

eternity, by the most fearful of all possible deaths that of fire.

The Church was decorated for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of a religious association, known as the "Daughters of Mary;" and in the evening was illuminated with an unprecedented number of lights.

The church was filled with the devout all day, and towards nightfall a continuous stream of human beings, almost exclusively women poured into it until every avenue was densely packed, and the steps and far out in the piazza were filled with a hushed and kneeling crowd. The doors were then all closed, save the main entrance, for the double purpose of preventing the confusion occasioned by late comers and of making the voice of the preacher more distinctly heard. At a little before seven, the assistants began lighting up the church, and were just finishing the grand altar, the rest of the building being fully illuminated, with thousands of lamps, most of them of paraffine oil, when from a transparent crescent, at the foot of the statue of the Virgin, burst forth a jet of flame. The attendant endeavored to extinguish it with his poncho, but the inflammable liquid penetrated the fabric and only increased the danger. In a moment the flames darted up the garlands of artificial flowers to the roof, the immense cupola caught fire and the lamps suspended from the roof by strings dropped and exploded among the densely packed mass of women kneeling beneath. Darting along the wooden ceiling, already heated to the dryness of tinder, the flames ran like hissing serpents the whole length of the church and rolled down in huge billows upon the compact crowd, that had instinctively sought the main entrance. During the first few moments of surprise and terror shrieks of sorrow for the destruction of that beloved church resounded through the aisles of that building; but when rushing to the various outlets, all were found closed save one, and that one impassable, loud screams of horror burst from the despairing multitude. For a few moments the heart-piercing cries of perishing women were increasing; they gradually grew fainter and fainter, and soon an awful silence reigned within that horrible furnace, broken only by the angry roar of the flames, or the crash of fallen towers.

Of the 3000 persons within the pile but five or six hundred escaped, and most of them wounded, scorched and naked. The rest became wedged together, and fainting with heat, terror and pressure, lost the ability to help themselves or second the efforts of those who risked their lives to save them. It was only by almost superhuman efforts that some few were dragged from the tightly packed mass of human beings at the tardily opened outlets; and of those few, a great majority only lived a few hours.

Writhing with terror, the horrible group swayed to and fro, the weaker gradually sinking forward and falling, never to rise again, while the stronger battled with desperate energy to reach the saving hands that struggled as desperately to reach them. But all was in vain, in an awfully brief space of time the wall of flame became impassable; the entire floor of the church was a sea of fire, fed by the clothing of the victims and intensified by the dropping lamps. The roof fell in; the tower followed; and the belfry, with an awful crash, fell across the doorway, burying the scorched and hissing bodies of those whose suffering was over.

The scene without the church was heartrending. The streets were filled with the dead and dying, and hundreds rushed frantically to and fro, calling upon the names of loved ones, some knelt in the streets to pray, some were carried off by their friends, raving in their grief, while some, distracted at the thought of wife or child perishing, pushed frantically into the church and were seen no more.

The spectacle, by the glaring light of day, was indescribably horrible. Two thousand corpses, in every stage of carbonization, from blackened cinder to the slightest scorch, lay in heaps around the several exit doors, the last struggle painfully visible in the eager position, the outstretched hands, the starting eye-balls. The upper portions of the bodies were, with few exceptions, disfigured beyond recognition—the lower extremities were scarcely touched by the flames.

GOLD NEWS.—The return of the Chief Commissioner for the three months ending Dec. 31st was published in the Gazette of last week and shews that the average number of areas of class No. 1 being worked is 120—of smaller size, 23; average number of men employed, 727. The quartz crushed leaving out fractions, amounts to 4898 tons, yielding 4178 ounces of gold. The year's operations are thus stated:—

	oz.	dwt.	gr.
Total yield of Gold for Half Year ending June 30th, 1863.	5193	0	0
Total yield of Gold for Quarter ending September 30th, 1863.	4629	2	2
Total yield of Gold for Quarter ending December 31st, 1863.	4178	15	3
Total yield of Gold for the year ending December 31st, 1863.	13091	17	5

The Express is informed that 17 1-4 tons of quartz taken from the Montague Gold Diggings, yielded the handsome amount of 16 ozs. 2 dwts. 10 grs.—the result of the labor of eight men in six weeks.

Mr. G. G. Gray delighted the inmates of the Institution of the Deaf and Dumb, on Thursday evening, by the Exhibition of his Magic Lantern, the wonders of which were quite new to many and ad-

mired by all. They testified their applause in the usual manner, by clapping of hands, and they even enacted a cheer, after their fashion, of three times three. It would be difficult to find an equal number of persons in any assembly so entirely happy as these mutes were that evening.—Sun.

LLOYD'S REGISTER OF British & Foreign Shipping. Surveyor for the Province of Nova Scotia.

NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. JOSEPH JOHN TUCKER has been appointed the Surveyor to this Society for Nova Scotia, to reside at Windsor, N. S.

Notice is also given that all Ships built at Nova Scotia, after this appointment, which shall not be surveyed while building by the Surveyor, or where the Owners or Builders shall refuse such Survey, will be subjected to the loss of one year (as prescribed by the Rules, page 16, sec. 53, in regard to British built Ships) from the period which they would otherwise be allowed.

All ships built under the immediate inspection of the Surveyor, on the terms prescribed for Special Survey, will be distinguished in the Register Book by a Cross, thus †, and in the Certificates of Classification then issued, as "Built under Special Survey."

By order of the Committee,
GEO. B. SEYFANG, Secretary.
2 White Lion Court, Cornhill, London, }
Jan 14.] 22nd October, 1863. }

To Contractors. GOVERNMENT BUILDING, Market Square.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Commissioners for Erection of above Building, will be received at the Office of the Secretary, until 12 o'clock, on MONDAY, the 1st day of February next, from all persons desirous of contracting for same, according to plans and specifications which may be seen on and after Monday, the 4th inst., in the large room of the Nova Scotia Marine Insurance Building, Bedford Row, fourth story.

The building is to be of Freestone, 3 stories high, and measures 125 feet long by 54 wide, more or less, and any further information required in reference thereto may be had on application to Mr. David Stirling, Architect, Hollis Street.

Tenders must be accompanied with a guarantee from two responsible persons, who are willing to become security for the faithful performance of the contract entered upon.

The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

JOHN DUFFUS, Chairman.

A. G. JONES, Secretary.

Halifax, 2nd January, 1864.