

be provided with means (of which they themselves were to contribute one-half) of rebuilding their houses, thus affording employment for the labouring population. He thinks that by thus economizing and applying the funds there would probably be a large surplus, which may be devoted to the erection of public buildings, thus further increasing the means of employing the working classes.—Pp. 47, 48.

To the foregoing Colonel Law replied on the 25th September, stating that 29,000 sterling of the Government grant had already been distributed—stated also, the system which had been adopted for agreeing upon the awards by the Commission and Relief Committee—which system could not, without much complaint, be interfered with; and that the plan suggested of relief being in some instances made contingent on an equal amount being contributed by individuals, although good in theory is not suited to our circumstances.—P. 52.

Thus, then, so far as anything in the correspondence appears to the contrary, the intention of applying any part of the relief funds to the erection of public buildings, appears virtually to have been almost abandoned. The Committee employ the term *virtually* because there exists a very general apprehension that the still unappropriated monies are at least in part to be devoted to that purpose, a measure which the Committee hope to make appear, would be unjust towards a class of sufferers who have as yet shared either not at all or but comparatively trifling in any of the Government bounty.

None can more deeply lament than the Committee do, the painful fact that the Episcopal Church in this town became a prey to the devouring element upon the deplorable occurrence which they all so vividly recollect. It is remarkable that it was the only place of public worship which fell in the general catastrophe, and there was, and still is, a kindly desire on the part of the inhabitants, of whatever denominational creed, to see it restored, at least in all its original simplicity. It was a plain, unpretending edifice, constructed of wood, as all other places of worship were. It was commodious and convenient; but it was an old building, rapidly approaching to decay, so much so that measures had been taken for the construction of a new one of more durable materials. Subscriptions had been raised, and a large quantity of cut stone had been imported and deposited upon the ground, for the purpose of proceeding with the erection, and the foundation stone had been already laid. In exactly this condition of affairs the fire occurred.—With these preliminary observations upon this part of the subject the Committee desire to draw public attention to that portion of the correspondence under their review which has immediate bearing upon it.

They find that on the 10th September last, Colonel the Hon. Robert Law, then Administering the Government of the colony, transmitted a despatch to Earl Grey, enclosing a memorial from the Lord Bishop and others to the Secretary for the Home Department, for which he extracts the