

safety, or get drowned in the attempt. Some of these captains are intensely egotistical and will not go back for anything. We can scarcely blame them, for if they granted the petition of every sea-sick sinner, they would never land anywhere at all. The only dry places on the boat were the small cabins on each side, and they were not capable of holding more than 25 girls, to say nothing of children in arms. In one of the cabins they were singing. This is often done during storms and is a justly commendable practice, and is alleged to be efficacious in preserving ships from going down. Wishing to find out in what part of the lake we were supposed to be, I asked the Captain. He said that he did not exactly know, but expected to find out next morning at daybreak. I felt greatly relieved and went on smoking. He further stated that if we didn't strike something before daylight we might strike something else, or words to that effect. After delivering this oracular information he put about one quarter of a pound of tobacco into his mouth and gave orders to go straight ahead. By this time more than half the people on board were in a nauseous condition, but there were no signs of the gale subsiding. The wild excitement which seized the passengers at first had now given way to blank despair, and I counted thirty-four fellows hugging thirty-nine girls in one part of the upper deck. They had resolved to die together. It has been alleged that you can hug a girl on a steamboat who positively