

there were seven hundred and eighty guests staying in the hotel ; it is a huge place. As we were only staying two nights we were amused seeing the crowds of extraordinary people coming and going. In 1831 Chicago was a village of twelve houses, without post route or a post office ; in 1841 it was an incorporated city with a population of about 6,000. In 1870 the population was 306,000. The following year the great fire destroyed 17,500 buildings ; the burnt district covered three and a half square miles. Notwithstanding this terrible set-back, Chicago is now a magnificent city and active business mart, covering, with the recently annexed district, 175 square miles, with a population of 1,100,000 ; the total area of her parks is more than 2,000 acres.