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A BIG EXPLOSION.

Seventy Tons of Powder in a Wreck.

THE CLIFF HOUSE BLOWN UP.

Point Lobos Station in Ruins.

LIFE-SAVING MEN HURT.

Narrow Escape of the Family of the Signal Officer.

THE SHOCK FELT IN THIS CITY

The Crew of the Wrecked Schooner Parallel Escape in Boats.

About 9:30 o'clock last night the schooner Parallel, Captain Miller, went ashore directly off Point Lobos, striking on the rocks in front of the Cliff House, and the terrific explosion of her powder caused the destruction of the resort.

The captain and all hands took to the boats before the schooner lodged, and when last seen were safely away from the wreck. The Parallel closed on Thursday for Astoria.

She is of 142 tons burden, was built in San Francisco in 1868, and is owned by S. S. Paterson.

THE CREW THOUGHT TO BE SAFE.

The crew of the Parallel was supposed to have escaped in the ship's boats and, as they would naturally make for port, a lookout was being kept at Meiggs wharf for them, but up to 2:30 o'clock this morning nothing had been seen of them. The night was bright and clear and the sea not stormy, all of which circumstances were in favor of the men escaping if they got safely away from the schooner in the boats.

SHIPTON SEES THE CLIFF.

Meager reports were received from the wreck last night, but it is evident that she drifted south from Point Lobos and struck on the rocks directly in front of the Cliff House, which is being remodeled by Adolph Sutro into an aquarium. There she was pounded against the rocks by the heavy surf, and was reported rapidly breaking up at 11 o'clock. It was known that she had powder on board, but no danger was apprehended from this source.

A FRIGHTFUL EXPLOSION AT MIDNIGHT.

At 12:30 the powder on board the Parallel, of which there were forty tons, exploded, with a terrific concussion, which shook the entire neighborhood. At the Merchants' Exchange the shock was mistaken for that of an earthquake. The building shook and doors and windows rattled violently.

A SHOWER OF DEBRIS.

It was not many minutes before the Exchange received a telephone message from John Hinkle, the man in charge of the Point Lobos station, stating that the Parallel's powder had exploded and that the Cliff House, the two signal stations and everything else within half a mile had been wrecked. The north end of the Cliff House was entirely blown away, and the remainder of the building shaken up and every window broken.

TWO SIGNAL STATIONS.

About 12:30 o'clock this morning the telegraph operator was dispatched to the scene of the wreck with apoliances for the relief of the schooner and the crew.

At the time of going to press the running gear was still in the neighborhood of the wreck, and the particulars of the disaster could not be learned. The Dispatch was sent out at the instance of the Merchants' Exchange and the Cuprali will report at headquarters upon his return.

STORY FROM CAPTAIN LEES.

At 2:20 a. m. Captain Lees telephoned from the Cliff House site that the entire structure had been blown to atoms. The schooner, with 140,000 pounds of giant powder, had been piled up under the cliff and had then exploded the last dislodged its cargo on the shore at 9:30 p. m., and the crew had then taken to the boats. At 1:30 o'clock the explosion occurred, and the building was blown to atoms. Captain Lees telephoned to the Cliff House to know at the request of Captain Lees.

The report of the concussion was plainly heard by Officer Campbell, who was standing in front of the old City Hall.

STORY OF EYE-WITNESSES.

Fearful Scenes of Ruin—Sufferings of the Wounded.

At 9:30 o'clock last evening John Hyslop, the marine reporter, saw the Parallel come ashore at the point of rocks forming the cove at the north of the Cliff House. All sails were set and both lights were burning. He immediately gave the alarm and hastened down to the cove.

J. M. Wilkins of the Cliff House hastened down to the little cove where Mr. Hoffman is building his aquarium. They there began onto the vessel under the idea that the crew were on board, but the ships failed to reach her. Wilkins then took a buggy and drove down to the life-saving station.

The life-saving men knew nothing of the wreck. He rode them and they brought out their apparatus. With the aid of his horse the life-saving apparatus was hauled up the hill and down to the cove. By Captain Hyslop had found out that no one was aboard. It was one hour and ten minutes from the time the wreck was discovered until the life-saving crew reached the place.

The life-saving men built a bonfire on the beach and the civilians all went home. The Cliff House was shut and all was to sleep.

THE GREAT EXPLOSION.

At 1 o'clock the sleepers were thrown from their beds by a great explosion, which shook their beds from one side to the other. Windows and doors rattled, goods had upheaved the Cliff, or a tidal wave swept up from the sea. The great waves chased the people from their beds, and they hurried out to see what was the matter. Some thought it was a shock of earthquake, which shook the earth, but people who should be the best judges said it was a shock of powder.

Hundreds of people were drawn from their beds by the force of the explosion. Furniture and ornaments were tossed and heaved about the room.

The schooner Parallel was positively annihilated. Pieces of the wreckage were found as far down as the Pavilion on the Ocean House road. The life-saving men about the bonfire on the cliff from thence down and all were horribly injured. They were taken to the Merchants' Exchange station in a dying condition. Medical attendance was immediate, but had not reached the place at a o'clock this morning.

HORRORS OF THE LIFE-SAVING MEN.

Hinson Smith's skull was crushed, his shoulders crushed and his legs badly bruised. He was taken to the Lobos Signal Station, where, at 2:30 a. m., he lay quite unconscious. Little hopes are entertained for his recovery.

Charles Rogers, another member of the life-saving station, also left over the Cliff to go to the scene of the explosion and broke or sprained his ankle. He also was lying at the life saving station without medical attendance.

John Wilson was cut and bruised but his injuries could not be learned definitely. He was taken to the hill to the Signal Station.

A Japanese servant, a boy and several others starting to the vicinity were cut, bruised and otherwise injured.

WORK AT THE LIFE-SAVING STATION.

The Cliff House presented a scene of wreck which beggars description. Every window in the house was shattered, even the frames and sashes were torn out, the doors were shattered, floors were torn up, and the furniture and ornaments of all kinds and shapes were tossed about in every direction, and were all in fragments. The house bodily at the west side, from which vantage point a view could be had down to the middle and it was dangerous to venture upon it.

The heavy front doors were twisted off their hinges, the bar was a total wreck, the glass front was gone, the expensive pictures were scattered among the debris; in fact the whole building seemed to have been wrecked as if by an earthquake. The south piazza had one portion of its balcony and wreckage, weighing nearly pounds which had been swept down over the roof of the hotel, lies on this piazza.

The kitchen was horribly demolished. It was at the north end, which received the full force of the shock. The dining-room, also, was totally wrecked. The bolder were overturned. The plastering covered the floor. In a word complete ruin was apparent everywhere.

Had the explosion been a little more severe the building would certainly have fallen down the cliff into the sea.

Mr. Wilkins estimates that his loss is not less than $50,000, while he thought Sutro's loss would be several thousand, as the conservatory was smashed.

At the time of the explosion John Hyslop, the marine reporter at Point Lobos, was visiting the wreck through the glasses, and the great concussion shook the building and made the glass in the telescope fall to pieces, but Mr. Hyslop escaped without injury.

Another broken bar was torn from the cliff at 2 o'clock this morning to avoid the repeats in the work of opening all that remained of the wreck. The Express was about a mile from the shore when the explosion occurred, and escaped injury.

The remained of the hatch until the danger had apparently passed and then repaired at once to the wreck.

AT THE COTTAGE.

The Home of the Proprietor of the Cliff Wrecked.

About 9:30 o'clock Mrs. Wilkins and Mrs. Fay were from a window of the cottage adjacent to the Cliff House a vessel coming in under full sail, and they stood 12 o'clock, and said, since an hour later the vessel was seen to be struck by a terrific explosion. As one of the ladies remarked they thought the world had come to an end. The house was violently shaken from end to foundation, and subsequent investigation proved that the entire structure had been moved fully five feet from where it originally stood.

The room occupied by Mrs. Fay faced the ocean and the force of the explosion broke the bed in which she was sleeping into many pieces, and of its framework being thrown across the room. The window sash was blown into fragments, and its plastering was left on the walls. In a room opening into Mrs. Fay's sleeping a little child was asleep under a window. The heavy glass fell in a shower over the child's head, cutting its face and neck badly, the others being frightened with blood when in response to the little one's cries Mrs. Fay rushed to its bedside.

Mrs. Pearson, mother of Mrs. Wilkins, occupied a room in the rear of the house, and had a piece which was thrown from another window on to the bed.

The kitchen of the cottage faced the point nearest to where the explosion occurred, and when seized by a Chronicle reporter was a complete wreck. The stove was scattered out into fragments, the pans and kettles were broken and twisted out of shape, the boxes across the roof were stamped in two and not an article in the room remained intact.

In the parlor the marble mantel was torn away from the wall and dropped on the floor. The whole back of the cottage was blown in, leaving several apartments open to the air. Several pieces of the wreck were found in the interior of the house, which is situated about 300 yards from the spot where the vessel went ashore.

Adjoining the cottage was a shed for the temporary shelter of horses, and under this the horses were housed. This entire structure was prostrated, and the broken timbers were drenched with the shower of salt water thrown up by the terrific force of the explosion.

The windows in Sutro's conservatory were smashed to atoms, the conservatory completely wrecked and other outbuildings adjacent were badly wrecked. The Cliff House and the Pavilion on the beach also suffered a hard wrecking. Windows were torn out, doors bodily thrown from their hinges and wreckage strewed along the sand of place. Horses were thrown down and graveyard and crockery left a heap of broken bits on the floor.

THE LIFE-SAVING CREW.

Crew Injured by Their Failure to Reach the City.

It was reported at the Merchants' Exchange soon after the schooner struck that the Captain and crew had left her and were headed for the city. Watches at the Cliff House and Point Lobos reported that a sloop took out for the boat and reader saying the Parallel was blown up.

Captain Lees, the keeper of the life saving station, in his report to an attaché of the Chronicle stated that he had given rise to the general fears for the safety of the men. The tide and wind were both favorable, and it was expected that the men would have reached the city by 1 o'clock this morning. The station reports, however, maintain that unless the little crab was shattered by the explosion it will make a safe landing.

MYSTERY OF THE WRECK.

Theory That an Infernal Machine Was on Board.

The vessel left this port on the 12th inst. and it is a complete mystery how the vessel could have been found on the rocks. The explosion was invented at the beach that the whole affair was a gigantic plot, the schooner loaded with an infernal machine and turned adrift geared for Point Lobos. Upon the beach were picked up bottom portions of boxes with the inscription "Giant Powder No. 2."

THE SCHOONER'S OWNER.

He Gives Some Details of the Wrecked Vessel.

S. S. Paterson, owner of the schooner, residing in this city, was visited by a Chronicle reporter at his residence this morning. Mr. Paterson had just been informed of the explosion and wreck and could hardly give credence to the report. "Why, the Parallel," he said, in astonishment, must be 300 miles up the coast! I left this port last Wednesday night. I don't see how she could have got back so quick. Or, if she did, what was she doing in Lobos, Or?"

"How many men comprised the crew?" "Nine, as near as I can remember. I do not remember their names."

A WIDESPREAD SHOCK.

The Explosion Felt for Over Three Hundred Miles Inland.

A big Gunnar on Sutter street came out of his house and, seeing a sailor passing by, asked who had been at the fort. The sailor answered that a schooner had gone on the rocks, but he learned that only a few minutes before a terrible explosion had shaken the house down.

Houses quivered and windows, doors, and fixtures and crockery rattled all over town.

The shock of the explosion was plainly felt for a hundred miles inland. Some people thought the fate of the Maine and Oneida another powder factory had been blown up.

Inquiries came from San José and Oakland at the same time, and from every station was as much in the dark as the inquirers.

HOW ABOUT THE SEALS?

Probability That Many Were Killed by the Explosion.

An interesting query suggested by the explosion concerns the fate of the seal tribe, which daily and nightly disport themselves on the feed rocks, from where the explosion occurred. Such an amount of powder as exploded on the spot would naturally cause an immense concussion. The effect of the explosion of powder in water on ordinary fish would lead to the conclusion that it would have been equally fatal to the seals, especially if they were in the water.

Many of them must have been killed, and it is not improbable that some of the dead bodies may be washed ashore along the coast beach. These stories adduced have for many years established one of the chief attractions of the "CLIFF" to visitors from the East never think of leaving home without having visited the resort from through a glass from the shore opposite the famed feed rocks. Should it prove true that the explosion has definitely drained their numbers, the best chief attractions of the room beach for amusement will be gone.

The barometer for the week ending, ending at 5 o'clock this morning, was as follows: Sea level, 30.00; station pressure, 29.90; temperature, 51; dew point, 41; humidity, 80; wind, 10; weather, cloudy.

FROM FOREIGN LANDS.

Gladstone's Progress Toward the Pole.

GLADSTONE AND HOME RULE.

Stanley's African Expedition—Bismarck's Opponents in Germany.

The negotiations between Gladstone and the Parnellite members of the Irish Commission is reported to have made several concessions.

Stanley's expedition is now in the Congo country. Emin Bey is still in Equatorial.

The 10th Reichstag was still making relations in some form, and it is doubtful whether it will be able to receive Emin Pasha.....The opposition of the Bismarck party will not prepare for a vigorous campaign before the people.....The session of the Prussian Landtag opens today.

(Special Dispatches to the Chronicle.)

NEWS FROM GILDER.

At York Factory, Ready to Start for Fort Chesterfield.

NEW YORK, January 15.—A. H. Gilder sends to the Herald, via Winnipeg, from York Factory, Hudson Bay, Dec. 31st, 1886, the following letter: "The season's fall of temperature on October 12th from the Hill river, on the north, and we got our boat and baggage, and were compelled to leave the Hill River, and we arrived at Fort Churchill on November 1st, and brought everything forward on sledges. We are now at Fort Churchill, and we get over. We expect to reach Repulse Bay in March, and to make Esquimaux in the spring. The Indians say we can do it easily. We start for Fort Chesterfield, and then make connections at Chesterson, so they think back will find that this will meet year if we get without taking it.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Negotiations Between Gladstone and the Parnellite Leaders.

NEW YORK, January 16.—G. Smalley, the Tribune's special cable from London of January 15th says: The negotiations between Gladstone and the Parnellites are broken off. There is no question of the Parnellites. The question of Parnellites is simply a matter. The question is difficult, but not desperate. Many subjects have been considered by the Cabinet of closing the ground. The Gladstone's Home Rule bill, which is now in the hands of the Parnellites, is a matter of great importance. Gladstone's mission has not ended.—Well, supposing you subjects have been considered by the Parnellites; suppose we work together on other subjects, and suppose we agree on Home Rule, and suppose we agree on all the common platform can we then stand before the country? It is the question to which we answer has yet been found. Gladstone's mission has not ended. Home Rule is not the only question. The Post and Gladstone's not less remarkable comment on it, indicates that other questions are going on before the country. It is Gladstone's belief, I understand, that if he is alive, he will break from Parnell and Home Rule, and he will appeal to the country on other questions, which has heretofore held and one finger, and one finger on the Home Rule, and one finger on the flag of economy, as if he and Lord Randolph were to be joint commissioners.

AN OLD-FASHIONED MINISTRY.

Lord Salisbury's ministry is now in purpose this evening, and a fresh ministry would be an exercise. It is noted that Chamberlain and Lord Hartington are to deliver up the seals of the Exchequer, which Salisbury had intended for the Queen's hands. Chamberlain's issue at Birmingham, which is now in the hands of Lord Salisbury, and Lord Hartington's speech, which is now in the hands of the Queen, are regarded as the most important of the coming session. Lord Salisbury's speech, which is now in the hands of the Queen, is regarded as the most important of the coming session.

AN ARMY'S PROGRESS.

Bismarck's Opponents Preparing for an Active Campaign.

NEW YORK, January 16.—G. W. Smalley's cable from London of the Tribune's issue of January 15th, says: The defeat of the Army bill by twenty-nine majority, and the dissolution of the Reichstag, was not the end but the beginning of a struggle between the Government and the Reichstag. Good judges think it is decided whether the Government is ready to win the election, but a good deal of time must be spent in the election. The opposition of the Bismarck party will be prepared for a vigorous campaign before the people.....The session of the Prussian Landtag opens today.

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GLADSTONE'S PROGRESS.

English Newspapers Are Delighted by the Narration of Attitudes to Ireland.

LONDON, January 15.—Gladstone's speech on the Irish question is generally regarding as many cases to allow the nation to carry out reforms, have yet a large room for the expression of the money income who have not yet been considered. Many of the reforms are cultivated through and the people have yielded good. The Dominion government has shown a good deal of progress in civilization and humanity, and various reforms were made in Canada and in other colonies. There seems to be more where the people are more prosperous and more contented, and the people are more prosperous and more contented. There seems to be more where the people are more prosperous and more contented. Gladstone's speech was received in the House of Commons with great applause, and the speech was received in the House of Commons with great applause. The speech was received in the House of Commons with great applause. The speech was received in the House of Commons with great applause.

A SOLEMN VERDICT.

NEW YORK, January 16.—G. F. Gill cables to the Tribune from Dublin as follows: The inquest on the victims of the Mitchelstown affair ended yesterday after a week of managing. His lordship had begun an examination of the witnesses. The jury had some 300 notes of evidence, but on the 10th instant, the jury had finally agreed to the postponement of the inquest for a few days, in order to enable the jury to consider the evidence. The