

should we be able to effect it, she must after all drive ashore from the violence of the wind, being unable to set any more sail to bear up against it. Our opinion, however, was rejected, and an attempt was made to brace about the fore yard, but it was found impracticable, the ropes and blocks being covered with ice. We were therefore obliged to let it remain as before, and the water having suddenly changed its colour, we expected the ship to strike every instant. Small as our expectations were of saving our lives, I thought it incumbent on me to take every precaution to save the dispatches I was charged with, and therefore ordered my servant to open my trunks, and collect all the letters they contained, which I put into a handkerchief, and tied it about my waist. He at the same time offered me some money, to the amount of one hundred and eighty guineas, which I desired him to dispose of as he thought proper, thinking it in the present emergency rather an incumbrance than a matter worthy of preservation. My servant, however,