

"Did you think to escape from me? Did I not help you on your way?" and he commenced to laugh, in which he was joined by his crew—such a horrible laugh as it was; Pierre had never heard anything like it before, and he shuddered to think that this was the one he had thought so kind and nice a little while ago. "Thus will I bind you," he said, untwisting a fiery coil from his arm and preparing to throw it round Pierre. But he felt the time had come for him to act, so drawing his sword, he rushed at Comus, and pierced him through with it.

No sooner had he done so than the whole place became dark as midnight, while the air was filled with all kinds of horrible noises; the ground beneath him seemed as though it were giving way, and then Pierre felt himself lifted up, and the next moment dashed to the ground.

Stunned by the fall, he lay unconscious for some time, and then gradually his senses came back. And as he lay there, afraid almost to open his eyes in case he should see again the dreadful sight, he heard the sound as of running water, while he became conscious of a strong light shining upon him.

Raising himself he looked around. The next moment he bounded up with a rapturous cry. Could it be the same place! had that dreadful