MEMO. April 15, 1901.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. PALMER, of 180 Arlington Ave., Brooklyn, Concerning Victor Smith.

Mrs. Palmer tells me the ship was wrecked about 2 o'clock in the morning. She seems to have run between two coral ledges. A hole was torn in the bow, but the ship remained between these ledges, rocking from side to side in the heavy sea. The water was not deep enough for her to sink, but she was gradually being torn to pieces.

The passengers had great difficulty in keeping their places on the deck, and at each roll the gunwales went below the water. Baggage, etc. was completely knocked to pieces in the hold by this rocking. Passengers taken ashore on rafts and boats.

Roncadore Reef was a sandy track of about five acres. Many turtles collected here, and fishermen came for them in numbers from a near island. Also quantities of guano gathered here. The crew succeeded in saving some hard-tack and pork, ~~XXX~~ collected from steerage quarters. They lived on this and on turtle soup for ten days. The soup was made in big barrels and dished out to the 600 passengers by ladles which had been secured from the steamer.

The passengers lost all their clothes. They were taken off by the gunboat sent from Panama. When they reached Panama the Consul gave them a dinner, and presented each one with a straw hat.

Mrs. Palmer says Victor Smith did remain behind. She is under the impression that there were fishermen with him. She heard afterwards that he had come to San Francisco, and was staying at the Russ House.

Miss Tarbell.

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