

despondency; whilst they alternately believed and doubted, the thick grey haze was dispersed by the rising sun, and a general burst of joy welcomed the certainty of land. A luxuriance of trees was soon visible, to whose appearance they were utter strangers; and the beautiful plumage of unknown birds, who came in flocks from the island, gave at first the semblance of a dream to their astonishing deliverance.

“The boat being hoisted out to examine the coast, returned with a favourable account. Machin and his friends accompanied their trembling charge, leaving the rest to secure the vessel. The wildness of the adjacent country possessed additional charms to men escaped from destruction; and the rich scenery of Madeira was again beheld, after a lapse of many centuries, by the eyes of Europeans. The island of Madeira was not only visited by the Romans, but probably by the Normans, those skilful navigators, of whose discoveries we know so little; who preceded the Portuguese, and followed the Arabians in nautical skill. An opening in the extensive woods, that was encircled with laurels and flowering shrubs, presented a delightful retreat; a venerable tree, the growth of ages, offered, on an adjoining eminence, its welcome shade; and the first moments of liberty were employed in forming a romantic residence, with the abundant materials supplied by nature.

“Curiosity to explore their new discovery was increased by the novelty of every object they beheld: this varied occupation continued for three days, until their survey was interrupted by an alarming hurricane,