On this our first day out we passed Glückstadt, a Danish town; here we saw a man-of-war in the little harbour, it being much needed for the protecting of the customs. As I wanted to take the last chance of enjoying myself ashore and wished also to settle some affairs at my inn, I went over to Freyburg on the afternoon of the 20th. The place is small, rather a village than a town, the people are chiefly graziers and fisher folk. By my return the sailors had sighted the ships coming on from Stade and elsewhere. The 22nd we again weighed anchor and dropped down only to Cuxhaven (6 miles), the wind being not very favourable; here we spent the night preparatory to an early start the next day. Cuxhaven is a suburban part of Hamburg, situated at the mouth of the Elbe, and being convenient for ships entering or clearing. Its citizens are prosperous and but little taxed. At 7 A.M. the 23rd of March, the wind being more favourable the officer in command ordered a gun to be fired, which was the signal for our putting out. At first we made way very fast, soon leaving behind the Island of Neuwerck, with its light-house and straggling buildings. A Hamburg pilot vessel was in waiting opposite the island to take the pilots off; curs taking leave of us in quite an affecting manner.

The commencement of our voyage was most auspicious. So light was the wind and so gently did we glide through the water that we spent the greater part of the day in jollily converse on deck. We were surrounded by a sea like a mirror which was lit up by the fiery rays of the sun. Such a sight never fails to make a powerful impression on one previously unaccustomed to anything so sublime. One P.M. we sighted the red and sterile coast of Heligoland and at 5 P.M. were so near it as to be able to distinguish everything very clearly. The first objects to strike were a church and a light-house, and then a little town the cliffs and some fishermen's huts down by the water.