

the building had little effect on the raging flames. The slippery condition of the streets prevented the firemen from traveling as fast as they otherwise would have done, which fact, together with the difficulty of getting an alarm into the department, permitted the fire to get a good start. The fire was by this time burning in the Auerbach portion of the building as well as the Scott section.

From the first it was seen that the whole building was doomed, and the efforts of the firemen were directed to prevent the flames from spreading to adjoining buildings. For nearly an hour after the fire started the flames were confined to the interior, and then they broke through the iron roofing, and shot skyward, lighting up the immediate neighborhood. The iron roof served to restrain the flames to some extent.

The hose wagon was the first on the scene, and was followed by the rest of the department from Station No. 1. Effective service was rendered by Chief of Police Paul and two reliefs of officers, who rigged a fire line and kept back the crowds that pressed forward in their eagerness to see the fire. It was announced that there was a quantity of powder in the building, and this had the effect of clearing the vicinity of spectators, who retired some distance giving the firemen opportunity to conduct the work without molestation.

The fire, which appears to have started near the center of the building, had extended in both directions and the entire building by this time was in flames, having passed from the wood-work in the halls to the roof. The aerial truck was then wheeled in position and an effort was made to hoist it, but it was found to be too far from the building to be of any use. The object was to pour the water on the roof and let it run down onto the fire, and the next thing was to carry hose to the top by means of scaling ladders. Hose reel No. 2 was taken to Second South street, and a line of hose carried over the buildings and turned on the rear of the structure, while another line was carried over Joslin & Park's store, from where a stream was thrown over into the flames. Two streams were still being played on the front of the building, and as the water was found to be getting low, the engine was sent for. By half-past one o'clock the entire building was gutted, and everything was either burned or rendered worthless by water and smoke.

There was a narrow escape from death in connection with the fire last night. When the fire was burning fiercely the screams of a woman were heard, and soon the form of Miss A. C. Smith was observed on the top of the burning building. Miss Smith, who is a music teacher, occupied rooms on the upper floor. She was awakened from sleep by the stifling smoke and rushed in the hall and to the stairway, but finding escape in that direction cut off by the fire, she ascended a ladder through a skylight used by Photographer Madsen, and appeared on the roof. She was first seen on the northern side of the building near the street, waving some of her clothing which she had hurriedly picked up as she left her room. A feeling of horror swept over the crowd

which had been attracted to the scene, as the chances for her escape from death looked very ominous. It was seen that if she was not rescued soon she would either jump from the building or be overcome by the intense heat, as she was already enveloped in smoke, and the fire was issuing forth from the roof behind her.

A cheer from the crowds arose when Assistant Chief Donovan and Electrician Charles T. Vall began to put into execution a plan of rescue. They first ascended to the roof of the Noble Mercantile company's store and from there to the three-story building adjoining the burning structure.

They had reached this point by means of a ladder, which they drew up after them, and placing it against the Scott-Auerbach building, Donovan ascended amid the smoke and in a short time emerged with Miss Smith, whom he carefully carried down the shaking ladder. Many cheers were given during the descent to the ground, and Miss Smith was then taken into a store, and Dr. Penrose, Beer and Baldwin gave her proper attention. She was completely prostrated by the shock, and it is thought she will be some time in recovering entirely. She was afterwards removed to the Wasatch block.

During the progress of the fire Electrician Charles T. Vall was badly hurt by a fall from the third story of the building. He was at the window trying to grasp a line of hose, when in some way he fell to the ground, his fall being broken by striking in a network of wires, from which he rebounded and fell to the pavement unconscious. His injuries were at first thought to be fatal, but he became conscious in half an hour, and it was discovered that while his injuries were painful they were not necessarily fatal. He received a severe blow over the right eye, and his right wrist was burned by the wires with which he came in contact. He was removed to St. Mark's hospital.

Captain Sullivan of the hook and ladder company was also injured by being struck on the head with a beam from the falling roof. Had it not been for the firemen's hat which he wore, he doubtless would have lost his life.

Assistant Chief Mike Donovan met with an accident this morning while working at the scene of the fire. He was on an extension ladder at the third story of the building when the ladder gave way and he was precipitated to the ground, striking on his head. He received a gash on the temple and two on the back of the head. He was removed to St. Mark's hospital where Dr. Behle sewed up the wounds and bandaged them, and he is progressing favorably.

The fire is supposed to have started in the elevator shaft, and ran upwards, and this theory is substantiated by the fact that the fire went so quickly clear to the top of the building.

The heaviest losers by the fire were George M. Scott & Co., Calloway, Hook & Co., A. R. Derge.

There were also many other occupants of the upper stories who lost smaller amounts. The total loss on building and contents is estimated at about \$160,000, a large portion covered by insurance.

Nearly every insurance company

represented in the city except the Home and Utah had policies on the building or its contents, the heaviest losers being companies represented by Hugh Anderson, W. E. Smedley & Co., and A. S. Jacobs. The Home had policies which expired a short time ago with Calloway, Hook & Co. and A. R. Derge. Grant & Co's outside companies escaped very easily, only the American having \$500 on the stock of Matson, the photographer. All the companies were advised by wire, and everything will now stand still till the various adjusters come pouring in from the East and West.

PRESIDENT SMITH'S LECTURE.

The first of a series of ten lectures to be delivered weekly in the Assembly Hall under the auspices of the Y. M. M. I. A. was given in that building last evening President Joseph F. Smith being the speaker. The lower body of the hall was crowded to its capacity while in the galleries not a great many seats were left vacant. Elder Heber J. Grant of the Y. M. M. I. A. general superintendency presided and the singing was furnished by members of the Tabernacle choir under the leadership of Prof. Evan Stephens.

After the usual preliminary exercises, prayer being offered by Elder Francis M. Lyman, the lecturer came forward and in a few introductory remarks stated the title of his subject: "The origin of Mormonism and the story of its growth and development." This was a subject, said the speaker, which opened up a vast field for reflection and remarks. The term Mormonism was a term applied to the Latter-day Saints by the world, and it had been generally adopted by the Saints themselves. The term had its origin because of the belief the Saints had in the Book of Mormon—a work translated from gold plates by the Prophet Joseph Smith under the direction of heavenly messengers.

Here President Smith read copiously from section 20 of the Doctrine and Covenants in relation to the rise of the Church and some of the history connected with the origin of the latter-day work, which, said he, was better told in the language of the revealed word than he could do it himself.

The speaker said he read extensively from the revelation quoted from because of its bearing with the origin of Mormonism and the nature and character of the work as well as the demands made of those who embraced it. It also gave mankind to understand what was expected of them. It gave them to understand that they were expected to embrace the Gospel; if they did not it told them what the consequences would be.

The early life of the Prophet Joseph was next referred to. He when but a mere boy, 13 years of age, began to investigate religion for himself. But in his tender years he reasoned within himself why it was that the different churches then existing were each claiming for themselves, that they were the only true church. Lo here and lo there was the cry among them. They were contending with each other and this contention so dumb-founded the boy Prophet that he knew