

pictures. It was very properly objected by some that the awful scene of the crucifixion should not have been exhibited, with its accompanying darkness, gleams of light, &c.; yet an aged couple, named Tardif, who had charge of the Court-house, were rich, and who had never been in a theatre before, went to see the dioramas solely from religious motives.

At 10 o'clock, the exhibition having finished, the band played the National Anthem, the audience were retiring well pleased with what they had witnessed, and a few young men at the upper part of the house were calling out, as a joke, for "Yankee Doodle," when a strong light was observed behind the green curtain—a camphine lamp had been upset by a boy, and the flame began to communicate with the baize. Some of the audience in the front rows sat for a short time, watching the progress of the flames. Lieut. Armstrong, 14th Regt., leapt on the stage and assisted to extinguish them, but nothing could master the camphine. The leader of the band, Mr. Savageau, quietly collected his music and instruments, and retired underneath the flames, telling his son to follow him. So little danger did Mr. Savageau apprehend, that, missing a favourite piece of music, he returned for it, and again retired in safety; but not so his son.

About 240 people had already quitted the house by the only door left open for them, namely, that by which they had entered, the box door; and now, when the thick camphine smoke began to roll round the walls, the 60 people, who still remained on the front rows, now suddenly got up, without uttering a word, and made their way to the stair. They seemed awe-struck—their silence was fearful.

M. Dupuis, a French Canadian, who was present with his wife, now showed great presence of mind. When he was entering the house, he had remarked the porch over the pit door, which door was not used to admit any one, and now seeing a rush towards the box door, he thought to try another mode of escape. Where he had seen a porch he thought there must be a door; he therefore took his wife, who was greatly agitated, to a dark passage on the left, and found the pit door, but it was locked; he felt about for the key; it was on a nail near; he applied it to the lock, the door opened, and he found himself inside the closed porch; but he soon kicked out a panel, and got himself and his wife out. Lieut. Armstrong also escaped by the same door. A boy, twelve years of age, named Shaw, who had taken his two little brothers with him to see the dioramas, also maintained his self-possession, and when the rush to the back part of the house took place, he held the children, and said, "Stop! we won't go there and be killed; we'll go out another way." And they did so in safety.

Armstrong now ran round to the box door with some others; it was found closed; it was pushed open and all was darkness inside: he returned to the pit door calling out "fire!" which cry was carried on by others; he again entered the theatre, the flames were among the scenery, though the stage was still clear. Armstrong then kicked down a door communicating with a passage between the pit and box doors, when about twenty people rushed past him and escaped; he fell in the passage from the effects of a light-coloured vapour, but retaining his presence of mind, he did not get up again, but crawled out of the pit door on his hands and knees and saw the light cloud passing into the body of the house; he next ran for a light to the guard-room near, and got one;