

to leap into the angry waters and swim to shore. With superhuman strength I held him down; my face expressed the supplication to refrain, which my tongue refused to utter—believing that as long as I had the boat to hold on to, I was safe. In the confusion the rudder was lost, and the boat fast filling with water. The four brave soldiers, seeing that further attempts to control the boat were useless, let go the oars, took off their caps and boots with which to bail out the water, and prevent the boat sinking, at the same time feeling and knowing the imminent danger, assured me there was none, saying, “Do not fear, Madam, there is no danger.”

They afterwards said, at the time they assured me of safety they momentarily expected we would sink, and thanked me a thousand times for my presence of mind; the boat rocked to and fro, at the mercy of the waves. After being in the water three long hours, we drifted on a sand bar about two miles from home; the men were not slow in getting out to ascertain the depth of the water, which was waist deep. I was elegantly dressed, having a dress of figured lavender satin, trimmings of white satin and white lace, white kid slippers, white silk hose, white lace shawl, white kid gloves, longer than those worn at the present time, and a covering for the head called a “calash,” made of green silk and rattan, which could be folded flat, and pulled out over the face when worn, and answered as a parasol or bonnet; they were very fashionable at that time, but I have never seen the like since. Coming out of the water we landed in the mud, there being no sidewalks; we walked two miles; what a sight when I reached home, just as the sun was rising; the weight of the water had loosened the trimmings on my dress, and hung five yards behind me, black as the earth. My dear mother met us at the door, my escort bade me good morning, after being pressed to remain to breakfast, and mother said, “Go right up stairs, you do not know the danger you are in.” I wanted to tell her what had happened; she knew it all, she had seen me in imagination struggling in the angry waters for my life. She had not closed her eyes, and at times was almost frantic. After dancing and being overheated, then in the water three hours. I was chilled; the long walk saved