

# RUINED SHRINE.

## Boston's Beautiful Masonic Temple Nearly a Wreck.

Fire Damaged Building \$65,000—  
 Priceless Relics, Magnificent  
 Paraphernalia and Irreplaceable  
 Furnishings Go Up in Smoke.



AS SEEN FROM BOYLSTON ST.

Boston's magnificent Masonic temple, one of the finest, if not the finest, in the world, was nearly destroyed by a fire yesterday, which broke out at 10.30 in the forenoon.

The building was filled with costly and beautiful mystic paraphernalia, rare works of art, relics of almost untold value, expensive regalia and uniforms of fine fabric, resplendent with gold and silver decorations and gleaming with jewels.

A large part of this irreplaceable property was destroyed, and much more was damaged by the billows of water which came from the nozzles of a hundred lines of fire hose. Yet so much was saved that the fraternity may be congratulated.

The total loss will reach \$300,000, \$60,000 of which was on the upper floor, where the fire did the greatest damage and where the water finished what the fire had left undone.

The firemen had no sooner reached the scene than they saw that a bitter fight was before them. Two more alarms were quickly sent in and the men went

The building was occupied by the grand lodge of Massachusetts, and St John's, Mt Lebanon, Massachusetts, Germania, Tevere, Aberdour, Joseph Warren, Joseph Webb, Zetland, Columbian, St Andrew's Eleusis and Winslow Lewis subordinate lodges; the grand Royal Arch chapter and St Andrew's and St Paul's subordinate chapters; the grand council of Royal and Select masters and Boston (subordinate) council; the grand commandery of Knights Templars of Massachusetts and Rhode Island and Boston, De Molay and St Bernard subordinate commanderies; Boston and Lafayette lodges of Perfection, Giles F. Yates council, Princes of Jerusalem; Mt Olivet chapter, Rose Croix; Massachusetts consistory, Ancient Accepted association; Boston Masonic mutual benefit association, and First worshipful masters' association.

The grand lodge's quarters was in the second story, and the subordinate lodges in the third story, directly under the banquet hall, and will lose about \$100,000 each. Each organization will lose something. The damage to the furniture and furnishings is believed to be about \$300,000. The subordinate lodge and commandery uniforms will make up a loss of about \$38,000, and the building is damaged fully \$70,000.

This is the third Masonic temple burned in this town.

with similar articles belonging to the Boston commandery, and about 100 boxes owned by the members of St Bernard commandery, and as all of these were in the upper floors of the building it is probable that they are a total loss.

Chief Webber and Asst Chief Regan were among the first to arrive at the fire, and, while one directed the movements of the firemen on the Tremont st side of the building, the other handled the fire on the Boylston st side and inside the building.

When the fire was at its height the great flag staff which surmounts the building began to twist and burn, and showed every indication of coming down. The crowds in the street below eyed it anxiously, and the police and firemen, too, kept tabs on it, but the supports were strong and the staff only swayed a little back and forth.

In the midst of the excitement and hurry Lieut John A. Maddison of chemical 2, who had just come out of the temple and to the chemical, was seen to stagger and fall, and when he was picked up his head showed a bad scalp wound. He had either been struck by a loose coupling or a piece of coping from the top of the burning building. He was immediately conveyed to the hospital.

The wire men did good work in getting the wires out of the way, both from the top of the building and the streets below.

Because of an unfortunate accident the fire department were delayed several minutes in getting to the fire, and thus the flames got a good start before the department was prepared to play on them.

The fire fighters at first started to put out an imaginary fire in the Parker house, and were thus prevented from going to where the fire really was.

A Mr Stearns of the auxiliary fire alarm service was testing the automatic fire alarm in the Parker house, and by some means one of the wires got working and an alarm was rung in from the top of the burning building. He was in the Parker house.

The moment the box rang in in city hall city messenger Peters ran across to the Parker house to see about the fire, which he thought was there. He met landlord Whipple and excitedly asked where the fire was. Mr Whipple was astounded, as he did not know of any fire, and was not aware that the box had rung in.

It was then found that a test was being made of the wires, and so the matter was taken good naturedly.

The fire apparatus, however, at once came thundering into School st, in answer to the alarm, only to find that their services were not required. While the drivers of the various engines and hook and ladder companies were endeavoring to straighten out the angle caused by their unnecessary presence on School st, another alarm rang out, this time from the regular city box, number 53. Another and another quickly followed.

City messenger Peters had got back to city hall when this alarm rang, and he immediately rushed out to the firemen on School st, and told them the number of the box, and where it was located. They immediately whipped up their horses, and as quickly as was possible under the circumstances, drove to the scene of the real fire, which by this time had made considerable headway.

Several minutes after the apparatus had been taken away from School st, and proceeded to the Masonic temple, it was no unusual sight to see a piece of apparatus from one of the distant engine houses being driven into School st, only to have the men who manned it learn that their services were required up at the temple.

One of the district chiefs drove down in front of the temple at lightning speed, but found his services were not needed. He at once whipped up his horse, drove through the alleyway near the Parker house and on to Bromfield st.

This unfortunate incident caused a delay of some eight or 10 minutes in getting the apparatus to the fire, and consequently gave the fire a good start. Before the department got there, however, the Edison electric light employees had turned a stream of water on that portion of the building where it was seen the fire was, from their own building, which is in the rear of the Masonic Temple.

When the fire department did get on the scene, however, it did not take them many minutes to get to work on the fire, and it is doubtful if a fire was ever handled more promptly than it was after that.

Police commissioner Clark was on the scene in a few minutes and directed the movements of the police, who acted with the greatest efficiency. Deputy superintendent Pierce also rushed back and forth amongst his men, giving the necessary orders and seeing that the crowds did not hamper the work of the firemen.

### MANY COMPANIES INTERESTED.

Insurance of \$165,000 on Building,  
 About \$60,000 on Furnishings and  
 \$11,500 on Pianos and Fixtures.

The structure, furnishings, archives, library, jewels, robes and paraphernalia

are all well insured, although, of course, no money reimbursement can replace the loss of the valuable historic relics, library and other venerated objects.

The insurance on the building amounts to \$165,000, well distributed among 20 companies. With the exception of \$20,000 carried by the Caledonian and \$10,000 by the Scottish U. and N., the total is distributed in \$5000 risks among 28 well known companies.

The grand lodge and the various subordinate and Scottish Rite organizations domiciled in the building, each carry a moderate amount of insurance, on furnishings principally, and in some cases on paraphernalia and jewels.

Masonic temple (building), placed by Stearns Bros:

Calonian	\$20,000
Scottish U & N	10,000
Franklin, Phil	5,000
Niagara	5,000
Royal	5,000
Perma	5,000
A-bany	5,000
Merchants' Prov	5,000
Imperial	5,000
Western Ass'n	5,000
Buffalo German	5,000
London	5,000
Sun	5,000
Connecticut	5,000
Gilrad	5,000
Gus'dian	5,000
North Brit and Merch	5,000
Lion	5,000
Security	5,000
United Firemen's	5,000
Hollace	5,000
Rome	5,000
National	5,000
National, Hld	5,000
Fireman's Boston	5,000
Ins Co of N. A	5,000
Westchester	5,000
Valentine	5,000
British Am	5,000
Am Central	5,000
Total	\$165,000

Contents owned by the master, wardens and members of the grand lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, \$40,000, placed by Stearns Bros, being mostly on regalia, vestments, organ, library and paintings. While some specific contracts are mentioned in some of the risks, the general form of the policies are blankets.

Continued on the Seventeenth Page.



CHIEF EGAN ON THE COPING

to work. Lines of hose were quickly strung up the inside of the building, the roofs of those adjoining were sought by other hosemen, and in a few minutes a Niagara was flowing into the burning structure. One hour after the first alarm was sounded the fire was under control, and at 2.30 the "all out" was called that not a spark remained of what had been a terribly destructive conflagration.

Patrolmen Zahn and Brazier saw the fire after it had been burning a few minutes, and rushed for the box corner of Washington and Boylston sts, but found a citizen there sending in the alarm.

The two officers immediately ran back to the building and applied the hose attached to the pipes in the corridors in the building. They found that the fire had apparently started in the third floor in the anteroom of St Bernard's commandery, and was burning fiercely at the time.

The officers say that the hose was full of holes, and they could do nothing with it. Besides, they assert that the fire was burning so intensely and was making such rapid headway that they considered it dangerous to remain longer, and fled.

served the approaching fire apparatus, an immense throng gathered, crowding the street and common for hundreds of feet away. Every avenue leading up to the temple was choked with a surging mass of humanity. As soon as the police department realized the size of the fire, a large force was detailed under Deputy Superintendent Pierce to assist the firemen by guarding the avenues of approach to the fire and in keeping the crowd back.

At an early stage of the fire most of the property in the lower halls were covered with oil cloths, so that they will not be injured to a very great extent, but on the third floor, which is gutted, almost everything is destroyed. The top floor was, of course, the heaviest sufferer, and everything on that floor will be a total loss.

The amount of property which has been destroyed is almost impossible to estimate. There were about 500 boxes filled with the regalia and other property of De Molay commandery, and as most of it belonged to the members in-sured, it is not likely that it is insured to any extent.

There were about 1000 boxes filled with similar articles belonging to the

As soon as the citizens and people ob-

**RUINED SHRINE.**

Union of Philadelphia	\$1,000
Westchester	2,500
Total	\$11,500

Continued from the Ninth Page.

The insurance on contents, property of the grand lodge, is distributed as follows:	
Hartford	\$5,000
Colonial	5,000
London & Lanc	5,000
Mass	5,000
North & Trades	5,000
Phoenix, Hartford	5,000
Union	5,000
St Paul	2,500
Total	\$40,000

St Andrew Royal Arch chapter, furniture, placed by Saul H. Wise: \$2,000  
De Molay commandery, Knights Tem-

**VALUED RELICS SAVED.**

Many of them were considered beyond Price by Masons. It has been said that the treasures and relics contained in the Masonic temple were worth several millions of dollars, but it is safe to say that some of them are priceless and could not be duplicated for any amount of money. So the Masons, and, in fact, everybody in the country will learn with satisfaction that the most valued of these relics and treasures have been saved. The library, which contains the most valuable collection of Masonic literature in America, is saved. It is possible that it will be slightly damaged by water, but with the aid of a skilful librarian or book expert, who will see that the leaves are opened carefully and dried, everything will be put in ship-shape order without any serious damage or very material loss.

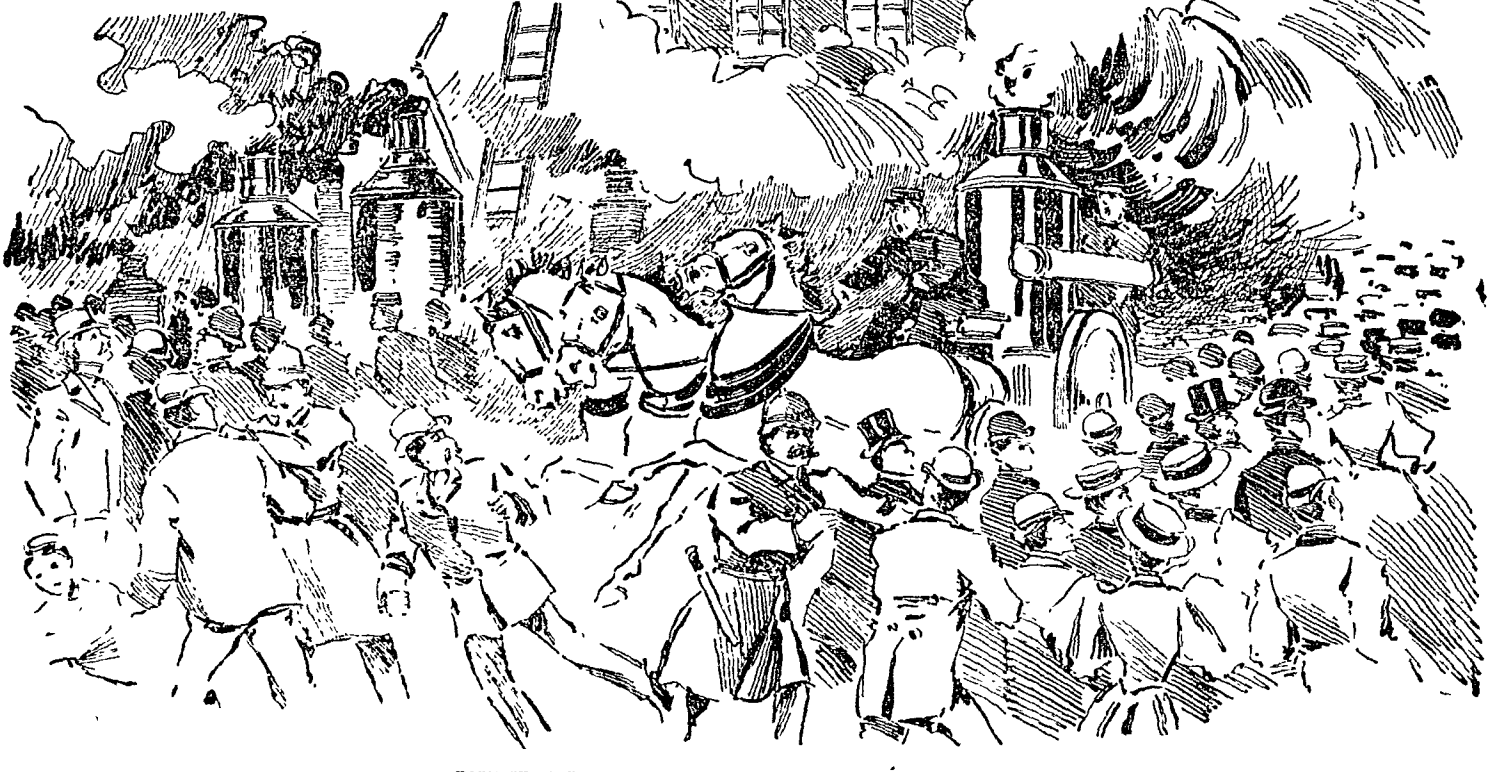
**CHIEF EGAN'S PERIL.**

Fell 30 Feet While Directing Operations of His Men. Commissioner of Wires Murphy and his force had their hands full. Their first care was to sever the fire alarm and electric lighting wires supported on structures upon the roof of the building at its southeast corner.

District Chief Egan of East Boston, while directing and participating in the operations carried on within the building fell a distance of 30 feet, fracturing a small bone in the right leg. He was taken to the Massachusetts general hospital.

**CONTAINED PRICELESS RELICS.**

History of Masonry in This Country Could be Found Illustrated in Cherished Emblems in the Temple. Among the fraternities all over the United States has been sounded the fame of the beauty and grandeur of that great granite structure on the corner of Tremont and Boylston sts.—Boston's Masonic temple, and the homestead of Massachusetts Masons. That masterpiece of gothic architecture, which thousands of Bostonians passed indifferently every day, was as truly a shrine to the Templar pilgrims of this age as was the church of the Holy Sepulchre to the Templars of the middle ages. It signified a great deal to them; history was written on every stone. A wealth of documents was stored in its vaults, and in almost every one of its



DIFFICULT WORK OF ENGINES GETTING THROUGH THE CROWD.

width and 30 feet in height. Its most characteristic ornaments were the round tower, the mystic pillars, supporting the arched entrance, and the beautiful rose window in the fourth story. A colossal statue of Gen Warren was almost the first thing which greeted the eye of the visitor to the temple. It stood at the head of the grand staircase. The staircase was 10 feet wide and richly finished with carved gothic tracery on each wall and deeply coffered ceiling. The whole of the building was accessible from Head pl, thus forming a double means of ingress and exit. To comprehend the interior arrangement it should be understood that there were three large halls, one above the other, located at the left of the grand staircase and sufficiently distant from the front of the building to admit of a series of rooms parallel with Tremont st. These rooms were very high and the space extending along Tremont and Boylston sts, shaped like a letter L, was used for intermediate floors. Thus, while there were only three stories in one part,

the same room was also the slate slab which served as the original tombstone of Henry Price, the first provincial grand master in Boston. In the rear of the library was a small room used by St Andrew's lodge, the oldest lodge in Boston. One of the ornaments here was a golden candlestick made by Paul Revere. The hall on the first floor was used for the meeting of the grand lodge and all subordinate lodges. It was finished in corinthian style, and was formerly known as Corinthian hall, but was changed by an official vote to Sutton hall, in honor of Gen William Sutton, past senior grand warden of the grand lodge, who contributed very liberally to the erection of the building. This and two halls above it were each 70 feet long 40 feet wide and 22 feet high. The panels of this apartment were hung with the following portraits of past grand masters: John Warren, brother of Joseph, 1733-87; Moses M. Hayes, 1833-82; Paul Revere, 1833-97; John Bennett, 1808-1810; Isaiah Thomas, 1803-9; Timothy Bigelow, 1806-13; Samuel P. P. Fay, 1820; John Dix-

an armory by Boston commandery. Here the trophies of the commandery in the shape of many banners, were kept, and also the regalia seen through the glass doors of hundreds of walnut lockers. Egyptian hall, the meeting place of the grand chapter of Massachusetts, and the two chapters in Boston, was on the same floor. The walls in the Egyptian hall were encased by massive columns and the ceiling divided into compartments by heavy beams, decorated in various patterns of unbroken tints of blue, red, orange and green. These two main pillars at the east end of the hall, between which was the throne of the high priest, formed the most striking feature of the room. They were ornamented with hieroglyphics. The furniture of the hall was of solid walnut, with ruby velvet coverings. The desks and all the other seats were decorated in harmony. The armory of the De Molay commandery was on the second story. In the center stood an effigy of Jacques De Molay, clad in full armor, presented by De Molay commandery of Washington. Another valued ornament was a large bronze urn, presented by Palestine commandery of New York. On the top floor was St Bernard's armory, the room used by the Scottish Rite bodies, and Gothic hall, where the grand commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island and the subordinate commanderies of Boston held their convocations. This last apartment was redecored this summer, in anticipation of the "triennial," for it was there that the grand encampment went into secret session. On the seventh floor was the banquet hall, which seated 300 people, and had attached to it spacious sewing rooms and pantries. An elevator connected the ground floor with the top of the building. There were a score of small rooms for committee meetings, conferences, etc., which were furnished as elegantly as the proportions would consistently allow. Boston commandery had 468 lockers for its nearly 900 members in the room of the Massachusetts consistory, and in addition the temple there was room for nearly 900 uniforms. Every inch of room was utilized, and on occasions like the recent convocation it was evident that the quarters were decidedly cramped. The Masonic bodies occupied a building on the present site for a time previous to the erection of the temple, which was visited by fire on July 4, 1861, and completely destroyed, together with the Wintrop house, which adjoined it. These Masonic apartments occupied an area of 20,676 square feet, and were handsomely fitted up. At the time of the completion of the building, Dec 27, 1860, it was given the name of "Freemason's hall." Better accommodations for all the Masonic bodies were provided in the Exchange coffee house, where the city exchange now stands on Devonshire st. They were arranged for the work of the order at a considerable expense during the year 1817, and on Nov 3, 1818, were burned. The different institutions then held their communications at Concert hall and at Masons' hall until 1821, when they hired the hall and ante room in the old state house, paying the town of Boston \$2000 per annum for a 10-year lease. From July 1, 1820, to the close of the year 1821, Washington hall on Washington st, opposite Franklin st, was occupied by the fraternity. For several years the subject of building a Masonic temple had been discussed. Committees were appointed by the various lodges of Boston. On the 14th of October, 1830, the cornerstone of the first Masonic temple was laid on a site at the corner of Tremont st and Washington gardens. The amount of land taken was about 5000 square feet, at a cost of \$13,393.50. In this building the Masons held their meetings until 1837, when more commodious apartments became necessary. So the building was sold and Masonic apartments were prepared in a portion of the Wintrop house. After the fire of 1861 accommodations were immediately prepared for the order in the Norfolk hall, Summer st, which the fraternity occupied until the completion of the new temple on the present site, corner of Boylston and Tremont sts, among the many architectural designs submitted, that of Merrill G. Wheeler was chosen.

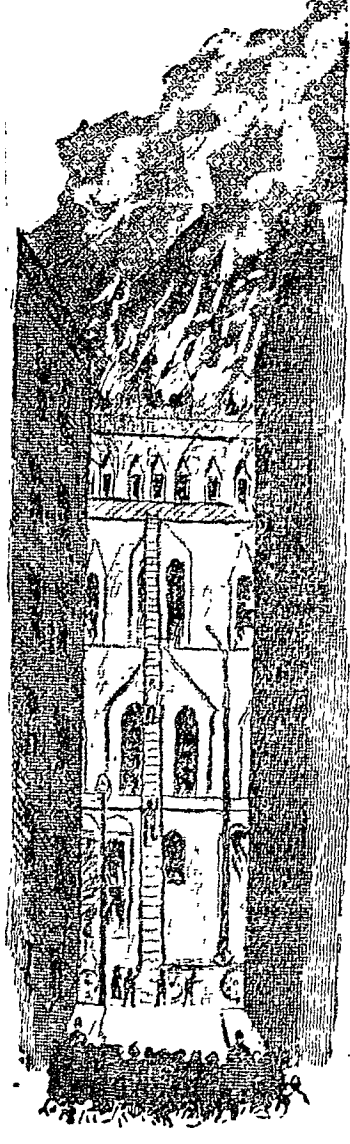
**CAUSE IS NOT KNOWN.**

No One Can Tell How the Masonic Temple Fire Started.

The direct cause of the fire will probably never be known. The general surmise is that it was caused by spontaneous combustion in some of the paraphernalia which was stored in a little storage room on what was known as the fifth floor, which was really the landing floor leading to the upper of the three grand halls. While the outward appearance of the building would indicate that it is of four stories, its interior arrangements present no less than seven stories. The street floor was occupied by the Ivers & Pond piano company, and the Home savings bank. The six upper floors were given up to the quarters and lodge rooms of Masonic organizations. The arrangement of the six interior stories was unique, the studding of each couple of stories being equal to that of each of the three grand halls. These latter grand halls were located one

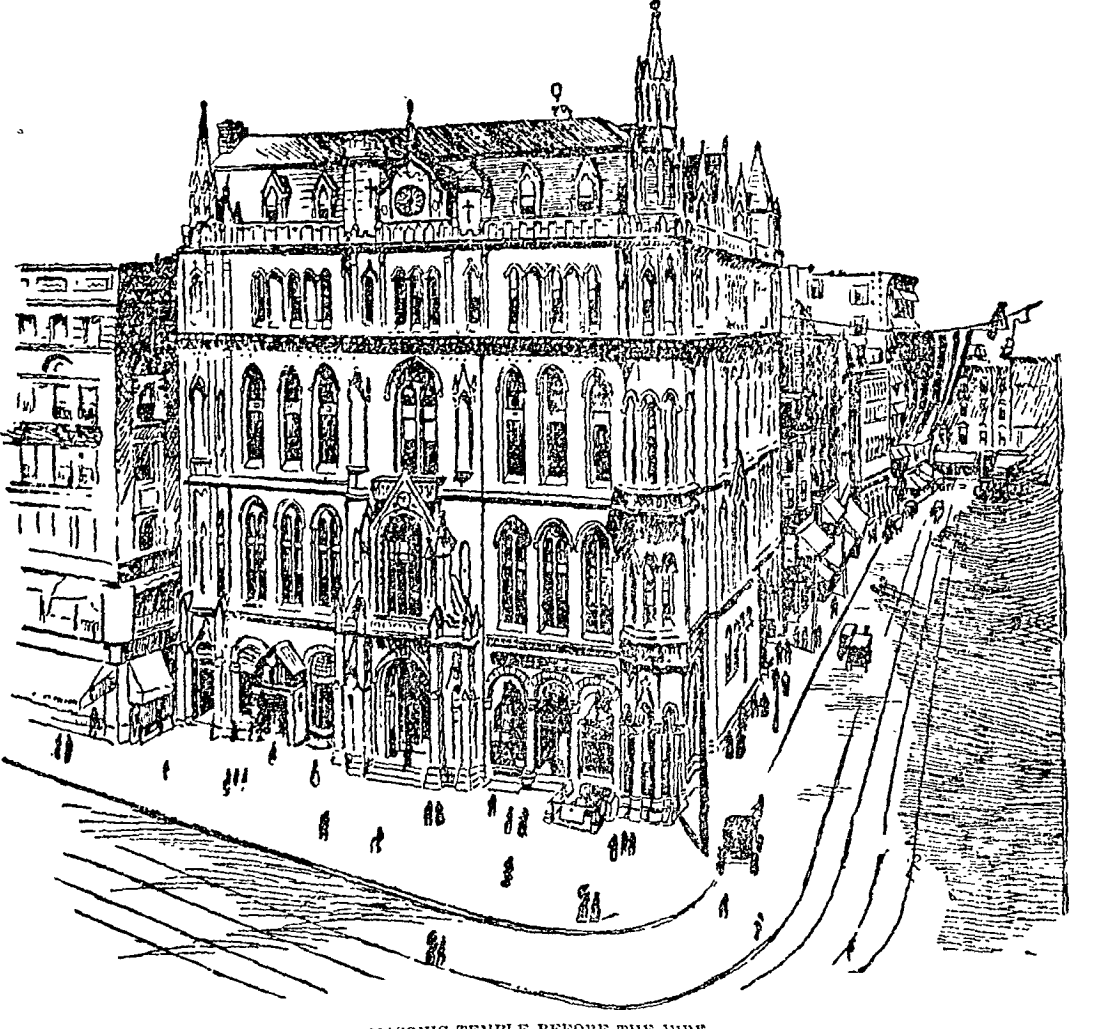
When the night watchman left in the morning everything appeared all right. It was not until about 10 yesterday morning that there was reason to suppose anything wrong within the building. When, according to superintendent Chester, in a conversation with a reporter, one of the day men suddenly ran downstairs and said there was a fire upstairs. Superintendent Chester said: "Grand Master Holmes and other grand officers were present in the building at the time. When the man reported the fire I just stepped outside my office to the corridor to ring in box 713, which is located on the walls. I looked up the staircase and saw the smoke, and hastened to ring in the alarm. I pulled my bunch of keys from my pocket and smashed the little glass case in which the key to the fire alarm box was kept. With the key the alarm box was opened in a jiffy and the alarm pulled in. The alarm was rung in, I have learned, just as the alarm office was giving the bell alarm in response to the alarm which happened to be given from the outside by a policeman who discovered the smoke and flames pouring out of the window on the Boylston st side. "It was most natural that the fire should have been discovered on the outside when I looked up the staircase and saw the smoke, and hastened to ring in the alarm. "The intensity of the heat generated by the fire as it gathered headway in the little room, caused the glass in the window and then the smoke rolled out. I cannot say how any fire could have originated in the room. I cannot say what the damage to the furnishings of the building will be, but it will be large. The quarters of the three commanderies and lodge rooms contained some 1600 uniforms and sets of regalia, but I cannot tell how much damage this property sustained, and will not know until each individual member is heard from. Each man owns his own uniform or regalia. However great a loss that the damage to this property will not be an irreparable loss. Much of the regalia and uniforms are of velvet, satin and other materials of the most costly textures, and are easily affected by smoke and water. "As the lockers throughout the building were well covered by the protective department, it is thought the uniforms and regalia suffered little damage from water. What the damage from smoke will be would be hard to tell. "As to the damages to the interior furnishings, superintendent Chester said he could not form any estimate. The furniture, he said, in all but the two upper floors, had been well covered up by the protectives, and therefore was not likely to be very badly damaged. At the superintendent's invitation the reporter accompanied him over the building, with the view of forming some idea of the havoc wrought by the fire. The roof of the structure was practically gone. The upper or once grand Gothic hall was a complete ruin. Its once beautiful arched roof was gone, and what was left of it was a mass of debris level with the floor, which had burned through in spots into the arched ceiling of the big Egyptian hall directly beneath. Gothic hall had been completely wiped out. The sixth and seventh floors were blackened and charred and utterly destroyed, the floors of both stories being burned

with these two floors, was a sorry sight. Its ceiling was riddled by the rivulets of water which had percolated through the wrecked floor of its sister (Gothic) hall in ruins above. The once beautiful ceiling of the Egyptian hall had been transformed into a great sieve, through which the liquid refuse from above dripped copiously to the floor. The walls of the Egyptian hall, once the pride of all Masons, were ruined so far as their artistic attractiveness might be concerned. The once beautiful allegorical figures painted on the highly frescoed walls were hopelessly spoiled. In Corinthian hall, or the grandest hall of all, water and smoke had damaged irreparably all that was artistic in connection with its handsome arched ceiling and walls. Its magnificent paintings which had hung upon the walls, and which were valued at more than money can buy, were heaped in ruins on the floor. Among these priceless treasures were the life-sized oil portraits of the immortal Gen Warren and Paul Revere. Superintendent Chester described graphically to the reporter the great effort that was made by him and his fellow Masons and the protective department to save these portraits, and the valuable property, including the library and official records. The paintings as piled up, as well as other furniture in the Corinthian hall were well covered up with rubber blankets. The costly and downy carpeting of the hall, in which the knights and brothers were wont to tread as if on velvet, was completely soaked with water. The same condition applied to all the carpeting throughout the building. The rich carpetings altogether cost some \$10,000, and should the structure be reconstructed by the Masonic fraternity, the loss in this respect will have to be replaced at a great expense. Superintendent of fire alarm Brown Planders was present, and during inspection of the building pointed out the various danger spots as marked by the fire during its progress. Superintendent Planders, like superintendent Chester, seemed at a loss to account for the cause or origin of the fire. Their views, however, on the whole seemed to conform to the general belief or prevailing sentiment that the blaze was due to spontaneous combustion. Respecting the likelihood of the Masons deciding on a new temple which will provide facilities to meet the present demands, superintendent Chester said it was quite probable that a new building would be constructed on some other site central in the city. He said the subject of a new temple had been agitated for some time, and the hesitancy in moving in the matter was due to the great expense and cost a new temple would involve. However, superintendent Chester wished to be understood that he spoke without authority, and the matter was one that the grand lodge was likely to decide the present week. He said it was a curious coincidence that the regular quarterly meeting of the grand lodge was to come next Wednesday. At this meeting, he thought, the question of a new temple would be discussed for a decisive action.



LOOKING FROM TAWMORTH ST.

Plates, furniture, furnishings and paraphernalia, placed by Samuel H. Wise	
The Assn.	\$5,000
Lumberman	2,000
Phoenix of New York	3,000
Total	\$10,000
Boston commandery, Knights Templars, regalia and furniture, placed by Scull & Field	
Royal	\$1,000
Joseph Warren lodge, regalia, placed by Scull & Field	
Royal	\$1,200
Revere lodge, furniture and regalia, placed by Scull & Field	
Royal	\$1,200
Ivers & Pond, on stock and salesroom fixtures, placed by M. E. Abbott	
Spring Garden	\$1,000
Yuba	1,000
On office furnishings, placed by Stearns Bros:	

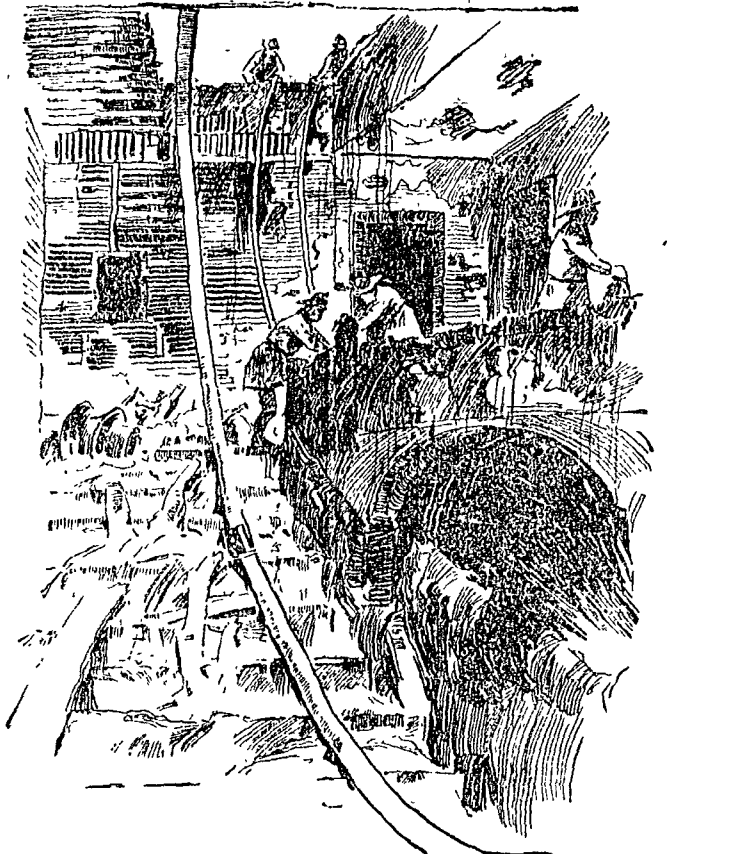


MASONIC TEMPLE BEFORE THE FIRE

rooms there were more relics of the founders of this craft in America than all the other Masonic buildings in the country can boast of. Important from the fact that within them were discharged the business details of the institution. They were the rooms of Grand Master Edwin H. Holmes and Grand Sec Sereno D. Nickerson. In the safe in Mr Nickerson's room were many relics, the most valuable among them being the lock of George Washington's hair, contained in a golden urn made by Paul Revere. Connecting with the secretary's room was the library, as good as any Masonic library in the country. It had about 5000 volumes. Over one of the doors in the library hung the famous "bunch of grapes" sign taken from the colonial tavern where the early Boston Masons met. In

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well, 1821-25; John Abbott, 1823-31; John Soley, 1827-31; Joshua B. Flint, 1833-37; Simon W. Robinson, 1816-18; Edward A. Raymond, 1819-51; Winslow Lewis, 1855-60; William D. Coolidge, 1861-62; William Parkman, 1853-65; C. Dame, 1806-68; William S. Gardner, 1869-71; Sereno D. Nickerson, 1872-74; Charles A. Welch, 1878-89; Samuel C. Lawrence, 1881-93; Abraham H. Howland Jr, 1884-90; Henry Erdicot, 1891-99; Samuel Wells, 1890-92; Richard Briggs, 1893. On the first intermediate floor were the private rooms of Winslow Lewis, lodge, of Eleusis, Joseph Warren lodge and Paul Revere lodge. In these were many interesting relics, among them a clock owned by Joseph Warren and an ancient sideboard and punch bowl. On the Boylston st front of the second floor were two large apartments used as



STAIRWAY TO THE FOURTH STORY.

above the other, in the easterly or rear corner of the building. That next to the second and third floors was known as Corinthian hall, while the fourth and fifth floors were known as the Egyptian and the upper hall, next to the sixth and seventh floors was known as Gothic hall. The little storeroom where the blaze started was on the fifth floor, and had a window fronting on the Boylston st side of the building. From all that could be learned this storeroom had not been used for several days. The intimation that there had been a large meeting in Sutton hall Friday night should not be considered as having any significance, inasmuch as none of those taking part had any reason to use the storeroom. The only person, so far as can be learned, who was in or about the room Friday night was the night watchman. This guard of the building made his rounds once every hour up to 6 yesterday morning, when he was relieved by the day men employed to look after the lodge rooms.

through, while their stairways were rendered irreparable. On the sixth floor were ranged the lockers of De Molay commandery, Knights Templars, which held \$10,000 insurance on the commandery's furnishings. Sir Knight Samuel H. Wise happened to be present, and expressed himself as quite happy to find that the loss to the commandery would be nominal, as much of the furnishings and banners had been rescued and removed to places of safety by being thrown soon after the fire had broken out. Sir Knight Wise said the \$10,000 insurance was divided between the Lumbermen of Chicago, the Fire association and the Phoenix. He could not say what the damage would be to the uniforms of the commandery, and which for the most part were stored in the lockers. The appearance of things on the fourth and fifth floors was not calculated to inspire any great hopes for slight damages. The fifth story was blackened, while the fourth was hardly more inviting. The Egyptian hall, which ranged