

## George Gates ( - 23 Mar 1865)

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*The Evening Star, March 24, 1865*

### **The Gale Yesterday -- Its Effects**

The effects of the gale yesterday, which we briefly noticed, it seems, was felt not only in this locality but over a large portion of the country. On the river it was particularly severe, and a large number of boats were driven ashore. By the blowing off of the roof of Col. Close's foundry, near the steamboat wharf, the colored hackman (named James Bush) was so badly injured that he died during the night. The Medora, which was lifted up and capsized near the 6th street wharf, was right, and those on board, some of whom it was thought were drowned, were rescued by the many efforts of the crew of another vessel nearby. One of the pinnacles on the north tower of Trinity Church was blown down. The roof of a five story brick house near St. Aloysius' Church was blown off, and a portion of a new frame house belonging to Kelly Lambell, near Blagden's wharf, was blown down. One of the iron caps on the Wallach School House was lifted up, and fell on the skylight of the main saloon.

Among the contraband shanties in the northern section of the city sad havoc was made, the felt roofing being pulled off of about one-half. For some time the inmates of the new contraband hospital, Vermont avenue and M streets, were a little frightened, the motion of the building, which is a two story, being very perceptible, but notwithstanding that it was exposed to the full force of the tornado, it was not damaged. The gable end of a frame house on 16th street, near P, was blown out, and two brick houses nearby had their roofs pulled off. The scaffolding around the Foundry Church was displaced and much of it blown down several persons who were passing at the time narrowly escaping being struck by the flying timbers.

A number of trees were torn up in various sections of the city. One lady on Sixth street, on the Island, was caught by the gale while carrying eggs and coffee to a neighbor, and she was hurled across the street against the houses on the other side.

The first gale caught the hospital steamer Connecticut near the White House yesterday and keeled her over, but notwithstanding her length, with her tremendous power she managed to keep on her way. In this, vicinity a number of trees were seen to be uprooted and thrown into the river, some of them thirty or forty feet high. Some of the after work of the upper deck was lifted a few inches and it was thought at one time that most of it would be carried away. The second squall caught the Connecticut off Jones' Point, and here by the able management of Captain Shanahan, assisted by the surgeon in charge, Dr. Hood, she was made to weather it. She, however, ran foul of the propeller Ajax and her steering apparatus was disabled, leaving her for a few minutes at the mercy of the waves. An attempt was made to anchor her, but the crew found it impossible to walk out on the forward deck, when several crawled out and her anchors were let go and the bow being kept to the wind she weathered it.

The Ajax was driven ashore on the flats opposite Alexandria. A number of boats were driven ashore and between the White House there are over twenty, some of them lying high and dry.

The damage at the Navy Yard was considerable and resulted in loss of life and injuries to various individuals. A part of the west end of the large ship house was blown out, and the tin roof considerable torn up. The tin roof of the other ship house was damaged, and a shutter of one of the skylights torn off, which, in its descent, fell upon a young man named George Gates, employed in the painter's department, and so injured him that he died last night, notwithstanding the constant attention of Assistant Surgeon Hanson. William Clark, ship carpenter, was severely bruised by a falling shutter. The roof of the tank shop was damaged, some of the slate being torn off. The larger part of the fire wall--fourteen inches thick--on the south end of the naval store was blown down, and fell among a gang of

laborers, fortunately without seriously injuring any one. The United States steamer Saco, awaiting repairs at the yard, was started from her moorings, but fortunately had an extra cable attached to a large buoy in the channel, which held her until Master Morris and Master Laborer White collected a gang of men and secured her to the yard wharf. The large lumber and wood piles on the west side of the yard were blown in all directions, and the water dashed up on all the wharves.

Sergeant Baker, of the 1st precinct police, reports the general hospital at Good Hope, near Fort Baker, was blown down, seriously injuring one man and bruising two or three others. This hospital is for the use of the forts east of the Anacostia bridge, and fortunately at the time contained few patients. A coach passing over the Eastern Branch bridge had the top torn from the body.

The gale caused much alarm at the canal wharves east of 14th street, scattering the lumber and causing an evacuations of the frail tenements in the vicinity. The felt roofs of the shanties in Murder Bay suffered considerably, fragments of the felt flying in the air like crows from cornfields.

The hospitals north of the city suffered some little, but none were prostrated. Some of the temporary quarters had their canvass roofs torn off, but no serious damage occurred that has yet been reported.

The storm extended to Fortress Monroe, and several vessels were driven ashore, while some were injured by being thumped against the wharf. The mail boat Webster was caught by the storm here and was obliged to go into a harbor where her passengers were taken off by a tug. After she was out in the bay the storm subsided and the weather was not rough.

The gale in Baltimore was equally severe. A large number of buildings were demolished, and several lives lost.