The first fire commenced Saturday evening, the 7th, and burnt over about twenty acres on Canal Street, but the great conflagration commenced on Sunday evening, the 8th of October, 1871, at nine o'clock, on Hubbard Street, and went rapidly forward before a heavy gale of wind from the southwest, consuming in its passage the entire business portion of the city, and nearly the whole north division. The fire burnt over 800 acres.