

FIREMEN'S BRAVE DEEDS. UTTER DISREGARD OF THEIR OWN SAFETY.

TO THEIR DARING, SKILL AND HEROISM IS ATTRIBUTABLE THE SAVING OF MANY LIVES—SOME INCIDENTS OF BRAVERY. In the first reports of the fire which were published yesterday, attention was merely devoted to descriptions of the blaze itself and the horrible details which attended the loss of so many lives.

With scaling ladders they made such remarkable rescues as to impel the throngs below, awestricken as they were, to cheer with all their might. They conveyed women from window to window on sills that seemed too narrow to afford foothold for a cat. They carried helpless and frenzied people down steep and swaying ladders with an ease and confidence that encouraged others still at the windows to wait until aid reached them, instead of following the example of those who flung themselves to death on the pavement below.

A THIRILLING RESCUE. To enumerate in detail the many incidents of bravery on the part of the firemen which were seen on Friday would be impossible. One of the most thrilling rescues was effected by Edward Ford and William Clark, of Hook and Ladder Company No. 20. At the risk of losing their own lives they climbed from the second to the fourth floor of the burning building with the aid of scaling ladders, and brought three women to the street in safety.

Just as they were in the act of grasping the two women another woman in an adjoining room threw open her window and screamed for help. Apparently believing that no aid was near, she was about to jump to certain death, when Clark shouted to her to remain where she was and he would save her.

FIFTH AVE. AUCTION ROOMS.

Wm. B. Norman, Auctioneer. NOW ON EXHIBITION, A Most Attractive Sale, BY ORDER OF ARTHUR FURBER, ESQ., COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW, 287 BROADWAY, OF

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woman, he told her she must cross to the sill and had just left in the same manner as he had done. She did so with Clark guiding her hands, until she was in reach of Ford, who seized her and dragged her into the room. The firemen in turn carried the three women down to the lower floor on the scaling ladders, and reached the performance until the extension ladder was reached, where other firemen then carried the women to the street amid the cheers of the crowd.

SAVED AS SHE WAS ABOUT TO JUMP. Charles McDermott, a fireman of No. 21 Hook and Ladder Company, claims act of heroism that will bring him official notice. An elderly woman was standing on the sill of a window on the Forty-sixth-st. side, and was preparing to jump. The crowd yelled to her to stay, while McDermott rushed up an extension ladder, which reached within one story of the woman. He swung a scaling ladder to the window above and clambered up beside the woman. Halting himself on the roof, he guided the woman to another window, to which a ladder had been raised. All the time the woman, crazed with fright, was shrieking and struggling with such violence as to endanger both her own and McDermott's life. He succeeded in carrying her to safety, and was heartily cheered as he landed in the street with his charge.

A fireman named Hannen, of Engine Company No. 7, carried an elderly woman from amid smoking volumes of smoke, while Assistant Foreman Burns of Hook and Ladder Company No. 21 dragged two women through a window on the third floor and carried them down scaling ladders. A fireman belonging to Engine Company No. 8, named Tritschbach, saved a woman from the sixth floor by swinging her, in the face of the flames, to the fire-escape, and then hurriedly conveying her to the roof of No. 4 East Forty-seventh-st. Firemen Fitzgerald and Macaulay, of Hook and Ladder Company No. 4, rescued no fewer than six women from the fifth floor. These were only a few instances of the courageous exploits of the firemen. To their manly courage and lofty disregard of their own safety was due the saving of scores of people, who would either have perished in the blaze or would have dashed themselves to death in the street below.

Chief Bonner of the Fire Department said yesterday that he never had seen a more rapid fire than that which destroyed the Windsor Hotel. When he got to the fire and looked at it he knew at once that the building could not be saved from destruction. He declined to give the names of other hotels in the city which he considered unsafe, but he said he knew that there were several hotels which would burn as quickly as the Windsor did.

GUESTS LOST HEAVILY.

POLICE GATHER MUCH JEWELRY FROM THE DEAD AND INJURED.

The personal belongings lost by the patrons of the Windsor Hotel in the fire will reach a large amount. The police of the East Fifty-first-st. station have in their possession jewelry alone the value of which they place at \$100,000. It is impossible even to estimate the loss which the guests have sustained. Mrs. Mary Kirk, who is the daughter of Mrs. Nancy Ann Kirk, who died in Bellevue Hospital on Friday night as the result of her injuries, informed the police yesterday before starting for Chicago with her mother's body that she had lost jewelry worth at least \$20,000. A great many of the valuables which the police of the East Fifty-first-st. station are guarding were taken from the bodies of the dead and from those who were badly injured. The reason why so much was saved is found in the fact that when the occupants of the hotel were alarmed their first thought was to secure as many of their treasures as possible. It is understood that the police will turn the jewelry over to the care of Coroner Bausch, on the theory that it was all taken from the dead.

CAUGHT WITH A LOT OF BOOTY. SOME JEWELRY STOLEN FROM THE McKINLEY APARTMENTS. What the police consider an important arrest took place in West Forty-seventh-st., near the Windsor Hotel, on Friday afternoon, while the fire was blazing most fiercely. Detective-Sergeants Cuff and McDuff made the capture. They were detailed to watch the building and prevent any one from looting it or carrying off valuables in the course of the excitement. They saw a man come staggering along under a heavy bundle. His pockets were bulging and he seemed to have all he could carry.

Among the jewels was a silver cardcase and a pocketbook belonging to Abner McKinley, the brother of President McKinley. These articles had the name of A. McKinley on them. In the same pocket with these things were a lot of jewel ornaments, and it is supposed the man took them from the McKinley apartments. The man told a peculiar story. He said that he was at the fire and rushed in to help those inside. He saw a woman on the second floor who was partly robed. She was distracted with fright and he assisted her in getting from the place. As he was passing a room he saw two men packing up some property. This was in a room near the McKinley apartments. He told a policeman of the fact and that he thought these men were robbers. The policeman climbed in through a window and he followed. The policeman and he went on and continued to pack up the property, and he filled his pockets with valuables he found lying about loose.

When asked what he intended to do with the stuff he said that he had been told by the policeman to take them to a place of safety. The man was arraigned before Magistrate Plummer in the Centre-st. police court yesterday morning and remanded until tomorrow.

He described himself as Frank Kane, forty-two years old, of No. 270 Bowery. He is short, thickset fellow, with twinkling black eyes. The police say he is a crook.

When Abner McKinley was asked about the matter yesterday he said that both he and his wife had some jewelry and other trinkets lying around the room, and that he probably they were all picked up. He said he felt confident that all of the things secured did not belong to him. He added that he would in time identify those things which belonged to him but that he had no knowledge of the man arrested.

A list of the goods found in Kane's possession was given out by Police Headquarters last night and is as follows: Seventeen stickpins, fifteen ladies' pins, three combs, a purse, a paper-cutter, a pair of glasses, two card cases and a knife, three pieces of lace, sixteen ladies' cards, a piece of cloth, a silver watch, a red sheet, \$7 in cash, a chain, a sweater,

spoon and sleeve link. The articles are at Police Headquarters.

A TALK WITH T. J. BRADY.

PRESIDENT OF THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT DISCUSSES THE BUILDING LAWS.

COMMISSIONER SCANNELL THREATENS TO MAKE PUBLIC A LIST OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS—LAST REPORT ON THE WINDSOR.

Thomas J. Brady, president of the Department of Buildings, yesterday looked up the original plans of the Windsor Hotel and the reports which had been made in the Department regarding the hotel. He said that there could be no investigation of the fire by his Department, and all that his Department could do was to aid in the work of recovering bodies from the ruins and seeing that the ruins were left in a safe condition. The work of recovering bodies and making the ruins safe is done under contract by D. Sweeney & Son. By their standing arrangement with the Department they were required to place as many men at work at once as may be required, whether the number is a hundred or a thousand.

Mr. Brady said he had been misquoted in some of the papers yesterday to the effect that there were a dozen hotels in the city as dangerous as the Windsor Hotel had been. "I did not say," he said, "that there were a dozen such buildings, nor did I try to be specific. For anything I can say there may be a hundred. But this Department can do nothing with buildings that were erected in accordance with the laws as they existed at the time they were put up. Neither this Department nor any other department has any right to take a man's property away from him arbitrarily. Neither can you make a law retroactive; that is forbidden by the Constitution. So I cannot see how you are going to pass a law that the courts won't overthrow to compel a man to go to great expense and really reconstruct a building that was lawfully erected. The only remedy that I can see is merely through public sentiment, as it may affect the business side of the matter. Of course, that refers, however, only to those buildings that were erected before the enactment of the present Building Law.

FIREPROOF BUILDINGS.

"Every hotel that has been built in this city since 1892, and that is above thirty-five feet in height, is fireproof. There was a fire in the Netherlands, and they simply closed the door and let it burn itself out. In such a building a fire can usually be confined to one room. But as to those hotels erected prior to 1892 the matter is different. Yet I cannot pronounce such structures unsafe. If, for instance, any one should ask me about certain of the well-known hotels, I am bound to say that they are safe. They are good buildings, lawfully erected. All that I can possibly say is that they were put up before the present law was in force. Now, if any one wishes to live in hotels that were put up many years ago that is their business, not mine. I am, indeed, bound to see that proper means of exit are provided, but I cannot compel the owner to reconstruct the building. It is certainly lawful for this Department to tear down a building that is actually unsafe, even without waiting to go to court, if there is a great emergency. Of course, we usually go to court, however, because, unless the case is absolutely clear, I should make myself liable for damages. And it must be perfectly clear to any one that we cannot take any such course with a perfectly substantial building merely because it may have been built, say, thirty years ago.

THE RULES CHANGED.

"My attention was first called to this matter of fireproof construction especially by the fire at the Presbyterian Hospital. Then the Hotel Royal was destroyed, and the Legislature enacted the present law, in which were incorporated the rules which I recommended. These rules apply to hotels, theatres, hospitals, asylums and schools, if they exceed thirty-five feet in height, and to all sorts of buildings over seventy-five feet high.

"The latest report of the Windsor which I have been able to find is that made in April of 1883 by John J. Montgomery, Inspector of the Sixth District of this city. He reported that, while the building was not of the fireproof construction required by the new law of that year for all future hotels, it was yet very safe by reason of precautions taken in obedience to our orders. Four standpipes and small extinguishers of various kinds throughout the building were among those precautions. All rooms where fires were kept burning were sufficiently fireproof. Four alarm kongs on each floor could be sounded from the office, where there was a direct wire to the Fire Department headquarters.

"No fire-escapes are included in the original plan of the Windsor Hotel, as filed on June 15, 1871, and approved by Deputy-Superintendent Walter Adams. I myself as a boy watched the putting up of the building, which was a fine one for that day. It was not until 1885 that Building Superintendent Esteban ordered fire-escapes to be added to the building.

"To these arrangements I added all that the revised building laws of 1892 allowed, and the hotel management carried out the orders. Four fire-escapes were placed at the ends of the two running north and south in the plan, that is, on the side-street faces of the building, and those already placed on the easterly wall or court were increased in size, while bridges to adjoining houses were added.

Various propositions for changes in the building laws are now before the Building Code Committee of the Municipal Assembly, which is preparing a bill that will soon be submitted to the Legislature. This committee will meet next Wednesday afternoon, at Mr. Brady's office.

Frederick S. Flowers' loss. Frederick S. Flowers, of the firm of Flower & Co., and nephew of the ex-Governor, had recently bought several handsome paintings and put them in his rooms in the Windsor. Most of these paintings were destroyed, although a few are reported that his man succeeded in saving a few.

MISSING PERSONS SAFE.

MANY FIRST REPORTED LOST ARE FOUND.

SOME OF THEM HAD NARROW ESCAPES—WORK MEN INJURED IN THE RUINS—DISEMPLOYMENT BEING MADE USE OF.

Many who were reported yesterday to be missing were heard from later in the day, but there were still many more of whom no intelligence is obtainable. Ernest Ackerman, of Plainfield, N. J., received a telegraph dispatch yesterday from his mother, Mrs. J. Hervey Ackerman, informing him that she and her daughter were safe. They had registered at the hotel only a short time before the outbreak of the flames.

It was also learned that J. B. Rose, who was a guest at the Windsor, and was reported as missing, is safe and sound. He was at the office of the Royal Baking Powder Company, No. 100 William-st., throughout Friday afternoon, and did not learn of the fire until the hotel was in ashes. He lost all his personal effects, which consisted mostly of clothes, however, and did not include anything of great value. Mr. Rose came to New-York a few weeks ago to make arrangements for the new baking powder trust, and has stayed at the Windsor since his arrival. He is the president of the Price Baking Powder Company, of Chicago.

The Rev. Dr. Henry Wharton and wife, who were guests at the Windsor, are now at the Hotel Bristol. They will return to Baltimore as soon as Mrs. Wharton is able to travel. Dr. Wharton was not at the hotel when the fire occurred, and his wife was rescued from their room on the sixth floor by means of a rope ladder. She is suffering somewhat from the shock, but is unharmed.

INJURED IN THE RUINS.

President Murphy of the Board of Health sent Drs. Blauvelt and Dillingham to the ruins with a quantity of disinfectant, which they were to pour on the ruins. Others were to relieve them during the day. While the wreckers were working on the Forty-sixth-st. side yesterday morning, Stephen Petro, who was in the Building Department squad, climbed a ladder on that side and slipped, falling twenty feet to the ground. He received a scalp wound, and was taken home.

John Hogan, thirty years old, of No. 203 West Sixty-sixth-st., was at work on the Forty-seventh-st. side, opposite Helen Gould's house. A section of the wall in being pulled down struck him and broke his leg. He was seen by Miss Gould, who was watching the work of the men from a window, and she ordered him brought into her house. Three cuts were in the parlor in readiness for such accidents, and Frank Gould helped carry Hogan to one of them. An ambulance surgeon dressed the injury, and Hogan started for home.

A. A. Nimis, of No. 7 East Eighty-seventh-st., called at the East Fifty-first-st. station yesterday morning and inquired for Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wiedemann, who recently arrived from Baden-Baden, Germany. He said they were at the hotel. He has not seen their names among the saved or missing or dead, and he believes they are lost. Mr. Nimis said he went to the hotel on Friday afternoon, arriving at 3 o'clock. He went up in the elevator to go to the rooms of his friends. At the third floor he and the other persons in the elevator heard the shouts of "Fire" and the elevator-rider stopped the car at the third floor. He got out and ran to the front of the house to a fire-escape. As he passed the end room he saw a man grabbing up valuables in the room, like a miser. He said he was astounded at the sight.

"I thought the man," said Mr. Nimis, "and said, 'Why don't you try to save some lives instead of robbing people?' The man turned his face to me and gave me a look that seemed to be a murderer's. Then he dashed out. He was about twenty-nine years old, and dark. I'm sure he was not a guest of the hotel. Mr. Nimis said he got out on the fire-escape and was trying to descend when a man's body fell on him. He did not lose his hold, but the man who struck him fell down to the street. He reached the street in safety.

EXPERIENCE OF A VICTIM.

Mrs. Adeline Landphier and Mrs. Dingley, wives of Mrs. Morris Henry, who died in Roosevelt Hospital, said yesterday morning that the woman was conscious up to within an hour of her death. She said that when the fire started Dr. Macphatter told her to close one of the doors of the room that was open, and she complied with the request. He closed the other. He then opened a window and helped her out. He got a rope that was hanging in the corner and tied it, and then let the end hang down. She got out and tried to slide down the rope, but the doctor helping her all he could. As she said she fell, but she did not know how. It was believed by others that Mrs. Henry struck a cornice, and that her hold was thus broken. She fell at the fifth floor, and she fell to the sidewalk, and she fell as he tried to slide down the rope. He was taken to the Flower Hospital and Mrs. Henry to Roosevelt. Mrs. Henry was married three times. She was first the wife of Judge Frederick Levenson, of Philadelphia, Miss. She then was married to Harrison Maynard, of Boston, and after he died, to Dr. Henry. She was a widow. At the beginning of the winter Mrs. Henry rented her Fifth-ave. home and moved to the Windsor.

Mrs. Samuel Andrews and her three daughters, of Cleveland, Ohio, who were reported among the missing, were not staying at the Windsor at all. With her husband and five daughters Mrs. Andrews was at the Hotel Newburgh, and they have been passing the winter. Until this year they had always stayed at the Windsor. Preferring, however, to be near the Park, they went to the Netherlands for the winter.

Several oil paintings, valued at \$20,000, the property of H. W. Pope, were saved by Captain William T. Bergin and his men of Hook and Ladder Company No. 21. The paintings were on the parlor floor just above the office.

The home of Helen Gould was surrounded by a cordon of police all night and throughout yesterday, while detectives guarded the interior. A police officer accompanied every person who entered the house. Beyond a few windows being broken the house was not damaged, except slightly on top, where the fire caught. The fire was in some confusion because of the number of injured persons taken in there on Friday.

WHERE GUESTS FOUND SHELTER.

- These guests found shelter in hotels and other places as follows: ANDERSON, Andrew, Baltimore, Md.; Bristol. ANDERSON, E. L., St. Louis, Mo.; Gilsey. ARBUCKLE, Miss, Pittsburg, Manhattan. BAILY, James H., Boston, Manhattan. BATES, Mr. and Mrs. G. B., Boston, Manhattan. BARNES, Mrs. M. J., New-York, Manhattan. BARTON, Miss, Providence, Holland. BARTON, N. B., Providence, Holland. BARTON, Mrs. N. B., Providence, Holland. BOYCE, Mrs. J. F., Cleveland, Ohio, Manhattan. BRADLEY, Mrs. R. N., Pittsburg, Manhattan. BRADLEY, Mrs. A. M., New-York, Manhattan. DENNY, Brewster, New-York, Manhattan. BRITTON, J. H., Fredericksburg, Va., Grand. BURNS, Miss M. H., New-York, Manhattan. CAROLAN, Mrs. (and maid), San Francisco, Buckingham. CHAMMAN, W. H., Waldorf-Astoria. CLARK, Miss E. T., New-York, Manhattan. CLARK, H. H., Liverpool, Waldorf-Astoria. COOK, C. L., Chicago, Waldorf-Astoria. COWTAN, C. Bernard, London, Holland. CROSBY, Lieutenant-Colonel A. L., Toronto, Canada, Manhattan. DOANE, J. W., Chicago, Holland. DUNNAN, Mrs. E. G., New-York, Buckingham. FARRINGTON, H. P., Boston; Murray Hill. FARRINGTON, Miss, Boston; Murray Hill. PIERO, J. N., Albany, N. Y.; St. Cloud. FRENCH, J. E., New-York, Manhattan. FULLER, Mrs. M. L., Pittsburg, Manhattan. FULLER, Mrs. A. M., New-York, Manhattan. GOODMAN, R., general traffic manager New-York City and Hudson River Railroad; Buckingham. GIBSON, John B. and Mrs., Cincinnati; Murray Hill. HAWKINS, Judge W. D., Pittsburg, Manhattan. HAWKINS, Mrs. A. D., Pittsburg, Manhattan. HILL, J. H., Waldorf-Astoria. HULL, John H., New-York; Grand Union. JAMESON, William A., Hartford; Manhattan. JAMESON, Mrs. Robert, Pittsburg, Manhattan. JAMESON, Miss, Pittsburg, Manhattan.

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There's a deal of satisfaction in knowing that what you see here is of this season's most desirable shapes. No chance of running across an out-of-the-way garment even if you aren't fashion-wise. Of chevots, of worsteds, of tan covert cloths. Prices run with a hop, skip and a jump from \$6.75 to \$27.50 with all the little go-betweens.

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