

“ONE DANCE MORE, AND DEFIANCE TO  
THE FLAME.”

THE following extract is taken from an old book written nearly forty years ago, and serves as an awful comment on the words of scripture. “There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom. iii. 18).

The incident “is said to have occurred while the French army occupied the city of Moscow.”

“A party of officers and soldiers determined to have a military levee, and for this purpose chose the deserted palace of a Russian nobleman, in the vault of which a large quantity of powder had been deposited. That night the city was set on fire. As the sun went down they began to assemble. The females who followed the fortunes of the French forces, were decorated for the occasion. The gayest and noblest of the army were there, and merriment reigned over the crowd. During the dance the fire rapidly approached them; they saw it coming, but felt no fear. At length the building next to the one they occupied was on fire. Coming to the windows, they gazed upon the billows of fire which swept upon their fortress, and then returned to their amusement. Again and again they left their pleasure to watch the progress of the flames. At length the dance ceased, and the necessity of leaving the scene of merriment became apparent to all. They were enveloped in a flood of fire, which they gazed on with deep and awful solemnity. At length the fire communicating to their own building, caused them to prepare

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