

PITTSBURG IN RUINS.

[From the Pittsburgh Advocate and Gaz., Apr. 11.] MOST DREAFFUL CALAMITY. AWFUL CONFLAGRATION.

At 6 o'clock, P. M., Thursday evening, we sit down to our desk with a sad heart, to record the most fearful calamity which ever befel any city the size of Pittsburgh. While we now write, an awful fire is raging, consuming the fairest portion of our city, and no human being can tell where it will stay its ravages. It has now been burning for six hours, and confusion reigns supreme, and it cannot be expected we shall give anything like a particular statement of a calamity so extensive and involving such fearful ruin. What general particulars we can give we lay before our readers.

The fire broke out about 12 o'clock, M., today, in an old frame shed on the east side of Ferry street, used as we believe, for a smoke-house, immediately surrounded on two sides with old frame buildings. The weather was extremely dry, and wind high, almost a gale blowing from the west.

The houses adjoining on Second street, caught fire immediately. The engines at this time began to play, and had there been a sufficiency of water, would have subdued the fire. But from want of water, and high wind, the fire extended across Second street to the Globe Cotton Factory, which together with a dwelling adjoining, was consumed. The Third Presbyterian Church was on fire, but was saved with great exertion.

The fire, also, about the same time, extended across Ferry street, to the west side, where it consumed some six or eight dwellings, when it was stopped in that direction, the wind being favorable.

But it was east of Ferry street where the fire raged with most fury. It immediately extended towards Market street, sweeping every house on both sides of Second street, and the whole square bounded by Market, Ferry, Second and Front streets, except one building, the warehouse of the Cotton Factory. In the square bounded by Market, Ferry, Second and Third streets, every building was destroyed except the Third Church, and Johnston & Stockton's Printing-office, and the American office.

The square bounded by Market, Ferry, Front and Wood streets, was saved, with but little injury.

The fire crossed Market at Front street, and then began to rage with awful fury. This was about two o'clock, P. M., and the wind had increased to a perfect gale. The fire absolutely appeared to dance from room to roof, and in an incredible short space of time, the three immense squares, composed mostly of warehouses, bounded by Market and Wood, and extending from Third to the river, were a sea of flames.

The heat by this time was tremendous, and the wind blowing a gale. Wood street formed no barrier at all. The flames went hissing across as if eager for their prey. They also crossed Third street, below the new Post-office, and went rushing up Wood street across Fourth and Wood street was a sea of fire from the river to Diamond alley.

But this was not all; the fire had become un-governable. The arm of man was impotent. Even the goods removed to the streets for safety were seized upon and destroyed. On, on, marched the raging element. A sea of flame rolls on from Wood street to Smithfield. The Monongahela House, that noblest of modern hotels, is surrounded with flames! it takes fire!

Still the ruin rolls on—crossing Springfield and Grant streets, sweeping Scotch Hill entirely. Even the canal does not stop it, the Gas Works take fire, and directly all Kensington is in flames; and the fire rolls on, and is only stopped in that direction, about one mile from where it commenced, from the want of food to feed its voracious maw.

In the mean time, the Monongahela Bridge has taken fire, and is entirely consumed. The Pittsburg Bank, supposed to be fire-proof, extending from Third to Fourth streets, is in flames. The Mayor's office is also on fire, and the new post office is in great danger.

Let any one who is acquainted with Pittsburgh survey the scene, and look over the extent of ground covered by this vast conflagration. So rapid did the fire progress, that at one time, between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, the fire was raging with undiminished fury, over a space extending, beginning at Market street, corner of Third, down Market street to the river, up the river to the upper end of Kensington or Pipetown, opposite to Birmingham, down from Kensington to Fourth street to Smithfield, up Smithfield to Diamond alley, down Diamond alley to a large brick warehouse on Wood, across Wood, extending in a dangerous direction towards the Bank, up Fourth street to the Mayor's Office, and across to Third street, the place of beginning.

In all this vast space, the very heart of the city, including most of the warehouses of our manufacturers, and our principal wholesale grocers and commission merchants, there is not one house standing that we know of.

Twenty squares are entirely destroyed, and several parts of squares, besides all Pipetown, and all the buildings around Bakewell's glass works, which were also consumed.

The loss of property must be immense. We shall not attempt to compute it. The fire spread so rapidly it was impossible to save property.

The Front street merchants, whose immense warehouses were full of goods, groceries and Pittsburgh manufactures, removed their goods to the wharf, which they covered over its whole

DISASTROUS FIRE—PITTSBURG IN RUINS.

Table with columns: Canal, 5th Street, Diamond Alley, 4th Street, 3d Street, 2d Street, Front St., Water St. Rows: Ross st., Grant st., Church Alley, Smithfield Street, Wood St., Market Street, Liberty Street, Ferry st., Redoubt Alley.

extent, down to the water's edge, but there they caught fire, and the most of them were consumed.

Among the public buildings destroyed, are the Pittsburg Bank, the Monongahela House, the Merchants' Hotel, the Mayor's office, known as Philo Hall, and all our Pittsburg insurance offices.

The Chronicle and Age offices were removed. The Chronicle lost its presses. The Presbyterian Advocate and Protestant Unionist offices are both destroyed.

But it is impossible for us to attempt to give the particulars of this dreadful calamity. Pittsburg has received a dreadful blow, but we trust she will again rise from her ashes.

At this time, seven o'clock, the fire is not extending, but it is yet raging with awful sublimity in the burnt district. Hundreds and hundreds of families are houseless and homeless, and their goods fill the streets. To add to the distress, the Gas Works were destroyed, and our city will be involved in darkness as soon as the lurid flames die away.

Millions of dollars will not repair the loss experienced. For extent of loss and wide-spread desolation, no fire in this country ever equalled it. To morrow we shall be able to give more particulars.

STILL LATER.—At dark, you might see, at every direction, families sitting without shelter, guarding such portions of their household furniture as they were able to save from the flames, and not knowing where they would lay their heads, or procure a morsel of food. Of course the kindness of their more fortunate fellow citizens did much to alleviate their sufferings, and as we believe all were provided for as well as the melancholy nature of affairs would allow.

The Councils met in the afternoon, and attempted to devise some means to stay the conflagration. It was proposed to blow up houses that seemed in the way of the flames, the deliberations, however, were ineffectual in results, and we believe but one or two buildings were blown up. It seems to us, indeed, that there could not have been time to accomplish any thing in the way of destroying houses, so terribly rapid was the progress of the fire.

There is abundant reason for thankfulness that so few lives were lost. There are many rumors of men being killed, and burnt and wounded—but they are not authenticated. One woman is certainly burned, and we saw a poor old man, tottering along with the help of two friends, his face badly burned. The loss of life, however, cannot be learned in the awful confusion which prevails.

We know not how to express our sense of the lively gratitude to which the firemen are entitled from our afflicted and ruined citizens, well as those they have saved—nothing in the shape of reward can compensate them for the incessant toil they had to undergo, and for the unyielding heroic firmness which they manifested under the appalling terrors which surrounded them on every side.

If they had had a sufficiency of water during the whole time, they could have saved much more property—as it was, they prevented the destruction of an incalculable amount.

The following are the principal public buildings, manufactories and others that were destroyed:

- Globe Cotton Factory, corner of Second and Ferry streets.
Fire Navigation Insurance Office, Market, between Second and Third.
Penn Insurance Office, corner of Market and Third.
Bank of Pittsburg, Fourth, between Market and Wood.
Office of the Daily Chronicle, do.
Job Printing Office of J. B. Butler, 3d between Market and Wood streets.
Merchants' Hotel, corner of 3d and Wood stis.
A. Kramer's Exchange Office, do.

Jones & Sibbet's Exchange Office, corner of 4th and Wood streets.

Wm. A. Hill's Exchange Office, between Fourth st. and Diamond Alley.

R. & R. H. Patterson's Eagle and Bazaar Livery Stables, Diamond Alley and Fourth st.

Associate Reformed Church, Fourth st., near Grant.

Baptist Church, Grant st.

Bakewell's extensive Glass Works, Water, above Grant street.

The Monongahela House, destroyed, with all the furniture.

Monongahela Bridge, entirely destroyed. It is rumored that several lives were lost on the Bridge.

The Dallas Iron Works in Pipetown, entirely destroyed.

The loss sustained in the destruction of the above buildings is immense, but it is small when compared with the destruction of merchandise in the warehouses on Water, Wood, 1st and 2d streets.

The merchants found it impossible to attempt to save anything; while blocks were destroyed in a few minutes, and the most they could do was to make an effort to save their books, and but few of them succeeded even in that.

It will be many years before our city can recover from the effects of this dreadful calamity; it has cast a blight over the commercial and manufacturing enterprise of hundreds of our most worthy citizens, and in an hour has swept from them all the profits of years of toil and industry.

To their fellow citizens who have been fortunate enough to escape this wide-spread destruction, they must look for aid to "commence the world anew," and we are confident they will not look in vain.

We write in the hurry, confusion and excitement of the terrible time, and under the physical weariness caused by laboring to save the furniture of the house of one of the editors, which was burned to the ground—therefore, we omit much that we sought to notice—but we have endeavored to give as full an account of the calamity as we could.

We are informed that two lives were lost at the fire yesterday. One was an old woman, in the neighborhood of Grant and Third streets, who had no aid to remove the furniture, and she refused to leave her dwelling until it was too late to save her.

The other that we heard of was a gentleman doing business in Wood street, but we hope it may be a mere report. We hear rumors of many lives being lost, but as none of the reports are authentic we refrain from giving them until we receive more reliable information.

POSTAGE.—By the new law, Postmasters may receive and transmit money to publishers of public journals, but cannot frank the letter.

POWDER MILL BLOWN UP.—The powder mill of J. P. Garesche, near Wilmington, Del., was blown up on Thursday afternoon, at five o'clock, killing one man and mortally wounding two or three others. 8000 pounds of powder were destroyed.

ROWLAND HILL.—It is stated in a recent English paper that Rowland Hill, the originator of the cheap postage system, received from the London Mercantile Committee on cheap postage a check for \$50,000, with an intimation that they reserve till some future opportunity a further demonstration of public gratitude.

MUTUAL GAIN BY MARRIAGE.—On the 20th ult., Mr. Charles W. Moore and Miss Martha Ann Moreland were married in Macon county, Alabama. By this marriage it will be seen that the gentleman has gained Moreland, and the lady, while she loses her land, has actually gained more (Moore.)

TRY IT.—Sage put up into a closet, or any place frequented by those troublesome little visitors—Red Ants—it is said, will drive them away.



THE AMERICAN.

Saturday, April 19, 1845.

V. B. PALMER, Esq., at his Real Estate and Coal Office, No. 59 Pine Street, Philadelphia, is authorized to act as Agent, and receipt for all monies due this office, for subscription or advertising.

Also at his Office No. 160 Nassau Street, New York. And S. E. Corner of Baltimore and Calvert sts., Baltimore.

FRUIT TREES have not, we believe, sustained any serious injury in this quarter, by the late cold weather. They are all in bloom, and will, we trust, produce abundantly.

The Legislature adjourned on Tuesday last. A vote of thanks was voted to the Speakers of each House. Mr. Wilcox, the Speaker of the Senate, having resigned, as usual, the Senate elected J. B. Sterigere, of Montgomery, over H. Chapman, of Bucks, by a vote of 17 to 10, two votes scattering.

The Legislature was convened, by proclamation from the Governor, after the adjournment on Tuesday, and kept in session one day longer, for the purpose of final action on some important bills that had not been reached. They adjourned on Wednesday. The Girard Bill was killed in the House, by a strong vote.

THE GREAT FIRE AT PITTSBURG.—In another column our readers will find a full account of the most awful conflagration that ever occurred in this country. It is estimated that about 1200 houses, one third of the whole city, is laid in ashes, comprising about two-thirds of the business part. The high winds and the dry weather were no doubt the principal causes of the great extent of the fire. Meetings, we are pleased to say, have been called in all the principal cities, to aid the suffering inhabitants of the ill-fated city. The Legislature also, before the adjournment, appropriated fifty thousand dollars in aid of the sufferers.

We publish, in another column, a plan of the city of Pittsburg, showing the extent of the ravages of the late fire. Pittsburg is probably the most enterprising manufacturing city in the United States, and hardly exceeded for the extent and variety of its manufactures in the world. The city contains probably 40,000 inhabitants.

The Pittsburg papers say that the business of the city is not prostrated—that the great manufactures of the city, with one or two exceptions, were saved. The business portion of the community, we presume, has not suffered as much as was at first expected.

TIDEWATER NOTES.—The Legislature have passed an act, compelling the Company to receive 15 per cent. of their notes in payment of tolls. A bill of this kind was passed last winter, but was vetoed with another bill to which it was attached. The Legislature should not have fixed the amount less than one-third. Still, this is better than nothing.

FIRE IN THE WOODS AND MOUNTAINS.—We have been surrounded by fires in the woods and mountains, for the last ten days. The Blue Hill, west of the Susquehanna, immediately opposite this place, has been burning to its very brow. The Mahony, Locust and Broad Mountains, extending about twenty miles, between this and Pottsville, are all on fire. We have been informed, also, that the woods about George Conrad's, about five miles from this place, were on fire. If we should not soon be visited by rain, we hardly know to what extent the fires may reach.

Professor Espy's theory of rains will, we think, suffer considerably, if we are not soon visited with genial showers. The high winds, it is true, prevented the smoke ascending perpendicularly, according to his theory, during the last week; but the weather, during the last three or four days, has been calm. Our Borough, for a week past, has been shrouded in an atmosphere of smoke. The moon, as it rises, presents a blood red appearance, betokening from its lurid glare, all the direful conflicts of impending war.

Since the above was in type, we have been favored with refreshing showers, which certainly strengthens our opinion in favor of the theory of Professor Espy. At the same time, we refer our readers to a communication upon the subject, in another column, from the pen of an intelligent correspondent.

THE IRON BUSINESS.—Persons, with capital, have now an opportunity of doubling their money in a few years, by investing it in Iron Works, in good locations. For Anthracite Furnaces, there is no place in Pennsylvania that has advantages superior to this. The Coal, Iron and Limestone are all convenient and accessible at all times, requiring no great stock to be kept up. At the present prices, and they cannot be much lower for years, ten or fifteen thousand dollars expended in the erection of a furnace, at this place, would more than double itself in one year. Besides, it should be recollected that the best Anthracite Iron made in Pennsylvania, was made with Shamokin Coal at the Shamokin furnace. Shamokin Coal can now be delivered here, at all times, at \$1 60 per ton, and lower if an Iron track was put down.

The Democrats have carried the charter election, in the city of New York, by a majority of about six thousand votes. The Natives, after holding office but one year, have been terribly beaten. The Whigs say they did not expect any thing better. Mayor Harper, however, was, we believe, an excellent officer and a worthy man.

That "incorruptible democrat" and great champion of the "ancient usages" of democracy, Horace M. Martin, a reporter, at Harrisburg, for the Pennsylvania and the North American, (whig paper) who, in the fervor of his indignation, aided the Pennsylvania and a few other "Old Hunter" Journals, in lavishing the terms "rascals and traitors" upon the democratic members who voted for Gen. Cameron, for U. S. Senator, has been, it appears, expelled from both Houses. The Old Hunters must be in a bad way, indeed, to see their renowned champion thus cavalierly kicked out of their presence for his blackguardism and ungentlemanly conduct.

MAIL CONTRACTORS.—The present mail contractors were never favorably disposed towards the new postage law. They are quite in a quandary in relation to the new law. It is stated that five hundred stage proprietors are in Washington, endeavoring to prevail upon Mr. Johnson, the Post-master General, to alter his intention of letting out the mail contracts under the new law. The new law authorizes the Post-master General to give out the contracts to the lowest bidder, who will contract to carry the mail in the time required, without any reference to the way in which it shall be conveyed; while the old law provides that the mail shall be carried in four horse post coaches, and any new contractor who underbids an old one, shall take his coaches and stock of horses, &c., off his hands, at a valuation. The proprietors say they will be ruined by the new arrangement.

A messenger was despatched by the authorities at Pittsburg, to the Governor, requesting him to invoke the aid of the legislature in behalf of the suffering inhabitants of that city. The following is the message sent by the Governor to the legislature, for which we are indebted to the Harrisburg Union Extra:

The Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: GENTLEMEN.—The destroyer has come upon our Western Empire. It is estimated that one-third of the city of Pittsburg including two-thirds of the business capital was consumed by fire on Thursday last. The mind is appalled by the contemplation of this desolation. About 1100 dwellings are in ruins—six or eight thousand inhabitants are houseless, and millions of property are destroyed. This visitation of Providence strikes beneath us all self-dependence, and infuses the instruction from the Book of Life, that, "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ," and the necessity of that faith, "that looks for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

A week ago Pittsburg was like the season expanding its energies, renewing its vigor, and animated with abundant life. Now its strength is humbled. A more hospitable, benevolent, and energetic people than its citizens can no where be found. The weight of their present distress is tremendous. It appeals for some relief with resistless force. I have had an interview with a committee of the citizens, and received a written communication from them. This, and a letter which has been received while this message is transcribing, are herewith transmitted. They give a graphic outline of their loss, and express manly confidence in their ultimate ability to restore it.

This is one of those public calamities that speak to the whole people and their representatives in terms that are felt and understood by all. It invokes your immediate attention. I shall most heartily concur in any measure of relief, which your wisdom may suggest, knowing that it will be worthy of the commonwealth that gives, and the people who receive.

FRS. R. SHUNK. Executive Chamber, April 14, 1845. His Excellency, FRANCIS R. SHUNK.

DEAR SIR:—We implore you, in behalf of a ruined city, in behalf of thousands of helpless women and children, and in the name of the most high, and for the sake of every humane and benevolent emotion of the heart of man, to extend by the interposition of authority, vested in the Executive, the session of the legislature now drawing to a close in order that the condition of this suffering and prostrate people may be laid before the general assembly, for the purpose of considering such suggestions for their relief as we confidently trust will meet the prompt and willing assent of the constituted authorities of the State.

With great respect, &c. R. C. GRIER. W. ROBINSON, Jr. W. MCKNIGHT. WILLIAM HOWARD, Mayor. E. SIMPSON. THO. LIGGETT, Jr. HENRY S. MARGAW. LYON SHORB & Co. CHARLES SHALER. GEORGE A. BAYARD. JAMES A. BRIGGS. J. B. IRWIN.

Mr. Dallas.—Some of the Whig papers are making a great noise and finding fault with the Vice President, because he did not retire before the close of the Session, and allow the Senate to choose a Speaker, as has sometimes been done heretofore. We presume Mr. Dallas intends to take his seat at the commencement of the next Session, and perform the duties of the station himself. He is emphatically one of the people—a working man, and will share none of the responsibilities, or neglect any of the duties of the office to which that people have called him. We perceive by the papers that he is now industriously engaged in the duties of his profession in the courts of Philadelphia.—Harrisb. Argus.

Constructive Journeys of U. S. Senators. A Washington correspondent of the Herald furnishes a list of the Senators who have drawn money from the public treasury for journeys which they were supposed to have performed to their homes and back, between 2 A. M. on the morning of the 4th of March, when the Congress adjourned, and the reassembling of the Senate at 12 o'clock, noon, the same day. These constructive journeys have been allowed and the money paid. The list stands as follows:

Table with columns: Senator Name, Amount. Rows: Ashley of Ark., \$1,680 00; Sevier of Ark., 1,680 00; Aitchison of Mo., 1,326 00; Bagby of Alabama, 960 00; Lewis, do, 960 00; Breese of Illinois, 1,480 00; Semple, do, 1,480 00; Colquitt, of Georgia, 608 00; Dickinson, of N. York, say, 500 00; Dix, of N. York, say, 500 00; Hanegan, of Indiana, say, 800 00; Niles, of Connecticut, 500 00; Sturgeon, of Pennsylvania, 210 00.

Thirteen Senators, \$12,524 00. Whig Senators who have received Mileage for these Constructive Journeys.

Table with columns: Senator Name, Amount. Rows: Barrow, of Louisiana, \$1,810 00; Johnson, do, 1,810 00; Berrien, of Georgia, 608 00; Dayton, of New Jersey, 164 80; Evans, of Maine, 544 00; Jarnagin, of Tennessee, say, 1,200 00; Morehead, of Kentucky, 640 00; Pearce, of Maryland, 104 00; Phelps, of Vermont, 424 00; Upham, do, 424 00; Simmons, of Rhode Island, 350 00; Woodbridge, of Michigan, 992 00.

Seven Senators, \$1,187 00. Senators who have not yet received this supposed Mileage DEMOCRATS.

Table with columns: Senator Name, Amount. Rows: Allen, of Ohio, \$323 20; Atherton, of New Hampshire, 436 00; Woodbury, do, 436 00; Benton, of Missouri, 1,326 00; Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, 86 00; Fairfield, of Maine, 544 00; Haywood, of North Carolina, 284 00; Hunter, of South Carolina, 738 00; McDuffie, do, 480 00; Walker, of Mississippi, 2,074 00.

Ten Senators, \$6,074 40. WHIGS.

Table with columns: Senator Name, Amount. Rows: Archer, of Virginia, \$132 00; John Clayton, Delaware, 96 00; Crittenden, of Kentucky, 640 00; Mangum, North Carolina, 264 00; Huntington, of Connecticut, 360 00; Miller, of New Jersey, 225 60.

Six Senators, \$1,657 60. Recapitulation. Democrats who have received the money, 13 \$12,524 00. Do, who have not, 10 \$6,738 40. Whigs who have, 12 9,012 00. Do, who have not, 6 1,657 60. New Senators entitled to mileage, 7. Mr. Bates, deceased, 1. One vacancy each in Virginia, Indiana and Tennessee, 3. \$21,576 00 \$8,396 00. Twenty-one thousand five hundred and seventy six dollars paid for travelling, of which the first mile was never performed, and if it had all been taken, it would have amounted to thirty thousand dollars!

One Senator, it is said, claimed pay for three journeys home and back, one when appointed by the Governor, another when elected by the Legislature, and a third when the extra session assembled, though he had not gone a mile from Washington city all that time.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL advertises that he will receive proposals, until the 10th of May, for furnishing fifteen thousand balances for the various post-offices in the United States. They are to be constructed on a plan best calculated to ascertain the weight of letters, and other mailable matters, under the post-office law of 3d of March, 1845, and will be required to indicate a half-ounce, and any given weight between half an ounce and eight ounces.

WASHINGTON IRVING.—Apprehensions are expressed in the New York Sun that Washington Irving was on board one of the missing packet ships, the President. EXECUTION OF MCCURRY, THE MURDERER.—The Baltimore Sun says Gov. Pratt has appointed Friday, the 27th June, as the day for the execution of McCurry. McCurry has expressed no desire that his life should be prolonged and declared his readiness to die at any time. 120 DWELLING HOUSES.—The Montour Iron Company, at Danville, have now contracted, with two contractors, for the erection of one hundred and twenty dwelling houses, at this place this season. The houses are to be of good size, and well arranged for the comfortable accommodation of families. The carpenter work of the great Rolling Mill of this Company, now approaches completion, and the contractor for the Rolling Mill has taken a large portion of the dwelling houses.—Danville Intelligencer.