

REPORT

*Of the inquest held by James Prendergast, Esq, coroner, on
the conflagration of the Quebec Lunatic Asylum, on the
29th January, 1875.*

Before proceeding to the examination of witnesses, the
Coroner addressed the jury as follows :

GENTLEMEN,

The case submitted to your consideration is of such importance, that it is my duty to entreat you to bestow your most earnest attention to the facts to be established, and to their appreciation when elicited. Though jurors are always bound, by the solemn obligation of their oath, to carefully enquire into the different points submitted to their consideration, one will readily understand that the more there are interests at stake, the greater the responsibility is, and therefore, calls for proper attention and caution. You are already aware gentlemen, of the nature of the present inquest, it is needless for me therefore to point out to you its importance. During the night of the 29th to the 30th of January last, a fire broke out and partially destroyed an establishment which, by its magnificent construction, was the cause of admiration even for strangers, and which by its internal management seemed to leave nothing wanting. This institution, known under the name of "Quebec Asylum" or "Beauport Lunatic Asylum," was a private property, and was, in virtue of a private contract with the Quebec