



THE FIRE SWEEPED UP BAY ST. TO SOME LOW BUILDINGS NEXT TO THE TORONTO ENGRAVING CO. THESE LOW BUILDINGS ENABLED THE FIREMEN TO STOP THE NORTHWARD PROGRESS AT THIS POINT

used could have stayed its advance southward. The Mayor telephoned to surrounding cities, even to Buffalo, and soon assistance was on its way. The fire had been raging five hours when the Hamilton and Buffalo men arrived, but they were of great assistance for the home brigade were tiring in their valorous if discouraging work.

In the meantime the retreat of the fire northward had been checked at the *Telegram* and Toronto Engraving Co. buildings on Bay Street. Its progress westward was never serious because a favourable wind and open spaces saved the buildings on Wellington Street and the Queen's Hotel on Front Street. It had gone south as far as it could go—to the railway tracks and the Bay. The battle-ground lay to the east. From one o'clock until four the surging crowds of spectators speculated as to where the eastward limit would be. Would it be Yonge Street or the Market? Good buildings, water curtains and brave firemen checked it on Wellington Street

before it had got half way from Bay to Yonge. On Front Street they were less successful. On the north side it swept along from building to building, roof to roof, window to window, cornice to cornice, sign to sign, until the huge Minerva Mfg. Co. building was reached. On the south side it licked up a score of closely-built warehouses until it reached the little strip of land which enables the Customs and Examining Warehouse to stand in their solitary grandeur. Here the fight was made, and the Minerva building and the Customs House mark the last trench of the great battle. Apparently satisfied with its playful frolic, the fire-fiend sat down upon the great area he had conquered and silently, sullenly, yet all unyieldingly, lulled himself to sleep. As the early morning broke, the weary firemen and the threatened merchants breathed sighs of relief, while the other citizens discussed and mourned the destruction which had come to the Queen City. A few heart-broken, discouraged men went home to talk over