

CAPTAIN INGLEFIELD'S

Narrative.

THE Centaur left Jamaica in rather a leaky condition, keeping two hand-pumps going, and when it blew fresh sometimes a spell with a chain-pump was necessary ; but I had no apprehension that the ship was not able to encounter a common gale of wind. In the evening of the 16th September, 1782, when the fatal gale came on, the ship was prepared for the worst weather usually met with in those latitudes, though at that time it did not blow very strong. Towards midnight it blew a gale of wind, and the ship made so much water that I was obliged to turn all hands up to spell the pumps. The leak still encreasing, I had thoughts to try the ship before the sea—Happy I should have been perhaps, had I determined on this—the impropriety of leaving the convoy, except in the last extremity, and hopes of the weather growing more moderate, weighed against the opinion that it was right. About two in the morning the wind lulled, and we flattered ourselves the gale was breaking ; soon after, we had much thunder and lightning, with rain, when it