

The St. Hyacintho Fire.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

At an early hour this morning our reporter inspected thoroughly the scene of the conflagration, and to a spectator without any material interest in the place the destruction of property was simply appalling, while the woe-begone appearance of hundreds of the citizens told more plainly than words could tell that the little city of St. Hyacintho which had been for its beauty, justly the boast of its people, had received a crushing cruel blow, which would mar its prospects for years to come if not for ever. One glance at the piles of household effects strewn along the river's banks and over the two small islands, with here and there a temporary erection of quilts or boards for the homeless, revealed a tale of a night of hardship in a view of the cold, heavy rain which lasted until this morning. In these almost useless shelters, were old women and children, almost famished with cold and hunger, for the provisions forwarded from Montreal had not arrived. There was a strange assortment of household effects here collected, which appeared as if deposited at random. Cribbs and blankets were surmounted by kegs of nails and whitelead, while midway in the stream, between the islands and the shore, were buggies, stoves, and tables, with many lighter articles, for the river at this point is very shallow. Passing along the streets, one meets the citizens collected in little knots, or walking mournfully among the ruins, while every now and then a crash from a falling wall shows that even this is somewhat perilous. The arrival of the bread this afternoon from Montreal caused many of them to collect in front of the Fire Station, where it was distributed and thankfully received. Load after load, as it came from the station, was quickly taken away by the famishing crowd, and here it may be stated that if ever a charitable act was done, this was certainly one. Amid the general confusion which prevailed last evening it was impossible to arrive with any degree of accuracy at the casualties; but there is no doubt that they have been much more numerous than was supposed. The death of the old gentleman, Mr. Gladu, has already been referred to; but this is not the only fatal accident. While the fire was raging, many citizens were working at the west end of the town, endeavoring to save the St. Hyacintho boot and shoe factory, totally unconscious that their own homes were being desolated by the flames. An eye-witness of the scene stated that he had witnessed the great Portland fire when the flames spread with marvellous rapidity, but to use his own words, "They did not spread half so fast as this fire." While mothers and children were fleeing from their homes, some of the latter got separated and have not since been found, and it is supposed that some have been burned to death or drowned.

As our reporter was leaving St. Hyacintho this forenoon, he was informed that the bodies of three small children had a few minutes previously been found in the river, and as the statement came also from other reliable sources, it will probably be found correct. A rumor prevailed at one time that women and several of her children had been burned, but careful inquiries showed the rumor to be without foundation. A girl named Charland, 14 years of age, was burned severely about the hands, and the Chief of Police L. Pagé was severely wounded in the hand by several ruffians from Montreal, who were making off with nine

bottles of brandy. Among the features of the conflagration must be noted the efficient service rendered by the nuns and priests in saving property, for which they are the subject of much favorable comment from every quarter. Arrangements had been made by the fire companies to have a steam pump on hand, while the dam and works generally were being repaired; but this was in the hands of Mr. Lionde in this city, who has been several weeks over the appointed time making repairs on it. Had this steam engine been in St. Hyacintho yesterday, the firemen state that they could have checked the progress of the flames. As it was they were without water for over two hours, and were thus rendered almost useless. The estimates made in the first edition of this paper of the loss will not be far wrong. Several insurance men stated that \$1,500,000 was a fair approximate estimate of the total damage done. The insurance all told will not amount to more than \$250,000. Of this amount the *Stadacona* will lose the heaviest, the policies on property destroyed or injured bring over \$60,000.—*Witness*

The Vice-Regal Party.

RECEPTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The *Victoria Standard* gives the following account of the reception of His Excellency in that city:—

The hearty and loyal reception given to Lord and Lady Dufferin by the Queen city of the Pacific will we think, be long remembered by our distinguished visitors, and perhaps it is not too much to say that the reception which Earl Dufferin received at the hands of our citizens on Wednesday has never been excelled in any city or town in Ontario during his tour through that Province in 1874 or in any other place in Canada, on any other occasion. The reception would, we believe, have been of a much more perfect description, but that His Excellency's arrival on Tuesday night was unexpected. Some of the arches were only finished on Wednesday morning, and many good people had intended making further decorations on their own account, but time would not allow of it. However, as to the reception:

The place selected for His Excellency's landing was the wharf of Messrs. Englehardt & Libbals, which has been appropriately decorated for the occasion with streamers and evergreens. At the end of the shed was placed the word "Welcome,"—short but full of meaning—and over this was an oil painting of St. George and the dragon. At the extremity of the wharf was a sort of staircase protected on each side with a balustrade, and neatly carpeted, which reached down to the water. From the top of the staircase to the extremity of the wharf, where the carriage was in waiting, matting was laid down. The time fixed for the landing was precisely one o'clock, and as that hour drew near, people began to arrive upon the wharf for the purpose of witnessing the landing. Among those present were his Honor the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Richards, Sir James Douglas, K. C. B., Sir Mathew Ballie Bogle, Dr. Helmcken, Mr. and Mrs. Innes, Lieut. Col. Powell, Lt. Col. Houghton, Mr. Hamley, and the officers of the *Fantome*, Mr. Eckstein, U. S. Consul; Mr. Rhodes, Hawaiian and Sandwich Island Consul; Mr. Stewart, Chilian Consul; Mr. M. T. Johnson, Rev. I. Gribbell, who represented Rt. Rev. Bishop of Columbia, Rt. Rev. Bishop Segners, and several priests, Rev. Mr. McGregor, Rev. Mr. Cronin, Capt. Harris, and the officers of the *Rocket*, Hon.

Mr. Elliott, and members of the Provincial Ministry Mr. and Mrs. Lowenbury, Capt. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Thain, Mr. Dupont, Mr. Truich, Judge Crease, Mr. Dawson, C. E., Mr. Williams, M. P. P. Mr. Fisher, M. P. P., Mr. Roscoe, M. P., Senator Macdonald, Rev. Messrs. Blunden and Baskett, Capt. and Mrs. Baymur. A guard of honor consisting of marines from one of the vessels was drawn up upon the wharf. At one o'clock, the yards of Her Majesty's vessels were promptly manned, and a puff of white smoke from the *Imethyst*, quickly followed by others, announced the fact that their Excellencies had embarked in Capt. Chatterfield's gig. The manning of the yards was indeed a pretty sight, and was much enjoyed by the spectators. The first boat to arrive was that containing the two aides-de-camp, Captains Hamilton and Ward. The last gun of the customary salute had scarcely been fired when their Excellencies landed, the band playing the National Anthem, when they were received by the President of the General Committee, Sir James Douglas, who, in a few appropriate remarks, welcomed Lord and Lady Dufferin to British Columbia.

The ceremony of receiving them at the wharf being over, the vice regal party proceeded to their carriages and drove towards the city. In His Excellency's carriage were the Earl and Countess of Dufferin, Mrs. Richards and Col. Lytleton, and in the next Lieutenant Governor Richards, Capt. Layton and Captains Hamilton and Ward. Then followed Sir James Douglas and Dr. Helmcken, followed by a long line of carriages containing the several Consuls and prominent citizens. At the turn of the road was a pretty decoration and the motto "God Save the Queen." On the drive towards the city one peculiar and pleasing feature of the reception was enacted. As the Governor-General's carriage was about to pass the corner of the road leading down to the Naval Club, five Foresters suddenly dashed from the concealment of the woods, dressed in their gay costumes of the days of Robin Hood, and surrounded the carriage, one of whom—Mr. Frank Saunders—bore in his hand the good old Royal Standard of Great Britain. We understand that this little manoeuvre took their Excellencies by surprise, but its peculiarity was very pleasing. Accompanied by their body guard in dress of Lincoln green, their Excellencies drove steadily into the city. At the "Horse & Jockey," the Indians from the rancherie had collected with several Union Jacks, and cheered the Vice Regal party lustily as they passed by. After the crossing of the first bridge which was tastefully decorated and swept for the occasion, the vice Regal party arrived at the city limits. Here their Excellencies were met by His Worship Mayor Drummond, the City Council and servants of the Corporation. The Councillors present were Messrs. Gowen, Williams, Gaskell, Trounce, Allat, Vigetius, and Marvin, and the officers of the Corporation—Mr. Leigh, C. M. G., Mr. Russell, Mr. Green and Mr. Robinson. After the presentation of Mayor Drummond and the Council, His Excellency inspected a guard of honor of the Victoria Rifles, which was drawn up on the right hand side of the road, under the command of Captain Vinter. His Excellency expressed himself much pleased with their neat and soldier-like appearance. On the water a short distance from the bridge, some 21 canoes of Indians were formed in line. Nearly every occupant of the canoes carried beautiful and variegated streamers at the end of long poles, and here and there a large Canadian flag. As Lord Dufferin drove to the next