

Fraternal Affection by Susan Reed

In the beginning of the sixteenth century, the Portuguese [cut off] carracks sailed from Lisbon to Goa, a very great, rich, and [cut off] colony of that nation in the East Indies. There were no less than [cut off] hundred souls, mariners, passengers, priests, and friars on board [cut off] vessels. The beginning of their voyage was prosperous, they had double [cut off] Southern extremity of the great continent of Africa, called the Cape of Good Hope, and were steering their course northeast, to the great continent of India, when some gentlemen on board, who, having studied geography and navigation, found in the latitude in which they were then sailing, a large ridge of rocks laid down in their sea charts. They no sooner made this discovery than they acquainted the captain of the ship with the affair, desiring him to communication the same to the [cut off], which request he immediately granted, recommended him to lie by [cut off] the night [cut off] slacken sail by day, until they should be past the danger. It is a custom always [cut off] Portuguese absolutely to commit the sailing part, or the navigation of the vessel to the pilot, who is answerable with his head for the safe conduct or carriage of the King's ships, or those belonging to private traders, and he is under no manner of direction from the captain, who commands in every other respect. The pilot being one of those self-sufficient men, who think every hint given them from others in the way of their profession derogatory from their understandings, took as affront to be taught his art, and instead of complying with the captain's request actually crowded more sail than the vessel had carried before. They had not sailed many hours, when, just about the dawn of the day, a terrible disaster left them, which would have been prevented if they had lain by. The ship struck upon a rock. I leave to the reader's imagination, what a scene of horror this dreadful accident must occasion among twelve hundred persons, all in the same inevitable danger, beholding, with fearful astonishment, that instantaneous death which now stared them in the face.

Charlestown

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