

notwithstanding our courage and our experience of such hardships, a violent despair was rapidly gaining on us. We felt convinced that, from one moment to another, our turn would come. It was impossible to try the boats again, for the sea swept the ship fore and aft, and half an hour later, the vessel was all battered.

To crown our misfortune, the pilot told us that we could expect no help from land. The sea was too violent where we were, and it was useless for any craft to venture to reach our ship. It had twenty chances to one of being swamped on the way. —

At this supreme moment, I made a last effort to climb up the fore-mast, where, to my great surprise, I remarked Mr Nazaire Delisle, whom I thought drowned a quarter of an hour ago. We then saw the main-mast fall with a dreadful noise on the deck and crush in its fall about twenty persons who had tried to find shelter there. An hour later, a portion of the fore mast to which we were clinging, was broken and carried out to sea. The remainder of it fell on the bridge, and in my fall, from a height of about thirty feet, I was nearly crushed to death by a number of fellow-passengers falling upon me. I could hardly breathe; my chest was resting on an iron bar, and I thought the weight I bore would break all my bones. At last, luckily for myself, a rolling wave swept the deck, carried away all those who were on me, and left me alone. I held a chain in my hands, and the shock of a second wave was so violent that it dragged me the full length of the deck, the chain slipping in my benumbed hands. We were only six left on the deck, each clinging to some solid object, so as not to be washed away by the gigantic waves. We heard on all sides the cries of the drowning, without being able to lend them any assistance.

Here I must tell you of a miracle, the thought of which makes my heart beat quicker, such is the gratitude I feel towards good St. Anno. Yes, it is in-