

# FIRE DESTROYS VIRGINIA STORE; BANK ABLAZE

Mesberg Furniture House in Metropolis of the Range Totally Destroyed. Citizens Have Great Fears that Flames Were Started by Incendiaries.

First State Bank, Five Doors from Scene of Other Fire Discovered in Flames Half an Hour Later—Books and Records of Institution Safe.

(Range Bureau of the News Tribune.)

VIRGINIA, Aug. 3.—Fire broke out in J. Mesberg's furniture store on Chestnut street at 2 o'clock this morning and in a very few minutes gutted the building. The Mesberg family of seven persons narrowly escaped cremation. They were partly overcome by smoke when roused from their beds by the firemen.

Half an hour later flames flashed through the windows on the ground floor of the State bank building, five doors away.

With two fires to fight it looked for a while as if the whole business district of the city was in danger of being wiped out. Luckily, the fire in the furniture store was checked sufficiently at 2:45 a. m. so that the department could devote practically its entire water force on the State bank building.

The origin of the blazes are a mystery. Citizens are aroused and are on the alert for more fires as it is the belief that both are the work of firebugs.

The loss to the furniture store, which is situated in a two-story building, will be \$15,000, of which \$10,000 is estimated by Mr. Mesberg as the value of his stock.

President Greeley of the State bank at this hour (3 a. m.) has just reached the scene. He expressed the belief that the bank's books, cash and securities were amply protected in the vault.

At this hour it looks as if the building was doomed although the firemen say they will be able to confine it to the one building.

The fire in the Mesberg structure is now under control.