

But what means the crowd of boats that hover at a distance from the steamer? They are waiting to convey on shore the passengers, but cannot approach until the visit is made by the pratique officer; and see—his boat arrives. All now crowd to the side of the vessel; certain standing interrogatories are put, necessary questions asked, and satisfactorily answered, when the officer steps on board to take the commander by the hand, and the vessel is in free pratique.

8. Then follows the confusion of a disembarkation, while tickets are offered (a recent practice) from the owners of houses called hotels, earnestly entreating you to become their guest; and our traveller, having in recollection the commodious inns at Southampton or at Falmouth, now encounters the beginning of his discomforts; for, being assured there are only two where he would like to quarter himself, the Club-house and