

No. 5.

Mrs. Elizabeth Allan Mickle, widow of the late A. F. Mickle, Esq., duly sworn, saith,—

That no fire was made in our kitchen stove after dining hour—twelve o'clock. I did not know to a certainty the hour the fire occurred; it was Mr. Mickle alarmed me of the fire could not form any defined idea of the position of the fire—but thinks that the whole back portion of the building was on fire—when I was first alarmed I went into Charles' room and took him out of his crib; Mr. Mickle was either with me in the room or in the hall; I then went into the girl's room and found her up; I proceeded to the door opposite the kitchen and found heavy (dense) smoke but no flames. The smoke drove me back and obliged me to endeavour to get out some other way. I took the child Maggie by the hand, having told the girl I would take charge of her—the child being frightened got away from me. Mr. Mickle was with me when I went towards the door opposite the kitchen. I turned and went into the bedroom next the parlour; during this time I was under the impression I was followed by Mr. Mickle. I pushed out the window sash and jumped out of the window. The regular receptacle for our ashes was a hogshead at the lower part of the yard, they were never kept in the house over night; we had three stoves in the house, one in parlour, one in hall, and one in kitchen, the pipes of which went straight up into a brick chimney. Having occasion to go into Messrs. Vansickle & Hobson's shop, I noticed a box about the size of a candlebox in the storeroom, in which I saw ashes, the box was nearly full, and my impression was that the ashes were kept there until full and then removed to the yard. My reason for arriving at this conclusion was from the fact that I saw the same box for two or three days together apparently in the same condition, that is full of ashes. I was satisfied in my own mind that when the fire happened that it did not proceed from our kitchen owing to the precautions we had taken. I was asleep in bed when Mr. Mickle came up out of the office. The doors were all fastened before I went to bed. I have seen the writing over the letter box, but never attached any importance to it. We were particularly careful of fire owing to the late fire, and Mr. Mickle was more so than any in the house. When turning back from the door from me he said "Oh, dear! oh, my!" It was my impression that the place where I saw the ashes in the store-room was the usual place in which they kept them. I afterwards saw the same box in the yard. The box of ashes I saw was about six weeks previous to the fire. It is my impression that the lad put the ashes there for convenience, as it was a great distance from the front shop to the yard. I was not in the store-house for three weeks previous to the fire. I did not observe ashes then,—and further deponent saith not.

The above deponent was sick in bed from the effects of injuries received at the fire, and could not appear at the inquest, but was sworn and acknowledged the above before the Foreman, John Lynch, Esq., and John McWatters Juryman, with the Coroner.

The above sworn to before me, }
this 16th day of March, 1858. }

J. BOWIE,
Coroner.

No. 6.

J. J. E. Linton, Esq., Clerk of the Peace, Stratford, being duly sworn, saith,—That I first noticed the fire from my window at about ten minutes