

GREAT FIRE IN HAMILTON.

FOUR MEN KILLED—LOSS FROM \$300,000 TO \$1,000,000.

The two full-page illustrations will give a very good idea of the great conflagration which took place in Hamilton, on the 1st instant. At about 5.30 p. m., on the day mentioned, a large volume of flames was seen bursting through the roof of "McInnes' Block," which was situated on the corner of John and King streets, and was, undoubtedly, the finest block in the city. Many of your readers, who are in any way acquainted with Hamilton, will remember the handsome structure, for it has long been the most prominent specimen of ornamental architecture in the city. The main portion of the building was erected for Messrs. D. McInnes & Co., by an American architect, in 1856, at an enormous cost, and an extension of the King street front was made in 1866. The fronts consisted of what is known as Ohio freestone, and the walls were of brick. A portion of the King street front was occupied by the Bank of Hamilton, and another portion on the same street by the Hamilton Provident and Loan Society. Immediately above the bank were the extensive premises of Furner, Livingston & Co., who are engaged in the fancy dry goods trade. The whole of the remainder of the building was occupied by the widely known firm of D. McInnes & Co., wholesale dry goods merchants. Mr. D. McInnes is largely interested in the Cornwall Cotton Factory, is President of the Bank of Hamilton, and has long been one of the most prominent merchants in Western Canada.

The fire appears to have originated in the packing-room of Furner, Livingston & Co., and spread with alarming rapidity. Mr. McInnes himself was the first to notice the fire, and immediately gave orders to have all the iron doors closed which led from one building to the other. Some of these doors must have been left open, however, for in a very few minutes dense clouds of smoke rolled out of all the windows on the fourth flat. There were two elevators in the premises which undoubtedly greatly accelerated the draft. As the alarm rang out, the fire brigade was quickly on the spot, but some minutes elapsed before the hose was properly attached to the hydrants. Hamiltonians have boasted of their magnificent system of water works—which were constructed at an enormous cost—but the citizens were, in this instance, doomed to a horrible disappointment, for no sooner was the water turned on than it was discovered that the stream could not be forced into the second story windows. Meantime the devouring element was spreading throughout the whole building, and came bursting out of the windows in all directions.

A STRONG WIND

was blowing at the time and great showers of burning embers went floating out upon the air and were continually falling upon neighbouring roofs. Fortunately the fire occurred before the merchants had left their stores for the night, and they were, therefore, on hand with buckets and rubber hose, and thus saved their premises. It is reported that there were some eight or ten buildings ignited at one time, but all were put out without much damage being done to any except the

COLOURED CHURCH

which is two blocks off, and which was unfortunately burned to the ground. The extensive premises of

MESSRS. SANFORD, VAIL & BICKLY,

on the adjoining corner of King and John streets, were soon in flames, and the fire brigade was powerless through the lack of water pressure. Thousands of people had assembled about the burning buildings and, for a time, the excitement was terrible. Many were convinced that Hamilton was doomed to share the fate which befell Chicago.

Towards night, however, the wind went down and the danger of further destruction was over.

THE LOSSES

of Messrs. D. McInnes & Co. on stock are estimated at \$400,000; on building about \$185,000. Insured on stock, \$159,000; on building, \$86,000.

Messrs. Sanford, Vail & Bickly, manufacturers of ready-made clothing, are insured for \$293,500. Nearly all the best Insurance Companies are interested. The Bank of Hamilton loses comparatively nothing, and the same may be said of the Hamilton Provident and Loan Society, for the vaults protected their contents from the fire. The Merchants' Bank, which occupied the corner of Sanford, Vail & Bickly Block, succeeded in removing everything. Furner, Livingston & Co. were insured for \$35,000. Messrs. Dixon Bros., dealers in fruit and fireworks, were insured for \$1,000.

THE MOST APPALLING

part of the terrible calamity took place about 8 a. m., on Saturday 2nd, when three worthy and industrious citizens were killed. They were employees of the Gas Company and were sent to the ruins for the purpose of going into the cellar to cut off the gas supply. While they were at work at the metre the whole of the John street wall of the McInnes block fell inwards and buried the poor fellows beneath hundreds of tons of stone and brick. Their names were James J. Ivory, John Nibbs, and Robert Seymour; all leave widows and the latter man

leaves seven children. Owing to the dangerous state of the remaining walls Mayor O'Reilly could not give orders for, or sanction any efforts to be made by hundreds of willing hands, for the recovery of the bodies until the walls were all torn down—a work of infinite difficulty. The Captain of the Field Battery offered to level them with his 9-pounder guns, but owing to apprehended danger the offer was not accepted. The work of demolition was then placed in the hands of some of the leading builders, and a staff of workmen under the direction of Mr. Wm. Hancock, immediately went to work. At an early hour on Sunday morning, while endeavouring to put a derrick in position, Mr. James Hancock, brother of the contractor, was accidentally

PITCHED HEAD FOREMOST

into a pile of stones and died soon after. The work of demolition continued till Tuesday morning and the most dangerous walls were levelled to the ground. A number of men, directed by Mr. Littlehales, removed tons of the debris, and about noon on Tuesday, the 5th inst., the bodies of the three unfortunate men were recovered. They were found close together and had evidently run for safety into the archway under the sidewalk, but as the immense weight broke this through they must have met an instantaneous death.

AN INQUEST

was held upon the body of Mr. Hancock and a verdict of accidental death returned. An inquest was also held upon the three bodies and after certain progress had been made, was adjourned until Wednesday.

THE FUNERAL

of the four victims took place on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 5th inst., and was largely attended. Altogether, this great fire is considered to be the greatest calamity that ever visited Hamilton. The wholesale trade will receive a heavy blow through the loss of the McInnes business, and it is not yet known whether the place will be rebuilt or not.

Rumours are afloat as to the cause of the fire, but as a searching investigation is likely to take place at an early day, it is idle to speculate on any of them. Messrs. Sanford, Vail & Bickly, who directly and indirectly give employment to upwards of a thousand hands, will proceed at once to rebuild and their business is now proceeding as well as could be expected.

The Bank of Hamilton, under the able management of Mr. H. C. Hammond, was ready for business at 10 o'clock next day in the Bank of Montreal premises. The Merchants' Bank immediately proceeded to the old premises of the late Consolidated Bank, and the Hamilton Provident and Loan Society found premises in Mr. A. Harvey's block on James street south.

The excitement amongst the citizens has, for a week back, been most intense. Hundreds of incidents of local interest were occurring from hour to hour, and crowds of people continually surrounded the ruins.

The fire brigade, under Chief Atchison, has worked nobly throughout the whole time.

At the time of writing, the walls have nearly all been levelled to the ground, and the place where McInnes' magnificent block stood is now but a vast heap of smouldering ruins. The sketches are by Messrs. J. G. Mackay and F. Bell Smith, of this city, and show the large building enwrapped in flames, and also the ruins before all the walls had been torn down.

Hamilton.

W. F. McM.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

THE HONOUR DUE TO LA SALLE, NOT TO JOLIET AND MARQUETTE.

The discovery of the Mississippi is an interesting question to Canadians—first, because the several rival claimants to the honour made Quebec their point of departure, and, secondly, because Joliet, one of the claimants, was long a resident, if not a native, of Canada.

The latest light thrown upon the problem of the discovery of the Father of Waters comes from M. Pierre Margry, the eminent French geographer, who has for many years devoted his attention to the antiquities of America. He is the author of half a dozen volumes regarding the French in North America, and within the last few years has put forth, under the auspices of the U. S. Government, three octaves of memoirs and documents relating to events in New France prior to 1754. These volumes are printed from original manuscripts, and Mr. Margry has material gathered for three more. Does the library at Ottawa possess these works? Are they to be had at Quebec?

The latest of all Mr. Margry's contributions to our early history is a letter addressed from Paris to the Secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society, in which he claims the discovery of the Mississippi for the great Cavalier De La Salle. He holds that the latter accomplished the feat by way of the lakes—by Chicago and the Illinois river, as far south as the 36th parallel, and all this before 1673, the date of Marquette's discovery. M. Margry bases his statement on the following grounds, to which I beg

to call the attention of our antiquarians and other literary men:

I. On La Salle's own narrative to the Abbé Renaudot.

This narrative describes an expedition in which La Salle was engaged southwest of Lake Ontario, for a distance of four hundred leagues, and down a river that must have been the Ohio. This was in 1669.

The narrative proceeds: Some time thereafter he made a second expedition on the same river which he quitted below Lake Erie—made a portage of six or seven leagues to embark on that lake, traversed it toward the north, ascended the river out of which it flows, passed the Lake of Dirty Water (St. Claire), entered the Freshwater Sea (Mer Douce), doubled the point of land that cuts this sea in two (Lakes Huron and Michigan), and descending from north to south, leaving on the west the Bay of the Puans (Green Bay), discovered a bay infinitely larger—at the bottom of which, toward the west, he found a very beautiful harbour (Chicago). Is there any earlier mention or description of that site? And at the bottom of this river, which runs from the east to the west, he followed this river, and having arrived at about the 230th (sic) degree of longitude and the 39th of latitude, he came to another river, which, uniting with the first, flowed from the northwest to the southeast. This he followed as far as the 36th degree of latitude, where he found it advisable to stop, contenting himself with the almost certain hope of some day passing by way of this river even to the Gulf of Mexico. Having but a handful of followers, he dared not risk a further expedition, in the course of which he was likely to meet with obstacles too great for his strength.

II. On a letter of La Salle's niece. This letter, dated 1756, says the writer possessed maps which in 1675 were possessed by La Salle, and which proved that he had already made two voyages of discovery. Among the places set down on these maps, the river Colbert, the place where La Salle had landed near the Mississippi, and the spot where he planted a cross and took possession of the country in the name of the king, are mentioned. The Mississippi and the River Colbert are one and the same.

III. On a letter of the Count de Frontenac. In this letter, which was written in 1677 to the French premier, Colbert, Frontenac says that "the Jesuits having learned that M. De La Salle thought of asking (from the French crown) a grant of the Illinois lake (Lake Michigan), had resolved to seek this grant themselves for Messieurs Joliet and Lebert, men wholly in their interest, and the first of whom they have so highly extolled beforehand, although he did not voyage until after the Sieur De La Salle, who himself will testify to you that the relation of the Sieur Joliet is in many things false."

IV. In fine, M. Margry founds his opinion on the total antagonism between the Jesuits and the merchants, as well as all those who represented interest, or only a legitimate ambition. In opposition to the Jesuits, Cavalier De La Salle always associated with the Sulpicians or Recollets whom Colbert had raised up against the Jesuits, in order to lessen their influence.

JOHN LESPERANCE.

AN OLD CANADIAN LANDMARK GONE.

The following very interesting memoir which we clip from the *Scottish American Journal* deserves to be kept in our columns on account of its local history. The venerable General Donald McLeod died at Cleveland, Ohio, on July 25th, at the extraordinary age of 100 years 6 months and 32 days.

He was born at Aberdeen, Scotland, on January 1st, 1779. He received his early education in his native city, was a graduate of the Aberdeen University, and was primarily intended for the ministry of the church. In 1803, however, he entered the British navy, and after serving for five years he transferred himself to the army. It was his fate to see much active service. He was present with Sir John Moore at the battle of Corunna, 1809, and assisted at the funeral of that illustrious general; and passing over a number of intermediate actions engaged in the battle of Waterloo, at which he received two wounds. After that engagement he retired from the army and returned home. In 1812 he was ordered to Canada, and was present at the battle of Queenstown, on October 13th. At the battle of Chrysler's Farm, November 11th, 1813, he was wounded; and again at the battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25th, 1814.

Having thus acquired some familiarity with the country he resolved to emigrate to Canada after his retirement from the army. In 1816 he was engaged by the Government in the survey of the townships of Bathurst and Drummond. He subsequently purchased a farm at Augusta, near Prescott, and not succeeding as a farmer he removed to Prescott, and opened a classical school, in which a number of eminent men received their rudimentary education. Shortly afterwards he purchased a printing establishment, and commenced the publication of a paper at Prescott called the *Grenville Gazette*, taking a decided stand against the "Tory Compact" Administration. He continued a zealous advocate of reform until the rebellion broke out in 1837. In that disturbance he took an active part, was created Major-

General of the insurgents, and was ultimately compelled to flee the country. Large rewards were offered for his arrest on each side of the line—on the Canadian side for rebellion against the Government, and on the United States side for an alleged violation of the neutrality laws in being the supposed leader of the party of men who captured and burned the Canadian steamer *Sir Robert Peel* at Well's Island. After eluding his pursuers for some time he at length surrendered himself at Detroit to one of General Scott's marshals, and was then tried and honourably acquitted. In the meantime his family had removed to Cleveland in quite destitute circumstances, their entire property having been taken from them before leaving Canada.

A pardon was afterwards extended to him by Queen Victoria, and he was not only permitted to, but several times did, visit Canada. The last of these visits was paid in the spring of 1864, since which time he has resided quietly in the midst of his friends at Cleveland. By these the comfort of himself and his wife were assiduously promoted; and to these, with the numerous visitors who often called to see him, the General would narrate very graphically many of the incidents and scenes connected with his stormy career in Canada. His memory retained a surprising tenacity up to within a few months of his death.

AWARD FOR SANITARY INVENTION.

Mr. Thomas Griffiths, F.C.S., of the Silicate Paint Co., London and Liverpool, has carried off the Gold Richardson Medal of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain for the best sanitary invention by his "Patent Zinc White," a substitute for carbonate of lead.

The Duke of Northumberland, President of the Institute, in presenting the medal to Mr. Griffiths at the meeting held at the London Royal Institution, stated "that he had great pleasure in so doing, as it was the most beneficial discovery ever made for preventing the dreadful suffering caused by the use of lead paints."

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

M. VIEUXTEMPS is in failing health, and has consequently resigned his Professorship in the Berlin Conservatory of Music.

DURING the coming season of the Vienna Opera it is proposed to produce, in a consecutive series, all the operas of Mozart, to be presented in chronological order.

MR. MAPLESON has not yet perfected the arrangements for his American season. He has, however, decided to increase his American orchestra to ninety players, and his chorus to seventy voices.

MR. SIMS REEVES will commence an opera tour in September at Manchester. He will give "The Waterman," "Guy Mannering," a new opera—"A Gay Cavalier," by Ernest Cuthbert and A. Nicholson, as well as other works.

DR. BELOW has left London for Hanover; from Hanover he goes to Vienna; from Vienna he swings back to Bayreuth, to play in aid of a fund to raise a statue to Wagner. Everywhere he will quarrel.

THE Aimée troupe meet great approval in San Francisco. Specially is Mlle. Raphael complimented on her personal graces and praised for her clever acting. She has not a great voice, but is altogether a charming actress and vocalist.

THE London opera season is almost ended, and the opera nightingales are preparing to fly to more congenial climes. Patti goes to Naples, Nilsson to Mont Carlo, Campanini and Puccini to Italy, Marie Rose to Monte Carlo and Miss Kellogg to Paris. Albani will probably remain in England.

DURING a recent performance of Jules Clarac's "Les Mousquetaires" a hiss was heard as the actors cried "Vive la République." The Republicans rose to cheer, and a regular fight ensued, which was only terminated by the interference of the police.

HENRY IRVING has at last decided to visit America next year. Nothing will induce him to accept a certainty. "If I am not successful in the United States," he still says, "I don't want any manager to bear the loss; but if I am, I want a fair share of the money results."

THE manager of a London theatre has just been ordered to pay \$5 for damage done to a lady's dress by wet paint on one of the orchestra stalls in his theatre. It is not altogether an uncommon thing for gentlemen to be away upon their dress coats an exact impress in paint of the design upon the back of the seat in which they have been sitting in the theatre at the beginning of a new season.

THE London *World* tells of a London lady who does not admire Sarah Bernhardt. She says she doesn't care for a woman "whose eyes are only an inch from the top of her head, and who has an ironed-out upper lip." Another paper says Mlle. Bernhardt always faces an audience in the stage "because she cannot be seen edgewise." Still another remarks that her "articulation" is excellent, as a glance at her figure will show.

MME. PATTI, in addition to her operatic successes, has appeared in a number of concerts in London, and it is evident that her hold on the popular favor is stronger than ever, while it is certain that her voice is at its best. At a recent concert at Albert Hall, in the presence of an immense audience, including several members of the royal family, she sang, among other selections, Gounod's "Ave Maria," the violin obligato being performed by twenty-two violins in unison.

A CARD.

To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, &c., I will send a recipe that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the REV. JOSEPH T. INMAN, Station D, New York City.