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Metropolitan Tabernacle Destroyed By Fire.

The great building for so many years the place of the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon's God-honored ministry, the Metropolitan Tabernacle was totally destroyed by fire on Wednesday afternoon, April 20.

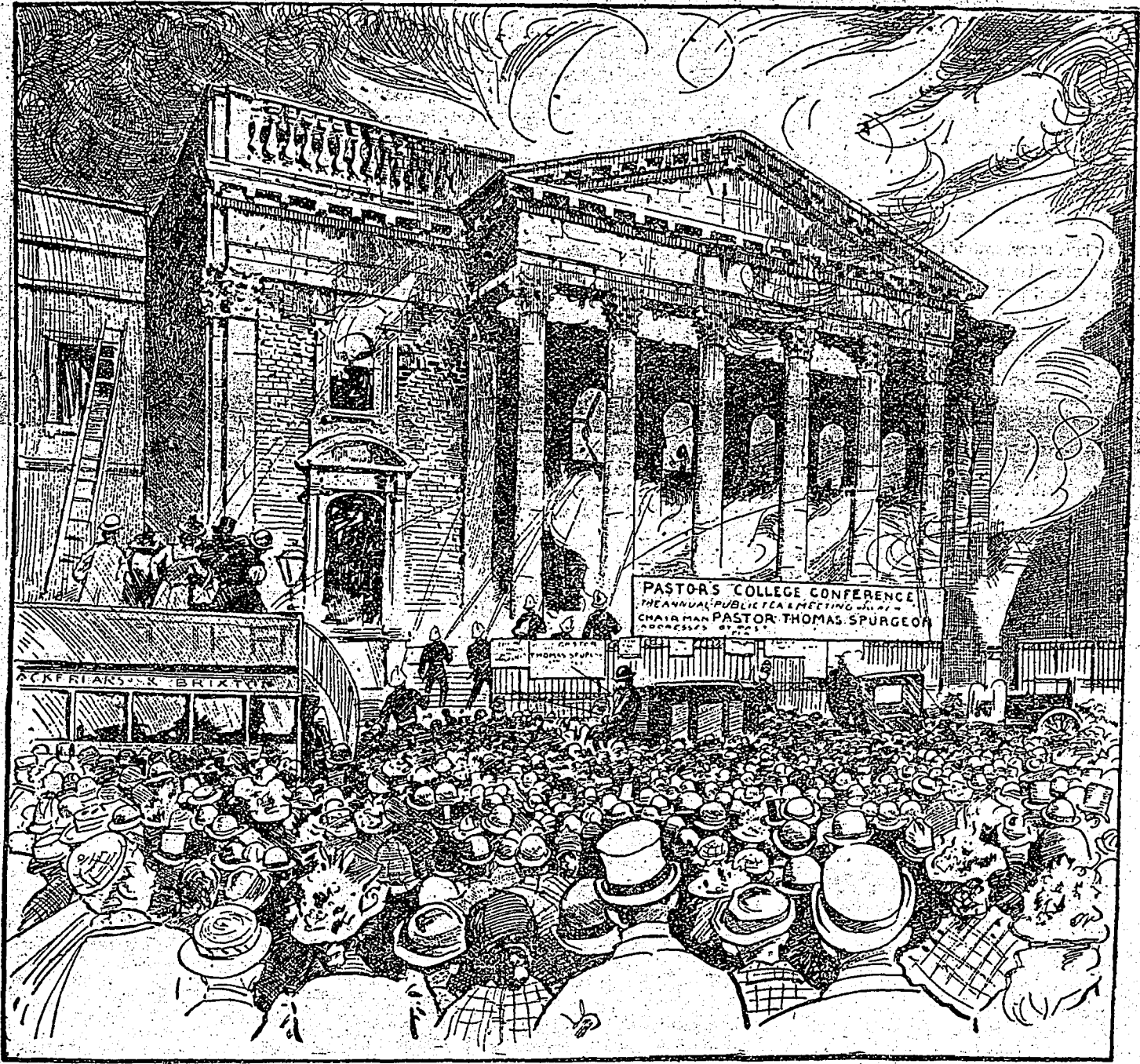
Immediately adjacent to the Tabernacle, though fortunately separate from it, is the Pastors' College. The annual meetings were in progress, and addresses were being delivered in its hall at the time the fire was discovered. Between four and five hundred

the following account of the discovery of the fire:

'I was in the college, when a young lady, the daughter of another of our deacons, rushed in crying, "The Tabernacle is on fire!" This was the day for work in connection with the congregational Flower Mission. Several ladies interested in that organization were arranging flowers in the Tabernacle. Suddenly they heard a crackling noise. Then they saw flames away up in the top gallery, fronting towards the Elephant and Castle. They at once proceeded to give the alarm. Many fire engines were soon at work, but

doors for exits, broad, solid stairs, and devices to prevent dangerous crowding.

The old Tabernacle, says the 'Christian World,' looks picturesque in its ruins. So real is its reposeful appearance that the pigeons not only flutter through and about the great front pillars, but still nestle among the foliage of the capitals. The office is full of smoked and charred relics from the old building. There are trust-deeds, accounts, pigeon-holes of documents, and, most interesting of all, the large ancient tome, dated 1711, the leather cover of which is loosely hanging, which you find



DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF MR. SPURGEON'S METROPOLITAN TABERNALE ON APRIL 20.

persons were to have dined in the basement of the Tabernacle at two o'clock, and later on in the afternoon there was to have been the subscribers' tea-meeting, while the students' annual supper was to have been held in the evening. The meals were being prepared in the chapel basement. The fire is believed to have been due to a defect in the flues.

DISCOVERY OF THE FIRE.

Mr. Walter Mills, one of the deacons, gives

before long the roof fell in and the building was practically destroyed within an hour.'

The Metropolitan Tabernacle is to be rebuilt, but the design of the old building will not be followed. Messages of condolence have been sent to Mr. Spurgeon from all parts of this country and from America, and prominent Church of England clergymen are among the sympathisers. Mr. C. H. Spurgeon had a horror of fire, and insisted on the Tabernacle being provided with numerous

from the front page is 'The Declaration of Faith and Practice of Church of Christ in Carter-lane, Southwark, under the pastoral care of Dr. John Gill.' This church was the nucleus of Spurgeon's enormous congregation. In another corner stands the smoke-begrimed marble bust of Mr. Spurgeon in his younger days, which adorned the pastor's vestry. The deacons tried to drag it away from the flames on the eventful day, but its weight made it impossible for them to do