

# STORM OF FIRE AND STEAM

**Not More Than Twenty Persons Escaped—Eighteen Vessels Were Sunk.**

## United States Consul and Family Among the Victims That Perished.

**ST. THOMAS, D. W. I., May 9.—The British schooner Ocean Traveller of St. John, N. B., arrived at the island of Dominica, D. W. I., at 3 o'clock this afternoon. She reports having been obliged to flee from the Island of St. Vincent, B. W. I., May 7, owing to a heavy fall of sand from a volcano which was in eruption there. She tried to reach the Island of St. Lucia, B. W. I., but adverse currents prevented her from so doing. The schooner arrived opposite St. Pierre, Martinique, May 8. While about a mile off shore, the volcano of Mount Pelee exploded and fire from it swept the whole town of St. Pierre out of existence, destroying the shipping there, including the cable ship Grappler, which was engaged in repairing the cable near the Guerin factory. The Ocean Traveller, while on her way to Dominica encountered a quantity of wreckage.**

### FROM GOVERNOR OF WINDWARD.

**LONDON, May 8.—The Colonial office here has received a dispatch from Sir Robert Llewellyn, governor of Windward, dated Kingston, St. Vincent, in which the governor says that the Soufrière volcano in the north-western part of the Island of St. Vincent continued in activity. Earth shocks had occurred for a week past, but not actually in Kingston. On Wednesday a big cloud of steam hung over the Soufrière and the inhabitants, who were greatly alarmed, were flocking to Chateau Belair. There was already 300 refugees there who were being fed by the authorities.**

### ST. PIERRE WIPE OUT.

**PARIS, May 9.—The Colonial Minister, M. De Cralis, received at six o'clock this evening two cablegrams from the Secretary-General of the government at Martinique, J. E. G. L'Huerte, sent respectively at five and ten thirty p.m. yesterday. The earlier cable reported that the wires were broken between Fort de France and St. Pierre, but, it was added, in view of the reports that the eruption of Mount Pelee had wiped out the town of St. Pierre, all the boats available at Fort de France were dispatched to the assistance of the inhabitants of that place.**

The second dispatch confirmed the reports of the destruction of St. Pierre and said it was supposed that the whole population had been annihilated, with the exception of a few injured persons rescued by the cruiser Suchet.

Immediately after the receipt of the above, the flag over the Colonial office was draped with crepe and hoisted at half mast.

### 40,000 PERSONS PERISH.

**ST. THOMAS, D. W. I., May 9.—It is now estimated that forty thousand persons perished as a result of the volcanic eruption in the Island of Martinique.**

### CONSUL AYME CABLES.

**WASHINGTON, D. C., May 9.—The following cablegram has been received at the State Department:**

### POINT A PITRE, May 9.

Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

At 7 o'clock a.m. on the 8th instant, a storm of steam, mud and fire enveloped the city and community. Not more than twenty persons escaped with their lives. Eighteen vessels were burned and sunk with all on board, including four American vessels and a steamer from Quebec, named Boralma. The United States consul and family are reported among the victims. A war vessel has come to Guadeloupe for provisions and will leave at five tomorrow.

### (Signed): AYME, Consul.

### ASKED TO SEND RELIEF.

The State Department has been receiving dispatches from commercial houses in New York, asking that warship be sent at once to Martinique to afford relief. The matter is under consideration.

**LONDON, May 9.—A dispatch to the Reuters Telegraph company from Kingston, Jamaica, after giving the details of the Martinique disaster already known, says:**

"Thousands were killed at St. Pierre, where a terrible panic prevailed. The eruption began Saturday, May 3rd, when St. Pierre was covered with ashes and appeared to be enveloped in fog. The flow of lava continued until Wednesday, May 7th."

### EARTHQUAKES ARE FREQUENT.

The message adds: "In the Island of St. Vincent, the Soufrière is active and earthquakes are frequent, but so far no damage has been done."

In response to the many requests of Governor Llewellyn and others, of the Windward Islands, the British second class cruiser Indefatigable has been despatched from the Island of Trinidad to the Island of St. Vincent by way of St. Lucia.

### SUCHET SEEKING PROVISIONS.

**BORDEAUX, France, May 9.—The Minister of Colonies, M. De Cralis, who has been visiting the south of France, hurried back to Paris on hearing of the Martinique disaster. Before leaving**

visible. At noon May 5th a stream of burning lava rushed 400 feet down the mountain side, following the dry bed of a torrent and reaching the sea, five miles from the mountain. In three minutes, in its rush the fiery flood swept from its path plantations, buildings, factories, cattle and human beings to a breadth of about half a mile. At the rear of the mouth of the Rivière Blanche stood the large Guérin sugar factory, one of the finest in the Island. It is now completely entombed in lava. The tall chimney alone is visible.

### 150 PERSONS PERISHED THERE.

One hundred and fifty persons are estimated to have perished there, including the owner's son.

As the lava rushed into the sea the latter receded 300 feet, and returning with greater strength a big wave covered the whole sea front of St. Pierre, but doing little damage ashore or afloat.

Terrible detonations, heard hundreds of miles northward, followed at short intervals in the intense darkness. The electric lights failed, but the town was lit up by lurid flashes of flame from the mountain. The terror-stricken inhabitants rushed for the hills in their night clothes, screaming and shouting mad with terror.

The Plisson family escaped to St. Lucia in a small steamer. Thirty-five persons, mostly women and children, arrived here in the forenoon of the 6th and furnished the above details. The men remained at Martinique. The same afternoon later telegraphic communication was interrupted with both the islands of Martinique and St. Vincent.

### GRAY WITH ASHES.

During the afternoon of the 8th the British steamer Roddam, which had left St. Lucia at midnight on the 7th for Martinique, crawled slowly into the Castries harbor, unrecognizable, gray with ashes, her rigging dismantled and sails and awnings hanging about, torn and charred.

Captain Whatter reported that having just cast anchor off St. Pierre at 8 a.m. in fine weather, succeeding an awful thunder storm during the night, he was talking to the ship's agent, Joseph Plisson, who was in a boat alongside, when he saw a tremendous cloud of smoke and flames rising from the town and port, completely enveloping the former in a sheet of flame, and raining on board. The agent had just time to climb on when his boat disappeared.

### SCORCHED TO DEATH.

Several of the crew of the Roddam were quickly scorched to death. By superhuman efforts, having steam up, the cable was slipped and the steamer backed away from the shore and nine hours later managed to reach Castries. Ten of the Roddam's men were lying dead, contorted and burned out of human semblance among the black cinders which covered the ship's deck to the depth of six inches. Two more of the crew have since died.

### RAIN OF FIRE.

The survivors of the Roddam were loud in their praises of heroic conduct of their captain in steering his vessel out of danger with his own hands, which were badly burned by the rain of fire which kept falling on the ship for miles after she got under way. Beyond burns all over his body, the captain is safe as is also the ship's agent, though he was badly scorched. Mr. Plisson is believed here to be the sole survivor of the forty thousand inhabitants of St. Pierre who remained in the town, and all the shipping in the port has been utterly destroyed.

### BLAZING FOR MILES.

The British royal steamer Esk, which had left Martinique at 10 p.m. last night, reports standing off shore five miles, sounding her whistle and sending up rockets. She received no answer. The whole sea front was blazing fire. The Esk sent a boat ashore, but it could not land on account of the terrific heat, which was accompanied by loud explosions. Not a living soul appeared ashore after the boat had waited for two hours. Fire and ashes fell all over the steamer.

### COUNTRY BURNED UP.

In the afternoon a French coasting steamer arrived here from Fort de France seeking assistance, as all the country was burnt up and the stock was dying. All the plantations were cleared. The country people were flocking into the towns and famine was feared. The steamer was loaded with food of all sorts and was sent back to Martinique at 7 p.m. The captain of this vessel reported that some thirty men left St. Pierre by the six o'clock boat to Thursday morning for Fort de France and consequently were saved. All attempts to get to St. Pierre are barred by fire.

### SYMPATHETIC ERUPTIONS.

The Matin says it is one of the most frightful catastrophes recorded and we must go back to Pompeii to find a calamity of so unheard of a calamity.

**LONDON, May 10.—All the newspapers here express the greatest horror at the catastrophe which they say is for its suddenness and magnitude is only comparable with that of Pompeii, and they extend deep sympathy to the French nation. Owing to the cable break down in the West Indies no details of the disaster at Martinique have yet been received here. The available dispatches from the West Indies represent the inhabitants of other islands as being in deadly fear.**

### LATEST DISPATCH.

**SAN JUAN DE PORTO RICO, May 9.—The cable officials here have received advice from San Domingo that the schooner which has arrived there from the Island of Martinique reports that over 40,000 people are supposed to have perished during the volcanic disturbance in Martinique. The cable repair steamer Grappler, belonging to the West Indian & Paris Telegraph Co. of London, was lost with all hands during the eruption of Mount Pelee. The Grappler was one of the first ships to disappear.**

### CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA, D. W. I., May 10.—Mont Pelee, a volcanic mountain some ten miles north of St. Pierre, the commercial capital of Martinique, is the mountain which made a faint show of eruption fifty years ago. On May 3rd last it began to blow out dense clouds of smoke. At midnight the same day flames, accompanied with rumbling noises, lighted the sky over an immense area, causing widespread terror. May 4th hot ashes covered the whole city quarter of St. Pierre an inch thick and made Mont Pelee in-

was more active. The earth was trembling at Basseterre and volcanic rumblings were heard.

### NEARLY A PANIC.

News of the disaster in Martinique reached here by the French war vessel Suchet on Friday morning. Nearly every one here has relatives in Martinique and intense sorrow prevails. All the stores are closed and the flags are at half mast. The mountains of Guadalupe are clouded in darkness and frequent heavy storms continue. The people are on edge with anxiety, fearing that the Soufrière may become eruptive. A light earthquake or a slight increase in the usual smoking of the Soufrière would precipitate a panic here. It is believed, however, there is no longer any danger.

### RAILWAY BILL IN JEOPARDY.

Martin Will Not Vote for It if It Involves Land Grant.  
(Special to the Miner.)

**VICTORIA, B. C., May 8.—Martin has notified Dunsmuir that he will not support the railway bill if it involves a land grant. Unless the government can get sufficient opposition support the bill, therefore, is likely to be dropped this session, or the terms will have to be moderated.**

The new flagship Grafton arrived on this station this morning. On the way up she called in at San Jose de Guatimala, and demanded repayment of the loan by the British government and repudiation by the Guatemala government. The ship cleared for action, but satisfaction being given the incident passed.

### GEORGE SCOUTEN.

Guilty of Manslaughter For Killing Arthur Simpson.

**WINNIPEG, Man., May 9.—The trial of Geo. Scouten, for the murder of Arthur Simpson, in the Atlantic hotel at Calgary on Sunday, March 16th, was concluded today, when the jury returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter. Simpson was shot while engaged in a fight with the accused. The man evaded pursuit for some time and was eventually caught in Calgary disguised. The accused appears to feel his situation very acutely. He is an American cowboy, and was for some time a special constable on the force of the city police.**

### TWO MEN KILLED.

Were Assisting in Putting Some Heavy Pipes in Place.

**ROCHESTER, N. Y., May 9.—Philip Ziegler, aged 40, and Roger Doherty, aged about 35, both stone masons, were almost instantly killed late this afternoon while at work at the Citizens' Light & Power plant on Mill street. The men were assisting in putting some heavy pipes in place, when the hoisting tackle slipped and the pipe, swinging round, struck Ziegler and Doherty terrific blows, crushing their skulls. Both expired a few minutes later.**

### ASCENSION DAY SERVICE.

Address of Thanksgiving—Queen Saved By the Hand of God.

**THE HAGUE, May 8.—In the presence of the Prince Consort and a distinguished congregation who attended Ascension Day service at the Church in Apeldoorn this morning the Protestant minister of the church delivered an address of thanksgiving for the preservation of the life of Queen Wilhelmina, who, he said, had been saved by the hand of God.**

### AMERICAN HANDICAP TARGETS.

Charles W. Flood Wins \$133 and Silver Tee Set Worth \$100.

**NEW YORK, May 8.—Charles W. Flood of this city won the Grand American handicap at targets from a field of 91 contestants at Inter-State Park today. He stood on the 18-yard mark and broke 94 out of 100 targets. R. B. Guy of Mechanicsburg, Ohio, and F. C. Blisht of South River, N. J., both of whom shot from the 18-yard mark, tied with 92破紀錄 each. By winning Flood got a money prize of \$133 and a silver tee set valued at \$100.**

### SNOW IN FRANCE.

Accompanied By Frosts—The Fruit Crops Are Threatened.

**PARIS, May 8.—A violent hail storm swept over the northern and western parts of Paris this afternoon. It lasted for half an hour. The heavy snow falls continued throughout northwestern and southwestern France. They are accompanied by frosts and the fruit crops are seriously threatened.**

### BRET HARTE BURIED.

In Presence of Widow, Son, Daughter and a Few Friends.

**LONDON, May 8.—The body of Bret Harte was buried at Frimley, Surrey, today, in the presence of his widow, son, daughter and a few friends. Many beautiful wreaths were placed upon his coffin.**

Bret Harte left sufficient literary material for the publication of a new volume of condensed novels.

### SERVED THEM RIGHT.

Were Seized for Using Dynamite to Destroy Fish.

**ST. ANDREW'S, N. B., May 8.—The Dominion fisheries cruiser Curlew arrived today with three schooners in tow, two American and one Canadian, seized for using dynamite to destroy fish.**

### PRINCIPAL GRANT IMPROVES.

**KINGSTON, Ont., May 8.—Principal Grant's condition continues to improve. He was able to take nourishment today.**

### MAX HIRTZ FOUND DEAD.

**MONTREAL, Que., May 8.—Max Hirtz, a commercial traveler, was found lying dead in his home today. He had apparently been dead for ten days. His wife was away from home.**

### METAL MARKET.

**LONDON, May 9.—Lead \$11.11s. 3d. NEW YORK, May 9.—Bar silver 51; copper firmer; lead quiet.**

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## COLLECTIONS GOOD A GENERAL STRIKE

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BRIGHT, WARM WEATHER IS THE MAY BE MADE PERMANENT AT ONE STIMULANT NOW' NEEDED.