

The Great Calamity at Lawrence, Mass.

A brief paragraph in our columns last week announced the terrible calamity at Lawrence, Mass., on the Tuesday night preceding. The facts gathered from the voluminous reports since made in the "Boston Journal" are as follows:

The Pemberton Cotton Mills were an immense brick building, six stories high, containing 600 looms, and the estimated value of Mills and machinery was between \$600,000 and \$700,000. At the time of its fall nearly 700 persons were in the main building. No intimation of danger was given, until the whole immense pile of building and machinery came tumbling down upon the unsuspecting inmates, and it seems to be a wonder that the loss of life was not far greater than it is. The terrible calamity brought the citizens to the spot immediately, who set to work to rescue those whom they could from the ruins, under which they were buried. Bonfires were built round the place to give light to those at work. But more terrible still to relate, about 11 o'clock at night, the whole ruins burst out in one raging fire, and many who would otherwise have been rescued, now suffered a more dreadful death than their companions who had been instantly killed by the falling of the building. The lengthy details of horrors and sufferings which are given in the "Journal", and which would fill our paper for two or three weeks, are terrible indeed. The latest accounts give the following statement of the dead, missing, &c.:

Dead, 117
Missing, 89
Injured severely, 119
"slightly, 200

We select a few of the remarkable and thrilling incidents with which the details abound. It is impossible for the whole scene to be read, and contemplated without feelings of horror and dread. A large portion of the dead and suffering are of course females.

Among the many painful incidents of this dreadful night, is the following, related by one of the fire engineers. When the fire was beginning to rage, and before it had stifled the cries and groans of those in the ruins, he, with others, forced his way against the smoke and flame to try and rescue some of those whose voices he could hear.

Suddenly he caught a glimpse of three persons, imprisoned by a crumpled partition—two men and a woman. He even caught one of the men by the hand, and hoped to draw him out, but the cracking of the flames around him, and the warning voice of an officer, impelled him reluctantly to desert, and by a timely retreat to save his own life. Neither of the three persons appeared injured at all, and they must have literally roasted alive.

As a relief to this saddening narrative may be mentioned the fortunate escape of one of the female operatives by a coolness which did her infinite credit. She was in the fifth story in a part of the building, when, having but a moment's warning of the fall of the building, she sprang to the elevator.

She clasped firmly hold of one of the hoisting ropes and slid rapidly and safely down its length, through five stories, emerging from the building just in season to escape destruction. Her name is Olive Bridges, and she hails from Calais, Me.

Through the whole night she was at the City Hall, passing like an angel of mercy among the couches of the sufferers, anticipating every want, relieving pain as far as she was able to do so, and breathing words of consolation and comfort to the wounded and dying.

Among the sufferers in the ruins at the time the fire broke out was Maurice Palmer of Rochester, N. H., an overseer. He was much beloved by his friends, and while the digging was going on his voice was recognized. He was nearly reached when the flames broke out. He implored his friends to save him quickly or he should die.

They struggled to reach him, but the flames swept around them. He was confined and could not assist them. As the heat of the fire began to be felt, his horrible death seemed inevitable. He was able to move one hand and draw his knife, saying he should commit suicide rather than burn to death.

His rescuers pressed on, but his hope of aid gave out, and he drew the knife across his throat. Soon after they succeeded in removing him, and his self-inflicted wound was found not to be dangerous, but he had suffered severe internal injuries, which rendered his recovery impossible. He was taken to the City Hall, and expired shortly after the effects of the injuries received by his fall, and his sufferings while immured within the fallen walls.

Beneath the ruins many sufferers could be seen and conversed with, and drinks and refreshments, in some instances, were passed to them. When the fire spread over the ruins, and they found escape hopeless, they bid adieu to their friends, and in several instances gave directions as to what disposition should be made of their effects.

In one part of the building a hole was entered through the wall, and through it could be seen three young women who said they were not at all injured. One of them thrust her arm through the small aperture that had been made, and begged to be drawn through it, but before the aperture could be made large enough for the purpose, the flames drove away the men on the outside, and the prisoners perished.

John Ward, one of the operatives in the carding-room, in the second story, was miraculously saved, with his wife, who worked near him in the same room. I give his description of the accident and escape in his own words:

"I was in the carding-room with the second overseer, lighting up. It was five or ten minutes before 6 o'clock, and we had got ten or fifteen looms running. Suddenly I heard a noise—it sounded like a loud, thundering crash over my head, and looking up, I saw the shafting coming down upon us, all over the room. I could not account for it, and was terrified. I stood nailed to the spot, and did not seem to have power to move, although I knew the building was coming on me. Then I heard the overseer shout, and I tried to jump out of the room, but something struck me, and I was thrown senseless.

"I did not remain so long, but when I came to I found myself buried in the rubbish, and didn't expect to get out alive. I was all covered over with blood, from wounds on the face. I finally crawled up, and got to the top, and found a lot of ruins hanging over me, which I had to take my life. But I succeeded in getting out. I passed by a dead girl on my way, and two other mangled bodies before I got out. When I was first knocked down, I fell beneath a large grinding stone, which was too heavy to give way to the weight above, and this saved my life. When I fell under there, I saw the wall over me all falling, and the floor giving way all around me."

Ward found his wife at the City Hall, where she had been conveyed, after being extricated, and neither was much injured.

The hall of the city government building was used as a hospital for such of the wounded as it was deemed necessary to convey thither. Matresses lined the hall on three of its sides, and on them were stretched mangled bodies, and others not dangerously injured, but suffering from painful wounds.

Kind-hearted physicians ministered unceasingly to them, and some, whom years of practice

might have excused from sensitiveness to the sufferings of others, performed their offices with tearful eyes, compassionate countenances, and all the goodness of sympathetic natures.

On one pallet lay a little girl, with a beautiful pale countenance, knit with the suffering she could not conceal, yet uncomplaining. She was watched over by a weeping friend, apparently her father, and my heart was rejoiced at the announcement by the physician that she was not dangerously, though severely wounded.

Still further, on a pallet, was a young woman groaning with pain from several broken bones, internal injuries, and a bruised head. Half-a-dozen disconsolate friends were about her weeping, for the physician had said she must die.

Near the platform was a poor German, suffering excruciating pain. He could not talk English, and no one from the "fatherland" had found him. His case, too, it is feared, is hopeless.

On the opposite side are three girls, all young and beautiful, but with the cold hand of death already on them.

Many others were there who alone would excite the sympathy of those who saw them. A large room on one corner of the hall had been set apart as a depository for the bodies of the dead, and this was literally covered with mangled corpses. Young men, and those past the meridian of life, women and young girls, lay there, a ghastly sight to behold.

An affecting scene occurred during the early part of the evening, which melted the hearts of all who witnessed it. A little boy, whose only friend on earth was his mother, and that mother employed in the mill, wandered about among the crowd, sobbing as if his little heart would break and begging the bystanders to save his mother.

The little fellow was answered, and was saved, and clasping her son in her arms, his joy knew no bounds—on extreme succeeding another.

A boy at work in one of the upper rooms, hearing the crash, had the presence of mind to jump into a waste box, which, with its occupant, was buried several feet beneath the ruins. When the rescuers raised the pile of rubbish from the box, the young fellow sprang from his narrow prison, and walked away as if nothing had happened.

An only brother of Mr. W. J. Rolfe, teacher in the Lawrence High School, was killed, and his mangled corpse then out of the ruins yesterday morning.

A mother sat by the bedside of her injured daughter at the City Hall, when the latter closed her eyes, as if falling into a quiet sleep, but which was, in reality, the sleep of death.

The fire had made considerable progress, and was approaching the spot where a man was surrounded by timbers, yet had room to move about. A stream of water was directed upon him, but in vain. He and three others, in nearly the same position, were left to perish.

An incident is related of a young and beautiful girl employed in one of the upper stories of the mill, who, when the crash came, was thrown prostrate upon the floor by a piece of shafting which fell across her neck, preventing her rising. The coupling which connected the shaft prevented the latter from strangling her; and in her comparative ease, and confident of a speedy delivery, she calmly watched the efforts made by the rescuers to extricate her. She would have been saved had the fire been stayed but a few minutes. But the flames swept over her spot, claiming and obtaining its victim.

A little daughter of James Bannan was entangled in the ruins, beyond the hope of rescue. As the greedy flames crackled towards her she took her "time-bill" from her pocket, and giving it to her father, said: "You will be saved, shall not, give this to my father, and say good bye to him for me." The story carries its own reflections.

Mr. Jason H. Dana, assisted by Messrs Leonard Stoddard and Augustus Wilder, succeeded in rescuing about twenty persons. Mr. Dana was on the ground in about three minutes after the accident, at which time the heads and hands of the victims were to be seen protruding, in every conceivable posture of distress, from between the different layers of the ruin, from top to bottom. The first persons extricated were taken from the top of the rubbish. Twelve persons were recovered from one spot on the west side of the mill, near the machine shop. Three of these were dead, and several others terribly maimed.

Rescuers in pursuing their melancholy task, came upon a little boy confined beneath the ruins who, when they proceeded to extricate him, begged them to leave him and get out his sister who was near him. On the ground too young women in a comparatively comfortable position, and handed them coffee, with the cheering assurance that in fifteen minutes they would be rescued. But alas for the delusion of hope. The fire approached, and as it gradually neared the two sufferers, their entreaties to be saved were enough to make the stoutest heart quail. Men redoubled their exertions, but in vain, the flames enveloped the poor creatures, who perished before the eyes of their would-be deliverers.

One entire family of five persons, all employed in the mill, were provisionally saved, and the poor mother, gathering her children about her, amid the darkness that surrounded her, her heart bursting with gratitude for their deliverance offered up a fervent prayer to Heaven.

At the foot of the stairs leading to the upper City Hall at last yesterday a quartette of mourners, all females, awaiting the arrival of bodies from the ruins. Two had lost a daughter each, one a sister, and the fourth a cousin, Bridget Broden. All that has been discovered of the latter are the feet and shoes, which were recognized by a young man who recently put heels upon them. Together they sit hour after hour, pictures of despair. Upon the arrival of their rise, join the eager procession that marches into the dead room, but finding no semblance of their lost ones, they return to their post at the foot of the stairs.

Thomas Niles recognized the body of his wife by a ring she wore on her finger. He had searched anxiously for her body, as she was found in the list of missing. A charred and mangled mass brought into the room of the dead, he examined, as he examined all. Upon a bone in the clasped skeleton of the hand he found a ring. Upon it was engraved his own name. It had been presented by him to his wife on their happy wedding day. When he found this sure token, his and consolation triumphed for a moment over his burning sorrow. He waved his hands aloft and cried for joy. When he looked again upon the blackened corpse, his loss fell as it seemed with a descending weight upon his soul, and all was changed. He fell upon his attendants, venting the wildest grief. Nothing could comfort him, his attention beside, and he was borne from the room, saying with a maniac, exhibiting a feeling as strong as could be pictured by the most extravagant imagination.

Mrs. Barrett, wife of James Barrett of Lawrence, had lost a child, she too, was a frequent visitor at the dead-house. Saturday afternoon she came, accompanied by a younger daughter, bringing a miniature likeness of the lost. The miniature represented the features of a young lady of unusual personal attractions. A lively beauty danced in her youthful, fresh and rosy face; an expression of a nature almost angelical beamed in her eyes. With this the mother and daughter came seeking the original among the dead. The lost one was found, but the fair face was burned away, the blithe and graceful form was now a shapeless trunk which was recognized only by the fabric of the dress she wore, a small part of which was not destroyed.

The mother threw herself on the remains, she aroused herself and gazed upon the miniature, and from that her eyes again wandered to the remains of her child. She fainted, and was borne away. Those present turned away

heart-sick. Those who had stood firm through all until now, melted until their sympathy awakened tears that fell like summer rain.

SUICIDES.—The Boston Evening Transcript says that more than two-thirds of the suicides in the cities of the United States the last summer have been occasioned by delirium tremens; a large proportion have occurred among the foreign population, and the names of Germans predominate.

A subscription to relieve the pecuniary embarrassment of the Pope has commenced in this country, and two devoted Catholics at Baltimore Md., have given \$350 to the object. The money is to be used in the subjugation of the Pope's revolted states—that is the Catholics of America furnish money to buy powder and balls to shoot their Catholic brethren in Italy, because while adhering faithfully to the church they prefer to manage their own political affairs.—Am. paper.

The John Brown fund has already reached nearly \$2,000. His family will probably get from various sources at least \$10,000. A writer in the New York Tribune suggests a \$2,000 monument in memory of Brown.

DOMESTIC.

THE RECENT CRIMINAL CASE.

The trial of Samuel Neil, for stabbing Martin in Paddock's gambling place, in December last, came off this week before Judge Parker. The Jury after two hours consultation returned a verdict of "Not Guilty," and the prisoner was accordingly released. This case has its lessons.

The parties who figured as witnesses, as well as the principals, must feel themselves disgraced. It appears that there exists in the heart of the city a large gambling establishment, and which is the resort of merchants and young men who move in respectable circles, and are supposed to be careful and attentive business men. Can any man be regarded as safe who frequents gambling rooms? We think not. It is well known, and has been for some time, that this is the character of Paddock's establishment in Prince William Street, and yet it is a licensed tavern! Was it the intention of the License Law to open bars, and 'taps' for the accommodation of gambling and other places of the foulest character? We think to grant license to a place like this referred to, and many others in the city, is an outrage on the morals of the people, and should call forth the condemnation of every right thinking man.

While such places are allowed to exist, and have a legal authority thrown over them in the shape of a License to sell liquor, it may be expected that fights, attempts to kill, and murders outright, will take place. Such places are the resort of the vicious, drunken, and profane, and no man can continue to frequent them very long without partaking of the character of the "regular customers," and losing his standing in the community for attention and integrity in business.

We understand that there are laws on the Statute Book for suppressing gambling houses, and punishing those who keep them. Why is it that our Police are instructed to arrest persons for minor offences, many of which, such as clearing snow from the sidewalk, and others! have no relation whatever to morals, while these resorts of the vicious and schools of villany and crime are publicly kept, and no efforts made to suppress them. Since the character of this establishment in Prince William Street has come out in evidence in the Supreme Court, can the Solicitor General avoid noticing it, and taking such steps as shall lead to its closing! We shall see.

SMALL POX.—There seems to be no diminution as yet of this fearful disease in this city. The cases reported to the Board of Health last week were between 40 and 50; while there were no doubt several others which were not reported. Several deaths from it have recently occurred. A private letter from Cornwallis, N. S., informs us that several cases of this disease exists at Bedford, in that township; no deaths had occurred. We learn that it also exists in several other places in that Province.

This loathsome sickness seems to be raging in some cities on both sides of the Atlantic with considerable virulence. In Boston it is spreading. In London and Belfast it is unusually fatal; and in some places on the continent it exists largely. Some eminent physicians fear that it may yet prove a serious scourge to a large part of the population. Vaccination in all cases should be attended to.

REBUILDING.—The enterprising firm Messrs. Ritch and Wakefield, whose foundry was destroyed by fire in Carleton a few months since, are again rebuilding. The frame has been raised, enclosed and the roof shingled within a few days. They will no doubt be able to recommence business early in the spring. This is the third time they have built on the same site within a few years.

The King's County Teacher's Institute will meet at the Temperance Hall, Kingston, on Friday, February 3rd, at 1 o'clock, P. M.

CANADA.—The Montreal Witness in reviewing the trade of Canada for last year makes the following interesting statement:—

In respect of population, Canada has, doubtless, increased throughout the year; for though immigration has not been great there is a very rapid, healthy and constant natural increase, which has been counteracted by no epidemic or contagious disease. The year has, indeed, been a remarkably healthy one. Another point of great interest in our population statistics is that emigration from Canada is almost ceased. The restless, ambitious, discontented spirit which threatened a few years ago to depopulate some parts of Canada, and which more or less affected all, has been succeeded by a healthy contentment, based upon an intelligent appreciation of the advantages presented by Canada, caused, in part by a number of those who left for the West coming back disappointed.

AGRICULTURE was in no previous year so extensively and ably carried on as in 1859. The enterprise and intelligence of the farming population, especially in Western Canada, is rapidly increasing and extending, as well as the area of cultivation. Fears were widely entertained a year ago that wheat was ceasing to be a staple crop of Western Canada, as it has in Eastern Canada and some of the States; but last harvest happily dispelled those fears, as there was, perhaps, never a finer crop of wheat gathered in Canada. This has restored in a great measure, the value of farming-land, which, under the influence of two years of bad crops, had become almost nominal.

FROZEN TO DEATH.—An unfortunate woman named Mary Sheppard, was frozen to death at Toronto on Wednesday night. She was returning from a dance in good spirits, but becoming tired sat down on a door step and perished.

Weekly Receipts for the Religious Intelligence.

PLEASE READ!—Persons paying money for the Religious Intelligence, will please see that it is credited. The number of the paper to which each man's money is paid immediately follows the amount received.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—William Cleveland 7s 6 3/4; David Phillips 7s 6 3/4; R A Hay 7s 6 3/4; J B Sells 7s 6 3/4; Samuel C Jewitt 7s 6 3/4; Jonathan P Taylor 7s 6 3/4; J D Levin 7s 6 3/4; Mrs Hunt 7s 6 3/4; John Frazer 7s 6 3/4; John Gibbs 7s 6 3/4; John McAlpine 7s 6 3/4; William Whitaker 7s 6 3/4; James Bird 7s 6 3/4; Barnard Gidney 7s 6 3/4; James Vanvart 7s 6 3/4; Moses Kinney 7s 6 3/4; Chas Wade 7s 6 3/4; John Burpee 5s 3/4; Miss C Manson 7s 6 3/4; Robert Holder 7s 6 3/4; Capt John Davis 7s 6 3/4; Wm J Lewis 7s 6 3/4; Wm Galley 5s 3/4; Chas Savage 2s 6 3/4; John Gillis 2s 6 3/4; Stephen H Shaw 7s 6 3/4; Mrs P McAlpine 7s 6 3/4; Henry Siscoe 7s 6 3/4; John Blair 7s 6 3/4; James McAlpine 7s 6 3/4; Alfred Taylor 7s 6 3/4; T Cochran, Esq, 7s 6 3/4; G Cochran 7s 6 3/4; Jonas Taylor 7s 6 3/4; Charles Taylor 7s 6 3/4; George Taylor 7s 6 3/4; A Dobson 5s 3/4; Wm Slip 7s 6 3/4; James Starkey 7s 6 3/4; Miss Patterson 2s 6 3/4; James Tompkins 5s 3/4; J C Squires 5s 3/4; James Mitchell 7s 6 3/4; Thos Durgin 3s 9d 3/4.

NOVA SCOTIA.—B B Woodworth 7s 6 3/4; Jethro Kinsman 7s 6 3/4; Elias Cox 7s 6 3/4; D D Newcomb 7s 6 3/4; Hockman Cox 7s 6 3/4; Welner Cox 7s 6 3/4; Samuel Bigelow 7s 6 3/4; Joseph Newcomb 7s 6 3/4; Henry S Cox 7s 6 3/4; Wm Wickwire 7s 6 3/4.

NOTICE.

The Fifth District of Free Christian Baptists will hold its Eleventh Annual Session with the Second Church, Springfield, commencing on the third Saturday in February, 10 o'clock, A. M. We cordially invite all churches will be particular to send statistical reports.

WM. PETERS, District Clerk.

COMPOUND SAKAPARILLA NEU KOPATHIC DROPS, CERRIZINE (or Wild Cherry) BALSAM, DYSENTERY SYRUP, &c.—The trade in New Brunswick are hereby notified that we can obtain our preparations of Geo A. Garrison, St. John, at our lowest prices, O. & G. C. WILSON, Wholesale and Retail Druggists, 18 and 21 Central-Street, Boston, Mass.

MARKED.

At the residence of the bride's father, on Thursday, January 12th, by the Rev. B. Franklin Ratray, Mr. George L. Colwell, of Cambridge, Queens County, N. Y., and Susan, daughter of Mr. George Slip, Hampshire, Queens County.

At St. Martin's, on the 24th Dec., by the Rev. John Rowe, Mr. Wm. Snow, to Mrs. Walker, of St. John.

At St. Martin's, on the 22d Dec., 1859, by the Rev. John Rowe, Mr. Wm. A. Herriot, to Miss Charlotte Bradshaw.

At Kingston, K. C., on the 29th ult., by the Rev. James Gray, A. M., Mr. James Waddell, to Miss Elizabeth.

On the 11th inst., by the Rev. I. Wells, Mr. Isaac Williams, of Cambridge, Q. C., to Miss Louisa Bell, formerly of St. John, N. B.

DIED.

At Sussex Vale, on the 15th inst., Sarah, widow of the late Samuel McCully, in the 85th year of her age.

At Taylor Village, W. Co., on the 22nd Dec., Capt. Stephen Ezra Taylor, in the 23d year of his age.

On the 8th of January, of Scarborough, Laura, only daughter of Dr. W. H. Bradshaw, aged 6 months and 15 days.

We are glad to learn that Perry Davis' Vegetable Pain Killer is having so large a sale in our city. We have every reason to believe it to be an almost never failing remedy in all cases of rheumatism, and family should be without.—Montreal Pilot. Sold by druggists and medicine dealers generally.

This is the season of the year to use Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.

TRACED.—The proprietors of Reading's Russia Salve have thousands of certificates from persons who have experienced the healing virtue possessed by this unequalled preparation.—For all manner of wounds, cuts, bruises, scalds, corns, etc., it is without a rival. Sold everywhere at 25 cents a box.

P. K. There is no medicine, at the present day I value so high as Perry Davis' Vegetable Pain Killer. I have used it in every case of rheumatism, and it has proved a sovereign remedy. I tested its qualities, day on a severe burn, and found it all that could be desired.

A. D. MILNE, Editor of Messenger. Portuguese Colony, July 1st 1857. Messrs Perry Davis & Son:—Gentlemen.—Allow me, as an eye witness of the great good which your excellent medicine, the Pain Killer, has done among the theilxes of Madeira, to state for the good of others, that it is now, and has been for five years, the great remedy for all manner of ailments, such as fever and ague, in coughs, colds, dyspepsia, chronic and inflammatory rheumatism, cramp, worms, piles, nervous headache, gravel, &c., &c. The introduction of the Pain Killer has been a great blessing to the whole Colony.

M. J. GONSALES. Minister of the Gospel, and one of the whole Colonies. Sold by all medicine dealers.

AYER'S CATHARTIC PILLS. Letters from Enraptured Persons.

From the President of Mexico. Dr. J. C. Ayer, Lowell, Mass. U. S. A. Sir:—I am instructed by the President to acknowledge the receipt of your Cathartic Pills, and to express his high appreciation of the great benefit they have produced in his case. I have found them to be a most reliable and safe remedy for all manner of ailments, such as fever and ague, in coughs, colds, dyspepsia, chronic and inflammatory rheumatism, cramp, worms, piles, nervous headache, gravel, &c., &c. The introduction of the Pain Killer has been a great blessing to the whole Colony.

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