

8 CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE CONFLAGRATIONS

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 4. in  
No. 1.

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Government House, St. John's Newfoundland,  
11th June 1846.

My Lord,

It is my painful and melancholy Duty to acquaint your Lordship that Almighty God has been pleased to visit this Town with an awful and devastating Conflagration, which has reduced the chief Portion of it to Ashes.

The Fire broke out about Half-past Eight o'Clock on the Morning of Tuesday last, the 9th instant, in the Western Extremity of the Town, and the Flames, borne onwards by a strong Wind from the same Quarter which prevailed during the whole of that Day and the succeeding Night, overcame every Effort to subdue them, and involved in one common Ruin (with scarcely an Exception) the whole of the mercantile Establishments, with their Stores of Goods and Provisions, very many of the public Buildings, and at least Three Fourths of the Dwelling Houses of the Inhabitants.

It has not been possible as yet to obtain a correct Return of the Number of Edifices burnt, but it is estimated that, in all, about Two thousand have been destroyed, and nearly Twelve thousand Persons rendered houseless.

I beg leave herewith to enclose for your Lordship's Information a Copy of certain Resolutions yesterday adopted by a Meeting of the Heads of Departments and principal Inhabitants of the Town, convened by me, at the Government House; and in consideration of the State of utter Destitution and Distress to which many Thousands of the poorer Inhabitants have been reduced by the Suddenness of this awful Visitation of Divine Providence, and on their Behalf, I have, through your Lordship, to make an earnest Appeal to the Sympathy and Philanthropy of the Inhabitants of the Province under your Lordship's Government for that Relief which I cannot doubt will be promptly extended to their fellow Subjects in this Colony who have been overwhelmed by so stupendous a Calamity.

Lieutenant General his Excellency  
The Earl Cathcart, K.C.B.  
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

Enclosure 5. in  
No. 1.

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Colonial Secretary's Office, Newfoundland,  
11th June 1846.

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency Sir John Harvey, Governor of this Island, to communicate to you the painful Intelligence of the almost total Destruction of the Town of St. John's by Fire on the 9th instant.

The whole of the mercantile Establishments (with but One Exception) on the North Side of the Harbour have been utterly consumed, together with by far the greater Part of the Provisions and other Stores which they contained, the few mercantile Premises on the South Side being of comparatively little Importance.

By this calamitous Event nearly Twelve thousand Persons have been rendered houseless, and a Majority of them utterly destitute; for these, and on their Behalf, an Appeal is earnestly made, through you, to the Sympathy of the Citizens of New York.

I beg leave to enclose herewith a Copy of a Series of Resolutions submitted to and unanimously adopted by a Meeting of the Inhabitants of St. John's, held at the Government House yesterday, and presided over by his Excellency the Governor.

Her Britannic Majesty's Consul General,  
New York.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) Jo. NOAD, Pro. Secretary.

Enclosure 6. in  
No. 1.

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COPY OF RESOLUTIONS unanimously adopted at a General Meeting of the mercantile Body held at the Factory on the 10th of June.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Meeting, that in order the most effectually to meet the Exigency arising from the present Calamity a Session of the Legislature should be immediately convened, and that a Deputation be appointed to wait upon his Excellency the Governor, instanter, to pray his Excellency to convene the Legislature at the earliest possible Period, for the Consideration of the best Means of arresting the present Suffering.

Resolved, That his Excellency be requested to adopt the best Means of affording Protection to the Persons and Property now exposed in this Town and Neighbourhood.

Resolved,