

the wounded, rendering what aid they could with dressing and bandages at hand.

"At Camp Hill Hospital where we were taking the wounded, soldiers were placed to see that not a car went away without passengers. Those who were able to be removed after wounds were dressed were taken to homes thrown open for the purpose.

"In the kitchen of the hospital ladies were preparing food at one end of the room while at the other doctors performed operations and removed eyes by the score. Even the floors were covered with the injured."

*Like Unto a Mighty
Rushing Wind.*

Survivors speak of a mighty rushing wind which accompanied the explosion and actually blew the clothes from the living and dying. The scenes were heart-rending. Many bodies were crushed and broken into parts and were unrecognizable. Husbands would arrive at their homes to find, in cases, wife and nine or ten children buried in the debris of a razed home. Children came toddling in search of parents. One lad of sixteen was the pathetic sole survivor of a family of father, mother and nine children.

One man went into a drug store with one of his eyes held in his hand and the empty socket covered by the other, to inquire stolidly if anything could be done with it. Among the injured was a woman who, while holding her baby, had both eyes destroyed by flying glass.

The alarm of fire on board the steamer brought many people to the windows as curious spectators and this is one explanation for the horrible eye injuries. Another is that no matter whether windows were in back or front, facing the harbor or not, the glass was blown inwards, inflicting terrible injuries.

An eye witness of the collision told a newspaper reporter that he and his wife were looking at the two steamers as they approached each other. He noticed the French munition steamer *Mont Blanc* as she came in through the Narrows with her cargo of nitro-glycerine, T. N. T. and benzine turn slightly to port and the Belgian Relief steamer bear down upon her. "My God!" he exclaimed, "they are going to collide!" In a moment they were together, but as both vessels were proceeding slowly the impact was not great. In less than two minutes flames were seen to shoot from the *Mont Blanc's* deck as she turned in towards Pier 8.