The tinder was soon touched. The first edition of the *Evening Rumpus* contained these words: "Midas-eared Mammonism and idle Dillettantism must go! STRIKE TO-NIGHT!" It was a sign evidently agreed upon beforehand by the leaders. Like magic the slums of the North End poured out their refuse, and the Common was soon filled with a tumultuous, shouting mob. In the seething mass of men could be seen a few figures, gliding hither and thither, issuing commands and distributing printed directions.

The orderly element of the city was for a moment paralyzed. But very quickly, notwithstanding, came orders from several departments to the chief of police. It was then found that the wires communicating with the several stations had been cut. In the midst of the confusion came the clang of fire-bells; a second, and then a third alarm! The firemen were summoned to widely separated portions of the city to fight dangerous fires. They encountered, also, enemies yet more inhuman than fire. From every alleyway came a score of bullets, and from every house-top rained piles of stones upon the heads of the courageous firemen. Cut off on every side, it is estimated that hundreds of heroic men perished in that night of terror.

To add to the horror of the time, it was found that the patrolmen in all out-of-the-way places had been shot down in cold blood by the anarchist sympathizers.

About nightfall a tremendous explosion shook the city, and the State House crumbled into a shapeless heap of ruins. A few minutes later, and a cry arose among the surging crowd on the Common and Public Gardens. The huge, incoherent throng rolled down toward Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street, which it entered with the roar of a thousand demons.

It is needless to recount the deeds of darkness done under cover of that single night. Suffice it to say, that when the morning dawned the splendid Back Bay section was no more. Blackened piles of brick and stone, with here and there a mangled corpse, were all that remained of that proud abode of wealth and culture.