

L.AID IN ASHES.

Tremont Temple Swept Out of Existence.

Sudden and Destructive Conflagration.

The Parker House in Danger for a Time.

Four Men Injured During the Evening.

Loss About \$200,000—The Insurance—Notes and Incidents.

Tremont Temple is gone. It was nothing less than the destruction of the great hall for popular gatherings in Boston—old Faneuil alone excepted—that the ringing of alarm-bells heralded at 11 o'clock last night. It might have been, to the minds and the fears of the few who saw the flames leap into sight from the very interior of the building so well known to Boston, the destruction not only of the Temple, but of the great caravansary so near at hand. A good many guests, including some just arrived from New York, were in the dining hall when the ominous number, thirty-six, was sounded on the bells. The news of the fire and of the possible danger to the Parker House, spread as tidings of that description will always; and the excited servants from the upper stories for a few moments seemed to be possessed by a genuine panic. Already the flames in the neighboring building had gained great headway; and even some of the cooler-headed guests feared that the rear walls of the Temple might come crashing against the hotel. But, although some of the servants were terribly excited, and a few of the guests recklessly attempted to drag their trunks out of doors, there was nothing like a general stampede from Parker's; and the prompt arrival of the engines and the sounding of the "second alarm" soon restored confidence to many. Still it was a night of excitement. Twice and thrice, the flames from the Temple furnace caught the roof of the Parker House, and as often damage was repelled by the efforts of the firemen. On the only weak point in the wall which might, it was feared, fall upon the hotel, streams of water were poured continually; so that disaster from that quarter was averted, and at midnight the safety of Mr. Parker's famous "Inn" was assured. But the interior of the Tremont Temple was a scene of utter ruin. With two terrific crashes the galleries fell in, and it was not an hour after the fire—which is supposed to have originated underneath the organ which was such a pride to the congregation of the Temple church—before the work of destruction was practically wrought. It appears that for the last four or five weeks painters have been engaged at work on the inside of the building, painting and decorating, and the whole interior of the Temple was filled with a scaffolding on which they worked. Of course there was a quantity of spirits and oil about the place, and whether the fire originated from spontaneous combustion or from the careless dropping of a lighted match, will never be known. It is sufficient to say that notwithstanding the fact that the walls were built without furring, and the floors laid in mortar, the scaffolding made an excellent frame-work, and the fire spread like lightning, and it was only with the most earnest exertions on the part of the firemen that the flames were confined to the Temple. Fears were entertained, for a while, that the front of the edifice would fall in; and several warnings were given of the possibility of such an event. But fortunately this did not happen; and the damage was chiefly confined to the hall itself, the almost numberless offices and depositories which open out of the alcoves, and to the stock of the dealers who were housed under the Evangelical Benevolent and Missionary society, holding as it did in trust the great Baptist headquarters for New England. The loss is variously estimated at from \$175,000 to \$250,000. This was the third building destroyed by fire on this site.

THE ALARM.

How the Fire Was Discovered—Good Work by the "Parker House Department."

At a few minutes before 11 o'clock a boy rushed breathlessly into Station 2 and said that the Tremont Temple was all a-fire. A glance out of the window showed that there was a large fire in that neighborhood, and without a moment's delay an alarm was rung in by Lieutenant Bates from Box 30, to which the department quickly responded. On arriving at the scene it was found that the upper front part of the entire easterly end of the building was in flames, and large volumes of smoke and fire were rolling heavenward and settling over the entire part of the city directly eastward from the burning building. When the fire was at first discovered the Parker House department got two streams on to it, and thereby helped to hold the fire in check until the arrival of the department. In a few minutes a second alarm was sounded, and the fight continued in dead earnest. Lines of hose were laid through the main entrance into the building, up through houses on Montgomery place, and over buildings in Chapman street. Owing to the height of the building, it was very difficult to get at the fire, but the Bangor extension ladder was placed on Tremont street, in front of the Tremont House, and raised into the air amidst the cheers of the crowd who lined the west side of Tremont street. Up, up it slowly went, and was at last placed in position. The engineer in charge of that portion of the department at work on the front of the building ordered hose 5 on to the "Bangor," and amid the plaudits of the crowd the hosemen ascended until they reached the top and appeared like small boys, so far were they from the spectators. The hose which they had dragged up with them was then brought into efficient work. At 11:25 o'clock the roof of the building fell with a crash, and a shower of sparks and cinders ascended and were carried by the brisk west wind eastward, falling on the roofs of the buildings east of Chapman place. Seeing that if this continued there was a chance that there might be a second fire, and portion of the department was sent to play on these roofs, and thereby removed the danger.

INSIDE THE TEMPLE.

Scenes in the Auditorium During the Conflagration and After the Raging Flames Were Subdued.

The interior of the Temple shows that the fire-fight gave full vent to his fury and wrecked with ruthless hand the casate and artistically constructed edifice. The spacious ground-floor, the ample gallery, the majestic organ and the majestic roof lie in a smoldering, smoking and chaotic heap. When the alarm was rung in the flames had obtained a raging headway, and the lurid light brought the fire brigade of the Parker House quickly to the scene. For fully five minutes before the arrival of the city department the hotel force had been actively fighting the fire, and their efforts, seconded by the exertions of the fire-ladders, kept the flames confined within the limits of their origin. The first engine on hand was steamer 4, and the chemical engine from the same house, and, in company with the members of the fire companies, a Globe representative forced the doors and entered the building. The scene was as grand as it was appalling. The entire rear portion of the building was one living, leaping sheet of flame, upon which the volume of water thrown from the engines seemed, for the space of five minutes at least, to have no effect. Swiftly and stealthily the fire worked its reckless and ruinous way, and soon the pipes of the organ, abundant in number, fell with a deafening crash to the burning platform. The fiery serpent then gracefully wound its sibilant and sinuous form around the spiral stairs leading to the gallery, and soon enveloped in its folds the remaining portion of the spacious auditorium. By this time a smothering shower of ember and timber, mingled with iron nail-stones from the metal roof, rained resistlessly down upon the floor, and the advent of each glowing ember was succeeded by brilliant pyrotechnical displays. Meanwhile the firemen had been victorious at work, and the Niagara of water had damped the ardor of the fire-kings. At 12 o'clock THE GLOBE reporter waded through the little river that had accumulated, and gazed once more upon the scene of desolation. The seething fire, hissing as it asphyxiated by its conquest, the smoke and steam curling upward through the platform, the beautiful and brilliant

colors of the organ-pipes, blasted with the breath of the ruthless destroyer, reminded one strongly of the fire scene in "Sardanapalus." Through the smoke and subdued flames could be dimly seen the forms of firemen, who worked calmly and methodically amid what to others were the most exciting circumstances. In the rear portion of the Parker House the fitting forms of fire-armed fire-brigades were seen fighting the customary combat, despite the assuring admonitions of the sterner sex. Order came of chaos, however, and, at the present time, a feeling of security reigns in the bosoms of the residents in the vicinity of the fire.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

The Fire as Seen from the Park House.

The Hon. William D. Park of Montgomery place was among the first, if not the first, to discover the fire, and ran to the office of Chief Engineer Green to give the alarm. The fire first showed itself near the top of the Tremont Temple building, and in a short time the light was seen through one of the three large arched windows located near the roof about midway on the south side, from the front on the street to be rear, connecting with the projecting rear wall of the Parker House. The hose of Engines 7, 2 and 6 were run through and over the Park House, Montgomery place, and over Max's restaurant and the dwelling No. 3 adjoining it in the same place. From these houses the firemen had rather cramped vantage ground to play on the burning building. Soon the flames burst out with great fury from the southeast corner, adjoining the Parker House, and in less than fifteen minutes from the time the engines got to work on the building, the roof at that point tumbled in and with it a long strip of the higher part of the wall. The firemen, from the street, managed to reach the little winding stairs, which looked as if they might have been built to give a private entrance about fifteen feet from the ground through the south side of the Parker House building. From the top of a landing on Montgomery place the firemen could be seen struggling up this winding staircase with the hose to the door-way leading in, and which was then all aglare with the red flames within. The landing was a frail and temporary looking structure, with a good deal of glass in it and roofed with tin, standing from the view as if it were a fragile lay-window. While three or four of the firemen were at work there a slight weakness in the wall was tumbling, and so a part of it did, almost immediately over this stairway. Fortunately it tumbled inwards, and only a few bricks and some mortar was hard to drum upon the slight roof. There was still great danger that the centre part of the wall in which the three windows were at the top, and through which the fire was seen when discovered on that side, might tumble down on the little group and bury the crowd living in the ruins.

The firemen were dashed in and out over the roof of the Park House as emergency called, and to their great peril, while that and the adjoining house were inundated with water. On the southwest corner the Parker House caught, and soon the firemen were there. One man was driven away from it by the fall of a burning fence, which appeared to be located on the line between the Temple building and that of the hotel. But another dash at the fire with axe and water put it out, and further streams kept it down. It was a very bad location for a fire, and from the south side an awkward place to manage. But both the firemen and police showed their efficiency, the former in getting their hose to play promptly from the most advantageous position in a crooked place, and the police in clearing sufficient space and keeping it so for them to work effectively and with freedom from any interruption.

Engine 17 took its water at the corner of Milk and Washington streets, and ran its hose up Harvard place and through the basements of buildings out into Province street.

THE INSURANCE.

A Large Number of Policies Held on the Building—How Damage was Averted by the Protective Department to Stocks in Many Cases.

The insurance policies on the building were carefully looked after by the management of the association controlling the property. They were as follows:

Mechanics Mutual, Boston	\$5000
Merchants, New York	5000
Atlas, Boston	5000
Commercial, New York	5000
Humboldt, New Jersey	5000
Quincy Mutual, Quincy	5000
Mar. Hans and Farmers, Worcester	2500
Newark City, New Jersey	2500
Arlington Mutual, Arlington	5000
Hul. Oke Mutual, Salem	5000
Peoples, Newark	2000
Dorchester Mutual, Dorchester	5000
Phoenix, New York	5000
Safeguard, New York	5000
Traders and Mechanics, Lowell	2500
Provident Washington, Providence	2500
Royal, Liverpool	2500
Anchor, New York	2000
Franklin, New York	2000
Prospect, Boston	3000
Royal, Liverpool	5000
Liverpool, London and Globe, England	5000
London and Globe, England	5000
Liverpool, London and Globe, England	2500
Hartford Steam Boiler, Hartford	3000
Lancashire, Manchester	2500
Commercial, Montreal	2500
Bowery, New York	2500

COMPARATIVELY LITTLE DAMAGE

was done to the stocks of books, magazines and papers, with valuable historic and other documents, contained in the offices and stores on the second story. The protective department was on hand with an extra supply of rubber cloths and covers, and the stock will prove to be but slightly damaged. In the larger stores below, too, the "protectives" were busy at work, and thousands of dollars' worth of property have been saved by their endeavors. It was impossible in the confusion of the fire to ascertain the amount of individual dealers, but it is safe to say that in almost all cases the losses are covered by insurance.

SCENES AND INCIDENTS.

Many Things to Remind One of the Great Fire of 1872—A Great Throng on the Streets—Wild Rumors as to the Extent of Damage Done.

The presence of the large crowd surging up and down Washington, School and Tremont streets so soon after the alarm was sounded is easily accounted for. Many of the guests at the Parker and Tremont were among the first to see the flames, suddenly disclosed as they were when their work of destruction was already far advanced. The influx included some who left "in a hurry," but also many who were in the confusion and in the excitement of the day, and individual dealers, but it is safe to say that in almost all cases the losses are covered by insurance.

A SUGGESTIVE REMINDER OF THE GREAT FIRE,

to see the engines puffing away at such "historic" scenes as that by the Old South; and the noise and excitement, the hoarse shoutings of the firemen and the exaggerated rumors which found ready currency in the crowd of spectators, added to the impression. At first, the opinion was very popular that the Parker House must surely go, and that the Tremont would, in all probability, be seriously damaged by the fall of the front of the Temple building; and the four accidents that occurred were greatly magnified in popular rumor. It was a curious episode of the night to witness, here and there, a man come up to the lines, bend over to the officer in charge and say, "I belong to the Parker House; run away and wait to get back; this is my key." And once in a while the some-time panic-stricken lodger got back to his hotel in good season, though oftener he had to wait until the fire was well under control and the rigor of discipline at the barriers somewhat relaxed.

AFTER THE FIRE.

At 2:30 o'clock this morning the scene presented by the interior of the auditorium of the Temple was deplorable enough. In front of the stage was piled in a confused heap the gallery supports and other remnants of that portion of the house, surrounded by the debris of the once beautiful building, with sections of the roof. Along the sides the same view presented itself, and in various sections of the shell, which at this hour marked the place where Tremont Temple once stood, lucifer pipes were to be seen. The dying embers of the great conflagration were struggling hard for the supremacy, but the want of efforts of the still undaunted firemen, who at this time were pouring from a dozen nozzles copious quantities of water upon the ruins wherever the least spark of fire presented itself, was having a telling effect, and at 3 o'clock, when THE GLOBE reporter left the building, nothing but smoke, steam and the dim light of the fireman's lantern was all that presented itself to the view.

THE OCCUPANTS OF THE BUILDING.

The building was occupied by the secretary of the society, Mr. Solomon Parsons, the superintendent of the building, and a large society-room and ticket office on the ground floor. The entire front of the first floor was occupied by the New England branch of the American Lyceum Society, while at the back of this floor were the various religious publishing houses. Messrs. White & Gould, and the publishers, had their office in the building, as did Drs. Crandall and Cutter. The stores on Tremont street occupied by different parties were uninjured.

ACCIDENTS.

Three firemen, John D. Kelley, hoseman; C. H. Thayer, driver; and W. H. Frazier, an inmate of the Parker House, were burned and otherwise injured during the fire. The cause of the accident was the falling of the gallery and organ-pipes, the wreck covering the firemen in a mass of ruins. The injured parties were extricated from their predicament with great difficulty, and medical assistance was at once summoned.

Benjamin Bailey, hoseman of Steamer 10, was struck by a piece of the falling gallery and severely

injured across his back and on his left shoulder. He was taken to the hospital.

NOTES.

The protective department spread over 100 covers and were indefatigable in their efforts to save property.

At the time of the fire there were 201 rooms occupied by guests of the Parker House and thirty-five by servants.

At just twenty-five minutes after the alarm the gallery fell with a crash, and ten minutes later a portion of the roof crashed to the floor beneath.

District Engineer Abbott, who had command of the firemen in the interior of the house previous to the falling of the organ and sections of the gallery, was driving in the extreme; as were also the hosemen of Engine 4, who stood in a position immediately in front of the organ at the foot of the stairs, leading the stream in a gallant manner, only retreating after several of their number had been severely burned and otherwise injured.

D. Burgess, jr., a music teacher, who occupied a room immediately under the seat in the auditorium where a portion of the falling organ and demolished gallery struck with the most force, had his piano and furniture much damaged by portions of the falling debris during its way through the ceiling of his room, and also by the water which flowed from the auditorium through the aperture of the ceiling. Mr. C. Corthell, one of the officers of the society, the ceiling of whose room was also crushed in, suffered severely.

The secretary of the Temple Society, Mr. Solomon Parsons, was at his post of duty soon after the alarm was rung in, and by his zeal and promptitude rendered efficient aid to the organization by conveying its books and papers to the Tremont House before the flames had reached them. His courtesy in furnishing the members of the press with necessary information as to the history of the society, insurance, etc., was as marked as it was innate, and his kindness will be long remembered.

The greatest consternation existed among the servant girls of the Parker House, whose rooms overlooked the Temple. Despite the entreaties of the male employees, they persisted in rushing out of the building en masse, and one lady fled as far as the corner of School and Washington streets before she recovered her equanimity. Down four and five flights they crowded in confusion, and only the most persistent efforts of the proprietor, his assistants and the firemen, prevented their exit in a body. Many, however, heeded not a word, but wildly wandered forth to seek, to them, safer quarters.

TREMONT TEMPLE.

The Site of the Once Famous Tremont Theatre—A Popular Hall for the People—Some Who Have Spoken and Lectured Within Its Doors.

Tremont Temple has been a "Boston institution" for many years. This is its third visitation by fire, the old Temple having been swept out of existence in 1852. Years before that the old Tremont Theatre, a place well remembered by the older play-goers of Boston, flourished on the site; and the mutations of fortune placed here a lecture hall where a play-house had been before, while, in Howard street, what was a Millietti piece of assemblage was transmogrified into a theatre. The house, built in 1852, was very commodious; but the arrangements of the hall, or Temple, have undergone many changes. Its last remodeling made the place one of the most attractive for conventions and similar gatherings in Boston. With a seating capacity of 2000, its acoustic properties were excellent; and the Temple, with its bright tints and coloring, attracted the public to many and various entertainments. Here Charles Dickens gave the wonderful series of readings which introduced him to America; here George MacDonald and a host of celebrities from abroad lectured, while the popular gatherings from time to time, political and otherwise, made the Temple a further draw to the lovers of the multitudinous shades of thought in the modern Athens. It is not many years since the Evangelical Baptist Association assumed entire control of the Tremont Temple estate, making it practically the headquarters in Boston of the great Baptist denomination. On the second story was the branch of the American Baptist Publication Society and the various missionary organizations of the body, and it was a home for the Baptist workers of New England. Within the Temple proper there have assembled for many years the members of the Temple Baptist Church, the strongest congregation in point of numbers of which the denomination in Boston can boast. Here, Sunday after Sunday, have ministered such men as Increase N. Kalfin, a gifted preacher, but an indiscreet man; Justin D. Fulton, Edwin Burnham and George C. Lorimer; the advance under the pastorate of the latter having been especially noteworthy. A strong Sunday-school organization found a home in the Meisonian, a commodious hall in the basement of the Temple, where also the "greater" prayer-meetings were held weekly, and occasionally some political gathering. There was a smaller vestry, where the ladies' prayer gatherings were held as the pastor's room and study, and various other apartments reached by winding staircases, which seemed a veritable labyrinth to the uninitiated. The organ, which was built into the hall itself, fronting the auditorium, ranked next to the great organ in Music Hall in excellence for general concert purposes, and there have been frequent recitals given by leading organists. Its loss is to be regretted as not the least serious caused by the fire.

OTHER FIRES.

At Malden—Loss, \$3000.

Shortly after 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon an alarm of fire was sounded at box 4, Faulkner station, calling the fire department to a house on Forest street, owned and occupied by Benjamin Brett. The fire was caused by a defective flue in the kitchen, and had got well under way before the department arrived. Owing to the location of the building the hose was found to be too short, causing considerable delay by sending for more hose. The building, which was a two-story one, was destroyed, as was also a barn attached to the house. The loss is estimated at \$3000, and is insured in the Citizens' Insurance Company of Boston.

In Hyde Park.

The fire department was called out at 8:30 last evening by the burning of an old tenement-house in the Readville district, on River street. The flames spread rapidly, the entire roof being burned off. The house was formerly owned by O. A. White, but, about eight weeks ago, was taken by the town for unpaid taxes. Loss about \$100; incendiary.

Barn Struck by Lightning and Burned.

[Special Despatch to The Boston Globe.]
DANVERS, August 14.—A barn belonging to Mr. Albert Putnam, near the Putnamville depot, was this afternoon struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

Fire and Heavy Loss of Life.

[By Cable.]
MADRID, Spain, August 14.—Several incendiary fires have occurred in the Spanish provinces. The village of Raminos has been entirely destroyed and thirty-four persons have lost their lives.

Fire at South Boston.

The alarm from box 123 at 12 45 was rung in for a fire in a cellar in the house 25 Gold street, owned and occupied by a Mrs. Hagan. There was no damage.

Fire Notes.

Another fire at Fittellidino yesterday destroyed the residence of J. B. Webster.

The alarm from box 15, at 6:35 last evening, was rung in by Patrolman Scott of Division 8 for a slight fire in the brick building No. 55 Fulton street. The building is occupied by C. M. Buxton & Co., for the manufacture of furniture, and their loss will probably not exceed \$200. The origin of the fire is attributed to spontaneous combustion.