

## MOST AWFUL AND DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION IN N. Y.

Below we present our readers with the details of the most destructive FIRE, known to the world since the burning of Moscow. They are sufficiently calamitous to harrow the feelings of the most heartless. From FIFTEEN to TWENTY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS worth of property has been destroyed, and hundreds, perhaps thousands of persons in a few hours, have consequently been reduced to poverty and wretchedness.

Immediately on the receipt of the distressing news in Philadelphia, the people of that city assembled in Public meeting, and passed resolutions expressive of their deep sympathy for the sufferings of their unfortunate neighbors. A resolution was also passed, desiring Congress to make an appropriation of \$10,000,000, either as a donation or a loan to mitigate the calamities of the sufferers.

But our liveliest sensibilities are excited, lest we have not yet learned the *whole extent of the calamity*. A letter received in town, by the mail of this morning, dated at Philadelphia, late in the afternoon of the 16th, and coming from a highly respectable source, indicates the probability of a further extension of the destroying element. We have been kindly permitted to make from the letter, the following extract:

"The city of New York has just been visited by an awful and very extensive conflagration, which will probably ruin great numbers. A town meeting has this day been held, recommending to the City, State, and General Governments, to afford relief from their treasures. The loss is variously estimated at from 15 to 20 millions of dollars, which will totally ruin the Insurance Companies. At 10 o'clock yesterday, they had succeeded in arresting the progress of the flames, by blowing up outer houses with gunpowder—but a report has just arrived, that the fire has broken out again, and with the wind in its present quarter, (N. E.) must attack another portion of the city—on Broadway and the Battery! A detachment of our Fire Department, with their apparatus, has gone on this afternoon. Deep excitement and sympathy for the sufferers prevail throughout our city."—*Cin. Whig.*

A postscript to the Phil. Gazette (an evening paper) of the 18th, says:

"We have seen a gentleman who left N. York between 3 and 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, who states that the fire was still burning, and progressing towards the Battery. It had not crossed Wall st."

The Philadelphia Inquirer, however, of the 13th, makes no mention of the report above mentioned.

From the Mercantile Advertiser of Dec. 17.

### DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION.

*Millions of Property Destroyed!!*

A little before 9 o'clock, last evening, a fire broke out in the store of Comstock & Andres in Merchant street, which threatened extensive destruction. The street is narrow, and built on both sides with high stores principally occupied by dry goods jobbers and importers. The wind blowing a gale at N. W., the thermometer at or near below zero, the hydrants mostly frozen, and the engines, almost unfit for service in consequence of the freezing of the hose from their exposure the preceding night, great fears of extensive damages were expressed at the commencement of the fire and these fears have been more than realized. Never has such a conflagration been witnessed in this city. The amount of property destroyed must be *many millions of dollars*.

In the course of 20 minutes from the commencement of the fire, not only the building in which it originated, but the whole on both sides of the street to Pearl street were in a blaze. Never was a more rapid extension of flames. The stores on Pearl street and on each side of Merchant street, were soon enveloped in the devouring element. Soon the flames extended across to the south side of Pearl street, and at this time, eleven o'clock, have destroyed nearly the whole block, on that side of the street, from and including the store of Arthur Tappan & Co., to Wall street. Thence they have already extended to Water street, increasing in strength and violence, and now threaten the destruction of all the property on Water, Front and South street, from Pearl street to the river, and from the west side of Wall street nearly to Old Slip. Some vessels in Coffee House slip are already on fire—the night is intensely cold—and the scene of destruction is most sublime and awful! It is just reported that the stores in Exchange place, in the rear of the Exchange, have taken fire. There is now a loud explosion of powder or the bursting of casks of spirituous liquors in Water or Front street. The engines can do nothing to stop the progress of the flames.

**Half past 11.**—The flames are now raging in every direction from the place where they originated. All the buildings in Exchange street, below the Exchange, are destroyed—three or four of the buildings in Exchange Place, are on fire, and the whole block to William street, as well as the Exchange, is in danger. The wind has somewhat subsided.

It is impossible to calculate the amount of damage already sustained—such goods as could be hastily saved, are strewn in the streets. We shall annex a list of such of the occupants of the stores and sufferers, as we can gather in the confusion that prevails. Many immense stocks of goods are consumed. It is believed that more than one hundred stores and warehouses, including many of the most valuable in the city, are already destroyed.

**Twelve o'clock.**—The rear of the Exchange is now on fire, which is extending into the Post Office. A strong force of firemen is placed there, and hopes are entertained that this building will be saved. The fire is still extending to South street—below the Exchange, it is said, will not be saved. If this is destroyed, all Wall street below William street must share the same fate, and expose to destruction the buildings east to an incalculable extent.

The stores of Howland and Aspinwall, Moses Taylor, Smith & Town, Osborn & Young, and the whole on South street, Water street, and Pearl street, between Coffee House and Old slips, are rapidly consuming. Fears are now entertained that the fire will extend on Pearl street below Old slip. The Gazette office and many of the merchants are clearing out. The Exchange, it is now said, cannot be saved, and we are preparing to move our publishing office from the opposite side of the street.

**Three o'clock.**—The Exchange is in ruins—it is reported that several persons have been killed, or severely wounded by the falling of the walls. The fire has now extended north from the Exchange to William street, on both sides, and threatens to continue through to Broad street.—The Garden street Church is reported to be on fire. The east side of Wall street is yet safe. The scene of desolation from Pearl street to the East river is awful.—A messenger has just been despatched to the Navy Yard, for a supply of powder to blow up the buildings in order to stop the progress of the flames. The wind continues high—and there is yet no fa-

vorable prospect of any cessation of the flames—they have now reached the rear of Broad street.

Pearl street, from Wall street to Old slip on both sides, are destroyed.

Water street, from Wall street to Old slip, all destroyed.

Front street, from Wall street to Old slip, all destroyed.

South street; from Wall street to Old slip, all destroyed.

Merchant street all destroyed.

Exchange place to William street, all destroyed.

William street, from Wall street nearly to Old slip—destroyed.

**Four o'clock.**—There is hope that the fire in Wall street will be stopped by the American Insurance Co. and that the building, and those below, to Pearl street, will be saved. The buildings above the Am. Ins. Office on the west side of Wall street to William street, including the Exchange, are all destroyed—and two or three above William street. The fire is still raging toward Broad street, in the rear of Wall street, and may extend to the buildings on the latter. The east side of Wall street is yet safe.

The flames are yet extending down William street, the buildings on that street and fronting Hanover square, including the Gazette office, are burnt down.

This is a terrible calamity to New York. It is believed that more than two hundred valuable stores and warehouses are destroyed, with the principal part of their contents. No estimate of the amount of damage can be made—some individual stock of goods are estimated as high as two, three and four hundred thousand dollars. The loss cannot fall much short of **TWENTY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS**—and many are of the opinion that it will exceed **THIRTY MILLIONS**!

The list of the sufferers annexed is very incomplete, and does not include one third of the number.

We have heard the Mayor say, that an attempt would be made to arrest the flames before reaching Broad street, by blowing up one or more of Mr. Lord's stores with powder.

Nearly the whole of Lord's elegant row of stores in Exchange place, and the Church opposite, are in ruins—and the flames extending rapidly toward Broad street.

The Daily Advertiser, and the American news-paper offices, are destroyed, with all the machine presses of the establishments.

### FIVE O'CLOCK.

We go to press while the fire is still raging. It is said to have extended below Old slip on Pearl street—and there is no calculation where its ravages will be bounded.

**Half past five.**—The flames are progressing down Pearl street on the south side, and have enveloped all the buildings to and including the Pearl Street House, No. 88. This information is brought to us by a person just from the immediate neighborhood.

### WALL STREET.

West Side.—Corner of Pearl, Miller & Hicks, and T. M. Kellings, Sturtevant and Jones, 55; and I. G. and J. 67; Phoenix Building, 65 to 71; R. Etwell, Galagher and Mitchell, J. Matthews, and J. R. Shidley, 73; P. Emery & Co., Deen, Greenzback & Co., 75; Bayard and Deloigny, 77; J. Loring, grocer, and a printing office, 81, corner Front street.

### PEARL STREET.

South Side.—A. Tappan & Co. and C. Callemond, Seamen, Van Wyck and Norton, L. Allian, and J. M. Jaquin; Lawson and Beardys; and W. A. Beeker, Jr. D. Oliver & Co.; Saylors and York; Downer & Co.; Smith Kain & Co., Little, Shaw & Co. and Sherman and Gilligan; Caulkins and Darrow; Foster and Easton; Baker, Johnson & Co., F. J. Conant; Robbins and Painter; G. W. Tyson & Co.; Miller and Hicks, corner of Pearl and Wall streets; hardware; the other buildings, which were all five stories high, were occupied by Dry Goods and Importers.

North side—Davenport, Wyckoff and co., (corner of Hanover) 123; Clark, Smith and Hyatt, 128; Farman & Bolton, insured; D. A. Comstock & co., and H. Babad, U. H. E. College, and co., 139 Church; Southmayd & Co., Nelson, Charlton & Co.; Skidmore and Wilkins, and L. F. Verot; Conklin, Herring & co. The above are a few names only of the occupants on this side of the street, from and including the store of Arthur Tappan & Co., to Wall street. Thence they have already extended to Water street, increasing in strength and violence, and now threaten the destruction of all the property on Water, Front and South street, from Pearl street to the river, and from the west side of Wall street nearly to Old Slip.

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