

A bath house had been erected, and an octagon temple over the Gas Spring; and several shops had sprung into existence in the neighbourhood. The approaches to the Springs were much facilitated by the establishment of a regular line of Stages from Point Fortune and L'Original, and the consequence was that the visitors were numerous, the waters in great demand, and the prospects of the undertaking altogether encouraging.

But this sudden and rapid success was fated to be counterbalanced by an accident, the most untoward that could befall an early settlement; a little more than a month after it was opened, the new hotel was totally destroyed by fire, and thus the great outlay incurred in its erection, the labour of many months, and the whole prospects of the season, were swept away in a single hour. The sun which gilt the roof of the new building, and lit up its thousand window panes ere it set that night, held not forth a brighter promise of the morrow, than did the hopes of all connected with it, of the sure prosperity of the Springs; it rose upon a heap of mouldering ashes, and all anticipated that the enterprise had received a mortal wound, and they had seen its end.

But with trouble, comes the power to bear it; and there are some men whose minds seem to enlarge as their cares increase; their resources become the greater, the greater their necessity; and disheartening as this event was, it served to call forth a still greater degree of energy to meet the many difficulties by which it was attended. A circumstance tending to create unfavorable impressions in the outset of his career, to destroy the seed at the very point