Vinton, Frederic, 1817-1890, collector.
Collection of newspaper accounts concerning the blizzard of 1888.

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A Finding Aid
Prepared by
Paula B. Entin

Department of Rare Books and Special Collections
Princeton University Library
2003
Collection of newspaper accounts concerning the blizzard of 1888.

Introduction

Scrapbook containing single newspaper issues covering the blizzard of 1888 that covered the eastern seaboard.

Range of collection dates: 1888

Size: 1 volume (41 pieces)

Language: English

Provenance: Frederic Vinton.

Restrictions: Unknown.

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Scope Note

The single newspaper issues are contemporary accounts that cover the devastation and paralysis that ensued when the "Great White Hurricane," as it was called, paralyzed the East Coast from Washington, D.C. to the Canadian border. It lasted for 3 days (March 11-14, 1888). Telegraph and telephone wires snapped, and roads and railways shut down, isolating New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington for days. Fire stations were immobilized, and property loss from fire alone was estimated at $25 million. Overall, more than 400 deaths were reported.

Frederic Vinton (1819-1890), who compiled the album, was the librarian of the Chancellor Green Library at Princeton (1873-1890).

Arrangement

Materials on the snowstorm are organized chronologically. Leaves are numbered in ms.


10. “Blizzard was King: The metropolis helpless under snow.” The Sun, New York, March 13, 1888.


18. “Situation in the East: Businesses resumed in New York City and other points.” The Lancaster Intelligence, Lancaster, PA, March 14, 1888.


22. “Open Again: Communication with the Metropolis.” The Boston Herald, (Thursday Morning), Boston, March 15, 1888.


26. “We are on top now: The Town has got the blizzard down.” The Sun, New York, March 15, 1888.

27. “Tales of Disaster: Great loss of life reported along the Atlantic Coast.” The Times, (Thursday Morning), Chicago, March 15, 1888.


32. “Lifting the Siege: Trains on some of the eastern roads again beginning to Move.” The Times, (Friday Morning), Chicago, March 16 1888.


34. “Story of the Storm: Continued accounts of its extraordinary ravages.” Boston Evening Journal, (Saturday Evening), Boston, March 17, 1888.

35. “Meeting Half Way: How the Pennsylvania Road was cut through.” Clipping inscribed with Terhune ’89.


