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FROM APPLETON'S JOURNAL.

REGRET.

If I had known, O loyal heart,
When, hand to hand, we said farewell,
How far all time our paths would part,
What shadow o'er our friendship fell,
I should have clasped your hand so close
In the warm pressure of my own,
That memory still would keep its grasp,
If I had known.

If I had known when, far and wide,
We loitered through the summer land,
What Presence wandered by our side,
And o'er you stretched its awful hand,
I should have hushed my careless speech,
To listen, dear, to every tone
That from your lips fell low and sweet.
If I had known.

If I had known, when your kind eyes
Met mine in parting, true and sad—
Eyes gravely tender gently wise,
And earnest, rather, more than glad—
How soon the lids would lie above,
As cold and white as sculptured stone,
I should have treasured every glance,
If I had known.

If I had known how, from the strife
Of fears, hopes, passions, here below,
Unto a purer, higher life
That you were called, O friend to go,
I should have stayed my foolish tears,
And hushed each idle sigh and moan,
To bid you a last, long God-speed,
If I had known.

If I had known to what strange place
What mystic, distant, silent shore,
You calmly turned your steadfast face
What time your footsteps left my door,
I should have forged a golden link
To bind the heart so constant grown,
And keep it constant ever there,
If I had known.

If I had known that until Death
Shall with his fingers touch my brow,
And still the quickening of the breath
That stirs with life's full meaning now.
So long my feet must tread the way
Of our accustomed paths alone,
I should have prized your presence more,
If I had known.

If I had known how soon for you
Drew near the ending of the fight,
And on your vision fair and new,
Eternal peace dawned into sight,
I should have begged, as love's last gift,
That you before God's great white throne,
Would pray for your poor friend on earth,
If I had known.

CHRISTAIN REID.

MA'S OLD BEAU.

A Story of Deed Forgery.

BY CARL BRENT.

The recent relations concerning deed forgeries, at a criminal trial in Chicago, have reminded me of an incident that occurred a few years ago, in the vicinity of St. Louis, which seems to me worth relating.

Clara and Mary Merwin, sisters and orphans, were in the sitting room of their pleasant home on the edge of a village near the Missouri. Their mother had been dead several years; their father had lately died, leaving them an estate as supposed, of the value of some forty thousand dollars. But they had learned quite recently that the property was encumbered to such an extent that they were likely to be deprived of it all. This discovery, as may be supposed, filled them with sadness and anxiety, and they were seated in silence, unable to read, to converse, to work, to do anything but brood over their great misfortune.

While they were thus occupied with sombre thoughts, a buggy drove up in front of the house, and a man alighted, and the buggy drove away.

This man must have been a little on the shady side of fifty; to judge from his gray hairs, although his face was fresh and unwrinkled. He was dressed with remarkable neatness, and his manner indicated briskness as well as precision. In one hand he carried a small valise, and in the other an umbrella, and he stepped quickly to the door and rang the bell. In a few minutes he was ushered into the presence of the young ladies.

"I'm obliged to introduce myself," he said, smiling and bowing in a courtly manner—"Abner Pierce. Here is my card—professional card. You will preceive that I am a lawyer in St. Louis, and presumably a respectable man. Don't be afraid; I am not here to hurt you, but to help you. I have the honor to call myself a friend to your family; that is to say, although it is many years since I have seen any member of said family, I always had the highest possible regard for your now sainted mother, and nothing could please me better than to be of some service to her children."

"We are happy to see you," murmered Clara.

"Thank you. I happened to hear—no matter how—that you were in trouble, and have come up here in the belief that I can assist you. I hope you will feel that you can trust me. I am actually an honest man, although a lawyer, and I mean well, although I may express myself clumsily."

"I am free to admit," said Clara, "that we need assistance and advice, and that we have not known to whom to look for it."

"Very well. It is a good thing, no doubt, that I have come. Now, sit down and tell me all about it"

Clara Merwin, who was the elder of the orphans, and the leader in everything, told how her and her sister had taken out letters of administration upon their father's estate, when a man of whom they had never before heard put in appearance, and presented a mortgage, with bond included, executed by the late Mr. Merwin, upon all his real estate, for the sum of forty thousand dollars. Not content with prohibiting them from attempting to sell anything, he had tied up their money in bank, leaving them absoultely penniless. They had used their credit, but tradesmen were becoming impatient, and some had refused to supply them any further without pay.

"That is a bad case," said Mr. Pierce. "You need money, that is the first thing to be attended to. You must let me act as your banker until I get you out of this scrape, and that won't be long I hope. How much do you owe?"

"More than one thousand dollars," answered Clara.

The old gentleman counted out two hundred dollars from a well filled pocket-book, and handed it to her.

"For your mother's sake," he said, when she refused to receive it, and he forced it upon her in such a way that she could not help taking it.—He then accepted the young ladies' invitation to make their house his home during his stay, and went to dinner with them.—

"Is there any place where I can smoke?" he asked, when they had returned to the sitting-room.

"You can smoke here," said the impulsive Mary. "Pa always smoked here, and we are used to it."

So he took a merschaum and some tobacco from his valise, and was soon puffing away with an air of great contentment.

"I can think better when I smoke," he said. "Did you have any legal advice in the matter of that mortgage, Miss Merwin?"

"Yes, sir," replied Clara. "Our lawyer said that it was a plain case against us, although it was strange that we had never heard of the mortgage before."

"Very strange. What is the name of the man who holds it?"

"Alexander Campbell."

"Hum. A good name, but a bad man, I am afraid: When and where can I see him?"

"He will be here this afternoon," answered Clara. "He proposes, if we will make him a deed of the real estate, to give up the bond and mortgage, leaving our money in bank and the rest of the personal property."

"Very liberal. Introduce me to him, when he comes, as an old friend of the family, and not as a lawyer."

Mr. Alexander Campbell called in the course of the afternoon, and was made acquainted with Abner Pierce, at whom he looked suspiciously; but his eyes fell when he met the old gentleman's intent and piercing gaze. Mr. Pierce glanced but slightly at the deed that was offered for the consideration of the ladies; being occupied in studying the countenance of the man in whose favor it was drawn.

"I can't decide upon it just now," he said, at last. "As the friend of these young ladies—standing, as I may say, *in loco parentis*—I must make a few inquiries concerning the value of this property. Suppose you come up after supper, Mr. Campbell, and suppose you bring that mortgage with you. I have no doubt it is all correct, but I would like to see it."

Mr. Campbell assented to this and withdrew. Abner Pierce filled his pipe with nervous haste, but also with tobacco, and Mary brought him a light.

"I know that you have some good news for us," she said. "I can see it in your face"

"Not bad, my child. I hope and trust that it is very good. A good name but a bad man, I said and that is true. I think I see my way out of this difficulty, and the money I lent you is safe. But you mustn't interfere with me, young ladies, or be surprised at anything I say or do, or object to it. You must trust me, and let me work in my own way."

After supper, when Abner Pierce had enjoyed another comfortable smoke, and had conversed with the girls concerning their mother as he had known her in her youth—a subject upon which he grew very eloquent—Alexander Campbell came in, bringing the deed and the mortgage, both of which he handed to Mr. Pierce for examination.

"I have made inquiries concerning the property," said the old gentleman, "and am satisfied that it is not worth more than the amount of the mortgage, and it would probably bring much less if sold at foreclosure. Your offer is a liberal one; but I must look at the mortgage. This appears to be correct," he continued, when he had examined the instrument. "It is properly acknowledged and the signature is undoubtedly that of Philip Merwin. I suppose the young ladies will have to go to the county seat to execute the deed."

The girls' countenances fell at this sudden surrender on the part of their champion.

"This reminds me," said the old gentleman, picking up the mortgage again, of an occurrence that fell under my observation in Tennessee. Not that the two cases are alike, as the Tennessee case was undoubtedly a fraudulent affair; but there was a simularity in the circumstances. Don't look so down hearted, young ladies. What will be must be, and it is useless to cry about what cannot be helped. As I was about to say, a man died in Tennessee, leaving a widow and one daughter. The widow was about to administer upon her estate, when a man who was unknown came forward, and presented a mortgage similar to this, and for exactly the same amount. It was examined by lawyers familiar with the signature of the diseased, and pronounced it correct. Although there was something strange about the affair, they could find no flaw in the instrument. It was particularly puzzling to one of them, who thought that he had transacted all the law business of the diseased. He got hold of the mortgage and brought it to me when I was in Nashville. I happened to have in my possession a powerful magnifying glass that had been presented to me—the most powerful single lens I have ever seen. With this I examined the mortgage, and soon discovered that 'forty' had been raised from "four." There was no mistake about it. I could easily see the marks of chemical erasure, and the difference, in pen and ink, between the 'raised' and the rest of the instrument. How the rascal got into Registers Office, I don't know; but the record there had been altered in the same manner. He ran away, and it was not considered worth while to follow him. Strange circumstance, wasn't it, Mr. Campbell?"

Mr. Campbell was fidgeting uneasily in his chair, and made no reply.

"Here is the glass," continued the old gentleman, taking it from his pocket, "and you can see for yourself how it magnifies. Now, as I look at this 'forty'—why, bless me! the same signs are visible that I saw in my Tennessee mortgage! I thing you will be obliged to drop this, Mr. Campbell. My Tennessee man's name was Alexander Bell, and he has added a Camp to it since he came to Missouri.

Campbell, his face as red as a flame, reached out his hand for the document.

"I believe I will keep this, Mr. Campbell, for fear of accidents.—What? do you think you could take it by force? Here is something that shoots five times. Going, are you? Very Well; I don't think you will be molested, if you will leave this part of the country and never return to it. It is barely possible that the estate of Philip Merwin may really owe you four thousand dollars. If so, I advise you not to try and collect the debt, as such an attempt would land you in the penitentiary. Good night Mr. Campbell, and farewell."

"What is it?—What does this mean?" asked Clara, as Mr. Pierce, rubbing his hands and smiling, bustled around to fill his pipe.

"Are you so dull my child? Why the fellow is a swindler, and has been found out. I guessed as much when I first heard of the affair, and was sure of it when you told me his name. You will soon be able to pay me my $200, and then we will straighten up matters. Thank you, Mary, you are very kind to give me a light."

"Do you mean to punish him?" asked Mary.

It would hardly pay. We could put him in the penetentiary, but you might lose four thousand dollars by the job. By trying for forty thousand he has lost the four that may have been justly his due. He will be far from here by morning. I have no doubt, a good riddance of him! Ah, this is comfortable. I know that I feel better, and I hope that you do."

The girls were sure that a great weight had been lifted from their minds and hearts. Alexander Campbell, alias Bell, decamped, and Abner Pierce stayed a week with the orphans, during which time he arranged all their affairs satisfactorily, and won their lasting gratitude and love.

"How can we ever thank you for all you have done for us?" said Clara, when he was about to leave.

"It was for your mother's sake, my child. And for her sake, if I can ever help you, all I have is at your service."

Abner Pierce has visited the orphans frequently since the event above narrated and they have always had a cordial welcome for "ma's old beau."

A TAX ON THE PEOPLE.

It has become quite a subject of remark among those who have the opportunity of observing that the colored portion of our population are certainly a tax to us in one respect, and that is the great *penchant* they have for "going to court." Every little difficulty, however trivial and insignificant, is carried up to the Superior Court; and in many cases it transpires that the plaintiff is really the guilty party, while in others both are equally guilty.

Now, as a matter of course, the greater the length of time consumed in clearing the State docket, the greater will be the expense to the county, and the large number of these little cases coming up at every term of the Superior Courts is not only a needless expense, but is also often the means of delaying the trial of important criminal cases.

When will the negroes learn that they not only gain nothing by this love of going to law, but that they lose their time (which is money), contract habits of idleness, and make many enemies? From the almost groundless cause of complaint which many of these cases when sifted thoroughly disclose, it is conclusive evidence that the complainants are actuated by nothing in the world but the great desire to be concerned in a law suit.—*Fayetteville Gazette.*

ADDRESS OF THE EXECUTIVE DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ROOMS OF THE DEMOCRATIC CONSERVATIVE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
RALEIGH, June 1st. '75.

To the People of North Carolina:

The General Assembly at its recent session called a Convention of the people to meet at Raleigh on the 6th day of September next, for the purpose of suggesting such alterations in our organic law as may be deemed wise and expedient.

NECESSITY FOR CHANGE.

The necessity for changing many of the provisions of the existing Constitution is generally admitted, and is too apparent to require extended argument. It is true that some of our prominent men at one time opposed the call for a convention; but their action was based on prudential consideration, and not on an indisposition to have the Constitution thoroughly revised. They feared that our purpose in seeking to reform our Fundamental Law, might be misconstrued by the violent and ill-informed men then controlling Congress, and the prosperity of our people checked, and the peace of the State jeopardized by some harsh and unconstitutional action on the part of the United States authorities. That fear no longer exists. We now have every assurance that the Constitution of the United States will be observed by the officers of the Government, and feel a satisfaction in announcing to you that the time has at last arrived when the officials at Washington City concede that the people of North Carolina have the same right to manage thier local concerns which the citizens of other States enjoy. We can proceed without apprehension to perfect our Constitution and remodel it in the interests of our people.

THE CONSTITUTION, THE CREATURE OF MILITARY LAW.

This Constitution, the creature of Military dictation, was born in the throes of a Military reconstruction. Its authors were mainly Sciolists and adventurers, who had lived among us without preferment, or possessed of qualifications entitling them to it; others were our recent slaves, who had known no law save the will of their masters, and others still were carpet-baggers, both black and white—alien in feeling and Radical in education—who sought positions here that were denied them where known to despoil and humiliate us. And when their work was submitted to the people at the polls, thousands of our best citizens were deprived of the right of voting upon it, and over eighty thousand ignorant negroes were given the ballot to secure its adoption. It is no exaggeration to say that not one person in ten who voted for it could read the instrument, and not one in fifty had read it or was even moderately familiar with its provisions, and many give it their support believing it would be merely temporary, and to escape further agitation and revolution. It is natural therefore that a Constitution thus formed and adopted should be found unsuited to our condition, and that we should embrace the earliest opportunity consistent with reason and prudence to secure such changes as time and experience have shown to be necessary. Our organic law should be expressed in language clear, simple and perspicuous, so that nothing may be left to inference or construction; our rights, so precisely defined as to be comprehended by all men of ordinary intelligence; and each department of the government should be so restricted, that while left free to discharge its appropriate duties, it cannot by unwarranted encroachments embarrass the proper action of the others.

THE CONSTITUTION UNSUITED TO OUR CONDITION.

That the Constitution contains some good provisions no one denies; it would be singular if it did not, but its abominable characteristics were so manifest that not a single Conservative member of the Convention that passed it could be induced to affix his signature to it, as a fit instrument to be submitted to the people. Indeed its provisions are so loosely worded and so badly arranged as to constitute but a medley of inconsistencies that defies the successful construction of the courts; in fact, to reconcile the difficulties arising from its practical workings, the court has in some instances been driven to supply omissions, and in others to introduce a new principle, hitherto unknown in the juridicial history of our State, distinguished as "*judicial lagislation*," an innovation anti republican in character and invasive of the rights and duties of a separate department. Its provisions are so obscure that within the brief space of its existence many more decisions on constitutional questions have been demanded than in the entire previous history of the State—and of late we have witnessed the extraordinary spectacle of two sets of judges in both the 2nd and 8th Judicial Districts, contending for the same position, one of which claiming to hold by an appointment from the Governor for a period of ten years, an office that the Constitution seems to say is to be filled by the people at the polls, and whose term is expressed to be only eight years.

In many counties, there is a practical denial of justice, the courts are inadequate to the public demands, and thus they are driven to resort to special terms, which are expensive and unsatisfactory, and persons accused of criminal offenses are often confined for months without trial. We need a speedier justice and a less expensive judiciary system. We should abolish every useless office, which is now filled by a mere consumer; for only by a rigid and prudent economy in our public as well as private affairs, can we hope to restore the State to prosperity. It is believed that the laws will be more impartially administered by a return to the old practice of a rotation of the Judges.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIMINAL LAW NECESSARY.

It is hoped that a great incentive to honesty and purification of the ballot box might result from depriving those who are convicted of infamous crimes of the elective franchise.

The matter of the Penitentiary which already contains more than six hundred able-bodied men, also demands careful and practical attention, to remove in some measure that burden from our shoulders. Most of our private legislation should be excluded from the General Assembly. However, our limited space does not permit us to catalogue the numerous defects and imperfections of the present constitution or to enumerate the remedies to be offered.

There should be some general ordinances adopted in relation to private enactments, thereby reducing the expenses of the Legislature, and in order to prevent hasty and inconsiderate legislation, that no new masters be brought forward within——days of their adjourning.

CAREFUL SELECTION OF DELEGATES.

As to the specific changes that ought to be made, these are to be considered by the citizens of the various counties, who should be careful to select as delegates those who will properly reflect their wishes. Men of enlarged and practical statesmenship, spotless integrity, representatives of all classes of society, and whose positions among them will entitle their labors to confidence and support—and in their hands they certainly can more safely confide their rights than in the Convention of 1868.

METHODS OF CHANGE.

Of the two methods prescribed for changing the Constitution, that by legislative enactment is expensive, uncertain and dangerous; the several amendments recently submitted to and ratified by the people encountered the greatest difficulties in their passage, and even after the will of the people was declared in their favor by over 40,000 majority, serious apprehension were entertained as to whether they were properly adopted; again, legislators when possessed of qualifications for such duties, are encumbered with numerous matters, and cannot bring that attention to each provision presented for consideration, without meeting such criticisms as may imperil their labors.

The Convention method is speedy and economical, the body is composed only of the same number of members as comprise the House of Representatives, and their minds are directed alone to constitutional reforms and their work may be completed and ratified, if necessary, in six months. As to the expenses that may be incurred, it is believed they will be more than defrayed in a short time by the reforms that will be inaugurated.

The restrictions imposed by the Legislature, fully and amply secure the Homestead, Mechanics Lien, Rights of married women, and Personal Liberty, and should quiet the fears of the most timid, for they are recognized as of binding efficacy and are chiefly enjoyed by the friends of constitutional reform. Indeed they were incorporated in the bill mainly to remove partizan clamor, and anticipate unscrupulous agitation. They are not the property of a mere party, but had their origin in the necessities of civilized society and were found among the statutes of various States previous to the war.

QUALIFICATONS OF DELEGATES.

It is useless, however, to seek to quiet the mere caviller; the keen optics of some persons defy all law.—The mere fact that the honor of the best men in the State is pledged to their preservation, should satisfy every reasonable voter. This Convention is called in pursuance of law, and each delegate before "he shall be permitted to sit, to be entitled to a seat in said Convention or act as a delegate thereto," shall swear and observe these restrictions" (see acts 1875) Should a part comply and part refuse to take this oath, only those who obey the law are members of the body, nor are we without precedents; similar oath was required of the members of the "restricted Convention" of 1835, the same question was raised, and after debate all the members took the oath and observed the restrictions, and that in a time of high party excitement. In that discussion the distinguished Judge Gaston used the following language: "The State Legislature had indeed no authority to impose an oath upon the members of the Convention, but the people had ratified the act of the Legislature by choosing delegates under it. If we transcend the limits or refuse obedience to the conditions therein prescribed, we are not the Convention called by the people, but a self constituted body;" these views were concurred in by Macon, Edwards, Morehead, and others. We will dismiss this subject, however, by calling attention to the able work of Judge Jamieson on "Constitutional Convention," where, by argument and the cases cited by him in relation to this matter, he demonstrated that Conventions are bound to obey the restrictions imposed by the Legislature in the Act calling the Convention.

AID FROM REPUBLICANS.

In our last election it was gratifying to see Republicans who had hitherto submitted to the control of unscrupulous leaders under a mistaken belief that they were promoting the general welfare, seeing their corruptness as demonstrated by the "Credit Mobilier revelations," "Sanborn Contracts" and other frauds and defalcation, and their vindictive and relentless policy, whereby they sought to degrade the superior race by the iniquitous "Civil Rights Bill," overcome their party prejudice and give us their cordial support. To them we extend an invitation to remain and continue the work so auspiciously begun. To those who opposed as under the delusion of their leaders, who assured them this bill would never pass Congress and if it did would be vetoed by the President, though it now has his signature; and who have witnessed the earnestness with which the dangerous "Force Bill" was urged upon Congress, we say no longer remain where their is neither safety nor honor to a North Carolinian. The battle for civil liberty is not yet over. "Civil Rights" is still a part of the *secret* carpet bag programme for this State; though driven from the halls of Congress, it will be renewed in the Southern States. We therefore invite their co-operation. The Convention owes its final success to the support of some of their ablest representatives in the General Assembly and they are doubtless aware that the wise provisions introduced into the Convention of 1868, by their ablest representatives were scouted and defeated by that same element that has brought ruin upon their party and confusion to our State.

NECESSITY OF ORGANIZATION.

The friends of Convention should at once perfect their organization and bring out their best men in every County in the State. The leaders of the Republican party know that by their reckless violations of the constitution and efforts to centralize all power in the hands of the Federal Government, they have justly forfeited the confidence and support of the people; they therefore trust not to their own strength but to our apathy, and will endeavor to secure our defeat by divisions and false leaders. We therefore respectfully invite their attention to the following resolution adopted and successfully followed in our last campaign:

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to the members of the Democratic Conservative party to discourage independent candidates and all other disorganizers, all support be promptly withdrawn from every aspirant for office who shall oppose the regular nominees of our Conventions. Let your primary county Conventions be duly advertised and see that the people have a full opportunity of attending and expressing their wishes. The contest is important not only in its immediate effects but in subsequent results The Republican party, under the leadership of carpet baggers still remaining among us, will agree to meet and adjourn without holding a Convention, and this in violation of the wishes of the people, expressed through a two thirds majority of thier choosen Representatives, and after a considerable part of the expenses for mileage and per diem is incurred. We believe, however the promise is but a delusion and snare, for should they ascertain they have a majority in the body, it will be an easy matter for them to evade their promise by the refusal of a few to concur; as they do not acknowledge the "restrictions" as binding, they will resort to the most revolutionary measures to sustain their desperate fortunes, and in the end will fail to submit their work to the people for ratification or rejection.

Let us, therefore, present a united front, and with a general advance along our lines Radicalism will not only be routed but overwhelmed, and a victory for Civil Liberty assured for 1876.

WM R. COX, Chairman.
R. H. BATTLE, JR.,
C. M. BUSBEE,
R. B. HAYWOOD,
J. J. DAVIS,
W. H. JONES.
W. N. H. SMITH,
S. A. ASHE,
O. P. MEARES,
Executive Committee.
J. J. LITCHFORD, Secretary.

IMPORTANT TO BANKING INSTITUTIONS.

The attention of officers of all Banking Institutions in the State is called to the following section of the Revenue act, viz: Sec. 15, Schedule B, and all are hereby called upon to pay the taxes imposed and obtain the required license.

The following is the section of the act referred to:

Every National bank, State bank, Savings bank, or association conducting a business as contemplated in this section, any private banker, agent of a foreign banker or broker, every money, exchange, bond or note broker, whether operating as corporations or associations, or privately as individuals, and such insurance companies as are incorporated by this State, in addition to the *adealorem* tax on their capital invested, shall pay annually a tax according to capital employed, as follows: On a capital of one hundred thousand dollars or more, two hundred dollars; on a capital of fifty thousand dollars and less than one hundred thousand dollars, one hundred dollars; on a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars and less than fifty thousand dollars, fifty dollars; on a capital of less amount than twenty-five thousand dollars, twenty five dollars, and also ten dollars additional for each county in which they have an agency, said taxes to be paid to the State Treasurer. Every person or company running sleeping cars upon any railroad in this State, shall pay for every car so run fifty dollars per annum, and shall make return and pay to the State Treasurer as and when other State taxes are returned and paid. On failure to comply with the provisions of this section, said banks, companies or persons shall pay as taxes two thousand dollars, to be collected by the Treasurer of the State.

THE FIRE FIEND.

DESTRUCTION OF A FRENCH CATHOLIC CHURCH.

HORRIBLE SCENES

SEVENTY-FIVE PERSONS PERISH IN THE FLAMES.

SPRINGFIELD, May 28—Noon—The French Catholic Church at South Holyoke has been burned. A candle on the altar fired the drapery. Most of those in the body of the church escaped, while those in the gallery mostly perished. Services had nearly closed, and vespers were being sung. There was but one exit from the gallery which extended around the building. There were 700 worshipers present, 75 of whom perished. The efforts of the people to get into the church to rescue friends, increased the confusion and added to the disaster. Personal violence had to be used to keep women from rushing into the flames to save children. The church was established seven years ago. The parish included all the French Catholics in the vicinity, numbering 2,500.

The Church was built in 1870, was 100 by 60 feet. It was two stories and entirely of pine. The galleris on the sides and North end were about 25 feet wide. There were two doors in the North end and vestibule from which two doors opened in the body of the Church. The galleries opened into the vestibule and at the rear end there was another door by which a few persons escaped. Immediately upon the breaking out of the flames all the occupants of the galleries rushed to the east door and crowded so that they fell upon one another and chocked up the doorways with their bodies piled in all ways, some 7 or 8 feet deep and here most of the lives were lost. From this mass Chief Mullin rescued one young woman after taking off two dead bodies from above her. It was almost impossible to face the flames and Chief Mullin and others had their clothes almost burned from them and were badly burned themselves about the hands. In the rear of the church was the Priest's residence,—which was also destroyed. The walls were pulled down after the fire was nearly put out. One woman jumped from the highest window down upon the front steps, breaking an arm, but she is not known to have been otherwise injured.—A man, with two children in his arms, jumped from a window and escaped. One poor woman, enveloped in flames, screamed out, "For God's sake save me!" and she was dragged out by John Lynch.

The latest dispatch to the Republican from Holyoke says that it is not quite certain that all the bodies have been taken from the ruins. In the haste to get as many as possible from the building before it fell, many were taken out a short distance, and it is possible that a few more may be taken from the debris.

HOLYOKE, May 28.—Night.—Fifty bodies have been indentified in addition to the 150 or 200, and at once removed to their homes. There are 70 dead, 40 more or less burned and otherwise injured. A person who lost his wife and daughter is insane.

PHILLIPSBURG, PA., May 28.—Night.—The forest fire is fast approaching the town, and assistance has been sent for.

VERSAILLES, O., May 28.—Night.—Four children have been burnt to death. The accident occurred by one endeavoring to light a fire with coal oil.

ESCAPE OF SEVEN CONVICTS FROM THE PENITENTIBRY!

Fired upon by the Guard!—A Hot Chase.

One Killed, one Mortally wounded, and the Others Recaptured.

Yesterday morning as a wagon was about going out the the west gate of the Penitentiary enclosure, seven negro convicts who were close behind the wagon made a sudden rush upon the gate keeper before he could succeed in closing the gate, overthrew him, and made their escape into a copse on the opposite side of the road.

The guard on the parapet fired upon the fugitives without effect, and they fled as rapidly as possible. Upon hearing the alarm, the guards from the guard house sprang to their arms and started in rapid pursuit. Near the residence of Mr. Grimes they came in reach of them and opened fire. One, a negro, named John Mills, sentenced for life for a murder in Halifax, was struck in the lower part of the back, the ball passing through him and killing him instantly. Another, John Artis, from Wilmington, in for 40 years, was shot through the upper part of the body the ball coming out through the right breast. He was brought back to the Penitentiary alive, but will certainly die. A number of citizens at work near the Penitentiary brick yard, hearing the firing, interposed themselves to prevent the escape of the prisoners, and stopped all but one who evaded pursuit for a while, but who was captured latter in the day.

Apparently no blame can be attached to the officers of the Penitentiary. The escaping convicts were at the time performing a designated work, and it might appear that their proximity to the departing wagon was casual. It appears however to have been the result of a concocted plan, and their movements were definitely timed so as to be at the gate simultaneously with the wagon.

Great credit is due both to the guards and to the parapet for the prompt, though ineffecual fire, to those in the guard house who sprung to the pursuit with such haste, and who followed the chase up to the death.—*News.*