

ST. JOHNS, Nov. 13, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter of Monday last, having reference to what is called the "Pictou Freestone," any quantity of which, I understand, can be had from the Acadia Quarry, Pictou, N. S., during the shipping season.

From the inquiries which I have made, as also from personal observation, I feel no hesitation in saying that this stone possesses a combination of properties which render it a very desirable building material, viz. :—

It is cheap, being easily worked and susceptible of a very high finish.

Again, it has been found to stand this climate equal, if not better, than any other building material at present; and add to this its capability of resisting the action of fire, which was satisfactorily proven by the memorable fire of 1846, when several houses constructed thereof were completely burnt out, particularly the houses of Mr. Robert Prôuse, now in the occupancy of Dr. Carson and Mr. Harvey, on the wall of which so little effect had the fire, that without any outward repairs they were immediately built upon, which, I believe, was almost a solitary case of that memorable fire.

I give you this as my humble but candid opinion, and

Believe me, your ob't serv't,

KYRAND WALSH.

SMITH McKAY, Esq.

I certify that freestone represented to be from the Acadia Quarry, Pictou, Nova Scotia, was used in the front and other outside of this building, erected in the year 1848.

It has been found to stand this climate so well that I can safely recommend it as a good building stone.

GEO. BENNETT,

Assistant Collector.

Capt. J. H. Jones, St. Johns, Newfoundland,
Nov. 13, 1855.