

2o. The measures which had been adopted, either to prevent or to meet accidents by fire.

3o. The precise part of the building in which the fire originated, and the time of its commencement.

4o. The cause or origin of the fire.

1o. The edifice which was consumed by fire on the third day of May last, consisted of—1st. A central building of six stories, on St. Olivier Street, (besides the basement,) from which extended the Chapel in rear, facing upon Richelieu Street, the floor of the Chapel corresponding with the third story on St. Olivier Street, owing to the difference of elevation between those two streets. 2ndly. A wing to the westward of the centre building, four stories high, on St. Olivier Street. 3rdly. Another wing, called the Southern or South-west wing, projecting *en arrière corps* from the West wing, and having an entrance on Richelieu Street, to the line of which it extended.—(Vide plans, A. B. C. D. E. F. and G., hereunto annexed.)

The building occupied by the Reverend Sisters of Charity or *Sœurs Grises*, formed, to the Eastward, another wing on St. Olivier Street. This wing was the only part of the whole fabric which escaped the conflagration, its preservation being entirely due to iron doors which closed the communication between the old and the new buildings, and which had providentially been placed a day or two before the fire.

On the third day of May last, most of the carpenter's and joiner's work was completed in the wings and centre building, and also in the chapel. The plastering was also far advanced. There were still, however, on that day, upwards of one hundred and fifty carpenters and joiners in active employment within the building, working under the direction of the several contractors, Messrs. Benoit, Giroux, Patry and Vezina. There were also some plasterers and labourers employed, besides plumbers and gas-fitters, forming a total of about two hundred mechanics and labourers at work in the various parts of the building on the day in question.

The floors of the fifth and sixth stories had been washed, and the char-women had, on the day of the fire, commenced to wash the floors of the fourth story, from which the rubbish had been previously removed for that purpose.

In the other parts of the building chips and shavings were to be found in greater or less quantities, notwithstanding the daily removal out of doors and the carting away of large quantities of them.

There were twelve or thirteen stoves dispersed throughout the building, which were shifted, as occasion required, from one place to another. Of these stoves, four, it appears from the evidence of Giroux, contractor, were in the chapel; every other witness appears to have seen but two there.

One of the stoves was in the apartment designated on the plan D of the third story, as the "Speaker's room," in rear of the chapel; the other stoves were variously disposed in the wings and the other stories of the central building.

When the stoves were heated, chips and shavings were used as fuel; but it is in evidence that several of the stoves had not been heated on the third of May; and, as regards the stove which was in the apartment where the fire originated, no fire had been made in it for four or five days immediately preceding the disaster. One of the men who worked in that room had, on the day in question, some of his tools (having wooden handles) deposited on the stove.

Such was the state of the building on the evening the fire broke out.

2o. As regards the precautions adopted to prevent accidents by fire, it would appear that, besides the strictest prohibition against smoking within the building,