

ed to remove some of the patients from the cells to the ward in the western side; but the smell of smoke acted upon some of them as that of blood upon a tiger, and they nerved themselves for the fight. They hit, tore and scratched, and became as refractory as possible. The fire was spreading with frightful rapidity, the corridors filling with suffocating smoke and heat. The unfortunate inmates were noisy, intractable, and they would not leave; they hid under beds, wrapped up in blankets or sheets, and required extraordinary strength to extricate them. The flames were dancing through the corridors, still they hid, and despite the efforts made to save them, it is believed that three inmates perished in the conflagration. Three times Mr. Vincellette broke down under the load he was carrying, and each time was he rescued by faithful coadjutors. On the last occasion he fell from the third to the second story in endeavoring to save two women; he cut himself seriously, and dislocated his right elbow. He was rescued at the point of suffocation by Hypolite Lassard and conveyed to the male ward. But all could not be saved. There were those who put themselves beyond the reach of human help, and went down to the death they courted. These were Miss Bazin of Montreal, Miss Prussien and Miss Breton, left behind in the burning building—at least such is the belief of the Superintendent and his wife—and it is presumed that they were burned or suffocated to death. The supposition as to their disappearance is certainly a most painful one, and there seems to be circumstantial evidence enough to prove that they died in the flames.

After nine o'clock the Mayor and members of the Council were on the ground and every exertion was being put forth to save life and property. The Mayor very properly put himself in charge of the Corporation Fire Service and dispelled whatever doubt there may have existed of his being perfectly competent to deal with fires. But the pillage became something extensive until finally a detachment of the 8th Battalion had to be sent for. The amounts of insurance effected on the building have not transpired but it is said that they are very heavy.