

for the first time in her life, trusted herself to the frozen surface which lay before her, yet such was her anxiety about her father that the peril of her situation never once crossed her mind—her only thoughts were on the possibility of reaching Heliopolis and prevailing on a surgeon to return with her. Her sense of exertion relieved her mind of some part of the grief which had oppressed it, and she pursued her way to the distant shore without pause or fear. When she had first stepped on the ice, Jason had shewn evident symptoms of dissatisfaction, and lying down whined a most piteous remonstrance, but finding his warnings disregarded, he boldly advanced before her, proving that his apprehensions were more for her than himself. Suddenly he stopped and looking behind, commenced wagging his tail. Helen also turned, and saw Brian O'Callaghan in his home-spun jacket and trowsers, racoon skin cap and leather chopping gloves, following her with rapid strides.

"Musha, Miss Helen," cried the boy, when he came near enough to make himself heard, "what made you go on such an errand instead of sendin' me? Don't you know that I'd go through fire and wather for e'er a wan of the family. Go back Miss, acushla, go back while the ice is good, and I'll go on and see if I can't coax over the docthor."

"Thank you, Brian," answered Helen, "but since Yankee Joss says there is so much danger I'll brave it myself. You shall not run a risk for your master which I wouldn't go through for my father."

"You, Miss Helen?" cried Brian, "and is it goin to even yourself to the like o' me you are? I that's a poor, unfortunate fellow, that's been runnin' into all sorts of danger ever sence I was the height of my knee, and that's used to all kinds of hardship and misery, and you that's a beautiful young lady that never had a wet foot in yer life. Sure it's only proud I am that I can run a risk for your sake, and it's little I think about it. Go back then, Miss, alanna, and take the dog with you and I'll go on by myself. God bless him! how glad the crathur is to see me. He thinks I've come to help you, for he has such wonderf'ul sinse he knows there's danger about you."

Helen warmly thanked the honest fellow, but persisted in her determination to proceed herself, believing that the surgeon would be more likely to return when he saw that she had not feared to encounter the danger.

"Then if so be you will go I'll go along wid you. You'll not hendher me of that," said Brian positively.

"Well, Brian, since you are so brave and generous as to wish to share my peril, I'll be very glad of your assistance."

"Oh! whist for the love of mercy, Miss Helen, what uld I be, if I saw any Christian in such a case as yours and wouldn't sthrive to do what little's in my power for 'em, let alone such a lady as you and wan that's been so good to me and mine? Brave, indeed! Oh! by gorra it's little you know about us Irish boys, or you wouldn't spake that away, so keep up yer heart, for I'll engage we'll get safe and sound yet."

Encouraged by the bold spirit and cheerful tone of her rustic squire, Helen pressed forward with renewed energy and hope, Brian keeping before her with his great pole and closely followed by the dog. But they had not advanced more than a mile across the lake before signs of a change in the weather became too evident to be unnoticed by our adventurous travellers; a dim vapour hung in the western horizon, thin grey clouds began rapidly to cover the sky; a moaning wind swept across the broad field of ice which they were traversing, ominous sounds seemed to proceed from the treacherous crust beneath their feet, and every thing seemed to prognosticate a squall. For some time, the ice which towards the shore was apparently strong and secure had shewn symptoms of unsoundness; great cracks, some of which separated into yawning fissures through which the water bubbled up, appeared, and had it not been for the assistance of Brian, Helen would have found it impossible to proceed. With agility, courage, and foresight which could not have been exceeded, he taught her how to avoid some bad spots and get safely through others, endeavoring, at the same time, to persuade himself and her that the threatened storm would keep off till they were safe in Heliopolis; till a few heavy drops of rain fell and the masses of ice around them began perceptibly to heave and swell.

"I wondher if we're half way," said Brian, unconsciously displaying his anxiety by the words; and then he immediately added with characteristic recklessness of tone.—"Bad luck to it! I wish there was mile stones on this quare road!"

Hardly had the words left his lips, before the gust which had been so long threatening reached them with a force and violence which compelled them to throw themselves on the ice as it swept furiously over them. In a moment the raging waters beneath and the wild winds above seemed with one consent to rush together, separating the unstable flakes of ice asunder, whirling them round as in a vortex, churning them into frag-