

19th July, 1909. Captain James de Courcy Hamilton, Royal Navy (retired), Chief Officer, London Fire Brigade.

20th July, 1909. Alfred Paget Humphry, Esq., Member of Council, National Rifle Association.

20th July, 1909. Henry Whitehead, Esq., Member of Council, National Rifle Association.

Whitehall, July 23, 1909.

The KING was pleased, on Thursday, the 22nd of July, at Buckingham Palace, to present to Arthur Eccleshall, an employee of the London and North-Western Railway Company; to George Henry Smith, of Woburn Sands, Bedfordshire; to James Kennedy Chapman and Thomas McCormack, both of Jarrow; and to James Vivian Reed, lately Second Mate of the steamship Afonwen, of Cardiff, the Albert Medals of the Second Class, which have been conferred upon them by His Majesty for gallantry in saving or endeavouring to save life, as detailed below:—

ARTHUR ECCLESHALL.

On the 2nd October, 1908, between 1 and 2 P.M., three children were making their way over the level crossing at Bushbury Railway Station, where Eccleshall was employed as a porter. A light engine was approaching at the time, travelling at about 10 miles an hour, and seeing that the children's lives were endangered Eccleshall shouted to them, when two of the children ran forward and got clear of the rails on which the engine was travelling, while the third, a little boy, tried to escape by running between the platform and the rails; the engine was almost upon him when Eccleshall jumped from the platform in front of the engine and lifted the child clear of the railway track. In so doing he was struck by the engine and thrown into the four-foot way, being rendered unconscious.

GEORGE HENRY SMITH.

On the 24th October, 1908, a workman at the Woburn Sands Brickworks, named Charles Griffin, was precipitated to the bottom of one of the kilns owing to the roof collapsing, and was imprisoned by hot ballast and bricks, the upper part of his body alone being free. His comrade Smith on hearing of the accident at once went to his rescue, but to effect an entry proved to be a work of some difficulty as the wicket through which the bricks were taken into and removed from the kiln was almost completely blocked. He succeeded, however, in reaching his comrade and in removing the bricks and ballast imprisoning the fallen man, who was eventually drawn up to the top of the kiln by means of a rope fastened under his armpits. Griffin subsequently died of the injuries he sustained.

JAMES KENNEDY CHAPMAN AND
THOMAS MCCORMACK.

On the 27th November, 1908, workmen were engaged painting the inside of an iron tank in the stokehold of a steamer lying in dry dock at Jarrow.

Owing to the fact that very strong fumes were given off by the anti-corrosive paint or solution used the men were working in relays, each squad of three men being relieved after 10 or 15 minutes had elapsed.

A workman named Graham was overcome by the fumes, and the charginer, Archibald Wilson,

sacrificed his life in endeavouring to save Graham.

Thomas McCormack, who had already been affected by the fumes while at work in the tank, went to Wilson's assistance, but was himself rendered insensible, and was rescued by James Kennedy Chapman, Works Manager at the Dock, who, having pulled McCormack out, re-entered the tank and endeavoured to save Graham, but was himself overcome by the fumes.

The rescue of Chapman and Graham was eventually effected from the top of the tank.

JAMES VIVIAN REED.

On the occasion of the earthquake at Messina on the 28th December, 1908, the steamship Afonwen, of Cardiff, was lying at her moorings, having arrived at Messina on the 24th December.

The first intimation the Master of the ship (Captain William Owen) had of the disaster was on being awakened in the early morning of the 28th December by the noise of the upheaval and the commotion caused by the tidal wave, but owing to the darkness and the dense clouds of dust the full extent of the disaster could not be realised for some time. The danger to shipping claimed the first attention of the Captain, but having satisfied himself as to the safety of his vessel he proceeded ashore with his crew, as the dawn broke, to render assistance.

The particular act of gallantry in respect of which the Albert Medal has been awarded was performed when a building of five storeys was reached, where children were noticed at a great height from the ground crying for help. The interior of the building had for the most part collapsed, and one of the walls had disappeared; the structure was therefore in a very dangerous condition.

The Captain having given the word, Henry Smith, Able Seaman, and, shortly after, James Vivian Reed, Second Mate, swarmed up a rope to the rescue of the children, who had lowered string by means of which the rope was hauled up and made fast. The rescue of the children having been effected, three persons were lowered down from a story above.

Henry Smith, in pursuit of his calling, is away at sea and therefore was not able to attend at the Palace yesterday. His medal will be presented at a later date.

Whitehall, July 23, 1909.

The KING has been pleased, by Warrant under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, bearing date the 16th instant, to appoint Frederic George Kenyon, Esq., M.A., D.Litt., Ph.D., Assistant Keeper of the Department of Manuscripts at the British Museum, to be Director and Principal Librarian of the Museum in the room of Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, G.C.B., resigned.

*Downing Street,
July 21, 1909.*

The KING has been pleased to give directions for the appointment of the Honourable Michael Patrick Gibbs to be a Member of the Legislative Council of the Colony of Newfoundland.