

safety time after time, only to find yet another removal necessary. Men would shoulder a trunk and start down the street with it, but before going far the flames would overtake them, and they would drop the weight and run for life. Ladies left home and were hurried away by anxious friends, but the fire would catch their dresses, and urge them on with pitiless lashing. A young lady hurrying down the street had her hat roughly pulled from her head; looking around in astonishment, she was met with "Madam, excuse me, but your hat is on fire."^b

That night the inhabitants settled in vacant lots and under the trees of the surrounding territory. Here the families were camped, with no attempt at separation; friends were twenty feet away and mourned for one another during all those terrible hours. Some had piled furniture so as to support bedding or rugs for a canopy, and so made an excuse for a tent and a pretense of privacy. In many cases a few trunks became a little house for a baby; from other little shelters issued the moans of the feeble and sick. But there was sympathy of the sweetest and dearest kind. Someone had brought a frying pan, another a coffee pot; there was a little money with which to buy food from the stores around. One woman had left her purse and all the belongings of a comfortable home, but she had carried eight eggs in a small basket for hours. All these were shared. All shared what was the common stock, though none knew where he would find his breakfast. Penetrating these groups came those whose houses in the suburbs had been spared. "Come with me", said a lady to a friend just found; "my house is safe." "Have you room?" "I have a crowd, many of whom are strangers to me, but I shall find a place for you." All through the dreadful night parties and individuals, many of whom had likewise lost their homes, went among these groups, seeking to comfort and encourage them.^b Such was the spirit that animated the people.

Relief Measures

The morning after the fire the citizens assembled in mass-meeting in the U. S. Government building, to consider relief measures; a committee was appointed to act as a temporary relief committee. Among them were men who had gained experience in the yellow fever epidemic of 1888, and subse-