Our Great Calamity.

Notre Dame Stretches out her Hands to her Friends Everywhere for Help in Her Affliction.

On fire, in flares, in saes! Such is the history of Our Lady's College for a few short hours, beginning at about eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning, April 23d, 1879. The story of alarm, of hurried help, of almost superhuman but vain labor in extinguishing the raging flames, and finally of saving whatever of value that could be snatched from the fire, has all been graphically told by the daily press for the past few days, and we have hardly the heart to go over the dreadful story. But our friends have a right to hear from us through our own little paper, and so they shall, for thank God, our printing-office is one of the precious things spared by the devouring element.

The origin of the fire is simply impossible to ascertain. Workmen had been engaged on the roof until ten o'clock, and on coming down had locked the door opening on the dome. Whether the sun inflamed the dry timber-dust, or a spark from the chimney of the steam-house set fire to it, remains a matter of conjecture. The one thing certain is, that the accident could neither have been foreseen nor prevented.

The fire was first seen from the Minims' yard. The flames were on the roof, near the east side of the dome, and the Minims' shrill cry of "College on Fire!" was soon echoed on every side by brother, priest, student and professor. A very little water at first would have been sufficient to save the building, but before water could be carried to the top of the sixth story the pitch roof was already blazing, and nothing less than a deluge from the city stand-pipes could have subdued those fierce flames.

Still, with a hope that was almost without any foundation, an unthinking confidence that the beloved edifice could not thus perish before their eyes, long lines of men, the narrowest escapes. The coolness displayed by the students, P. J. Dougherty and P. Devoto, staying too long on the roof, were intercepted by the flames, and carrying away his little articles of value, books, pictures, costly instruments, private papers of priceless value, and even heavy desks and book-cases, have been securely, and even it would seem lovingly, carried to places of safety by the warm-hearted students. They loved Notre Dame as their second home, but never knew her as when the cruel flames were snatching her from their eyes forever.

But while all this was going on, help was pouring in from all sides. All the neighbors for miles around were bringing water or trying to save small articles. As soon as the fire was discovered, telegram after telegram was sent to the city, imploring help, and asking for the fire-engine. As soon as the firemen could gather from their shops, and put the engine in working order, it was carried out. Mayor Tong, Councilman Nevius, Sup't. Abbott, Chief Brusie and Assistant Hall, and numerous firemen and citizens, received the warmest expressions of gratitude. South Bend displayed a most grateful sympathy in our affliction which will be remembered as long as Notre Dame and her sister city flourish side by side in mutual help and good will towards one another. The engine had not been used before for two years, had but recently been repaired, and it was not known at first whether it would work. But it performed admirable service, and could it have been there in the beginning, or even an hour earlier, it would have saved the College. Had it been there half an hour earlier it would have saved the Infirmary building, the St. Francis' Home, and the Music Hall. But it performed great service as it was, for bringing water on the fire as it was spreading.

The story of alarm, of hurried help, of almost superhuman and kindly-hearted students rush into their old class-rooms and the private rooms of Very Rev. Father Corby, Father Walsh, Father Kelly, and their prefects and professors, breaking open the doors where necessary, and carrying away to places of safety whatever had become dear to them through the ties of association and fond recollection. Many a priest and professor who forgot all about their private affairs in laboring for the general safety can now hardly refrain from tears when he finds that all his little articles of value, books, pictures, costly instruments, private papers of priceless value, and even heavy desks and book-cases, have been securely, and even it would seem lovingly, carried to places of safety by the warm-hearted students. They loved Notre Dame as their second home, but never knew her as when the cruel flames were snatching her from their eyes forever.

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everything out carefully and putting it in a place of safety. Unfortunately, numbers of over-zealous persons, instead of taking what they could and carrying it out of the building without waiting to get the best things, were busy breaking out of the windows, breaking whatever could be broken, and only piling other things up below for the fire to fall upon the heap and burn it up. The most valuable books, some of them of ages of several hundred years, were thus burned on the ground outside.

On looking about after the fires were brought under sub-
gestion, the whole great College was entirely destroyed— a burnt fragment of wall standing here and there. The In-
form of the Notre Dame destruction was accomplished in about three hours. Soon after, at three o'clock, Father Corby called a meeting of the wisest assistants around him, and it was here determined that nothing could be done but bring the college year to a close and then look forward to the future. It was five o'clock when this conclusion was arrived at, but on looking around them the council saw that it was inevitable. An hour after, the students were assembled in the church, and the Very Rev. President Corby, by order of Very Rev. President Corby, tele-
tenal of Wednesday. An associated press dispatch was sent then. Prof. Stace being asked if he had saved anything, with a comical smile pointed in silence to the shirt pockets and bedclothes that had been saved. The fire engine was done. No one in the United States entitled to receive it. The destruction of this labor of his life—for he left last Monday afternoon was a night of toil and trouble. The Secretary, by order of Very Rev. President Corby, tele-
graphed to all the parents of the students, while the latter were gathered into Washington Hall and slept upon the beds and bedclothes that had been saved. The fire engine had been taken home in the evening, but the wind veering towards the south in the night threatened a new fire in the kitchen, and the engine was hastily sent for. No further damage was done, however. The fire created intense ex-
formation to the United States and to the leading business men, for the fire being put out, and the insurance 60,000 [the insurance is only about $45,000—N. D. SCHOLASTIC], but there will be no lack of funds to make up the difference and enable the prompt rebuilding of the University.

The Plan.—President Corby has resigned, and a new President will be selected. Such sentiments of sympathy, and those we have received from the press and citizens of our own city, are most grate-
ful at an hour like this.

Yes, Notre Dame will be herself again in a few months, with God's help, the untried toll of her children, and the aid of her generous friends who have never failed her in her hour of need. If there ever was a time when assistance was needed it is now. Notre Dame has so grown into the life of the country that it cannot but live and flourish, notwithstanding the fire. Like a vigorous tree which has been burned to the ground, the life is still strong in the great heart beneath, and it will spring from its ashes more glorious and beautiful than ever. A new building better suited to its purposes, and equally sub-
stantial, elegant and commodious, will be immediately erected, well out front of the old building, giving more room, and separation from surrounding structures. This building will be ready before the first of September. Now, will our friends help us,—will all those who have drawn some advantage from it, and who now and for the next thirty, thirty-five years, now show how well they love that mother who has done so much for them? Will those who love the young, and desire to see them brought up in the fear and love of God see them help? Will those who have a summer? Will those who seize every opportunity to do that which is most pleasing to Almighty God, and believe that with His help, our own hard work and the aid of our friends we shall have as fine a college building, full of students, next September, as that which we lost on this terrible 23d of April.

A Card from Very Rev. President Corby.

To our neighbors and to the people of South Bend, we desire to render our most grateful acknowledgments for their sympathy and assistance in our calamity on Wednes-
da. In a particular manner are our thanks due to the press of the city and to the leading business men, for their sympathy and aid, offered personally or by letter, but still more to the fire department for its generous and effective help in bringing the fire engine, which saved at least three important buildings for us, if not more. We do not care to mention any names where we are indebted to so very many, but we desire all to know that we are most grateful to all our generous friends.

W. CORBY, C. S. C., President.

We publish no Roll of Honor this week. We can estab-
ish no distinction of merit between students. Their conduct during the critical hours when the old University of Notre Dame was fast becoming a heap of smoking ruins is beyond all praise. We have always spoken highly of the boys of '79, and we thought that we fully appreciated their noble qualities, but the sad events of the past few days have been the means of revealing in them an affec-
tion for, and devotedness to, their Alma Mater which will render them dearer to her than any others of the many hundreds of whom she is already so justly proud. All, without exception, from the youngest Minim to the greatest Senior, showed that they possessed in abundance the metal of which heroes are made. While Seniors bravely scaled ladders, burst through doors and skylights, and fought the flames inch by inch, the Juniors in the long lines of bucket-carriers stretching from every water-tank to the dome; and even
Minims rendered efficient service by assisting to save from destruction anything and everything which it lay within their power to save from the flames. The same could be said of the students, who acted in their own hands over $400 sent to take them home. Men of all parties, creeds, and professions worked side by side with the priests, brothers and students. A State Senator's zealous efforts nearly cost him his life: editors, lawyers, doctors, and city officials fought the flames shoulder to shoulder with the students and priests; and what a lesson of Christian charity was taught by the two noble non-Catholic clergymen who put forth such strenuous efforts to prevent Science Hall and the Laboratory from falling a prey to the devouring element!

The kind words and proflers of aid from the Register, Tribune, and Herald are known to the world, and will never be forgotten at Notre Dame, and it gives us the deepest satisfaction to know that the press reflected the unanimous sentiment of our neighboring city. Expressions of sympathy and offers of assistance—never so much needed as at present—have been flowing in from all sides. Our nearest neighbors—notably Messrs. Chishirart, Sum­mers, Bulla and Ogalah—promptly placed their residences at the disposal of the College authorities. Ex-Mayor Miller was one of the first after the fire to put his services at the command of President Corby. A telegram from Washington announced that General Sherman would promptly supply army tents for the temporary accommodation of the students and faculty if necessary, and space and time prevents us from publishing in the present issue of the Scholastic more than a very few of the many letters and telegrams received from prominent citizens of South Bend and friends of Notre Dame in all parts of the country; and these few we print in the order in which they have reached us. Others will be published as soon as it is possible to strike off another issue:

**THE SCHOLASTIC.**

**DEAR SIR:**—I desire to tender you my sincere and hearty sympathy in your sorrow. I enclose first impression of a short editorial, Forty Hours' Devotion. We can jointly extend to you our deepest satisfaction to know that the press reflected the unanimous sentiment of our neighboring city. Expressions of sympathy and offers of assistance—never so much needed as at present—have been flowing in from all sides.

**DEAR SIR:**—I write with profound sorrow this evening the distressing news of the destruction by fire of your noble College, which, happily, was unattained by any casualty to human life. The misfortune which has thus unexpectedly befallen you will arouse the sympathy of the entire country. Your loss is more than local in its significance, and its effects extend wherever Catholic education is regarded throughout the world. It is a national calamity. The name and fame of your College is known from the Hudson to the Missouri, and its graduates are to be found in every city and town of the United States. These will all stand to you in your need, and the generous American public, who know the distinguished services you have rendered to the cause of education and good morals, will not be backward to second your efforts in rebuilding and restoring the material College, which, please God, you will speedily raise over the ruins of the one just destroyed.

I am sure that Chicago will respond promptly and generously to any appeal you make, and my poor services shall not be wanting if occasion serves to give them any value to you.

Very sincerely yours,

**W. J. ONANAH.**

**DEAR SIR:**—I need not say that I regret very much to learn of the destruction of the University by fire. Would be glad to offer you any assistance in my power; and to this end, should you wish to make any temporary arrangements, I offer you my services for the use of our columns gratis for announcements of the same.

I beg to remain yours very respectfully,

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I beg to remain yours very respectfully,
LANCASTER, Pa., 1879.

VERY REV. FATHER CORBY—Please accept our heartfelt sympathy of your children and Lancaster friends.

ANTHONY KACZ
(Pastor of St. Anthony's Church.)

[From the Hon. W. H. Calkins, M. C.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D. C.
April 6, 1879.

DEAR FATHER CORBY:-I want to add to the already over-crowded letters you have doubles received, my inexpressible grief at the loss of the sacred ashes of the holy building of Notre Dame, and the assistance of friends such as letters like the above have. If the fire was, as I suppose, from some evil design, I am confident that the good work which she has been so justly celebrated for, will at once be erected.

I am, very truly,

W. H. CALKINS.

[From the Hon. A. C. Dodge, LL. D.]

BURLINGTON, IOWA, April 25, 1879.

PRESIDENT CORBY, Notre Dame, Ind.

VERY REV. AND DEAR SIR:-How sudden, how terrible the calamity you have suffered!—not you, and your associates, alone, but the great Northwest. Seldom, if ever, have I heard deeper expressions of regret and sorrow than were uttered, by persons of all sects and religions, in the immediate wake of the disaster, day before yesterday: “Notre Dame is burning, and must inevitably be destroyed.”

In the subjoined, taken from the “Head-Eye” of to-day, your former students have spoken for themselves, and their resolutions contain an expression of the feelings of all those here and abroad who have ever sent children to your University, or who have come in contact with you or your associates when they visited Notre Dame or when you visited them.

My wife joined me in the heartfelt wish that Notre Dame may rise, phoenixlike, from its ashes, to even greater distinction, and we must submit to the decree, how unwelcome soever it may be to us. In the subjoined, taken from the “Head-Eye” of to-day, your former students have spoken for themselves, and their resolutions contain an expression of the feelings of all those here and abroad who have ever sent children to your University, or who have come in contact with you or your associates when they visited Notre Dame or when you visited them.

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Your loving friend and servant,

A. C. DODGE.

From the Burlington “Head-Eye” of April 25.

Notre Dame.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BURLINGTON STUDENTS.

A meeting of the resident post-graduate and former students of the University of Notre Dame, Indians, was held in this city on yesterday, at which the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

• The resolution that Notre Dame be speedily reborn, and continue the good work in which it has been so justly celebrated for, and that we will contribute, as far as lies in our power, to aid in this result.

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The annual Commencement exercises have been this year prevented from taking place by the fire, the faculty met on Thursday, April 24th, and decided to confer immediately and without examination the following degrees on those students concerning whose graduation in June there would certainly be no question:

The degree of B. S. was conferred on M. J. McCue, of Greenwood, Ill.

The degree of LL. B. was conferred on S. T. Spalding, of Lebanon, Ky.; M. W. Bannon, of New Austin, Wis.; W. J. Murphy, of Hammond, D. O., and P. J. Dougherty, of Coldwater, Iowa.

Medical certificates were awarded to G. P. Cassidy, of Equality Ill.; W. C. Conklin, of Cresto, Iowa; and Joseph Kast, of Crown Point, Ind.


The above are the only degrees as yet definitely agreed upon. There are others on which the faculty have come to no conclusion, but which will be published in due time in the College Catalogue.

[From the Hon. N. Muller, M. C., of New York City.]