

Disaster has followed disaster in quick succession during the last twelve months of the life of John Griffin, master of the ill-fated schooner Typo, which was sunk in Lake Huron Saturday, with the loss of four lives. "Up to twelve months ago," says Capt. Griffin, "there was not a happier man in the world. I had no accidents with my boat and everything ran along smoothly, but since that time disaster has followed in my footsteps." During the last year Captain Griffin has had three boats sink under him and has had three hair-breadth escapes. On one of these occasions he lost his entire crew and wife, who was taking a trip with him. This was in the wreck of his own boat, the St. Peter, on Lake Ontario, late last fall. On another occasion, a dredge which he was operating went down and left him to swim for it. In speaking of the last disaster he says that all of the crew were on the deck of the schooner and were fully dressed when the steamer struck her. They lowered the small boat at the stern immediately after the crash and placed the lady in the yawl first. The men then got in and started to row away from the ill-fated schooner. While they were yet quite close to the schooner the latter went down head first. The yawl was overturned by the suction and its occupants were spilled out, all of them being drawn down deep in the water with the schooner. It is the opinion of the men that the four people who were drowned were drawn so deep that that they found it impossible to gain the surface again. Capt. Griffin states that he went down fully thirty feet and that when he came to the surface he was totally blinded for some time. He paddled about in the water, clinging to an oar until he was picked up by the boat from the steamer. On each of the occasions of the other escapes from death, an oar helped to keep him afloat. Seaman Johnson is a strong swimmer. He said that he, too, was sucked down by the sinking boat, but that he was the first to gain the surface. He struck out for the barge, and upon gaining her side climbed up and helped to lower the steamer's yawl to row it to his companions. Longton was picked up first and shortly afterward the captain was found. The captain was nearly dead and they had to haul him up over the gunwale of the boat by main force. After a long search, efforts to find the other members of the crew were abandoned and the party went aboard the Ketcham. Proceedings will be instituted in the courts and the cause of the disaster will be settled in that way.