

was beat so high by the waves, that we could venture to walk upon deck. We now perceived that the ship's keel was broken, which we imagined would occasion her to go to pieces. This, however, did not happen for the present, which could be attributed only to the boards in the hold being so intervoven with each other, and frozen together by the ice, as to give a sort of solidity to the vessel.

To get out the boat was now our first care, which was not to be accomplished without difficulty, on account of the quantity of ice that was in and about it, and the reduction in number of effective hands, who had intoxicated themselves with liquor. Having with much labour cleared the boat of ice, and prepared her for launching, Mr. Prenties asked, if any were willing to embark with him in the boat, and make the attempt to gain the shore. The sea running so high, that it seemed scarcely possible for the boat to live in it a minute, very few seemed willing to make an experiment so full of risk: so that the boat shoved off, containing only the mate, Mr. Prenties, his servant, two seamen, and a youth who was passenger. What gave us the greatest embarrassment in this undertaking was the surf, which broke over us every moment, and the intenseness of the cold, which froze every drop of water immediately, so as to cover our clothes with a sheet of ice. The ship was lying about forty yards from the shore; but before we got half way to it, we