

cault had just made ; I hurried back to the cabin, and I begged our two men to detail all that they had seen ; they repeated what they had told the others. Every word spread hope and joy over my heart ; I seized that occasion to extol the care of Providence over those who resign themselves entirely to it, and exhorted all to return thanks to God for the favor which he had just done us. The nearer a man is to the brink of the precipice, the more grateful he is to his deliverer. You may judge whether our gratitude was lively. A few days before, we believed ourselves hopelessly lost, and, when we despaired of receiving any assistance, we learned that there were Indians on the island, and that, towards the end of March, they could aid us, when they would return to the cabin to raise their canoes.

This discovery renewed the courage of those who had made it. They started next day full of the confidence which the first success gave ; they hoped to find our longboat ; their hope was not deceived, for, after going a little further than before, they perceived it off shore, and on returning found and brought with them a trunk full of clothes which we had thrown overboard, during that night of which I have spoken.

On the tenth, although the weather was very cold, we all went to try and put our boat in a place of safety ; but being full of ice, and that which lay around making it like a little mountain, it was impossible for us to draw it ashore ; a hundred men would not have succeeded without great difficulty ; and even then many would run the risk of perishing in the attempt. This obstacle did not cause us much grief ; to all appearance the owners of the two canoes had a larger craft with which they

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