

building a circular wall of the clinkers, to enable us to spread what little canvass we had, over it; all the blankets we could spare were hung inside, which I hoped would keep us from being frozen. After succeeding in this, which occupied us till dark, we made a fire to prepare our scanty supper, and some tea for the sick. I now discovered that three of the men were absent; and on inquiry, found that they had gone down, in hopes of finding my tent, which they supposed had been left about a mile below. One may judge of my uneasiness, as it was pitchy dark, and there was no trace whatever of a track, or any thing by which they could find their way back, over many dangerous chasms. I had barely wood enough to heat the water for the sick, and no more than a piece or two of candle, without any lantern, and therefore no obvious means of making a signal. However, as necessity is the mother of invention, I turned my clothes out of the calabash, and fastening a piece of a cotton shirt over it, made quite a respectable lantern: this was placed on the most conspicuous point. After the light had been extinguished several times, and a series of difficulties encountered in relighting it, we succeeded in establishing our lighthouse; and though a feeble one, it had the desired effect. The men, when they first saw it, had already strayed off the track; and had it not been for the lantern, would not have been able to join us again. They came back, crawling on their hands and knees; and had travelled thus for most of the distance. The whole time they had been absent, was two hours and a half. Although I felt very much displeased with their departure without permission, I could not find fault with them,—so much was I rejoiced to see them in safety; and when I knew they had incurred all this fatigue and risk to make me more comfortable.

The snow now began to fall fast. My steward, from his thoughtfulness, had an ample supply of tea, which he had carried in his knapsack to save it from being plundered; and consequently we had enough to supply all.

The supper being ended, we stowed ourselves away within the circular pen; and while the men kept passing their jokes about its comforts, the wind blew a perfect hurricane without. I was glad to find the spirits of those who were sick, began to revive. The thermometer had fallen to 15°. The height found by the barometer was thirteen thousand one hundred and ninety feet.

All were soon fast asleep; and although there was scarcely a foot of level rock, they seemed to rest as comfortably as possible. I had little inclination to sleep; for difficulties seemed to increase upon me, and I