



DIPLOMATIC TIES SEVERED.

JAPAN BREAKS OFF RELATIONS WITHOUT WAITING FOR RUSSIAN REPLY.

Baron de Rosen to Leave Tokio on Friday—Mikado Government's Statement—Russia Throws Blame on Japan—Anxiety in France.

The severance of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan was confirmed. The Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg informed Count Lamsdorff of his government's decision on Saturday, and will leave the capital as soon as possible for Berlin.

Both Russia and Japan issued statements, Russia in a circular note advising her envoys abroad of the action, and Japan, in an official notification from Tokio, justifying her step by Russian procrastination and movement of troops toward Corea.

Japan's occupation of Corea will probably begin to-day, according to a Tokio dispatch. Baron de Rosen, the Russian Minister, will leave the capital on Friday, placing the affairs of the legation in the hands of the Austrian Minister.

"WAR DECLARED"

Text of Message Received by a Well Known Banker Here.

Special cable messages received here yesterday by the head of a prominent banking house with important foreign connections announced that diplomatic relations between Japan and Russia had been broken off, and that war was practically declared.

The first message was from London, saying that war had been declared, and that the diplomatic relations between the two nations had been ended.

A second message, from St. Petersburg, read: "St. Petersburg announces that the Japanese Minister has been recalled, and that the Russian Minister in Tokio has been recalled."

These were confirmed by messages of similar import.

RUSSIA'S ANGER RISES.

Details of Japan's Abrupt Severance of Relations.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 7.—It is officially announced that Count Lamsdorff, the Russian Foreign Minister, has informed Russian representatives abroad that Japan has decided to break off negotiations with Russia and to withdraw her minister and the entire legation staff from St. Petersburg, and that upon the receipt of a note to this effect from the Japanese Minister Russia has ordered her minister, Baron de Rosen, and the legation staff to leave Tokio.

Count Lamsdorff's circular note to the Russian representative is published in the "Official Messenger," and is as follows:

Acting under instructions from his government, the Japanese Minister at the Imperial court has presented a note which informs the Imperial government of the decision of Japan to break off further negotiations, and of the recall of her minister and the whole staff of the legation.

In consequence of this, his Imperial majesty has been pleased to order that the Russian Minister at Tokio, with the whole staff of the Imperial mission, shall leave the capital of Japan without delay.

Such an attitude on the part of the Tokio government, which has not even awaited the arrival of the answer of the Imperial government which was sent off in the last few days, throws the whole responsibility for the consequence which may arise from a rupture of diplomatic negotiations between the two empires on Japan.

Although the fear was general here yesterday that the presentation of the Russian note to Japan might be followed by an act on the part of the Japanese government which would plunge the two countries into war, the action of Japan in severing diplomatic relations with Russia before the actual delivery of the Russian note was a great shock to the nation.

It was believed that the receipt of the note might have unmasked an ultimatum, but that Japan should sever diplomatic relations, a step little short of a declaration of war, was almost like a blow in the face under the present circumstances, and it is resented accordingly. The authorities believe that this action places Japan distinctly in the wrong before the world, and that such a "piece of impudence," as it is termed here, makes any appeal to the patriotism of the Russian people.

RUPTURE BEFORE REPLY'S DELIVERY.

The news at any moment that Japan had drawn the sword and that the first clash had occurred would not be surprising. The events leading to Japan's abrupt action have passed with great rapidity. The Russian note was already in the hands of Baron de Rosen, the Russian Minister at Tokio, for delivery to Baron Komura, the Japanese Foreign Minister, when, at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, M. Kurino, the Japanese Minister here, presented himself at the Foreign Office and informed Count Lamsdorff that his government, in view of the delay in connection with the Russian answer and the futility hitherto of the negotiations, considered it useless to continue diplomatic relations and would take such steps as it deemed proper for the protection of Japan's interests, in obedience to instructions, therefore, he asked for his passport.

Exactly what else passed at this interview is not known, except that Count Lamsdorff expressed surprise and regret at this hasty resolve of the Mikado's government. M. Kurino received his passports, and after consulting with Sir Charles Stewart Scott, the British Ambassador here, he returned to his legation, where the preparations for his departure had already begun.

Another version of the situation at the time M. Kurino informed Count Lamsdorff of the course his government had elected to pursue is that the Russian reply was not in the possession of Baron de Rosen, but in the telegraph office here awaiting transmission, and that it was withdrawn before being dispatched.

Upon the disclosure of Japan's position the

TO SEIZE COREA TO-DAY.

No Formal Declaration of War Likely To Be Made.

Tokio, Feb. 7.—On Monday Japan will unquestionably seize Corea, and, although Russia has previously intimated that she would not interfere, in view of that country's present attitude developments are eagerly awaited.

The indications are that there will be no formal declaration of war. Japan has publicly defined her position and purposes.

A SHOCK TO FRANCE.

Public Feeling Strong Against Japan and England.

(Special to The New-York Tribune by French Cable.) (Copyright, 1904, by The Tribune Association.)

Paris, Feb. 7.—Official news of the rupture of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan came this afternoon as unexpectedly as a bolt from the blue in Paris, where the population was holiday making in the sunshine of this springlike Sunday.

There now prevails a strong irritation against Japan for resorting to what is regarded here as an unnecessary, arbitrary act in recalling her minister from St. Petersburg before the reception in Tokio of the Russian reply to the last Japanese note. The trend of public feeling is now distinctly hostile to Japan.

The English press, and "The London Times" in particular, is accused in bitter language of casting oil on the flames by giving undue encouragement to Japan, and consequently a latent anti-British animosity is noted here, which, unhappily, may greatly impair the cordial understanding between France and England, which reached such a satisfactory point only a few weeks ago. French diplomatists still boldly cling to the faint hope of war being averted by friendly foreign intervention.

Meanwhile, all eyes are turned upon England, because the general feeling in France is that should England feel compelled, in accordance with her treaty with Japan, to lend aid, France would, in that event, be likewise bound to side with Russia. Such is the opinion not only of the public, but of influential statesmen and former Ministers of Foreign Affairs, such as MM. Ribot and Flourens. It is expected that the questions which MM. Denys, Cochon and other deputies intend to put to-morrow to M. Delcassé, in the Chamber of Deputies, will draw from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who has had long private conferences this evening both with the Russian Ambassador and the Japanese Minister, a reassuring statement on this point.

C. I. B.

JAPAN'S STATEMENT.

Russian Procrastination Given as Cause of Rupture.

By The Associated Press.

Paris, Feb. 7.—The Japanese Minister to France, M. Motono, made public this afternoon an announcement of the breaking off of diplomatic relations between Japan and Russia, saying this action was due to Russia's delay in making response to Japan.

The Foreign Office has been informed of the departure of Baron de Rosen, the Russian Minister, from Tokio, and it has been advised of an announcement that the Russian government considered it possible that action looking toward mediation might be taken. No exchanges with Great Britain, however, have yet taken place. Something in this direction may be done to-morrow.

The Japanese government communicated a statement to M. Motono, announcing the severance of diplomatic relations with Russia, and giving details of the reasons therefor. M. Motono took this statement to the Foreign Office, where he personally communicated it to Foreign Minister Delcassé. Subsequently, the Japanese Minister gave out the following statement:

Tokio, Feb. 6.—The last Japanese note in response to the Russian note of January 6 had been remitted to the Russian Minister at Tokio on January 15. The Japanese government had insisted that a prompt response be made to it, owing to the gravity of the situation.

Not receiving the answer requested, M. Kurino, the Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg, has made to Count Lamsdorff on several occasions recently representations in order to secure an answer from Russia. Not having obtained an answer from the reply, Count Lamsdorff, while promising to make a response as early as possible, has not been able to indicate when the response could be transmitted to the Japanese government.

The Japanese government, having vainly awaited, on its part, the Russian answer for more than three weeks, and having been, moreover, informed that Russia was making active preparations for war, and was concentrating her troops and her naval forces toward Corea, is under the necessity of breaking its negotiations with Russia and of resuming its liberty of action.

"AUTO" KILLS A WOMAN CHASE IN PARK-AVE.

Man Clings to Back of Vehicle and Causes Arrest.

In a whirl of vehicles at Eighty-sixth-st. and Park-ave. yesterday morning, an automobile knocked down Mrs. Catherine Conway, sixty years old, of No. 62 East Eighty-seventh-st. Her skull was fractured, and she died in the afternoon. The driver, George C. Gordon, tried to escape, but a man jumped on the back of the vehicle, and, on spying two policemen, after riding some distance, had Gordon arrested.

According to the managers of the Yorkville garage, at Third-ave. and Eighty-sixth-st., where the automobile was procured, it was said that Gordon obtained the vehicle by misrepresentation. It was said there that the automobile is owned by a man whose name they refused to divulge, a man of some prominence. Gordon, according to the managers, said he was the driver for this man, and that he had been sent to take the automobile to him. It is said that he is a driver out of work.

Many people were walking toward Central Park and many carriages and automobiles were in Park-ave., near Eighty-sixth-st., all morning. It was in this maze that Mrs. Conway was caught. Gordon was bound southwardly in Park-ave., and was running the machine through a maze of vehicles at Eighty-sixth-st., when Mrs. Conway was seen trying to cross the avenue. She picked her way carefully, and seemed to be out of danger, when the automobile was seen running right at her. Some one screamed and another person yelled, but before the pedestrians and riders realized it, the woman was lying mangled on the pavement. The automobile shot over her, one side of it lifting as her body was struck. The noise of the vehicle falling on the wheels again as they left the body could be heard plainly.

Women shrieked in horror, men yelled, and all traffic stopped. Policemen ran up and an ambulance was sent for. The Presbyterian Hospital sent one, with Dr. Hayes in charge.

The woman was found to be internally injured, to have a broken skull and bruises of all parts of the body. Her condition was precarious, and the doctor wanted the woman taken to the hospital immediately, pronouncing her condition critical. But Miss Conway, the woman's daughter, who was with her, refused to let her mother be taken to the hospital, and Dr. Hayes took the injured woman to her home. There she lingered until about 3 o'clock, when she died.

Gordon, according to witnesses, tried to escape as soon as he saw what he had done. His automobile was not going fast when the accident happened, but he kept on, and was some rods away when it was realized that he was escaping.

Several raced after him. One young man with sprinting and leaping ability was close enough to take a running jump and land on the back of the machine.

Gordon did not know it. He kept on, and evidently thought he was getting away. The other man on the machine did not shout to him to stop, but kept on the lookout for policemen.

It was half a mile down Park-ave. that the man holding on behind the automobile and being jolted up and down and almost knocked off at times, espied two policemen ahead. He waved a hand to them. They took in the situation and ran out into the avenue. Gordon had to stop, and when the policemen were told of the accident they arrested Gordon. He was handed over to Policeman Geiger, of the East Eighty-eighth-st. station, who had been running down the avenue after Gordon. He was held without bail after Mrs. Conway's death, and is twenty-one years old.

Mrs. Conway was a widow, and lived with her two daughters. Miss Alice Conway, one of Mrs. Conway's daughters, who suffered from shock after the accident, said last night that she intended pushing the case to the end. According to the police of the East Eighty-sixth-st. station, Gordon said the automobile got out of his control. He said he had been out of work, but had obtained a place with the Yorkville Automobile Company, which let him have the automobile.

ROLL DOWN EMBANKMENT

Women and Men in Unmanageable "Auto" Escape Injury.

An automobile in which there were two women and a man, besides the driver, was overturned yesterday at West Farms Road and Washington-ave., in The Bronx, and, though the automobile was badly damaged, the occupants escaped with no more serious injury than a bad fright.

The roadway where the accident occurred is narrow and was covered with ice. In trying to avoid a collision with a streetcar the automobile became unmanageable, and, leaving the roadway, demolished a fence and rolled down an embankment a distance of twelve feet, where it lay on its side.

The driver fell into a snowbank, and, though the occupants of the vehicle were badly frightened, they were uninjured. Calling a cab, they proceeded on their way, refusing to give their names.

IROQUOIS TO REOPEN.

Contract Let for Fitting and Decorating—To Change Name.

Chicago, Feb. 7.—A contract has been let for fitting and decorating the Iroquois Theatre, in which 500 lives were lost on December 30 last. It has been uncertain whether the Iroquois would open again as a playhouse, but the letting of the contract for repairs indicates that the theatre will be reopened to the public as a place of amusement. The cost of the repairs will be about \$22,000, and the management hope to reopen the house in the early spring.

It is said the name of the theatre will be changed to the "Northwest."

THE LARCHMONT AGROUND AGAIN.

Joy Line Steamer Strikes Bottom in Narragansett Bay—Is Undamaged.

Providence, R. I., Feb. 7.—During a dense fog this morning the Joy Line steamer Larchmont, which was en route from New York for this port, ran aground in Narragansett Bay at a point near Warwick Light. The steamer was running slowly at the time, and, as a result, did not run very hard aground, and was able to back off under her own steam after being held in the mud for forty-two minutes.

The Larchmont left New-York at 10:30 o'clock last night. The ship's officers report no damage, and she is expected to sail on her regular trip to New-York to-morrow evening. The steamer carried about one hundred and fifty passengers. There was no sign of a panic on board when the ship struck. The Larchmont went aground a few weeks ago, but suffered no damage.

BALTIMORE SWEEP BY FIRE.

FLAMES RAGE IN THE HEART OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT—LOSS MAY REACH \$40,000,000.

Blocks Wiped Out—Dynamite Used to Check Conflagration—Mayor McLane Directs the Fight—Fire Chief Injured; None Killed.

Fire started about 11 o'clock yesterday morning in the wholesale drygoods house of John E. Hurst & Co., in the middle of the principal business district of Baltimore, and in a short time had spread to the surrounding buildings. The whole city Fire Department was called out, but the flames were beyond control, and swept over many blocks.

Washington and Philadelphia were called upon for help, and sent fire apparatus; the surrounding towns also sent engines. Houses were blown up with dynamite, but the flames ate their way through block after block with unabated ferocity. At the hour of going to press the loss was estimated at more than \$40,000,000. No lives were lost.

Aid was asked of this city, and six engines started on a special train. Baltimore, Feb. 8, 1:30 a. m.—At this hour the fire is absolutely beyond control, and all occupants of buildings in the centre of the city are rapidly removing their valuables.

FIRE DEPARTMENT HELPLESS BEFORE FLAMES.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

Baltimore, Feb. 7.—The heart of the wholesale business section of Baltimore was swept by flames to-day, and to-night an area covering twenty blocks is a mass of ruins. The losses will aggregate more than \$25,000,000. It is the worst conflagration in the history of the city, and will paralyze business interests for months, and probably bring financial ruin to many. Five or six buildings, including some of the most valuable structures in the blazing district, were blown down with dynamite in an effort to check the wild sweep of the fire, and the terrific explosions caused terror throughout the city.

To-night the firemen are exhausted. A number have been injured, others have been partly suffocated by smoke, and Chief Horton has impressed into service many volunteers. It will be twenty-four hours before the fire will be entirely extinguished, and an accurate list of losses and insurances made up. At one time forty buildings, including banks, wholesale drygoods establishments, drug houses and factories were a seething furnace. In all, more than two hundred buildings were destroyed, and many others damaged.

Driven by the high southwest wind, blazing brands were carried a quarter of a mile and further. Showers of flaming faggots fell upon the crowds of people in the streets near the burning section, and the hats and wraps of a number of women were set on fire. At several congested points the sudden showers of fire caused small panics, and many persons' clothing were torn in the mad rush for safety.

When the flames seemed beyond the control of the Baltimore Fire Department, considered one of the most efficient in the country, Chief Horton appealed to Washington, and three companies, with engines and apparatus, made the run to Baltimore in thirty-eight minutes. Several engine companies from Wilmington and Philadelphia also arrived this evening. The firemen were greatly handicapped by networks of wires, and also by the flames breaking out at points blocks away from the centre of the conflagration. All the big buildings, the trust companies and downtown hotels, like the Carrollton and the Renner, had large forces at work extinguishing fires started by flying brands, some of which were hurled through the top windows of several of the skyscrapers.

The burned blocks are included in the section bounded by Charles, Lombard, Fayette and Howard sts.

The fire started in the basement of John E. Hurst & Co.'s building at Hopkins Place and German-st., the largest wholesale drygoods house south of Philadelphia, and carrying a stock worth more than \$1,000,000.

An automatic fire alarm equipment in the building registered an alarm at 10:48 a. m., and in a minute the salvage corps, which is only a block away, was on the scene, ahead of the city department. Captain Gordon saw that the flames had already got a fierce headway. There was no delay in the arrival of the firefighters, but for some reason the flames got away from them.

What appeared to be an explosion of gas occurred in the Hurst Building about 11 o'clock. A terrific roar was followed by a whistling sound. The churches in the central section of the city were filled with worshippers, many of whom became frightened, and, while no panics ensued, hundreds of men and women hurried from the services. Other explosions followed when the flames wrapped the drug houses of A. C. Myer & Co., the Carrollton Chemical Company, the Stanley & Brown Drug Company and other big warehouses filled with chemicals and other inflammable materials. The firemen and police dodged into doorways for shelter from the rain of hot missiles. Crash after crash could be heard within the burning districts, but even the firemen could not tell from which buildings they proceeded, and the brave fellows were constantly in the greatest peril. Walls and flooring fell in thunderous roars that echoed for blocks.

Two banks, both handsome buildings, the Hopkins Savings Bank and the National Exchange Bank in Hopkins Place, were burned out, nothing being left except the stone walls and the vaults. The reported amount of cash on hand in these institutions was: Hopkins Savings Bank, \$217,000; National Exchange Bank, \$250,000. The money is believed to be safe in the vaults, or at least in such a condition that it can be redeemed.

Mullins's, the finest hotel building in Baltimore, was destroyed. All the guests escaped and saved their belongings.

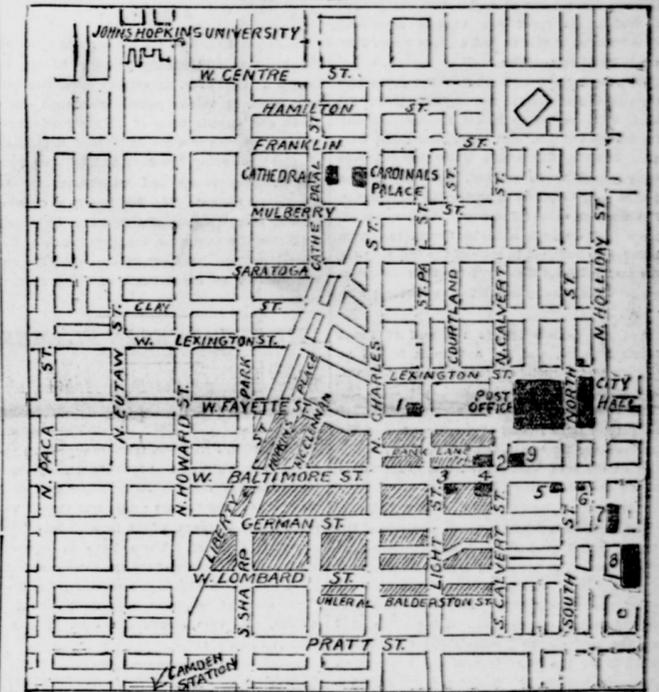
At this point the Western Union Telegraph Company, which had been driven from its main office in Baltimore to a branch office, was driven from that office also by the flames. Stories of the fire were cut off in the middle of sentences, and it was not known when communication could be resumed. At 1 o'clock this morning, according to The Associated Press, the fire still defied all efforts to extinguish it, and continued to make its way eastward. The As-

sociated Press at that hour said that the Fire Department officials estimated the loss at more than \$40,000,000.

DETAILS OF THE FIRE.

Unchecked for Hours, Spreads Over Many Blocks.

Baltimore, Feb. 7.—Fire broke out at a few minutes before 11 o'clock this morning in



MAP OF THE BURNED AREA IN BALTIMORE. With the flames still raging uncontrolled at a late hour last night the area burned over in Baltimore, according to the latest dispatches, was as follows: Howard-st. on the west, St. Paul-st. on the east, Fayette-st. and rear of Lexington-st. on the north, and Lombard-st. on the south; three to four large blocks north to south and five blocks east to west; intermediate streets in the fire area include German-st., Lombard-st., Baltimore-st., running east and west; Hopkins Place, Liberty-st., Hanover-st., Charles-st., and St. Paul-st., running north and south. Over one hundred buildings, including several banks and all the leading wholesale drygoods and newspaper buildings, are in the line of the fire.

Some of the important buildings in the path of the fire are shown by numbers on the map, as follows: (1) "The Baltimore Herald"; (2) Baltimore and Ohio Railroad offices; (3) Carrollton Hotel; (4) Western Union Telegraph Building; (5) "The Baltimore American"; (6) "The Baltimore Sun"; (7) The Board of Trade; (8) The Custom House; (9) Continental Trust Company.

the wholesale drygoods house of John E. Hurst & Co., and has raged with unrestrained fury continuously ever since. At midnight it is still unchecked and steadily eating its way eastward in Baltimore, after having destroyed almost all the large stores and warehouses in the wholesale district around Hopkins Place, and all the buildings on both sides of Baltimore-st., from Howard-st. to Holliday-st., from Charter and Baltimore to Charles and Lexington, and in Fayette-st. from Charles to Holliday—a total of about twenty blocks of the most modern and substantial business buildings in the city, involving a loss which cannot now be estimated, but which has certainly already reached \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000.

So terrific has been the heat ever since the fire started, and so dense and suffocating the volume of flying sparks and burning cinders, that it was difficult for the firemen to stand long within fighting distance of the flames, while several trucks and engines were helplessly disabled by flying timbers at an early hour. At 7 o'clock the situation was so hopeless, so far as effective work by the firemen was concerned, that Chief Horton decided that the only thing left to do was to dynamite buildings at threatened points and thus prevent, as far as possible, a further spread of the flames. In pursuance of this plan a number of buildings in South Charles-st., between German and Lombard sts., were blown up. Subsequently the fine structure of J. W. Putts & Co., notion dealers, at Charles and Fayette sts. was dynamited, and "The Daily Record" building, Ross's drug store and others followed. But this heroic remedy merely delayed and did not seriously impede the onward march of the conflagration.

By 8 o'clock the publishers and other occupants of "The Daily Herald" building, at Fayette and St. Paul sts., were compelled to vacate by the onrushing flames, as were the occupants of the Calvert and Equitable structures, two of the most massive office buildings in Baltimore. Down Baltimore-st. a parallel wave of roaring, crackling flames shot their way, consuming everything in their wake, speedily reaching "The Evening News" building, from which a number of extras had been issued, but from which the employees had hastily to flee, though not until

valuable records had been removed. Shortly thereafter the Continental Trust Company's fourteen story building took fire. A block below "The American" newspaper building was so enveloped in clouds of sparks and burning splinters that the employees were ordered to move out. It is certain that "The Herald" and "American" will not get out issues to-morrow. Meanwhile, "The Sun" has been arranging to print its to-morrow's issue in its job office, which is distant from the path of the fire.

The financial district, including the chief banking and brokerage firms in South and German sts., seems to be doomed, and scores of the city's leading financiers and business men are scurrying in and out of their offices bearing packages or placing valuables in hastily improvised conveyances. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad office building has been destroyed and the Maryland Institute of Art building.

The City Hospital, at Calvert and Pleasant sts., is moving to other hospitals as rapidly as possible the twenty-four patients it has. Seventeen injured were brought to the City Hospital. Most of them were firemen. They were suffering from burns, scalds and lacerations. Nearly every physician in the city is in the fire district. So far as known at this hour, no one has been killed.

Detachments of the 4th and 5th regiments have been called out, and are patrolling the streets in the vicinity of the fire, guarding property and keeping order. Fortunately thus far the conflagration has not reached the residence part of the city, but fires are breaking out in East Baltimore, and the indications are that the residence streets are doomed to be invaded.

The fire broke out shortly before 11 o'clock

this morning in the wholesale drygoods store of John E. Hurst & Co., in Hopkins Place, in the heart of the business district, with a series of loud explosions, which were heard in remote parts of the city, and spread with fearful rapidity.

In a half hour a dozen big warehouses in the wholesale drygoods and notions district were burning freely. The entire city Fire Department was called out, but was utterly powerless to check the spread of the flames, which were aided by high winds, and by noon there were savage fires in at least thirty big warehouses and the conflagration was steadily eating its way into blocks east, west, north and south.

Building after building fell a prey to the flames, and apparently there was no check to the onward sweep of destruction. In Baltimore-st., the block between Liberty and Sharp was soon ablaze, then came the next block east to Hanover, and after that the block on the south side to Charles-st. broke into flames, the Consolidated Gas Company's building and Oehm's Acme Hall burning fiercely. Meanwhile there were stores north of Baltimore-st. being consumed. Mullins's Hotel caught and other buildings near it. West of Liberty-st., on the south side of Baltimore, the block was doomed, and the big Baltimore Bargain House also caught.

Down in Hopkins Place, where the conflagration started, Hurst's building and the other wholesale houses on both sides of the street crumbled and fell. The big drygoods houses of Daniel Miller & Sons and R. M. Sutton & Co. were soon aflame, and along German-st., east and west from the Hurst building, there were a dozen buildings burning and scores more threatened. The spectacle of ruin and destruction from any point in these blocks was appalling.

Maas & Kemper's big wholesale store in Baltimore-st. quickly succumbed to the flames, and the walls fell with a crash that was heard for squares. The Hurst building was utterly destroyed, not even a wall ten feet high being left standing, and apparently was the centre of the caldron, whence the flames radiated over the doomed neighborhood. In Hopkins Place the Hopkins Savings Bank and the National Exchange Bank were destroyed, the few occupants