

(COPY.)

Downing Street, 30th August, 1845.

MY LORD,—

I enclose herewith the copy of a Letter from Sir William Burnett, suggesting the importance of employing, in the rebuilding of those portions of Quebec which have been destroyed by the late calamitous fires, wood prepared according to his plan.

I also enclose the copy of a Letter from the Secretary of the Admiralty, forwarding Reports from Officers of the Dock Yard at Portsmouth of the results of experiments made by them to test the efficacy of this invention in preserving Timber from ignition, together with a statement from the Secretary of the Patentees, shewing the cost per load of preparing wood for purposes of building.

In addition, I enclose the copy of a Letter from Mr. Jones, suggesting the applicability of this prepared wood to the formation of roads in the western division of Canada, and proposing that a portion of the sum granted by Parliament for the relief of the sufferers by the fires at Quebec, should be expended in the purchase of the requisite machinery and its conveyance to Canada. This gentleman has lately returned to the Province, and would be prepared to afford to your Lordship any explanations which you might require on the subject.

Considering the importance of any measure which has a tendency to diminish the risk of fires in a country in which, as in Canada, wood is extensively used for the construction of dwelling houses, I think it right to bring these suggestions under your Lordship's notice, in case you should think them proper objects either for expending upon them a part of the sum lately voted by Parliament for the relief of the sufferers by the fire at Quebec, or for making them the subject of an application to the Provincial Parliament.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

The Right Honble. LORD METCALFE, &c.

(COPY.)

Admiralty, Somerset House, 31st July, 1845.

MY LORD,—

It is not without considerable diffidence that I venture to intrude myself upon your Lordship's attention, and indeed I should not have done so but from the hope that the great importance of the subject in a national point of view will prove my best excuse for troubling you.

No one, my Lord, can have heard of the sad calamity which has on two occasions lately befallen the inhabitants of Quebec, by the conflagration of their City, without feeling desirous of preventing this from happening a third time; and this, my Lord, I have much satisfaction in informing you can be done, effectually, and at a comparatively small expense.

Circumstances connected with my public duties forced upon my attention eight or nine years ago the possibility of preventing dry rot in Timber, and mildew in Canvass, and in which I have most fully succeeded, and my method is now employed to a great extent in the Royal Dock Yards, &c., and by private gentlemen.

In pursuing my experiments, I soon discovered that my preparation possessed also very valuable properties of another nature, when the composition was employed in a more concentrated form; in short, that it rendered wood, canvass, and even the finest muslin incapable of receiving or sustaining flame; and thus either a ship or a house constructed of materials so impregnated is made incapable of being burned by fire.

Having communicated this valuable property to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, their Lordships were pleased in March, 1844, to cause the most trying experiments