



MILL FIRE IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT: REMOVING SACKS FROM THE BURNING BUILDING.  
 (From a Photograph by Charles Knight, Newport, Isle of Wight.)

The old Ford Mill at Newport, Isle of Wight, owned by Mr. Mansbridge, was completely destroyed by fire on Monday evening. The cause of the fire is unknown; Entirely new engines and machinery had lately been added, at a cost of £2,000. Within five minutes of the outbreak of the fire the Newport Volunteer Brigade were at work, but though the

engine and hydrant were afterwards supplemented by the engine of the King's Royal Rifles from Parkhurst, and the manual from the workhouse, the fire was not got under till the old mill was in ruins, although the adjacent buildings were saved. Some thousands of spectators witnessed the outbreak. The mill was insured.

**FIRES AND FLOUR MOTHS.**

(2493.)—SIR,—In a certain Journal I notice the following extraordinary advice to millers:—“The use of hot alum water, your ‘Brush’ learns, applied by a brush, is recommended as a means of getting rid of insects which find lodgment in the crevices of flour dressing or other mill machinery. Your ‘Brush’ would, however, like this experiment tried in the corners of the machinery that he is now attached to, as *perhaps* he might kill the ‘flour moth.’ If not alum water, a cloth dipped in petroleum would, your ‘Brush’ thinks, be successful, with the result that no complaints would be heard, as were made in the recent spell of warm weather.”

My attention was first called to this paragraph by a great authority on the flour market, who pointed out that the flavour of paraffin would spoil all the flour in the mill, a fact which must surely be patent to everybody connected with the trade.

If “The Brush” takes to dressing flour machinery with paraffin, I doubt if he would find that “no complaints would be heard”; at all events, he would probably have to explain to an unsympathetic counsel his particular views on the absorbent qualities of flour.

I have heard of mill machinery being dressed with paraffin, but then the mill was destroyed by an insect called a “Fire Bug.”—Yours, &c.,

J. H. CHATTERTON.

61, Mark Lane, E.C.,  
 May 31st.

1895