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THE ALABAMA.

THE Alabama, under the command of the late captain of the Sumpter, has raised considerable excitement among the American people; a part of which has taken the form of a remonstrance to those whom it may concern, by the New York Chamber of Commerce. This document is chiefly notable from being couched in calm and uninsulting language, a rare merit with our hot blooded cousins, when the doings of John Bull are under review.

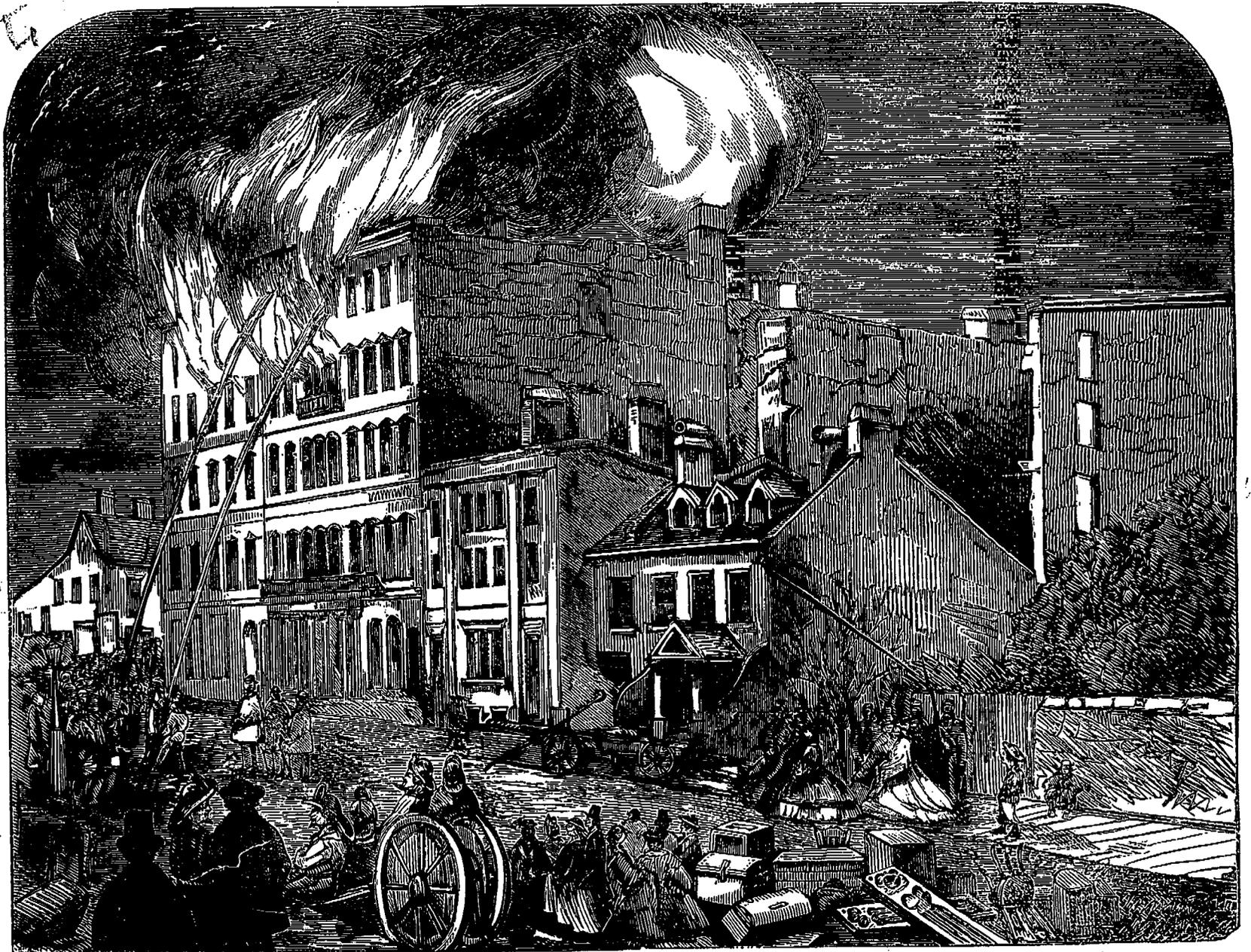
That the building of the Alabama, in a British port, was a violation of the Queen's proclamation, no man who understands the English language will deny,

but that it proves 'the insincerity of British neutrality' is quite another question.

The mercantile instinct is not in the habit of weighing remote consequences when its own profit stands in the way; it will pay but small heed to the fact that the constitution of the United States is the foundation of all the hopes of human progress, and that after its plan this universe has been constructed, if that much adored piece of sheepskin interferes with the profits of a good bargain. The patriotism which vegetates under 'the best government the world ever saw' may feel a thrill of indignation at this painful evidence of moral blindness, but the fact

is not therefore the less certain, nor need Americans go far from home to discover it. If their own newspapers are to be believed Federal officers and soldiers have been doing a 'thriving business' in supplying the Confederates, if not with war ships, at least with articles which they stood quite as much in need of. We have not heard that Mr. Morgan has refunded the seventy odd-thousand dollars which he obtained from Uncle Sam's war treasury, in no very patriotic or creditable way, nor that the government contractors have exhibited any unusual regard for the financial difficulties of the country; on the contrary, we know that the rebels have received assistance of far

greater importance than the Alabama can render them, even from the city of Washington. It may be true that every vessel running the blockade has carried the British flag; but it is equally true that New York and Boston merchants have largely participated in the profits of these hazardous enterprises, else these gentlemen are outrageously libelled in Canada. Are the United States, as a nation, responsible for these things? if not, how comes Great Britain to be responsible for the building of the Alabama? Surely no sane man will expect the British government to institute an inquisitorial surveillance over the private affairs of its manufacturers, in order to make



BURNING OF THE ROSSIN HOUSE, TORONTO, VIEW FROM YORK STREET. DRAWN BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST. (SEE PAGE 19.)