

distressing situation of the two was distinctly seen from my window. In wild disorder and in inconceivable anguish of mind we ran to their assistance; my daughters, Margaret and Mary, having the advantage of youth reached the perilous chasm first, and used every exertion to rescue the drowning father and brother.

‘In this attempt—which proved vain—they approached so near the sufferers that in a few moments they also were in the same disastrous predicament, and at the time I reached them were now above and then below the surface of the open cavity in the ice. You may easily imagine my situation—it seemed at that instant as if all nature had conspired for my destruction. In that frantic moment I ran from one to the other, not knowing which way to go, or to whom first to proffer assistance, till shortly I also dropped into the fearful opening, which had now increased through the repeated exertions that had been essayed. Such a picture of suffering and misery is but rarely depicted before mortal eye. The day by this time had begun fast to decline, and the only thing that preserved me from the fate of my family was the freezing of a light cloak or shawl, that I had hastily thrown over my shoulders as I was hastening from the house to the ice. I offered to my eldest daughter this feeble means of assistance, and to sink myself, or at least to trust to a faint and very illusive prospect of rescue, but she declined it. Our uninterrupted cries of distress continued, until in a little period they all let go their very feeble hold and sunk into the watery abyss! Merciful heaven! what an hour, to me, was that! My dear son’s last words were, that if two of our neighbours, B—— and W—— had been there, their lives might have been spared.

‘What passed from this dire moment for some years subsequent, I learned from my friends and neighbours—they informed me that benumbed by cold and senseless, I was taken from the edge of the ice, by the persons who were alarmed by our cries and hastened to the spot, though too late to render assistance to any but myself, and after being restored to animation, almost in the same hour, I was deprived of the powers of reason; and in this situation I continued for some years. After much diligent search the remains of all the *four* were obtained, and interred side by side; and there I hope, when a few more of the storms of life have spent their energies, to follow them. It is from the bounty of christian friends by whom I am surrounded, that I now subsist—for, O yes! I have abundance—for I have learned resignation.’

My friend seemed much affected at the recital, nor could it fail to awaken the deepest interest in us both. She concluded by inviting us to walk as far as the graves, at a little distance off. On the way she recounted the many instances of divine goodness she had experienced; and how wonderfully she had been supported by Almighty grace to bear those heavy dispensations that had fallen to her lot; and with that calmness and composure in