

About the period of my second voyage, the ancient feuds of France and England, ripened into open hostilities; and America soon after declared war on her own account. The conflict was fierce and sanguinary, the usual paths of the ocean were interrupted, and every scheme of commercial enterprize rendered uncertain and precarious. In many voyages to the West Indies, and Brazils, along our own Coasts, Newfoundland, and the "bleak and barren coast of stormy Labrador," trading or fighting with the rude Esquimaux, I experienced the sad consequences of national quarrels. One day I was rich, the next a beggar; disease, starvation, and shipwreck, alternately swelled the catalogue of my trials, to which at times were added the horrors of a French Prison, and the cruel robbery of all I possessed, leaving me helpless and naked, and, at times almost in despair.

Fortune wearied of persecution at length smiled on me. In a fine ship deeply laden with provisions, and rendered desperate by former reverses, on a dark and stormy night I boldly pushed through the blockading fleet of the enemy, and reached my port of destination in safety, relieving its inhabitants from the starvation and misery of a beleaguered city. Where gold is plenty and bread scarce, how readily are they convertible—here I replenished my coffers, redeemed my fortunes, and made a vow to trust the fickle goddess no more. I fortunately reached home, and thus ended the second chapter of my history.

After devoting some time to reflection and a review of the precarious tenure of both life and fortune, consequent on a cause such as I had hitherto been engaged in, I finally concluded to establish myself in some quiet and regular pursuit on shore, less exposed to sudden vicissitudes, and where I might at least retain, if not increase my means, and place myself beyond the influence of the smiles or frowns of fortune.

A short period served to close my connections with the sea, to dispose of my ship, wind up my foreign correspondence, and purchase an establishment on shore. I entered on a new line of life, and soon after sought in the union with a young lady, to whom I had been long attached, a companion for future years, and a partner in my fortunes, whether good or ill.

For many years my affairs prospered; a young family sprang up around me, adding to the comfort and happiness of my fireside. Hostilities had ceased, and as industry and enterprize had received a new impetus, and were fairly rewarded, the community were in general, contented, happy and united.

Under such circumstances it might reasonably be supposed that I should have been well content, and reconciled to my position. I had experienced the rough and troubled paths of life; I was now in the enjoyment of its more smooth and tranquil pleasures, competent to estimate the difference, and to mark the contrast so decidedly favorable to the latter.

You will, doubtless, be surprised that I should feel any desire for another change—having reached a position so enviable—and even to this day I acknow-