

# TREMONT TEMPLE BURNED.

**Parker's and Adjacent Buildings Damaged---Loss, \$275,000; Insurance, \$240,000---Cause Unknown---Fire Chiefs Talk.**



**WRECK OF THE TEMPLE AUDITORIUM FROM CENTRAL DOOR.**

The interior of historic Tremont Temple is a mass of ruins, the fire of yesterday morning having almost completely gutted the famous house of worship, leaving only a portion of the interior on the front, facing Tremont st., and occupied as offices, and the big walls standing intact.

The total loss, after a careful estimate, is placed at \$275,000, of which \$175,000 will be sustained by the church society, which is insured for \$102,000.

The office occupants of the building lose \$10,000; the Parker House, immediately adjacent, on the corner of School and Tremont sts., suffers less than \$20,000. S. A. Beckard, gentlemen's furnishing goods, on the street front next to the temple, possibly \$25,000, and William S. Butler & Co., dry goods, on the south side, corner of Bosworth st., damage to stock, \$25,000.

The loss in buildings adjoining Tremont Temple was caused by smoke and water.

The total insurance loss was \$240,000 on the above fire loss of \$275,000.

The fire started in the rear of the organ in Tremont Temple and was originated, presumably, from an overheated steam pipe or from the boiler.

It was discovered at 7.15, by Miss Alice Poree, a permanent guest at the Parker House, who occupied apartments on the sixth floor facing the Temple.

The first alarm was rung in from the

auxiliary fire alarm station, No. 729, located in the hotel, at 7.18, and was given by J. Reed Whipple, the proprietor.

This was followed by two alarms from box 35, located at the corner of School and Tremont sts., at 7.35 and 7.41, respectively.

By this time every employe in the hotel was on the upper floors, and by the time of the arrival of the fire department they had

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They were hastily donned, and he was then seen running through the corridors and down the stairs. He was spared the ordeal of going into the street in this rig by an employee, who assured him that there was no danger.

Indeed, that aristocratic hostility was a slight to behold for a few minutes after the sounding of the gong.

The guests took breakfast earlier than usual for Sunday, and related at the table many of the events of the night, and incidents of the morning's excitement.

## FIRE CHIEFS TELL STORY.

Acting Chief Reagan Showed His Hand to Advantage.

Firemen, policemen, citizens in general, and last, but not least, the representatives of the insurance companies, who usually find themselves very much interested in the outcome of a big fire, are present in the case of the able manner in which Acting Chief Reagan handled the department, and it is the prevailing opinion that a better fight was never waged in this city.

That the veteran chief does not fight fires by the rule of thumb or haphazard was fully proved yesterday, for the work was outlined to the district chiefs, and to the captains and so on down, and executed with military precision.

Chief Reagan was one of the first to reach the scene, and has the following to say of the fire:

"The alarm was rung in at 7:20, and it took me just one minute to reach the scene, the first horse clear of carriage.

"When I reached the temple, I found the flames darting through the roof, and the inside was burning fiercely.

"The engine was in two lines of hose out and one stream turned on and was doing all he could to put out the fire.

"The blaze was located in the rear of the building, and our attention was of course attracted to the corner where it was burning. It was the worst part, for you could hear the roar of the flames on the street.

"We had at this time engines 4, 26, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 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to this country as a member of a theatrical troupe, and was playing at the theatre in Louisville, Ky., when he fell under religious influences, and conversion changed his destiny from the stage to the pulpit.

It is said that his conversion was brought about by the perusal of a religious tract. At all events, immediately after leaving the stage he studied at Georgetown College.

In 1860 he accepted a call to the First Baptist church in Paducah, Ky., but only a year afterward became the successor of Rev. Dr. Everts at the Walnut Street Baptist church in Louisville, Ky., and then in 1868 became the pastor of one of the largest Baptist churches in Albany.

Two years later he accepted a call to the Tremont Temple Baptist church in this city where he enjoyed great celebrity as a preacher for nine years, during a part of which time he was editor of the Watchman.

In 1870 he accepted a call to the First Baptist church in Chicago, becoming the successor of Rev. Dr. Everts a second time. The church was in great financial straits when he took it, but, through his indomitable efforts, was entirely out of debt within two years after he took it. He then, in 1881, resigned the pastorate to organize the Immanuel Baptist church, Chicago, of which he has been pastor ever since.

He is credited with having turned the tide that went away the old Baptist University of Chicago, and with securing the success of the new institution of that name.

In 1891 Dr. Lorimer was a second time tendered a call by the Tremont Temple society, which he accepted. He has since been the pastor and his sermons have been noted for their eloquence and beauty of diction, and have tended to enlarge his already extended reputation as a preacher.

## GLOBE WAS RELIABLE.

First to Give Correct Information to the Public

THE GLOBE gave one more proof of its enterprise and reliability as a newspaper yesterday morning when the startling news reached the ears of the few persons then on the streets that Tremont Temple was in flames.

All sorts of wild rumors were being spread broadcast as to the extent of the fire and the damage that had ensued.

Some declared emphatically that it was the Parker House and not the Temple that was aore. Others said that both structures were alike doomed, while still another set of people asserted beyond peradventure that Park's Hotel, the Burnham and Butler buildings were also destroyed.

The first authentic information that the crowds who had rapidly congregated on the streets, but could not get inside the fire lines, had as to the extent and nature of the conflagration was when the 9 o'clock edition of THE GLOBE reached the street. It contained all the facts in relation to the fire, and was the only accurate account which had been given up to that hour.

It corrected the impression that the Parker House was in danger, or any other of the neighboring buildings except Tremont Temple, and gave an accurate description of the extent of the fire, and the amount and nature of the damage done in the Temple building.

The large crowds on the street felt considerably relieved when they learned from an authentic source that the fire would be confined to the dimensions which it had then reached.

A few minutes past 10 a second edition was on the street, containing a lot of supplementary information regarding the damage, and made known the fact, for the first time, that the fire was then under control.

The 11:30 edition contained a complete story of the fire, the loss by fire and water, both in that and the surrounding buildings, the list of the occupants in the various offices in the building, a description of its dimensions, and a complete sketch of its past history and the former visitations of fire.

Belated worshippers going to the morning services in the various churches, carried a prayer book in one hand and the extra edition of THE GLOBE in the other, and doubtless prayed all the more fervently because of the knowledge conveyed by THE GLOBE that the fire had then done its worst.

They were loud in their praises of the rapidity and reliability with which THE GLOBE gathered the facts and laid them quickly and concisely before the public.