

The Milwaukee Fire.

Columbo

I.

It was the gray of early morning
When the dreadful cry of fire
Rang out on the cold and piercing air
Just that little word alone is
All that it would require
To spread dismay and panic every where.

Milwaukee was excited

As it never was before,

On learning that the fire bells all around
Were ringing to eternity

A hundred souls or more,

And the Newhall House was burning to the ground.

The firemen worked like demons,

And did all within their power

To save a life or try to soothe a pain.

It made the strongest heart sick,

For in less than half an hour

All was hushed and further efforts in vain.

(over.)

Samuel Dimond.

Where.

Oh! hear the fire-bells ringing
At the morning's early dawn,
Hear the voices as they give that dreadful cry;
Oh! hear the wail of Terror

Mid the fire and burning flame;
God protect them, for their waiting there's no.

II.

When the dreadful alarm was sounded
Through the oft-condemned hotel,
They rushed in mad confusion every way —
The smoke was suffocating
And blinding them as well —

The fire-king could not be held at bay.

At every window men and women
Wildly would breathe

For help in face of anguish and despair
What must have been their feelings
When the ladder would not reach,

And they felt death's grasp around them every where,
Up in the highest window

Stood a servant girl alone,

The crowd all stood and gazed with bated breath

They turned away their faces;

There was many a stifled groan,
When she jumped to meet perhaps a death

III.

In one place you could see a man
Whose wife stood by his side,

They say this man was a millionaire,

To save them from this dreadful fate,

They left no means untried —

Gold or treasure had no value there.

A boy stood in the window

And his mother was below;

He saw him and the danger drawing near;

With upraised hands to pray for him,

He knelt down in the snow;

The stoutest man could not restrain a tear;

She madly rushed toward the fire

And wildly tore her hair;

"Take me, O God! but spare my friends, my joy!"

And then in dark despair,

Said "God have mercy on my only boy!"