

peared so near, and the wretched uncertainty of the approach of any other vessel, in time to save our existence; our hopes vanished with the brig, and from the highest summit of expectation, they now (with most of the survivors) sunk into a state of the most dismal despair! nature indeed seemed now to have abandoned her functions! never could human beings be reduced to a more wretched situation, my readers must have been a witness of it to form any adequate idea of our distress, and that which I am attempting now to describe, falls infinitely short of the reality! more than two thirds of the crew had already perished, and the surviving few, weak, distracted, and destitute of almost every thing, envied the fate of those whose lifeless corpses no longer wanted sustenance. The sense of hunger was almost lost, but a parching thirst consumed our vitals! our mouths had become so dry for want of moisture for three or four days, that we were obliged to wash them every few hours with salt water, to prevent our lips glueing together.

At this time, I felt a deep conviction, that I was a most unworthy creature, and that I was unworthy to accuse the Supreme Being, with being unjustly the author of their wretchedness. I exerted the feeble powers which God in mercy had left me, to exhort them to have recourse to Heaven, to alleviate their misery, and to trust in Him, who alone was able to save us. The day previous to our being relieved, I collected the poor creatures upon the quarter deck, and kneeling down among them, poured out my soul in prayer to God, that he would, in his infinite goodness, have mercy on us, and spare our lives!—truly I can say, the Spirit of God was in my soul! nor can I express the half of what he then revealed to me—a voice seemed to whisper me ‘thy prayers are heard, fear not, for I am with thee;’ nor could I conceal my joyful sensations from my suffer-