

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE!

MARCHMONT DESTROYED.
A CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.
FIRE ON FRONT STREET.

The ravages of the fire-pest in our midst had been great this winter, up to the morning of 29th inst., but on that date they culminated in the destruction of the beautiful Marchmont, which had been transformed into a "home" for other, as homeless children, whom the benevolent Miss Macpherson and her co-laborers brought out to this country, and the death of one of its inmates.

THE FIRE

broke out about 2 1/2 o'clock a. m. in the wooden building in the rear of the kitchen, which was used as a wood-shed. It is supposed that the conflagration originated in the ash-house, which stood immediately in rear of the wood-shed. The conjecture is that the ashes had contained coals, which, resting against the door sill or the wooden door, had caused it to ignite, and

A GALE OF WIND

prevailing at the time, the flames spread with such frightful rapidity that nothing

could be done to extinguish them or save the property, although the firemen were present as soon as it was possible for them to reach the spot. The inmates had all

A NARROW ESCAPE.

being compelled to flee into the bitter night air with no other covering than their ordinary night dress. The first intimation they had was an alarm raised by Miss Baylis, who, being aroused by a strong smell of smoke, made haste to awake Miss Bilbrough, in whose charge the establishment was. All were speedily roused, and the whole of the children (11 small boys and two larger boys) and 5 adults, were

GOT SAFELY OUT.

The boys, on being taken out, were directed to go to the various houses in the neighborhood to seek shelter. This they did with, it afterwards turned out, one unfortunate exception. This was one of the smallest of the boys—Robert Gray—aged between 6 and 7 years. He with the rest, was taken out, and told to go with the others; but being slightly deaf, it is supposed that he had not heard the admonition given to the other boys, and had returned and entered the burning building.

HIS CHARRED REMAINS

were found this morning, in the rear part of the dining room. All that was known of this child was recorded in the Books of "Home" as follows:—"Robert Gray, aged 6 or 7, a happy little man who can say little or nothing about himself,—June 1871." He was one of those picked up in London, unknown and uncared for by the millions of the metropolis, except by the kind and charitable.

INQUEST.

An inquest was held this afternoon by Coroners Roy and J. P. McDonnell, and a verdict returned in accordance with the facts.

The destruction of the building and its contents is complete.

NOTHING WAS SAVED,

and the late inmates of Marchmont are now dependent upon the kindness of their friends for shelter, food, and wearing apparel. Miss Bilbrough was peculiarly unfortunate, having lost her gold watch, clothing and \$200 in money.

THE BUILDING,

which was the property of the Murney estate, was insured in the Liverpool and London and Globe.

Means are being devised to relieve the destitution of the children and their guardians. Charitable people in our midst are already moving in the matter, and are meeting with a liberal response, though it will take a great deal to replace what has been lost. The children have been temporarily distributed amongst the homes of several persons who are friendly to Miss Macpherson's enterprise, but further steps are necessary to relieve these

kindly disposed people of the burden which they have imposed upon themselves.