

H Thoreau's Notes.

The only ones of the survivors who remained on board till the vessel broke up were the carpenter & the cook. I conversed with the former & the mate, but the cook was not to be found when I called. He was the only American among the crew, & the only one who was unsteady— He was intoxicated most of the time on shore.

The following is the account of Charles W. Davis 1st Mate—A Hanoverian, who went out from N. Orleans.

They had pleasant weather up to latitude 58° so that they painted the vessel. Margaret conversed with him one day about the late wars in Germany & Italy. The child did not talk. He understood that Bangs had been captain of one or two vessels before. At 2 ½ o'clock A. M. on Friday they had soundings at 21 fathoms, & thinking that they were off the Jersey shore, headed NE by E half E. the wind being S. SE, working round to S. (Oakes said that the wind never held long at the SE.) Both he & the Captain expected to know only their latitude, not their longitude! That was too difficult a calculation. The storm was now raging. "Did the Captain turn in?" "He was in his room & would come out & ask what the weather was." The ship struck at 10 minutes

before 4. About 2 hours afterward the cabin became untenable and the sailors helped the passengers forward to the forecabin, which was stronger; the latter being in their nightclothes. The ship lay along parallel with the shore, headed east, tipped up on the S. or windward side, the deck sloping to leeward—one end about as high as the other— When he helped Margaret forward, the rigging & sail had fallen across midships so that it was difficult to get under or over it, while the sea was breaking over their heads. Margaret then asked him to get her money out of her desk? or portfolio? and then she said, she would have enough to pay her passage to New-York—also two large seal rings, with a kind of family seal on them. He got the money which was in doubloons, about 70 dollars, this he knew was all she had, except some drafts—also the seal rings, & besides two other smaller lady's rings, one of them with white stones in it, her breast pin, & her eyeglass with a gold handle, & a heavy gold chain—which she did not wear that morning. These things which were more than she asked for, he brought to her, & she told him if she & her husband were lost, to send the child to the Marquis Ossoli, New York. He supposed that she meant her husband. The Ossoli's sat still & silent. The child did not cry. Margaret sat in her white night dress, flat on

the deck, with her back to the bulwarks on the upper or windward side, & her feet toward the foremast; the sea breaking over all, though the bulwarks afforded some protection. A smooth place under the lee of the vessel was favorable for the passengers getting off. Having put Mrs Hasty on a plank he started swimming behind, & pushing her before, & they landed about 11 O'clock without assistance— He complained of a sore chest produced by the sea throwing the planks against him— This was an heroic exploit—& proves great strength courage & skill— They completed about the first eight that got ashore. He stayed on shore till the vessel went to pieces, & was the last of the crew that left the spot.

The men on shore had not encourage enough to launch the life-boat— They might have launched it without risk to their lives; he had seen a whale boat launched in as rough a sea. If it had been the coast of England they could all have been saved. The men sat for an hour or two on the side of the boat doing nothing but now & then picking up a hat, (part of the cargo) that came ashore. They did not begin to load the mortar till it was too late—till the fore mast fell—though it had been there an hour or two —& then they had brought but one ball, though they had plenty of them at the Light House(. 4 or 5

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miles distant) One man said, that 'he had done enough, he was not going back for another. "Did the Captain do his duty?" "I should think he did what he could. I dont know– He said that nobody would come ashore with him." (The Captain did not come ashore till after the Mate.)

(Davis & the Captain evidently were not on good terms with one another– The former did not know that B. was gone to Phil^a till I told him, but apparently he did not wish to say any-thing against him.)

He said that the Ossolis had four trunks, perhaps five–2 pretty large ones, two smaller–one pretty large case full of books–a tin box marked M. F. which he painted over, letters & all, lead colour, on the voyage. & some more small baggage. A small black iron bound trunk which I saw at Oakes' was Margaret's He saw her put her watch into it. This came ashore empty before his eyes. (The contents of the other were saved, it being late in the day & many people present. It landed itself, & was rolled over & over up the beach.) He saw ladies' clothing bonnets &c. taken out of the larger trunk when it was opened at Oakes'– He knew that Mrs Hasty never had a tasselled dress such as I found & described

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