

to our expectations we found plenty of water, so that we went over the reef without striking, though not without shipping many heavy seas, which had not the vessel's timbers been strong, and her loading light, must infallibly have dashed her to pieces. The land now began to have a very 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: the sea ran high, but not to such a degree as on the reef we had already passed. As we came nigh the land, 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 apprehensions to be alive, as we might expect on touching the shore that the ship would go to pieces. On the first stroke the main-mast went out of the step, and on the second the fore-mast, but neither of them went over-board, the deal boards in the hold being stowed so close together that
the