

for an old red uniform coat and six muskets. We had scarcely finished breakfast, when the doctor came on board. He was a fat little man, and joining Captain Parsons, put his questions with the rapidity of routine, but in a tone of natural good humour.

"Well, how are all here? all well? all well?" he asked. "Is that lad hump-backed?" pointing to my fourth son.

"Sit up, my man!" said Captain Parsons, giving him a slap on his rounded shoulders; and the doctor was quickly satisfied that the great republic was not called upon to admit any deformity.

"And in the steerage," he inquired; "how many dead?"

"None."

"How many born?"

"Two."

"Any sickness?"

"None."

"Any deformed,—unable to gain their living?"

"None?"

"Any broken bones?"

“One.”

They went to inspect the poor fellow whose leg had been broken on board; and it was explained to me, that, had any of the emigrants been maimed, the captain would have been required to deposit a fund to meet any expense the township might incur in their maintenance. I was also assured, that the fees paid to this doctor of quarantine had so much increased with the increase in the shipping of New York, as to make his place the very best in the Union. I will not venture to record figures: but the remuneration seemed to be preposterously great—some £50,000 sterling a year. The fees of the United States consul at Liverpool in the first six months of that year had been £8000 sterling.

Our captain went on shore, he said, to fetch a custom-house officer, who should examine our luggage on board. This appeared a convenience, and we assented to await his return, while all our packages should be got up from the hold and laid in the saloon. Meanwhile, also, our poor emigrants dressed themselves in their best clothes, and brought up their

trunks, on which they seated themselves. They sat for hours, casting wistful eyes on the green land of promise, in which each hoped for plenty or fortune. We went to dinner; and, at three o'clock, an officer came from the customs to examine all personal luggage. Captain Parsons invited him to enter, and take a glass of wine at our table; but he answered that he would dismiss all the emigrants first. Three hundred and sixty of these had, at least, as many boxes: and one man was to inspect them all, and let them go on shore that night! It may well be conceived that the examination was not a very rigid one. Some of the boxes were chalked without being opened at all; many were unlocked and closed after a passing glance at the boots and shoes and working clothes of the owners; some were more rigidly inspected; but, in two or three hours, all were scored with chalk and declared free to land.

This jewel of a custom-house officer then entered our saloon; and as we were having tea, he sat down and took a cup, instead of the wine which he had deferred. Meanwhile,

he looked us over, and doubtless formed his own opinion as to our smuggling propensities. He took my four-year-old boy on his knee and chatted with him; then jumping up, said to him, "Come, my little fellow, you come round with me and tell me what is in every one of these boxes."

"A capital device," I said; "children and fools speak truth."

He smiled in reply; and then commenced his tour with the child, who replied to his mock investigation.

"Well now, sir," he said, turning to me, "here are forty-two packages. I shall open four of them. Be so good as to point out which they shall be."

I requested him to make the selection himself. He unlocked two instead of four out of the lot, and then scored them all with chalk and wished us good evening.

The man was evidently above receiving a bribe, like Italian *doganieri* in all the pride of military uniform; and nothing of the sort was offered to him. He had the good sense to act upon the rational, rather than the vex-

atious interpretation of the instructions he had received. Let travellers in Europe say which system is the pleasantest, and, in the long run, the most profitable to the revenue of the country—making allowance for the salary of the host of officials whom such an arrival would employ in Europe. The doctor and this custom-house officer had been on board, and we were now free to land with all our goods, and to circulate or reside without hindrance or inquiry, without passport or *carta di soggiorno*, through all and in all the wide territories of the Union!

I inquired what would become of our fellow-emigrants; and was assured that Germans never came unprovided: that each had doubtless his destination fixed before he left his own country—probably in Wisconsin, which is being much settled by Germans—where friends were expecting him; and that assuredly all had sufficient sums of money secreted about their persons, although they seldom “broke bulk” in New York.

At seven o'clock, all our luggage was dragged into a kind of steam-tug, that had come