

TRAMPLED TO DEATH.

Terrible Results of a Theater Panic in Baltimore.

TWENTY-FOUR KILLED, MANY HURT

A senseless cry of "Fire" at the Old Front Street Theater results in a frightful scramble for escape from an imaginary danger.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 28.—In a senseless panic, caused by a defective gas burner and a foolish cry of fire, at the old Front Street theater last night, twenty-four people were killed, two fatally injured and ten more seriously hurt. Thus far but thirteen of the dead have been identified. They are: Leo Cohen, aged 28; Jeanie Henzle, aged 14; Jacob Rosenthal, aged 10; Morris Malgous, aged 20; Louis Amoski, aged 46; Louis Levenstein, aged 10; Garrard Bernstein, aged 4; Theresa Bornstein, aged 6; Ida Friedman, aged 14; Sarah Reston, aged 18; Lena Lewis, aged 22; Jacob Salzberg, aged 12; W. Wolf, aged 23. The others are at the morgue awaiting identification.

The injured at the City hospital are: Mrs. Friedman, aged 34; Mrs. Goldman, aged 49; Milda Goldwain, aged 16; Morris Schaeffer, aged 6; Jacob Goldstein, aged 20; unknown boy, aged about 10, will die; unknown woman, aged about 35, will die; unknown man, aged about 22; unknown boy, aged 16, serious internal injuries.

Almost all the victims are of Polish nationality and Hebrew extraction, and many of the injured were taken to their homes by friends.

The theater, which is probably the oldest in the city, was filled from pit to dome with people who had assembled to listen to Hebrew opera, which has been given in the old house twice a week for the past month. It is supposed that there were at least 2,000 people within the walls when the curtain went up on the first act, while the capacity of the house is less than 2,500.

Ten minutes after the curtain rose one of the attendants went up to the second tier to light a gas jet which appeared to have been extinguished. As he applied a match the light flared up, and it was seen that there was no tip to the burner. The jet was in plain view of the greater part of the audience, but as the glare from it showed against the wall some one in the gallery shouted "Fire! Fire! Fire!"

In an instant there was a mad scramble for the door. The vanguard of the terror-stricken multitude reached the entrance on Front street, pushed on by the howling, shrieking mob behind them. There those in the foremost rank were compelled to turn to the right and to the left to reach the double entrance way, built in the form of storm doors. Passing through these doors they reached a flight of steps leading from each door downward to a landing, from whence a broad stairway of moderate height would have carried them into the street and to safety.

The steps leading from the doorways are but about five feet high, but the landing at their bases is narrow. Down these the frightened people hurled themselves in the frightful struggle to reach the open air and escape the certain death they thought was behind them.

As the crowds from the two doors reached the landing, they met. There was a brief struggle, and then some one lost his or her footing and fell. In a moment the crowd, pushed with irresistible force from the rear, crowded upon the prostrate form and began in turn to stumble, reel and presently to fall upon the floor under the myriads of feet coming from behind. In less than ten seconds the floor was covered with the panic-stricken multitude, and the hundreds behind them were struggling over them to reach the street.

The tumult attracted an immense crowd from the outside, many of whom tried to gain entrance to the theater, thus adding to the confusion. A dozen policemen hurried to the scene and pushed through the doorway to the writhing mass on the landing. Among the first to reach there was Officer E. J. Kelly. Forcing his way in through the main doorway he grasped a pair of arms and pulling with all his might dragged a woman from under the surging crowd, dead from suffocation. Again he reached into the mass of humanity and pulled out a boy about 7 years old. He, too, was dead, also from suffocation, with scarcely a bruise upon his body.

The other officers, by this time reinforced by a dozen of their fellows, dragged out the prostrate ones, passing them to those on the sidewalk. Ambulances carried the dead to the morgue and the most seriously injured to the hospital.

When the mass on the landing had been cleared away the frightened mob inside were quieted down sufficiently to enable the police to clear the theater. Then it was found that there had been no danger, and that not a soul would have been injured had the audience but remained seated.

As has been stated, all the dead and injured are Polish Hebrews, and few of them have friends or relatives who are able to speak the English language sufficiently well to make themselves understood, or enough knowledge of the ways of this country to know whom to go to look for their lost ones. The dead are of all ages, from mere infants to gray haired men and women. All were killed or injured in the outside crush on the fatal landing, not a casualty having happened inside the house, although the crush there was tremendous.

The old theater building, which was opened in 1830, has been considered unsafe for years. It was in this theater that Lincoln was nominated for his second presidential term, and it was here that Stephen A. Douglas was nominated by the Democrats, a portion of whom withdrew and nominated Breckinridge and Lane for president and vice president.

Christmas eve now! The season of joy and peace on earth. When all is still to angels of happiness and gladness. When every heart with gladness is full to cheer and sing. When care and sadness flee away and happiness is left.

GREAT FIRE INSURANCE SALE!

Having secured the store on Nash Street, opposite the First National Bank at Wilson, N. C., formerly occupied by the late A. N. Daniel,

We will Continue our Sale **15 Days only!**
Come at Once if You Want the Best Bargains You Ever Had Offered You

WE WERE compelled to rent this store in order to close out the

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in 15 more days in order to make a final settlement. We decided to secure the services of Mr. Barnes Boykin and sell them at retail at

LESS THAN HALF VALUE!

IN ORDER to give the public an idea we mention a few prices:

Men's Melton Cassimere full suits, \$3.98, worth \$8.
Men's Black Cheviot suits, \$4.98, worth \$9.
Boy's Knee Pants, 19c. and upwards.
Children's Suits, \$1.25 and upwards.
Men's Woolen Pants, 79c.—upwards.
Suspenders, 5c. pair; Silk Suspenders, 14c. per pair.
Mackintoshes in various varieties at half value.
Men's Black Hose only 5c. per pair.
A good Umbrella at 59c., worth \$1.10.
And other bargains not here mentioned all to be sold at the **Great Fire Insurance Sale!**

Come early to this great sale of clothing at B. F. PENNY & CO.'S on Nash Street, at the A. N. Daniel store. Be sure you get into the right store. Look for the sign.

B. F. PENNY & CO.'S Great Fire Insurance Sale!

This Sale Will Last Only 15 Days!
Come! Come! Come!

The Czar Was Painfully Surprised.
LONDON, Dec. 30.—The Berlin correspondent of The Standard says: "I have excellent reason to state that the reports of an agreement between Russia and the United States about Venezuela are unfounded. On the contrary, the czar was painfully surprised at President Cleveland's message, and any war involving England would be unwelcome to the Russian court on the approach of the coronation."

Venezuelan Commissioners.
WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—The president has tendered places on the Venezuelan high commission to Edward J. Phelps, of Vermont, ex-minister of England; Robert T. Lincoln, of Illinois, ex-minister to England; Hon. Richard H. Alvey, of Hagerstown, Md., chief justice of the United States court of appeals in the District of Columbia, has also been offered a place on the commission.

Charged with Attempted Fratricide.
POTTSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 30.—Charles Kolkefsky was committed to jail here charged with attempting to kill his brother, Mathias, in a free saloon fight at Giberton. A number of Poles participated in the fray, and clubs, knives and blackjacks were used. Mathias Kolkefsky was struck upon the head by a blackjack. He lies in the hospital, it is thought, dangerously hurt.

He Built Two New Battleships.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Secretary Herbert has formally awarded to the Newport News company, of Virginia, the contract for building both of the new battleships, for one of which the Union Iron works, of San Francisco, was a competitor.

Murdered His Brother-in-Law.
PINCETON, Ind., Dec. 30.—Saturday night, near Oakland City, John Cooper was murdered by George Martin. Cooper and Martin were traveling horse traders, and stopped at Oakland City to get a jug of whisky. They pitched their tent and quarreled. Martin grabbed a neck yoke and battered Cooper's brains out. Their families were with them. They were brothers-in-law. Martin rode away, leaving the dead man lying in his wife's arms. The woman remained in the woods all night with the corpse. Martin is at large.

American Bimetalle Union.
CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—For some time past negotiations have been pending for a complete consolidation of the American Bimetalle League, National Bimetalle Union and the National Silver Committee, the three principal silver organizations in the United States representing all sections of the country, and the negotiations have culminated in an agreement. The consolidated organization will be known as the American Bimetalle Union. Its principal office and general headquarters will be in Chicago.

A January thaw is always more productive of colds and coughs than a January freeze. Then is the time Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is needed and proves so extremely efficacious. Ask your druggist for it, and also for Ayer's Almanac, which is free to all.

The Staff of The Times-Herald.
National Hotel Reporter.
The Times-Herald, as conducted by Mr. Kohlsaat, is in many respects the greatest newspaper in the United States. Its new owner and publisher is expending money with a liberal hand, and it is probably true that the payroll of The Times-Herald is to-day considerably larger than that of any other American newspaper. Mr. Kohlsaat has, in fact, secured the services of nearly all the great newspaper writers of the day. Cornelius McAniff, the managing editor, is a man of pronounced ability. Moses F. Handy, who is in charge of the editorial page, and who contributes, twice a week, some entertaining matter over his own signature, is known from one end of the country to the other as a ready writer and brilliant journalist. Mrs. Margaret Sullivan, who is regarded as one of the best writers in this country, retains her position on the editorial staff. E. V. Smaller, who has recently returned to America from a lengthy sojourn in London, has been added to the corps of writers on Chicago's great newspaper. Frank L. Stanton, whose poems appeal so strongly to the human heart, has a column of verses twice a week on the editorial page, and they are being widely copied. Mamie Garland has recently become a contributor to this paper. Lyman E. Glover, so long the accomplished dramatic editor of The Herald, now contributes well written articles on various topics over his own signature. Walter Wellman, the well known Washington correspondent, is retained in the same capacity. Elwyn A. Barron, who was for so many years the dramatic critic of the Inter Ocean, is now attached to The Times-Herald, with a residence in London, and is writing some very scholarly and delightful letters from the metropolis of Great Britain. Charles Lederer, who as a cartoonist has no superior, has recently been sent to Europe by Mr. Kohlsaat, and some illustrated articles from his pen are now appearing. Joseph Howard, Jr., a brilliant and caustic writer, long connected with the New York press, is now a regular contributor to The Times-Herald. George Alfred Townsend, the talented "Goth" of the Cincinnati Enquirer and other papers, is writing for Mr. Kohlsaat, and has recently sent some very delightful letters from eastern summer resorts. Mary Abbott is the literary critic, and also contributes entertainingly to the editorial page. Kate Field, the brilliant journalist and lecturer, has been engaged, and will shortly visit Hawaii under commission from the enterprising proprietor of this great Chicago newspaper. Other men and women of almost equal renown in the newspaper world have been secured by Mr. Kohlsaat, and it is undoubtedly true that no other journal in this country has upon its staff so many brilliant, able and high-priced writers.

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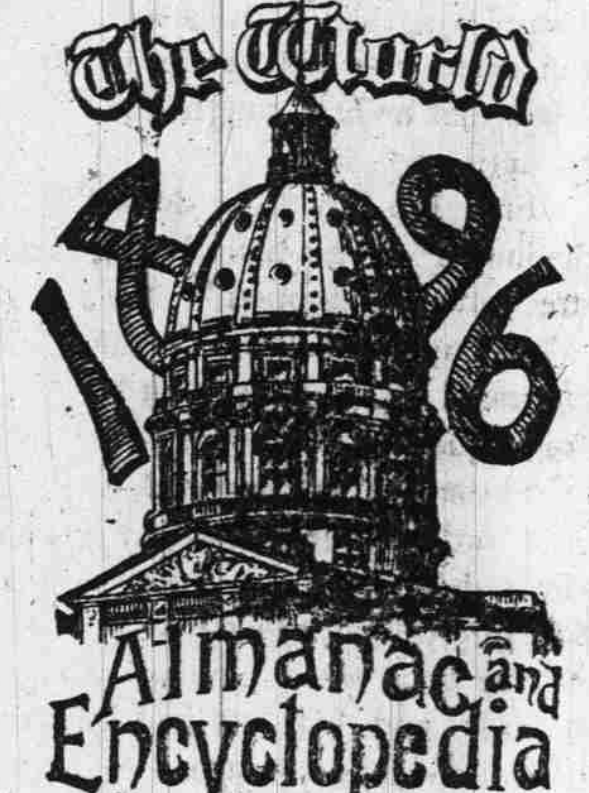
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