

peared to be a prolongation of a miserable existence, we were altogether twelve in number, in a leaky Boat, with one of the gunwales stove, in nearly the middle of the Western Ocean, without Compass, without Quadrant, without Sail, without Great Coat or Cloak, all very thinly cloathed, in a gale of Wind, with a great Sea running. It was now five o'Clock in the Evening, and in half an hour we lost sight of the ship. Before it was dark, a Blanket was discovered in the Boat, this was immediately bent to one of the Stretches, and under it, as a sail, we scudded all Night, in expectation of being swallowed up by every wave: it being with great difficulty that we could sometimes clear the Boat of the Water, before the return of the next great Sea, all of us half drowned, and sitting, except those who baled, at the bottom of the Boat. And without having really perished, I am sure no people ever endured more. In the morning the Weather grew moderate, the wind having shifted to the southward, as we discovered by the Sun. Having survived the Night, we began to recollect ourselves, and think of our future preservation. When we quitted the ship, the wind was at North-West, and Fayal had borne East-South-East two hundred and fifty, or two hundred and sixty Leagues. Had the wind continued for five or six days there was a probability that, running before the sea, we might have fallen in with some one of the Western Islands. The change of wind was Death to these hopes; for, should it come to blow, we knew there would be no

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