

wreck of the American man-of-war on the iceberg, which, wonderful as it may appear, I have told exactly as he described it ;—indeed, as far as circumstances would allow, I have rigidly adhered to the truth ; and I hope that this will not detract from the interest of the tale, but will serve as another proof to those already existing that reality is often stranger than fiction.

I cannot better conclude than by urging you to study the character, and to endeavour to imitate the example, of that great and good man of whom I have spoken. Beloved and respected by all who knew him, he was especially honoured and esteemed by his Sovereign, while by those he commanded he was ever looked upon as a father and a friend.* As a proof of this, I may tell you that at the unhappy mutiny at the *Nore*, his crew alone of all the fleet remained faithful to their duty, and while they willingly went to their guns, ready, if necessary, to fight their way, he carried his ship out from among the rest in triumph.

It is an honour to follow in the footsteps of such a man ; and that you, my dear young cousin, may be ever truly worthy of him and of the name you bear, is the earnest wish of yours most sincerely,

THE AUTHOR.

* He would not allow abusive language to be used towards any of his crew, and I believe in the whole course of his life an oath never escaped his lips.