

ADDRESS

To the Committee appointed by the Citizens of Boston, for the Relief of the Sufferers by the two late calamitous Fires in St. John's, Newfoundland.

GENTLEMEN—The nature of your benefaction is such as to excite no common feelings of gratitude in our minds—and to express, so far as we are able, the emotions which we feel is the purport of our present Address. We are aware that it is the peculiar nature of Christian benevolence, as well to shrink from praise, as to avoid ostentation—but such are our feelings, that we cannot express our thanks even to those to whom they are so justly due, without allowing ourselves to glance at those reasons which induce us thus to act.

By awful events we are plunged into the deepest distress. Our houses were destroyed—our provisions, and great part of our furniture and clothes, consumed. In the general calamities of life, it often happens that the acuteness of feeling is caused by the suddenness of the shock—and that mental anguish often lessens, as time enables us to discover that we had not fallen so deeply as we imagined. Not so in the present instance. The full extent of our misery, was too great to be at once comprehended by our minds. We only began to see the horrors of our situation when the first violence of grief began to subside. We saw ourselves surrounded by miseries; and other miseries rapidly approaching—Our sun had set in clouds. and darkness and tempest were before us.—We had every reason to fear, that to the severities of winter, we should have to add, scarcity of Provisions—Providentially, however, our fears have, in this respect, been dissipated by the arrival of supplies in our harbour.—We mention this, because we know that such information will give you pleasure—but when we view your generosity, we view it, not so much in connexion with those circumstances in which by a kind Providence we are actually placed, as with those in which