

contrary to our expectations, there was a considerable depth of water, so that we went over the reef without touching, though not without shipping many heavy seas. The land now began to have a dreadful appearance, seeming at the distance we were off to be high and rocky; but, on approaching within a mile of it, we had the pleasure of descrying a fine sandy beach and a bold shore.

As we advanced, the water continued to have a depth beyond our most sanguine wishes, so as to allow us to come within fifty or sixty yards of the shore before we struck. Now was the time for every man's apprehension to be on the rack, as we might expect, on touching the shore, that the ship would go to pieces. At length she grounded with a violent concussion. On the first stroke the main-mast went out of the steep, and on the second the foremast; but neither of them fell over the side, the deal boards in the hold being stowed so close together, that the masts had no room to play below. At the same time, the rudder was unshipped with such violence as to be near killing one of the sailors. As soon as the ship had grounded, the sea began to beat over her on every part, each wave lifting her four or five feet nearer the shore. In a short time, the stern was beat in by the sea; and then, having no shelter in the cabin, we were obliged to go upon deck, and hang by the shrouds, lest we should be washed overboard. In this uncomfortable situation, we remained till the vessel

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