

Domestic Intelligence.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

It seems almost as if the world was to be burned up, with fires in cities and the woods. The last mails bring to our table accounts from divers places of disastrous fires of recent occurrence.

The Kinderhook Rough Notes says:

"On all sides we have melancholy evidence of the blighting effects of the unprecedented drought devastation. Vegetation is brought to a stand still, the earth is baked, trees are withering and dying, cattle can hardly satisfy their cravings—corn, buckwheat and potatoe crops are nearly annihilated."

The damage from fires in the woods is, of course greatly increased by the extreme dryness of the weather, and already we hear of extensive devastation from this source. In some places fields as well as forests have been swept by devouring fire. As was remarked yesterday, fires in the forests are raging in almost every direction in New Hampshire; and we hear the same story from Maine. A telegraph despatch from Bangor, Me., says:—

"Fires are raging to a terrible extent in every section of this County. The damage to the woodland and crops will be enormous. Buildings have been burned in Kenduskeag, Corinth, and other towns. In many places the entire population are engaged in fighting the fire. In Garland it is said that a whole family who live some distance from any other house, are entirely surrounded by the flames, having no means of escape. Whether they are dead or alive is not known."

The Albany Journal of Tuesday evening, speaking of the fires in the woods around and about that city, says:—

"The fires nearest the city, and whose smoky influence is almost perceptible, is in the Pine Plains, west of us, and between the Schenectady Turnpike and Railroad. We are not advised of its extent nor whether any great damage has been done by it. But it cannot travel far without doing essential mischief.

The most extensive fire within the circumference of a hundred miles, is raging in the woods on the Green Mountains, in the neighborhood of Arlington and Sunderland. The fire commenced five or six days ago, but it did not acquire its present fury until Saturday night. Since that time it has been advancing and spreading with most fearful rapidity—having travelled, in a direct line, over six miles! The spectacle which it presented last night to those who saw it from the valleys, was grand beyond description. Looking from the base of the hills, it seemed as if the very heavens were on fire; and as the flames leaped from tree to tree flashing upward and upward, as they found new material to feed upon, nothing could appear more terrifying magnificent. The eye could at a single glance take in more than two miles of lurid flame."

In Brooklyn, N. Y., a fire broke out in a large chemical factory in 19th street, Gowanus, near 3d avenue, on Wednesday, a. m. Oils, varnishes, paints, &c., were manufactured in it, and there were 70 or 80 barrels of varnish in the buildings, which, with the Oils, &c., burned with great fury, destroying the factory and all its machinery and contents.

From thence it extended to neighboring buildings, several of which were burned, partially or entirely, involving a total loss of some \$30,000.

Another fire occurred, on the same day, in Brooklyn, in the lumber yard of Allen & Gifford, Hamilton Avenue, destroying all the wood in the yard, and extending to neighboring store-houses and also to a barque lying at the wharf back of the yard. Loss estimated at \$20,000.

In Newark, N. J., a very destructive fire broke out on Wednesday morning, early, at 127 Railroad Avenue, in J. C. Young & Co's Harness Manufactory, and thence extended, until twelve factories and other buildings were destroyed, involving an estimated loss of \$50,000.

In New York City there were two pretty serious fires on Wednesday also: one in the brewery and rectifying establishment of David Stevenson, corner of 39th street, and 10th avenue, which destroyed the premises and a large stock of liquors; and another in Clinton street, near Delancy, of an oil factory, owned by C. V. De Forest, which was totally destroyed. The loss by the two fires is estimated at about \$16,000.

A severe fire occurred at Albany on Saturday evening, in a trunk and packing-box factory. The flames were spread by a high wind to neighboring buildings, and before they could be checked, eight buildings were either entirely destroyed or badly damaged, and some twenty families were rendered homeless. Loss from 5 to \$10,000.

CINCINNATI, AUG. 24.—A frightful fire is now raging at Cayuhoga Falls, Franklin, Northfield, and parts of Summit and Portage Counties, Ohio; the sod is burning even to the depth of 11-2 feet. As the flames are driven forward by the wind, trees, both dry and green, are ignited in an instant and almost as quickly destroyed. Several barns in the vicinity, stored with hay and grain, have also been destroyed. Apprehensions are entertained for the safety of the town of Hudson. There has been no rain in this section since the 20th of June, and all vegetation has suffered greatly from the drought. Every attempt has been made to arrest the progress of the flames, but without success. The woods near Barnsville, for a mile in length, are on fire.—*Boston Bee*.

GREAT FIRE AT WALDOBORO'.—A despatch dated Damariscotta, Me., Aug. 25th, says:

"About one o'clock a fire broke out in the rear of the hotel at Waldoboro', and swept away the whole of the village from Tibbets' large furniture store to the northward, and so far eastward as the Baptist Church (which was saved,) including every store in the village, and every building south and west to the river, extending to Capt. H. Rubin's on the south side. George H. Kennedy's new ship, and Capt. James Cook's barge, both on the stocks, were destroyed, as also the timber for a new ship in Mr. J. Clark's yard. The Custom House, both banks, and the Post Office were destroyed.—The loss cannot now be approximately ascertained, but it is thought it must exceed \$250,000.

TERRIBLE CONFLAGRATION IN TROY, N. Y.—A disastrous fire broke out on Friday afternoon, at Troy, N. Y., by means of which a great portion of that city has been reduced to ashes, and property to the extent of over a \$1,000,000 destroyed. A number of large manufactories, a rail road depot, several blocks of stores together with numerous wharves and a large accumulation of lumber, were consumed. Many of the finest houses in the city were burnt: over a hundred tenements were swept away and more than twice as many families rendered homeless.

DROUTH IN THE UNITED STATES.

We cut the following from the New York Tribune:

THE DROUTH IN THE SEVERAL STATES.—We continue to receive accounts from all parts of the country of the prevalence of the most severe drouth. In sections of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, and N. Hampshire, it is destructive to all growing crops, and has exhausted feed and water for cattle to such a degree that they have to be driven outside of the drouth-parched region for subsistence.

ILLINOIS.—We learn from one of the employees from the Tribune Office who has just returned from Iowa by way of St. Louis and Central Illinois, Chicago and Detroit, that the appearance of things on the Illinois prairies is desolate. Cattle can procure feed, but are often troubled to find water. Corn-fields are in the sere and yellow leaf of Autumn, with the grains on the cob dry and shriveled, and in many fields the crop is worthless. The greatest alarm is felt among the pork-raisers.—Hogs that will easily make 2 or 300 lbs. fatted are freely offered for \$1.50. Fruit is withered upon the trees, and garden vegetables are turned to dust. Our informant says that he found on his return through Michigan that no rain had fallen while he was gone, and the drouth there began to be felt severely, where all looked green and flourishing on his outward trip. The corn crop of Indiana and Illinois is certainly very much cut short, and that will seriously affect other places, and not the least the beef market of this city.

INDIANA.—On the whole of the Wabash below Lafayette, on both White Rivers, and generally through all the best corn region of the State the drouth is destructive. Putnam, Parke, Green, Bartholomew and several other central counties are spoken of as not likely to make half crops of corn.

IN PENNSYLVANIA, particularly in Mercer and Lawrence counties, the drouth seems to have come upon the farmers with distressing force. In some places, we are told by a friend just from there, water cannot be had upon farms or even in the neighborhood for the cattle, and they often have to be driven inconvenient distances for a supply.

IN KENTUCKY, in the vicinity of Lexington, we learn from gentlemen recently from there, that the corn crop is suffering beyond measure, and must fail to a greater extent, whether rain comes or not; and it will seriously affect the fattening of beef and pork.

TENNESSEE.—At Memphis there is great suffering for want of good water to drink. Cisterns are dry and wells nearly so. Many families have no

water, except as it is hauled in casks. The effects of such a drouth is very annoying as well as destructive to crops.

IN MARYLAND the drouth is equally distressing in several of the counties.

VIRGINIA, adjoining Maryland, is of course affected in about the same degree, and will not make a fair crop of corn and potatoes.

Cattle in the interior are suffering, and only here and there will the corn be worth anything. The drouth has been very destructive.

IN OHIO, the Lake counties suffer most—the soil being very clayey and more easily affected by drouth than sandy or stony soil. In Scotia County the grass-hoppers have been very destructive.

IN NEW YORK the drouth seems to prevail the most severely in those counties affected last year and year before: that is Chatauque, Allegany, Jefferson, and St. Lawrence. In Tompkins and Yates counties also, it has been very severe. In Yates, it prevailed early in the season, destroying spring crops, and we are sorry to see that buckwheat which was largely sown as a substitute is likely to be measurably cut off before winter. In Tompkins County the drouth is at the worst now; corn is dying, and potatoes without tubers, and pastures all drying up, and a general failure of fall crops anticipated. Wyoming County is also sending off cattle as fast as possible, before they starve. There is great complaint of drouth among the milkmen of Orange County. It seems difficult—owing to the scarcity of water—to keep up their regular supply of milk. The roads are dusty, almost beyond precedent. The same complaint prevails in the Genesee Valley generally, though not as severe as in the counties named.

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, it is said that the drouth affects the springs and streams so that the locomotives on some of the railroads find it difficult to get water, and the mills upon the Merrimac are dependant upon the Lake Winnipisogee reservoir for the supply of power. The fall feed will be almost entirely cut off and early feeding have to be resorted to. The potatoe crop will be almost a failure. At Concord there was a little rain last Sunday.

In the vicinity of Lawrence, Mass., the corn is drying up and small vegetables already dried. No moisture can be found in some fields within a foot of the surface.

MAINE.—A letter from Oldtown, Me., of the 11th inst., states that the drouth was felt severely, and that the fire was still running in the woods.

THE SEASON.—During the past fortnight we have passed from extreme summer heat to autumn coolness. The wind, which has been unusually boisterous, has prevailed from the eastward and north-west, and fires in the morning and evening has been necessary. Several fields of wheat and oats were cut down in the early part of the week—and we understand the yield will be a full average. Potatoes look promising but require more rain. In consequence of the extreme heat of the weather, and the want of seasonable showers, the pastures afford but little food for cattle.—*Miramichi Gleaner*.

THE KNOW-NOTHINGS.—I may mention in passing, as a singular characteristic of America, that in New York, there has sprung up a new sect lately. It calls itself the "Know-Nothings."—What the whole of their object may be, nobody well knows; but the result of their establishment proves this, that this class are striving very much to counteract the insidious undertakings of Popery. And they show it in many ways. They go quietly to elections—nobody knows about them—and of late it has been found that no man under Popish influence is getting into power and authority.

Not long ago, (just to show the working of the thing,) a man in New York began to preach openly in the streets and elsewhere against the Papacy, and some of the Papists, just as in Ireland, and other places, began to hoot, and pelt the man with mud. When this was heard of, in due time a great number of these "Know-Nothings" got into the crowd, so that for every Papist there was a "Know-Nothing." Well, the Protestant man went on expounding Popery, while the Papists, as usual, began to hoot. Suddenly, every Papist got a firm thwack on the side of the head, with the most thorough American gravity—coupled with such words as these;—"Sir, this is a free country; every man is entitled to speak; and, Sir, when the man is done, if you want to answer him, we will see to it that you get justice." Well, if it had been only one or two who behaved in this manner, they would soon have been overpowered, but the Papists, seeing the apparent ubiquitousness of the "Know-Nothings," were glad to give in. They tried it again and again, however, but always with

the same result, so that ere long, full liberty of speech was established in New York. I do not know whether we could imitate this or not at home—but, at all events, the plan has proved quite successful over the water.—*Dr. Duff's speech on America*.

IMPORTANT ARREST OF COUNTERFEITERS.—We understand that High Constable Clark of Sherbrooke, with his posse, made a descent upon two gangs of counterfeiters, in Canada on the night of August 1st, at 11 o'clock, and although they were situated five miles distant from each other, yet the arrangements were so perfect that within forty minutes every man, in or around the premises, ten in all, were chained hand and foot. Sentinels were then posted at every point to keep off intruders, and a search was commenced through fields and forests, which was continued night and day for 48 hours, by which time the officers had in their possession one printing press, 26 plates for paper money, one machine for stamping gold and silver, (which weighed 800 pounds,) 24 moulds for running hard money, dies, ink, paper, engravers' tools, and thousands of dollars in counterfeit money. This is probably the greatest strike ever made on this continent.—*Portland Advertiser 7th ult*

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT!—Two Ladies Instantly Killed.—We were informed, late last evening, that two ladies were instantly killed at Canastota, this side of Syracuse, by being run over by the express train which reached here at 7 o'clock last evening. It appears that a mail train was standing at Canastota, in which the two ladies were passengers, and that they got out of the cars on the wrong side, at the very moment the express train came along, under full speed! They were both horribly mangled. One of them, who was struck with the cow-catcher, had all of her limbs and her head torn from her body! The other was drawn under the wheels of the express train, and almost cut to pieces. The appearance of the unfortunate ones, as detailed to us by an eye witness, was the most terrible ever gazed upon, caused by any like accident. We could not learn their names.—*Albany Register of Wednesday*.

CAPTURE OF A PIRATE VESSEL.—The captain of a British schooner who arrived in New York on Wednesday from Turk's Island, reported that a few days previous to his sailing he had seen a brig off Grand Bay showing a black flag. The pilot of the place having made for the vessel, would not be allowed on board. Subsequently the skipper of the British ship learned that a brig answering the description of the above had tracken several "merchantmen" but was ultimately captured westward of the Bahamas by a French man-of-war.

EFFECTS OF INTEMPERANCE.—A Mrs. Dewey of Ellington, was found, last week, by her husband, on his return from work at noon, lying in the fire place, dead, with one side of her person burnt to a crisp. It was in evidence before the Coroner's Jury, that Dewey brought home two quarts of liquor on the night previous, and part of it was found on the premises by the coroner. The pair have been known to be soakers for years, and the verdict of the Jury was, death caused by intemperance.—*Machias Union*.

INVASION OF CUBA.—A letter from California of the 1st of August says:—"The steamer to-day takes from us Colonel Wheat, agent of the Junta for the invasion of Cuba, who has been with us since the first of April last. He has succeeded in enrolling quite a large number of men, including a uniformed company of flying artillery and a uniformed company of riflemen. Both of these companies have been under constant drill for the past eight or ten weeks. Many of the native Californians have lent material aid to the cause; and the fact of a marauding expedition having been concentrated at New Orleans has in no manner been kept secret. Major General Wool is on the alert and no expedition, as a body, will be allowed to leave this city."

ANTIMONY SHOT.—Extensive experiments are now being made, by order of the English Government, to test the effect of shot made from antimony upon wooden as well as iron surfaces. As far as they have been tested, the destructive effects of these balls are more apparent than those arising from iron ones; for as soon as the surface is struck the metal, owing to its great brittleness, breaks, and the various particles, consequently become widely spread. The authorities seem to be much pleased with the success which has attended these experiments; and we are informed that an immediate supply of antimony balls will be dispatched to our fleets in the Baltic and Black Seas. The use of this new missile will create a demand for our Cornish antimony, which is now in considerable request.