

THEY FOUND A FRIEND.

THREE WERE SAD SCENES AT THE LATE FIRE IN BOSTON.

A Good Samaritan in Ruggles Street Church—How the Fire Compared with that of St. John—Homeless and Friendless—The People See Their Goods Destroyed.

Boston, May 22.—Over two thousand people became homeless within an hour last Tuesday. A vast tenement district in Roxbury was swept out of existence, and those burned out were, with few exceptions, very poor people.

It was in many respects a small edition of the great St. John fire of 1877, when the entire south end was laid low, and the city received a blow from which it has perhaps never recovered. The St. John sufferers did not know where to go. It seemed as if everybody and his neighbor had been burned out, and few had friends who could offer them a night's shelter.

Thousands of people in St. John today remember the eventful 20th of June, when they were forced to leave their comfortable homes and live for weeks in public buildings and shanties, and turn to public charity for food to eat.

That was the time hundreds wanted the friend in need. The Roxbury sufferers found one almost before they realized their position and the work of that friend, the pastor and worker of the Ruggles street Baptist church—has been the wonder and talk of Boston ever since.

Every ball crank in St. John who has been in Boston knows the district. Sitting in the grand stand or on the bleachers of the South end ball grounds waiting for the game to begin, they could not fail to see something of interest in the great blocks of tenement houses.

Mostly old wooden buildings facing on short narrow streets, buildings in which large families of poor people lived in small rooms, few in number, singular old timber boxes above which the famous Sullivan tower rose majestically—until the base ball managers went to law and compelled the owner of the tower to take it down, and would be dead heads were compelled to either peep through knot holes or pay the full price of admission.

It was a great district for a fire, but when somebody dropped a match under the bleachers and flames shot up, the thousands watching the ball game seemed to forget this. They took the little blaze on the bleachers as a joke until the flames spread, and licked up everything before them, before the fire department could settle right down to work.

But this isn't what I want to talk about. A \$600,000 fire is not much of a novelty in Boston, and in the business district it does not have to burn a very large territory before it reaches that figure. The total loss does not come near the Roxbury fire.

It is the individual losses, the sufferings of the poor that has made the fire remarkable, and the promptness with which the Ruggles street church people go to work that Boston is talking about.

Excitement was intense that afternoon, few people saved anything, and those who did carried furniture and small household effects to Madison Park, a breathing spot about the size of King square, St. John, and situated between Cabot street and Shawmut avenue.

There were sad scenes there about 6 o'clock. The city officials did not see them, did not seem to think of the sufferers till an hour or so later. Then they began to talk about opening the school houses.

When they got ready to do this, they found it was not necessary. The Ruggles street church is best known by its famous quartette, but I think I have spoken of its charitable work in my letters during the hard times of last winter.

Last week Boston fully realized the wonderful organization of its charitable work. Long before the fire was under control, Ruggles street church was opened and scores of workers had assembled.

Some put on coffee boilers. Some printed large signs, telling the sufferers that the church was open for them, and that they could get food, clothing and lodging there.

Some of these were placed outside the building, others were made into banners and the younger members of the congregation carried them through Madison park and the burned district until everybody knew where to go.

But that wasn't all. Cans of coffee and baskets of food were carried to the sufferers. Other agents went all over the district distributing meal tickets among the homeless, and before the city authorities and other churches and charitable organizations had made up their minds what to do, all the sufferers had been provided for temporarily.

The church was piled with mattresses, the lost children were cared for and steps taken to find the parents; the doctors connected with the church dispensary cared for the injured, and every body was made to feel as much at home as possible.

Before midnight the work was going on systematically, and arrangements made to hold meetings on the morrow, so that funds could be raised. Today nearly all these families are in homes, provided with enough furniture to start life anew and a week or month's rent paid in advance.

It was a wonderful piece of work.

R. G. LARSEN.

Moon Superstitions. The tad of the new moon is one of our most popular beliefs in the necromancy of fate.

To see the moon for the first time, not through a window, but in the open air, your right shoulder turned facing her, and money loose in your hand, indicates a month of good luck. But to see her over

ABOUT MOUNTAIN LIONS.

Another Western Man in the Front with a Wild Yarn about Them.

"As to grizzly bears," said a Montana man the other evening, "as to grizzly bears, we've got plenty of 'em left in our country, but unless you are looking for them you might travel the trails and byways for five years and not get sight of old Ephraim."

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"How about the mountain lion?" was asked. "Ah, you've struck quite another field now," he replied. The mountain lion of the far West is not a lion at all, as you probably know, but is the best known in the East as the panther. I think, however, the Western panther is larger and fiercer.

At any rate, all things considered, I'd prefer to face a grizzly."

"Ever had any experience?" "Yes, just one, and it makes my hair stand on end to think of it. I'm half-owner of a good, big herd of steers, but I wouldn't go through that experience again for a thousand of the fattest, juiciest steers ever rounded up in the cattle country."

You want to hear about it, but it's no use to get out your book and pencil. My experience was very brief, and there are no names and dates to put down. Look on the map some day and find Flat Head Lake.

Between it and the Rocky Mountains is a beautiful valley thirty miles wide. I've wintered cattle in there, and had them come out as fat as butter in the spring."

"One spring, eight or ten years ago, I was driving in some 'strays' from the foothills. When cattle begin to shed their coats they like to get into the timber and rob themselves. About ten o'clock in the forenoon I was riding along an Indian trail on the slope of a hill. It was in the timber, with lots of brush covering the ground. I saw cattle tracks on the trail and had no thought for anything else.

My mustang was on the walk and I was taking it easy in the saddle when I was suddenly jumped out of my boots. Something screamed in my ear, and out of the corner of my eye I saw something in the air. No doubt I ducked, but it was instant. My mustang was on the walk and I was taking it easy in the saddle when I was suddenly jumped out of my boots.

"The lion had jumped for you?" "He had my boy. I went up and figured it out afterward. The beast had crunched on a big rock eighteen feet above me and about twenty-four feet from the trail. Just how close he came to me I can't say, but I'm certain that he braced my hat as he passed over. The duck probably saved my life. If he had struck me with the momentum of such a spring I'd have been carried out of the saddle into the bushes.

The cuss was lying low for beef or deer, but when he found he couldn't get a better thing, as he missed me, he turned over in the air, and, as I told you, he landed wrong side up. I don't know how mountain lions feel about such things but I've always had the idea that this fellow went off kicking himself over the way he got left. He had overjumped a good dinner and couldn't blame anybody but himself."

Very Early on the Stage. Victoria Vokes began her professional career at the Royal Surrey Theatre, London, when scarcely two years old, in a drama entitled "The Avalanche."

Her sister, Jessie Vokes, also appeared at the Surrey Theatre at the age of four, and subsequently played there a round of juvenile characters. At the age of three, Miss Katie Terry (Mrs. Lewis) made her first appearance on the stage to sing a character song as an old lady of ninety-five.

Miss Minnie Terry made her first appearance at the age of four at the Haymarket, in "Partners," and at the age of six was able to earn £10 a week. At that age she acted as "Mignon" in the dramatized version of "Bootsie and Baby."

The clever little actress, Miss Constance Bowman, made her first appearance on the stage at the age of four at the Stratford Theatre, where she danced a hornpipe. Mme. Jane Hading, the French actress, at the age of three appeared at the Marseilles theatre as little Blanche de Cayen in "Le Bossu."

Miss Fatt Rosa, the wealthy American actress, appeared on the stage at the age of four, and continued to play children's parts for over twenty years. Miss Kendal began to perform nearly as soon as she could walk and talk. Her first appearance at the age of four was at the Theatre at Bristol (where her mother was acting), as an angel in "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

In the last census report there included 409 males and 205 females of less than fifteen years of age who are classed as actors.

He Did Not Advertise. Not long ago a Chicago man cut into a pound of butter which he had purchased at a grocery whose proprietor does not advertise, and found therein a small tin box, which contained a piece of paper bearing the following, written in a neat feminine hand:

"I am a girl, eighteen years of age, good looking and an excellent housekeeper. Should this be found by some unmarried Christian gentleman, will he write to the following address?" etc.

The finder, being a bachelor, decided to unravel the affair, and succeeded, only to destroy the romance. The girl who had written the note had died many years ago, leaving an aged husband and a grown family.

Cork vs. Glass Stoppers. Corks that have been steeped in vaseline are an excellent substitute for glass stoppers. Acid in no way affects them, and

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chemical fumes do not cause decay in them, neither do they become fixed by a blow or long disuse, which latter fact will be appreciated by those who often lose time and temper by a "boastily fast stopper." In short, they have all the utilities of the glass without its disadvantages.

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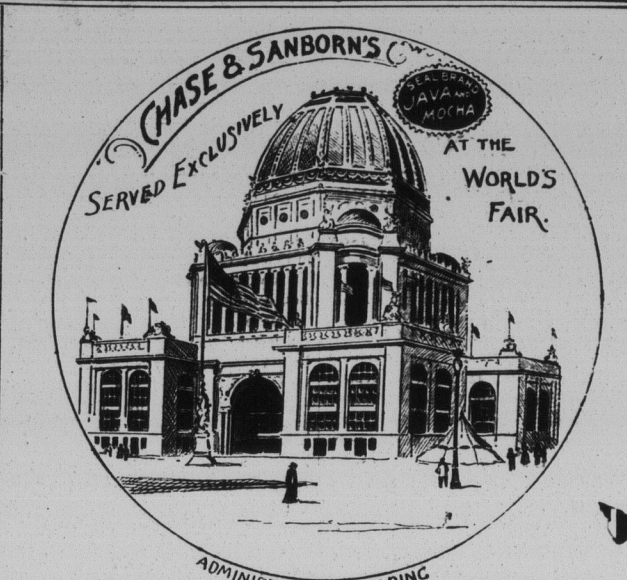
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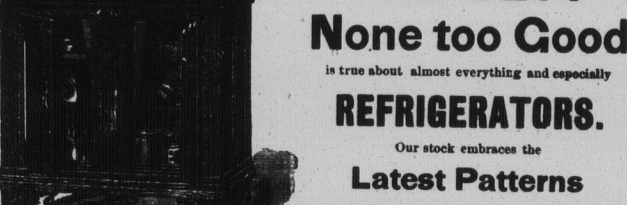
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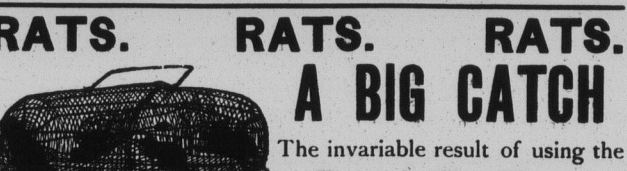
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