

"Many exaggerated stories are current. As these grow as often as they are repeated, it will be many days before the real facts can be approximated. It is learned that Jno. W. Enly, of 270 and 280 Broadway, New York, was drowned, as he had lain down in his berth but a few minutes before the break, and he was not seen afterwards. It was reported that Wm. Webb, boss carpenter, Wm. Wiseman, civil engineer and the fireman who were with assistant superintendent Trump's special were drowned, and that Mr. Trump escaped by climbing a tree. This has been contradicted. It was also reported that the "limited" that left Chicago Thursday evening was swallowed up and all on board lost, but this is incorrect, as the limited and Atlantic express are both at Altoona. A representative of the Associated Press was on the second section caught at Connemaugh, and after witnessing the worst there procured a team and drove over the mountain to Edensburg, a distance of 16 miles. In the hope of getting a report by telegraph. The best he could do was to send a few words to the Philadelphia office saying the passengers on the train had escaped. If these got beyond the break at Tyrone there are less anxious hearts in distant cities. What lies west of Johnstown is enveloped in impenetrable obscurity.

(Signed) WM. HENRY SMITH."

The obstacles in the way of getting particulars of the calamity are thus described in a dispatch, dated Johnstown, June 4:

"The difficulties to which representatives of the press have been subject in their efforts to deplete the horrors here are almost beyond description. For the first 48 hours eight or nine correspondents struggled frantically for precedence over the single wire in operation, and when the Associated Press finally obtained possession of this only means of communication from the desolate valley, there was chagrin and disappointment on every side; but the troubles of this bureau instead of being ended were really only begun. The wire was subject to interruptions that were as frequent as they were aggravating and at times it seemed as though the only wire that connected chaos with the universe was to be severed. The surroundings even now are not such as to encourage careful literary productions. The improvised office of the Associated Press is in an abandoned tile factory that first was a morgue before the discipline of the Faber shared quarter with the dead. As the wind is blowing from the blackened ruins on the river the emanations of burning and decaying flesh steal through the open windows and add to the horrors of the experience. A narrow board that rests upon the heads of upturned barrels is the table at which are seated the representatives of the Associated Press and tallow candles in bottle necks have usurped gas and electric light.

"Harry W. Orr, of Pittsburg, an operator, who in this crisis has dis-

tinguished himself by a display of fortitude and endurance seldom witnessed, is seated on a low stool and grasps firmly the box relay on a circular table that surrounds him as he ticks away at the rate of forty words per minute to eleven operators that receive simultaneously on the great Associated Press circuit that runs from Johnstown Bridge to New York, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, Cincinnati, Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Minneapolis. After 72 hours of almost continuous service, broken at no time by more than a couple of hours of hasty slumber, W. C. Connell, the Associated Press agent who chartered a train to beat all competitors to the scene of horrors, has been forced this afternoon to succumb to the mandate of nature and seek repose at his Pittsburg home. During his brief absence his place is filled by less able though no less zealous assistants, who carefully note every turn of the panorama in this shifting scene of disaster."

Adjutant-General Hastings, on June 4 telegraphed President Harrison requesting that government pontoons be furnished to enable a safe passage way to be made across the field of charred ruins above Johnstown Bridge for the purpose of prosecuting the search for the dead. Late that night an answer was received from the President stating that the pontoons would be at once forwarded by the Secretary of War.

A man named Maguire was met on his way from the South Fork to Johnstown. He said he was standing on the edge of the lake when the walls burst; the water was rising all day and was on a level with a pile of dirt which he said was above the walls of the dam. All of a sudden it burst with a report like a cannon, and the water started down the mountain side, sweeping before it trees as if they were chips; boulders were rolled down as if they were marbles. The roar was deafening. The lake was emptied in an hour and a half.

The railroad was in a terrible condition; at some points holes of 20 or 30 feet were washed in the tracks. On his way down he stopped at Mineral Point, where 16 houses were washed away and several lives lost. At East Connemaugh 30 houses were carried away by the flood. The loss of life is large.

A dispatch from Johnstown dated June 4 says:

At this time three days have passed since the floodgates were opened, and the waters rushed down upon the mountain city. Order is slowly arising out of chaos. The great cry is for men, men who will work and not stand idly by and do nothing but gaze at the ruins. An order placed on the telegraph poles by the citizens' committee today says:

"We are now organized so as employment can be found for every man who wants to work, and men offered work who refuse to take the

same and who are able to work must leave Johnstown for the present. We cannot afford to feed men who will not work. All work will be paid for. All strangers and idlers who refuse to work will be ejected from Johnstown."

Officers were stationed at every avenue and railroads that enter town. All suspicious looking characters were stopped, but one question was asked: "Will you work?" If the affirmative answer were given, the man was escorted to the employment bureau, where he was put to work; if not, he was turned back.

There were a lot of vagabond negroes in Johnstown who would not work. It was likely the committee would escort them out of town. They have caused the most trouble during the past terrible days. It is a fact, although a disagreeable one to say, that not a few of the relief committee who came to this city came only out of curiosity, and positively refused to do any work, but would hang around the cars eating. The leaders of the committee then had to do all the work. They deserve much credit.

Many of the escapes are really remarkable, and many acts of devotion were observed on Friday when the water descended on Canby City. A church was filled with people, but when the noise of the flood was heard the congregation hastened to get out of the way. They succeeded as far as escaping from the interior is concerned, and in a few moments the church was partly submerged, the water reaching fifteen feet up the sides and swirling around the corners furiously. The building was badly wrecked, benches cut and, in general, the structure both inside and outside, was fairly dismantled.

The statement is made that the water rose to a height of fifteen feet in the church above where a statue of the Virgin stood, yet it was saved from contact therewith. Every one that has seen the statue and its surrounding is firmly convinced that the incident was a marvelous one, and even the most skeptical say the affair savors of the supernatural. There are about thirty Catholic priests and nuns at Johnstown, devoting themselves to the care of the sick and injured. Bishop Philan has organized the Catholic forces of that neighborhood, and all are devoting themselves to hard work assiduously. What the hospitals would have done without the Sisters is a difficult question.

Whole towns have been utterly destroyed. Not a vestige remains. In the more substantial towns the better buildings to a certain extent remain, but in a damaged condition, and those who are least able to bear it have suffered loss. Everyone is in most pressing need. So far as food is concerned it has been supplied, but clothing of all sorts for men, women and children is greatly needed. Money is also required to move the debris, bury the dead and care temporarily for widows, orphans and for the homeless families of other localities who