



SAINT JOHN, N. F., THURSDAY

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chance of life. But his hope was

fainter with his limbs, for the gathering

dusk was rapidly reducing his chance of

discovering any object around him, and

the waves still ran too high and angry

to allow him a chance of endurance much

longer. He still swam, but his despair

was almost total when he discerned a

dark body at a few yards' distance. He

struck vigorously forward, and to his in-

expressible relief, discovered that it was

a small raft, on which a human body was

lying. A succession of violent strokes,

now animated by renewed hope, brought

him to its side, and in a moment or two,

the Count de Burigny was clinging to the

buoyant mass.

When he had somewhat recovered

breath, his next effort was to mount upon

the raft itself; but as he made the at-

tempt, the figure which already occupied

it arose to a sitting posture, and gently

repulsed him. Before he could speak, it

addressed him in a pleasing voice, which,

however, was piercing enough to make

himself distinctly heard amid the dashing

waves.

'Stay, my son, you are welcome to all

the support my raft will afford you, but

for both of us to mount would entail de-

struction on both.'

'Father,' gasped the Count, 'who

ever you may be, you will assist

me in saving my life.'

'Truly,' returned the other voice,

'I will help you at a most unreasonable

price. But I am bound at least to suc-

cess you with my advice, and I there-

fore advise you to swim for some rocks,

which are distant about a quarter of a

league in the direction in which I am

pointing. They are always above water,

discovered by some vessel.'

'Thanks, father,' replied the Count;

'but I would rather cling here with the

certainty of being safe for the moment

than again risk my life in a struggle with

the waves, for a chance of reaching some

rocks I may not be able to climb.'

'Such is the wisdom of man!' said the

other, 'ever confident in the present,

ever distrustful of the future. But I tell

you, my son, that you rocks are easily

accessible, and that if you strike away

now, you are safe.'

'Safe or not, father I remain here;

and I therefore advise you, if you have

the means, to steer us in search of the

same rocky platform—we shall then have

the satisfaction of being saved together.'

'I am on my own course, my son, and

I advise you to keep my company,' said

the other voice. The word induced the

Count to examine his companion as

closely as possible, but the fast falling

twilight only enabled him to discern a

figure in a priest's robe, the hood of which

completely shrouded the features of the

wearer.

'You speak strangely, father,' said the

Count; 'but I hold my intention, fer-

vently wishing I had something easier to

hold, for my fingers are numb, and this

wood is slippery.'

'I have warned you, my son; but if

you insist on remaining, I will do what I

can to aid you.'

'Thank you, father,' said the Count;

'but I would rather cling here with the

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