

RANGE OF THE THERMOMETER.
The thermometer ranged as follows at
The Times office yesterday: 9 A. M., 54;
12 M., 62; 3 P. M., 59; 6 P. M., 48; 9 P. M.,
44; 12 M., 42. Average, 48 1/2.

VOL. 16. NO. 42.

The Times.

RICHMOND, VA. SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1901

PRICE TWO CENTS

TRUE VIRGINIA HOSPITALITY

Never Was it More Nobly Exhibited.

HOMES THROWN OPEN

Guests of Hotel Become Guests of Richmond's Citizens.

ALL WERE WELL CARED FOR.

Within a Few Hours After the Flames Had Gained the Mastery, All of More Than Three Hundred Strangers Were Comfortably Housed in Homes, Hotels and Clubs of the City.

Virginia, and especially Richmond, hospitality was never more nobly shown than last night. Those who had been guests of the burning Jefferson Hotel became guests of Richmond's best citizens. Offers poured in from the immediate neighborhood of the doomed hotel, and from distant parts of the city, to take in those who had been burned out. In many instances these offers were accepted, and those who had been started from their beds were taken into refined homes, where every consideration was shown them.

There were over three hundred guests at the Jefferson, and within a few hours after the flames gained the mastery, there were all comfortably housed, either in private residences, at the clubs, or other hotels of the city. Many others were ready and anxious to care for those who had been thus in hospitably turned out into the night by the direst disaster that had befallen Richmond since the evacuation.

Messrs. Virginia Norton and Thomas Atkinson kept open house, and coffee and other refreshments were liberally dispensed to the brave firemen who worked so faithfully to save Richmond's handsome hotel and through whose noble work the adjoining property was mostly saved. Their houses, as well as those of all others in the neighborhood, were thrown open and everything possible done for the comfort of everyone.

WHERE THEY ARE NOW.

A partial list of the guests and where they are quartered follows:

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Nason, and E. H. Latson of Springfield, Mass., are at the home of Mr. Thos. Atkinson.

A gentleman and his wife at Mrs. Edward Buck's.

Gentleman and wife at Mr. Fred Pleasant's.

Three ladies at Mr. Edward Mayo's. (Mrs. Dasher, Miss Deader, and Miss James at Mr. James B. Pace's.

Mrs. Fred Pleasant, and daughter, of New York, and Mr. M. M. Straus of Richmond, at home of Mrs. Edel. Mr. Straus and his wife live at the Jefferson, in rooms furnished by themselves. He estimates his loss at \$3,000 with \$2,000 insurance.

Mrs. Brown and daughter, of Boston, at Mr. Levin Joyne's.

Three of the maids at the Jefferson at Mrs. Preston Cocke's, three with Mrs. Fitzhugh Mayo, nine with Dr. George Ross, three with Colonel E. S. Hobson, three with Mr. Edward Mayo.

Captain Parker, of New York, formerly of United States navy, at the Commonwealth Club.

James H. Logan, son of General T. M. Logan, at Commonwealth Club.

At the Lexington: Mr. Blumard, New York; Mr. Smith, Philadelphia; C. H. Merriam, Philadelphia; George W. Tapley and wife, A. N. Mayo and wife, and A. D. Near and wife, Springfield, Mass.; H. C. Demson and wife, New Bedford, Mass.; W. M. Marks Sutton, New York; W. H. Morris, Virginia; V. Vincent Jones, New York; W. A. MacMahan, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Lawrence, Boston; Dr. Walter J. Hull, Boston; Mr. W. F. Foulsham, Baltimore; R. L. Sledge, Baltimore; J. B. Scott, Baltimore.

At New Ford's: Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Wilson, Pittsburgh; Gerhard Menard, Newark, N. J.; W. W. Causey, New York; Mrs. K. K. Wharton, Ipsilanti, Mich.; Miss Hattie Swift, Ipsilanti, Mich.; H. D. Merick and wife, Washington; E. F. Wilson, New York; G. F. Coshland, New York; C. C. Gula, New York; Chas. E. Hallowell, New York; R. J. Reynolds, Winston, N. C.; F. E. Bedwell, Chicago; E. H. Lathrop, Springfield, Mass.; Miss F. E. Harwood, Miss W. C. Harwood and Miss E. A. Bedwell, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Moran, Chicago; George S. Wilson, Washington; John W. Douglas, Washington; H. E. Duke, New York; J. M. Hall and wife, Providence; R. I.; John M. Richmond, Providence; R. I.; E. A. Khouri, New York; W. R. Sweeney, Philadelphia; J. McCarthy, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Baker, Boston; A. H. Kayton, New York; E. Schultz, Arlington, N. Y.; Mrs. L. S. Ellsworth, Simsbury, Conn.; H. E. Ellsworth, Simsbury, Conn.; S. W. Dodge, Simsbury, Conn.; B. C. Tett, New York; L. P. Stearns and wife, Newport, Conn.; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Andrew, Cleveland; J. R. Shemmed, Baltimore; Louis Barron, New York; J. A. Davis, Baltimore; J. B. Munroe, Boston; E. Macnair, Philadelphia; E. E. Mueller, Washington; Dave L. Rice, New York; Frank Harris, Westchester, Pa.; S. B. Waters, New York; J. C. Short, New York; Mr. and Mrs. E. Walsh, Jr., St. Louis; Frank W. Levy, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Hale, Elizabeth N. J.; Mr. and Mrs. S. R. King, Palmetto, O.; J. S. Grossbaum, England; W. P. Warner, wife and maid, Troy, N. Y.; E. P. Montague, New York; Mr. and Mrs. V. C. N. Belbin, Boston; J. C. Jenkins, New York; A. D. Price, Boston; H. M. Lowenthal, Rochester, N. Y.

At the Alhambra: F. M. Agostini, New York; E. H. Coates, New York.

Murphy's, Ford's and Lexington had

to turn away many who applied for rooms. Some of the visitors at 4 o'clock this morning were sleeping in chairs in the lobby at Murphy's.

SCENE WHO WERE THERE.

Among those who were registered at the Jefferson last night were Mr. and Mrs. J. Stull Alderson, Pa.; Mrs. M. J. Snowden, Franklin, Pa.; P. R. Foye and Mrs. Foye, Cleveland; Mrs. John F. Preston and Mrs. Preston, Baltimore, and C. F. Preston, U. S. N.; Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Baker, Boston; Mr. and Mrs. William F. Aull, Pittsburgh; Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Ladd, Master Jack Ladd, Fraulein Staff, Mrs. J. L. Snow and Miss M. F. Snow, composed of Misses from Providence, R. I.; H. E. Wilder, Miss E. F. Wilder, Mrs. W. H. Davis and Master Fred Davis, of Newton, Mass.; R. E. Sledge and J. W. Foggall, of Baltimore.

THE SPLENDID JEFFERSON HOTEL BURNED, BUT ALL THE GUESTS MADE THEIR ESCAPE.

FROM DEFECTIVE INSULATION

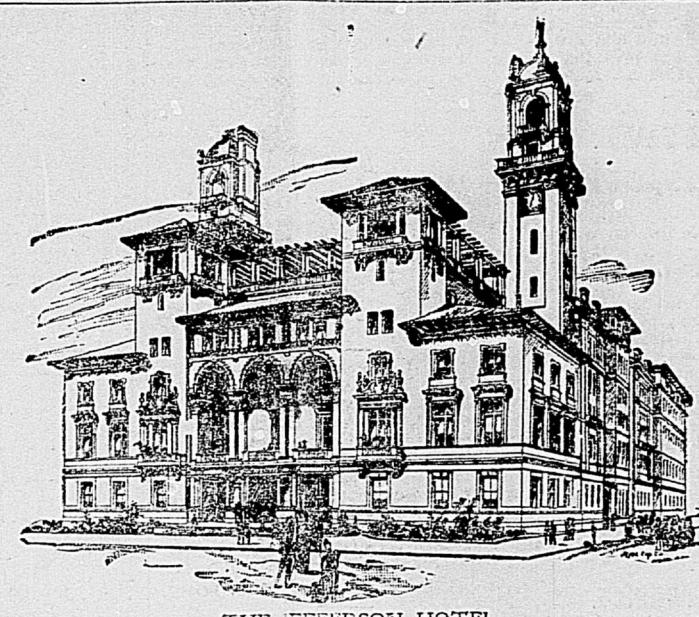
This Thought to Have Been Cause of the Fire.

GOOD HEADWAY WHEN SEEN

Firemen Fought Heroically But Against Great Odds.

HOMES WERE OPENED WIDE

Citizens Most Hospitable to the Burned Out Visitors.



THE JEFFERSON HOTEL.

MADE MIRACULOUS ESCAPES.

A Marvel that All the Guests Got Out of the House Alive

FEW WERE SLIGHTLY HURT

One Man's Leg Broken, But None of the Others Seriously Injured.

THE STATUE CARRIED OUT.

But the Head Was Broken Off in Saving the Sculpture.

THE MOST DISASTROUS FIRE RICHMOND HAS EXPERIENCED SINCE THE EVACUATION.

Smoke-grimed walls and smouldering ruins are all that remain this morning of the magnificent Jefferson Hotel.

The splendid hostelry, at once the glory of yesterday Richmond and the pride of her people, was destroyed by fire last night.

The great building was crowded with guests, but there was no loss of life. Several persons were injured; several hairbreadth escapes were reported.

The larger portion of the furniture was destroyed. The magnificent furnishings of the grand salon were gotten out; practically all the baggage of guests was saved. The guests themselves found shelter in other hotels; the doors of homes of citizens were opened wide to receive them, and large numbers are stopping now in private homes.

CAUSE OF THE FIRE.

Defective insulation of an electric light wire is thought to have caused the fire. It originated in a closet, apparently, on the fourth floor, at the southeast corner of the building. It was 11:15 o'clock when the first alarm was turned in. The fire had apparently been extinguished, when the interior of the Roof Garden, at the fifth story, was found to be in a blaze. Then the entire department was quickly remembered.

AN EXPLOSION.

Soon after the fire started a terrific explosion, caused by the ignition of the gas reservoir, startled and horrified the spectators. The results were not fatal. The fearsome roaring and crackling; the crash of falling iron and timbers and walls; the rhythmic beat of the working engines, the ceaseless drumming of the great drumming bat, hemmed in on every side the scene of the mighty catastrophe, added features to a spectacle which will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

MADE RAPID PROGRESS.

Once well started the flames leapt run-

ning with a speed almost incredible. The thousands who thronged the vacant lot on Main Street, to the southwest of the burning structure, had a view-point superior to all others. When they first began to gather there, a wavering glare in the Roof Garden and puffs of smoke from the roof were all that told them the splendid structure was in danger of destruction. Then there was a brighter glare, volumes of flame and inky smoke burst through the roof; the mighty roar, nearly drowned the chroaking of the engines.

Inside, in a moment, there was a glare at several of the Main-Street windows, at the southeast corner of the fourth floor. The throng then became interested in watching the flames appear at one window after another, eating its way, foot by foot, until there was a blinding glare, and all knew the fire had reached the large assembly-room. It was not long then until the spectators saw the flames wrap the entire building south of the great towers and down to the second floor. Then they waited, and when the gray light of dawn stole up from the east, they saw but sultry smoke and blackened ruins.

The firemen realized from the first their utter inability to cope with a fire of such magnitude. They fought with unceasing energy, under the shadow of lofty walls that threatened to totter and fall, from the dizzy height of the roof of the unburning portion of the hotel, from the tops of adjoining residences, from every point from which it seemed possible to throw a stream upon the seething, leaping flames.

But the strength of man was as naught against the fury of the devouring element, and in an hour from the time the fire started, the men fighting it knew, and the thousands watching it knew, the great building was doomed. The property loss was enormous. The spectators saw practically destroyed in a few hours a mighty structure, the building of which had taken nearly a million and a half dollars and years of labor. The insurance upon the property was about \$750,000. The celebrated Valentine statue of Thomas Jefferson, in the Palm Court, was saved, but the head was broken off. Manager Fry lost everything. His

wife and servant carried out their two little children wrapped in blankets.

The Pace flats, adjacent to the Jefferson on the Main-Street side, were gutted. The furniture was removed; the building was fully insured. The residence of Colonel Archer Anderson, next to the hotel on the Franklin-Street side, was damaged to a slight extent.

It may be the origin of the fire will never be conclusively known. It was said that the fire began in an electrician's work on the wiring of the building yesterday. Several short-circuited wires may have caused fires in many places in the building at one time.

RECALLS OTHER BIG FIRES.

The fire which destroyed the Jefferson will be remembered as one of the three greatest fires of Richmond. The first was the burning of the Richmond Theatre in 1818; the second was the burning of the old Spotswood Hotel, on Christmas morning, 1870. Each was attended by great loss of life. There were no lives lost in the Jefferson Hotel fire; the property loss was far greater than any the city has ever known, save that accompanying the evacuation by the Confederates, in 1865.

It seemed that the spectators realized they were witnessing an event which would be forever memorable. About every fire there is a strange fascination, until wonder that many of those who witnessed the progress of the mighty conflagration of this morning could not bring themselves away until the dawn convinced them that the scenes of the night were not the pictures of a dream.

Franklin Street Front Saved.

The fire was under control at 5 o'clock this morning. The Franklin-Street side of the hotel was much damaged, but was not destroyed. Probably three-fourths of the once beautiful building is in ruins.

The hotel and furnishings cost about \$1,750,000. The insurance, placed through Mr. Williamson Talley, was about \$540,000, on a schedule covering the entire building, machinery and fixtures. In addition to this there is specific insurance of \$15,000 on the machinery of the various plants in the

basement. The total insurance will amount to nearly \$600,000.

WAS HARD FIRE TO FIGHT.

Firemen Worked Hard, But Under Difficulties.

Story of the Fire.

The Jefferson Hotel fire was a most difficult one to fight and the firemen were handicapped from the start. They fought, however, with wonderful effectiveness, and from the surrounding houses streams from all sides were poured on the seething surface below.

The roof of the hotel fronting on the Main-Street side, however, it was seen for almost the very beginning was doomed, but every effort and every trick known to fire-fighters of long experience was brought into use. All failed and only the Franklin-Street front and the power house were saved. How all the guests escaped is a mystery.

The first intimation that the hotel was on fire, from all that can be learned, came from one of the waiters named Quarles. There was at first an attempt made to extinguish the fire, but the firemen, finding their efforts futile, sent a special alarm was sent in. Engine Company No. 7 responded, but soon a general alarm was struck and the entire department was called out.

The men were none too soon. Before they arrived flames had broken through the windows of the top floor and roof garden, as well from the roof on the roof garden. Streams were at once turned on from Main, Jefferson, and Adams Street sides of the building, but for a long while these many streams seemed to have no effect whatever. If anything the fire seemed to grow only more determined and bent on completing its pitiless work.

DESPERATE PLAN OF RESCUE.

Then it was that a desperate plan of rescue and to fight the flames from the inside of the burning building was determined upon. Brave men followed daring leaders and made their way to the blaze, but finding their efforts futile, the alarm was sent in. Engine Company No. 7 responded, but soon a general alarm was struck and the entire department was called out.

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THE JEFFERSON STATUE.

Following is a description of the statue written a few years ago.

From a careful study of the best portraits obtainable, and with the rare privilege of being able to invest the model with a suit of clothing that belonged to and was worn by Mr. Jefferson.

Sculptor Valentine has succeeded in producing a statue that is instinct with physical and intellectual vigor. Mr. Jefferson, who was 6 feet 2 1/2 inches tall, is represented in a statue of little more than life-size. The figure is elegant and impressive, and the posture easy and graceful.

The left foot is slightly advanced, and most of the weight of the figure rests on the right foot. The left hand rests on a Doric column, and the lines of this column are broken by a graceful contact of the folds of the great coat, which falls naturally against it. The right hand holds the paper that was so mighty in the destiny of this great republic, and bears the faithful reproduction of the endorsement on its back as follows:

"The Original Draft of the Declaration of Independence, Passed by the Continental Congress of the

United States of America, 4th of July, 1776."

The drapery, which was modelled from Jefferson's costume, gives a delightfully picturesque effect to the figure, and consists of a long great coat, with ornamental cape, covering a dress-coat, long waistcoat, knee-breeches, top-boots, and a stock necklace, with lace ruffles. There is an entire absence of stiffness and conventionality about the figure, and the ease and simplicity of its pose accentuates the beauty of it.

The position of the head is slightly bent, giving a thoughtful air to the figure, and the face is pleasant, while bearing the lines of intellect, force, and power which so distinguish it. The figure in its entirety gives a grand and noble conception of the great statesman.

The statue is chiselled from the purest Carrara marble, and is absolutely flawless.

LADIES' CAFE.

A visitor to the hotel, soon after it was opened, wrote this of the ladies' cafe and other features of the building:

"Lounging-chairs are placed round the arcade, which, it may readily be imagined, presents a soothing and delightful place to spend an idle hour in. To the right of the court is the ladies' cafe, which is of the same design as the court, and decorated in the same colors. The room measures 42x30 feet, and is beautifully furnished with mahogany chairs, upholstered in leather, and dainty mahogany tables, while a large picture, entitled

"The Sheik," which was painted by G. Clairin last year, and was hung in the Paris salon exhibition last year, adorns the walls. The picture, which represents the Sheik upon an eminence reviewing his hordes of cavalrymen, is full of life, character, and color, and is extremely beautiful.

"In addition to the ladies' cafe, the arcade contains two parlors for the reception and entertainment of visitors by the guests of the hotel. These parlors, also

WEATHER FORECAST.
For Saturday and Sunday: Virginia and North Carolina—Fair Saturday, fresh to brisk easterly winds. Sunday, rain.

PRICE TWO CENTS

ONE OF FINEST IN THE COUNTRY

Jefferson Hotel Pride to All Richmonders.