

scholars, but will be working to get your living, and then your opportunities of gaining knowledge and wisdom will be fewer than now, and you will be sorry indeed.

What have you learned last year? Have you advanced in spelling and reading and learning? Are you more dutiful to your parents? More attentive and grateful to your teachers? More kind to your brothers and sisters, more peaceable and friendly with your schoolfellows and playmates? Do you love your Bible more? Do you believe in Jesus Christ! are you seeking to be among the lambs of his flock? All these are very serious questions; which I recommend you to put to your own hearts, and do not attempt to stifle conscience, but let it give faithful answers.

"A happy New-year to you."

Your last year has not been a very happy one, I fear, by your looks; you feel that with so many advantages, of kind instruction you have not improved as you ought. Well then, I have wished you a happy New-year. How can you obtain this? I will tell you; be resolved to attend to the advice and counsel which I shall now give you, and I will venture to promise, if you live to the 31st of December, 1836, you will then say, that 1836 was a happy old year.

Tell us what we are to do, my little readers are exclaiming, for we should like to be happy.

The great secret, then, my dear little boys and girls, to be happy, is to love God. If you are his children, you will be happy indeed; and if you are his children, you will read his word, love his holy day, obey his command and delight in secret prayer; you will shun evil, avoid all sin, and hate the way of transgression. Once more my little readers, I wish you, in the best sense of the term, "A happy New Year." *Monthly Visitor.*

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT NEW-YORK.

MILLIONS OF PROPERTY DESTROYED!

BOSTON, December 19.

A most destructive Fire took place at New-York on the evening of the 16th inst. which may well be styled a national calamity; and it has never been our duty to record one of such melancholy interest. In the amount of property consumed, and individual distress involved, there has been no similar devastation since the conflagration of Moscow. The fire broke out about nine o'clock, in the store of Coenstock & Andrews, at the triangular block formed by Wall, William, and Pearl streets. A high wind was blowing from the north-west, and the weather was so intensely severe as to prevent any efficient action of the engines. The firemen were benumbed by the extreme cold, and the hose was so frozen as to be useless, if individuals could have been able to work it. It was at once seen that it would be impossible to arrest the flames, except by blowing up ranges of buildings in advance of the fire, that its progress might thus be interrupted. But the difficulty was to obtain powder; none of any consequence being allowed in the city. It was necessary to send for a supply to the Navy Yard, whence also was brought a military force for the protection of the property.

Seventeen blocks of buildings, of the largest and most costly description were totally destroyed: the large block between Wall street and Exchange place, bounded on the west by Broad street, that between Beaver street, fronting on Broad street, and that between Beaver and Mill streets, also fronting on Broad, are greatly injured, and may almost be said to be destroyed—except the single range of stores fronting on Broad street. The number of buildings is variously estimated. The more probable account places it about 600. Of the property destroyed no calculation can be formed. The lowest estimate places it at **FOURTEEN AND A HALF MILLIONS**—while some accounts, of course much exaggerated, make the amount of loss **THIRTY-FIVE MILLIONS**.

The entire seat of the great commercial transactions of New-York is destroyed. The splendid Exchange is a pile of ruins, buried among which is the noble statue of Hamilton, erected by the munificence of New-York merchants to the memory of one of her most valued citizens, and his country's most lamented Statesman. The Post Office was destroyed, but its contents were saved.

"The mere amount of property wasted and destroyed," says the N. Y. Commercial, "not by the flames but in the confusion, and hurry, and desperation of the time, is probably equal to the entire loss at ordinary fires. It is lamentable to see the piles of costly furniture—rich mahogany tables with marble tops—sideboards, sofas, &c. &c., broken and heaped up like worthless rubbish; rich merchandizes—silks, satins, broadcloths, fine muslins, and every species of fancy dry goods, trampled under foot; packages half burnt—boxes of cutlery and hardware burst open, and their contents scattered in the mud—bottles of wine broken—and in short, thousands upon thousands and tens of thousands of dollars lying wasted around, in the form of ruined merchandize.

Carmen and porters were heaping goods upon carts, barrows, in coaches and omnibuses, the Battery and Bowling Green are thickly studded with piles of goods, some in boxes, others just as they were snatched from the shelves; inarines with fixed bayonets parolling among them for protection against marauders; and all eyes fixed upon the volumes of dense black smoke, whirling away before the wind—flames darting and roaring from roofs and windows of whole streets—walls tumbling to the ground, and the firemen worn out with their exertions and almost discouraged from farther efforts, vainly striving to make head against the flames, which seemed to mock all human skill and power.

The amount of capital in the Fire Insurance Companies of New-York is about **TEN MILLIONS**. This we presume will be entirely swept by the destruction of the fire; for, as far as we can learn, the amount insured in this city is less than \$100,000, and it is probably not very large in Philadelphia.

The following description of the scene of devastation, prepared from a map by the New-York Commercial after a walk about the ruins, for the purpose of a deliberate survey, will present an accurate idea of the extent of the destruction.

South side of Wall Street from Williams Street to East river, including the Merchant's Exchange, and excepting some three or four buildings between Merchant street (formerly Hanover) and Pearl.—Also from William to Broad streets, buildings not destroyed but injured in rear.

Exchange street, both sides, from Broad street, crossing William to Merchant Street—the Garden street church was embraced in this section.

Merchants' street (formerly Hanover) both sides, from Wall to Hanover square.

William street, both sides, from Wall street to Hanover square.

Pearl street, both sides, from Wall Street to Coenties slip, including the whole sweep of Hanover square.

Stone street, from Hanover square to the lane leading to the head of Coenties slip.

Exchange street, and part of Beaver street, from Pearl nearly to Broad.

Water street both sides from Coffee-house slip to Coenties slip.

Front street both sides from Coffee-house slip to Coenties slip.

South Street from the same to same.

South side of Coffee-house slip, from Pearl street, to the East River.

Both sides of Old Slip, (including the Franklin market,) from Pearl street to the East River.

North side of Coenties slip, from Pearl street to the River.

Jones's Lane, Gouverneur's Lane, Cuyler's Alley and part of Mill street.

The Daily Advertiser and the American Newspaper Offices, are destroyed, with all the Machine Presses of the Establishments. An entire cargo of Tea, belonging to John Neal & Sons, of Salem, and valued at \$200,000, was destroyed in one of the stores.

The loss sustained, (says the Transcript) was not confined to the City of New-York. The Insurance Offices, in State Street, Boston, lose from \$100,000 to \$120,000.—The Manufacturers Office loses \$50,000, the Franklin \$20,000, Merchants' \$12,000 National 10,000, American, not ascertained, probably \$8000.

The annihilation of property by this unprecedented calamity will be felt throughout the country. New-York is by no means the only sufferer, though its prosperity has been subjected to a most terrible shock. It is suggested, and we presume that the suggestion will be immediately accepted, that the Government should take instant measures for the relief of the merchants who have Custom House Bonds arriving at maturity. The duties on property that has been consumed ought, in equal justice to be remitted.

Evening Gazette Office, Dec. 20.

The Southern Mail arrived at 2 o'clock this morning, by which we have received the Journal of Commerce of Friday. Meetings of the Citizens of New-York, had been held, and measures taken to prevent the further progress of the conflagration, and to protect property. Nearly 300 thieves are stated to have been arrested and property to the amount of \$10,000 recovered from them.

THE WEEKLY MIRROR.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1836.

SHALL WE GO ON?

Our little publication has now visited its Patrons 51 times—another number will close our present agreement with them.—We have to the utmost of our ability called for it, such articles as we hoped would be calculated to instil into the youthful mind a taste for reading, and at the same time afford both to young and old a miscellany of useful and interesting matter. Many of our subscribers have testified their approbation of the course we have pursued and we feel pleased to add, that some who have not yet given us their names have likewise spoken of our paper in flattering terms.

Although from the nature of our arrangements with the original proprietor, we have not yet been benefited in a pecuniary way, yet, with the hope that our present subscribers will continue, and that those who have expressed their partiality will give us their support, we feel inclined to continue the paper for another year. Our question then remains to be answered by the Public, and we therefore request our subscribers and friends to give us an early notice of their intentions.