EVENING TRANSCRIPT.

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 17.

# DESTRUCTION OF MINOT'S LEDGE LIGHT HOUSE.

It is with grief that we have to announce the final overthrow and destruction of the light house at Minot's Ledge. Mr Bennett, the keeper, arrived in the city this morning. He accidentally happened to be on shore at the time the storm commenced, and was fortunately prevented from regaining the Ledge.

The melancholy event is believed to have occurred at about 12 o'clock last night. There were two men in the light house at the time: Joseph Wilson, and Joseph Antonio, (a Portuguese.) Both were minors and good and faithful men. They must have been swept away like weeds by the Titanic waves, that came rushing in from the ocean.

Notwithstanding the assurances of safety that we have had from the architect of this structure and others, the deepest solicitude for its safety has been felt throughout this community during the unprecedented storm of the last two days. The whole height of this building was 75 feet. It was built on piles sunk five feet in the rock, the diameter of which was 8 inches at the base, and 4½ at the top. On these piles were nine iron pillars sustaining the keeper's house, the floor of which was 60 feet from the foundation. The breadth of the base of the structure was 25 feet; the keeper's room, measured from out to out, 14 feet.

The keeper's house, resting on the pillars, weighed thirty tons, and was 40 feet from the sea. A visitor, who was present during the great gale of last December wrote: "Of the light house, I was cooly told that it was very doubtful if it stood through this winter, as one of the iron supporters had split the rock." The comforting remark was added: "We'll let you see her kick; it will blow a gale of wind in the morning."

We derive the following particulars in regard to the catastrophe of last night from the Journal:

The last time that the Light was seen standing was at about half past three o'clock yesterday afternoon. The Light was not seen burning last night. About 4 o'clock this morning, Mr Bennett was on the beach, and discovered, strewed all around, fragments of the building. Parts of the residence room and of the lantern itself, were seen on the beach and also portions of the bedding, Mr Bennett's clothing, &c. One of Bennett's Life Buoys came on shore, having the appearance of having been used by one of the unfortunate men who were in the Light House. He had lashed it to his back but the waves probably washed him out of it.

Mr Bennett's absence was from his having been ordered up to the city by Collector Greely, to purchase a new boat, and, on his return, Tuesday afternoon, found the sea so high that he could not get on board the Light. After being unable to get on board, Mr Bennett repaired to his house on White Head, opposite the Glades, from which he, with his family, was washed out by the high tide. Besides his clothing, Mr Bennett lost some $50 or $60 in money which was on board the light. The beach was strewed with fragments of the wreck —some of which Mr Bennett brought to the city, and deposited at the Custom House.

It is but a few weeks since, when the public mind was much excited in relation to the safety of this structure, that the engineer under whose directions the light-house was built, in a long communication, which was published in the Advertiser, demonstrated, on scientific principles, that the building was perfectly safe! The communication contained a most ungenerous sneer at the fears which had been expressed by Mr Bennett.

A light ship will be sent to the Ledge as quickly as practicable. The underwriters were to have a meeting this day at one o'clock upon the subject.