

came unbearable, and the smoke was so blinding and stifling that the men were obliged to cover their mouths with cloths.

Just opposite the millions of feet of burning logs, where the heat and smoke and flames were the greatest, a terrible thing occurred. The engineer had forgotten that such great heat would surely warp the rails. Suddenly there was a lurch, an ominous heaving and a shriek of despair as the train toppled over into the hell of fire beneath. A scene ensued never to be forgotten by those who escaped, though every man will bear to the grave the mark of that awful moment.

#### THE CARS CAUGHT FIRE

like so many playthings and the men within, half blinded and scarcely realizing anything except that they were being slowly roasted to death, struggled fearfully to regain the track, where safety lay for the time at least. Those uninjured from the fall and only smarting from the pain of the intense heat bravely turned their burned and blackened hands to aid the more unfortunate fellows.

At this hour (10 p.m.) it is impossible to secure details, though it is known that Superintendent Badger of the Sinnemahoning valley railroad, who was in charge of the train, went down under some of the wreckage and was undoubtedly

#### BURNED TO DEATH.

Six others also miserably perished at once or died soon afterward, and thirty others of the party were badly burned, many probably fatally, having inhaled the flames. Seven others of the party are missing and their fate unknown, though they are likely in the charred wood of the logs or train. The remainder of the party saved themselves by lying down in the creek.

Relief parties started as soon as the fearful news spread, but will hardly be able to reach the place of the wreck unless the fires have burned themselves out. Owing to the great devastation done to everything in the way of the fire, communication is badly interrupted and it is impossible to learn the names of the men burned or missing.

As to the damage, it is known that 40,000 hemlock logs and 25,000 cords of valuable bark have already been destroyed and the fires are raging without any appreciable diminution. The people are praying for rain, as it seems nothing but a drenching will quench the flames. Millions of beacon lights seem to be burning from every mountain and hillside and the air is so oppressive that many workers faint from exhaustion and are dragged away from the flame, that has done nothing as yet but steadily advance. Twelve solid miles of timber in one district has already been burned and the end is not yet.

New York has an anti-kidnapping league. Its object is to prevent sane persons from being placed in lunatic asylums. Its lawyer is Albert Beech. He says that Miss Clarissa C. Lathrop, author of "A Secret Institution" was placed in an asylum without due process of law. He is also positive that Miss Anna Dickinson's insanity was certified to by a physician who had never examined her.

#### THE PIGEON-MESSENGER SYSTEM.

From Noah's time to the present day pigeons have been used for messengers, both in peace and war. The Greeks were familiar with their use, and employed them as messengers, teaching their utility to the Romans, who used them to great advantage during the siege of Modena. During the siege of Paris in 1870, communication between the authorities at Tours and the beleaguered city was maintained by means of the homing pigeon. More than one million private messages and dispatches were carried over the heads of the German army, conveying the only intelligence received of the sufferings of those within the invested city to the outside world. The messages photographed on a thin film of collodion, a single film containing twenty-five messages, and one bird could carry a dozen films. They were inserted in a section of a quill, which was bound to the tail feathers by passing a silken cord through holes pierced in the ends by a red-hot steel point.

The importance attached to the use of this bird by the French authorities today can be seen from the fact that foreigners are not allowed to release them on French territory, or even enter with them for that purpose without a passport, setting forth the conveyer's name, birthplace, present residence, number of pigeons, number of panniers, number of seals, impression of seals, and name and place of toss. The strict letter of this document must be complied with or the person having the birds in charge will be refused admission and be compelled to return with them. Several shipments of Belgian fanciers were so treated during 1890.

The military pigeon service of Germany is the most perfect in the world. The fortresses of Metz, Cologne and Strasburg have each from four to six hundred trained birds. The annual vote of credit for such purposes is \$8,000. The commandant of the place is responsible for the birds, and is assisted by a non-commissioned officer, two private soldiers, and a keeper, the latter receiving \$20 per month. On the western frontier Cologne communicates direct with Berlin, 300 miles distant, and is a transmitting station for Metz and Mayence. Strasburg and Metz communicate with the capital through Wurzburg.

France expends \$20,000 on her military pigeon system. There are no less than ten stations in Paris, the capital being communicated with from points at great distances by way of Landes, which communicates also with Marseilles and Perpignan. Lofts are stationed about Grenoble, the Alps, the Pyrenees and the most important towns north and south of the country.

Where the birds are used in one direction about 200 are maintained, 150 for each direction after the first, so that where three courses are covered there are 500 pigeons.

The Russian government expends 10,000 roubles in maintaining a pigeon system. Posen, Thorn, Konigsburg, Tovarrik, Stettin and Kiel—in fact, every important part of the country is in communication, either directly or indirectly, with St. Petersburg by means of homing pigeons.

Experimenting recently, a photograph of the winter palace was taken in a balloon, the plates packed in envelopes impenetrable to light, and quickly carried to the station at Volkood.

In Belgium, the birthplace of the homer, the mile has been flown in less than one minute at all distances from 54½ to 215½ miles, the last given distance occupying but 161 minutes, or the mile in 50.4 seconds. Pigeon flying is the national pastime in Belgium, as baseball in America and cricket in England.—*Chicago Herald*.

#### DEATHS.

GARDNER.—At West Jordan ward, Salt Lake county, May 6, 1891, of paralysis; Duncan, son of William and Janet Gardner, in the forty third year of his age.

GARDNER.—At Annabella, February 15, 1891, of old age; Father Elias Gardner. He was born in the State of New York, April 2, 1807, was the son of William and Nancy Graves Gardner, was baptized into the Church in 1834. He magnified with honor the various grades of Priesthood which he held. After passing through the persecutions in common with the early Church in Ohio and Nauvoo, he came with his family to Utah in President Young's company. He was one of those who in 1859 were called to settle Payson, where he resided with his family, until 1862, when he was called on a mission to England, where he remained three years, doing a great work, and where he will be remembered yet by many. Brother Gardner was the father of eighteen sons and twenty-seven daughters. He was a man of great physical endurance and enjoyed perfect health even up till the day of his death. He was a true, upright man, whose career was eventful as well as beneficial to his fellow man, and lived as he died, a faithful and true Latter-day Saint, honored and respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

*Millennial Star*, please copy.

SOLOMON.—In the Twenty-second Ward, May 6, 1891, Wilford Q. son of Alfred and Mary Louisa Solomon; born September 21st, 1839. He has been a sufferer from his birth.

#### CURRENT EVENTS.

##### Released from Prison.

Henry Triples, of Burrville, Sevier county, after serving a sentence of eighteen months for unlawful cohabitation, was liberated from the penitentiary on Saturday, May 9th.

F. J. Larsen, of Price, Piute county, who had served a two years' sentence for the same kind of offense, was discharged on Monday, May 11th.

##### Italy Peaceful.

NEW YORK, May 1.—Chevalier Louis Contencina, president of the Italian Chamber of Commerce, accompanied by his daughter, arrived on the *Teutonia* this morning. He said while he was in Rome he made it a special point to have an audience with the Italian cabinet in reference to the New Orleans affair. "The Italian government," said the Chevalier, "though feeling keenly the outrage perpetrated upon their countrymen, never intended to dispatch, as rumor has it, war ships. Italy is only too anxious to maintain the friendly feeling it has with the United States, consequently the report that it was about to recall the Italian legation at Washington is absurd."

##### Y. M. M. I. A. Notice.

The Stake officers of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associa-