

## PAPERS in Explanation of the foregoing ESTIMATES.

## ESTIMATE No. 2.—(See p. 4.)

## CORRESPONDENCE respecting FIRES at Quebec.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21 July 1845.

No. 299, 20 June.

By the direction of Lord Stanley, I transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch, dated 20th June last, which his Lordship has received from Lord Metcalfe, the Governor-general of Canada, reporting the conflagration which took place in the city of Quebec on the 28th of May, and the means taken in the province for the relief of the sufferers by that calamity; and also transmitting a resolution adopted by the General Committee for the relief of the sufferers soliciting the aid of Her Majesty's Government, with his own answer to that resolution.

This despatch is the first and only official intelligence which has reached Lord Stanley on the subject to which it refers; his Lordship is, therefore, not able to communicate to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury any accurate or even any conjectural estimate of the extent of the loss.

But Lord Stanley is of opinion that it would be desirable to submit to the House of Commons a Supplementary Estimate, in the form of a vote of credit for this service, to the amount of £. , reserving for future consideration the question, whether that money should be advanced as a loan or as a free gift to the sufferers, or whether it should be employed partly as a loan and partly as a gift, according as the one or the other course might seem more expedient in reference to such further intelligence as may be expected to arrive on the subject.

I have, &amp;c.

C. E. Trevelyan, Esq.  
&c. &c. &c.(signed) *Jas. Stephen.*

(No. 299.)

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 20 June 1845.

On the 28th of last month a dreadful and extensive fire took place in the city of Quebec, by which several lives were sacrificed, and many of the inhabitants afflicted with extreme suffering and distress.

Subscriptions have been opened for their relief in Quebec, Montreal and other places, which have been liberally contributed to; and immediately on intelligence of the calamity being received here, I sanctioned a grant of 2,000*l.* from the Provincial Treasury, preliminary to taking into consideration the propriety of affording further aid.

I submit herewith the copy of a letter and resolution which I have received from the General Committee appointed at Quebec for the relief of the sufferers, and of the answer which I caused to be made. Being aware of the difficulty that will be experienced by the Imperial Government in meeting such an application, I conceived it would be proper to warn them of it, lest hopes might be encouraged which, if not realized, would lead to disappointment.

I have, &amp;c.

The Lord Stanley,  
&c. &c. &c.(signed) *Metcalfe.*

Sir,

Quebec, 10 June 1845.

HEREWITH enclosed I have the honour to send you, for the purpose of being laid before his Excellency the Governor-general, a copy of a resolution adopted yesterday at a meeting of the General Committee for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire.

I have, &amp;c.

J. M. Higginson, Esq.,  
Civil Secretary, Montreal.(signed) *E. L. Montizambert,*  
Secretary, General Committee.