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Appalling Disaster: LOSS OF THE STEAMER SWALLOW

The steamboat *Swallow*, Capt. SQUIRES, which plies between Troy and New York, on her way down the river last night, met with an accident of the most serious nature. She left here at 6 o'clock with *a considerable load of passengers*, and when opposite Athens, 39 miles below this city, ran upon a small island *while going at full speed*.—The violence of the collision was so great that the bow of the *Swallow* was bent nearly at right angle with the hull, and almost immediately after she struck, the water came pouring in through the opening in the bottom planks. It was *nearly nine o'clock* when the accident occurred, and the passengers had all taken tea and were mostly on the upper decks. A few, however, remained in the after cabin below deck.

The waiters and hands were taking supper in the forward cabin. Alarmed by the shock, they rushed aft, the chambermaid passing through the entire length of two cabins and ascending by the after stairs to the Ladies' Cabin, on the main deck. The water followed with great rapidity, and within three or four minutes after the accident, the lower cabin was filled with water. The greatest alarm now prevailed, and everybody hurried to the state-room deck. An opening was cut through the roofing of the state rooms, and many clambered up on that, as the boat continued to fill and settle rapidly.

At this moment *Capt. SQUIRES* heard some calls for help below, and descending to the main deck, then under water, *rescued Mrs. and Miss Starbuck of Troy* from imminent danger. Mrs. Starbuck, an aged lady, was immediately carried to the shore in a small boat, and every attention paid to her, but the exposure and alarm proved too much for her enfeebled frame and she died shortly after reaching the shore. This is the only life yet known to have been lost, though great fears are entertained that several persons may have been drowned in the main cabin. The chambermaid, however, who ran thro' this cabin, after the boat struck, thinks that everyone had left it, and such we hope will prove to be the fact.

The rock or island on which the SWALLOW struck is on the west side of the channel and within a stone's throw of the Athens shore. The night was dark and tempestuous. Within a very few moments after the accident the EXPRESS first, and then the ROCHESTER came alongside the wreck and took off the passengers and luggage. There were several sloops and small boats engaged in the same way.

The story, as it first reached our city, made the loss of life fearful; but there is good reason to believe that Mrs. Starbuck was the only victim. It may be, however, that others perished in the cabins. We shall, doubtless, have full particulars by to-morrow morning. We understand that the SWALLOW now lies with her bows ten feet out of the water, and the stern sunk to the roof of the state rooms. The hull is broke in two near the forward gangway. We believe there was no insurance on the boat.