

been present, our utmost exertions must then have been utterly unavailing; however, to avoid immediate destruction, by being swept overboard, which we were every moment in danger of, we preferred standing up to our shoulders in water in the cabin to remaining on deck; and, in this terrible situation, half-perished with cold, we spent the remainder of this awful and memorable night.

Daylight on the 12th December found us in the same calamitous position—a hard gale still blowing, almost certain death before us, and not a sail to be seen, from which alone we could hope for preservation. The wreck of the mainmast and other parts were entirely gone, but the foremast was yet fast by its stay to the bowsprit end, and towing ahead of the vessel.

The after-companion was very large, and by extending on the deck farther forward than the bulk-head, which separated the cabin from the hold, formed a sort of recess resembling a low cupboard without doors.

Into this place, which was about two feet high, and barely large enough to contain us, lying as close to each other as possible, we crawled on our knees by the help of a broken board; and here, half-covered I may say at times with water, benumbed with cold, and destitute of even the smallest article of provisions, we spent for hours a wretched existence, without exchanging a word with each other.

On the 13th a gallon jar floated up in the cabin, which I knew had contained brandy, the cork of which was so bad, the liquor was nearly destroyed by salt water. We drank some of it two or three times, but it made us so thirsty I was sure it