The fire which completely destroyed the dining-room wing and put out of commission the heating connections to the main building was first discovered about 4:30 Saturday A. M. in room 152 at the time attending a meeting of the budget committee, was called over the telephone and reached Farmville just as the fire was under control, having made the trip in an hour and forty-five minutes. It is easy to imagine what that hour and forty-five minutes was to him, and his relief as he came in sight, for from the front very little of the damage showed.

Governor E. Lee Trinkle, Mrs. Trinkle, and Colonel Leroy Hodges, chairman of the budget committee, arrived in less than an hour after Dr. Jarman’s arrival. The meeting in the Auditorium which followed—the student body thirty-four strong, the faculty and Home Department, Dr. and Mrs. Jarman, Gov. and Mrs. Trinkle and hosts of friends from the town—was one that will long live in the memory of those present.

The entire south wing with contents was lost. This means about forty beds, the dining-room, kitchen, pantry, servants’ dining-room, store rooms, cold storage and carpenter’s shop with all the furniture, equipment and machinery of these branches of the institution, including china, silver, table linen, and all the food supplies on hand. So many of the people in town offered to open their homes to the girls that it would have been perfectly possible to have kept all the students in town and have continued school had it not been for the question of heat, but while the heating plant proper was not damaged the connection with the main building was under the dining-room wing and until this can be established none of the chins rooms can be heated, so the girls were sent home until notified to return.

It is hoped that regular work will be resumed December 3rd. It makes one rejoice to think of the faithfulness and loyalty of the servants of S. N. S. exhibited during the recent fire. Men and women, old and young, came to the rescue and did all that could be done. Since then they have rendered valuable service in cleaning up debris, thus getting the school house in order. Many thanks are due them for their great help.

THE HEART OF FARMVILLE

If ever the heart of a town went out in the performance of a great deal, the heart of Farmville went out that Saturday morning in saving the Normal School. Not only in saving the building from flames but in every way in which the human heart can respond to another’s need, the big heart of Farmville reappeared in the need of the school and girls that day.

To mention those to whom thanks would be due, would be practically to call the roll of the citizens of the town. Some fought the fire; others moved furniture; some wired to neighboring towns for help; others opened and heated the churches. Enough breakfasts were prepared in Farmville that morning to have fed a student body of double the size. Later, when it was known that the ladies were preparing dinner at the Presbyterian Church, the merchants vied with one another in donating supplies. The men in charge of the pump house saw to it that the water supply was sufficient; the Home Guard for days and nights protected the property. Before it was known that the girls were going home, all of the churches had offered their Sunday School rooms, and homes were being thrown open to the girls faster than they could be received and listed. The hotels offered their services to full capacity. The telephone and telegraph people worked at unusual speed and for unusual stretch of time, and in spite of fatigue were always patient and accommodating. And so it went. No list of the deeds done could be complete, and even if such were possible, it would still fall short for the spirit that prompted them—the heart of Farmville—was the big and beautiful thing.
THE ROTUNDA

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We are always glad to publish any desirable article or communication that may be sent to us. We ask, however, in all attention to the fact that unsigned contributions will not be published.

Rotundites reserve the right to reject, control, and to correct opinions from the readers upon the matter appearing and to correct them. A letter, to receive consideration, must contain the name and address of the writer, and these will not be published if the writer objects to the publication.

An emergency reveals character, for in a time of surprise a people's true self comes to the front. An emergency shows the stuff of which a people is made. It reveals resourcefulness. Accordingly an emergency furnishes the proper time to take a correct inventory of spiritual values. The Normal fire was such a revealing experience, and we are sure that respect a most gratifying one. It revealed a splendid spirit on the part of everyone concerned. The unburdened promptness and the calm decisiveness with which the authorities took hold of the situation, and took steps to relieve the stressful self-concentration of the girls, singing their favorite songs while fleeing from the flames, showed the pure gold of a fine spirit. The words of an editorial in the News Leader are well chosen: "Nowhere in Virginia is there greater loyalty or a finer school espirit de corps than in Farmville.

The THE NORMAL FIRE

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The spirit of the fire was revealed by the citizens of the town. The fireman, who saved the main building, fought the raging flames in the South wing. The principal and other officials of the institution met with promptness and skill, and the people of Farmville came to their aid with open hearts.

The THE SPIRIT OF SATURDAY'S ASSEMBLY

There is spirit with the love we think of as belonging to our school been more manifest than at the chapel exercises following the fire Saturday morning. The students, eight hundred strong, and undaunted, assembled in the auditorium. In reply to the question, "Is there a student here who has not had breakfast?" a hand went up. "Yes," said the principal. The students found the food and shelter they needed in the auditorium, and the thoughtfulness of the citizens of Farmville. Later some girl said, "I had an invitation to breakfast." While waiting for Dr. Jarman and Miss Mary White Cox, Miss Munson started the girls singing, "The Old Normal School" and "Alma Mater." As Dr. Jarman appeared at the top of the steps, "What's the matter with Jarman?" rang forth as if from the four winds. All the suppressed emotion of the morning seemed to be released in the singing of this song. They sang, they clapped, they swayed; with an air and patience fortified by courage, because brave spirits know that out of the disaster will come a bigger and finer Normal. For thus the spirit ever builds more sturdy structures. — The Farmville Herald, Friday, November 23, 1923.

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Dear Girls,

Here I am back in my old spot, and I want to welcome you once again to our dear old school—dear Dr. Jarman. I have had the spirit of the school—Dr. Jarman (although he was in Richmond), was watching over you. Through the smoke I could see his smiling face, and above the confusion I could hear him saying, "Steady, girls, steady, girls!" It was his spirit that led you all to safety—his spirit of co-operation drove back the hungry flames as they tried to eat their way into his heart—the center of his beloved school.

To aid in the work of fighting I asked someone to move me from my natural habitat. They wanted to carry me out, but—oh, when you "remember" about the firemen of glory from the courageous firemen, there might not have been any Farmville Guards. Therefore we ask but a 
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ATHLETICS

The fire did not extinguish nor the smoke blacken, nor the water drown our Athletic interest and basket ball enthusiasm. The annual basket ball game between the "Juniors and Seniors" will be played in the Town Armory Friday night Dec. 14th.

The Athletic Council will meet at once to arrange for the other games to be played probably the first of January. Last year was a great Varsity success, but this year will be a still greater year for the Farmville, Varsity. Through the courtesy and kindness of the Farmville people we will play our games in the Town Armory in the past. The 1923 schedule is being arranged and the following games have been scheduled:

February 17—Fredericksburg—Home.
March 1—Harrisonburg—Home.
March 7—Fredericksburg—Fredericksburg.
March 21—Bridgewater College—Bridgewater.
March 22—Harrisonburg—Harrisonburg.

COOPERATION

We have smiled many a time at the word cooperation as it has been used by our President, but even a casual observer of the events of the last few days would admit that somehow it has come to characterize the spirit of our school.

By cooperation Saturday morning the records from the offices and the furnishings from the lower floor were saved almost undamaged, and by cooperation Monday they were put back in place.

The Training School opened Wednesday and is being run by cooperation of the supervisors, other members of the faculty, and students still in town. Others have offered their services to Miss Mary White Cox to hem tables being made possible. Anybody is invited to come and dress fully.

THE ROTUNDA, NOVEMBER 28, 1923

With this spirit and the one who in spirit and the one who in-}