

tions throughout the Province, and tell so much, both for British and American Benevolence.

The Commissioners sensibly feel the responsibility, which dwells upon all concerned in this distribution, to dispense the bounty for the purposes contemplated by the donors. Although the law has authorized the Commissioners, to ascertain all the losses which were sustained from the calamitous fires that caused such sweeping desolation; it does not follow that every individual who came forward to prove a loss, is therefore either entitled to, or wished to obtain a portion of the charity.

There can be no doubt, indeed, that many persons proved their losses principally with a view of showing the amount of loss sustained.

The ruling principle in the distribution of every donation, must be the intention of the donor; and in the present case, it is conceived, that there are many persons whose losses have been proved before the Commissioners, who are not of a description of sufferers, that any of the donors intended to relieve by their contributions. The Commissioners think that the actual and individual distribution of the charity, can only be duly made upon a knowledge of the circumstances and condition of each sufferer, and therefore must be performed by local Committees, who possess, or may easily obtain this knowledge, upon such principles, and under such regulations, as your Excellency may think it proper to lay down for their guidance; and that the duty of the Commissioners in this particular, is obviously and necessarily confined to suggesting general principles of distribution, for the consideration of your Excellency, in whose hands, and under whose control, the Funds have been placed for disposal.

The Commissioners in the first place, recommend that there be reserved from immediate distribution, a sum that will enable your Excellency to make provision for persons who have been made widows, or orphans, or become maimed and disabled by means of the fires, and for other destitute cases that may not be included within the examinations of loss of property, or that may be proper objects for future and continued relief.

It appears to the Commissioners, under a view of all the circumstances, that £18,000 is a proper sum for immediate distribution, and that the remainder of the Funds on hand, together with any other monies that may be hereafter received, should be reserved by your Excellency, for the purposes just mentioned.