

ravages by pledging my unpaid salary for payment of the debts thus contracted, when another inroad was as unexpectedly made on our peace, which threatened much more serious consequences. I was walking along the wharves in a dress, as it should seem, too indicative of my poverty, when a press-gang seized on me, and, in spite of my resistance, remonstrances and entreaties, hurried me on board a guard ship, where I lay for two days in momentary expectation of being taken before the mast of a man of war. My deliverance was owing to the resolution and conduct of that incomparable woman, whom in all my trials I have found a tutelary angel; and whom it is the keenest of my pangs to think I have reduced to indigence and wretchedness. She locked up our house, and with her daughters hanging on her arms, flew to the admiralty, where, having made her way through the contumely of underlings and the repulses of their lords, she never ceased her suit till an order was granted for my release. Even this had nearly come too late; for it was with no small difficulty I satisfied the officers of the custom-house, that my absence was accidental, and not owing to some irregularity, which ought to deprive me of my place.

But I shall tire you with these sorry details; which, melancholy as they are, I cannot but think present an existence preferable to the vagabond career you follow. A few months will inure us to lowliness, and clothe our humble fire-side with all the ineffable charms of home. If you will but bring the large accession of relief which your society