

of gothic architecture, the masterpiece of Sir Gilbert Scott and the pride of every Newfoundlander, was a seething mass of flame. With a crash, heard, even above the din of the elements the roof fell in, and the result of the labors and offerings of generous thousands for many years vanished in a cloud of smoke and dust. Having worked its will upon the Cathedral, the fire now rushed to the group of buildings congregated together at the foot of Church hill, and soon St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the Athenæum and the Court-house were throwing masses of fire into the sky, though the Union Bank bravely withstood the assaults of the enemy. . The Presbyterian Church was valued at \$30,000 ; the Athenæum, which contained a most beautiful hall, a library of 5,000 volumes, the Surveyor General's, Government Engineer, Superintendant of Fisheries' Departments and the Savings' Bank, at \$59,000 ; and the Court-house at \$80,000. The Commercial Bank, not far distant, succumbed a few minutes later, and the Telegraph offices had been consumed long before, the operators having to fly from their keys, Communication was thus cut off with the outside world. Consternation now seized the populace ; they saw with terror that the stone edifices were no more able to resist the attacks of the fire than the flimsiest wooden structures, and those whose houses were endangered fled, panic-stricken and breathless, beyond the reach of the conflagration, with that which was most valuable of their possessions. The western section of the fire eat its way swiftly and surely down to Water-street, throwing out, as it swept along, offshoots which seized upon and consumed the Star of the Sea and Total Abstinence Halls, Tasker Terrace and numerous other substantial buildings within that area. The height of all the above-named important buildings placed them in the direct power of the gale, and burning masses of fire were blown incredible distances, to drop in unexpected places, and render frantic the already bewildered people. Thus many places on Duckworth and Water streets were ablaze before the intervening sections caught, and Saint George's Barracks, on Signal-hill, about two miles from the outbreak, was burnt before the Court-house. All along Water, Duckworth and Gower-streets the residents were deluging the roofs of their houses with water, in the delusive hope of staying the flames, while