

FIRE AND FALLING WALLS.

A Score of Firemen More or Less Injured.

Miraculous Escapes from the Roof and Upper Floors.

Full List of the Wounded—Probable Origin of the Fire.

Early yesterday morning fire was discovered in the cotton waste factory, 60 Hampshire street, owned by Charles Richmond of Providence and occupied by Timothy Remick. William Bowker of Engine 13 rang in a still alarm, which was promptly answered by Engine 13 at 5.10 o'clock.

It was followed two minutes afterward by an alarm from the same box, and soon the engines and fire trucks were on the spot and at work. The building, consisted of a main structure 60x40, three stories high, used as a storeroom, a smaller one story and a half building, used as a picking and sorting room, and an engine room at the rear. The fire was discovered in the first floor, and when the engines arrived was well under way. The flames gained rapid headway, and the smoke poured out in torrents, as the cotton waste was slightly damp. It was seen in the next five minutes that a second alarm was needed, and the chief ordered it to be rung in, which was done at 5.17 o'clock. The building being of wood and completely stored with cotton waste, burned like tinder, and, despite the endeavors of the firemen, was rapidly consumed. Streams were directed to the neighboring building, and, by the unflagging efforts of the department, most successfully. The flames rose high above the building, and the smoke poured from the windows as if from so many chimneys. After over an hour's constant fighting by the department, the whole front of the building fell outward without a moment's warning, with a crash like thunder, carrying, in its fall, the floors and roof of the building, and burying beneath the burning ruins over twenty of the firemen. The utmost excitement and confusion reigned for an instant. Men were discovered clinging to the remaining walls and timbers, and were quickly rescued by their comrades from their perilous positions. The wall gave way at the bottom and fell into the street, and the fire ladders were carried with it, while the roof and third floors were covered with firemen, some of whom escaped instant death, or, what is infinitely worse, death by suffocation and fire, by jumping on to the roofs of the adjoining buildings. In a moment after the fall the firemen who were uninjured sprang to the relief of their comrades, and by superhuman efforts and at the peril of their lives pried away the ruins and the immense bales of cotton waste. Some of the men were found completely buried in the ruins, and only by their calls for assistance were they located. Word was immediately conveyed to Lieutenant Spear of Division 10, who summoned the police ambulances from Divisions 1 and 4. They quickly arrived and were busily occupied in conveying the wounded to their homes. Within five minutes after the building fell Chief Green ordered a third alarm to be sent in, and as considerable time had elapsed between the alarms, the box number was first struck and then the ten struck announcing a third alarm. The fire was easily controlled after the fall of the building, and the firemen who were injured received every attention. How

They All Escaped With Their Lives

is a mystery, and many hair-breadth escapes could be recounted by the firemen, who worked like heroes to rescue their unfortunate companions. The following is a complete list of the injured:

Captain Poor of Engine 14, who fell in the building, was severely injured about the side and back. It was nearly half an hour before he could be extricated from the ruins. He was carried home, but returned to the fire about 11.30 o'clock.

Thomas McDonough of Engine 14 was jammed between two walls and badly injured. One arm will probably have to be amputated. He is single and aged 24. He was conveyed to the City Hospital.

John Dirol of Engine 14 had his back injured by falling timbers. He was married, and was conveyed to his home.

Edward Kelly of Engine 14 was badly injured in the back.

Francis Freeman, foreman of Engine 13, had his left leg wedged in between two walls. He was taken home.

Charles Straw of Engine 13 was slightly injured in the back of the neck.

Frank Pratt of Engine 13 was buried in the ruins and slightly injured.

W. C. M. Pratt of Engine 12 was cut about the head and ankle.

Walter Pierce, hoseman of Engine 12, had the back of his neck burned, and received cuts about the head and hands.

Roscoe Handy of Engine 13 was crushed by the all.

Thomas F. Killian of Hook and Ladder 12 had his left shoulder dislocated, and received internal injuries. He was taken to his home on Allegheny street.

George C. Swift of Hook and Ladder 12 was lightly burned and badly shaken up, but was not seriously injured.

Caspar Morning of Hook and Ladder 12 was injured in his side and cut about the head, but not seriously. He saved himself by jumping to the roof of an adjoining building.

C. H. Webber of Hook and Ladder 12 had his foot pierced by the spike of his ladder.

James H. Victory of Hook and Ladder 12 was cut about the hands and badly injured in the chest and abdomen. He was carried to his home.

James H. Bowles of Hook and Ladder 12 was injured very severely, but not dangerously, on the hands, neck, back and legs.

W. K. Whiting of Hook and Ladder 12 was badly cut on the side of his neck and head. He was also injured on the back and received a very bad shaking up. He was conveyed to his home, 1 Blanchard court.

Captain E. H. Sawyer, Ladderman Charles Springer and James C. Pelton, all of Hook and Ladder 12, escaped by jumping, at the risk of their lives, to the roof of an adjoining building, receiving only slight injuries.

The men of Hook and Ladder 12, Engines 12, 13 and 23,

Rendered Invaluable Assistance

in extricating their comrades from the ruins, and worked like heroes. At the time the building fell Engine 14's men were at the window of the top story and fell with the walls, and how any escaped with their lives is a mystery.

The cause of the fire is at present unknown. Many theories are afloat, of which the most credible seems to be the one of spontaneous combustion. Those who live in the house adjoining the burned building, so it is alleged, claim that at about 1.30 they heard footsteps in the building, but thought nothing of it until after the alarm was given. As there have been several small incendiary fires in this district this supposed cause of the fire at least seems reasonable.

The engines and boiler belonging to the establishment, which were in the same building at the rear, escaped without serious damage.

The main building was completely insured, and was damaged to the extent of about \$3000. A despatch from Providence says that Charles Richmond, the owner of the building, left that city yesterday morning upon receipt of the tidings from Boston for this city. An inquiry at his place of business showed that he had two policies on the building, but it was impossible to find out in what companies or what the amounts of the policies were, but it was probably well insured.

The damage on the stock of Mr. Timothy Remick can not be ascertained, as Mr. Remick left the city shortly after the fire. The ruins are still burning. Steamers were at work there all day yesterday, and a detail was left there last night.

Dr. Henry Ehrlich went immediately to Engine 13's house when he learned of the accident, and gave all his attention to the injured. He rendered valuable aid and assistance to the unfortunate firemen, and deserves the thanks of the department for his valuable aid.