

# The Smithfield Herald.

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## JACKSONVILLE'S DISASTER

### FLORIDA CITY SWEPT BY FLAMES.

An Awful Conflagration That Defied All Opposition—Principal Part of the City Destroyed—About 130 Blocks, 1,300 Buildings, Including Most of the Public Buildings, Wiped Out.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dispatch, 3d.

It is estimated that \$15,000,000 worth of property has gone up in smoke and that 10,000 persons have been made homeless as the result of a fire which broke out in Jacksonville at 12:45 p. m. to-day. Six lives are reported lost. The fire was gotten under control at 10:15 p. m. Late night the ruins are still burning. When the fire reached Bridge street in its eastward course it enveloped in flames three blocks—the Duval, Monroe and north side of the Adams, burning up that entire section of the city and running 14 blocks to the Duval street bridge.

The conflagration has burned over as far as is definitely known a distance of two and a half miles long by a half mile wide.

The plan of the city, as prepared by the city surveyor, shows that 130 blocks are known to have been burned and part of another block. The estimate of residences to the block in the residential district is 10 and in the business section the blocks were solid.

When the fire reached Julia street it was a roaring furnace, without any prospect of being put under control.

The local military companies were called out to keep back the crowds. The Fire department began to use dynamite to blow up houses a block from the fire and thus prevent the fire from spreading. So fierce was the blaze, however, and so strong had become the wind that millions of sparks and burning shingles spread over five or six blocks, setting the roofs of the houses on fire in advance of the department.

Soon Senator Taliaferro's residence and the adjoining houses on that block were ablaze. Desperate efforts were made to save Windsor and the St. James hotels, but both were quickly enveloped in flames. For about an hour the guests in the Windsor had been busily packing their trunks and they went away loaded with their goods.

Leaping madly across the street from the Windsor the flames set fire to the Methodist parsonage. A few moments later Trinity Methodist Episcopal church was a mass of flames. The opera house block followed and the Richards and Livingstone boarding house.

A desperate effort was made to save the Baldwin mansion which was recently purchased by the Elks for \$18,000. No earthly power could save the building, but that entire block and the one west of it were quickly a mass of flames.

When the fire got started on Street the closely adjoining buildings went one after the other. Paint shops with barrels of oil in stock were plentiful in this district. As they caught fire one after the other, the blaze rose hundreds of feet high and quickly set the other buildings across the street on fire.

Then the Hubbard hardware store caught and the people scattered when they saw what had happened. Hundreds of pounds of powder and a great deal of dynamite was stored in this building. Ten minutes passed, when suddenly there was a roar and the building collapsed like an egg shell. The dynamite and the powder had exploded.

The firemen at this time were working in great danger. Cart-ridges began to explode and bullets began to fly around, so the effort to fight the fire at that point for a time had to be abandoned. This was only the start of the most intense part of the fire. The new Furchgott building was soon ablaze and the

Gardiner building was also a mass of flames. Down the street the fire spread with rapidity and in a short time the entire section of Bay street from Market to Main street and extending for five blocks back was burning all at once.

The city hall went, the fire department building, the armory, the county court house, the clerk's office, with the county records, the criminal court house, the city jail, the schools, the Catholic church and orphanage, St. John's Episcopal church and the convent. Almost all the fine buildings in the city were burned in less than four hours.

At 8:30 p. m. the fire was checked at the intersection of Laurel and Bay streets, where the Commercial bank is located. The bank went up in flames, but the Western Union building just across the street was not damaged.

Among the prominent hotels burned besides the St. James and Windsor were the United States, the Placide, the Girard, the Grenada and Oxford.

### An Epidemic of Fires.

In addition to the awful conflagration at Jacksonville, Fla., destructive fires have occurred at many places in the country within the past few days.

At Gridley, Ill., Friday, 30 buildings were destroyed. Loss estimated at \$80,000.

At Nashville, Tenn., Saturday, Orr, Hume & Co., wholesale grocers, and three other big wholesale houses were burned.

A lumber plant at Ashland, Me., was burned Saturday with a loss of more than \$200,000.

The repository of the Southern Rock Island Plow Co., at Dallas, Texas, was burned Saturday night with a loss of \$250,000 and \$150,000 insurance. The fire was caused by lightning.

Twenty-two business houses were burned at Lufkin, Texas, Saturday, entailing a loss of about \$65,000.

A butterine plant in Chicago was burned Saturday night, entailing a loss of \$150,000, fully insured.

Yarns and wool worth \$150,000 and a six-story warehouse in Philadelphia, occupied by Charles J. Webb & Co., were almost completely destroyed by fire Saturday night and the adjoining warehouses of Richard A. Blythe and H. B. Heston & Co., wool merchants, were badly damaged by water. Several firemen were injured by falling glass and timbers.

The grand stand of the National League Baseball Park at St. Louis was burned Saturday. Loss \$30,000.

### Massacred by Cannibals.

Brisbane, Queensland, May 8.—A search party, which has returned from New Guinea, discovered the half-eaten remains of the Rev. James Chalmers and the Rev. Oliver Tomkins, of the London Missionary Society, and their followers, who were massacred in April by natives of Fly river, New Guinea, after a tribal fight.

It appears that when the party of Mr. Chalmers approached the shore they were surrounded by a fleet of canoes filled with armed natives. They were never seen again.

The punitive expedition partly destroyed the villages and canoes of the district where the massacre occurred and killed 24 natives.

In the criminal court, at Winston, the jury in the case of Arch Woodruff, for murder, late Thursday evening returned a verdict of "guilty in the second degree," and Woodruff was sentenced to 10 years in the penitentiary.

An important meeting of business men was held at Raleigh Thursday evening to take initial steps for building a \$100,000 hotel, specially for northern travel. An option on the best site in that city was secured.

Grantham, Austin & Co., sell ready-made clothing.

### DAY AFTER THE FIRE.

A Scene of Desolation—148 Blocks, Covering a Large Territory, Burned—Help for the Sufferers.

Jacksonville Dispatch, 4th.

Jacksonville's great fire, which began yesterday, has burned itself out. One hundred and forty-eight blocks of a beautiful city have been laid waste. The loss will not be known even approximately for a week, but it is believed it will amount to \$10,000,000.

Sue Hogan, a negro woman, was burned in her house and her charred remains were buried by friends this afternoon. The burned districts is thirteen blocks wide and two miles long, and extends from the St. John's river, where it burned ten docks to the water's edge, to Chartherine street on the east, Orange on the north and Davis to the west. This immense area was swept as clear as a floor.

The city is under martial law and all of the available State militia is on duty in the streets. Some order is being brought out of the confusion. Jacksonville is meeting the emergency calmly and has organized for relief work. Ten thousand people are homeless and many of them left on afternoon and night trains for St. Augustine and other coast cities and near-by towns, while numerous river craft took many to little places on the St. John's river. Supply stations have been established in various parts of the city and all day they have been thronged by the hungry. The prompt action of Secretary Root in tendering the use of the barracks at Fort Barrancas, near St. Augustine, was received with gratitude on every side. The East Coast train leaving here at 5 o'clock this afternoon carried over 2,000 people to St. Augustine, who hope to receive temporary shelter from the government. A committee was appointed at a meeting of citizens this afternoon to wire the Governors of various States for all tents they could spare to Jacksonville. It will be weeks before anything like permanent shelter can be provided for the homeless thousands, and Jacksonville for some time to come will be a city of tents. The relief fund raised by the citizens of Jacksonville at a meeting this afternoon amounts to \$15,000. Other subscriptions are being received from many places. The city of Jacksonville has not yet made an official call for aid. There seems to be some objection to this, but it is based on the assertion by many leading citizens that Jacksonville and Florida can meet the emergency and care for its own.

### 10,000 Homeless Being Fed.

The hunger of 10,000 homeless people was satisfied to day, upon the arrival of relief trains and boats bringing provisions from neighboring towns. Early this morning a commissary was established in the centre of the city, and thousands were fed during the day. The relief fund is hourly growing and every mail brings offers of assistance. Today an order was promulgated under martial law, requiring all merchants, whose stores were spared by the conflagration, to open their doors and sell to all who asked. The streets have been crowded all day with shoppers who lost all in the fire and many stores will remain open all night. It is estimated that 3,000 persons have left the city and every outgoing train is crowded with refugees. Five car loads of tents were received to day, the property of the State, which are to be used by the homeless temporarily. Another shipment of tents is expected to morrow from the government.—Jacksonville Dispatch, 5th.

The least in quantity and most in quality describes DeWitt's Little Early Risers, the famous pills for constipation, and liver complaints. Hood Bros., Hare & Son, J. R. Ledbetter.

### Great Fires in the Past.

U. C. Crosby, late president of the National Fire Protection Association, has compiled a very interesting list of great fires. In describing some of the most important disasters he said:

"The United States has a record of destruction of property by fire not equaled by any other country.

Charlestown, Mass., in 1838, 1,158 buildings.

"Savannah, Ga., in 1820, 463 buildings and \$4,000,000 value.

"New York, in 1835, 530 buildings, 52 acres burned over, and \$15,000,000 of property destroyed; in 1845, 300 acres burned over, \$7,500,000 value, 35 lives lost.

"Pittsburg, Pa., in 1845, 100 buildings; \$1,000,000 property value.

"St. Louis, Mo., in 1849, 15 buildings, \$3,000,000 value, in 1851, 2,500 buildings destroyed.

"Philadelphia, in 1850, 400 buildings.

"San Francisco, in 1851, 2,500 buildings, and a number of lives lost; property value, \$10,000,000.

"Portland, Maine, in 1860, over one-half the city; 200 acres burned over and 1,743 buildings destroyed.

"Chicago, in 1871, known as the "Great Fire," 2,124 acres nearly covered by buildings entirely burned over, including 17,430 buildings; many lives were lost and property value of upward of \$106,000,000 was destroyed.

"Boston, in 1872, 65 acres of mercantile section burned, including 776 buildings, nearly all of brick and stone construction; property value, \$75,000,000.

"In June, 1889, Seattle was destroyed, the loss being \$30,000,000. Two months later Spokane Falls burned, the loss being \$7,000,000. In November of the same year \$5,000,000 worth of property was consumed at Lynn, Mass. Within a few days fires broke out in the dry goods district of Boston and property valued at \$1,000,000 was burned.

"In October, 1892, a fire at Milwaukee caused a loss of \$6,000,000.

"At Hoboken on June 30 last the North German Lloyd piers and steamships sustained a loss of \$10,000,000 and 200 lives were lost. These are the greatest fires that have occurred in this country. There have been many in which the losses exceeded a million.

### New Gun to Fire 21 Miles.

There will be on exhibition at the Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo, during the coming summer the most marvelous piece of ordnance ever manufactured, and the superior in range and striking energy to any gun built in the history of the world. It is building for the army at the Watervliet Gun Factory, and is to be shipped to the Exposition in July.

The gun can easily destroy any ship afloat at a distance of 21 miles. It is to be mounted at some point commanding the entrance to New York Harbor. The calibre is 16 inches; its weight, 130 tons, and its length, 49 feet 3 inches. In ranging to the distance of 21 miles the shell, weighing 2370 pounds, would reach the maximum elevation of 30,516 feet, higher than the combined heights of Pike's Peak and Mont Blanc. The charge required is 576 pounds of smokeless powder, and the cost of firing is several thousand dollars.—Philadelphia Record.

Wednesday afternoon while Carl Kirkman, a fireman on the Southern at Greensboro, was cleaning the ashes from the ashpan of his engine, the yard engine backed against it and the unfortunate man was dragged some distance, his right foot and leg terribly mangled, and receiving internal injuries from which he died.

### Concerning Fire Insurance.

EDITORS THE HERALD:—At the request of some members of the Johnston County Branch of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Association of North Carolina, I wish to make a few statements concerning the Association in this county.

First, I will say that at the last annual meeting (Aug. 7, 1900) the Association was in debt about \$50.00 for losses and salaries for the previous year. This made it necessary to levy an assessment, and accordingly the supervisors met and directed that an assessment of one fourth of one per cent. be levied on all outstanding insurance. The membership then represented about \$280,000.00 of insured property; therefore this assessment should have raised about \$700.00, which after paying the indebtedness would have left about \$650.00 in bank to the credit of the Association to be used in paying off any losses that might occur. But it is to be regretted that this assessment following a heavier one in the spring, caused many to lose confidence in the management of the Association, resulting in dropping off by failure to pay the assessment, about \$70,000 worth of insurance, leaving now in good standing about \$210,000.00.

From that assessment of Sept. 20, 1900 about \$550.00 was collected and disbursed by paying previous indebtedness \$50.00, assessment to State Association at Raleigh \$42.00.

Since the assessment was levied the Association has sustained six losses by fire, all small, but large enough to take all the funds in hand and leaving the Association a few dollars in debt. However, it is not probable that another assessment will be called for before the next annual meeting to be held the first Monday in August.

The cheapness of carrying insurance in this Association is its best recommendation, while it is perfectly safe. This year the cost of insurance in this association will not exceed 25 cents on the hundred dollars of insurance carried, while in any old line company it will cost not less than three times as much. And I wish to suggest here that in my opinion plans can be adopted that will enable us to carry safe insurance at a cost of not more than 1/2 of 1 per cent. per annum. To do this it will be necessary for all members to carry a little of the risk themselves—just as old line companies require. I mean by this that no member should expect the Association to insure property at over three-fourths of its actual cash value—this strictly enforced would have a great tendency in preventing criminal carelessness of fire by unprincipled parties who go into the insurance business for a profit. The Association only agrees through its policies, to carry insurance for three-fourths of the cash value of the property insured, but estimating the true value of a building or its contents by viewing the ashes after being burnt seems to be an uncertain undertaking. Neither can township supervisor tell the true valuation of property which he probably never saw without very explicit and correct representations of it—and here lies the great trouble that the Association has to encounter, both receiving insurance and adjusting a loss. Every application for insurance should contain a full and precise description of the property proposed to be insured and then the application should be referred to a committee whose duty it should be to examine the same and make any reduction in valuations that might seem necessary, then after approving such application let the president of the Association issue the policy as is the custom now.

I would like to hear from other members of the Association along this line, and hope that at the annual meeting the proper plan may be agreed on and adopted. Respectfully,  
J. C. BINGHAM,  
Sec.-Treas.

### The Town Election.

The town election held here Monday was without any special interest. There was only one ticket—Democratic of course—which was elected without any opposition. Only three negroes voted. James D. Parker, editor of the lately deceased Smithfield Courier, went to the polling place in the afternoon. He asked the election officers who was running for Commissioner in his ward and being told that the nominee was Mr. James A. Wellons, he said he wished him success, and declining to vote, passed on.

The newly elected Board is as follows:

First Ward—James A. Wellons.  
Second Ward—W. L. Woodall and Ed. S. Abell.

Third Ward—James H. Woodall and Floyd H. Parrish.  
Fourth Ward—John O. Ellington and W. J. Stephenson.

The new Board was sworn in yesterday afternoon and at once elected the following officers for the ensuing term:

Mayor, J. C. Bingham.  
Clerk, F. H. Brooks.  
Treasurer, T. R. Hood.  
Tax Collector, G. N. Peacock.  
Chief Police, W. L. Brady.

### The Importance of Early Training.

EDITORS HERALD:—We have a few days of leisure here now, as our crops of corn and cotton are planted. The stand of corn is not good, but we will secure one by careful replanting.

While we are in this state of "stand still" I thought I might do some good by writing a few lines on the importance of the early training of the child. While at the University President Swain used to say in his lectures that the child learned more up to seven years of age than he ever did again. Paradoxical it seemed to me then, but the more I think about it, the more nearly I agree with him; for during this time of seven years he learns the English language (at least nearly all the common words, such as we use in our daily talks) and nearly all the objects nature around us. He learns, too, right and wrong to a very great extent. Hence we say too much importance cannot be attached to the early stage of life. David said, "As a man thinketh, so is he." And how does a man think? Generally as he is taught to think by his mother, father and teacher. "As the twig is bent, the tree inclines" is an old but ever new maxim.

Habit almost makes the man or woman, hence the importance of right habits, of right thoughts being instilled in the young.

And now as our Legislature has done so much for the education of the boys and girls of North Carolina, let us see to it that the money appropriated is wisely expended. Let us use wisdom in selecting teachers to "teach the young idea how to teach." Better, far better keep a child at home than to send him to any one of our bad habits, for the teacher impresses his own character upon that of the child to a far greater extent than is generally supposed. I have heard of boys going to celebrated teachers, learned in science, the languages and mathematics, but tinged with infidelity. The boys imbibed unconsciously the same belief, and oh, how hard to shake it off.

Our catechism says, Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Teach the same precious doctrine as early as possible. Yes, teach it at home, teach it at school. Instill the principles of Christianity (to be Christ like) as soon as the child can lip the name of Jesus. Let it grow up with him, and when he is old he will thank you for it, more than for any earthly treasure you can leave him.

Yes, send the boys and girls to the Sunday Schools and employ teachers in the day schools, who have the Bible on their desks and daily read it to the pupils.

B. W. Y.

Leachburg, May 6.  
Grantham, Austin & Co. have a nobby line of Ties. The prettiest you have seen.