

A DESCRIPTION

OF THE

Burning of St. John's. N.F., July 8th, 1892.

The great fire of July 8th, 1892, which laid waste the whole of the eastern portion of the city of St John's and by which over \$20,000,000 worth of property was destroyed, 12,000 people rendered homeless and several lives lost, will long be remembered, and will mark an important period in the history of Newfoundland. Just before 5 o'clock, on the afternoon of Friday July the 8th, an alarm of fire was sounded, and the firemen, hurrying to the scene of the outburst, found the flames proceeding from the stable of Mr. T. Brien, at the head of Carter's hill, on the Freshwater-road. Unfortunately, the water-pipes were being cleaned that day, and though the water was turned on again at 3 o'clock, it had not reached the higher levels of the city when the fire started. The flames therefore made headway before water was procurable, and, as a very high westerly wind was furiously fanning the fire, it began to spread rapidly. The locality was a most densely populated one, containing a large number of residences of the laboring classes, and masses of glowing wood blown hither and thither by the wind, set ablaze a number of houses within an area of two hundred yards. By 6 o'clock an idea of the magnitude of the outbreak had spread through the city, and a large crowd gradually assembled to aid in the saving of property which was becoming endangered, and to remove into places of safety the furniture of the houses in close proximity. While it was seen that the fire was of more serious character than usual, no fears