

pointed to him the necessity of seeking some means of subsistence; he accordingly prepared with his knife a formidable bludgeon, determined to knock on the head, if an opportunity offered, either biped or quadruped; and scarcely had an hour passed when he was startled by a rustling among the underwood, and he expected some kind of animal to sally forth, but he was surprised to see what in reality was neither one nor the other, for a large black snake glided out from its concealment and raised its head, "nimble in threat," at his approach. Having got within range of his stick, he immediately "rapped" it "o' the coxcomb," whereupon it rolled itself up, and after a few twists and twirls remained quite stationary, with its forked tongue thrust out of its mouth.—Although he had fasted a long time, yet his hunger had not as yet become so importunate as not to be resisted, otherwise he might have ventured upon a feed off this reptile. But his attention was diverted from the snake by the conviction of more dangers and difficulties. In this desolate situation night again overtook him, and although the climate of the island, notwithstanding its latitude, is generally mild, and the middle of the day pleasantly warm, yet the mornings and evenings are rather cold; consequently he had to struggle both against cold and hunger without any apparent remedy. The simple circumstance of having met with a snake in the day did not seem of much consequence, but the idea of meeting one in the night, occasioned by his hearing these peculiar noises usually made by them at this period, alarmed his imagination, and kept up a continual anxiety. There being some small springs which ran meandering through the woods, he was not in want of water, and after imbibing a sufficient quantity, he thought it advisable to lay aside all farther attempts for that day; he therefore ascended a tree, and having eaten some of the leaves, which in a degree alleviated his hunger, there remained during the obscurity of a night intensely dark, with his spirits "down at zero," for he now began to fear that the sleep would

sail without him, and the apprehension of such an occurrence with all its terrors, rushed upon his fancy; his situation appeared so hopeless, that he passed a sleepless and desponding night, the same noises being kept up in the woods, which convinced him that many birds of prey existed upon the island. When day began to appear, he descended from the tree, and had not got many paces when he perceived a large owl perched with the most imperturbable gravity upon the low bough, with its large eyes intently fixed on him, but as if unconscious of his appearance. He very quietly approached near enough to testify his joy at their meeting by instantly knocking it on the head; and thus he had the good fortune to provide himself with a breakfast. Not willing to waste time in useless attempts to obtain a fire (for the day previous his endeavors had been unavailing) he instantly set to work to alleviate his hunger; but from the difficulty of plucking off the feathers, and the shrivelled and yellow appearance of the skin, he had reason to conclude that it had been a tenant of the island, and had been guilty of screaming and whooping about the forest, for at least half a century. Having eaten sufficiently of this carrion, which left his mouth as bitter as wormwood, he set out with a determination of moving in a right line, which could not fail of bringing him to the sea shore at some part of the island. Towards evening he was seized with a most painful sickness, and felt cold and disheartened; he had not seen during this day any four-footed animal.

The night set in dark and rainy, and he took up his quarters at the base of a mountain, determined to ascend to the summit in the morning, in the hope of gaining a view of the sea; but the first thing he did was to get shelter in one of the low trees with the thickest foliage, which proved, in some measure, a defence against the tempestuous weather which now set in; the rain fell in torrents and he might truly have said, "Here's a night pities neither wise men nor fools!" In this dismal situation he fell asleep; and on awakening found him-