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Great Fire of 1846

(H. F. SHORTIS.)

the are broke out in the western por-tion of the city, and the tongues of flames licked up everything before them. Before night closed in, about three-fourths of the city was in ruins. There was a high wind blowing dur-ing the evering, and the blazing brands and "flankers" were hurled over the whole city. At that time the majority of the houses were built of wood, but even the mercantile and wood, but even the mercantile and other establishments, which were built of brick and stone, were swept away as quickly as those built of the more inflammable material. Few of the public buildings escaped, except the Government House. All others, such as the Post Office, Savings Bank, Bank of British North America, Custom House, Police Office, Exchange Buildings, Ordinance Stores, and numerous others were totally wiped out. To make matters worse, while the great conflagration was at its height, and the flames were spreading in all directions, the large oil vats took fire, and the flames spread over the waters of the harbor, and set fire to several vassels. It is ordinated the waters of the harbor, and set fire to several vessels. It is estimated that twelve thousand people were rendered homeless, and the amount of property destroyed was valued at one million pounds. Yet the people did not despair, and vessels were quickly sent off for provisions, etc. When the British Government heard of the terrible colonity the of the terrible calamity, the sum of £5,000 (five thousand pounds) was sent for immediate relief, and Parliament granted £25,000 more. Queen Victoria sent a letter to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and collections were taken up in the Churches, which greatly angmented the amount, and the people of the United States and Canada were not slow in rendering very valuable assistance by liberal contributions. Mr. James Macbraire, who was so unjustly abused by one of our historians, sent out the sum of £100, and, I know, he gave further assistance.

Anyhow he was ever ready to extend a helping hand to Newfoundland and its people, and a poor return he received for his kindness, by having it said in one of our histories that when leaving Newfoundland he waved his hand, remarking, "Good-bye, you poor fools, etc." He did not say a word derogatory to Newfoundland or our people. He had previously advised the merchants as to what they had to expect, having forseen that "hard times" were coming, but they would not listen to him, and the result was that they all went down with a crash. There was no provision made for the future, and at the end of 1815 after the battle of Waterloo, the price of fish dropped from forty-five shillings to twelve shillings per quintal, and nearly all the large firms became

and nearly all the large firms became hopelessly insolvent, and utterly unable to meet their creditors. Others who saved a little from the wreck, became despondent, wound up their afairs and left the country. About 900 cases from failures came before the courts, and the losses in bankruptcles amounted to £1,000,000 sterling. All classes of people suffered. In those days the fishermen and others left their money in the merchants hands, as there was very little business done with the banks, and when the merchants went down in the crash, about £400,000 of the people's money was lost—the hard earnings of years.

In looking over an old paper, dated April 30th, 1846, (the year of the great fire, and only six months before it occurred), I was struck with the tenor of the presentment of the Grand Jury, composed of the following gentlemen:—Nicholas Stabb, Esq., foreman; Hon. Lawrence O'Brien, Hon. John Kent, Thomas Glen, Thomas Rowe, Dugald McKillar, W. Lemessurier, T. G. Marey, J. I. Rogerson, E. Bowring, H. K. Bowring, S. Mudge, John McWilliam, Walter Dillon, Gilbert Clapp, and Edward Morris, Esqs. The majority of these gentlemen were intellectual giants, and largely in the commercial, professional and political life of our country, and their names are carved in marble in the history of Newfoundland. I wonder had they a premonition of what was going to happen when they made this presentment to the court? The Hon. Assistant Judge Des Barres, presiding, addressed the jury in reply to their presentment

"There was a presentment which his Honor could not refrain from bringing under special notice of the Grand Jury, relative to the manifest want of a public safe for the security from fire of the public records, private deeds and official documents, deposited in the Registrar's Office. This is a subject of vast importance, involving a large amount of property, for if a fire should unfortunately occur, which Providence avert—and consume these papers, the consequences would be incalculable. His Honor had hoped that, as the matter had formerly been brought under the attention of the Court by the Grand Jury some members of that body, holding a seat in the General Assembly, would have exerted his influence to obtain the necessary means to construct a safe, yet he regretted that it seemed to have escaped their notice."

six weeks after, the greater portion of the city was in ruins, and it is not probable that the safe was procured in time, and, of course, many valuable documents, public records, deeds, etc., must have been destroyed with, as Judge Des Barres remarked,

Express Passengers.

The following first class passengers arrived Port aux Basques on the Kyle yesterday morning and are due in the city on the express this afternoon:—Mrs. S. Billard, Col. C. S. Deura, A. D. Sapworth, Jos. Wood, C. Curran, G. S. and Mrs. Barringer, Gen. J. Stewart, Dr. A. B. and Mrs. Iddy, G. Milderberger, C. E. and Mrs. Martinello and daughter, H. M. Dickson, N. Pilling, Jas. McGarringe, Mrs. J. B. Daleh, E. Jones, Miss E. Maison, C. Johnson, Mrs. E. Harbin, Miss M. Vatcher, Mrs. A. Whaten and son, Mrs. T. Richards, Mrs. W. Butt, Mrs. M. Rowsell, J. Oldford, Mrs. N. K. Winsor and daughter, J. Burke, J. and Mrs. Dooley, Mrs. J. Voisey, E. Kennevick, Miss H. Hutchings, Miss M. Hutchings, Dr. N. S. and Mrs. Fraser, Miss G. Fisher, Mrs. A. Elseworth, Mrs. A. Dingwall, Mrs. G. Ellis, Mrs. A. Nebucett.

To-day is the 78th anniversary of the great fire in St. John's which octive on the 9th of June, 1846, when the fire broke out in the western porton of the city, and the tongues of ames licked up everything before tem. Before night closed in, about tree-fourths of the city was in ruins, here was a high wind blowing during the evening, and the blazing rands and "finankers" were hurled ver the whole city. At that time the algority of the houses were built of or ood, but even the mercantile and there establishments, which were uilt of brick and stone, were swept way as quickly as those built of the fore infammable material. Few of

That's what our Buyer paid when he cleaned out a Manufacturer's entire stock of 1,200 Hats. The Manufacturer was up against it; Fall orders pouring in, material to be bought, Notes to be met—something had to be done—and thats where our Buyer stepped in WITH THE CASH. It was a case of Money Talks, and he made it talk to the tune of Forty Cents on the Dollar for all the Hats in the place. Now we are going to pass these tremendous savings on to you.



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MILANS
Trim'd Hats
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Large shapes
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These Values Speak for Themselves.



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Bobbed Head Hats.
Misses' Hats.

Misses' Hats.

Mourning Hats.

New Sport Hats.

No Exchanging.

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New Bengaline Hats.

Smart Hair Hats.

Fancy Straw Braid

Felt Hats.

Values up to \$4.50.

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Embroidered Fabrics
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Sport Felts
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Misses' Hats.

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Value not to be compared with.

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