

DEADLY WALLS.

Ford's Old Theatre Collapses, Burying One Hundred Government Clerks.

A NATION'S DISGRACE.

Fatalities of the Disaster Now Unknown.

Scenes Around the Place of Accident Most Pitiful Indeed.

The Assassination of President Lincoln is Painfully Recalled by To-Day's Catastrophe.

WASHINGTON, June 9. — (10:15 a. m.)—Ford's old opera house on Sixth street, in which President Lincoln was assassinated, has fallen in. About 400 government clerks were in the building at the time and great loss of life is feared.

The first floor collapsed through weakness caused by excavating a cellar and in its fall carried down the other three floors and with them hundreds of clerks.

The dead and wounded are being taken out rapidly by the firemen and police. All the ambulances in the city have been summoned and the rescued are being conveyed to the hospitals. It is feared a hundred people have been killed. The scenes are terrible. Some jumped from the third floor. The walls are still standing, but every floor is down and every window blown out.

The building has been condemned as unsafe and unsuitable for the purpose for which it was occupied for sometime, but sentiment has kept it unchanged.

The floors were heavily loaded with records of the pension division of the war department.

The clerks employed there were all men. Of the four hundred clerks in the building, scarcely one escaped more or less injury.

Twenty-eight persons have been taken out of the ruins up to 10:35 a. m. The Emergency hospital is crowded with the dead and injured.

The injuries, from the very nature of the accident, are of the severest character, crushed and broken limbs and internal injuries prevailing.

The excitement of the relatives and friends is naturally intense. Thousands surrounded the scene and the excitement has spread all over the city.

BUILDING'S CONDITION KNOWN.

One of the workmen, a colored man, who was employed in excavating the cellar, and who escaped with only slight cuts, says:

"I told them yesterday the archway would fall, for every time any one walked over the floor it would end. I tell you I was scared and got out as quick as I could. There were twenty men at work with me. I don't know what became of them."

Every hospital in the city has now been called into requisition to care for the wounded.

EIGHT UNIDENTIFIED DEAD.

WASHINGTON, June 9. — (10:45 a. m.)—Eight dead bodies have just been taken out of the ruins. They have not yet been identified.

General Schofield has ordered two troops of cavalry from Fort Meyer, just across the river, and two companies of infantry from the arsenal to be scene of the disaster.

The secretary of the navy has ordered out all the naval medical officers

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stationed here and has also opened the naval hospital to receive the injured. The commandant at the navy yard has been ordered to render all the assistance in his power.

AT THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL.

WASHINGTON, June 9. — (10:50 a. m.)—It is feared there are still at least eighty bodies under the ruins. Howard S. Miller, of Ohio, a clerk in the bureau, and an unknown man, horribly mangled, have just been brought to the emergency hospital dead.

A partial list of injured at the Emergency hospital is as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Fred Calvert | Charles Metcalf |
| S. D. Dewey | William Leavitt |
| F. N. Test | F. Kugler |
| Pennington Ames | Charles R. Miller |
| C. F. Hathaway | R. M. Patrick |
| J. A. Stewart | Lewis Dupway |
| J. N. McLaughlin | |

RESCUES AT WORK.

WASHINGTON, June 9. — (11 a. m.)—The remains of a young man not yet identified have just been placed in the morgue at the Emergency hospital.

This makes the number of ascertained dead up to the present time, eleven, but every minute's delay in removing those buried under the ruins increases the probabilities of fatalities.

There are believed to be fully sixty clerks still in the ruins. The most heroic efforts are being made by firemen and police to reach them. The cavalry have just gone to the scene to clear the streets.

DETAILS OF THE DISASTER.

Pitiful Scenes During the Catastrophe.

WASHINGTON, June 9. — (Noon.)—Connected accounts as to the cause of the accident are now partially obtainable.

The excavations, which were the immediate cause of the collapse, were being made at the instance of the war department, for the purpose of putting in an electric light plant. As already stated the insecurity of this building has been repeatedly reported.

For a long time past whenever a heavily loaded wagon has passed the building it seemed to sway backward and forward, as the clerks described the sensation. When the first rumbling of the approaching collapse came, the clerks on the third floor to the number of eighty or one hundred rushed to the windows and jumped for the roof of the small buildings adjoining on the northwest side. Many of them escaped in this way.

INCIDENTS.

George M. Arnold, a colored clerk, appointed from Virginia, was seen at a third story window. He was warned not to jump but despite the protestations of numerous people he climbed out, lowering himself from a sill let go. He fell upon a covering at the lower door and slid off onto a cobblestoned alley, striking on his head and instantly killing him. His head was mashed to a jelly and the cobbles for a distance of several yards were bespattered with blood.

One of the bravest and most daring

incidents connected with the calamity was performed by a colored boy 19 or 20 years of age, named Basil Lockwood. As soon as the floor collapsed and the dust cleared away, realizing the danger of those at the rear window who were wildly climbing out and calling for aid, he climbed up a large telegraph pole as high as the third story and lashed a ladder to the pole, and putting one end in the window. By this means ten or fifteen were assisted down the ladder in safety.

There were 475 clerks in the bureau. A portion of them were employed in annexes in the printing offices. These escaped.

THE RESPONSIBILITY.

The question of responsibility of the accident is, of course, already earnestly discussed. Assistant Secretary Grant was one of the first officials to visit the scene of the disaster and immediately gave orders by telegraph and mounted messengers were sent to the officers of the department to render all possible aid.

Gen. Grant said to a reporter, speaking under the pressure of great emotion: "I am appalled at the magnitude of the disaster. It is impossible for me to say anything as to the cause of the accident for I know nothing of the condition of the building."

MORE DEAD AND INJURED.

WASHINGTON, June 9. — (12:30 p. m.)—Another dead body, that of H. S. Wood, has just reached the Emergency hospital. The following named persons, all seriously, but not fatally injured, have been taken to a neighboring drugstore: J. H. Thomas, F. B. Smith, A. N. Gerault, — Sterling, of Fort Scott, Kansas, — Shadbolt, a colored man, and Officer Pody, of the police force, also, badly injured after the accident.

THE BUILDING.

WASHINGTON, June 9. — The name — "Ford's Theatre" — will live in memory as long as there remains a page of American history, associated as it is with the cruellest tragedy ever committed in the United States.

This building which was wrecked to-day was the Army Medical museum. It was originally the old Tenth Street Baptist church. It was a medium-sized structure and was painted white. About forty years ago the Ford Brothers, of Baltimore, purchased the property and transferred it into a theatre. The interior was entirely removed but the old walls were left standing. It was used as a play house until several years later when it was destroyed by fire. The Ford then built a spacious brick theater on the site of the old building. It was in this theatre that President Lincoln was assassinated on Good Friday night of 1865 by John Wilkes Booth. After this event the government closed the theatre and finally sold the property for about \$150,000. Again the interior of the structure was remodeled and adapted to the use of the surgeon general. The museum proper occupied the three floors of the building. While it was originally established for the purpose of investigating the

wounds and diseases incidental to war, its scope has broadened so largely that it lately embraced all objects of medical and surgical study. It was said to be the only museum of its kind in the world.

The building stood on Tenth street northwest, between "E" and "F" streets and not far from Pennsylvania avenue. It had been condemned years ago, some claim as many as 15 or 20 years ago, and was repaired, propped up and renovated from year to year. There were 475 persons, mostly government clerks, employed in the building and nearly all of these were at work when the building fell. Excavation for an electric light plant was being made in the cellar of the structure, a three-story affair, and, according to the best information obtainable, workmen this morning had dug beneath the foundations of supports of the building, weakening them to such extent that the walls gave way before they could be jacked up. The top floor gave way first. Men, who were in the building, say the crash came without warning. Those on the top floor were suddenly precipitated to the floor below. The weight of the falling timber and the furniture carried the second and first floors with it.

Labor and money had been expended on it to almost an unlimited extent. There were no less than 20,000 specimens arranged with great care and system within the walls of the museum. The second floor of the building contained the medical library of the government, a library which was said to contain more medical literature than the British museum or national library of France. The building was usually filled with a force of clerks and officers, examining and compiling records pertaining to the judicial and hospital department of the army.

A strange coincidence is that the old theatre is wrecked on the day of the funeral of Edwin Booth, brother of John Wilkes Booth.

At the time of President Lincoln's assassination by John Wilkes Booth, April 15, 1865, the theatre was the principal place of amusement in Washington, and nearly all the great actors, living and dead, have there been seen. On the terrible night of Mr. Lincoln's murder, Laura Keane, a celebrated actress, and her company were playing the comedy — "Our American Cousin." In the middle of the third act, Booth sprang into the presidential box and "fired the shot heard round the world."

WORK OF RESCUE.

The Dead and Dying Being Carried Away.

WASHINGTON, June 9, (3) p. m. — The news that the building had fallen spread with lightning like rapidity and soon the adjacent thoroughfares were crowded with thousands of people. A general fire alarm was turned in a few minutes

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DEAD AND INJURED.

John H. Thomas, of Sedalia, Among the Latter.

WASHINGTON, (2 p. m.)—It will probably be two or three hours before the debris can be cleared away and the exact number of those who went down in the crash known. Near the front of the building remains a great mass of wreckage which has not yet been explored and its position is such as to leave no doubt that several bodies will yet be found before night. When the crash came there were supposed to be in the building 495 clerks, 18 messengers and 20 laborers, a total of 534 persons. Up to this hour sixteen dead bodies have reached the morgue.

A tour of the city hospital, just completed, resulted in obtaining the following additional details respecting arrivals of dead and injured:

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL.

Twenty-two injured, four dead, names not known.

PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL.

E. Leger, Mississippi, head cut and injured internally.

W. S. Gustine, Ohio, left arm broken.

NATIONAL HOME HOSPITAL.

Clifton Lowe, Iowa, scalp injured.

FREEDMAN'S HOSPITAL.

Dr. James H. Howard (colored) Maryland, scalp cut and internal injuries. He is a graduate of Howard university and married.

GARFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

John H. Thomas, Sedalia, Mo., arm broken.

THE MORGUE.

At this hour there are sixteen dead at the morgue. As nearly as they can be identified their names and the states from which they were appointed are as follows:

George M. Arnold, (colored) Virginia.

B. F. Miller, New York.

John Bussus, District Columbia.

George Q. C. Allen, Pennsylvania.

F. B. Loftus, New York.

David C. Jordan, Missouri.

Samuel P. Banes, Pennsylvania.

Wm. Schriver, Maryland.

J. B. Gage, Michigan.

J. R. Fagan, Kansas.

J. H. McFall, Wisconsin.

L. W. Boody, New York.

F. M. Williams, Wisconsin.

Also three bodies, said to be those of F. W. Maeder, R. Dieterich and — Young, these three, however, cannot be identified by the official roster of the division.

Jeremiah Daly, of Pennsylvania, died on the operating table of the Emergency hospital while the surgeons were dressing his wounds. From all sources at 3 p. m., the number of dead reported is twenty-four.

JOHN H. THOMAS.

A BAZOO reporter called at the residence of Hon. John T. Heard this afternoon, and learned from him that the John H. Thomas injured in the disaster at Washington this morning, was a young man from Pleasant Green, Cooper county, who got his opponent through the civil service commission about one year and a half ago. Mr. Heard is not positive that this is so, but gives it as the best of his recollection.