

Samuel Pepys

So down I went, with my heart full of trouble....

I have been pulling down houses; but the fire overtakes us faster than we can do it.

The fire running further, that in a very little time it got as far as the Steelyard, while I was there.

Everybody endeavouring to remove their goods, and flinging into the river. Poor people staying in their houses as long as till the very fire touched them, and then running into boats.

We were in great trouble and disturbance at this fire, not knowing what to think of it. It made me weep to see it.

About four o'clock in the morning, my Lady Batten sent me a cart to carry away all my money, and plate, and best things. Which I did riding myself in my night-gown in the cart; and, Lord! To see how the streets and the highways are crowded with people running and riding.

Walked and saw all the town burned, and a miserable sight of Paul's church, with all the roofs fallen.

John Evelyn

I went this morning on foot as far as London Bridge, with extraordinary difficulty, clambring over mountains of yet smoking rubbish, & frequently mistaking where I was, the ground under my feet so hot, as made me not only Sweat, but even burnt the soles of my shoes ...

I was infinitely concerned to find that goodly Church of St Pauls now a sad ruine,
It was astonishing to see what immense stones the heat had in a manner Calcin'd, (burnt) so as all the projectures of massive Portland stone flew off.
Even to the very roof, where a Sheet of Lead covering no less than 6 akers by measure, being totally melted.

The fountains dried up & ruined, whilst the very waters remained boiling.

The people running about like distracted creatures as it burned leaping from house to house ... at great distance one from the other, for the heat had even ignited the air.

It brake out again in the Temple; but the courage of the multitude persisting.

The ground & air, smoake & fiery vapour, continued so intense, my hair being almost seinged.

London was, but is no more.