

ing to your care a parcel for England. * * * The delays in the communication by Quebec are so great, at this season of the year particularly. * * * We have had as yet no account of the arrival of the January packet. * * * A dinner to the Bench and the Bar in the first day of Term fully occupied me the last post day. I am glad to say our bustle is over for the present. The Governor prorogued the House of Assembly on the 7th and the long detention here made it desirable to the members to return with all expedition to their different employments. John Powell was amongst those most anxious to return to his humble but comfortable dwelling which consists but of two rooms and a kitchen, the former dwelling place having been burned but fortunately for him the detached buildings escaped the conflagration. This gentleman's son was coming to attend Mr. Strachan's school, not one of that description fit for a boy of his age at Niagara. A Mrs. Goodman was intending to come from Quebec with a staff of teachers to conduct a school for females. [The writer objects to sending her grand-daughter because there can in this place be no distinction of classes: this objection does not arise from aristocratic pride, but from the conviction that the vulgar habits of home are more likely to become contagious than to receive correction by example]

[29th Letter]

YORK, JUNE 2, 1817.

My letters are always by the packet and enclosed in the Govt. despatches and, by some absurd arrangement go first to Quebec, the movements of the post from there are shamefully tardy, so much so that the Governor gets his private letters direct from New York three weeks before the official ones from Quebec. I am sorry to say that His Excellency and Mrs. Gore leave us in a few days for England, he has obtained leave of absence and they mean to take their passage from New York when I most truly hope you will see those friends whose loss we shall severely feel. I shall perhaps write by Mrs. Gore. The Governor has been much and seriously indisposed within the last month. * * * We are sitting by the fireside and a few nights ago all the early vegetables were destroyed by frost.

It is impossible to describe the confusion of this house. We have added a story which gives us five bed chambers and a drawing room, the size of the dining room. The Carpenters are this day laying the floors and we are covered with dust and stunned with noise.