

THE DAY'S MISDEEDS.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT TOLEDO YESTERDAY—LOSS \$650,000.

A Steamer and Many Buildings Destroyed by Fire at Toledo, Ohio—Narrow Escape From a Burning Building at New York—Fatal Railway Collisions and Other Accidents.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT TOLEDO.

TOLEDO, O., Dec. 15.—The Hall block, situated on the corner of St. Clair and Jefferson street and the finest business block in the city, was totally destroyed by fire this morning. The fire was discovered shortly after 3 a. m., and is supposed to have originated in music hall, a room in the building used for public entertainments. The building was occupied on the first floor by numerous jobbing houses, and on the upper floor by lawyers had insurance offices, the offices of the Wash and Ohio Central railroad companies, art galleries, etc. The block was erected in 1874, by the estate of the late James C. Hall at a cost of near a quarter million dollars, subsequently transferred to the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance company of Hartford, by whom it was owned when destroyed. The total loss will probably exceed \$650,000 with fair proportions of insurance, the exact amount not yet known. The fire originated at 2:30 this morning in the second story. The cause is only conjectured. It was discovered immediately, and was seemingly extinguished. Twenty minutes later it broke out in the third and fourth stories, having passed into the partitions. Owing to the great difficulty in getting a good pressure of water the flames spread rapidly, and it was soon evident the structure was doomed. The heat was intense, and the efforts of the fire department were directed towards the adjoining buildings. By strenuous efforts they succeeded in confining the fire to the block. For a time the First Congregational church, the finest in the city, among the Hall block on the north, was in great danger. The guests in the body house next adjoining were awakened. Considerable excitement ensued. At 7 o'clock the flames were under control, and no further danger is anticipated. The losses are very heavy, and fall principally upon a few wholesale houses. Taylor, Rodgers & Co., wholesale boot, shoe and rubber house, had a stock worth \$200,000, upon which the loss will be over \$200,000; insured for \$28,000. L. L. Baumgartner, wholesale fancy notion house, stock \$75,000; saved probably \$10,000; insured for \$62,000. Wood & Aikin, wholesale grocers, lose the entire stock, valued at between \$40,000 and \$50,000; insured for \$30,000. The Ohio Central general offices and Wash and Ohio offices were entirely destroyed. Loss estimated at \$15,000, with \$8,000 insurance. The loss of the attorneys, architects and other occupants, foot up \$20,000; half insured. The building cost in 1874 \$225,000. For foreclosure of mortgage it became the property of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance company, upon whom the loss falls. It was insured for \$110,000. Total loss \$650,000; total insurance about \$500,000, divided among nearly all the prominent companies having agencies in the city, the policies ranging from \$20,000 down.

OTHER BLAZES.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Dec. 15.—The mill of Armsbitt & Co. was partially destroyed by fire last night. Loss \$60,000; covered by insurance. They manufactured railroad spikes, nuts, etc.

HICKMAN, Ky., Dec. 15.—The fire yesterday destroyed three blocks in the business part of the town. Loss \$100,000; insurance \$40,000.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 15.—Fire on the south side this morning destroyed five frame dwellings belonging to A. N. Rose and J. Weinberger. Loss \$8,000; fully insured.

WATERBURY, Conn., Dec. 15.—The loss by the burning of the Jones cotton mill is estimated at \$1,000,000; insurance \$200,000.

RAILWAY COLLISIONS.

LONDON, Oct. 15.—Two freight trains on the air line of the Grand Trunk collided near Montreal, yesterday. Both were wrecked. No lives lost. Carelessness of the switchman is reported. Driver Brown received injuries that may prove fatal, and his fireman was seriously hurt. A number of others were injured.

KILLED BY THE CARS.

ALTOONA, Pa., Dec. 15.—Last night Parks Lemaire and his two sisters, Flora and Alice, were killed on the railroad at Tipton station, two miles east of this city. They were returning home from prayer meeting, walking on the track, and stepped off to avoid a passing train, and in doing so were run down by an engine on another track. All were young and unmarried.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Fire broke out in the back room on the first floor of the six story tenement, No. 170 and 172 Suffolk street, this afternoon, seized upon the stairway and cut off the escape of the tenants in the second and third story. The others saved themselves by flight to the roof. There was great excitement Mrs. Caroline Scherer and Mrs. Miller threw their three children from the window and leaped after them. All escaped uninjured except Mrs. Scherer, whose hands were sprained. A thirty-five foot ladder fell with three firemen, who were rescuing the tenants. They escaped with slight bruises. Comparative slight damage was done by the flames.

STREMBAD BURNED.

SHREVEPORT, Dec. 15.—The steamboat Kate Kenny took fire in the bayou at the ferry landing to-day. The boat and cargo are a total loss. This was the first trip of the Kenney this season, she having a few days ago left her dock after receiving repairs amounting to \$8,000. The boat was valued at \$20,000; insured for \$10,000 in Cincinnati companies. She belongs to the Red River & Coast line. The cargo consisted of 2,000 bales of cotton, oil cake, and other freight; probably insured. No lives lost so far as known.

Fire from the burning steamer spread to the buildings adjacent, being driven by high winds. Loss about \$150,000. Several buildings near the ferry landing were destroyed, among them O. L. Chamberlain's machine shop, Capt. Ben White's residence, Robinson's boat shop, and George L. White's residence. The steamer Kinney was totally destroyed. She had 1,875 bales of cotton, 600 sacks of oil cake, 200 barrels of oil, 17 sacks of wool, and miscellaneous freights. The books were not saved, but quick calls were made in getting some money out of the safe. The fire originated in the deck room, cause unknown, and spread so rapidly that the passengers and crew lost all.

The baggage of M. W. Applegate, United States local inspector of steamboats, was lost, his valise containing all the papers of this trip of inspection. A careful estimate places the loss at \$130,000; insurance \$10,000.

STEAMER SUNK.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 15.—The steamboat St. Francis Belle, belonging to the Ouchita River Consolidated line, sunk in Bayou Bartholomew to-day. She had a full load of

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Baron and Hutton were to-day again privately examined before the magistrates. One of the witnesses at the inquiry yesterday was so astounded at the knowledge possessed by the police that he fainted on quitting the room. It is believed the man behind whose house were found knives supposed to have been used in the Phoenix park murders will be examined to-morrow. Two of the knives have blood stains on them. Police believed they know the driver of the car that conveyed the murderers to and from the park. They think he also drove the car on which Fields' assassinations were committed.

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STILLWATER GLOBULES.

The members of the Maennerchor will enjoy themselves Sunday evening at Music hall.

In the case of the lad who is charged with having assaulted an old man, the trial has been continued until Monday morning.

Muller Post, G. A. R., held their annual election of officers Thursday evening. Capt. W. H. Taylor was re-elected commander of the post.

A great many people consider the ice unsafe for the reason that the snow prevents it from freezing, and it was known to be unsafe before the snow fell.

A man with signs front and rear was hired by the Coltons to perambulate the streets yesterday. A horse was frightened at the strange spectacle and ran away.

From letters received in this city from Sweden, it is learned that large numbers of the people there are preparing to emigrate to this country the coming spring.

An unusually large number of toys and fancy articles have been disposed of the last few days. Some dealers have an immense stock of such goods. They claim their sales are proportionately large.

Rogers & Co. have concluded to go out of the book and stationery business. For the next few days they will sell at cost. The goods must be sold regardless of price, as they want the room for other business.

It is reported that four horses attached to a wagon load of grain in crossing the lake broke through the ice and were drowned. The accident is said to have occurred near Bay town, but persons from there late in the afternoon knew nothing of the occurrence.

Dr. Carroll's lecture at the Opera house Thursday evening proved a success in every respect. The doctor selected many incidents not noticed by the ordinary observer. As the tickets were sold by a number of different persons, the receipts of the evening have not yet been ascertained.

Muller Post propose to substitute a play entitled "The Patriot; or the Scout of the Cumberland" for the camp scenes heretofore exhibited to the public. C. A. Bennett will assume the role of the colonel of the regiment; Geo. Howe that of adjutant. No definite time has been set for the entertainment, but it will take place shortly after the New Year.

FOREST CULTURE.

The Climatic Change, as Indicated by the Cultivation of Forests. [N. Y. Herald.]

In a valuable paper read before an agricultural meeting at Northampton, Mass., on the 7th, Prof. G. S. Sturgeon pointed out the vast losses to the country annually by forest fires. The strongest point in his paper—on the permanent damage done by these fires—is that they "destroy not only the growing wood, but the fertility of the soil itself." As this is the season for legislation it is timely to press on legislators the necessity for revising existing enactments to better secure the wasted forests from the wholesale conflagrations to which they are every year exposed. In a recent article Prof. Sargent takes the ground that "forests do not produce rain; rain produces the forests, and without a certain amount of rain they cannot exist." Rainfall may not be directly produced in large quantities by the condensation of atmospheric moisture caused by the cloud-chilling forest; but the indirect agency of the timbered land in augmenting the supply of rainfall which permeates the soil and becomes agriculturally beneficial is certainly very considerable. The addition of a single inch of rainfall to the amount which penetrates the soil instead of running off is on every acre over 22,500 gallons.

But there is another effect of forests which is generally overlooked even by scientists in discussing their physical importance. In historical times marked climatic changes have occurred in Europe and America which can be explained only by the progress of continental deforestation. The able British physicist, Admiral Smyth, in his work on the physical geography of the Mediterranean basin, clearly shows that great climatic changes have taken place. The effects of intense cold weather in Italy, Greece and Asia Minor, recorded by ancient writers, he believes, have been in large degree due to this cause. It is a doubtful whether we will ever have gas cold winters as that of 1780, when the Chesapeake bay "was frozen solid," according to Mr. Jefferson, "from its head to the mouth of the Potomac," and Washington's troops securely crossed on the solid ice from New Jersey to Staten Island. Making due allowance for historical inaccuracies, it seems clear that while the cold spells of late years have been as frequent as in 1780, and that their duration has not been so protracted, forests, of course, protect the soil from rapid radiation of its heat and from the frigorific downward currents of the great "cold waves." But they must also generally retard the passage of these "polar waves" and serve to detain them longer on the continent than would be the case were the soil cleared. The removal of the forests by the spread of civilization and conflagrations thus exposes the soil to increased fluctuations of abnormal cold and heat and enables the heavy masses of cold air to roll over it with greater velocity to the sea. We may congratulate ourselves on the latter effect of soil denudation, as it probably gives us winters of higher mean temperature than our ancestors had. But it is not improbable future investigation will demonstrate that while the "winter" and "summer" waters of the precipitation of winter and spring are reduced and the agricultural seasons open with disastrous droughts. For it is seen that exceptionally mild winters, like those of 1877-78, 1879-80 and 1881-82, have been marked by deficient or "winter" rainfall and by widespread droughts, with forest fires and army worm invasions in the succeeding spring months, and aridity sometimes extending far into summer. It is to be hoped, therefore, that during the coming winter the preservation of forests will be made a matter of more effective and intelligent legislation than has yet been devised.

The Wisconsin Grange.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 15.—The State grange has concluded its labors for this year. R. J. Day, of Green county, was elected trustee, John Whillet, of Jefferson, member of the executive committee, G. Kniffin, of Milwaukee, purchasing agent. The next annual meeting is to be held at Madison. The committee on transportation offered a resolution to have the legislature enact laws looking to a reduction of 25 per cent. in railway passenger rates, which was carried. Andrew Broughton, of Green, John Whillet, of Jefferson, B. D. Frost, of Dane, were appointed a committee to guard the interest of the Agriculturists. They have made it an experimental station. Adjourned for one year.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 15.—At the hearing to-day before the attorney general in the application of Greaves to bring a suit against the Western Union Telegraph company, the attorney general asked the counsel if this action was taken under the same condition the Mutual Union suit was begun, and if it was brought on the supposition that the decision in that case was correct. The lawyer replied, yes.

CLOTHINGS.

SOLID COMFORT!

Now that Jack Frost has at last arrived, those who had thought to push through without a

NEW OVERCOAT.

Will look for the

House That Sells Cheapest.

To this we answer, visit the

NEW YORK ONE-PRICE CLOTHING HOUSE

CORNER OF THIRD AND MINNESOTA STS., ST. PAUL.

THE ELLI PERKINS OF THE WEST.

His Discovery in an Idaho Cave of a Fire-Breathing Silver Image and the Bones of a Salmon-Eating Giant.

[Ketchikan (Idaho) Keystone.]

Last Sunday Foley Abbott, of Sawtooth, went on to the high and rugged peak opposite the Pilgrim mine on Beaver gulch to kill some grouse. As the "beautifull" was about three feet deep he went on snow-shoes. The trip was a hard one, as the mountain is very steep and he was obliged to make many "backs" to reach the summit. While he was passing near one of the high granite cliffs he noticed that there was an opening under it and thought he had found a good place to rest and be protected from the wind, so he proceeded to it. Seeing that darkness was inside and the cave appearing to be of good size, he when a torch of sticks taken from a pile opposite him near by, and proceeded to explore his new find. After going through a long, narrow and crooked passage he found himself inside of a large chamber with smooth floor and perfectly dry, which was brilliantly lighted by a flame in the center. As this was the main attraction he had come to visit to. To his astonishment he saw an image of a man, made of what he believed to be silver, and which he thought was a work of art. He was very much interested in the figure, and he proceeded to examine it. It was a full-length figure, and was dressed in a military uniform, with a sword at his side. The figure was very much like a soldier, and he thought it was a work of art. He was very much interested in the figure, and he proceeded to examine it. It was a full-length figure, and was dressed in a military uniform, with a sword at his side. The figure was very much like a soldier, and he thought it was a work of art. He was very much interested in the figure, and he proceeded to examine it.

SONNETS.

If faint impressions of the grace

The endless glances repay,

The eyes that nightly read thy face

Increasing clamor survey.

No audience fly merit craves,

Our friends thy precious store,

For vainly should I seek a soul

Their crystal waters pour.

Love, on your grave in the ground,