

INCALCULATED CHICAGO!

The City of the Lakes in Ruins.

Fire and Death Sweeping Everything Before Them.

Four Miles of the City Enveloped in Flames.

One Hundred and Fifty Thousand People Houseless and Homeless.

Fearful Loss of Life Apprehended

Scores of People Lost in the Sea of Fire.

Hundreds of Families Fleeing Before the Waves of Conflagration.

Blocks of Buildings Blown Up to Stay the Progress of Destruction.

VAIN ARE THE EFFORTS OF MAN!

From Fifty to One Hundred Millions of Property Said to Be Burned.

All the Churches, Hotels, Theatres, Banks, Railway Depots, Telegraph Offices, Newspaper Offices, Gas Works, Public Buildings and Shipping in Ashes.

The Great Water Works Probably Gone Too.

Impossible to Estimate the Total Loss.

CRY OF THE SUFFERERS FOR HELP

Noble Response from All Parts of the Union.

Cincinnati, St. Louis, Milwaukee and All the Cities of the East and West Contributing in Money, Provisions and Clothing.

PROCLAMATION FROM MAYOR HALL.

Meetings To Be Held Here To-Day.

The City of Charities Will be Equal to the Emergency.

Intense Excitement All Over the Country.

Effect in Financial and Business Circles.

The Insurance Companies Here and Elsewhere Heavy Losers.

As We Go to Press the Fire is Still Raging and Fears That the Whole City Will Fall.

The Area Swept by the Flames—Statistics of an Operator Driven Out by the Flames.

SUFFALO, N. Y., Oct. 9, 1871.

The following particulars of the great fire at Chicago are obtained from Mr. J. N. Crittenden, operator of the Western Union Telegraph Company in Chicago, who has just arrived at Englewood, Ill., seven miles southeast of Chicago. Mr. Crittenden left the city on an engine, at half-past eight this morning:—

The fire commenced about nine o'clock last night, near the corner of Jefferson and Delavan streets, and swept everything before it, taking a north-westerly course through the central part of the city. The Court House, Western Union Telegraph Office, hotels, banks, and apparently everything within half a mile west of the Court House, and as far south as Polk street, and probably west of State street, and perhaps east of that, are all destroyed. The fire now rages on the north side, east of Wells street, extending up to Chicago avenue, in a northeasterly direction. It is being checked to windward on the south and west sides. The wind seems to blow back, and to be changing towards

the south. I think the fire reaches towards the great Central Depot, and that it is probably destroyed. The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, and the Rock Island Railroad depots, the City Water Works, the Tremont House, Sherman House, Crosby Opera House, &c., are among the buildings destroyed. The elevators on Main and River streets must have been burned, as the fire was raging on both sides at two o'clock when I was there. Thousands of people are homeless, and the losses were estimated at fifty millions of dollars.

The Devastation Still Continuing—Ten Thousand Buildings Already Destroyed.

CHICAGO, Oct. 9—10 A. M.

The awful conflagration still continues. THE ENTIRE BUSINESS PORTION of the city is destroyed. All the banks, express and telegraph offices, all the newspaper offices, except the Tribune, six elevators and the water works have been burned. There is no water in the city. Not less than

TEN THOUSAND BUILDINGS have already been destroyed. The fire has burned a distance of five miles, and is still raging. The wind is blowing a gale. There is only one telegraph wire working and that is to the suburbs.

The Fire Moving South on Wabash Avenue. CHICAGO, Oct. 9—10:30 A. M.

The fire is now going south on Wabash avenue and endangers the temporary telegraph office which has been established there.

The Area of Destruction Four Miles Long and One Mile Wide—The Water Works Destroyed.

CHICAGO, Oct. 9—5 P. M.

The awful work of destruction still goes on with relentless fury. From Harrison street in the south to Division street in the north, and from the river to the lake, AN AREA OF FOUR MILES long by one mile wide, the flames have swept everything before them. It is estimated that at least one hundred thousand people are homeless and in a suffering condition. The streets in the districts still unburned are lined for miles with such household goods as have been saved from destruction.

Generous Offers of Assistance in money, food or anything wanted, are coming in from almost every city and town throughout the country by telegraph. The Mayor has responded to several offers asking that cooked food be provided as soon as possible. Firemen were on their way here from Cincinnati, St. Louis and other cities.

The Water Works are entirely destroyed. Buildings are now being blown up on the line of the fire, to attempt to arrest its progress.

The Business Portion of the City in Ashes—Fifty Thousand People Homeless—The Loss of Life Unknown.

CHICAGO, Oct. 9—Noon.

The whole business portion of the city is in ashes, from Harrison street north to Chicago avenue and east of the river to Lake avenue. The fire sweeps a district three miles in length to a mile or a mile and a half in width.

Every hotel, bank, express office, telegraph office, theatre and newspaper office, with all the wholesale houses in the city, has been totally destroyed. Many thousand dwellings and the water works have been destroyed. Early this morning the wind was blowing a perfect gale from the southwest, with a sky of brass. None can tell what the end will be. The only salvation for the remainder of the city is in the wind keeping the present direction.

Fifty thousand people are homeless and most of them in a destitute condition. The unburned streets for miles are lined with household goods.

No one dare think what the loss of life may be. The flames swept through the city with the rapidity of a prairie fire and many must have perished. The Western Union Telegraph has succeeded in getting a new wire from a hastily improvised office in the southern part of the city, establishing communication in nearly all directions.

Municipal offers of assistance are coming from every quarter. The Hotels, Theatres and Court House—Half the Population Rushing Panic Stricken Through the Streets—Starvation Threatening the Homeless People.

ENGLEWOOD, TEN MILES FROM CHICAGO, Oct. 9—11 A. M.

The work of devastation continues. More than one half of the city is already destroyed, and the flames continue their ravages almost unopposed.

About one o'clock this morning the fire crossed the river at Adams street bridge and soon destroyed the gasworks and then spread itself in every direction. At this hour almost every building, from Harrison street north to the Chicago River, is destroyed, including all the insurance offices, banks, hotels, telegraph offices, newspaper establishments, with the single exception of the Tribune office, which is fireproof.

The Court House, Sherman House, Tremont House, Palmer House, New Pacific Hotel, New Bigelow Hotel, and, in fact, everything else, are swept clean. This district embraces all the heavy business houses in the city.

The rain of fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah can hardly be compared to the devastating rain of the fire end on Chicago.

More than one-half the population are now rushing through the streets in vehicles, which are obtained at enormous prices, or on foot, and in every other way, with the choicest household treasures in their arms and on their backs, in utter confusion, not knowing whither to go. Fearful suffering must follow, and almost immediately. Fully one hundred and fifty thousand people are at this moment homeless, not knowing where to lay their heads or get anything to satisfy the cravings of hunger.

The Spread of the Fire Southward Stayed—The Water Works Still Intact—The Depots and All Newspaper Offices Destroyed—The Flames Still Raging in the Northern Division—The Fearful Scenes in the Streets—Apprehensions of a Dreadful Loss of Life.

CHICAGO, Oct. 9—3 P. M.

It is now believed that the spread of the fire southward has been stayed at Harrison street, but ON THE NORTH SIDE there is no diminution of its fury, and the entire division of the city is evidently doomed to utter destruction. There are grave fears that the flames may spread to the west side of the north branch of the river, and the inhabitants of the streets nearest the river are already moving to places, it is supposed, of greater safety. The Western Union Telegraph Company have now six wires working east and south, running into

a temporary office at the corner of State and Sixteenth streets.

The Northwestern Railroad Company are running trains on both its branches, which are crowded with fleeing old souls.

It is now positively asserted by some that the Water Works are still intact, but the water has been shut off from the South and West divisions on account of the quantity of water used on the north side.

A reliable gentleman just arrived from the North Division brings the joyful intelligence that

THE WATER WORKS ARE UNHARMED.

God grant that it may prove true.

It is impossible now to give even an approximately correct statement of the losses, but a faint idea may be formed when it is stated that every bank in the city, except two small savings institutions—one on Twenty-second street, in South Division, and one on Randolph street, in West Division—are destroyed. All wholesale stores, all retail establishments, Post Office, the Court House, the Chamber of Commerce, every hotel in South Division except Michigan Avenue Hotel, which, standing on the extreme southern limit, escaped, though it is badly scorched; every newspaper office (the Tribune building, which was supposed to be fireproof, having finally succumbed), every theatre, the six largest elevators, the immense depots of the Michigan Southern and of the Illinois Central Railroads (both the passenger and freight depots of the latter), more than a score of churches and much of the shipping in the river—all destroyed.

ANGARERS. Men who were millionaires yesterday morning are nearly penniless to-day; but more terrible than all is the awful certainty that many human beings have perished in the flames—how many no one can tell.

THE UNKNOWN DEAD. Perhaps no one will ever be able to tell; but it is known that some have perished, and there is only a heart-striking fear that the victims of the fiery monster may be counted by scores. Hundreds of horses and cows have been burned in stables, and on the north side numbers of animals, though released from confinement, were so bewildered and confused by the sea of fire which surrounded them that they rushed wildly to and fro, uttering cries of fright and pain, until scorched and killed.

Any attempt at a description of the scenes of this appalling calamity would be idle. The simple facts that the once great city of Chicago is destroyed, that hundreds of millions of active capital here have vanished, and that nearly one-third of Chicago's inhabitants are homeless dependants are enough. Any attempt to embellish would be a mockery.

HOPES AND FEARS. As this awful day draws to a close, thousands of anxious eyes watch the clouds of smoke which still roll over the burnt district, with evident dread that a sudden change of wind may turn the flames upon that portion of the city yet spared. There seems, however, little cause for apprehensions, as reinforcements of firemen from other cities are constantly arriving.

AID FOR THE SUFFERERS. Colonel F. J. Wilson, Superintendent of the Telegraph, is in receipt of despatches from leading cities announcing that aid is being provided for the sufferers. Colonel Clowry, of St. Louis, telegraphs that \$70,000 have been subscribed by the merchants there. Cincinnati promises \$200,000 and Cleveland is proportionately generous. All this and a great deal more will be needed to relieve the immediate pressing wants.

THE POSTAL PANIC. Everything is being done by General Sager and his assistants to keep up communications for the cities and press with the world outside. Colonel George T. Williams, Superintendent at Cincinnati, reported promptly for duty this morning.

About three-fourths of the United States mail was saved and taken possession of by Colonel Wood, of the Post Office service.

The Progress of the Fire Southward Stayed by the Blowing Up of Buildings—Further List of the Burned Buildings—Sheridan and the Rescue—The Streets and Districts Burned Over.

CHICAGO, Oct. 9—4 P. M.

The following report was telegraphed from Chicago to Cincinnati before the second interruption of the wire, which was reported an hour ago.

The progressing flames in the South division were finally arrested about one o'clock P. M. This was accomplished by the blowing up and demolishing of several buildings on Wabash avenue and Congress street by Lieutenant General Sheridan. The district burned over in the South division embraces everything from the main branch of the Chicago river to the lake, and covering about

ONE HUNDRED BLOCKS. This district contained all the leading business houses, the banks, insurance offices, hotels, &c.; also a large number of churches, including St. Mary's, Trinity, First Presbyterian, Second Presbyterian, St. Paul's, Swedenborgian, &c.

The Methodist church on the corner of Wabash avenue and Congress street is saved. The Michigan Avenue Hotel on the corner of Michigan avenue and Congress street, and the Congress Hall directly adjoining on Congress street, are saved.

MICHIGAN TERRACE, on Michigan avenue, embracing the residences of Governor Bros. Hon. John Young Scammon, S. C. Griggs, Peter L. Ross and other leading citizens, is completely destroyed. All the newspaper establishments are totally wiped out. The Tribune building resisted the fire for several hours, but finally yielded, when McVicker's theatre, immediately adjoining, which also withstood the raging element, finally succumbed. In fact all the buildings in the district which claimed to be fire-proof shared the fate of those which could make no such claims.

THE GREAT CENTRAL DEPOT, at the foot of Lake street, became a heap of ruins. About nine o'clock this morning most of the passenger cars of the Michigan Central, Burlington and Quincy, and Illinois Central Railroad were moved on the breakwater and saved.

West of Clark street, in the Southern Division, the fire extended south as far as Polk street, sweeping everything before it. The distance burned over here is some three blocks wide and over half a mile in length, numbering about twenty blocks. The buildings were generally of the cheaper character, embracing saloons, small shops, poor residences, &c.

THE DISTRICT BURNED OVER, on the West side commences at Taylor street, running from DeKoven to Jefferson, the fire ran thence four or five blocks north, and then moved diagonally towards the river, and finally the west limit was established on Clinton street, and reaching thence to the river. It moved in this line

northward until it reached the Northwestern and West side depots, where it stopped.

A DISTANCE OF NEARLY TWO MILES from which it started. The Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago, and the Chicago & St. Louis Railroad depots were in this district, and are destroyed. Almost

THE ENTIRE NORTHERN DIVISION, from the main branch of the Chicago River to Lincoln Park, nearly two miles in length, and one mile in width, is completely destroyed, including the waterworks, a large number of elegant churches, &c. This district embraces almost the entire business portion of the city.

THE SOUTH DIVISION. The territory south of Harrison street, in the South Division, reaching out many miles, and covered almost entirely with dwellings, mostly of the better class, is untouched, and may now be regarded as safe from injury.

For miles and miles, in every direction, the sidewalks, lawns, vacant lots and front yards of dwellings are filled with people who have escaped from burning houses, taking with them only a scanty amount of furniture and clothing. The sight is truly a harrowing one. These people must receive immediate relief or many will perish from

EXHAUSTION AND STARVATION.

THE LOSS. As stated in my previous despatch, it is utterly impossible to make an approximate estimate of the entire loss, but it can scarcely fall below

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLIONS of dollars. Of course, but a fraction of this amount can be recovered from insurance.

GENERAL SHERIDAN has to-day telegraphed to St. Louis, to the Missouri depot there, to send at once 100,000 rations. He has also telegraphed to Omaha for two companies of soldiers and one hundred tents. He will also order another 100,000 rations.

MAYOR MASON has issued a proclamation calling a meeting to-night in the West Division to see what the citizens can do for the relief of the sufferers.

There are at least 100,000 people who know not where they can get enough provisions to satisfy their hunger. A later rumor from the North Division says the devastation is less widespread than heretofore reported.

I hear of NO DEATHS REPORTED by the disaster as yet, but undoubtedly many have perished.

The Banks in Ruins—The Vaults supposed to be Fireproof—Depression of Real Estate—Scenes in the Streets.

CHICAGO, Oct. 10—12:30 A. M.

All the banks in the city, with one exception, are in ruins, but it is confidently believed that the vaults, in most cases, are fire proof and will survive the wreck. Every depot is burned except the Northwestern. The streets are filled with

EXCITED, HURRYING CROWDS, and every avenue is occupied by a caravan of furniture-laden wagons, moving towards the suburbs. Every sort of vehicle is put in requisition for every sort of service; even hearses have been purchased, and I have seen one with two babes sitting between parallel rails, a woman on the driver's seat and a tea kettle, frying pan and rocking chair tied upon her back.

REAL ESTATE has declined fifty per cent since yesterday. The question which is anxiously asked to-day is, will the Eastern money be believed in Chicago put their money in her and give

THE CITY ANOTHER CHANCE. With feelings of personal depression, there is a feeling of confidence in the destiny of the city, and it is believed that Chicago will, in ten years, recover what she has lost, even without extraordinary help.

The Southern Portion of the City Threatened—Communication Again Cut Off.

NEW YORK, Oct. 9—11:30 A. M.

The telegraph office improvised in the southern part of Chicago, as it was supposed beyond the reach of the flames, has been abandoned, and communication with the city is again suspended. It is expected that another office will be opened during the night at a point two miles south of the last place of refuge.

The operators, before leaving their instruments, reported that the wind had veered around to the north and was driving the flames back and southward. The fire had already reached the neighborhood of the office, and the men were compelled to flee. Their last words were—"There now appears no hope of saving the southern portion of the city."

A private despatch from Chicago states that among the heavy duty goods firms burned out are John Farwell & Co., F. M. Hamlin & Co., Field, Leiter & Co., and Brown, Hunt & Winslow.

The Hartford Insurance Companies and the Chicago Fire.

HARTFORD, Conn., Oct. 9, 1871.

The fire insurance companies of Hartford have not yet attempted to make a definite estimate of their losses; but, doubtless, the aggregate will be several millions. The directors and other officers of all the leading companies vigorously assert their determination to pay every dollar as readily as possible, and they have already begun their arrangements to that effect. The life insurance companies have many millions loaned upon real estate security in Chicago, but as their rule is to require that the land alone shall more than secure the debt, they apprehend no loss.

Relief Forwarded from Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 9, 1871.

Mayor Banks has called a mass meeting of citizens at noon to-morrow, at the Masonic Temple, to devise measures for the relief of the Chicago sufferers. Subscription books were opened to-day at some of the newspaper offices. Mr. C. C. Fulton to-night forwarded to Chicago \$1,000, subscribed at the American corner.

A large collection was taken up to-night for Chicago in Emanuel church. The bishop of Litchfield preached. Hundreds were unable to get into the church.

The Insurance Risk in Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, Oct. 9, 1871.

The President of the Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Company authorizes the statement that its solvency is not affected by the Chicago fire, as its surplus is sufficient to pay all of its risks in that city.

FIRE IN SANDWICH, CANADA.

SANDWICH, Ont., Oct. 9, 1871.

A large fire occurred here yesterday consuming thirteen dwellings, three stores and four barns with their contents. Very little was saved. Loss \$50,000, with only trivial insurance.

CHARRED CHICAGO

Sketch of the Growth of the Garden City.

ITS EARLY HISTORY.

The Mushroom Municipality That Grew in a Swamp.

Commercial Importance and Wealth of the Burned City.

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short in estate with and crowded into the

wide footways, while the wagons of commerce rumbled along the pavement. South Clark street, graded in its commercial career, was a magnificent sight by night, with its great length lit by myriad gas lamps. Dearborn street was another, and La Salle street, ending in the Michigan and Southern Railway depot. South Wells street, too, was a grand avenue of trade, and over along the Lake, where Michigan and Western streets, with its fine mansions, gathered the tasteful houses and

VILLAS OF THE "SOLID MEN."

of the Garden City. These avenues form a delightful drive in the commercial capital, and when free from their go-ahead toll. To the east of Central avenue, into which Michigan avenue runs, stood a few houses of the old-fashioned style.

THE LAMBERT RAILROAD DEPOT on the continent that of the Illinois Central and Michigan Central Railroads, which forms the side of the square, which this form and along the mouth of the Chicago River are situated most of the tall grain elevators, which are or were such a feature in the city. Their loss, together with the grain they contained, will be very serious. Along the Chicago River, on Water street and La Salle, are the houses of the commission brokers, where the business of the transfer business of the city is carried on. The north and west sides near the rivers are occupied by the

VARIOUS MANUFACTURING INTERESTS incidental to the features of its trade, such as saw and planing mills, pork packing, &c. The remainder of the commercial capital, as well as the dwellings for the people and such businesses as domestic wants require. To picture all this wonderful, brilliant, powerful, and busy city, with its financial, commercial, social and domestic rooms stretching out to the remote quarters of the earth, its market quotations and opinions among nations, its prices of grains, hides and lumber in Europe, its trade connections reaching through San Francisco

TO CHINA AND JAPAN, and its personal and social life, practically killed a man-made paper before the world, is sooting to contemplate. It is a truly wonderful commentary on the old adage, "where there is a will, there is a way."

Bring your family out West! If good health you would enjoy, come to the State of Illinois. To the State of Illinois.

The Principal Buildings Destroyed. Among the buildings known to be destroyed—the particulars of which hitherto our news columns must be read—

THE COURT HOUSE, a not very imposing, but solid structure, of Lockport limestone, which stands in the most central square in the city. It was built in 1855, but since that date it has had two wings added to it, for, like the city, it needed expansion. This did not much improve its appearance, but it was thought safe from the ravages of the fire. Facing the Court House stood the sumptuously fitted

SHERMAN HOUSE, one of the principal hotels of the city, built of Athens marble, and costing \$400,000.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH building, two blocks away, was another of the doomed edifices.

CROSBY'S OPERA HOUSE, a finely constructed and costly theatre, on Washington, between State and Dearborn, having a frontage of 140 feet and running back 175 feet. It was completed in 1865, at a cost of \$450,000.

M'VIGAN'S THEATRE, on Madison, between State and Dearborn, was not a very imposing edifice, but will hold a seat in the remembrance of those who have witnessed good plays well played within its walls.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, built of Athens marble, in the modern Italian style, at the corner of Washington and La Salle, is a beautiful building. In this is the Board of Trade Hall, sumptuously furnished, with its lightest and artistically finished. Its cost was a great sum, and it was among the most finished specimens of architecture in the West.

THE MONROE AND PORT OFFICE, on Monroe, corner of Dearborn, was also a fine building, built of Athens marble.

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, though not handsome, was a solid building, and the light of its usefulness will be a hindrance to the resumption of business.

THE CITY WATER WORKS, which are probably destroyed, stand at the land end of the Michigan Lake tunnel, which supplies the city with water. They are located upon a splendid piece of engineering, but also as an object of great interest. Permits to visit it are granted at the office of the Water Works, corner of Chicago and Fine streets, and the tunnel, which is one of the largest and most famous lectures and meeting halls in the country, which will easily seat 4,000 persons, stands on Madison street, between Clark and La Salle.

THE TUNNEL, which is a fine structure of permanent light house, and the dwelling of the people. The tunnel, which is 1100 feet in length, is 30 feet and of the lake shaft 64 feet; the whole length of the tunnel is 2 miles. The lake terminates at the tunnel, and the bottom surface of the tunnel is composed of timber securely bolted together, and is forty feet long, and pentagonal in form. Upon it are 2,000,000 feet of timber, 2,000,000 and 400,000 feet of oak, costing \$1,000,000.

Upon the top of this structure a permanent light house, and the dwelling of the people. The tunnel, which is 1100 feet in length, is 30 feet and of the lake shaft 64 feet; the whole length of the tunnel is 2 miles. The lake terminates at the tunnel, and the bottom surface of the tunnel is composed of timber securely bolted together, and is forty feet long, and pentagonal in form. Upon it are 2,000,000 feet of timber, 2,000,000 and 400,000 feet of oak, costing \$1,000,000.

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