

Correspondence of the Journal.

NEWPORT, April 18, 1860.

A fire broke out here last evening at ten o'clock, which resulted in the total destruction of the Woolen Mill, owned by Messrs. Samuel Rodman & Son. At the time there was a high wind from the northwest, the tide was out, and what, with the difficulty experienced in getting at the flames, and the close proximity of the neighboring house, there seemed every prospect of a wide-spread conflagration. The fire when first discovered had made considerable progress, but was confined to the east end of the mill. It soon spread, however, for the greasy floors and machinery and the loose cotton fed the flames, and in a short time all hope of saving the building was lost. But the firemen resolutely grappled with the destructive element, and have the satisfaction of knowing that it was confined to the one structure. There are a number of light buildings within a few feet of the ruins, which show, by their blackened sides, what an ordeal they went through.

In the confusion it was impossible to learn the cause of the fire, but from what I have been able to gather it was, in all probability, the work of an incendiary. Of late the mill has been short of stock. Monday a small quantity was sent down; Tuesday it was run through the picker and passed down for carding; it was in the spot where this loose pile of cotton was placed that the fire originated, several hours after the work of the day was over. There had been no fire in the building during the day, and any fire accidentally communicating to so combustible a material by the operatives would have at once been detected. The mill is insured in Providence for ten thousand dollars, equally divided among the American, Atlantic, Hope, and Merchants offices. It was an old building, has frequently been on fire in the drying room, and the neighbors, knowing the difficulty in getting at it, have long dreaded the time when it would become a prey to the devouring element. It is down now, they have escaped, the owners are well covered, and the operatives will find employment in the other factories, which, I believe, are short-handed.

AQUINNECK.