

cent cause of his persecution had been forced to marry a nobleman, who had carried her to his castle near Bristol. The friends of Machin made his misfortune their own; and one of them had the address to be introduced, under the character of a groom, to the service of the afflicted *Anna*. The prospect of the ocean, which, during their rides, extended before them, suggested or matured the plan of escape; and the probability of a secure asylum was opposed to the dangers of a passage to the coast of France. Under pretence of receiving benefit from the sea air, the victim of parental ambition was enabled, without delay, to elude suspicion, whilst Machin, in the successful completion of his anxious design, was equally insensible to the particular season of the year, or the portentous appearance of the weather, which, in calmer moments, he would have duly observed.

“ The gradual rising of a gale of wind rendered the astonished fugitives sensible of their rashness: as the tempest approached, the thick darkness of night completed the horror of the scene. In their confusion the intended port was missed, or could not be reached: their vessel drove at the mercy of the winds; and in the morning they found themselves in the midst of an unknown ocean, without the skill that could determine their situation, or the experience that could direct their course. The dawn of twelve mornings returned without the sight of land: when, at length, after a night of increased anxiety, as they eagerly watched the earliest streaks of day, an object beamed on the horizon: continual disappointment produced a querulous