

straight, and the pedestal too large and heavy. The saying current at the time of its presentation to America by the French nation came to one's mind: "All the liberty France ever had she gave to America."

Immediately after breakfast, the Custom's officer came on board, and took up his position in the dining-saloon. Everybody had to pass before him and sign a declaration he had nothing liable to duty. I noted that one gentleman declared two bottles of whisky and 150 cigars, and was allowed to take them in free. The whole business of disembarking was very wearisome, not the less so because of the heavy rain that fell all the morning. However, we were agreeably surprised with the Custom's House. We had been told over and over again that the officers were rude and rough, and did their best to annoy the traveller, often upsetting all his goods on to the ground, and leaving him to re-pack as best he might; while ladies spoke of heavy charges on old clothes, on the pretext that they were new. It used to be the rule to bribe the officials, but new men had been lately appointed on purpose to stop it, and should any one offer a bribe to one of these, the consequences would be serious. We had made up our mind not to bribe, as a few hours' delay at the docks would be better than a few weeks in New York, should we hit upon the wrong man.

When, after weary waiting, our turn came, we found a very gentlemanly, quiet-mannered person, who did not look in the least bribable. He examined everything most minutely, opening with special interest any