

LLOYD'S WEEKLY LONDON NEWSPAPER.

OUR CALAMITY.

The great calamity which befel our London establishment on Monday afternoon left us crippled, but not disarmed. In two brief hours the order, the economy of space, the toil and care with which machinery of the finest and fleetest kind had been laid behind that house in which Richardson sat writing his marvelous romances, in days when steam had not yet given wings to Gutenberg's letters, were swept away, and we looked down upon a monstrous black cavern. To the feeling man there is no more affecting sight than that of a long-planned and patiently realized work, suddenly laid in ruins. The material loss may be covered, but the brain-work—the days of mental exertion, which the flame has consumed—are a dead, dull, heart-oppressing destruction which is irrecoverable. Still,—

—How poor are they that have not patience.

The time for regret is short, now-a-days. He who sees the building fall must pass a swift hand to the plumb and line, and trowel, and patiently rebuild. We are sure it will please our half million of subscribers to learn that the calamity which destroyed the greater part of our London establishment left us, as we have observed, crippled but not disarmed. Another large establishment was ready, within a few hours, to receive our staff, and to continue

4 February 1874, p.6

observed, crippled but not disarmed. Another large establishment was ready, within a few hours, to receive our staff, and to continue without interruption that task of administering living history to thousands of our fellow-countrymen, which their indulgence has crowned with a success unparalleled in the annals of journalism.

We have experienced a great comfort under our misfortune. It has made us acquainted with many friends. From the most distinguished among our contemporaries we have received generous offers of assistance that, albeit we had no occasion to accept, we shall never forget. We "can no other answer make, but thanks, and thanks." The cordial general sympathy which has encompassed us through a trying week leaves us heavy debtors : it leaves us also encouraged to undertake even greater efforts than we have already made, to spread the latest news over the widest area.
