

alone can save them now! The tempest rages with redoubled fury, as if in scorn of man's impotence to resist its strength; and in the momentary lulls the listeners hear no more those signals of distress; whate'er had befallen their friends, they knew that the crisis was past.

What means that sudden bound, as of a courser breaking from his tether; has the ship burst her bonds? Good angels forbid!

The strands of the hempen cable at the bow, unable to withstand the torrent of wind, had snapped asunder, and dragging the stern anchor after her, the ship was driving like a desperate thing, head on to the coast. What wild confusion there was then, what reckless haste, baffling its own intent, what strong energy grappling with the danger; what abject fear! The horrible darkness and the dim of the tempest lent a deeper hue to the picture which terror drew around them, and produced in many that entire paralysis of mind which men are apt to shew when exposed to sudden and inevitable peril. The sea around was a caldron of foam; the air a sharp and chill blackness that cut the skin like a knife, and almost swept the ^{air} from the head. The shore before them a wall of rock against which they could now see the breakers splitting with a flash of light and a terrific roar.

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