

man of his Garrison must be sent off with the Packet to the head of the lake, and the Corporal there must dispatch another from thence with it to this place. The Expense attending the express to be vouched by Major Smith and paid under my orders by my Secretary. The same course will be followed from hence during the winter through Major Shank. Our weather has been hitherto remarkably sharp for the time of the year; ever since the 26th November constant severe Frost and much heavy snow; only four days thaw. The ground is still however covered, and the sleighing very good, which will in all probability last for the winter. I am sorry you suffer so much personally from the cold, but hope the ladies may be able to enjoy the charming carroling you must have in your bay and up the Yonge St. Road, and to the Humber, and up the Don to Castle Frank, where an early Dinner must be picturesque and delightful. Mr. Small does not seem to have any Inclination to participate with Mrs. Small in the charming winter excursions, or he would certainly make haste to get the Council Book forward, but it still hangs in much the same situation as when you left it. I really tremble for him, as our chief is a man of business and Method, and will not submit to these idle procrastinations. I wish you may be able to read this scrawl, but, Mr. Barns being gone to attend Mrs. Hamilton's funeral, I cannot have it copied. You have no doubt heard of Mr. Jarvis's misfortune in having great part of his house burnt, by which he has lost store and property to the amount of at least £500 Halifax. None of the public Records absolutely perished, but the seals are brocken from many of the Deeds and more of them trampled upon and dirtied. Our best compliments to the ladies, and believe me to be, dear sir, your most faithfull and Obedient Servant,

“PETER RUSSEL.

“P. S.—The Commander in Chief refuses to pay for any of the repairs, &c., to the Garrison of York. They must consequently become part of the civil expenditure of this Province, and be included in your account.—P. R.”

