

THE ST. LOUIS HORROR.

Some of the Scenes at the Burning of the Southern Hotel.

[From St. Louis Papers.]

A LAST FAREWELL.

A most pathetic scene was witnessed by many of the spectators on the Fourth street side, just as the danger appeared most imminent. In the fifth story window, upon a background of lurid flame, might be seen the profiles of a man and woman shaking hands and taking a last farewell of each other.

A TRUE HERO.

The hero on the fifth story window stood on his window-sill and rescued a number of the girls. It was a desperate and perilous feat. He descended without even a rope, and the fire raged wildly, he gathered coil upon coil of rope, thrown to him from the ladders which did not reach him for several feet, and after sending this means of rescue to the poor creatures above, and when he could do no more, he calmly and quietly let himself down and disappeared without giving his name.

A TERRIBLE JUMP.

About 2 o'clock a man appeared at one of the fourth-story windows on the Walnut street side. He was in his night-dress, and his demeanor exhibited frantic excitement. He yelled to the crowd, "What shall I do?" The crowd, as frantic as himself, cried, "Jump!" The man appeared to hesitate. "Jump!" "Jump!" came again from a hundred hoarse throats. Again the man looked down from his dizzy eminence to the cruel stone pavement below. "Jump!" came again from the throng now moving backward and forward with more intense excitement, and looking up with wild agitation at the sheeted, trembling object above, now standing on the window-sill. The man jumped, striking there with a heavy thud on the head and shoulders. The man rebounded with a horrid cry and fell back on the pavement. He was picked up by Mr. John Davis, a Redmond Ryan and carried to the former's saloon. He gave the name of J. E. Wilson. Before he could give any further particulars he had expired.

SUICIDE IN PREFERENCE TO BURNING.

Another startling and horrible revelation of the catastrophe comes in the following shape: Among the first policemen on the scene after the fire started were Officers Clark and Blackford. They mounted immediately to the upper floors and, without fully appreciating the danger of the service, persuaded several families to leave their rooms and go down stairs. Some women refused to stir without their husbands, and had to be dragged down by force. One man who advised families not to leave their rooms, as there was "no danger." Others were in a panic so great as to rush frantically in the wrong direction for escape. After the officers had been some little time at the work of arousing people they heard the sound of two pistol shots, apparently coming from the door of a room around in the south bend of the west hall of the hotel. The main hall to the west of the west of the Fifth street front, a transverse hall led to the south. Then, again, from this transverse hall another passage led back towards the east. From a room in this farthest hallway came the two reports. Blackford exclaimed, "My God! Clark, they're shooting in here." Listening for a moment and hearing no sound, Blackford went up to the door and opened it. On the floor lay a man and woman. The officer was astonished, but says he hastily examined them and believes they were dead. He abandoned the hope of escape and had concluded that it was easier to die by the bullet than to be burned to death.

ANOTHER SUICIDE.

One of the most startling occurrences of this tragic occasion was the suicide of Wm. Felix Munster, son of an English member of the Board of Trade to St. Louis. Mr. Munster and his bride having recently returned from their wedding tour in the South were stopping at the Southern. When the alarm came they were aroused in season and succeeded in gaining the street, where they soon took a carriage and repaired to the residence of Mr. Frank J. Donovan, No. 2827 Gambie street. Mr. Donovan on learning that the hotel was burning decided to go down town and see it. Mr. Munster thought he would leave his wife and go down town, but was persuaded not to. Meantime Mr. Jerry Conroy, Mr. Donovan's partner, had been early at the fire, and not seeing anything of the Munsters, had taken a carriage and gone to Donovan's house, where he found the missing ones all right. Conroy immediately set out to return, and Munster concluded to come down, too. After arriving at the fire they met Donovan, and afterwards went together with E. Graham Frost to Conroy's room, corner of Fourth and Olive streets. After remaining in the room some little time the party started to leave about 6 o'clock. Two of their number had gone down the stairs part way, and a third had passed out of the room, leaving Mr. Munster lagging behind. The occurrence excited no remark at the time, until the report of a pistol was heard coming out of the room they had just left. On returning hastily to the room they found that their friend had picked up a revolver and shot himself.

A MANIAC.

There was one man who occupied a room on the fifth floor of the Walnut street front who might easily have furnished the fact that it did not reach more than twelve feet, he crawled out and let himself down hand over hand very slowly. Men below who saw his position turned away their heads to avoid witnessing the sickening event that was inevitable. Finally he reached the end of the sheet and then for the first time he seemed to realize his position. He stopped, threw his head back, and swung slowly to and fro, away by the breeze which the roaring flames above created. His limbs swung around convulsively, as though to catch upon something, but he never so slight. Then he let go, and groans went up from hundreds of throats as he whirled round and round, and finally struck the stone flagging with a loud thud. A few whose nerves were equal to the occasion ran to him, and, picking him up, carried him across the street to a saloon, and laid him on the floor. His arms and legs were broken, but his white face, with great drops of sweat standing out on it, was unstained by blood. He breathed hard for a few minutes and died.

FLOCK OF A SICK MAN.

One of the most remarkable escapes of the night was coupled with one of the most unfortunate deaths. Mr. C. L. White, auditor of the Missouri Pacific railroad, occupied a sixth-story room on the Walnut street front, near Fourth street. He had been quite ill for some ten days, and some of his associates and assistants had taken turns at staying all night with him. It happened that Tuesday night Mr. Harry Hazen, chief clerk at the freight department of the auditor's office, stayed with Mr. White. Both gentlemen retired at an early hour, and did not wake until the fire had made such progress that escape through the door was impossible. From the sixth story both men tried to reach the fifth story by a long ways from terra firma, but neither sick man nor well man despaired, and with the utmost coolness went to work to do what they could to save themselves. They gathered the bedclothes, tore them into strips, knotted and twisted them together, and made a rope long enough to reach to the sill of the window below them. When this had been securely fastened inside Mr. Hazen stepped out of the window into the lanky darkness, slid down the improvised rope, found the fifth story window open, and made his escape successfully. The sick Mr. White followed with equal success. In the fifth story room the sickly railroaders found more bedclothes, with which they made a new rope to reach the fourth story. This time Mr. White went first, the last words of Mr. Hazen being, "You go first, White, and God bless you." Mr. White reached the fourth floor safely, but not so his comrade, who attempted to follow immediately after. Mr. Hazen was a much heavier man than Mr. White, and the blanket cable with which the former gave way with the latter. Mr. White was looking out of the window when the body of his friend shot by him, glanced from the sill, and a moment later reached the stone pavement with a heavy thud. Notwithstanding the horrifying accident to his friend, Mr. White did not lose heart. With what strength his sickness had left him he proceeded to make a rope to lower himself into the third story. But now the material for rope-making was scant, and he was obliged to climb up and cut off a portion of the rope which had given way with Mr. Hazen. How he got strength to tie the knot, Mr. White does not know, but eventually he got into the third story. By this time the flames had increased so that his presence in the third-story was discovered from the street. This was fortunate, for in the third-story there was no bedding that could have been converted into a rope. After some delay a ladder was raised, but this proving too short, the rope was thrown to Mr. White. Sliding down the rope, he reached the ladder and soon after the pavement.

AN UNEXPECTED ESCAPE.

Mr. Will S. Stewart, who lost his wife by the terrible catastrophe which has enveloped our city in a pall of mourning and misery, gave the following account of the fire: We occupied room 375, on the fifth floor of the hotel, facing on Fifth street. About half-past one o'clock my wife awoke me with the remark that there were loud voices on the street, and we got out of bed to ascertain the cause. We saw smoke and the lurid glare in the sky, and my wife, with a fearful presentiment of danger, exclaimed, "My God! the hotel is on fire, and we must die!"

I immediately opened the door leading into the hall, and found it filled with smoke. In the hope of reaching the stairs and getting below the smoke, which was suffocating, we tried to find our way on our knees. It was impossible. After a few steps, my wife fell on her face, overcome, and I had literally to drag her back into the room as best I could. The window was opened top and bottom and so permitted the smoke to pass out. I then suggested that we should dress ourselves, hoping and expecting that rescue would present itself in some shape from the street. The heat in the hall meanwhile broke the glass in the transom, admitting a large volume of smoke. Mrs. Stewart became suddenly wild, I may say frantic. Hope seemed dead within her. The rope was made of bedclothes, and we could see it plainly by the light in the room, but from the sea of upturned faces there came no suggestion of escape.

I made a rope of bed-clothing—three pairs of blankets, two sheets and a counterpane—and spliced it together in knots which I deemed secure. It was of sufficient length to reach the ground, and, as my wife sat on the window-sill, I tied one end of this rope to her waist, fastening the other end to the center-pane of the window. How did I feel? God knows how. I believed I was letting her down to life and to safety there and die. The smoke by this time was down as low as our heads, and I proceeded in the effort to lower her to the sidewalk. Her last words were "Let me go down." I cried, "God bless you, my dear, forever," for I never expected to see her alive again. I believed she would be saved by the means I had contrived, but I expected to be suffocated. I had not lowered her more than six or eight feet when she fell from some cause almost incomprehensible to me. I sat down stunned, to wait for death or some relief might come. I heard shouts from the other side of the street. I went to the window, and saw a man with a coil of rope in his hand. I saw the rope of bed-clothes which I had thrown out when my poor wife fell almost out of my arms, as it were. I did so, and found a rope attached. I put on a glove to prevent friction, threw my wife down, and saw her fall about a thousand dollars and jewelry into the middle of the bed, got out of the window, adjusted my legs sailor-fashion round the rope and slid down in safety to the sidewalk.

About half an hour elapsed between my wife's falling from the rope and my reaching the ground. I found that she had been taken to the St. James and from there she was removed to Mrs. Davis' boarding-house on Walnut street, where she died about three hours and a half. She was conscious only for a moment to know me, and that about an hour before her death. She showed no signs of broken limbs although she fell fifty feet. She died from the horror of the shock and internal injuries.

The sentiment of the country undoubtedly sustains the course which the President has pursued on the Southern question. It believes not only that the experiment of free, unrestricted local rule must be tried as a matter of necessity, but that it ought to be tried as a matter of expediency. (Albany Journal-Rep.)

FRAUDS IN SILK.

A Conspiracy to Impose Millions on an Undervaluation Discovered.

[By Telegraph to N. Y. Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Special agents of the Treasury Department are at present engaged in an investigation of the facts connected with the importation of silk at the port of New York. Preliminary reports have already been made to the Secretary of the Treasury. From these papers it appears that a conspiracy has been discovered for the wholesale undervaluation of silk imported into this country. This is accomplished by aid of the manufacturers and agents in Europe, and it is believed by the connivance of customs officials in New York. As nearly as can be learned, the average undervaluation is from 30 to 40 per cent on an importation of many millions of dollars. So extensive have these frauds been that it is reported that the largest dry goods houses in New York, including that of A. T. Stewart & Co., are unable to import silks directly and pay the duties upon them according to law in competition with the fraudulent importations made by certain jobbing houses. The result is that instead of importing their own silks these houses purchase them of jobbers in New York whose facilities for buying abroad are not as good as their own. The investigation of these frauds will be continued, and if they turn out to be as extensive a character as the discoveries already made seem to indicate, their exposure will probably be one of the most important ever made.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The Examination of Clerks.

[Chicago Times.]

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Secretary Schurz to-day inaugurated practically his rule concerning the examination of clerks and other employees of the Interior Department. Between fifty and seventy-five employees are to be dispensed with by means of this board of examination. Secretary Schurz gave orders accompanying the appointment of the board, that its names should not be made public, in order that they should not be annoyed by importuning employees or their friends. As announced in Schurz's letter, published a few days since, the board is to be composed of two members at large for the department and one for the bureau to which the party examined belongs. The Patent Bureau is to be taken up first, and examinations will proceed in this order a few days. The Land, Pension and Indian branches will be taken up in turn. Mr. Schurz to-day said he intended to see that this rule was enforced in such a manner that efficiency shall be the only criterion for the department in making appointments, removals and promotions.

NAVAL INVESTIGATIONS.

The Responsibility of Investigating to be Shifted to the House Committee.

[Chicago Times.]

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Secretary Thompson has signified his intention of shifting the responsibility of investigating the department to the House committee. He is satisfied that a thorough investigation is necessary, and thinks he can do it more thoroughly with a House committee to aid him than alone. Ex-Secretary Robeson spends his leisure moments preparing explanation which his organs publish under the head of communications. Mr. Randall has already expressed an opinion against the transaction of any public business during the extra session, and if he were elected Speaker he should use his influence to cut the session down to the briefest possible time. There are precedents, however, for appointing committees during an extra session of Congress, so that it is possible that Secretary Thompson's request may be complied with, whoever is elected Speaker.

ROMANTIC.

Two Crazy Lovers. KEOKUK, Iowa, April 7.—John Kennedy, who is demented, was brought here Wednesday night and lodged in jail. While in the employ of David Robinson, near Belfast, in this county, Kennedy fell in love with the former's wife. His love was reciprocated, and the two made arrangements to leave the State together. While crossing the Des Moines river in a skiff on their flight, he or she, or both, the woman was seized with a sudden delirium, and is now hopelessly insane. On being separated from Mrs. Robinson, Kennedy also went crazy, and after repeated but unsuccessful attempts to gain access to the house where the woman is being cared for, he took an axe and deliberately chopped off his left hand. Both Kennedy and the woman will probably be sent to the asylum. Neither had shown any indications of insanity previous to their attempted flight.

BLUSTERING FILIBUSTERS.

Radicals Talk of Preventing the Organization of the House. [Journal of Commerce.] WASHINGTON, April 9.—A special to the Express says: The House will meet on the 4th of June, and the clerk, Mr. Adams, has been doing his best and following past precedents to give shape to the membership. It seems, however, that certain Radicals do not like the prospect of another Democratic House, and are threatening to filibuster to prevent an organization.

Germany and Alsace-Lorraine.

[From the London Spectator.] M. Besancon, Deputy for Metz to the German Reichstag, drew on Monday a pathetic picture of the consequences of annexation to that city. There are 3000 empty houses, and the value of property has fallen from 90,000,000 marks to 20,000,000 while the failures increase every year, yet the tax assessments remain the same. Thousands of "opponents" are being expelled, amidst "despair of which you can form no idea." M. Besancon entreated his hearers not to pass such distress coldly by, and had the courage to propose that Germany should restore Alsace-Lorraine, whose national sentiment, as the elections showed, remained unchanged. This carry out a great act of national reconciliation. "Then would all the burdensome war preparations cease," and nations cease to distrust one another. No reply was made to this speech, but it is a symptom of a change of feeling in Germany that it could be made at all without cries of treason. Venice had to wait for eighty years.

The success of the steam street cars in Philadelphia seems to be assured. During a single week the receipts of five horse cars averaged \$65, while those of five dummies averaged \$100. The average expense of a horse car during that period was \$62 85; that of a dummy \$54 80.

(Communicated.) SAM MOORE.

His Story About Being Driven from Richland Parish.

NEW ORLEANS, April 13, 1877.

Editor Democrat.—In the latter part of the month of November, 1876, J. E. Kelly, supervisor; J. M. Calloway and T. B. Gardner, clerks of registration of Richland parish; J. H. Nettles, Samuel C. Moore and T. M. Dixon, all white citizens of said parish; and David Frazier, Jeff Perkins, Wm. Ross, Arley Benson, Gabriel Roberts, Cyrus Landrum and Ephraim Kelly, colored citizens of said parish, came to the city of New Orleans and made affidavits against the peace and fairness with which the election was carried in said parish, and the seventh day of November, 1876. After these parties had made their affidavits, which affidavits were used before the Returning Board, and figure in Sherman's report; all of them removed to and are now living in Richland parish, following their usual vocations, with the exception of Sam. C. Moore, who has been prominent in this city until about three weeks ago, when he left here to go to Natchez county, Miss. After being absent until Saturday, Moore turns up in this city, and complains to Gov. Nicholls that he had been run off from Richland parish for being a Republican; that he had a plantation in said parish, and was not permitted to live on it.

Some time in the fall of 1874, or early in the year of 1875, the said Sam. C. Moore, for eight years the Homer College a piece of wild land lying on the Y. S. & T. Railroad, about eight miles east of Rayville in said parish, on a credit, the college retaining a special mortgage and vendor's privilege on said land to secure the payment of the same. Moore, who had been bought about six hundred and fifty dollars worth of lumber from Major Dres, of Monroe, on credit. Major Dres immediately afterwards recorded in the recorder's office of Richland parish his claim and affidavit, and perpetuated his privilege as a furnisher of material against the house built by Moore on the said land. Last winter, one year ago, I obtained judgment against Moore at the suit of Provette & Polty vs. S. C. Moore, in the Parish Court of Richland parish, for about two hundred dollars. I got no execution against him, for the reason that everything he owned was so incumbered with special mortgages and privileges that I did not believe that the property would sell for enough to pay the mortgages and privileges, and if he did have any other property never knew it. In the fall of 1876 the above described property was sold for taxes and has not belonged to the said Moore since, and he has departed himself in such a manner that his relatives will not give him shelter, much less strangers. Respectfully, ONE THAT KNOWS.

Gen. W. L. Cabell was re-elected Mayor of Dallas, Texas, last week. In sending the news to a friend in Little Rock, he writes: "The soreheads and Radicals, composed of the rif-raff, brought out a candidate by the name of Thurman, and every effort was made to beat him, but I flayed them with a majority of 420 votes. I carried every ward in the city, and had not a very strong Irish friend of mine thrashed Thurman the night before the election, and beat him up badly, I would have beat him 600 or 700 votes. He bandaged up his head and face, and waved the bloody shirt all day. That attracted sympathy for him, and made a good many votes for him."

We have no sort of hesitation in announcing now, in view of what we believe to be the Southern policy of the President, and in advance of the assault we expect to be made upon him on account of that policy, that we have no idea of being indifferent lookers-on upon the combat between the factions, but that, if it come, we mean to go into it with all our might on the side of the man whose enemies in his own party would strike him down for not holding down the oppressed and persecuted people of the South.—[Richmond Whig, (Dem.)]

Among the potent reasons for Chamberlain's abandonment of the South Carolina contest may be mentioned the fact that it is very likely a criminal prosecution may be brought against him for obstruction of the State funds. He was a member of the Financial Board some years ago, which over-issued bonds and pocketed the proceeds. His pal, Elliott, last year declared that he had in his possession evidence to send Chamberlain to the State Penitentiary.

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