

## APPENDIX M.

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OBSERVATORY, Quebec, Nov. 15th, 1869.

SIR,—It may not be out of place, as the Observatory has recently come under the control of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, to give a statement of the circumstances under which the Canadian Government was induced to build an Observatory here.

From the earnest recommendation of the Harbor Master, and of the Council of the Board of Trade of Quebec, and also of the Astronomer Royal, that an Observatory should be built here for the express purpose of giving "correct time" to the shipping, a "Ball Tower" was erected in the Citadel at an expense of £526 16s. 5d. sterling, and in the fall of 1850 I was appointed by the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty to take charge of it. Since then the "Time" has been given to the shipping each day at one o'clock (Sunday excepted) during the season of Navigation by dropping a "Ball."

Steam ships, and a large fleet of sailing vessels, that annually arrive and depart from Quebec, by means of the "Time Ball" can regulate their Chronometers accurately, and thereby lessen the dangers of navigation, and the loss of life and property.

The "Transit Instrument" in present use is lent by the Observatory at Greenwich; the clocks are the property of the Dominion Government.

As there was not room in the "Ball Tower" for a "computing room," nor any place to put a large and increasing number of valuable books (the transactions of the several observatories) that are annually sent to this Observatory, and, moreover, the great inconvenience of not having any fixed residence, I applied to the Honorable The Commissioner of Public Works for permission to occupy an old farm house and the surrounding grounds on the "Bonner Farm" as a site for an observatory, which was granted, under letter dated April 20th, 1864.

By strict economy I have been enabled to save during many years, out of the appropriation of \$2,400 a sufficient sum to purchase, in May 1864, a very fine Equatorial of eight inches aperture and nine feet focus, and to build a tower, and to mount the telescope, perhaps on one of the finest sites in the world for an observatory.

Since I have had the equatorial I have paid much attention to lunar Physics and fitted the telescope with the means of being readily used for photography, and to show how successful I have been, and how well adapted is the climate of Quebec for that Art I will make an extract, of a letter from Professor Airy, the Astronomer Royal.

ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH,

London, S. E., December 7th, 1868.

DEAR SIR,—I duly received your letter of the 25th ult., with the negative photograph of the Sun, about the time of the August eclipse.

I immediately took measures for procuring good positions from them. I have had two positions taken in albumen and upon glass. They are very good, but I think I may obtain better. In the meantime, I am well able to see that the negatives are extremely beautiful, and that, in all probability, you are justified in saying "that you can see everything in them that can be seen in a good telescope."