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DREADFUL STEAM-BOAT DISASTER

The *New York Sun* publishes the particulars of the loss of the steam-boat *Swallow*, having on board 350 passengers—the particulars of which we subjoin:—

“The steam-boat *Swallow*, having on board **about 350 passengers**, left Albany **last Monday** evening at six o’clock, for this city. When opposite Hudson, near Athens, she struck a rock and broke in two.

“All was consternation on board; the ladies were terribly alarmed and agitated, and many were for jumping overboard in efforts to reach the rock, or to save themselves in any way. The gentlemen, whose minds were cool and collected in the midst of the disaster, endeavoured to prevent any of the ladies leaving the boat, considering all safe in clinging to the wreck.

“What rendered the scene more appalling was the total darkness of the night—the water coming up to the hurricane deck, and the ladies being drawn up through the skylights drenched in water. The heeling of the boat brought the fire of the furnaces in contact with the wood, and a lurid flame burst forth, lighting up at once, and adding to the horrors of the scene; surrounded by fire and water, every effort was made by each person to provide for their own safety. The terror seemed to be at its highest when the boat broke in two, the water put out the fire, and the stern sank.

“At this critical moment the steam-boats *Express* and *Rochester* came up, and immediately got out all their boats, to pick up those who were in the water, and save the residue who were clinging to the wreck—of these **the Rochester took on board 150, and the Express 50**. Many were known, however, to have reached Hudson and Athens, as boats were promptly dispatched from both places.

“The rock is well-known, and **had the pilot kept in the channel the accident would not have occurred**.

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.—“We have received the following particulars from C. Pratt, Esq., of Covert, Seneca county, New York, who was a passenger in the *Swallow* at the time of the disaster:—

“On going into the ladies’ cabin, after the vessel struck, he found it full of ladies, and, seeing his two daughters, he rushed forward, in company with his grandson, leaving in the ladies’s

cabin two ladies named Coffin, who were in company with an aged lady from Troy, these being the only ladies whose names were known to his daughters.

“Passing to the forward deck, he was met by some one who told him to keep off the bows, as the boat was going down; and as he turned to get to the hurricane deck, with his daughters and grandson, he was met by a rush of water sweeping over the lower deck from the stern, and turning round caught a glimpse of the two Misses Coffin behind him, but on gaining the upper deck with his charge they were missing; search was made for their bodies on the lower deck and one of them was recovered, but quite dead. The other could not be found.

“As the boat sunk down, about 20 or 25, or more, took refuge in the state rooms, believing that they would be safe, but they were soon overwhelmed, some escaping on settees, chairs and tables, and floating away, while a few gained the hurricane deck, but it is feared that several remained in the rooms and were drowned. Of those who floated off (about 15 or 20), two gentlemen and a lady were found clinging to a settee about a mile and a half below the wreck, all three alive, but greatly exhausted. They were taken to Athens. Of the others who tried to save themselves by similar means, nothing was known up to yesterday afternoon, and it is feared they have perished.

Passengers saved:—

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|
| The Express took on board | ... | 40 |
| The Rochester | ... | 94 |
| Carried to Athens and Hudson | ... | 70 |
| | | ... |
| Total | ... | 204 |

The same statistics have been found in the *Weekly Herald* (New York, N.Y.), April 12, 1845.

Passengers lost or missing.—The following are the lost and missing, so far as ascertained:—

“Missing—Mrs. Conklin, Miss Coffin of Troy; Mrs. Gilson and two young ladies from Albany, whose brother was at the wreck anxiously searching for their bodes; Mrs. Walker, of New York Mrs. French, and Mrs. Lambert.

“Bodies found.—Six bodies were found on the main deck, between the captain’s office and the ladies’ cabin, vix:—Two Misses Wood and Miss Coffin, of Troy; one gentleman and a lady, names unknown; a middle-aged woman, apparently a native of Ireland; two more bodies were picked up near Hudson; Mrs. Colton and Miss Briggs, milliner, both of Troy, and one lady, with a thimble in her pocket having the initials W. M. C., were found at the wreck.

“A gentleman of Detroit, named Huest, having a bag containing 1,500 dollars in gold, jumped overboard with the bag upon his arm, but was soon obliged to let it go. He was only saved by having fortunately grasped a narrow strip of board as he jumped.”
