

ing a young lady of beauty and fortune immediately on his return. He had been most fortunate in his mercantile transactions, and was returning with the produce of his industry to marry her, and was now within only a few hours' sail of embracing the beloved object of his affections! Alas! this melancholy occurrence stripped him at once of all his worldly treasure, and for ever blighted all his future hopes; for only a few short months numbered him amongst the hapless victims who fell amidst the frightful ravages of disease amongst the prisoners of war at Quimper—a scene of woe which yet remains to be described.

Whilst on board *L'Insurgent*, we had a fair opportunity of seeing the operation of favourite principles of French republicanism on the temper and behaviour of the common people. *Liberty* and *equality* were words of perpetual recurrence among them; and the practical application of these famous terms was a constant illustration of the sense they affixed to them—to the no small mortification and annoyance of their superior officers. The very cooks and swab-wringers would stand and dispute the orders, and question the authority, of the boatswain; nor could he prevail on them to obey his orders, till he bluntly consented that chance and the suffrage of the people conferred the superiority which he exercised over them and consequently, that they had a greater right—if they thought fit to assert it—to command the boatswain than the boatswain to command them! If he still dared to dictate in the tone of superiority, they would scornfully turn their back upon him, and bid him wring the swabs himself, for liberty and equality were now the allowed right of every Frenchman! If the sails were to be trimmed during the time of their meals, unless it appeared reasonable to the majority, the boatswain might pipe his call till he was breathless, and was obliged to endure their chiding;—"What made him in such a hurry? let him wait till they had finished their meal." Even on the quarter deck, nothing was more common than to see groups of foremast-men sitting in circles, for hours together, at their favourite game of cards, whilst their superior officers, and even the captain himself, were obliged to thread the needle amongst them in walking the deck; and if they expressed dissatisfaction at the inconvenience they suffered, they might expect to hear a growl of indignation.—"Was it the intention of their commanders to abridge them of their liberty and equality?"

On one occasion, however, we had a specimen of perfect unanimity and universal co-operation. On the sixth morning after our capture, a sail was seen in our wake, about half courses high. She had every appearance of an English frigate, cruising in the chops of the Channel. After a short time she was observed to alter her course, and make sail after us. We were then under double-reefed top-sails. A scene of the utmost consternation and confusion ensued. The boatswain's pipe now thrilled through every ear with startling shrillness, and was instantly answered:—"Shake the reefs out of the topsails, and sway them up to the