

bands of other tribes, by whom an ingenious variety was to be given to their sufferings. The capt. had endeavored to prevail upon them to accept the services of the poor crew for a longer time, being apprehensive that any change amongst the natives would be for the worse; but they beat all the now naked whites on before them, until fresh tribes came up and took each of them a prisoner, and set him to work in carrying pieces of trees, and toiling in exhausting ways. Mrs Frazer being the only woman, was not selected by any of the tribes, but was left to herself, while they all went onward; but her husband got an opportunity to mention to her not to stir from the place in which she was at the moment, and that he would contrive to see her in a few hours. During that night she lay in the cleft of a rock, and in the morning, after looking about without seeing a creature, she determined to follow some footmarks, and, after having proceeded to some distance, she saw a crowd of black women approach. These women belonged to the tribe of savages by whom her husband had been taken up in the bush on the preceding day, and they set her to work in trailing wood and lighting fires. Being quite naked, and presenting a contrast in her skin which the women did not like, she was compelled by them to rub herself all over with gum and herbs, which had the effect of making her nearly as dark as themselves. They likewise tattooed her all over; and, having pulled her hair out, covered her head with a sort of gum, and stuck the feathers of parrots and other birds all over it.—One of the women, having two children, obliged her to nurse one of them, notwithstanding the severe labour she had to perform; and if the child was out of temper the nurse was kicked, and scratched, and thumped for its peevishness. At the expiration of four days Mrs Frazer saw her husband for the first time since their separation. He was dragging along a tree, and was greatly fatigued.—She had first begun to enquire how it happened that he did manage to let her know where he was, to which he was replying that he dared not to look for her, when his tribe suddenly appeared. One of them, having seen them together, made a push at the captain with a spear, and pierced him right through the body, which was a corps in an instant, Mrs. Frazer ran to her husband, cried "Jesus of Nazareth, I can endure this no longer," and pulled the spear out of the body, but the breath was gone for ever. She then fell senseless, and remained so for a considerable time, and when she recovered her senses, she found herself along with the tribe which she was obliged to serve; but what became of the body of captain Frazer she never could learn, and, of course, the barbarous region in which she was enslaved, was no place for sympathy. Shortly after this catastrophe, the first officer of the ship having been informed that the captain had been murdered by one of the tribes, formed, in a fit of desperation, a plan of revenge, fettered, and exhausted with labour as he was. His intention was, however, discovered, and horrible was his punishment. Mrs Frazer had just lighted a fire by order of her tribe, and the unfortunate man's legs were thrust into it and consumed, while he by the violence of his contortions, actually worked for the rest of his body, a grave in the sand, in which he was embedded.

Two days after this horrible event, a fine looking young man, named James Major, was disposed of Captain Frazer, who knew a good deal of the character and habits of the savages on this coast, had mentioned to Major that the savages would take off his head for a figure bust for one of their canoes. It seemed, too, that it was usual for the savage to smite in the face of his victim immediately before he struck him to the earth. While Major was at work the chief of his tribe approached him smiling, and tapped him on the shoulder. At that instant the poor fellow received a blow on the back of the neck from a wadded or crooked stick, which stunned him. He fell to the ground, and a couple of savages set to work, and by

means of sharpened shells covered the head from the body with frightful lacerations. They then eat parts of the body, and preserved the head with certain gume of extraordinary efficacy, and fixed it as a figure bust to one of their canoes. The rest of the crew of course expected nothing less than death. Their apprehensions appeared to relate rather to the mode of inflicting the extreme penalty, than to the fact that they must prematurely die. Two of the seamen, Doyle and Big Ben, contrived to steal a canoe, and endeavored to cross an inland lake, but were drowned in the attempt to escape from perhaps, a more painful death.

There was a black man named Joseph, who had been steward on board the *Stirling Castle*, when the savages seized the long boat, in which the crew had entered White Bay, they stripped this Joseph as well as the rest, but as he was of their own color they inflicted no punishment upon him; and he had the privilege of going about, which was denied to any other of the wretched strangers. This man, who was constantly watching for an opportunity by which he might escape, had assured Mrs Frazer that if he could get away the first life he should think of saving, should be that of his mistress. He succeeded in stealing a canoe, in which he rowed off, and in six weeks he reached Moreton Bay, where he informed the commandant of the penal settlement of the horrible circumstance which had taken place at White Bay, and of the servitude in which the survivors of the crew were detained. By this time Mrs Frazer was separated, and at a considerable distance from the different members of the crew, and she had given up all hopes of ever being liberated from this frightful bondage in which she was detained.

The Moreton Bay commandant, on hearing of the affair, inquired in the barracks whether any of the militia would volunteer to save a lady and several of the wretched crew, from the savages in the bush, and a number offered their services at a moment's notice. By a system of manoeuvring entered into by a convict who had been for some years in the bush, amongst the savages, the object was effected. All the survivors were, to the best of Mrs Frazer's belief, rescued from the savages.

At the camp, the commandant and the company, and, in fact, all the individuals who were in the service of the government, treated Mrs Frazer and her companions in misfortune, with a degree of kindness which she will ever have a very warm recollection of. She was placed under medical care immediately, and every thing was done that was likely to abate the sense of what she had undergone in witnessing the murder of her husband, or the other horrors with which she had been surrounded.

The captain of the Mediterranean packet in which Mrs Frazer arrived from Sydney at Liverpool, stated that he was at Sydney at the time of the arrival of that lady, and that the circumstances detailed caused the greatest excitement there. The convict, to whose extraordinary return Mrs Frazer owed her escape, obtained a free pardon from the government there, and a reward of thirty guineas.

The Lord Mayor asked what were the circumstances of Mrs Frazer. He was convinced, that if she was in necessity, the ladies in London, who were constantly looking for such objects, would speedily relieve her.

The captain said that the unfortunate lady was not mistress of a farthing. The clothes on her back had been given to her by the commandant's wife, and Captain Frazer had been the sole support of her and her three children, who were at the Orkney Islands, to which she was anxious to go as soon as possible. She was lame, had almost lost the use of one arm, and the sight of one eye, by the severity of the afflictions to which she had been subjected.

The Lord Mayor—I shall most willingly receive contributions for her benefit, and am sure that the call will soon be answered. I never heard of any thing so truly dreadful in all my experience.

COLONIAL.

From the Halifax Times.

HALIFAX, October 24.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—It becomes our painful duty to record one of the severest visitations which has for a long period befallen this town. A whole block of buildings has been totally consumed, and property destroyed to a great amount.

The fire broke out at half-past eight o'clock last evening, in the attic of a house owned by Mr Frost, tailor, opposite the wharf of the *Hon. Enos Collins*. How it originated we have not been able to learn satisfactorily.

The night was perfectly calm, the salt water at hand, and the fire we are told, when first discovered, might have been put out with a few buckets of water. From some fatality, however, it was suffered to gain the ascendant, and the consequences have been disastrous. Had the wind been high, nothing could have saved the houses opposite, and even as it was, the greatest exertions were required to preserve them from taking fire. The burning block was composed of some of the loftiest buildings in town, and the heat thrown across the street, as the flame sheeted their sides, was scorching. All damage except breaking of glass, was however, prevented, by a plentiful application of water and wet blankets, to the houses, wherever danger was apprehended.

The loss of buildings may be estimated at upwards of £20,000. This is a rough guess, and we should think under the truth. Insurances are effected on a great portion of the property. The personal property of Mr Curzon, part of which is saved, is insured, also, the store in which was his stock. The house at the lower corner, owned by Mr Michael Bennet, was also insured, and we are glad to learn that the occupant, Mr G. T. Ellis, saved his stock and furniture, &c. The house next to this on the lower street, occupied by Mr Roach, insured. Mr Casey's house, not insured. The estate of Madden—occupied by Mr Laidlaw, merchant, (stock partly insured); by Mr Down, tinsmith, Mr Wier, merchant, and over his store, as a printing office, by Mr Cannabell, in which were printed the *Acadian Telegraph* and *Pearl* newspapers,—was insured to some amount. The occupants of these premises managed to save most of their property, though we were sorry to witness the confusion amongst the printing materials. Mr Cannabell is not insured. The houses next, were respectively occupied by Mr Neilson, watchmaker, who saved his property; by Mr Wilson, (owned by J. B. Unincke, Esq.) not insured; by Mrs Welsh, huxter, (owned by Mr Joseph Bennett,) not insured; the occupants of which saved their property.

The streets this morning, adjacent to the fire, presented a strange yet melancholy spectacle, from the large quantities of goods and furniture of all descriptions, which were scattered around; and from appearances much of the goods saved will be damaged, and unfit for use. The burnt block, where all is levelled to the ground except the tall chimnies, presents an appearance of desolation, the like of which we hope never to see again, from such a cause.

The loss to Insurance Companies will probably amount to £9,000, which may be thus stated:—

Halifax Fire Insurance Co.	about £2,600
Albion Fire and Life In. Co.	1,300
Hartford Insurance Co.	1,200
Protection Insurance Co.	500
And £3,000 stg. in London.	

QUEBEC, October 16.

Rumours were spread in town on the arrival of the steamer *St. Lawrence* on Saturday, that when she left Montreal on the proceeding