



HOLOCAUSTED TO HEAVEN

The Result of the Burning of Brooklyn's Orphan Asylum Much Worse Than First Reported.

Thirteen Dead Bodies Have Been Recovered and One Hundred and Twenty-three Still Missing.

A Heartrending Scene Presented in the Frantic Efforts of the Hundreds of Little Fellows to Escape.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—A Brooklyn Eagle extra states the fire marshal reports twelve bodies were found up to 8 o'clock this morning among the ruins of the burned St. John's home for children. The workmen are still searching the debris. The utmost excitement prevails in the vicinity of the asylum. The bodies found were so charred and blackened that identification is almost impossible. It is believed most of the children who perished were in the ill-fated Sister Josephine's ward. The men engaged in excavating the ruins of the laundry found the remains of nine boys and two grown persons. Who the adults were has not been ascertained yet. The sisters are willing to be interviewed, but it is plain to be seen their list of the inmates rescued does not come up to the full number. This is explained by a statement that the children who may have been cared for in private houses will turn up. The fact is that last night only one child was admitted to be missing and this morning a dozen bodies were found. These facts tell their own ghastly story with a positiveness that is appalling.

LATER.
NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Brooklyn's latest horror is another evidence of the sad truth that no amount of good intention can atone for the lack of proper precaution and vigilance. The hundreds of children in the asylum were tenderly protected against all harm except that which could have been most easily guarded against, fire. There was a very large water hydrant in the yard, with four butts, but there was no hose in or about the building, nor any other means of extinguishing the fire. So what began in a trivial accident ended in an awful tragedy. The great trouble the firemen had to encounter was the mansard roof on the entire main structure, built of wood, allowing free access to the flames. It acted simply as a flue. All efforts of the firemen were futile in their attempts to combat the flames. The gates were also locked, and young men of the neighborhood who saw the fire first had to burst open the gates with a ramming iron before they could get in.

Chief Engineer Nevins now urges that all Mansard roofs be condemned at once as dead traps. The upper floor of the asylum was divided into dormitories by stud and lath partition walls. The flooring and wainscoting were of yellow pine, and the space between the ceiling and the slate roof was not filled in, so that the fire rapidly made its way along the upper floor. There were no dividing walls of brick at any point on this floor.

At the time the fire began the larger boys in the institution were playing in the court yard, making slides on the newly fallen snow or snowballing. It was visiting day, and many of the parents of the children had come to see them. About thirty-five children were in the infirmary on the second floor, under the care of Sister Anthony. Their little white faces were peering at the windows watching the larger boys play. On the floor above were twenty-five more children, suffering from sore eyes, under the charge of Sister Mary Josephine, who was similarly affected. In the laundry below were Mrs. Feeney, the laundress, the assistant laundress and Sister Clement. Mrs. Feeney noticed the smell of rags in the drying room, and on opening its doors a cloud of smoke poured out. The cry of "fire" was raised. The boys in the yard took it up and Sister Anthony, in charge of the sick ones in the infirmary, heard the alarming cry and soon saw the black clouds of smoke issuing from the windows beneath. She immediately signalled for attention from the little ones by clapping her hands. In the room of which she had charge seven helpless little cripples were in bed. These she caused the strongest of the boys to take in their arms, and having made her charges form in line she marched them safely out of the burning building.

But on the floor above, where half blind children to the number of twenty-five were, under the charge of Sister Josephine, a scene of the most terrible panic ensued. The fear-stricken children ran about the room calling for help. Some rushed down the stairs in the blinding smoke. Others in their frantic fear huddled in the corners from which they were rescued, and others fled to the roof. Unfortunate Sister Josephine, having lost all control over the children under her care, and her semi-blindness being intensified by the clouds of smoke that filled the stairways, and rooms, rushed for safety to the roof, where she appeared in the midst of the flames and smoke, calling loudly on the spectators for help, with the sad result already stated. A fireman lying prone on the roof of the main building attempted to swing his overcoat to the imperiled sister. The first and second attempt was unsuccessful, the end of the coat falling short. He swung the coat a third time. Its edge just touched the building's roof and the sister sprang and grasped it. For a moment it seemed as if her life was saved, and the crowd cheered lustily. For a moment she swung in the air between the burning building and the ground, and she fell to the ground, dying soon afterwards.

A boy and woman were now seen on the roof of the burning building. Three men placed a ladder against the wall, but the ladder did not reach within five feet of the roof. One of the men mounted the ladder and the little fellow leaped into his arms and was saved. The woman looked to the bottom of the ladder, and then to the flames, gradually approaching. The bystanders yelled to her to keep her courage up. She looked into the burning building as if fascinated by the fire, and commenced edging away from the ladder. Suddenly the flames shot up beneath her feet, and with a cry of agony she fell backward into the blazing mass. With a crash the roof fell, and soon the entire building was a mass of flames.

Johnny Ryan, a little fellow seven years of age, attempted to escape by climbing down the water pipe. The pipe gave way, and he was borne to the hospital with his skull fractured. It is yet absolutely impossible to tell where the inmates of the institution can be found. In station houses, car stables and private homes the waifs found shelter. Late this afternoon a list had been made up, and 123 were unaccounted for. While it may seem that not one of these is among the ruins, the fact remains that tons of burnt timber, warped iron and fallen brick, which have not yet been removed, may entomb many more corpses than has been reported. The trustees of the home have hired a force of workmen to continue the search until it is settled beyond question that there are no more bodies in the wreck of the body of the building. In a room of the saved portion of the asylum proper the bodies of those of those who have been found. They are tied up in sheets. Any effort to identify them would be perfectly useless. In that room is the only story of loss of life so far as known. It is also now known the little patients were so situated as

to be almost completely cut off from escape, and the flames ate rapidly upward thus preventing egress by the lower parts of the house.

Ellie McGrath, one of the kitchen boys, twelve years of age, was going in to wash the cups when the fire broke out. He ran in and saved his little seven year old brother, who was on the second floor. Speaking to a reporter, McGrath said there were seven boys in the infirmary on the third floor afflicted with sore eyes, and about twenty-three sick with malarial fever. He said seven were unable to leave their beds, and suggested the probability they were the first victims.

The children were received at the home on various conditions. Most of them were orphans and some half orphans. In addition to these a few had been committed by police magistrates, when their parents were either incapable or unwilling to properly care for them. The boys forming the last named class were in the greater part unwilling inmates, and these, it is believed, compose mainly the missing 123, having been set free by the fire they prefer to remain in the family of the woman who was found in the ruins may be helped by the statement of Sister Veronica who said: "I let two visitors into the infirmary, who went up stairs. They were Mrs. McCarran and Mrs. Halloran. I think I was found in the farm house of the asylum at the east end of the grounds, and about four hundred feet distant. Here she passed the night with sixty-five of the smallest children, who ranged from two years to eight. Several of the sisters were also present. From Mrs. Feeney's statement there seems no doubt the fire originated in the engine room, which was in the basement of the annex. On the first floor was the laundry, on the next the drying room, and on the third floor the infirmary."

"I was in the laundry," said Mrs. Feeney, "with Sister Clementine and the assistant laundress, whose name I do not know. It was during recreation hour and I was making some remark to Sister Clementine about the boys in the yard. Suddenly I saw a flame in the drying press. I turned and saw that some towels were in a blaze. Before we could hardly move the place was in a blaze. There must have been at least thirty-five boys in the infirmary up stairs, under the care of sister Mary Anthony. I cannot imagine how many got out." Mrs. Feeney was prevented from making a further statement by a sister who drew her aside and warned her not to talk.

Had the fire broken out at night, and in the crowded main building, instead of the infirmary, one shudders to think what the list of casualties would have been. Bishop Laughlin is the nominal president of the society which has care of the orphans. The actual officers and managers are laymen. These laymen exercised entire control and direction of matters. There are now many expressions of indignation against the management, which made it possible for "holocausting to heaven" so many little ones committed to their guardianship.

The dead recovered until a late hour this afternoon number thirteen. It is said \$3,000 worth of statues have been saved, with the picture of Mother Baptista, who died two years ago, constituted about all in the building not burned. Sister Mary St. Josephine killed, was thirty years of age and belonged to the order for fifteen years. She has married sisters at Troy, N. Y., and a few days ago visited them with her father, eighty-four years old, who recently came from Ireland to see his children. The walls of one wing of the asylum having been saved, the pecuniary loss will not be as heavy as at first reported. The total insurance is \$97,500. The coroner empaneled a jury to-day and then adjourned the inquest.

The remains of the woman found in the ruins were those of Mary McCarran, a widow, 53 Pearl street, Brooklyn. She was visiting her son. Both perished. The county charity commissioners offer the trustees several vacant buildings for the children. Reconstruction of the orphan asylum will begin at once.

Farmers' Alliance.

[Special Telegram to the Globe.]
HURON, D. T., Dec. 19.—A meeting called for the organization of a territorial farmers' alliance is now in session in this city. N. E. Reed, of Huron, was chosen chairman and W. F. Eastman of Westington, secretary. The attendance is good. Reports of various alliances are being listened to with interest. Permanent officers were chosen as follows: President, W. C. Houghton, Brown county; vice president, S. R. Montague, Miner county; secretary, F. T. Bushnell, Beadle county; treasurer, W. H. Phillips, Kingsbury county. Resolutions were adopted condemnatory of monopoly and calling for legislation in favor of the farmers. Strong efforts to influence legislation by petitions and otherwise will be made this winter.

House and Child Burned.

[Special Telegram to the Globe.]
MITCHELL, Dak., Dec. 19.—About 9 o'clock to-day the residence of Mr. Lucas, on the west side, was burned. A small child two or three years old was burned to death. Mrs. Lucas wrapped the baby in a blanket and put it on a chair near the stove. While she was out doors the house caught fire, and before assistance could be brought, the building and contents, including the child, were destroyed. Generous citizens have subscribed a considerable amount for the benefit of Lucas, who is left entirely destitute.

Frozen to Death.

[Special Telegram to the Globe.]
MITCHELL, Dak., Dec. 19.—William Larson, a farmer living five miles northeast of town, was found dead this morning just south of the Milwaukee depot. He was intoxicated yesterday, and is supposed to have wandered from town in this condition, and frozen to death.

Ousting Yellowstone Park Squatters.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—A Fort Keogh, Mon., special says, the superintendent of the Yellowstone National park, recently notified various squatters and settlers within the confines of the park to move, and they, failing to do so, last Tuesday, aided by a squad of police and assistants, burned several ranches near the border line of Gallatin county, and ejected the intruders. One mountaineer, known as Bucksick Joe, for showing fight and resisting, was arrested and sent to Wyoming for trial.

A Ghastly Find.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—An anonymous correspondent wrote to the sanitary headquarters that there was a small graveyard in the loft of the house at No. 11 West Third street. Heaps of mouldering human skulls and bones had been there for years, and no one knew anything about them. The writer asked the authorities to find out how they got there. The investigation revealed the story was true, and the matter was turned over to the police. A visit to the loft showed the place was filled with skeletons and human bones in all states of mouldiness. All sorts of rumors are afloat regarding the manner in which the bones came into the loft, but none can be traced to any reliable source. The bones were sent to the morgue, and the police are endeavoring to clear away the mystery surrounding them.

He Plead Guilty.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 19.—Lieutenant of police, Michael Mullen, pleaded guilty to an indictment for violating election laws in the United States court to-day, and was remanded for sentence. The indictment charges him with unlawfully hindering, obstructing and preventing certain qualified voters from exercising their franchise on the 14th of last October, by unlawfully confining them in a cellar. Mullen was in charge of the Hammond street police district at that time, and several police, who arrested the persons referred to in the indictment, were also on trial. The action of Mullen to-day is the result of a mutual agreement that the other prisoners should be released on the condition that he plead guilty.

An Oil Well on Fire.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 19.—While the employees of Fisher Bros. were thawing out a water line, the oil which had escaped from their No. 3 well ignited, setting fire to the stock tanks, containing 7,000 barrels of oil. The fiery fluid ran down the hillside, setting fire to Armstrong No. 3, disabling it so that the drilling cannot be resumed for several weeks. Lappee No. 1 was badly scorched, Thorn Creek bridge and a machine shop near by were destroyed. Fisher Bros. well is flowing fifteen barrels per hour and is still burning. No accurate estimate can be given, but the loss will reach at least \$50,000, Fisher Bros. being the heaviest losers.

Murdered at His Own Fireside.

DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 19.—A State Register special says: Claus Kleeber, while seated by the fireside of his own home in Audubon county last night at 10 o'clock, was murdered by a man who came and asked permission to warm himself. Two shots were fired, one taking effect in the mouth and the other in the right breast, the latter one causing instant death. The coroner's jury found Kleeber came to his death by the hands of Peter Ryan, who is about twenty-one years of age. Ryan has been arrested and an examination will be held to-morrow.

A Poorhouse Burned.

DETROIT, Dec. 19.—The Leper county poorhouse was burned last night at 10 o'clock. Thirty-seven inmates were turned out in their night clothes. Only one, an insane woman named Bertha Rockwell, was burned. She dashed back into the building and was burned to death, only the bones remaining to show where she perished. Another woman had run two miles through the deep snow before she could be recaptured. She is badly frozen, but may recover. The thermometer at the time was below zero. The building, furniture, clothes and stock of provisions were burned. The loss to the county is over \$6,000. The inmates are scattered among the farmers.

Art Auction Sale.

We will sell at auction, at 70 East Third street, commencing Monday, Dec. 22, our fine line of oil paintings, steel engravings, water colors, pastels, olographs, photographs, bric-a-brac, etc., etc. Pictures on inspection from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily. P. T. KAVANAGH, Auctioneer.

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The Largest and Finest ever shown in the West.

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Our Toy Department is now open to the Retail trade, until December 25th.

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Money to accompany order. If you want one or more, call or send at once!

JUMP SEATS, PORTLAND CUTTERS, TWO-SEAT PORTLANDS AND SLEIGHS of Every Description, at Low Prices.

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GREAT DRAMATIC SUCCESS.

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To be produced here with the entire original cast, scenery and effects of its six months' run in New York.
Seats now on sale.

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PRINCIPALS: Marie Stone, Geraldine Umar, Mathilde Phillips, Lizzie Burton, Agnes Stone, Tom Karl, Harriet Maxwell, Myron W. Whitney, H. C. Barnabee, W. H. Macdonald, Geo. Frothingham.
Monday, FANCY SETS, first performance here by any company. Tuesday, ROBERTIAN GIRL. Wednesday, MARTHA. First time here by this company. Thursday, Matinee, FANTASIA. Thursday, PATIENCE. Friday, FANCY SETS. Saturday, Matinee, MARCO. Saturday, MURDERERS.
Reserved seats now selling rapidly.

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With and without Tail Trimmings, in all qualities.

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