

INFLAMING COITION

A Duplication of the Kato Adams Steamboat Horror.

ON THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS DAY.

The John H. Hanna is Totally Destroyed by Fire.

DEATH JOINS THE MERRYMAKERS

The Awful Sequence of a Night of Pleasure.

BY THE RIVER AND THE FLAMES.

The Fated Vessel's Passengers Either Burned Alive or Drowned by Jumping Overboard—A Similar Catastrophe on the Pacific Coast.

A Terrible Christmas Eve.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 25.—The steamboat John H. Hanna, from Omaha river, with a large number of passengers and a cargo of 8,000 bales of cotton on board, burned last night at Plaquemine, La. It is stated that of 100 persons on board at the time of the disaster, only fourteen are known to be saved. The John H. Hanna was built in Madison, Ind., in 1873, and hailed from Louisville, Ky. She was of 377 tons burden. She was valued at \$15,000, and insured for \$12,000 in local and foreign companies.

Captain J. W. Banks, president of the company, says the latest advice he has is to the effect that the steamboat left Monroe, La., on Sunday at 6 o'clock. Upon being questioned as to the number of passengers on the Hanna, Captain Banks said he thought it was smaller, as there was little travel in that section at present.

A special from Plaquemine says the burning of the steamer John H. Hanna last night, near that place was one of the most terrible river disasters that ever happened in southern waters. The loss is very heavy. About thirty persons perished in the flames, and a large number were injured. The vessel was destroyed. Among the lost are Captain James S. Holmes and First Clerk Samuel R. Powell. Their bodies have been recovered. Captain Holmes' body was terribly burned.

One of the deckhands who escaped says there were about one hundred persons on board and that only about a dozen could be found alive. The engine and pilot were saved. All who escaped were burned more or less severely.

It was just before Christmas day was being ushered in that the steamer was coming down the river. Several of the passengers were seated in the cabin having a merry time and with no thought of the impending catastrophe. Many of the crew and passengers were asleep when the fire broke out and spread with indescribable rapidity. The details of the sufferings and death of some of the passengers are harrowing in the extreme.

The boat had reached a point which was but a short distance above town when a negro roustabout near the boiler room ran out to the deck and shouted that the boat was on fire. John Callan, a stoker, was near the place at the time, and seeing the flames bursting forth from the big tiers of cotton near the boiler ran hastily to the engine room and gave the alarm. Engineer Merriman took in the situation at a glance, and at once sounded the alarm by blowing the steam whistle and ringing the bell. In an instant the flames shot through the cabin and over the sides of the cotton, enveloping the entire boat in fire. Clerk Powell was up stairs at the time, and when he saw the flames, heroically ran through the smoke which filled the cabin and tried to arouse the sleeping people. He knocked at the doors, and in a short time almost everybody was awake. The confusion was so confounding that it was impossible for the passengers to make their way to the lifeboats. The boat was piled high with cotton and the passageways were filled with smoke. Many dropped before they were able to get to the forward part of the boat and were dead when the steamer went down.

As soon as the fire was discovered Engineer Merriman set the steam pumps to working and tried to battle with the flames, but the fire swept through the boat like a blast on a prairie, and the engine room was soon in flames. Then, to add to the consternation, a steam pipe burst and filled the place with scalding steam. Engineer Merriman was forced to abandon his post, and he and the stokers and others ran to the side of the boat and rushed through pell mell to save their lives.

As soon as the smoke and flames began to start up the sides of the boat Captain Jolles, the pilot, sprung his anchor and landed the boat for shore. A full head of steam was up and the boat soon ran into the bank. Before she did so, however, she was doomed. All her timber was furiously burning. When the steamer struck the bank she bounded away again and swung around, drifting down the stream as she burned. Then Captain Jolles jumped over the cotton bales and springing into the river swam ashore.

The sight was a weird one, viewed from the bank, and the town was aroused. Floating cotton, charred timber and other debris filled the river, and many people were struggling desperately in the water for their lives. Some of them were able to swim ashore, but most of them were so badly burned or thoroughly exhausted that they struggled but a few moments and sank to rise no more.

As the burning boat struck the bank of the river the crew and the passengers, who had been able to reach the forward end of the boat, sprang ashore, some of them with wounded faces and bruised limbs, and many of them with scarcely any covering. Among those who managed to get off were Captain Holmes and Bob Smith, the unfortunate pilot of the ill-fated White, who was a passenger. Both men were burned nigh unto death, and the story of the manner in which they were saved is a most interesting one. When the captain jumped ashore he was horribly burned, and in his frantic desire to be relieved from the pain he was suffering, he buried his face and hands in soft mud and begged most piteously for some one to help him. Smith was just behind and was laid out by the side of the dying captain. Nothing could be done for the suffering man, and the two died together on the river bank.

Plaquemine was not slumbering when the fire broke out, and when the discovery was made that the Hanna was burning, almost the entire town flocked to the river bank and watched the vessel burn. The struggling unfortunate who reached the shore were taken care of, and doctors and others

came to their assistance and tried to alleviate their sufferings. The City and Central hotels and private houses threw open their doors to the ill-fated people and fed and clothed them until this morning. The survivors telegraphed accounts of the disaster to their homes.

No one saw Clerk Powell, who displayed much heroism in waking up the passengers, after he had rapped at the doors, and it is quite positive that he was burned to death and went down with the steamer. No attempt was made to save any of the steamer's books and papers, and everything, together with the clothes of the crew and passengers, was lost. The boat burned rapidly after she reached the bank and in a very short time after the alarm was given she had burned to the water's edge. The hull sank and nothing was left of the Hanna but the floating timbers and the burning cotton.

The crew of the boat were J. S. Holmes, captain; George Powell and James Gowen, clerks; Lew Rawlins and Henry Jolles, pilots; J. H. Handley and J. C. Merriman, engineers; Daniel Carroll, Steward; Samuel Bryant, first mate; Mike Cusart, second mate; John Gibbon, sailorman; Iben Duclos and Willie Higgins, barkers; two chambermaids, Mrs. Demery and Mrs. Hunt; Jimmie Handley and Charley Thompson, deckmen; John Rucker and Tom Cullen, stokers. Among those who were lost are:

CAPTAIN J. S. HOLMES, master of the boat. SAMUEL POWELL, chief clerk. BOB SMITH, pilot from Smithland, La. MIKE O'NEIL, night watchman. JOHN CARROLL, deckman. MONROE DECK, first cook. JACK DUFFE, second cook. JOE HARVEY, cabin boy. JIM WATSON, second baker. JOHN CRAFTON, carpenter. Among those who were badly burned are: DAN CARROLL, steward. JOHN O'NEIL, deckman. JOHN GIBBON, sailorman. LOUIS WELCH, roustabout, and a number of others.

The following is a list of the names of those saved: Mary Hamsey, Priscilla Wright and Miss George, colored, passengers; Will Marshall, cabin boy; James Jackson, and Thomas Garrow, both seriously burned. There were on the Hanna thirty-three roustabouts, and eleven belonging to the Josie W. which had been laid up at Monroe. Of these thirty-three are known to be saved, leaving eleven unaccounted for. The following are the names of the lost: JOHN BARLOW, colored. JIM BLANK, colored. DICK BLANK, colored, mess room tender. STEPHEN JOHN and MONROE DIGGS, cooks.

The child of Priscilla Wright (colored). The survivors were all warm in their praise of the humane people of Plaquemine, who, by blowing the steam whistle and ringing the bell, saved them with clothes and shelter after their terrible experience. W. H. Brule, mayor of the city, was especially kind to the survivors.

None of the men could say what was the origin of the fire. The general impression, however, is that some careless smoker threw a cigarette among the cotton bales and thereby caused the disaster.

The death of John Crafton, carpenter, was a sad one. He was in the upper portion of the boat, struggling to get near the front end. The flames were twisting and sweeping all about him. He tried to reach the bow, but dropped and burned to death before the eyes of the people, who were not able to render him any help.

The second barkeeper of the boat said Mr. Powell was standing near him when they both jumped into the water. Powell, who could not swim, climbed on a floating cotton bale, but two deck hands jumped on the bale, turning it over and throwing Powell into the water and he disappeared. The boat was about fifteen yards from the shore when a great many people plunged into the river, and several who reached the bank in safety became bogged in the soft mud, and so intense was the heat of the burning boat that they were burned to death before they could climb up the steep bank of the levee. The fire was so rapid that before the pilot had finished sounding the three alarm whistles the entire boat from stem to stern was a roaring mass of flames, and the scene that ensued was terrible in the extreme. Men yelled and ran about the decks of the burning steamer like maniacs, and others, screaming at the top of their voices, threw themselves into the dark waters and were lost to sight in the twinkling of an eye. The second barkeeper said several persons near him struggled in the water and begged piteously for help, but he could not render them any assistance, because the water chilled him to the marrow, and his clothing clogged his every movement.

The steward, who was an assistant of Daniel Callan, said the crew who were in the Texas were aroused from their slumbers by the flames, which roared over them, and they were compelled to dive headlong from the roof of the boat into the river, and many of them were burned to death while in the water.

This evening the impression prevails that the number of lives lost may not exceed thirty, although, owing to the fact that the steamer's papers were all burned, it is difficult to get the exact number of people on board the ill-fated boat.

On the arrival of the train in this city, the brave captain met the most awful death. He remained at his post of duty until every chance to save the lives of the passengers was gone. Then he attempted to swim to the shore, but it happened to be boggy and he was soon to make frantic endeavors to extricate himself without avail. The burning boat was fast nearing him, and while he was on his hands and knees, he put his hands up to protect his back from the intense heat. It was an awful moment for those on shore, who were making every endeavor to relieve him with skiffs and with ropes from the bank. One man went out to him and placed a box between him and the flames to protect him from the increasing heat. He said: "Never mind me. I'll be dead in a few minutes, anyway. I was finally freed from his terrible situation by tying a rope around his body and dragging him on shore, but too late. He died about half an hour after being rescued.

An Ocean Steamer Burned. SEATTLE, W. T., Dec. 25.—Five and perhaps seven lives are believed to have been lost by the burning of the propeller Levi

Ericsson, of Alki Point, last night. The vessel plies between Seattle and Sydney, and was enroute to the latter port at the time. The fire originated in the pilot house and it is not definitely known what caused it, although it is said to have been a lamp explosion. There were thirty-six people on board at the time, and the vessel was three miles from shore.

The fire spread with mercurial rapidity. Captain John H. Nibbe endeavored to launch the life raft, but found the passengers already struggling to get it overboard. In the struggle to get the raft properly launched the captain was carried overboard with it, while the passengers, seizing the life preservers, firewood, or anything that would float, jumped overboard for their lives.

The steamer Skagit Chief, en route to Tacoma, saw the fire and crowded on full steam to come to the steamer's assistance. Her crew succeeded in rescuing seven people from the water.

The steamer Mountaineer, which was four miles away, also saw the fire, and when within half a mile of the burning ship they found people struggling in the water, and lowering boats, succeeded in rescuing nineteen persons. One unknown man died after being taken out of the water.

The list of the lost, so far as known, is: Miss ANNE TOLNER. J. H. NIBBE, captain of the Skagit Chief. JACK SIMMONS, of Sydney. T. SMITH, of Coity.

And two women and a man, whose names are not ascertained.

Neither of the rescuing vessels went to the burning steamer, as she was completely enveloped in flames.

No Lives Lost. PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Dec. 25.—The steamer Silver Star, of Bar Harbor, was sunk this morning at 1:30 o'clock about three miles east of Whaleshook light. Sixty-six persons were on board, and all were saved.

The following are the names: Andrew Sizer, Kate Sizer, George Sizer and wife, Matt Cox and Mary Morais.

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

The Town of Marblehead, Mass., Nearly Destroyed. MARBLEHEAD, Mass., Dec. 25.—12:30 a. m.—Marblehead is on fire. The entire business portion is in ruins and a dozen firms are burnt out, also the Boston & Maine depot and several other buildings.

The fire started in the building of Daniel Broden, George Church and Thomas Falls, Metcalf's box factory, and other buildings. Two families lived in Power's block, where the fire originated, but fortunately escaped. Nearly the same locality was burned over about twelve years ago.

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The shoe business, which has been quiet for several months past, was just starting up and many operatives will now be thrown out of work the entire winter. The fire is a great loss to the community, and the losses, owing to the great excitement prevailing among all classes.

A \$350,000 Fire at Cincinnati. CINCINNATI, Dec. 25.—A fire which originated early this morning in the works of the Jacobs Cordage company, at Bull and Harriet streets, burned to ashes the factories and dwellings, covering three acres of ground.

The fire spread rapidly in the building in which it started, and soon extended to the yards of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton road, which were filled with cars. These soon caught fire, and though but little was lost by their destruction, the loss to the yards of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton road, which were filled with cars. These soon caught fire, and though but little was lost by their destruction, the loss to the yards of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton road, which were filled with cars.

Train Hobbers at Work. TRUCKEE, Cal., Dec. 25.—The express car on the east bound train was robbed last night two miles east of Clipper Gap. The express messenger, Johnson, and his helper, Miles, were busy in the car when suddenly the train stopped and the robbers sprang simultaneously, and two revolvers thrummed, covering the messengers. Johnson was compelled to open the door and let the men in, with his revolver in one hand, and took from the safe all the coin packages, which he placed in a bag. The men then departed from the train, which was delayed.

Endorses Boulanger. PARIS, Dec. 25.—General Boulanger's cause has received an immense accession in the candidature of General Montauban for a seat in the chamber of deputies. His appearance as a candidate in the department of Somme is favorably received by the Boulangerists, and every chance to save the lives of the passengers was gone. Then he attempted to swim to the shore, but it happened to be boggy and he was soon to make frantic endeavors to extricate himself without avail.

Labor Troubles at Beaver. ST. LOUIS, Dec. 25.—Tribble broke out afresh to-day at Beaver, Mo., the scene of the recent mine troubles. The negroes were the aggressors, but not only did they grow bolder, but attempted intimidation by the free use of fire arms. The militia acted promptly, and to-night five of the ring-leaders are in the guard house.

Freight Train Wrecked. DENVER, Dec. 25.—A freight train on the Midland road jumped the track while rounding a curve near Lime Creek to-day, wrecking cars and killing Freeman Martin and brakeman Robert Harlin.

UNDER THE NAME OF LAW

Sad Story of a Boy in an Iowa Penitentiary.

STOLE TO KEEP FROM STARVING

How Chester Turney Was Given a Mock Trial For a Trifling Theft and Sentenced to Seven-Ten Years.

A Mother's Plea for Pardon.

DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 25.—[Special to THE BEE.]—In Oswego, N. Y., about twenty years ago was born a boy whose life for the past five years has been one unbroken series of misfortunes, such as occur in the world of sorrow and seldom experienced. This boy, Chester Turney, became fatherless at the age of three years. His mother, being poor, was compelled to be separated from her boy in order to make a living for herself and him. She engaged in teaching, and, following the custom of the time and place, boarded around about the residence of the school. The boy Chester was adopted by Rev. James and Mrs. Beecher. Rev. James Beecher was the youngest brother of the late Henry Ward Beecher, and at that time pastor of a church in Oswego. For several years the little fellow remained in their home, where he was carefully trained and cared for. After a while he became necessary for Mrs. Turner to go west to the home of her parents, and wishing to take Chester with her the Beechers gave him up. In their new home Mrs. Turner and her boy found many hardships, but managed to live, the mother teaching, sewing, caring for the sick, and doing all the work of the household. One day while engaged in her usual household work she accidentally stepped through a trap-door and broke her leg. This was indeed a terrible blow to the poor woman. She had by industry and the strictest economy managed to accumulate about \$300, but this sum was soon gone, used to pay for board, clothing, and other necessities. Chester at this time was employed on a farm near the junction of Preston, in Jackson county, Iowa. He had contracted for a year, and notwithstanding the illness of his mother, he had straightened pecuniary circumstances, his employer refused to pay him until the time had expired. The poor boy worked hard and saved, until he had accumulated about \$100, and he still unable to collect his wages, his employer pleading inability to pay. The disappointed boy went to visit his mother, and for several days he remained with her, but the forced recipient of public charity, while he, who through long, weary months had toiled and toiled, and who had bravely endeavored to hide her own anguish and comfort her child, but it may be well believed that it was a difficult task to receive a large sum of money, Chester returned to Preston, thinking that if he were present at the trial of his mother, he would surely get his pay. While waiting for it he worked around the town wherever he could find anything to do, and the severe winter and mental strain proved too much for him, and a long, lingering fever was the consequence. For days he lay in bed, and when he passed away before he could leave his room. At this time came the shocking intelligence that his mother had been sent to Michigan a pauper, and that she was suffering from the climax of her woe. No light penetrated the gloom surrounding him. His star of hope had faded, and he was left to die. A great deal of expense had necessarily been incurred, and he now endeavored to get work in order to pay the proprietor of the boarding house, and to pay for the funeral. One day about this time a young man approached him, and requested him to buy a newspaper, and to read it, claiming to be a friend from home, and without any further explanation to him that he did not wish the articles, but if it would help him he would give them to him. In a short time Turney was arrested for stealing. It seems that some parties in Preston, whom he had offended in some way, determined to seek revenge. Those stolen articles into Turney's possession. He was taken before a justice and fined \$100, and he was sent to jail for ten days. After three days' imprisonment, he was released, but he was still a pauper, and he was burdened by this new sense of disgrace, the poor boy was driven to the brink of despair. He knew his mother was near, and he was a friend to his mother. He resolved to see her and explain his case, and he was on his way to Michigan, but approaching the house in the early morning he found the farmer was not at home and his wife was out doing errands. He would tell her, but concluded he could not, and after talking with her a while passed on. Though the lady kindly invited him into the house, he did not do so, and he was not to have a full explanation of his late terrible experience. Grief for his mother and his own sickness and poverty had completely broken down his health, and he was in a state of despair, and it may reasonably be believed, temporary insanity. Chester fled from the house, and he was seen to enter the woods. For days he lived on nuts, resolving never to go near a human habitation again, but finally the gnawings of hunger overcame him, and he was seen to enter the woods. He fled his retreat, and near the house of a former employer and watched for an opportunity to get into the house. He was caught at length. He went in, and finding the table set for a meal, he took something to eat, and the very revolver, for buying which he had been sent to jail, lying on the table, he concealed himself in some shrubbery in the garden until dark, and went to the house, where he stayed all night. On leaving in the morning he took with him an old Buffalo robe to wrap himself up. About this time he also entered a hardware store through an open window, and took some bags of shot in order to kill game to support himself in the woods. Not far from the store, he was seen to enter the rear door of the store, and returned for it on the following night. During the next day parties had been notified to be on the watch for him, and he was seen to enter the woods. He was caught at length. 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