

A Fire Among the Printing Offices of New York.

The 31st of January was a disastrous day for the occupants of the old *World* building in New York, which many of our readers will remember fronts on Park Row and runs along Beekman to Nassau street. The *World* establishment having removed only a short time before, a few doors to the southward on Park Row, escaped injury. The most prominent concerns burned out were Willy Wallach, stationer, on the first floor; S. M. Pettingill & Co., advertising agents on the second floor, and the offices of the *Scientific American*, and the New York *Observer* still farther up. Messrs. Munn & Co., of the *Scientific American* and the New York *Observer* suffer an indirect loss of uncalculable value in books, manuscripts, mailing lists, etc. In addition to those the *Press* newspaper had an office on the first floor of Nassau street. On the second floor were Nathan Tibbals & Son, booksellers, Anna S. Clark, dealer in school-books, and Joseph Y. Johnston, stationer. On the fourth floor were Bruce, Busby & Bruce, publishers *Turf, Field and Farm*; A. M. Stewart, publisher *Scottish-American Journal*; the *Manufacturer and Builder*; Retailer Publishing Company; B. F. Brady, engrosser; Thompson's *Bank Note Reporter*; the *Tabographer* office, and the office of the *Printing World* and *Paper Stock Journal*. The fifth and top floor contained the composing-rooms of the *Observer* on the Park Row side, and the composing-rooms of Payne Brothers on the Nassau street side. The *Times* building adjoining was slightly damaged. Nos. 1 and 3 Beekman street, occupied by the *Evening Mail*, was also damaged. In the basement of the Morse building, were Slot & Jones, stationers, and adjoining was the office of *Truth*, both suffering slightly. Among those who are known to have lost their lives are Jos. Cunningham, foreman of the mechanical department of the *Observer*; Richard S. Davy, an Englishman, a printer, employed at the office of the *Scottish-American Journal*; Alfred W. Harris, assistant foreman of the *Observer*, and R. T. Treadway, of Brooklyn, a compositor on the *Observer*. Among the injured were Charles White of San Francisco, proprietor of the Pacific Newspaper Publishing Company; Walter Norris, employed by J. W. Johnston, law stationer and publisher; Edward Moore, foreman, George Milne and Robert Bowie, compositors on the

Scottish-American Journal; John Johnson, Lithographer; Charles F. Harris, compositor in the *Observer* office; Leslie Coombs Bruce and his father, Colonel Sanders Bruce, editor of the *Turf, Field and Farm*. Among the missing are Mary Smith, compositor, employed on the fourth floor; John Payne, compositor; an office boy in the employ of J. W. Dennison, publisher; Henry P. Johnson, compositor, and a Mr. Hayman, agent of the St Louis Publishing Company; Rev. E. D. G. Prime and Dr. Stoddart, editors of the *Observer*, saved themselves by climbing out of the windows and clambering along the signs till they reached a window in the *Times* office. O. B. Potter, owner of the building, was insured for \$150,000; N. Tibbals & Sons, about \$50,000; S. M. Pettengill, \$2,500; *Scientific American*, \$15,000; *Turf, Field and Farm*, \$7,000, and the *Observer*, \$3,000.

The English Newspaper Libel Act.

The following is a brief summary of the new English Newspaper Libel Act:

Any report of the proceedings of a public meeting shall be privileged if such meeting was lawfully convened for a right and lawful purpose and open to the public, and if such report was fair and accurate, and without malice, and if the matter complained of was for the public benefit. No criminal prosecution shall be commenced without the fiat of the Director of Public Prosecutions in England or of the Attorney-General for Ireland in Ireland. A court of summary jurisdiction is to hear any evidence as to the publication being for the public benefit, or any evidence such as might be adduced on the trial; and the court, if of opinion that there is a strong or probable presumption that the jury would acquit the person charged, may dismiss the case. The court of summary jurisdiction, should it deem the libel trivial, may deal with the case summarily by fine not exceeding £50. The Board of Trade may allow the registration of one or more responsible representative proprietors instead of all proprietors.

A fashion correspondent says that during the coming season ladies will wear nothing but longitudinally striped hose. I wish you would find out if this is really so, or whether it is only a campaign slander. It means a good deal to we girls.—*Gail Hamilton*.