THE CENTRE STREET HORROR.

The Work of Excavating the Ruins Completed and the Remains of the Boy James Bevins Recovered.

A Sickening Sight in the Station House.

Nothing Left of the Body but the Backbone and Some Fragments of Limbs.

The work of excavating the Centre street ruins was completed yesterday morning, and the body of the last victim of the fire, the boy James Bevins, was recovered. Business commenced promptly at seven o'clock under the direction of Captain Kennedy and Sergeants Loonie and Douglass. The discovery of the five bodies on Wednesday left but one to be accounted for, and strong hopes were entertained that the painful duty of the police would be brought to a speedy conclusion. The success which had attended the work on the previous day attracted an unusually large crowd of spectators yesterday, the opposite side of the street being completely lined with people, who eagerly watched the progress of the excavators. One conspicuous feature of the search which was to be observed on Sunday and the succeeding days was absent yesterday. The crowd of relatives who had been present while the bodies of the girls were buried in the ruins were not there. The weeping woman, whose grief and lamentations had lent such a mournful interest to the scene, had disappeared. The remains of those loved ones were found, and the relatives were keeping the sad vigil of love at their homes and making preparations for the last tribute of duty and affection to the deceased. The brother of young Bevins was the only one of the many friends of

THE DEAD VICTIMS

of mismanagement who was on the ground, and he had not long to wait before his patience met with its reward.

The report received at the station house late on Wednesday afternoon that two more bodies were missing—those of Elizabeth Hartford and Margaret McCarty—was authoritatively contradicted yesterday morning. Before the work had proceeded far the police were informed that the two girls were not lost in the fire. It was ascertained that one of the girls who was reporting missing had been residing with her friends in Philadelphia, she having left the establishment some days previous to the fire. Her place was supplied by one of the six girls whose remains have been recovered, supposed to be Bridget McGrath. The other girl, McCarty, did not work in the bookbindery, the foreman having ascertained that her name was not on the books. This intelligence relieved the police of a great quantity of extra work, as the ruins would have had to be completely gone over to make the search. The fact that no account of the missing girls had been received until more than a week after the disaster occurred led the police to doubt the news that they had perished in the fire, and the statements given yesterday morning were satisfactory enough to convince them that their doubts had been correct.

THE WORKMEN COMMENCED OPERATIONS

near the vicinity of the ruins where the bodies of the girls had been found, and every portion of them was thoroughly searched, but not the slightest trace of the remains of a human being could be discerned. Paper, brick, stone and iron were removed until the space was completely cleared when it became evident that the search for the remains of the boy in this quarter was a failure. As he had been seen struggling outside of the building while the conflagration was at its height, making a desperate struggle for life, it was supposed he might have fallen into the ruins while passing through the buildings fronting on Worth street. A boy who had been a witness of the last effort for life informed Sergeant Loonie of the circumstance, saying that in all probability the body would be found near the tower, buried beneath the machinery. The workmen in the meantime had commenced to clear the obstructions in front of No. 83 Centre street, but Sergeant Loonie, on receiving the information from the boy, directed a squad of them to set to work near the tower. The task in this part of the ruins was a peculiarly dangerous one. The tall tower was liable at any time to topple over, the slightest agitation shaking it so that it trembled to the top. The large tank was settling down, and if it once had fallen the masonry would have given way with it, and all who worked beneath would have been buried alive.

THE MACHINERY WAS COILED

in the brickwork and a number of long beams were frozen into the front of the ruined edifice. The Sergeant had his fears of the safety of the workmen, but being afraid that the workmen would not proceed with operations if he would give expression to them he therefore kept silence. And being anxious to have the business brought to a speedy conclusion he assumed his full share of the danger, and the search was actively progressed with. The beams were cut away, the iron bars were extricated, and although the building shook no part of the masonry or brickwork gave way. The rubbish was then cleared from the base of the tower, and in less than an hour it was nearly all taken away.

At half-past nine o'clock the remains were found, and a terrible sight they presented. It was thought when the bodies of the girls were picked up that it would be impossible for them to be more disfigured than they were, but the body of the boy was infinitely worse than any of them. The remains were found directly at the base of the tower, the face lying downward. Part of a backbone was first discovered by the horrified searchers. The body lay on a heavy beam, to which it had been frozen. It was so thickly imbedded in ice and stones that the beam and it looked as if they were one substance. Across the remains a heavy twisted iron rod lay. It is supposed that when the boy fell

THE BEAM GAVE WAY

at the same time and when he reached the ground the burning iron tumbled upon him while yet living. The thought of his agony is almost too horrible to contemplate. The life slowly crushed out by the action of the flames; his screams drowned in the hurried confusion around, powerless to move hand and limb, the infernal element enveloped him in its fiery embrace until the last spark of existence had been crushed out.

In order to extricate the body Sergeant Loonie was compelled to saw the beam away. Nearly half an hour was occupied in this work and then the remains were secured. When placed on the stretcher to be conveyed to the station house a portion of the beam still clung to them, so firmly frozen that it could not be extricated. A large crowd followed the stretcher to the station, but the morbid curiosity of the people was restrained and they were driven back by the police. As the work of excavation was now done and the last body found, Captain Kennedy determined to suspend operations and give the ruins into the hands of the lessees. The workmen were consequently dismissed and in the afternoon they were paid off in the station. They did their duty conscientiously, and evidently had a higher object in view than to earn their two dollars a day.

Before the work had concluded

AN ALARM OF FIRE,

given from a tenement house on Worth street, near the ruins, caused considerable excitement. Several engines were promptly on the ground, but their services were fortunately not required, as the alarm was a groundless one. An Irishman and his better half had been quarrelling in the tenement house, and from words had come to blows. The wife threw a pan of burning meat at her faithful spouse, which hit him somewhere about the body. When he found he was burned he threw up the window and shouted "Fire" at the top of his voice. A policeman gave the alarm and the firemen responded. They were greatly angered when they found they had been called out on a fruitless errand, and if the Irishman had been found he would have been cooled off by a couple of streams of water.

When the body of the boy was brought into the station house it was taken to the rear and stretched upon the boards where the other three had previously lain. The body was utterly unrecognizable, and save part of the backbone, one or two charred ribs and part of the arm near the shoulder, it would be impossible to distinguish the remains as those of a human being. The hands and lower limbs were completely burned away, the entrails had disappeared and not a single shred of flesh remained. All that was left of the head looked like

A PIECE OF BURNED CHARCOAL.

There was neither shape nor features about it, and none looking at it could say it ever was a human head. The fatty matter of the brains had oozed out and become congealed. A few bones were picked up near where the body was found, and these lay at the head of the blackened trunk. Not a particle of clothing could be discovered, and were it not for the fact that no one else is missing the sex or identity of the unfortunate boy could never have been ascertained. He was only twelve years old, and was a lad of great promise. He was unusually beloved in the establishment, and his sweet tenor voice was admired by all who heard it. The remains were taken in charge by an undertaker, and, a permit having been given by the Coroner, they were removed to the residence of the relatives to await interment.

The funds received by Captain Kennedy were amply sufficient to meet expenses, and if there is anything left it will be handed over to Miss Kennedy, as she has been the greatest sufferer. Alderman Gilsey sent another check for $500 yesterday to the Captain, in addition to the sum of $500 which he had previously given. The funerals will take place this morning. The Bells will be interred in Greenwood Cemetery and the two Donoho girls and Bridget McGrath in Calvary.

The accumulated rubbish which is heaped up in front of the scene of the fire is to be rapidly swept away, and the work of rebuilding is to be commenced at once. On the site of the

PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT

a durable fireproof structure is to be erected. The premises occupied by James Gallagher are to be rebuilt and improved. The corner building occupied by Mr. Middleton will be raised three stories high, to be completed in six weeks, and the whole appearance of the block will be greatly improved. Mr. Middleton deserves great credit for the charity he has displayed during the trying circumstances in which he has been placed. Refreshments were liberally furnished by him to the firemen and workmen on Tuesday, and he shares some of the expense of clearing away the ruins. The lower part of his house has been already converted into a handsome office, which is to be occupied by William F. Howe until the building is restored.

This ends the closing scenes of a tragedy which is almost unparalleled, and it is to be hoped it will be long before a similar disaster has to be chronicled.

MACGREGOR AND THE BUILDING LAW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Upon the recurrence of each calamity involving the loss of life from falling buildings and burning ruins a cry goes out from the Superintendent of Buildings, "It is no fault of mine or the inspectors of this department; it is all the fault of the law; only give me more power and more money and I will make the city of New York fireproof." Under the horror caused by the falling of Hale's piano factory, by which several lives were lost, and which building Mr. Macgregor testified was well built, with good materials, and would not have fallen down if the wind had not blown it over, Mr. Macgregor procured the passage of several amendments to the then building law, that would make, as he claimed, buildings perfectly secure and safe, and which undoubtedly would do so if the law as then amended had been honestly enforced and its provisions strictly carried out; but a clause was inserted, known as the thirty-first section, completely nullifying the other provisions of the law, and giving us, instead of a stringent law, merely the will of Mr. Macgregor; for it gives him the power to alter, change or modify any of the provisions of the law he may see fit, so that (a favorite phrase of his) substantial justice shall be done. It was under this section that all the blackmailing and corrupt practices of this department were carried on, until stopped by the truthful and fearless exposé of Judge Tappen. Since then the officials of this department have been chary about special permits and large fees, although permission to violate the law was given to that large number of Macgregor's first class builders who were the managers and signers of that report made by the celebrated white-washing committee to which the Messrs. Burchells, builders, were so suddenly converted. Since then these men have been permitted to build rows of huge tenements, with twelve-inch party walls, although the law expressly declares they shall be built not less than sixteen inches thick. We need a change, not only in the law, but in the officials of that department. The change needed in the law is not such as Mr. Macgregor desires (more power), but a change that will make the law supreme instead of the will of Macgregor, and we need honest officials to enforce it.

ARCHITECT.

THE FIRE MARSHAL'S BUSINESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Will you please call the attention of our Fire Marshal, through your valuable journal, to the building 119 Franklin street, which was lately burned and is at present in such a condition that the front is liable to fall down at any moment, which would be attended by loss of life?

L. H. A.

THE STEWART DONATION TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Mr. President Hitchman, as special adviser of Mr. A. T. Stewart, requests him to divert the $1,000 he has so kindly presented to the Fire Department from the original intention and let it be invested, the income derived from it to be devoted to procuring a "gold medal" to be presented annually to some meritorious member of the department. Inasmuch as the late Mr. James Gordon Bennett presented a similar sum to the department to be so used, and only two medals have ever been awarded, it is very evident that either the trust is utterly neglected or there are no meritorious men in the department. In either case I can see no object in increasing the number of medals.

FIREMAN.

THE NORTHWEST.

Innovation on the Wilds by the Northern Pacific Railroad—How a Party of Inspection Passed Over the New Track to Jamestown.

FARGO, D. T., Dec. 24, 1872.

During a severe gale at Duluth last month two schooners loaded with iron for the Northern Pacific Railroad were sunk. As this iron was needed to finish the track to the Missouri, and could not be replaced before Spring, it was decided by the directors to suspend the work on the Dakota Division, and to make an examination of the status of the road. In pursuance of the latter object an engineer party, under charge of Resident Engineer M. D. Meigs (son of Quartermaster General Meigs) and Major S. H. Bogardus, Jr., Assistant Engineer was sent out in sleds on the 3d inst. to inspect all structures and make a close examination of the condition of the road generally. The party left here and was gone twenty days. No unpleasant weather was experienced until they reached the end of the track. The road was found remarkably free from snow, and a very few snow fences and sheds will keep the road open all Winter. At Cheyenne, where a town is staked out, though not surveyed, quite a number of persons are "watching their claims" until they can enter them. Jamestown, on the James River, is quite a town, and business was very lively. On the bluffs commanding the surrounding country is Fort Seward (late Fort Cross). This will probably be the largest town between the Red and Missouri rivers. On returning the party met with cold weather—one day traveling twenty-two miles with the thermometer thirty-five degrees below zero and a heavy northwest wind blowing.

At Cheyenne they found fifteen trains carrying freight for the West stormbound, as the wind was blowing a terrific gale. The party, though provided with tents, generally slept in the telegraph offices along the line. At Maple River they were met by a special train (which had been sent out for them) and arrived here on Sunday evening. Their report is entirely satisfactory to the officials of the road and will be embodied in the secretary's annual report.

The tracklaying will be pushed ahead as early in the Spring as possible. The only casualties received by the party were a slight freezing of the face by the cook and the nose of one of the teamsters, while Mr. Meigs had an ear and Major Bogardus his nose and fingers slightly frostbitten.

NEW YEAR'S DAY AMONG THE BORSEMEN.

On New Year's Eve an entertainment of a very enjoyable character took place at the San Francisco Stables, in Forty-sixth street. It was a gathering of lovers of the horse to enjoy a sociable evening, cement old friendships and to partake of a sumptuous supper. Mr. Arthur Gilender presided, and among the company were Mr. William S. Ridabock, Mr. Amos Littell, Mr. N. H. Leadbetter, Mr. William Humphreys, Mr. J. G. Lewis, Mr. Joseph Bennett, Mr. John Makewer, Mr. B. Walton, Mr. Edward Wilkins, Mr. Frank Ferguson, Mr. L. Frohisher, Mr. Sine, Mr. Cornell, Mr. Samuel Weeks, Mr. Harvey Bynard, and Drs. Lattanach and Morrill. A long table was laid in the office, and covered with every delicacy to tempt the palate and delight the eye of the most fastidious epicure, and the gathering separated mutually delighted and pleased with the way they had seen the old year out and the new year in.

HORSE NOTES.

Peter Dooley has sold his interest in the gray trotting gelding Gray Lady to Captain Leary for $4,500.

M. Rodin states that he has no authority to match the stallion Jim Irving, and that the horse is not in his stable; but the owner of the horse, Mr. James Irving, is at all times ready to make the matches announced in the HERALD a short time since.

ANOTHER LIBEL SUIT IN JERSEY.

The case of the State vs. the proprietors of the Jersey City *Times*, for an alleged libel on Mr. James Gopsill, was called up in the Court of Quarter Sessions, in Jersey City, yesterday. Judge Randolph, who presided, suggested that some amicable understanding might be arrived at between the opposing parties and the expense of a trial thus avoided. Two hours were allowed for a conference, but no satisfactory conclusion was reached. The trial was then postponed till next term, when District Attorney Garretson will also move the trial of indictments against another Jersey City paper for libel. The indictments in the latter case were found nearly a year ago, but owing to the pressure of business in the Courts it was found impossible to try them up to the present.

SUPERHEATED STEAM.

Its True Nature Explained by an Expert—The Conditions of Danger—Several Interesting Experiments—Steam "Can" Heat Iron to a Perilous Point.

In order to get some clearer light upon the vexed question of superheated steam, and its probable influence upon the destruction of Barnum's Museum, a representative of the HERALD called yesterday afternoon upon Mr. George W. Plimpton, the professor of natural philosophy at the Cooper Institute, who has given special attention to this subject for the past few years, and may be looked upon not only as an expert but also as an impartial one. Mr. Plimpton was, as is his usual custom on the three "school" days of the week, waiting in the large lecture hall to give counsel to mechanics and others needing it and generally to answer any questions in his branch of science that might be put to him. He at once courteously consented to describe as well as he was able, in an informal way, the nature and idiosyncracies of

SUPERHEATED STEAM.

"What is superheated steam?" began the reporter.

"Superheated steam is steam heated apart from water. If you apply heat to water it is converted into steam at 212 degrees of heat. Apply as much additional heat to that as you choose, you get no superheated steam until there is no water remaining in the presence of the steam. But when the steam has been, as it were, drained of water, and has become dry, a further application of heat makes it superheated steam, and its temperature may then be

INCREASED INDEFINITELY."

"Indefinitely?"

"I mean by that up to the point of dissociation."

"And what is the meaning of dissociation?" pursued the reporter.

"The dissociation of the two gases—oxygen and hydrogen—which are the component elements of the steam. At a certain point these gases separate—become dissociated. And here I may say that there is a very interesting and not very uncommon

EXPERIMENT

which illustrates this very prettily. It consists of passing steam through a tube, open at both ends—a gunbarrel for example—heated at some point to a bright redness. The result is that the oxygen is arrested by the metal of the tube and the hydrogen only is received at the other end. That is one way of procuring hydrogen. In order, however, to enlarge the artificial surface of metal exposed to the action of the steam, and thus make the experiment as perfect as possible, it is customary to partially fill the tube with iron clippings and filings."

"What else can you tell us about superheated steam, Mr. Plimpton?"

"Well, I suppose it is enough to say that steam once generated and heated apart from water, as, for instance, in a separate vessel,

BEHAVES IN ITS EXPANSION

like any other gas. It expands according to a fixed law, which has been exactly determined by a wide range of experiments."

"Do you mean that the steam can only be superheated when it is in a vessel entirely separate from water?"

"Not at all. In a tube or pipe leading from a boiler and having perfectly free connection with it it would be quite possible to superheat the steam."

"Do you agree with Mr. Wiard, in his statement in to-day's HERALD, that it was quite possible that the steam in that Baker & Smith's boiler at Barnum's Museum could have been superheated?"

"I have not seen any drawings of that boiler; but, judging of it by Mr. Wiard's description, I should say that it was quite possible."

"Mr. Wiard suggests that the

PIPES WERE HEATED

by the brick wall near the boiler; how about the conduction of heat from iron to steam?"

"A current of steam passed over iron will bring the iron very rapidly up to the temperature of the steam. And from iron to steam there is a very rapid interchange of heat—that is, where there is an opportunity for the steam to freely circulate. If the steam next the pipe could be kept perfectly stationary it would be a good non-conductor; but of course it cannot, and it becomes heated through its whole mass by what we term the process of convection. In this case, however, as it seems to me, the whole question hinges upon the power of the steam to heat the tubes to a sufficient degree to ignite the surrounding inflammable material, and I have no doubt myself that it could. In this connection, too, I may mention an interesting experiment that was shown a few years ago by Mr. Wiard, the same gentleman who wrote the letter in to-day's HERALD. Its purpose was to show that superheated steam became most dangerous when suddenly brought in contact with water. He made a toy boiler, with a big wooden plug, and then, having generated steam, applied heat to it above the level of the water. This, of course, made a layer of superheated steam, and through this he caused some water to pass from above. The result was an immediate explosion—that is, the plug was expelled with very great violence."

"What is

THE PRESSURE

of steam at different degrees of temperature?"

"At boiling point the pressure is fifteen pounds to the square inch, and at 250 degrees it is already double that. Then it rises very rapidly, until, at 400 degrees, it is as much as 240 pounds to the square inch."

FIRE MARSHAL M'SPEDON'S EXPERIENCE AGAIN.

He Sends Another Communication on the Subject of Superheated Steam—Proposal to Have a Public Demonstration by Practical Experiment of the Truth or Falsity of His Theories.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2, 1873.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

There seems to be such a radical difference of opinion among engineers and experts in relation to the question whether superheated steam can set fire to buildings, and the consequences which may result from any error of judgment on my part or of practice on the part of builders, operators or owners of steam for power or for warming purposes are so momentous, that I deem it to be proper that I should explain my views and the reasons which impelled me to make my late reports upon the cases which it has been my duty to examine into.

I do not profess to be a scientific expert in relation to this subject; but I had, very early after I assumed my office as Fire Marshal, a number of cases under examination of so plain a character that I could not avoid the conclusion that the first ignition had resulted from the heat of steam pipes. In some cases the fire had started at a considerable distance from the boiler, and, more frequently than otherwise, the evidence was to the effect that the pipes became hotter

AFTER THE FIRE WAS BANKED

or withdrawn, and in the night, when most of the usual occupants had retired or left the building. These remarkable developments caused me great anxiety, and I began examinations of buildings which had not been burned, but in which the warming apparatus, or steam pipes, were adjusted in a similar manner to those where the fires had actually occurred, and such evidence as charring of wood, beams, &c., in proximity to pipes was found to be almost always present. In this emergency I thought proper to call the assistance of engineers, experts, to my aid, and the first person I came in contact with who seemed to understand the subject well, was Mr. Norman Wiard. At my invitation Mr. Wiard accompanied me to visit several

PREMISES WHERE FIRES HAD OCCURRED

with a view to tracing out all the attendant circumstances and of determining the causes of the fires. In some of them I was entirely convinced that the heat of the steam pipes had caused the fire, and the plain explanation of the *rationale*, as given on the spot, confirmed me in all my previous suspicions and theories; and the result was that I deemed it my duty to begin at once a rigid examination of buildings in advance, that the danger might be removed. In performing this duty I found it to be a very disagreeable one, because it is an unthankful task to have to interfere in such matters with one's neighbors, and because, if no remedy could be found except alteration or entire removal of the heating apparatus, the expense with so many buildings might involve millions of dollars or entirely destroy the business of firms long established, in full tide of success—a responsibility I feel too great for me.

In order, therefore, to bring about a practical settlement of the question, I desire to make the suggestion that parties interested, such as builders, operators, owners or insurers of boilers, shall consent together as to the propriety of procuring a hall for a lecture and discussion on the subject, and I will procure the attendance of Mr. Wiard and other experts and endeavor to have the truth or falsity of these theories established beyond controversy by practical experiments.

THOMAS M'SPEDON, Fire Marshal.

Reply to the Defender of the "Fire Marshal's Theory."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Norman Wiard, in to-day's HERALD, makes a very strenuous effort to support Mr. M'Spedon's absurd theory that superheated steam may exist in a cold boiler, by attacking one of the forms of boiler we manufacture, and which was in Barnum's Circus building. We do not object to honest and intelligent criticism of our steam heating apparatus, but court the fullest investigation thereof. We have a right, however, to protest against the utterly false statements relating thereto by a class of incompetent or unscrupulous Mr. Wiards who seem to mean specimens. He, no doubt, has some theory which he takes this opportunity to ventilate. The Fire Marshal doubtless has had little opportunity to obtain a knowledge of steam; but that Mr. Wiard—who states that he has had "fifteen years' experience" in "fires resulting from overheated steam and the cause of boiler explosions"—should also advocate the ridiculous doctrine (which only wants common sense to refute) that steam boilers are most liable to set fire to buildings when cooling off is rather strange, and shows at once that his "fifteen years' experience" has been of very little value to him. I need not take up your valuable space in trying to rebut his statements, as they are too devoid of reason for any one to believe. His arguments are as circuitous and his logic as hollow as the steam pipes he speaks of running around among the animals of Barnum's Museum. But the gist of his wordy article, as stated above, is to prove in plain words that steam boilers are most dangerous when cooling off. He goes farther than the Fire Marshal, and says that superheating will occur when the fire under the boiler is out "altogether," and "a current of hot steam" would "flow along the pipes from the boiler, by which the pipes would become hot enough to set fire to the first combustible within range."

Mr. Wiard's description of the construction and operation of the boiler referred to is false in every particular, as a reference to the boiler itself will prove.

The motive of Mr. Wiard in making this gratuitous exhibition of himself is found at the close of his letter, where he says he offered to sell us some inventions or drawings of devices, any one of which would have rendered our boiler "absolutely safe." Enough to say, we did not purchase Mr. Wiard's pretended improvements.

W. C. BAKER.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2, 1873.

Fire Marshal McSpedon's Absurdities Corrected.

JERSEY CITY, Dec. 31, 1872.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I have looked with great interest at the discussion in your columns on superheated steam, and have been amazed at the ignorance of the very first principles of heat and steam displayed by your Fire Marshal, McSpedon. Why, sir, every school boy of fourteen knows that steam is a vapor, and not a gas, into which water has been converted by the application of heat, and as soon as you remove the heat you condense the steam. He also knows that water is composed of two elementary bodies or gases, hydrogen and oxygen, being two parts of the former to one of the latter, and that it is impossible to resolve this water into its constituent gases except by certain processes which have no semblance or connection with the generation of steam in a boiler. The statement that steam in the pipes, after the fires are banked, turns into gas and heats the pipes red hot is not only absurd but impossible. If it were so, why not keep the fires banked all the time and save fuel? The statement that a pound of steam occupies 2,600 times the space of a pound of water is a mistake, the truth being that one cubic inch of water generated into steam of 212 degrees temperature and fifteen pounds pressure occupies 1,700 cubic inches of space; and as you increase the temperature and pressure of your steam you lower its volume, so that steam of 251 degrees temperature and thirty pounds pressure has a volume of only 883 as compared with water, and so on.

Mr. McSpedon evidently does not understand the laws of sensible and latent caloric, or he would not advance such theories. Respectfully,

ARCHIBALD JAMIESON.

An Engineer on Superheated Steam.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31, 1872.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

SIR—In your issue of yesterday you published a communication on superheated steam from Fire Marshal McSpedon, who calls himself an expert. He is altogether wrong in his ideas on steam. Superheated steam is produced by reheating the steam after it is generated in the boiler. The superheater is connected with the boiler and is heated by the fire of the boiler or by an auxiliary fire. McSpedon says that after the fires are banked the steam becomes superheated and forms a gas. There is his mistake. After the fire is banked the steam remaining in the pipes becomes condensed unless the fire is left down far enough to make steam, and condensed steam is water instead of powerful gas. Consequently, owners of steam boilers need have no fears of explosions or fires if they see that their fires are properly banked and the hot coals are thrown in the ash pans and wet out, for there is where the real danger of fire from steam boilers is. And if Fire Marshal McSpedon would take a few lessons from some good firemen before he calls himself an expert, it would save him from being the laughing stock of engineers.

ENGINEER.

BROOKLYN AFFAIRS.

Shocking Suicide.

Yesterday morning Mr. Glover, who resides in Livingston street, near Hoyt, was informed by his domestic that she was unable to arouse Mr. Morris, who resided in his family. The gentleman occupied an upper room in the house and was a lawyer, doing business in New York. Mr. Glover went to the room and forced the door open, when he beheld the body of Mr. Morris stretched upon the bed, the clothing of which was saturated with blood, and a large pistol-shot wound through his head. The weapon which caused his death was lying by his side, and it is supposed that he committed suicide. The deceased was a single man and in good circumstances. Coroner Jones was notified, and will hold an inquest over the body of the deceased to-day.

Kings County Commissioners of Charities—The Finances of the Board—The Question of Utilizing Pauper Labor.

The Kings County Commissioners of Charities met and organized for 1873 by the election of the following officers:—President, Commissioner Ferguson; Treasurer, Commissioner Cunningham.

Commissioner POWELL then called for a statement of the amount of funds at the disposal of the Commissioners for the balance of the fiscal year.

Mr. STILLWELL showed that the entire amount appropriated by the county last year for the support of the poor was $400,000. Of this amount there had been spent by the last Board of Commissioners during the expired five months of the fiscal year $246,000, leaving a balance to the credit of the new Board of $154,000, to last for the remaining seven months of the year.

Commissioner CUNNINGHAM said that the report of the Clerk as to the amount of funds on hand should act as a warning to the new Commissioners to exercise the utmost discretion in the disposition of them, so as to make them last till the new fiscal year. He was not in favor of any such system of economy as would leave any poor, deserving person without aid, but if there was any means by which the county expenses could be reduced in the department under charge of the Commissioners, he was in favor of giving the matter careful consideration.

Commissioner FERGUSON expressed himself in favor of any measures which might be introduced to lessen the expenses.

Supervisor HARMAN appeared before the Board and asked leave to be heard. He said he represented a large number of taxpayers in Brooklyn, who had been of the opinion for a long time past that the public charities of Kings county cost the citizens a great deal more money than they ought to. They thought that in such institutions as the Almshouse there were a great many people who could be made to save the county at least half the cost of their support by work. There were a great many light manufactures, which required no outlay for machinery, on which these people could be employed. He had talked with several prominent manufacturers and they were all of the same opinion. He was not prepared to make any particular proposition at this time, but he would be, within a week after he had consulted with some of the manufacturers he had alluded to, ready to make some sort of a proposition looking toward the reduction of the county expenses by the employment of pauper labor.

Commissioner FERGUSON said that the desire of the Commissioners was to do all in their power to reduce the expenses of the institutions under their charge, and they would be happy to receive and consider any feasible proposition to that end.

The meeting was then adjourned.

THE CROTON SUPPLY.

For a day or two past some little trepidation has manifested itself among the residents of Eighty-seventh and other streets in that neighborhood on the west side of the city at the apparent scarcity and sometimes the complete stoppage of the flow of Croton water. In order to learn whether the alarm was due to a temporary stoppage of the water, or whether frost or breakage had interposed and threatened any serious embarrassment, a HERALD reporter called yesterday on Mr. Gridley, Water Purveyor of the Croton Board, and inquired in regard to the interruption. Mr. Gridley said that the scarcity of water in the locality affected was entirely due to the fact some repairs were being made on a large twenty-inch main pipe which supplied a part of that district. The supply was not wholly cut off in consequence of these repairs, as there are several smaller pipes which bring water down to that part of the city. It was expected that the repairs would be finished last evening or early this morning, and that the water would be turned on to full supply capacity to-day.

In answer to questions as to whether the frost had interfered in any way to diminish the supply from the sources or to obstruct the flow through the pipes in the city, Mr. Gridley said the supply was ample, that there "was plenty of water," and that the frost had not in any way obstructed the receipt or distribution of water.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

Married.

ANDERSON—SNEDIKER.—On Wednesday, January 1, at the residence of the bride's mother, Rockland Lake, by the Rev. William Stout, Mr. HIRAM ANDERSON to Miss JENNIE E. SNEDIKER, both of New York city.

ELLIS—LYONS.—On Tuesday, December 24, by the Rev. David Walters, JACOB C. ELLIS to LOUISA, daughter of Captain A. C. Lyons, of Tottenville, Staten Island. No cards.

HAYNES—LEE.—On Wednesday, January 1, 1873, at Old Lyme, Conn., by the Rev. D. S. Brainard, ALFRED B. HAYNES, of this city, to LOUISA LEE, only daughter of H. S. Lee, of Old Lyme, Conn.

MORRIS—MONTGOMERY.—In Brooklyn, on Wednesday, January 1, by the Rev. J. A. Roache, THOMAS MORRIS, to JENNIE, third daughter of the late Thomas Montgomery, of Baltimore. No cards.

McCREARY—REED.—On Thursday, December 26, 1872, at the residence of the bride's father, Harlem, N. Y., by the Rev. J. Sandey Reed, of Easton, Pa., ALFRED A. McCREARY, of Oil City, to ANNA MARGARETTA, daughter of Osmon Reed, Esq., of this city. No cards.

Philadelphia papers please copy.

ROSS—DURFEE.—On Christmas Day, by the Rev. Mr. Fiske, rector of Calvary church, ALEXANDER R. ROSS to Mrs. EMILIE D. DURFEE, all of this city.

ROSS—COUSINS.—On Wednesday, January 1, at the residence of H. E. Somers, by the Rev. Dr. Northrop, J. B. ROSS to ALICE E., daughter of the late Thomas Cousins, all of this city. No cards.

Died.

AHRENS.—On Wednesday, January 1, 1873, after a short illness, HANNORA AHRENS, aged 66 years.

The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from her daughter's residence, 421 Grand street, on Sunday, January 5, at two o'clock. The remains will be taken to Calvary Cemetery.

BEECHINOR.—On Thursday, January 2, JEROME J., oldest son of John and Ann Beechinor, in the 39th year of his age.

The friends and acquaintances of the family and those of his brother-in-laws Patrick Carroll and Patrick S. Keary, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, 23 Ridge street, on Saturday morning, at half-past nine o'clock, to St. Mary's church, Grand street, where a solemn requiem mass will be celebrated, and immediately after to Calvary Cemetery.

BELL.—On Tuesday, December 24, 1872, CHARLOTTE and MARGARET BELL.

Funeral from their brother's residence, 337 East Ninth street, this (Friday) morning, at ten o'clock.

BEVAN.—On Tuesday, December 24, 1872, JAMES R. BEVAN, a victim of the Centre street fire, in the 15th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Sunday, the 5th inst., at one o'clock P. M., from the Attorney street M. P. church, between Delancey and Rivington streets.

BIRCH.—On Thursday, January 2, JOSEPH BIRCH, aged 68 years.

The relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral, on Sunday, January 5, at one o'clock P. M., from St. Clement's church, Amity street, near Macdougal.

San Francisco papers please copy.

BROPHY.—JEREMIAH BROPHY, suddenly, on Wednesday, January 1, at his residence, No. 200 East Thirtieth street, aged 35 years.

The relatives and friends are requested to attend the funeral, at one o'clock, this (Friday) afternoon.

BURTIS.—In Brooklyn, on Wednesday, January 1, 1873, MARGARET, wife of Divine Burtis, in the 50th year of her age.

Relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the First place Methodist church, corner of First place and Henry street, Brooklyn, on Saturday, January 4, at two P. M.

CAMERON.—Suddenly, on Wednesday, January 1, JOHN CAMERON, Captain Eighteenth precinct police.

Notice of funeral hereafter.

COAKLEY.—On Wednesday, January 1, MARY, beloved wife of Thomas Coakley, a native of the parish of Milltown, county Westmeath, Ireland, aged 59 years.

The relatives and friends and those of her sons-in-law are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, 997 Third avenue, on Friday afternoon, January 3, at one o'clock.

COOPER.—On Wednesday, January 1, Mrs. SARAH COOPER, relict of Jeremiah Cooper, aged 85 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services, at her late residence, No. 60 West Thirty-ninth street, on Saturday, January 4, at ten A. M., without further notice.

COTTER.—On Thursday, January 2, 1873, MARY JULIA COTTER, daughter of John Cotter and Ellen Farmer.

The funeral will take place at the residence of her parents, 157 Mott street, on Saturday, January 4, 1873, at one o'clock P. M.

COWAN.—On Wednesday, January 1, 1873, after a short illness, DAVID COWAN, a native of Marlborough, Queens county, Ireland, in the 42d year of his age.

Dearest father, thou hast left us,
And thy loss we deeply feel;
But 'tis God who has bereft us,
He can all our sorrows heal.

Requiescat in pace.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 8 Greenwich street, on Friday afternoon, the 3d inst., at two o'clock. The remains will be taken to Flatbush Cemetery for interment.

Colorado papers please copy.

CUNNINGHAM.—On Wednesday, January 1, TIMOTHY CUNNINGHAM, aged 29 years.

His relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, on Saturday, January 4, from his late residence, 56 Broome street; thence to Calvary Cemetery for interment.

DONOVAN.—On Wednesday, January 1, 1873, after a lingering illness, ELIZA CECILIA DONOVAN, in the 21st year of her age.

The funeral will take place this (Friday) afternoon, from her late residence, 552 Second avenue, at half-past one o'clock, thence to St. Stephen's Church, East Twenty-eighth street. The friends of the family, the members of the Sunday School Association attached to the church and the teachers of Grammar School No. 49, are respectfully invited to attend.

DENIS O'CONNOR.—His funeral will take place from the residence of his brother-in-law, Michael McMahon, 64 Underhill avenue, Brooklyn, this Friday, at two o'clock P. M. His friends are respectfully requested to attend.

DOW.—At Bellville, N. J., on Monday, December 30, MARY, wife of John W. Dow, in the 54th year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Friday, the 3d inst., at half-past one P. M., from her late residence. Interment at Bellville.

EARLE.—On Thursday morning, January 2, THOMAS J., infant child of John and Mary Earle, aged 1 year and 8 months.

The funeral will take place from the residence of his parents, 629 Sixth avenue, this (Friday) afternoon, at two o'clock precisely.

EDWARDS.—At Jersey City, on Wednesday, January 1, ROBERT BARBOUR, son of James B. and E. A. Edwards, aged 2 years and 22 days.

Funeral on Saturday, at twelve o'clock, from 95 Jersey avenue, Jersey City.

FRIEL.—On Wednesday, January 1, JAMES FRIEL, aged 31 years and 2 months.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his father, Hugh Friel, No. 1 Vandewater street, on Friday, 3d inst., at one P. M.

GATTY.—On Wednesday morning, January 1, HARRIET A. PITT, youngest daughter of George and Grace Gatty.

Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her parents, 259 West Forty-third street, on Saturday morning, at eleven o'clock.

Nova Scotia and Boston (Mass.) papers please copy.

GREALISH.—At St. Vincent's Hospital, on Wednesday, January 1, TIMOTHY GREALISH, a native of Castlegar, county Galway, Ireland.

The funeral will take place from said hospital this day (Friday), January 3, at half-past one o'clock. The friends are respectfully invited.

GREEN.—At Goshen, N. Y., on the morning of the new year, LUCIA BUTLER GREEN, daughter of the late Dr. Horace Green, in the 16th year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from St. James' church, Goshen, N. Y., on Saturday, January 4, at half-past eleven o'clock A. M. Train leaves foot of Chambers street, New York, at eight o'clock A. M.; returns at half-past one o'clock P. M.

HALE.—After a short illness, LUCIA MARTIN, only child of William S. and Lizzie V. Hale.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday afternoon, at two o'clock, from the residence of Mrs. C. C. Cory, of Westfield, N. J.

HARBINSON.—On Wednesday, January 1, WILLIAM HENRY HARBINSON, in the 24th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his uncle, 403 Dean street, Brooklyn, this day (Friday), at two o'clock.

HENNESSEY.—On Wedn