FALMOUTH, July 6.

It is reported that Government has entered into a contract with Messrs. Barings and Rothschilds for conveying the mails to and from the West Indies by steam vessels: the mails to be embarked and disembarked at Southampton. The only mails which will remain to this port after the above contract and that for taking the North American mails from Liverpool shall come into operation, will be those for South America, and measures are in progress for conveying these also by private steamers. And thus, we fear, will terminate the Packet Establishment of Falmouth, after having enjoyed that privilege for upwards of a century and a half, during which time interests have sprung up, and a large amount of capital has been invested that will now be sacrificed without conferring such an amount of benefit on the country at large, as should alone have induced the government to consent to the transfer of an important establishment, by which hundreds of families will be involved in ruin. We have never advocated the interests of Falmouth on any other than public grounds, and we now contend that the Packet Establishment at this port ought not to be broken up without a due consideration of all the circumstances, and without affording the inhabitants and those who are interested in its maintenance an opportunity of showing the amount of injury that will be inflicted on them by such an exercise of power. To this they have a clear claim; and further, they have a right to demand, ere those who would deprive the town of one of its chief means of support shall accomplish their object, that they clearly and distinctly prove that the general interests of the country will be so far benefitted as to require such a sacrifice at their hands. Without going further at present into this important question, we entreat the inhabitants of Falmouth immediately to hold a public meeting, and appoint a committee for the purpose of arousing the whole county to a sense of the injury which impends over its interests. We are persuaded that if "One and All" act in unison justice must prevail.—*Falmouth Packet.*

COAL PIT EXPLOSION AT SOUTH SHIELDS.

A most dreadful and lamentable explosion, attended with a vast sacrifice of human life, occurred at the St. Hilda's colliery, the property of Messrs. W. and J. Brandling (from which are procured the coals known by the name of the "St. Hilda's Walls-end"), on Friday morning. The first notice of the explosion given at the mouth of the pit was about a quarter to nine o'clock, when the banksman was alarmed by seeing the smoke from the pit-furnace, mixed with fragments of small-coals ascending the *down cast shaft*. A short time after, the men and boys to the number of about 100 were brought to the mouth of the pit, but the only thing they could tell was that an explosion had taken place in what is called the west working of the pit. Many of these were nearly exhausted from the effects of the choke-damp, but those who were sufficiently well again in a short time, descended the pit, accompanied by some of the men who had not been down, for the purpose of making what exertions they possibly could for the rescue of the men and boys who were left behind. However none were found alive; and about eleven o'clock the bodies of the sufferers began to be brought out from the shaft, presenting in the relaxed frames, dull eyes, and features in which life seemed perhaps still lingering, objects of deep interest. As they were carried by their comrades down to the carts which were in waiting to convey them away, they were recognised by a brother, a wife, or a child, and the terrible agony that was exhibited it is impossible to describe. Although there are said to have been only about 60 persons working in the neighbourhood of the explosion, yet as there were upwards of 150 men down the pit, the general distress and anxiety were much increased. We were much struck by the gallant conduct of the men who went in search of their comrades. We saw brothers pale and quivering, stagger from the corf to the outside of the crowd for fresh air, and with a few brief and simple words of affection and agony, again, scarcely yet recovered, enter the vehicle, and return in search of him they had lost. Carts containing three or four dead bodies left the yard from time to time, surrounded by groups of agonised mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters, screaming, and blind with grief. One woman attracted our particular attention. Three of her children had been at the fatal spot, and one of them lay dead before her. Her grief for a time over this poor little boy was terrible. But gradually we observed her steal up to the door near the pit mouth, through which the dead bodies were borne. She still had another boy to inquire after him who might still be living. Hope was stronger than despair. It was, therefore, with feelings of exquisite distress that those who saw her, beheld her other little boy borne lifeless past her.—The sight of her utter misery, and the agonising shriek which burst from her heart, few who heard will ever forget. It is pretty well ascertained that nearly sixty lives have been lost by this dreadful accident; and we have heard the scene below described by an eye witness as most awful—horses and men lying dead in every direction. The whole of the bodies, except one or two, whose names are known, have been obtained.

Dreadful was the deep expression of sorrow of devoted wives, families, and friends at the pit mouth. The appearance below was as that of the grave itself, over which these poor mourners lamented.—Everything there bespoke it. The men were moving about like spectres in a thick darkness, with indistinct glimmerings from more than usually bedimmed lamps, seldom uttering a word, except in suppressed tones, doing their duties to the dying and dead, in a solemn manner, that was deeply affecting. At one point we suddenly came amongst 12 or 15 men who had been driven back by the surcharged atmosphere. One poor man, especially, was sick and ill, and something was given to assist his recovery; though somewhat better, still he seemed slow in getting well. When again asked where he felt most oppressed, he said, in a broken, suppressed agony, "I am not well, sir, I have two sons in there," pointing down to the place he had been driven from in his attempts to recover his children, "one was 16, the other 22."—We understand that six horses and two ponies, which were in the pit, were also killed.

LIFE IN AUSTRALIA.—I never could recommend thoughtless young men to come out to these young colonies (says Mr. Leigh in his new work, of *Voyages and Travels in South Australia*) abandoning the gay dissipation of England for the gloomy wilds of Australia, where nothing but the strictest perseverance can make way. The comforts of society must be disregarded for awhile; years must elapse before you can think of enjoying the comforts of happy England. The want, not merely of luxuries, but of even the necessaries of life, must often be submitted to. Even, after all your toil in preparing your foster-home, are you secure from disappointment, since the long drought to which these climes are subject may destroy all your labour, and leave the once verdant field, upon which you anchored all your hopes, a brown and withered wilderness. Forget, if it be possible, that you have lived in England; forget, at all events refrain from comparing your native with your adopted country, and then, with your wife and domestics, your little home, though rude as the huts which held our sturdy forefathers in Britain, you may have many comforts; indeed, I have spent as gay and as happy a night in a hut composed of bark and reeds, or under a log hut, as ever I passed in the vicinity of Turkey carpets, purple and fine linen. There is a peculiar fascination in these scenes—a freedom that exhilirates. There is no idling all the morning among the vanity shops. That delightful part of the day is spent by the women in the more substantial and beneficial occupation of the kitchen.—In using the word "kitchen," I should explain that it does not exactly mean a receptacle for fat cooks, fat joints, and greasy scullions; but a place where one sees a fire, a pot swung *a la gipsy*, a bench, a bundle of wood, perhaps a dog or two lying by the fire—Miss, or Sally So-and-So occasionally cracking a faggot, which her good little brother had been labouring to cut down behind the hut—a piece of tarpauling over-head, sometimes bounded on the right by the hut, and on the left by thick bush.—This is the kind of kitchen most in fashion in these parts; and when ornamented by the hind-quarter of a kangaroo, or a young wallaba, cuts no insignificant appearance about two or three o'clock in the day, when the cloth is laid upon two boards, on trestles, just in the shade of a fine young gum-tree.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, AUGUST 23, 1839.

From the Observer.

Dreadful Conflagration

About One Hundred Buildings, and a vast amount of other Property in ruins.

It is with feelings of sorrow and consternation, that we again sit down to record the visitation of our devoted city, with the ravages of that most terrible and uncontrollable of elements, FIRE. But little more than two years have elapsed since the inhabitants of St. John were afflicted (on the night of Saturday, January 14, 1837,) with a tremendous conflagration, which laid in ruins one third of the most flourishing mercantile part of the city, and caused enormous loss and misery, from the vast destruction of valuable property; and scarcely had the community begun, Phoenix-like, to rise in renewed vigour from the ashes of their former property, than, in the inscrutable wisdom of His dispensations, an overruling Providence has again seen fit to visit us with a still more severe and extensive calamity. At this moment another extensive tract of streets and wharves, which a few hours since were loaded with immense quantities of valuable Merchandize, are nothing more than heaps of smouldering ruins; and where the busy hand of industry and the active bustle of commercial enterprise and traffic were constantly in vigorous exercise, are now nought but piles of smoking rubbish, and the blackened and dismal relics of former wealth and plenty. On Saturday evening last, about 9 o'clock, (the same hour and day of the week as the great fire of 1837,) our citizens were alarmed by the dismal tones of the pealing fire-bells; and scarcely had they time to ask of each other "*Where is it?*" than an awful pyramid of flame shot far and fearfully up into the clear atmosphere, plainly enough declaring where the danger was, and filling with terror and dismay all who beheld it. It was immediately ascertained that the fire had commenced in a building in Nelson Street, occupied by Messrs. Hugh Irvine & Co., shipbuilders, as a store and warehouse; and originated, as is reported, from the carelessness of a boy, who was drawing *ardent spirit* from a cask, and who suffered his candle to come in contact either with the spirit, or with a pile of *oakum*, which was very improperly placed *on the top of the cask*. In a few minutes the whole building was in a mass of flame, and instantly communicated to the large and lofty store owned by W. E. N. Devebor, Esq. and occupied by Mr. Thos. E. Millidge, General Merchant; and from the extremely awkward situation of the premises, in a sharp angle of a very narrow and crowded street, the dense mass of surrounding buildings and lumber yards, filled with dry and combustible materials, and the extreme dryness of the weather, it soon became apparent, that no human power or exertion could possibly confine the ravages of the devouring element to the immediate scene of their commencement. Added to all other unfortunate impediments, it was low water at the time, and consequently no sufficient supply of water could for a long time be procured in the neighbourhood of the fire. It now became evident, that the whole of Nelson street, with its contiguous alleys and back courts; and the various wharfs comprised between it and the North Market Wharf were in the most imminent danger; and that even that important wharf itself, crowded as it was with enormous stocks of the most valuable merchandise, was in the greatest jeopardy; and the result unhappily proved, that these fears were indeed but too well founded. In an incredibly short time the whole space alluded to was enveloped in flames, the proprietors and residents having time to remove but a small portion of their property, ere the devouring element drove them from the scene of their labours. Both sides of Nelson street having rapidly ignited, the fire quickly spread on the one side backwards to the neighbouring wharves; and on the other, upwards into Dock street; the buildings between which and Nelson street being situated on a continued acclivity, afforded the readiest possible channel for the transmission of the flames. At this time, the spectacle, as viewed from the upper parts of the city, was sublime and terrific in the extreme; and the hearts of the gazers sunk within them, as they contemplated the fearfully rapid progress of destruction, the comparative futility of the strenuous exertions which were everywhere making to arrest it, and the alarming probability of its extending over the whole city. But the finger of Omnipotence was outstretched; and where human wisdom and efforts failed, the overruling power of the Most High interposed in His own time and way. "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther," is the prerogative of Him only to address to the raging elements and the destroying flames. The conflagration continued extending with unabated fury till nearly daylight on Sunday morning, sweeping away in its course every building in Nelson and Dock streets, on the Hon. Wm. Black's, Crookshank & Walker's, Lawton's, Waterbery's, Donaldson's and the North Market Wharves, the whole north side of the Market Square, including the houses of Thomas Merritt, Esq. in Prince William street, opposite the Commercial Bank, and all the buildings from the end of Dock street down the south side of Union street, to Adam's slip. The arrest of the calamity was as singular and unexpected as its career had been rapid and fearful: when the destruction was at its very height, and its widely-spread extent had so divided the exertions of the people, as to render their efforts almost hopeless, a merciful Providence gave success to their labours, and enabled them to limit the scene of desolation. By the indefatigable exertions of the Royal Artillery, who managed the Ordnance Engine, the newly built houses of Messrs. John and James Lawton, in Union street, to the east of Dock street, were saved from destruction, after having been several times on fire, and the flames thus prevented from spreading in that direction; while the ground on the heights behind Dock street and the Market Square being principally yards and gardens, afforded an effectual check in that quarter. The houses also on the north side of Union Street, opposite the end of Nelson street, were frequently on fire, but saved by immense exertion, and the conflagration thus prevented from overrunning York Point. At the other extremity of the scene of terror, a number of resolute individuals laboured desperately to pull down the corner buildings on the Market Square, owned by Thos. Merritt, Esq. so as to prevent the fire reaching from them across the street, to the Commercial Bank, and the Messrs. Barlow's corner; but not succeeding in the attempt, they daringly persevered in tearing down the exterior boardings, even while the buildings were in flames over their heads, and thus diminished the power of the flames in that direction; while at the same time, a number of intrepid fellows, at the *side windows* of Mr. J. K. M'Kee's house, *against which* Mr. Merrit's wooden buildings were erected, laboured at pushing down the burning beams and timbers, and extinguishing the fire on Mr. M'Kee's roof, as often as it ignited; and thus the work of destruction was fortunately arrested at that point. But during the whole time that these buildings in the Market Square were burning, the Messrs. Barlow's corner, as well as the Commercial Bank, and the houses occupied by Messrs Melick, Summers, Millar, and David Merritt, were all in the most imminent danger; as the flames threatened momentarily to cross the street, and the heat was so intense that it required the most indefatigable exertions to prevent those buildings from igniting, and it was only by covering the roofs and fronts of them all with carpets, and constantly drenching the whole with water, that they were saved from destruction. Had the flames, indeed, crossed there, nothing could have saved King street from destruction; in which case the extent of the devastation would have been incalculable. Some idea of the intensity of the heat may be given, by the fact, that altho the united breadth of the water-slip and road ways between the houses of the North and South Market Wharves is 200 feet, yet the latter is severely scorched, and some of the houses repeatedly took fire; and it is owing to the active exertions of the Carleton Fire Company, who constantly kept their engine playing upon the South Wharf, that it was saved from destruction. Several schooners lying in the slip were dismasted, to prevent the spread of the flames, which had seized on their topmasts.

It would be both impossible and invidious to particularize individual exertions at a scene like this, where so many were indefatigable and intrepid; but it is due to our Garrison to say, that the services of the military, both Officers and men, were exceedingly valuable, both in guarding property and assisting at the engines; and the assistance derived from the copious supply of water from the Water Company's plug at Messrs. Barlow's corner, was invaluable. Had such a beneficial aid been attainable in the neighbourhood where the fire commenced, an immense amount of property might have been saved from destruction.

It is impossible, at present, to calculate the amount of loss from this awful conflagration; a far greater number of *inhabited* houses has been destroyed, than by the great fire of 1837; and as they were mostly occupied by several families, it is calculated that nearly 3000 persons have been rendered houseless; nearly all of them being of the labouring class.—Mercantile men also generally agree in estimating, that a much greater quantity of valuable merchandize has been destroyed than in 1837; and the calamity is therefore, on the whole, considerably *greater* than the *great* one of that memorable year. The season of the year, and the present splendid weather, however, are greatly in favour of the sufferers; and it is to be hoped that no time will be lost in repairing the disasters our enterprising community has sustained. A public meeting was held this day, to devise measures for the relief of the suffering poor. It was providential that the night of the fire was peculiarly calm; as, had there been any wind, with such extremely dry weather, but little hope could have been entertained of saving any considerable portion of the city.

It would be a hopeless and useless task to compile a correct catalogue of all the unfortunate sufferers on this disastrous occasion; but we have availed ourselves of the subjoined list of the *buildings* destroyed, published yesterday morning in a slip from the *Courier* office, and which we believe is generally as correct an account as can at present be obtained.—It is gratifying to state, that we have heard of no loss of human life during the awful catastrophe; nor of any accident beyond severe bruises.—So rapid was the career of destruction, that the removal of goods was often arrested by the sudden arrival of the flames; several gangs of rigging, blocks, &c. for large new ships, were at one time thrown into scows for safety, but before they could be removed, the falling and flaming ruins of buildings covered and entirely destroyed them. A considerable quantity of property belonging to James Kirk, Esq. was hastily thrown into a fire proof vault in his store, and altho' all the rest of the building was consumed, the vault remained uninjured, and its contents were yesterday removed in safety.—Mr. Parks, of Dock street, was less fortunate; in a vault under his premises, was a valuable stock of wine; which indeed safely remained till after the fire had terminated, but a chimney subsequently falling, broke in the vault and destroyed the whole of its contents. The Hon. John Robertson's safety vault was also broken in by the falling ruins; but its contents had fortunately been previously removed.

It is earnestly to be hoped, that the occurrence of two such awful conflagrations as that of 1837 and the present instance, in so short a space of time, will induce our official authorities to adopt more efficient means, to prevent the recurrence in future; by importing more powerful Fire Engines than the paltry things which now disgrace the city, organising and encouraging *Axe & Hook and Ladder Companies*, and procuring the establishment of *water plugs*, from the Company's Works, at proper stations throughout the city.

NORTH MARKET WHARF.

Wooden Building belonging to Mrs. Hugh Johnston—lower part occupied by Messrs. John M'Crea, Joseph M'Pherson, and J. Garron, Grocers—upper part by Mr. Thomas Crozier, Merchant, & Messrs. H. & P. M'Culloch, as a clothing store, &c.

Wooden Building belonging to the Estate of Mr. Richard Bonsall—lower part occupied by Messrs Charles Crookshank and H. J. Thorn—upper part by Mr. Crookshank as a dwelling.

Wooden Building belonging to Mr. H. Blakslee, occupied by himself and Mr. Thomas S. Estey, Merchants, and Mr. Lockey, Grocer.

Wooden Building belonging to S. Scovil, Esq. of Gagetown, and occupied by Mr. W. H. Scovil, Merchant.

Wooden building owned and occupied by Messrs James Lockwood & Co. Merchants.

Wooden Building owned by R. M. Jarvis, Esq., and occupied by Messrs. E. L. Jarvis & Co. Hardware merchants.

Wooden Building belonging to the Estate of Jas. Hendricks, Esq., occupied by T. M'Avity & Co., Hardware merchants.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by John V. Thurgar, Esqr., Auctioneer and Commission Merchant.

Wooden Building owned by the Messrs. Leavitt, and occupied by Messrs. D. & F. Leavitt, and W. Leavitt, Flour Merchants, &c. Thos. Leavitt, Esq., American Consul, and Mr. E. Anderson, Grocer.

Wooden Building belonging to the Estate of Hugh Johnston, Esq. and occupied by Messrs. J. W. M. Irish, and D. J. M'Laughlin, Flour Merchants, &c. and Mr. Robert Ray, Sail-maker.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. E. Barlow & Sons, and occupied by them as a Warehouse, and by Mr. Alexander Robertson,* Flour merchant.

Wooden Building owned & occupied by Messrs. Crookshank & Walker, General Commission Merchants.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. Crookshank & Walker, occupied by Messrs. Crane & M'Grath, merchants.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Hon. John Robertson, General Commission Merchant.

Wooden Building owned by Hon. John Robertson, and occupied by Messrs. James Otty & Co., Merchants, and Mr. G. T. Ray, Sail-maker.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. E. Barlow & Sons, and occupied by Messrs. Barlows and Ketchum, Merchants.

The above were all three or four story buildings, and generally filled with merchandise of various descriptions.

NELSON-STREET—*West side.*

Wooden Building belonging to Hon. John Robertson, occupied by Messrs. Alexanders, Barry & Co, and Jas. E. Chipman, Merchants, and Mr. Robert Ray, Sail maker.

An extensive range of Wooden Buildings on Donaldson's Wharf, belonging to Lauchlan Donaldson, Esq., and occupied by Messrs. W. M'Aulay, Grocer; Faulkner & Wheeler, Flour Merchants, &c. Peacock and Clinton, Francis Gallagher, and J. Bowen, Coopers; R. Laskey,* Block-maker, and P. Doyle and T. Pryor, Blacksmiths.

A range of Fish Stores on Waterbery's Wharf, owned and occupied by Mr. David Waterbery.

Wooden Building owned by W. & J. Lawton, occupied by Messrs. Wm. & James Lawton, Ship builders, as a mercantile establishment.

Wooden Building owned by W. & J. Lawton occupied by Mr. Chas. Hunter, Block-maker.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. John Lawton, occupied by B. & C. Lawton, Boat-builders.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. Charles Kay, Cooper.

Wooden Building owned by Allen Otty, Esq., occupied by the Mechanics' Whale Fishing Company as a Cooperage.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. John Lawton, occupied by Messrs. Wm. & John Dunham, as a Cooperage, &c.

Wooden Building owned by Mrs. Woodfendale, occupied by Mr. C. M'Lauchlan as a Warehouse.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. C. & B. Lawton; and occupied by Hugh Irvine & Brothers, Ship-builders, as a Store, &c. and several families. It was in this building that the Fire originated.

Wooden Building with extensive range on wharf belonging to Mr. W. E. N. Deveber, occupied by Mr. Thomas E. Millidge, Merchant, and Mr. Thomas Bell, Grocer.

Wooden Building owned & occupied by Messrs James Lockwood & Co. as a Warehouse—formerly owned by Hon. Wm. Black.

Extensive range of wooden Buildings owned and occupied by Messrs Crookshank & Walker.

NELSON-STREET—*East side.*

Wooden Building, owned by Estate of James Hendricks, and occupied by T. M'Avity & Co., as a warehouse.

Extensive range of Wooden Buildings, owned and occupied by Messrs. Ratchford & Brothers, General Commission Merchants.

Range of Wooden Buildings in rear of the property of James Kirk, Esq. owned and occupied by Messrs. Ratchford & Brothers.

Wooden Building owned by James Kirk, Esq., occupied by himself and Mr. James Robertson, Merchant.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. D. J. M'Laughlin, occupied by Mr. Charles M'Lauchlan,* Flour Merchant.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. J. W. M. Irish, occupied by Messrs Mackay, Brothers & Co. merchants.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. G. Waterbery occupied by Mr. A. Burgoyne.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. G. Waterbery occupied by Mr. Murphy.

Wooden Building owned by Estate of J. C. Waterbery, occupied by Mrs. Lockhart, as a Boarding House, and Mr. Holman.

Brick Building owned and occupied by Mr. John M'Garrigle, as a Grocery and Boarding House.

Wooden Building owned by Wilford Fisher, Esq of Grand Manan, occupied by J. Gillavay, Grocer.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. Wm. Dunham, occupied by Mr. Wisdom, Carpenter, and others.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. Wm. Dunham, occupied by Mr. John M'Keen, and others.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. James Goodwin, Shoemaker.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. George Thomson, Blockmaker.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. Andrew Ruddick, Cartman.

Wooden Building owned by Wm. Scovil, Esq. and occupied by Mr. John Ward, Cooper.

Wooden Building owned by Wm. Scovil, Esq. and occupied by J. Daley, Grocer.

Wooden Building owned by Mrs. M'Kee, occupied by Mr. M'Allister, and Mr. John Bell, Grocer.

DOCK STREET—*West side.*

Wooden Building owned by John Johnston, Esq. occupied by Mr. George Hutchinson, Watchmaker, and Mr. Henry Buxton, China and Earthenware Store.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. William A. Robertson, Merchant Tailor, occupied by him and Messrs J. Burrill and John Gillis, Merchants.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. Thos. Parks, Wine and Spirit Dealer.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. C. C. Vaughan, and Mr. S. Cooper, China and Earthenware Store.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. D. Waterbery, occupied by Mr. Hamilton as a Grocery and Liquor Store.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. R. Nowlan, and Mr. Beynon, Confectioner, and others.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. Thomas Calvert, occupied by Mr. William Westlotorn, Tinsmith, and Mr. M'Loon Tailor.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. John Toole, occupied by Mr. John Tobin, and several others.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. D. Spillane, Grocer.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. Elijah Barker, Tobacconist.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. William Dunham, and Mr. J. Decker, Merchant.

Wooden Building owned by the Hon. William Black, occupied by Mr. John Rodgers, Tailor.

Wooden Building owned by Hon. Wm. Black, occupied by Mr. Lawlor, Confectioner.

Wooden Building owned by Hon. Wm. Black, occupied by Mr. John Ryan, Grocer.

DOCK STREET—*East side.*

Wooden Building owned by Mr. Timothy Collins, occupied by Messrs. P. Kelly and J. Floyd, Grocers.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. G. T. Ray, occupied by Mr. Wm. Clawson, Leather Cutter, &c. and Mrs. Johnston as a Clothing Store, and Mr. John Marshall.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. Geo. Whitteker, occupied by Mr. James Agnew, Watchmaker.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. R. Calvert, and Mr. N. P. Alexander, Grocer.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. R. Calvert, occupied by Mr. John Kinnear, Watchmaker.

Brick Building owned by Mr. R. Calvert, occupied by Mr. Richard Calvert, jr. as a China and Earthenware Store.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. George Harding, and Mr. David Paterson, shoemaker.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. E. Barlow & Sons, occupied by Mr. M. Nugent, Tailor.

Wooden Building owned by Messrs. E. Barlow & Sons, occupied by Mr. Alexander Ewing, Auctioneer, and others.

Wooden Building owned by Estate of B. Bailey, occupied by Mrs. Monahan as a Liquor Store.

Wooden Building owned by Benjamin Stanton, Esq. and occupied by Messrs. Kelly, Toole, J. T. Stanton, and others, principally as Clothing Stores.

MARKET-SQUARE AND PRINCE WILLIAM STREET.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. John Melick, occupied by Mr. W. O. Smith, Druggist, Mr. James Bowes, Merchant, and Mr. James Balloch.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. John Melick, occupied by Mr. James Burns, Watchmaker, and Mr. William G. Lawton, Merchant.

Wooden Building owned by Mrs. Slason, occupied by Mr. William Reynolds, Bookbinder and Stationer, and Mrs. Slason and Mr. Coigley.

Wooden Building owned by John M. Wilmot, Esq. occupied by Mr. Alexander Yeats, Hardware and Saddlery Merchant, and Mrs. Thomas, Boarding House.

Wooden Building owned by Mrs. Taylor, occupied by Messrs. Holdsworth & Daniel, and Mr. A. Burgoyne, Merchants, and Mrs. M'Kee, Boarding House.

Wooden Building, owned by Thomas Merritt, Esq. occupied by Thomas Smith,* Esq. and Mr. Charles Paton, Merchants.

Wooden Building owned by Thomas Merritt, Esq. occupied by Mr. Wm. Strickland, Merchant, and Mr. Anthony R. Truro,* Dwelling House, Circulating Library, and Bookstore.

UNION STREET.

Wooden Building owned by Hon. Wm. Black, occupied by Mr. John Hennessey, Grocer.

Wooden Building owned by Hon. Wm. Black, occupied by G. Sullivan, Tailor.

Wooden Building owned and occupied by Mr. Grace, Carpenter, and others.

Wooden Building, owned by Samuel Bagshaw, Esq. occupied by Mr. Wilson.

Wooden Building owned by Samuel Bagshaw, Esq. occupied by Mrs. Cary, Mrs. Harbison, and Mr. Riggs, Grocers.

Wooden Building owned by Mr. Bagshaw, unoccupied.

Besides the persons above named, several other individuals who had Goods stored in the buildings are losers to a considerable amount. Among these are Messrs. Adam & Davidson, Wm. Hammond, S. Gould, Lewis Burns, &c.

The total amount of property destroyed, including Buildings, Merchandize, and Household effects, it is thought, cannot fall far short of £200,000—but at present the sum can only be conjectured. Large amounts are insured in the Office of the New-Brunswick Fire Insurance Company, the Central Fire Insurance Company of Fredericton, and Ætna and Protection Companies of Hartford, Connecticut, and other offices in the United States and Great Britain.

The burnt district of 1837, being situated to the Southward of the Market Slip, the fire did not extend to that portion of the City.

Several persons have been apprehended and committed to prison, having stolen Goods in possession.

☞ Those individuals having this mark (*) attached to their names, were burnt out in the great Fire of January 14, 1837.

PUBLIC MEETING.

At a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of the City of St. John, held at the Court House pursuant to public notice, on Tuesday the 20th instant—for taking into consideration what measures would be most advisable to be adopted in consequence of the late calamitous fire; His Worship the Mayor having been called to the Chair, and John H. Gray, Esquire, appointed Secretary to the Meeting—

On motion of E. D. W. Ratchford, Esq. seconded by James Whitney, Esq.:

It was resolved unanimously, That His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor be respectfully requested to call the Legislature together with as little delay as possible, for the purpose of their taking into consideration the calamitous consequences resulting from the late awful conflagration in this City, and for adopting such measures for the prevention of the like calamity in future as in their wisdom may be deemed expedient.

And further Resolved, That a Committe be appointed to prepare such Bills and Petitions as may be considered necessary to be brought before the Legislature.

And further Resolved, That the following Gentlemen do constitute such [illegible]:

His W[illegible]	
Mr. Donaldson,	[illegible]hford,
" Charles Wa[illegible]	[illegible] Walker,
The Recorder,	[illegible]unford,
Mr. Alderman Porter,	" George Harding,
" Humbert,	" James Peters, Jr.
" Wright,	" Wm. Hammond,
" Gould,	" Gray.

On motion of His Honor the Recorder, seconded by Mr. John Owens:—

Resolved,—That a Committee be appointed for the purpose of taking up Subscriptions and Petitioning the Legislature for a grant of Money to be applied by the said Committee to the relief of the sufferers: and

Further Resolved,—That the following Gentlemen do compose such Committee:—

Mr. John Ward,	Mr. Francis Kinnear,
" John M. Robinson,	" W. Jack.
" John Owens.	

On motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by George D. Robinson, Esq:—

Resolved, unanimously,—That this meeting entertains a deep sense of obligation to Major Brookes, the Officers and Men of Her Majesty's 69th Regiment and Royal Artillery, for the valuable efficient services rendered by them at the late destructive fire,—not only in resisting the progress of the devouring element, but in rescuing and protecting the property of the sufferers.

And further Resolved, That the Chairman of this meeting be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing Resolution to Major Brookes and Capt. Stowe, commanding the Royal Artillery in this garrison.

On motion of L. Donaldson, Esq. His Worship the Mayor having left the Chair, and His Honor the Recorder having taken the same seconded by G. D. Robinson Esq:—Resolved that the thanks of this meeting be given to His Worship the Mayor, for his able conduct while presiding in the same, and that the proceedings thereof be published.

JOHN H. GRAY, *Secretary.*

Tuesday, 20th August, 1839.

His Excellency Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B. and K. C. H. Lieut. Governor, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

At a public meeting of the Inhabitants of this City held on Tuesday, the 20th instant by his Worship the Mayor, on the requisition of a number of the Citizens, the following Resolutions was passed viz:

Resolved unanimously, That His Excellency the Lieut. Governor be respectfully requested to call the Legislature together with as little delay as possible, for the purpose of their taking into consideration the calamitous consequence resulting from the late awful Conflagration in this City, and for adopting such measures for the prevention of the like calamity in future, as in their wisdom may be deemed expedient.

And WE the Subscribers having been nominated as a Committee to await on Your Excellency, therewith beg now humbly to present the same to your Excellency, praying that your Excellency will be pleased to take the same into favorable consideration and grant the request of the said Resolution.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ANSWER,

Gentlemen—

I have hastened to come amongst you for the purpose, as well of expressing and evincing the deep sympathy which I feel in the great calamity by which this City has again been visited, as of having it in my power by being on the spot, to make my personal advice, assistance, and good offices available for the relief of the sufferers on this melancholy occasion in any way which may depend upon me as the Representative of my Gracious Sovereign in this Province.

I will lose no time in consulting Her Majesty's Executive Council upon the expediency of now calling the Legislature together, for the purpose of considering the remedies proper to be applied to the existing state of things in this City, and I will willingly give my concurrence and assent to Legislative relief—(whether by way of loan, subject to such arrangements for ultimate repayment as may be deemed proper, or otherwise,) being afforded to such of the sufferers where circumstances may require,—but above all, for prescribing such conditions as shall effectually secure the construction of those buildings, and the future construction of all others in this city, upon a principle of greater security. This I cannot but regard as a measure of deep importance to the best interest of this Commercial City, and I accordingly do not doubt that it will be readily acquiesced in by all classes of the Community.

J. HARVEY,
Lieutenant Governor.

St. John, August 21.

69th REGIMENT & ROYAL ARTILLERY.

At a Common Council holden on the 20th day of August, 1839.

Resolved unanimously, that the highly exemplary conduct of Major Brookes, the Officers, non-Commissioned Officers, and Soldiers of the 69th Regiment, the Officers and men of the Royal Artillery and Engineers during the late awful conflagration on Saturday evening last, in arresting the progress of the flames and in rescuing and protecting property from destruction, deservedly entitle them to the thanks of the community, and that the Common Council now for the first time assembled since that calamitous event, would be doing a great injustice to the feelings and opinions of the Citizens whom they represent, if they did not on behalf of the whole people convey to Major Brokes, the deep sense so entertained of the obligations which they are under for the meritorious exertions of the Military, and request that he will communicate such their opinions to the Officers, non-Commissioned Officers, and men.

To which the following replies were received from Major Brookes and Captain Stow, R. A.

St. John, New Brunswick,
21st August, 1839.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a Resolution passed at a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of the City of Saint John, held at the Court House on the 20th inst. and forwarded to me through you as Chairman, conveying the expression of their sentiments in reference to the services of the Troops at the late destructive Fire, which it shall be my pleasing task to make known to the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men under my Command, but highly as we must appreciate this public record of the feelings of the Inhabitants, our gratification cannot be unmixed with a large portion of concern and sympathy for the heavy losses entailed upon numerous individuals, by the melancholy visitation which called for the services of the Military; and which I beg you to receive the assurance will be at all times and under all circumstances, most cheerfully rendered in support of the interest and prosperity of the community amongst whom we are serving.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your faithful and obedient humble Sev't

ROBT. BROOKES,
Major 69th Regt. Commanding.

The Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Saint John, New Brunswick.

Saint John, New Brunswick,
21st August, 1839.

SIR,—I have been much gratified in receiving a Copy of the Resolution passed at the Public Meeting of which you were Chairman, conveying the opinion entertained of the services rendered by the Detachment of the Royal Artillery at the late fire, and shall have much pleasure in making the same known to them.

Believe me my dear Sir, your obedient Sev't

W. STOW,
Captain Royal Artillery.

R. F. HAZEN, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

Saint John, New Brunswick,
21st August, 1839.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an Extract from the Minutes of the Common Council of the City of St. John, holden at the Council Chamber on the 20th inst., transmitted through you, expressing on behalf of themselves, and the Citizens in general, the sense entertained of the exertions of the Military on the occasion of the awful Conflagration on Saturday night last. In reply I beg to assure you that, I have the greatest satisfaction in receiving this handsome testimony, which I shall not fail to communicate to the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Garrison under my Command, to all of whom it must be highly gratifying to learn that the services they were enabled to render under the calamitous circumstances, were such as to call forth the approbation of the Corporate Body, and Community at large of this flourishing Commercial City

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your faithful and obedient humble Servant.

ROBT. BROOKES,
Major 69th Regt. Commanding.

To the Worshipful the Mayor of the City of St. John New Brunswick.

If we are correctly informed, a rod has been put in pickle for our friend and cotemporary of the Courier, in certain high places, for giving insertion to that editorial paragraph respecting Mr. Featherstonaugh, which appeared in the last number of that paper; and it will be somewhat curious to see, how the Courier will work itself out of the scrape. In any one of the papers published in the City, an article containing statements so unfounded, and insinuations so unwarrantable, against a gentleman commissioned by the British Government, would be highly reprehensible; but in the Courier, patronized as it is, and conducted as it has been, it is quite as remarkable as it is worthy of condemnation. When in the course of the last spring the Observer made a mistake, and inserted an article reflecting upon Sir John Harvey and his pacification with General Scott, & charging him with having shamefully ceded away the territory in dispute;—the Courier reproved his friend of the Observer in set round terms, and give admission to the Letters of "One of the City Guards," who undertook Sir John's defence. Neither did the Courier stop there, but with an ingenuity which reflected great *credit* upon it, endeavoured to divert the stream which issued from the powers that be, from the offending party, and make it fall upon the obnoxious head of, in that particular, an innocent party. The Courier in either an editorial or communication, boldly declared, that the offensive article proceeded from *some one connected with the Chronicle*. As this manœuvre answered the purpose intended on that occasion, it is not unlikely that the Observer will adopt the same, or a similar course, for the benefit of the Courier and charge this shameful and unfounded attack upon Mr. Featherstonhaugh upon some friend of this paper, well knowing that any thing to its prejudice will be greedily swallowed in certain high quarters. It becomes therefore a duty which we owe to ourselves to declare that the statement in the Courier, to which we allude, in reference to the mistake of the Observer, is untrue; and if a similar insinuation should be attempted with respect to the recent offence of the Courier, it will be equally without foundation. We shall here take the opportunity of stating that the principles upon which this paper was established, and, *upon the whole*, has been conducted, are what are called CONSERVATIVE; that is, to preserve the Constitution as it stands at the time being, and *to resist all unnecessary, and especially all organic change.*—Upon these principles we have resisted to the best of our ability, the changes which have been in progress during the last three or four years, and more than all others the introduction of that develish democratical republican principle, the, "*blessings of responsible government.*" We knew the men at the head of the movement, and were well acquainted with their boundless ambition and insatiable lust of power, and dreaded the lengths to which in their eager desire to gratify their anxiety for personal distinction, they might be envied. We therefore resisted them *in their progress* and exposed, to the best of our ability, the wickedness of the principle upon which they were clamouring for *change*, and the evils which would, as we then thought, be the result of change, effected upon such a principle.—We have, however, of late seen good reason somewhat to alter our opinion on this head.—This responsible government is not in practice so formidable and dangerous a thing as we had represented it to ourselves. It is in fact quite harmless. The Governor it is true, has a different Executive Council, of which some say, he is quite independent, while others declare, he is "responsible," to it.—Which may be the truth we neither know nor care; but if we were compelled to give an opinion, we should say that things are managed pretty much upon the "*give and take*,"—"*the scratch me, and I'll scratch you*"—the "reciprocity" system. The Governor and Council have each their own views, and play into each others hands, while *the Country pays for it*. But as for "responsible government" the blessings of which were to be secured to the people when the Crown was to be robbed of the revenues and influence, we are happy to say we see very little of it.

Messrs. Simonds & Co. the Committee for Land & Timber are responsible to Messrs. Simonds & Co. the Executive Council, and Messrs. Simonds & Co. the Executive Council are responsible to Messrs. Simonds & Co. the Assembly: the Co. in all the cases being rather sleeping partners led by the nose, or hungry expectants of a "*batten upon the public purse*," and so equally leadable, by those who have the public appointments at command. How much longer this balmy state of things may last we know not. If certain signs and sounds are to be trusted, another movement is in preparation. It may perhaps be retarded if every member of Council and Assembly can be furnished for himself and his dependents, with as many offices of profit, or as many Commissions for laying out public money as he thinks he is entitled to. But if not,—like the Courier, who is indignant, because the merits of a friend's friend have been overlooked, and an appointment has been given to one not of the faction, upon which a greedy eye had been fixed, and who calls upon the Provincial Government to set the Imperial Government to rights;—their indignation will burst out and we shall have a revival of the days of resolutions and addresses and delegations, and the Imperial Government will be applied to for more changes, and another Executive. Come whenever it may, whatever other papers may do, the Chronicle will not assist the movement.

We think it due to Mr. Featherstonaugh to insert the paragraph from the last Courier reflecting upon that Gentleman, and also the paragraph from the last Weekly Observer, contradicting the statement of the Courier, and denying that there is the slightest grounds for any such reflections as have been thrown out against him. Our friend, the Editor of the Weekly Observer, states, that "*some persons* have circulated paragraphs in some of the Journals stating that Mr. Featherstonaugh is a salaried officer of the United States Government at this time, and that consequently he is an improper person to be entrusted by Her Majesty's Government with the important commission he is charged with." As our worthy Cotemporary is so extremely forgetful, as to who were the *persons* that circulated the fabricated paragraphs in *some of the Journals*; we have for his especial benefit, and for the information of the public, copied the following article

From the Weekly Observer, July 2.

"THE BOUNDARY! THE BOUNDARY!—*The Geologist of the United States appointed Geologist to the Commission for settling the Boundary Question!*—We observe by papers from the United States, that "Mr. Featherstonhaugh has been appointed Geologist to the Commission now about to be organized for the new survey of the North Eastern Boundary." This gentleman, who had been frequently at the elbow of Lord Gosford while in New-York on his