

the purpose. As for myself and the crew, the lug sail answered to screen us. After a hasty but no less hearty supper, we prepared for sleep, and arose in the morning well refreshed by a night's sound repose. Having prepared breakfast for the party, it was soon partaken of, and we again embarked, a stiff breeze having set in from the S.W. We continued our course without encountering anything worthy of remark, and at five o'clock in the afternoon, landed at East Bay Neck, where we kindled a fire, and pitched our tents for the second night's rest.

From the circumstance of my being often up and down the coast with the gig, I had become well acquainted with the history of the various places along its line. I was aware that our situation that night was neither so safe nor so comfortable as I could have wished. Not a few seamen had been murdered by the natives of the place, and I felt certain that if we escaped being surprised by them, it would only be in consequence of their having retired further inland, or from our own watchfulness. Accordingly, after supper, and when both the captain and his party and the crew had retired to rest, I continued seated at the fire, determined to act a cautious part, and, if possible, guard against being surrounded by a host of savages, for I looked upon the natives as such. While I was thus seated, I could not help thinking on the many changes I had experienced;—my mind, at times, soaring far, far away, and, in imagination, I was once more mingling among my merry youthful companions. Then again the truth would dart across my wandering thoughts, and, thinking on the horror of my position, the warm tears trickled down my sun-burnt cheeks. The scene around was well calculated for reflection. On each side towered ponderous trees, the huge branches creaking and groaning with their weight. At a little distance from the fire stood the canvas tent, and the flickering blaze of the burning wood falling faintly on it, shedding a pale, dim ray, gave the whole a melancholy appearance; while overhead the clouds were dark and heavy looking, and the hollow murmuring of the ocean, rendered the scene, to my simple ideas, wild and romantic.

While thus reflecting, I was suddenly startled by the sound of what I conceived to be a foot tread on some broken brushwood lying in the bush at some little distance from the place I occupied. I involuntary started up, gazing anxiously and uneasily around, but I could discover no form or cause for my alarm, and was about to set it down as the effect of overheated imagination; but scarcely had I applied this flattering unction to my mind, when the noise was repeated, even nearer me than when I at first heard it. Fears now crowded upon my mind, and a sense of danger laid its agitating fingers upon me. The inmates of both tents were asleep, and what would be the consequences if a host of savages were to dart upon us from the surrounding thickets! Were such the case, our deaths would be speedy and inevitable. I scarcely knew how to move; but God having restored calmness

to my mind, I made toward the spot where the crew lay, in the most cautious manner I could. There I stood, ruminating on what course I should next take. I did not wish to awake my companions, without being fully assured that danger was near. My suspense was but of short duration, for the figure of a human being that moment passed between me and the fire, as if in the act of reconnoitring. No time was now to be lost, as I felt confident he would not be alone. I therefore proceeded cautiously to awaken the crew, and making them aware of the danger, we prepared our fire-arms, with which we had been furnished by the captain, and then silently crept to the tent occupied by the ladies and gentlemen, determined to save them, if attacked, or perish in the attempt. Scarcely had we secured ourselves here, when we observed about forty of the natives surround the fire. At last they discovered the tent, towards which, after some little consideration, they quietly advanced, each armed with two spears—the right hand which held one being raised above the head. The spear was thus ready to be thrown at whatever object might present itself. From the position in which we were placed, we had a decided advantage over them, for besides their approaching between us and the light, we were partially concealed from them by intervening trees. Having no wish to create an alarm among the ladies, we did not make them aware of their critical position, and the men, used to obey my instructions, readily gave in to the plan I intended to pursue. I therefore allowed our savage enemies to advance pretty close to our hiding-place, when, giving the words "now for it," we fired in a body. The suddenness of this proceeding struck terror to our foes, for seeing some of their party shot dead, and others wounded, the rest uttered a yell past all description, and hastily fled to the bush. As might be expected, the captain and his guests rushed out to ascertain the cause. I had no words to meet their inquiries, but pointing towards two or three dead savages, this silent language told all that was necessary. The gentlemen then again returned to explain and soothe the ladies, while the captain remained with us, that we might have the benefit of his advice and direction in our further proceedings.

(To be Continued.)

CHOICE OF A PROFESSION.

(FROM THE GERMAN OF ZSCHOKKE.)

THE pride of many parents is often productive of the worst consequences, and often chooses absurd ways. At the cradle of the child his future profession is already pre-ordained, before it is at all decided whether he have talents for it or not. For the ennoblement of the family, he is to rise higher, to play more shining parts than his parents and forefathers did before him. Thus the son of the labourer is apprenticed, without any means, to the artizan; the son of the artizan, without sufficient capital, to the business of the merchant; and the son of the burgher or peasant, without pre-eminent talents, sent to the higher schools in order to be prepared for a spiritual or learned station. When the best part of life has been lost in long preparation, we