

QUEBEC.

will forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies a Copy of that Resolution, and entertains no Doubt of the anxious Desire of Her Majesty's Government to relieve the Distress of those who have suffered from that dreadful Calamity.

But in order to prevent the Disappointment that might otherwise arise, his Excellency deems it right that the Committee should be made aware that Her Majesty's Government have no Means of meeting such an Application except by a Proposition to the Imperial Parliament, and that he has no Recollection of any Instance in which Parliamentary Aid has been granted on the Occasion of a similar Calamity.

You will be pleased to assure the Committee of the cordial Co-operation of the Governor General in the humane and charitable Task that has devolved upon them in consequence of the awful Affliction with which it hath pleased Providence to visit the City of Quebec, and of the sincere Sympathy and Sorrow felt by him for the very severe Suffering to which so many of its Inhabitants have been exposed.

E. L. Montizambert, Esq., Quebec.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

No. 56.

No. 56.
Lord Metcalfe
to
Lord Stanley,
9th July 1845.

(No. 311.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord METCALFE, G.C.B., to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 9th July 1845.

It is with great Sorrow that I have to report the Occurrence, on the Night of the 28th ultimo, of another extensive Conflagration in the City of Quebec, by which many of the Inhabitants have been reduced to extreme Distress. The enclosed Copies of Communications from Major General Sir James Hope, in command of the District, to the Commander of the Forces, detail the Particulars of this and the preceding dreadful Calamity during the Progress of the Fire, and the accompanying Sketch of the City shows the Portions of the Suburbs destroyed on both lamentable Occasions.

I also submit for your Lordship's Information Copies of a Letter from the Mayor, and of Resolutions passed at a public Meeting of the Citizens, soliciting the Interposition of the Government in behalf of the Sufferers, and of the Reply which I directed to be made to the Application. If the Measure for raising a Loan in Great Britain should be adopted, it will become my Duty to address your Lordship again upon the Subject.

The unremitting and well-directed Exertions of the Troops in Garrison under the Command of Sir James Hope may be considered to have saved those Parts of the City which have escaped Destruction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) METCALFE.

(Extract.)

Enclosure 1. in No. 56.

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No. 56.

Sir,

Quebec, 30th May 1845.

It is with great Regret I have to communicate to your Excellency that a Fire broke out about Eleven o'Clock in the Morning of the 28th instant, in a Tannery at the Foot of Abraham's Hill on the Road leading to Scott's Bridge. This Accident I am informed occurred from the bursting of some of the Steam Apparatus. Owing to a strong Gale of Wind from the West the Fire not only communicated to the contiguous Houses, but broke out at Intervals of several Hundred Yards, and before Three o'Clock P. M. the Flames had reached St. Roch's Church, which was consumed, and had spread over I should think Five Sixths of the Suburbs of St. Roch, and only stopped in their Progress by the River St. Charles.

I am sorry to report to your Excellency that the whole of the Wood-yard was consumed; and I herewith enclose a Report from Mr. Assistant Commissary General Milliken. The Fire proceeded up Abraham's Hill, skirting the St. John Suburbs to the Glacis of the Town, and also extended along the Foot of the Hill to the Street immediately below the Artillery Barracks. By a Report from Lieutenant Colonel Walker your Excellency will see that the Barracks were only saved by being covered with Tin; the Mess House and Officers Apartments, at present roofed with Shingle, were on Fire, and only preserved by the Exertions of the Men. Had this Building caught Fire it must have communicated to the contiguous Houses belonging to the Upper Town, and it is impossible to say how far the Devastation would have reached.

Lieutenant Colonel Ward of the Royal Engineers had taken every necessary Precaution to secure the Powder Magazine near to the Hotel Dieu, a short way East from Palace Gate,