

GENERAL ORDER.

Head Quarters, St. John's, Newfoundland,
10 June 1846.

No. 1.—Having witnessed and superintended the zealous, unwearyed, and almost unaided efforts of the officers and soldiers of this small garrison to arrest the progress of the awful conflagration of yesterday, his Excellency the Governor and Major-general commanding deems it an imperative duty towards them to place upon official record the high sense which he entertains of those exertions, which, although, owing to a concurrence of adverse circumstances, were necessarily in a great degree unavailing, were most unremittingly persevered in for 24 successive hours.

To the gallant and determined, and, in this instance, successful stand made towards the close of the day by this small body of wearyed and exhausted men, under the immediate directions of Lieutenant-colonel Law and Major Robe, by which the direction of the conflagration was diverted from the Ordnance Buildings, the Major-general imputes, under Providence, the preservation of all the buildings, public and private, at the east end of this city, including the barracks, &c., at Fort William, the garrison bakery (the only remaining one), the commissariat house and office, Saint Thomas's Church, the theological institution, the collegiate school, the residences of the Lord Bishop, of the Chief Justice, of the Attorney-general, of the Collector of Customs, of the Honourable Messrs. Thomas, and even of the Government House, which, in the event of the extension of the fire to the buildings above enumerated, must have been placed in imminent danger.

In aiding in the preservation of the barracks at Fort Townshend, the Major-general learns with much satisfaction that the conduct of Captain Hunt, half-pay, late of the Royal Newfoundland Companies, the guard of those companies, and the few individuals remaining in barracks in the absence of the troops, was very praiseworthy.

Where all have so well performed their duties, it is difficult to discriminate in bestowing individual praise; to name those who have merited it would be to name all. The Major-general must, therefore, rest satisfied for the present with offering his warmest thanks to Lieutenant-colonel Law, commanding Royal Newfoundland Companies, to Major Robe, commanding Royal Engineer, and to Major Wright, commanding Royal Artillery, and to all the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers under their respective commands, for their admirable conduct yesterday, conduct which has entirely satisfied the Major-general that the utmost reliance can confidently be placed upon their soldier-like qualities, in whatever exigencies of the service they may be called upon to perform their duties.

To the active and useful exertions of the officers attached to his Excellency's personal staff, namely, Lieutenant F. C. Harvey, 34th Regiment, and Lieutenant H. B. Chambers, Royal Newfoundland Companies, the Major-general has pleasure in expressing his acknowledgments; as well as to Fort Major Mason, Deputy Commissary-general Green, Assistant Commissaries-general Weir and Robinson, Deputy Ordnance Storekeeper Winter, and, generally, to all connected with the public departments, who were present and rendered all the assistance in their power.

However unusual a proceeding under ordinary circumstances, yet his Excellency the Governor and Major-general commanding does not abstain from adverting in this Memorandum to the zeal displayed by all the principal persons connected with the Government, including the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the clergy of all denominations, the chief justice (whose exertions were conspicuously useful), the judges, the members of Her Majesty's Council, and all the principal officers of the Government, who all evinced every desire to render their services useful upon this awful occasion. The Major-general cannot conclude this notice without expressing his warm acknowledgments to Captain Dacres, Royal Artillery (on leave), and to Mr. Hele, master of H. M. S. "Vindictive," (at St. John's on duty connected with a civil prosecution), for their most valuable and unremitting exertions throughout the whole day.

The names of several non-commissioned officers and soldiers, who have been reported to the Major-general by their commanding officers as having prominently distinguished themselves, will be promulgated in a future order.

No. 2.—Major-general Sir John Harvey has pleasure in accepting the offered services of Captain Dacres, Royal Artillery, and of Captain Hunt, half-pay, late of the Royal Newfoundland Companies, during the continuance of the arduous patrol and other duties which have necessarily devolved upon this small garrison; the names of these officers will accordingly be placed upon the roster of garrison duty, and they will be attached, the former to Captain Wright's Company, Royal Artillery, and the latter to the Royal Newfoundland Companies, until further orders.

By Command,

Hugh B. Chambers,
Lieut. R. N. Companies,
Acting A. D. C.