

The party fortunately reached the Tower before the boats started ; and after some talk from Mrs. S., a few growls from Mr. S., ditto sighs for Mr. Hitchcomb, from Miss S., and the usuals from Uncle Brown, they found themselves on board, and thought that nothing but pleasure was now to come.

An hour was spent in waiting for, and another in taking breakfast ; which short space of time did not suffice for all Mr. S.'s complaints at having to breakfast with about two hundred people between wind and water—the music setting his teeth on edge—the thump, thump, thump of the engine shaking the three-inch-square pieces of roll into his throat before he could masticate them, in defiance of the sausage-machine rapidity of his jaws—and hundreds of other annoyances.

Mrs. S., however, was not to be baulked of her pleasure—she enjoyed herself, she said, very much ; and Jemima and Uncle Brown were quite delighted. Matters went on in this way till they “ got out to sea,” when Mrs. Stokes, finding herself growing giddy, at once owned that “ things seemed to take an unpleasant turn.” Away came Jemima with her hand on her mouth to her mother—“ What, child ! are you taken ill, too ? ” “ No, no, mamma ; but we had better go below directly.” “ Oh, the captain says the wind is in our teeth—so I’m sure we shall have the toothache ! ” “ La, child, that’s the expression they use when the wind blows from the front ; and when it blows from behind, they say we are going before the wind.” “ Why, mamma, I thought the steam-boats always went before the wind, because they’ve no occasion to wait for it.” “ Well, love, I—I—O dear, how ill I am ! ” “ Oh, so am I—I—O dear, it’s just come on ! ”—and they sank down upon a seat, overcome by those “ *unspeakable sensations* one feels on leaving one’s native shore for the first time.”

Meanwhile the gentlemen, to their shame be it spoken, took little notice of the sufferings of the ladies. “ Will you take a segar with me ? ” asked a dandy of Uncle Brown. “ I should feel proud, sir ; but do you not see what is written on the paddle-