

gaun skreeving ower the rigging of a wave behind us, as swift as the wind. He was then struggling with his basket ; and when he reached the verge of the wave, he uttered a rending unearthly scream, dived into the gulf beyond, and was seen no more."

A calm immediately follows, but the vessel—to the astonishment of all on board—has during the tempest made a retrograde movement of an hundred miles, and they have to bear up again for their former latitude. On arriving about the same place, some supernatural appearances were observed, and the vessel became water logged without any discoverable leak :

"One of the searchers set his head out of the fore-castle, and cried, 'O Lord ! come an' see what's here !' There were soon plenty to rush to the spot, and behold ! there lay what they called 'the deil's basket,' the very individual machine which they had lifted from the waves, with a wretched human creature in it, and committed to the waves again ! And as the group stared upon one another in utter consternation, they were started by an unearthly clatter of a laugh behind them, and, on turning round, there was the creature itself sitting on a cask, with a countenance of stern and fearless defiance."

Desperate confusion occurs on board from the superstitious fears of the crew concerning the mysterious creature, but none were so much affected as the Captain : The strange visitor whispered some words in his ear, and he became overwhelmed with horror :

"'Over with the boats, over with the boats !' now resounded from one part of the crew, and 'No, no !' from another ; and, in the midst of this confusion, out comes the creature from the fore-castle, carrying its cask and a hatchet, as if with intent to have it broken up ; and, with its gleaming eyes fixed steadily on the captain, it made strait toward him. The crew fled from before it, some into the shrouds, and some into one place, and some another ; but the captain, with a maniac yell of the most dreadful horror, jumped on deck, threw himself overboard, and disappeared."

"The creature then uttered an eldritch laugh, flew to seek its basket, and with that in both its hands jumped overboard after our unfortunate captain. The yawl was put out and manned by the boatswain and other two ; but ere ever they could get free of the ship (for they were not over-fond of their employment), those on board saw the demoniac creature pick up Captain M'Nicol and drag him into the infernal basket, and away it went with the twain, like a blown-up buoy before the wind. We heard a few broken, short cries from the sufferer, and that was all. They were soon out of sight, and never more seen or heard of either on sea or land."

The moral of this tale is well told, and is worthy of universal regard :

"There is little doubt that some great and crying sin had been committed at or near to that spot on the high seas at which our captain met a fate so terrible. And it ought to be a warning to a'