

## **A \$30,000 BLAZE!**

### **The Rochester Woolen Mills in Ruins!**

#### **Only \$12,000 Insurance!**

Our village was aroused last Sunday night at 11:15 o'clock by the cry of 'FIRE'! followed immediately by the ringing of a loud fire alarm from the Congregational Church tower. It was soon ascertained that the fine, imposing brick structure, known as the Rochester Woolen Mills, owned and worked by Samuel H. Richardson, was on fire. Without as much towards a fire protection as a No. 2 syringe, our citizens, who of course rushed to the scene of destruction, were perfectly powerless in regard to checking in the least, the flames which rushed and roared within the walls like a tempest of fire. The only thing that could be done was to endeavor to save the residences of Mr. Richardson and Mrs. Barley located not far distant from the mill, and let the fire perform its relentless work upon one of the most, if not *the* most important, industries of our town. Not a thing, unless we except the desk in the office near the door, containing the books and papers of the establishment, was saved; all the contents were totally destroyed including two sets of fine machinery, engines, etc., estimated at \$10,000, besides between 5,000 and 6,000 pounds of raw and manufactured material. The building cost originally \$20,000, although Mr. Richardson has made many important additions to it, at a heavy cost, of late years.

The building, which was a fine specimen of architectural taste and beauty, was cruciform in shape, built of brick, two stories in front and three in the rear, and was especially adapted to the uses for which it was constructed. It was built during the years 1868-9 by J. W. Roberts, a fire having destroyed a factory owned by him, on the same site, shortly before. As above sated, the cost when first finished was \$20,000.

Mr. Daniel Averill who acted in the capacity of night watch and occupied a room over the office, had, about 10 o'clock, an hour before the fire, been all through the mill and carefully examined things and found everything alright. At half-past eleven he fell into a doze from which he was aroused by the smell of smoke and found his escape entirely cut off from below, and was obliged to jump out of the window to save himself, leaving a part of his clothes, his watch and money behind. The fireman had not at the time of inspection built the fire for Monday morning, and consequently there was not a particle of fire in the mill.

There was an Insurance on the property of \$12,000, a mere drop in the bucket towards covering the loss.

The burning of this mill is a public calamity, as it throws out of employment twenty regularly employed workmen besides about as many more transient laborers. Mr. Richardson has not yet signified his plans for the future, but it is hoped that the mill will be rebuilt at an early day and resume business.

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