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THE LOSS OF THE STEAMER SWALLOW.

As a great number of contradictory statements have appeared in the papers, touching the rescue of Miss Cornelia Platt, of Detroit, from the wreck of the ill-fated *Swallow*, I feel that I shall do her friends service by giving to the public the following particulars, which I had from the lips of Jas A. Hicks, Esq., to whom she is indebted for the preservation of her life. I shall give, as nearly as possible, his own words: At the time of the accident, Mr. Hicks was engaged in conversation with Mr. Hinsdell, of New York. Miss Platt had just retired to her state-room. When the boat struck, the shock was so severe as to throw down nearly all of those who were standing in the cabin. Mr. Hicks, as soon as he could recover himself, sought Miss Platt, who had been placed under his charge, to conduct her to New York. She had fainted, but very soon recovered. In the midst of the confusion, someone cried out, 'No danger; the boat has only struck a raft.' This quieted the fears of the passengers for a moment, but only for a moment. They soon learned the awful truth, that the boat was sinking. It had broken in the centre, and at the same time, seemed to be on fire about midships. In an instant, all was confusion. The passengers ran to and fro, in their efforts to escape; and, to make the scene still more appalling, the lights went out.—Mr. Hicks had previously seized a small settee, and had barely time to instruct Miss Platt to hold firmly on to it—telling her that 'as long as he had life, she should not perish,' when the water rushed in from the forward part of the boat, and swept them along, with a great number of others, into the river. The only lights that could be seen were those at Hudson—and toward those they directed their course. They had not gone more than two rods [=33 ft.], when a girl, apparently four or five years of age, floated up against them.—Mr. Hicks seized hold of her, and drew her upon the settee—but the additional weight overturned it; and, in the struggle and confusion, the child was lost. He said the child seemed to be fully conscious of its situation; exhibiting, as long as it remained with them, the most remarkable presence of mind. It did not utter a single word, from the time he drew it across the settee, and it went down. They soon discovered the lights at Athens, and changed their course; but, in so doing, rolled over two or three times in the water—and this they found to be one of their principal difficulties, to keep themselves from constant overturning; and besides, they were surrounded on all sides, by those who were crying out most piteously for help, and seizing hold of everything within their reach to save themselves.—One man endeavored to take from them the settee, and was

only prevented by Mr. Hicks after a severe struggle. Another seized hold of Miss Platt by the clothes, from which she extracted herself with great difficulty.

During all these struggles, said Mr. Hicks, Miss Platt retained her self-possession; and at times, even encouraged him in his efforts. From the beginning to the end of the disaster, she exhibited a calm and determined fortitude, which, to use his own words, was ‘truly sublime;’ and to her persevering courage, said he, is she indebted for her life.

When they had been in the water about half an hour, they saw a light approaching. It proved to be a boat coming to their assistance. Mr. Hicks called to the persons to hasten—**and received in answer, words of encouragement to hold out a little longer**—but, said he, it was impossible; ‘I was completely exhausted, and felt myself sinking.’ He debated in his mind, whether he should let go of the settee, or take it down with him. If he let it go, he could not find it if he should come up again—and both himself and Miss Platt would certainly be lost. They both sank together—and went down, he should think, 6 or 7 feet. Upon coming up, he found Miss Platt perfectly insensible, though clinging firmly to the settee. By extraordinary exertions, he kept her head above water an instant longer; and feeling himself sinking a second time, he called in those in the boat—as we learn from their statements in the papers—to **‘save her and let him go.’**

They were taken up completely exhausted. Miss Platt was insensible—and did not recover enough to speak, until about 3 o’clock the next morning.

The above are some of the particulars of ***one of the many narrow escapes from the Swallow. They exhibit one of the most noble, persevering, and successful efforts at rescue, that it has been my good fortune, in the whole history of disasters to hear; but words of praise would be out of place here. They could add nothing to the gratitude of friends, and I know they would not be agreeable to him who, from the beginning to the end of the danger, was willing to have yielded up his own life, to save that of another.***

The facts speak for themselves—and I here beg leave to say that I have published them almost without the knowledge of Mr. Hicks, and certainly against his wishes; for the purpose of correcting the many contradictory reports which have been circulated touching the rescue of Miss Platt and calculated to mislead her friends.

From the history of these individual cases, only, can we learn the agonies of that night, and tell somewhat of the number lost. Who were they struggling and drowning on every side of Mr. Hicks and Miss Platt? What men were they compelled to push from them to save their own lives? And whose child was that they vainly tried to save, and where its parents? These are some of the fearful questions suggested to the mind, and to which it can find no answer.