

APPALLING RAILROAD DISASTER!

OVER ONE HUNDRED KILLED AND FOUR HUNDRED WOUNDED.

An Excursion Train Drops Through a Burning Bridge—Cars Telescoped and Plunged Upon Another. The Disaster Believed to Have Been Deliberately Projected.

CHICAGO, August 11.—A special to the Chicago Times, from Fort, Ill., says: "Last night an excursion train on the Toledo, Peoria and Western railroad went down with a burning trestle, about three miles east of Chatsworth, and over 100 excursionists killed and 400 or more badly injured. The train consisted of six sleepers, six day coaches and four cars, and had on board 960 excursionists bound for Niagara Falls. The passengers hailed from various points in central Illinois, the majority, however, coming from Peoria. The train was heavily loaded. The engines were employed, and was an hour and a half behind time when it passed this place.

Chatsworth, the next station east of here, is six miles off, and the run there was made in seven minutes.

Three miles from Chatsworth is a little slough, and where the railroad crosses a dry run about ten feet deep and fifteen feet wide. Over this was stretched an ordinary railroad trestle, and as the train was passing down it the horror of the disaster when the bridge was burning! There was no chance to stop, and the next instant he was on it. But he went over safely, the first engine keeping the rails. As it passed over the structure fell, and the next engine went down. Car crashed into car, coaches piled upon each other, and in less than two minutes nearly one hundred were crushed to death and many more died shortly after.

On top of the pile were telescoped cars, and every crushed timber and beam represented a crushed human frame and broken bone. The air was filled with cries and shrieks of agony, and above all could be heard the agonizing cries of little children, as in some instances they lay pinned beside their dead parents. The bridge was still burning, and the cars were lying on their sides, the fire reaching the roof of the wooden trestle. There were women and children whose lives could be saved if they could be gotten out, but whose death in a most horrible form was certain if the twisted wood of the wreck caught. There was not a drop of water with which to fight the fire. Only some fifty able-bodied men, who still had presence of mind and nerve enough to do their duty. The only light was that of the burning bridge, and the men were taken to the water with desperation for four hours. Earth was the only weapon with which to fight, and an effort was made to smother it. There was no pick or shovel to be had, and nothing to carry the dirt with, but in their desperation they dug their fingers into the hard, dry earth, built earthenworks, handful by handful, and thus kept back the foe. While this was going on other courageous men crept under the wreckage to reach the fire and wooden trestle which held as prisoners so many precious lives, and with pieces of boards and sometimes their hands beat back the flames. An unfortunate being, who was pinned down by a heavy beam, looked on helplessly while it seemed as if his death by fire was certain. While the fight was thus going on the ears of the workers were filled with the groans of dying men, the anguished entreaties of those who could be rescued, and the terrible blaze could be extinguished. Some of the unfortunates dug up the earth with their own hands, reckless of the blood streaming from the ends of their fingers, and heaped it up in mounds, to help smother the fire, while all the time could be heard heartrending cries, "For God's sake, don't let us burn to death!"

Finally, about daybreak, the fire was extinguished. Help came from Chatsworth, Forest and Piper cities, and as the dead were laid alongside of each other, out in a corn field, there were men around to take them to Chatsworth, while some of the wounded were carried to Piper city. One hundred and eighteen was the awful toll of the dead, while the wounded number four times as many.

When news of the disaster was first sent over the wires prompt aid was at once sent. Before 8 o'clock in the morning, there were plenty of people to do the work that needed such prompt attention.

The town hall was improvised into a hospital. The entire capacity of the little village was taxed, and kind-hearted women dragged from their homes to take their gentle ministrations to the sufferers.

No sooner had the wreck occurred than a scene of robbery commenced. Miscreants were on hand who plundered the dead, taking even the shoes which covered their feet. Who these wretches are is not known. Whether they were a band of pickpockets who accompanied the train or a robber gang who was lurking in the vicinity cannot be said. A horrible spectacle existed at the accident was a deliberately planned case of train-wrecking; that the bridge was set on fire by miscreants who hoped to seize the opportunity offered. The robbers went into the cars when the fire was burning fiercely underneath, and when the poor creatures who were pinned there begged them for help, stripped them of their watches and jewelry and searched their pockets for money. When the dead bodies were laid out, the robbers turned them over in search of valuables. That plunder was done by an organized gang was proven by the fact that sixteen purses, all empty, were found in a heap in the field. Had the plunderers been caught they would have been lynched.

A Mathematical Wonder.

Higginsville, Mo., has a mathematical wonder who doesn't know a letter of the alphabet or one printed figure from another, but who is wonderfully strong on mental calculations, making them off-hand. His name is Reuben Fields, and he is 36 years of age. He claims that his gift was given from Heaven, and says it came to him suddenly when eight years old. He says the Lord made but one Samson, one Solomon, and one Reuben Fields. To the one he gave strength, the other wisdom, and to himself mathematical instinct. He guards this instinct with the utmost care, and will not answer questions unless he is paid, fearing that it will be taken from him should he use it to satisfy idle curiosity.—New York Sun.

Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" perfectly and permanently cures those diseases peculiar to females. It is tonic and nerve, effectually allaying and erasing those sickening sensations that affect the stomach and heart, through reflex action. The backache and "dragging down" sensations all disappear under the strengthening effects of this great restorative. By druggists.

GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

Items of Interest Gathered from Various Quarters.

The Mormons are looking around for a new President.

There is a prohibition war at Alliance, Ohio.

The sculler should be like the oyster, quiet at home in his shell.

Fourteen new cases of cholera and six deaths have been reported at Malta.

The village of Sandusky, Mich., was nearly wiped out by a fire yesterday.

Thomas J. Mooney who set fire to the National Line steamer Queen has been declared to be insane.

"A winning platform" is what the Richmond Dispatch terms the recent declaration of the Virginia Democrats.

From nearly a million members a few months ago, the Knights of Labor have decreased to about six hundred thousand.

A New York boy six years old drank a pint of brandy the other day. It burnt out his life in a few hours.

Judge Bond has again decided against the North Carolina law on non-resident drunks.

A Havana dispatch says that since Wednesday there have been indications of a cyclone southwest of that city.

The disaster to the rice crop on the Savannah river seems almost complete. Only a few hundred acres escaped destruction.

Riots have been general in Iowa, Illinois and Michigan, and the crops which, a few days ago, seemed lost, are now saved.

The Savannah river is up again at Augusta, and it is feared that the rise will equal that which visited the city some days ago.

Small-pox and yellow fever are raging in Havana, Cuba. For July there were 104 deaths from yellow fever and 112 from small-pox.

Mrs. Cleveland is making a collection of New England mosses and ferns for the adornment of the White House library after her return.

General Neal Dow, who is now in Maine, thinks it morally certain that the Prohibitionists will nominate a national ticket next year.

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DAKOTA CLAIMS A POPULATION OF 600,000.

Claims of population are always subject to suspicion, and when they come from a territory which is trying to bluff its way into the Union it is a safe rule to make a discount of from thirty to forty per cent.

A collision occurred yesterday between two freight trains on the Jersey Central road, caused by the neglect of the telegraph operator, who was asleep at his post. One of the firemen was killed and both the engineers and a brakeman were seriously injured.

The Birmingham Northwestern Railroad Company was organized at Birmingham by the election of T. M. R. Talbot, of Mobile, as President, A. Tamm, of Mobile, as Secretary and Treasurer, and Tom Jones, of Corinth, Miss., as general manager. The road is projected to Corinth and has already been surveyed.

Thud Holt was shot to death at Salt Lake Thursday, for a murder committed several years ago. He was four times convicted. Three times he had a new trial on technical grounds, but the fourth time the judgment of the lower court was affirmed.

The first Republican campaign he in Ohio is that Mr. Powell, the Democratic nominee for Governor, has been riding on a borrowed railroad pass. When the Republicans can't invent a better one than this it is evidence that they are tackling a man with a mighty white character.

The reports submitted by the Board of Examiners for promotion in the War Department show that all the clerks examined in the Paymaster General's office, twenty-three in number, passed successfully, and that but one clerk out of twenty-four examined in the office of the Chief Engineers failed to pass a successful examination.

A serious rupture in the Grand Army is threatened by the rapid increase in the membership of the National Veterans Association. The new order was founded in Iowa by men who are not willing to be represented by such creatures as Tuttle, Lodges have been established all over Iowa, and the organization will soon spread to other States.

Mayor Sutton, of Wilkesbarre, Penn., nineteen Councilmen and the Street Commissioners were arrested on the complaint of a woman for failing to keep the streets in order, and for allowing stagnant water to accumulate, from which foul smells arise, dangerous to the health of the community in that part of the city, and harmful to property interests.

Mr. R. Dill, of Somerset, Pa., died the other day from the effects of other administered by the distinguished surgeon, Dr. Agnew. The brother of the dead man is inclined to blame the doctor, but he is exonerated by the unanimous voice of the medical profession. Ether is fatal in one case out of 10,000 and Dill happened to be the ten thousandth man.

The following from a Georgia paper, is a fish story. A gentleman of America says Elmer river was so low last week that the cat-fish left the water and invaded the woods and fields. They nearly devastated a field of corn for Lucius Hunsdon, living several miles from the river. It is said that the noise they made in pulling the corn was equal to a hundred head of hungry cattle.

They have a United States district judge in Indianapolis by the name of Woods, for whom the Sentinel does not cherish the highest regard. He is a man who has a "Woo" in his name. Are his perceptions so blunted that he is unable to discern the line, vivid as lightning, that distinguishes between a judge and a juggler, law and legerdemain?

Ex-Governor Moses, who knows how it is himself, has written a 1,400-page book on reform in prisons. In it he alludes to the opium habit, to which in former years he was a slave, but which he is now free from.

They have a good brick, put together in order, and a good mortar, resist the force of the most violent storms. Good buildings, therefore, afford some protection. The fact that no structure will resist a column of air whirling along at the rate of 800 miles an hour should not deter people from building their houses in a proper manner. A tornado that will destroy a well-built house is no more among the probabilities in this latitude than is a destructive earthquake.

The Cotton Movement.

The New York Financial Chronicle, in its review of the movement of the cotton crop for the week ending on the night of August 5, says that the total receipts have reached 1,499 bales, against 2,581 bales last week, 3,295 bales three weeks since; making the total receipts since the 1st September, 1885, 5,206,178 bales, against 5,996,290 bales for the same period of 1885-6, showing a decrease since September 1, 1886, of 100,118 bales.

The exports for the week reach a total of 14,100 bales, of which 17,056 were to Great Britain, 87 to France, and 2,256 to the rest of the continent. The total sales for forward delivery for the week are 555,900 bales. For immediate delivery the total sales foot up 10,230 bales, including 6,217 for export and 4,013 for home consumption.

The imports into continental ports for the week have been 20,000 bales. These figures indicate an increase in the cotton in sight of 73,000 bales as compared with the same date of 1885, an increase of 10,319 bales as compared with the corresponding date of 1885, and a decrease of 337,045 bales as compared with 1884.

The old interior stocks have decreased during the week 710 bales, and were, Friday night, 23,500 bales less than at the same period last year. The receipts at the same time have been 2,893 bales less than the same week last year, and since September 1 the receipts at all the towns are 73,790 bales less than for the same time in 1885-6.

The total receipts from the plantations since 1st September, 1886, are 5,184,130 bales; in 1885-6 were 5,470,574 bales. In 1884-5 the receipts from the plantations were 6,099 bales, the actual movement from the plantations was only 5 bales, the balance being taken from the stocks at the interior towns. Last year the receipts from the plantations for the same week were — bales, and for 1885 they were 2,716 bales. The decrease in amount in sight Friday night, as compared with last year, is 105,371 bales, the increase as compared with 1884-5 is 749,382 bales, and the increase over 1883-4 is 715,000 bales.

The Chronicle says that the speculation in cotton for future delivery at New York has been fairly active for the week under review, and the course of prices has fluctuated so sharply and widely as to afford the regular room traders full scope for the employment of their peculiar tactics. There was a considerable decline on Saturday, as the adverse reports from the growing crop lacked confirmation; but on Monday the reports from Georgia and the Carolinas that heavy rains had caused floods, with continued dry weather in parts of Texas, caused a more active market. On Tuesday the failure of Liverpool to respond to our advance was attended by a decline, and a further yielding of values on Wednesday morning was followed by a quick and full recovery on reports of a renewal of heavy rains in the sections above named. On Thursday the market was unsettled, without important change, but made some advance in the later dealings, when the speculation was quite strong. Friday the market was variable and without important change. Cotton on the spot met with a moderate demand for home consumption. There was a decline of 3-16c. on Saturday last. Monday there was a fair business for home consumption on the basis of 10c. for middling uplands.

Beluga says one of her only ten cents a pound, and this is a satisfactory thing on earth to see boys going fishing.

WHY TORNADOES SPARE LARGE CITIES.

A few years ago an expert employed by the United States Signal Service declared that there was no conceivable reason why a tornado should spare a large city. He even went so far as to say that it was possible that a funnel-shaped cloud would one day strike New York, wrecking the city and twisting the great Brooklyn bridge into a corkscrew.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean takes a different view—starting out with the assumption that the immunity enjoyed by large cities in the past is solid ground for the belief that there is no danger to be apprehended. It is, nevertheless, admitted that a whirling aerial shaft having a diameter of 2,000 feet, and moving at the rate of 800 miles an hour would crush the most substantial buildings like so many eggshells.

The reason is very plain, and may be easily understood, even by people unversed in scientific details. The tornado that is so feared is a simple, whirling shaft of air caused, as we believe, by the wind currents from nearly opposite directions, of unequal temperature and different degrees of humidity. When it is fairly started on its course it generates immense quantities of electric fluid. In fact it becomes a swiftly moving dynamo, generating enough electricity to make it luminous, and leaving evidence of the burning fluid in its pathway. It is the theory of some who have written on the subject that the tornado is primarily caused by electric action, but this we think is an error. The mistake is in placing the effect for the cause. But it is certain that after its inception electricity is generated, and that the subtle fluid becomes one of the most important factors of its destructive force.

"Passing over the country, the tornado follows the general trend of the larger cyclonic storm, or area of low pressure. It obeys the natural law of all bodies in motion, moving in the direction of the least resistance. A mountain, or other considerable elevation of land, will break it up or turn it aside. A city like Chicago presents an obstacle sufficient to repel the electric current and turn it to right or left. The city bristles with rods and spires, and is covered by a netting of electric wires. These, together with the vast aggregation of metallic structures, disarm thunder clouds of their destructive force, and at the same time evidently tend to repel the more highly electrified tornado. It is well known that death or damage by lightning is of very rare occurrence in the centre of any considerable city. The bolts may strike in the suburbs, but if they descend in the city they are arrested by much more swiftness and certainty than a depredator is caught by the best."

However consoling all this may be to the dwellers in large cities, and however strong the temptation to swallow the theory whole, there still remains a very interesting question—how large must a city be to turn aside a well-developed tornado?

One thing, at least, seems to be established. In the smaller towns it has been found that buildings constructed of solid masonry and good brick, put together in order, and a good mortar, resist the force of the most violent storms. Good buildings, therefore, afford some protection. The fact that no structure will resist a column of air whirling along at the rate of 800 miles an hour should not deter people from building their houses in a proper manner. A tornado that will destroy a well-built house is no more among the probabilities in this latitude than is a destructive earthquake.

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Terry's Lucky Widow.

There is a long and curious story behind the announcement made, with a good deal of sensational flourish, that a fortune of \$7,000,000 has been left to Mrs. Kate Louise Terry by her late husband, Ivan Petro Terry, who died in Paris, where the lucky widow is still living. The \$7,000,000 will probably be cut down a good deal, but if the fortune reaches half that sum Mrs. Terry is an extraordinarily fortunate woman.

Her life up to the present time, if accurately depicted in a novel, would make interesting reading. Kate Louise Norman (her maiden name) came hither from England in childhood with her father, who settled in Brooklyn, and eventually became a judge there. She is now about 32 years of age, handsome, of good figure, and a style that has a good deal of dash in it. It was to her good looks and her style that she owed her court-room marriage to Ivan P. Terry. Before that she had been the wife of the notorious bank burglar, Charley Bullard, who is now said to be serving a long term of imprisonment in Belgium. The marriage to Bullard took place in England, where she was visiting, when she was about 16 years old. Bullard then went by the name of Charles Wells. He was a smart fellow, with a fine address and plenty of spending money, and the girl he married knew nothing about his real character. He took her to Paris, where he opened a sort of American bar-room on a showy scale, and installed his pretty young wife as cashier. She naturally attracted a good deal of notice, and the venture prospered for a while. Bullard gave up, however, and brought his wife to New York. It was then she found out who and what he was. Another wife soon turned up, and the couple separated, never to meet again. The second wife took her two children and went off on her own account. How she lived till she met Terry does not appear to be known. He was the son of a millionaire sugar-planter in Cuba, and had made some money himself. They were married without any loss of time, but the subsequent proceedings were not entirely harmonious. A number of little unpleasantnesses occurred, and led up finally to a police-court sensation. Mrs. Terry was of a decidedly jealous turn, and once on going through her husband's pockets, after the manner of widawake wives, she found a guinea ring from a young woman explaining why a certain appointment was not kept. It is needless to say that the letter did not improve Mrs. Terry's state of mind. After thinking a while she set a trap for the young woman, and caught her in it. Then she called on her at home to give her a talking to, and got turned out for her pains. That warmed her up still more, and her next step was to make a charge against the young woman of appropriating certain money that she said she missed. Then came the police-court sensation, in which the two women played prominent parts, and which the reporters had a fine time writing up. After a great deal of wrangling the charge was dismissed, and the second woman, a Miss Atwood, soon after retaliated by suing Mrs. Terry for slander. She claimed \$25,000 damages, and a jury awarded her \$300, but as Mrs. Terry had no property in her name to levy on the judgment is still unpaid. Miss Atwood will try pretty hard to collect it when Mrs. Terry returns to New York as a millionaire widow, if she does not return. Her husband's will has been received there for probate, and she will probably follow it. The unborn child is expected next month.

Mr. E. H. Hallock, agent for the Dr. Harter Medicine Company, of St. Louis, to whom attention has been called by the Orangeburg Times, of that place, warning the people against him as an enemy of the South, visited our town last week. Mr. Hallock appears to be a man of at least fifty years. Is quiet, unassuming and mild in his manners, and his conduct in Marion was in every respect perfectly in keeping with that of a gentleman. He is a native of Pennsylvania, lived for some years in Iowa, but had resided with his family in Greenville, Tennessee, ever since the war, is a Democrat and always has been. His explanation of the attack satisfies us that it was a piece of spite on the part of a debtor, with whom he had some difficulty about money matters. The worst thing we heard him say on politics and men was that we of the South would have a better opinion John Sherman if we knew him better. We believe from the general bearing of