

We were sufficiently near, to afford a good view of the people, the houses, and flag staff, while troops of wild horses, like that of the fabled Mazeppa, scoured the sandy hills and low plains of the Island. The heavy surf broke in foaming billows on the strand, owing to the extensive shoals which surround it on every side, forming a broad white frame to the green and living picture, which its rank vegetation presents at all seasons. One might imagine at the distance we were from it, with little aid of the fancy, as the bright beams of the sun glanced over it, that it was a fertile spot, and though retired, still not unpleasant to live on. To me at least, it presented some of the attractions of *terra firma*, for which I would gladly have exchanged the unstable element, to whose dark bosom I had committed life and fortune ; but we saw it in sunshine,—in storm it is quite a different matter !

As we stood along the coast, the skeletons of old wrecks were seen, the monuments of former calamities. They, buried with their helpless crews, had remained hidden for years beneath the sand, which, ever changing its position, had by recent gales again become exposed to view—those supply ample fuel to the inhabitants, with other materials of value. At stated distances along the coast, stand houses provided with food, clothing, and fuel, and other comforts for the use of the shipwrecked, previous to their being discovered by the Islanders. Many lives are thus saved ; and the liberal means provided for this purpose from the public funds, bear testimony to the enlarged liberality and benevolence of the government under which we live, and the higher estimation of human life in our time.

The sight of this island recalled to mind many interesting events connected with it. The noble self-devotion of the elder Darby, and the bold spirit which led him, at the peril of his life, to dash through the shoals and breakers with his vessel, saving the officers and men of the French Frigate *Africaine*, should never be forgotten ; had he faltered for a moment, 400 souls must inevitably have perished—happily he succeeded. For this gallant act the French monarch addressed him a letter of thanks through the chief minister, transmitting also a handsome pecuniary present, together with a gold medal specially struck, in commemoration of his distinguished bravery ; his country how has she rewarded him ? Nor did I forget in passing, an old friend, the son of a former Governor of the Isle—and many striking tales he used to relate. One day he said he was galloping over the island, on one of the wild steeds, armed as usual with a lance in hand, Cossack like, which he occasionally stuck into the sand : meeting with resistance, he called his men, who with their shovels, soon disinterred a pipe of the richest Madeira Wine, in appearance very ancient. It was set up on a cross tree of wood, ready tapped, and spiled for use ; those who had so placed it he supposed had perished shortly after, as little had been withdrawn. It proved a choice prize and served to cheer the tedious hours of those exiles, many a long winter's night. At another time he came