

now beyond measure earnest to escape it. My sister, my timid, my delicate, my amiable sister, became our heroine: She enquired, if by any means the water could be repelled, and conjured the captain and me to assist her, that our mother might not be lost. In a word, her example had so astonishing an effect, that we passed the hours in alternate labour without repining, and perceived the ray of morn with a rapture that would alone have been suited to our certain deliverance; but the returning morn is always grateful to the eye of despair, until recollection convinces us how unavailing its light is to those that are beyond the possibility of preservation.

When our strength and spirits were once more exhausted, and were again resigning ourselves to horrors of despondence, the storm suddenly subsided; the captain now, for the first time, bid us hope, and contriving somewhat to supply the rudder we had lost, steered us with a prosperous gale until land was within the view. But where, or what spot it was, appeared to us alike indifferent, as unknown. To set our feet on shore was all the anxiety we felt; though the event proved, that sufferings are peculiar to no situation when at a distance from the conveniences of life, at a distance from the services of humanity.

But notwithstanding all our efforts, the shore was unattainable; and tho' the captain could swim, for want of sustenance, his strength was so much impaired, that how to conduct us miserable women was a formidable question, and more particularly that grand treasure, the mother, that he was resolved never to abandon. In order, however, to make the business as easy as possible, he proposed that the relief of our minds should be his principal care: he accordingly ventured to quit the ship with our beloved mother in his arms, whilst our prayers were most ardently offered up for the safety of both.—Our prayers were accepted, and our glad eyes beheld them both kneeling on the shore to return their due praises for their own, and intercessions for our deliverance. When our god-like friend again exposed his life by returning to the ship. I for the first time discovered one grand source of his attention and humanity; the look of pity was indeed cast at me, but my sister was apparently no less the object of his compassion than his tenderest solicitude. I felt the difference, and I own rejoiced in having an opportunity of proving that I was little his inferior in generosity; for, though my life had been the forfeit, I insisted that my sister should be removed in preference to myself; a proposal that, after some lit-

tle contest, during which I am mistaken if they did not each of them do violence to their inclinations, I persuaded them to comply with. My aching right having traced them to the shore, I sat down in honest despair, as if I had taken my last adieu. I blush at the recollection of this involuntary injustice to the noblest minds, but I know not how it was, I seemed to be the most inconsiderable and forlorn of human creatures, and had I been actuated by the same feelings, I had not lived to proclaim my despicable folly.—Some time was necessary to restore the author of our deliverance to a capacity of being serviceable to me; and yet, such is the frailty of impatience, that it appeared the most cruel period of my existence. Nevertheless, if I had reason to despise myself before he left a place of security for my sake, I had reason to be reconciled to myself, when I experienced such proper anxiety for his safety: I trembled when I gave him my hand, and stopping a moment asked him if he had any notion that he was unequal to his undertaking; he made no reply, but plunged me into the water, where I remained in a happy state of insensibility until called to life by my surrounding friends.

It was now judged necessary with cautious steps to explore the island on which we were cast, for the double purpose of providing in the best manner we were able for our defence, and collecting the means of subsistence; our first search was far from an unpropitious one; oysters and a few vegetables rewarded our labour, and a couple of wild fowls which our protector shot (a chest of arms being luckily driven ashore) and dressed for our refreshment. The sea continuing to subside, we soon beheld the ship aground; but however delightful that view in the first instance, there was no suppressing the reflection, that the returning flux might remove it for ever from our sight; the captain would not, therefore, be prevailed upon not to visit her a third time, in order to bring away whatever was most essential for our accommodation; he did so, and we exulted beyond measure in the happiness of his enterprize. Blankets, cordials, in short, not only the necessities, but as they appeared to us, the luxuries of life were by him conveyed to our little store room, and the weather continuing fine for several days, we were encouraged to look forward with hope of some future miracle in our favour.

But our self-soothings and congratulations were of short continuance; in one of his excursions for food, our captain was no less surprised than alarmed at disco-

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