

## COOKED BY THE FLAMES.

### AWFUL RESULT OF AN EXPRESSMAN'S CARELESSNESS.

**A Tenement House Full of People Set Fire To, the Stairway Burned Away, and a Man and His Wife Roasted to Death—A Number of People Make Their Escape with Great Difficulty—Thrilling Scenes.**

A kerosene lamp was upset by a careless expressman while he was removing the furniture of Richard Moore from the fourth floor of No. 510 State street and set fire to the building. Richard Moore was taken out dead after the fire had been extinguished, and his wife died shortly afterwards at the County Hospital. Several other occupants of the building had very narrow escapes.

The four-story stone-front building at No. 510 State street is occupied on the first floor by Richter & Foster as a pawnshop and second-hand furniture store. The floors above are all occupied by colored families, with the exception of the front flat on the top floor, where Moore and his wife, both white, had lived for two years. The Moore family concluded to move on account of the number of colored people who had been allowed to occupy the building and he had engaged a flat on the third floor of No. 48 Eldridge court. Theodore W. Jones, an expressman of No. 225 Cottage Grove avenue, was engaged and late yesterday afternoon they began piling the furniture and carpets out into the hall. It was nearly dark and Moore lighted a kerosene lamp in the stairway. The lamp was placed on a box which depended from a cord and hung down the winding staircase to the level of the third floor. It was Moore's habit to use this lamp to light his way down-stairs at night, and after he had gone his wife would pull it up again to the fourth floor by means of the cord. The expressman thought it would be easier to drop the carpets from floor to floor through the opening of the winding staircase, and he either did not notice the kerosene lamp hanging there or expected the carpets to fall at one side. The first carpet was carelessly thrown over the staircase, and fell upon the lamp. It immediately took fire, and Jones saw it burning when he carried the next carpet to the stairway. Jones thought he could smother the blaze by throwing another carpet on top of the blazing mass. Just at this moment "Hun" Berry, the expressman's assistant, undertook to pull the first carpet off the box, and in doing so upset the lamp. The burning kerosene flowed over the carpet and floor, and when the second carpet fell it as quickly took fire. Berry was severely burned about the sides and arms, but, despite his pain, rushed up to the top floor to help get Moore and his wife out. The fire spread with great rapidity, and soon burned away the staircase and ate through the floor above. Expressman Jones had taken safety in flight when the fire first started, and Berry was left alone on the top floor with Moore and his wife. Mrs. Moore was soon overcome by the heat and fell to the floor unconscious. Her husband staid with her so long that he too succumbed and became unable to move. He fell to the floor near his wife, but succeeded in dragging himself to the next room, where he was afterwards found dead. Berry at once saw that he was too late to be of use to Moore and his wife, and ran to the window and opened it. A still alarm of fire had been given to Engine Company No. 21, whose house is on Taylor street, just around the corner, and shortly afterwards an alarm was turned in from Box No. 78. A large crowd had collected in the street, and they were horror-stricken to see a man climb out of the fourth-story window and drop to the ledge of stone coping a few feet below. Smoke was pouring out of the fourth-story windows, and on the third floor several frightened faces were seen looking out over the crowd and imploring assistance. Every one expected to see the desperate man who was clinging to the front of the building fall into the street. But Berry proved to have a cool head, and the crowd watched him breathlessly as he slowly crawled along the face of the building to the next building, where a window was at once opened and Berry helped safely inside. He was taken across the street to the Bennett Medical College, where Dr. Hart dressed his injuries. In the meantime Truck No. 1 had arrived, and a ladder was hastily run up to the fourth story. Truckman James Moroney mounted the ladder and climbed into the room. He carried Mrs. Moore's unconscious form to the top of the ladder, when other willing hands carefully carried it to the ground. Moore was found in the next room and taken out the same way. Both bodies were conveyed across the street to the Bennett Medical College, where Dr. Hart examined them. Moore was found to be already dead, and, although Mrs. Moore was still breathing, it was readily seen that her injuries were fatal. Moore seemed to have died from suffocation, there being little injury to his body, but Mrs. Moore was literally cooked to death. When her clothes were taken off the flesh came with them, leaving some of the bones entirely bare. She was conveyed to the County Hospital, but died as soon as she reached there, as was anticipated.

Mrs. Sadie Shaw, colored, who occupied the fourth floor with the Moore family, was not at home at the time of the fire. The occupants of the third floor did not escape as easily. Here lived Alexander Hart and wife, F. W. Martin and wife, and William Hill, wife, and baby. Cora Swan of No. 2713 Dearborn street was visiting Mrs. Martin, and in the latter's room at the front of the building were also Mrs. Alba Hill and baby and Mrs. Irona Hart. Another ladder had been placed at the third floor window, and Fireman Marshall Ward of Engine Company No. 21, stood on the coping and handed them all down the ladder, one after the other. An old lady named Mrs. Allsop, who lived on one of the floors below, was slightly injured in getting down the stairway.

The two dead bodies are at the morgue, to be held until friends claim them. Moore's business was not known to the other occupants of the building. By some he was said to be a carpenter and by others a salesman. Papers found on his person indicate that he belonged to Sitting-Bull Lodge, Independent Order of Red Men, but members of that lodge say they do not know him. He is thought to have a son living somewhere in the city.

The building burned is the property of E. A. Kent and was damaged to the extent of \$2,000.