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MORRILL HALL BURNS

Morrill Hall at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, burned to the ground on January 18. The building itself was old so that the loss of the building was not great, the building being estimated as worth only about \$75,000. It housed the laboratories of the various departments of biology, classrooms for these subjects, and the offices of the various instructors in these fields. Dr. Jennison of the Department of Botany writes: "The personal losses sustained by individual workers is almost appalling. The material losses averaging, I should say, \$5,000 apiece for the professors, is quite sufficient; but, after all, perhaps the most significant loss is represented in the destruction of manuscripts and collected data, of which every one of us had a considerable amount."

The State has suffered an irreparable loss in the destruction of the various herbaria deposited at the University in this building. The eight thousand specimens in the Gattinger Collection represented the life work of this pioneer Tennessee botanist. It constituted a fine memorial to Dr. Augustin Gattinger. Now it is gone and the only thing that remains is his library which is at George Peabody College for Teachers. The collection of the grasses of Tennessee by Lamson-Scribner, the collections of T. H. Kearney, S. M. Bain, Albert Ruth, and George Ainslie, were likewise destroyed. In addition the collections made by the professors now at the University and their students have all been swept away. Altogether more than fifty thousand specimens, including many types and several undescribed species, were destroyed. The immensity of this loss to Tennessee botanists is hard to conceive of. Here was the only adequate collection of Tennessee plants in the State. No other college or university in Tennessee has any herbaria to speak of. In no other place in the State could one go to compare his collections and check their identification.