

window, offered a free passage, and the blinding smoke cleared from her path, she was enabled to reach the two who slept in the heavy sleep of childhood, unconscious of their peril, and hitherto untouched by the fire. With a cry of joy, she seized the youngest of the two sleepers and making her way to a window, succeeded in attracting the attention of the firemen who had just arrived upon the scene.

The child was taken from her arms, but when they would have seized her to carry her likewise to safety, she freed herself from them by a swift movement and rushing back into the room which the smoke and flames had now invaded, she succeeded in dragging by a last superhuman effort the third and last child to the window. Scarcely had she been relieved of this burden, she disappeared from the view of the eager watchers below, and sank fainting to the floor. A brave heart and a pair of willing arms were, however, close at hand, and the mother still unconscious was borne down the ladder and soon resting securely in a neighbor's house. Meanwhile the crowd comprehending the situation, had been cheering and applauding, strong men wept and women wound up to a pitch of nervous excitement fainted or went into hysterics.

Indescribable was the effect, when about an hour later, while the firemen were still struggling to get the flames under control, and the crowd were still eagerly pressing round in search of other sensations, when suddenly there appeared at the door of the neighboring house, the blind woman herself, pale and so weak that she could scarcely stand erect. But it had been impossible to dissuade her from appearing to tell herself the story of how she saved the children. Every voice was hushed, every heart beat high to the thrill of heroism in that simple narrative, but for those of the faith, in especial, a touch of awe was added when the blind woman declared that it was the Blessed Sacrament that had enabled her to do what she had done. To that Divine Presence upon the Altar, in the Church at no great distance, she attributed her success in the apparently hopeless task of saving the children. Also raising her weak voice to the highest, and with an accent of faith and fervor, to which the pathos of her