

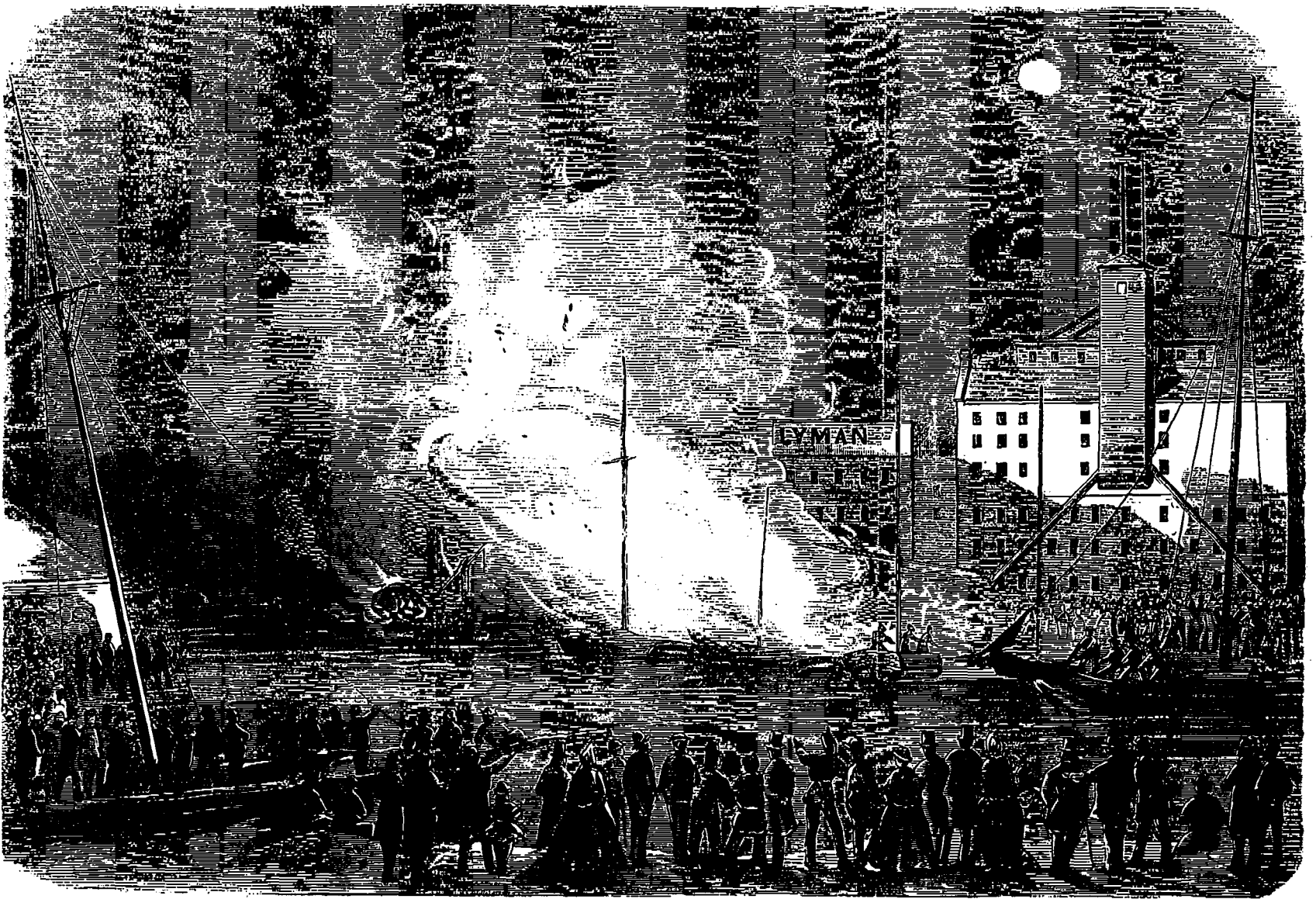
# THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.



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FIRE AT MONTREAL ON THE NIGHT OF THE 1ST OF JUNE, 1863. (SKETCHED FOR THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS BY A SPECIAL ARTIST.)

## THE FIRE AT MONTREAL. ON THE BANKS OF THE LACHINE CANAL.

On the night of Monday, 1st June, an alarming fire occurred on the western side of the city. The streets were soon thronged with people anxiously hurrying to the scene of conflagration, which was near Point St. Charles, on the canal. The spectacle was awfully grand. The whole shipping on the canal seemed to be on fire, while from the side of the canal burst forth immense flames, surrounded by huge volumes of the blackest smoke, which eclipsed the brilliant moon. One of the blazing ships tore from her moor-

ings, and drifted down the lurid waters, threatening to carry destruction to all the vessels on the canal and buildings around. The thousands of spectators fled from the ship of fire, but, fortunately it drifted to the side where no vessels were, where the firemen deluged it, and it soon fell in pieces. The fire originated in a coal oil shed of Mr. McLennan, near which was a pile of barrels of coal (about 400 tons) belonging to Mr. Copeland. The coal oil, (about 3,000 barrels,) the piles of wood, and the steamer and two barges, were one mass of glowing fire, and all were destroyed. The steamer was an old one, belonging to Mr. Dickinson's

Ottawa line. The immense mills of Messrs. Gould had a very narrow escape, the flames often touching the walls. By the great force of the wind blowing towards the river, the flames were carried upwards and in one direction, just a few yards west of the buildings, where vast quantities of grain were stored. Had this block taken fire, all the vessels in the canal would have been destroyed, as there would have been no time to take them through the locks into the river.

All the parties are insured, except the owner of the coals, part of which was saved by the exertions of the firemen. The fire was got under by next morning.

Messrs. Lyman & Clare's oil manufactory had a narrow escape, part of the roof having taken fire.

On ascertaining the foregoing facts the proprietor of the Canadian Illustrated News promptly ordered one of his agents at Montreal to employ an artist to give a pictorial sketch of the scene. This was done, but not soon enough for our issue of last week. It is now engraved and printed, as seen on this page.

From our personal recollection of the locality we think it is a faithful, as artistically it is a vivid representation of that perilous outbreak of fire.