

DEATH DEALING EXPLOSION

Disastrous Calamity in the Metropolis
—The Dead Numbered by
Hundreds.

ARE BURNED OR BURIED IN RUINS

Comes a Dull Roar, Followed by
a Falling of the
Walls.

Stunning Scenes of Sorrow Dur-
ing the Search for the
Bodies.

A TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE.

Buildings, Explosion and Fire
Work Have and Death.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—A most dis-
astrous and terrible accident occurred
afternoon at 12:30 in Park Place be-
tween Greenwich street and College
street. At that time the street was filled
with hurrying people and heavily laden
carts and trucks. First a small vapor
cloud burst from the ground floor of
Nos. 70, 72 and 74 Park Place, then was
heard a dull, deep, sullen roar as if some
monster was trying to break his way
through. The roar was followed by a dis-
tinct and a mass of stone and timber
hurled 30 feet heavenward. The
mass of terror of men and the almost
human screams of horses were only a
small accompaniment of the terrible
noise which instantly followed. Not
more than a second could possibly have
elapsed before the front walls of Nos. 70,
72 and 74 fell crashing into the street,
those who saw the sight it was hor-
rifyingly attractive. The great walls slowly
fell and swelled out with an undulat-
ing motion until—slowly at first, but
then more rapidly—they gave way and
in a moment there was not a stick or
piece standing above the first floor be-
tween the dividing walls. The walls of
the standing buildings were jagged as
if they were torn out in places. There
did not remain the slightest semblance
of what had been three seconds before,
merely a strong and well constructed
building. The mass of brick and stone
fell upon the sidewalk and
filled half the width of the street.

At first there was no sign of fire. The
attention of those who were gathered
in all quarters was attracted by the
cloud of escaping gas, which was spout-
ing forth from a pipe which had been
broken by the falling walls. A number
of electric wires had been torn down,
and immediately the current had been turned
off from all but one, but that one wire
in the middle of College and Park
streets and sparkly flashed out its dead-
electric fluid. The fear of the electric
current caused the immense crowd to sur-
ge on one side of the street to the other.
At the same time the fire had broken out
and was licking the lower part of No. 68.
At least fifty men had clambered up on
the pile of ruins hoping to rescue some
of the unfortunate people who were
down to be buried in the
ruins. They were driven from
their posts by the fire, which was spread-
ing rapidly. It had burst out of
the side of the ruins and ran rapidly
up the elevator shaft at the main en-
trance to a block of buildings of which
Nos. 70, 72 and 76 were a part.

For a time the hissing steam fought
the fire, but as that died out the ele-
ment made more headway.

If the fire department could have been
at the scene at the time of the explosion
the terrible effect of the fire would have
been prevented in a large part. As it
was the first contingent of the fire de-
partment did not make its appearance
until five minutes after the explosion.
The delay was due to the blocked con-
dition of Murray street and Park place
and Church street. To those who were
watching the slowly creeping flames, the
delay was a terrible strain. Suddenly
the fire burst out in darkly colored
flames from the third, fourth and fifth
stories of that part of the building on
Park place next to Greenwich street.
This part of the building was occupied
by Lindsay's type foundry. The floors
and other parts of the place were satur-
ated with oil or some other in-
flammable material which fed
the flames generously. A murmur
ran through the throng that the build-
ing was lost and the multitude shud-
dered at thinking of the fate of the oc-
cupants of the ruined and burning part
of the building. When the full force of
firemen did at last get to work the head-
way of the fire was soon checked by
their skilled endeavors. As interest in
the explosion and falling walls in a
measure subsided horrible conjectures
were circulated as to how many were in-
jured in the ruins.

Working people, as well as those en-
gaged in offices and warehouses, gener-
ally get their luncheon at noon or a
little later. There was a cheap
restaurant on the ground floor of 74 in
which it was thought there were about
twenty-five persons when the accident
occurred. In the upper portion of the
building there was a large number of
working people employed by the firm of
photographers and other trades. It is
not known how many people were em-
ployed in the place, but as Saturday is
recognized as a half-holiday, beginning
at 1 p. m., it is presumed that most of
them who were not out getting some-
thing to eat were in the buildings. A
deep feeling of horror spread
through the throng as the estimates of
the number of victims were passed from
mouth to mouth. For almost two hours
this was almost the only subject of in-
quiry. It was on the lips of every one.
During the whole of those long two
hours the fire reigned supreme. It could
not be sufficiently subdued to permit
the firemen to make any effort to extri-
cate the dead and wounded. The num-
ber of dead was variously estimated at
from 20 to 200. Policeman Back said he
hauled three men out of the kitchen in
the basement under the Hudson restau-
rant. He entered the basement through
a plumbing shop. Back said that he
saw at least fifty persons
partly buried in the basement,
some of them were alive and calling

loudly for help. But most of them were
evidently dead. Jacob Selesinger, em-
ployed in a building on the opposite side
of Park place, said that there must have
been at least 100 persons in the building
when the explosion occurred. He saw
12 or 16 girls at the windows of Liebler
& Mass' office, on the third floor, just as
the building fell. His impression was
that the explosion occurred in Rosen-
field's store.

Frank Burns of a photograph en-
graving company said he was in the
upper window, just opposite the scene of
the disaster, and that he heard a rum-
bling sound. He saw through the dust
a colored man escape from the
building. He also saw a number of peo-
ple fall from the upper windows, and he
describes it as if they had been blown
from the windows. Following them al-
most immediately were the falling walls,
which fell upon and buried the people.
He saw two other men beside the colored
man escape, one of whom staggered and
fell. H. C. Stall, who formerly was em-
ployed by Liebler & Mass, saw the crash.
He said: "I knew most of the men em-
ployed there and I recognized one of
them as he fell into the street with the
front wall. He is Lewis Bernard. I saw
him drop with a shower of
bricks from the fourth story.
He fell on the ruins in
the street, scrambled to his feet and got
away. He was badly hurt and his head
was cut. They took him to the hospital.
Bernard was a stone grinder. I saw
some other persons go down in the ruins
when the front fell, but I did not recog-
nize their faces. They are dead beyond
question."

As soon as the flames were under con-
trol the work of recovering the dead
bodies of the unfortunate persons who
were buried beneath the ruins was be-
gun. About 40 firemen climbed up on
the great heap of bricks that filled the
street and began to search for bodies.
They seemed to realize perfectly that
on their efforts depended the lives of
many poor wretches, who were
buried beneath the heap of bricks. One
minute's delay might decide the fate of
some poor fellow. After twenty min-
utes work the men saw the dead body
of a man down in the heap of bricks.
Then every man worked for all he was
worth. Firemen loosened their clothing
and cleared away the mass in an aston-
ishingly short space of time. At 2:20
the body of a man was found buried and
charred so that the features were un-
recognizable. Chambers Street hospital
sent a corps of physicians and surgeons,
who assisted the firemen in the search
for bodies. About fifteen minutes after
the first body was taken out
the firemen came across another
body. The man was lying under a piece
of roofing, near the side entrance. He
was apparently 30 years old. His
legs, face and hands were badly
burned. The firemen were working
bravely, when suddenly they heard a low
moan coming from beneath their feet.
It was feeble and sounded like that of a
child. They redoubled their efforts in
clearing away the mass of bricks and
timbers from the spot whence the sound
came. After working heroically for
nearly thirty minutes Edward S. Mulli-
gan raised a little girl in his arms. That
she was alive and conscious after being
buried under a mass of bricks
more than seven feet deep was
almost a miracle. The little girl's
face and arms were bleeding from cuts
and burns, but she was able to talk. As
soon as Mulligan raised her up she lifted
her eyes to the window, on the upper
floor of the building across the street,
and called in piteous tones: "There's my
mamma." The mother, upon seeing her
child became so frantic with joy, that
had it not been for the combined efforts
of four men standing near by, she would
have jumped from the window. When
the little girl was rescued the crowd
yelled and clapped their hands with
joy.

NEW YORK, August 22.—At 8 o'clock
p. m. the ruins having been cooled and
the flames deadened, two firemen man-
aged to effect an entrance through a
small opening into the cellar. Working
along with difficulty and in five feet of
water they made as thorough an exami-
nation of the cellar and vaults under
the sidewalk as the debris would
permit. Nine bodies were discovered.
There are many theories as to the cause
of the disaster. Chief Kelly of the fire
department was of the opinion that the
boiler had exploded. Another believed
that the boiler in the restaurant had ex-
ploded and caused the disaster. Then it
was said that some chemicals had ex-
ploded in the drug store. The most
plausible theory of all, however, is that
the wreck was caused by the shaky con-
dition of the building and the vibration
of heavy presses running in the litho-
graphing and printing establishments on
the upper floor. It is generally admitted
that there was an explosion of some kind.
But the collapse is to be accounted for
in no other way than the one mentioned.
The loss is estimated at \$200,000; insur-
ance, \$75,000.

ALGER DECLARES FOR BLAINE.

A Fac-Simile Letter to that Effect to Be
Published in the World.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—Regarding the
denial by Gen. Alger of the reported
statement of his that Blaine was the
next candidate of his party and that
Mr. Blaine had declared himself a candi-
date, the World will say tomorrow that
the statement was furnished to that
paper by Comrade, S. N. Thomas, G. A. R.,
of 420 Kearney, San Francisco, who de-
clared that Gen. Alger had made the
statement to him during the recent G.
A. R. encampment at Detroit. The
World will also print, in fac-simile, a let-
ter from Gen. Alger dated July 6, 1891,
to Comrade Thomas in which Gen. Al-
ger says: "I thank you very much for
your esteemed favor. While I know
nothing of the future, it now seems to
me that Blaine is certain to be nomi-
nated and that it is best for all that he
should be."

The German Harvest Failure.

BERLIN, Aug. 22.—There is no abate-
ment in the excitement arising from the
agitation in regard to the duties on grain
imported into Germany. Gloomy re-
ports as to the prospects of the harvest
in the provinces continue to be received.
Everything confirms the belief that the
winter of 1891-92 will be one of the
worst, so far as food is concerned, on
record.

McKINLEY OUT FLAT-FOOTED

Against Free Coinage of Silver—
A Gold-Dug's Flimsy
Argument.

HIS CRADLE RESTS ON THE HOUSETOP

His Fellow Townsman Extend Warm
Greetings to the Small
Napoleon.

Ironton's Coroner Refuses to Investi-
gate the Murder of Three
Children.

McKINLEY'S SPEECH.

He Declares Against Free Coinage of Sil-
ver and Extols His Tariff.

NILES, Ohio, Aug. 22.—Niles is the
birthplace of Major McKinley, the re-
publican nominee for governor, and her
citizens, irrespective of politics, joined in
a movement soon after the nominating
convention in June to have the opening
meeting of the campaign held here.
Major McKinley readily acquiesced in
the arrangement and for weeks prepara-
tions have been going forward. Major
McKinley arrived in Niles at 11 o'clock
and at once a procession was formed in
which 3,000 men joined, to escort him
through the streets of the town.
The business houses and private
residences were beautifully decorated.
In front of the house in which McKinley
was born an evergreen arch, bearing
the inscription, "Protection Means to
Protect." On the top of the arch was
the cradle in which McKinley was
rocked, a chair, supposed to represent
the governor's chair, and a picture of
the white house at Washington. From
the balcony of the house a vine-covered
cottage, Major McKinley reviewed the
procession and received the cheers of his
admirers. Tin was one of the principal
articles used in the decorations. A pub-
lic meeting, at which McKinley was the
only speaker, was held at 2 o'clock in the
afternoon.

Major McKinley, in his address,
touched upon all current issues. Re-
ferring to the silver coinage question, he
said:

The democratic platform declares for
the free and unlimited coinage of the
silver of the world. The republican
platform stands in opposition to any-
thing short of a full and complete dollar,
and approves of the legislation of the
last congress, which is a mighty bulwark
for protection to silver. The free coin-
age demanded by the democratic plat-
form means that all the silver of the
world can be brought to the mints of the
United States and coined at the expense
of the government; that the United
States mints must receive 412½ grains
of silver, worth 80 cents the work over,
and coin these for a silver dollar which,
by the fiat of the government, is to cir-
culate among the people as a full dollar.
It does not take a very wise man to
see that this short dollar will
become in time the exclusive circulating
medium of the country. The gold dollar
will be taken from the circulating me-
dium of the country and hoarded and
the effect will be that the circulating
medium will be reduced to the extent of
the gold now circulating and we will be
compelled to do the business of the coun-
try with the silver dollar exclusively.

After citing statistics to show that the
per capita circulation of the country is
greater now than ever before Major Mc-
Kinley turned his attention to the tariff,
treating that subject at great length.

Ironton's Awful Mystery.

IRONTON, O., Aug. 22.—Yesterday's
horrible tragedy, the smothering of
George Hamilton's three children, Leslie,
Edith and Emma May, continues to
cause much excitement here. This ex-
citement was greatly increased today by
the coroner refusing to hold an inquest
and declining to give his reasons therefor.
A body of leading citizens at once called
at the coroner's home to demand that he
take some action in the case, but failed
to find the official and thus the matter
stands. The funeral of the little ones
will take place tomorrow unless the cor-
oner should decide to hold an inquest
and attempt to clear up the mystery of
their deaths.

Enthusiastic Democrats.

CHEROKEE, Ia., Aug. 22.—This was
democratic day in Cherokee and the city
has been full of Governor Boies' ad-
herents anxious to assist in opening the
state campaign with proper eclat. Ev-
erywhere the greatest enthusiasm pre-
vailed. Governor Boies addressed an
enthusiastic meeting declaring the pro-
hibition law a failure.

Indian Lands.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.—Secretary No-
ble said today that he is now giving much
of his attention to matters preliminary to
opening to settlement the lands in eastern
Oklahoma recently ceded to the govern-
ment by the Sac and Fox, Iowa and
Pottawatomie Indians, and that within
a short time they will be brought to the
attention of the president for action.
This will open to settlement about 800,
000 acres of land.

Prohibition in Dakota.

JAMESTOWN, N. D., Aug. 20.—The or-
ganization of a prohibition party for
North Dakota was effected here today,
and the state central committee was
formed with the following members: H.
H. Mott, Walsh county; A. J. M. Gar-
ver, Benson county; Walter A. Muir,
Cass county; M. D. Williams, Statsman
county; G. H. Warham, Kidder county;
E. E. Saunders, Cass county; M. H. Kipp,
Cass county; H. A. Foss, Grand Forks
county; H. B. Richards, Sully.

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plete stock of goods in that line.