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# THE BALTIMORE FIRE

THROUGH A CAMERA

FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 1904.



German American  
Insurance Company  
New York

96-56-257

## Souvenir of The Baltimore Fire February 7th, 8th and 9th, 1904 As Seen Through a Camera

Designed and Published for the

German American  
Insurance Company  
New York

# INTRODUCTORY.

EVENTS swift and portentous, marked the early portion of 1904. If a forecast may be made from the past and present happenings which have been crowded into the opening months of the year, it would appear there are still storms ahead. It is to be hoped, however, the period of stress has been passed and a season of bright days is to come.

War, pestilence, famine, fire, flood and destruction generally have of late ruled the world ruthlessly. Merciless have been the elements apparently to all humanity at large. And science, despite her wondrous march to a point where she stands awestruck at her own disclosures of the marvels of Nature's realms, finds herself still helpless, still unable to rule the elements of Fire, Air and Water. Yet science has pointed proudly to her achievements, to prove her sovereignty over these same elements. It is true that science has, to a degree, made Fire, Air and Water our servants, but, "lest we forget," we are taught now and again that science is not omnipotent and that our servants may become our masters.

One of these stern lessons was given us on Sunday, February 7th, when the City of Baltimore was desolated by fire. At this time, the City of Baltimore, its business section, presents a scene of ruin. Charred remnants of what were once goodly buildings, a confused mass of wreckage, lie piled high in gigantic heaps. All beauty of architecture blotted out, all identity lost; even though here and there may be seen portions of blackened walls rising above the chaos. One or two tall iron columns, once the supports of a noble structure, stand lonely and dismal. They are in the midst of destruction, as if

pointing upward, mute signals, that the fiery ordeal through which they have passed was due to causes beyond the ken of man. Baltimore is known as the Monumental City, but never in her history have her people gazed on monuments calling forth sadder memories than these relics of the fire that ravaged this fair southern city on Sunday, February 7th, 1904.

Many Lenten seasons has Baltimore passed thro', but none more gloomy than the one approaching. Seared deeply, her business interests lie in the ashes of her ruins. But her civic life has not been harmed, and tho' cast down Baltimore looks forward to her joyous Easter, to her hour of resurrection. She will emerge from the darkness and the shadows will disperse in the glorious light of an evening sun. She will wear a more beautiful aspect than before. From the ashes of a dead commercial centre will arise a more magnificent one.

The object of this book is to present in as sharp a form as possible what the Baltimore fire actually was; to make each reader also a spectator. This brief preface is written with a view of suggesting that salutary lessons can be drawn from the recent disaster. But it is not our province to make more than the passing reference already made concerning them. The pictures will point the moral to adorn the tale far better than any written words. It may not, however, be out of place to state, as briefly as may be, the cause and extent of the fire.

Flames were discovered shortly before 11 o'clock on the morning of Sunday, in the store of John E. Hurst & Co. at the southwest corner of Hopkins Place and German street. Before they were subdued nearly forty



[FIRE]

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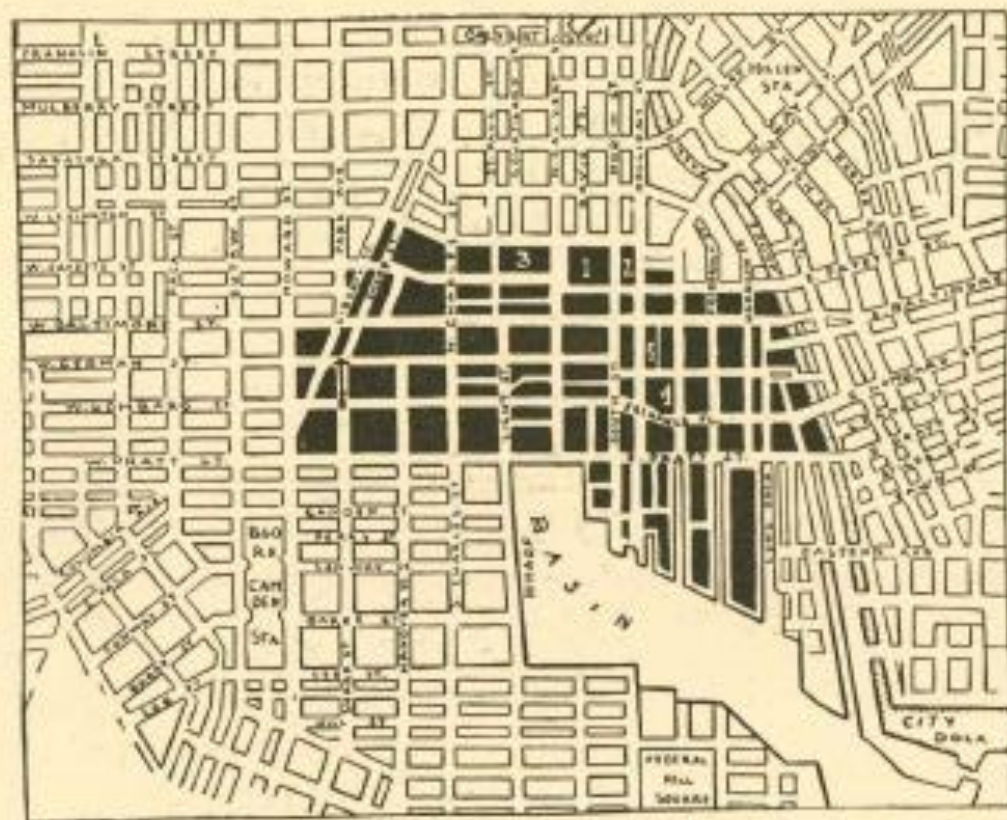
**JANUARY 1st, 1904.**

**Capital Stock, - \$1,500,000**

Reserve for Insurance in Force, Losses  
and All Other Liabilities, - - } **4,941,057**

Net Surplus Beyond All Liabilities, - - - - - } **5,633,249**

**Total Assets, - 12,074,306**



MAP SHOWING THE PORTION OF BALTIMORE DEVASTATED BY THE FIRE



Savings Bank of Baltimore. Nothing left of building except the outside walls.



Showing corners of German and Liberty streets and Hopkins place. All that is left of the large store of John E. Hurst & Co., the place where the fire started.



Hopkins Place and Lombard street, the early seat of the fire.



Looking southwest from South and Baltimore streets, "Baltimore Sun" building in center.





Looking West on Baltimore street from Jones Falls bridge, showing point where fire was stopped.



View from northeast corner Baltimore and South streets.



Interior view First National Bank, nothing left but the large vaults, which were proof against the intense heat, all securities were found in perfect condition.



View taken from Continental Trust Company Building, from South street looking northeast.



*From corner of Light and Pratt streets, police officers, secret service men and firemen guarding the line.*



Wise Alley, looking north from German street.  
View from Calvert and German streets.

Baltimore & Ohio Central Building.  
North Brothers & Strauss factory.





Looking north from Light and Lombard streets.



Looking northwest from South street and Exchange Place towards Water street.





Looking northwest, Frederick, Water and Gay streets. New U. S. Custom House in right hand corner.



From Hopkins Place looking southeast—Hopkins Savings Bank, National Exchange Bank, wholesale dry goods, shoe and clothing district.



View along the water front and city wharfs.



Corner of Pratt and Light street, showing the firemen playing hose on a warehouse containing gun powder, and soldiers and police guarding the lines.