

mentioned as having first seen through the chapel window, on Richelieu Street. Rousseau then returned to the street, with the three persons who had followed him up stairs, and, hastening again to the Nunnery door, saw there three policemen, who were knocking loudly to arouse the Nuns, one of whom, the Lady Superior, then opened the door, and led the persons, who had been thus knocking, through the Convent yard, into the new building, and left them at the foot of the principal staircase, upon which many people were already crowding, some of whom were bringing down burthens which, it seems, were chests of carpenters' tools, which the mechanics were saving from the flames. In the mean time, Jean Patry, one of the contractors, who owned and occupied an adjoining house, and who kept the key of the main door in the Westerly wing, having been roused by the cry of "Fire!" and warned by his neighbour, Mrs. Thomas, that the fire was in the new building, had hastened, with a lantern, to the spot, and entering by the door of which he had the key, ascended, by two flights of stairs in the South wing, to the third story, and reached, by the corridors of that story, the apartment in which the fire was to be seen at the head of the main or central staircase, and identified as the room designated on the plan D, and intended for the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, as before mentioned. Much of the floor was in flames, as also the partition of rough boards, which divided that apartment from a smaller one to the North-east, and which is designated on the same plan as "Dressing-room." Patry instantly ran to the chapel door, in quest of water, a cask of which he was aware had been deposited there; but, finding no buckets, he unbarred the chapel door and called aloud for buckets, which he immediately obtained, and, hurrying back with water, followed by several persons, he threw the contents of the bucket into the flames, and, hastening back for more, saw a person, whom he did not know, (and who turns out to have been Mr. Audy, of the Inspector General's Department, a witness since examined,) who took from him his lantern and his bucket, telling him to run home and get others,—which he did. When he returned the flames had already invaded the chapel.

Rousseau and Patry do not appear to have met, although both must have stood at the head of the stairway, in the centre building, within a few minutes of each other.—This, it is thought, may be satisfactorily accounted for by Rousseau having ascended and immediately descended again by the main central staircase, and issuing out of the centre door, whilst Patry went up to the third story by the staircase in the south wing, and then probably reached the head of the main staircase a minute or two after Rousseau and the three men who were with him had left it.—This presumption is confirmed by the fact that, when Rousseau went round to the chapel door on Richelieu Street, he found it open and several persons already entering by it, the bars having been withdrawn by Patry. Rousseau was therefore the first who entered the building with the men who followed him,—Patry the next;—and both agree perfectly in describing the fire as having originated in the room designated, and in the north-eastern part of that room towards St. Olivier Street.

40. The Commissioners, after having carefully and minutely interrogated each witness, and having given the most attentive and mature consideration to the mass of testimony to be found in the Appendix to their report (C.) have been unable to come to any determination whatever as to the origin or cause of the fire, the facts disclosed not being such as could lead to any conclusion beyond mere conjectures as to certain possible casualties, which are as much within the reach of the reader of the evidence as of the Commissioners, as they have received no impression calculated to give weight or effect to one portion of the testimony more than another, or tending to any conviction different from such as may be produced by the evidence itself.

There is no doubt that from the magnitude, form and distribution of the building the numerous apartments into which it was subdivided, and the facilities of access to the