

nearly on shore. Had a heavy gale been blowing at this instant, they must infallibly have been lost. The commodore, it seems, had been greatly in fault on this occasion; but they soon after lost sight of him, and they pursued their voyage under the direction of the next senior captain.

On the 24th of June they were in sight of St. Helena, and in six days more passed Ascension. The 7th of the following month they passed the line, when the customary salutes took place.

Having previously come into soundings, on the 16th of September they arrived in sight of the Lizard Point, on the coast of Cornwall, and cruising about for a day and night, at last discovered the Dutch men of war that had been sent to convoy home the Indiamen. A lieutenant and clerk soon after came on board the ship, to look for contraband goods: but they kindly confined their search to the captain's cabin, and there only rummaged his wine bottles.

On the 28th, they failed down Channel, between Dover and Calais, with a favourable wind; but in the evening of that day, a sudden and violent storm arose, which forced them towards land, rent their sails, and brought down the top-masts. They were so near the breakers, that all gave up the ship as inevitably lost; and the sailors ceased to exert themselves any longer. Indeed, owing to the avarice of the captain and the chief mate, who had disposed of the best part of the provisions at the Cape for their own emolument, the sailors had fared miserably all the voyage; and they were now so exhausted with toil and faintness, that many of them tumbled from the rigging, and several fainted away on the deck itself.

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