

16 SHIPWRECK & SUFFERINGS

all the vain enjoyments of this frail world, and of fixing my hopes and trust in the merits of Jesus—and although I have been made to drink deep of the cup of affliction, never will I forget the unbounded mercy and goodness of God. in preserving my life, in raising me from the depths of wo, and putting a song of praise into my mouth !

“ Though I walk through the gloomy vale,
Where death and all its terrors are ,
My heart and hope shall never fail,
For God my Shepherd's with me there ”

‘ Think mortal,’ says the poet, ‘ what it is to die,’ —but I would add, think how distressing it must be to see those whom we tenderly love, die before our eyes · die agonized with pain, after languishing with lingering disease, and without being able to contribute to their ease, or add one moment to their existence ‘ In view of the melancholy circumstance that I have just described, I call upon all, and especially those who traverse the deep, seriously to consider the uncertainty of life, and the importance of being prepared for death One who was in the bloom and vigor of life but a few days previous, was thus in an unexpected manner, ushered into the unseen world ‘ He was expecting soon to change his relation in life, but death suddenly blasted his hopes, and prevented our anticipated union—thus man appoints, but God often disappoints us of our most flattering prospects of an earthly nature.

As a proof that my almost constant supplications for the mercy of Him, who ‘ has power alone to hush the boisterous seas, and to set the shipwrecked marginer free,’ were of some avail, I ought not to withhold from my readers a knowledge of the fact, that