

Fire in Sheffield - Narrow Escapes

Between six and seven o'clock yesterday morning a fire broke out in one of the rooms on the second story at the rear of the shop of Mrs. Burrell, draper, &c, bottom of Snighill. The inmates of the house, who were in bed at the time, were aroused by the crackling of flames and sensation of suffocation caused by the smoke, which quickly filled the bedrooms.

An alarm was raised, and the neighbours and police at once proceeded to render what assistance they could. As the fire was in the immediate vicinity of the stairs, and a considerable volume of flame had already burst through a window communicating from the room where it was supposed the fire originated to the landing, escape that way seemed impracticable. A ladder was procured and fixed from the roof of some adjoining buildings against one of the top story back bedroom windows, from whence a youth escaped.

Another short ladder was placed in front of the shop, reaching to the cornicing over the shop window. Meanwhile the Royal Office Fire Brigade, who were exceedingly prompt in their movements, had arrived with their fire engine, which was quickly got to work, and Captain Holmes, together with a lad, supposed to be a shoe-black, but whose name has not yet transpired, mounted the cornicing above alluded to, and were just in time to catch the two Misses Burrell, who, after hanging for a moment by the window sills of the story above, dropped on the projection. But for the timely assistance rendered to them it is almost impossible that the young ladies could have escaped unhurt, as they would have been unable to retain their footing unaided, and would have fallen to the street below.

With the help of Captain Holmes and the shoeblack they easily reached the ground. At this juncture screams were heard upstairs, and at imminent risk to himself, George Draycott, one of the Royal Office firemen, without hesitation courageously rushed up the stairs through the fire to Mrs. Burrell's bedroom. Here he found Mrs. Burrell, who had been ill, laid on the floor in a state of insensibility. Assisted by her son-in-law, (Mr. Buxton), who resides next door, Draycott lost no time in delivering her from her perilous situation. The servant was also safely rescued without injury. At one time the fire wore a very threatening aspect, and but for the energetic measures that were used a great destruction of property and probably loss of life might have ensued.

With a plentiful supply of water at hand, however, the flames were shortly subdued by the Royal Office brigade without the other engine which attended - that of the Liverpool and London Company - being called into requisition. The fire escape was brought too late to be of service. The damage is roughly estimated at a little over £100.

That all the five inmates of the house escaped unhurt is almost miraculous, and great praise is due to Capt. Holmes and the Royal Office Fire Brigade.

The brave fellow, George Draycott, seems to have sustained some slight injuries as he rushed through the flames, and his conduct on the occasion is worthy of commendation. Nor are the young ladies less grateful to the lad who, along with Captain Holmes, rendered them such valuable help. Through the kindness of the neighbours, many of

whom rendered very efficient service, Mrs. Burrell and family were sheltered and cared for until able to re-enter the house.

The stock, &c, was insured in the Royal office. The cause of the fire is at present unknown.