

## MOUNTAINS OF FIRE.

*Whole Forests Destroyed in a single Night—The Fires Sweeping down into Villages.*

During the past twenty days, forest fires have been raging fearfully about us, within a radius of thirty-five miles. Until the rain, which came on Saturday evening, and continued during yesterday, the earth was very dry and parched. The river was at its lowest water mark; creeks dwindled to small streamlets, wells and springs were empty, and leaves and buds were withering. The air was filled with smoke from the burning mountains surrounding us. The sky was covered with a dull haze, and the sun shone with a dim, red glare.

In the evening the sight of the fire-fiend stalking across the hills was grand as it was terrible. On the hills to the west the flames, fanned by the strong southwest wind, rose highest, though doing less damage. Whole forests of timber land were swept down in a night. Thousands of cords of wood and tan bark, thousands of railway ties, innumerable saw logs, miles of fence, and many houses, barns, and outbuildings, were devoured by the fiery element.

The proprietors of the acid factory, three miles from this town, lost \$1,000 worth of wood, which was in the forest, ready to be drawn out. W. Brandt, owner of a tannery on the line of the Jefferson Branch, loses \$1,000 worth of hemlock and oak bark. A report was in circulation on Friday, that a large steam saw mill, near Starucca, on the Jefferson, was burned. It has not been contradicted.

Several cows were burned in the woods within a few miles of here on Thursday. At Thomson, on the Jefferson, the farmers turned out *en masse* and fought the flames, saving their school building and houses. The Erie authorities sent a force of men to protect their extensive trestle, which spans a bottomless swamp near this place. In North Jackson, six miles distant, the flames burned over a section four miles square, destroying everything on its line. The people rallied, dug trenches in the woods, and stayed the burning tide. Woodlands belonging to the Hon. William L. Ford and Dr. Smith, situated between this place and Deposit, burned over, destroying many acres of valuable timber. On Gardiner's mountain, near Hale's Eddy, on Alexander Hill, near Deposit, and in the Sand Pond region, whole forests of heavy timber land were burned, creating a heavy loss.

On Thursday and Friday a gang of Erie workmen were at Gulf Summit, eight miles east of here, preventing the rail-ties, fences and woodland from burning. At this point, as along almost the entire Delaware Division, the smoke and cinders were so dense that engineers and train men were nearly suffocated, and could not see three rods from their trains. Green ties burned quickly, and a spark made a fire wherever it fell. Large boulders were heated through and cracked like artillery fire as they sent large pieces whizzing upward. The roar of the fast-flying flames could be heard for a mile. Sapling a foot in thickness went down with dry old pines. On Sand Pond Hill, a house belonging to Thomas Gallagher burned down within fifteen minutes.

Near Millway, in Broome County, N. Y., a steam mill, residence, barns, and several outbuildings, belonging to R. M. Richardson; the dwelling of Joseph Pike, two million feet of logs, and a vast amount of other lumber, were burned from fire communicated from the burning forests. Michael Fearley, of Starucca, was so severely burned on Friday, while fighting the flames, that his life is despaired of. Many telegraph poles were burned. In some instances they were saved by trackmen. At Carbondale the engine houses on the mountain division of the Delaware and Hudson Railway were in constant danger, and the shrill steam whistle daily rallied men to their rescue.

The fires destroyed \$2,000,000 worth of property near Scranton, including 3,300 cords of tan bark, three miles of the Pennsylvania Coal and Iron Company's track, several miles of gravity road track, and 250,000 logs belonging to Messrs. Stout & Gonlick.

The birds left the burning forests for the underbrush lining the Susquehanna River or flew southward. A flock of at least 1,000 birds formed over the Starucca Valley on Wednesday, described a circle, and passed away in a southwesterly direction. Very many

rattlesnakes came out from beneath hot rocks and burning gorges to die. On Laurel Hill some were seen to jump into the air in their frantic efforts to escape destruction. Some came down the mountain side and hid beneath logs and rocks near creeks. Above Lanesboro scores of the reptiles, large and small, were seen to mingle upon a rock, jump upward, and run down the hill to the flames.

Rain is now falling, and the fires have been quenched. — *Susquehanna Depot, Pa., (May 20) Correspondence of N. Y. Sun.*

A woman in Terre Haute glues her husbands eyelids together when he gets drunk, and when he promises better things she soaks them in warm water and restores his vision.

Lady Lindsay said of her brother's (Lord Guildford's) library, "that it contained but two sorts of books—books that could not be read and books that ought not to be read."

Trees have been found in Australia taller than those of California, though not as large. One has been measured and found to be 480 feet high. The wood closely resembles the red cedar, and the bark is sometimes eighteen inches thick.—*Ex.*

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