

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

OMAHA, NEB. MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 18, 1883.

NO. 310

TWELFTH AND W BLANCHARD

SLAUGHTERED INNOCENTS.

The Horrors of Theatrical Death Traps Eclipsed in England.

Nearly Two Hundred Children Crushed, Suffocated, or Trampled to Death.

The Joyous Light of Many a Home in Sunderland Gone Out Forever.

Some Families Bereft of Five Little Ones—A Frightful Spectacle.

DETAILS OF THE CALAMITY.

LONDON, June 17.—The terrible calamity at Sunderland, Durham county, Saturday evening, is the subject of universal unhappy comment. The hall has been surrounded to-day by distressed and excited crowds. It appears there was an entertainment in Victoria hall by a conjurer, attended almost altogether by children, several thousand being in attendance. The body of the hall had been entirely cleared of occupants, when some 1,200 of the little ones came rushing down the stairs from the gallery. At the top of the first flight of stairs was a door which opened only twenty inches, and thus but one child was permitted to pass through at a time. At this point, while a mass of children were pushing forward, one of them fell and was unable to rise, owing to the others crowding. The result was that the great numbers were pushed down, trampled on and suffocated. The scene was terrible. No effort could stop the mad rush of the frightened children. They came on, pell-mell, though strangely without much shouting, and soon 178 were knocked down and

SUFFOCATED TO DEATH

by others trampling upon them. The greater number of the bodies, which were badly mangled from the trampling, laid seven or eight feet deep. Many of the victims, and others who were not killed, had their clothing torn from their bodies, and this, together with the bleeding bodies of the unfortunates, shows the terrible nature of the struggle. The excitement in town when the news of the disaster spread was terrific. Great crowds rushed to the scene, until twenty thousand persons surrounded the hall. The feeling was so intense that the authorities ordered out the fifty-eighth infantry to preserve order. The work of getting out bodies began immediately. They were laid out in the hall, and the parents of the killed were admitted to identify the bodies of their children. A most heart-rending scene transpired while identification was in progress. Mothers of the dead children constantly uttered piercing shrieks, and many fainted on discovery of the bodies of their little ones.

THE DEATH TRAP.

The stairway from the gallery at the top of the landing on which occurred the pressure which led to the accident, was from five to six feet wide and the gallery door through which the children were allowed to pass, one at a time, which circumstance is regarded as the direct cause of the calamity, was fitted with a bolt which lodged in a hole in the floor, thus narrowing the passage. The purpose of facilitating ticket taking when the audience was entering the hall. The janitor says the scene behind the gallery door was fearful. Some children were fixed upright in the heap and actually

GASPING FOR BREATH.

so great was the pressure of the crowd behind them. The majority of the children in the hall were under 10 years of age. When the disaster happened the janitor and wife, and several others, hastily summoned the by-standers and their work immediately to give the sufferers relief. They first sent out of the building by other exits the little ones still in the hall, by this way averting the fears of a further crush. Those who went to the rescue of the sufferers found the work of removing the heap of bruised, crushed and suffocated, no easy task. Two hundred children were

RESCUED FROM THE FILE.

who were practically uninjured. Many others were found in an unconscious condition, but of these a number were restored and at once sent to their homes. Those who were dead, with a number whose wounds were regarded as fatal, were laid out in the main hall, where local doctors were in attendance, who used every effort to restore those in whom a spark of life could be discovered. An eye witness says he saw lying on the flagstones, a short distance from the bottom of the stairs, seven dead bodies of children. Many of those who came to assist in removing the dead and rescuing the living were utterly overcome by the distressing sight of so many dead and dying children.

THE FATAL LIST.

A number of deaths have occurred since the first report, and the total list is now placed at 186. One of the persons who responded quickly to the call for help, says, many who volunteered to assist in rescuing the children, sickened at the spectacle and fled horrified from the distressing scene. The rescuers' efforts were directed towards reaching the children who were, apparently, alive. So tightly were the victims jammed together it was regarded dangerous to drag them out of the mass, unless less the effort would result in pulling off the limbs of living children as well as mutilating the dead; they therefore proceeded systematically to lift off the topmost. A few of those beneath had survived, and their moaning and low cries of pain could be distinctly heard amid the excitement and cries of the bereaved parents and friends, who were thronging the adjacent streets.

The disaster was referred to in all the churches of Sunderland to-day, and by many preachers of London. Prayers were offered for the parents and friends and victims.

THE STAIRCASE.

from the gallery was a winding one. Both the audience and officials were in the hall at the time of the disaster, and were unaware for some time of the terrible tragedy being enacted at the door. They were not informed until Graham, hall keeper, who, strolling near by the scene of the calamity, was attracted by the groans and gave the alarm. Mr. Fay, who gave the entertainment, was busy packing up his

report, when a man rushed up. He informed him of the disaster and immediately fell down speechless in a fit. Some of the families whose homes were so suddenly darkened.

LOST OVER THREE CHILDREN.

One man and wife pushed their way into the hall, in which lay the bodies of the victims, and without betraying any emotion began to scan the faces of the dead. Recognizing the face of one of his children, the father, pointing with his finger, exclaimed, "That's one." Passing on again he recognized another, and then a third. Staggering in a fit of agony, he cried, "My God! all my family gone," and overwhelmed with grief he sank to the floor. In some houses there are five children dead.

Queen Victoria sent a telegram to the mayor of Sunderland, expressing her grief at the disaster. The children of various Sunday Schools also sent telegrams of sympathy. Flags were at half mast. One Sunday school loses thirty scholars by the catastrophe. Many survivors had their arms broken in the crush, others are suffering from broken ribs or rupture of the internal organs. Graham, the hall-keeper, says the children, not twenty yards from the door, came pressing forward unaware of the tragedy, thus making matters ten times worse than they really were.

A LOST SCHOONER.

MILWAUKEE, June 17.—The schooner T. C. Wilson, thirty-five tons, which left Racine, May 17, the day before the cyclone there, has not been heard from since. It is now thought almost certain she has gone down with Captain Moss and two men, who composed her crew.

STATE JOTTINGS.

The population of Plum Creek has increased during the past year 25 per cent. An average of 10,000 pounds a day of local freight is received at Weeping Water. A number of cattle have recently died in Butler county from the bite of rattlesnakes. The Buffalo county commissioners have decided not to place the U. P. lands on the tax list.

There has been holed, fed and reloaded for shipment at Blair in one month, 445 cars of stock.

The anti-monopolists of Saline county have declared in favor of township organization.

The auctioneer of the Otoe land sale says that he sold to 80-acre tract, on an average, in about three minutes.

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DISTINGUISHED DEAD.

The Busy Life of James Washington Sheahan, the Noted Journalist, At An End.

The Founder of the Chicago Times, and Co-Laborer of Douglas, Dies of Overwork.

Death of Albert G. Bradstreet.

Special Dispatches to The Bee.

CHICAGO, June 17.—James Washington Sheahan, one of the most widely known journalists in the west, and for many years the leading editorial writer on the Chicago Tribune, died at half past 5 o'clock this morning, after lingering at death's door for many weeks. His ailment was extreme nervous prostration, and a general paralysis of the vital functions. Mr. Sheahan was widely known in the west, both from his intimate association with Judge Douglas and long connection with the newspaper interests of Chicago. He was born in Baltimore February 22, 1833, and received a liberal education at the Jesuit school at Frederick, Md. For several years he reported congressionally, and was the editor of the Associated Press. While he was thus employed he became acquainted with Senator Douglas, and at his instance came to Chicago for the purpose of publishing a democratic newspaper. He came here in 1854 and founded the Chicago Times, and made it a local power and the organ of the democracy in the west. It was the most prominent of the leading newspapers of the northwest. In 1860 his comprehensive biography of Stephen A. Douglas was published. During the same year he sold the Chicago Times to Cyrus H. McCormick. The following December, with his former staff of writers, he began the publication of The Post, which in turn he sold to the Republican in 1865. He remained in the office, however, during the administration of Mr. Dana. When that gentleman left the paper in 1866, Sheahan accepted an editorial position on The Tribune which he retained to the time of his death.

BOSTON, June 17.—Albert G. Bradstreet died at his highlands Saturday night, aged 79 years. During the war he was appointed doorkeeper of the house of representatives, Washington, which office he occupied nearly twelve years. He was a lineal descendant of Samuel Bradstreet.

ASHLAND, Ky., June 17.—Dr. Richard Procter was instantly killed at Merriam college this morning by a falling timber. The deceased was well known throughout this section of the state.

Haverly's Plan of Settlement.

Special Dispatch to The Bee.

CHICAGO, June 16.—A New York special says, concerning Haverly's affairs: As far as revealed the plain of settlement is the Chicago board, which has been ascertaining the liabilities, and receive in consideration thereof Haverly's interest in his theatres in Chicago and elsewhere. What Haverly's liabilities are, however, and they are estimated by persons directly interested in their settlement at \$70,000. What will be done with the three theatres English children to use in preliminary contests exactly the same appliances they used in a match. However, says The Gazette, there are not wanting signs that the Americans may give the English a sound beating.

A Heavy Failure.

Special Dispatch to The Bee.

CHICAGO, June 16.—A season of extraordinary excitement prevailed on 'change immediately after the opening this morning, by a rumor freely bandied about that the firm of McGeech, Everingham & Co., who have for a long time past been looked upon as the heaviest dealers in land and other provisions on the Chicago board, had failed. This rumor was verified in a measure soon afterward by a member of the firm circulating among the members of the board and notifying all with whom they were interested in provision deals to close them out. Something in the nature of a panic appeared to seize the provision corner, and for a time the interest in other trading was lost. The effect was seen at once in quotations of land and July option, which yesterday ran up to \$11.75, and closed steady at \$11.50. It sold down to \$10.50 as the initial drop and then kept on descending the scale until \$9.20 was reached, which would be equal in point of comparison to a drop of 40 per cent in wheat. Other options felt the effect in a like manner, but all were in a measure somewhat recovered in tone and at 11 o'clock the July option had gone back to \$9.85, but subsequently again declined to \$9.50. The effort to ascertain the extent to which McGeech had been operating failed, but upon application to the firm and members of the board of trade.

The liabilities of McGeech, Everingham & Co., will be very heavy. The failing market brought in its train plenty of rumors of other impending failures, but up to 11:30 there was nothing definite to report. Members of the broken firm declared to the Associated Press that they would make no statement of any kind before to-morrow. Peter McGeech, the head of the firm, is a resident of Milwaukee, and is styled "The Milwaukee milkman." He is reputed to have been the leader in the number of bull movements on both the Chicago and Milwaukee markets, and failed here two years ago. His firm came prominently before the public two weeks ago by their refusal to receive a large consignment of land from Chicago on the ground that it was tainted, and over which disputed fact an investigation on the board is now in progress.

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Mrs. Nickerson No. 2.

Special Dispatch to The Bee.

WASHINGTON, June 17.—Major Nickerson's second wife did not leave the city with him, as was reported, but has been here for the past three weeks, and has no idea, she says, where the major is. As soon as she was advised of the action of the Philadelphia court, she informed the major that she could not live with him, and they separated. She has not seen him since.

Findings in the Wasson Court Martial.

Special Dispatch to The Bee.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, June 17.—It is rumored that the finding in the court martial in the Wasson case was dismissed from the army, with a term of years of penitentiary servitude, with recommendation to presidential clemency.

Shipping News.

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LOWEY, June 16.—The Bolivia and City of Rome, from New York, have arrived at New York, June 16.—Arrived, the Helvetia from Liverpool, Jason from Amsterdam, and Normandie from Havre.

Crook and His Captives.

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TUCSON, Arizona, June 17.—Col. Biddle arrived with five Mexican women taken from the Apaches. Crook is at Wilcox.

The Tewksbury Alms House.

Special Dispatch to The Bee.

BOSTON, June 16.—The governor, contrary to his former assurances, has approved the warrants, salaries and expenses of the state alms house at Tewksbury, for February, March, April and May, amounting to \$30,000.

THEY WILL FIGHT.

Special Dispatch to The Bee.

THE Contest on the Part of the Demi-Monde.

Special Dispatch to The Bee.

The effort to oust the low women from the territory lying within two blocks of the Third ward school house is being met by the victims with determined opposition and by the residents of the more aristocratic portions of the city with a storm of indignation. Driving them off of their old stamping ground, it is claimed, only scattered them broadcast throughout the city, and they are now to be found in numbers on Thirtieth, Sixteenth and other streets, where they were never before tolerated, and where they offend the eyes of their more faultless sisters, who gather their skirts about them, like the Pharisee, and thank God that they are not like other women.

It will be remembered that thirteen women, in all, were arrested and taken before Judge Bencke as inmates of houses of ill-fame on Ninth and Eleventh streets and a jury trial was demanded in each case. They were arraigned on Saturday afternoon, and the trial of the first case postponed to next Saturday. The jury in the case is composed of M. Goldsmith, D. Keniston, John S. Collins, S. Mortenson, George Duncan, and D. S. Mitchell. The defendants have engaged four attorneys and will make a determined fight. The authorities talk of proceeding also against the parties who rent houses to these women, some of whom are charged with procuring rents by their landladies. It is said that one woman has paid as high as \$75 per month for a house that was not worth \$20 per month.

No plan has as yet been proposed for solving this serious social problem.

A Card in Reply.

To the Editor of The Bee:

In The Watchman of last week there is a drunken maudlin article which contains an infamous personal attack, so pointedly directed to a gentleman in this city, that there is no doubting who is meant thereby. To notice anything that appears in that slandrous and readerless sheet, is as a usual thing considered beneath the dignity of a person of respectability. But as has been truly said, "there are occasions when the significance of the accusation." What the animus of that scoundrelly and groundless attack can be it is hard to imagine, unless it be that the person assailed is an Irishman who has taken an active part and deep interest in advancing the welfare of his countrymen, or because of pure devilish maliciousness. But let that be as it may it is a brutally iniquitous assault upon a character that challenges the closest scrutiny, and is in entire keeping with the nature of the disreputable and contaminating sheet in which it appears. I am authorized by the gentleman referred to in the article, to pronounce that part of it charging him with having sent anonymous letters to certain employes about some one, as a circable, contemptible lie, "made out of whole cloth," and to demand the production of the letters in question for examination and comparison by well-known and honorable gentlemen, with the handwriting of the accused. To those who are personally acquainted with the gentleman whose reputation is sought to be blackened, this denial is unnecessary. It

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