

REPORT.

THE General Committee appointed for the Relief of the sufferers by the calamitous fire of the 9th of June, 1846, have had under their notice, since the Report of their proceedings was made up and sent to the Press, certain copies or extracts of correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Governor, or Administrator of the Government, of Newfoundland, and the measures adopted for the Relief of the sufferers; and they acknowledge, with great pleasure and satisfaction, the gratifying testimony which has been exhibited of the parental sympathy of the British Government towards a portion of its subjects resident in this Colony under circumstances of great privation and distress, in the munificent donation of the sum of £30,000, to which has been added, under the sanction of the Queen's letter addressed to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the further sum of £31,516 — making a total of £61,516.

But there are one or two topics embraced in the correspondences to which they advert, which, in the opinion of the Committee, have especial claims upon their consideration; and which they proceed to notice not only with a view to set themselves right with the community on those points contained in the correspondence which have a tendency unwarrantably to prejudice them; but, with a view also of affording to the Parent Government some information upon other topics on which they venture to think that the Government have been permitted to fall into error, a result which might happily have been avoided if the Relief Committee had in the course of these transactions been made acquainted with the nature of the correspondences then subsisting between the Government and the Executive here. Besides all this, the ultimate appropriation of a considerable amount of money, the residue of the Parliamentary grant, and of the contributions under the Queen's letter, is involved in so much mystery and concealment that in justice to themselves, and to those for whose benefit a Committee was appointed at all, they entertain a very natural anxiety to have explained. Before the Committee proceed to an examination of the correspondence