

KEY WEST IN FLAMES.

THE PRINCIPAL PART OF THE TOWN
BURNED DOWN—LOSS, \$1,500,000.

KEY WEST, Fla., March 30.—A fire started in the San Carlos Theatre at 10 o'clock this morning and soon spread to adjoining buildings, and from them all over the town. The Episcopal and Baptist Churches were burned, also Masonic Hall, three or four cigar factories, and the bonded warehouse, containing nearly a quarter of a million dollars worth of tobacco. Officers from the United States steamers Brooklyn and Powhatan blew up some of the houses with powder. There is no water supply, the cisterns being mostly dry. The fire soon extended to the business part of the town, destroying buildings containing large stocks of goods. Mr. Curry's warehouse was among those destroyed, as were also the buildings of Sawyer, Babcock, Gato, Perrys, Barht, and Patterson, and United States Marshal Williams's, Lester's, and Brown's private residences; the stores of Somerllan & Hayman, dry goods; Otto, drugs; Sorriol, dry goods and groceries; Cash, groceries; Bartlum, groceries, and Brook's livery stable; the cigar factories of Seldenburg, Del Pino, Soria, Canals & Wolf, the Russell House, and the theatre.

The heat was so intense that the firemen were frequently driven back, and this, coupled with the lack of engines and water, resulted in destroying the principal part of the town. Six wharves and five brick warehouses were destroyed. The loss cannot be less than \$1,500,000, with little insurance, probably not \$100,000. About 15 persons were injured, of whom 6 were taken to the Marine Hospital and others on board the men-of-war.