

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Encl. 8, in No. 1.

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SKETCHES of the Town of St. John's, Newfoundland, showing the Extent of the Ravages of the late Fire; received with the Duplicate of Sir John Harvey's Despatch of the 10th June 1846, No. 38.

— No. 2. —

No. 2.
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone to
Governor
Sir J. Harvey.
3 July 1846.

(No. 27.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *W. E. Gladstone* to Governor Sir *John Harvey*, K. C. B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 July 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge, with deep concern and commiseration, your despatch No. 38, in which you make known to me the awful conflagration with which it has seemed good to the Almighty that the town of St. John's, Newfoundland, should be visited.

I have addressed by the mail of this day a circular to the Governor and Lieutenant-governors of the other British North American Provinces, desiring them to render whatever assistance it may be in their power to give on this distressing occasion; an injunction which it was seemly for Her Majesty's Government to issue, but which I am sure is hardly necessary in order to secure their active interest in the measures of relief which it may be requisite to adopt.

Although the intelligence has reached England at a moment when Her Majesty's advisers only hold the seals of office until their successors shall have been designated and shall be prepared to receive them, yet I have not scrupled, in conjunction with my colleagues, to form the judgment that the character and urgency of the circumstances at the particular moment imposed upon us the duty to act decisively, so far as regards the affording immediate relief.

I am therefore to acquaint you, that you are at liberty either to apply to the officer in charge of the commissariat on the station, or to draw upon the Lords of the Treasury, forthwith for a sum not exceeding 5,000*l.*, to be applied, under your authority and superintendence, towards such purposes as may appear to you to be the most pressing in their demands, and to be duly accounted for.

After considering and conferring with gentlemen interested in the colony, upon the question, what description of relief would be most effective, I came to the conclusion that it ought to be given in the form of money, and that all necessary supplies could be better procured from sources other than the public stores of this country.

It will remain for the successors of the present administration to determine whether any and what further measures should be taken here in aid of the sufferers by this dreadful conflagration. They will approach the consideration of that question probably with full information, and certainly with full authority. We have been called upon to act in a manner unusual under the circumstances in which we stand, in consequence of the exigency of the moment; and our part, therefore, has been confined to affording on the part of this country a pledge of its sympathy, and a fund sufficient for the immediate support of the destitute.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. E. Gladstone.*