

have given of it; but he owns that he saw it in a calm, and therefore was incompetent to judge of its sublime effects, when agitated by a storm.

As soon as the ship entered the current, they were carried along with great velocity towards Messina, which lies twelve miles from the entrance of the straits. The approach to Messina is the finest that can be imagined; it is less grand indeed than that of Naples, but it is much more attractive. The key is very beautiful: it is built in the form of a crescent, and surrounded by a range of magnificent structures, four stories high, and exactly uniform, for the space of an Italian mile. The street between these and the sea is one hundred feet wide, and forms one of the most delightful walks in the world. It enjoys the freest air, and commands the most charming prospect imaginable.

They cast anchor in this enchanting port on the afternoon of the 18th, but the felicity they expected immediately to taste on landing, was soon damped, by the discovery, that an unfortunate omission had been made of the name of one of their servants in the bills of health. Had this been detected, they would have been obliged to perform a long quarantine; but by shutting the poor fellow up till the health officers were gone, they escaped this unpleasant ceremony.

Having got on shore, they took up their lodging at one of the first inns in Messina, though they found it a very wretched place. However, after sea-sickness and tossing on the waves, any house appeared a palace, and any dry land a paradise.

The harbour of Messina is formed by a small promontory, or neck of land, that runs off from the east end of that city, and separates this basin from

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