# The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer.

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## AWFUL AFFAIR.

### A Terrible Holocaust in the City of Baltimore.

### THE BURNING OF THE RESIDENCE

**Of Jeweler Armiger—Seven Members of His Family Perish—One Person Badly Injured and Five Others are Hurt and Barned—A Sunday Morning Fire Attended by Frightful Scenes—The Victims all Wealthy and Prominent People of the City.**

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 23.—Seven people were asphyxiated, one fatally hurt by jumping from a window, and five others more or less injured by a fire in the residence of James R. Armiger, a prominent jeweler, at 1806 Charles street, this morning.

**The Dead.**

James Armiger, aged fifty-five.

William B. Riley, his son-in-law, aged thirty-six.

Richard Riley, son of W. B. Riley, aged four years.

Marian Riley, daughter of W. B. Riley, aged two years and six months.

Mrs. Marian Champlin, daughter of James R. Armiger, aged thirty.

James Champlin, son of Mrs. Marian Champlin, aged three years.

Horace B. Manuel, aged fifty-six, of New York City, a guest.

**Fatally Injured.**

Alice Williams, colored servant, skull fractured and other serious injuries.

**Injured.**

Mrs. William B. Riley, burned about face and arms and suffering from inhalation of smoke; will recover.

Mrs. James R. Armiger, aged fifty, slight burns and suffering from shock and exposure.

Miss Eleanor Armiger, aged fourteen, slightly burned.

Miss Virginia Armiger, aged twenty-five, ankle slightly sprained in jumping.

Mamie Whiting, colored servant, slightly burned and suffering from inhalation of smoke; will recover.

The house in which the holocaust occurred is one of a row of granite front residences belonging to the A. S. Abell estate, on Charles street, just north of Lafayette avenue. It is four stories in height, and at the time of the fire was filled with costly furniture and much rare bric-a-brac, plate and unique jewelry of which Mr. Armiger was an enthusiastic collector. In the house were thirteen persons. Of these ten were members of the Armiger household, two were servants and the other, Mr. Manuel, was a guest who had been visiting the Armiger family for the past two or three days. It was his purpose to have returned to his home in New York last night, but Mr. Armiger prevailed upon him to remain until Monday.

**Caught in Their Rooms.**

All of these people were in their bed rooms, on the upper floors, some of them being partially dressed when, at fifteen minutes after eight o'clock this morning, fire was discovered issuing from a partition in the cellar. It had ignited from an over-heated furnace flue and was first seen by Louis Whiting, the colored man-of-all-work, who was at the time cleaning the front steps. Whiting ran to the adjacent corner and gave the alarm to a policeman, and hurried back to the house, entered the front door, closed it behind him and ascended to the second floor, where Mr. and Mrs. Armiger had their bed room. The house was by this time filled with a dense, stifling smoke and when the negro and Mrs. Armiger attempted to descend they found it impossible.

Whiting aided Mrs. Armiger to the front window and helped her to reach a small balcony in front, upon which he placed her, and returned to the aid of Mr. Armiger. He found the latter had gone, and came back to Mrs. Armiger, who clad in nothing but her night clothes, was shivering on the narrow balcony and shrieking in agonized tones for help. Half a dozen men who were passing hastened to the power house of the Charles street cable car line, a block below, and procured a short ladder. When they returned they found Deputy Fire Chief McAfee, a noted life saver, who quickly mounted the ladder. It was not long enough, but by standing on the uppermost round he could reach the frightened woman. As he attempted to lift her from the balcony, her scanty clothing caught on an obstruction, and she fell forward with her whole weight upon the outstretched arm of the fireman. Just then the ladder slipped and every one below expected to see both the rescuer and the woman he was trying to save dashed to death on the pavement below. By a tremendous effort, however, McAfee steadied himself, and holding Mrs. Armiger with one hand grasped the balcony with the other. Hanging thus he slowly replaced the ladder with his feet and brought the now fainting woman down in safety.

In the meantime the other inmates in the front rooms were crowding to the windows making the most piteous appeals for help. The people below shouted to them not to jump, but Alice Williams disregarded their warnings, and with an appalling shriek sprang from the fourth story window, struck the stone steps full upon her forehead, fracturing her skull, and sustaining other injuries from which she will die. An attempt was made to succor the other unfortunates by means of the doorway on Charles street, but when the policemen burst it in they were met by such a volume of smoke and flame that they were driven back.

In the rear room on the second floor were Eleanor and Virginia, the unmarried daughters of Mr. Armiger. They were partially dressed, but so rapid was the spread of the flames that they had no time to escape by the stairway. In their extremity they leaned far out of the rear window and cried for help. A neighbor came to their aid, and under his cool-headed directions Miss Virginia lowered her younger sister with a sheet and throwing a mattrass out of her window, leaped to the yard below. She alighted with safety and beyond the shock and a slight injury to her ankle, escaped unhurt.

**Died Saving Others.**

By this time the firemen had reached the scene and in a twinkling had reared long ladders up to the windows, both front and rear. Up these they swarmed and in a few minutes the remaining inmates of the doomed house were carried out. On the stairway leading from the second to the third floor was the body of Mr. Armiger, with that of his little grandson, Richard Riley, clasped tightly in his arms, showing that the old man had made a gallant attempt to rescue the boy at the cost of his own life.

In the front room on the third floor was found the corpse of Mr. Manuel. He too had the body of a child in his arms, telling another story of unrequited heroism. In the rear room, on the third floor, lying on the bed, the firemen found the dead body of Mr. Riley. By his side lay his wife breathing faintly. She was hurried into the open air in time to save her life, and though she is badly burned about the face and arms and half crazed by her terrible loss, she will recover. In another room were the bodies of Mrs. Champlin and her three-year-old son, while on the upper floor the firemen found Mamie Whiting, the colored servant, unconscious from smoke, but not seriously hurt.

The injured were taken to homes of neighboring friends, with the exception of the servants, who were conveyed to the city hospital. The dead were carried across the street to the residence of Dr. K. B. Batchelor, where every effort was made to resuscitate them without avail. When it was found that nothing further could be done for them, they were covered with sheets and laid out on the floor of the physician's parlor to await the coming of the undertaker.

The fire although a fierce one, was confined to the Armiger residence, which was completely gutted. No estimate has yet been made of the loss, but it is thought the contents are worth at least $10,000. The house is insured in the Germania Insurance Company, of New York, for $3,500, which will fully cover the damage.

The news of the disaster spread with wonderful rapidity all over the city and in an hour the tremendous crowd had gathered in front of the house. Prayers for the dead and for the afflicted were lifted up in almost every church in the city and expressions of sincere sympathy and regret were uttered from every pulpit, and repeated in the households of the many friends and acquaintances of the unfortunate family.

**Heartrending Scenes.**

The scene in the parlors of Dr. Batchelor's residence, where the charred and bruised bodies were carried, was harrowing. Even the undertakers and their assistants used to scenes of death, turned away at times half sickened. Mr. Armiger was burned to a crisp around the upper part of his body. The white hair around his venerable head was matted with blood and cinders. His face and forehead were badly burned.

Mr. Riley died from burns and suffocation. He was rather a stout and muscular man. The burns were chiefly about his face, neck and shoulders. His face was terribly distorted and wore an expression of awful agony. His left leg and side were slightly burned and there was a livid fire-mark across his chest.

Dr. Manuel was terribly burned and his horribly scarred face and body was twisted to one side as though he died only after making a supreme effort for life. Gleaming in startling contrast with the burned and blackened fingers of Mr. Manuel's left hand glistened a handsome diamond ring, shaped like a serpent with the glittering gem in the centre of the head.

Strong men who were standing in the parlor turned their heads away when two undertakers brought in the body of little James Champlin, grandson of Mr. Armiger. A woman standing near the parlor door, in the hall, fainted. The child was a blackened cinder. Smoke and fire had done their fearful work. Even the throat and nostrils were burned inside. His little white night gown was dabbled and spattered with cinders and dark stains from the burned body.

The two Riley children were killed by suffocating smoke. They were not as badly burned as the others, but their faces were blackened from the bursting of blood vessels, and the crimson fluid stained their blackened night gowns.

Mrs. Letitia Riley, who is so cruelly bereaved, is lying at the home of Dr. Batchelor in a semi-stupor seemingly unconscious of her irreparable loss and suffering great physical agony.

To-day's tragedy is the third of a similar character which has visited this city during the past year. The first was that in which Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Whiteridge were killed by falling from a ladder down which Mr. Whiteridge was endeavoring to carry his wife, after having refused the services of the firemen. This fire occurred on January 15, 1895, at 13 West Biddle street. The other resulted in the death of Mrs. Roscoe B. Heath, a daughter of the late "Commodore" Kittson, of Minneapolis, and occurred at 29 Mount Royal avenue, on March 24, 1895. Deputy Fire Chief McAfee, to-day's hero, was presented with a medal at that time for heroism in endeavoring to rescue Mrs. Heath. A more recent disaster was that at the old Front street theatre, on December 26 of last year, in which five men, three women and fifteen children lost their lives during a senseless panic caused by a false alarm of fire.

### BUILDING COLLAPSED.

**Boys at Play Meet with a Terrible Accident.**

STAMFORD, Conn., Feb. 23.—By the collapse of the roof of the old building in Dublin late Saturday night, one boy was killed, another fatally hurt and several others were more or less injured. The list of dead and most seriously injured is:

**Dead.**

Patrick Kilkelly, five years old.

**Injured.**

Bryan Kilkelly, ten years old, brother of Patrick, bruised and internally injured; will die.

Antonio Demato, ten years old, severely crushed and bruised.

Several other boys sustained various minor cuts and bruises.

The building in which the accident occurred is on Meadow street, the land on one side of which the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad has taken for extensive improvements. The old houses which stood on the land, were given to the residents of Dublin for fire wood. Last night twelve boys went upon the second floor of one of the houses, and began cutting out the studding posts and other available material. They carelessly cut the lower parts of rafters which supported the roof and almost without warning the roof gave way, crushing down on them.

**Decided Against Them.**

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Feb. 23.—Judge Ricks, of the United States court, filed an opinion yesterday in the case brought by the holders of the preferred stock of the Toledo, Kansas City & St. Louis Railroad Company. These stockholders claimed that their stock constituted a lien next after the first mortgage and they asked to be made parties defendant in the foreclosure proceedings. Judge Ricks holds that under the laws of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, through which the road runs, no law could be found which authorized a railroad company to make its preferred stock a lien upon the body and assets of its property. He also held that these stockholders were not creditors of the corporation or lien holders.

**Mrs. Kelso's Case.**

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Mr. George R. Kelso, husband of Mrs. Edith Kelso, who last Thursday afternoon killed her two children and attempted suicide, to-day secured the services of Prof. Carlos MacDonald and Prof. Allen Hamilton, who will early in the week examine Mrs. Kelso as to her mental condition.

**Mr. Harrison and Mr. Elkins.**

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Ex-President Harrison spent the day quietly at the Fifth Avenue hotel. In the afternoon Senator Steven B. Elkins called and remained several hours in Mr. Harrison's apartments. Both gentlemen claim that the call was a purely personal one and had no political significance.

## GREAT BENEFIT

### To Universities and Colleges Proposed by Mr. Dayton.

### A MEASURE TO BE INTRODUCED

**To Establish Engineering and Mining Departments in Connection with Experiment Stations—The Advantage to West Virginia—Senator Elkins' Plan to Solve the United States Court Problem—Proposed to Save Money by Dividing this State Into Two Districts.**

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 23.—A bill is shortly to be introduced in the house of representatives by Mr. Dayton that will be of advantage to the university of West Virginia at Morgantown, and all other similar institutions throughout the country. It will provide for establishing at each college where there is now an agricultural experiment station a similar station in engineering and mining, and upon similar lines. The same regulations will apply and the appointment of instructors will be under the control of the navy department and will be taken from the ranks of the Annapolis graduates. President J. L. Goodknight and Professor Alurich, of the university, have been here in conference with Mr. Dayton upon the subject, and the measure meets their full approbation. Mr. Dayton is of the opinion that the new arrangement will be of great benefit to West Virginia, especially to the mining interests. The bill will be duplicated in the senate.

Bills have been introduced in Congress for establishing a United States court at each of two new points, Huntington and Welch. The contention in behalf of each is identical, the fact being cited that it will cause a great saving to the government in the matter of expense in bringing prisoners and witnesses from remote sections to Charleston and Parkersburg. In behalf of Welch, it said that as much as $25,000 annually will be saved.

The situation seems to be somewhat complicated. It is believed by the state's representatives that both points should be provided for, but is not quite plain how both can be, under the present conditions.

To solve the problem Senator Elkins is considering a proposition to have the state ultimately divided into two judicial districts, and in this way Huntington and Welch will naturally become heirs to a part of the distribution of the favors. The present inducement offered is free quarters for courts and officials in McDowell county, and the argument in behalf of both is that the large increase of population and multiplicity of business interests demand and justify the change.

It is not believed that a bill to divide the state can be passed at the present session, but the bill may be introduced with the purpose of submitting and fortifying the case and renewing it at the next session. The proposed boundaries of the two districts are not determined, but the state will be divided, if at all, on lines that will make both as nearly as possible equal in territory. What is believed to be a good starting point is on the line between Mason and Jackson counties, and following a nearly straight course without dividing any county through to the other border of the state. There would be the same number of terms of court in each district, with Martinsburg, Huntington, Charleston and Welch in one division and Wheeling, Parkersburg and Clarksburg in the other.

The joint resolution to authorize the President to nominate Lieut. Commander R. M. G. Brown to be a commander on the retired list in the navy has been considered by the committee on naval affairs of the house and favorably recommended by unanimous vote. Mr. Davton has been designated to make the report, which will be done early in the present week.

### YALE FOR ARBITRATION.

**A Religious Meeting at the College Sends a Message to the President.**

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 23.—Resolutions were adopted favoring the arbitration between the United States and Great Britain at a general religious meeting of Yale University this afternoon. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. of Yale and the subject discussed was "Arbitration." Hon. Francis Wayland, dean of the law school, presided and among the speakers were Hon. Simeon E. Baldwin, of the law school, and Rev. George Alexander, D.D., of New York.

The following is a petition which will be forwarded to President Cleveland:

"We, the members of the Young Men's Christian Association of Yale University, an organization numbering over 1,000 members, believe war is the worst method of attempting to settle international disputes. We have noted with pleasure that resolutions favoring the arbitration of differences between the United States and Great Britain have been passed by both houses of Congress and the house of commons. We, therefore, desire to press the advisability of properly concluding some wise method of arbitration for the settlement of all differences which may arise between the governments of both countries, and which cannot be adjusted by diplomatic agencies."

### THAT SCHOOL QUESTION.

**The Manitoba Contention May be Settled at Last.**

WINNIPEG, Man., Feb. 23.—It came out to-day that Sir Donald Smith, who came here as special plenipotentiary of the Dominion government in connection with the school question, has taken back a message from Premier Greenway, which may settle the troublesome school question.

Premier Greenway declares if the Dominion authorities attempt coercion he will resist at any cost, but that if they withdraw their coercion bill and allow Manitoba to settle the question without interference he will make such concessions to accept. Sir Donald will advise the Dominion government to drop its proposed remedial bill, which will likely be done. The Dominion government will bring on the general elections on other issues.

**Carlisle is "Silent."**

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—The Advertiser this morning says:

Secretary of the Treasury Carlisle came to town last night and registered at the Fifth Avenue hotel. "I am here," he said, "almost entirely on public business, and duty, not to say etiquette, demands that I should be silent."

Mr. Carlisle will, officially or otherwise, break silence twice while in town. The first time will be this evening, when he will be a guest of honor at the Baldwin dinner, to be given in his honor at the Metropolitan Club. He will, of course, also break silence at the Manhattan Club dinner to-morrow evening.

**Had No Idea of It.**

LONDON, Feb. 24.—A dispatch from Lisbon to the Times says that in the chamber of deputies Senhor J. Franco Castello Branco, minister of the interior, declared that the government had never entertained any idea of selling Lorenzo Marquez, on Delagoa Bay.

## CUBAN REBELLION.

**More Spanish Reports of Insurgent Defeats—Gomez in Matanzas Province.**

HAVANA, Feb. 23.—As a result of skirmishes on the plantation of Oviedo in Havana province, the insurgents lost three killed and four prisoners and sundry arms.

At Salud the citizens have killed four insurgents.

Captain Calvo and the garrison of Marianao and the regulars, volunteers and firemen stationed at Punta Brava fought the insurgent band of Villa Nueva, Baldomero and Acosta. The latter left twenty killed, fifteen prisoners and arms, and retreated with many wounded.

Nineteen prisoners of war have been placed in Morro Castle.

The authorities attach much importance to the capture of the insurgent leader known as "El Yngiesito" news of which was cabled exclusively to the Associated Press yesterday. This man was on his way to Gomez bearing news of important movements by the bands he represented, which will prove a failure with his capture. The Spanish authorities credit this man with being the real author of the insurrection in Matanzas province. He has taken a leading part in all the insurrectionary movements and all of the plans of the insurgents in that province and enlisted many men in the revolutionary cause by his personal influence.

It is expected here that as a result of his summary courtmartial many of the insurgent bands will disperse.

There has been a notable access of the patriotic spirit in the public mind and as a result of recent engagements with the insurgents.

The real name of the captured leader known as "El Yngiesito" is Alfredo Godoy.

The insurgent leaders Vidal and the mulatto Sanguily have burned the village of Estante in the district of Alfonso Doce. They have also burned the fields and houses on the plantations of Triangulo at Limona, only a few miles south of Matanzas, and the railroad bridge at Gonzales between Bolondron and La Guira, further south and also in the province of Matanzas.

The vanguard of Maximo Gomez's force under Sotolongo and Varona, has penetrated the province of Matanzas and has passed by the city of Colon, which is well eastward of the centre of the province. Gomez's movements is said to be designed to effect the junction of his forces with that of Lacret in the province of Santa Clara. The avowed purpose of the Spanish authorities in the fighting which has been going on for several days past on the borders between the provinces of Havana and Matanzas has been to prevent the proposed movement of Gomez and Maceo eastward into Santa Clara.

General Prats has captured three incendiaries who had burned the plantation of Miroso.

### THAT COLLIERS STORY

**About the Finding of Deserters' Bones—A Story of Cannibalism.**

COLLIERS, W. Va., Feb. 23.—People are mush excited in this vicinity over a recent find, which it is claimed, clears up a mystery of thirty-two years standing—the remains of four human beings having been discovered in an abandoned coal mine a mile east of here.

David Snyder has explored the old mine which as not been worked since the 60's and discovered the human bones. One of the skeletons was sitting upright against a ledge. Besides this skeleton was found a flask containing a note that explained the mysterious disappearance of John Ewing, Ben Ayers, Tom Ackelson and Joe Obney, thirty-two years ago. The notes were written in pencil but were well preserved. They read as follows:

"November 2, 1863.—Should this ever reach the outside world let it be known that we, (giving the names), are prisoners here, owing to the caving in of the mine. We are deserters and was in hiding here when the mine caved in. Food and water all gone. We are doomed, as no one outside is aware of our whereabouts. This is about the eighth day of imprisonment."

"November 4.—John Ewing and Tom Ackelson have just killed Ben Ayers and are eating him. I have already eaten my boot leg. The water in the mine is terrible. Our oil is getting scarce, air becoming foul. I only know the day of the month by my watch."

"November 6.—Ewing has just killed Ackelson. Cut off one of his feet and is eating it and dancing around and flourishing his dirk-knife like a maniac."

"November 7.—I am now alone with the dead. I had to kill Ewing in self defense. I have just eaten my other boot leg. Am sleepy. Good-bye. I enclose this note in this flask to preserve it if possible, so that if ever found our sad fate will be known.

(Signed.) "JOSEPH OBNEY."

Several of the old residents hereabouts remember these men. It was generally believed that they had been killed in battle. As no relatives of the deceased men could be found, their remains were given in charge of Andy Lister for interment.

**Lithographers Will Strike.**

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—It was announced at a meeting of the Central Labor Union to-day that a general strike of the members of the International Lithograph Artists and Engravers Protective and Insurance Union in this country and Canada, would begin to-morrow. Of this number 500 are located in this city and Brooklyn. The other cities which will be affected are Buffalo, Cincinnati, Detroit, St. Louis, Rochester, Milwaukee, Boston, Cleveland and Toronto.

The lithographers strike will seriously blockade the production of variegated calendars and advertising placards. Theatrical work will not be interfered with, as orders of this kind are placed during the summer months.

**California Giant Murdered.**

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Feb. 23.—A special to the Commercial Gazette from Washington C. H., Ohio, says: Last Wednesday night Don Brown, the California giant, a man of enormous stature, was found near the railroad unconscious, his skull crushed and a brick covered with blood and hair nearby. Yesterday he recovered consciousness long enough to say in an ante-mortem statement that Tom Hall, with whom he had been drinking, had assailed him and robbed him of six dollars. Brown died this morning and to-night Tom Hall was arrested at Wilmington, Ohio.

**Gone Duck Hunting.**

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 23.—President Cleveland left the city at 11 o'clock to-night on the lighthouse tender Mapie for a day's duck hunting at Quantico. He was accompanied by four guests, one of whom was Lighthouse Inspector Lamberton, and another Colonel Rives. The party expect to return to the city at 9 o'clock Monday night.

**The French Crisis.**

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The Times's correspondent at Paris says: "The senate by Friday's abdication sided with the clamorers for a revision. It ought, therefore, to co-operate with the next ministry to revise the constitution and to legalize the position it has just assumed; otherwise the senate will inevitably disappear and France will drift towards that greatest calamity, a convention."

## THE CRUEL TURK.

### Review of the Awful Work of Devastation and Death.

### SUFFERINGS OF CHRISTIANS

**In Armenia Almost Beyond Belief—How They were Forced to Adopt the Moslem Faith—The Horrible Treatment to Which Women were Subjected by the Sultan's Orders—Work of Relief Handicapped—Thousands Upon Thousands in Starving Condition.**

From a Correspondent of the Associated Press.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 6.—It will be remembered that the sublime porte, soon after the massacres in this country, sent out commissioners to investigate into the recent disturbances and take measures for quieting the country. One group of commissioners went to Erzeroum and the other entered the country at Sassoun and came to Sivas. This commission from the interior did its work very rapidly, spending only a few days in each of the principal cities on their route.

The day after their arrival they summoned before them a number of leading men, Moslems and Christians. These were admitted to the presence of the commissioners separately, first the Moslems, afterwards the Christians. Report says that the commissioners said to the Moslems: "We did not expect so much of you, but now you have done it, never mind. Henceforth you must keep the peace."

When the Christians were admitted the commissioners received them standing and at once began to read an address reciting the benefits the Christians had received during the reign of the beneficent sultan Abdul Hamid Khan, and the perfidious conduct of the Armenians, who had started newspapers and sent men to Washington and Chicago to agitate and stir up the nations against their government. In conclusion the address said: "Hereafter if either Turks or Armenians stir up trouble there will be no more imprisonments, but the death penalty will be visited upon such offenders."

**Blood, Blood, Blood.**

After the reading of the address, Abdullah Pasha began to address the Christians in a much more violent strain. He said if the Armenians should again begin to agitate not even the name of Armenia would be allowed to remain; they would all be blotted out. Drawing himself up to his full height, and stretching out his arm like a sword, he said: "What we have gained we gained with blood, and when we give up this morsel we will give it up with blood, blood, blood."

So far as I can learn, in the Harpoot vilayet, the commissioners spent all their time in Mezreh and did not even visit the city of Harpoot, which was plundered and burned, although it is only two miles from Mezreh. No questions were asked of the Christians summoned before them. When the commissioners had finished their speeches they dismissed them.

Another fact of interest is the sending out of officials to record in government lists the names of the Christians who have become Moslems. Multitudes have been forcibly converted to Islam. I do not mean simply that they have been obliged to choose between becoming Moslems and perishing by the sword, but they have been bound or held while the right of circumcision was performed without their consent. I know of one case in which an aged priest was tied to his own door and circumsized, while in another village Christians begged to be killed and their Turkish neighbors said to them: "No, we want you to till the fields. We will make you Moslems," and then circumsized the Christians of the place by force.

**Forced Conversions.**

The government has said that these conversions were worth nothing and that no one would be forced to change his religion, but now government officials write these new converts, while the Turks drive them to say thy are Moslems. In the village of Sheikhaj, the official said to the Christians: "I write your names on a separate list to satisfy the Turks, there is no force about it." But one acquainted with Turkish ways may expect to find these Christians soon enrolled as Moslem citizens.

The carrying off of Christian girls and women still continues. In the city of Palu Turks carry off girls, keep them for a few days and return them dishonored. The same is done in many other places. In one of the Arabkir villages eight girls of the place are imprisoned in Turkish harems. Their friends hear their cries but they can do nothing to help them. The destitution of the Armenians beggars description. Men who were wealthy in October were begging for bread in November. Villages were pillaged of every scrap of food and clothing. When the plunderers could find nothing more to carry off, the villagers returned and sifted the dust to gather a few kernels of wheat or barley. Doors and windows were carried off. In many cases the timbers of the houses were pulled out and carried off. Jars were broken. Everything of value which could not be carried away was broken. Windows, cupboards, boxes were smashed. The utmost pains were taken to leave behind nothing of value to the owners. And all this was done at a time when winter was close at hand as to make it reasonably sure that cold and hunger would destroy those whom the sword had spared. Wherever you go, you meet wan, pinched faces and people clad in scanty garments. And you know that multitudes spend long, cold nights huddled together with nothing to lie down upon and nothing to cover them. Of course disease sets in and carries them off.

**The Destitution.**

It is estimated that there are between 80,00 and 100,000 people in extreme destitution. Europe and America are touched with compassion and funds are being gathered for the relief of the sufferers in every town and city. It is far otherwise with the Turk. He views his work with complacency and does not like to see it interfered with. The government has given a little aid occasionally. In many cases the allowance is one-sixth as much as is given to a Turkish gend'arme or soldier. I have seen the bread given in several places. It resembles the linseed cake used in Europe and America for feeding cattle. Even this allowance is seldom continued for any length of time. A large share of the government's appropriations for the relief of the destitute goes into the pockets of officials. Moreover, the Turks are hostile to relief work and oppose it in various ways. In the city of Palu the Turks said to the Christians: "If our beneficient sultan wished you to have money he is abundantly able to give it; but he has not seen fit to do so, and now you are receiving money from the English and forming an alliance with them. We will cut you off."

No Christian in Palu, dares to receive or distribute relief funds. I happen to know that the Armenian missionaries tried to send money into Palu and it was returned to them because no one in Palu dared to receive and distribute it. The same is true of the town of Chooncoush.

In some of the villages tax gatherers took from the villages the scanty pittance they had received to keep them alive. They beat them to extort from them the money. One poor villager said:

"The rod is hard and the flesh is soft, so we gave it up."

I see by the papers that the Red Cross is about to take up this work of relief, but I greatly fear that the Turkish government will exhaust all its tactics to keep them from entering the country. While negotiations are pending the Armenians will be dying. Then, if they succeed in entering Turkey, they will have to encounter a population hostile to their work who have been emboldened by their successes in recent raids. It is hard to predict the result.

It should be said that there are some exceptions to the hostility of the Turks to relief work. Raoum Pasha, the governor general of Erzeroum, has ably seconded the efforts of the relief commission there. In the town of Peri the local governor sent a gend'arme with the committee in their rounds distributing relief. These men deserve the greater praise because they act against the strong tide of Moslem sentiment.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—A Constantinople dispatch to the Daily News says: "There is a persistent rumor here of a fresh massacre at Urfa.

"The government objects to Miss Clara Barton, president of the American Red Cross Society, going to Zeitoun to distribute relief."

## FOR IRELAND'S CAUSE.

**A Big Meeting in New York Demands the Release of Political Prisoners.**

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—The Grand Opera house was crowded with Irishmen and women to-night, who met to demonstrate their fealty and devotion for the land of their birth and to voice their sentiments regarding the release of the Irish and Irish-American political prisoners in English jails.

Edward O'Flaherty presided and in his opening address told of the horrors which the political prisoners were forced to endure in English prisons and then introduced Judge James Fitzgerald as the speaker of the evening.

On the platform beside Judge Fitzgerald were Judge John Henry McCarthy, president of the board of aldermen, John Jerolomon, District Attorney John R. Fellows, Hon. William Lyman, president of the Irish National Alliance of America; O'Donovan Rossa, Prof. John P. Brophy, Rev. Father Smith, of Boston, James J. Haggerty, National Delegate of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (B. of E.), Counsellor M. J. Langan, vice president P. J. Byrne and Counsellor M. T. Sharkey.

Judge Fitzgerald after relating the history of the mission of James F. Egan to this country, on behalf of the political prisoners, said:

"The voice of New York goes forth to-night in sympathy with the men of our race and nationality who are pining for Ireland's cause in England's hideous dungeons.

"Who are these men and why are they thus detained behind prison bars? They are Irishmen having the courage of their convictions and because they dared speak the sentiments of their loyal hearts they are doomed to rot in England's jails. They are men who have been time and again honored by their fellow countrymen at home and abroad and it is beause of that fact that they are so cruelly treated to-day.

"England in her foreign policy assumes to be one of the great powers with a desire to have her hand in the pie. Once in awhile in order, as it were, to show her so-called strength she sends her navies in front of defenseless cities, such as he did at Alexandria, and bombarded the unprotected city until her red coats and mercenaries, found access, through the gates of the devastated city to procure their plunder."

"England," continued Judge Fitzgerald, "is continually apologizing to the civilized world for her treatment of Ireland and will ever continue to do so, to her everlasting shame, until Irishmen arise in their might and sunder the hated yoke forever. To accomplish that most desirable of ends it will be necessary to have marshalled an army such as stood behind Parnell in his day, and to-day I still believe in the truism of O'Connell that England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity."

John R. Fellows and others made brief addreses.

William Lyman, president of the Irish National Alliance of America, proposed the following resolutions which were adopted unanimously, and the meeting came to a close:

"Resolved, That we, citizens of this great republic composed of every nationality, in public meeting assembled, do now demand the immediate restoration to liberty of all men incarcerated in British prisons for offenses against British domination in Ireland. That we believe that these prisoners are entitled to such liberty by the usage and customs of nations laying claim to civilization, and that Great Britain by delaying it places herself without the pale of honorable consideration. And, wheras among these prisoners there are a number of American citizens, be it also

"Resolved, That we urge upon our government the necessity for taking immediate steps to secure the release of these American citizens, and of interfering itself for the sake of international decency and common humanity in behalf of their fellow prisoners. Be it furthermore

"Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent to the President of the United States, to the members of the cabinet, to the members of Congress and also to the home secretary and her Brittanic majesty's ministers."

**A Cuban Play.**

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 23.—"The Last Stroke," a new play by I. N. Morris, hinging upon the struggle the Cubans are now making for independence, was produced for the first time on any stage at the Grand Opera house to-night. The first act is laid in Florida and the other three acts in Cuba. The hero is an American who has joined Gomez's army, and the romantic story of his adventures is the main theme of the play. Each act has a sensational climax, the characters are well drawn and the dialogue is clean cut and terse. It met with an enthusiastic reception from a crowded house. The leading characters are assumed by Frederic de Belleville, John T. Sullivan, Ada Dwyer, Madeline Lack and other capable people. The piece was lavishly mounted.

**Weather Forecast for To-day.**

For West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania and Ohio, fair weather, with diminishing cloudiness; westerly winds.

TEMPERATURE SATURDAY

as furnished by C. Schnepf, druggist, corner Market and Fourteenth streets:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 a. m. | 14 | 3 p. m. | 39 |
| 8 a. m. | 19 | 7 p. m. | 37 |
| 12 m. | 25 | Weather—Fair. | |

SUNDAY.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 a. m. | 40 | 3 p. m. | 46 |
| 8 a. m. | 42 | 7 p. m. | 45 |
| 12 m. | 47 | Weather—Changing. | |