

THE FERRY FATALITY.

CONTINUED FROM EIGHTH PAGE.

superheated they are no indication whatever of the pressure. I believe the boiler on the Westfield was not burst by the presence of "maxima." I believe the boiler to have been of good material, of good design and good workmanship. I can conceive no way that it could have been better insulated, or the improvement on the practice of the engine in operating it. My views of the cause of such accidents are well known to the public, and I am confident that accidents of this nature will not occur in the future, notwithstanding these opinions; but they are not to be prevented to any great degree by the best inspections, or by care on the part of the engineer, as to which my testimony before the investigating inspectors and the coroner's jury will be full and explicit. I have no objection to my name being put on the list of signers of the memorial. Respectfully, NORMAN WIARD, August 2, 1871. 48 Broad street, New York.

An Expert's Opinion.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—The fracture along the line of rivets in the exploded boiler of the Westfield, I think, can be traced to the evil practice that boiler makers have (when putting a boiler together or repairing an old one) of driving a taper steel punch (or drift) through the rivet holes to bring them together. The proper way (when the holes do not correspond) is to use a hand hammer and rim the boiler with the drift. This is the dangerous practice of drifting the holes, which results in fracturing the rivets. I have examined a number of exploded boilers in my day and have always found some of the rivets, and in some cases some rivets in more than one place, the cause of the fracture of the workman in drifting the rivet holes. Yours, &c., W. DE SANNO, Mechanical Engineer, CORNY, Pa., August 4, 1871.

The Fire Department.

NEW YORK, August 7, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—After the fearful boiler explosion of yesterday week the public mind is looking in all directions where steam is used and speculating as to the competency of the men in charge of engines, and dignified with the classification of "engineers" and their "assistants."

Our Fire Department suggests itself to me as an excellent field to discover incompetency. I am present in the present in the city, and I have properly examined by such gentlemen as Joseph Beknap, and I trust the authorities will order an examination of all assistant engineers, and with open doors to the press. There are not more than six engineers I would willingly stand within half a mile of if working at a boiler in the city. I am confident that the field can be travelled for ignorance in this department. Respectfully, T. R. T.

Aid for the Sufferers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—It is the idea of nearly all the residents of this great city that the government and all the rich and generous men of this city should give something for the sufferers who were blown up on Sunday, July 30. It is a terrible thing to think of poor working men and women who have no chance in the week days to get a little enjoyment, and who on the next day they have to get killed in such a dreadful manner. Would it not be a good idea if every family in the city should give a dollar for the night's earnings to aid the sufferers of the Westfield boiler, for it was a terrible calamity? It is a horrible thing to think that in the course of a year, or two or three times a year, and you do not know but that you will become a victim to such a thing. A LOVER OF THE HERALD.

Staten Island Ferry Company and Attempted Perjury.

BROOKLYN, August 5, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—Can you explain the reason why the Staten Island Ferry Company insist and make their employees swear that they were not over two hundred persons aboard their slaughter boat when she blew up. Your figures show that the number of persons who were aboard far more than in the company's estimation were aboard all together. It is the public duty of the board of inspectors to inquire when it should be known that those boats never on a Sunday afternoon have had less than a hundred hands on board. It is a disgrace to a trip to the island. H. C.

An Ignored Communication to the Supervisor.

NEW YORK, August 7, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—The undersigned, believing that even a suggestion would lead to further the investigation now going on in regard to the Westfield catastrophe, sent the following letter to Mr. Lowe, the Supervising Inspector of this city. From what is published it seems no note was taken of said letter by the Board of Inquiry, and fully believing that it would be of importance to give it some consideration, he now requests you to give it to the public through the means of your columns.—

Tomlinville, S. I., August 4, 1871.

TO THE BOARD OF INQUIRY IN THE WESTFIELD EXPLOSION, 23 Pine street. Sir:—I would like to suggest, perhaps, contribute to throw some light upon the cause of the terrible calamity now under investigation. I would like to suggest, perhaps, contribute to the method the engineer followed in greasing the cylinders. Instead of using oil or all kinds of greases, having a certain compound which they are using on said cylinders for greasing the walking beam and bearings. I refer to a special grease, having a certain flavor of bitter almonds. This compound is nothing else than a kind of saponaceous oil of lard mixed with other greases, and which gives it the bitter almond smell, which does not do it merit, but probably is done to the appearance of the boiler, which, by heating or slight percussion, produced that terrible explosion, and steam was only the result of the explosion. This compound is called "nitro-benzole," and is a very volatile compound. Assuming that said compound was used for the cylinder last Sunday, or previously, I think I have the right to say that it would be of importance to give it some consideration, he now requests you to give it to the public through the means of your columns.—

Examining Brooklyn Boilers.

Very respectfully, J. D.

The Quarterly Report of the Boiler Inspector.

Precautions Against Explosions.

Yesterday Mr. Thomas F. Powers, the Examining Engineer for Brooklyn, submitted his quarterly report of the examination of boilers to the Commissioners of Police.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Count. Includes Steam boilers examined, defective, and certificates granted.

Boiler Explosion in St. Louis.

St. Louis, Mo., August 7, 1871.

At two o'clock this morning the boiler of the Union Steam Flouring Mills of Yager & Co., on Florida street, exploded, instantly killing John Scott, the engineer, and James P. Jones, the fireman. The entire eastern side of the building was blown out, and fragments of the boiler were thrown from one to half a mile. The explosion is accounted for as follows:—The boiler was blown out by heat to raise steam to operate the dokey engine. A large quantity of steam was raised, when the dokey was started, and the boiler exploded. The loss of property is from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

THE MURKIN.

The Body of an Eccentric Old Lady Found in a Garret on King Street.

Blood Tricking Through the Ceiling of a Room in a Tenement House.

WAS SHE MURDERED FOR HER MONEY?

"Half the world doesn't know who all the other half lives." This is a truism to which all who have any business or a desire for a broader knowledge of human nature open a glimpse of the interior life of all classes of his fellow creatures, more particularly of the needy and the wretched, will readily subscribe. Indeed, the more varied a man's knowledge of life the more he is impressed with the truth of the fact that there is more misery and trouble in the world than the large majority of people are aware of. Yesterday the curtain was lifted from a scene of human wretchedness in the heart of New York city which almost surpasses belief, and which will not easily fade from the minds of those whose duty it was to be spectators of it. Sometimes we are shocked with a story of misery and horror coming from the very poorest districts, but it is not often that the public appetite for sensation of the grimest kind is regaled with a story embracing in its horrible details any "horror" which has ever cropped up in New York, and coming, too, from a comparatively staid and respectable neighborhood.

Yesterday morning, about ten o'clock, a notice was received at the Coroner's Office from Sergeant William E. McConnell, of the Twenty-eighth precinct, to the effect that the body of an old maiden lady, named Miss Mary Mannion, had been discovered in the garret of No. 1 King street, the deceased having been seen on the morning of the discovery. It was found in a room which had been used for a long time as a storeroom, and which was not easily found by the minds of those whose duty it was to be spectators of it. Sometimes we are shocked with a story of misery and horror coming from the very poorest districts, but it is not often that the public appetite for sensation of the grimest kind is regaled with a story embracing in its horrible details any "horror" which has ever cropped up in New York, and coming, too, from a comparatively staid and respectable neighborhood.

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FOCALLY MURDERED. For some money which it was popularly supposed that she possessed. The notice went on to say that the old lady was of a most eccentric disposition; that some neighbors of hers alleged that she had a large bank account, and gave a most sensational history of the discovery of the body. According to this story the following circumstances were stated:—About eight o'clock yesterday morning the people who reside in one of the rooms of the old floor, underneath the garret inhabited by the old Miss Mannion, were about to sit down to breakfast when one of them noticed some very curious stains on the ceiling. By and by the stains became of a reddish hue and some one remarked that they looked very much like blood stains. Beyond a quail of distrust at the suggestion no notice was taken of it for a short time. During breakfast, however, it was noticed that the stains became larger, and at length, to the horror of the people in the room, drops of blood were seen to trickle down from the ceiling to the floor. The horror-stricken inhabitants rushed from their room, raised an alarm, and in a short time one of the neighbors, of the Twenty-eighth precinct, came up. The people of the house, almost frantic with terror, informed the officer that an eccentric old lady dwelt in the garret over the room on the ceiling of which the blood stains were seen; that she had not been noticed by any one to leave her room since Friday evening, and that they feared there was something wrong. As soon as Officer Wilson saw the blood trickling in black drops from the ceiling he rushed up stairs, and having rapped a few times at the door without having received any answer he burst open the door.

He found the body of the old woman lying on a bundle of rags in the middle of the room in a horrible state of decomposition. Such was the story told in substance in the notice of the discovery of the body sent to Coroner Young.

A Herald reporter visited the house and entered the room in which the body was found, yesterday evening, although it had been his lot to look upon horrible sights from time to time he has never seen a more awful spectacle than that which the opening door of the garret in King street disclosed. The portion of King street on the east side of Varick street is a quiet, respectable neighborhood. A long range of red brick houses reaches from Varick as far up on the left hand side as No. 6, the only house in which there is a store in the whole block. No one could think that in this quiet thoroughfare a human being lying in wretchedness under the floor of a tenement house, and in a room which is known as the "sweaty hole" and "Gotham Cell" in New York. At No. 4 there is a little grocery store, at the upper side of which the door of the tenement is situated. At the time of the discovery the door was closed. The door was opened by the reporter's visit yesterday evening.

Another Gently Particular. To discuss, and whisper of untold horrors which pervaded the whole place, strange, pungent odor that made the air of the room, and made him tremble with loathing from the sight of a colored woman, who was sitting on the floor, and who was looking at the reporter with a look of intense horror. "Come over here, sir," said the officer, at the same time leading the way to the side of the room furthest from the door, and where the body was lying. As he reached the top step the reporter was obliged to crawl after the officer on his hands and knees to get a glimpse of the body. The body was lying on a mat, and was about three feet and a half long. The officer, on his hands and knees also, opened the padlock by which it was fastened on the outside. As he did so, he put his handkerchief to his nose, and called out to the reporter, "With a suddener the door opened, and the body was lying on the floor, great God, what a sight he saw! 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