



Recent Fires.

Several of the fires recorded in the following catalogue, occurred two or three weeks since, but the insertion thereof in our columns has been deferred.

In Lewisville Ia, a fire occurred which destroyed an entire square of that thriving village, embracing thirteen dwellings shops and stores.

At Springfield Ill, the city hotel and out-buildings together with a row of 8 or 10 other buildings including the Mayor's were destroyed.

At Utica, a Foundry and stove factory together with a machine shop and card manufactory.

At Carlisle Pa, a hotel adjoining the county jail took fire, and both were consumed, together with three prisoners confined in the jail, who had not been remembered, or were not thought worth saving. They were probably poor debtors.

In Medford Mass., a new dwelling house nearly completed, and belonging to Mr. Geo. Adams.

At Bedford Me., the dwelling house of Mr. Richard Thomas, with furniture and provisions, and \$275 in money which Mr. T. had accumulated for the purpose of paying for his farm.

At a place called "the Vineyard," Md., the dwelling house of Mr. J. H. Hopkins.

In Cambridgeport Mass., a large house with a store of wooden ware and a large quantity of furniture, the property of Mr. N. B. Mountfort.

In Worcester Mass., two buildings in Washington square.

At New Haven a large store house on Long Wharf, owned by Mr. E. Hotchkiss.

At Stockport near Hudson N. Y., the large manufacturing establishment known as Marshall's Print-works, including several buildings, and estimated in value at \$200,000—no insurance.

At Lynden Corner Vt., a large building belonging to Mr. E. M. Chase;—loss about four thousand dollars.

At Cambridge Md., a large mill belonging to Wm. S. Jackson—loss \$3,000.

At Versailles Ia., a flouring mill worth four thousand dollars.

At Cincinnati a smoke house containing twenty five thousand barrels of beef;—loss \$250,000.

At Albany, two barns with six horses. A cow escaped by leaping through a window.

At Salem Mass., an engine house belonging to the Eastern Rail road Company.

In Boston, a store under Richie Hall took fire whilst a ball was in progress in the hall; there was a great "getting down stairs," of ladies and gents, minus overcoats and hoods.—Loss \$4,000.

At Woodbridge Ct., a barn with five cattle and two horses, the property of Col Lyman, Manville.

In Norfolk Va., a large row of buildings,—number not stated: loss \$80,000. Two lives lost by an explosion of camphine.

Near Wilmington N. C., the turpentine distillery of David Saunders Esq

In West Gardiner Me., the dwelling house of Mr. James Lord, and old gentleman, who perished in the flames.

At Mobile, a range of stores six in number, with their contents.

At Carrollton, O., the steamboat National,—burned to the waters edge.

At West Stockbridge, the factory of Butolph, Sprague & Co.

At Vergennes Vt., the woolen factory owned by Gen. S. P. Strong: also the new grist mill of M. C. W. Bradbury. Loss \$10,000.

In Philadelphia, the Third street Mansion House, in which were residing Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kean, Col. Perkins and bride of Boston, and ex-empress Iturbide:—supposed to be fired by design.

At Leyden Vt., the large store of E. B. Chase, with several other stores and offices.

THE WEATHER, &c.

The following table shows the temperature by thermometer, and that indicated by the magnetic wires, for several hours each day from Tuesday, Feb, 15th, to Tuesday, Feb 23d, inclusive, as reported for the Scientific American by Prof. E. Meriam.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th.																			
HOURS, A. M.							HOURS, P. M.												
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Therm.					25	25	26	26	26	28	28	28	28	29	29	30	30	32	32
Wires,		45	45	45	46	47	47	47	47	49	48	48	48	48	49	49	50	50	
WEDNESDAY, 17th.																			
Therm.	32	32	32	33	33	31	36	38	41	42	44	44	43	42	40	38	38	36	36
Wires,	48	48	48	49	49	50	51	52	54	54	54	54	52	51	50	49	49	48	48
THURSDAY, 18th.																			
Therm.	32	32	30	31	37	37	38	39	40	39	39	38	36	36	35	34	34	34	34
Wires,	47	47	47	48	51	52	52	52	51	51	50	49	49	49	49	48	48	48	48
FRIDAY, 19th.																			
Therm.		31	31	32	31	32	33	31	34	34	33	34	34	33	33	34	33	34	34
Wires,		57	48	48	48	49	50	50	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	50	48	48
SATURDAY, 20th.																			
Therm.		34	34	34	34	35	37	40	41	41	41	41	40	39	38	36	34	34	34
Wires,		49	48	49	49	51	52	53	51	53	52	52	51	50	49	49	48	48	48
SUNDAY, 21st.																			
Therm.			32	29	28	29	29	29	29	30	29	28	27	27	27	28	27	27	27
Wires,			47	47	46	47	47	47	47	48	47	46	46	46	46	46	48	48	47
MONDAY, 22d.																			
Therm.			25	25	26	27	28	27	28	28	28	27	27	27	27	26	26	26	26
Wires,			46	45	46	47	48	48	47	48	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	48
TUESDAY, 23d.																			
Therm.		20	20	20	22	22	23	21	25	26	26	25	23	22	19	19	19	19	19
Wires,		44	45	45	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	45	45	43	43	43	43

Mr. Meriam remarks concerning the peculiar indications on Saturday and Sunday, the 20th and 21st: "A distant disturbance is indicated by the state of the wires and thermometer for the last 48 hours, and one of a two-fold operation."

Comets.

Arago, says, speaking of comets: "Let us suppose a comet, of which we only know that at its perihelium, it is nearer the sun than we are, and that its diameter is one fourth of that of the earth, the calculation of probabilities shows that of 281,000,000 of chances, there is only one unfavorable, there exists but one which can produce a collision between the two bodies. As for the *nebulosity*, in its most general dimensions, the unfavorable chances will be from ten to twenty in the same number of two hundred and eighty one millions.—Admitting then, for a moment, that the comets which may strike the earth with their *nuclei*, would annihilate the whole human race, then the danger of death to each individual, resulting from the appearance of an *unknown* comet, would be exactly equal to the risk he would run if in an urn there was only one single white ball, of a total number of 281,000,000 balls, and that his condemnation of death would be the inevitable consequences of the white ball being produced at the first drawing."

Chinese Artesian Wells.

The Chinese apparatus for boring Wells is thus described. It consists of a heavy bar of cast iron six to ten feet long, and from four to six inches in diameter; the lower end furnished with a boring tool combined with a motion pipe, and which is suspended by a rope passing over a large pulley fixed over the bore holes. This weight is wound round a windlass, and the whole is so contrived that the weight may fall from any required height. The tension given to the rope produces a circular motion sufficient to change the place of the cutting tool at each descent.

How to borrow a Shilling.

"Can you give two sixpences for a shilling?" asked a little boy of a grocer's clerk.—"Certainly," said the clerk, handing out two sixpenny pieces. "Well," said the boy picking up the sixpences and turning to go out, "mother says she will send you the shilling to-morrow,"—and was off.

A Merry Subject.

There were no less than seven thousand persons present at a recent ball given in Baltimore for the benefit of the suffering poor of Ireland. It is well, if people will be merry, to remember the afflicted in their mirth.

Increase of Trade in Europe.

A Denmark paper reports that the number of vessels that passed the Sound last year was 18,765, being much greater than in any preceding year. The increase over the number of 1845, was 2,815.

Of one hundred thousand barrels of flour which had been ordered for France, from the United States, nearly the whole had arrived at Havre, prior to the last dates.

The Alms House Department of this city supports about 10,000 dependents. The supplies during the last month averaged \$1000 per day.

Providential Escapes.

The Honorable Daniel Webster has, in three different instances, escaped danger, and perhaps death, by the merest accident. In his recent exordium in the Lexington case, before the Supreme Court of the United States, he spoke feelingly and impressively in reference to these providential interpositions. A correspondent of the Boston Journal thus refers to it:—Mr. Webster said it was his intention to take passage on the Lexington the trip she was burnt, but some trifling circumstance which arose as he was about to start, prevented. He then paused for a few moments, and remarked—that he was at Albany on a certain occasion, and but a very short time before the boats were ready to leave, he concluded he would go to New York; he started hastily, and when near the wharf, inquired of a friend which boat he had better take, there being two before him—the Swallow and the Rochester—upon which he advised him to take the latter, which he did; the "Swallow" left the landing first, and was soon out of sight, and he thought no more of her; till his attention was called towards her by some noise and excitement, when he saw her light go down, and heard the dying shrieks of her ill-fated passengers. Mr. W. paused again—and then referred to his intention of taking passage on the "Steamer Atlantic," the trip she was lost, but in consequence of the inclemency of the weather, he deferred his departure till the next day."

Indian corn is now selling at Terre-Haute, Indiana, on the Wabash river and canal, for twenty cents per bushel—worth in Ireland over \$2 per bushel.

A great water fall of 60 feet descent, has been discovered in the St. Louis river, west of Lake Superior.

Lumbermen in Maine are doing a fine business,—having about two feet of heavy snow in the woods.

The wild pigeons, says the Cincinnati Gazette, are going south in flocks like the clouds in a wind storm.

There were 13,502,248 pounds of green and black teas exported from China to the United States during the year ending July 1st, 1846.

In Warren county, Pa., an election was held, and every township except one voted for "no license" by large majorities.

A firm in London has concluded a negotiation for a loan to the United States, of £4,000,000 sterling.

The bill to abolish capital punishment in Wisconsin, was defeated on the final vote in the Council, by only one majority.

Twenty-five head of cattle, belonging to a drover, were drowned, lately, while attempting to cross Cayuga Lake on the ice.

At Deerfield, near Utica, on the 25th ult, the thermometer indicated 25 degrees below zero.

RAILROAD INTELLIGENCE.

Western Railroad.

The extensive increase of business on this road has induced the company to put measures in progress for increasing the capital to \$10,000,000, and lay a second track on the road. This company has labored under serious disadvantages on account of the monopoly between Boston and Worcester, but this road has been exceedingly productive nevertheless. It would not be surprising if a majority of the stock of the Boston and Worcester should ere long be in the hands of the stockholders of the Western: such an event would materially enhance the value of the Western stock.

Newburg Branch.

This branch of the Erie Railroad is progressing in good style. We learn that the work on the whole line is in a state of forwardness, and with the exception of a mile or two at this end of the route, will be graded by the middle of next summer.

Central Railroad.

All the stock of this important road, has been subscribed for, and several hundred shares over. This road which is to connect Pittsburg with Philadelphia, is an enterprise of much importance to the public in general as well as to Philadelphia in particular. The citizens of Pittsburg have imbibed some degree of prejudice against this route, on account of the opposition manifested by the Philadelphians against the Pittsburg and Baltimore route: but as this circumstance has had the effect to secure both charter and subscriptions to the Central road, the Pittsburgians will be ready to share its benefits.

Norwich and New London.

According to present appearances the Norwich and Worcester Railroads will be extended to New London without long delay. The New Londoners are wide awake to the enterprise, as well they may be. It would be the first great and good thing ever accomplished for that city, and many of the citizens, even of Connecticut, would soon learn that New London is within the limits of the State. It is proposed to take up all of that road now extending from Norwich to Allyn's Point, and lay the whole of it on the western side of the river Thames, commencing from Norwich and running to New London. One hour's time will be gained by the operation by passengers to and from Boston or New York. The cost of the improvement is estimated at \$300,000.

Pittsburg and St. Louis.

Ohio, Indiana and Illinois are moving in favor of a railroad from St. Louis to the Ohio river. The Ohio Legislature offer the right of way free of charge. The City Councils of St. Louis have memorialized the Legislature of Missouri, for permission to subscribe half a million of dollars to the stock of a railroad to run from that city eastwardly to join such other railroads as may be distributed through the States of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Hudson River Railroad.

It is with much gratification that we announce that by the promptness and enterprise of the citizens of New York and the principal river towns, the entire required capital for this road was promptly subscribed in season; and that the public may now anticipate with confidence the early completion of a thoroughfare by which a citizen of New York may take his seat at 7 A. M., visit Albany, spend two hours in business or calling on friends, and return to the city in season for tea, not to say dinner.

Newburyport and Lowell.

The *silver greys* are waking up to the importance of a railroad communication between Newburyport (Mass.) and Lowell direct, via Georgetown, Bradford and Andover. The estimated cost of the road to Bradford (opposite Haverhill) is \$200,000, of which a large portion is already subscribed. At Bradford the road will intersect with the Boston & Maine railroad which passes through north Andover; whence a branch may be constructed to Lowell via the new city of Lawrence.

In Boston during the month of February, the fire companies were called out twenty three times.

Elihu Burritt computes that the English have expended enough in fighting the French, to have purchased the whole of France, at \$70 per acre.