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street from his evening meal on Saturday night, muttered to himself that it was "a bad night for a fire." A heavy westerly wind had sprung up at sunset, and was blowing at a lumbering gale like an old-fashioned stage coach, and the air had suddenly grown colder. But of all those who realized the risk none felt the danger to be more imminent than usual.

Just before daylight is the time when every sleeper is wrapped in the soundest slumber and just before daylight or shortly after five o'clock on Sunday morning box 51, at the Oliver House, turned in an alarm of fire. The Fire Department hastening in that direction, discovered that the flames were making havoc in the Coffee and Spice Works of WARNER & BIDWELL, at Nos. 66, 68 and 70, Ottawa street, corner of Lafayette. When the fire was discovered by officer VANDUSEN, it was located in the basement, but when the engines had reached the spot, the flames had reached the first story, and before the engines could be got to work, the fatal elevator openings had borne them rapidly into the top stories. What might not a series of iron hatchways have done in such a case to prevent the spread of the fire?

Notwithstanding the great accessibility of water, it was soon evident that the fire had already gained too great headway to allow of getting it under control, and that the spice mills were doomed.

A LEAP ACROSS THE STREET.

The Department had time fully to realize this, and were falling back stubbornly before the insolent flames, when first a single bright spot like a gas jet, and then another and another from the roof of the building across the street, warned them that the Ohio Stove Works were in serious if not imminent danger. Chief WÖHLER had taken what were regarded as all necessary precautions,—the flank of the stove works rose up in a brick wall that seemed to bid defiance to any ordinary heat that might reach it from across Lafayette. But as in the Boston fire, "the accursed Mansard" was the one weak spot in the defense which let in destruction upon the stove works, and necessarily upon the whole block. For under the same Mansard were the vacant store recently occupied by HUBBARD, PARSONS & Co., and the tobacco works of WITKER, HALSTEAD & Co., (formerly WITKER, NASH & Co.,) the block comprising four stores. So rapid was the spread of the flames that little could be done to save property, and, beyond a small quantity of tobacco, we believe nothing of especial value was removed.

THE JAWS OF DEATH.

In the third story of this north block, three firemen had been actively engaged in contesting, inch by inch, the onward progress of the flames. The time came when they could no longer remain and they made immediate preparations to depart. By means of the hose, which had been passed in through the third story window, two of the men reached the ground in safety. The last to leave (a pipeman of No. 1) stood manfully by the hose until his comrades had reached the ground, and as he was about to leave the building, the sash fell. He was seen to raise it again and to reach out of the window to grasp the hose, as he prepared for his descent. Why his grasp relaxed, will never be known, for the next instant he shot out from the window,—another, and all that

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THE YRANK BUILDINGS.

Adjoining the tobacco works was the Farmer's Hotel, a two story frame building occupied by Mrs. KILKENNY, and this though it served as a partial check to the flames, was totally destroyed. It is probable that \$2,200 will cover the loss of the building and another thousand the contents. It was partially insured. The "City Hotel," owned by PATRICK MURRAY, was but slightly damaged, probably to the extent of \$300 or \$400.

A NEW DANGER.

By this time the air was thick with sparks and blazing brands which were borne across toward the freight depot and buildings of the D. & M. railroad. Had the flames fairly fastened upon the long buildings and the numerous cars, and the vessels in the bayou, no one can tell where the catastrophe might have stopped. It was chiefly due to the coolness and presence of mind of one man that the great catastrophe was averted. Mr. JAMES B. MONROE, the General Agent of the D. & M. road, on being informed of the situation of affairs, arose, as it were, from a sick bed, and repairing to the spot, speedily organized such men as he could command, and with Babcock fire extinguishers and a few buckets succeeded in keeping the fire at bay. Repeatedly the flames burst out in different parts of the roof, and as repeatedly they were extinguished by Mr. MONROE and his assistants.

OTHER CASUALTIES.

The danger at different times during the conflagration, was very great, and it is strange that no more lives were lost. As it was, JOHN KEEL, of Engine No. 3, had an arm broken in two places and a leg badly bruised by a falling wall. BILLY BORDER, also of No. 3, was struck by the debris of a falling wall and narrowly escaped serious injury, while patrolman VAN HOESEN was also slightly injured in the same manner.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

When first discovered, the fire had broken out in the North side of the Spice Mill. How it originated, seems impossible to decide. A report was current that the fire was caused by the overheating of a mill used to grind coffee, but this we are informed had not been running the latter part of Saturday afternoon.

THE BRICK BLOCKS.

The brick blocks destroyed were owned by Mrs. H. O. HALL, and were built in 1867 and 1868, at a total cost of \$63,000. They were insured for \$35,000. The loss on the stocks and fixtures cannot be accurately estimated at present. That of WARREN & SIDWELL may be placed at \$75,000; of WITKER, HALBERT & Co., \$70,000; and the Ohio Stove Works of Tiffin, at \$8,000 to \$6,000. The latter company so far as could be ascertained, had no insurance. The losses of Insurance Companies are stated as follows:

KELLOGG'S PANORAMA.

Among the losses is included the panorama of the burning of Chicago, painted by HARRY J. KELLOGG of this city, and exhibited extensively throughout the country about a year ago. It was stored in the building of the Ohio Stove Works, and was totally destroyed. It was valued at \$2,500.

THE INSURANCE.

Mrs. H. O. Hall, buildings occupied by Warren & Sidwell, Nos. 66, spice mill; 68 & 70 warehouse for spice mill;