

July, 1912

In the Struggle for Life.



O REPLETE is the full story of the wreck with incidents of noble heroism that it almost seems as if the calamity, terrible as it was, was worth to humanity at large all that it cost. Women and men, stokers and millionaires, crew and passengers, faced the grim enemy with unshaken fortitude and self-control. There were exceptions of course. In a company of 2,300 men and women of all sorts there must be some who show the yellow streak at such a time. There is a painful story of one boat half-filled which was not allowed by the passengers to go back to rescue those struggling for life in the water. There is the tale of one young fellow of 22 from the steerage who retained his place in the boat by wearing a woman's shawl. There was once or twice necessity for the firing of pistols into the air to stop a rush for the boats. There were men who whimpered in their seats while the women rowed to safety. But such cases were gloriously few. "No ship's crew," says the *New York World*, "will ever give a better account of itself in a great crisis than did the *Titanic's* after she had ripped herself open and was doomed to destruction." Of the crew of 940 on the ship, 210 were saved. A number of these, perhaps one-fourth, went into the boats to man the oars. Probably a score of the rest were stewardesses who received the benefit of the rule "women and children first." Many others were men picked up out of the sea after the ship went down. Of the 1,400 passengers, 495 were saved, of whom 202 were first cabin, 115 second cabin and 178 steerage passengers. That is, 35 per cent. of the passengers and 22 per cent. of the crew survived. In details like these may be found the fountain of that inspiration which has prompted so many poets to fine verse in memory of the lost.