

naturally conclude (although this is by no means an improbable result of your voyage), but it merely signifies 'going down the river.' ” Another offered this piece of advice, “ When you are racing with an opposition steam-boat, or chasing her, and the other passengers are cheering the captain, who is sitting on the safety valve to keep it down with his weight, go as far as you can from the engine, and lose no time, especially if you hear the captain exclaim, ‘ Fire up boys, put on the resin !’ Should a servant call out, ‘ Those gentlemen who have not paid their passage will please to go to the ladies’ cabin,’ obey the summons without a moment’s delay, for then an explosion may be apprehended.” “ Why to the ladies’s cabin ? ” said I. “ Because it is the safe end of the boat, and they are getting anxious for the personal security of those who have not yet paid their dollars, being, of course, indifferent about the rest. Therefore never pay in advance, for should you fall overboard during a race, and the watch cries out to the captain, ‘ A passenger overboard,’ he will ask, ‘ Has he paid his passage ?’ and if he receives an answer in the affirmative, he will call out, ‘ Go ahead !’ ”

I shall explain in the sequel why the danger of accidents, in the present state of the navigation, is by no means so great as statistical tables make it appear at a distance ; but certainly my first day’s experience was not of a character to dispose me to regard the warnings I had received as idle or uncalled for. After we had been seated for half an hour on the deck of the “ Wave ” steamer, Dr. Carpenter was recommended by a friend to go by preference in a rival boat, just ready to start for the Balize, which he said was safer. We accordingly went into her, and she sailed first. Eight hours afterward, while we were waiting, as I thought, an unconscionable time, at a landing, while a creole proprietor, who was by no means inclined to be in a hurry, was embarking himself and some black servants, we saw the rival steamer come up very slowly. No sooner had she joined us, than all her passengers poured into our steamer, and told us they had been in the greatest alarm, their steam-pipe having burst ; but, most providentially, they had all escaped without serious injury. If I had not already sailed about 1500