

REDUCED TO ASHES.

SPOKANE FALLS, WASHINGTON TERRITORY, VISITED BY FIRE.

TWENTY-FIVE BLOCKS AND THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS DESTROYED.

SPOKANE FALLS, W. T., Aug. 6th. —Twenty-five blocks were reduced to ashes. The estimated loss is \$14,000,000.

Owing to a lack of water the fire quickly spread, and was soon beyond control, and it was evident the city was doomed. The flames spread with fearful rapidity. The firemen were powerless. Attempts were made to check the fire by blowing up buildings in its path, but it was useless. From the Pacific Hotel the fire swept across First street to the frame buildings in the next block, and soon reached the heart of the city. The block of two-story brick buildings on Riverside avenue was easily carried away.

From here the fire communicated to the magnificent Hyde block, a four-story building, taking in the whole square between Mill and Howard streets, on Riverside avenue. The fire next leaped across Howard street, and in a few minutes the block between Howard and Stevens street was a mass of red hot ashes. The next structure to succumb was the large structure of red brick known as the Talt block. From these the conflagration went flitting through the solid block of four-story brick buildings, including the post-office, between Stevens and Washington streets. At this point the fire burned out from lack of material.

From the place of origin the fire had, meanwhile, taken another direction, leaping across Sprague street to the opera house and thence over Riverside avenue to Brown's Bank; then both sides of the avenue were in flames. The buildings between Post and Mill streets were quickly licked up, including the Grand Hotel. From here the waves of a flame poured in the adjoining square on the right, containing the Frankfort block, the largest building in the city. The Frankfort cost \$250,000. It withstood the fire for some time, but finally disappeared.

The Arlington Hotel was now enveloped in flames. Suddenly a man was seen to jump from the second story. He arose and started to run down Howard street, but was overcome by the heat and fell. Several people rushed to his assistance and carried him to a place of safety. He was a pitiable sight, having been literally roasted alive, the skin peeling off all over his body. The unfortunate man's name was Chas. Davis. He died at noon to-day.

Northward was the direction taken by the fire from the Arlington. It consumed the block between Howard, Main, Front and Stevens streets, burning east as far as the latter thoroughfare, when a vacant lot checked further progress in that direction. Everything in a northerly direction, including the Northern Pacific Express office, the Union block and the Windsor Hotel was soon a mass of flame.

The river prevented the fire from doing further damage, and was the means of saving all the big flouring and lumber mills. Three hours sufficed to complete the awful destruction. The only business block left standing in the city is the Crescent Building, which was saved by means of tearing down intervening buildings.

Owing to the rapidity with which the fire spread scarcely anything was saved. Provisions are scarce, and will last only a short time. The business district of Spokane was in a strip between the North Pacific Railroad tracks and the Spokane river. This strip was five squares across, and extended about seven squares in length. It was solidly built up with brick and stone structures, the cost of which varied from \$25,000 to \$125,000. Ten banking houses, five hotels, the opera house and many wholesale establishments, doing a business estimated at half a million dollars each, were situated within the district described. The population of the city is about 20,000. The city possessed an excellent water works, modeled after the Holy system, with a capacity of 9,000,000 gallons daily. There were no fire engines, but by the system in use five or six good sized streams of water could be concentrated upon any block in case of fire. The fire department was a volunteer one.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

—Madison, Ind., was the scene of two tragedies on the evening of the 5th. William Johnson fired at Miss Sadie Athie, because she refused to marry him, but fortunately missed her, and then, thinking he had killed her, blew his own brains out. Richard Sisco was shot and killed by George Schick. The latter wounded several others and cut the throat of and dangerously wounded Walter Sisco, who tried to arrest him. At Ensey City, Alabama, on the evening of the 5th, Andy Williams went home and, finding William McCutcheon with his wife, killed them both with a revolver. At Princeton, Ky., on the evening of the 5th, John Hutchins shot and fatally wounded George and Albert Lewis, brothers. A stray shot by Hutchins also fatally wounded Frank Dunn. All the men were farmers, and the shooting was the result of an old feud. At the close of a colored barbers' picnic at Island Park, near Chicago, on the 5th, Colonel Duncan shot and killed Ed. Bennett, because he thought he had insulted Mrs. Duncan. Bennett's friends pursued Duncan and riddled him with bullets, besides cutting and kicking the prostrate body. Duncan died during the night.

—Benjamin Erb, a farmer, of Coville, Ohio, was instantly killed on the 5th, by the accidental discharge of a gun with which he was about to go squirrel shooting. The weapon was discharged by Erb's two-year-old son, who was bidding his father good-by. Mrs. Christina Warfel, of Jeffersonville, Ind., was fatally burned on the evening of the 5th by an explosion of coal oil

with which she was starting a fire. A freight train on the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad ran into a construction train at Elred, Pa., on the 6th, and injured three Italian laborers, one fatally, besides causing a bad wreck. A freight train and two locomotives on the Omaha and Republican Valley branch of the Union Pacific Railway, near Weston, Neb., went through a bridge which had been weakened by the heavy rain. Engineer Mitchell and Yard Master Conklin were fatally injured, and three other train men were badly hurt.

—A staging on which were four men at work on a building on Fremont street, Boston, fell 70 feet to the ground on the afternoon of the 6th. Patrick E. White and Steve Wallace were killed, and Patrick Connelly and Michael Wallace severely injured. The accident was caused by the breaking of a rope. John Steele and George Kemly, of Conshohocken, fell from the Pennsylvania bridge at Stickler, Pa., early on the morning of the 6th, and sustained fatal injuries. Phillip Dougherty, an engineer, was killed at Bechtelsville, Berks county, Pa., on the 6th, being caught in belting and drawn between two massive rollers. Thomas A. Edison's new invention, an iron ore separator, was being tested. Ollie Martin and Maud Saylor, a betrothed couple of Brownsville, Ind., were drowned on the evening of the 4th, while trying to ford the Whitewater river, with a horse and buggy.

—A despatch from Utica, N. Y., says that hop vines of that vicinity have been seriously injured by the blight, and that in many of the late varieties the crop will not pay for picking.

—A telegram from Geneva, New York, says that Professor Brooks observed his new comet on the morning of the 6th, and found it much brighter and the tail longer. While observing it a brilliant telescopic meteor passed directly over the head of the comet, leaving a fine trail of sparks, lasting several seconds. The comet's position now is right ascension, 0 hours, 6 minutes, 20 seconds, declination south, 6 degrees, 48 minutes.

—Harry Moyer on the evening of the 5th shot and killed James McCormack, who entered his tent at Johnston, Penna., and began to abuse him. Moyer is from Norristown, and McCormack, who was a tramp, was from Philadelphia. At Harlan Court House, Kentucky, on the 5th, an old feud between the Turners and the Sowers-Howard faction was revived by several of the Howards demanding of young "Jim" Turner that he leave the State. Turner refused, and one of the Howards shot him dead.

—A heavy storm of wind, rain, hail and thunder passed over the northern section of Rockbridge county, Virginia, on the evening of the 5th, doing great damage. The wheat and grass crops have been almost totally destroyed by the continuous rains. A tornado passed over Kansas City, Mo., on the morning of the 6th, but did little damage to the city. It was followed by a severe electrical storm and by torrents of rain.

—Two explosions occurred on the 7th at Kensington Gardens, St. Louis, where the "Siege of Sebastopol" is being produced. While Richard Lightner and John Smith were making rockets or "flower pots," to be used in the pyrotechnic display, a small explosion took place, and Lightner was burned about the face, neck and hands. A moment later some chemicals used in making the rockets exploded, and one end of the little building, in which the men worked, was blown out, and John Smith was badly, perhaps fatally, burned. William Hartley and a man named Mahler were sleeping in a barn at Sterling, Nebraska, on the 7th when it was struck by lightning and set on fire. Hartley was burned to death and Mahler only escaped after being terribly burned.

—An explosion of naphtha occurred at East Buffalo, on the afternoon of the 7th, on the steam yacht Cedar Ridge, which was about to start on a pleasure trip down the river. Edith and Lacey Crocker were burned to death, Howard Crocker was drowned, and John Rubenstein, a carpenter, was burned to death by his boat house taken fire from the yacht. Three other persons were injured. Two trains on the Richmond and Allegheny Railroad collided near Scottsville, Virginia, on the morning of the 7th. Both engines and about 15 empty coal cars were smashed, and James D. Duval, a train man, was killed. Two trains collided at Washington, Penna., on the evening of the 7th. Rev. J. D. Shanks, of Philadelphia, and a lady passenger were painfully but not dangerously injured.

—A heavy rain fell in the country around Washington during the evening of the 6th. Great damage was done in Virginia, especially along the Washington and Ohio Railroad. There is one bad washout between Falls Church and Torrison, Virginia, about 300 feet in extent, and a bridge between Falls Church and West End was also damaged. No trains passed these points on the 7th, and the clerks in the Executive Department and others who do business in Washington and live at the villages along the road were unable to reach the city except by means of carriages. All the streams in Virginia are greatly swollen, and much damage has been done to crops by overflows.

—J. Frank Collom, a young attorney of Minneapolis, has confessed to the forgery of the name of John T. Blaisdell, whose attorney he was, to notes and other paper amounting to \$227,000.

—A report comes from Denver, Colorado, that the Rio Grande Western train, known as the Modoc, was "held up" by train robbers near Crevasse on the evening of the 6th. They forced the fireman to attempt to chop through the door of the express car but, as he was unable to force the boiler iron door, they gave it up, and went through the train with drawn revolvers and collected \$900 and twenty watches.

—Francis Lyshea, 79 years of age, was run over and killed by cars in the Stanton mine, at Wilkesbarre, on the 7th.

—John Richter and Adolph Whitman, butchers, quarreled at the stock yard in Chicago, on the 7th, and Richter plunged his knife into Whitman's heart, killing him instantly. John McCann, a teamster, was shot in Chicago, on the 6th, by his stepson, James Dolan, receiving injuries of which he died on the 7th.

—A freight wreck on the Nickel-plate road at South Whitley, Ind., on the 8th, resulted from the breaking of couplings and the subsequent collision of the sections. John Randall and Thomas Foyle, who were stealing rides, were killed. Arthur Thomas, aged 18, fell from a canoe and was drowned in the Harlem river, at New York, on the 8th. Fredrick Wartz was drowned while bathing in the East river, and Joseph M. Outlet while bathing at Bay Ridge. Eugene Dearn and a friend, whose name was not ascertained, were drowned in the bay at San Diego, California, on the 7th, by the capsizing of their boat. A 32-pound cannon loaded with ball was fired at Yarmouth, N. S., on the 7th, by parties who did not know it was loaded and who were trying to get the ball out of the breach. The missile passed through several walls and killed James Cosman.

—The Wisconsin Central passenger train from Chicago on the morning of the 8th, was "held up and robbed," between Chippewa Falls and Abbotsford, by one man. The robber entered one of the sleeping cars and relieved one of the sleeping car attendants of their valuables. The porter tried to arouse the passengers, but a shot from the robber quieted him, though he was not hit. The fellow pulled the bell rope, and when the train stopped he jumped off and escaped. While a camp meeting was in progress at Willow Branch, on the Red river, north of Bonham, Texas, a party of men rode up and began firing into the congregation. A panic followed, and some of the men in the congregation returned the fire. For a while a regular battle ensued. The cause of the attack is not known. The preacher finished his sermon strongly guarded.

—G. P. Brown, of the embarrassed firm of Brown, Steese & Clark, of Boston, and treasurer of the Bitter and Oswego Mill Company, left Boston on the evening of the 6th, since which time nothing has been heard of him. Sheriff E. C. Swain, of Paulding county, Ohio, has been found to be short in his accounts to the amount of over \$2000. His bondsman asked to be released, but Swain resigned. John W. Hardee, for five years a probate Judge of Towson county, Dakota, has disappeared, leaving a large indebtedness, and a warrant has been issued for his arrest. John H. Galt, late clerk in the post office at Filpington, was arrested at Canton, in that State, on the 7th, for tampering with the registered mail.

—The finding of the dead bodies of "Ollie" Jones, his wife and two other persons, all of whom had been shot in the back, was reported on the 7th from a small town in the Bitter Root valley, in Western Montana. A young girl who had been shot in the hip was also found in Big Hole Mountain. Jones had only been married three weeks and was on his way to his ranch.

—A Chicago despatch says that there have been from 150 to 175 cases of typhoid fever on Cottage Grove avenue, between Thirty-fifth and Forty-sixth streets, that city. The epidemic is attributed to the pollution of the city water, caused by the recent heavy rains carrying the sewerage out to the source of supply in the lake. Thus far the cases reported have been of a mild type.

—Mail advices from Japan, received in San Francisco, say that about 100 persons were drowned and 12,000 houses washed away, and about 2500 acres of cultivated land seriously damaged in four of the seven cantons, which suffered most from the overflow of the river Chikugo, in Fukuo-ken, by the recent heavy rains. Relief funds have been started in various parts of the Empire.

—Three more bodies have been taken out of the ruins near the lower end of Johnston. One was that of a little girl, and was found in the middle of Market street.

—Rich deposits of petroleum have been discovered in Tabasco, Mexico. Valuable coal mines have been found in the State of Guerrero.

—Steve Brodie jumped from a bridge 80 feet in height over the Falls at Falls, Rhode Island, on the morning of the 8th, and, although he struck on his side, was apparently uninjured and able to swim to the shore.

—Horsemen of both branches of the turf will hear with regret of the death of J. H. Fenton, head of the great horse goods house of J. H. Fenton in Chicago.

WILLIE LEE.

His name was Willie Lee, but no one thought of calling him Willie except his sister. Willie was poor and homely. His hair was what might be called a blue white, his eyes were pale and without expression, and he was altogether a very plain person. He and his sister Mary had a little house in the outskirts of the city near the car barns. His close proximity to the barns and the smell of what led him to think he would become a car conductor. At any rate, he did become one, and Mary, as she used to be weeding in her little garden beside the street, would look up and see him pass and say to herself:

"Now, don't he just look fine with those blue clothes and brass buttons?" His sister's eyes could not see that the navy blue of the clothes painfully brought out the sickly pallor of his face and made his sleepy eyes dimmer. To her he was handsome and the uniform made him handsomer. Mary was partial to uniforms. There was a policeman in that suburb for whom she had the greatest regard, and in the evening when she would go out to watch for Willie's car going by on its last trip the policeman used to come and hang over the gate and she would tell him what a good boy Willie was.

The men at the barns did not know much about Willie. He never met at their gatherings in the office and stables and sung and danced and joked as the others did. Half of them did not know his name, but the timekeeper said his car was always on time and the nickels he turned in were always right in number.

Willie's passengers did not like him either. They said he opened and shut it in the heat of summer and made them sit close on the seats, and gravest offense of all he would make the men go inside the car when there was room instead of standing on the rear platform in a crowd. All this served to make him unpopular, still he never violated a rule of the company, and the keenest "spotter" could never have reported him for a single misdemeanor.

Willie did not like girls. He used to say to Mary, "Girls are a nuisance. I wouldn't let one of them get on my car if I could help it." There was no use trying to get up a flirtation with Willie, he was adamant. A neighbor, rosy cheeked Rachel Moore, had loved Willie ever since they were children and played in the dust of the road before the city had moved down to them. Willie liked Rachel, too, after a fashion, very much as he loved Mary, but he never thought of marrying her or anyone else.

Mary used to say to him, "Willie, suppose I should die, what would you do for a housekeeper?" Mary didn't think of dying, she was thinking of the policeman, and Willie would answer, "Don't talk about such absurd things, Mary." That was all the satisfaction she ever received.

Yet it was through a girl that Willie's life was changed. How these women do change our lives, some in one way and some in another! Willie was superstitious. He said he was unlucky every time he ran on car No. 113. A man had fallen off the front platform and broken his leg, and Willie was always having trouble when he was on it.

One February day car 113 started from the barn at its usual hour with Willie Lee as conductor. Everything went on well all day and Willie was flattered himself that he was going to escape ill luck for once, but she lurks around us when we are least conscious of her presence. It was nearly night and a rain set in. It was nearly dark and the rain made the track very slippery. A young lady who often went down on Willie's car asked to be left off at the avenue and Willie rang the bell.

She stepped off, but as fate would have it another car was coming from the opposite direction, the track was slippery, a new driver was managing the brake, and instead of stopping, as is the usual etiquette in such a case, the car came on. No. 113. A man slipped, and thought he was always slow he made this exception. He jumped from the car and almost threw the girl from the track just in time to save her, but he slipped and fell and was ground under the horses' feet and the cruel wheels. Then the car stopped and the passengers crowded out and around him.

"Is he dead, O! is he dead!" cried the girl when he had saved, and she knelt down beside him, took off his cap and brushed the damp hair back from his forehead.

"No, he is not dead, said a policeman, Mary's policeman, who happened for once to be where he was needed. "He lives just below here. We will carry him to the house." They picked him up and carried him gently into the little cottage. Mary was overcome with fright and would have fainted had not "Teddie" been there to assure her that Willie was all right, "only hurt a bit."

sent from her own home, and she would come and sit on a stool at his feet and talk with him about herself and her daily life until she made him her abject slave and he loved her with a love that only such people have who have never loved before.

She was the light of his life and he forgot that he was poor and homely, a thing he had never forgotten before, that she was as high above him as the heavens are above the earth. When he held her little jeweled hand in his she was sometimes allowed him to do, he would have been willing to have died for her a thousand times over.

Rachel was entirely forgotten. She would come in sometimes to see him, but he would always be sleepy or watching for Helen and would not talk to her. One day Mary saw her eyes filled with tears, and she put her arm around her. "Don't cry, Rachel, he will see the light by and by," she said, and Rachel broke down and sobbed, "I used to think he cared for me, but he don't now."

One day Mary said to him, "Willie, I don't think you treat Rachel just right," but he never heard her. Willie was a long time getting well. Another day he took his car, but the superintendent said he was at liberty to go back any time when he was able. The policeman, too, was in a hurry for Willie to get well. Mary had promised him that the friendship began last year over the onion beds should terminate in a happy wedding, and he had been scanning intently the house hunters' directory for a suitable place to put his bride just as soon as she would consent to become his.

One day Willie made up his mind to tell Helen when she came again just how much he loved her, and when she came in and sat down at his feet and looked at him with her great liquid dark eyes, full of tender solicitude, and asked him how he was, he took her hand and attempted to speak, but could not.

"You are weak yet, aren't you, Mr. Lee? How angry you ought to be with me for having been the cause of all your trouble. But you'll hurry up and get well, won't you?" And she suddenly laid her cheek against the hand she held. "Do you know I am going to be married on Easter Monday, and I want you to come to my wedding."

"Go to her wedding! Go to her wedding!" He said it over to himself, then the room grew dark and everything seemed uncertain, and he fainted.

"It is warm and he is still so weak, and I suppose I talked him to death," she said to Mary, who came in answer to her alarmed calling.

Mary was quick-witted and she knew pretty nearly what had happened, and she told "Teddie" all about it that evening and said she loved Willie, of course, but she thought he had treated Rachel badly, and may be this would be a lesson to him.

For several days Willie was too weak to sit up again in the easy chair. He seemed helpless and unconcerned as to whether he got well or not. Helen had not been to see him since the night he fainted. She was busy with her wedding preparations and just stopped at the gate one day to ask if he was better and wondered if Mary thought he could come to her wedding.

"No, I do not think he can go," Mary said, and she said it coldly, and Helen did not come again.

It was the day of Helen's wedding. Willie heard the carriages roll past on the pavement and he turned his face to the wall and the tears came into his eyes, that had been strangers to tears for years. Rachel had brought in a bouquet of Easter flowers and placed them on his table. There were violets among them; everything to remind him of her. Just in the dusk of evening Rachel herself came in. She passed a moment at the door to see if he was asleep, and as his eyes were closed she concluded that he was. She sat down on the low stool and as her face was partially turned away from him Willie opened his eyes and looked at her slyly.

FASHION NOTES.

What are the facts and probabilities in regard to these very plain and scanty dresses? It is not that the exaggeration of style will soon lead to very different fashions.

Twenty years after crinoline became pronounced very straight dresses were worn. So to-day after the exaggerated "tournure" a return is made to scanty costumes. Some still cling to two double aprons and a small cushion, there are others who will have nothing and dress themselves closely like shut parasols.

Fashion truly resembles an army captain who pursues his terrible work without care for the victims who fall about him. In the same manner fashion pursues its way without regard for the industries that it suddenly stops. What has become of these tournures of all shapes, these springs of which so much was made and which fashion suddenly discards without a thought? Never mind, it is not our business to say adieu to things that have disappeared but to welcome the coming of the new. Let us praise then the grace of our new costumes with their straight skirts round waists of a style somewhat strange but very charming. Gauze draperies, embroidered guipure and black lace are the most approved trimming for these new forms. There are also wide passementeries made like the "Richeben" guipure with its thick embroidery in relief and the heavy weaving of its flowers; upon tulle robes the effect is very pretty. A very pretty dress in Greek tulle has no drapery except on the front the entire length of which is trimmed with elegant embroidery.

Upon dresses of light color in China crepe in batiste in "colonne" much black lace is used as insertion placed flat. For example a rose colored batiste was trimmed on the bottom of the narrow skirt, upon the slight drapery of the back was two bands of insertion of Chantilly not more than two and one half inches wide. The corsage was gathered around a yoke, but what a yoke! made of a great flounce of black plaited tulle extending from the neck to the shoulders. The sleeves "à l'italienne" had the puff of batiste and the plain part in plaited black tulle with small underlayers of lace.

A charming novelty is a dress of Greek or Tosca tulle over a light color. We have seen one over corn color which was very effective. Black tulle and red surah were the exact counterparts of each other, the same narrow skirt and round waist gathered in front and back for trimming a small collar and a jabot of plaited tulle.

There is also fancy tulle which has a tropical elegance. A robe that was remarkable was in black tulle with lozenges in green silk which were larger than a five Franc piece.

Particularly pretty is the tulle embroidered with small or large paws. While we are speaking of tulle let us say to many who have asked us, that Greek or Tosca tulle, in silk, is not durable, it is better not to use it for dresses. It tears and pulls off in the seams. The prettiest of all these tulle is, in our opinion, Greek tulle embroidered with little discs like "point d'esprit." We will mention a very straight dress of this tulle. On the bottom is a flounce of tulle trimmed with nine rows of narrow satin ribbon.

Recamier corsage puffed sleeves, close below the elbow, with satin ribbon the length of the plain part. At the waist a small girde of black Surah with a puff upon the left side. The hat which was worn with this dress was pretty as a dream. It was a broad brimmed yellow straw, of nearly circular shape and plain straw the lining a flounce of "point d'esprit" tulle falling over the border and two knots of velvet ribbon, velvet ribbon was used for strings. We promised a sketch of the jacket "Lesdiguiere" which is very fashionable. A very pretty one is in grass-green cloth embroidered with black braid, the sleeves are of "faulle" and the collar of velvet. There are other models entirely of cloth with sleeves completely covered with braid cases are elaborately embroidered and still others are simply stitched. Whatever may be the trimming the form is always the same, long fronts and the sleeves very full and very high.

We have also seen a costume of Nile blue Bengaline simply trimmed with a scarf of lace, this passes around the bottom of the waist and ends in two long pieces finished with passementerie. Lace scarfs that are gracefully called Marie Antoinette are the most elegant mantles of the season, they are arranged in many different ways as fancy or caprice may dictate. Sometimes as the scarf of "Monsieur le Maire" such as we have first described, falling in two long ends, which relieves the plainness of a round skirt. Sometimes it is as a scarf negligently thrown over the waist which admirably solves the problem of every summer, of wearing something about the waist without the trouble of a heavy outside garment. The scarf "Marie Antoinette" is as light as a feather, a pin is sufficient to hold it in its place and one cannot be embarrassed with it. Another ingenious use of the scarf is a covering for the head. For theatres, balls, promenades in the parks or by the sea-shore, one can no more think of the padded hood or even those of simple Surah, they are too warm. The "Marie Antoinette" scarf simply gathered under a bow, has the great advantage of covering the head, shoulders and even the chest, it is large enough to be drawn over the eyes and so make a sure, elegant and convenient cover for the prettiest heads. All who see these scarfs immediately accord to them their favor and declare them to be a necessity to complete a summer wardrobe.

A large grain of truth, wrapped up in nonsense, writes a Paris correspondent of the Chicago Herald, was the reply of a Chicago girl, while here, to a Boston paper asking of her a fashion letter. "Dress," she wrote, "why it all depends on the way you swing it." This jeu d'esprit went the rounds of the French press, and although it was found an Americanism untranslatable, nevertheless it was admitted that she had caught and caged the Parisienne's greatest charm. The English woman cannot "swing it," at all, the American "swings it" pretty well, but the swinging of a Frenchwoman is a poem.