

BIBLE SOCIETY, MISSIONARY, AND SABBATH SCHOOL ADVOCATE.

TERMS,-- ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, IN ADVANCE

WHOLE NO. 235

Account of the loss of the Family of

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Rev. H. Hinley, at Roscoe, Illinois.**
(From the Rockton Gazette Extra.)

Never has it been our lot to chronicle in the world an event so distressing as that which occurred in the town of Roscoe, Illinois, on Thursday night, June 3, 1858. For days and even weeks the great and frequent rains had swollen the streams and caused various interruptions to the travel on roads and railroads in this vicinity; but the damages were generally slight, and easily repaired. On the afternoon and evening above named, the rain poured down in torrents, and caused the streams already full, to overflow their banks and produce much greater disasters to bridges and other property than had been experienced in this region of the State. The waters were so high, that the stream running through the village of Roscoe into Rock river, became so swollen as not to find room to pass through the culvert of the railroad near the village; and being thus partially obstructed

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of the railroad embankment until their force became so great as to sweep away the culvert and about 150 feet of the railroad embankment, thence rushing with tremendous volume and power down through the village to the river, and carrying away in its furious march three dwelling houses, one store, and two stables, together with their respective contents. Fortunately only one of these dwellings was at that time the residence of human beings.

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the family of Rev. Horatio Rice, formerly of Monson, Me., but more recently of Dixville Notch, N. H. Mr. I. had recently removed to R., and taken charge of the Congregational Church in that town under circumstances of much promise. His eldest son who had been sent ten months in Milwaukee, had just returned home on a visit, and now for the first time in ten months were his family all at home.

At about nine o'clock the waters near the house began to assume a threatening aspect, and excited the fears of the father for the safety of his family; but after consulting neighbors who had often seen his dwelling apparently in greater peril by the waters, and was assured him there was no danger, he decided to remain in the house.

In this condition the family remained during the evening. At about 11 o'clock the vine blessing was invoked and the children retired leaving their anxious and devoted parents to watch the progress of the threatening waters which then had begun to abate when suddenly the water hitherto held check by the railroad embankment, of which all were ignorant, now having borne as the sandy barrier came rushing against the house, and began to fill the lower room. At this instant the father called the eldest

a way of escape, for his family, but so ra-

from the chamber, hoping to find a way of escape, for his family, but so great was the influx of water below that all were compelled to hasten to the chamber, where the father raised a window and called all for assistance. At this moment his attention was attracted by the anxious cry of "father" from his children. On turning to go to them he felt the floor sinking beneath him and the walls of the house, which were built of brick, falling before him and the shrieks of his wife and children. All was now at the mercy of the relentless torrent, and nine of that devoted household, the mother and six children, perished together.

He now found himself struggling and clinging under the rushing waters, an I raising heart in prayer committed himself and souls of his family to his Saviour, expecting in a few moments to be with them in eternity; but providentially some floating substance passed beneath him that raised his head above the water, to which he clung with the utility of a dying man. In this position he was carried by the rapid current about half a mile towards the river without receiving serious injury.

At this point he came in contact with the limb of a tree standing in the water where he was seized and by which he was enabled to climb to a position above the water. His first effort now was, by vomiting to relieve his stomach and lungs which were not clogged with water. Here he remained about two hours in the awful consciousness of his own condition and that of his family, ex-

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he was clinging would yield to the force of the rushing waters and consign to the fate of his dear family. The darkness concealed his position, but his cries for assistance were heard and brought many near to the shore of the widened stream, sought in vain to reach him, till at length a tall athletic man who could swim, dived from point from which he thought he could reach him, laid aside his garments and took a lantern in one hand and the end of a rope in the other that was held by others on the shore, and succeeded in going to the tree, committing the lantern to the hand of the most exhausted man, he took him carelessly upon his shoulders and bore him safely to the shore.

During the night every possible effort made by the citizens to find the lost boat but no traces of them were discovered in the morning, when the bodies of four of the crew, the eldest son and daughter, the wife and Charlotte; and Susan and the infant Charles Merrill were found among and near the ruins of the building. Susan was located near the house enveloped in a flannel sheet. The infant was in a bed. The