

on the south side of the street. In the Haymarket Theatre the fire was confined to the upper story, but the whole building was filled with smoke and water.

The first intimation the inmates of Kohl & Middleton's Museum had of the close proximity of the fire was when some one opened a window on the third floor, through which a volume of smoke poured.

#### A WILD PANIC

followed among the 400 persons in the building, the most of whom, fortunately were on the first floor watching the variety performance. They were apprised of their danger by the stampede on the upper floors, and as they arose to their feet and fled precipitately toward the front doors, fire appeared at the rear windows, increasing the terror.

The emergency brought out a hero in the person of Policeman Sheehy. Forcing his way through the frightened people, who were madly retarding each other, he stationed himself at the head of the stairs and, drawing his gun, declared his intention to kill the first person refusing to obey orders. By his coolness and determination he succeeded in quieting the panic, and with one exception everybody reached the street safely. The exception was C. H. Messenger, who jumped from a window before the officer reached the stairs, and was frightfully injured. Several people were following him, but stopped horrorstricken long enough to be roped in by Sheehy and his little gun. One old lady fell when near the bottom of the stairs and broke her arm.

As soon as Officer Sheehy cleared the people out he went up to the third floor, where scores of monkeys were caged. He wrenched apart the iron bars of the cages so that the little monkeys could escape, but with the innate perversity of sheep they scampered upstairs and were burned to death. The policeman nearly lost his own life getting down stairs.

The excitement among the freaks who were on exhibition on the third floor was pitiful. They were practically unable to help themselves and were with difficulty restrained from throwing themselves from the windows. Madame Carver, the 900-pound woman, seized her son, dragged herself to a rear window and was about to throw the child out, when she was restrained by Manager Belmont, who with difficulty escorted them down stairs.

A. D. Lafayette, the father of the big-headed boy, who was so top-heavy that he could not navigate alone, seized the boy, and while leading him out found the Albino girl, almost blind and groping about in the smoke. With the big-headed boy under his arm, he seized the Albino, dragged her to the stairway and soon reached the street.

The fire in the Haymarket Theatre was discovered just twenty minutes before the close of the last act. The smoke was barely perceptible when the manager stepped out on the stage and tried to persuade the audience to file out in order. At this moment some one yelled fire and a panic seemed imminent. The excitement was partially subdued by prompt work on the part of the ushers, and the theatre was soon cleared without any one getting hurt.

Just before the west wall of the Smyth building fell, a venturesome boy climbed up to the third floor of the building adjoining and stood watching the flames. When the walls toppled and the smoke cleared away he could not be seen, and it is feared he went down in the mass of debris. While the fire was at its height the sidewalk at Union and Meridian streets collapsed, precipitating forty people into an excavation beneath. Mrs. Bessie Higgins was fatally injured and several others painfully hurt.

When the fire broke out, Dr. J. Z. Bergeron was attending Mrs. Sarah Macks in a flat in one of the buildings subsequently burned. When fire got too close, Bergeron seized the suffering woman, and wrapping her in some blankets, descended three flights of stairs with his burden and carried her to a refuge near by. In less than fifteen minutes a fine girl baby was born, amid the crash of falling walls and shouts of firemen. Both mother and child are doing well. Dr. Bergeron lost a valuable set of instruments and his overcoat and hat, but tonight was happy in having saved his patient.

The Episcopal Cathedral on Washington boulevard caught fire from flying sparks, but the flames were extinguished before any damage was done.

One of the exciting incidents was the panic which seized the boarders at the Haymarket hotel. When the flames leaped across the street about forty occupants of the hotel, including the servants made a wild rush for the back stairway. The latter is a narrow, winding affair and became blocked, resulting in the mob being badly bruised and frightened before getting out.

Charles Menger was asleep in his room and was nearly suffocated, with one side of his face badly burned, when he was found and carried out.

IT TOOK FORTY-FIRE ENGINES and 300 firemen to bring the fire under subjection. Several times it seemed as if the men would be compelled to abandon the engines, so intense was the heat, but, urged by their superiors, they managed to withstand it by turning the hose on themselves. The nerve displayed by the firemen was heightened by the fact that all the time they knew that at least 100 barrels of oil, varnish, etc., was stored in the basement of the Smyth establishment, liable at any time to cause a terrific explosion. They flooded the basement, keeping the oil barrels completely covered.

#### LOSSES.

John M. Smyth's loss on stock and building is fully \$500,000; Kohl & Middleton, museum, \$85,000; Neely Bros., boots and shoes, \$20,000; A. Kampfer, jeweler, \$45,000; Alfred Peats, wall paper, \$80,000; Mirrman, tobacconist, \$25,000; Hanna & Hogg, liquors, \$20,000. The miscellaneous losses of the other firms and the Haymarket Theater will bring the total up to a million. The insurance is light. Smyth carried but \$125,000. Kohl & Middleton and Mirrman had allowed theirs to lapse, as they expected to move in a couple of weeks. The insurance of the other sufferers is light.

The Overum rolling mill near Vestervik was burned down the other day.

#### RANDOLPH ITEMS.

We have had a long winter; the snow is about fifteen inches on the level yet. I think we are all April-fooled this time, or will be, as our hay stacks are smaller than they ought to be considering the snow. But for all that we are enjoying ourselves immensely; in fact, it seems as though we are running to the extreme in dances and theatres; two or three a week is about the average of late and all well attended.

Our mutuals are in a flourishing condition. We meet every two weeks conjointly, and alternate weeks separately. We have a magazine every two weeks, written by the members of each society; it is very encouraging to hear it read. It can readily be seen there is an improvement being brought about by our meeting together. We had the pleasure of a visit from Brothers Himes and Osmond, of the M. I. Stake presidency; they held three meetings here and two in Woodruff; all were well attended and a good spirit prevailed.

We have had several additions to our settlement the last year, in the shape of substantial dwelling houses. They are in advance of the Pioneer houses (log houses); they are brick and frame, and the outlook for the coming season bids fair to continue in the same course. We do a driving business here. Three stores, two blacksmith shops, two lime kilns and one brick yard, and the last, but not the best, is a whisky shop (or it should be a temperance saloon), but nevertheless such it is, but it sells liquor all the same to those who can be trusted with such secrets; but it leaks out like an old bucket with a hole in it.

About one year ago the proprietors of the place applied to the county court for a license to sell spirituous liquors. The court thought \$800 per year was about right, and so stated, but the otherside felt as though it was too large a sum for their small pocket books, so they sold liquor with open doors to all who applied, for some time. They then applied again. This time they succeeded in getting one for three months at a \$800 rate. Now with that three months license they have continued to sell whisky (no, whisky is too good a name for the stuff) continuously since that time; we have had more disgrace and contention in the last year than in ten years before. Young men from 14 years and upwards have been welcomed inside; in fact, any one who has a nickel. Our district school house is about eight or ten rods from the above saloon.

Our trustees now do as they please, instead of trying to be servants to the people as they should be. There is a truism which says as with the priest so with the people; it should read,—as with the teacher so with the pupils, in our case. Our trustees are of the "Liberal" nature; hence the trouble. I don't wish to be understood that all "Liberals" here are of that class; far from it; we have those who are perfect gentlemen, attend to their own business and let others alone. Then we have the other class. At our next election we will have to elect two trustees.

The health of the people is not very