

approaching the shore, and likewise a number of gulls and ducks flying about, a further sign we could not be far distant from it.

We now concluded that we were about to run upon the rocks, which, the captain informed us, skirted the north-east side of the island, and on approaching the land laboured under greater dread and apprehension, than amidst all the dangers we had before experienced, the idea of being dashed upon those tremendous rocks being more terrible than that of being buried, as our companions were, in the bottom of the ocean. The ship had still considerable way through the water, tho' full, and with no other sail set but a close-reefed fore-top-sail, the only one we could display, which had hitherto stood the gale, being new and of the strongest canvas. The captain proposed bringing the ship to, to keep her off the land, which I opposed, as well as the mate, as it amounted almost to a certainty that we should overset her in the attempt; and besides,

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