

Gate, and I am happy to inform your Excellency that no Accident occurred, though the Wood and Copings on the Top of the Ramparts, not further than betwixt Twenty and Thirty Yards from the Magazine, were on Fire, and had to be torn up and thrown over the Rock.

The Flames continued their Progress with frightful Rapidity, consuming the Houses and Two large Breweries along the Foot of the Rock leading to Hope Gate, and every Man that could be collected was employed in destroying the Buildings, and cutting off the Communication from the lower Town, at a Point where the Salient Rock approached near to the River St. Charles. Had the Flames continued beyond this narrow Space, nothing could have saved a great Part of the Lower Town and the Quays from being destroyed. Owing, however, to the Exertions of the Troops, whose steady, active, and willing Conduct on this melancholy Occasion exceeds any Praise that I can bestow on them, the Communication was successfully cut off, and the Fire completely stopped by about Half past Ten o'Clock P.M. One House was unroofed, but this was found to be too slow an Operation, and the Two contiguous Houses had to be blown up. The Flames had communicated about Eight o'Clock P.M. to a large Yard filled with Stacks of Deals close to the River St. Charles, and a Separation had to be made through the Middle of the Yard by the Removal of a great Part of the Wood, to cut off the burning Stacks of Deals from the Range of Quays round the Lower Town, which was effected by the unremitting Exertions of the Soldiers and the Aid of Two Fire Engines ordered to this Point by Mr. Caron, the Mayor of Quebec. Some Time about Eight P.M. the Wind moderated and changed to the Southward, to which providential Circumstance the Safety of the Lower Town is chiefly to be attributed. I beg to remark to your Excellency that the Troops performed this Service during the whole Time.

I beg to repeat to your Excellency that nothing could exceed the willing Exertions of the different Commanding Officers and of all Ranks employed, and I am happy to say that during the whole Time the Fire lasted I did not observe One single drunken Soldier. The Suburbs of St. Roch present an Appearance of frightful Desolation, from the greater Part of the Houses being of Wood, chiefly belonging to Artizans and the Poor; there is nothing to be seen but a Forest of Chimneys; and I am apprehensive that the Rapidity of the Fire prevented many from escaping, and that there are a Number of Victims to the Flames. The Fire communicated so suddenly and spread with such Rapidity over the Wood-yard that it was with Difficulty the Troops employed escaped from the Flames. I am happy to say that though the Men were frequently exposed to Danger and acted with fearless Intrepidity, I have not heard of any Casualties. The Officers and Men of the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, and of the Wing of the 14th Regiment, of the 43d Light Infantry, and of the 89th Regiment, are fully deserving of any Expression of Approbation which your Excellency may think proper to bestow on them. It is computed that about Fifteen hundred Houses have been consumed, and Fifteen thousand Inhabitants deprived of their House and Home, and many of the Poor solely depending on the Benevolence and Charity of the People.

His Excellency
Lieutenant General Sir R. D. Jackson, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. HOPE,
Major General

Enclosure 2. in No. 56.

My Lord,

Quebec, 1st July 1845.

Enclosure 2. in
No. 56.

It is with great Grief that I have to repeat to your Excellency another dreadful Conflagration that took place in the Suburbs of Quebec on the Night of the 28th June, by which Twelve hundred Houses were consumed. The Fire is said to have originated about Twenty Minutes before Twelve o'Clock at Night, in a Hangard behind the House of Mons^r Tessier, a Notary, at the beginning of Aiguillon Street, close to the Glacis outside of St. John's Gate, and spread with frightful Rapidity along the whole Length of that Street, of St. John's Street, consuming the whole of the Suburbs of St. John's, and extending to the Ruins of the St. Roch's Suburbs burnt by the former Fire. There was no Time lost in turning out the whole of the Troops, but the Rapidity of the Flames for a considerable Time defied all human Exertion, and continued their frightful Progress along the St. Foy Road, a Distance of 1,200 Yards, as long, with very few Exceptions, as there were any Houses to burn, and spreading against the Wind from one narrow Street to another in the Direction of the St. Louis Road; unfortunately a Gale of Wind was blowing from the East, and the whole Breadth of the St. John's Suburbs appeared to be on Fire at the same Moment.

During the Night Monsieur Caron, the Mayor of Quebec, came to me to point out a Spot near the Glacis, betwixt the St. John's and the St. Louis Gates, that should be cut off, and a House was immediately blown up, by which a considerable Part of the Suburbs of St. Louis was saved. It was therefore to the Mayor's judicious Selection of this Spot