

## DREADFUL CONFLAGRATION.

*Most of the business portion of Albany in Ruins—Hundreds of Buildings and Millions of Property Destroyed.*

[From the Albany Argus.]

Our City is literally desolate. A fire broke out at about noon yesterday, in a stable in rear of the Albion Hotel, corner of Broadway and Herkimer street, between Broadway and the river. The wind blew a gale from the south, the heat of the weather and the fire intense, and everything dry and combustible. In an inconceivably short time, the fire spread over a wide surface, prostrating everything before it. The efforts of the firemen, aided by the Troy, West Troy, Greenbush, Arsenal and Schenectady Companies, were directed, as well as they could be, under such appalling circumstances, but they were powerless against such an amazing force of flame, of raging wind, and the fierce heat of the wide-spreading and all-consuming element.

Full four hundred buildings are consumed, and property not less than two or three millions, although no estimate of its value is yet attainable. We hear of two forwarding lines that estimate property under their charge, to the amount of \$90,000, all consumed. Another line suffers to an amount of from \$70,000 to \$80,000. The loss of flour afloat and ashore, is not less than 10,000 barrels.

The area of the fire embraces many acres, perhaps fifty or sixty, of the most compact and valuable part of the City. It includes twenty squares at least. Amid the ruins which everywhere meet the eye, it is difficult to trace the outlines of the former state of things; but those, familiar with the city, will perceive the extent of this calamitous visitation, by a few generalities.

Broadway, from the intersection of Herkimer, to the south corner of Hudson street, on the west side, to Van Schaack's Variety Store on the east side, nearly half a mile, is, with all its structures and stores, including the Eagle Tavern, Townsend House, and the United States Hotel, level with the earth.

From Broadway to the river, including the ranges of lofty buildings in Quay street, throughout nearly the entire space above mentioned, all is a heap of ruins.

All the cross streets entering Herkimer, Broadway, Bleecker, Lydius, Hamilton, Division and Hudson, as far as Union and Dal-lus streets are swept away. Amazing efforts preserved Gould's great carriage and coach establishment; every thing on the surrounding streets being demolished.

North, the flying cinders, with which the air was filled, caught the Columbia street Market, and of that large structure nothing remains. The adjacent buildings were saved by the efforts of the two Schenectady fire companies.

But the scene of the most striking and absolute desolation is the Pier. Scarcely a vestige of it remains. Throughout its entire length, from Hamilton street to the cut opposite the Boston depot, it is utterly consumed, including the wharves, ware-houses, nearly all the shipping in the Basin and outside the Pier, tow-boats, barges, canal-boats, huge floating warehouse arks, with all their valuable and vast contents of goods and products, the three bridges at Columbia, State and Hamilton streets, lumber yards, flour stores, in short everything that floated or teemed with value in that great mart yesterday morning.

The scene in State street, beggars all description. Thousands, flying from the conflagration, pressed every conceivable vehicle into their service, depositing goods, furniture, families, children, everything animate and inanimate. Every point in that wide street—at the intersecting streets, in front of St. Peter's Church, all along the Parks, and finally at the State Hall and City Hall—were crowded with bales, boxes, furniture, goods of every description, &c. No point was deemed too remote from the devouring element. The stores every where were closed, or were only open to the flying citizens and their effects.

Two buildings were blown up in the hope of arresting the progress of the fire. One belonging to Mr. J. I. Boyd in Broadway, and the other to Mr. John Knower, corner of Hudson and Liberty streets, but with little effect.

All the Insurance Companies suffer largely, if not ruinously.

Among the shipping destroyed was the schr. Cotuit of Boston, arrived yesterday morning, and the schr. Eliza Matilda, also of Boston, seriously damaged. Some twenty vessels below the Basin were hastily drawn out in the river and preserved. The Isaac Newton and Rip Van Winkle steamers were also rescued, with much difficulty.

The conflagration of the Pier, so utterly sweeping, was as rapid as it was unexpected. It was supposed to be safe, owing to the intervening Basin. Its only danger was from the flying cinders: and every store had its look out and its buckets. When all danger was supposed to have passed, a spark caught under a clapboard on the east or river side of the Pier, and in a few moments the flames were beyond all control, and throughout the entire length of the Pier such was the rush of the flames that many of the merchants, cut off from escape from the basin side, abandoning all hope of saving property, hastily threw their books and valuable papers into boats, and put out into the river.

The roofs everywhere throughout the city were thronged with occupants, anxiously guarding their property from the falling cinders.

It is to be feared that several lives were lost—certainly several persons were severely injured or burned; but we have no positive information.

Nearly the entire Troy and West Troy fire departments were on the ground. Their aid was promptly and most efficiently rendered. Last evening they tendered, through the telegraph the aid of three additional companies, which came down and served as a relief guard.

All business was suspended, all the places of amusement closed; in short, the aspects in all directions bespoke the desolation which pervades the city.

One of our oldest residents, familiar with the fire department, estimates the loss by fire here since March last, as exceeding the entire loss for the previous forty-one years. This conflagration—in broad day—altogether surpasses, in every form of loss, any with which the city has ever been visited.

Stanwix Hall and City Hotel were several times on fire.

The suffering among the inhabitants is severe, and many demand the sympathy, commiseration and charity of those who are so fortunate as not to have been among the immediate sufferers. Many in affluent circumstances yesterday, are ruined.—Thousands are houseless. Destitute families and numerous children, without shelter or bread, are all around us. Aid cannot be too promptly afforded.

[From the Evening Journal.]

The engines had not been home long from the fire in the north part of the city, when the alarm was given from below. The fire took in the small wooden stable adjoining the Albion House, corner of Herkimer and Broadway, and occupied by John G. White.

Thence it communicated to the Hotel and Coal Yard sheds, and the large Malt House belonging to J. G. White, on the Quay, between Herkimer and Bleecker Streets.

It spread thence on to Broadway up to Bleecker, crossed Broadway, and took both sides clean as far up as Lydius Street.

The heat now became intense, the wind blowing a hurricane. The flames caught Lydius Street, and lapped on to that vast block of wooden rookeries, bounded by Lydius, Broadway, and the new Steamboat Landing.

We never beheld anything burn with such fury. There were probably forty or fifty distinct tenements in this block, and they were in ashes in thirty minutes. This was the block which so narrowly escaped the recent fire in that neighbourhood.

About the same moment the last mentioned block was enveloped the buildings opposite were on fire. The three or four which were saved from the late fire were soon in a blaze, as were also the Fort Orange Hotel, and the several three story buildings just erected, but not finished.

Meanwhile the flames were working up Lydius, between Broadway and Church. The two or three buildings on the east side of Church, soon went, and the old wooden building on the north west corner of Church and Lydius was also soon on fire.—This was the most alarming incident thus far. It was connected with two or three large stables full of hay, and a hundred other combustible buildings.

But there was no preventing, although two barrels of water, applied at the right moment, would have saved it.

In a moment the flames caught hold of the hay, and ran with tremendous fury to the adjoining wooden buildings, dwellings, workshops, machine-shops, &c. &c. between Church and Liberty Streets,—licking up everything as it went onward to Denniston Street, with such rapidity as to prevent the occupants from saving one hundredth part of their furniture.

The fire crossed Liberty Street. It took in the second building from the corner, and moved on, irresistibly, up both sides of the street, to Hamilton. When we left, the flames were working west toward Union Street, and north toward Hamilton Street. All the stables adjoining the Union States Hotel, on the corner of Denniston and Broadway, and the Eagle Tavern, corner of Hamilton and Broadway, were on fire, and Chauncey Dexter's. They all went, as in a moment.

The United States and Eagle, together with the three story buildings between these Hotels, were on fire at 3 o'clock, and it was not supposed they could be saved.

But what excited most horror was the appearance of fire in the Center Warehouse, on the Pier, between Hamilton and State Streets. These buildings were 200 rods from the fire; but sparks had taken effect, and in ten minutes, and before anything could be saved, the whole block of large wooden buildings, twenty or thirty in number, were on fire, presenting an awful spectacle.

FOUR O'CLOCK.—The fire still rages. It has consumed the United States Hotel—the Eagle Tavern—all the large buildings north of the new steamboat landing, everything on Quay, Broadway, Division, Liberty, and Union streets, up to Hudson street.

In Broadway, it has reached up to the Townsend House, on the east side, and to near Hudson street, on the west.

Every building on the Pier, from Hamilton street to the Boston Railroad ferry cut, is gone. They were mostly full.

Twenty or thirty two boats are burned in the Basin.

Also as many Canal boats. Many of them were laden.

Two or three schooners are much injured.

The authorities are about blowing up some buildings.

The wind is slightly changed to the north.

Several buildings took fire north of State street.

Nearly every building is swept from Herkimer street, up Broadway, to Lydius, up Lydius to Union, up Union to Hudson (both