

vering human footsteps; convinced, however, that there was no possibility of flying from danger, as the whole island was almost within a single view, and thinking the most despicable certainty preferable to the horrors of suspense, he hollowed two or three times without receiving a return; but at last a distant sound reached his ear, which was soon succeeded by the appearance of two of his own men, the only two that had escaped the fury of the waves and the distresses of famine in the whole boat's company.

The rencounter was a most pleasing one, he led them down to us in a kind of triumph, and we too, from our ignorance of the future, participated his joy, and gave the best reception in our power to our new found friends.

As all distinctions were levelled by our common necessities, all subordination ceased of course; the two men, though but little qualified to mix in rational conversation, unhesitatingly threw out their barbarous observation, or their vulgar jest. I own I frequently trembled lest they should transgress the bounds of decency, but never communicated my fears, because I would not destroy the show of harmony that it was our interest to preserve.

By the advice of these men we were tempted to make some efforts towards quitting our contracted situation, and as they undertook to repair the boat, which had floated into a creek, it was to be our care to make the other necessary provisions for our voyage to the continent.

The boat at length fitted up, though my mother still continued in a weak state, we madly trusted ourselves once more to that element that had used us so hardly, and for one whole day continued in very good spirits; but as night approached it was thought most judicious to make another of the many little islands along which we coasted, and renew our efforts the next morning for reaching a part of the continent where we might safely land; this was accordingly put into execution, and we sat down to supper with uncommon cheerfulness. During our humble repast one of the fellows began to treat my sister with insufferable familiarity, which she endeavoured to avoid without complaint, for fear of ill consequences; but our captain, not sufficiently master of himself to be a tame spectator of this unexpected boldness, reprimanded him with great severity; when they both, instantly throwing off the mask, seized my sister and me in their hands, pronounced us their property, and swore they would convey us far from his reach and interruption if either we or he refused to submit to their

superior power. My mother, how shall I describe her agonies! weak and emaciated, her despair nevertheless gave her the strength to fold her feeble arms about us. 'And have we lived for this' (cried she) 'lived only to endure ten-fold misery. God of my salvation, look down and speak us into peace! I will die (said she to one of the ruffians that was for pushing her away,) before I will quit my hold, my sweet, amiable, wretched children!' 'Die then (said the monster aiming a knife at her bosom,) for we want nothing but your daughters. There was now no time to be lost, our captain in one and the same instant, wrested the knife from the villain's hand, and stabbed both him and his accomplice in the whirlwind of his desperation; they fell—and a scene of carnage ensued, which I should be happy to lose the remembrance of; for the captain was obliged to give them many more wounds before they were wholly dispatched, and we at leisure to weep over our departing mother, now reduced by this unexpected shock to the immediate verge of eternity. 'Approach my beloved children, said she, as well as she was able, and instead of lamenting, rejoice that I have attained the end of my sufferings; it is true, I behold you at present delivered, but what may hereafter be your fate is a fearful reflection. O sir, (turning to the captain) to you we owe more than our existence, by you I am certain they will never be forsaken, but what is your single arm! I see, I see no prospect but misery unutterable, and that I do not die in peace, is because they must survive me; yet beware of despondency, be the father, the friend, the protector, and in return—' This best of mothers became now so faint that she could add no more, and in a few moments expired with her eyes fixed upon us, and pressing the hand of our generous deliverer. At this instant the firing of a small gun roused us, notwithstanding we were nearly stupified with our wretchedness, into a state of reflection; we now looked around, and then on each other, when at length, beyond our utmost hopes, we perceived a small ship at a distance. Our captain flew to the highest ground, and by some means, though I know not what, made them sensible of our distress; they sent out their boat, and proving to be French, a language that we were none of us strangers to, received us with the most cordial expressions of humanity.

They immediately prepared a grave for our unfortunate mother, and had the goodness to allow our reading the service appointed on such occasions; but the leaving her behind, and the keen sense of her re-