

From the first to the fifth of October, a season generally cool, an extraordinary and an unnatural heat prevailed. The protracted drought of the summer acting up on the aridity of the forests, had rendered them more than naturally combustible. Land clearing had been carried on extensively all the spring; and as this operation includes burning the trees and roots, the circumstances mentioned above, facilitated both the progress and dispersion of these fires, and produced the unusual heat. On the 6th and 7th, the condition of the people living along the valley of the Miramichi, became very alarming. In the rear of Newcastle—in the vicinity of Douglastown and Moorfields—and along the banks of the Bartibog, the fires were evidently approaching the line of settlements on the north side of the main river. On the south side of the river from below Nappan, thence upward in the rear of Nelson Town, up Cain's river—and along the whole of the southwest, the same menacing process was going on. Indeed, the whole country appeared to be encircled by a flaming zone, which, gradually contracting itself by the devastation it made, seemed as if it would converge into a point, as soon as nothing remained to be destroyed.

On Friday the 7th inst., about 9 o'clock, in the evening, and for some time previous, lengthened