

CONFLAGRATIONS.

**Extensive Fire at Charlestown, Mass.—A
Jute and Linseed Factory Destroyed—
Loss \$400,000.**

From the Boston Herald, July 19.

The most extensive fire which has occurred in Charlestown since August, 1835, took place yesterday afternoon. At 4:50 o'clock an alarm was sounded from box No. 21, and the whole department quickly came to City-square, to find that the new building of the Tudor Company, who are heavy importers and exporters, as well as manufacturers, of tobacco, rice-meal, linseed-oil and gunny bags, was in flames. This building was completed last year at a cost of about \$100,000. The main building was 80 by 90 feet in area, and four stories high, surmounted by a French roof. This stood facing Charles River-avenue, and running back on a line with the Fitchburg road track. In the rear and adjoining was the boiler and engine-room, a one-story brick building, measuring 40x80 feet on the ground. The building was used for the manufacture of linseed-oil and gunny-bags, with its rooms arranged in the following manner: First floor, grinding and mulling the flax-seed; second floor, occupied by hydraulic presses, for pressing out the oil, which was conveyed by pipes to the tanks and coolers in buildings further down the avenue; third floor, used for weaving jute for gunny bags; fourth floor, jute spinning; attic, card and picker-room. It was in this upper room that the conflagration commenced its destructive work. A bearing of one of the pickers became so heated that it communicated flame to the jute-dust which covered it and everything else in the room, and on the instant that the first spark appeared the flash throughout the room was instantaneous. So rapidly did the flame rush through the apartment that the female employes therein had only time to snatch a portion of the clothing which had been laid aside and gain egress from the building. We are glad to be able to record, however, that all got out uninjured. The building described was consumed, and only a few slight personal accidents occurred. EDWARD BOYD, a member of Bunker

Hill Hose Company, had a remarkable escape from death. He was at the roof of the building at an early stage of the fire, when a scuttle window fell upon him, throwing him down where he stood, and here again he was struck with a piece of hot copper across the back, and so injured that he had to be taken home. The wonder is that he was not thrown to the sidewalk forty feet below. Two members of Hose Company No. 8 narrowly escaped being crushed by a falling cornice, as they were standing on the railroad between the two buildings. JOHN MCEVOR, a member of the same company, fell down stairs and had an ugly gash cut over his left eye. EUGENE SULLIVAN was run over by the carriage of Hose Company No. 1, and had his arm broken. One of the Navy-yard firemen was run over by a hose-carriage and his ankle broken.

By this fire about 200 persons, male and female, who were employed in the building, have been thrown out of employment. The loss cannot fall short of \$400,000. The building itself cost \$100,000, and the 400-horse power Corliss engine cost \$40,000 before it was set up. Besides this the machinery used in the manufacture of oil and gunny cloth was worth fully \$250,000. The loss on stock is trifling, as the linseed-cake on hand had recently been shipped, so that there was but comparatively little remaining, and the gunny cloth in the rooms did not exceed 200 rolls. There was a loss also of a few thousands in the upper building, where the stock was damaged by water, and slight damage was received by the oil-sheds below. The insurance was \$350,000. This, we were told by a gentleman connected with the establishment, is wholly in New-York and London offices. Others, however, say it is widely scattered, while we are assured that the Monitor Insurance Company of Boston has \$2,500. The members of the Tudor Company are the heirs of the late FREDERICK TUDOR, and CHAS. H. MINOT and BENJ. F. FIELD.

The New York Times

Published: July 21, 1870

Copyright © The New York Times