

fastened the eye-glass round his head, and taking a coarse towel from a locker, he spunged poor Paul's face and neck with rum, and then fastened up his lower jaw with the lanyard. Having performed this melancholy office, the poor fellow's feelings could be no longer restrained by my presence.

'God help me, I have not now one friend in the wide world. When I had neither home, nor food, nor clothing, he sheltered me, and fed me, and clothed me, when a single word would have gained him five hundred dollars, and run me up to the fore yard-arm in a wreath of white smoke. but he was true as steel: and oh that he was now doing for me what I have done for him! who would have moaned over me, who am now without wife or child, and have disgraced all my kin! a-lack-a-day, a-lack-a-day!'—And he sobbed and wept aloud, as if his very heart would have burst in twain.—'But I will soon follow you, Paul, I have had my warning already; I know it and I believe it.' At this instant the dead hand of the mate burst the ligature that kept it down across his body, and slowly rose up and remained in a beckoning attitude.

I was seized with a cold shivering from head to foot, and would have shrieked aloud, had it not been for very shame, but Obed was unmoved. 'I know it, Paul, I know it. I am ready, and I shall not be long behind you.' He fastened the arm down once more, and having called a couple of hands to assist him, they lashed up the remains of their shipmate in his hammock, with a piece of iron ballast at his feet, and then, with no more ado, handed the body up through the skylight: and I heard the heavy splash as they cast him into the sea. When this was done, the captain returned to the cabin, bringing a light with him, filled and drank off a glass of strong grog. Yet he did not even now deign to notice me, which was by no means soothing; and I found, that since he would not speak, I must, at all hazards. 'I say, Obed, do you ever read your bible?' He looked steadily at me with his lacklustre eyes. Because, if you do, you may perhaps have fallen in with some such passage as

the following: 'Behold I am in your hand; but know ye for certain, that if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves.'

'It is true, I feel the truth of it here,' and he laid his large bony hand on his heart. 'Yet I do not ask you to forgive me: I don't expect that you can or will; but unless the devil gets possession of me again—which, so sure as there was a demoniac in this world, he had this afternoon when you so tempted me—I hope soon to place you in safety, either in a friendly port or on a British vessel; and then what becomes of me is of little consequence, now since the only friend who cared a dollar for me is at rest among the choral branches at the bottom of the deep great sea.'

(To be Continued.)

### MISCELLANY.

**KINDNESS.**—Nothing can produce more sincere admiration and heart felt gratitude, than the kind anxiety and assiduous attentions of an affectionate friend. Every tender effort to mitigate distress, attended by the gentle and soft accents of sympathy and love, fills the soul with emotions not to be described, even while its fragile tenement is writhing with excruciating pain! The pleasure of alleviating distress is unalloyed, both to those who receive the kind offices of endearing humanity and esteem, and to those who cheerfully and tenderly bestow them, that every person of a reflective and ingenuous mind, will cultivate this peerless virtue by practising those acts of goodness which are attended with a reward so sweet. He who would witness a performance of the holiest rites of "pure and undefiled religion," may behold them in the patient and gentle offices of affection—bending over the bed of anguish—wetting the parched lips—cooling the feverish brow, and soothing the soul with the voice of tenderness.

**CURIOUS AFRICAN ORDEAL.**—Justice is not infrequently administered at Badagry by means of a large wooden cap, having three corners, which is placed on the head of a culprit at the period of his examination. The fantastic work of mechanism, no doubt but the structure of internal springs, may be made to move and shake without any visible agent, on the same principle as the enchanted Turk, or any other figure in our puppet shows. It is believed the native priests alone are in the secret. Whilst this cap is observed to shake whilst on the head of a suspected person, he is condemned without further evidence being required; but should it remain without any perceptible motion, his innocence is apparent, and he is forthwith acquitted. The fume of this wonderful cap makes a great fuss in the town,

and as many marvellous stories are told of it here as were related in England a century or two ago of the famous brazen head of Roger Bacon. A respectable man, the chief of French Town, was tried by the ordeal of the cap a short time since, for having, as was alleged, accepted a bribe of the Lagos chieftain to destroy Adooley by poison. The fatal cap was no sooner put on his head than it was observed to move slightly, and then to become more violently agitated. The criminal felt its motion, and was terrified to such a degree that he fell down in a swoon. On awaking, he confessed his guilt, and implored forgiveness, which was granted him by Adooley, because, it is said, of his sorrow and contrition, but really, no doubt of his birth and connexions.

**MOUNTAIN-PASSES OF INDIA.**—The central mass of the Himmaleh chain of mountains has been estimated to extend more than a thousand miles in length, and about eighty in breadth, forming one continuous desert of precipices, rocks, and ice. In a few places only, a precarious track is formed by the Alpine torrent, dashing in an unbroken sheet of foam, through dark ravines, bordered by precipitous mountain walls ascending above the clouds. Down the perpendicular faces of these stupendous avenues there rain almost continual showers of stony fragments, broken off and descending in ruins from the cliffs above. Sometimes large portions of rock are detached and roll down in heaps, effacing every path which has been formed beneath, filling the beds of the rivers, and converting them into cataracts. The whole side of a mountain has been seen thus parted, and spread in fragments at its feet. Trees torn up and precipitated into the abyss, lie stretched with their branches on the earth, and their roots turned up to the sky. Yet through these tremendous passes, and across all these mighty obstructions, the daring industry of mortals has contrived to form tracks, narrow indeed, as well as fearless and perilous, but by means of which Tibet and India find it possible to exchange their respective commodities. Nothing, it is true, resembling a waggon, not even the ordinary beasts of burden, can pass this way. The goods are placed on the backs of goats and sheep, which alone can scramble along these precipitous routes, though, in other respects, these animals are ill fitted for such laborious employment. Goats, in descending, are often pressed down by the load, while sheep, if at all urged, are very apt to run,—a movement here which is attended with the utmost peril. The arrangements for facilitating a passage over these frightful cliffs are still more perilous than those employed on the lower declivities—Rude staircases are constructed along the precipices, by which the traveller is invited to make his way. The road in some places is formed, merely by posts driven into the perpendicular sides of the steep, over which branches of trees and earth are spread, affording a narrow foot-path, suspended at an awful height above the torrent, and skaking beneath the tread of the passenger.