

doors leading from said room to the staircase and kitchen, and said room. I escaped by the stair, it was then very hot and full of smoke—about the middle of the stairs in descending with a child in my arms, I fell and felt the stair hot, it was cracking and full of smoke, it appeared to get hotter as I descended. On opening the door leading to the stairs the fire appeared to come from the side next Mr. Dent's property—I heard Mr. Dent call Mr. Mickle and heard him answer "all right." I was last in the kitchen that night but had no fire—there was none after two or three o'clock, p.m. I am of opinion that the fire commenced in the lower part of the house on the side next Mr. Dent's. I looked to the stove, and all over the kitchen about eleven o'clock at night—everything was cold. I heard the hour strike—about that time I saw Mr. Mickle go to his bedroom, and did not know that he left it. I have seen ashes kept under the stairs in the store-room of Mr. Vansickle, and think it was the place where they were usually kept. The door leading to the back yard was locked by Mr. Mickle, I saw him go down and heard him lock it—it was his custom. The stair leading down was boarded with rough lumber, but not quite to the top, I think a person might have passed between the boarding and the rafters.—I locked the door at the top of the stairs. I knew there was a door at the bottom of the stairs leading to the store-room of Mr. Vansickle inside of the outside door. A person could come from the store to the stairs without interfering with Mr. Mickle's kitchen. There was no ladder, but there was an old stair of about twenty steps which might have answered the purpose of a ladder—it was nearly covered with firewood for a week or two before the fire, and is still. When I said I saw fire, I meant that it was hot, and a quantity of smoke in the house, but cannot say that I saw any blaze, but I heard the crackling,—I know Messrs. Hobson & Vansickle had a door from their back store leading to Waterloo Street,—I heard them leave by that door that night, and did not hear them return,—If any one had entered by that door, I think I would have heard it; after they left I did not hear any one in the store that night, had there been I think I would have heard it, Mr. Mickle's kitchen floor appeared to be of grooved and tongued boards. The first time I saw any flame was when I got to the street, it appeared to come from the top of Mr. Mickle's kitchen, next Mr. Dent's. When I saw the ashes under the stairs at Mr. Vansickle's, they (the ashes) appeared quite cold,—I merely saw them and did not feel them; it may have been two or three weeks before the fire when I saw the ashes last,—it was since the Post office stove-pipe was on fire. And farther, deponent saith not.

JESSIE WOOD.

#### No. 4.

*Charles J. Mickle*, son of the late A. F. Mickle, Esq., aged about ten years, appeared and made the following statement before the Jury:—

That on the morning of the fire he was aroused by the cry of fire from his father. He was lifted out of bed by his mother, he then went to the Post Office by a back stair leading there from the house, and aroused the lad William Donaghy; on leaving the house, he felt smoke coming from the top of the kitchen next Mr. Dent's. When he returned from school in the afternoon before the fire (on Tuesday), he went to the kitchen stove to get some meat for his dinner which was kept there for him; the meat and stove were quite cold. I did not see any flame until I got to the street, I then ran to Mr. Lynch's.

J. BOWIE,

Stratford, 15th March, 1858.

Coroner.