

when taken inside the box door, dreadful screams and cries for help were suddenly uttered from a mass of human beings struggling, writhing, and interlocked on the ground and up the steep wooden stair.

The cause of their being in this situation is as follows. A number of people were clustered round the door at the top of the stair waiting to hear "Yankee Doodle" played; when the alarm of fire was given, Miss Brown, a schoolmistress, dashed past those people and fell head foremost from the top to the bottom of the stair. Her friends went down immediately to her assistance and kept the crowd back; while doing this, a rush of burning vapour and flame caused those in the rear to crush upon those people stooping down over Miss Brown, pushed against the door, which opened inwards, and the whole became irretrievably mixed together.

The money-taker's table and the lamp at the door were overturned. Two or three strong men at the top of the stair rolled down over the faces of the mass and were dragged out. Mr. Macdonald, Editor of the *Canadien*, a stout person, was squeezed out of the mass by the pressure around him, and escaped; the rest, men, women, and children were closely wedged together, and though their heads and arms were mostly out, yet their lower extremities were firmly fixed.

There was no more screaming heard after the first burst; the helpless sufferers saw that vigorous efforts were made for their relief, and kept quiet. An axe was got, and an attempt was made to knock down a partition which separated the stair from the ladies' cloak-room below. Lieut. Pipon, of the Royal Artillery, who had been walking near the theatre when the alarm was given, after several vain efforts, dragged out a Mrs. Stansfield. Lieut. Leslie Skynner, 89th Regt., was also on the spot and assisted the others. Mr. Hardie, an oil and colour merchant, assisted by Mr. Kimlin, the Editor of the *Quebec Mercury*, and others, (Messrs. Shea, Mac Donald, Todd, Lepper, Back, Bennet, Stewart, Captain Von Zuile, Commander of the "Ocean Queen," &c.) released, by powerful exertions, Mrs. Wheatly and Mrs. Roy. Mr. Hardie remarked among the crowd of sufferers, Lieut. Hamilton, of the 14th Regt., who had gone to the theatre with two daughters of Assistant Commissary General Rea, to the elder of the two (Julia) he was about to be married in a few days; that morning she had been arranging her wedding clothes; the younger sister was lying furthest out, and Lieut. Hamilton's arms being free, Mr. Hardie said, "Assist me to get out this young lady," Hamilton did so, and she was pulled out with difficulty. Mr. Hardie then said, as he carried her out, "I'll come back and try to release the other;" Hamilton said, "For God's sake do so!" but it was too late. Mr. Stewart Scott, an advocate and clerk of the Court of Appeals, and father of a large family, was in the crush with a little daughter; his brother tried, with others, in vain to free him and the child; one of Mr. Scott's arms was actually pulled out of its socket; he said, "Save the child! it is useless to try to save me;" it was a most heart-rending scene; both were obliged to be abandoned. Mr. Hardie and Mr. Kimlin were both seized by sufferers and nearly dragged among them, and were obliged to strike to release themselves. One in the lower tier offered all his worldly wealth for release.

A little boy had previously made a singular escape: he had been sent to the theatre with a maid who was accompanied by a young man who