

But steam, when employed as the heating medium, is restricted to a certain temperature, above which it cannot rise, and which cannot set fire to wood or any other substance employed in architecture. We would therefore suggest it should be laid down as a rule, that in all ancient buildings heated by metal flues, the heating medium should be steam, and that the furnace should always be in a fire-proof out-house, disconnected from every other building. Simple as the precaution may seem, we are certain it would diminish the chances of accident from fire by full two-thirds of their present amount.

It is melancholy enough that in so brief a period three of the most interesting public buildings of England or the world should have thus perished. Each of the three has been associated for centuries with the history of Britain, in all for which Britain is most famous. Her emporium of trade is still a heap of blackened ruins,—the noble and venerable pile that served to connect her commerce of the present day, spread over every land and every sea, with her commerce of three hundred years ago, when a few adventurous traders struck out in quest of yet undiscovered shores, into oceans still undefined by the geographer, and whose remoter skirts seemed as if bounded by lines of darkness! Her halls of legislation perished next,—erections, the history of which is that of civil liberty, not in Britain only, but over half the world,—places suggestive of every great English name that mingles in the history of the lengthened contest between *right* and *prerogative*, from the days of Prynne and Hampden, down to those of Chatham and Fox. And now the national magazine of trophies and arms has fallen a prey to the devouring element. The building representative of the wars and victories of Britain has shared the same fate with her halls of commerce and legislation; and much has perished, as in the other cases, which cannot be estimated at a money