

arms of the fireman. Just then the ladder slipped and everyone below expected to see both the rescuer and the woman he was trying to save dashed to death on the pavement below. By a tremendous effort, however, McAfee steadied himself, and holding Mrs. Armiger with one hand, grasped the balcony with the other. Hanging thus he slowly replaced the ladder with his feet and brought the now fainting woman down in safety. In the meantime the other inmates of the front rooms were crowding to the windows making the most piteous piteous for help. The people below shouted to them not to jump, but Alice Williams disregarded their warnings, and with an appalling shriek, sprang from the fourth story window, struck the stone step-full upon her forehead, fracturing her skull and sustaining other injuries from which she will die. An attempt was made to succor the other unfortunates by means of the doorway on Charles street, but when a policeman burst in they were met by such a volume of smoke and flame that they were driven back.

In the rear room on the second floor were Eleanor and Virginia, the unmarried daughters of Mr. Armiger. They were partially dressed, but so rapid was the spread of the flames that they had no time to escape by the stairway. In their extremity they leaned far out of the rear window and cried for help. A neighbor came to their aid, and under his cool-headed directions, Miss Virginia lowered her younger sister with a sheet and throwing a mattress out of the window, leaped to the yard below. She alighted in safety, and beyond the shock and a slight injury to her ankle, escaped unhurt.

By this time the firemen had reached the scene and in a twinkling had reared long ladders up to the windows, both front and rear. Up these they warmed and in a few minutes the remaining inmates of the doomed house were carried out.

Today's tragedy is the third of a similar character which have visited this city during the past year. The first was that in which Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Whitelidge were killed by falling from a ladder down which Mr. Whitelidge was endeavoring to carry his wife, after having refused the services of the firemen. The fire occurred on January 15, 1895, at 13 West Bidule street.

The other resulted in the death of Mrs. Roscoe B. Heath, a daughter of the late Commodore Kittson, of St. Paul, and occurred at 29 West Mount Royal avenue, on March 24, 1895. Deputy Fire Chief McAfee, today's hero, was presented a medal at the time for heroism in endeavoring to rescue Mrs. Heath.

A more recent disaster was that at the old Front street theater on December 26th of last year, in which five persons lost their lives during a senseless panic caused by a false alarm of fire.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—E. F. Wiltse, of California, is registered at the Waldorf hotel. He was assistant engineer of the famous May Consolidated and other mines in Africa, of which John Hayes Hammond, now under arrest, was the chief. Mr. Wiltse is thorough-

ly posted in Transvaal affairs, having lived several years in and around Johannesburg, and his sympathies are all with the Uitlanders.

"I presume," said Mr. Wiltse last night, "that what you more particularly want to know is about the American element in the Transvaal. Well, the Americans are not numerous, but they are influential, and I may add, popular with the Boere, while the English, naturally enough, are hated. And here, I may remark that though many of the raiders might have entertained annexation ideas when they followed Dr. Jameson, the American element did not, and I believe, in fact I know, that the movement was one in the direction of reform. I left the country before the raid, but I, as everyone else, knew that trouble of some kind was brewing, for the reason that the state of things was growing more and more intolerable to the Uitlanders or foreigners.

"As for my friend, John Hayes Hammond, he is an American, heart and soul, and would never think of having to do with a movement looking to the overthrow of even an oligarchical republic. He is the same as Dr. Jameson, and the men generally who are making out of the Transvaal one of the richest and most prosperous regions on the earth's surface, with a splendid future. I could speak more especially of matters in the Transvaal from inside knowledge I possess, but prudence compels me to silence. The concessions lately granted by the Boer government to three companies go to show, were they inquired into, that this innocent administration of Paul Krueger has an eye to the main chance and is not lacking in cordiness.

"In conclusion I may say that the American element in South Africa is one of beneficence. It takes in the most influential and progressive of the population and has, in an engineering sense, control of the Rand mines, which mines are the richest in the whole world. Why, they are not half developed nor will they be until the Transvaal has a more liberal government. As for the future no man knows what it will bring forth, though we can all guess. That there will be vast changes is certain."

HAVANA, Feb. 25.—Close to Mora castle, at the entrance of this harbor, is a beach termed Playa Chivo (goat's beach), so-called on account of the many goats which browse in its vicinity. It transpires today that one night last week a sentry on duty at the castle saw some whitish-looking forms approaching stealthily. The soldier challenged the approaching forms and, receiving no answer, discharged his rifle at them. The shot aroused the garrison of the fort, the guard turned out and a number of other soldiers opened fire upon the supposed enemy, with the result that the latter disappeared.

The next morning an examination was made of the beach, and several goats were found dead about the beach, killed by the rifle fire of the soldiers, who must have done better shooting than usual when engaged with the insurgents. Considerable amusement was caused by this fact, and the affair was upon the point of being forgotten, when persistent rumors were circulat-

ed in this city that a number of insurgents, said to be thirty-five men, had been executed near Mora castle during the night. The report was denied by the Spanish officials, but it continued to circulate until the captain general not only felt called upon to make an official denial, but ordered an investigation. Eventually the matter narrowed down to the following fact:

Some soldiers questioned concerning the firing were foolish enough to say they believed a number of insurgents had been executed on the beach during the night.

The Spanish authorities have detained Charles Micaelson, the correspondent of a New York and San Francisco newspaper, and his assistant, Lorenzo Betancourt, both Americans. They are charged with having disobeyed the orders of the mayor of Mariago in leaving that place and going into the insurgent stores at Punta Brava and Guano de Marino.

It now seems to be definitely established that Antonio Maceo was not killed near Placetas, as was generally believed.

United States Consul General Williams has had a prolonged conference with Captain General Weyler with reference to Messrs. Micaelson and Betancourt, two American newspaper correspondents who were arrested today. Up to the present time Mr. Williams's efforts on behalf of the prisoners have been without any result.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—A Constantinople dispatch to the Times says Lord Salisbury has sent a reply to the communication which the sultan instructed Coktaki Pasha to make to the British government, inviting England to regulate the situation in Egypt with suzerain power, on the basis of guarantees being given for the security of communication between England and India.

The Times correspondent says Lord Salisbury, in his reply, says the Turkish ambassador's suggestions are too vague. The sultan has therefore appointed a commission consisting of the grand vizier Hahil Rifat Paana, the minister of foreign affairs, Tewfik Pasha, and the president of the council of state, Said Pasha, to formulate a concrete proposition on the subject.

FLETCHERS, N. C., Feb. 25.—Funeral services over the remains of Edgar W. Nye were conducted by Rector H. H. Phelps and Rev. Thomas C. Wetmore at Calvary Episcopal church, one mile north of this place today. The people of the community turned out en masse to pay their last earthly tribute to their distinguished and warm hearted neighbor.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Commissioner Shields has ordered the release of all men arrested in connection with the Bermuda alleged filibustering expedition, with the exception of Gen. Garcia, Capt. Hughes and two other leaders. These will be arraigned before the commissioner at once.

The prisoners were released because the arrest was in violation of instructions sent out from Washington last week by Attorney General Harmon, that suspicion was not sufficient ground for arrests, but evidence of intention to violate the neutrality laws was required.