

babe also drowned. The flood and fire claimed among its victims not only the living but the dead. June 4 a handsome coffin was found, half burned, in some charred wreckage down near the point. Inside was found the body of a man shrouded for burial, but so scorched about the head and face as to be unrecognizable. The supposition is the house in which the dead man had lain had been crushed and the debris partially consumed by fire.

DESECRATION OF THE DEAD.

Chairman Maxham of the Citizens' Committee tells of frightful desecration of the dead, and of the looting of houses. On the day after the disaster he was working among the victims on the hillside above Johnstown, when he noticed a colored man hand a colored woman a gold watch and chain with the remark, "Hold my watch for me, I am afraid I'll lose it." The man was apparently working industriously upon the wreck, and Maxham did not think anything of the circumstance until he saw the negro step up to the woman again, hand her another watch and repeat his remark. Suspecting something wrong, Maxham had the woman placed under arrest. Her pockets were found to be filled with watches and jewelry. There were several rings that were bloody. Fingers had been cut off the dead for the gold. Later Maxham discovered several cart-loads of shoes and clothing secreted back on one of the hills. A man had a clothes line strung full of clothing, evidently taken from the flood victims, as they were wet and muddy. When the officers attempted to seize the goods the fellow opened fire upon them with a revolver. They returned the salute and did not stop after regaining the clothes to see what the effect had been. As to the failure of the Johnstown Council to afford police protection, there are found many extenuating circumstances. One-fourth of the councilmen are believed to have lost their lives in the flood, and there is scarcely one of the living who did not meet with some terrible loss.

Five Italians were caught June 4 while in the act of exhuming bodies at the cemetery. Fortunately for them there were but few people around or they would have been undoubtedly strung up. As it was they were taken charge of by a file of soldiers and locked up in a box car. Petty thieving was constantly going on.

Adjutant-General Hastings at midnight June 4 wired Governor Beaver his report of the day. It was a most encouraging one and shows that the terror-stricken city was recovering from the blow struck at her. The report is as follows:

"The Fourteenth regiment arrived here today, 400 strong. The burgesses of Johnstown and sheriff of Cambria County formally requested the troops this morning. There has been no violence or disorderly conduct. Several thieves have been arrested. About 1500 laborers are at work and squads are coming in from all sides. The present force

will probably be doubled tomorrow. There is plenty of food and clothing; the survivors are regaining their health."

Chairman Kuorman of the citizens' committee was exhausted on June 4, and James Scott of Pittsburgh was elected in his place and the organization made perfect. A dispatch of that date said it would take a week to complete the work of burial. Four long trenches 100 feet long, seven feet wide and three feet deep form the graves for 200 victims of the flood whose bodies have been recovered at Nineveh, ten miles below Johnstown. This is the first opening of the narrow valley, through which the Conemaugh dashes like a mill race. From the fields of mud many bodies have been taken. The searchers find many bodies by means of a hand or a piece of clothing sticking through the mud. They carry long sticks which they plow through the soil.

The Westmoreland Commissioners purchased an acre of ground on the side of the mountains and converted it into a cemetery. Laborers were at work all day June 4 cleaning the trenches. The scenes at the cemetery were depressing and pathetic. The torches of the laborers looked from across the field like so many jack-o-lanterns luring their victims on to destruction.

Coroner Hommer of Allegheny has been doing excellent work. His jury was organized June 1, and have heard plenty of testimony. Coroner Hommer will push on to South Fork as soon as the railroad is opened, and, with the jury, make a full examination of the lake, and take the testimony of those who escaped, and a description of the lake by those who have been in it.

BRAVE RESCUES.

Edward C. Will is a young foundryman of Cambria, 27 years old, whom no one suspected of having more than ordinary courage. When the flood was at its height and people floating down with the rush of the torrent in hundreds, Will rushed to a boat, and senseless to the pleadings of his wife and relatives, shoved the frail craft far out into the angry current, and gliding rapidly alongside of a floating roof upon which a woman and two children were kneeling, with blanched faces, skillfully evaded the obstructions that every minute threatened to crush his frail craft, and, lifting the terrorized creatures in the boat, shot across the current back to the bank whence he came. A shout of applause swelled from the throng that lined the bank; but, unmoved by the plaudits, young Will repeated the perilous journey, not once, but seven times, until twenty-two lives had been saved. This is but one instance in many.

J. H. Klein claims the distinction of being the only New Yorker in Johnstown who escaped the flood and the honor of having rescued or assisted in rescuing sixty people. His base of operations was the Merchants' Hotel, and his plan was to lift persons from the windows of

houses swimming by. Among those he saved were Rev. Phillips, who, as he glided by, was trying to hold his wife and two children above the water by means of a table on which he placed them, and raised the load to his head. The house swung against the hotel, and stayed just long enough for the rescue to be complete. Klein has been working hard to alleviate the suffering of the victims.

TRAINS CAUGHT IN THE FLOOD.

It is definitely settled that at least 20 to 40 were lost on the two sections of the day express that left Pittsburgh May 31 and the Johnstown accommodation about to leave Johnstown that afternoon. As there have been numerous conflicting reports about how many trains were caught in the floods, a reliable source has ascertained that there were three trains caught by the water. A passenger on a train says he counted up at least 20 whom he saw drown. On June 4 three hundred more bodies had been found opposite Nineveh. This makes 700 found at that point.

Adjutant-General Hastings on June 4 stated he wished positively to deny stories published in certain newspapers to the effect that there had been wholesale lynching and rioting at Johnstown since June 2.

On June 4 the following description of Johnstown was telegraphed:

"The water receded in the night almost as rapidly as it came, and behind it remains the sorriest sight imaginable. The dove that came has no green leaf of promise, for its wings are draped with the hue of mourning and desolation. Before the windows of the Associated Press headquarters lies the great skeleton of the dead Johnstown. Great ribs of rocky sand stretch across the chest, scarred and covered with abrasions; acres of mud; acres of wreckage; acres of unsteady, tottering buildings; acres of unknown dead; acres of ghastly objects have been eagerly sought for since Friday; acres of smoking, steaming ruins; acres of sorrow for somebody, lie out there in the sunshine.

"Hundreds of bodies are lying along the river banks and under piles of big timber, and trouble will come from there because they are hard to find and harder to dig out. Out in the centre of the river on the extreme edge of the mass which rests against the bridge the Pittsburgh firemen have a stream playing on the wreckage. They are literally in the middle of the river putting out the fire. Bonfires are burning everywhere. Fire is the agent employed to help the committees get rid of the refuse and broken wood. By means of fire the Cambria Iron Company cleared away most of the lighter lumber and will soon be able to work on the heavier piles. The completion of a temporary track and bridge which permits the passage of trains over the river has been a blessing, for it allows men to work much faster than before, and to get tools and materials closer at hand. This was the day set aside by the citizens' committee