



Devastated Homes in Richmond.—St. Joseph's School on left.

*In the Fire Area of Richmond.*

"When I reached the fire area of Richmond, the scene beyond was shut out by a dense curtain of smoke from which issued soldiers, sailors and civilians, bearing horrible forms on chairs, mattresses, doors or in their arms. The street was lined on both sides with dead and dying. Those in which the spark of life still lingered were rushed to hospitals where operations were being performed on tables covered with fallen plaster and broken glass.

"Everywhere I saw refugees covered with blood and with clothing blown from their bodies. Women and children in bare feet seemed unmindful of the snow that covered the ground. All were seeking safety from another explosion which everyone then expected.

"Wellington Barracks and the streets above were deserted except for a few who vainly attempted to save from their burning dwellings, what articles they could carry in their arms.

"In a field I saw a pile of clothing which had been taken from a burning home. A spark had fallen and a flame was eating its way into the pile. I tore the burning garments away to save what remained untouched but efforts were in vain for burning brands were falling all about.

"On the common were thousands of people seeking refuge in the open. Soldiers of the Medical Corps went about among