

Small as our expectations were of saving our lives, Mr. Prenties thought it incumbent on him to take every precaution to save the dispatches he was charged with; and therefore ordered his servant to open his trunks, and collect all the letters they contained. These Mr. Prenties put into a handkerchief, and fastened about his waist. At the same time, his servant offered him the money he found in his trunks, to the amount of one hundred and eighty guineas, which he desired his servant to dispose of as he thought proper, thinking it, in the present emergency, rather an incumbrance than a matter worthy of preservation. His servant, however, thought otherwise, and took care to secure the cash, which was afterwards of more service to us, than could at that time be possibly imagined.

About three o'clock, the weather cleared up suddenly, when we discovered the land at about three leagues distance. This sight gave us no small satisfaction, taking it at first to be the island of St. John's, from which, being inhabited by French and English families, we might have expected some assistance; but on a nearer view we found it had not the least appearance of that island. On our drawing nearer we observed the sea break high, and have a very dismal appearance about three miles from the land. As it was necessary for us to pass through these breakers before we could reach the shore, we expected our fate would be determined there; but,

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