

# STEAMER THOMPSON DISASTER.

MEMPHIS, April 12.

The APPEAL's Little Rock special this evening gives the following particulars of the loss of the steamer G. A. Thompson, obtained from Mr. J. B. Dinsmore, one of the pilots: The boat was commanded by Capt. Frazier, and was bound from Cincinnati to Little Rock and Fort Smith, laden with bacon, flour, agricultural implements, furniture, and lime. She had aboard at the time of the accident about eighteen passengers, five of whom were ladies, including the captain's wife. She struck a snag at Erwin's Landing, forty miles below Little Rock, at 2 A. M. Saturday, and sunk immediately in nine feet of water.

The slacking of the line on the deck set the boat on fire. Shortly after sinking an effort was made to throw the line overboard, but the crew were driven away by the heat of the flames. Immediate steps were taken to save the ladies, which was accomplished with the life-boat. After considerable difficulty in keeping the men back, in which shooting had to be threatened, the ladies were landed on a bar, while the yawl used to save the crew was swamped by too many jumping in, which occasioned the greatest loss of life. Mr. Dinsmore was in the yawl when it was swamped. He floated down the river. His cries were heard, and the life-boat was sent to the rescue and succeeded in saving him and Major Hugh Wilson, carpenter of the boat.

Seventeen lives were lost, including George Ely, first clerk; John Perkins, second clerk; the cook; a lame cabin boy, of New Albany; Mr. Frandle, of Little Rock, and three others, names not known. Nine colored chambermaids, eight deck hands, Ely and Perkins were in the yawl when it swamped. Both were good swimmers, but drowned. The Allen, going down Sunday morning, took the survivors of the crew, and the Caldwell, coming up, brought the passengers to this city, both boats treating the officers with great kindness.