

[From the Laurensville Herald.]

GREAT CONFLAGRATION.

The Old Continental Hotel and Traynham & Dial's Block in Ashes.

About day-break Thursday morning, 15th inst., the alarm of fire was heard by our citizens, and intuitively almost everybody made in the direction of the old Continental Hotel building, which, for some time past, has an ominous tin-darbox. The fire raged fearfully, it being completely past control when discovered. It appears that the fire originated in the store-room of Dr. B. E. Martin, as the explosions of cartridges were heard in that direction before the flames were discovered in any other portion of the building. Mr. Easterby, a cotton buyer at this place, was the first to discover the presence of fire. Waking up and finding the room full of smoke, he awoke Mr. Balle Crisp, who was sleeping with him, and Mr. Crisp, remembering that there had been a little fire left in the adjoining room, hurried thither, thinking that possibly a coal might have popped out on the carpet and set it on fire. Mr. Crisp says that when he reached the adjoining room he found that the fire had all died out, and the room was completely filled with smoke. He ran all through the building, however, in his night-clothes, awakening his family and the guests—some of whom barely escaped with their lives. All the furniture of the Hotel, together with property and clothing of some of the boarders, was totally consumed.

Chief of Police Langston, who was the first person at the fire, assisted by Mr. J. W. Fowler, was attempting to enter the store-room of Dr. Martin when a keg of powder exploded and blew them some distance from the burning building. They are not thought to be seriously hurt, but Mr. Fowler's injuries are troubling him a great deal just now. The entire stock of goods of Dr. B. E. Martin was entirely consumed. The flames from the Hotel building soon communicated to Messrs. Trainham & Dial's block of brick buildings, and made short work of the same. A part of their stock, however, was saved; and it was by dint of the hardest work that the buildings of Mr. S. R. Todd and Messrs. Mills & Robertson were saved. When we consider the fact that we are but poorly prepared in case of fire, it would seem almost impossible to have saved these buildings.

Dr. B. E. Martin's stock was insured in the New York Underwriter's and Continental Insurance companies to the amount of \$1,000 in each company. Dr. J. A. Barksdale, and Leake & Patton, Agents. Nothing saved.

The Hotel furniture of Mr. Crisp was insured in the Home Insurance Co. to the amount of only \$250. Nothing saved.

McGhee & Gilkerson's stock was insured in different companies to the amount of 5,500. Part of stock saved.

Reidy & Bleakely's stock was covered by \$3,000 insurance in the Virginia Home, and North British Mercantile Companies. Traynham & Dial, Agents. Part of stock saved.

The stock of goods of Messrs. Traynham & Dial was covered by insurance in the following Companies:

\$1,800 in Factors and Traders Company; \$2,000 in Virginia Home Company; \$2,200 in German American Company; \$2,500 in North British and Mercantile Company; \$2,400 in the City of London Company.

While everybody did their full duty, we must say that our Policemen and Town Council worked like Trojans. Mr. Hugh Cannady was in charge of the Dray wagon belonging to the Council and worked like a beaver in endeavoring to keep up a supply of water, while Mr. Langston was none the less busy.

The colored people, as usual, combatted with the flames with their usual heroism. All praise to their manly efforts.

PULL THE BELL.—On one of the northern trains recently was an old lady, who evidently had never before made a railroad journey. After looking about her some time in curiosity, her eyes alighted on the bell line and she asked the water boy, who just happened to be passing at the time, what is that for. "That, marm," said the boy, with a wicked twinkle in his eye, "is to ring the bell when you want anything to eat," and passed on. Shortly after the old lady got down the family umbrella and reaching up to the bell line gave it a vigorous pull. Of course the brakes were applied, the windows thrown up, questions asked, the old lady sitting calmly through the confusion. Presently the conductor came rushing into the car, exclaiming, "Who pulled the bell?" "I did," replied the old lady, meekly. "Well, what do you want?" snapped the official, impatiently. "Well, said the old lady, meditatively, "you may bring me some hash."—Boston Post.

—The other day T. G. met an old friend who was formerly a prosperous young lumberman up North, but whose habits of drinking resulted as they often do, though he has since reformed, and is trying to do better.

"How are you?" said T. G.
"Pretty well, thank you; but I've just been to a doctor to have him look at my throat."

"What's the matter?"
"Well, the doctor couldn't give me any encouragement. At least he couldn't find what I wanted him to find."

"What did you expect him to find?"
"I asked him to look down my throat for the saw-mill and farm that had gone down there."

"And did he see nothing of it?"
"No, but he advised me if I ever get another mill, to run it by water.—Free Press.

COULD NOT BE SHAKEN.—Considerable has been said and written about the persistence and staying qualities of the Texas mosquito, and that he is that kind of an insect there can be no doubt. A few mornings ago a little Austin boy appeared to be somewhat peevish at the breakfast table, and when asked for the cause, he rubbed his little nose, and replied:

"Miskeetea bodder me, I had to push him off my nose."

EXTREME OLD AGE.—How is your father coming on?" asked Col. Percy Yerger of a darkey he used to own before the war.

"He am dead."
"Dead, is he! He must have reached an advanced age."
"He did dat, for a fac. He was lib-in' up to de bery day ob his deff."

SCENE IN THE RECORDER'S COURT.—Recorder—"Witness, did I understand you to swear that you saw the accused at ten o'clock on Tuesday night on Austin Avenue?"

Witness (slightly tight)—"I can't swear to it, your honor, but I'll bet yer two schooners of beer I shaw him."

—A traveling salesman of Chicago "has become insane because of having married two wives, both of whom are living." It will be pretty hard to convince some persons that he wasn't insane when he married his first wife.—Norristown Herald.

—"Oh, Lordy! yelled a boy running to his mother, "sister mashed my hand with a hammer."

"Which one?" asked the mother.
"I don't know. I wasn't looking."
—Traveler.

—We are informed that the barn of Mr. Henry Harbin, about three miles from Seneca City, was consumed by fire on the night of the 7th inst. The barn contained one horse, one ox and about 1,000 bundles of fodder, besides gear and other articles. The loss, as we hear, is estimated at \$350, uninsured.

The fire is believed to be the work of an incendiary.—Keowee Courier.

—"Will you love me then as now?" warbled a young lady at the piano, and her "deah Gawge" muttered through his clenched teeth: "If you will only keep still, then I will love you five hundred per cent better."

J. T. NIX,

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW,
GREENVILLE, S. C.

Practices in the State and United States Courts.

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