

past two in the morning by the clock, and after going out was told it was the Post Office was on fire. The back part of the premises was on fire when I arrived; I can give no information regarding the origin of the fire, my great object on discovering that it was Mr. Mickie's house that was on fire was to see that the family were all safe; looking around the premises on the morning of the fire, Mr Vansickle pointed out to me a quantity of ashes lying on boards, among the ruins of the fire, which appeared to me to have been in Mr. Dent's shed, along where Mr. Dent's fence was, and within fourteen inches from Mr. Vansickle's store-room; it struck me that those ashes might have caused the fire,—but it also appeared to me strange, that Mr. Vansickle should have pointed out to me as a possible cause of the fire the ashes belonging to his neighbor, knowing as I now do that he was in the habit of keeping ashes in his own store-room. I was told that the late Mr. Mickie before his death told the Rev. Mr. Snider that he was told he would be burnt out in six months, and that he lived in fear of being burnt out. My opinion of the cause of the fire is,—that it arose from the ashes alluded to, or was the act of an incendiary,—that is, the ashes in Mr. Vansickle's store-room, and further deponent saith not.

JOHN J. E. LINTON.

(The reference to Rev. Mr. Snider was so far corroborated by his evidence at the inquest—the time he was told was on 30th December.)

## No. 7.

### THE LATE FIRE AND MR. MICKLE.

*To the Editor of the Beacon.*

DEAR SIR,—The friends of the late Mr. Mickie feel obliged to you for the particular and sympathising account in your paper of the 12th, of the late fire, whereby a worthy inhabitant lost his life, and also a dear child of his, my grand-daughter.

I hope to be prepared to show to you and to the public—that although much perseverance was used to find out facts, which should not have been by any Jury overlooked, or wantonly and ignorantly, and unfeelingly put aside, or attempted to be put aside by any minority of them; that there were too strong circumstances and facts tending to show that ashes from the stove were kept in the store-room of Vansickle & Hobson, which was under the kitchen and at the north end of the premises of Mr. Mickie; and I am to infer, and others who listened to the evidence can infer, as well as from the opposition of a minority to the getting out of truth, that had a box of ashes (as was proved to have been in said store-room) been shown to have been even in part in said kitchen, the tendency of said minority was apparent that the fire would have originated in said kitchen; but when proved to have been in the store-room, that tendency was that it *did not* originate in the store-room!! No other opinion could be formed from the express opposition of certain parties. But there were others in the Jury, and out of it, to their credit, who justly had a more unbiased, honest, and upright view, and I pray that *their* humanity may never be less. They have my thanks. It has occurred to me that the *absence* at the Inquests of the