

re without company, and
Isle aux Coudres.

l our route to Isle aux
where a slight northerly
ain, who knew its fury at
had everything to fear.
st to find a roadstead, that
elter us against the com-
after, obliged us to tack,
e month, towards eight in
N. E., N. E., E. N. E., E.,
n continued in that quarter
ime we tacked about along
psails; but as soon as the
eered S. E. by E. and S. E.,

On that day, we endeav-
went aground a quarter of
int of a shoal of flat rocks,
e southern point of Isle

requently, that we expected
under us. The time must
ers in despair of our safety,
hand in reefing the sails
gh the strain they gave the
g on our ruin. The water
had deprived half of all
general disorder seemed to

our situation would have
; he ran to the bread chest,
ready reached it, he threw

out a part between decks; he thought, too, that some
guns, a barrel of powder, and a case of cartridges,
would become necessary, in case we escaped the danger
we were actually in; all this he had carried up. His
precaution was not useless, and, but for it, I would not
have the consolation of writing to you, my dear broth-
ers. The sea was as violent as the wind, neither dimin-
ishing in the least; the waves had carried away our
rudder, and we were obliged to cut away our mizen-mast
to throw it overboard. We then let down our boat,
taking every precaution to keep it ahead, so as to pre-
vent its being driven against the ship and dashed to
pieces; the sight of death, and hope of deferring it,
gave courage to all; and, although we were sure of
being miserable in that desert island for some months at
least, each thought he would gain much by exposing
himself to everything to save his life.

After getting our boat afloat, we suspended it on the
davits, in order to embark all we had more easily, and
get a wide berth as soon as possible to save ourselves from
the heavy sea, which would, perhaps, have driven us on
the vessel, if we had not got off with speed. But it is
in vain for men to rely on their prudence; when God
lays his heavy hand upon them, all their precautions are
useless.

We entered the long boat to the number of twenty,
and, at that instant, the pulley of the fore davit gave
way; judge of our situation! the boat remained hang-
ing by the stern, and, of those in it, several fell into the
sea; others clung to the sides, and some, by means of
ropes, hanging over the ship's sides, got on board again.

The captain, seeing the disaster, cut or slipped the