

opened, the heat and the sparks fly merrily up the stove-pipe, and slily slip out of the spaces where it is disjointed in the garret, and out of the crack between the two portions of the chimney.

As no danger is seen by them, the parents follow their little ones to bed—to sleep—aye, but to what a wakening are they doomed! About two o'clock in the morning, so reads the almost invariable report of these oft-occurring fires, the father is waked up by a smoke so dense that it almost stifles him—but which is, now and again, penetrated by flashes of flame—he wakes his wife; half naked, they fly to ascertain the extent of the danger and to endeavor to overcome it. One glance outside convinces them that the case is hopeless; they then attempt to re-enter the burning building for the purpose of saving their little ones who went to bed so happy, so innocent, and so free from care, but the flames have spread so rapidly that they cannot penetrate beyond the threshold. Agonized, desperate, crazed, perhaps by the shrieks—mayhap by the silence—of their little ones, they stand, helpless to save them from their dreadful fate, until silence and gloom reign where joy and gladness abode but a few short hours before.

Partly frozen, partly burnt, the bereaved parents are dragged from the scene of their bereavement to some friendly shelter, but the effects of that night, to them, are lifelong sickness and grief, perhaps ending in lunacy or suicide.

In such cases, what is the crime of the builder who erected such a fire trap, or of the Insurance Agent who pronounced it SAFE, or of the Manager of the Insurance Company who wrote the policy on it? Will ignorance, real or affected, relieve them from liability either on moral or on religious grounds?

We have written this in order that careful, experienced Agents like Mr. Atkinson may be able to *show* justification of their carefulness, and that proper odium may fall on those who are really murderers.

THEATRE CASUALTIES.

We had expected to be able to lay before our readers in this issue a very complete treatise on Theatre Casualties, with details for the prevention of any disastrous consequences therefrom, illustrated by diagrams and views prepared by an experienced fireman and fire underwriter, assisted by one of our most celebrated architects and a civil engineer well known in the Dominion; the principal features of the recommendations are: a solid brick wall extending through the roof separating entirely the auditorium from the stage, with the exception of the space to be protected by an asbestos curtain which would be dropped automatically by the same arrangement which would throw open skylight windows above the stage, set at work a series of sprinklers such as are found effectual in the picker rooms of cotton factories, and, at the same time, ring the alarm which would call out the whole fire department of the city, with their escapes and other appliances, as well as throwing open a set of doors which would only be used on such extraordinary occasions. These gentlemen have not however quite concluded their labors; one of them has been to Winnipeg, another is gone on a Southern trip, and the other is studying the matter in Eastern climes, as they have not quite made up their minds how to provide against such occurrences as the following:

A mining camp newspaper out West thus described a performance of Emma Abbott's in Denver;

"As a singer she can just wallop the nose off anything that ever wagged a jaw on the boards. From her clear, bird-like upper notes, she would counter away down on the

bass racket and then cushion back to a sort of spiritual treble, which made every man in the audience imagine every hair on his head was the golden string of a celestial harp, over which angelic fingers were sweeping in the inspiring old tune of 'Sally Put the Kettle On'. Here she would rest awhile, trilling like an enchanted bird, and then hop in among the upper notes again with a git-up-and-git vivacity that jingled the glass pendants on the chandeliers, and elicited a whoop of pleasure from every galoot in the mob. In the last act she made a neat play and worked in that famous kiss of hers, off Castle. He had her in his arms, with her head lying on his shoulder, and her eyes shooting red-hot streaks of galvanized love right into his. All at once her lips began to twitch coaxingly and get into position, and when he tumbled to her racket he drew her up easy like, shut his eyes, and then her ripe, luscious lips glued themselves to his, and a thrill of pleasures nabbed hold of him and shook him till the audience could almost hear his toenails grind against his boots. Then she shut her eyes and—oh, Moley Hoses!—the smack that followed started the stitching of every masculine heart in the house. She's a thoroughbred right from the start, and the fellow that takes in her kisses is more to be envied than the haughtiest man that ever ran an insurance company: Cutting rates on steam saw mills and sash and blind factories is nothing to it, even though

"A little nonsense now and then
Is relished by the wisest men."

"The *Chronicle* intended before this to express its obligations to INSURANCE SOCIETY—an excellent monthly published at Montreal—for valuable assistance often furnished in obtaining the losses by and insurances involved in Canadian fires. The publishers from time to time have sent us proof sheets of their forthcoming monthly reports, which have proven of material service. The statistics, relating wholly to fires in the Dominion, as furnished by INSURANCE SOCIETY, from month to month, we have found to be full and accurate, and the journalistic courtesy of its editors and publishers, as we have tested it, is generous and unfailing."

In connection with which we wish to state that we are in turn indebted to the managers and agents of the leading Insurance Companies doing business in Canada for *our* information; they aid us to make more accurate, and consequently more useful to themselves and the public, the statements, which would be of comparatively little value if they were not corrected by the actual data obtained from those managers and agents who take interest in all that pertains to their vocation.

The attentions which the *Chronicle* acknowledges in such a very gratifying manner are reciprocated by it whenever opportunity occurs, and we have great pleasure in acknowledging our indebtedness for the following statements to

The Chronicle.—Extra.

Losses by fires each month of the following years.

CANADA.

1877.

	Total Losses.	Total Losses to Ins. Cos.	Losses by Specials.	Losses to Ins. Cos. by Specials.
January	\$570,800	\$272,600	\$396,300	\$179,000
February	278,600	130,600	148,000	67,300
March	798,100	449,100	296,900	160,800
April	472,900	275,500	300,300	170,200
May	1,629,300	690,500	890,500	348,200
June	21,915,100	7,122,800	7,473,700	3,591,100
July	395,000	181,800	191,800	76,800
August	808,700	410,600	464,800	285,400
September	489,900	239,800	271,900	139,400
October	948,300	395,000	476,500	203,400
November	484,200	201,300	276,600	127,400
December	530,100	268,100	334,500	176,700
Totals	\$29,261,000	\$10,637,700	\$11,522,000	\$5,124,700