

tions. Its functions were properly discharged when, in response to the Senate resolution, the facts were fully and impartially presented."

## A COSTLY RESIDENCE IN RUINS.

THE SUMMER HOME OF MRS. JOHN L. ASPINWALL DESTROYED BY FIRE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., March 13, 1884.—"Massena," the summer residence of Mrs. John L. Aspinwall, at Barrytown, caught fire from a defective fire this morning. A strong north wind was blowing at the time, and in an hour and a half the entire structure was in ruins. It was valued at \$60,000, and there was an insurance on it of \$48,000. The furniture, which was nearly all consumed, was valued at \$10,000, and was insured. Many articles of much value, including paintings and bric-à-brac which cannot be replaced, were also destroyed. The Rev. F. E. Sheber, Mrs. Aspinwall's son-in-law, lost all his personal effects. All the other occupants of the house also suffered considerable loss.

The fire started in the north wing. The entire family, except John Aspinwall, who is in North Carolina, was in the house at the time. Mrs. Gaffney, a nurse; the Rev. F. E. Sheber and William Morrison were in rooms on the second floor endeavoring to save some valuable articles when they were hemmed in by the flames. Harrison jumped from the roof of the piazza to the ground, a distance of twenty feet, and sprained his ankle. Mr. Sheber lowered Mrs. Gaffney by a rope to the ground, and then, fastening the upper end of the rope, slid down himself. All three had a very narrow escape.