

DANGERS ON THE ICE

OFF THE

COAST OF LABRADOR.

THE Moravian missionaries on the coast of Labrador, (a part of North America,) for many years suffered much from the severity of the climate, and the savage disposition of the natives. In the year 1782, the brethren Liebisch and Turner experienced a remarkable preservation of their lives; the particulars show the dangers the missionaries underwent in pursuing their labours. To this narrative are added some further particulars, which show their labours were not without success.

Early on March the 11th, they left Nain to go to Okkak, a journey of 150 miles. They travelled in a sledge drawn by dogs, and another sledge with Esquimaux joined them; the whole party consisting of five men, one woman, and a child. The weather was remarkably fine, and the track over the frozen sea was in the best order, so that they travelled at the rate of six or seven miles an hour. All therefore were in good spirits, hoping to reach Okkak in two or three days. Having passed the islands in the bay, they kept at a considerable distance from the shore, both to gain the smoothest part of the ice, and to avoid the high and rocky promontory of Kiglapeit. About eight o'clock they met a sledge with Esquimaux, driving towards the land, who intimated that it might be well not to proceed; but as the missionaries saw no reason for it, they paid no regard to these hints, and went on. In a while, however, their own Esquimaux remarked, that there was a swell under the ice. It was then hardly perceptible, except on applying the ear close to the ice, when a hollow grating and roaring noise was heard. The weather remained clear, and no sudden change was expected. But the motion of the sea under the ice had grown so perceptible, as rather to alarm our travellers, and they began to think it prudent to keep closer to the shore. The ice in many places had