

*Extract from a letter to a Gentleman in this city relative to the disastrous explosion of the steamer Moselle.*

CINCINNATI, APRIL 26, 1838.

DEAR SIR: In the hope of preventing the abrupt communication of a most distressing intelligence to those most nearly concerned, I assume the painful duty of apprizing you of the sudden death of Lieut. Col. FOWLE, by the explosion of the boilers of the steamboat Moselle, on board which he was, hoping you will convey to his bereaved family the overwhelming news before it can reach them through a less appropriate channel. The Moselle was a new boat, which had made but three or four trips, about third rate in size, but ranking among the first for elegance of accommodation, and nearly or quite unrivalled in speed. It was a fatal pride in her reputation in the last respect that caused this most awful disaster.

Col. Fowle arrived here in this boat on Tuesday, P. M. 21st inst. She was bound for St. Louis, and was to leave here the next morning. As Col. F. intended to proceed in her to Louisville, and there take a boat for New Orleans, he slept and ate on board during her stay. He called at my warehouse, near the landing, soon after his arrival, and remained with me till about sunset, when we parted; as I board at Newport, Kentucky, opposite this city. The following (yesterday) morning, I went on board, but Col. F. had walked up into the city. By invitation of the captain I returned on board to dinner, where I found Col. F.; and, after dinner, he went again with me to my counting-room, and remained with me till the expiration of the hour allowed him by the steamboat captain, when we parted, and I saw him no more. The boat, however, did not depart until about an hour after, i. e. nearly 1 P. M. On leaving she first went a mile or more up the river, to take in some deck passengers and some lumber. It was in the act of turning from the lumber raft that she exploded. It was observed that, during the time she was lying to, no steam was let off; and a person who had been assisting to put the lumber on board declares that he observed the boilers must be nearly empty of water, that he ran precipitately off the boat and up the bank; and that the explosion happened before he had gone 200 yards. Dr. Hughey, of the Army, was also on board, and is killed. The room mate of Dr. H. who was among the very few survivors, says that, a minute before the catastrophe, he saw Dr. H. and Col. F. standing on the upper guard, on the side next this shore, about midships, or near the great earthen water jar. Beyond doubt they were both thrown overboard and drowned.

The boat was utterly wrecked; her bow was torn out, and she sunk, drifting down with the current to the "Water Works," where she settled, and now lies immersed, to within five feet of the "hurricane deck," or roof. Many bodies have been taken out by fishing through holes made in the roof, but the remains of Col. F. and Dr. H. are still undiscovered; indeed, they are doubtless in the river, and not in the boat. Col. F.'s sword and umbrella are found, and also his servant's trunk; but the rest of his baggage is still missing. Unwearied search has been and will still be made by Captain Denny and Lieutenant Tibbatts, of the Army, and by N. B. Buford, Esq. late of the Army. I need not add, my efforts shall not be withheld. Capt. D. will take possession of the effects of Col. F. and will make due report to the Adjutant General's office. The baggage of Dr. H. is in possession of his brother-in-law, Mr. Hughes, of this city. If the body of Col. F. should be found, we shall see it interred with those marks of respect his high character demands, and our own regard for him and for the feelings of his bereaved family will prompt. The city is in high excitement on account of this, the most awful calamity recorded in the history of steamboats. The police are busy in securing the bodies and property as far as practicable; but I fear there has been and will be much robbery. The loss of life is not computable with accuracy; conjectures vary from 75 to 150; probably 100 is near the truth. Some persons were thrown on shore, and even on the roofs of houses! and pieces of the boiler have been found 400 yards from the position of the boat.

LATER.—The Cincinnati Gazette of the 27th furnishes a list, which we subjoin, as far as had been authentically ascertained, of those lost, missing, and saved.

OFFICE OF THE CINCINNATI GAZETTE, APRIL 27.

PUBLIC MEETING.—In pursuance of a proclamation by the Mayor, a public meeting was held at the Council Chamber, yesterday afternoon, at 3 o'clock. The room was crowded, and a deep feeling of sympathy manifested for the sufferers by the late explosion of the steamboat Moselle. On motion, S. W. DAVIES, Mayor, was called to the Chair, and E. D. MANSFIELD, Esq. chosen Secretary.

The Mayor communicated the names of 40 individuals, who were either killed or missing, and the names of 30 who were saved. The citizens present named many others who were killed or missing. A communication was read from one of the clerks of the boat, stating that there were in all on board about 200, 85 of them being cabin passengers.

Various resolutions were offered and adopted, and committees appointed to take charge of the sufferers.

Below we give a list, as far as ascertained, of the living, the dead, and the missing.

DEAD.

- Eliph North, Abler, Ill.
- W. Parker's daughter Mary, found drowned.
- B. Furman, merchant, Middletown, O.
- Job Jones, Loudoun county, Va.
- B. Mitchell, barkeeper, Cin.
- Captain Perrin.
- J. Chapman, second clerk.
- T. C. Powell, Lou. Ky.
- H. B. Casey, Cin.
- James Barret, Mo.
- Calvin R. Stone, Shrewsbury, Mass.
- Jas. Douglass, Fort Madison, W. T.
- J. Withers, (colored.)
- Henry Stokes, second steward.
- Holly Dillon, fireman.
- J. Madden, first engineer.
- Robert Watt, deck hand.
- D. Dunn, chambermaid.
- James H. McFarland, Knox county, Ohio.
- Miss Dunham.
- Two Mr. Watkins, of Virginia.
- Mr. Thomas, first mate.
- A. Bigney, Philadelphia.

BADLY WOUNDED.

- Wm. H. In-ker, St. Clarksville, Ohio.
- Sherwood, Cincinnati
- Benjamin Bowman, first clerk.
- Halsey Williams, second engineer.
- James Turrell, deck hand.
- De Jaune, fireman.
- Stephen Haily, carpenter.
- Isaac Van Hook.
- Captain Perrin's brother.
- D. Higbee, Cayuga county, New York.
- Edward Sexton.
- Feed, Worcester, Mass.
- Franklin, second cook.
- James Fry, third cook.

MISSING.

- George Kramer's two children.
- Wm. Parker's wife and two children.
- Dr. W. Hughey, U. S. Army.
- Joseph Switt, Buffalo, New York.
- Joseph Potter, Filton Potter, Greke Potter, Jacob Potter, Boston, Mass.
- Jacob Beaver, John Beaver, Eliza Beaver, and Mary Beaver, children of Joseph and Eliza Beaver.
- Peter Trautman's child, 2½ years old.
- Michael Kennedy's wife and two children.
- Thomas Watt, deck hand.
- Mr. Armstrong, mate.
- Mr. White, engineer.
- Mr. Patton, lawyer, Portland, Maine.
- S. Post, wife and two children.
- J. Fleming, pubt, Angelo's county, New York.
- Mr. D. Higbee's wife and two children.
- H. Raymond's wife and child, Baltimore, Md.
- John Ludwig and John Seim, with each a wife and child.