

From the Philadelphia Inquirer of yesterday.
THE STEAMBOAT DISASTER.

Few additional particulars have transpired in relation to the melancholy disaster of Tuesday. It is now ascertained that at least five lives were lost -- the Rev John Mitchelmoore, Col. Porter, and the unknown female, mentioned in our paper of yesterday -- a child, killed by one of the paddle wheels of the boat, and Mr W. W. Buckley, a respectable merchant of Connecticut, who was taken up much exhausted, and notwithstanding every attention was rendered him, died at the Union Hotel, near the steamboat wharf, yesterday morning. The gentleman whose leg was broken, and who was taken to the Hospital, is doing well. The dead body of the female, now at Cherry Hill, has not yet been recognized. A ring upon her finger contains the following: "Let love abide forever, J. B." The body of the Rev. Mr. Mitchelmoore is now at the residence of the Rev. Dr. Ely, where it will remain till Saturday.

The report that two Engineers perished, is erroneous. The Philadelphia Gazette says: "We have conversed with several gentlemen who were on board the boat the time of the disaster. They state that the fire broke out in or very near the wheel house, on the windward side of the boat, and that in five or six minutes after it was discovered, the whole wheel house and the adjoining offices were enveloped in a sheet of flame. Attempts were made in the commencement, to extinguish the fire by throwing water on it, but the confusion and alarm among so many passengers, rendered it impossible to form a line by which to pass the buckets to the spot. The fire must have been some time burning before it was discovered, or it never could have made such fatal headway. As soon as it was thought impossible to save the boat, the passengers calling out to some to run her ashore, with various contradictory demands of the kind, Captain Jefferies directed to be run in the mud. When this was done the flames, originating to windward, swept: with fearful, violente (spelling error) from one side of the boat to the other, rendering it almost impossible for those in the stern to advance forward. The stern lying in deep water, several of those who jumped overboard must have perished.

When the bow of the boat touched the ground, two gentlemen jumped out on the flat, where the water was three or four feet deep, a rope was immediately thrown to them, with which they held the boat, until the crowd letting themselves down by it, compelled them to let go, and the boat drifted off into deep water, occasioning a de- (illegible) which was no doubt fatal to some. In a few (illegible), however, the rope was manned by a dozen who had jumped out and the boat drawn up again, when it was finally abandoned."

Much baggage was lost, in addition to the boat, which was valued at \$70,000. We learn that the spot where she was run ashore is about halfway between the Navy Yard and the Point House -- that the passengers were compelled to wade in the mud and water a distance of at least two hundred yards -- and that the greatest marvel is, that so many of them were enabled to reach the banks with (illegible) in them.

All the passengers with whom we have conversed, award the highest praise to the captain and crew for their coolness, courage and indefatigable exertions, not only to rescue the lives, but to save the baggage of the passengers. There were about a dozen females and several children on board; also, three horses. Capt. J. was the last to leave the burning vessel.

From the Philadelphia U.S. Gazette

THE WILLIAM PENN.

This unfortunate boat drifted up to the island, opposite the city, on Tuesday evening. Where she lay until the tide turned. A small boat was sent with a number of (illegible), to watch her; but a set of prowling scoundrels beset the wreck, while it was yet burning, and stole and carried off (spelling error) everything they could lay their hands on. The boat drifted down with the tide, and what there is left of her, is at Kaigh's Point. The agent of the line is desirous that articles, of every kind, that were in the boat, and may be found, should be returned to his office, at the foot of Chestnut street. We learn, with regret, that Mr Buckley, a passenger died yesterday; in consequence of his sufferings from the accident.

There is reason to believe, that the female who lost her life in the Wm. Penn, was a Swiss. Ladies on board recollect her, and if it is the same, their attention was particularly drawn to her by her situation, and the fact that she was seeking to have the price of passage remitted.

During the anxiety on Tuesday to escape from the steamboat, a lady represented herself at the bows with a very young child, and a gentleman offered to assist her. He took the infant, wrapped it carefully in his large cloak, and called to a person standing in the sand to catch it. The person addressed probably did not attend to the call. The little child was thrown into the marsh. The gentleman, however, supposing the infant safe, helped the mother to get on shore. -- That being accomplished, the child was not to be found; but as it had been directed to somebody, there was no doubt but it would soon appear, and the mother was removed.

Afterwards, a person discovering the cloak, thought to rescue it from the tide, when, to his utter astonishment, he perceived that it contained a living child. He conveyed it to careful hands; and the next morning it was restored to the anxious mother.

THE MAIL BURNED.

The Post Master sent down yesterday and had the river dragged, in the hopes of finding the mail bag's missing from the steam boat; but the persons employed were unsuccessful. When the tide ebbed, he dispatched messengers to the remnants of the boat, who, after some time, raked up from the bottom near the bows, the lock and chain of the portmanteau containing the Baltimore and western letters. The lock was much melted and the chain nearly destroyed. -- No doubt remains that the whole contents, probably very valuable, of the mail were burned.

PHILAD. POST OFFICE,

March 5, 1834, 7 P. M.

Three bags, containing newspapers and pamphlets were received on the evening of the 4th, from on board the William Penn; one of them partly burnt, some of them packages missed, and a portion of the remained so wet and defaced as to render further transportation useless; one package marked "Massachusetts State" taken from the Washington City Letter Mail, (the only one saved,) and containing letters for parts of Massachusetts and New Hampshire was detained, the letters being too damp to be forwarded.

A number of bags containing newspapers and pamphlets are missing, some it is supposed were burnt and others thrown overboard and lost.

Persons finding any loose packages and detaining or embezzling them, will be prosecuted under the act of Congress, and become liable to fine and imprisonment; if returned immediately to this office, a suitable reward will be given.

Further search has led to the conclusion that two large portmanteaus, containing the letters from Baltimore city & the West, embracing, as is supposed, Cincinnati & Ohio State, (South,) Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, West Tennessee, Western Shore, Maryland and Washington, Brownsville, Union town and New Geneva, Pa. and for distribution have been entirely consumed. The locks & chains partly melted were found in the wreck of the boat on the falling of the tide, by Mr. McCahen, Chief Carrier, and the proprietor of the Hotel at Kaighn's Point; Messrs. Taber and Potter, after a diligent search in the flats at low water were unable to discover any of the lost mails.

It is impossible to tell the extent of the loss occasioned by the destruction of the portmanteaus.

JAMES PAGE, P. M.