

The Evening Gazette

BALL, DICKERSON & Co., Prop'rs.
W. C. BALL, J. S. DICKERSON, C. F. RODERUS.

OFFICE: NORTH FIFTH ST., near Main.

The DAILY GAZETTE is published every afternoon, except Sunday, and sold by the carrier at 10c per week. By mail \$6 per year. The WEEKLY GAZETTE is published every Thursday, and contains all the best matter of the largest paper printed in Terre Haute, and is sold for: One copy, per year, \$2.00; three copies, per year, \$5.00; five copies, per year, \$8.00; ten copies, per year, and one to get up of Club, \$15.00; one copy, six months \$1.00; one copy, three months 50c. All subscriptions must be paid for in advance. The paper will, invariably, be discontinued at expiration of time. Address all letters, BALL, DICKERSON & CO., GAZETTE, Terre Haute, Ind.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1872.

Boston Burned.

It becomes our sad duty to comment on the frightful disaster which has befallen the but late proud city of Boston. The fire commenced at 7:30 P. M., Saturday, and raged with unabated fury, until afternoon, yesterday. During that time the most costly, and as it was deemed, perfectly fire-proof buildings, melted before the fervid heat of the advancing flames, more as if they were wax than the most enduring substances. As in the case of Chicago, the progress of the flames was only stopped by throwing in its path, a wide swath of demolished buildings, leveled to the ground by gunpowder.

The fire commenced on the corner of Summer and Kingston streets, in a five-story granite building. There does not appear to have been any especial amount of wind at the time. Summer and Kingston are both examples of those narrow, irregular streets which are so characteristic of Boston. The whole quarter was closely, though substantially, and as it was supposed, securely built.

The origin of the fire is not known. The Mansard roof surmounting the building in which the fire commenced seems to have been a large contributor to the disaster. Composed of kindling wood to begin with, and at a height where it was at once well supplied with a fanning breeze and out of reach of the water from the engines, it was the work of a moment only for it to be one seething, hissing mass of flames. It was higher than the neighboring buildings, and burning masses of the Mansard roof falling on all sides proved too severe a trial for the best constructed roofs, and up and down Summer and Kingston streets for a hundred feet or more the fire burst out before the engines even were on the spot. With this as a start, and aided by the narrow, irregular streets, and a wind which unpropitiously arose, the fire spread with a rapidity and violence which was not to be expected. The fire department of the city, which is as large and efficient as that of any city, and which worked with almost superhuman energy, was totally inadequate to grapple with the surging flames. Compelled by the heat to place their engines at a great distance from the fire, their best endeavors were without any apparent effect. Conviction now came to the fire department, that if they would save any part of the city, it would have to be by blowing up buildings in the track of the flames. This was done with an unsparring hand, and to this, and this alone, is due the final mastery of the flames, which occurred at sometime yesterday afternoon.

No exact estimate of the loss can yet be made. The amount of insurance will also be unknown definitely for several days. The portion of the city burned includes some of the largest business houses, and for the amount of territory burned, will foot up a frightful column of loss. One hundred millions will not be very wide of the mark. Boston was a great favorite with insurance companies because of its supposed security from fire, being so largely built of stone, iron and brick, and being thereby able to get low rates, was undoubtedly largely insured. Whether, however, this last drain upon their resources will not exhaust completely companies, which, though largely crippled by Chicago losses, were considered good on Saturday, is a question to be decided this week.

Chicago and Boston, coming within almost a year of each other, destroy all bases of calculation. It may be a question, whether we, of Terre Haute, have any insurance on our town.

Miss Anthony.

Female suffrage is accomplished. Agitation on the subject may as well cease. Susan B. Anthony and eight other sylphs voted last Tuesday in New York. They had succeeded in having themselves previously registered as the law requires. History is dumb about the arts they used upon the registration committee, in order to accomplish the placing of their names upon the rolls. That some arts and graces were practiced needs no further proof than the mere statement. When Tuesday came, came also Susan, and with her the other eight. Their ballots they presented to the inspector, and that obliging official accepted them. Is not that voting? It is not at all likely that the inspector placed the ballots in the box without first marking them in such a way that when the polls closed they could be identified. His taking the ballots, and then marking them, was a device on his part to shift the responsibility of the legal

question involved on to other shoulders than his own, or at least additional ones. They were not counted, of course. The thread on which Miss Anthony hangs her right to vote, is too slender by half. Section first of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution does indeed say that "all persons born or naturalized into the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States, and of the State wherein they reside." Who ever will be at the pains to read the whole amendment will very soon arrive at the conclusion that this does not mean "woman's suffrage, however strong by implication it may seem to lean that way. It will take another amendment to the Constitution to secure that object. Miss Anthony will be doing the cause to which she has consecrated herself, more good by educating the people up to the point where they shall see the desirableness of, and be willing to pass, a Sixteenth Amendment, than by doing violence to common sense in a vain endeavor to torture the Fourteenth into giving an echo as different from its first voice as woman is from man. Whom the tuncful five voted for is not known. Nobody cares. To the fair voters themselves Grant and Greeley ever were side issues, the main and all-absorbing question, the end for which they voted, was, to vote. To the rest of us this is the only interesting question. It is quite as certain to us that they can not vote now, as it is that they will in the near future.

Fires.

The Chicago fire presented some peculiarities of human nature which it will be a matter of interest to notice, whether they are repeated in the case of Boston. The first may be mentioned as the opinion of some not sufficiently whipped rebels of the South, who thought they saw in the destruction of Chicago a retribution for what they have been pleased to term the Shermanization of the South. The next was the view of the ultra religionists of the Chabad school of theology, who thought God was paying up the wicked city for its sins. Neither of these two classes contributed to the stricken city.

A third phase of character was presented to those who saw through the lurid flames and blinding smoke, only haggard faces and pleading eyes, and heard, loud above the roar of the fire and din of falling buildings, the wailing voice of a stricken people. This class gave of their money and means liberally, but the best thing they gave, and the dearest, was a wealth of hearty, honest sympathy and good will.

Yet another phase was that glorious pluck and energy which rose superior to all disaster, and has in a restored city eclipsed all the wonders of Aladdin's tales. The discovery of those last two qualities as existent in such liberal degrees in our people, is almost compensation for the loss of the city. It is likely that all these things will be visible again by the light of burning Boston. Let us hope that the last two may be even more conspicuous than before.

There will be great need of the sympathy and assistance of the people all over the country. Persons, yesterday in affluence, to-day are paupers. Business is paralyzed, and thousands, by being thrown out of employment are deprived of all means of support. There must be great want, during the next few days, for food wherever, barely to sustain life. The neighboring towns and cities, though, will supply that want. For those of us at this distance, who wish to contribute, nothing better can be sent than clothing and money.

Boston and the East contributed liberally to Chicago and the West, and now Chicago and the West should pay back, with interest. Bread, cast upon the flames, should come back after many days.

H. G. in New York Tribune.
Crumbs of Comfort.

There has been no time, until now, within the last twelve years, when the Tribune was not supposed to keep, for the benefit of the idle and incapable, sort of Federal employment agency, established to get places under Government for those who were indisposed to work for a living. Any man who had ever voted the Republican ticket believed that it was the duty and the privilege of the editor of this paper to get him a place in the Custom House. Every red-nosed politician who had cheated at the caucus and fought at the polls looked to the editor of the Tribune to secure his appointment as gauger, or as army chaplain, or as Minister to France. Every campaign orator came upon us after the battle was over for a recommendation as Secretary of the Treasury or the loan of half a dollar. If one of our party had an interest pending at Washington, the editor of the Tribune was telegraphed in haste to come to the Capitol, save that bill, crush that one, promote one project or stop another. He was to be Everybody's Friend, with nothing to do but to take care of other folks' business, sign papers, write letters, and ask favors for them, and to get no thanks for it either. Four-fifths of these people were sent away without what they wanted, only to become straightaway abusive enemies; it was the worry of life to try to gratify one demand in a dozen for the other.

The man with two wooden legs congratulated himself that he could never be troubled with cold feet. It is a source of profound satisfaction to us that office-seekers will keep aloof from a defeated candidate who has no influence except at Washington or Albany to get a sweep or appointed under the Sergeant-at-Arms, or a deputy-substantive temporary clerk into the paste-pot section of the folding room. At last we shall be left alone to mind our own affairs and manage our own newspaper, without being called aside every hour

to help lazy people whom we don't know and to spend our strength in efforts that only benefit people who don't deserve assistance. At last we shall keep our office clear of blatherskites and political beggars, and go about our daily work with the satisfaction of knowing that not the most credulous of office-hunters will suspect us of having any credit with the appointing powers. That is one of the results of Tuesday's election for which we own ourselves profoundly grateful.

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