STORIES OF THE FIRE.

Evidence as to Its Origin—The Overheated Flues.

A. H. Clark, publisher, who escaped from the burning Potter building, was the first witness at the inquest yesterday. He testified that when the new flue was put into use it made one of his rooms on the second story very hot, and he spoke to Mr. Potter's clerk about it. Mr. Weir removed all the woodwork and the flooring next to the flue, and soapstone was to be inserted next the flue. Afterward he called Mr. O. B. Potter's attention to the matter, and Mr. Potter said all the woodwork on every floor that was in contact with the flue would be removed. When Mr. Potter changed back on Monday to the old flue, he said he proposed to isolate the new flue entirely. The witness said to Mr. Potter that "the unexpected always happens," and Mr. Potter replied that the interests in the building were so large that nothing must be hazarded.

George W. Milne of New Brighton, Staten Island, described his escape from the *Scottish American* office. He was one of the men who dropped from a fourth-floor window on the Nassau street side to a ladder. There had been a strong smell of burnt wood for a week before the fire, and especially on the night before.

Charles F. Harris, the next witness, had his head and right hand bandaged. He escaped from the *Observer* composing room. His brother, Alfred W., was burned to death. The witness's head and hands were burned. On the night before the fire, he said, the wall by the stairs was very hot. The janitor and two other men were tinkering at it.

John H. Cheever of the New York Belting and Packing Company, on the ground floor, testified that he believed the fire began at the foot of the cellar stairs.

Francis A. Steiner of the *Turf, Field and Farm*, which had offices on the fourth floor, testified that at the first a great flame shot up the elevator shaft. There was no flame in the hallway. It was all confined to the shaft. John Reid, machinist, of 23 Madison street, Hoboken, testified that he was working in the subcellar on the Nassau street side connecting the elevator pump. A carpenter came down stairs and told the engineer there was a fire upstairs. The engineer went to the sidewalk. The witness saw the fire breaking through the subcellar floor from above. The fire was about two inches from the entrance to the flue. He went to the Nassau street exit and saw the fire going up the elevator shaft. There were five extinguishers on the second and third floors. They were removed when the elevator was put in. He reported a crack in the day before the fire in the subbasement of the rubber company about the middle of the building, sixty feet from the Nassau street side.

The inquest will go on on Friday at 1 o'clock. Before Fire Marshal Sheldon yesterday, Norman May, a mason, was changed the flue in the building on the Monday before the fire, testified that while waiting for the flue to cool, he stopped a hole in the old flue on the ten floor. Mr. Potter directed him to open the old flue in the subcellar, and build a wall across the furnace flue so that the flue could not pass to the new flue. He did build a solid four-inch wall there, laying the brick dry on the old joint and using mortar for the cross joints. The wall was to be replaced by an iron damper.

Bernard J. Reynolds, who collects rents for Mr. Potter, testified that on Tuesday morning he told Carpenter Weir, when on the fifth floor, that the flue was very warm. At that moment the building became filled with smoke, and he ran to the roof to see if it came from the chimney, as had happened before when the engineer was banking up a week. He discovered no smoke this time. He was called down stairs by the alarm and barely escaped. His coat was burned from his back.

A gang of thirty men were at work yesterday clearing away the ruins of the building. It is not believed that any bodies remain to be found.

EXPERTS AT RACKETS.

A Double Match at the New York Club—Three Successive Victories.

The second of the series of professional contests played at the New York Racket Club, before the club members and their guests, took place yesterday, the contestants being Beakes, the Canadian champion, and Joe Lockhart, one of the markers of the New York Club, and Moore and Wright, the other two markers of the court. The former pair gave the latter the odds of two aces in each game, the match being one of best three games in five. The Canadian and his partner found themselves overmatched, and the result was the success of Moore and Wright in three straight games.

In the first game Moore's side started with the lead, and maintained it all the way through. Beakes tried his two and three carrom shots, but his opponents were on the alert, and they were promptly returned, the game ending with the appended score:

Moore and Wright	2	4	1	3	4	0	1	1	6
Beakes and Lockhart	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0

In the second game Moore's again got the lead, but in the third inning the score stood at "6 all." Afterward, by some fine play of Moore's, his side went to the front, and finally came in victors by the appended score:

Moore and Wright	3	0	0	2	3	1	1	3	15
Beakes and Lockhart	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	1	7

The third game was the best contested of all, there being some very effective service on both sides, and some of the sharpest kind of play on returns and on putting hands out. Wright and Lockhart played very prettily in both the inner and outer courts. In the final inning it stood "14 all," but then Moore led the game and the match with a fine out, leaving the score as follows:

Moore and Wright	3	5	3	0	2	1	1	0	2 1—15
Beakes and Lockhart	3	3	0	1	0	0	2	3	2 0—14

The score left Moore and Wright victors in three straight games.

To-day the last and most interesting match of the series takes place at 3½ P. M., it being a contest between Beakes and Moore for a handsome prize given by the club, the match being best four out of seven. Beakes will give Moore the odds of two hands out, which will give him quite an up-hill game to play.

Policeman Whitley's Defence.

Henry O'Keefe, a ticket speculator, doing business in front of the Windsor Theatre, accused Policeman Geo. A. Whitley of the Thirty-first street squad before Commissioners Mason and French yesterday of clubbing him and arresting him without cause. He said that on the evening of Jan. 14 he stopped to talk with a respectable woman in Bayard street. Whitley arrested the woman. O'Keefe remonstrated, and he says that Whitley, saying "I will break your —back," jammed his hat over his eyes, struck him in the face with his fist and finally beat him unmercifully over the head and body with his club, arrested him, and locked him up on a false charge of disorderly conduct. At the Tombs Police Court the next day O'Keefe was discharged.

Several witnesses corroborated O'Keefe's statement, which was also corroborated in part by a large fresh scar on O'Keefe's forehead.

The accused policeman said that when he arrested O'Keefe's companion, which he did on good grounds, O'Keefe attempted to rescue her.

He gave the lie flat to trip "up," said Whitley, "and after he had laid the girl on the back he tried to get me club away from me, and he said I will hit you an all look him in."

O'Keefe is nearly a head shorter than Whitley, and proportionately less powerful. The case was adjourned.

James Curry's Shot.

James Curry, a prisoner who was recently released from the Kings County penitentiary, was before Justice Walsh yesterday on a charge of carrying concealed weapons. He had just finished a term of ten years for burglary and was much annoyed at the prospect of another turn in quod. He said that he was just about to go west, and had purchased a pistol to protect himself. He promised to start west at once and Justice Walsh discharged him to go. Curry was caught when arrested for the crime for which he has just been pardoned, through a clue afforded by his mother. The police were in search of a burglar who has broken into a house in Henry street, and who, upon being discovered, fired a shot at an old couple in the house and then escaped, leaving the new shoe behind. A few days later a woman called at the York street police station and complained that her son was a disorderly person, adding that a few days before she purchase him a new pair of shoes and found when he came home that one shoe he had lost one on. Following up his clue, the police arrested James Curry, the wearer of the shoe.

From Stanton to Twenty-third Street.

Plans for the building at Lexington avenue and Twenty-third street of a new home of worship by the congregation of the Stanton Street Baptist Church were filed at the Bureau of Buildings yesterday. The church will be of brick and cost $25,000. The Trinity Church corporation filed plans for a warehouse at King and Greenwich streets to cost $80,000.

Court Calendars This Day.

SUPREME COURT—TERMS.—Nos. 55, 40, 57, 16, 110, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203,