

At a reception here, Colonel Law replied to Earl Grey's despatch of the 17th December, and recommended one-third or one-fourth of the money collected under the sanction of the Queen's letter to be appropriated to the Church. He also stated the error into which the Lord Bishop had fallen with respect to there being no member of the Church of England on the Committee; although he believes, entirely by accident, that was the case in the commission, which had performed its arduous duties in such a manner as to give general satisfaction.—P. 59.

Before the Committee leave this part of the subject, they cannot refrain from remarking upon the exceeding zeal and assiduity with which the applications for so large a portion as one-half (say £15,758 stg.) of the collections under the Queen's letter have been followed up, and to express their regret that these repeated appeals should finally have been successful; a regret in which they think the subscribers to the relief fund, as well as the whole British public, would readily participate.

Adverting to the first of the despatches under the head of general correspondence—that of His Excellency Sir John Harvey to the then Secretary of State—there is this significant passage:—"Much as the hopes of the mercantile and the sufferings of the labouring classes claim our sympathies, yet should our deepest commiseration rest upon the *middle classes*, who, accustomed to comparative ease and comfort, find themselves and their helpless families suddenly reduced to a state of the most absolute destitution."—P. 6.

In the despatch No. 1 from Earl Grey to Sir John Harvey, 18th July, the first intimation is given of the extension of the Government aid to the sum of £30,000; and in that despatch, his Lordship observes—"It is scarcely necessary for me to express my conviction, that you will make every arrangement which may be expedient and effectual for ensuring the due application of this money to the service of the persons who have been rendered destitute by this calamitous event."—P. 24.

And in the memorandum of Sir John Harvey for the Chairman of the General Relief Committee, and also to serve as instructions for the pecuniary Relief Commissioners, Sir John Harvey observes that both from the letter and spirit as well of the despatch of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State announcing the munificent donation of £30,000, by which he is required to take effectual means for securing its due application to the service of the persons who have been rendered destitute by the late calamitous fire, as those from the Governor-General and the Lieutenant-Governors of the neighbouring colonies, it is sufficiently apparent that the contemplated recipients are to be sought, not among the higher and more wealthy sufferers, but among those who have been reduced to severe distress or entire destitution. And the reason for this is stated, that in aid of such of the former class as may need it, application had been made to her Majesty's Government for a loan to the colony to such an amount as may enable the local government to make advances, secured upon the property itself, in aid of the reconstruction of houses, &c.—P. 45.

But it will be remembered, that her Majesty's government refused to accede to the application for the loan spoken of, and therefore the higher and more wealthy classes of sufferers were either not relieved at all or but in