THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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THE BROADWAY CALAMITY.

The Shocking Details of the Destruction of Jennings' Building.

TWELVE FIREMEN KILLED.

TWENTY OTHERS FRIGHTFULLY MANGLED.

SCENES AT THE RUINS.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPES.

Thrillingly Interesting Narrative of the Wonderful Rescue of O'Donnell.

INCIDENTS OF THE TRAGEDY

Noble Conduct of the Firemen and Police.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

PUBLIC FUNERAL OF THE VICTIMS.

MEETINGS OF THE FIREMEN

&c., &c., &c.

The public heart throbbed heavily yesterday, while the story of the wholesale slaughter of the night before was sweeping over the city. Perhaps not since the Hague street explosion, a few years ago, has any disaster occurred within the limits of New York which has fallen so sadly upon the public ear, or excited such deep sympathy, as this. Without a moment's warning, one blow deprived many of our gallant firemen of life, and stretched others, with broken limbs and burning flesh, writhing upon a bed of pain. More sad are the reflections upon this affair, when associated with the fact that it was a voluntary sacrifice. These men were not struck down while engaged in their respective avocations, which, calling them to this post, thus led them on to death, but they voluntarily offered up their lives to save property and to stay the flames, evincing that self-sacrificing spirit which alone makes deeds heroic.

The cause of the fire is still unknown, but it is attended with very suspicious circumstances, inasmuch as it broke out in the highest story of the building, where, we understand, no fire was used, and none necessary. The building being old and dry, and filled with combustible material, the fire spread with great rapidity. It was first seen at about 7½ o'clock in the evening, and at 8½ o'clock one blaze went up from the ground floor to the roof, turning the building into one huge mass of flame. The firemen rushed into the building, while destruction gathered around them, apparently bathing in the very fire. In a few minutes after the commencement of the conflagration, all hopes of saving the burning building being relinquished, the aim was to prevent the spread of the fire to the adjoining houses. To do this, it was necessary to carry hose pipes to the top of these buildings, where they could be used to most advantage. For this labor two firemen, with a coil of rope, leaped upon the roof of No. 233, next to that on fire, and sending one end of their rope to the ground, it was fastened to the hose pipe, which they drew up to the roof. These men were engaged in this work for at least fifteen minutes, during all which time the flames were mounting high above their heads, and careering their way by the force of the wind, frequently the very fire stretching out its hissing tongue, wrapped itself around them. This was all performed in the open sight of the immense crowd below, who waited with feverish anxiety the result of the work. Hundreds turned away their gaze, unable to witness the extreme peril of these daring men. The wall of building No. 235, rising high above them, confined them to their position. At length the pipe was in their hands, and being sent up to others on the roof of No. 235, these men left their place in safety, and the crowd below breathed freer when they were gone. This is only one of the many scenes of peril which were witnessed.

The fire companies were early on the ground, and soon several streams were pouring upon the building, but with little effect, so furiously did the flames perform their work. Engine Company No. 21, which suffered so severely by the subsequent accident, sent a stream over the roof of the building, a feat which called forth the hearty cheers of the populace. All the companies worked well, and no doubt by their extraordinary exertions was the conflagration very much limited.

The police, headed by their Chief, were on the ground, and did good service. Mr. Matsell, as soon as he arrived at the scene of conflagration, understood that apprehensions of danger from entering the building were entertained by many, and to satisfy himself an aid was sent in the upper stories as far as he could go, to reconnoiter. He reported there was a heavy safe in the upper stories, and the inside of the building would probably fall when unexpected. The Chief immediately ordered every man under him to leave the building, and the last body of men had just stepped outside the door sill, when the crash was heard, which was fraught so heavily with death At the time this order was given, the Chief had about seventy-five men in the building, most of whom were no doubt saved from death by this timely interference of their commander. Mr. Matsell himself was among the most active on the ground, and had his coat nearly scorched from his back.

THE FALLING OF THE WALL.

It was after the fire had encompassed the entire building, and a portion of the firemen had moved through a small alley way to the rear, to work more advantageously, that the wall fell, crushing so many to death, and maiming others for life. The iron safe in the fourth story (of which the firemen knew nothing,) now fell, carrying the wall with it, as if a trap set for death, and new sprung at the most opportune moment for destruction. The wall in its descent not only buried those who were on the ground beneath it, but on each floor were several who came down with the crash, and were common sharers in the disaster. The building had a rear extension on each floor, two stories high, and the crash carried down all in front of this rear addition, as if a knife had cut the building midway, the fore half falling to the ground and the rear remaining. Thus, it will be seen there was a dividing line between the half of the building falling and that left standing. All across this line towards the street went down, and only those who were fortunate enough to be on the rear side of this line were saved. Alderman Howard was standing on the rear, toeing the dividing mark, (so to speak,) when the falling ruins almost grazed his body, leaving him standing upon the edge of one of the rear floors.

Immediately those at hand jumped upon the ruins, amid the smoke and flame, to give to the sufferers all the relief possible. Sad to relate, in a short time another portion of the wall fell, burying the rescuers.

The scene at this time it is not in the power of the pen to describe. The plaintive cries of the dying for help, the excitement of the companies outside, the energetic action of the rescuers, all combined to make up a picture to appal the stoutest heart.

THE DEAD.

1. William J. Diegan, member of Hose Company No. 18. Lives at No. 31 Whitehall street. Leaves a wife and one child. He was taken from the ruins about ten o'clock yesterday morning, and conveyed to the dead house at the City Hospital. His head was dreadfully crushed.

2. Michael Flinn, a boy about sixteen years of age. He was one of the runners of Hose Cart No. 53, and lived on the corner of Church and Walker streets.

3. Alexander McKay, of Engine Company No. 21. Was taken dead from the ruins. He lost his life in attempting to rescue his brother. He was a single man, about twenty two years of age, and lived at 54 Mott street.

4. Daniel McKay, brother of the above, and member of the same company. Was killed by the falling of the first wall. His body was not recovered till yesterday afternoon. He was a married man.

5. John A. Keyser, of Hose Co. No. 8. Was taken from the ruins in a horrible condition, his face and body being so dreadfully mutilated as to render recognition almost impossible. He resided in Houston street, near Broome, and leaves a mother and two sisters to mourn his loss.

6. Andrew J. Schenck, of Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1. His body was taken out of the ruins in a very mangled condition, and conveyed to the dead house of the City Hospital.

7. —— Wilson, an old man, known in the department as the "Old Fireman." He was not a regular member of any company, but ran with one of the engines.

8. James McNulty, of Engine Co. No. 20. Taken from the ruins on the night of the fire, alive, and conveyed to the drug store on the corner of Barclay street and Broadway, where he expired after an hour of intense suffering. The deceased was unmarried, and resided at 98 Cedar street, where his body was conveyed. His nearest relative alive is a sister.

9. Dewitt L. Alston, of Engine Co. No. 46. Was taken out about five o'clock yesterday afternoon. The deceased was about twenty years of age, and resided in Thirty-third street. His body was first recognized by his brother.

10. John P. O'Donnell, who was in the ruins eight hours, died about 11 o'clock last night, at the City Hospital, after suffering in great pain.

11. An unrecognized body was taken from the ruins about twelve o'clock last night.

In addition to the foregoing, we were told that three more bodies were found, and that one or two still remain beneath the ruins.

THE WOUNDED.

1. Matthew Killigan, Engine Company No. 21—slightly burned and bruised.
2. Hugh Hart, Engine 21—slight contusions.
3. Edward Gallespie, Engine 21—badly burned; several of his ribs broken.
4. Patrick Feeney, Engine 21—very seriously injured; was not expected to live.
5. Patrick Waters, Engine 21—thigh broken.
6. Wm. Moran, Engine 21—very seriously burned; recovery doubtful.
7. John Newman, Engine 21—slightly burned.
8. Chris. Kratz, Hook and Ladder No. 11—seriously hurt, but not fatally.
9. Robert Brewster, Engine No. 6—slightly hurt.
10. Patrick Gorman, Engine No. 15—slightly burned about the face.
11. Hugh Gallagher, Hose Company No. 25—the safe fell upon his arm, breaking it in one or two places. His situation for a while was most perilous. The safe lay above him, and was so delicately poised that it was feared it would fall over and crush Gallagher as he lay fastened by his arm. A purchase, after much difficulty, was rigged, the safe raised, and the man released.
12. Charles Daily, Engine No. 20—slightly injured about the face and hands.
13. John Atkinson, of Hose Co. No. 49—one leg broken. His life was saved by his fire cap. A large beam fell directly across his head, but his stiff cap resisted the pressure, and when released he was carried to his home.
14. Peter Curran, Engine No. 40—not badly hurt; was taken home.
15. Timothy Shanley, Engine No. 15—slightly hurt; was taken home.
16. John B. O'Donnell, Engine No. 42—possibly fatally injured; taken to the hospital.
17. Charles Parks, thigh fractured and body severely bruised.
18. John Lewis, of 21 Hose Company, bruised about the head, and legs burned.
19. Philip M'Hugh, of 15 Engine Company, shoulders bruised. Taken to his home.
20. Thomas Flimmans, 15 Engine Company, legs and arms burned.
21. William Bassett, of Hose Company 54, bruised about the body.
22. Augustus Hoyt, of Hose Company 10, slightly injured.
23. Charles Wheeler, of Hose Company 25, considerably bruised.

In addition to the foregoing there were several others, but none of them, so far as we could learn, were severely injured. The number of wounded, including these, is estimated at thirty.

SCENES AND INCIDENTS.

Among the melancholy incidents of this disaster, is the case of John B. O'Donnell, one of the members of Engine Company 42, and a son of Coroner O'Donnell. O'Donnell is about twenty-two years of age, and has but lately joined the Fire Department, in which he soon became remarkable for intrepidity and daring. He was, we are informed, among the first at the fire on Tuesday night, and was engaged in saving the property, with his brother firemen, when the rear wall fell and buried him under its ruins. This occurred about 9 o'clock, and it was not till 5 the following morning when he was extricated. For eight long and painful hours was he lying under a large beam of timber, while the flames threatened every moment to consume him. He was nearly an hour in this position before his cries for assistance were heard, and during that time each minute appeared an age in duration. His first intimation that his friends were near, was a slight knocking over his head, and never did noise sound more sweet to human ears.

"Is that near you?" said a brother fireman.

"No," replied the poor sufferer; "a little further on; and for heaven's sake make haste, or I will be suffocated."

"Are we near you now?" said several voices, as another knock was given.

"Not yet."

"Now?"

"Yes; you are directly over me. Quick, quick. I can't stand this much longer."

A hole was soon cut in the floor over his head, and through it he could be seen enveloped in smoke, while the flames had approached so close to him as to scorch his clothes. "The pipe, give me the pipe at once, or he will be burned to death before our eyes," said one of the firemen, seeing his imminent danger. A stream of water was soon directed upon the advancing flames, and they were driven back at the very moment they threatened to destroy him. As it was impossible to extinguish the fire, on account of its position, it was necessary to play upon it about once in every ten minutes. But during the whole time of his fearful imprisonment the brave fellow never lost his courage, and not a word of pain escaped his lips. As it was feared, however, that his strength would give way before he could be rescued, a hole was broken through the wall near where he lay, and some stimulants handed to him. His friends could now converse with him without any difficulty, and they learned that there were four or five dead bodies lying near him.

"Is there any one else in there beside yourself?" they asked.

"Yes, four or five," he replied, "and they are all dead. I can see them from where I am."

While he was lying here his father and brother, hearing of the disaster, hastened to the scene, and found their worst fears realized. They arrived about two hours after the falling of the wall, and never left the spot till he was extricated. We will not attempt to describe their feelings as they saw him, after the most unremitting exertions on the part of the firemen, taken from the ruins horribly crushed and mangled. He was conveyed immediately to the City Hospital, where he is lying at present in a most critical condition. His face and head are dreadfully burned, and one hand is almost severed from his arm.

Our readers will recognise a strong resemblance between this case and that of the heroic lad, Tindall, who lost his life by the Hague street calamity. We hope, however, that the case of O'Donnell will not have the same fatal termination.

Alexander McKay, who was found dead under the ruins, lost his life in an ineffectual attempt to save his brother. When he heard the crash caused by the falling of the wall, he rushed into the burning building, despite the attempts of the Chief of Police. "What am I doing here, while my poor brother is in there?" said he, pointing to the ruins. This was the last that was seen of him till his dead body was found, horribly mutilated, lying beside the remains of his brother.

A fireman named Craig had a most miraculous escape. He was found wedged in between a pile of cloth and some boards and it was found necessary to tear off all his clothes before he could be relieved. He was then taken into a room in an adjoining house, where he was dressed in a somewhat different suit from that which he had last worn; but he was doubtless too happy in having escaped without injury to pay attention to his style of dress. Speaking to one of the police captains, soon after he was rescued, he said he never knew he was so fat until he was wedged in so tight in the ruins.

One poor fellow who was severely bruised, called on the firemen for heaven's sake to pour some water upon him, and when they did so, he was heard to exclaim in a perfect ecstacy—"Oh, how delicious that is!—More, boys, more."

Zophar Mills, one of the officers of the Fire Department, was precipitated from the fourth to the second story, and nearly fell on the head of the Chief of Police, who was busy with his men in saving the property. He was so black with the smoke that the Chief could hardly recognize him. When he perceived that officer he told him that a large number of firemen were under the ruins, and asked him, for heaven's sake, to set his men to work in rescuing them. It was some minutes, however, before this could be done, as the flames were raging as fierce as ever, and no one could enter the building without incurring great risk. Several escaped from the second story windows by means of ladders, while others jumped to the pavement. Fortunately, none were injured. Among those who escaped by leaping from a window, was a man named Kirchtner, who saved his life some months before in a similar way, during a fire in Centre street.

The appearance of the building after the falling of the rear wall was like that of a vast furnace; but even while it was in this condition the firemen rushed in with the most daring intrepidity, apparently lost to all sense of their own danger in their desire to save their suffering brothers. The instances of noble and heroic self-devotion exhibited here are beyond the praise of mere words.

While the men were engaged in clearing the ruins they heard the barking of some dogs, which were confined in one of the rooms. The poor animals were rescued almost uninjured.

Among the narrow and almost miraculous escapes was that of Capt. Brennan, who just the moment before the wall fell left the building to get an additional length of hose.

Officer Holland, of the Second ward, at the fire in Broadway arrested a fellow called Edward Dougherty, having in his possession some cloths, valued at fifty dollars, which he was carrying off for his own benefit. He was taken to the Tombs and committed for trial.

The wounded firemen who were conveyed to the hospital seem to have forgotten their own injuries in their anxiety to hear about the fate of their friends. "Where is Tom!—is he saved?" "What has become of Bill?" and other inquiries were made after their fellow sufferers by men whose injuries were so severe that one would think everything else would have been forgotten in the sense of their own suffering.

One fireman escaped by leaving the building to find his cap, which he had dropped outside in the street, and Harry Howard, Alderman of the Sixth ward and assistant engineer, was within a few inches of the rear wall when it fell.

THE SCENE OF DISASTER YESTERDAY.

Thousands crowded Broadway yesterday, from Barclay street to Park place, anxiously awaiting the result of the search for bodies. The firemen during the entire day labored unceasingly, and as each new victim was excavated from the ruins, he was carried to the City Hospital, where other crowds convened to catch each new report.

The rumors in regard to the dead were many, and varied between ten and fifty. Some insisted that more were buried than was generally supposed, which gave rise to exaggerated reports. The cause of the disaster was freely discussed among the firemen and citizens; and the general conclusion was, that to the safe in the upper story was it mainly attributable. Says one citizen to a fireman—"Sir, you are not sufficiently careful of yourselves; you rush too recklessly into danger. Organize among yourselves for self-protection, and let these disasters be less frequent and a fireman's life less perilous." "Sir," responded the fireman whose bosom friends lay dead beneath the ruins, "we are, as a general thing, sufficiently prudent, and our experience tells us where we are safe, and what we may expect of burning buildings which we enter. But the real cause of this loss of life is placing those immense iron safes in upper stories, of which fact we are ignorant, and, therefore, miscalculate our positions. When the law forbids putting these traps in buildings, to spring unexpectedly upon us, our duties will be comparatively safe to what they are at present, and these disasters will be less frequent." In this conversation, we have the whole, and no doubt the true, cause of the disaster which we now record. Where one of these immense safes, weighing ten or fifteen tons, are in the third or fourth story, there is no security against death in that building, for when once it falls it sweeps everything before it.

THE SCENE AT THE CITY HOSPITAL.

At the City Hospital the scene during the day was affecting in the extreme. Crowds of friends and relatives of the deceased gathered around the gates, to catch the least news in reference to the injured and the dead. Wives came for their husbands, sisters for their brothers, and mothers for their sons. Upon inquiring for the lost, how thankfully each learned of safety, how eagerly each clung to the least ray of hope, and how sadly upon them fell the response of "dead," we shall not attempt to tell.

It is well worthy of remark that all the doctors of the City Hospital, as soon as the accident occurred, stripped off their coats and went to work nobly and manfully. Not a physician rested till all the relief possible was granted to the sufferers.

OPERATIONS AT THE RUINS LAST NIGHT.

The work of rescue at the place of disaster was continued last night, without any apparent abatement in the energy of those engaged. Firemen shouldered the hod, and for hour after hour carried into the street the rubbish which covered their companions.

A large bonfire, kindled by the firemen and fed by wood from the ruins, blazed during the night, casting a solemn and lurid glare upon those silently and sadly performing their work. A large crowd of citizens all night long were gathered around the spot, as if some strange influence chained them to the place where such an awful tragedy had been enacted.

THE LOSS OF PROPERTY AND INSURANCE.

In the HERALD of yesterday we were unable to give the full particulars of the loss of property and the insurance upon it. We find that the loss, however, will not much vary from $75,000.

The greatest losers were W. T. Jennings & Co., the occupants of the building entirely destroyed. Their loss is something near $60,000

Mr. Jennings is insured in the following companies:—

National Insurance	$5,000	Ætna, Hartford	$5,000
Union Mutual	10,000	Norwich, Conn	5,000
Clinton	5,000	St. Marks'	5,000
Republic	5,000	Rutgers	5,000
Commercial	5,000	Merchants'	5,000
Columbia	5,000	Lorillard	5,000
Broadway	5,000	Howard	5,000
Pacific	2,500	Peoples'	5,000
Park	2,500	Arctic	5,000
Beekman	2,500	Albany Mutual	5,000
Ætna, N. Y	5,000		
Total			$97,500

Messrs. Meade Brothers have lost about $5,000, insured as follows:—

National Company	$3,000
New Amsterdam	3,500
Citizens	3,000
Hanover	3,000

The loss of Mr. Batchelor and the rest are about as we stated in yesterday's HERALD. Mr. Batchelor is insured for $5,600 in the Jefferson and Equitable Companies.

The building No. 231, occupied by W. T. Jennings, was owned by Professor McVickar, and was insured for $2,500 in the Peter Cooper Insurance Company; $2,500 in the St. Nicholas, $5,000 in the Lafarge, and $10,000 in the Equitable.

The loss of property, although very great, is nevertheless insignificant when weighed with the wholesale loss of life.

THE INQUEST.

Coroner Hilton will hold an inquest at ten o'clock this morning, on the bodies of the firemen, and has, we are informed, subpœnaed several builders, masons, and carpenters, to attend and testify in relation to the mode in which the building No. 231 Broadway was constructed. A large number of other witnesses will be in attendance.

RELIEF FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE DEAD—PREPARATIONS FOR THE FUNERAL, &c.

Paul Julien, the celebrated violinist, has signified his intention to the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, to give a concert for the relief of such of the families of the dead as may be in necessitous circumstances. The concert will take place on Monday next, at the Broadway Tabernacle, when it is expected that several distinguished artists will volunteer their services.

The foremen of the several fire companies will hold a meeting, this evening at eight o'clock, in the chamber of the Board of Councilmen, to make arrangements for the celebration of the obsequies of their late brothers.

MEETINGS OF THE FIREMEN.

NEW YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT.—BOARD OF ENGINEERS AND FOREMEN.

The foremen of the several engine, hose, hook and ladder, and hydrant companies, are requested to meet this (Thursday) evening, April 27, at 8 o'clock, in the hall of the Board of Councilmen, City Hall, for the purpose of making the funeral arrangements of our late brothers, who lost their lives at the fire in Broadway, on Tuesday night, April 25. ALFRED CAKSON, Chief Engineer.
J. G. ABBE, Secretary.

WASHINGTON ENGINE COMPANY NO. 20.

Members of the Company are earnestly requested to attend a special meeting on Thursday evening, April 27, at eight o'clock precisely. By order.
H. ROBINSON, J. DONAHOE, J. ROBINSON, C. MONAHAN, J. SPITTER, } Committee.

THE LATEST.

DEATH OF O'DONNELL.

We received information at 1 o'clock this morning that poor O'Donnel expired about two hours before at the City Hospital. His father, mother, and other relatives were with him when he died.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL.

Board of Aldermen—Special Meeting.

[OFFICIAL.]

WEDNESDAY, April 26, 1854.

Present—Nathan C. Ely, Esq., President; Aldermen Brown, Williamson, Blunt, Howard, Voorhis, Trowbridge, Boardman, Wakeman, Covert, Christy, Herrick, C. H. Tucker, Mott, Drake.

The Board was convened in pursuance of a call from the acting Mayor, on a request to him, signed by a majority of the members, for the purpose of considering what action is necessary in relation to the calamitous fire and loss of life on the evening of the 25th inst.

A preamble and resolution in relation to the calamity, and appointing a special committee of five to inquire into the circumstances of the injured and dead firemen, were received from the Board of Councilen, and unanimously concurred in. Whereupon Aldermen Blunt, Howard, Boardman, Voorhis and Brown were appointed a committee to act in concert with the committee from the said Board.

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTION.

By Alderman BLUNT—Whereas it is our painful duty again to record another sad disaster, caused by the occurrence of a large and destructive fire in the six story building No. 231 Broadway, whereby the lives of more than nine of our gallant firemen, who are ever ready to risk their lives to save the persons and property of our fellow citizens, were sacrificed, and many others badly injured, while in the discharge of their duty; and whereas great praise is due to their brother firemen for laboring diligently to remove the ruins so as to rescue those injured, and to remove the bodies of the dead from the same—therefore,

Resolved, That the Board of Aldermen deeply sympathize with the friends and relatives of those gallant firemen who were injured and deprived of their lives while in the act of discharging their duty at the late fire; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the families of the deceased. Which was adopted.

On motion of Alderman BOARDMAN, and out of respect to the dead, the flags were directed to be raised at half mast on the City Hall to-morrow morning at sunrise, and continue raised until the dead firemen shall be interred.

By Alderman WAKEMAN—Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed on the part of this Board to confer with the representatives and officers of the New York Fire Department, to make suitable arrangements for the funeral obsequies of the deceased firemen; and that said committee be, and are hereby, authorized to tender the use of the City Hall for said purpose. Adopted, and Aldermen Wakeman, C. H. Tucker and Herrick appointed such committee on the part of this Board.

FROM BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

Resolution—That the sum of $1,500 be appropriated for the purpose of defraying the funeral expenses of the deceased firemen. Concurred in.

Alderman WAKEMAN moved that the Presidents be added to the two Committee of Arrangements. Carried.

On motion, the Board then adjourned *sine die*.

D. T. VALENTINE, Clerk.

OUR SPECIAL REPORT.

THE CALAMITOUS FIRE IN BROADWAY.

The President, Nathan C. Ely, Esq., announced that the present special meeting of the Board was convened for the purpose of concurring with the Councilmen in a resolution to provide suitable obsequies for the bodies of those persons who had lost their lives in the late calamitous fire in Broadway.

The resolution from the Councilmen was read and unanimously concurred in; and the chairman announced the names of the following Aldermen as a committee to confer with the Councilmen: Blunt, Howard, Boardman, Voorhis, and Brown.

Alderman BLUNT, in moving a resolution, which will be found in the official report, bore willing testimony to the zealand the untiring exertions of the firemen on the occasion of the late disaster.

Alderman WAKEMAN said if ever there was a time when the Board of Aldermen should show their desire to provide for the living and respect the dead, it was on this occasion. The families of those brave fellows who had perilled and lost their lives should be remembered.

A resolution was then passed, tendering the use of the City Hall for the funeral obsequies of the deceased firemen, and the Aldermen of the Twelfth, Nineteenth and Twentieth wards were appointed a committee to confer with the Fire Department relative to the proposed obsequies.

EXPENSES OF THE OBSEQUIES.

The Board unanimously concurred with the Board of Councilmen in appropriating the sum of $1,500 for the expenses of the obsequies of the deceased firemen.

Alderman BOARDMAN moved, that out of respect to the deceased firemen, the flags of the City Hall be raised at half mast on Thursday morning, at sunrise, and so continue until after the funeral ceremonies.

Alderman BLUNT seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. The Board then adjourned.

Board of Councilmen—Special Session.

OFFICIAL.

WEDNESDAY, April 26, 1854.

Present—Edwin J. Brown, Esq., President, in the chair, and forty-two members.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Board had been convened by the President of the Board of Aldermen, acting Mayor, pursuant to a request of members to that effect, to take proper measures in relation to the recent calamity in Broadway.

RESOLUTIONS.

Councilman CLANCY offered the following preamble and resolutions:—

Whereas, The recent calamity by the disastrous fire in Broadway, on the evening of April 25, 1854, whereby some ten or more members of the Fire Department were suddenly hurried into eternity, and a large number dangerously injured, and perhaps mutilated for life; and whereas, the Common Council of the city of New York sincerely lament the sudden and untimely death of such members of the Fire Department as were killed at the fire, and as some suitable provision should be made for the relief of the families of said firemen who are in a distressed condition—therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to inquire into the circumstances of the injured, and of the families of the dead firemen, and report the most appropriate mode of rendering speedy and effective aid where needed.

Resolved, That the Board unite with the Fire Department in the funeral solemnities of the deebased firemen.

Adopted, and Councilmen Clancy, Young, Conover, Hodgkinson and Jackson appointed said committee.

Councilman HODGKINSON offered the following:—

Resolved, That the sum of $1,500 be, and is hereby, appropriated for the purpose of defraying the funeral and other necessary expenses attending the late calamity by fire at No. 231 Broadway, whereby several lives were lost while in the discharge of their duties as firemen. Adopted.

By Councilman FRYE—Resolved, That permission be given to the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department to use the Council Chamber of this Board in which to hold a meeting of the Board of Engineers and Firemen on Thursday, April 27. Adopted.

By Councilman CLANCY—That the committee of five now appointed have full power to confer with the foremen and representatives of the Fire Department, to make the necessary arrangements for the funeral, and tender the use of the City Hall for said purpose. Adopted.

By the same—Whereas, by reason of the melancholy disaster which occurred on the 25th inst., in Broadway, by the burning of No. 231, the Fire Department has suffered a serious loss in the accidental death of a number of its corps; and whereas, the brave members of said department, always fearless in the discharge of their duty, should promptly be awarded that respect and honor which is due to them in a case of calamity—therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is recommended by the Common Council of this city, that the citizens thereof close their various places of business on the day hereafter to be named for the funeral of said unfortunate firemen; and that the merchants, masters of vessels, and the various hotel keepers, be requested to lower their colors half mast on said occasion. Adopted.

FROM THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Resolution—Appointing a committee to confer with the representatives and officers of the Fire Department in relation to the funeral, and tendering the use of the City Hall. Concurred in.

The Board then adjourned. From the minutes.

C. T. MCCLENACHAN, Clerk.

The Milwaukie *News* estimates the present population of Milwaukie at 35,000. The estimate is based upon the number of names contained in a new City Directory.

The Trial of Ward for Shooting Professor Butler.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette, April 27.]

ELIZABETHTOWN, April 20, 1854.

The trial of M. F. Ward is progressing rapidly. The counsel for the State closed their testimony in chief yesterday, and the defence commenced; and seldom has such an array of names known to fame been called in any case, civil or criminal, as were produced in this case. James Guthrie, Secretary of the Treasury; William Preston, member of Congress, from the Louisville district; Judge Perkins, member of Congress, from Louisiana; Mr. Sturgeon, Assistant United States Treasurer at St. Louis; George D. Prentice, and a number of other influential men in this State, appeared and testified to the good character of Mr. Ward. Their united testimony was that he was a mild, peaceable, quiet, urbane, courteous man. How such a man came in such a condition is a wonder. Rev. Mr. Sehon could hardly find terms to express his high opinion of his natural amiability.

I do not think the State have made out a very strong case for this latitude. That Butler was shot, and shot by Ward, there is no doubt. Yet nearly every witness testifies that Butler did lay his hand on Ward's shoulder, and some say that he pushed him back. The physicians with Butler in his last moments, testify that Butler told them that after Ward called him a liar, he struck Ward, before the shot. After such evidence he will not be convicted of murder, perhaps not of manslaughter.

The Court have prohibited the publication of the testimony, and we shall have a second edition of the Martha Washington affair, with this difference—that public sentiment here in the country will sustain the Judge.

A most affecting scene occurred yesterday in the introduction of Mrs. Butler, the wife of the deceased, as a witness for the State. She conducted herself with the greatest propriety, and there was no affectation of grief. Yet the simple story of herself, and the lady with her, produced the deepest sensation. There was scarcely a dry eye in the house. Hard featured old men bowed and wept at the relation of his dying request—that those around him would be kind to his wife and baby. The Ward family were as deeply affected as others.

To-day, (Thursday,) will probably close the testimony on each side, and the pleading will commence, and the case may yet be finished this week.

The weather here this week has been very cold, and the frosts have been severe.

[From the Louisville Courier.]

ELIZABETHTOWN, April 21, 1854.

Last evening the defendants announced that they had concluded their testimony, but desired court should adjourn until this morning, in order that they might hold a consultation.

To-day the commonwealth will bring forward its rebutting evidence, and then the arguments will commence. For the prosecution, R. B. Carpenter, Esq., of Covington, will make the opening speech. This was not the arrangement at first, but Mr. C. is forced to leave town in order to be present at the trial of an important cause in Gallatin county, next Monday. There is very considerable anxiety to hear this gentleman, who, aside from the reputation he brought with him as an able prosecutor, has attracted to himself no small degree of public notice by the indefatigable manner in which he has conducted the present cause. His ability and ingenuity as an examiner of witnesses is universally conceded, while his extraordinary calmness and pertinacity is frequently remarked. An able and eloquent speech is anticipated.

In the defence Messrs. Wolf, Helm, Marshal and Crittenden will speak; and for the prosecution, in addition to Mr. Carpenter, before mentioned, Messrs. Harris, Gibson and Allen. Mr. Harris is very well known as the State Senator from Hardin and Meade counties. It was my privilege during the past winter, at Frankfort, to hear him on several occasions, and he always impressed me as a warm, energetic, and passionate speaker—one who had great power to stir the feelings. Being on his native heath, he ought to make a speech that would tell with the jury. Captain Gibson is of Louisville, but has recently removed there from Clarke county, Ia., where he figured for many years as a prominent lawyer and politician. He is a gentleman of fine education and good address, and a regular graduate of the Military Academy of West Point, and for some time served in the army. At the battle of Buena Vista he was commandant of a company. Mr. Allen, the Commonwealth's Attorney, is a citizen of Breckenridge county, and from the limited opportunity I have had the last few days of judging of his abilities, I can but join in the general opinion that he is a most excellent and rigid prosecutor.

During yesterday the defence entered into a justification of the murder of Prof. Butler. They proved to their satisfaction that the deceased made an assault upon Matt. Ward, and would have prostrated and perhaps killed him, had he not shot and thus ended the affray. They also introduced a witness to testify that Prof. Butler had told him, while upon his dying bed, that he (B.) struck Ward first. But the statements of this witness were so contradictory, he became so entangled and confused in the course of a cross examination, that his testimony operated against the defence.

Mr. John O. Bullock, editor of the *Times*, was again upon the stand yesterday. He testified to a redness upon the cheek of Matt. Ward, noticed by him some few hour after the affray, that had evidently been produced by a blow. But during the cross examination by Mr. Carpenter, the witness had to concede that the redness might have been produced by rubbing the cheek with a coarse towel.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Ward were introduced as evidence as to what Matt. Ward's intention was when he started to the school room. Most of their testimony was illegal and excluded from the jury, but not till after it had been given in and had its desired effect.

After Mrs. R. J. Ward had testified, there was quite a scene in the court room, occasioned by her fainting.

Mr. Crittenden conducted the case for the defence yesterday, it having been discovered by the counsel that the injudicious course of Capt. Tom Marshall was operating unfavorably upon the cause.

Some rare developements were made yesterday by witnesses for the defence, concerning the manners and customs prevalent in Louisville, the fashion of prisoners in jail and the turnkey playing cards together, the possibility of a murderer escaping, (according to Larry B. White,) fifteen minutes not elapsing after he had committed the crime before the Chief of the Police was advised of the deed.

I had prepared a list of the distinguished witnesses present, but can only give you a few this morning. I present their names and high positions as they were introduced to the court:—

Earl McCallister, ex-plasterer and man of fortune.
Coleman Daniel, ditto and ditto.
Ben. W. Pollard, ex-President of the Common Council and candidate for Clerk of the City Court.
Judge Walker, editor of the New Orleans *Delta*.
L. P. Crenshaw, nephew of Judge Crenshaw, of the Appellate Court, ex-publisher for Mrs. Lindsay, ex-preacher and agent.
Geo. B. Hodge, aid to Gov. Powell, with the rank of Colonel, ex-Midshipman in the United States Navy, ex-candidate for Congress.
J. S. Lithgow, mechanic and ex-Alderman.
James S. Speed, Mayor of Louisville, ex-bricklayer, ex-City Marshall, ex-United States Marshal, and ex-"several distinguished positions."

But my list swells in magnitude, and I must close, without an apostrophe to the deity of toadyism.

ELIZABETHTOWN, April 22, 1854.

Yesterday, after the examination of two or three witnesses as to the character of the prisoner, the defence announced that its testimony was concluded. The remainder of the morning hour was occupied by the commonwealth in the presentation of rebutting evidence. It was a matter of no difficulty to successfully establish the truth of what had been testified to by the smallest and largest of the schoolboys, and with the audience, at least, the impression was very general that the two grown men (Allen and Gudgell) who swore that they were present at the schoolhouse directly after the affray, and heard the boys say that Butler first struck Ward, were mistaken, (that being the most charitable word it is possible to use.) The evidence of a man named Barlow, who swore that Prof. B. had made to him a dying statement, to the effect that he had first struck Ward, was assailed at all points, and with what entire success the reader can determine when the full reports are published. Dr. D. D. Thomson being a contradictory witness, and testifying directly to the opposite of Barlow, Mr. Wolfe raised a question as to character, and pronounced before the court that Barlow was as good and honorable a man as Dr. Thomson.

The utter absurdity of the comparison, after all that had been testified to, was so apparent, that it excited a general manifestation of derision.

Pending this matter, a question of a theological nature was mooted by Mr. Wolfe. It was based upon the hypothesis that Dr. Thompson was a member of the church, and was this:—Whether or not it is consistent with the duty of members of the church and Sabbath school teachers to carry deadly weapons? Judge Kinkelele promptly ruled the question out of order, and instructed the Doctor not to answer it. Allow me to respectfully suggest this novel question to the consideration of the approaching General Assembly of the Presbyterian church.

Long before the hour of the afternoon session, the court room was so completely jammed, that it was a matter next to impossibility to move within—the space around the building was entirely filled up by eager listeners, and every window of the house was filled with lookers on. At half past one, Mr. Carpenter arose, and opened the argument for the Commonwealth.

At 10 minutes of 6 o'clock, Mr. Carpenter said that he had not concluded, and desired the Court should adjourn until morning. The Judge readily acquiesced in the wish of the gentleman.

APRIL 22—P. M.

This morning at 8 o'clock, Mr. Carpenter resumed his argument for the prosecution, and continued until the hour of 11.

At 1 o'clock this afternoon, Capt. Tom Marshall commenced his reply.

The case will go to the Jury on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. Every body says that the jurors will be unable to render a verdict, and the very men who are to hang it, are pointed out by those who are best acquainted hereabouts, with unerring certainty

[From the Louisville Times.]

ELIZABETHTOWN, April 22, 1854.

The testimony in the Ward case was gotten through with yesterday at noon. The defence introduced but two or three witnesses, much of the time having been consumed in discussing the competency of R. J. Ward, Jr., as a witness for the accused. A very nice legal proposition was involved, and elicited very able arguments from Messrs. Crittenden and Helm and the counsel for the prosecution. The Court, after giving a very clear and lucid opinion on the subject, decided in favor of admitting the testimony. After the defence were through with their evidence, several witnesses were introduced to discredit the statements of Mr. Barlow, a witness for the accused. At 2 o'clock P. M. Mr. Carpenter commenced his argument to the jury. He spoke until nearly night, when the Court adjourned. He will finish his speech this morning

The court room was so intensely hot, and the crowd so great, that I was driven away after the gentleman had spoken an hour. Up to that time he had not commenced commenting upon the law and facts, and of course was not very interesting. Those who heard him out speak of the latter portion of his speech as being very able and argumentative.

The impression made by Mr. Carpenter has been a favorable one. He has conducted the prosecution very decorously. He will be followed this morning by the Hon. Thomas F. Marshall. There is an intense anxiety on part of the large assemblage in attendance to hear this unparalleled orator.

The court has permitted four speeches upon each side. The defence will be made by Mr. Marshall, Mr. Wolfe, Gov. Helm, and Mr. Crittenden. In what order the speeches will be made it is impossible to say, as that will be determined by the arrangements of the pros