

"There'll be plenty time, Master Cracklewood; it's now an hour to sunset; and if we see her coming in, I'll then have time to take care of our goods. You know we have, all told, forty-five men on employ in field and warehouse, boat and wharf, and these can take all to a safe place in four hours, or by day."

"It may be, sir; but ye have noo, at the least calculation, one hunder' thousand dollars o' wealth in packages and box and pipe, and if ye lose these ye'll be a poor man, sir, aiblin's the farm and mansion hoos. There's the vessel load o' silks and costly cloths, landed only three weeks agoe from the 'Petrol' brig, and there is the half freight of spices and West India fruits brought by the schooner 'Jeannette' last week, and then the forty casks of English bale goods, landed from the barque 'William' before we heard of this war, all these are vera costly, and are not in a safe place so near the sea, with a war-ship on the coast. Then there is——"

"I know all this, good Master David; and as my interest is quite as deep in their safety as yours, you must let me decide which is best, and follow my directions, as becomes you. I have seen this frigate in <sup>the</sup> offing this last hour, and yet the sight of her has not frightened me, as I see it has you, and even Mary looks pale."

"War, dear father, is so terrible. The prospect that there may be a battle between the two vessels is enough to pale a stouter cheek than mine. There is a third gun fired, and it seems louder than the others."

"The schooner is an armed vessel—and, see! she returns the frigate's fire! That is bold, to say the least! She has her colours set too, but I can't make them out—they fly edge-wise to us. The schooner now squares her yards and runs for it. How she spreads her canvass! The frigate swings her head yards and pursues; and hark! how she thunders!"

The scene was now deeply exciting to the spectators on the bluff. The schooner, which had been fired at to heave to,