

Royal, known as the Masonic Hall, which was destroyed by fire on the 24th of April, 1833.

Many famous visitors to Montreal were guests at this Hotel. Charles Dickens, in connection with his visit, during which both the Author and his wife took part in Private Theatricals, mentions the Hotel in one of his works . . . "But only think of Kate playing! and playing devilish well, I assure you!" Rasco's was the only Hotel in Canada referred to by Charles Dickens. Captain G. Black, the noted explorer of the Arctic regions, made this Hotel his Montreal headquarters.

In 1850 we find reference to "Mack's Hotel" (formerly

Rasco's) but in the intervening years the City had spread out, and at that time the St. Lawrence Hall, on Great St. James Street, was the leading Hotel.

FORTIFIED SCHOOLHOUSES - OLDEST BUILDINGS IN MONTREAL SHERBROOKE STREET