DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION IN SACRAMENTO!

TWO BLOCKS BURNED.
Loss $400,000!

CAUSE, &c., &c., &c.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

TO THE ALTA CALIFORNIA.

SACRAMENTO, July 12—11 P.M.

(From the Sacramento Union, Extra.)

On Thursday, at about 1 P.M., a fire broke out in this city, which in extent and destructiveness has only been surpassed by the terrible conflagration of Nov. 2, 1852. There were fortunately three favorable causes operating to check the spread of the flames, viz.: the little wind prevailing, fire-proof buildings and an abundance of water—the latter, unquestionably, was the means of saving the greater portion of the city.

The fire originated in a small frame building in the centre of the block bounded by 3d, I, 4th and K streets. It is said that the fire was caused by the upsetting of a spirit lamp, under a pot of glue, in the rear of Newcomb's furniture warehouse. Other rumors, of various kinds, are also in circulation, but we believe the above to be correct.

Owing to the combustible nature of the material, the fire immediately communicated to the kitchen of the Sacramento Hotel, which faces on K street. Although this building ignited in 15 minutes after the alarm was given, Sacramento No. 3 Engine and Mutual Hook and Ladder No. 1, were at work manfully on the centre of the block, and owing to their exertions the fire was prevented from crossing Third street.

Simultaneously with the breaking out of the fire in the rear of Sacramento Hotel, was the ignition of the frame building of Boyd & Davis, on the alley between Third and Fourth streets, and instantly thereafter the Crescent City Hotel caught fire, in the first story of which, the Hotel Company had stored a large quantity of goods, and a large stock of furniture. This building was entirely destroyed, the fire passing, in a few minutes, from one end to the other. It is supposed the damage will be about $20,000.

The citizens of Sacramento are all doing their utmost to extinguish the fire, and their exertions will doubtless be crowned with success.
City Hotel caught, and from this point the flames, fanned by the southerly breezes, rapidly swept up J and across to I street.

On K street were stationed Engines No. 1, 4 and 2, and Hook and Ladder Co. No. 2. To their almost superhuman efforts the fire was prevented from crossing K street.

There is not a single house burnt on the north side of K street or west of 3d street.

Fortunately there was a full supply of water for the use of the Department in the densely crowded streets, and to their manly exertions, coupled with those of our citizens, are we indebted for the safety of an immense amount of property which would otherwise have fallen a prey to the devastating element.

But four brick buildings have been destroyed, and those would have been saved had they been protected by iron shutters.

After the fire had crossed J street and forced its way to I street, the wind increased very materially, blowing from the S. W., which blew the flames up the latter street, sweeping everything before it up as far as the Court House, which, we sincerely regret to say, was totally consumed. Before this, however, the fire ran down 5th and 6th streets towards I, and burned the Congregational Church edifice, which so nobly withstood the ravages of the November fire. Every precaution was taken to save this building, and the cause of its ignition is a mystery, as the flames were first seen bursting from the interior of this edifice. It is supposed by many that some fiend had set it on fire in the confusion which prevailed, for the purpose of extending the ravages of the conflagration.

All the legal documents and the papers in the Court House were rescued and carried to secure places.

With the exception of the Congregational Church, none of the houses of religious worship were destroyed.

No. 4 Engine House, and two brick buildings on 3rd st., between J and K, was burned in the early part of the fire, also a brick building adjoining. They were not considered fire-proof.

We are happy to record no positive loss of life, although it is currently reported that a man at work on the roof of the Congregational Church was precipitated into the flames when the building fell in. Mr. Anderson, of the firm of Anderson, Hunter & Co., received a deep gash in the leg while at work. Mr. Johnson, of the firm of Hall & Johnson, was nearly precipitated by a sudden e
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Hull & Johnson, was nearly prostrated by a coup de soleil, but is recovering. W. B. Hunt, Assistant Foreman of No. 1, had his arm broken. Mr. McDowell, a member of the same company was badly burned. Mr. W. H. Allen, a volunteer member of the same Co., was also burned. A man was discovered setting fire to Garwood's building on J street, between Fifth and Sixth streets, but the villain managed to escape.

As an evidence of the indomitable energy of the Sacramentonians, we will state that at five o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. Craft had his lumber on the site of his dwelling destroyed on 5th street, between J and K, and was busy engaged in re-erecting it.

Although nearly all of the buildings burned by the tremendous conflagration were frame buildings of little value, yet many of them were stored with large and valuable stocks of goods, and consequently the losses are very heavy on I street. Very many handsome, valuable dwellings were consumed, which were an ornament to the city. On this street, between 5th and 6th streets, nearly all of the Chinamen were located, and not one of their tenements escaped. In fact, there are but two buildings standing on the north side of 1st street, between 3d and 4th. This entirely escaped the great fire of 1852. On the south side of 1st street, between 3d and 7th, there were but three or four frames spared.

The burnt district is comprised within the following limits, although in the space embraced in the following boundaries there are many fire-proof and frame buildings left standing: K street, north side, from above 3rd to 7th; I street from above 3rd to 7th, both sides; 4th and 5th, 6th and 7th, and K to I street, both sides; J street from 3rd to 7th.

The wood on some 12 blocks are mostly consumed, including all the small houses which stood on the alleys, and it is estimated that about 300 houses have been burned. Most of these houses were small, and many of them but little better than shells. The largest buildings were the Oriental Hotel, American House, old Court House, New England House, State House, Mr. Benton's Church, the Suwana House and Crescent City Hotel.

We hear of no heavy stock of goods destroyed. The large dealers are all in the fire-proof stores, not one of which are destroyed. The loss, including buildings and goods, is estimated to be between $300,000 and $400,000.

The W. G. Hunt arrived at 11 o'clock, P. M., bringing the San Francisco firemen to the rescue. Although too late to be of service, they met with a glorious reception from our firemen.
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tators present, all of whom were invited to partake of a
cold collation at a house near by, after the interesting ce-
temony was concluded.

The Steamer Southerner leaves Long Wharf to-
morrow, at 4 o'clock, for San Diego and intermediate
ports. The freight and passage rates by this steamer have
been greatly reduced, and her accommodations are ex-
cellent.

Furniture Sale.—Attention is directed to the sale
of household furniture, by Theodore Payne & Co, to take
place to-day at their salesroom at 11 o'clock.

We are indebted to Adams & Co's Express for the
erly delivery of Stockton and Marysville papers last night.

Kern River.—The Tejon Reservation.—We take
the following interesting letter from the San Joaquin Re-
publican:

Tejon Military Reserve.
Tulare County, July 1, 1854.

Dear Sir: Captain Howard and myself arrived here
on the 20th June. Our march from the Merced to this
place was rather slow, in consequence of being en-
cumbered by a party of would-be miners, of Stockton, on their
way to the new El Dorado, on Kern river.

We met several parties returning from the new dig-
ggins, and the universal answer to our several questions
was, "Oh, there is gold on Kern river, but not enough to
pay me." I afterwards ascertained, on arriving at the
river, that but a few of these persons had done anything;
being mostly men of the stamp that will not work under
any circumstances. Many of them never stuck a pick in
the ground, not even dismounting from their half-starved,
raw-boned old horses.

However, the reports as first circulated were highly co-
lored. There are about twenty-five men working on the
river at present, who intend working two and three cent
dirt, until the river fails, when they expect to find richer
deposits. Three cents to the pan is the most that has
been found as yet, and there is only one party working
dirt that rich—the others only two cent dirt. The river is
very high, and they expect to do better when the water
subsides sufficiently to enable them to reach the bed rock.
I think, however, that they will be disappointed in the
water falling low enough for their purposes, as Kern river
is known to remain high longer than any tributary of the
San Joaquin. Its south fork, which heads in Walker's
Pass, is fed by almost perpetual snows, and its north fork,
which has its head among the highest peaks of the Sierra
Nevada, is a roaring torrent the greater part of the year.
So, to take all things into consideration, those persons who
expect to find a fortune in a day, or dirt richer than three
cents to the pan, had better stay at home.

Matters go on handsomely at the Indian Reservation.
The harvest is all gathered, and the threshing machine is
doing its work of separation. It is indeed a most lovely
and interesting sight to observe parties of Indians in their
various occupations, working with the utmost cheerfulness
and alacrity; some driving four and six mule teams,
some feeding the threshing machine, and others attending
the large crops of corn, potatoes, and water-melons. The
wheat crop is the best I have ever seen this year. A
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