

Correspondence
respecting
Mr. Gagy.

December last, and which is in ward No. 4, and that it is the centre cell, to which the stove is nearest, and deponent saith that the said cell must have been sufficiently warmed by the said stove. That the said deponent knew the said John Collins for more than 20 years before his death, and that for more than 15 years before his decease he was a common vagabond by day and night, and given to the excessive use of ardent spirits, and in a state of drunkenness would often lie out at night on rafts and in boats at the river edge; and that long before his death the constitution of the said Collins was ruined by intemperate habits and by exposure. That deponent saw said Collins in the cell on the morning of the day on which he died, and perceived that he was then dying from the effects of an exhausted constitution and diseased body. That deponent has known the said Collins to be two or three days at a time without food, which deponent often gave him to relieve his distress, deponent having some consideration for said Collins as a former fellow-apprentice. That the said Collins on the said morning of his death was very barely and ill-clothed, and that at and before the time of his death the said cell was as warm as usual. That there were in the said cell at the same time three prisoners, Charles Fortier, Antoine Moyen, and Charles Miller, the two former old offenders, who had been frequently apprehended for robbery, and the last confined upon some other charge, and that deponent would not believe the said three individuals if they were examined under oath. And deponent further saith, that at and before the time of Collins's death there was as much firewood ready for use at the said gaol as there used to be in previous years, and that the sheriff contracted with one Glassford to supply wood for the said gaol, and that that person delivered the wood from time to time as required, sometimes in quantities of 50 cords, and that during the present season, which has been unusually severe, deponent has known upwards of 10 cords used in the said gaol in a week. And deponent further saith, that Dr. Arnoldi, physician of the said gaol, was in daily attendance at the said gaol since his appointment, and deponent knows that the said Dr. Arnoldi was so in attendance at the gaol on the day of Collins's death, but deponent conceives, for days before his death Collins was beyond the power of medical relief; and further saith, that the said Collins for some time before his death was subject to fall into fits.

(signed) *James Spears.*

Sworn before me, at Montreal, the day and year first above written.

(signed) *George Pyke, J. K. B.*

No. 4.—Deposition of Mr. *James Glassford.*

Province of Lower Canada, District of Montreal. Ss.

ON this 14th day of April, in the year of our Lord 1836, personally came and appeared before me, the Hon. George Pyke, one of the Justices of His Majesty's Court of King's Bench for the said district of Montreal, James Glassford, of the city of Montreal, in the said district, a captain in the militia in the said province, who being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith, that for five or six years past this deponent has, by agreement with the Hon. Lewis Gagy, sheriff of the said district of Montreal, contracted for the yearly supply of firewood for the use of the common gaol of the said district, situated in the said city of Montreal. That during the last summer the said sheriff, complaining that he had received no money from the Government for refunding the advances already made to him, said that he was unwilling that deponent should, as in former years, deliver as large a quantity of firewood, it having before that time been the practice to lay in during the summer season a quantity nearly sufficient for the whole year; that during the last summer up to the 10th day of October last past, the deponent delivered at the said gaol upwards of 100 cords of said firewood; and that from the 10th day of October to the present time deponent has at different times delivered there 150 cords more; and that during the whole of this winter there has always been at the said gaol a quantity of firewood sufficient for the purpose of the said gaol. And the deponent further saith, that from his having had frequent occasion to visit the said gaol he became acquainted as well with the character and conduct of Edward Holland, keeper of the said common gaol, as with the mode in which the said gaol was managed; that although the said Edward Holland is a person of warm temper, yet the deponent never saw any harshness practised by him towards the prisoners confined in the said gaol, with the exception of strong expressions, which deponent considers almost excusable on account of the irritation produced by the demeanour of many of the prisoners, who are often unruly, and contemn the gaoler's authority; and that deponent has often heard persons who had been in the said Holland's custody acknowledge the kindness experienced at his hands. And the deponent further saith, that a cord of wood is a sufficient supply for a week for the use of a stove of a large size, even in severe weather; and that deponent has understood and believes that during the coldest season of the year from eight to ten cords of firewood have, for years past, been the total weekly consumption of wood for all the stoves in the said gaol; and deponent believes that there have been at least seven or eight stoves in constant use in the said gaol in the winter season. That the deponent did not know John Collins, who died in the said gaol in December last. And deponent further saith, that in the month of July last past, this deponent having in his hands a quantity of 45½ cords of firewood which he was willing to dispose of, informed the said Lewis Gagy thereof, with the view of ascertaining if he the said Lewis Gagy would permit the same to be taken under the contract for the purposes of the said gaol, and the said Lewis Gagy said that he did not wish