

of which fires are lighted every night for the security of ships, we, without trouble or danger, cast anchor, and were sheltered from the wind, which blew all night with uncommon violence.

I am ignorant whether the land after a long voyage appears more beautiful than it really is; but I am certain that the sight of Sandy Hook made me experience novel and delightful sensations. The verdure of the surrounding hills, the neatness and elegance of the houses, the apparent fertility of the earth, the number of ships entering and departing; in short, every thing pleased and astonished me. I passed the rest of the day in contemplating this charming landscape, and in discoursing with my fellow-travellers on the new country which we were going to visit.

A lantern affixed to the top of our main-mast, announced to the pilots that we were in want of their assistance; and the next day, by sun-rise, we received one on board. The north wind, which continued to blow, although with less violence, obliged us to tack for two hours, and pass from the bay of Sandy Hook to that of New York. The entry of this bay is so bound by the two points of land which form it, that a few pieces of cannon planted on the shores would prevent the approach of ships of all descriptions. If the United States have neglected this precaution, it must be attributed to the great security in which they live with respect to the powers of Europe.

At ten o'clock we arrived before a fine hospital, distant nine or ten miles from New York. Here the physician appointed to inspect the ships, resides. Those in which he finds any sick are obliged to perform a quarantine proportioned to the nature of the sickness. As we were all in good health, the doctor's visit was not long. He congratulated us on our good appearance, drank a glass of Madeira wine, and returned to his house, having given the captain a certificate of health for himself and all his company. Scarcely had we set sail again when several journalists arrived, anxious to receive the latest news from Europe. We delivered to them all the papers we were in possession of; and, as an acknowledgment, they received such of the passengers on board as were desirous of going on shore. I was among this number; for being much weakened by the sea-sickness, I desired to regain an element on which I should be able to recover my health and strength. At length, after a short sail, I arrived at the land of liberty, the only place perhaps in the civilised world where people freely communicate their thoughts without dread of the laws, which only restrain calumny; and where the powerful man is no more than the plain citizen, who more strictly owes an account of his public and private conduct to society. Happy people, if they know how to render themselves worthy of this liberty without abusing it!