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“Land of the free—I hail thee mine.”

BEFORE casting anchor, all who were able had arrayed themselves in “sunday suits”—or “their best”; and no sooner was the boat slung over and lowered upon the water, than there was a rush as if the vessel (which was moored about sixty yards from land) had been on fire, or visited by the plague; and they were in danger of swamping the boat. When the full complement had descended, I said to the others—“stay back my boys, you will have many opportunities to get ashore; and don’t be alarmed, for you will all get enough of Canada.” They took my advice, and the Captain giving the word “feather your oars!” dip went the wooden fins, and away we went, cutting the liquid element, when coming close in shore, I again used “the unruly member,” by saying—“now, salute this stranger earth, which will, we humbly hope, treat us all better than our mother of the old country has done. Kiss the ground my lads! by which we shall live, on which we shall walk or ride, if lucky, and that shall cover our bodies, which will sleep sound, as if all the orthodox Presbyterian Clergymen of Scotland were, with uplifted hands, ‘in at the death.’”!

We stept ashore, but from the vast number of bipeds constantly pattering over it, to apply the lips was impossible,—though many a high and low blooded fellow, when his coat is out at the elbow, has kissed a more disgustful object, for gildres to keep up the ball. We perhaps being all frail, might have been equally *prudent*, covering disgust with the appearance of strong affection, had any advantage been in prospect,—but as nothing would be gained by the transaction, of course it was not performed. But the feelings of all were greatly excited, though each countenance shewed disappointment,—yet thinking that fortunes were to be rapidly amassed, with which they would return to astonish relatives, friends,—and on Sundays cause the congregation to stare at their grandeur, instead of humbly and respectfully listening for immortal lessons, flowing from lips more learned and eloquent, but frail and mortal like themselves. They each laid a hand upon the rock when stepping ashore: one, no matter who, had the curled head uncovered, and “hat in hand” as he performed the salutation with the other.

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