

that he knew that, in the management of the wheel, he held, under Providence, the destinies of many lives and the fate of a gallant vessel. There, a few paces forward of the helm, stood the captain, his figure and features characteristic in expression of an intelligent perception of his responsibilities, and yet of a firm confidence in the experience gained in many voyages on many seas. "Were I a painter," exclaims Dr. Scoresby, "there is no scene which, since my abandonment of Arctic adventure, has come under my personal observation which I should more earnestly attempt to place on canvas than the poop-deck of the *Royal Charter* during the height of the hurricane. First, in the after-part of the ship, looking upward, we should have the mizzen-mast denuded of all sail, with the cordage swelling under the influence of the wind; then the ship herself cast into an oblique heel towards the port side, the stem raised high by a mountain-like wave; then the living pictures at the helm,—the attending officer and the directing captain standing sideways in the foreground of all; then, externally, the assailing mountain-like wave following close on the starboard quarter, and giving the direction and angle to the ship's inclined position, yet threaten-