

The Fires in the Catoctin Mountains--More than Three Thousand Acres Burned Over

Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun

The Sun (1837-1993); May 13, 1879; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun

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FREDERICK, MD., May 12.—The fires which originated about ten days ago in the vicinity of Catoctin furnaces, on the eastern slope of the Catoctin mountain, still continue to rage with unabated fury, and so far have baffled all efforts to extinguish them, the flames only being subdued in one place to break out in another locality with even greater havoc. Up to this time they have spread across the ridge into Middletown valley and over to South Mountain, burning over an area of probably more than three thousand acres of woodland, and extending to the vicinity of Black Rock, in Washington county. The terrible but beautiful sight presents the appearance of slow-burning volcanos, and has been witnessed almost nightly by large numbers of our people.

On Saturday it was generally believed that the fires had been subdued by the strenuous efforts put forth for that purpose, hundreds of men being employed for days previous endeavoring to check the flames and save property, but last night the smouldering fires that crept so stealthily through the dry leaves and brush again broke forth, even nearer the city than before, and burnt over a section about one mile and a half long by half a mile wide, comprising the lands of Messrs Schulz, Brown, Neighbors and Ruland, and destroying a large quantity of cordwood, rails, posts, &c. At noon to day another fire originated on top of the mountain, between Frederick and Middletown, just north of where the National turnpike crosses the Catoctin range. It is still burning, and the extent of loss and damage cannot yet be accurately estimated. It is believed by many that these fires are the work of incendiaries, but owing to the exceedingly dry state of the woods the least spark is almost sure to start a fire that may prove disastrous.