



watching the progress of the fire with sad faces and voices, ~~and~~ *tremulous with grief.*

The east wing was now ablaze from basement to summit. All the panes of glass were melting under the intense heat, and trickling down the walls in a molten stream; the iron-work of the fixtures was seen to writhe and twist like serpents in fiery convolutions; all the windows were belching forth from shattered frames masses of purple smoke; curling tongues of flame shot out yards in length. Some one remembered that the tablet of the Jefferson monument—a unique and priceless relic—had been placed for safe keeping in the chapel but it was now too late to save it.* At this

point the heat was so great that the president's house caught on fire repeatedly, and was saved only after the greatest exertions. At one time the danger was so imminent that all the furniture was carried out.

"To the museum! Save the specimens in the museum!" shouted a professor,† and, heading a body of students, a rush was made to the west wing, which was as yet remote from the onward surging wave of flame.‡ Doors and windows were smashed in, and scores of volunteers dashed into the dark rooms to save what they could. The ~~valuable~~ *valuable* contents of the museum of natural history were torn from their stands and carried or dragged out of doors. It was a queer sight to see the big elephant lying on his side in the snow; near by was the tiger, which had been mounted on the elephant's tusks, with a little grinning monkey perched on his back; here a gorilla and an arctic fox were keeping each other company; and here a huge crocodile seemed scarcely at home lying half buried in the snow drift.

*Several days after the fire this tablet was excavated almost red hot from the ruins by Prof. H. C. Penn. It was found broken into three pieces and was beginning to pulverize. It was, however, sealed in an air-tight glass case, and is now in a fair state of preservation. The inscription reads: "Here was buried THOMAS JEFFERSON, author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia."

†Prof. J. P. Blanton.

‡Although but little air was stirring at first, the fire created a breeze that soon grew into a stiff easterly wind, and fanned the flames rapidly through the building.