

LAUNDRY DAMAGED BY FIRE

Rush of Thanksgiving Work Interrupted.

ORIGIN OF BLAZE A MYSTERY.

Broke Out Soon After 11 O'Clock Last Night and Prompt Work of Firemen Saved the Building—Insurance in Three Companies.

From Wednesday's Daily

The Norfolk steam laundry, of which Dan Craven is proprietor, was badly damaged by fire last night shortly after 11 o'clock, the fire originating in the partition between the engine room and the dry room. Mr. Craven has not estimated his damages, but they will be large. He has insurance in three companies, so that his loss will be partly recovered. Mr. Craven is bending every energy toward getting in running order again, and hopes to soon have the laundry of his customers delivered, if they will exercise a little patience.

The fire was discovered by John Decker, a hack driver in the employ of D. D. Brunson, and George Craven, nephew of the proprietor, at almost the same instant, light from the flames being seen through the window on the south side of the building. The former was just returning from a drive the latter had gone to the livery barn for a pitcher of water. The alarm was turned in from the laundry building and the firemen were summoned by the siren whistle and the fire bell and were soon on the scene, directing streams of water on the flames with effect and the blaze was soon under control but not before a large amount of damage had resulted, and will require time and money to repair and replace. The fire started apparently in a board partition separating the engine room and the boiler from the dry room, but the evidence is conclusive that neither of these was the source of the fire and the cause of it is among that of many mysterious fires. The board partition had a big hole burned through and the flames ate their way into the pine ceiling overhead. The wood work next to the boiler is scarcely charred and the inside of the dry room was not even singed, showing that these sources, frequently responsible for laundry fires, were not the cause in this case.

The fire appears to have started near the top of a piece of machinery near the window and almost on a level with the sill. There is a steam pipe near that point, but Mr. Craven does not think it probable that it was responsible as steam had not been up since about 6 o'clock last evening, and he had tested the pipe under heavy steam pressure to see if it would set anything on fire. He offers no opinion as to how it may have started, but seems as deeply mystified as anyone who has examined the surroundings.

Mr. Craven lives in a house nearby the laundry but did not know of the fire until he was notified by the men who discovered it. During the time the fire was in progress the heat in the laundry building was intense, especially in the upper portion of the room and it is not doubt but that the building would have been entirely destroyed had the firemen arrived on the scene a few moments later. The fierce heat had cracked almost every window in the building, including the heavy glass in the front door. The pine tar was literally cooked out of the ceiling and almost every belt in the building was destroyed, several of them at a distance of 20 feet from the location of the fire being so badly scorched that they crumbled under the touch like overdone slices of bacon.

In preparation for Thanksgiving the laundry had a big lot of work on hand most of which will have to be done over. That which had been wrapped was protected to a certain extent and some of it was in condition to deliver this morning. Some of the machinery was badly damaged, and the damage to the building by fire, smoke and water is large.

Mr. Craven when seen this morning had not had time to estimate his loss. The building was insured for \$1,200 in the German Mutual, and the machinery was protected in the amount of \$1,000 in the German American and \$500 in the New Hampshire, companies represented by Messrs. Gow and Ransom. The proprietor asked permission to proceed with the repairs at once and made preparations to rush the work with commendable energy.

Last night he had carpenters engaged to begin on the work at an early hour today. This morning he telephoned to Chicago for machinery and parts of machinery necessary for the resumption of business; had made arrangements with the Fremont laundry to care for his out of town custom; had secured the services of a glazier to fit in the broken and cracked windows, and had notified his force that he would probably be ready for them to resume some time tomorrow, and all this was done before breakfast, showing unwonted energy and determination.

Mr. Craven desires the people, especially those in the city, having work with him, to exercise a little patience and he promises to see to it that their laundry is delivered safely with as little delay as possible and hopes to have it out almost on time. He expects to have

his force at work in one part of the building while another portion is undergoing repairs and will probably be running along as though nothing had happened inside of a week.

NEW FEDERAL BUILDING.

Perspective View on Exhibition at the Postoffice.

Postmaster John R. Hays has received from the office of the supervising architect at Washington a perspective drawing of the government building to be erected in Norfolk for postoffice and federal court purposes, at the corner of Madison avenue and Fourth street. The drawing has been framed and occupies a prominent place on the east wall of the postoffice near the money order window. The building shown is a handsome three-story brick and stone structure, of a substantial style of architecture, and will be an ornament to the corner it is to occupy. The lower story, to be used for postoffice purposes is to be built of stone and the two upper stories, for use by the federal court, will be of brick and stone. The view of the building is especially remarkable as disclosing the substantial character of the contemplated structure. Those who expected a more elegant and showy edifice are somewhat disappointed, and some have been heard to express doubts that the appropriation of \$100,000 will be required to erect the sort of building shown. It should be understood that a view of that kind cannot give an adequate conception of the finished building and people are advised to await the completed structure before they express disappointment or criticism. It is not unlikely that when finished the building will exceed all expectations in style and beauty.

Good goods at your own prices at the rummage sale to be given in the Koenigstein block December 12 and 13 by the ladies guild of Trinity church.

WANTED.—Intelligent men and women (good penmen) to collect data to be used in the compilation of Heirlooms of personal Military and Civil history of ex-union soldiers (appropriate Christmas presents); permanent and profitable employment. Address S. H. S., 334 C St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Lady agents wanted to handle our custom made walking and dress skirts. Large profits; corset agents preferred. Ideal Garment Manufacturing Co., Ann Arbor, Mich.

Attend the rummage sale December 12 and 13.

The St. Paul Calendar for 1903, six sheets 10 by 15 inches, of beautiful reproductions, in colors, of pastel drawings by Bryson, is now ready for distribution and will be mailed on receipt of twenty-five (25) cents—coin or stamps. Address F. A. Miller, general passenger agent, Chicago.

Half Rates to Canadian Points. The Wabash will sell tickets from Chicago to many points in Canada December 18, 19, 20 and 21, good returning until January 10, 1903. For rates and all information call at Wabash office, 1601 Farnham street or address.

HARRY E. MOORES,
G. A. P. D., Omaha, Neb.

Tung Po and Teasmaking.
There is but one way of making tea, for

Unless the water boiling be
To pour on water spoils the tea.
The teapot itself should be heated
Very hot before the tea is placed in it
and the boiling water poured on. It
should be scalding hot water, or the
leaves will float to the top.

No less authority than Tung Po, the Chinese poet, is quoted for a recipe for teasmaking. He says: "Whenever tea is to be infused, take water from a running stream and boil it over a lively fire. It is an old custom to use running water, boiled over a lively fire. That from springs in the hills is said to be best and river water the next, while well water is the worst. A lively fire is a clear, bright charcoal fire. When making an infusion, do not boil the water too hastily. At first it begins to sparkle like crabs' eyes, then somewhat like fish's eyes and lastly it boils up like pearls innumerable springing and waving about. This is the way to boil water."

A teaspoonful of tea for two cups, with one for the pot, is the rule.

Saint's Powder Recipe.
In Germany and Italy great honor is paid to St. Barbara, but until now no one has been able to discover the exact reason.

A German officer says that she is honored because the invention of powder is in a large measure due to her.

Berthold Schwarz, a monk, he explains, opened the "Lives of the Saints" on St. Barbara's day and read the story of her martyrdom, after which he reasoned as follows:
"The heart of the Virgin was white as salt, the soul of her tormentor was black as coal, and it was sulphur from heaven which punished him for his cruelty. I will mix these three things, and it will be a wonder if I do not discover the philosopher's stone."

He did mix them, and as soon as he put the mixture in a fire a tremendous explosion followed. Such, according to German soldiers, was the origin of gunpowder.

Petitions and addresses to the sovereign or to members of the houses of parliament, if not over two pounds in weight, are exempt from postage.

FAMOUS ILLUSIONS.

SOME SECRETS OF PROFESSIONAL CONJURERS REVEALED.

How the Mysteries Are Destroyed and the Tricks Shown of Their Charm by a Peep at the Mechanism Behind the Scenes.

A behind the scenes view of the famous illusions with which conjurers have mystified and delighted generation after generation has peculiar fascinations. There are few of us who value our own childish illusions so highly that we will not part with them for the fun of seeing how we have been fooled.

Here are examples of some of the best known tricks:
The box trick is as clever as well known and as old as any. A heavy, brass bound chest is exhibited. An assistant is placed in a large canvas bag, the mouth of which is securely fastened, and the bag is placed in the chest, which is locked and roped.

The box is concealed for a few seconds, and when it is revealed the occupant is sitting upon it, the closed and sealed bag beside him. The cords and seals on the box are intact.

This astonishing feat is accomplished thus: The occupant of the bag has inserted a wooden plug in the mouth while the tying is being done. When the chest is locked, he pulls it out, slips out his hand, pulls off the cords, gets out and replaces the cords over the top of the sack.

By the time the chest is roped he is free. The chest has a secret opening, usually at the end, and while it is hidden he crawls out. A slim man is usually employed to do the trick.

The vanity fair trick is one of the most baffling in the repertory of the black art. A woman stands before a large mirror about ten feet high and placed in a heavy frame. About three feet from the floor is a small shelf placed against the mirror, the bottom of which is about eighteen inches from the floor. The glass having been duly inspected, the young woman mounts the shelf. She then turns to arrange her hair by the mirror. She is asked to face the audience, but again and again turns her back, hence the name of the trick.

Finally, losing patience, the performer thrusts a small screen in front of her, fires a pistol at the spot where she was standing, snatches away the screen, and she has vanished.

The top, bottom and sides of the mirror have been in view all the time and only the center has been hidden for a few seconds.

The secret lies in the fact that the lower part of the mirror is made double, the bottom of the upper part being concealed by a second sheet of silvered glass placed in front of it.

The shelf fits against the line of junction, and enables the mirror to be examined by the audience. As soon as the screen is placed the mirror slides up about a foot into the top of the frame. The bottom of this mirror is cut away in the middle, leaving a hole about eighteen inches square, which was previously concealed from view by the double glass at the base.

Through this hole the lady instantly slips, and escapes by a board which has been pushed forward from behind the scenes while the vanity fair by-play was going on. The glass then slides down again, the screen is removed, and the mirror appears just as solid as it was before.

Another of the most astounding feats of modern magic is that of making a person or object apparently float in the air. A couple of ordinary chairs are placed on the stage—well toward the back, which is draped with black cloth—and upon these is laid a broad, thick plank. A young lady is then introduced and is assisted to place herself in a recumbent position on the plank.

He then draws aside the chairs, and the plank, with the lady on it, remains apparently suspended in the air. To prove that the plank is not supported, the exhibitor takes a large hoop and passes it backward and forward over and around the plank.

Yet there is an attachment. As soon as the lady is placed in position on the board a carriage, placed behind the black curtain and supporting a strong iron bar twice bent upon itself, is pushed forward by an assistant so that the iron bar, which is covered with black cloth, comes out through a slit in the curtain while the exhibitor is pretending to mesmerize the lady. The bar has at its end a very strong clip, and the performer, while making his hypnotic passes, guides this on to the board. The chairs are then removed, and the board remains suspended by the invisible iron bar.

The hoop is passed along from one end until it reaches the bend where the bar passes through the curtain. The performer passes it round the end of the board and himself walks behind, passing the ring along in the opposite direction. Next it is brought back again, and the effect is such that the average spectator is convinced that the hoop has really been passed over the lady and the board from end to end.

Another very effective illusion, arranged upon the same principle, shows the head and bust of a lady supported on a three legged stool resting on a small table. One can apparently see not only between the legs of the table to the back of the stage, but through the space between the stool and the table.

In this case the three legged stool is arranged with mirrors precisely as in the tripod illusion, but the table, which has four legs, is managed differently. A large mirror is placed diagonally under the table, joining to opposite legs. Thus the spectators really only see three of the legs, the fourth being simply the reflection of the first.—New York World.

Much in a Name.

An Englishman who has just returned from an extensive tour through the east tells a good story in which he was one of the principals.

He was one of a party at a banquet tendered to the maharajah of Patiala, at which nearly a hundred guests, representing nearly every branch of Indian life, were present. As a special guest he was seated on the left of the Indian potentate.

During the meal he noticed that the latter partook of some fine Cumberland ham, and, knowing that it was contrary to the Indian caste rules to eat any portion of a pig, he without a thought asked his highness how it was he was eating ham.

The maharajah looked at his plate, then, turning round to his body servant standing at the back of his chair, said: "What am I eating?"

The servant instantly replied: "Mutton, sahib." And without referring to the incident again the maharajah continued his meal.

After the banquet the Englishman related the incident to an Indian judge, and the latter said:

"If that servant had said 'ham,' he would have been headless before tomorrow morning. It is advisable not to notice caste rules when you are with natives of rank."—Pearson's.

Laugh and Live.

Prince Jerome Napoleon was fond of telling the story of his scheme during the Crimean war by which he kept up the spirits of his men. The French army was losing daily large numbers of men through the ravages of the cholera. Marshal Canrobert sent the order to Prince Jerome that he should move his division to Varna. Jerome issued marching orders and added: "Seek out in every regiment all the actors, comedians, clowns, conjurers and entertainers. I will personally arrange a performance and present prizes to the best entertainer." During the whole of the retreat these performances took place for the edification of the division. Prince Jerome is not famous for any remarkable military triumphs, but this one act must at least be put to his credit, for it was undoubtedly due to this method of cheering up his men that his division could boast a death roll at least three times as small as that of any other. These performances were the forerunner of the now famous Zouave theater in the Crimea.

The Wonderful Starfish.

There are scores upon scores of different forms of marine animal life that come within the category assigned to starfishes, but the most singular specimen in the whole group is the splendid astrophyton—the "sea basket" of the sailors. It is truly a wonderful specimen of marine life, having hundreds of long and short, straight, twisted and curled tentacles, and but for the geometric precision of the plan upon which the starlike "body" is fashioned might be mistaken for a miniature, circular specimen of the devilfish. The center of the creature, the "hub," from which the five stout arms radiate, is the body, head and "thinking machine" of our curious astrophyton.

The whole, not including the labyrinthine tentacles, which branch to all the points and intermediate points of the compass, looks for all the world like an animated Fourth of July fire-wheel. The five main arms are divided into three each within a short space from the astro's body, and these three are almost immediately subdivided into innumerable other arms and tentacles, the whole forming a net by means of which it captures its prey and holds its victims until the life has been sucked out of them.

Says That Cut Each Other.
A proverb has been defined as the wisdom of the many and the wit of one; but, clever as this definition is, it is scarcely borne out by a comparison of the most familiar of our proverbs. The following are some of the most striking: "Penny wise and pound foolish" is the exact opposite of "Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves;" "Birds of a feather flock together" and "Two of a trade never agree." "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" and "Out of sight, out of mind," are just as contradictory as "Many hands make light work" and "Too many cooks spoil the broth." So, too, "Delays are dangerous" is the flat opposite of "Second thoughts are best," while the philosopher who invented the axiom "The early bird catches the worm" had apparently never heard of King Alfonso's world renowned saying that "All things come to him who waits." On this particular subject the opinion of the worm and the bird might be worth having.

Surprised His Wife.
A story is told of a Pennsylvania farmer who wore his old suit until every one was tired of it, and his estimable wife was almost ashamed of the bustling man who had been inside it so long. But one day he went to town to sell his produce, and while there he determined to buy a new suit and, happy thought, surprise Eliza. So he bundled a neat suit into the wagon and drove homeward.

It was after night as he hurried homeward, and at a bridge over a river he stood up on the wagon and "peeled" and threw the despoiled old suit in the water. Then he reached for his new clothes. They were gone—had jolted out of the wagon. The night was cold and his teeth chattered as he hurried home. He surprised Eliza even more than he anticipated.

A Good Talker.
Clara—Is Mrs. Flitter a good conversationalist?
Dorothy—Yes, indeed. She makes you think of lots of good things to say, but talks so much that you don't get a chance to say them.—Detroit Free Press.

THE PLAY WAS STOPPED.

But It Was Not by the Orders of the French President.

M. Sardou, the French playwright, once profited by a joke that General Ladmirauff, who was at the time governor of Paris, played on M. Thiers. Sardou had written "Rabagas," and the play had been given its dress rehearsal "in camera." It was displeasing to Thiers, and he undertook to stop its public performance.

As General Ladmirauff was dressing for dinner, about 6 in the evening, an officer entered his dressing room and tendered a dispatch, which, he said, had come direct from Versailles.

The officer went out, and the general, continuing his toilet, said to himself that he was certain that that dispatch was the interdiction of "Rabagas," and, having a friendly feeling for the author, the general left the dispatch unopened when he left the room.

The next morning came a messenger posthaste from Versailles. "Rabagas" was performed last night.

"Without doubt," negligently replied the general.

"But the dispatch?"

"What dispatch?"

"From M. Thiers, interdicting the performance."

"Goodness me!" replied the general. "I left it unopened on the table. See, there it is, the seal unbroken. Still, that makes little difference. Everything passed off well. They nearly blessed the play off the stage, and it will be the same at every performance. Tell M. Thiers that he has no cause for alarm."

"Rabagas" was withdrawn, but not by the orders of M. Thiers.

Hard on the Parson.
Just after the battle of Perryville, in October, 1862, says a Georgia exchange, Dr. Savage, a strong Union man, was at one of his appointments to baptize some children. There was a large crowd, and a sturdy southern matron brought her four children to the altar. "Name this child," said the Union preacher, laying his hand on the boy's head. "Simon Bolivar Buckner," was the reply, which caused a smile to come over the congregation, but the brave preacher went on with his duty.

"Name this child," taking the next in order. "Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard." And the smile grew into a snicker, while Dr. Savage became red in the face. He baptized the young namesake of the soldier and went on with the ceremony. "Name this one," he gasped, reaching for the third. "Albert Sidney Johnson," came the answer. The smile became audible and the preacher apoplectic. Heaving a sigh of relief, he took the fourth child, a little girl, whose gender he fondly supposed would preclude a continuation of heroic reproduction and said, "Name this child." "Mary Stonewall Jackson Lee," came the response that set the congregation in a roar, while the Union parson thought he had held in his arms the whole Southern Confederacy.

Herrmann and Kellar.
The late Professor Herrmann, the magician, was possessed not only of great strength in his hands, but of such skill as would enable him to perform apparent feats of strength which would be impossible to a far stronger man.

His greatest feat along this line was to place two packs of cards together and tear them across.
A friend of his, going into a cafe with Herrmann, met another friend who was accompanied by a quiet looking man with a big mustache.

The four sat down together, and Herrmann was at length induced to tear two packs of cards in half.

"That," said his admiring friend, "is something no other man alive can do."
The quiet man with the mustache coolly picked up the torn packs and tore the halved sections into quarter sections.

Then, as the rest glared amazedly at him, he remarked:
"I forgot to mention my name is Kellar."

It was Herrmann's foremost rival in the sleight of hand business.

Both Come in Bottles.
The father was testing his little boy's knowledge of the story of Noah, which he had carefully rehearsed. The boy had been thinking hard, and his answer to the first question showed that he had at least the virtue of originality.

"Now," said papa, "can you tell me how Noah knew that the waters had gone down?"
The boy hesitated a minute, as if seeking for proper words to express himself; then he said:
"Noah knew the waters had gone down because the dove came back bringing him a pickle."

Olives and pickles were synonymous terms in the small boy's mind for things which come in bottles and which he did not like.

Jackson's Self Control.
On the morning of the first battle of Winchester Dr. Hunter McGuire, Stonewall Jackson's medical director, said to him: "General, I have some very fine brandy. Will you take a drink?"
Jackson replied, "No; I thank you."
McGuire answered, "Don't you like it?"
"Yes," replied Jackson; "I like it too well. That is the reason I do not drink it."

An impressive exhibition of his self control that was Puritan in its self abnegation.

Find sense in blockheads, honesty in rogues, speak well of everybody, and your fortune is as good as made.—Beaumarlais.

AN INCENSE PARTY.

Odd Etiquette of an Interesting Japanese Function.

If you ever receive an invitation to a Japanese incense party, accept it promptly and thankfully. It has no counterpart in our own social system and is as merry and pleasant an affair as can be imagined. The people of the mikado's land have trained the nostrils for generations the same as we have trained the eye and ear, and they display a skill which at times is startling to a westerner. There is an odd etiquette to be followed in these social affairs. For the twenty-four hours preceding the party each guest must avoid the use of anything which can produce any odor whatever. Scented soaps, perfumes, odoriferous foods and even spices must be avoided. These prevent the user from smelling accurately and also interfere with the other members of the party.

When you dress, be careful to put on no garment that has been kept in the neighborhood of camphor wood, tobacco, bouquets, dried blossoms or scented powder. When you reach the house of your host, enter it as softly as you can and as slowly as possible. This is to prevent making a draft by the movement of your own body. Be equally leisurely in opening and closing doors, as a quick movement induces a sudden rush of air. In the drawing room the hostess burns a series of incenses, usually four or five in number. Each guest is allowed to take three sniffs of each incense and must then jot down its name and number upon a card. Each of the four or five incenses is burned two or three times; so that the number of cards will vary from eight to fifteen. At the end the cards are laid out on the table, and the hostess reads the names of the incenses employed, which are checked off upon the cards. The guest who has guessed the largest number receives a pretty prize, which is sometimes a silver or bronze incense burner, statuette or carving. Among the Japanese the average woman guesses correctly about six times in ten, while with the American women the ratio is three in ten.—New York Post.

THE PERPETUAL LIGHT.

Remarkable Lamp in Louisiana That Never Goes Out.

"The most remarkable lamp in this section of the country," said a man who cruises a great deal along the coast to the New Orleans Times-Democrat, "is to be found in the water area between Lake Borgne and Mississippi sound in a lonely, desolate, isolated spot, where the fall of human feet and the dip of oars are heard only four times a year.

"The light is some distance this side of Bay St. Louis and is a little south of Chinchuba. It stands away out in the marsh, but can be seen from the Louisville and Nashville railroad. It burns all the time, day and night, year in and year out. It flickers away for the benefit of the mariners who frequent these waters. It is the Perpetual light. The sun, the moon and stars may come and go, but the light which shines out in the dismal marsh is always the same. It is the one bright thing in a rather dismal stretch of country. Seaweeds grow wild and rank in that region. The land, such as one may see from a railroad train, is a flat and treeless waste. It is without any cheerful aspect, low, gloomy, overhung by insidious mist and a perfect prairie of wild and matted weeds of the kind which flourish in marshy regions. It is threaded by sluggish arms of water.

"Once every three months this lamp is visited by a human being. It is filled with oil, trimmed up and put in condition to burn for three months longer. Thus it is visited four times a year. It is situated so that the winds cannot put it out. It renders good service, never explodes, never goes out, never gets dimmer or brighter, but burns with the same steady power all the time. It has earned the name of the Perpetual light."

Hares That Swim.

I have many times seen hares, several of them at a time, cross a stream to feed on summer evenings and coolly return in the same way back to the woods, says a writer in London News. The act has been quite voluntary, but one thing I have noticed—they invariably sat up to see if they had time to cross before any surprise came. For instance, the movements of a person walking along a footpath in the distance would be watched with some anxiety before the plunge was made. I have also seen snakes swim across streams in the same way, apparently to bask on the sunny side.

The First Women on the Stage.
It is now ascertained beyond doubt that women first appeared upon the stage between November, 1660, and January, 1661. On Jan. 3 Pepsy, that inveterate playgoer, tells us that he saw "The Beggar's Bush," "it being well done, and here the first time that I ever saw women come upon the stage."—Cornhill Magazine.

Aching Voids.

"Brooks," said Rivers, "that's the second time I've heard you use the phrase 'aching void.' I wish you would tell me how a void can ache."
"Well," said Brooks, reflecting a moment, "not to speak of a hollow tooth, don't you sometimes have the headache?"—Chicago Tribune.

There Was No Music.

"What is the greatest fib that ever impressed itself on your experience, Snapper?"
"Well, by all odds, the worst one I ever heard was that your quartet perpetrated last night when they came round to the house and sang, 'There's Music in the Air.'"