

he strongly recommended him to part with his sloop, and enter the navy, where he thought he had influence enough, he said, to get him placed in a proper position. But as the master's previous experience of the service had been of a very disagreeable kind, and as his position, as at once master and owner of the vessel he sailed, was at least an independent one, he declined acting on the advice.

Such are some of my earlier recollections. But there was a time of sterner memories at hand. The kelp trade had not yet attained to the importance which it afterwards acquired, ere it fell before the first approaches of Free Trade ; and my father, in collecting a supply for the Leith Glass Works, for which he occasionally acted both as agent and shipmaster, used sometimes to spend whole months amid the Hebrides, sailing from station to station, and purchasing here a few tons and there a few hundredweights, until he had completed his cargo. In his last kelp voyage, he had been detained in this way from the close of August to the end of October ; and at length, deeply laden, he had threaded his way round Cape Wrath, and through the Pentland and across the Moray Friths, when a severe gale compelled him to seek shelter in the harbor of Peterhead. From that port, on the 9th of November, 1807, he wrote my mother the last letter she ever received from him ; for on the day after he sailed from it, there arose a terrible tempest, in which many seamen perished, and he and his crew were never more heard of. His sloop was last seen by a brother townsman and shipmaster, who, ere the storm came on, had been fortunate enough to secure an asylum for his bark in an English harbor on an exposed portion of the coast. Vessel after vessel had been coming ashore during the day ; and the beach was strewed with wrecks and dead bodies ; but he had marked his townsman's sloop in the offing from mid-day till near evening, exhausting every nautical shift and expedient to keep aloof from the shore ; and at length, as the night was falling, the skill and perseverance exerted seemed successful ; for, clearing a formidable headland that had lain on the lee for hours, and was mottled with