

vessel fast approaches the anchoring ground ; where are riding vessels of all nations, engaged in traffic or waiting for a wind, giving assurance of the importance of the port of Gibraltar while in British possession. Bustle and noise now prevail on board, and trunks, boxes, bags, and umbrellas, with all such *im-fedimenta*, come lumbering on deck ; each is engaged in his own affairs, thinking only of himself, while the steward is thinking of all. Stop her ! cries the commander from his station on the paddle-box ; and in a moment the wonderful machinery is at rest ; the vessel, however, silently continues a few yards exhausting the impetus she has received : a momentary pause ensues, the steam roars on being set free, the chain cable rattles, the anchor parts from the bows, and *stat litore puppis*.

7. Shall we be kept long at the Custom House ? is the next interesting question ;—