

Number 17.

The melancholy bereavement which
follows the family excited the feeling

around meat—the more strongly perhaps from vast extent of a calamity in which so many boys perished; and William for some was lost after his father's was taken as an apprentice merchant, then carrying on a considerable business.

According to the general custom of that the boy had to spend the summer in Newfoundland and the winter months in his master's house at Northmouth. During the latter portion of the year, the apprentices were employed in preparing and fitting the ships for the next season.

The boy soon became noted both for his learning and seamanship and he was of that bold, generous spirit, that, if wrong were done to him by his companions by the boys of another ship, Blackall, was always the first to avenge injury and bear the blame that should have fallen on other shoulders.

the enemy of his master; but a very few explained before William was lost to his old pantons.

He had gone in one of his master's vessels with him to the West Indies, and whilst the vessel was discharging he suddenly disappeared. The shipmates searched for him in every direction, but he was lost to the purpose.

They could only learn that he had more than once been in company with some strange man belonging (as it afterwards appeared) to which vessel the day after William was taken.

but where the vessel belonged, whence she or either bound, no one had any knowledge the manner in which she was handled her general appearance, showed that they composed her crew were seamen of no ordinary character.

Years passed away the widow of Doctor Blackall had been interred in the little cemetery of Kingswear, and her family had long dispersed that the home was little of, when William suddenly returned to the of his birth. He came in a coasting vessel.

Long. Few rememberers him; and he did could scarcely recognize, in his slender, careworn countenance the features of the companion. His manner was so reserved, to prize him so full of rebuke if any one came to pry into his history, that few dared at a second time; and those who did, only that he had been occupied in trade in the Indies, and had gained enough to enable him comfortably at home.

But he came not alone. A beautiful about ten years of age, equipped all his

she was like her father; her quick and
black eye, and general manner, bespoke an
origin, and showed that she had been born
a more vivid wit than that of Europe.

Maria was sent to school, and her father
passed his time in fishing in a small sail-
boat when he managed with a dexterity that
the seamen, not the trader; and once he
was entering into partnership with a
man who wished him to purchase half his vessel
he might cause inquiry about his money,
as suddenly came it up.

The inn at the Ferry becoming vacant a lease of it; and when Maria had been years at school she returned to be the master of her father's house and do the office of his disposition was becoming gloomy, and thus passively reserved; but the return of his favourite child restored him again to his former cheerful and generous temper.

Maria seldom left the bar. She had a more above the ordinary stamp of those who grow around her, and had more pleasure in than in their society. But her father's love, the recollection of many masters of vessels,

She became more accustomed to her men, were drawn by her to the boisterous and lively manner and dark eye, sold many things, they said for the good land, always on his guard, read with a scrupulous eye every stranger that came to his house, and to the stories of all but imparting little to her. He had entered on her 20th year, and heavy gale from the south west, about the 15th of September, drove a large ship before the wind, to seek shelter in the harbor. A Spanish man, to seek shelter in the harbor had lost part of her mast and rigging.

Having heard of Black'let, and anxious to be introduced to the harbor from the side he entered with his mate, and walked about over the hills of the Clowston, and return, they went into the Ferry to order a bowl of punch, which was

Maria; and Blackaller being desired so they entered into a conversation which lasted late in the evening. Indeed neither appeared anxious to leave the house, it being imparted to the other the cause by which it was detained there.

The captain was a man nearly forty years of age, bold and daring as Blackaller himself, and was also of a very irritable temper, much excited when a little in liquor, he had a violent passion for the bottle, and was violent upon his passion. Still he was a honest man, and an excellent seaman, and had for

The mate was a son of a friend of name of Morduaht, resident in one of the India Islands, upon whom fortune had been a large family, with little means to support and Henry who had been born there, London to the owners of the ship who promised to bring him up.

After he had received an education his future prospects he was put under the master of the Meridian, (for such was the ship's name), to be brought up to the

a boy of fifteen had now passed his twentieth year, still all under restraint when, in the year 1800, his captain—the natural effect of being under his guidance; but it was misso-