

cure our boat from being washed overboard, the loss of which would, in our present circumstances, have been a dreadful misfortune. The cabin, being raised above the level of the main deck, was tolerably clear of water, and afforded us some little shelter from the severity of the weather. Thither we retired, leaving only one man upon deck to govern the helm, who was fastened by a rope, to prevent his being carried away by the waves.

The snow now fell so thick that we could not see the mast-head, and the gale continued. We knew from the distance we had run, that we could not be far from land. The captain imagined from our course, during the night, that we must be near the island of St. John's; but he informed us, that the north-east side of the island was nothing but a continued reef of rocks from one end to the other, and that there was but one harbour where ships could put in, which was on the opposite side of the island. In a few hours after, we observed the waves grew shorter and broke higher, which is always found to be the case on approaching to shore. We now concluded, that we were about to run upon the rocks, which, the captain informed us, skirted the north-east side of the island; and on approaching the land, we laboured under greater dread and apprehension, than amidst all the dangers we had before experienced, the idea of being cast upon these tremendous rocks being more terrifying than that of being buried in the bosom of the ocean.

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