

ver what she has lost. The animal constitution cannot be trifled with in this way.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

From English Papers to the 19th May, obtained by the Columbia.

Liverpool European, May 19.

Destruction of a part of the city of Hamburg by Fire.—A conflagration unprecedented since the great fire of London has laid a large portion of the city of Hamburg in ruins, after lasting four days before any mastery was gained over the progress of the flames. The fire broke out soon after midnight on Wednesday week, at a house in the Deichstrasse, one of the oldest streets in the old part of the town, built as much of wood and other materials; and it passed from house to house until it entered a square court, surrounded by large warehouses, and unapproachable by the street. A warehouse of spirits caught fire, and the flames began to threaten everything far and near. It was nearly four o'clock, the senate was called together, and to arrest the spread of the fire, it was proposed to pull down houses; but that was refused as a needless sacrifice of property. The Burghet Guard was called out; but the services of a body twenty thousand strong were useless in the management of a few bad fire engines; and, when it was too late a few houses were ordered to be pulled down.

The flames no longer dealt with a few houses, they were arrested for a short time by reaching the wider space of the Hopfen-markt: when suddenly, in the afternoon, smoke burst from the steeple of the Nicolai Church. Accumulated in the large body of the church, the heat set fire to a new quarter, and the warehouses on the Catherinen Canal were soon blazing for a quarter of a mile. Mr Lindley, an English gentleman who was engaged by the town in the construction of a railroad suggested that a large line of buildings already given up should be razed; and the attempt was begun at six o'clock on Thursday evening, but it was inefficiently carried on. The quarter to be saved was overtaken by the tide of fire, which shifted hither and thither with the wind and for the next three days it ebbed and flowed in uncontrolled fury. The Town-house, the Borsenhalle, the Post office, the Senate house, and other public buildings, were successively destroyed; the masses of buildings in the intervals being swept away.

In the meantime the town was like one in a state of siege; as each quarter took fire, the inhabitants hastily abandoned it. Some hurried away into the country, others brought their property into the streets, and there in the panic, left it; and it served as fuel to the flames, which thus found a readier passage across the crowded streets. The poor, driven from house and home, and destitute of means, assembled in the streets which were yet free from the flames; and many more of all classes poured out into the fields, where they collected their furniture and household ware. One of the sufferers, writing on Sunday, thus describes the scene; speaking apparently, of Friday or Saturday:—

After taking a few short hours of rest and some little refreshment, I left my friend's house in the country, about one English mile from the Damthor Gate, and proceeded in his company to have a minute inspection of the whole scene of destruction before us, and which presented a most awful spectacle. About half

past three o'clock p. m., on arriving in the immediate vicinity of the Damthor, we observed some hundreds of families encamped and engaged in the same operation, and surrounded by their weeping families and relations. Some of their furniture accompanied a few, and others were seen lamenting their fate in being deprived, by so sudden and unexpected a calamity, in so short a space of time, of all they probably possessed in the world. Myself and friend, a gentleman long resident in Hamburg, and to whom I am in a great measure indebted not only for my present home, but for the assistance he rendered me in making good my retreat from the city before my house was completely burnt down, after taking a hasty survey of all we could outside the city, entered the Damthor gate and proceeded along the Damthor Strasse and Esplanade, as far as the Jungfernstieg. Wherever we passed, nothing was to be seen but loaded waggons and carriages with furniture, and families busily employed in packing and handing out their property, amidst the most fearful solicitude and anxiety for their safety. The streets were literally crammed with them, and it took us considerable time and great caution to make good our passage through the mass of unfortunate beings presenting the picture of despair and a fearful certainty that the worst was to come.

At length energetic measures were taken; the troops were called out; others, Prussians, were summoned from Magdeburg; artillery was sent for from Harburg, in Hanover, and gunpowder from Gluckstadt and the Stade; and cannon was brought to bear in cutting off the path of the flames; by which means, on Sunday night the conflagration was brought under command, and by Tuesday it was entirely extinguished. But a quarter of the great and wealthy city is gone; one who went to look for the safety of the senate-house could not find the spot! Little reliance can as yet be placed on the statistics of the calamity: but it helps to shape the idea of it when it is told that nearly the whole of the public buildings and churches are destroyed, with two or three thousand houses, and the number of the streets entirely destroyed is computed at forty six! The new exchange escaped unhurt, through the exertions of a Mr Smith.

The number of those who lost their lives is estimated at 159 to 250; but the real number will probably never be known. Surveyors have already been engaged in the hopeless task of estimating the destruction of property. The local fire-offices are understood to be quite unequal to meet the burden thrown upon them. The London offices, it has been said, will suffer severely; and it was supposed that the Sun, the Royal exchange, and the Phoenix fire officers were, in the aggregate, liable to the amount of 1,000,000*l.*; but a paragraph in the daily papers denies that the London officers had insured any 'buildings.' The estimate of the loss has varied greatly, the latest and highest being 7,000,000*l.* Although the Bank of Hamburg was destroyed, it has been officially announced that its treasure and books are safe.

During the conflagration, the conduct of the people was admirable for order and peaceableness. After it, however some reports of incendiarism were circulated, and the anger of the people was naturally roused. It was directed against some of the English residents, and especially against a Mr. Thompson, who gave great assistance in blowing up some buildings.

In this disturbance, some persons were seriously, and it is feared, even mortally injured. An official declaration, however, was issued, stating that the reports were groundless; and order was restored on Tuesday. Assistance was afforded to the sufferers in every possible way. The inhabitants were returning to the town with their goods; the authorities providing shelter for the houseless; governors of the neighboring provinces of Schleswig, Helstein, and Bremen came to the town to render assistance in person; and 1,400 carpenters were sent for from Bremer.

Among the streets that have been spared are the Cremon, the Catharinenstrasse, the Grim, the Groningerstrasse, the Grosse Reichenstrasse, and the New and Old Wandraham. The upper and lower haven has not been touched by the fire. The New Exchange, notwithstanding its dangerous position, has remained intact.

The *New Hamburg Zeitung* of the 13th instant states that the losses are computed as follows—30,000,000 of dollars for goods burned in the warehouses; 20,000,000 dollars for furniture and other valuables in the warehouses; and this is independent of the value of houses destroyed, which was proposed to be rebuilt by a state loan.

A general meeting of the British residents in Hamburg and its vicinity was held on the 12th inst., at her Britannic Majesty's consulate, for the purpose of preparing a petition to be presented to her Majesty, and an appeal to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, through Colonel Hodges, her majesty's representative at Hamburg, praying that the British nation would alleviate the general sufferings caused by the late calamitous fire in that city. The meeting was very numerously attended.

From the best information received by the last mail from Hamburg, the loss of the three principal fire offices in London are—300,000*l.* sterling, 200,000*l.*, 150,000*l.*—a sum much greater than was at first anticipated, but which will be paid in the course of this week. The losses of the Hamburg fire office and the Prussian fire office in Hamburg are much heavier than the above.

Her Majesty has graciously subscribed 200*l.* to the fund for the benefit of the suffering Hamburgers, and his Royal Highness Prince Albert has sent a donation of 100*l.* It is peculiarly gratifying to find her majesty and the prince thus volunteering on all occasions of urgent distress the royal bounty to relieve it. It will be highly appreciated coming from so high a quarter. Ten thousand pounds were sent by Friday's Steamer, in dollars, &c., to purchase provisions and to provide shelter. The numbers are about 30,000.

Dreadful Railway Accident near Paris.—Fifty Persons Killed and one Hundred and Fifty Wounded.—The most fatal railway accident which has hitherto occurred took place on Sunday evening week, on the Rive Gauche road, from Versailles to Paris. In consequence of the grands eaux having played that day, an immense number of persons of all classes and conditions had gone down to Versailles, and the returning trains were, after the amusements had ceased, more than usually crowded. So many carriages were required for the uptrain at six o'clock that two extra engines were put on, and a train containing more than 1,000 passengers, and drawn by three locomotives, left at that hour, and arrived in safety at Bellevue, within three miles of Paris. There, by some accident yet to be

explained, the first engines got off the rails and became fixed in the ground, the second engine ran over that, and the third with like impetus followed. The three first rate carriages and several waggons nearest the engines were dragged by the same force, and as described by an eye witness, a pile of scaffolding of disabled engines and overturned carriages of nearly 30 feet was formed.

At this moment the fires of the engines communicated to the carriages, and in a short time the whole was a mass of flame. The unfortunate passengers, many of whom had escaped only with bruises from the first shock, unable to open the doors of the carriages, became victims to this fresh disaster, and horrible to relate more than fifty of them were burnt to death. A person living near the spot, and who ran to give assistance on the first alarm, describes the scene as the most appalling that can be imagined. The unfortunate passengers in vain trying to disengage themselves from the overturned carriages, raised frightful cries of despair, while those in the carriages close at hand were equally desperate, on finding all attempts to open the doors, or extricate themselves by the windows, impossible.

Assistance from the Bellevue station was procured with the greatest possible rapidity, and persons living in the neighbourhood hastened to tender their assistance. Several medical men happened to be in the carriages which had escaped, and they proved most serviceable in aiding their less fortunate fellow passengers. The gendarmerie and police were likewise put into requisition, and every assistance that skill and humanity could suggest was instantly employed. It was a long time before the fire could be extinguished and the pile of broken carriages removed, and then all the ill-fated sufferers were beyond human relief. A mass of half-burned bodies alone was to be seen, the greater part so much disfigured as to make their recognition an impossibility.

The exertions of the police, and of the persons employed by the railway company were continued during the night and the next morning. The wounded were conveyed either to their homes, or to the public hospitals; and such of the bodies that were in a state of recognition, were kept for the inspection of the numerous friends and relations who hastened to the spot. Forty-two bodies, more or less mutilated, were set aside in that manner, but the remains of several more, too much disfigured for recognition, were found among the ruins.

The first calculation shows that 150 persons were killed and wounded; but it is believed that the number was considerably greater, from the number of carriages overturned, and because all the carriages were filled both inside and outside. It is remarkable that the outside passengers suffered less than those who were inside. The former were thrown by the shock a sufficient distance to escape the fire, while the others were brought in contact with the flames.

Further Particulars.—There have been thirty-six bodies taken to the cemetery of the Mount Parnass, but in such a state that it was impossible to recognise them. Six bodies were also removed to the same place, which were afterwards recognised, and removed by their friends. Nine were taken to the Morgue. Upwards of thirty were carried to the Hospital Necker so dreadfully wounded that recovery seemed hopeless. The three first carriages in the train were completely destroyed by fire, and the flames burned with such fury that it