

verging upon middle life, but still with the prospect of many more years ; strong and vigorous, cheerful as of old, and generous as ever. He staid but a short time at home, as his fondness for the sea increased rather than diminished, and he took employment in a Halifax brig, bound for one of the West India Islands.

From his long service he was now a valuable and experienced sailor. The captain placed the greatest confidence in his nautical abilities, and he hoped after this voyage to procure a better situation. They had left on their return to Halifax however but a few days, when fever broke out among the crew, and nearly all the hands were disabled. H—— being one on whom the captain most depended, upon being seized with the prevailing symptoms, had some medicine administered to him by the master, which checked the fever, but to this he attributed his subsequent sufferings. When within some days sail of Halifax, he was again seized with illness, fainting fits ensued, and he was borne to his hammock, helpless and insensible.

The homeward passage had been a very tedious one ; the provisions on board, salt beef, biscuit, and cold water, were unfit for invalids like himself. From so much sickness, the medicine chest was exhausted, and he had nothing to alleviate his fever which was now of a most violent character. He was carried from the ship on its arrival at Halifax to the Sailors' Hospital, and there for several weeks received the best medical attendance. But all efforts were vain to restore him to health : the fever subsided and at last left him altogether, but he grew weaker daily, while his sufferings increased materially. At last his medical attendant pronounced his disease to be the formation of an abscess, which would be very tedious as well as painful to endure. His heart failed for a time beneath the unwelcome intelligence, but at length summoning courage to bear the worst, and looking the evil firmly in the face, his natural cheerfulness returned, and he only desired to be removed from the Hospital to his home, when he might experience the kind nursing of his parent and other friends. Poor fellow ! he was soon to be miserably disappointed ; but the doctors yielded to his request, and he was taken to the small cottage his family inhabited and laid upon the bed from which he never rose again.

The father by his second marriage had added to his possessions a goodly number of children, but what he gained in that way, he lost in another, for he was wretchedly poor. Had he been unceasing in his industry his trade would barely have provided bread for so large a family, but he was also become intemperate, and want stared upon them at every opening. While James was in health and had money to bestow, he was always welcome at home, but now when he came to them, ill, needy and helpless, with every prospect of a tedious sickness, he was looked upon as a burden. Not perhaps by his father, for the old man was kind-hearted and would have done all in his power to alleviate his son's suffering, but he was completely in subjection to his wife,