

CITY INTELLIGENCE

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CONFLAGRATION THIS MORNING.

Destructive Fire on Chesnut Street

IMMENSE LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Loss Quarter of a Million Dollars.

Howard & Harnden's Express Building in Ruins.

Rockhill & Wilson's Clothing Store a Wreck

BILLIARD AND CONCERT SALOONS FLOODED OUT.

A Large Number of Buildings Damaged and Burned.

A GENERAL ALARM SOUNDED.

Activity and Gallantry of the Firemen.

A HARVEST FOR THE THIEVES.

A SCORE OF THEM ARRESTED.

Scenes of Thrilling and Curious Interest.

But yesterday we printed the annual report of the Fire and Police Telegraph operators, and chronicled with satisfaction the gratifying fact that during the past year only two general alarms had been rung. To-day we are called upon to record one of the most destructive conflagrations that has visited Philadelphia for many years. Last evening was the fifteenth anniversary of the great fire when Hart's building and the Shakespeare building, and other contiguous property around Sixth and Chesnut streets, were reduced to ruins. On that occasion the weather was so extremely cold that the hand-engines and the water in the hose became frozen. Many of the firemen were badly frost-bitten, and several persons were killed. The recurring anniversary last night will henceforth be scarcely less memorable.

About half-past 12 o'clock this morning, when Chesnut street was well-nigh deserted by the gay throngs of promenaders that had been out "to see New Year's night," a curl of flame was seen issuing from a second story window of the immense four-story stone building No. 607 Chesnut street. The first story was occupied as the office of the Howard & Harnden Express Company. The second floor was tenanted by J. H. Simons, manufacturer of and dealer in photographic chemicals and materials. The basement was occupied as a wine cellar by Richard Penistean. The entire building had passed into the possession of the Bulletin Association. It was about to be converted into a newspaper and printing office, and to that end extensive alterations had been projected.

When the curl of flame was seen, the cry of "Fire!" rang out on the still night air, and a dozen men, all breathless with excitement, ran to the Central Police Station, only a square distant. Scarcely half a minute had elapsed, and the deep tones of the State House bell were booming the alarm throughout the length and breadth of the slumbering city.

At the Central Station there was, as there always is at this unseasonable hour, a large force of the corps rectorial present, waiting for something to "turn up." The news that a clothing store was on fire of course awakened the liveliest feelings of solicitude in the bosoms of the fraternity, who, one and all, rushed to the rescue. Many of them, unmindful of their own personal duties in such an emergency, lent all their energies to the saving of the goods. The police officers, too, a large force of whom were immediately on the spot, and to that end the utmost, amid scorching flames and stifling smoke, to rescue as much of the portable property as possible.

A number of the most active and efficient fire companies in the city are located in this vicinity, and three minutes had scarcely elapsed from the outbreak of the flames before hose-engines and snorting engines came rattling and dashing to the scene of tumult. The stout doors were broken in with vigorous axes, and the thick black smoke poured out.

Immediately that ingress to the burning building was obtained, great stacks of overcoats, armlods of doekins and cassimere pants, vests of the latest cut and richest material, were seized upon, and carried off vivaciously to the police station. A few soulless thieves of course were present—they never fail to see an opportunity—and attempted to appropriate new suits to their private uses. The police officers, however, amid all the confusion and excitement of bells ringing, and smoke rolling, and men shouting and flames roaring and crackling, kept their eyes and wits about them, and arrested three of the thievish individuals.

In five minutes time Chesnut street, for several squares, was a Babel of steam engines and apparatus of every kind. Front and rear the firemen attacked the flames with axes, ladders, and most powerful streams of water. When the heavy water was just moving in and had not as extensive stock on hand as to be otherwise would. The place was damaged seriously by water.

The fourth floor, as already stated, was the main apartment of James A. Speel, bookbinder. His loss by water to machinery, presses and sheets, is partly well covered by insurance.

The fifth story was occupied by John H. Hartman, bookbinder, whose loss by water will not be serious.

were very easily carried away, and a large amount had not yet been discovered. There is no doubt that many articles of value were taken by the horde of thieves that were upon the ground.

The police were vigilant, and made a large number of arrests of suspicious persons, some of whom were in firemen's equipments, but no caution or care could prevent the loss of much property. This morning the store was a scene of ruin; broken glass was scattered over the floor, and the debris covered the apartment.

Water was saved as taken to the Sheriff's Office, in the row, and the Central Police Station, but in such a damaged condition as to be almost worthless. The loss here cannot be less than \$10,000, and is not insured. The upper portions of this building were not materially damaged, except from water. Glenn's saloon, in the basement, was not disturbed, but suffered some from water.

The clothing establishment of Rockhill & Wilson, Nos. 603 and 605, suffered greatly. The upper portions of the fine building are entirely burned, the whole roof having been consumed. This firm had but recently refitted in fine style, and largely increased their business.

For to the building which the fire broke out, was an immense stock of ready-made clothing of all kinds on hand, a considerable portion of which was removed in a damaged condition. The whole establishment was flooded with water, and presented this morning a most desolating appearance.

The large clothing store of Perry & Co., next door to the building in which the fire broke out, was also greatly damaged by water, although the fire was subdued before it made any headway there. The injury here is altogether from water, and will amount to about \$25,000, though it is impossible to state the exact amount of damage. The public who have long known the firm can readily imagine the destruction which occurred.

The large clothing store of Perry & Co., next door to the building in which the fire broke out, was also greatly damaged by water, although the fire was subdued before it made any headway there. The injury here is altogether from water, and will amount to about \$25,000, though it is impossible to state the exact amount of damage.

Messrs. Perry & Co., No. 609 Chesnut street, whose store is considerably damaged by fire and water last night, will hereafter continue their business at No. 303 Chesnut street, until they can find an establishment which will suit their immense business patronage.

The second story of No. 607 was occupied by John H. Simons, manufacturer of photograph materials. He had a large quantity of chemicals on hand, all of which were destroyed. The third and fifth stories of the same building were occupied by Messrs. Leiby & Bauer, manufacturers of trimmings. The fourth floor was occupied by Joseph A. Speel, bookbinder.

The main portion of his establishment was on the fourth floor of No. 609, the two rooms communicating by an iron door. The department in No. 607 was known as the sheet-room, and is a total wreck. The losses in No. 607 are all heavy, and are covered principally by insurance distributed among different companies.

Building No. 609, forming a portion of the Cornerway Building, belongs to Amos Hollingsworth of New England. The upper portion of this building sustained considerable damage, but was saved from total destruction by iron doors with which it communicated with No. 607. The basement of No. 609 was occupied as a concert saloon.

George Miller, residing at Twenty-third and Callowhill streets, caught with clothing in his possession. Patrick McEneaney, No. 917 Reed street, caught while in the act of putting a pair of pants on.

Patrick McGranigan, Sixth and Fitzwater, and Victor St. Clare, both arrested with clothing in their possession. John H. Coover, residing at No. 619 Cherry street, was arrested in the upper portion of Rockhill & Wilson's building, with numerous boxes of buttons. He was coming down stairs in custody with an officer when he threw his plunder away.

Henry Allman, residing at No. 142 N. Second street, was arrested loaded down with small articles. He had even a bunch of keys in his possession belonging to the firm. Thomas McKean, residing at Sixth and Christian streets, was followed by an officer down Sixth street. McKean had a lounge in his possession belonging to Rockhill & Wilson.

James Wallace, residing in Passyunk road, near Moyamensing Prison, had on a fire-coat, with no equipments, was detected by Mr. John Hartman, a respectable member of the Philadelphia Engine Company, in the act of stealing. He was seized and handed into the custody of an officer.

John McClean, residing at Fifteenth and Shippen streets, was caught in the act of securing a piece of cloth under his coat. He had on equipments of the Franklin Hose Company. The prisoner had been busily engaged in removing goods from the burning building, and had rendered no aid to the firemen in the end was tempted to steal.

Numerous other parties were seen carrying off goods, but the police were so busy in attending to other duties that they had scarcely the time to arrest any others than those with whom they came in contact.

All those arrested had a hearing this morning before Alderman Betler, and were held in \$1,000 each for their appearance at the present term of the Quarter Sessions.

Three professional thieves, who were also arrested in the crowd, will have a hearing this afternoon. RESIGNATION OF AN ACCOMPLISHED OFFICER.—George C. Francis, Esq., so long and favorably known to our citizens as the enterprising and urbane Superintendent of the Eastern Division of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, resigned his office at the close of the year, much to the regret of all who had ever transacted business with this gentleman.

Mr. Francis has been connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company from its organization, and had filled the position named for many years past with marked ability, and to the entire satisfaction of the Company and the public. He is now recognized as one of the most accomplished and successful railway managers of our State. We learn that Mr. Francis has been contemplating this step for some time, the onerous duties and heavy responsibilities incident to a faithful discharge of the functions of the office having begun to make inroads upon his health.

He has accepted the post of General Agent of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad in this city, which gives him general supervision of the transportation department, a position for which he is no less qualified than the one he has just vacated. The vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Francis was filled by the appointment of S. P. Darlington, Esq., who has had a long connection with the road, and has been selected on account of his superior qualifications. Those having business to transact with him will find Mr. Darlington an affable and obliging officer.

THE WINTER'S SHOW.—AN ODE TO THE NEW YEAR.— On the wintry snow! When ice north winds blow On their pinions strong and high; And the tempest abounds; With its sudden sounds; The Arch of the pleasant sky.

How soft and white, Like a mantle light, It falls on the hill and plain. When the dowers' day. In the summer gay. Were gemmed in the soft bright rain.

The gladness child, With its laughter wild, Looks up in the frowning sky, And the rags snow drifts, And the wreaths and rills He hails with a gleaming eye.

O, the stirring sight, In the tempest bright, When the winds of winter blow! When wrapped in warm clothes, From our bud to our toe, From the store of Charles Stokes & Co.

The Winter Clothing now selling at this house so rapidly is of a style superior to anything heretofore offered in this market. N. B.—All goods marked "one price."

HASHEESH CANDY.—Coughs, Colds, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, and all throat and lung difficulties are soon conquered by Hasheesh Candy.

COFFINS MADE OF JEWELRY.—Gold and Silver, wanted; 5-20s and 7-10s bought and sold. DREXEL & CO., No. 24 South Third Street.

FOR ASTHMA, Rheumatism, Impotency, and all nervous diseases, use Hasheesh Candy. For sale by the druggists.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING.—All the new styles at N. Shoemaker & Co.'s, Nos. 4 and 6 N. Eighth street.

VALUABLE GIFTS.—Superior each book purchased at No. 628 Chesnut street.

LADIES' FANCY FURS. LADIES' FANCY FURS. JOHN FAREIRA, No. 718 ARCH STREET, ABOVE SEVENTH STREET.

At his old-established store, IMPORTER, MANUFACTURER, AND DEALER IN FANCY FURS FOR LADIES AND CHILDREN.

My assortment of Fancy Furs for Ladies and Children is now complete, embracing every variety that will be worn during the coming season.

Remember the name and number, JOHN FAREIRA, No. 718 ARCH STREET, above Seventh.

I have no partner or connection with any other store in this city. 10 24ms FURS! FURS! FURS! FURS!

No. 415 ARCH STREET. A. K. & F. K. WOMRATH'S BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!

MUFFS, COLLARS, CUFFS, ETC. Russian Sable, Hudson Bay Sable, Mink Sable, Chinchilla, Ermine, Etc.

A. K. & F. K. WOMRATH, 10 5 8m No. 415 ARCH STREET. FURS, FURS, FURS.

HENRY RASKE & CO., Importers and Manufacturers 517 ARCH STREET, OF ARCH STREET FANCY FURS

OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS, FOR LADIES AND CHILDREN. We have now open for inspection to our customers and the public in general, a most complete assortment of Ladies and Children's Furs of all descriptions, which, for variety of quality and superiority of finish, cannot be excelled in the United States.

INSTRUCTION. THE QUAKER CITY BUSINESS COLLEGE. N. E. CORNER TENTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS.

This Institution ranks superior to any Commercial School in the United States being a regularly INCORPORATED COLLEGE, and the only one of the kind authorized by law to confer DEGREES OF MERIT. DILETTANTES are awarded to graduates under the Corporate Seal, and are intended to be the very highest commendation to positions of honor and profit in the commercial world.

THE COURSE OF INSTRUCTION EMBRACES BOOK-KEEPING, COMMERCIAL ARITHMETIC, PLAIN AND ORNAMENTAL PEN-MANSHIP, BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE, COMMERCIAL LAW, LETTERS ON BUSINESS AFFAIRS, COMMERCIAL CUSTOMS, FORMS, &c. &c. with their practical application, in all their details in the various departments of trade and commerce. Also, LOGIC and the HIGHER MATHEMATICS, PHONOGRAPHY, THE ART OF DETECTING CONFIDENTIAL MONEY, ENGINEERING, SURVEYING, NAVIGATION, and TELEGRAPHING, constituting the most complete and comprehensive course ever adopted in any commercial institution.

TELEGRAPHING. The arrangements for Telegraphing are far in advance of anything of the kind ever offered to the public. A regular Telegraph Line is connected with the Institution, with twenty branch offices in various parts of the city, where public business is transacted, and in which the students of this Institution are conversant. No regular office practice can be had in any other school in the country, and about which no one can obtain a position as a practical expert. Young men are cautioned against the deceptive representations of those who would represent any school as teaching Telegraphing.

LOCATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS. The Institution is located in the most central part of the city, and its accommodations, for extent, elegance, and convenience, are unequalled. The rooms have been fitted up in the very best style with Business Offices or counting Houses, Telegraph Offices, Stationery Store, and a well-stocked Bank of Deposits, and a complete and finely equipped library, used as a circulating room in the Department of Actual Business. THE ACTUAL BUSINESS COURSE. The course of instruction in the Department of Actual Business is new and original, having no reference to any similar or pretended similar course pursued elsewhere. It has been arranged exclusively for this Institution upon a MODEL PLAN, and presents a complete illustration, by practical examples, of all the forms and details required in practice in every department of trade, and giving the student, in the briefest time, precisely that knowledge which every man, no matter what his occupation is to be, must possess in order to manage his own or others' affairs with skill and credit.

The reputation which this Institution has ever maintained is due to constant efforts to keep up the highest standard of instruction in every department. Amid competition and numerous claims pressed upon public attention, this school, under the able and judicious management of the best teachers ever employed here, and never since its organization has it been upon so favorable a footing as at present.

PATRONAGE. The Institution is now enjoying the largest patronage ever bestowed upon any Commercial school in the State. More students are now entering than at any former period since its establishment.

SPECIAL NOTICE. Mr. Samuel D. Peip, late of Bryant & Stratton's, has recently been engaged as Superintendent of Book-keeping, etc., increasing the already efficient corps of instructors.

TEXT-BOOK. A practical work on Book-keeping free from the crude and impractical notions which are so common to those who have had no experience in business, is very much needed. The proprietor has one in progress, designed especially to supply his own wants. The Institution is now in press, six pages of plates being already finished, and the publication in pamphlet form for immediate use till the work is completed.

VEREYAL ALMANAC AND TIME TABLE.—The most elaborate thing ever published at so low a price as 12 CENTS. TO YOUNG MEN WHO DESIRE THE VERY BEST FACILITIES FOR A PRACTICAL EDUCATION FOR BUSINESS. We guarantee a course of instruction in every department equalled in no other school. Standing of the Institution among business men make its endorsement the best passport to success and advancement. All communications, and applications for Circulars, are invited to send for an ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE AND ADVERTISEMENT, containing complete interior views of the College, and full particulars of the course of instruction, terms, &c.

L. FAIRBANKS, A. M., PRESIDENT. T. C. SEARCH, Special Teacher and Superintendent of Office Business. 11 10th and 52m SCHOOL FOR YOUNG MEN AND BOYS, N. SPRING GARDEN INSTITUTE.—Terms \$15 per session of 12 weeks. J. M. HUNTINGTON, Principal. MISS O'BYRNE, No. 807 ARCH STREET. (Late of Eighth and Race streets), has a most beautiful assortment of the above, which (having been delayed by the alterations to her New Store until the season was advanced) she is now selling AT PRICES 12 24ms FAR BELOW COST. LIFE, GROWTH AND BEAUTY. Mrs. S. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer and Dressing invigorates, strengthens and lengthens the hair. They act directly upon the roots of the hair, supplying required nourishment, and natural color and beauty returns. Grey hair disappears, bald spots are covered, hair stops falling, and luxuriant growth is the result. Ladies and Children will appreciate the delightful fragrance and rich, glossy appearance imparted to the hair, and no fear of soiling the skin, scalp, or most elegant head-dress. Sold by all Druggists. Depot 198 & 200 Greenwich St. N. Y. 'PHARAOH'S SERPENTS.' The Greatest Novelty of the Age!!! For sale by the Gross, Dozen, or Single Box. A sample box sent by mail on receipt of price 50 Cents. W. H. PILE, Chemist, NORTHWEST CORNER OF PASSYUNK ROAD 12 36 61 AND GATHAM'S STREET. PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS SELLING OFF LOW. WRITING-CASES AND DESKS. Very low. Call and examine our stock. Our ALBUMS cannot be surpassed for durability, while they are offered lower than any others. BURLICK & BROTHER, 12 23 8p No. 129 N. NINTH Street.