

THE HOLYOKE HOLOCAUST.

The scene in the Little French Catholic Church—The Terrible Loss of Life.

If the year 1875 continues its record for the twelve months it has opened it will go down to posterity as a most memorable one in the history of the world.

Disasters by fire and by flood, on land and on sea, are reported by day until the aggregation is appalling.

There have been disasters—disasters attendant with loss of life—but none more serious than that in the little French church of Holyoke, Mass.

Here an audience of seven hundred men, women and children were packed in the little wooden structure to celebrate an important epoch in the service, the feast of Corpus Christi.

The church was decorated, as is usual, with flowers and drapery, and amidst them burning candles. The services were nearly at an end, and in a few moments the large throng would quietly disperse to their homes.

Suddenly, and without warning, a lighted candle came in contact with the fragile drapery, and the flames ascended upwards, spreading consternation and despair.

There is no doubt but that had any precautions been taken the church could have been quietly emptied, and only the slight injuries usually attendant upon such occasions have ensued.

In this case everybody seems to have lost all control, all self-possession. The larger and the stronger, neglecting the women and the children behind them, rushed for the small door leading from the church.

In their hurry and confusion they blocked it up. Then those in the gallery, finding retreat cut off, dashed down upon the heads of those in the main building.

Women shrieked and children uttered their piteous cries. The scene was one of utmost confusion and despair.

Those outside tried hard and were heroic in their efforts to render aid to the struggling crowd, striving with all its force to escape from the flames, which by this time were raging behind it.

Little wonder that stout hearts failed and that all coolness, all courage departed. Little wonder that the uppermost thought of all was to escape, recking not who, father, mother, sister, brother, or children, were left behind to suffer.

Sad, indeed, are the incidents of such a disaster. Even strong men fainted as they saw death at their hand and they could not escape it.

Although the fire was behind and following up the retreating crowd, most of those who lost their lives were trampled to death by the crowd.

There were many cases of men, women and children burned, but they are among the injured. The dead died beneath the feet of their friends there on the church floor.

The priest's exertions to keep order were fruitless. The screams of the living and the moans of the dying made a deafening tumult above the orders of the pastor, who worked most heroically and was personally instrumental in saving many lives.

Finally, when the church was closed, it was found that over seventy people had lost their lives in the disaster.

In one family four children had been taken away, in others three, or two or one. Some families escaped without a death but they were few.

In several instances where a father was heroically striving to save one child, he saw another trampled to death almost at his very feet.

A Terrible Training.

In his speech in the House of Lords on the chimney-sweepers' bill, Lord Shaftesbury gave some revolting details of the cruelties practiced upon climbing boys.

It appeared, he said, from evidence taken in 1863, that the age at which training commenced was from six to eight, generally six—"a nice trainable age," said the masters.

There were instances of five, and even of four and a half. The hours of work in the smaller towns were eight to nine; in the larger from twelve to sixteen, work beginning at four o'clock, three, and even two in the morning.

Sixty-three witnesses were examined from all parts of England, thirty-three of whom were master sweeps. Then followed the mode of doing it. Of the training, Mr. Knif, of Nottingham, a master sweep, said: "No one knows the cruelty which a boy has to undergo in learning.

This must be done by rubbing it, chiefly on the elbows and knees, with the strongest brine, close by a hot fire. You must stand over them with a cane, or coax them by a promise of a halfpenny, etc., if they will stand a few more rubs.

At first they will come back from their work streaming with blood, and the knees looking as if the caps had been pulled off. Then they must be rubbed with brine again."

The following description, said the commissioners, is so painful that we should hesitate to record it were it not actually confirmed: "If, as often happens," says a master sweep, "a boy is gloomy or sleepy, or anywise 'finly,' and you have other jobs on as kind as I could, you must ill-treat him somehow, either with the hand or brush, or something. It is remembering the cruelty which I have suffered which makes me so strong against boys being employed.

I have the marks of it on my body now, and I believe the biggest part of the sweeps in the town have the same.

"That (showing a deep scar across the bottom of the calf of the leg) was made by a blow from my master with an ash-plant—i. e., a young ash tree that is supple and will not break—when I was six years old; it was cut to the bone, which had to be scraped to heal the wound.

I have marks of nailed boots, etc., on other parts." Mr. Strainedfoot, another master sweep, said: "In learning a child you must use violence. I shudder now when I think of it. I have to bed with my knees and elbows scabbed and raw, and the inside of my thigh all scabbed."

Another said: "At first they will come back from their work with their arms and knees looking as if the caps had been pulled off. Then they must be rubbed with brine again, and perhaps go off at once to another chimney. In some boys I have heard that the flesh does not harden for years."

I found a boy, states one of the commissioners, of about eight, in the market, who had run away from some place of correction. Part of the knee-caps got torn off, the gristle all showed white, and the grinders (tendons) all around were like white string, or an imitation of white cotton.

His back was covered with sores all the way up. To harden his knees a lotion made of "old netting"—i. e., urine kept long for the purpose, immersed with hot tenders—was put on them. "It was like killing him," said the sweep, "and I had to stand by and see it all."

"Why, I myself," says another, "have kept a lad four hours up a chimney, when he was so sore that he could scarcely move; but I would not let him come down till he had finished. It has often made my heart ache to hear them wail, even when I was that you may call a party to it. In learning a child, 'he goes on,' you can't be soft with him, you must use violence."

Lizards as Pets. The Ceylon house lizard is about four inches long, and of a dark brown or greenish yellow color. They are usually in a state of torpor during the day, but swarm over the walls and ceilings about sunset and during the evenings, when their bird-like chirping is to be heard on all sides.

While in Colombo we met a Scotchman who kept three or four of these lizards in his bed for the purpose of destroying the mosquitoes. The bed was covered over with mosquito netting, and the lizards were put inside during the day, and carefully removed to the outside of the netting at night.

Our friend assured us that since he had adopted this strange precaution he had never been troubled by mosquitoes, while before he could not keep free from them, as stray ones would get inside the netting when the bed was being made.

There is no doubt that if the native servants in Colombo could be persuaded to cultivate clean habits, the number of insect intruders would rapidly diminish. To teach a native cleanliness, however, is a herculean task, and one which the hotel proprietors do not feel inclined to undertake.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Interesting Items from Home and Abroad.

The Spanish authorities have suspended the Madrid Imparcial newspaper for two weeks for an offense against press laws.

The Emperor of Austria, Russia and Germany are to have another meeting, and the place will probably be Ems.

A special telegram to the London Standard says that the Pope is seriously ill.

The London Times special dispatches from Vienna say a dreadful accident has occurred on the river Mur, at the town of Judenburg, province of Styria.

A ferryboat having on board a number of Catholic pilgrims en route to visit the shrines on the other side of the Mur from Judenburg, sank in the middle of the stream.

Fifty-nine of the pilgrims are known to have been saved, but seventy are missing, all of whom are believed to be drowned.

Two more large rectifying establishments in Cincinnati have been seized by the revenue authorities for alleged violation of the laws.

Business was generally suspended in Memphis, Tenn., during the decoration of the graves of Federal and Confederate soldiers.

The procession was one of the largest ever seen there, comprising Northern and Southern, with the tattered battle flags of both armies.

Numerous crowds continue to attend the revival meetings of Moody and Sankey in London.

Another plot to assassinate Prince Bismarck is said to have been discovered.

As there was no choice for Governor or Lieutenant-Governor of Rhode Island at the late election, the first act of the Legislature on convening was to elect Henry Lippitt and Henry T. Sisson to those offices.

They both ran on the regular Republican ticket.

Cerebro spinal meningitis prevails to some extent among the horses of St. Louis, but yields readily to treatment.

The upper house of the Prussian Diet has passed the bill for the suppression of convents, and relative to the administration of church property.

Recent estimates of the amount taken by Abraham Jackson, the defaulting lawyer of Boston, place the sum at \$700,000.

seven persons injured. The latest returns from the Holyoke disaster place the number of victims at one hundred and twenty, of whom seventy-one were killed, twenty-two fatally burned, and twenty-two otherwise burned or injured.

The Governor of Westphalia has summoned the Bishop of Münster to resign his see.

Information from Fort Laramie has been received of the capture of the Gordon Black Hills outfit by Col. Anson Mills' command.

The entire outfit was destroyed and the men held as prisoners.

Convict Labor in England. The treadmill, on which magistrates at one time relied, says Chamber's Journal, is dismissed as nonsensical.

Useful occupation at trades, by putting prisoners in the way of procuring honest employment on their discharge, is found to be much more advantageous in its results.

The convict prisons, therefore, enter into the field of general competition, much of the work performed, however, being to meet the demands of government departments.

For example, the metropolitan police are now supplied with boots and gaiters from the convict prisons.

After due trial, the female convicts have been employed to make a portion of clothing for the police, the workmanship being found better than that of the contract clothing.

Certain work is also performed for the admiralty—namely, the manufacture of 16,000 hammocks and 8,000 ballast baskets, to be delivered at the various dockyards in England.

Something more artistic has been successfully attempted. The female convicts have manufactured a flooring of mosaic to surround the tombs of Nelson and Wellington in the crypt of St. Paul's.

We learn with pleasure that out of two hundred and thirty-three females discharged from Woking prison, twenty have become accomplished in laying mosaic tiles.

At Dartmouth and Portland large works of a public nature have been and continue to be executed by able bodied male convicts.

Portland, situated on the south coast of England, is perhaps entitled to be called the greatest of the convict prisons.

According to the last report, it had 1,584 prisoners, who were engaged on very extensive works, such as excavating, hewing granite, building, and so on—quite a hive of industry.

The value of the labor executed during the previous year is estimated at £53,024 16s. 7d., giving an average of nearly half a crown per day for each convict.

To LEAD ALL COMPETITORS is the aim of the proprietors of the Wilson shuttle sewing machine.

It is founded on the very best principles known to sewing machine science, and improvements in advance of all other sewing machines, are being adopted constantly.

The Wilson is rapidly gaining the preference of all parties that are acquainted with sewing machines.

Johnson's Anodyne Liniment may be used to advantage where any liment is desirable.

Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry is a "combination and a form indeed" for healing and curing diseases of the throat, lungs and chest.

Habitual constipation leads to the following results: Inflammation of the kidneys, sick and nervous headaches, biliousness, dyspepsia, indigestion, piles, loss of appetite and strength.

It is "BUY ME, AND I'LL DO YOU GOOD." It is highly recommended by the medical profession.

THE MARKETS. NEW YORK. Beef Cattle—Prime to Extra Bullheads 95 1/2 @ 100 1/2

Office CRAZY.—While the remains of a deceased police justice of New York lay at his residence, over three hundred men were crowding and jostling about the mayor's office.

MUSIC for Sing Sing: "Oakum, Oakum, with me." Statistics show that of the thousands who die annually, a large proportion are destroyed, not by old age, or by the natural exhaustion of vitality.

A boy who had stolen some apples was forgiven for the rather ingenious manner in which he excused himself.

It is said to be satisfactorily demonstrated that every time a wife scolds her husband she adds a wrinkle to her face.

As one pound of Dobbin's electric soap (made by Cragin & Co., Phila.) will do the work of five pounds of any other, it is really the cheapest, though it costs a little more per pound.

Questions put to his sweetheart, at intervals of a quarter of an hour, by a bashful lad during their first tele-a-tele.

Consumption, the scourge of the human family, may in its early stages be promptly arrested and permanently cured.

Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y. Sir—For the last year I have been using your Golden Medical Discovery.

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MERCHANTS GARGLING OIL. The Standard Preparation of the United States. Established 1838.

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