

solid judgment, although of a lively turn of mind, brave and enterprising, he went to seek his fortune on the sea, and soon acquired sufficient skill in navigation to manage a vessel, so that, in a shorter time than usually happens, he took command of a ship and sailed out of the ports of Newbury, Ipswich and Salem. His voyages were first to the West Indies with lumber, and from thence to England with sugar. In 1692, he chanced to be at Port Royal, in the island of Jamaica, at the time of the great earthquake, when part of the island sank under the ocean, and thousands of people were drowned. He used to tell the story in his later life. He said he was on shore in the town of Port Royal, and his vessel lying in the Bay. Among the people, he heard some remark that they had heard strange noises, and something terrible was about to befall the place. They said sounds had been heard from underground and under the sea in the Bay. But he, as well as others, thought it chimerical and arising from superstition; for they told of a certain woman in one of the chambers of his tavern, who had prophesied that an earthquake would take place that day. Even while talking about it, they began to hear and feel a loud, strange, rumbling noise and then a great trembling of the earth. He said he immediately started for the shore, where he found his boat and crew waiting for him at the wharf. He got aboard the boat; but before she could clear, or soon after, there were so many hands of the terror-stricken inhabitants, holding on to her sides and every other part,—persons who had fled down to get aboard of the vessels for safety,—that those on board his boat were obliged to chop off the hands of some to prevent them from sinking the boat. He reached his vessel, got on board, and put out a short distance to sea; but while moving out of the harbor, he saw most of the town sink and disappear, the tops of some chimneys only being left above the water. The next day going into the harbor with other vessels, he found the shores in every direction strewn with dead bodies, and, among the ruins, were bails of goods, trunks, valuable things of all sorts and bags of money. He picked up some of the trunks full of silks, &c., and brought some of the silks home.

He then sailed to England, discharged his cargo, and made another voyage up the Mediterranean, and afterwards sailed to India, being gone several years before he returned home. His family not hearing from him for a long time, supposed him and