

The figures on the Map having reference to the Fires are preceded by "N," the other figures relate to the figures marked as Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 along the lower margin, a straight line drawn through the Douville Line, thus running in a zig-zag course, somewhat resembling the ramparts of a city. The white spaces inside of it exhibit the Fires. The black spaces also inside the uninjured portions of the City. The scored portions outside the double line the comparatively

THE FIRE.

Agreeably to the promise made in the *Pilot* of 23rd instant, we issue the above Map of Montreal, engraved expressly for the occasion, and by which the course and extent of the terrible conflagration of the 8th instant will be distinctly seen. The Map also indicates the locality of the fire of 6th June last, in the West and Centre Wards, whereby an immense amount of property in goods, as well as in valuable houses and stores, was destroyed. These two fires are marked No. 1 and No. 2. To the left of the great fire in St. Lawrence Suburb, will be seen those of 1849 and 1850. Part of the area of these fires has been twice consumed: if, therefore, the houses repeatedly burnt, were added to the space on the Map shewing the extent of the damage, the white would cover a much larger portion than it now does. A considerable block in Beaver Hall is also marked as No. 4. The next and last spot which the Map exhibits as destroyed, is to the extreme West, in Griffintown, where repeated burnings have occurred, duplicating in several instances the losses of some of the residents. This locality is marked No. 5. It may now be observed, that all these fires have occurred since 1844, and it would not be very wide of the truth to say 1849—for in that year the largest burning took place in Griffintown, extending very nearly over the whole space previously destroyed.

Upon a Map of this size it is impossible to show the course of these fires with such exactness as to designate the few houses which may seem to have been preserved as by miracle. There are some half score dwellings embraced within the boundaries of the last calamity which have escaped; but, on the other hand, there are as many or more out of the line which have been laid in ashes. The several conflagrations, as marked on the Map, will fall within the actual space over-run by the fire.

To these trophies of the devouring element, might be added some hundred or more detached and scattered houses, also burnt singly and in groups at various times within the period embraced by the Map; but the simple statement of the fact will be sufficient for our purpose, and it should be borne in mind, when estimating the ravages by fire in Montreal during the last seven or eight years.

Our Map gives the extent of the City from East to West, but a very large proportion of the ground enclosed within its limits is as yet vacant. To show the boundaries of the inhabited portions, we

have drawn a double line, which will give a fair idea of their actual extent previous to the last fire. There are some hundreds of houses outside of the line to be sure, but then the large vacant lots inside will far more than compensate for them; and the stranger or distant friend to whom this Map will come, may rest with confidence upon our estimate of the relative extent of the last conflagration, or of the total damage suffered within the period named.

As might be anticipated, the several patches swept by the fire were in the most densely populous districts, and the number of persons turned out of doors was accordingly very great. If we say that by these several burnings some 20,000 were dislodged, we will scarcely reach the maximum. One reason why so little difficulty was experienced in obtaining house accommodation by the more thrifty class among the sufferers, was, that Montreal having in the past over-built itself,—an extraordinary mania for building having at one time infected the wealthier classes,—many houses were standing unoccupied, into which they were of course gladly received by the proprietors, in most instances at very moderate rents, considering the temptation to speculate upon the exigencies of the times, but in some instances at an exorbitant price. In connexion with this, we have heard of a wretch who owns several small houses, but whose soul is so diminutive,—if, indeed, he be at all troubled with so useless an appendage,—that when applied to by some mechanics bereft of their little all, he demanded and obtained a rate so entirely beyond the utmost possible value of the lodgings, and of course so out of proportion with the earnings of the applicants, that but for the unavailability of the alternative, his houses might have continued empty, though much wanted. There was no other choice than to sleep out of doors, exposed to the heavy dews and rains of the season, or temporarily to submit to the exaction. We remember having once heard a candidate for civic honors addressing his constituents upon the superlative meanness of his opponent, who in illustrating his meaning, said Mr. Jorum's soul was so small, that "if it were put inside a nut-shell, it would have as much room to swim as a frog in the Pacific Ocean." So say we of the man who, seeing his brother in distress, with a brood of little ones and a suffering wife, exposed by day to the dreadful rays of a vertical sun, throwing out heat at the rate of 95 to 100 in the shade, or to the still more fatal dews of night, would demand a price for a house, or anything else indispensably necessary,

which the poor destitute father could only engage to pay by almost irremediably mortgaging the fruit of his future sweat and toil! Surely such men will have their reward.

The morning after the fire we made it our duty to visit as large a portion of the burnt district as we could; and, amid the ruin and desolation of the awful scene, one beautiful feature of humanity invariably met our eye, and spoke directly to our heart: it was this—the poor, or, we should perhaps say, the working people, whose houses had been spared, were all busily engaged in ministering to the necessities of their suffering fellows; every standing house appeared like a bee-hive—full. It seemed to us that the spirit which actuated the primitive Christians had full play here; they seemed to have all things in common. Those that had goods, food and shelter, freely gave to those that were destitute, and all thought of self was for the time put on oubli. But, notwithstanding this, there was a fearful amount of suffering which no charity could immediately reach. Some thousands of the houseless had passed the night on the fields, and were even then grouped, each family around the wreck of their household goods, sweltering under the rays of an already burning sun. Here and there a temporary shed of boards had been erected, under which the mothers and their little ones sought to hide from the too intense heat. Hundreds were crowded under the lee of a few barns and fences, and some had umbrellas; but by far the larger number were destitute of shelter, while the thermometer was rising 90, reaching during the day to nearly 100. We have heard that during the night several children were born in the fields—a circumstance which is not at all improbable, considering the large number of families driven out before the relentless scourge, whose notice to quit admitted of no hesitating acquiescence. This was the appearance of St. Lawrence Suburb—the portion invaded during the previous day.

In Quebec Suburb the scene was somewhat different—for there the fire was still raging, and the inhabitants in full retreat before the conquering foe. Here and there might be seen persons utterly prostrate, "tired nature" asserting the necessity of repose, even among the smoking ruins and in the seething heat of an atmosphere, from which every particle of moisture seemed to have evaporated. Of these sleepers some were firemen, who, after twenty-four hours of contention with an enemy more formidable than the old French

legions, had undergone the extremities of battle:—poor fellows that flesh and blood could not sustain the conflict so long.

The fire had continued on the morning of the 9th, and the extreme heat ceased its ravages about 11 o'clock.

The business of the day was stayed that day. That the work of the day there was a pause in the business of the previous day, we are sure. The public wearied the public some time to collect action. After a pause the necessity of providing for the wants of the homeless, appropriately felt, a private subscription was opened when the Corps £1000. This, with the efforts of private individuals, was advertised to—measures for the great requirement of the authorities here number of tents was Several large tents were erected through John Young, C. Works, caused the Charles to be prepared as many as those of them. By these means, the night began, some of the poor, and the sure to the heavy

The above map, sketch of these would be invidious the thousands who after the fire, instant, courage, sketched by the same entitled to gratitude possible to participate

The evil is done its remedy is now The Provincial Government take action in the ing wants, the voted £2500; a city, at Quebec, ton, and elsewhere with commandable

The extent of the consequent upon estimated. After tion, we are of a hundred tenement been destroyed, a