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AMERICAN.

PHILADELPHIA, 12.—Eighteen raving maniacs were burned to death in the insane department of Blockley's almshouse, on the west side of Schuylkill River to-night, in a conflagration which needed nothing to make it the most horrible disaster of the kind ever known in the history of the city. The fire originated in a wing of the old building of the insane department of Blockley which fronts towards the Schuylkill River and is directly east of the main buildings of the almshouse. This wing is 145 feet front and 60 feet deep, connected on the south with the main building of the old structures of the insane department, which runs south 400 feet to a similar wing to the one in which the disaster occurred. In this north building, where the fire broke out, there were sixty separate cells for violent patients, twenty on each floor. In addition to this, there was a large room on each of the three floors, on which cots for 12 men were placed, all of which were occupied when the fire broke out. On the second floor, opposite the central cell of the row of separate cells on the north side of the corridor, which runs from east to west, was the drying room, which was about 10 feet square, was directly alongside the middle stairway leading to the floors above and below. Here the flames originated; but from what cause is not known. At the time, there were insane patients in each of the 20 cells on these three floors—10 in the large room and 12 in each of the large rooms on the second and third floors. From all accounts to be obtained, it appears pretty certain that the first alarm was given by an insane patient on the first floor of the main building. This man, Joseph Nadine, occupied a room adjoining the stairway and the dining room, with about 20 other quiet patients. About 10 minutes to 8 he saw smoke issuing from above the door which opened into the wing in which the cells were situated. He ran to the big iron-grated door, fronting on the main corridor of the building, and cried "Fire!" This fearful sound reached the ears of Joseph Schroeder, attendant on the ground floor, who was in his room, directly opposite the one from which Nadine had given the alarm.

Mrs. Umpstead, who had general charge at night, said it was about 8 o'clock when the alarm reached her. She was in her office, about 200 feet from the drying-room, and at once hurried to the scene. She says that an attempt was made to put out the flames with buckets of water, and at first it was supposed the flames were only burning from the ground floor near the stairway, but in almost an instant it was found that the real point from which the danger came was the second floor, at the top and above the drying-room. She then hastened to get all the patients from the main building, extending back from the east wing.

Attendant Schroeder takes up the thread of the story at this point, and thus relates some of the horrors of the dreadful night:

"I do not know who sounded the alarm. As soon as I heard Nadine's cry, I rushed to the foot of the stairway, and after a short attempt to check the fire, at once set to work to get out the patients. First, I unlocked the door of the room in which Nadine and his companions were. They ran out at once. By this time the flames were gathering in fury, and dense volumes of smoke were ascending into the upper stories. I succeeded in unlocking the doors of all the cells on the first floor, and, although with difficulty in some cases, I succeeded in getting the inmates out. I had no time to look after them further than to run them into the yard, for the flames were getting so fierce it was almost impossible to breathe in the now fiercely burning building. The smoke in the upper stories was so thick that breathing was impossible. While I was getting the men out below, attendant Wm. Strain was doing the same for the inmates on the second floor. I met Hanna, nightwatchman, who was also helping, and we went up to the third story, but were driven back by the flames, which had forced their way through the stairway and were creeping along the cells of the doomed inmates. We ran around to the other stairway, near the new buildings on the west, and by that time some firemen arrived. All the inmates had been gotten out of the second story, so there remained about twenty-eight on the third floor—twenty in the cells and eight in the large common room in the west end. The unfortunate occupants of the cells were being smothered to death by smoke or perhaps blistered and burned by the flames. Their cries were heartrending. Some of them cursed and swore; others laughed hideously, and others yelled with pain, with such awful cries as would have appalled the hardest heart. The firemen, myself and a patient named Rafferty, crawled on our hands and knees to such of the men as we could reach, and dragged out fourteen; eight of them alive, four suffocated to death, and two so terribly burned that they died before we could get them out of the building. We could not see any of the men in the cells, of course, but we could hear their horrible cries above the roaring of the flames, as they came to realize

the terrible fate that was in store for them. While Schroeder was going through this fearful experience, the flames were extending to the main building of the department. The wing in which the victims were being burned alive was wrapped in flames, which were shooting many feet into the air and illuminated the city for many squares. At half past eight the alarm had been struck, and in half an hour a general alarm was sounded. When the firemen arrived, the fire was enveloping about one-third of the main building and burning fiercely. Two plugs in the yard gave an insufficient supply of water. A truck arrived on the scene soon after the first alarm, and its ladder was quickly run up to the third floor to the windows of the cell in which the maniacs were fastened. With axe and hook the firemen attacked the iron gratings of the cells, and succeeded in taking out seven men, four of them suffocated to death and three alive.

The last man rescued was the notorious "Jim" Burke, who has been in the institution over thirty years. He was brought from the Eastern penitentiary, where he was undergoing a life sentence for murder. He has killed, since he has been in the insane department, a cook and two attendants.

At 6.30 the inmates turned out of the various wards were, as far as possible and as soon as could be, provided for in a secure part of the almshouse. Many of them, however, escaped into the city and wandered about the streets, where they were captured by the police and either returned to the institution or locked up. The bulk of them were taken to the hospital, and a large number placed in the clinical lecture room of the hospital. The women were stowed about the hospital as far as possible, and all were finally cared for. Nine bodies were discovered and placed in the dead room. All the inmates of the insane department were rescued safely, except those in the third story of the wing, in which the fire originated.

The total loss of life is 18. There is nothing except wild theorizing as to what caused the fire. No facts are known which would justify any statement whatever. At 1 o'clock this (Friday) morning the entire group of buildings making up the insane department were in flames, and there was no prospect of saving any of them, although the firemen then had the fire well in hand and all other department buildings were safe. The loss to property will amount to about \$150,000.

Dr. Biddle, member of the hospital committee having charge of the insane department, says there were absolutely no means of subduing the fire. There will be an investigation at once.

A rumor prevailed at the almshouse grounds late to-night that some 40 of the most violent patients, who were confined on the upper floor, all perished. This rumor could not be traced to any authentic source, and it is believed by the attendants questioned in reference to it, that the patients on the upper floor were all rescued and will be accounted for in the morning, or as soon as the prevailing confusion and excitement subsides.

The buildings were erected in 1830, and were only partially insured.

Philadelphia, 13, 2.30 a. m.—The firemen have the fire under control; that is, they have the neighboring buildings protected and the fire is allowed to spend its fury on the insane department building alone.

MARSHALL, Texas, 12.—An attempt was made to wreck a passenger train on the New Orleans division of the Texas Pacific railway late last night below Marthaville, Louisiana. A rail on the bridge was taken up. Fortunately a freight train struck the bridge half an hour ahead of the passenger, which carried 200 lives. The engine and 11 freight cars were hurled from the bridge. The engineer and firemen miraculously escaped unhurt. Two boys were arrested charged with the crime, but is believed they were incited by others to commit the deed.

FORT SMITH, Ark., 12.—Another bloody affair is reported to have occurred at a dance in Indian Territory. Last Friday night Ned Bounds gave a dance at his house in the Chickasaw Nation, at which whisky flowed freely, and nearly everybody got drunk. Two men engaged in a fight; the friends of both interferred and the fight became general. E. F. Craig and several strangers were killed outright and a number of others badly wounded.

CHICAGO, 12.—Five men were asphyxiated in a sewer late this afternoon. Several days ago the main sewer in Kinzie Street, five feet in diameter, became clogged, and to-day a gang of 11 men were sent to clean it. Nine went into the sewer with a scraper fitting the formation of the sewer, dragging it from manhole to manhole, while the other two remained above ground to draw up the mud and dirt through the manholes. Between Halstead and Union streets, an unusually long time was consumed. Finally, the foreman, bending down at the mouth of the manhole, heard a cry for aid, and going down found the men near the opening, some of them gasping for breath and others lying dead. There was a very strong smell of gas. A rope was passed down to him, as the survivors were unable to climb up the ladder. After two had been assisted, the foreman found himself failing from the effects of the gas, and was obliged to go to the surface. Another man went down and rescued three and a third assisted the remaining four. Four were dead when brought up and another died soon afterward.

PHILADELPHIA, 13.—The fire of last night, at the almshouse, entirely des-

troyed that portion of the institution set apart for the insane. Of 634 lunatics confined there, many are missing, but it is thought most of them have wandered away. At 9 o'clock this morning, two more charred bodies were found in ward No. 2. They had been roasted beyond all recognition. Several human forms can be seen in burning wreck in the cellar. It is now thought that 23 of the inmates perished, as that number of violent patients were locked in a cell on the third floor and could not be reached. Eight of them had been taken out and the others have not been accounted for. It seems there is no doubt that they are lost and their remains are among the ruins. During the night many of the insane persons were found wandering in different parts of the city, some nearly naked. The poor creatures generally seemed unable to understand the situation and in some cases begged their captors piteously not to throw them into the river. Others seemed to take it as a grand joke and laughed gleefully when the subject of the fire was mentioned. Another came flying down South Street early this morning with a manacle attached to his wrist, a few links of chain dangling from it. He shrieked and laughed as he struck right and left among the frightened people. It was found necessary to use violence and knock him down before he could be secured. Another madman caused a panic in a street car by rushing in half clad and with his face scorched and blackened, he sank cowering in a corner. It was soon found he was more frightened than those who ran away. The report that the streets were full of escaped maniacs caused much alarm in West Philadelphia and strangers looked upon each other with much distrust. Firemen are still working among the ruins. They are weary and half frozen, each man's helmet and coat appearing as hard as armor, but the search for bodies continues steadily. There appears to have been a great deal of unnecessary trouble caused by the rotten hose and scarcity in the water supply.

WASHINGTON, 13.—On motion of Thompson, a bill passed the House this afternoon, of a good deal of interest. It amends the Union Pacific act so as to allow the construction of a road from Sioux City westward via the Niabrara Valley to Granger, Wyoming, on the Union Pacific, west of the 100th meridian. The object of this is to cut off a bend made in the eastern portion of the Union Pacific, which will, it is said, shorten the distance from Chicago to San Francisco 250 miles. The bill has not yet passed the Senate, but probably will. It does not grant any lands to the company to build the road, but does make the road, when built, a section of the Union Pacific, so far as relates to prorating, exchange of freight cars, etc. It is understood the company stands ready to begin the building of the road at once.

CINCINNATI, 4.—Times-Star's Zanesville, O.: The Muskingum river is gorged from here to McConellsville, thirty miles.

NEW YORK, 14.—The examination in the Short-Phelan case began to-day, by Justice Patterson at the Tombs Court. The court was filled with spectators. Captain Phelan's arm still hung in a sling. The police sergeant took charge of the Captain's large revolver which Phelan carried in his pocket.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 13.—In the Arab camp near Dulka Island, deserted after yesterday's fight, were found copies of official documents addressed to "The Faithful" by El Mahdi. One document is in the form of an encyclical letter, and states that the prophet took Khartoum by storm on the 26th of last month; that he killed the traitor, Gordon, and had captured his steamer. The document ends with the word: El Humdu Allah! say yib: Praise be to God.

General Brackenbury telegraphs under date of Kerbikan, 11th, a translation of the Arabic document found near the camp deserted by the rebels on Tuesday. It was found by a private soldier in a donkey's saddle about 400 yards beyond the captured position. It is from the Governor of Berber to his faithful followers. The document begins: "In the name of God," etc., and continues: "To-day, after midday prayer, I received a letter from the faithful Khalipp Abdullah Eden Mohammed, in which he says Khartoum was taken Monday, ninth Rabi, 1302, in the following manner: El Mahdi prayed and blessed the troops, when they advanced toward the fortifications. They entered Khartoum in a quarter of an hour, killed the traitor, Gordon, and captured his steamers and boats. God has made him glorious. Be grateful; thank and praise God for his unspeakable mercy. I announce it to you."

The ninth Rabi corresponds to January 26th, European style. The foregoing confirms previous reports that Gen. Gordon was killed.

A dispatch from Kerbikan says: A visit to the scene of to-day's battle shows that the enemy's position was strongly fortified and carefully protected by screens, stones and rocks. The South Stafford regiment was only able to capture the high ridge by climbing on their hands and feet. The ridge is about 400 feet high. Prisoners say they were greatly surprised at our appearance in their rear, as they thought the British came from Berber. The enemy are not massed at Berber. It is believed that Gen. Wood has

been appointed to succeed Gen. Earle. The latter was highly esteemed. He was regarded as one of the most brilliant, brave and popular soldiers in the British army.

KORTI, 12.—A convoy of British wounded—9 officers and 39 men—arrived here to-day from Gakdul. They bore the journey well.

LONDON, 13.—Gen. Wolseley is compelled to remain at Korti, owing to the importance of the communications constantly passing between him and the government.

LISBON, 12.—It is announced that the government of Portugal and the International African Association have been enabled, through the mediation of England, France and Germany, to reach an understanding in regard to the rights claimed by each along the river Congo. This understanding is in complete harmony with the status secured by the association in its conventions with the powers which used their offices in the mediation, and it is understood that Portugal is preparing to sign an agreement with the association similar in every respect with those already signed by Russia, England, Germany and France. The report of this action by Germany is not wholly credited here, and is published under reserve.

PARIS, 12.—Miss Eva McKay was married to-day to Don Ferdinand Julius Colonna, Prince of Galatea. The ceremony was private, and was performed with pontifical high mass, by Mgr. De Reude, Papal Nuncio, in the Nuncio's chapel in this city. But forty persons were present.

VIENNA, 12.—A man, who gave the name of John C. Coleman, and who claimed to be a citizen of the United States, was sentenced to eight years' penal servitude, for passing counterfeit £5 notes of the Bank of England. During the trial it was proved that he belonged to an international band of forgers, who imitated the paper money of various countries, and worked off the spurious bills at a distance supposed to be safe.

LONDON, 13.—A dispatch from Korti says Col. Sir Rudvers Buller will probably attack Metemneh next Sunday. The rebels are taking no aggressive steps.

KORTI, 13.—It is expected that an attack will be made upon Metemneh Sunday.

It is reported that numbers of the Mahdi's troops have left Khartoum for Kassala, for the purpose it is supposed, of meeting the Italian advances.

LONDON, 13.—Conservative papers charge the government with suppressing Gen. Gordon's diary and letters, in which Gordon stated that he sent Col. Stewart away from Khartoum in order to save his (Stewart's) life, intending himself to meet death at Khartoum, as he knew no help could reach there in time to rescue him.

When Parliament assembles, the production of the dispatches to the government in regard to the Soudan campaign will be demanded.

The Canadian voyagers with the Nile expedition left Alexandria to-day in the steamer *Poonah*, which will convey them direct to Queenstown. There they will embark in the steamer *Hanoverian* for home, and will reach Quebec the first week in March. A dispatch from Gen. Wolseley compliments the voyageurs for their services.

A syndicate has made an offer to the government to construct a railway from Suakim to Berber, building block houses at intervals to guard the line, if guaranteed 4 per cent income on the capital invested.

ROME, Feb. 13.—*Fanulla* states that the third expedition from Italy to the Red Sea will leave Naples at the end of the month and will consist of two battalions of infantry, a section of artillery and a company of engineers. That paper also says the government is considering a project to establish a regular packet service between Naples and Suakim, Assab, Aden and Massowah.

LONDON, 13.—The recent dynamite explosion in the House of Commons, has demonstrated the fact that under existing rules governing the admission of strangers to the galleries and lobbies of the Houses of Parliament, it would be an easy matter for dynamiters to convey explosives into the buildings during the session of Parliament and cause the death of many of its members, government has consequently decided to adopt more stringent measures regulating the admission of visitors. Members of Parliament in future will not be allowed to introduce strangers into the galleries and lobbies. The Speaker of the House of Commons will alone have the right of granting tickets of admission to visitors, and he will only issue tickets to members for their friends after having received a week's notice, so that in the meantime the antecedents of the proposed visitors can be inquired into. Turnstiles will be erected at the entrance to the galleries and lobbies, and experienced detectives posted at each of the turnstiles to scrutinize strangers.

LONDON, 13.—It has been decided to take no steps looking to the calling out of the reserves till after Parliament assembles.

MADRID, 13.—The *Imparcial* makes the charge that France has established a protectorate over lands on the west coast of Africa, which belong to Spain.

Suakim, 13.—Small parties of hostile Arabs have reappeared to menace the garrison. The spy returned from Heshim, the place where the reconnoitering party of Hussars and Egyptians was attacked on the 3d inst. The Hussars got as far as Haudowb without opposition, but having on their

way out burned a native village without reason, they were attacked on their return at Heshim, which is about three miles from Haudowb. The attacking party lay in ambush, and the Arab fire was so terrible that the Hussars could not face it, and saved themselves total annihilation by retreating at full gallop to rear, to Suakim. Eight Hussars and three Egyptians were lost. Colonel Neeman, commanding at Suakim, in reporting the incident, stated that the officer in command of the Hussars had exceeded his authority in ordering the burning of the Arab village.

Spies were at once sent out to ascertain the fate of the missing troops. A spy who returned could learn nothing, but he found in the desert, near the fight, several articles of clothing which evidently belonged to the missing men. The spy fetched these articles to Suakim. All were pierced as if by spears. The spy reports that he found the enemy encamped at Heshim.

MADRID, 13.—Earthquake shocks were felt to-day at Terra del Campo, 40 miles north of Granada. The hospital was seriously damaged.

LONDON, 14.—Another dispatch from Korti states that messengers who have arrived there from Khartoum profess ignorance regarding the fall of Khartoum or the death of Gordon. The Mudir of Dongola refuses to credit the reports concerning the capture of Khartoum and the massacre of Gordon and the garrison. The authorities here announce this afternoon that they do not believe the messenger's statements rest on a satisfactory basis.

KORTI, 14.—The messengers who have arrived from Khartoum were six days on the journey. The news they bring of recent events at Khartoum is not made known.

LONDON, 14.—The police and other witnesses for the Crown in the case of James G. Cunningham, alleged dynamiter, charged with high treason and felony, in causing the recent explosion in the Tower, have received letters threatening them with death if they persist in giving damaging testimony against the prisoner.

The *Standard* this afternoon published a dispatch from its correspondent at Korti, who declares that Khartoum has not been captured by El Mahdi. The messenger asserts that he left Khartoum six days after Colonel Wilson appeared before the city in the boats sent from Gubat, and when he (the messenger) left, General Gordon still held Khartoum. Government officials do not believe the messenger's story.

Suakim, 14.—Spies report that a large assemblage of hostile tribes, from the south, have gathered at Tamal. The prospects of success from capturing Khartoum have been spread and magnified everywhere among the Arabs.

PARIS, 14.—*La France* says Gen. Briere de Lisle, after taking Langson, will march against Canton.

ROME, 14.—Dispatches from Massowah state that the situation has improved steadily since the Italian occupation. The commander of Saletta has been ordered to dispose of the band of marauders sent to the vicinity of Massowah by El Mahdi. It is reported that the government will send an Italian General to Massowah.

LONDON, 14.—Earl Derby, Colonial Secretary, this afternoon received official advices from New Zealand, confirming the report published yesterday, that Germany had annexed the island of Samoa, despite English and American protests.

DUBLIN, 14.—Peter Kelly, a farmer living near the town of Moate, in the County of Westmeath, was found dead near his house this morning. His skull was battered in, and the place where the body was found showed signs of a fierce struggle. The murder is attributed to agrarian trouble.

LONDON, 14.—Earl Northbrook, First Lord of the Admiralty, Children, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Harcourt, Home Secretary, attended a council of war at the War Office this afternoon. The Governor of Victoria has cabled the home government tendering the Queen the assurance that the colony of Victoria is ready to do its part as an integral portion of Her Majesty's Empire to assist England in Egypt. The Marquis of Lorne, Ex-Governor General of Canada, writes to the *Times* to advise the acceptance of the proffered services of Canadian regiments in the Soudan campaign.

The British government is about to issue a Blue Book on the subject of Germany's claims to territorial possessions in the Samoan Islands.

The Holland government is negotiating with the American State Department for the reduction of duties on sugar imported into the United States.

Applications continue to be received by the military department of Canada from parties anxious to go to Egypt in connection with the Soudan war.

Two anarchists have been arrested at Reichenberg in Bohemia. A printing press, some revolutionary documents and a quantity of dynamite were seized.

The Pope has written the Catholic bishops in England to publish the instructions of the Propaganda against the education of Catholics in English universities.

Berne, 13.—The police have reported to the government that 2,000 anarchists reside in Switzerland, and they are chiefly of foreign birth. The leading sections are centered in Zurich, Geneva, Lausanne, Berne, Lausanne and Fribourg. The number of secret foreign police is largely augmented.