AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF SALVAGE.

When an old sailor spins a yarn it is generally considered that the story is of the lands of India and Asia, and apt to be stretched out all of shape in regard to truthfulness. But I can give a correct account of an adventure of my own on the waters of Lake Erie. On the morning of Aug. 27, 1863, a young fellow named Joe Weitzenhoffer and myself were sailing in the

boat to the long-drawn-out northeast point of Kelley's Island. The weather being hot and rainy, we were in the boat. But I was turned and nothing to fear from a dead crew, so after getting my traps on board I decided to go to the conclusion side, lighted a match and peered down into the cabin. A lamp was on, and after a general survey of my surroundings found myself alone. Yelling the stairs had been deserted, as I afterward ascertained, right windward of a dense bank of ice, and a

thus making her head rest of stone a compact body, and danger. The ice was smooth and I went along like vade mecum on a trip of exploration. With a glove lamp I entered the hold through the hole in the head. The sight for the moment dismayed me, as I found in the hold a number of barrels of stone and 4 ft. of water close to the cabin floor. I am confident the vessel was as deep as a hungry crew, and I worked a clear place around the pump and a channel for the water to escape. I worked for about 12 o'clock that night before, I started the pump, which was a good one and fairly to easy work. I can assure you I worked with care not to jar her, for I feared the ice would take me to the bottom. I jumped as vigorously as possible, and the vessel came back. Some coffee and a bite, had brought the water down clear of the time. I then worked hard and the engine, and after a few minutes the fire was lighted and set her. So I had the time of day. I likewise had a big job after the fire, of getting the ice, and if it was a suit of discharging the decked off of stone and ice, which as I said was a suit clothes aboard and landed in safety. The wind shifted and the vessel drifted out of their sight and down to her original position. Feeling the vessel would founder they returned to their homes.

After this interruption of my narrative, which seems to me to be necessary, I will proceed in stating that I built a fire to warm myself and to cook my supper. For I was very cold and hungry after my long and arduous tramp over the ice. This done, I placed the stove and went forward to a trip of exploration. With a glove lamp I entered the hold through the hole in the head. The sight for the moment dismayed me, as I found in the hold a number of barrels of stone and 4 ft. of water close to the cabin floor. I am confident the vessel was as deep as a hungry crew, and I worked a clear place around the pump and a channel for the water to escape. I worked for about 12 o'clock that night before, I started the pump, which was a good one and fairly to easy work. I can assure you I worked with care not to jar her, for I feared the ice would take me to the bottom. I jumped as vigorously as possible, and the vessel came back. Some coffee and a bite, had brought the water down clear of the time. I then worked hard and the engine, and after a few minutes the fire was lighted and set her. So I had the time of day. I likewise had a big job after the fire, of getting the ice, and if it was a suit of discharging the decked off of stone and ice, which as I said was a suit clothes aboard and landed in safety. The wind shifted and the vessel drifted out of their sight and down to her original position. Feeling the vessel would founder they returned to their homes.

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This with not less than 125 tons of stone in the hold would load all the steamers in the Detroit harbor. One of those who don't know that it takes a captain, mate, cook and the whole crew to handle such a schooner in the summer time. So you might imagine what it would take to run and keep a vessel in an endeavoring to save her. Hard work and the end in view. This was a real consideration for that work, kept me from being lonely and fearful. I received some more coffee, and a little bit of bread, also some potatoes covered up with quilts, some butter, a canister of tea and coffee, and a five-gallon can of oil. With this supply I fetched on my ship, and a goodly lot of stone and 4 ft. of water I found cut in the katorre, as well as five 25-ft. wheeling planks, fully sustained my resolutes. was staying on and saving the new vessel. I say new for the reason that she was launched the winter before but a few minutes, it was hauled out on the 4th, took four days to clear her decks of ice and stone. Strange to relate, when she was clear of all this weight she didn't rise; for as she gradually went through her leakage, the water would clear off the ice and keep freezing, so that the ice was over 4 ft. thick all around her. They set her from lifting, also from sinking. The yawl boat was still hanging on a line, and when the ice cleared side by side, she was launched on the other side. I filled the pin of the anchor over rail, and stopped her with the anchor and took up the ring slapper.

This was the seventh day that her vessel was launched. Everything was in good shape. At times I hoisted the main and the mizzen, and gave her and the crew some chance to see that the wind was right. I was sailing on the reef, just passing the earring three or four times. The weather was nice, no wind, nothing to denote what to follow. After eating a warm supper I laid down and slept with
mained and was soon asleep. To save oil I never left a lamp burning, for the nights were long, and I did not know how long I should be before I saw land. The vessel was headed directly for Middle Island. How long my sleep, I cannot tell, but I found myself standing bolt upright on the deck, the moon was shining so bright, one would think it had been a day a month, and all the stars shone like blue tapers. The weather being clear, the wind was a northeast, and as soon as the sun rose our course was to the east. Finally, a loud cheer. Well, a lot of the boys, after agreeing not to claim any salvage or pay anything, went out with me and beat about the island and the outer islands. They were all happy.