



St. John's after the fire.

destroyed. This was followed by the destruction of the new Masonic Temple which crowned a rising eminence a short distance off. After this the fire raged furiously down several streets and quickly fastened on Gower street Methodist Church and in a very short while the parsonage was also in flames together with the Orange Hall. Meanwhile flying masses of burning timber were scattered over the city, and in a short time fires had started in several places. Standing near the Synod Hall one could see a mass of flames rushing along and across the road, licking up the brick buildings in front of Victoria Hall. Presently it was seen that the Clergy house was on fire and then the roof of the Synod Hall was caught. But a few yards off stood the English cathedral, a gem of Gothic architecture and the masterpiece of Sir Gilbert Scott, and in a few moments the beautiful structure was a seething mass of flames. With a crash, heard above the din and noise of the elements, the roof fell in, and the result of the labours and offerings of generous people for many years vanished in a cloud of smoke. This building had been erected at a cost of not less than \$500,000, the transepts and chancel having been lately added to the nave which latter had been built forty years previously. Alas! it now stands a magnificent ruin. The fruits of half a century's labor, thrift and industry, were destroyed in a few hours. 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 Church and the Athenæum were in flames.

The Athenæum, which contained a library of many thousand volumes, with the offices of the Surveyor-General, the Government Engineer, the Superintendent of Fisheries,