

The Fire-Wards of Portland,

ANXIOUS to preserve the *Town* from the horrors of conflagration, are induced again to address their *Fellow-Citizens* on that interesting and important subject. Vigilance and carefulness are at all times indispensable duties of every citizen, but they are peculiarly so at this inclement season, when the danger of fire is so great and the consequences so alarming and distressing.—Wholesome regulations, on this subject, have been adopted by the town, and the *Fire-Wards* are pledged to see them faithfully and rigorously enforced—But our best exertions will prove ineffectual, if the inhabitants are inattentive to *their* duties, and regardless of their own safety or the security of others—As the vigilance and attention of a few will be vain and ineffectual, while others are careless and inattentive, it is the duty of every individual to guard against that carelessness and those accidents by which fires are generally communicated.

PERMIT us therefore earnestly to solicit your attention to those measures of precaution, which have been so often urged upon you, and which are essential to the security of the town; and also to caution you against those careless habits from which most of the calamities of fire have proceeded—Particularly would we notice the dangerous habit of carrying candles and lamps into *stables and wood-houses* without being secured in lanterns—Saving ashes in wooden vessels, and placing them in cellars and out-houses before the fire is entirely extinguished—putting away brooms, which have been used in the evening, without immersing them in water—leaving wood unextinguished in fire-places and stoves—smoking cigars in the streets, stables and out-houses—and the dangerous habit which prevails among some, of reading by candle-light, after they have retired to bed. We would also recommend a particular attention to your chimneys, stoves and ovens, to see that they are in good order, and in every respect safe—on cabinet-makers, joiners, and others who work in their shops, in the evening, would we enjoin the utmost care and caution—The nature of their employments, even with the greatest care, must ever expose them and their neighbours to danger, but without care, ruin is inevitable—A moment's carelessness may destroy the hard earnings of a whole life, and involve hundreds in distress. Let us all then remember the horror, confusion, dismay and ruin, which have been occasioned by inattention to these things; and by the recollection of past misfortunes, may we learn to avoid future calamities.

C. B. BROOKS, *Chairman.*

Portland, January 6th, 1818.

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Description: Fire-Wards of Portland warnings