nder him, his breath was choked, and his esh seemed suddenly to become dry and parch-d, as if he already felt the suffocating blast f death. At the extremity of the passage, in he front cellar, under the very room where is children and their friends were revelling in licity, he discerned the open powder-barrel, ill almost to the top—the candle stuck light-y in the loose grains, with a long and red nuff of burnt-out wick topping the small and loomy flame. This sight seemed to wither ll his powers, and the merry laugh of the oungsters above, struck upon his heart like he knell of death. He stood for some mo-ents, gazing upon the light, unable to ad-ance. The fiddlers commenced a lively jig, nd the feet of the dancers responded with un-ired vivacity—the floor shook with their ex-rtions, and the loose bottles in the cellar ingled with the motion. He fancied that the andle moved!—was falling! With desperate nergy he darted forward—but how was he to emove it? the slightest touch would cause the mall live coal of the wick to fall into the loose owder. With unequalled presence of mind, e placed a hand on each side of the candle, ith the open palms upward, and the distend-d fingers pointed toward the object of his are—which, as his hands gradually met, was ecured in the clasping or locking of his fingers, nd safely removed from the head of the bar-el. As he lifted the candle from its bed in the owder, the exuberance of the wick fell off, nd rolled, a living coal, into the hollow of his ands. He cared not for the burning smart; he carried it steadily along the passage to the ead of the cellar stairs. The excitement was hen over—he could smile at the danger he had onquered—but the re-action was too power-ul, and he fell into fits of most violent and readful laughter. He was conveyed sense-ess to bed; and many weeks elapsed ere his nerves recovered sufficient tone to allow him to resume his habits of every day life."

"I confess that you have evidenced a strong-er instance or cause of terror than I did when I produced the fisherman of the Orkneys.—Yes, sir, your merchant had not only his own life in forfeit, but the consideration of the al-most certain death of the whole of his family. I can thoroughly understand that man's feel-ings while gazing upon the candle of death.—He must have lived fifty years in twice as many seconds. And then the blankness of despair so suddenly following the fulness of delight—his visions of mangled limbs, and the scorched bodies of his own flesh and blood, exciting the passions of the father, the hus-band, and the friend—the close proximity of a horrid death to himself and all he loved—the result of his own carelessness, and only to be avoided by the utmost self-possession in that trying scene."

"The merchant's chance," said the captain, "was a trifle worse than my nevvey's, as far as feeling and all that goes; but still he did not get the duckings in a January sea. You havn't capped the climax yet, though; and you can't do it on dry land—you must take our mishaps at sea, by and large, if you want horrible situations in perfection."

"Can you instance one or two, captain?"

"Half a dozen, if you like. I'll *mention* one, that in my opinion, combines the most awful point of all your stories—and I know my portion of it to be fact. A small schooner was chartered in New York, in '37, to take a com-pany of players to Texas. I forget the mana-ger's name, but he was with his troop, and contemplated a junction with Corri, who is of some standing as a public caterer in the young republic. Among the company, were Mr. and Mrs. Barry, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson, Mr. Page, Mr. Dougherty, Mr. Williams, with the mana-ger, and several others. The little craft was caught in a gale off Cape Hatteras; a heavy sea struck her stern and forced her head into the wind: her bows were seized by the gale, and she went down stern first. Being light-freighted, she soon rose to the surface, keel upwards. The captain, with all his little crew, and some of the passengers who were on deck, were swept away like so much chaff; but the suddenness of their destruction was mercy compared to the sufferings endured by the un-fortunates in the cabin. The companion-way had been left open, and the rushing water soon engulphed the inmates, already sorely bruised by the loose furniture and luggage that knock-ed against them in the capsize. When the water in the cabin reached its level, it was found that by standing on the beam or roof-tree, there was a vacancy of about six inches between the top of the water and the bottom of the cabin overhead. Consequently full grown persons could find breathing room by holding their faces in a horizontal position, but were liable to lose their standing every insta.t from the rolling of the vessel in the trough of the sea. But few of the passengers could avail themselves of this tantalizing assistance for any length of time: the weak-bodied and short-sized men gradually sunk, maugre all the as-sistance that the stronger class could render.