

words, all my evil deeds, and I had not a thought of the holiness and omniscience of God !

"I was completely thrown down. All my trouble would be worthless ; all my good resolutions vain ; even if faithfully performed ! If I had been able from that moment to do only that which was good, it would not efface the evil wrought in the past. Yes, all the evil was there, all before me, nothing forgotten, nothing swallowed up. What avail was it to be forming good resolutions for the future, and to pitch the old cargo overboard, when it would not sink ? Tears filled my eyes and ran down my cheeks ; I was well nigh in despair. I cast my eyes on the thousands of reflections of the light of the moon on the surface of the agitated waters, and they seemed like so many torches lighting up my past life. What could I do ? which way should I turn ? My complete change of conduct could not efface the past. I was lost, hopelessly lost ! For me there was no resource, no salvation !

"I do not know how long I continued rowing, nor which way I went. I neither thought of the late hour of night, nor of the cutting wind which had sprung up from the sea. I was insensible to everything except the terrible accusations of my conscience, which rose higher and higher before me. Then I looked up towards heaven where the myriads of twinkling stars with their soft light seemed to be looking down upon me. Was there then no hope for me ? I asked myself as I buried my face in my hands. I felt that I could no longer bear this state of distress and misery. I was like a malefactor who had just heard his

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