

# THE QUEBEC TRANSCRIPT.

avoid them. He told them of his shame—his degradation—his sufferings. He reminded them of the horrible doom that awaited them, as well as himself—and finally, told them of his pledge to his wife forever to abstain from the cup.

They laughed outright at his "temperance pledge"—and the idea that his wife held the rod over him, tickled their fancies. They accordingly let off a volley of ridicule and taunts, that were exceedingly annoying to Fitz Roy.

Still he held out, and was about closing the door in their faces, when a new comer appeared. The young Dick Million had that day come of age, and was now on the way to—Hall, to give a grand entertainment to his friends.

"Come Fitz," said he gaily, "just go down and give us a lift. Come we will have something that will do the heart good. Well you go?"

"I must be excused gentlemen; I—"

He was interrupted by a boisterous peal of merriment from his late companions.

"Don't you think," says one, "that Bill here has signed the temperance pledge—the real blue temperance one—total. Only think of that, Dick. Comical, isn't it?"

"And his woman wears the small clothes," said another, laughing.

"Fit Roy—infernal villain, &c. of you," said Fitz Roy.

"Come, come," interposed Dick Million, "this is no way to do business. Fitz, you won't deny me; come, go tell your sweet wife—she's a good wife, that of yours, Fitz—got tell her that you are going down with Dick Million just to have one more spree, and then you will leave off. What say—will you do it?"

Fitz Roy for a moment hesitated. He said not a word, but retired to the room where his wife sat weeping and briefly told her that he was going with Dick Million, to have one more spree—and then, Harriet, then I will leave off drinking forever. Good night, wife; you need not wait for me."

He went with the revellers. There were many deep-drinkers in that company. Loud was their merriment, and to a late hour was the carousal kept up.

Harriet threw herself in an agony of grief by the side of her children, and wept herself to sleep. She was exhausted and tired with watching, and oh, how sweet is the oblivion of sleep to the wretched and broken hearted. She awoke with the earliest dawn. Her husband had not returned. She sent a messenger to the hall. He had left at a late hour of the night. No trace could be found of him. The wretched wife had now lost all hope, and give up to despair. Her friends rescued her from a state bordering on destruction but it was a long time before she recovered strength and fortitude sufficient to be made acquainted with the fate of her husband.

The morning after the incidents above took place, the lifeless body of William Fitz Roy was taken from the water at the foot of one of the piers. The miserable man had taken his last spree—had wandered off into the river, and died a drunkard's death.

## THE TRANSCRIPT.

QUEBEC, WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOV.

We are happy to learn from the Upper Canada papers that a Petition to the Provincial Parliament is now going the rounds of the several Districts of the Province, for signature, the object of which is to obtain a law for "the protection of Her Majesty's faithful subjects from the machinations of the disaffected portion of the people of Upper Canada, and the lawless inhabitants residing upon the northern frontier of the United States of America." The petition sets forth—and it is but too true—that there is a great number of traitors in Upper Canada, and prays that it may be made compulsory upon all Candidates for a seat in the House of Assembly, and for all Electors, to take an oath, when required to do so by the Returning Officer or any Freeholder, to the effect that he has not taken up arms against the Sovereign, or been guilty of Treason, or ta-

ken the Hunter's; Jath, &c. Some law is needed for restricting the political power at present possessed by the Yankee politicians who infest Upper Canada and the suggestions thrown out in this petition may be acted upon with advantage by the Legislature during its next sessions. The "Responsible Government" presses will no doubt be soon in full cry against such a proposition, for it would give them sorely to see a number of their best friends deservingly disfranchised & a law of this nature would effectually quell their insidious designs, and the idea of their obtaining a majority of members to support their views when none but loyal men would vote, would become utterly intolerable.

The defect of form by virtue of which Mr. Morin lately escaped further proceedings against him on the warrant issued for his apprehension last fall is explained in the *Gazette* of Monday; and the explanation which is as follows, gives us a clue to the precise nature of the charge upon which the warrant was founded:—

"The defect of form to which we alluded, was of this nature: a person convicted of a crime is aided in effecting his escape, the persons so aiding are held by the law to be guilty of the same crime; but the convict at the time of the escape happened to be in the custody of persons not known to the law as his keepers."

The above divested of mystery means to say that Mr. Morin was suspected of aiding the escape of Theller and Dodge, who were in custody of the military authorities, and consequently not under charge of persons known to the civil law.

Wednesday the 13th instant being the Anniversary of the Battle of the Windmill, near Prescott, was celebrated at that place by a general illumination.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—On Monday night at a quarter before ten, a fire broke out in a wooden two story house in Champlain Street on the river side, three doors from the Mariner's Chapel at Diamond Harbour, and, before an alarm could be properly given, the building was completely enveloped in flames threatening destruction of property to an incalculable extent. The flames speedily extended to the houses opposite, also of wood, and those adjoining on the north side, so that in the course of twenty minutes or half an hour four houses were on fire from top to bottom, and soon after a fifth shared the same fate. By this time a considerable number of persons arrived to render assistance, among them G. Black, Esq., carpenter-builder, and a strong party of his men, by whose strenuous exertions, aided by the neighbours, the fine new two story stone houses lately built by Mr. Chas. Leek, and adjoining, on the west side, that in which the fire commenced, were saved, although they were frequently in the most imminent danger, and the appearance of one of them on the following morning proved that the exertions must have been almost superhuman. On the town side the danger to the adjoining houses was, if possible, greater—for although it happened fortunately that the ground on which a house stood that was burnt in Novr. 1838, had not been rebuilt upon, a strong westerly wind and large quantities of wood that were lying about rendered it extremely hazardous to approach sufficiently near with the engines to be of service, but the most undaunted efforts by men who proved themselves to be of a salamandrine nature, prevented the spread of the fire beyond the five houses which were in flames before any operations could be commenced. But all their exertions would have been of no avail whatever if all the houses that stood opposite to those burnt had been rebuilt on the same plan as they were previous to their destruction little more than a year ago—the fire must have swept the street from the spot where it commenced, to the inclined plane, as it has already

done on the occasion of the great fire in 1837, when some fifty or sixty houses were destroyed in this quarter.

The following is a list of the houses burnt:—

1. Wooden house the property of Mrs. Widow John Hall, mother of Mr. Ed. Hall, of the Globe Tavern—situated in the lower part, by Mr. Ralph Wilson, mariner, and in the upper story by his step father Mr. William Wilkinson and two children, whose melancholy fate is detailed below. Mr. Wilson is at present absent at sea, and his wife kept a tavern in the house; she had much difficulty in escaping with her children and, we learn, received some severe injuries.

2. & 3. Two wooden houses under one roof the property of Moneigneur Signay, Roman Catholic Bishop of Quebec; the whole of the lower flat occupied by Mr. Allard, schoolmaster. In the upper part resided the following:—Patrick Rickens, wife, and family; Thomas Morris, wife, and family; Mrs. Widow William Thanties, schoolmistress, and family; John Penney, wife, and family. All these parties had time to save but a very small portion of their effects, the flames rushing into the apartments of some of them before they were aware of a fire having broken out.

4. Wooden house, on the cape side of the Street, opposite to that in which the fire commenced, owned by Mr. Thomas Weston, and occupied by William Simpson, stevedore, wife and family, and Thomas O'Neill, wife, and family.

5. Wooden house adjoining, the property of Mrs. Widow John Hall (the proprietor of the house burnt on the other side) occupied by Mrs. Widow Dawson, sister, and family, and John Thompson, wife, and family.

To the destruction of these houses is to be added a portion of the "Priests' Wharf" rented by Messrs. Le Mesurier, Tiltone & Co. with a large quantity of deals belonging to that firm, which were burnt. The fire communicated to the wharf from burning houses and it required the unwearied exertions of a strong body of men to repress its progress along other wharves and to save a portion of the deals by removing them to places of safety.

The manner in which the fire was prevented from spreading westward of the street on the cape side is equally deserving of notice with the efforts made to stop its ravages in other directions. The adjoining buildings were of wood and the upper part of the one of which the fire communicated from Hall's house in the first instance contained a large quantity of oakum; this was removed while in a state of ignition by a number of the neighbours several of whom were severely burnt in the operation, but they persisted, and, having torn down a portion of the burning house succeeded in saving the neighbouring building, the gable of which was more than half burnt through in several places.

None of the property mentioned above was insured, the Fire Offices having of late years declined to effect policies with proprietors and tenants in that quarter. The numerous destructive conflagrations that have occurred there justify them in this course with regard to wooden buildings, but we think they would do well to make exceptions in favour of those who build with stone. The inducement held out by such a determination on the part of the Insurance Offices, to erect more substantial edifices, would no doubt have its effect and all parties would eventually be gainers. At present there is no motive to go to any expense beyond what can actually be dispensed with. It is said with much truth, "there is no use in my building a stone house if I be surrounded with wooden ones, and I am unable to obtain an Insurance." In the case of Mr. Leek, for instance, who has lately erected two excellent stone houses adjoining that in which he resides, by the general rule adopted by the Insurance Offices, property owned by him to the amount

of £5000 or £6000 was placed in great jeopardy and had the wind been east instead of west it must inevitably have been totally destroyed. We trust that the Insurance Offices will devote some consideration to this matter and in the absence of a law, which ought long ago to have been in force, do their best, by holding out encouragement for the erection of stone buildings, to remedy the defects of the Legislators of the Country.

The most melancholy portion of the above disaster remains to be told. Mr. William Wilkinson an old and well known stevedore, with his two children, Eliza and John, 12 and 13 years of age, occupied the upper part of the house in which the fire originated and were in bed at the time the alarm was given—given too late, however, to save them, for there; but too much reason to believe that all three perished, neither of them having since been seen; and yesterday morning a few calcined remains of some of the internal parts of a human being found among the ashes, proved the dreadful surmise to be a mournful fact. A man, also, whose name we have been unable to ascertain, is also missing since the commencement of the fire, and it is feared he has shared the fate of Wilkinson and his children.

This is the fourth disastrous fire that has occurred in Champlain Street, l'Ance des Mers, since 1832. The first broke out on the day set aside for fasting and prayer on the cessation of the first cholera in Quebec and a large number of houses were destroyed. In November, 1837, between the 20th and 26th, we believe, thirty or forty houses were destroyed on nearly the same ground. The street had sprung up, Phoenix like from its ashes when on the 28th November, 1838, upwards of forty houses, many of them on the very spots that had been rebuilt upon within the preceding year, were consumed, and now, in 1839, the same visitation has again occurred and although the destruction of property be not equal in amount, the disaster is more calamitous from the loss of human life that has accompanied it.

The whole of the street commencing with Mr. Martin's property adjoining the inclined plane, and up to Diamond Harbour, has been destroyed on the different occasions to which we have alluded, with the exception of Mr. Leek's property, the Mariner's chapel and two or three small houses opposite. Some portions of the street have been three times laid down within the same number of years.

No American mail reached Quebec yesterday which caused considerable disappointment, as the news by the *British Queen* was confidently expected. Private letters from Montreal mention that a gentleman arrived there on Sunday, from New York, which place he left on Thursday eve. The *British Queen* had not then arrived. Admitting that she had only on the 3rd as stated by some New York papers that she would, she was over due at New York on Thursday—but the regularity with which the steam ships have hitherto performed their trips makes us too impatient.

The papers from Upper Canada received yesterday, contain nothing new, if we except an able letter from Dr. Ralph to the Duke of Richmond on the subject of emigration, published by the *Patriot*.

The *St. George* steamer left the port Monday at 11, A.M., for the purpose of towing up the *Hibernia*, reported in our last as being aground in the Traverse. The steamer returned yesterday afternoon, having been unable to reach the spot where the *Hibernia* lay. She got as far as Goose Island, where she encountered very severe weather, and was obliged to put back; she reached Crane Island the evening, and anchored for the night.

The *St. George* met the *General Howe* the *Wave*, and several other vessels, yesterday morning, near Goose Isle, sailing with fair wind.

To the Editor of

Sir,—In your paper an appeal was made to paupers for the purpose of remunerating the work suffered at the late fire nothing to that effect knowledge. I imagine proper quarter to the Office where the as the majority of the were instrumental in lower part of the house doubt, have done th where the fire origin ble to do so, the best extended too far bef It is true, there was lower part of the hou the smallest degree services of the sufferer families, and are u which has already oc on their clothes, in expenses, independent pains which they are land, Ireland and Sc practice of the Fire remunerate individuals in some portions of th it is even customary who can prove that rendering service at I not have suffered or a feel confident that I occurred in any othe would have taken pl state of the sufferers, tion made to each indi be done in the matter will certainly be no in future to render as

On Sunday last, at from the Right Rev. Montreal, a collectio funds of the Society Knowledge, when t was contributed tow excellent institution. not so large as is us such occasions, man, without the walls doubt, been prevente of the weather and th desirous of promoting than labours, directe deposit their contribu Eng. Her Majesty's C as Treasurer for Mercury.

Several questions ha ing the completion of which the borrowing interest to be paid on venue, at the meetin last winter. We tu about a thousand pou venting the dilapid which has cost about but it has not been pe for completing the C which is unfinished, at the importations at increased, and the conveyed cheaper, by We understand that from dutiable articles about £22,000. If t coming in by the St by the Canal, there would be a gre crease of trade and v very secondary con our most influential cians.—Gazette.

The *Daily Buffal* reasons assigned by t omise after all his l and growth, are "th owing winter, the at too much reason t of raising capital, sily papers, and the g one, under all the ves himself a most lent," "good nat utions." He home her people have lo us and remonful ; circumstances we fo bers as himself; w for the last two