

ELIZABETH HAS A BIG FIRE.

TWO IMPORTANT BUILDINGS, WHICH INCLUDED THE POST OFFICE, BURNED.

ELIZABETH, N. J., April 13.—This city to-day suffered a great loss by fire, which occurred in the centre of the business portion. The burned buildings, the two most prominent in Broad Street, were the Arcade and the First National Bank. The Arcade was owned by ex-Congressman Amos Clark, and contained the Post Office. It was built in 1866 at a cost of \$150,000. In January, 1879, the Arcade contained an opera house and was partially destroyed by fire. When rebuilt it was devoted to business places, and contained, besides the Post Office, the District Court room, the central office of the New-York and New-Jersey Telephone Company, the stores of L. R. Chew, picture frame maker; W. A. Tubbs, stationer, and C. A. Harris, flour and feed; Masonic lodge room, headquarters of the Third Regiment, New-Jersey National Guard, and Phil Kearny Guard, Company C, a conservatory of music, the law offices of ex-Judge Alward, Surrogate Parrott, and Gen. J. A. Fay, and the saloon of N. H. Astfalk.

The fire was started by some varnish boiling over in Chew's store. In the centre of the building was a rotunda, which caused a draught that swept the flames through the entire interior in a few minutes. The inmates were able to save but little of their goods, and some almost lost their lives. Mr. A. H. Clark, son of the ex-Congressman, was nearly suffocated in his office and was rescued at a window. Ex-Judge Alward was found partially overcome on the stairs and was carried out by Quartermaster Hawkins of the Third Regiment. The Hon. Foster M. Voorhees was rescued from his office, which filled with smoke and flames while he was trying to save his library.

Mr. Clark had an insurance of \$60,000 in New-York and other outside companies. The National Fire Insurance Company had an insurance of \$5,000 on the bank building, which was damaged to the extent of \$10,000. All the records of the District Court were destroyed, as well as the libraries of the several lawyers. All the Post Office furniture and much of the equipment were consumed, including \$600 worth of stamped envelopes and 160,000 postal cards. The letters were thrust into mail bags and carried to a place of safety. All the books, checks, papers, and money orders were saved.

Postmaster Moore has made arrangements for occupying the old Central Railroad office for temporary quarters, and mail bags, &c., have been borrowed from Newark. The roof and top story of the bank building were burned. The bank has temporary quarters in the Elizabeth-town Gas Company's office. The roof of Ryan's City Hotel was damaged by the walls of the Arcade falling upon it. The losses of the occupants aggregate \$40,000, partially covered by insurance. All the records of the Third Regiment were consumed. Company C, Phil Kearny Guard, lost all of its large collection of trophies, valued at several thousand dollars. The whole loss by the fire is \$250,000. Mr. Clark last week lost his wife by death and is confined to his room by the grip. His sons say that the Arcade will be rebuilt. Newark sent Steamer No. 10, under command of Chief Kiersted, to assist the local department.

The telephone company rented part of the building at East Grand and Broad Streets with the Postal Telegraph Company. Superintendent McCully and Manager Root of the telephone company say they will have the fire alarm and telephone systems of the city in operation by Thursday.

LIKE THE MULLIGAN LETTERS.

SOME WHICH GEORGE RYAN HAD WORKED MUCH MISCHIEF.

But for some tell-tale letters found in his overcoat pocket, George Ryan would probably be a free man to-day instead of being on his way to the Elmira Reformatory.

On Good Friday night while recovering from the grip Mr. King Kero of 62 Avenue B imbibed freely on the Bowery. He shouted "I am King Kero!" in a loud voice and would probably have been arrested had not Ryan, John Davidson, and others escorted him home. To pay themselves for their trouble when they got to the door of his home they relieved King Kero of his watch and chain.

Kero shouted loudly at this action on the part of the Good Samaritans, and Davidson was caught by a policeman. Ryan was afterward arrested. Davidson pleaded guilty, and at Ryan's trial yesterday said that Ryan was not concerned in the robbery. So did Ryan in his own behalf, and even Mr. King Kero did not believe that Ryan was guilty.

But some letters had been found in Ryan's coat addressed to Timothy Sammons, care of Mrs. Reilly, at 623 First Avenue, in which a plan for a robbery was mapped out. Ryan said that the overcoat belonged to a friend and that the letters had been left in it. He also said that he lived at 334 East Forty-sixth Street.

Mrs. Reilly, however, spoiled his defense. She identified Ryan as a man named Sammons who had lived at her house. Ryan was then convicted by the jury.

IT IS DOING MUCH GOOD.

A WORTHY CHARITY, THE WORKING GIRLS' VACATION SOCIETY.

One of the best and most creditably known of the city's charities, the Working Girls' Vacation Society, has announced a sale at 104 East Twentieth Street, to take place on the afternoons and evenings of Thursday and Friday of this week, out of which it is hoped to realize a substantial sum.

Nearly 500 sick and worn-out girls of this city enjoyed outings in the country last Summer through this society. A fortnight's vacation was usually allowed each girl, the girls paying the nominal sum of \$1.50 a week each, except in a few cases where they were not able to pay. Many girls, for various reasons, could not leave home for more than a day at a time and they got Glen Island tickets.

Girls making applications for outings were required to furnish certificates from physicians that they needed vacations, and they had to be vouched for by some responsible person interested in working girls' societies.

Annual subscriptions for 1891 are now due, and the society hopes for generous contributions.

The officers of the society are: President—Mrs. James F. Drummond; Vice President—Mrs. S. D. Floyd; Secretary—Mrs. William Herbert; Treasurer—Miss Edith Bryce, 40 West Fifty-fourth Street.

BRIDGE TRUSTEES MEET.

The Trustees of the Brooklyn Bridge met yesterday. Twelve were present. The business transacted related for the most part to the extension project. The Committee on Terminal Facilities reported in favor of taking the block in Brooklyn in Fulton Street, between High and Washington. The matter of the location of the avenues of approach from Tillary Street to Sands was referred back to the committee with instructions to give a hearing to interested parties. The officers were instructed to condemn the property in Washington Street, between Concord and Tillary.

Trustee Skinner offered a resolution, which was adopted, directing the counsel for the bridge to secure if possible a legislative act to authorize the Trustees to make the use of the promenade free after July 1, 1891. Treasurer McClellan reported that he had received in March \$101,773.51 from persons using the bridge, that he had paid out \$59,803.88, and that his cash on hand was \$397,400.56.

The number of bridge passengers in March was 3,703,243, of whom 3,462,686 were carried in the cars.

Judge Patterson of the Supreme Court has confirmed the report of the Commissioners awarding \$255,000 for the property at the east of the New-York entrance to the bridge which is wanted to increase the bridge terminal facilities.

RECKLESS PISTOL PRACTICE.

On the south side of Fifty-third Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues, is a row of houses which set back somewhat from the street line. As a South Ferry train was passing these houses at 10:05 o'clock yesterday morning the passengers in the front car were startled by what sounded like two sharp raps on the windows.

One of them apparently produced no effect, but the other was followed by a shower of fine glass, and on examination it was seen that a bullet had been shot through one of the car windows, passing close to the face of a man sitting in one of the cross seats, causing him and a woman in the opposite seat to leave their places in alarm. The guard was summoned, and, assisted by several passengers, made a long search for the bullet, but they failed to find it.

The number of the car in which this little incident of elevated railway travel happened was 642.

WEIGHERS' LABORERS DISCHARGED.

Eighty-five weighers' laborers in the force of Surveyor Lyon were dismissed from the service yesterday. The step was made necessary by the removal of the duty on the ordinary grades of sugar. These men had been employed in the sugar department and there was no longer work for them to do.

It was the largest batch of removals made at the Custom House in many a day. The men have been receiving \$2.50 a day apiece.

KILLED HIMSELF ON SHIPBOARD.

Frederick E. Kunz, a second cabin passenger on La Normandie, which arrived from Havre yesterday, committed suicide on that vessel by cutting his throat. He was twenty-six years of age and a silk weaver by trade. The deed was committed at 3 o'clock on the morning of April 5. It is supposed that he was suffering from temporary insanity. The body was buried in the sea the following night.