

saving ourselves at least, if we could but prevent her from oversetting (which vessels are apt to do when full of water) till we could make the island of St. John's, or some other island in the gulph. Having no guns on deck, and not much lumber, to render the ship top-heavy, we contrived to prevent her from oversetting by keeping her directly before the wind; though not without some difficulty, as from the little way she made through the water, the waves frequently washed clear over the decks. Besides taking care to keep the vessel steady, we took every precaution to secure our boat from being washed overboard, the loss of which would in our present circumstances be a terrible misfortune. We had little or no water in the cabin, by its being raised above the level of the main deck; this afforded us some shelter from the severity of the weather, finding it unnecessary to have any more than one man upon deck, to govern the helm, and keep the ship directly before the wind, who was fastened by a rope to prevent his being carried away by the waves,