

and townships in the county also responded with generous subscriptions. The Moravian congregation of Lancaster made a special offering; money was collected in the common schools; and the children of St. James's Episcopal Sunday school, Lancaster city, contributed.

The treasurer of the fund, through the Lancaster Examiner and Herald of Wednesday, May 26th, 1847, reported that the total collections paid over to him amounted to \$3,289.14. Of this sum \$1,654.24 was collected in the county, and \$1,634.90 in the city. Besides the cash collections, there were some flour and corn received from citizens in the county. With the cash, the treasurer purchased and dispatched to the committee in Philadelphia 577 barrels of corn meal and 100 barrels of flour. A part of the flour and corn meal from Lancaster city and county was dispatched to Ireland in the following vessels,—(the barrels being marked by order of the committee in Philadelphia, "Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Donation")—the brig "St. George," to Cork, barque "Lydia Ann," to Limerick, brig "Adele," to Donegal, barque "John Welsh," to Londonderry, and barque "Ohio," to Dublin.

The treasurer stated that the account was closed.

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## Lancaster's Contribution to New York in the Fire of 1835

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**T**HE Lancaster Union of Tuesday, December 22nd, 1835, contained a statement that New York city had been visited by a disastrous fire, and that the oldest and most wealthy part of the town was in ruins. The fire started in Merchant street, at about nine o'clock on Wednesday night, December 16th, and spread with great and destructive rapidity. Six hundred and seventy-four buildings were destroyed, entailing a loss estimated at not less than fifteen million dollars.

A meeting of citizens of Lancaster was held in the court house on Saturday, December 19th, for the purpose of adopting measures to afford relief to the sufferers. In consequence of the limited publicity given to the notice, and the unfavorable weather, the assemblage was not large. John Mathiot, mayor of the city, was called to the chair, and John F. Steinman was appointed secretary. The object of the gathering was stated by George Louis Mayer. A committee, consisting of George Louis Mayer, George W. Barton, John Brown, John Reynolds, George Bryan, David Longenecker, H. Keffer, William Frick and Charles Gillespie, was appointed to

prepare a statement of the losses and sufferings entailed by the conflagration, and to report resolutions expressive of the feelings of the community. The meeting adjourned to meet on Monday evening following.

At the adjourned meeting held in the court house on Monday, December 21st, John Mathiot was called to the chair, and John F. Steinman appointed secretary. George Louis Mayer, chairman of the committee appointed at the preceding meeting, made the following report:

“The citizens of Lancaster have heard, with emotions of the most profound sorrow, of the awful calamity which has befallen their brethren of the city of New York. The many sufferers, upon whose heads this heavy blow has descended, are entitled to receive their sincerest sympathy. Regarding the great Commercial Emporium, (into the heart of which the terrors of a midnight conflagration have carried such devastating ravages) as a metropolis in whose prosperity the whole Union is deeply interested,—whose enterprise and spirit have tended much to elevate the American character abroad, and call into action the domestic resources of the country,—they view this affliction as one in which the entire people of the United States must participate.

“But independently of any considerations of this character, and apart from the losses which must result to the city of New York at large, the aggregate of individual suffering which has been experienced, calls loudly upon the people of Lancaster, among others, to send their aid to the relief of the thousands who have been deprived of the shelter of a home, the cheerfulness of a fire-side, the privation of every comfort of life, and even the temporary means of livelihood, at this the most inhospitable season of the year. It is, Therefore

“Resolved, That a committee of six be appointed by the chair, for each of the wards of the city, whose duty it shall be to engage in making immediate collections for the relief of the sufferers of New York.

“Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed by the chair to prepare a circular, to be addressed to the inhabitants of each of the several boroughs, villages and townships of this county, soliciting their cooperation in this duty of benevolence.

“Resolved, That said committee shall also prepare a memorial to the Congress of the United States, praying the Senate and House of Representatives to appropriate such amount of money as their wisdom may suggest, for the relief of the people of New York, leaving it to Congress to determine whether such an appropriation shall be in the nature of a temporary loan or of a national contribution; and that the said committee shall take means to circulate copies of said memorial through the city and county of Lancaster for the signatures of citizens.

“Resolved, That a memorial be also prepared by the said committee, addressed to the Legislature of this Commonwealth, praying from them an appropriation of similar character of such amount as they may agree upon,

and that this memorial be circulated with the foregoing among the people of the city and county.

“Resolved, That the committees appointed to make collections in the several wards of the city, shall, after they have completed their task, pay into the hands of the mayor of the city such sums as they shall have collected; and that the collecting committees which may be appointed throughout the county, are requested to make a similar disposition of the amounts which they may receive; and that the mayor of Lancaster be instructed, as he shall receive these sums, to forward them to the mayor of New York to be appropriated in such manner as may there be directed to the relief of the sufferers.

“Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed whose duty it shall be to address the mayor and corporation of the city of New York in a letter expressive of the deep sense of sympathy entertained by the people of Lancaster for the unparalleled distress which this calamity has entailed on their metropolis.”

Committees were appointed as follows:

Collecting Committee: North-east ward, George L. Mayer, Henry Keffer, George Daly, Jacob McCully and S. E. Gundacker; north-west ward, David Longenecker, John Brown, Jacob Dorwart, Christian Bachman, Jacob Weaver and Henry H. Carson; south-east ward, William Ihling, George H. Krug, Martin Foltz, Michael Walker, Peter A. Suydam and Henry Pinkerton; south-west ward, Christopher Brenner, Bernard McGonigle, Jacob Leibley, D. Lebkichler, W. Whiteside and P. G. Eberman.

Committee to Memorialize Congress and Our Legislature: G. W. Barton, John Reynolds, John L. Atlee, Henry Keffer, Christopher Hager, Charles Gillespie and Henry Carpenter.

Committee to Transmit Proceedings to New York: G. L. Mayer, B. Champneys, William Coleman, Samuel Dale and George W. Barton.

How much money was collected is not known, as subsequent issues of local papers do not refer to the subject.

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## Coffee Houses in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**A** CENTURY or more ago, coffee houses occupied an important position in the life of populous cities. In London, England, it was at the coffee houses that leading literary and political clubs held their meetings, which were frequented by men of fashion, who sought the society of the wits, — such places as the “Chapter Coffee House,” in Paternoster Row, where Dr. Buchan, Sir Richard Phillips, Alexander Chalmers, Dr. Busby and other celebrities met; and the famous “Button’s Coffee House,” the headquarters of the Spectator’s Club, where Addison, Swift, Steele,