

On the Night of *Christmas - Day*, after I had celebrated the three Masses, we set sail, and all the next Day we had a fair Wind. Two Frigates of fifty Guns had weighed Anchor two Hours before us, and we soon overtook them.

*The Ingenuity of the English to catch Pirates.*

This surpris'd me, because we sail'd but poorly ourselves; but what surpris'd me still more was, that to see these two Ships under Sail, if I had not seen them prepare for sailing, I could never have believ'd they were the same that appear'd so large to me in the Port; on which they told me, that this proceeded from a particular Construction and setting of the Sails, which was done on Purpose to draw Pirates into a Snare, which in the Sea Dialect makes them call these Ships *Lubber Traps*. In Fact, as they say, the Pirates on seeing them, judging of them by their Appearance, take them for Merchant Ships, and pursue them as a certain Prey. But when they are so near as not to be able to escape, they find somebody to talk to, and are caught in the Snare, without being able to make any Resistance: Therefore the *English*, above all Nations, are most feared by Pirates, and are the worst used by them when they fall into their Hands.

The Night following we went through one of the most terrible Storms that had been seen for a long Time in the Channel. The next Day, tho' the Wind was almost quite fallen, the Sea was in an Agitation enough to terrify the boldest; we shipped some Seas which put us in great Danger: One especially overflow'd the great Cabin as I was beginning to say Mass, and hindered me from proceeding; so that when we enter'd *Harre de Grace* about Noon, every Body ask'd us how we could hold out in a Storm that was felt even in the Port.

But they would have been more surpris'd at our Escape, when two Days after, our Ship being drawn ashore, they might have seen it drop to Pieces with Rottennes. This was the first News that I heard on my Arrival here. Judge, Madam, how greatly our Lives were expos'd in such a Ship in a Voyage of eighteen hundred Leagues, and in a Season when the Sea is always in a Fury; and what Thanks we ought to return to GOD, not only for having deliver'd us from such an imminent Danger, but also for having conceal'd from us the Knowledge of it, which alone was sufficient to have kill'd us a thousand Times over with Fear.

*I am, &c.*

F I N I S.