

An incident or two concerning the launching will be here in place: There was living in our village at the time a rather notable mulatto man, who was called "Whistling Tom"—what his true name was I never knew. He was tall, and of fine figure and features; the last partook more of white than of colored blood, and he was a character by himself. He was noted for his great power in and fondness for whistling. He was not only a great whistler, but could imitate the sound and notes of instruments of music, such as the bugle, clarinet, etc. The steamboat was launched side foremost. Quite a number of men were permitted to climb aboard before she slid off her ways. Many hundreds assembled to see her launched. When all things were ready, word was given, and then commenced the rattling of the sledges of the ship-carpenters who lay under the boat knocking out the blocks that held her from the greasy ways on which she was to slide into the water. Pretty soon she started. Not a word was spoken; each one seemed to hold his breath, when, just at the right moment, "Whistling Tom" gave a shrill peal like a bugle note in his most artistic style, which seemed to electrify all present. The moment he had finished the strain, there went up from the multitude a shout that made the welkin ring. Within the next minute there were several skiffs manned and with pikes and boat-hooks men went to work saving the floating timber that was carried into the water by the launched boat.

In the midst of the confusion of the multitude, there came a cry from the launched boat that needed immediate attention. It was that a man had got his leg broken. Doctor Congdon, who was quite a corpulent man, bustled round for some time, not having the agility to climb up on board from a small boat and make sure of the job of setting and splinting the broken limb. But finally he succeeded in getting aboard, and managing the case, which was a rare and tempting one; for a broken leg was not a very common occurrence in our village. The accident had been caused by the lurch of the