

TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 15, 1874.

## EXTRA!

### A NIGHT OF FIRES!

#### Destructive Conflagration at the South End.

Full Details, up to 5.30 O'Clock, of the Progress of the Fire—The Entire Department Fighting the Flames—Prospects of Further Losses—

#### Details of the Severe Fire in the Bunker Hill District—Other Fires.

The fire alarms, last night, and up to nearly 5 o'clock, this morning, were sufficiently frequent and the light of the flames sufficiently bright to awaken fears of a general conflagration. The bitter cold weather and the high wind added alike to the apprehensions of the people and the difficulty and danger of dealing with the flames. While the losses are so large that they justify, to a considerable degree, the fears experienced, it is fortunate that the destruction was not more extensive, and it is almost miraculous that, under the circumstances, the property-holders escaped without greater loss. Below are the details of the fires, with reports of fires in other places:

#### THE SOUTH END FIRE.

#### The First Outbreak—Several Buildings on Plympton Street Burned—Two Alarms—Loss About \$150,000.

Just as the audiences were pouring forth from the theatres and other places of amusement, last evening, the fire bells set up their "wild alarm," and almost immediately the southern sky was lighted up with a daylight brilliancy. The call came from box 68 at 10.50, followed by a second alarm, four minutes later. The fire was discovered by Officer Adams of Station V., breaking out midway of the large five-story brick building, Nos. 71, 76 and 78 Plympton street, and immediately he sounded the alarm, which was followed, as above stated, almost immediately by a second alarm, summoning additional apparatus. The building in which the fire began was owned by Messrs. Galvin & Curry, and occupied by a number of firms engaged in various forms of wooden manufacture, among them being Young & Driscoll, moulders and planers; Parker & Co., cabinet makers; Charles Nowell, carpenter and builder; Burrell & Dennett, piano-forte manufacturers; Charles M. Field, machinist, and J. W. Greenleaf, carpenter. The building, with its machinery, was valued at some \$70,000, and will be, practically, a total loss. Messrs. Galvin & Curry are insured, but to what amount it was impossible to obtain information. The occupants of the building suffer in each case a total loss, on which there is, doubtless, a partial insurance. The fire made a most brilliant light, causing the newly-gilt dome of the State House to glow with splendor and illuminating nearly the whole city.

#### Spread of the Flames—A Dry-house and Stable Burned.

The dwelling-house and stable opposite, owned by Cyrus T. Clark, painter, were scorched considerably, but only slightly injured. The fire, however, soon communicated to the large planing-mill, dry-house and stable of Cressy & Noyes. This was a new brick building, situated on the opposite side of Plympton street, and contained a large quantity of lumber. The building, which was totally destroyed, cost \$43,000, a few months ago. The insurance on it could not be ascertained.

#### Estimate of the Losses—Management of the Fire.

Placing the loss at a reasonable amount, it is safe to say that the total is nearly if not quite \$150,000, on which there is probably \$75,000 insurance. The management of the fire was excellent, a large force of firemen, under Chief Green, working so systematically and well that at 1 o'clock the scene of the ruin was nearly deserted by the apparatus, while a large detail of police, under Deputy Quinn, preserved order and afforded the firemen room for their manoeuvres.

#### THE FLAMES BREAK OUT AFRESH.

#### Five O'Clock—The Alarm Again Sounded—The Condition of Affairs at the Present Hour.

When the main body of the force left the scene no one supposed that there was any farther danger. But as we write—5 A. M.—the fire bids fair to be parallel with the fire which destroyed the old Globe Theatre on the 20th of May, 1872.

#### The Fresh Alarms—The Whole Department Called Out—The Situation at 5 A. M.

The flame started afresh at about 4 o'clock, the first, second and third alarms following each other in rapid succession, and before 5 o'clock the entire Department was called out. The fire started on Plympton street, and has now worked its way to the junction of Wareham and Albany streets. The large planing mill of Morton & Chester on Wareham street is a total ruin, and the flames have leaped across the street and attacked McNutt's establishment with every prospect of success. There stands, immediately adjoining McNutt's building, the large piano-manufacture of Mr. Emerson, attached to which is a large lumber yard, and that, too, will probably succumb to the flames, over which the firemen now seem to have no control whatever. A block away, on Harrison avenue, is the large planing mill of Messrs. Clark & Leatherbee, and as the wind is blowing very strong and in that direction, it is very probable the fire will reach there, too. The air is filled with burning brands and dense smoke, making it very dangerous to go near the scene of the conflagration; and this fact, together with the intense, terribly cold wind and the heat of the flames, combines to make the firemen's work go for naught.

#### One of the Sad Effects—Hundreds of Workmen Thrown Out of Employment.

Hundreds of workmen, who were employed in the different places destroyed, are standing

round the corners of the buildings where the heat of the fire can reach them, and are telling over their losses with heavy hearts and downcast looks. Many poor fellows complained that their chests of tools, their whole stock-in-trade, were destroyed in Morton & Chester's place.

#### Anxious Watchers—The Homes of the Sufferers.

At the windows of the dwelling-houses near the scene of the fire can be seen the faces of anxious watchers, who have stood there all night, looking upon the flames as they now jump from block to block, and feeling that, on the morrow, there will stand no place for the father of the family to go to work, and this with a long winter staring them in the face.

#### LATER DETAILS.

#### Progress of the Flames—The Situation at 5.30 O'Clock—Track of the Fire.

The fire started up afresh about 3.45 o'clock, and, fanned by the strong wind, soon made fearful havoc among the mass of wooden buildings lying between Plympton and Wareham streets, completely gutting everything that lay in its track. It crossed Wareham street after destroying the building of Morton & Chester, and then feasted upon that of Mr. McNutt, and now, at 5.30 o'clock, it has reached Albany street, and is feeding itself on Emerson's five-story building, corner of Albany and Wareham streets, attached to which, as already stated, is a large lumber yard. It is very probable that, driven by the force of the wind, it will cross Albany street, and if it does it will be very sure to burn to the water's edge, as the buildings intervening are nearly all low wooden structures.

#### The Work of the Firemen.

The firemen are working hard, but, with the cold, and the chinders and lay state of the streets, and also with their being worked so hard all night, they are making but slow progress. The burnt district at this writing is bounded by Plympton, Wareham and Albany streets, and great fears are felt that it will extend across Albany street and attack the numerous wooden buildings lying between that street and the South Bay.

#### Some of the Losses, Insurances, Etc.

As already stated, the building numbered from 75 to 81 Plympton street was owned by Messrs. Galvin & Curry, and was valued at \$30,000, upon which they have an insurance of \$20,000. They also had an engine in the main building, which is badly damaged. Messrs. Burrell & Dennett's loss will probably not exceed \$2000, upon which, it is understood, they have an insurance. Messrs. Parker & Co. had a large amount of stock on hand, and their loss is estimated at about \$8000, upon which they have a partial insurance. Other losses in the building are as follows: Charles M. Field, machinist, second floor No. 75, loss \$3000, partially insured; G. & C. Nowell, builders, Nos. 76 and 77, loss \$2000, insurance unknown; Parker & Co., furniture manufacturers, third floor of No. 77, loss \$10,000, partially insured; Burrell & Dennett, piano and billiard table manufacturers, fourth floor of No. 77, loss \$3000 to \$5000; J. W. Greenleaf, builder, basement of Nos. 79 and 81, loss \$1200; George Moulton, stair-builder, first floor of No. 77, loss \$500; Driscoll & Young, planers and moulders, basement of No. 77, loss \$200; insured \$1700 in the National of Philadelphia.

## THE FIRES.

### FURTHER DETAILS OF LOSSES, INSURANCE, ETC.

Graphic Accounts of the Devastating Fires at the South End and in the Bunker Hill District, Reproduced from Yesterday's Extra Editions of The Globe, With Some Added Facts in Relation to Losses, Insurance, Incidents, Etc.

It is safe to say that, since the great fire of 1872, the hoarse clang of the fire-bells has not conveyed so much alarm to the inhabitants of this city as it did, early yesterday morning. The wind was blowing a gale, and everything combustible was so dry that fears were entertained of a general conflagration at both ends of the city; and the fact that water was not very plenty, and the firemen almost frozen into icicles, had a tendency to increase the dismay. Recognizing the fact that our readers would be anxious to know the progress of the flames, and the chances which existed of subduing them, we issued extras during the morning, giving the latest particulars, as collected by GLOBE reporters, at the scene of both conflagrations. The story was thus continued until the afternoon papers began to issue their first editions. It being the only morning paper which followed this course, the office of THE GLOBE was besieged during the early part of the forenoon by eager and anxious crowds waiting for the latest news which came from the press room. In order to furnish those subscribers who did not get the extra editions with a full description of the two fires, and a complete list of losses and insurance, the history of both is given below. It is a hard blow to many poor men who have been trying to support their families from their scanty earnings, and comes at a bad time of the year.

#### THE SOUTH END FIRES.

#### The Origin and Spread of the Flames.

The origin of the fire which worked such havoc among the industrious mechanics of the South End is known to the police to have been incendiary, and every effort is being made to bring the guilty parties to the punishment which they so richly merit. As was stated in the regular and extra editions of THE GLOBE, yesterday morning, Officer Adams first saw the flames breaking out from a back window in the second story of Galvin & Curry's building, on Plympton street. Two alarms were given, and the building in which the fire was discovered was entirely destroyed. The dwelling-house and stable opposite, owned by Cyrus T. Clark, painter, were scorched considerably, but only slightly injured. The fire, however, soon communicated to the large planing-mill, dry-house and stable of Cressy & Noyes. This was a new building, situated on the opposite side of Plympton street, and contained a large quantity of lumber. The fire was not suffered to do very extensive damage in this building, however, and at about midnight the situation was left to be mastered by two or three engines, Chief Green donning the flames under perfect control and in a fair way to speedily subside.

#### The Rekindling of the Fire.

The Department, except the portion which was employed in watching the ruins of the fire mentioned above, was engaged in fighting the flames in the Bunker Hill District at 3.45 on the dreadful morning, when box 68 again and again called for their services at the scene of the previous devastation. The foreman of Morton & Chesley's large carpenter shop, No. 71 Wareham street, shortly before 4 o'clock, discovered that fire had broken out in that building, perhaps from sparks which the wind had sent across from the Plympton street fire, five hours before. The fire when discovered had made such alarming headway that three alarms were immediately given, and the startled and almost frozen firemen quickly covered the distance from Hittinger's Wharf to Wareham street. Their united efforts, however, were not sufficient to prevent the flames from doing very extensive damage to Morton & Chesley's building, nor to prevent the total destruction of F. Badger & Co.'s building, Nos. 61 and 63, occupied by Morton & Chesley. The building was of thirty-five feet frontage and 170 feet depth. The first floor was used as a planing and moulding mill. The three upper stories were carpenter shops, and part of the upper loft was occupied by Chesley Brothers, carpenters, who have been at work for the new Boston and Providence Railroad depot.

Nos. 61 and 63 was a building of thirty-five feet frontage, and was owned by F. Badger & Co., stair-builders, who occupied the upper three stories, while the first floor was used by J. F. Marston, carpenter, who loses stock and tools. This building was totally destroyed, as was that numbered 65 and 67, owned by Mr. Jacobs of the firm of Smith & Jacobs, stair-builders, who occupied the first and second floors. J. J. Hill, carpenter, occupied the third floor, and the fourth floor was occupied by Henry Bartlett, builder. The next building, No. 75, owned and occupied by Nathaniel O. Hunt, carpenter and builder, was totally destroyed. The falling of the wall of Morton & Chesley's building gave the flames an opportunity to leap the street and fasten upon the large brick building owned and partially occupied by John J. McNutt. This building was five stories in height, and 140 feet long by sixty feet deep. Although the walls still stand, the building will be a total loss. The first, second and third stories were occupied by Pierce, Tuttle & Gilman, table manufacturers, who, of course, lose everything, as do Bosson & Borch, carpenters, who occupied the fourth and fifth stories. The Novelty Wood Works were in imminent danger of catching fire, but were preserved comparatively intact. A quantity of lumber, belonging to Thomas Chase, was stored in the rear of the Novelty Works, and was destroyed.

#### The Flames Cross Albany Street.

Between the buildings of Morton & Chesley and Emerson's piano-forte manufactory is piled a lot of lumber, which afforded the best means of transferring the fire to the latter building, and thence to Albany street. This building also offered the only direct means of keeping the flames across Albany street, to which they were being driven by the wind with irresistible fury. The Emerson building, therefore, became the great object of interest, and the firemen massed their efforts for its protection from the flames on the west side. While they were gallantly working here, a fire got under fair headway in the new Albany lumber wharf, on the other side of Albany street. This communication was effected by large firebrands being transferred by the wind, and, falling among the dry lumber, speedily kindled a fire, which swept through to the waters of the South Bay. This was the lumber yard of E. D. Reed & Co., who had also an extensive planing mill, containing valuable machinery. The latter were totally destroyed, while nearly all the lumber on the premises was either reduced to ashes or damaged beyond value.

#### At Daybreak—Harrowing Scenes around the Fire Limits.

Large crowds of people flocked to the scene of the conflagration, beginning at 4 o'clock, when the three alarms were sounded, and at daybreak, in spite of the biting cold, the neighborhood of Wareham street was crowded with a curious throng. The lines stretched by the police and guarded by officers from Stations V., II., IV., X. and others, kept the crowd from interfering with the firemen who were even then busily at work. The scene presented was one of sombre grandeur. From piles of brick sheathed with ice, which were lying about in every direction from the Novelty Works to Albany street, arose countless columns of smoke and tongues of flame. The firemen, coated also in ice, with whiskers and mustaches frosted in the most approved manner, were in the very heart of the fire, trying to deluge it with water or to remove from it everything which could for a moment afford sustenance to the insatiable monster.

#### During the Day.

The burnt district was visited by fresh multitudes of curiosity-seekers. The firemen still worked on, with picks, poles and hose, pulling over the material and applying water wherever fire could be seen. The water was first converted into hissing steam and then instantly congealed, falling in icy spray in the neighborhood and covering the ground and timber with a white coating that resembled

snow. Through the streets contiguous ran lines after line of hose, many of which were imbedded in ice, seemingly beyond removal without injury. Water-hoses had burst, there the ground was completely covered with ice for rods around, and the whole neighborhood wore a decidedly wintry aspect. At 4 o'clock, yesterday afternoon, all had left the scene, but four engines and one Hook and Ladder truck. Dense clouds of smoke and steam rendered sight for any more than a short distance impossible, except when the piercing blast now and then drove back the clouds of vapor for a moment and revealed new areas of debris. Steamer 3, whose stream was the first to touch the fire, was still working at 4 o'clock, the noble men looking more like Esquimaux than natives of a temperate latitude. When night settled down the flames again reddened the sky and forced their lurid glare into the notice of every one who had occasion to be on the street.

Most of the apparatus left the scene of the fire after nineteen hours of labor, the Lowry hydrants playing a number of streams during the night. The flames were very brilliant all through the night, but were confined beyond danger of doing any appreciable injury.

#### Losses and Insurance.

The losses and insurances by this series of conflagrations, as far as can be ascertained, are as follows. In many cases where no amount is given, there is doubtless insurance, of which reporters have been able to obtain no information:

Name	Loss	Insurance
Galvin & Curry	\$30,000	\$20,000
J. W. Greenleaf	1,200	
George Moulton	500	
Driscoll & Young	2,000	1,500
Charles M. Field	3,000	
G. & C. Nowell	2,000	
Parker & Co.	10,000	
Burrell & Dennett	2,000	
Morton & Chesley	25,000	
Washington Jacobs	25,000	
J. J. Hill	1,000	
Henry Bartlett	800	
Nathaniel O. Hunt	65,000	
John J. McNutt	65,000	10,000
Bosson & Borch	25,000	10,000
Pierce, Gilman & Tuttle	30,000	10,000
Morton & Chesley	60,000	30,000
Chesley Brothers	2,000	2,000
D. A. Reed	22,000	9,000
James F. Marston	4,000	1,400
Smith & Jacobs	20,000	6,000
Adolphus Sherron & Co.	14,000	5,000
W. F. Badger	15,000	5,000
O'Brien, Jordan & Morse	5,000	
Charles J. Meary	2,000	
Nathaniel O. Hart	10,000	12,000
Whitcomb & McDonald	1,700	
Jackson, Connor & Martin	1,500	
Morton & Chesley	60,000	1,500
F. Badger & Co.	60,000	
D. A. Reed & Co.	5,000	9,000
Gould & Morse	6,000	
M. Silva	4,500	
O. G. Thwing	175	
Cyrus T. Clark	8,000	
New England Organ Company	6,000	
Tricker	5,000	
George W. Brown	1,000	
Totals	\$394,175	\$141,200

#### Scenes and Incidents.

An extra force of police was detailed at the first and second fires at the South End, Deputy Chief Quinn commanding in person. Though their duties in the face of the fierce northwest were arduous, there was no apparent flinching from duty. The firemen, as has been stated before, were totally exhausted by the night and morning duty they had to encounter; and when the fact is considered that two immense fires were raging at opposite districts of the city at the same hour, that number and equipment were inadequate to the emergency.

During the fire, Chief of Police Savage took up his station at the City Hall and superintended the sending out of details of police from every station in the city, on the sounding of the general alarm at 4.45.

The families of John Costello and William Dennis, and one other family, who lived over Clark's stable, lost all their household goods by the fire. They are poor people, and feel the loss keenly.

B. L. Kinnell, a member of Hook and Ladder 4, while carrying a line of hose to a ladder on Wareham street, was struck on the head by a falling hose, and somewhat injured.

E. H. Whitehouse, carpenter, at 25 Wareham street, yesterday afternoon, invited Steamer 3's men to go to a neighboring restaurant and procure "whatever they wanted." Mr. Connelley Leach extended a like invitation to the firemen's date late in the day.

No life was lost during the progress of the fire, or after, as some may prefer to say, and no serious accident occurred. Mr. Hutchings, an assistant engine-man, had a finger broken, yesterday afternoon, while relieving a brother fireman at his engine.