

CHARLESTOWN.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—At quarter past two o'clock yesterday afternoon fire was discovered in the old Harvard School building, on Harvard Hill. The structure is of brick, four stories high, and at the time of the alarm was occupied by more than three hundred primary-school children, presided over by Misses Foster, Smith, Tilden, Doane, Soley, Heath, Ray and Small. When it was discovered that the fire was in the upper story of the building, a rush for the doors was made by the children. In their attempt to get out, the narrow, old-fashioned stairway was jammed full, and escape was rendered almost impossible. Some of the little ones fainted, and had it not been that they were wedged in so closely, must have fallen. Some of the members of Washington hose company, which have their room in the basement, soon arrived, and, with the assistance of the police and other firemen, removed the panic-stricken occupants. None were seriously injured, but two received severe bruises—one, a son of Patrick Shehan, and the other a young daughter of Mrs. Eben R. Clifford. They were taken to the house of Mrs. Houghton, where they received proper attention. One of the teachers, whose name our reporter failed to get, remained in her room and did everything possible to save the scholars, refusing to leave until the last one was safely out of the building.

Directly after the Fire Department arrived it was discovered that the water pipes were frozen, and for some time it was impossible to get a stream upon the fire. One of the water pipes burst and caused further delay. Notwithstanding these discouragements, the fireman worked heroically, and in a short time succeeded in putting out the flames. Assistance was rendered by the Navy Yard steamer, by steamers from Boston, and also by steamer and hose company from Somerville. The building was completely gutted above the first story, but the walls are left standing. The loss is estimated at \$15,000.

Assistant Engineer Louer was severely injured by the falling of a ladder; he was taken up insensible and carried to his home. Two firemen were also slightly injured.

There has been a schoolhouse on Harvard Hill, for many years, and in this old building several well known instructors have taught; among others, Mr. Reuben Swan, so long master of the Wells school, Mr. Joshua F. Bates, now of the Brimmer school, and Dr. Cartee, now public librarian. Formerly the Harvard was a girl's school, but in 1848 the building was remodelled so as to seat four hundred and thirty-two scholars, at an expense of \$12,949 26.

This is the second large schoolhouse which Charlestown has lost by fire. The Warren school, after being damaged by fire in 1843 and 1844, was totally destroyed in 1866.

A NUISANCE.—The State Board of Health, in their last annual report, states that Charlestown has an old milldam and tide-obstructed basin which also receives a good deal of sewage and is a nuisance without qualification. Passengers on the Eastern, Boston & Maine and Fitchburg railroads are familiar with its odor as they pass its borders; but the people of Charlestown Neck are almost constantly exposed to its influence in summer by the prevailing winds of that season, and suffer from its effects.

NAVY YARD MATTERS.—The U. S. steam tug Leyden arrived at the Navy Yard Thursday evening, from her attempt to secure the Graves Ledge buoy, which has drifted from its moorings, and now lies on the northwest end of Billingsgate Island, at the entrance of Wellfleet harbor. Owing to a heavy field of ice, the Leyden was unable to get within five miles of the buoy, and returned without it.