

rising and setting of the sun are the signals for the application of the match. At this elevated point, the first appearance of the luminary above the horizon of the vast Mediterranean Sea, is caught by the watchful sentinel ;—and in the evening, as the orb of day dips into the vaster Atlantic, the same watchful soldier catches the last glimpse of his glorious disc ;—and, at the instant, the loud report sounds in the ears of the busy multitude at the mountain's base, proclaiming sun-set.

I paced the ship's deck till past midnight, listening to the sounds and noises from the shore ; the tolling of bells, the martial drum, and the hum of the thronged mart ; and gazing at the deep shadows cast on the waters by the mountain fortress or at the lights from every house, until they one by one disappeared, and the silver moon alone shed its radiance on the scene.

I was up betimes in the morning, to feast my eyes on the celebrated stronghold, whose name is a synonyme for impregnability. Gibraltar looked not as my fancy had pictured it. Viewed from the Bay its batteries have by no means so frowning an aspect as those of Quebec and Cape Diamond viewed from the River St. Lawrence, or from Point Levi. The batteries of the latter are on the summits of lofty precipices ; whereas the principal batteries of the former, as visible from the water, rise from, and run along the sea line or beach. On the Mediterranean side of "the Rock," however, the idea of impregnability must strike every beholder ; for on that side a precipice rises almost perpendicularly from the sea, some fourteen hundred feet. Viewed from the narrow isthmus that connects the Rock with Spain, the impression of impregnability will scarcely be less perfect ; for there, too, it abruptly rises to the same elevation, with the exception of a small space between it and the Bay, which affords entrance to the town ; and this space is so defended, that the idea of attacking Gibraltar at that point could never enter the head of a sane man. The isthmus referred to, is a mere tongue of sand ; a low narrow bank, connecting Spain with the Rocky precipice. But, if Gibraltar does not look, from the Bay, so formidable as Quebec does, from the River St. Lawrence, there can be no question, that it is vastly a prouder stronghold. With a competent garrison, plenty of provisions, and abundance of the implements and munitions of war, Gibraltar may deride the efforts of all the armies and navies of the world. With the exception of the narrow isthmus referred to, it is surrounded by the deep sea. The mountain's perpendicular heights, sufficiently protect it against an enemy on three of its sides ; and on the other, there is the Sea, (for the Bay may be called the Sea, being three leagues across,) and massive

batteries rising to a considerable elevation from the water's edge, flanked by bastions ; and all along the mountain's face wherever there is lodgment for a cannon, one sees its protuberant mouth. Forlorn indeed would be the hope of successful assault on that side ; and as to all other points, milt soldiers are furnished with wings, and soar by brigades like eagles, they need never attempt hostile entrance into this fortress.

About mid-day, I stepped into the boat to go ashore ; all alive and on tip-toe with expectation and excitement. As may be supposed, one cannot land where he chooses. There is only one point of entry into the garrison from the water, for civilians. This is at the New Mole, as a long projecting wall of solid masonry is termed. This wall, which stretches out into the Bay from the shore some hundred feet, is known, in military phrase, as "the Devil's tongue battery ;" and a most appropriate designation all will admit it to be, who glance at the "iron pack" that show their teeth on either side, and fancy them in "full cry." One of its broad-sides overlooks the approach to the Rock from Spain across the narrow sandy isthmus, already alluded to,—the other commands the Bay. Sentries paced up and down this wall, their bayonets glistening in the sun's rays.

A busy scene met the eye as the boat rounded the extremity of the Mole. It had been previously concealed from view by the vast length of the projecting breakwater ; behind it, scarcely lay hundreds of lighters, small craft, and sail-boats ; whilst at the landing place there was a market thronged with a mass of human beings, in dresses as numerous as those of a "Fancy Ball," vociferating in all the known, and to judge from the uproar, in some of the unknown, tongues, also.

There were crowds of swarthy Spaniards, Italians, and natives of the Rock (known as Rock scorpions or lizards,) reminding me strongly of our scarcely less swarthy, Jean Baptiste ; great numbers of women, chiefly in real cloaks and hoods trimmed with black ; soldiers and soldiers' wives and children, sailors of all kinds, from the stylish man of war's man, to the dirty lighter man ; citizens of the town ; numbers of Barbary Jews in their long black gowns, their beards reaching to their breasts, resembling so many goats or orang-outangs ; Moors from the opposite coast, with turbaned heads and slippered feet ; the Catalan with his scarlet cap, and the Greek in his fancy dress. The noises proceeding from forth this multitude could not well have been exceeded by the confusion of tongues at Babel ; whilst to make the noise "confusion worse confounded," there were hundreds of donkeys (they call them boricos at the Rock) bray-