

SPEECH OF THE INDIAN CHIEF "EAGLE EYE."

Braves give attention to your aged chief, Once more I ask it and I will be brief; Old age approaches and my strength does fall.

GREAT FIRES.

List of the Great Fires of the World from B. C. 1897, to A. D. 1876.

ASIA.

Sodom and Gomorrah, B. C. about 1897. (Genesis, xix.) Palestine—Jerusalem. Three large fires. The first was the entire destruction of the city (or town) by the Israelites, B. C. 1400; the second was the burning of Solomon's temple by the Chaldeans, B. C. 586; and the third, the entire destruction of the city by the Roman army under Titus, A. D. 70.

AFRICA.

Egypt—Five large fires are recorded previous to A. D. 1800, commencing with the destruction of the larger library at Alexandria, B. C. 48, during the occupation of Julius Caesar. Seneca states that the number of volumes was 400,000, and A. Gellus, 700,000.

palace of the Viceroy destroyed, loss \$1,500,000. Besides those here enumerated, there are recorded two great fires in Africa previous to A. D. 1800, and four since that date, mostly in the southern part of the continent; one of them, at Cape Town, in 1875, destroyed fifty houses.

Canary Islands—Teneriffe. In 1815 a large convent was burned, and many lives lost.

EUROPE.

Italy—Rome. Fifteen conflagrations previous to A. D. 1800. The first was B. C. 390, when the city was burned by the Gauls. In 13-14 B. C. a fearful fire followed immediately the falling of an amphitheatre, by which latter accident 50,000 persons were either killed or maimed.

Other parts of Italy—Nine large fires previous to 1800; of which one at Florence in 1767 was remarkable through a menagerie being burned and the liberated animals killing 100 persons.

Greece—Four large fires previous to 1800; none recorded since.

England—London. One hundred and seventy-five large fires are recorded in this city previous to 1800, the first two being A. D. 793-893; and without details. London bridge and the buildings on it were burned six times, viz.: A. D. 1136, 1212, 1504, 1633, 1725 and 1758.

From 1759 to 1800 fires became much more numerous, frequently six or seven large ones occurring in a year. There are 194 records from 1800 to August, 1876, an average of two and a half per annum.

Other parts of Europe—One hundred and thirty large fires previous to 1800; from 1800 to August, 1876, seventy-eight.

WEST INDIES.

Jamaica—Port Royal: 1702, 1703, 1750 (two), 1815. Kingston: 1768, 1782, 1862, 1866. Montego: 1795. Hayti: Port-au Prince: 1784, 1791, 1830—the last, loss \$3,000,000; 1865, loss \$2,500,000; 1866, 1,000 buildings; 1875, loss \$2,000,000.

NORTH AMERICA.

Mexico—Two conflagrations previous to 1800, and none recorded since. New Grenada—Aspinwall: 1863. Isthmus of Darien—Panama: 1870, 1874—the latter, loss \$800,000. Chagres: large fire 1848.

France—Paris. This city was an extraordinary instance of fire exemption until quite recently. The first record is A. D. 588, "Paris burned;" then no fires are recorded until 1716—a period of 1,158 years. Then follow in order (most of them slight fires), 1716, 1762, 1763, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1799, 1802, 1810, 1820, 1858, 1869.

Other parts of France—Previous to 1800, forty-five fires; from 1800 to August, 1876, twenty-three fires.

Spain—Previous to A. D. 1800 only seven fires are recorded. That of 1790 in Madrid was the worst; and began at midnight August 12th. The miraculous image of St. Roch was taken to the blazing square, but it and the fervent prayers of the multitude did not check the flames.

Germany—Prussia, Saxony, Bavaria and Belgium. Previous to 1800 fifty-three great fires are recorded in these kingdoms; and fifteen from 1800 to August, 1876.

Russia—Moscow. This city had fearful conflagrations in 1570, 1706, 1737, 1748, 1750, 1752, 1758 (two), 1773, 1812 (Napoleon's greatest check), and June 8, 1876—fifty houses. St. Petersburg: large fires in 1736, 1766, 1771, 1780 (two), 1782, 1787, 1796, 1818, 1820, 1836 (126 lives lost), June 10, 1862 (loss, \$5,000,000), 1864 (four), and June 10, 1876 (loss, \$1,000,000).

Turkey—Constantinople. This has been the most unfortunate city of the world in regard to fires. Previous to 1800 there are forty very large conflagrations recorded; and from 1800 to August, 1876, twenty. The number of buildings burned each time ranged from 200 to 32,000; generally 6,000 to 8,000, including costly palaces and mosques.

Netherlands—Hamburg. In 1842 a conflagration destroyed 1,992 buildings; loss \$35,000,000.

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square miles of forest and many villages burned.

Other Parts of British America—Previous to 1800 four large fires; since 1800 thirty-one are recorded.

UNITED STATES.

Massachusetts—Boston. Previous to 1800 ten large fires. From 1800 to 1860 inclusive, four large fires. July, 1861, loss \$1,000,000; October 9, 1872, in forty-eight hours 748 buildings were burned—loss, as officially stated, \$75,000,000; May 30, 1873, large fire—loss \$1,100,000; December 15, 1874—loss \$1,000,000.

Maryland—Baltimore: 1796, nearly destroyed; April 14, 1867, loss \$500,000; August 2, 1873, 100 houses; loss \$700,000.

District of Columbia—Washington, December 15, 1836, General Post Office and Patent Office burned; December 24, 1851, a portion of the library in the Capitol, 35,000 volumes.

Pennsylvania—Philadelphia: 1790, a fire which commenced in a theatre; October 5, 1839, fifty-four houses were burned near Water and Chestnut streets, loss \$150,000; 1844, great loss through fires from riots; July 10, 1850, conflagration on Delaware Avenue, Water, Front and Vine streets, 350 buildings, loss \$1,500,000; 1864, great petroleum fire on Prime street, loss very heavy, some lives lost; August 4, 1869, bonded whiskey warehouses, Front and Lombard streets, 25,000 barrels of whisky, loss \$3,500,000. Pittsburgh: 1845, 1,000 buildings burned.

New York—New York City. Previous to 1800 there were five large fires recorded, including that of August 17, 1778, which destroyed 800 houses. Between 1800 and 1834 three large fires. December 16, 1835, 674 buildings were burned, loss \$20,000,000; weather very cold and water scarce. The Croton Aqueduct was commenced as a consequence of this fire 1836, loss \$250,000; 1839, loss \$4,000,000; July 19, 1845, 302 buildings burned, loss \$6,000,000; November 10, 1853, Harper's extensive bindery, loss \$1,300,000; December 20, 1853, Front Street and shipping, loss \$650,000; October 13, 1855, International Exhibition Building; December 29, 1859, Beckman Street, loss \$700,000; February 2, 1860, fifty lives lost; May, 1862, great petroleum fire; July 13-15, 1863, riots, loss \$500,000; April 16, 1865, warehouses, loss \$2,150,000; July 13, 1865, Barnum's Museum; Sept. 24, 1867, Tompkins Street, loss \$200,000; December 10, 1872, Fifth Avenue Hotel; July 26, 1873, Government bonded warehouses, loss \$500,000; February 8, 1876, Broadway and Crosby Street, loss \$1,750,000. Buffalo: September 26, 1851, 500 buildings, loss \$500,000.

New Jersey—Jersey City. Aug. 19, 1866, great petroleum fire, loss \$2,000,000.

Maine—Portland.—July 4, 1866, loss \$10,000,000.

Oregon—Portland. July, 1873, 366 buildings, loss \$1,385,000.

South Carolina—Charleston. Several destructive fires are recorded previous to 1800. * 1838, 1,158 buildings, loss \$5,000,000; December 12, 1860, loss \$10,000,000; 1868, loss \$3,000,000.

Missouri—St. Louis: 1849, loss \$3,000,000.

Illinois—Chicago. October 9, 1855, loss \$650,000; 1857, loss \$360,000; September 15, 1858, loss \$500,000; April 18, 1860, loss \$150,000; August 19, 1866, loss \$500,000; September 4, 1870, loss \$2,500,000; October 8, 1871, loss \$250,000; October 9, loss \$165,000,000 (extended over five square miles); July 14, 1874, loss \$4,000,000 (extended over sixty acres).

California—San Francisco. May 4, July 14 and September 17, 1850, 640 buildings burned; May 3, 1851, 2,500 buildings, loss \$3,500,000; June 22, 1851, 500 buildings, loss \$3,000,000. Sacramento. November 12, 1852, 200 buildings, loss \$5,000,000.

Nevada—Nevada City, 1852, nearly destroyed. Virginia City: October 26, 1875, city mostly destroyed and machinery of mines greatly damaged, loss \$7,500,000.

Other parts of the United States—Previous to 1800 seventeen fires are recorded, which include several very large ones in Charleston and Savannah. The latter city was greatly damaged by fire on July 4, 1758. After 1800 there were eighty-four fires recorded in various parts,

*There is, apparently, a misprint in the chronology at this point. The loss at Charleston in 1778 is given at \$200,000. Previously, in the Cyclopaedia, under the head of Charleston, Mr. W. Ford made the estimate \$100,000. A loss of \$200,000 in Charleston in 1778 would appear to have been a physical impossibility.

DESTRUCTION OF THE SUPREME COURT.—If Congress had set out deliberately to devise a scheme to render the character of our Supreme Judges contemptible in the estimation of all Americans, Congress could not have invented a more effective plan for the purpose than this compromise farce has proved to be. It has already done more to bring that high tribunal into popular contempt than all that has ever before occurred.

The New York World says Miss Anne Teller, the principal of the South Jamaica schools, flogged young Smith because he was unruly, and flogged him harder because he did not mend his ways. Young Smith fetched the elder Smith to "bulldoze" the teacher, but she laid the fire-shovel about his head with grand effect. The trustees said, "Well done, Annie!" The citizens generally said "Amen."