

Heartrending Calamity.

One of the most terrible disasters in the history of Massachusetts occurred to night, 27th May, by the burning of the French Catholic Church at South Holyoke, during evening service, involving the death of sixty-six men, women and children. The exercises had nearly closed and a vesper service was being sung when the draperies on the altar caught fire from a candle, and the walls being low and the flames streaming up the building was set on fire. The audience numbered about 700 people. Those in the body of the church escaped, but in the stairway leading from the gallery human beings were packed in a dense mass struggling to escape as the flames rushed toward them. Many leaped to the floor beneath and were trampled to death. The gallery skirted both sides of the building, with only one entrance from the front. The scene was fearful in the extreme during the little while it lasted, for the whole was over in twenty minutes. Besides the sixty six dead the fatally wounded will carry the total loss of life up to seventy fire. The priest's house which joined the church in the rear was also burned. The bodies were taken to Peter Munatt's Main street store and Park street school house for temporary deposit. An inquest will be held to-morrow at 9 o'clock a.m. The loss on the church is total, but it is small. The priest's exertions to keep order were fruitless. The screams of the living and means of the dying made a deafening tumult above the orders of the pastor who worked most heroically, and was personally instrumental in saving many lives. One family of four were in the church and all were killed. Many were pulled out by arms and feet so badly burned that they lived but a few hours, the flesh peeling on being touched. Some were taken out with hardly any flesh remaining on their bones. The Sisters of Mercy from the convent were promptly present caring for the wounded and holding services over the dying, while Father Dufrense also held many services over the dying. His mother was among those terribly burned. Father Dufrense lost almost everything in his residence, so rapidly was the building consumed. A large wooden tenement block of Joseph Preue, near the burned church, was thrown open for the reception of the dead and wounded, and several deaths occurred in this building during the night. Several were also taken to New York Mills' boarding house, and the physicians gave the wounded the best of medical care. Those who were too badly burned to recover were put under the effects of morphine, and passed away without a struggle.

FREAR BEND, Pa., 29th.—The business part of the town was burned last night. The Masonic Hall, Post Office, Printing Office, Wagon Shop, two Dwellings, two Banks, and ten Stores were burned. The loss is about \$1,000,000; insurance \$600,000. The fire was the work of an incendiary.

A second successful voyage by an iron turret ship is now reported. The Devastation crossed the Bay of Biscay successfully in very heavy weather and proved a good sea boat. She excited great interest at Lisbon, where the King of Portugal visited her, and thence made a good voyage to Gibraltar.

"Before the war," says a French publisher, "we never sold more than 4,000 copies of a manual of geography. Now we sell 14,000 almost before we know it."

The number of shipwrecks recorded for the month of February this year is 128, of

which seventeen were steamers. Fifty six were English and eleven American.

The Count Passovini only a few days ago lighted upon a document in the National Library, London, of interest to Englishmen and students of English history. Its date is March 8, 1554, and it is an application to Pope Julius III. for the deprivation of Thos. Cranmer from the See of Canterbury, on account of his evil life. It is signed Roger Ascham, and is apparently written by him, and is countersigned by Mary and her husband Philip. It is in perfect order and beautifully written. Mary signs "Maria" in a small, round, and clear hand. Philip's name is written with a lighter ink, and manifests a royal indifference to good calligraphy.

Some interesting relics have been brought to light at Chatham Dockyard, in England, where the discovery has been made of a portion of the sails of Lord Nelson's flagship, the Victory. They were taken from that vessel immediately after the battle of Trafalgar, and have since lain unthought of in the sail loft of Chatham Dockyard. The most interesting of the relics discovered in the foretop-sail, which is in a good state of preservation. The sail is riddled with shot holes, there being as many as ninety holes made by the shot. Another of the sails—the maintop-sail—which is hardly complete, has still the label attached to it when the sail was stowed away; and this states that, when the maintop-sail was removed from the Victory, there was as many as sixty holes made by the shot to be counted in it. On the sails may still be seen painted the maker's name—"Miller, contractor, Portsmouth, 1805."



NOTICE.

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

OTTAWA, 10th May, 1875.

NOTICE is hereby given that His Excellency, the Governor-General, by an Order in Council bearing date the 7th inst., and under the authority vested in him by the 3rd section of the 31st Victoria, Cap. 10, has been pleased to order and direct that the following articles be transferred to the list of goods, which may be imported into Canada free of duty, viz:—

- "Sheet German silver."
- "Box wood."

By command, J. JOHNSON,
Commissioner of Customs.

May 29, 1875. 21-3



Department of Militia and Defence.

TENDERS will be received until noon on the 15th day of June, 1875, for the supply of such Cloth of Canadian Manufacture as may be required for Uniform Clothing for the Militia, during the current year, the cloth to be regulation colours, viz: Oxford Mixture, Scarlet, Green and Blue; and to be furnished in such proportions as may be required.

Patterns may be seen, and further information will be given on application.

The department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

W. POWELL, Colonel,
Adjutant-General.

Ottawa, April 30th, 1875. 18

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William Street, New York,