

Insurance agents and inspectors, with an insurance of four thousand two hundred dollars at stake, appears suspicious and requires explanation. It will not advance, but detract from, the interests of the *Times* and *Beacon* and the *Equitable* offices, if investigations as to fires are to be so dealt with by them. Where is the safety of the public, or of those resident in insured buildings, where even a ladder (as in Vansickle's case) could not be had to save life or property. This is too serious a matter to be overlooked, and no verdict of a Jury can hide the facts!

I am, my dear Sir, yours truly,

Stratford, C. W., 17th March, 1858.

J. J. E. LINTON.

(The above letter was in the *Stratford Beacon*, of the 19th March, and in the *Examiner* of the 25th,—and in both papers an account of the fire was given.)

LINTON.

No. 8.

CHAS. F. TILSTONE, Esq., General Agent for British North America of
Equitable Fire Insurance Company, Montreal, C.E.

Stratford, March 19, 1858.

SIR,—I beg to refer you to the *Beacon* Newspaper of this date, forwarded to your address, wherein is a letter of mine as to the late lamentable fire in this town on the morning of the 10th instant, whereby I have lost my worthy son-in-law, and a dear grandchild (a girl). I was induced from the circumstances of the case, and the relationship I bore to the deceased, to pay some attention to the Inquest as to the death, though precluded so far from an exact notice of it, owing to the deceased Mr. Mickle not being buried till P.M., of the 12th, and that Inquest was begun on the 10th, and ended on the 12th. But as to the Inquest on the origin of the fire, which began on the 15th and ended on the 16th, I paid some attention, and the evidence as to which, with the inquisition and verdict, are filed in the Clerk of Peace Office.

I have to complain of the absence at either of the Inquests of any of the Agents or Inspectors of the Insurance offices, to help to probe the matter,—as fires have occurred here under dubious and suspicious circumstances, and I must say, that the one at Vansickle & Hobson's buildings on the 10th, was of the same nature,—and has resulted, at the very least, (for I care not for the verdicts in this case), in showing evidence of gross negligence on the part of the insured, and showing also a wicked intention on the part of parties, of throwing the blame of the fire on the family of the late Mr. Mickle. However, that last was completely set aside by direct testimony.

I have to complain therefore, that as intimated to me by common report, that the insurers and insured are to pass the matter over as it is. If so, I must be allowed the usual means of remonstrance, for the results of which, I cannot be held responsible, and in the meantime I protest against the action above reported, if true. There will be no use of honestly intentioned parties who insure, complying with the terms,—such as Question 8,—of Insurance Companies, as those who do not comply, will appear to be dealt with