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COPIES or EXTRACTS of the CORRESPONDENCE
between the Governor of *Newfoundland* and the
Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reference
to the Appropriation of the Subscriptions raised
for the Relief of the Sufferers at *St. John's* by
the Fire in 1846.

(*Mr. Fagan.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
8 August 1851.

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679.

Under 20 oz.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 14 February 1851;—for,

“ COPIES or EXTRACTS of the CORRESPONDENCE between the Governor
of *Newfoundland* and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reference
to the Appropriation of the Subscriptions raised for the Relief of the
Sufferers at *St. John's* by the Fire in 1846.”

Colonial Office, Downing-street, }
6 August 1851.

B. HAWES.

(*Mr. Fagan.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
8 August 1851.

SCHEDULE.

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COPIES of CORRESPONDENCE between the Governor of *Newfoundland* and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reference to the Appropriation or the Subscriptions raised for the Relief of the Sufferers at *St. John's* by the Fire in 1846.

— No. 1. —

(No. 38.)

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

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
10 June 1846.

Sir,

It has pleased the Almighty to visit this Colony with a great calamity. An awful and irresistible conflagration has suddenly swept away three-fourths of this so lately wealthy and prosperous city.

A fire broke out at half-past eight o'clock yesterday morning in the western section of the city; and owing to the prevalence of a westerly gale of wind, which unhappily continued to increase in violence, before the close of the day most of its public buildings, and the whole (with one single exception) of its wharves, storehouses and mercantile establishments, upwards of a mile in extent, had been reduced to ashes.

It is estimated that 2,000 houses, and property to the amount of from 600,000 *l.* to 1,000,000 *l.* sterling has been destroyed, and that 12,000 persons are now houseless.

Much as the hopes of the mercantile and the sufferings of the labouring classes claim our sympathies, yet should our deepest commiseration rest upon the middle classes, who, accustomed to comparative ease and comfort, find themselves and their helpless families suddenly reduced to a state of the most absolute destitution. Every effort dependent upon the local government will be made and is making for their relief and that of the lower orders; and even under circumstances so apparently desperate, and with a scene of such affecting desolation before my eyes, still do I indulge a sanguine hope that, if promptly aided by the benevolence and liberality of the British people, of the legislature and people of the neighbouring colonies, but, above all, by the British Government and Parliament, not only will present distress be at once alleviated, but the fine site of the provincial capital of this ancient and valuable possession of the British Crown (which as a commercial town may be said for the present almost to have ceased to exist) will again be occupied by buildings, of so secure and durable a description, laid out upon a plan so judicious and well considered as, at no remote period, to convert the calamity which is now pressing so heavily upon its inhabitants, into a great and inappreciable blessing.

A similar calamity, though not to the same extent, was thus turned into a vast benefit, even by the almost unaided efforts of the province itself, during the period of my administration of the government of New Brunswick some years ago.

In order to meet the pressing emergency of our situation, I have adopted the following measures:

1st. I have, by proclamation, convened the local legislature to meet in six days, viz. on the 16th instant.

2d. I have issued a proclamation, laying an embargo, for a limited period, upon the exportation of provisions, other than such as are required for the use of the crews, passengers, and the fisheries.

3d. I have issued a proclamation, warning all persons against the re-construction of wooden buildings upon the burnt district before the intentions of the local legislature on the subject shall be declared.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 1.

Governor Sir J.
Harvey to Mr. Sec-
retary Gladstone.
10 June 1846.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

4th. I have addressed a circular letter to the Governor-general and the Lieutenant-governors of all the British American Colonies, and to Her Majesty's Consul at New York, of which copies are enclosed.

5th. I have authorized the chartering of two vessels, one to Halifax and the other to New York, for provisions.

6th. I called a meeting this day in this house, at which I presided, of all the heads of the mercantile establishments, as well as of the principal inhabitants, the clergy, judges and officers of the government. Copies of the resolutions adopted at this meeting, as well as of other resolutions adopted at a meeting of the inhabitants previously held, are enclosed; the whole of which, it will be perceived, I had anticipated.

Friday, 12th June.

I have now the satisfaction to report, that through the operations of the Committee of Relief, appointed at the meeting of Wednesday, all the houseless have been placed under shelter, in aid of which I have placed fifty (all) the tents in the Ordnance store at its disposal; and an adequate supply of provisions, particularly bread, has been and will be continued to be issued to them for the present. They (the recipients) are, however, I understand, gradually dispersing in the colony or emigrating. Fortunately, the weather is fine.

For the details of the progress of the fire, and of the measures used for its suppression, I beg permission to refer to the accompanying extract of a report addressed by the Commanding Officer of the Royal Engineers to the head of his department on the subject, and to the general order which I have issued upon this melancholy occasion, and to express my hope that you will be pleased to receive the details contained in these documents in lieu of a more lengthened despatch at the present hurried moment, until I am enabled to enter more fully into the sadly altered circumstances of this lately prosperous and happy colony, which I shall scarcely be in a position to do until after the meeting of the legislature.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey.*

P.S.—With the exception of the two soldiers of the Royal Artillery, the injuries of one of whom are not dangerous, I believe very few accidents to have occurred during the awful conflagration; only one has as yet been made known to me from any authentic source.

The sketches of the town which accompany my despatches, though hurriedly prepared, show, with sufficient precision, the extent of the ravages of this destructive fire.

J. H.

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

PROCLAMATION:

By his Excellency Major-General Sir *John Harvey*, Knight Commander of the Most honourable Military Order of the Bath, Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies, &c. &c.

J. Harvey,
(L.S.)

Encl. 1, in No. 1.

WHEREAS the General Assembly of this Island stands prorogued until Tuesday the 23d day of June instant:

And whereas divers weighty causes and considerations render it expedient and necessary that the said General Assembly should be called together with as little delay as possible: I, the Governor, do therefore by these presents direct and appoint, that the said General Assembly shall meet, for the despatch of important and urgent business, on Tuesday the 16th day of this instant June; of which all persons are required and commanded to take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal, at the Government House at St. John's, in the aforesaid Island, the 10th day of June 1846, in the ninth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's Command,
(signed) *J. Templeman*, Pro. Secretary.

Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

PROCLAMATION :

By his Excellency Major-General Sir *John Harvey*, Knight Commander of the Most honourable Military Order of the Bath, Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies, &c. &c. Encl. 2, in No. 1.

J. Harvey.
(L. S.)

WHEREAS in consequence of the disastrous and devastating fire by which the town of St. John hath been visited on Tuesday last, large quantities of bread, flour, and all other provisions have been destroyed, and it being found that a very scant supply of such provisions remains for the subsistence of the inhabitants of the said town, and that it is necessary to retain the same for their support, I, the Governor, do therefore, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Council, by this my proclamation, forbid and prohibit any or all ships, vessels and boats from carrying away or exporting from the port of St. John any kind of bread, flour or other provisions, save and except in such moderate quantity as may be deemed sufficient for the subsistence and uses of the crews of such ships, vessels or boats respectively. And I do further order and direct, by and with the advice aforesaid, that in order to secure the observance of this order, all ships, vessels and boats departing from this port shall first obtain a certificate from the Collector of Her Majesty's Customs before they are allowed to depart from this port.

Given under my hand and seal, at the Government House at St. John's, in the aforesaid Island, the 11th day of June 1846, in the ninth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's command,

(signed) *J. Templeman*, Pro. Secretary.

Enclosure 3, in No. 1.

PROCLAMATION :

By his Excellency Major-General Sir *John Harvey*, Knight Commander of the Most honourable Military Order of the Bath, Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies, &c. &c. Encl. 3, in No. 1.

J. Harvey.
(L. S.)

WHEREAS the town of St. John was, on Tuesday the 9th day of this instant month of June, desolated and destroyed by a most calamitous fire, the ravages whereof have been chiefly occasioned by the narrowness of the streets and the irregularities and insufficient construction of the houses and buildings therein :

And whereas it appears that for the better security of the said town on its re-erection, and for the safety and welfare of its inhabitants in future, that further laws and regulations should be made to prevent, as far as may be found possible and expedient, the recurrence of such calamities: I, the Governor, do thereby, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Council, under this my proclamation, hereby prohibit and forbid any and every person and persons from erecting or making any building or buildings whatsoever on the site of any buildings that have been destroyed by the late fire, or upon any ground contiguous thereto, until it shall be ascertained and publicly declared what regulations the General Assembly (now immediately to be convened) shall establish for the better formation of the streets, and the erection of all houses and buildings of the said town.

And I further warn all persons, at their peril, to pay due regard to this injunction and public notice, as in the event of any person acting contrary to the same, and incurring expense in the erection of any buildings contrary to such regulations as the legislature may deem fit to establish, such persons will have no claim to any consideration or compensation in respect to the same.

Given under my hand and seal, at the Government House at St. John's in the aforesaid Island, the 11th day of June 1846, in the ninth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's Command,

(signed) *J. Templeman*, Pro. Secretary.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 4, in No. 1.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
11 June 1846.

My Lord,

Encl. 4, in No. 1.

It is my painful and melancholy duty to acquaint your Lordship that Almighty God has been pleased to visit this town with an awful and devastating conflagration, which has reduced the chief portion of it to ashes.

The fire broke out about half-past eight o'clock on the morning of Tuesday last, the 9th instant, in the western extremity of the town, and the flames, borne onwards by a strong wind from the same quarter which prevailed during the whole of that day and the succeeding night, overcame every effort to subdue them, and involved in one common ruin (with scarcely an exception) the whole of the mercantile establishments, with their stores of goods and provisions, very many of the public buildings, and at least three-fourths of the dwelling-houses of the inhabitants.

It has not been possible as yet to obtain a correct return of the number of edifices burnt, but it is estimated that, in all, about 2,000 have been destroyed, and nearly 12,000 persons rendered houseless.

I beg leave herewith to enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of certain resolutions yesterday adopted by a meeting of the heads of departments and principal inhabitants of the town, convened by me, at the Government House; and in consideration of the state of utter destitution and distress to which many thousands of the poorer inhabitants have been reduced by the suddenness of this awful visitation of Divine Providence, and on their behalf, I have, through your Lordship, to make an earnest appeal to the sympathy and philanthropy of the inhabitants of the province under your Lordship's government for that relief which I cannot doubt will be promptly extended to their fellow subjects in this colony, who have been overwhelmed by so stupendous a calamity.

I am, &c.

(signed) *J. Harvey.*Lieutenant-general his Excellency
The Earl Cathcart, K.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 5, in No. 1.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Newfoundland,
11 June 1846.

Sir,

Encl. 5, in No. 1.

I AM directed by his Excellency Sir John Harvey, Governor of this Island, to communicate to you the painful intelligence of the almost total destruction of the town of St. John's by fire on the 9th instant.

The whole of the mercantile establishments (with but one exception) on the north side of the Harbour have been utterly consumed, together with by far the greater part of the provisions and other stores which they contained, the few mercantile premises on the south side being of comparatively little importance.

By this calamitous event nearly 12,000 persons have been rendered houseless, and a majority of them utterly destitute; for these, and on their behalf, an appeal is earnestly made, through you, to the sympathy of the citizens of New York.

I beg leave to enclose herewith a copy of a series of resolutions submitted to and unanimously adopted by a meeting of the inhabitants of St. John's, held at the Government House yesterday, and presided over by his Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Jo. Noad, Pro. Secretary.*Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-general,
New York.

Enclosure 6, in No. 1.

COPY OF RESOLUTIONS unanimously adopted at a General Meeting of the Mercantile Body
held at the Factory on the 10th of June.

Encl. 6, in No. 1.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that in order the most effectually to meet the exigency arising from the present calamity, a session of the Legislature should be immediately convened, and that a deputation be appointed to wait upon his Excellency the Governor, instanter, to pray his Excellency to convene the Legislature at the earliest possible period, for the consideration of the best means of arresting the present suffering.

Resolved, That his Excellency be requested to adopt the best means of affording protection to the persons and property now exposed in this town and neighbourhood.

Resolved.

Resolved, That a provisional committee be appointed to solicit from the clergymen of the several congregations, from the officers of the Irish and Natives' Societies, the conductors of the Factory, and all the public buildings, the use of the churches and other edifices under their control, for the shelter of the houseless.

Resolved, That the committee be requested to pray his Excellency to cause a general search to be made in every house in St. John's and its vicinity without distinction, to ascertain the quantity of provisions in town, and to discover such provisions and other property as any individuals may have improperly appropriated.

Resolved, That the committee be requested to pray his Excellency to cause tents to be erected this evening for the shelter of the people.

Resolved, That the Honourable C. F. Bennett, the Honourable Robert Job, the Honourable John Stuart, and Messrs. Brooking, Alsop, M'Bride, Stabb, Glen, Nugent, Henry P. Thomas, Taylor, Milroy, Dillon, J. H. Warren, Eugenius Harvey, Ambrose Shea, Kenneth M'Lea, jun., Marry, Howley, M'Kellar and Cozens, do form such committee, with power to add to their number.

RESOLUTIONS submitted at a Meeting of the principal Inhabitants convened at Government House by his Excellency Sir John Harvey, on this day, the 10th of June, and adopted unanimously.

1st. *Resolved*, That this meeting are deeply impressed with the awful visitation which yesterday befel the city of St. John's, by which nearly 2,000 houses, embracing the whole of the mercantile establishments, with but one exception, have been reduced to ashes, and nearly 12,000 individuals deprived of a home.

2d. *Resolved*, That it is necessary, in order to guard against that distress which exposure to the weather and an improvident use of the small quantity of provisions that have happily been saved may occasion, that a committee should be appointed, under whose management, in co-operation with his Excellency Sir John Harvey, relief may be afforded to those who are destitute, and means taken to guard against imposition.

3d. *Resolved*, That the committee above mentioned do consist of the following persons:

A clergyman of each religious denomination.

The Honourable William Thomas.

The Honourable Charles Bennett.

The Honourable John Kent.

The Honourable Lawrence O'Brien.

Lieutenant-colonel Law, K. H.,

Major Robe, R. E.,

Major Wright, R. A.,

Assistant Commissary-General Weir,

Deputy Ordnance Storekeeper Winter,

Thomas Glen, M. G. A.,

Nicholas Stabb,

Richard Howley,

James Hutton,

George Brooking,

Charles Bowring,

Thomas Job,

Robert Prowse,

James Clift,

Nicholas Mudge,

J. B. Bulley,

John O'Mara,

} Ex-officio members.

} Esquires.

Of whom three shall form a quorum.

4th. *Resolved*, That this meeting are aware that the well-established credit and stability of the trade of St. John's, coupled with the natural and inexhaustible resources of its fisheries, will speedily enable it to resume its usual current, but that in the meantime it is necessary that publicity should be given to the demand for provisions and building materials which at present exist in this market.

5th. *Resolved*, That this meeting have learned with great satisfaction that his Excellency has issued a proclamation convening a meeting of the Legislature for the 16th instant, and they are assured that such remedial measures will then be submitted to that body as will tend to the partial relief of present suffering, and the permanent improvement and increased security of the capital of this island.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 7, in No. 1.

Encl. 7, in No. 1. EXTRACT from a Report made by Major *Robt*, commanding Royal Engineers, St. John's, Newfoundland, to the Inspector-General of Fortifications.

St. John's, Newfoundland,
Wednesday, 10 June 1846.

It is my painful duty to report to you that this town was visited yesterday by one of the most calamitous fires that has ever come within my knowledge. It broke out in the heart of the town soon after eight o'clock in the morning, raged furiously for the whole of the day and night, and is still at this time, 10 A.M., unextinguished, though, I trust in God, its fury is now nearly exhausted; but from the mass of heated ruins and burning embers much danger is still to be apprehended, especially should the wind, which has continued to blow from the same quarter since the commencement of the fire, W. N. W., change the direction more to the southward, and thus carry the sparks over that part of the town which has yet escaped. It is impossible to describe or imagine the state of distress which must ensue to the inhabitants generally, both rich and poor, before any effective relief can be obtained, as every merchant's and nearly every tradesman's and shopkeeper's premises, including wharves, stores, and in most instances dwelling-houses, have been entirely consumed, with the exception of Messrs. Newman and Company, which were situated further west than the point to which the flames extended.

The church of St. John's, the Court-house, the Roman Catholic convent and school (two beautiful new buildings), the Custom-house, the Ordnance and Commissariat Store on the Ordnance Wharf, the Bank, and other public buildings have been destroyed, together with the whole range of water-side premises from one end of the town to the other; the shipping having been compelled to cut adrift, some of them having been obliged to be scuttled to save the rest, and they are all either now anchored in the Narrows or close to the opposite or south side of the harbour. Flashes of fire were carried across the harbour, and up to the very top of Signal Hill, setting fire to the brushwood in various places, making it necessary to send the detachment stationed there back again to protect the new barracks and Government property on the summit. The merchants' powder magazine, situated half way up the hill, caught fire, and the whole of the roof, which was shingled, was entirely burnt, without igniting the powder in the bomb-proof beneath. With the exception of the Ordnance Wharf, all the property in charge of the Ordnance Department has providentially escaped, though great fears were at one time entertained for the barracks at Fort Townshend, when the convent was in flames, and the surrounding fences of the fort ignited. Subsequently the Ordnance-yard was in imminent danger, and nothing but the unwearied efforts of the troops and civil workmen employed in my department could possibly have saved it; had the buildings in that yard been burnt, the barracks in Fort William would in all probability have followed. The Governor's residence, being situated on an isolated spot to windward of the fire, has most providentially escaped, together with St. Thomas's Church (used as a garrison chapel), the Bishop's, Chief Justice's, Attorney-general's and Collector's houses.

I regret that I have to report the occurrence of a melancholy accident in the death of a gunner and severe wounding of a serjeant of the Royal Artillery, in an attempt to make a fire-break by means of gunpowder. The powder was placed in two tin canisters, containing about 30 lbs. each, against the chimney shaft in the centre of a wooden house, for the purpose of throwing it down and loosening the framework. In consequence of my directions for firing the charge not being exactly complied with, these men had not time to escape before the explosion took place. Lieutenants Brettingham, Royal Artillery, and Binney, Royal Engineers, narrowly escaped injury; the latter officer was struck in the knee with a splinter at the moment he discovered the mistake, and was springing forward to endeavour to withdraw the unfortunate men. The Serjeant Handyside has, I am happy to say, every prospect of recovering without permanent injury.

It is impossible to say to what state of destitution and distress the whole town will be reduced before any effectual relief can arrive. I am almost afraid to think to what state of desperation the people may be driven when starvation stares them in the face, from which calamity we may not ourselves be exempt; and it is to be hoped that the Government at home, together with the public at large, will take some immediate steps to send us relief, which will be most acceptable in any form, whether provision, clothing, bedding, or materials for building and other purposes. At this moment the mass of the people are houseless, and are spread about the open fields, protecting what little property they were enabled to save from the conflagration. The quantity of bedding and other stores now in charge of the Ordnance Storekeeper will go but little way towards relieving the distressed; and the provision in the Commissariat store would also be of very little service among so many, after the wants of the troops have been provided for.

To the Inspector-General of Fortifications,
&c. &c. &c.

GENERAL ORDER.

Head Quarters, St. John's, Newfoundland,
10 June 1846.

No. 1.—Having witnessed and superintended the zealous, unwearyed, and almost unaided efforts of the officers and soldiers of this small garrison to arrest the progress of the awful conflagration of yesterday, his Excellency the Governor and Major-general commanding deems it an imperative duty towards them to place upon official record the high sense which he entertains of those exertions, which, although, owing to a concurrence of adverse circumstances, were necessarily in a great degree unavailing, were most unremittingly persevered in for 24 successive hours.

To the gallant and determined, and, in this instance, successful stand made towards the close of the day by this small body of wearyed and exhausted men, under the immediate directions of Lieutenant-colonel Law and Major Robe, by which the direction of the conflagration was diverted from the Ordnance Buildings, the Major-general imputes, under Providence, the preservation of all the buildings, public and private, at the east end of this city, including the barracks, &c., at Fort William, the garrison bakery (the only remaining one), the commissariat house and office, Saint Thomas's Church, the theological institution, the collegiate school, the residences of the Lord Bishop, of the Chief Justice, of the Attorney-general, of the Collector of Customs, of the Honourable Messrs. Thomas, and even of the Government House, which, in the event of the extension of the fire to the buildings above enumerated, must have been placed in imminent danger.

In aiding in the preservation of the barracks at Fort Townshend, the Major-general learns with much satisfaction that the conduct of Captain Hunt, half-pay, late of the Royal Newfoundland Companies, the guard of those companies, and the few individuals remaining in barracks in the absence of the troops, was very praiseworthy.

Where all have so well performed their duties, it is difficult to discriminate in bestowing individual praise; to name those who have merited it would be to name all. The Major-general must, therefore, rest satisfied for the present with offering his warmest thanks to Lieutenant-colonel Law, commanding Royal Newfoundland Companies, to Major Robe, commanding Royal Engineer, and to Major Wright, commanding Royal Artillery, and to all the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers under their respective commands, for their admirable conduct yesterday, conduct which has entirely satisfied the Major-general that the utmost reliance can confidently be placed upon their soldier-like qualities, in whatever exigencies of the service they may be called upon to perform their duties.

To the active and useful exertions of the officers attached to his Excellency's personal staff, namely, Lieutenant F. C. Harvey, 34th Regiment, and Lieutenant H. B. Chambers, Royal Newfoundland Companies, the Major-general has pleasure in expressing his acknowledgments; as well as to Fort Major Mason, Deputy Commissary-general Green, Assistant Commissaries-general Weir and Robinson, Deputy Ordnance Storekeeper Winter, and, generally, to all connected with the public departments, who were present and rendered all the assistance in their power.

However unusual a proceeding under ordinary circumstances, yet his Excellency the Governor and Major-general commanding does not abstain from adverting in this Memorandum to the zeal displayed by all the principal persons connected with the Government, including the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the clergy of all denominations, the chief justice (whose exertions were conspicuously useful), the judges, the members of Her Majesty's Council, and all the principal officers of the Government, who all evinced every desire to render their services useful upon this awful occasion. The Major-general cannot conclude this notice without expressing his warm acknowledgments to Captain Dacres, Royal Artillery (on leave), and to Mr. Hele, master of H. M. S. "Vindictive," (at St. John's on duty connected with a civil prosecution), for their most valuable and unremitting exertions throughout the whole day.

The names of several non-commissioned officers and soldiers, who have been reported to the Major-general by their commanding officers as having prominently distinguished themselves, will be promulgated in a future order.

No. 2.—Major-general Sir John Harvey has pleasure in accepting the offered services of Captain Dacres, Royal Artillery, and of Captain Hunt, half-pay, late of the Royal Newfoundland Companies, during the continuance of the arduous patrol and other duties which have necessarily devolved upon this small garrison; the names of these officers will accordingly be placed upon the roster of garrison duty, and they will be attached, the former to Captain Wright's Company, Royal Artillery, and the latter to the Royal Newfoundland Companies, until further orders.

By Command,

Hugh B. Chambers,
Lieut. R. N. Companies,
Acting A. D. C.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Encl. 8, in No. 1.

Enclosure 8, in No. 1.

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.

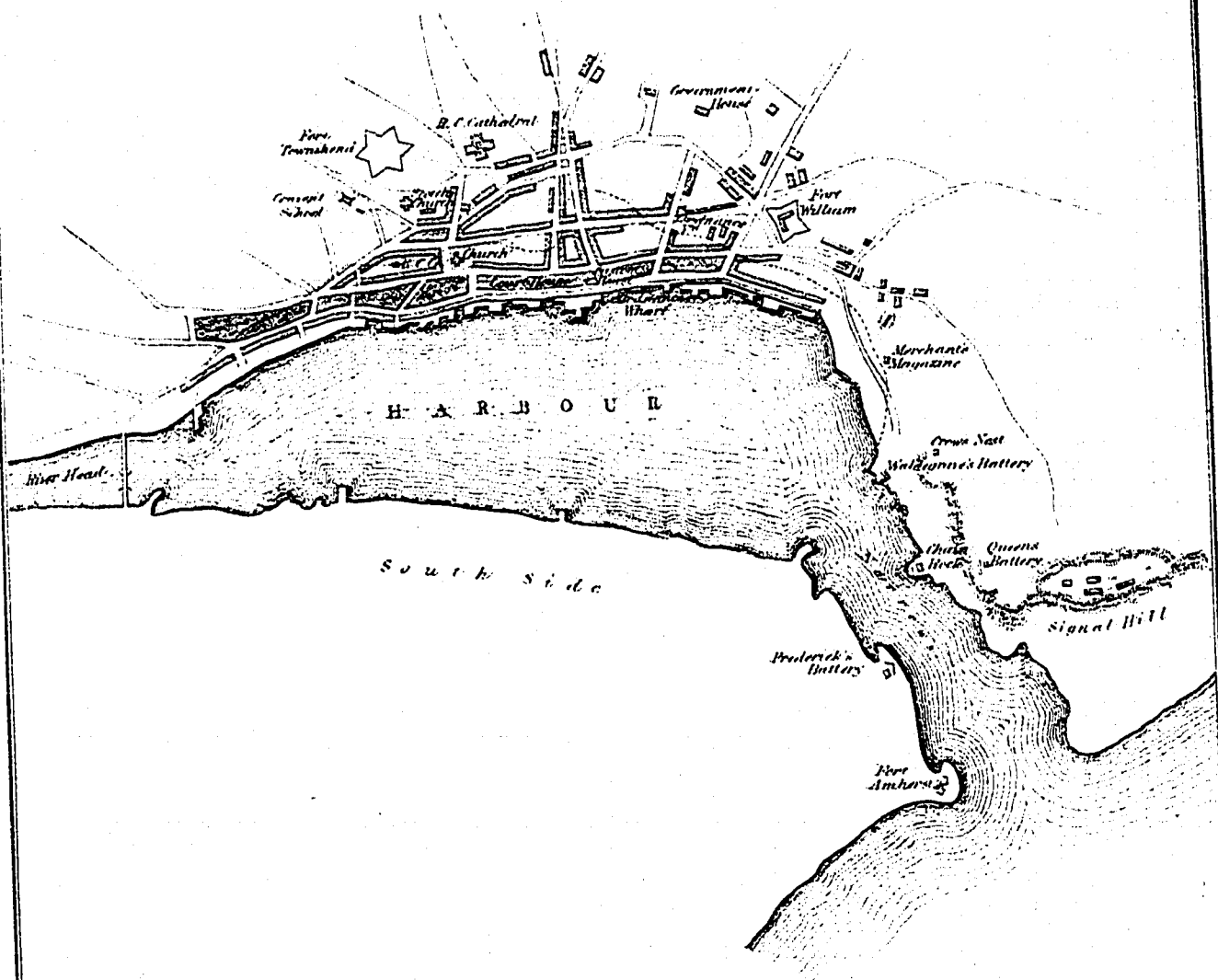
After considering and conferring with gentlemen interested in the colony, upon the question, what description of relief would be most effective, I came to the conclusion that it ought to be given in the form of money, and that all necessary supplies could be better procured from sources other than the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

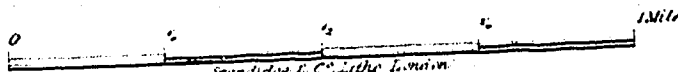
I have, &c.
(signed) *W. E. Gladstone.*

PLAN, N^o 1.
(To face Page 8)

*Sketch of the Town of St. John's Newfoundland,
Shewing by the "Yellow line" the extent of the District
Destroyed by Fire on the 2nd of June, 1846.*



Scale.

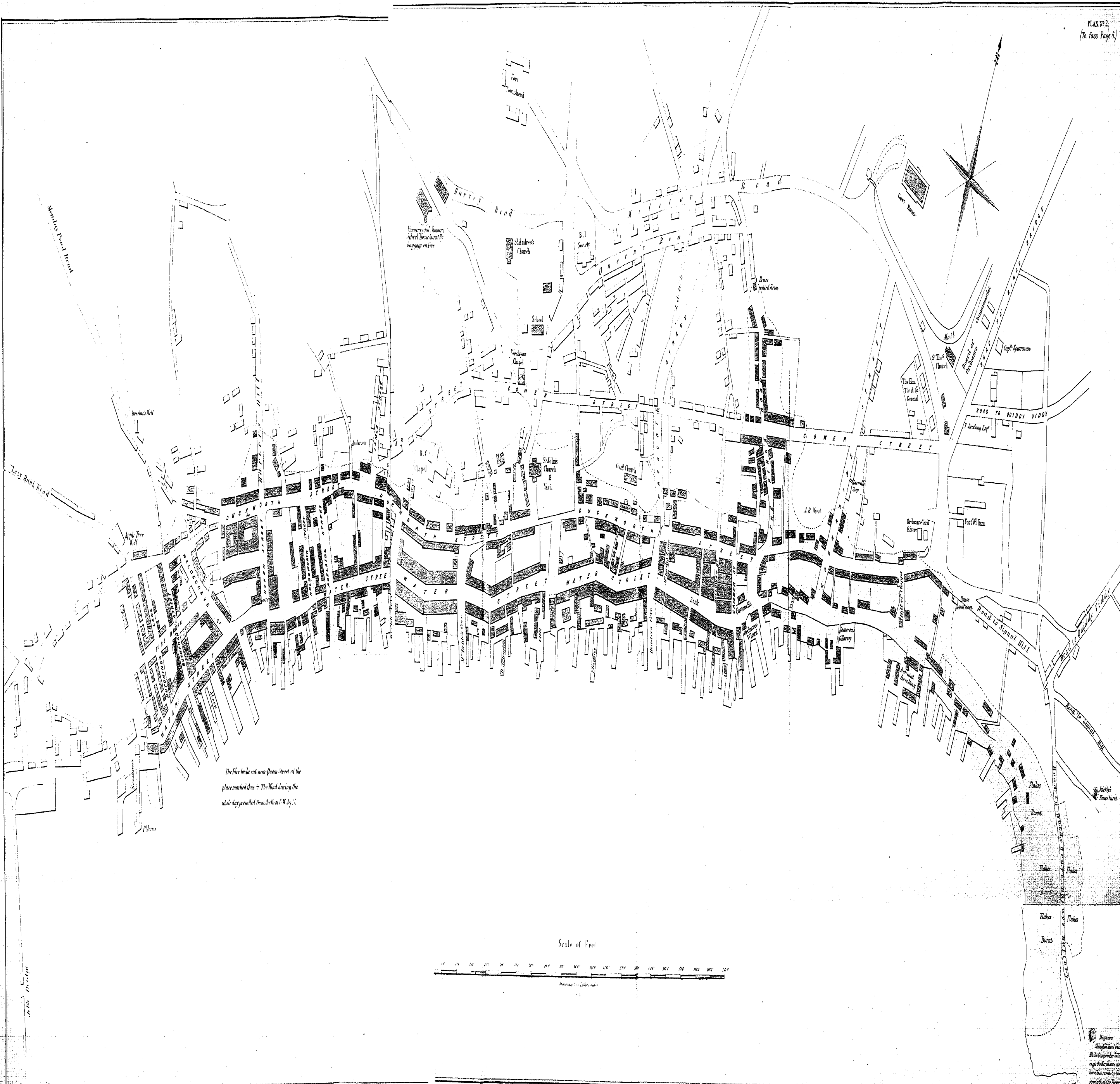


Smallidge & Co. Litho London
1846

ROYAL ENGINEERS OFFICE.

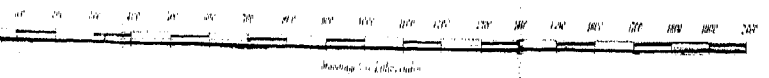
S^t. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND. 12th JUNE, 1846.

A.W. ROBE. MAJOR COMM^o ROYAL ENGINEERS.



The fire broke out near Queen Street at the place marked thus + The wind during the whole day prevailed from the West & W. by N.

Scale of Feet



Map
Printed by
the
Government
Printer
St. John's
Newfoundland

NEWFOUNDLAND.

— No. 3. —

COPY of a CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. *W. E. Gladstone* to the Governor-General and to the Lieutenant-Governors of the *North American Provinces*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 July 1846.

ON the 1st instant I received from the Lieutenant-governor of Newfoundland a report of the calamitous conflagration which has destroyed the greater and more populous part of the city of St. John's in that Island. It appears from that report, that of the 19,000 persons by whom the city was inhabited, 12,000 had been rendered altogether houseless, and that the destruction of provisions, wearing apparel, and the other first necessaries of life, had been such as most severely to enhance their distress.

Her Majesty's Government have, by the mail of this day, authorized the advance of a sum of money to provide some immediate relief for the sufferers. I am well assured that their distress will have excited the lively sympathy of the Queen's subjects in all the neighbouring British provinces, and that your own attention will have been promptly given to the discovery of the most effectual means of relieving them. I cannot, however, permit this mail to be despatched without instructing you to afford such aid as it may be in your power to bestow on the victims of this disaster, either by furnishing supplies of provisions and other stores, or in any other way which you may have reason to believe will more effectually meet the exigency of the occasion.

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

No. 3.
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone to the
Governor-General
and Lieutenant-
Governors of the
North American
Provinces.
3 July 1846.

— No. 4. —

(No. 96.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl *Cathcart*, K.C.B., to the Right Honourable *W. E. Gladstone*.

No. 4.
Earl Cathcart to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone.
22 July 1846.

Government House, Montreal,
22 July 1846.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 105, of the 3d instant, stating that you had received from the Governor of Newfoundland a report of the calamitous conflagration by which the greater part of the city of St. John's has been destroyed, and instructing me to afford such aid as it may be in my power to bestow towards the relief of the victims of this disaster. I have the honour to inform you, in reply, that immediately on the receipt of a letter from Sir John Harvey, acquainting me with the particulars of this calamity, I lost no time in bringing the subject before the executive council of this province, and had much satisfaction in approving of their recommendation that an advance of 2,000*l.* should be made from the Canadian Treasury towards the relief of the immediate wants of the sufferers. This sum was afterwards, by my directions, paid into the hands of the committee appointed in this city to collect contributions, and was by them employed in despatching a schooner laden with flour and other provisions for distribution at St. John's. I enclose for your information a copy of the letter which I addressed to Sir John Harvey, acquainting him with the measures adopted here for the purpose of extending assistance to the unfortunate inhabitants of St. John's.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Cathcart*.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Government House, Montreal,
11 July 1846.

Sir,

Encl. in No. 4.

I AVAIL myself of the sailing of the "St. Croix," chartered for the conveyance of supplies for the relief of the sufferers at St. John's, to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 11th ultimo, with its Enclosures, communicating the particulars of the destructive fire which has reduced to ashes the greater part of that city.

With the ready concurrence of my council, under whose consideration I lost no time in bringing the subject of your Despatch, I have directed an immediate advance of 2,000*l.* from the provincial chest to aid in meeting the appeal which your Excellency has made to the sympathy of the inhabitants of this province, and I do not doubt that private contributions to a large amount will very speedily attest the general feeling of the community in behalf of their fellow subjects who have been overwhelmed by this stupendous calamity.

The Committee appointed to superintend the collection and expenditure of such subscriptions in this city have entered on the discharge of this duty with much energy, and the subscription in this city is proceeding under their superintendence in a highly encouraging manner.

At their suggestion I have caused the amount of the advance from the provincial revenue to be paid over to their treasurer, to be invested in provisions for immediate export to Newfoundland. The accompanying copy of a letter from their Chairman will explain to your Excellency the steps which they have taken and propose to take to carry out the measures intended. Your Excellency, and the inhabitants of the province under your Government, may rely on the sincere anxiety which all parties here manifest to aid in ministering to the utmost of their power to the pressing wants of the sufferers by this calamity.

His Excellency Major-General Sir John Harvey,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Cathcart.*

No. 11, St. F^r Xavier-street, Montreal,
7 July 1846.

Sir,

By direction of the committee to procure relief for the sufferers by the late fire at St. John's, Newfoundland, I have the honour to transmit the enclosed resolutions relative to the manner in which they (the committee) deem it proper that the sum of 2,000*l.*, about to be granted by his Excellency the Governor-general for the above purpose, should be applied, and have to request that you will cause the said resolutions to be submitted to his Excellency.

The Hon. D. Daly, M.P., Secretary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Campion, Secretary.*

No. 11, St. F^r Xavier-street, Montreal,
7 July 1846.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Committee appointed to procure Aid for the Sufferers by the late Fire at St. John's, Newfoundland.

MR. TOBIN informed the committee that the Governor-general in Council had appropriated the sum of 2,000*l.* to the relief of the sufferers at St. John's, Newfoundland, whereupon it was moved by Mr. John Young, seconded by Mr. Joseph Knapp, That, in the opinion of this committee, it is deemed expedient to recommend to the Governor-general that the amount intended to be sent for the relief of the sufferers at St. John's, Newfoundland, be invested in 500 barrels of prime pork, and the remainder in flour. Carried.

Moved by Mr. John M. Tobin, seconded by Mr. John E. Mills, That the Secretary be instructed to forward a copy of the foregoing resolutions to the Government. Carried.

(signed) *J. W. Dunscombe, Chairman.*

— No. 5. —

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 18.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Earl Cathcart, K. C. B.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 18 August 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 22d July, No. 96, in which you report the measures adopted by your executive government, with the view of relieving the distress prevailing at St. John's, Newfoundland, in consequence of the fire at that place; and I have to express to your Lordship the satisfaction with which I have learnt the prompt and liberal assistance which has been extended by your Government to the unfortunate sufferers at St. John's.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

No. 5.
Earl Grey to Earl
Cathcart.
18 August 1846.

— No. 6. —

(No. 76.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke to the Right honourable W. E. Gladstone.

Sir,

Fredericton, New Brunswick, 28 July 1846.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch, No. 41, dated the 3d instant, and having been apprised by Sir John Harvey of the calamitous conflagration which had occurred at St. John's, Newfoundland, I lost no time in calling a public meeting in Fredericton, and in directing that public meetings should be convened in the several counties of the province, with the object of raising subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers.

Enclosed I transmit a copy of the communication I caused to be circulated, and which has led to liberal subscriptions being raised here and in some other quarters. I enclose also copy of a letter which I have addressed to a number of leading gentlemen in St. John's, with the object of aiding the private subscriptions by a public contribution, and in taking this course under the authority conveyed in your despatch, I feel every assurance that the Executive Council, when they meet here on the 31st instant, will concur with me in the measure, and that the Assembly in the next session will reimburse the advance. I will take an early opportunity of again addressing you on this subject.

I have, &c.
(signed) W. M. G. Colebrooke.

No. 6.
Sir W. M. G. Cole-
brooke to Mr. Se-
cretary Gladstone.
28 July 1846.

Enclosure 1, in No. 6.

CIRCULAR.

Sir,

Fredericton, 30 June 1846.

Encl. 1, in No. 6.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-governor having this day received the following despatch from his Excellency Major-general Sir John Harvey, Governor of Newfoundland, detailing the circumstances attending the recent calamitous conflagration in St. John's, the capital of that island, the Lieutenant-governor directs, on receipt of this communication, that you will request the sheriff of the county to call a public meeting, to take the same into consideration, with a view of obtaining such contributions as may be made available for the relief of the sufferers.

To the Clerk of the Peace
of the county of

I have, &c.
(signed) John S. Saunders.
Prov. Sec.

COPY of a LETTER from Major-general Sir John Harvey to Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, dated Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, 11 June 1846.

[For Copy of Sir J. Harvey's Letter to the Governor-general and to the Lieutenant-governors of the North American Provinces, vide page 4.]

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 2, in No. 6.

Encl. 2, in No. 6.

Gentlemen,

Fredericton, N.B., 25 July 1846.

DESIRING to forward to the city of St. John's, Newfoundland, as soon as possible a supply of articles the most urgently required for the relief of the poorer classes of the inhabitants, so many thousands of whom are in a state of destitution from the late conflagration, I request that you will do me the favour to act as a committee, to carry this measure into effect. My object is, that an arrangement should be made for shipping immediately to Newfoundland, in a small fast sailing vessel, a quantity of flour and other articles of subsistence, of building materials, and also some clothing and bedding, particularly for infirm old people and children requiring them, to be consigned for distribution to the committee now sitting at St. John's, Newfoundland. I propose to place at the disposal of the committee a sum not less than 1,000 £, to be laid out in these supplies by the committee, of whom seven may be a quorum, and I leave to the committee whether to obtain them and provide for their transmission by public tender or otherwise, and considering that the object is one of charity, their efforts will, I am sure, be directed to rendering the contribution as effective as possible, by reducing the attendant expenses.

As the Executive Council will meet at Fredericton on the 31st instant, I request that you will oblige me by acknowledging this communication, so as to enable me to advise with the council as to the definitive arrangements.

I would further suggest that the committee should arrange for the reception of voluntary contributions in aid of the supply it is proposed to forward, announcing by public advertisement that they will be received and duly transmitted.

The Honourable Charles Simmonds,
Hugh Johnston, R. L. Hagen,
and J. Robertson.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke.*

— No. 7. —

No. 7.
Earl Grey to Sir
W. M. G. Cole-
brooke.
18 August 1846.

(No. 12.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 18 August 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 76, of the 28th July, in which you report the measures which have been adopted in New Brunswick with the view of mitigating the distress experienced at St. John's, Newfoundland, in consequence of the recent conflagration in that city; and I have to signify to you my approval of the steps which have been taken for this object in New Brunswick.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

— No. 8. —

No. 8.
Sir H. V. Huntley
to Mr. Secretary
Gladstone.
27 July 1846.

(No. 43.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *H. V. Huntley* to the Right honourable *W. E. Gladstone.*

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
27 July 1846.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch, No. 26, of the 3d of July, relating to the calamity which has so recently fallen upon the city of St. John's in Newfoundland, and desiring me to use every endeavour to afford assistance, I beg leave to transmit the Royal Gazette of this island, in which will be found a statement of proceedings adopted by a meeting of the principal inhabitants and others residing in Queen's County.

Independently of the money then subscribed, there will be, I have no doubt, further collections from this as well as from the other counties, which will be forwarded with the least possible delay.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. V. Huntley,*
Lieutenant-governor.

Enclosure in No. 8.

PUBLIC MEETING of the Inhabitants of Queen's County, to take into consideration the best means of affording Relief to the Sufferers by the late Fire at St. John's, Newfoundland.

Encl. in No. 8.

(Reported for the Royal Gazette.)

THE High Sheriff having read the requisition calling the meeting, it was moved by the Hon. the Secretary for the Colony, seconded by his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, that the High Sheriff do take the chair. The High Sheriff (W. Cundall, Esq.) having assumed the chair, John Longworth, Esq., was requested to act as Secretary. The chairman was supported by his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, and the Hon. the Chief Justice. A very numerous assemblage of the inhabitants of the county were present.

The High Sheriff briefly explained the object of the meeting, which was, he observed, not only to assist those who had suffered by the recent fire at St. John's, by contributing their mite towards their relief, but also to convey to the people of that city an expression of sympathy with their sufferings under the calamitous visitation which had befallen them.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-governor moved the first resolution. He would first read to the meeting a despatch which he had that morning received from his Excellency Sir John Harvey, similar to one which had been addressed to the Governor-general and Lieutenant-governors of the British American colonies.

His Excellency observed, that he thought it hardly necessary to appeal at any length to the feelings of the meeting he then addressed. The circumstances spoke for themselves. They had doubtless read the particulars of the fearful disaster which had befallen their fellow colonists in St. John's in the public papers; and the despatch which he had just read to them placed the matter so clearly before them, that he felt assured they would respond to the appeal made to them by Sir John Harvey. Nothing could exceed the zeal, humanity and promptitude displayed by that distinguished officer. His conduct had been above all praise. In bringing the resolution he then held in his hand before them, he would ask the meeting to picture to themselves for a moment the miseries resulting from that dreadful conflagration,—the distress of families,—mothers unable to find shelter for their helpless children,—fathers answering their calls for food by telling them "to wait for daylight," and when that daylight appeared finding they had little or none to give them. It was impossible to contemplate the sufferings of the helpless without having their strongest sympathies awakened. Nor ought this picture to be considered as one representing a state of things which passed away with the passing of the night. The sufferers were yet in want of food,—were yet without shelter. The relief prayed for could not be afforded in a few hours, and it was the obvious duty of all persons to contribute to their utmost means to alleviate such distress as this. There was also a reason, and a very strong one, why this colony should sympathize with and assist the sufferers in Newfoundland. Were they only to argue it as a question of pounds, shillings and pence, they would find the claim that that colony had upon them. It was one of their best and oldest friends. It had been a market for their ships and produce, and had ever maintained with them the greatest honour and integrity. Flourishing as the circumstances of that colony had been, it was now laid even with the poorest, and the feeling of the situation in which such a calamity would place the inhabitants of this town should stimulate them to exertion on behalf of their fellow colonists. Since he (Sir Henry Huntley) had been in the Government of this island no less than four fires had taken place in Charlottetown, and though he was bound to acknowledge the zeal and promptitude of the inhabitants on the occasions alluded to in getting them under, they were indebted for success in their exertions to a higher power than man, without whose Divine assistance the town might have been laid in ashes. The same Providence which had preserved them had afflicted the people of St. John's with this visitation, and it was their duty not only as fellow colonists, but as Christian men, to afford all the relief in their power. It might be but small, but if all gave to the extent of their means, though it were but a mite, a handsome sum might be raised; he would, therefore, impress upon them the duty which they had to perform, and tell them not to be deterred from performing it, because the offering they brought was small. Though it were but a penny it would prove acceptable; and thousands had been collected by the smallest contributions at the doors of churches. His Excellency concluded by expressing his earnest hope and belief that all persons would lend their aid, and contribute to the extent of their means towards the object of the meeting, and then moved the following resolution:—

"It having pleased Almighty God in his inscrutable Providence to visit the inhabitants of St. John's, Newfoundland, with an awfully destructive fire, we, the inhabitants of Queen's County, Prince Edward Island, deeply sympathizing with our fellow colonists in the overwhelming calamity which has thus befallen them, deem it a duty incumbent upon us (in common with the inhabitants of the other districts of this island) to offer our humble contributions towards their relief. Resolved, therefore, that the most prompt and energetic measures be taken by this meeting for the purpose of rendering every assistance to the

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The resolution was seconded by James Peake, Esq.

The Hon. the Chief Justice observed, that it was quite unnecessary for him to enter into further particulars connected with this melancholy visitation of Providence than those which were known to the meeting. They had only to read the accounts already before them to awake their sympathies; for they spoke at once to the heart. A wealthy and flourishing city had been reduced in one night from affluence to poverty, and when the suffering which such an event had produced was considered, he perfectly coincided in opinion with his Excellency, that an appeal to the people, not only in Charlottetown, but throughout the island generally, would not be made in vain. He could not but recur to a similar meeting which had been held last year, at which he had the honour of presiding, to extend relief to the sufferers by the great fire at Quebec. He had received a communication from that place, in which their praiseworthy exertions were not only duly appreciated, but he had heard from a credible source that their contribution exceeded in proportion any that had been made from elsewhere. He could not but therefore cherish a hope that in considering this a calamity of a more afflicting nature than that which had happened to Quebec, the same good feeling would be evinced, and the same liberality shown. If the feeling of self-interest alone were to prevail, even that should induce them to extend all the relief in their power; for when they looked around them on their own town, and contemplated the probability of a similar calamity,—when they saw the blocks of wooden buildings which might in a few short hours be reduced to a heap of ruins,—while they acknowledged the protecting hand of Providence, which had hitherto spared them, and felt that they were not exempt from similar calamities to those which had befallen the other colonies,—they should remember that they might to-morrow want that assistance which it was now in their power to bestow. But he (the Chief Justice) was satisfied it was quite unnecessary to press this matter further on their attention: he believed that charitable feeling would prevail, and that they would liberally contribute to alleviate the want and distress which called so loudly and imperatively upon them.

The Hon. Chief Justice then moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Conroy:—

"2. Resolved, That subscription lists be immediately opened, and that the firewardens in this town be appointed to solicit subscriptions in their several wards, and that they be requested to enter upon their duties without loss of time."

Dr. Conroy could not but feel the strongest sympathy with the inhabitants of St. John's. Having property in that city, which had been providentially preserved, he felt called upon to testify not only his own gratitude, but how deeply he felt the loss which the people of that place had sustained, and to prove in every manner his sincere desire to alleviate the sufferings which they laboured under. He had lately visited that colony, and he should never forget the kind and hospitable manner in which he had been received by all ranks and classes. He felt that the people of that place had a strong claim upon his services, and he would endeavour to contribute in every way towards the object of the meeting. It was of the greatest consequence that the most prompt and energetic measures should be adopted, and he was ready to afford every assistance in his power to alleviate the sufferings which this awful calamity had brought upon the people of St. John's. He most cordially seconded the resolution.

The Hon. John S. Macdonald moved the following resolution, seconded by Andrew Duncan, Esquire.

3. "Resolved, That a committee, consisting of a chairman, secretary, treasurer, and seven other gentlemen, be appointed to carry into effect the intentions of this meeting, and also to correspond with such persons as may be appointed at St. John's, Newfoundland, to ameliorate the melancholy situation of the sufferers at the late calamitous fire at that town, and to convey to them our sympathy on the present trying occasion, and that the following gentlemen compose the said committee, viz. :—

"James Peake, Daniel Brenan, Hon. T. H. Haviland, Andrew Duncan, Hon. Captain Swabey, Dr. Conroy, Thomas Owen, the Chief Justice, Peter Macgowan and George Birnie, Esquires."

Mr. Owen suggested that it might be necessary for the committee to correspond with other persons than those named in the resolution as it then stood.

The resolution was altered to meet Mr. Owen's suggestions, and—

Moved by Daniel Brenan, Esq., seconded by Dennis Reddin, Esq.,—

4. "Resolved, That the committee now appointed be requested to correspond with the ministers of the several congregations throughout the island, the following gentlemen resident in the country, and such other persons as they may deem expedient, for the purpose of soliciting such subscriptions from the inhabitants in their several districts towards the same benevolent object.

Benjamin Clow, Esq., Murray Harbour.
 Joseph Wightman, Esq., Three Rivers, St.
 Andrew's Point.
 Hugh M'Donald, Esq., Georgetown.
 John Dingwell, Esq., Bay Fortune.
 John Macgowan, Esq., Souris.
 James M'Callum, Esq., Brackley Point.
 Peter M'Callum, Esq., St. Peter's Bay.
 Charles Dingwell, Esq., St. Peter's Bay.
 William Hodges, Esq., Rustico.
 Robert Orr, New Glasgow.
 William Haslam, Esq., Lot 67.
 John C. Sims, Esq., New London.
 Charles M'Nutt, Esq., Darnley.

William Bearistoe, Esq., Princetown.
 James Yeo, Esq., Port Hill.
 James Warburton, Esq., Lot 11.
 Allan Forsyth, Esq., Cascumpec.
 Nicholas Conroy, Esq., Tignish.
 Thomas Hunt, Esq., St. Eleanors.
 Lemuel Cambridge, Esq., Lot 16.
 Evan Thomas, Esq., Bedeque.
 Joseph Pope, Esq., Bedeque.
 John Clarke, Cape Traverse.
 Samuel Dawson, Esq., Tryou.
 William Crosby, West River.
 John R. Bourke, Esq., Mill View.
 Allan Macdougall, Esq., Flat River."

During the discussion of this resolution, several suggestions were made by different gentlemen. Among others, Mr. John Davis, jun., suggested that, in consequence of the scarcity of cash, provisions of every description should be accepted as subscriptions. In the state of destitution which prevailed in St. John's, many might be induced to contribute more largely in this manner, and all would prove acceptable.

The chairman said this might be an instruction to the committee.

Hon. Mr. Haviland suggested the use of the words, "pecuniary or otherwise."

The chairman did not doubt that the committee would willingly receive assistance in every form; but as the proceedings of the meeting would doubtless go to the public, it was better so to frame the resolution as to render it perfectly explicit.

Dr. De St. Croix thought it advisable that the committee should request the clergy in the different parts of the island to make collections in their several parishes.

Mr. George Beer thought it would be well if part of the subscriptions collected were laid out in the purchase of provisions. There was an abundance in the island, and it would be better to procure them than to remit money.

Dr. De St. Croix reminded the meeting that a cargo of wheat was to be sold on the following day.

Mr. Reddin was of opinion that, if proper means were adopted, a cargo might be immediately shipped from the island.

Moved by Honourable Edward Palmer, seconded by Charles Binns, Esquire,—

5. "Resolved, That it be a recommendation to the committee to adopt means, as far as practicable, to provide depôts in the most convenient places at the different shipping harbours for the reception and storing such grain, provisions, lumber, &c. as may be subscribed by different individuals, who prefer paying their subscriptions in that manner."

The object of this resolution was, that the people of the country should have it in their power to contribute in perhaps the only way they were able to do so. It was possible, that in the out harbours grain and lumber might be contributed, which it would be difficult, if not almost impossible, for the parties contributing to forward to the committee. If these depôts were established, and publicity given to the fact, much good might be done.

The resolution was seconded by C. Binns, Esquire, who remarked that it was necessary that the people of the country should have an opportunity of contributing to the object in view in the easiest and most practicable manner.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-governor would remark, that he considered it far better, while the committee accepted all contributions that were sent to them, that as much money as possible should be remitted. When a sum of money was subscribed, those for whose benefit it was intended naturally wished to have the disposal of it. Any provisions might be placed in depôt, but he for one certainly did not like the idea of laying out any money that might be contributed.

Mr. Reddin thought that it was probable that produce, under present circumstances, might be more acceptable.

Mr. Brennan.—It would certainly be more generous to forward whatever amount might be received in money, and at the same time it would not hinder the committee from receiving contributions in any other form. It certainly did appear to him rather selfish to expend the money, and it would be a question whether the articles purchased were actually required.

Mr. Coles believed that many persons would contribute if they only knew that produce would be received. He perfectly agreed with his Excellency that it was better to remit whatever money was collected. It would not only look better but would be safer, as articles might be sent which were not required, and of which they already had a surplus.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

He would, as far as contributions were concerned, neither limit nor name the quantity or rate at which produce should be received. He anticipated no difficulty in carrying out the resolutions. He would mention that a variety of useful articles might be shipped at once by individuals. He had himself shipped half a ton of oatmeal to the committee in St. John's, and if others would pay attention to the matter, immediate relief, however small, might be afforded.

Mr. Brennan would again repeat, that the best way was to open a general list; and if people could not give in one way they might be able to do so in another. He was in favour of letting every person give in what manner he pleased.

Hon. Captain Swabey thought that it might impede the object the meeting had in view if they tied up the hands of the committee. He fully concurred with those gentlemen who advocated taking the contributions in whatever way charitably disposed persons might be able to give.

Dr. Conroy thought it was better to leave these matters of detail in the hands of the committee.

Mr. Henry Palmer proposed a resolution, to the effect that it be a recommendation on the part of the meeting, that the Executive be petitioned to grant a sum of money in aid of the object of the meeting.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-governor observed, that he considered such a resolution quite needless. The Executive could appropriate no money, except as provided for in the "Appropriation Bill." Their hands were tied up by that Bill, and he thought it useless to press the resolution.

Hon. E. Palmer was aware of the provision in the "Appropriation Bill," but it was possible for the Executive to make any advance, and afterwards ask for an indemnity. These matters were never acted upon in strictness, and under such circumstances, he, if he possessed the power, should not oppose any such proposition. It was true it rested with the Legislature to confirm or disallow the act of the Executive, but this was the case in all the colonies, and an indemnity under such circumstances was always given.

Mr. Brennan thought there would be no necessity to create the possibility of collision. He hoped the motion would not be proposed.

Mr. H. Palmer had no wish to press his resolution.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-governor hoped and believed such a step would not be necessary, and that there would be no occasion to call upon the public funds. He had that confidence in the people of the island, that he hoped no such call would be made until the population had shown their intentions. He thought that if the matter were left to the open, honest and frank minds of the public, it would be sufficient to answer the object of the meeting.

The resolution was withdrawn.

Moved by William Forgan, Esquire, seconded by Daniel Brennan, Esquire,—

6. "Resolved, That the most respectful thanks of this meeting be given to his Excellency Sir Henry Vere Huntley, Knight, for his condescension and promptness in attending this meeting, and for his liberality in contributing so handsomely to the objects thereof."

His Excellency returned thanks. In any service which he might have rendered he had been assisted by the able conduct of the chairman, and kind feeling of the meeting. He regretted that the word "condescension" had been applied to an act which was his duty, and which was cheerfully performed at the call of benevolence. His Excellency concluded by moving the following resolution, which was seconded by the Hon. the Chief Justice, and carried by acclamation.

7. "Resolved, That the warmest thanks of this meeting be given to the high sheriff of this county for the able conduct which he has displayed in presiding over this meeting."

The high sheriff returned thanks. It gave him much pleasure to have presided over such a meeting, and he hoped all who wished to carry out its object would experience that it was "more blessed to give than to receive." He appreciated the feeling shown, and returned the meeting his sincere thanks.

The subscriptions were then entered into.

Amount of subscriptions - - - £.207. 10.

(No. 5.)

— No. 9. —

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Earl *Grey* to Sir *H. V. Huntley*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 September 1846.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 43,* July 27th, reporting the proceedings which have taken place in Queen's County, Prince Edward's Island, for the purpose of alleviating the distress occasioned to the inhabitants of St. John's, Newfoundland, by the recent fire at that place, and I have to express my satisfaction at learning the sympathy which has been exhibited in this county towards the distressed population of St. John's.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey*.

No. 9.

Earl Grey to
Sir H. V. Huntley.
3 September 1846.

* Page 12.

(No. 39.)

— No. 10. —

No. 10.

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

Governor Sir
J. Harvey to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone.

18 June 1846.

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
18 June 1846.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th instant, No. 38, I have now the honour to report that I opened the Special Session of the General Assembly on the 16th instant (every member in the island being in attendance, except one for one of the most remote districts), with a speech, of which I have the honour to transmit a copy, as well as of the address which was promptly adopted in answer, and presented to me by the Speaker and the whole House on the following day. The only further action which has as yet been adopted by the House is an address to me for a survey of the burnt district, which has already been furnished. The discussion will now take place as to the sum to be applied for in aid of the reconstruction of the city (which will probably not exceed in the first instance), followed by the passing of a Bill for securing the punctual payment of the interest, and the ultimate repayment of the principal of the loan.

I am happy to say that, with the exception of a few hundred persons, chiefly women and children, by whom the tents continue to be occupied, the whole of the houseless appear to have found temporary cover. Several vessels have already entered the port laden with provisions. Many shops have been reopened, chiefly on the south side of the harbour, and articles of primary necessity are being retailed at scarcely any advance of price. Employment of the industrious classes is being gradually resumed. Order, tranquillity, and comparative cheerfulness prevail, and every thing appears to indicate that the weight of the late calamity, as respects the lower classes, is beginning to be alleviated.

But, as the summers are very short in this climate, and it is most important that some provision should be made as respects shelter for such as may be found in need of it at the approach of winter, I would respectfully submit whether a couple of good sized vessels of war, to be moored in this harbour, and used as receiving ships for the houseless, might not be spared from England for this service of humanity; and if they were to bring out a donation of fuel (coals), provisions, bedding and blankets, coarse warm clothing, &c., &c., their advent would be a joyful and acceptable event to the poor of this afflicted place; and I venture to add, that if they had a few heavy guns on board they would add greatly to the defences of the place in case of any unforeseen emergency, of the probability of which, and the consequent value of this suggestion, Her Majesty's Government must be the fittest judge. In the meantime funds have been placed at my disposal by the local legislature for the erection of such temporary sheds as may serve for the cover of the houseless during the summer months, as considerable suffering is already beginning to be experienced in the (fireless) tents during the nights, which are at all times cold in this climate whenever the wind is either northerly or easterly, and particularly as there is at present an unusual quantity of ice on this coast.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey*.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure in No. 10.

Encl. in No. 10.

SPEECH of his Excellency the Governor on opening a Special Session of the Legislature, Tuesday, 16th June 1846.

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

THE great calamity with which it has pleased the Almighty Disposer of Events to visit this colony has imposed upon me the necessity of suddenly resorting to your advice and co-operation, as well for the purpose of providing means of relief for present distress as for devising well-considered measures for regulating the reconstruction of that large portion of this city which has been swept away by the late awful conflagration, upon a plan, which, while it shall confer that which St. John's has never before enjoyed, viz., a due degree of security (as far as can be effected by human precautions) upon property of every kind deposited within it, shall at the same time not only embellish the provincial capital, but tend greatly to promote the health, comfort and convenience of its inhabitants, objects which I think you will agree with me in regarding as quite incompatible with that long continuous line of wooden wharfs, covered with every species of goods of the most inflammable kind (including oil vats), and the close admixture of wood and stone buildings crowded together in narrow streets, and without an adequate command of water which heretofore characterized it, and which leaves less cause for surprise at the occurrence of the calamity, than that it should not long since have happened.

In the endeavour to effect improvements of such magnitude, and fraught with such incalculable permanent benefit to this commercial emporium, but of which the attainment is obviously beyond the present unaided powers, though I trust not beyond the ultimate reach of the well-assured resources of the colony, I am ready to concur with you in an application to the Imperial Government to guarantee a loan to Newfoundland to such an amount, not exceeding half a million pounds, as may, upon mature consideration, be regarded as requisite and sufficient for effecting the objects to which I have adverted, the punctual payment of a moderate rate of interest, and the ultimate repayment of the principal within a specified period, being provided for and secured by the assignment of a sufficient portion of its permanent revenues.

In the meantime many preparatory arrangements connected with the preservation of the public health, peace and security of property, the continuance of the supply of food and shelter to such of the houseless and destitute as may be incapable of labour, but, above all, the restoration of regular employment to the industrious classes, to whom, if I have not formed an erroneous estimate of their general character, I cannot doubt that the bread of independence would be far sweeter than that which is purely eleemosynary or unearned by honest labour.

In proceeding to apprise you of the measures which I deemed it necessary promptly to adopt (with the advice and consent of Her Majesty's Council), with a view to meet the pressing emergency created by this awful calamity, and in respect to which I have confidently anticipated your cordial concurrence, I know not how that object can be more readily effected than by reading to you an extract of the despatch which I addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, immediately after the occurrence of the calamity, and which is now on its way to England.

"Sir,—It has pleased the Almighty to visit this colony with a great calamity. It was as if the wing of the destroying angel, in the shape of an awful and irresistible conflagration, had suddenly swept away three-fourths of this so lately wealthy and prosperous city.

"A fire broke out at half past eight o'clock yesterday morning in the western section of the city, and owing to the prevalence of a westerly gale of wind, which unhappily continued to increase in violence, before the close of the day most of its public buildings, and the whole, with one single exception, of its wharves, storehouses, and mercantile establishments, upwards of a mile in extent, had been reduced to ashes. It is estimated that 2,000 houses, and property to the amount of from 600,000 £. to 1,000,000 £. has been destroyed, and that 12,000 persons are now houseless.

"Much as the losses of the mercantile and the sufferings of the labouring classes claim our sympathies, yet should our deepest commiseration rest upon the middle classes, who, accustomed to comparative ease and comfort, find themselves and their helpless families suddenly reduced to a state of the most absolute destitution. Every effort dependent upon the local government will be made and is making for their relief, and that of the lower orders; but even under circumstances apparently so destitute, and with a scene of such affecting desolation before my eyes, still do I indulge a sanguine hope, that if promptly aided by the benevolence and liberality of the British people, of the legislatures and people of the neighbouring colonies, but, above all, by the British Government and Parliament, not only will the present distress be at once alleviated, but the fine site of the capital of this most ancient and valuable possession of the British Crown, which, as a commercial town, may be said for the present almost to have ceased to exist, will again be occupied by buildings of so secure and durable a description, laid out upon a plan so judicious and well-considered, as at no remote period to convert the calamity which is now pressing so heavily upon its inhabitants into a great and inappreciable blessing.

"A similar

" A similar calamity, though not to the same extent, was thus turned into a vast benefit, even by the almost unaided efforts of the province itself, during the period of my administration of the Government of New Brunswick, some years ago. NEWFOUNDLAND.

" In order to meet the pressing emergencies of our situation I have adopted the following measures:—

" 1st. I have by proclamation convened the local legislature to meet in six days; viz., on the 16th instant.

" 2d. I have issued a proclamation, laying an embargo, for a limited period, upon the exportation of provisions, other than such as are required for the use of crews, passengers and the fisheries.

" 3d. I have issued a proclamation, warning all persons against the re-construction of wooden buildings upon the burnt district before the intentions of the local legislature upon the subject shall be declared.

" 4th. I have addressed a circular letter to the Governor-general and Lieutenant-governors of all the British American Colonies, and to Her Majesty's consuls at Boston and New York, of which copies are enclosed.

" 5th. I have authorized the chartering of two vessels, one to Halifax and one to New York, for provisions.

" 6th. I called a meeting this day, in this house (at which I presided), of all the heads of the mercantile establishments, as well as of the principal inhabitants, the clergy, judges, and officers of the Government. Copy of the resolutions adopted at this meeting, as well as of other resolutions adopted at a meeting of the inhabitants previously held, are enclosed, the whole of which it will be perceived I had anticipated.

" June 12.

" I have now the satisfaction to report, that through the operations of the committee of relief appointed at the meeting of Wednesday, all the houseless have been placed under shelter, in aid of which I have placed all the tents in the Ordnance store (51) at its disposal; and an adequate supply of provisions, particularly bread, has been and will continue to be issued to them for the present."

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

I have directed that the state of the public funds, including all receipts and expenditure since your recent separation, shall be laid before you; and, inviting on your part the most unreserved communication and interchange with me of such ideas as may mutually suggest themselves to us as to the remedial measures best calculated to aid the colony in recovering from the effects of this dire calamity, I now leave you to your deliberations.

ADDRESS of the House of Assembly in answer to his Excellency's Speech, adopted and presented to his Excellency by the Speaker and the whole House on the following day.

To his Excellency Major-general Sir John Harvey, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies, &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Legislative Assembly of Newfoundland in general session convened, beg leave to thank your Excellency for the gracious speech with which your Excellency has been pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature.

While we deplore equally with your Excellency the calamitous event which has occasioned our being assembled at this season, we fully concur in the opinion that an immediate and pressing necessity exists for the adoption, under the sanction of legislative authority, of such remedial measures as may tend to the relief of present suffering, to the prevention of a recurrence of a catastrophe so afflicting as that with which we have been recently visited, and to the permanent improvement of the capital of this colony.

Upon the subject of an application to the Imperial Government for a loan of money to be appropriated towards the rebuilding of St. John's, we beg to assure your Excellency of our unqualified concurrence in the absolute necessity of such a measure. With such aid the resources of the colony will again be speedily developed; trade will resume its course, and industry will obtain its accustomed reward; but without it this valuable colony will languish; many who still possess large capital may lose much that remains to them for want of present assistance; and thousands of our hardy fishermen and artificers, with their families, driven in destitution and misery from our shores, will emigrate to the United States of America, or be thrown upon the resources of the parent country or our neighbouring colonies. We heartily assure your Excellency that our best endeavours and co-operations shall not be wanting to carry into effect your Excellency's important suggestions on this point.

We thank your Excellency for the measures which your Excellency has caused to be adopted for the present relief of the most urgent necessities of those of the inhabitants of St. John's who have lost their houses and property in the recent conflagration, for the prompt communication of our situation to Her Majesty's Government and the governments

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of the neighbouring colonies, and for the applications for assistance which your Excellency has kindly made on behalf of our poorer fellow citizens.

We shall be glad to receive such information upon our financial condition as your Excellency may be pleased to communicate; and we beg to assure your Excellency of our earnest desire to apply ourselves as speedily as possible to the framing and adoption of such legislative enactments as our present state and circumstances may require, and as may most conduce to the permanent welfare and prosperity of this ancient colony.

Passed the General Assembly, 17th June 1846.

(signed) *John Kent*, Speaker.

To the foregoing his Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

I AM happy to receive this prompt and emphatic declaration of your concurrence in the views and opinions which I yesterday laid before you, and the assurance of your satisfaction with the measures which I deemed it my duty promptly to adopt for the purpose of meeting, by the necessary aid in food and shelter, the distress which this great calamity had suddenly brought upon so many of the poorer classes of our fellow subjects. No time will be lost by me in bringing to the knowledge of the Secretary of State the earnest petition of the legislature of Newfoundland that it may receive from the Imperial Government and Parliament that aid by which it can alone hope to effect the great object of renovating its commercial capital in such a manner as to confer upon it increased security and consequent prosperity. And I do not allow myself to entertain any doubt that this appeal will be met in a manner accordant with the paternal character of the Government of our gracious Sovereign.

(signed) *J. Harvey*.

— No. 11. —

No. 11.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
J. Harvey.
18 July 1846.

(No. 1.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir *John Harvey*, K. C. B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 18 July 1846.

IMMEDIATELY after the seals of this office had been confided to me, my attention was directed to the consequences to the inhabitants of St. John's, Newfoundland, of the recent calamitous fire at that place. Finding that Her Majesty's late Government, in the position which they occupied at the period of the departure of the last North American mail, only felt themselves at liberty to authorize an advance of money to the extent of 5,000*l.*, (that sum being regarded as sufficient for affording relief in urgent cases for the space of a fortnight), it devolved on Her Majesty's present advisers to consider what measures should be taken to afford further and more extensive assistance. I have now the satisfaction of acquainting you that, after ample inquiry, Her Majesty's Government have determined upon applying immediately to Parliament for a grant of 30,000*l.*, and that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will, by this packet, instruct the officer in charge of the commissariat at Newfoundland to place at your disposal the sum of 25,000*l.*, which will complete the whole amount proposed to be granted.

It is scarcely necessary for me to express my conviction that you will make every arrangement which may be expedient and effectual for ensuring the due application of this money to the service of the persons who have been rendered destitute by this calamitous event.

A deputation of gentlemen and merchants in this city, connected with Newfoundland, having waited upon me on this subject, it was strongly pressed upon me at that interview that, as your successor in the Government could not be expected to reach the colony for some months, and as, under existing circumstances, it would be very undesirable that the administration of the Government should, in your absence, devolve upon an officer who would only exercise the provisional functions of your situation, it would be most conducive to the public interests if you could be persuaded to remain at Newfoundland until the spring. It is due to those gentlemen to state that the above suggestion most fully corresponds with my own views, and I trust that the state of your health and other circumstances will not deprive the colony of the advantage of your services and advice during the ensuing winter, which from the late calamity may possibly be one of great distress.

I reserve

I reserve for future consideration the question mooted in your despatch, No. 39,* of the 18th June, which has just reached me, as to the stationing of two vessels off St. John's to afford shelter to the houseless inhabitants of that city.

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* Page 17.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

— No. 12. —

(No. 45.)

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

Newfoundland, Government-House, Saint John's.
23 June 1846.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches of the 10th and 18th instant, Nos. 38† and 39,‡ I have now the honour to transmit to you an Act which has been passed by the General Assembly of this Colony, specially convened by me (chiefly with this object), and to which I have this day given my assent, and by which provision is made, secured upon the permanent assignment of the whole of the revenues of the colony, for the punctual payment of the interest and the ultimate repayment of the principal, of any sum not exceeding 250,000*l.*, which by the aid and guaranty of Her Majesty's Government may be raised in England for the object of rebuilding that portion of this lately wealthy city which was destroyed by the late conflagration.

To this Act I have the honour most earnestly to solicit your early and favourable attention, and that of Her Majesty's Government, under the conviction which I feel, that by no other means than those referred to in this Bill can the grievous and overwhelming calamity with which it has pleased Almighty God to visit this lately prosperous and thriving colony be repaired, its unaided resources, great and staple as they assuredly are, being utterly inadequate to effect this great work of renovation within such a period as may counteract the ruinous consequences of the withdrawal of any considerable portion of the British capital at present embarked in its trade,—a calamity which by prompt relief may now be averted.

Feeling it unnecessary for me further to dilate upon the vast importance to Newfoundland involved in the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the proposition now submitted to them,

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey.*

P. S.—In presenting this Bill for my assent, the Speaker said "that the passing of this Act added to the confidence which was felt in the paternal character of Her Majesty's Government,—had raised the drooping spirits of the citizens of St. John's," to which he added the expression of the conviction which was felt by the House and the colony, that no effort on my part to promote its success would be withheld.

J. H.

Enclosure in No. 12.

(No. 58.)

AN ACT to raise by Loan a Sum of Money for the Rebuilding and Improvement of the Town of St. John's.

Encl. in No. 12.

WHEREAS the town of St. John's, the capital of this island, hath been recently visited by a devastating conflagration which has destroyed the chief portion thereof; and the extensive ravages of the said fire, and the consequent destruction of property, were mainly attributable to the inflammable materials of which the buildings were in a great measure composed,

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and to the narrowness and irregularity of the streets: And whereas in the reconstruction of the said town it is highly expedient and necessary, as well for the security of property and the reduction of the expense of insurance, as for the health and convenience of the inhabitants, that the streets thereof should be laid out upon an improved plan, both as to width and regularity, and should be intersected at suitable distances by open cross streets or fire-breaks; and further, that the buildings to be erected in the said town should be constructed in accordance with such regulations for that purpose as shall be made and declared by the Legislature: And whereas, in consequence of the late calamity it will press heavily upon the means of private individuals owning property in the said town, who may be required to reconstruct their dwelling-houses and stores of stone or brick, and it would greatly facilitate the rebuilding of the said town, develop the resources, and promote the prosperity of the colony, if loans towards rebuilding on a new improved plan of the town were made to private individuals on the security of mortgages on the property so to be built upon: And whereas, for the purpose of aiding parties by such loans as aforesaid, as also for the compensation of persons whose ground may be taken for the widening and altering of the streets, and for other public purposes, it is necessary that a loan or loans of money, not exceeding in all the sum of 250,000*l.*, should be raised, chargeable upon and to be repaid with interest out of the public funds of this colony, and it is desirable that such loan or loans should be raised by and through the intervention and guarantee of Her Majesty's Government: And whereas, in further security for the repayment of the principal and interest to grow due upon such loan, it is expedient that (in addition to the charge upon the revenues of this colony as aforesaid) the mortgages of property so to be executed as above mentioned should be made and executed to such person or persons in trust as shall for that purpose be named and appointed by Her Majesty's Government: Be it therefore enacted, by the Governor, Council and Assembly, in Legislative Session convened, and by the authority of the same, that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor or person administering the Government of this colony for the time being, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Council, to negotiate with any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or elsewhere, either directly with such person or persons, or bodies politic or corporate, or through the intervention of Her Majesty's Government, as by and with the advice aforesaid he shall deem most expedient, for the raising and obtaining, from time to time, by way of loan, of such sum or sums of money as may be requisite for the purposes above specified, not exceeding in the whole the sum of 250,000*l.*; which said sum or sums of money shall be chargeable upon and be repaid out of the public funds of this colony, together with interest at such rates, in such instalments and manner, and at such times as the Governor and Council may deem most expedient, and as shall be provided and agreed upon by and with Her Majesty's Government, and the parties advancing the sums of money to be loaned as aforesaid.

II. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor or person administering the Government for the time being, and he is hereby authorized and empowered, by and with the advice aforesaid, upon obtaining such loan of 250,000*l.*, or any portions thereof, from time to time to grant and issue, or cause to be granted and issued, one or more debentures for the same, to be numbered in succession, from one upwards; and such debentures shall be in such form and words as is usual and customary in the like cases, and as shall be needful for the purposes of this Act, and shall be signed and executed on the part and behalf of this colony, by such person or persons as the Governor or person administering the Government of this colony shall, by warrant under the great seal of the colony, from time to time, for that purpose, appoint.

III. And be it further enacted, that from and out of such monies as shall from time to time remain in the hands of the treasurer of the colony unappropriated, there be granted to Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors, such sum or sums of money, not exceeding in all the sum of 10,000*l.* annually, as may be necessary to defray the interest yearly, to grow due upon the said sum of 250,000*l.*, or such portion or portions thereof as may be raised on loan under and by means of this Act.

IV. And be it further enacted, that for the purpose of enabling private individuals to reconstruct their dwelling-houses and stores of stone or brick, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor or person administering the Government, in Council, to receive the applications of persons desirous of obtaining loans of money for that purpose; and upon proof, to the satisfaction of the Governor and Council, that the title and nature of the interest of the applicants in the ground on which such buildings are proposed to be erected, are such as to afford reasonable security for the repayment of the sums to be loaned thereon, to lend and advance to such persons respectively such sum or sums as the Governor and Council shall deem proper, not exceeding in the whole three-fourths of the appraised value of the interest of the party borrowing in the premises on which such buildings shall be intended to be erected. And all such loans to private individuals shall be made upon the express condition, and on due security being taken, that the sums advanced to them shall be expended in the erection of buildings on the mortgaged premises respectively, in accordance with such plan and regulations as shall be made and prescribed by any Act or Acts of the Legislature of this colony for that purpose. And all and every mortgages, conveyances, leases or other charges of and upon the respective premises of the parties to whom such loans shall be granted as aforesaid shall, for the better security
and

and repayment of the said public loan of 250,000 L., be made and executed to such person or persons, in trust, as shall be named and appointed, and under and subject to such rules, regulations and restrictions as shall be made and prescribed for that purpose by Her Majesty's Government. NEWFOUNDLAND.

V. And be it further enacted, that no part of the said sum of 250,000 L., to be raised and borrowed on the credit of this colony, shall be expended or applied in any way or manner other than such as is herein directed and expressed, or shall be directed and expressed by some other Act or Acts of the Legislature of this colony.

VI. And be it further enacted, that this Act shall not be of any force or effect until Her Majesty's pleasure thereon shall have been first signified.

— No. 13. —

(No. 46.)

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

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
24 June 1846.

Sir,

SINCE three o'clock yesterday the General Assembly has (acting promptly upon my suggestion) passed an Act to which I have just given my assent, and by which it appears to me to have afforded unequivocal evidence of its desire to act in perfect good faith in the matter of the loan, by having by this Bill assigned and placed beyond its own control for an unlimited period, or rather for a period limited only by the duration of the obligation, the import duties on certain articles of which the produce may be fairly estimated at 16,000 L. per annum, it never having fallen materially below that amount, to be applied exclusively in the first instance to the payment of the interest of the loan now proposed to be raised through the aid and intervention of the Imperial Government.

Trusting that this prompt and in some respects voluntary measure will be regarded with satisfaction by Her Majesty's Government,

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Harvey*.

No. 13.
Governor Sir
J. Harvey to Mr.
Secretary Glad-
stone.
24 June 1846.

No. 59.

Enclosure in No. 13.

(No. 59.)

AN ACT to make further Provision for securing the due Payment of the Interest that shall become due and payable upon a certain Loan to be raised under Authority of an Act passed in this present Session, intituled, "An Act to raise by Loan a certain Sum of Money for the Rebuilding and Improvement of the Town of St. John's."

Encl. in No. 13.

WHEREAS during this present session of the General Assembly of the Island of Newfoundland an Act hath been passed, intituled, "An Act to raise by Loan a Sum of Money for the Rebuilding and Improvement of the Town of St. John's:" And whereas by the said Act it is enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor or person administering the government of this colony for the time being, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Council, under the provisions contained and expressed in the said Act, to negotiate for, raise, and obtain by way of loan such sum or sums of money as may be requisite for the purposes mentioned in the said Act, not exceeding in the whole the sum of 250,000 L., and which sum and sums of money, together with interest for the same, shall be chargeable upon and be repaid out of the public funds of this colony: And whereas it is expedient and necessary that ample and satisfactory securities should be provided for the due and regular payment of the interest as it shall grow due upon the said sum of 250,000 L., or upon such portion or portions thereof as may be raised on loan: And whereas in and by an Act passed by the Governor, Council and Assembly of Newfoundland, in the ninth year of Her Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain Duties on Goods, Wares and Merchandize imported into this Colony and its Dependencies," the following duties are imposed to be paid upon the importation into this colony of the several articles of

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wines, spirits, tea, tobacco and salted provisions; that is to say, upon all wines in bottles, the gallon, 2s. 6d.; all other wines, the gallon, 1s. 6d.; for every gallon of brandy, Geneva, cordials, or other spirits not therein defined or enumerated, the gallon, 2s. 6d.; for every gallon of rum and whiskey, the gallon, 6d.; for every pound of tea, 3d.; for every 1,000 of cigars, 10s.; for every pound of manufactured and for every pound of leaf tobacco, 2d., and for every 112 pounds of tobacco stems, 2s.; for every 112 pounds of meat salted or cured, 1s. 6d.; which said Act as is therein declared is made to continue and be in force from the 5th day of July 1846, and thence for the period of 18 calendar months, and no longer: And whereas it is expedient that so much of the said Act as relates to the payment of the several duties on all the before-enumerated articles, and also that all the clauses, provisions and regulations contained in the same Act for the levying and collecting the said duties, should be made perpetual, and that the produce of the said duties should be applied in the first instance towards the payment of the interest to grow due upon the principal monies to be raised on loan, under the provisions of the Act first above recited; be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly in Legislative Session convened, and by the authority of the same, that all such parts of the before-mentioned Act passed in the last Session of the General Assembly, as impose the payment of duties on all and every of the above-enumerated articles after the rates aforesaid, and all and every the clauses, provisions, regulations and restrictions relating to the levying, collecting and securing of the same duties as the same are declared and set forth in the said Act, shall be and the same are hereby made perpetual; and that all the monies and produce of the said enumerated duties, or so much thereof as may become necessary for the purpose, shall be paid and applied towards defraying the interest to grow due upon the said sum of 250,000 £., or such portions thereof as shall be raised on loan as aforesaid.

Passed the General Assembly, 24th June 1846.

(signed) *John Kent*, Speaker.

(signed) *J. Harvey*, Governor.

Governor's Assent given on the same day.

— No. 14. —

(No. 7.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir *John Harvey*, K.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 July 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches, Nos. 45* and 46,† of the 23d and 24th of June, accompanying the transcripts of two Acts passed in the month of June last by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of Newfoundland in Legislative Session convened (and distinguished in the records of this Department by the numbers 58 and 59), intituled,—

No. 58. "An Act to raise by Loan a Sum of Money for the Rebuilding and Improvement of the Town of St. John's."

No. 59. "An Act to make further Provision for securing the due Payment of the Interest that shall become due and payable upon a certain Loan to be raised under authority of an Act passed in the present Session, intituled, 'An Act to raise by Loan a Sum of Money for the Rebuilding and Improvement of the Town of St. John's.'"

The operation of the Act, No. 58, is suspended for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

Her Majesty's Government have already given the most conclusive proof in their power of the regret and sympathy with which they have regarded the calamitous conflagration which has destroyed so large a part of the city of St. John's, Newfoundland; but their anxiety to mitigate that disaster would not justify their advising the Queen to assent to an Act framed on the assumption that the guarantee of the British Treasury will be given to a loan to be raised in this country for rebuilding and improving the city. If the local Legislature should see fit to pass a law for raising such a loan on the single security

No. 14.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
J. Harvey.
27 July 1846.

* Page 21.
† Page 23.

security of the local revenue, I foresee no objection to such a measure. But the Act No. 58 will not be confirmed, and consequently, the Act No. 59 will not come into operation. It ought therefore to be repealed.

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I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

— No. 15. —

(No. 47.)

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

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
26 June 1846.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches, Nos. 38, 39, 45, 46, of 10th, 18th, 23d, and 24th instant, I avail myself of a running ship, expected to make a quick passage to Cork, to transmit to you copies of the speech with which I opened, on the 16th instant, the session of the local Legislature specially convened by me, in consequence of the great calamity which had so suddenly befallen this colony, in the destruction of its capital by fire, of the address in answer, with my reply, and of two Acts since passed, assigning the whole of the revenues of the colony for the ultimate repayment of the principal, and hypothecating a certain portion thereof for the punctual payment of the interest of the loan of 250,000 *l.*, proposed to be raised through the aid and intervention of the Imperial Government and Parliament for the rebuilding of this town on a more secure plan.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey.*

No. 15.
Governor
Sir J. Harvey to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone.
26 June 1846.

For Sir J. Harvey's
speech, vide pages
18 and 19.
For Acts Nos. 58,
and 59, vide pages
21 and 23.

— No. 16. —

(No. 50.)

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

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
6 July 1846.

Sir,

IN compliance with the wishes of the General Assembly, I have the honour herewith to transmit the copy of an address which has this day been presented to me by a deputation of that body, of which the object is to solicit a grant from the Imperial Parliament for the reconstruction of certain of the public offices in this city destroyed by the recent conflagration.

The buildings referred to, were all (except the custom-house) of wood, and I would propose that the court-house, police-office, gaol and record-office, should be reconstructed of brick or stone, and all included in one building, of which the cost need not, I should imagine, exceed from 8,000 *l.* to 10,000 *l.*

With respect to the custom-house, the collector has obtained my leave to proceed to England for the purpose of submitting to his own department a plan and estimate for the reconstruction of that office, and in which I would recommend to be included accommodation for the offices (so intimately mixed up in their transactions) of the colonial treasurer and the postmaster, an arrangement in which the collector fully concurs.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey.*

No. 16.
Governor
Sir J. Harvey to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone.
6 July 1846.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Encl. in No. 16.

Enclosure in No. 16.

To his Excellency Major-General Sir *John Harvey*, K.C.B. and K.C.H., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

THE House of Assembly beg leave respectfully to acquaint your Excellency that they are humbly of opinion, that in the general depression arising from the effects of the late conflagration, by which more than two-thirds of St. John's, the capital of the island, were swept away, it would greatly conduce to allay the apprehensions of the industrious classes, and retain them in the colony, if those buildings essentially necessary to the administration of the Government were speedily to be erected.

They, therefore, respectfully pray your Excellency, that, in order to remove the fears of the population by the diffusion of employment, as soon as possible, your Excellency will please to represent to Her Majesty's Government the importance of ordering the erection of a court-house, police-office, gaol, record-office, custom-house, treasury and post-office, to replace those that have been destroyed.

House of Assembly,
3 July 1846.

(signed) *John Kent*,
Speaker.

— No. 17. —

(No. 9.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl *Grey* to Governor Sir *John Harvey*, K.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 July 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 50,* of the 6th of July, in which you enclose an address presented to you by the General Assembly of Newfoundland, praying that you would submit to Her Majesty's Government the importance of directing the reconstruction of the public buildings in the city of St. John's which have been destroyed by the recent conflagration at that place.

I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government are unable to comply with the wishes of the General Assembly of Newfoundland on this occasion, as they are not prepared to recommend the Imperial Parliament to make the pecuniary provision which would be requisite for the re-erection of the public buildings in the colony, in addition to the late grant of 30,000 *l*.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey*.

— No. 18. —

(No. 59.)

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

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
3 August 1846.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch, No. 27,† of 3d ultimo, authorizing me to call upon the commissariat chest to the extent of 5,000 *l*. in aid of relief to the sufferers by the late conflagration, it cannot be otherwise than gratifying that that donation was most opportune, as I had occasion almost immediately to avail myself of it to the extent of 2,000 *l*., principally for the purpose of meeting the demands of the "relief committee."

I have the honour to enclose the copy of a resolution adopted by the General Assembly with reference to this donation.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey*.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Encl. in No. 18.

To his Excellency Major-General Sir *John Harvey*, K.C.B. and K.C.H., &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

THE House of Assembly beg leave to thank your Excellency for your Excellency's message of the 21st ultimo, transmitting to the House a copy of a despatch from the
Right

Right honourable W. E. Gladstone, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, bearing date the 3d day of July, acquainting your Excellency of the measures adopted by Her Majesty's Government for the relief of the sufferers by the late conflagration, and of the donation of 5,000 £. from the Imperial Treasury towards meeting the more pressing demands growing out of that calamitous event.

The House humbly beg leave, through your Excellency, to express the grateful sense they entertain of the prompt and generous assistance afforded to the colony by Her Majesty's Government in the late afflicting emergency, as well as for the kind and considerate terms in which the Right honourable Secretary has conveyed this pledge of the sympathy of the mother country.

Passed the General Assembly 1st August 1846.

(signed)

John Kent,
Speaker.

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— No. 19. —

(No. 17.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir John Harvey, K. C. B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 18 August 1846.

IN my despatch, No. 1,* of the 18th July, I gave you instructions to apply the grant made by Parliament for the relief of the inhabitants of St. John's, Newfoundland, to the service only of those persons who had been rendered destitute by the fire at that place. It has, however, been suggested to me, that as the subscriptions which are being raised in this country, and in the North American colonies, will amount to a considerable sum, it would be a very desirable mode of applying a part of the grant already placed at your disposal in the re-erection of the official buildings of the colony, which must, in consequence of the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the application made by you for further assistance towards this object, otherwise be replaced by resources derived from taxation. I have, therefore, to instruct you, unless it would interfere with arrangements which you have already made, to reserve at least a portion of the Parliamentary grant until the expediency of such an application as I have now mentioned can be further considered.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

No. 19.
Earl Grey to Governor Sir J. Harvey.
18 August 1846.
* Page 20.

— No. 20. —

(No. 61.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir John Harvey, K. C. B., to Earl Grey.

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
6 August 1846.

My Lord,

I HASTEN to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch, No. 1,† of the 18th ultimo, transmitting an additional sum of 25,000 £., making a total amount of 30,000 £., as a donation from Her Majesty's Government to the sufferers by the late conflagration in this city.

Not only will it be my duty to cause the necessary arrangements to be made for the strict application of this munificent gift to the objects for which it has been granted, but I have satisfaction in expressing to your Lordship my entire conviction that this noble donation, added to the contributions which we are daily receiving from the neighbouring colonies with those expected from the mother country, all apprehension of any serious amount of distress during the ensuing winter, arising out of the consequences of the late fire, may be regarded as entirely at an end.

I now advert to that portion of your Lordship's despatch which conveys to me the expression of a desire on the part of certain gentlemen and merchants in London connected with this island, that I should continue in the administration

No. 20.
Governor Sir J. Harvey to Earl Grey.
6 August 1846.

† Page 20.

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tration of its government until the next spring. In reply, I beg to observe that in proportion to the satisfaction with which I regard the expression of this wish is the regret which I feel that, with a due regard to my own health and that of other members of my family, and to other most weighty considerations partly explained by me to your Lordship's predecessor, I am unable to exact the wishes of these gentlemen by remaining another winter in Newfoundland. In deference, however, to those wishes, and to what your Lordship has said in their support, my departure from hence (which I had intended to have taken by the present steamer, three-fourths of my effects being already at Halifax) shall be deferred for one month, or until the arrival in the colony of Mr. Crowdy, the Colonial Secretary, to whose presence here, particularly during a provisional administration, I certainly attach considerable importance.

Mr. Crowdy is an old and experienced as well as a very valuable public servant, possessing my entire confidence, and with whom I shall have no difficulty in making such arrangements and leaving such instructions as shall guard, as far as may be possible, against any misapplication of the funds so munificently bestowed upon the sufferers by the late calamity by the Queen's Government, as well as of those received from other sources.

In the meantime it is very gratifying to me to be able to inform your Lordship, that while the extent of the calamity, as respects the loss of property, has been by no means over-rated, but on the contrary, exceeds the estimate assumed in my despatch of the 10th June (No. 38.*) by nearly 100,000 *l.*, having been ascertained by the Commissioners who were appointed for that purpose to amount to 888,156 *l.* instead of from 600,000 *l.* to 800,000 *l.* as stated by me, the distress among the labouring and mechanical classes has actually almost ceased, in consequence of the full demand for labour. The real sufferers are, as I at first stated, to be found among the middle and humbler classes, and to them accordingly it will be my earnest endeavour to ensure the extension of effectual relief (either by gratuitous donations or nominal loans) before I leave the island. For many of the lower classes shelter has been provided in huts and tents which will answer tolerably well during the summer months; but I remain of the opinion that the presence of one or more large and capacious ships of war in this harbour during the ensuing winter would be a great blessing in respect to shelter to many who will then need it, particularly as fuel and warm clothing can be provided for them from the funds already so liberally contributed.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey.*

— No. 21. —

(No. 19.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir John Harvey, K. C. B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 September 1846.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 61,† of the 6th August.

Although it would have been extremely satisfactory if you could have deferred your departure for Nova Scotia until the termination of the winter, I am ready to admit the cogency of the reasons which have precluded you from complying with the wishes of the gentlemen connected with Newfoundland, which I expressed in their behalf in my despatch, No. 1, of the 18th of July. I am glad to be able to state that the recent arrival in this country of Mr. Bruce, who was not expected till the spring, and his probable departure for Newfoundland within the course of a short time, removes all difficulty in respect to the embarrassment which was apprehended from your own departure from that colony.

The proceedings which you have adopted and still contemplate for the relief of the different classes of the community of St. John's, who have been subjected to privations and distress in consequence of the late calamity in that town, obtain my entire approval; but I regret to inform you that it is
totally

* Page 1.

No. 21.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
J. Harvey.
3 Sept. 1846.
† Page 27.

totally out of the power of Her Majesty's Government to station either one or more men of war in the harbour of St. John's during the ensuing winter, with the view of affording accommodation to persons who may require shelter during that period of the year. But I trust that the means which have been placed at your disposal both by the Government and private subscriptions will enable you to make such arrangements as will prevent in a great degree any additional suffering from the inability of the Government to comply with your suggestion.

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I am, &c.
(signed) Grey.

— No. 22. —

(No. 62.)
COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *John Harvey*, K. C. B., to Earl Grey.

No. 22.
Governor Sir
J. Harvey to Earl
Grey.
7 August 1846.

My Lord,

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
7 August 1846.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit copy of the speech with which I closed the special session of the General Assembly of this colony on the 4th instant. To this is added a copy of the only Act of any importance which was passed during the session, and for which indeed they were convened. Copies of a few other Bills will be transmitted by the next mail.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Harvey.

P. S.—To the foregoing documents I venture to add the copy of an address from the whole of the inhabitants of this city and community, which has this day been presented to me, with that of my answer.

J. H.

Enclosure 1, in No. 22.

COPY of the Speech of His Excellency Sir *John Harvey*, on closing the Special Session of the General Assembly on the 4th instant. Encl. 1, in No. 22.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

In releasing you from further attendance upon your legislative labours, it is my pleasing duty again to tender to you, in the name of the Sovereign, my cordial acknowledgments of the assiduity which you have bestowed upon the great objects for which you were specially convened, and my congratulations upon the completion of a measure which I gratify myself in believing to be fraught with more important and beneficial consequences, as regards the future interests and prosperity of your commercial capital, than any which has ever engaged the attention of its local legislature at any period since a constitutional form of government was conferred upon Newfoundland.

With the gratifying feelings which this reflection is calculated to inspire, you will return to your constituency and your ordinary avocations, while I on my part shall not cease to cherish the recollection that as our united and most earnest endeavours have been unceasingly used to mitigate the severity and to repair the injuries inflicted by the great calamity with which it has pleased the Almighty Disposer of events to visit this city, it has also pleased Him thus far to direct and prosper those endeavours.

In connexion with this subject it cannot fail to be interesting to you to be informed that the total amount of property, real and personal, destroyed by the late fire, has been estimated by the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of obtaining that information (in their report just received) at the sum of 888,356*l*.

Towards the paternal Government of Her Majesty, and for the benevolent acts and intentions of neighbouring colonies, we are bound to record our most grateful acknowledgments, which I therefore feel a pride in doing, as the last act of that form of government which, marked throughout its proceedings by the best understanding and feelings, has been the instrument of conferring many advantages on this colony, among the chiefest of which I cannot but regard the having, as I fervently trust, laid the foundation of future legislative harmony.

I have further to thank you for having, in compliance with my suggestions, abstained from diverting your attention during the session from the great object for which you were specially convened by engaging in the consideration of other subjects.

You will therefore, I trust, receive from me with your wonted indulgence the intimation that, with respect to the measure which constitutes the only exception (and in which I find no suspending clause), I have felt myself restrained by the very important constitutional

NEWFOUNDLAND.

principles which are therein involved, and to which, under the present hurried circumstances, I have not had the means or leisure to give that degree of attention which they demanded, to reserve that Bill for future consideration, and for communication with Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

It has too often been my pleasing duty to advert in my communications with you to the harmonious and satisfactory course of your legislative proceedings to render it necessary for me again to refer to that subject; but I deem this, the moment of my departure from your shores, a fitting occasion upon which to place upon public record an opinion which a residence of five years among them has led me to form of the character of the great body of Her Majesty's loyal subjects in Newfoundland; not only has it not been found necessary to resort to the extreme rigour of the law in any instance during that period, but I feel that I should do less than justice to them if I were to withhold the declaration, that it has never been my fortune to be connected with a community in which there has been less of crime committed, or disposition to turbulence or opposition to the law evinced, than in this island.

Again I invoke the Divine blessing and protection on the inhabitants and interests of this ancient, loyal, and most important colony.

Enclosure 2, in No. 22.

ADDRESS.

Encl. 2, in No. 22.

To his Excellency Major-General Sir *John Harvey*, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

We, the clergy, magistrates, merchants and other inhabitants of St. John's, beg leave to approach your Excellency with sentiments of sincere respect and esteem, to express our feelings of deep regret at the termination of your Excellency's administration of the public affairs of this colony; and to testify our sense of the benefits conferred upon this community during the period of your Excellency's government.

Called to preside over the councils of the colony at a time when a new and untried form of constitution was deemed necessary, your Excellency's task was one of no ordinary magnitude, and one which required the exercise of the greatest judgment. Within the short period, however, during which your Excellency has conducted the Government of the colony, we have had the satisfaction of witnessing the establishment throughout the island of a liberal system of academical and general education; the encouragement and extension of agriculture beyond the expectations of its most sanguine advocates; the accomplishment of communication by steam vessels with England and the neighbouring colonies; and the extensive construction and improvement of public works, especially the more important ones of roads and bridges; these and many other blessings have been, in no small degree, attributable to the personal interest taken by your Excellency in the public welfare; and to the unwearied assiduity with which you have, at all times, devoted yourself to its promotion, aided by the valuable experience of your Excellency in previous colonial governments; whilst, at the same time, it is to the wise and liberal policy by which your Excellency has ever been guided, that we have now the happiness of attributing the feelings of general harmony which are now diffused throughout this community.

On the occasion of the recent calamitous event which reduced our once flourishing town to ashes, the prompt and humane exertions of your Excellency to alleviate the distresses of the sufferers, and the successful endeavours of your Excellency to awaken the sympathies of the mother country and the surrounding colonies in our behalf, have been such as to demand the expression of our deepest gratitude.

Neither can we omit this opportunity of recording the grateful sense we entertain of the kind and affable deportment which your Excellency has invariably displayed towards all who have had personal intercourse with your Excellency; and of thanking your Excellency for the fostering patronage, as well as liberal support, which you have uniformly bestowed upon all our public and private charitable institutions.

We beg to be permitted at the same time respectfully to tender to the Honourable Lady Harvey our liveliest sentiments of esteem and regard; and to assure her that whilst her amiable and most estimable qualities of heart and mind have endeared her to all who have enjoyed the pleasure of her acquaintance, she will never cease to be remembered in the prayers of the widow and the orphan, whose wants and distresses have at all times occupied her thoughts, and to the relief of whose sufferings she has been so munificent a contributor.

Whilst, however, we regret the loss which this colony will suffer by the severance of your Excellency's connexion with it, and more particularly at this important crisis, we beg leave at the same time to offer to your Excellency our hearty congratulations on the

mark

mark of royal favour which our gracious Queen has been pleased to bestow upon you in appointing you to the government of the neighbouring province of Nova Scotia; and, in conclusion, we beg to assure your Excellency, that to whatever portion of Her Majesty's dominions your high duties may call you, in leaving our shores you carry with you the cordial esteem of all classes of this community.

On behalf of the Meeting,

(signed) *B. G. Garrett*, High Sheriff,
Chairman.

ANSWER.

My Lord, Reverend and Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

It is not the highest, yet assuredly one of the most gratifying testimonials which a public man can receive is the publicly expressed approbation of those of his fellow subjects over whom he has presided (for a period sufficient to confer its due value on the sentiment) in the endearing (so suffer me to call it) relation of the representative of a beneficent and paternal sovereign; that reward it has pleased you this day to confer upon me, and although it is not the first (by many) of a similar character to which it has been my grateful duty to respond for myself, and for her who has been the beloved confidante of my bosom, the solacer of all my cares, for a period fast advancing to half a century, and to whose worth you have been pleased to pay so affecting a tribute, yet are there circumstances which connect themselves with this particular address which confer a value upon it in our estimation which I should ill attempt to describe. We arrived in this community entire strangers to you all; we have passed five years of our lives among you, a period which at our age constitutes a large portion of our waning existence; we have lived in the interchange of mutually kind feelings; we have during that period experienced our trials and domestic afflictions, and you have sympathized and mourned with us as friends and brethren; finally, you have presented to us a testimonial of your good-will which has deeply affected our hearts. And how have we earned all this? Simply by following the line of conduct prescribed alike by a sense of Christian duty and natural disposition; by being just to all, and showing a little kindness to those who needed it, without distinction of creed, according to our limited opportunities and means.

Gentlemen, in one of my first addresses to you, I told you that unless you would give me your confidence and support, any efforts on my part to promote your interests must be unavailing; you frankly met my appeal; in other words, you did justice to the sincerity of the professions of my desire to devote myself to your service, and to identify myself with all your interests; and if the result has been satisfactory to you, to you belongs the merit in a far higher degree than any to which I can lay claim. I told you that while it was contrary to my duty, as well towards my Sovereign as yourselves, to attach myself exclusively to any party, or even to recognize its existence, yet, that that duty required of me to identify myself with all classes, doing equal justice to each; in these views you, gentlemen, have sustained me, and whatever of credit may attach to the result is yours.

You have been pleased to offer me your congratulations upon the transfer of my services to a more extended sphere of action. To your fellow subjects of that noble province I shall feel a pride in bearing this your testimonial, in the most entire conviction that the principles (few and simple) by which my public conduct has been uniformly governed, and which have proved not otherwise than satisfactory to three of the five North American Colonies, will not be found to fail in their application to the fourth.

My Lord, Reverend and Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

For myself, Lady Harvey and my family, I bid you all an affectionate farewell, and I entreat you to believe that our fervent prayers for the renewal of that prosperity which it has seemed good to the Almighty to interrupt for a season may again return to you and be long enjoyed.

Government House, St. John's,
7 August 1846.

(signed) *J. Harvey*.

Enclosure 3, in No. 22.

Anno Nono & Decimo *Victoriae* Reginae.

CAP. III.

Encl. 3, in No. 22.

AN ACT to regulate the rebuilding of the Town of St. John's, and the Drainage and Sewerage of the same, and to repeal certain Acts therein mentioned.—[Passed 4 August 1846.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the rebuilding of the Town of St. John's:

Preamble.

I. Be it therefore enacted, by the Governor, Council and Assembly, in Legislative Session convened, that Water-street, in the said town of St. John's, shall extend from the eastern side of Quidi Vidi Firebreak on the east to Job's Bridge on the west, and shall

Water-street.

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South Line.

Commencing at station No. 1. on the plan of the Commissioners appointed by his Excellency the Governor, certified under the hands of the said Commissioners, and presented to the House of Assembly, and running thence to station No. 4, according to the line described on the said plan; thence in a straight line to a point three feet north of the north-west angle of Messrs. Dunscomb & Harvey's premises; thence in a straight line to the north-west angle of Mr. Nicholas Gill's premises; thence in a straight line to the north-east angle of Mr. Patrick Morris's premises; thence in a straight line to the north-east angle of the house lately occupied by Mrs. Beck; thence according to the existing line of street to Prescott-street Firebreak, as hereinafter described; then from a point 10 feet south of the north-east angle of the house lately occupied by Mr. Henry Earle to the north-east angle of Messrs. John M. Reudell & Co.'s premises; thence through a point 10 feet south of the north-west angle of Messrs. William and Henry Thomas & Co.'s premises to the north-west angle of the stone house lately occupied by Mr. R. F. Trimmingham; then from the north-east angle of the house lately occupied by Mr. Patrick Maher, by the existing line of street, to Beck's Cove; then from a point 15 feet south of the north-east angle of Messrs. E. and N. Stabb's late premises in a straight line to the north-east angle of Messrs. Shea & Murphy's stone house; thence to the north-west angle of the dwelling-house lately occupied by Mr. W. E. Taylor; thence in a straight line to a point in the middle of Codner's Cove, 15 feet south of the existing south line of Water-street; thence in a straight line to the north-west angle of the premises of Mr. John H. Warren; thence by the existing line of street to the north-west angle of Messrs. James and William Stewart's premises; thence by the line described on the aforesaid plan to the north-east angle of Messrs. Stuart and Rennie's stone buildings; thence by the existing line of street to the north-east angle of Pic Corner Cove; thence in a straight line to the north-east angle of Mr. P. Morris's brick buildings; thence to the north-west angle of the same; thence to station No. 19, according to the line laid down and described on the said plan, being the north-east angle of the entrance of Job's Bridge; thence by a line 60 feet distant from and parallel to the north line of street as laid down and described on the aforesaid plan, to station No. 21.

Duckworth-street.

II. And be it enacted, that Duckworth-street in the said town shall extend from the eastern side of Quidi Vidi Firebreak on the east to Flower-hill Firebreak on the west; and shall be 60 feet in width from the south line of the said street, which said line shall be as follows:

South Line.

Commencing at a point opposite station No. 1. in the said street, as marked and described in the said plan, and running thence to the north-east angle of Woodley's-lane according to the line laid down and described in the said plan; thence in a straight line to the north-east angle of Mr. John Stears's house, west of the Hill of Chips; thence by the existing line of street to a point five feet north of the north-east angle of the house lately occupied by Jeremiah Hayes at the head of the King's Beach; thence in a straight line to the north-east angle of Mr. Thomas Bearn's stone buildings; thence along the same and in a straight line to the north-east angle of Mr. William Flynn's brick house; thence by the existing line of street to the north-west angle of the Commercial Building; thence in a straight line to the north-east angle of Market-square; thence by the existing line of street to Beck's Cove Firebreak; and thence to Flower-hill Firebreak, by a line parallel to and 20 feet south of the southern line as laid down by the said Commissioners for the south line of the continuation of Duckworth-street.

Eleven Firebreaks.

III. And be it enacted, that there shall be laid down in the said town and suburbs, 11 cross streets or firebreaks, as follows: that is to say:—

Church-hill.

Church Hill Firebreak.—Which shall be according to the lines laid down and described for the same, on the aforesaid plan of the Commissioners.

Prescott-street.

Prescott-street Firebreak.—The existing western boundary of which, between Water-street and Duckworth-street, shall be the western boundary thereof, and a space equal to the breadth of M'Larty's-lane shall be added to the width of the same, the proprietors of ground encroached on for this purpose occupying the said lane in lieu of the ground so encroached on. Between Duckworth-street and the northern terminus of the said firebreak, the eastern side of Cantwell's-lane, until it is intersected by the eastern side line of Prescott-street, as laid down upon the said plan, and thence to the said terminus, the eastern side line of the said street, as described upon the said plan, shall be the eastern side line of the said firebreak and street; and that a line parallel thereto at 60 feet distance shall be the western boundary.

King's Beach Fire-break.

King's Beach Firebreak.—Commencing at the north-west angle of Mr. Nicholas Gill's house in Water-street; thence running in a straight line to the south-west angle of Mr. Michael Dealy's house in Duckworth-street; thence running in a straight line to a point 17½ feet east of the north-east angle of the King's-road in Gower-street; thence in a straight line to the south-east angle of the Ordnance Limekiln Ground; and thence by the eastern boundary of the said ground to the Military-road; which said lines shall

shall form the eastern boundary of the said firebreak; and that a line or lines parallel thereto at a distance of 70 feet shall form the western boundary of the said firebreak to the said Limekiln Ground; and that from thence the said firebreak shall be bounded on the west by the western side of the King's-road.

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Hill of Chips Firebreak.—The western side of the said firebreak shall be bounded by a straight line commencing in Water-street and running along the north-eastern foundation wall of Mr. Patrick Kough's house (the late billiard room) to Duckworth-street, and a line parallel thereto at 70 feet distance shall be the eastern boundary thereof.

Hill of Chips Firebreak.

Quidi Vidi Firebreak.—The western side of the said firebreak shall be bounded by a straight line running from the Harbour along the foundation wall of Mr. James Brine's premises to Duckworth-street, and a line parallel thereto at 60 feet distance shall be the eastern boundary.

Quidi Vidi Firebreak.

M'Bride's Cove Firebreak.—That from the north side of Water-street to Duckworth-street, the existing western boundary shall remain, and that a line parallel thereto at 80 feet distance shall be the eastern boundary thereof.

M'Bride's Cove Firebreak.

Beck's Cove Firebreak.—That the existing boundary lines of the said cove and firebreak between the Harbour and Duckworth-street remain unaltered, and that from the northern extremity of the eastern boundary of the said firebreak a straight line be extended to the north-west angle of William Shea's house in Gower-street, and that a line parallel thereto, at 60 feet distance, form the western boundary of the continuation of the said firebreak.

Beck's Cove Firebreak.

Codner's Cove Firebreak.—A line drawn from the Harbour along the eastern foundation walls of Mr. John H. Warren's late dwelling-house to Water-street, and the existing western side line of Adelaide-street to Duckworth-street, shall form the western boundary; and that the eastern side of Codner's Cove, and a line 60 feet distant from and parallel to the western side of Adelaide-street, be the eastern boundary thereof.

Codner's Cove Firebreak.

Queen-street.—The existing western line of Queen-street, and a line drawn from the south-west angle of Barter's Hill-road, through the north-east angle of the house at the first turn of the said road to the westward, and thence to the rear line of the town, shall form the western boundary of the said street; and lines parallel thereto, at 60 feet distance, shall be the eastern boundary thereof.

Queen-street Firebreak.

Stuart and Rennie's Cove.—The eastern boundary of Messrs. Stuart and Rennie's premises shall be the western boundary of the said cove; and a line parallel thereto, at 60 feet distance, shall be the eastern boundary thereof.

Stuart and Rennie's Cove.

Flower Hill Firebreak.—A line drawn from the Harbour along the western side of the bonding store of Messrs. Newman and Co., to the corner of Mr. Jonas Barter's house, where it is touched by the eastern line as laid down and described upon the aforesaid plan, and thence to the rear line of the town, the said eastern line shall form the eastern boundary of the said firebreak; and a line parallel thereto, at a distance of 80 feet, shall form the western boundary of the same.

Flower Hill Firebreak.

Gas Works Firebreak.—The eastern line of the said firebreak as laid down and described on the said plan of the Commissioners shall be the eastern boundary of the said firebreak; and a line parallel thereto, at 60 feet distance, shall be the western boundary thereof.

Gas Work Firebreak.

River Head Firebreak.—The eastern line, as laid down and described on the aforesaid plan, shall be the eastern boundary of the said firebreak; and a line parallel thereto, at 60 feet distance, shall be the western boundary thereof.

River Head Firebreak.

And be it enacted, that New Gower-street shall be laid down as follows: commencing at the south-east angle of Philip Duggan's house; thence running in a straight line, touching the south-west angle of Stephen Ryan's house to a point 60 feet beyond the boundary of James Fergus's ground; thence in a straight line to a point north of the north-west angle of Waldegrave-street; and thence to a point north of the north-west angle of Cuddihy's house, being the western extremity of the burnt district; and further, that the square laid down and described on the aforesaid plan as Harvey-square, be reserved and named Harvey-square, and that the streets which form the north-east and south-west boundaries thereof shall be of the widths and courses laid down and described for the same in the aforesaid plan of the Commissioners.

New Gower-street.

IV. And be it enacted, that from and after such time as the streets and firebreaks aforesaid shall be laid out, in manner hereinafter directed, and compensation shall be made or tendered for the property necessarily appropriated for such purposes, and notice thereof shall have been given by publication in the "Royal Gazette," the ground included in the said streets and firebreaks shall be and become public property; and all buildings and erections whatsoever, which now are or may hereafter be placed or erected upon any part of the said streets or firebreaks so laid out, and which shall be suffered to remain thereon until the 1st day of May 1849, shall be and shall be deemed public nuisances, and may be abated accordingly by order of two or more stipendiary justices of the peace for the central district,

Streets and Firebreaks, how opened and laid out.

NEWFOUNDLAND. who, after hearing the party complained of, shall, if such nuisance be proved, make an order for the abatement thereof, and shall furnish such assistance of constables and others as may be necessary for that purpose; and every person or persons continuing or erecting any of such buildings or erections shall be subject to such punishment as is by law in such case provided with respect to common or public nuisances, or as shall be prescribed by this Act.

No buildings other than of brick or stone to be built within certain limits.

V. And be it enacted, that from and after the 1st day of May, anno Domini 1849, it shall not be lawful for any person or persons whomsoever to build, erect, or put up any building or erection whatsoever, other than such as shall be built of brick or stone or other unflammable materials, in any part of the said town southward of a line drawn parallel to, and 60 feet to the northward of the north side of Duckworth-street in the said town; and all houses, stores and other buildings south of the said line shall be roofed or covered with iron, slate or other unflammable material; and that all buildings and erections which, since the fire in the said town on the 9th of June last, have been or which may be hereafter built or erected to the southward of the said line of materials, or roofed or covered with materials, or in a manner other than such as are by this Act prescribed, shall be, after the 1st day of May, anno Domini 1849, deemed public nuisances, and the like proceedings shall be and may be had with respect to the same, and with respect to the person or persons continuing, building or erecting any of the same, as are herein provided with respect to any building placed or erected upon any street, lane or firebreak aforesaid: Provided nevertheless, that nothing in this Act shall operate to prevent any person now occupying, or that may hereafter occupy any fishing room situate to the eastward of Woodley's Cove, or to the westward of Newman & Co.'s premises, from building of wood, if he shall see fit, any house, store, stage, flake or other erection to be used by him or his servants employed by him exclusively for the purpose of carrying on the fishery upon such fishing room.

Proviso.

No buildings to be erected within 25 feet of the centres of certain streets:

VI. And be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to build or erect in Gower-street, Queen's-road, the Military-road and the Circular-road, or in any other lane or street within the said town or suburbs, which the Governor and Council shall declare to be a main street, any house or other building nearer to the centre of such lane or street than 25 feet; and all houses or other buildings erected on any of the said streets or lanes nearer to the centre thereof than 25 feet, shall be deemed public nuisances, and the like proceedings shall be and may be had with respect to the same, and with respect to any person or persons building or erecting the same, as are hereinbefore provided with respect to other public nuisances of a like nature.

Nor within 30 feet of the centres of certain firebreaks beyond certain limits, beyond which such firebreaks are not at present to be opened:

VII. And whereas, by reason of the expense of making compensation in such behalf, it is inexpedient that the following firebreaks should at present be opened beyond the limits hereinafter mentioned, but it is expedient that no buildings should be erected on the sides of such firebreaks beyond such limits; be it therefore enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to build or put up any building or erection whatsoever within 30 feet of the centre of Quidi Vidi Firebreak to the northward of Duckworth-street, within 30 feet of the centre of the Hill of Chips Firebreak to the northward of the Government Bakehouse, within 30 feet of the centre of Prescott-street, and within 50 feet of the centre of Church Hill Firebreak to the northward of the Military-road, within 30 feet of the centres of Queen-street and Flower Hill Firebreaks to the northward of Gower-street, and within 30 feet of the centres of Gas Works and River Head Firebreaks to the northward of Water-street; and all buildings and erections made or built within the distances aforesaid of the centres of the said firebreaks respectively to the northward of the limits aforesaid shall be deemed public nuisances, and may be abated accordingly.

Nor at all on firebreaks within the burnt district.

VIII. And be it enacted, that from and after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for any person or persons whomsoever to construct or erect or cause to be constructed or erected, any building or erection of any kind or nature whatsoever within the limits of the firebreaks hereinbefore laid down and described, within that portion of the town of St. John's recently devastated by fire; and that every building or erection which after the time aforesaid shall be constructed or erected within the said limits shall be deemed a public nuisance, and may be abated accordingly.

Supervisor to be appointed by the Governor.

IX. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor or administrator of the Government for the time being to nominate and appoint one fit and competent person to be a general supervisor of streets within the said town and suburbs, who shall superintend the carrying into effect the provisions of this Act; which supervisor shall, before he enters upon the duties of his said office, be sworn before one of the Judges of the Supreme Court faithfully to discharge the duties of his office, without fear, favour or affection; and such supervisor shall lay down, upon such plan and in such manner as may be directed by the Governor in Council, such common drains and sewers throughout the said town as may be necessary for cleansing and draining the same; and there shall be paid to the said supervisor an annual salary of 300 L.: provided that such office of supervisor shall continue for a period of five years and no longer.

His Duties.

Office to continue for five years.

X. And

X. And be it enacted, that all persons, proprietors of lands or tenements within the said town, whose interests shall be in any way affected by the carrying into effect the provisions of this Act, shall, before such lands or tenements be appropriated for public uses, be paid compensation for any damage they may sustain in that behalf; and that for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of compensation to be made in any case wherein the said proprietors and supervisor shall not agree, or wherein the Governor and Council may not approve of the awards of the said supervisor, it shall be lawful for the party or parties interested in the property affected to name one arbitrator, and the supervisor to be appointed under this Act to name another arbitrator, and such two arbitrators shall name a third, and the award of any two of them shall be final and binding; and in case any party interested in such property as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to appoint an arbitrator within three days after notice shall be given him, her or them by such supervisor, or in case the arbitrators shall disagree in the choice of such third arbitrator, in either case it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to name and appoint an arbitrator, and the award of any two of such arbitrators shall be as effect as if one of such arbitrators had been appointed by the party, and if their had been chosen by such arbitrators; and such arbitrators shall, before they proceed in the execution of their duty, be sworn before a justice of the peace faithfully and without favour to either party to discharge their duties as such arbitrators: Provided, that it shall be lawful for any party who shall claim on oath any amount of compensation beyond 100*l.*, and who shall be dissatisfied with any such award, to appeal therefrom to the Judges of the Supreme Court by petition, within one week from the making of such award, in term time or vacation, and it shall be lawful for such Judges to summon all necessary parties and witnesses, and to inquire into the merits of such petition, and to make such award and decision thereon as shall be just and equitable, which decision and award shall be final; and provided further, that in ascertaining the amount of compensation under this Act, the additional value derived to the several proprietors from the convenience and security afforded by the improvement of the streets shall always be taken into account.

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Mode of compensating parties whose interests may be affected.

Arbitration.

Appeal.

Proviso.

XI. And be it enacted, that the Governor or administrator of the Government for the time being shall be authorized to draw warrants on the colonial treasurer for the payment of compensation to be awarded under this Act, which compensation shall not exceed in the whole the sum of 20,000*l.*; and that in discharge of such warrants for any amount not less than 25*l.*, as may from time to time be drawn upon him for such purpose by the Governor for the time being, it shall be lawful for the treasurer, in discharge of such warrants, to pay to parties in whose favour such warrants may be drawn the amount of compensation to which he, she or they may be respectively entitled, by treasury notes payable within 10 years from the date thereof, and bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, which shall be redeemable on three months' notice being given in the "Royal Gazette," at the expiration of which notice all interest on such notes mentioned therein shall cease.

Amounts for compensation under 25 *l.* paid by warrants on the Treasury; above 25 *l.* by Treasury notes.

XII. And be it enacted, that in order to defray the expense of laying down and constructing such common drains and sewers as aforesaid, and of paying the salary of the supervisor, and for defraying the cost for the raising and collection of the assessment hereinafter mentioned, it shall be lawful for the Justices in session of the district of St. John's, upon the presentments of the grand jury of such sessions of the amount required for such purposes, to make orders under their hands and seals for the raising and levying of an assessment or assessments, at a rate in the pound on the rents or appraised values of all houses and buildings and lands within the limits of the said town; all which assessments shall be raised, levied and collected from all landlords, lessees, or other persons owning such lands or buildings, or deriving a profit rent thereupon.

Expenses of drains, &c. and supervisor's salary to be raised by assessment.

XIII. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Justices to appoint three competent persons to appraise the value of all such lands, houses and buildings as aforesaid, and upon appeal, in a summary manner, at the instance of any party interested, to decide upon the correctness of such appraisement, and also to appoint a receiver for the collection of such assessments; and in case any person or persons liable to contribute towards such assessment shall refuse or neglect to pay, upon demand, the amount for which such person or persons shall be assessed, such amount shall and may be recovered in a summary manner, with costs, by a suit to be brought before any two or more Justices of the said district in the name of the receiver (in which action service of process upon the agent of any person absent from the country shall be service upon the principal), and by sale of the defendant or defendants lands or effects; and the amount of such assessments, when received, shall, after deducting the costs of collection, be paid over to the colonial treasurer for the purposes of this Act.

Appraisers to be appointed by Justices.

Mode of recovering assessment.

XIV. And be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful for the said supervisor to proceed in the opening or laying down such common drains and sewers as aforesaid in any other way than by contract or tender, having first given public notice for such intended contract for the space of ten days at the least, and all such contracts shall be in writing, and shall be signed by the contractor, and subject to all the conditions and restrictions

All drains and sewers under this Act to be constructed on contract by tender.

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for regulating contracts for opening and making roads under the Act to regulate the making and repairing of roads, streets and bridges within this colony; and that all payments on contracts and other charges shall be made by warrant of the Governor.

Supervisor may give proprietor of front ground land in the rear in certain cases.

XV. And be it enacted, that if the supervisor or arbitrators so to be appointed as aforesaid, shall be of opinion that any proprietor or proprietors of any ground required for any street or firebreak as aforesaid may be indemnified at a less expense to the public by having an equal portion of ground assigned to him, her or them from any ground adjoining, and that such adjoining ground may be taken without material injury to the proprietor thereof, it shall be lawful for the said supervisor to mark off so much of the adjoining ground as he shall think sufficient to replace the ground required for such street or firebreak, and the same so marked off shall belong to the first-mentioned proprietor from whom the same was taken, and shall be as a full satisfaction and release of the same, and all right and title thereto: Provided, that if the land so to be given shall not be deemed an equivalent for the land dedicated to the street or firebreak, it shall be lawful to pay the said proprietor such sum as may be, with the land so to be given, a full satisfaction for the land so dedicated.

Certain Acts repealed.

XVI. And be it enacted, that from and after the passing of this Act the following Acts shall be and the same are hereby repealed; that is to say, an Act passed in the fourth year of the reign of his late Majesty, intituled, "An Act to regulate the Building of Houses in Water-street, in the Town of St. John's;" an Act passed in the fourth year of the reign of his late Majesty, intituled, "An Act to provide for the Management of a certain public Wharf and Landing in the Town of St. John's;" an Act passed in the third year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act to repeal part of an Act passed in the Second Session of the First General Assembly of this Island, intituled, 'An Act to regulate the Building of Houses in Water-street in the Town of St. John's;'" an Act passed in the third year of the reign of his late Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the Establishment and Regulation of Fire Companies in the Town of St. John's;" and an Act passed in the fifth year of the reign of his late Majesty, intituled, "An Act to amend an Act of the Parliament of this Colony, intituled, 'An Act for the Establishment and Regulation of Fire Companies in the Town of St. John's.'"

No buildings to be commenced without notice to supervisor.

XVII. And be it enacted, that no person whatsoever shall excavate or build upon the front line of any street, lane or firebreak within the town of St. John's until he, she or they shall have given or left at the office of the said supervisor a notice in writing at least two days before the commencement of such intended excavation or erection; and thereupon it shall be the duty of the said supervisor to examine the said projected work and see that it conform to the line and levels of such street, lane or firebreak; and that any person neglecting to give such notice, or acting contrary to the directions in writing of such supervisor, according to the provisions of this Act, touching the said work, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding the sum of 5*l.*, to be recovered in a summary manner before any justice of the peace for the central district, and levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels; and any work done contrary to such written directions shall be deemed and taken to be a public nuisance, and abated accordingly as other nuisances under this Act.

Penalty.

Supervisor to regulate party-walls.

XVIII. And be it enacted, that in case of dispute it shall be lawful for the said supervisor to regulate the building of party-walls, and the rateable contribution to the expenses thereof to be paid by the adjoining proprietors or tenants who may use the same, prescribing the extent which such party-wall shall occupy upon the land of such proprietors respectively.

Levels of streets, &c. to be taken.

XIX. And be it enacted, that the Governor for the time being is hereby authorized to cause suitable levels to be taken of the several streets, lanes and firebreaks within the said town, by which levels all parties shall be required to govern themselves.

Regulations respecting party-walls, chimneys, &c.

XX. And be it enacted, that every party-wall within the limits prescribed for the erection of buildings of stone, brick or other unflammable materials, shall project above and beyond the roof at least 12 inches; and that no wood or inflammable material of any description, except doors, door frames, window sashes, window frames and roof boarding shall be placed within four and a half inches of the outside of the said building; and that every chimney shall extend to a height not less than two feet above the ridgepole.

Parapets, balconies, &c.

XXI. And be it enacted, that all copings, parapets, cornices to overhang roofs, blocking courses, cornices, piers, columns, pilasters, entablatures, facias, door and window dressings, balconies at least 10 feet above the level of the street, or other architectural improvements, may project beyond the general line of fronts in any street, lane or firebreak; provided that within the limits prescribed for the erection of buildings of stone, brick or other unflammable materials, they be wholly composed of such unflammable materials.

Ladders.

XXII. And be it enacted, that a substantial ladder shall be fixed to the roof of every dwelling-house, and kept in good repair, except where a regular access to the roof from the inside is provided.

XXIII. And

XXIII. And be it enacted, that the paths appropriated for the use of foot passengers on each side of Water-street and Duckworth-street be 10 feet wide. Side paths to be 10 feet wide.

XXIV. And be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of the said supervisor to inspect the several chimneys and external stove-pipes throughout the town, and that the tenant of every house who shall not, within two days after he, she or they be notified of the defective state of such chimney or stove-pipe, cause the same to be properly repaired, shall be liable to a fine of not less than 10s. nor exceeding 40s., with costs of suit, to be recovered in a summary manner before any justice of the peace for the central district, and levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels. Defective chimneys.
Penalty.

XXV. And be it enacted, that no building shall be erected to interfere with the line of fire from Fort William and Fort George towards the Harbour, provided that the officers of Her Majesty's Board of Ordnance shall pay or tender to the proprietors and tenants of land situate in the line of fire compensation for such rights as would be interfered with by preventing the erection of such building, which compensation shall be ascertained in manner hereinbefore prescribed for ascertaining the value of land taken for the purposes of the streets and firebreaks. No buildings to obstruct the line of fire from Forts William and George.

XXVI. And be it enacted, that the lines of streets and firebreaks laid out by this Act shall not be departed from, excepting in such cases as the description by the points of the compass may be erroneous; and such departures in such cases shall be first determined upon by the supervisor, and approved of by the Governor in Council. No alterations to be made in lines of streets, except, &c.

XXVII. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for such supervisor to administer an oath to any person claiming compensation under this Act as to his, her or their belief of the reasonableness of the said claim. Supervisor may administer oath to party claiming compensation.

XXVIII. And be it enacted, that in every case wherein any tenant holding under a lease commencing previously to the 9th day of June last, and not surrendered in consequence of the fire which occurred in the said town on that day, shall, under the provisions of this Act, independently of any former law, or of any covenant or agreement, be compelled to build of brick, stone or any other unflammable material, where such tenant might otherwise have built of wood, such tenant shall, at the expiration of such lease, receive from his landlord compensation, either by an extension of his lease for such period as shall not (including the unexpired term) exceed 40 years in the whole, or by payment of a sum of money, as may be determined by any two of three arbitrators, of whom one shall be appointed by the landlord, one by the tenant, and the third by the arbitrators already chosen. Compensation to be made to tenants by landlords in certain cases.

XXIX. And be it enacted, that in the event of any such intended arbitration not being carried into effect, either from the refusal of the landlord to appoint an arbitrator, or from the disagreement of the arbitrators, or from any cause other than the refusal of the tenant to appoint an arbitrator, such compensation as aforesaid may be recovered in an action of assumpsit as for money paid, to be brought against the landlord in any court of record. Mode of recovering compensation.

XXX. And be it enacted, that for the purposes of this Act, the boundaries and limits of the said town of St. John's shall be as follows: commencing at the Harbour, and running along the eastern side line of the Gas-works Firebreak, as laid down and described upon the aforesaid plan, until it is intersected by the Monday Pond-road; thence in a straight line to Rennie's Mill Bridge, on the old Portugal Cove-road; thence by the courses of the stream running into Quidi Vidi Lake; thence from the mouth of the said stream in a straight line to the Ordnance boundary line, where it is intersected by the main road leading to Signal-hill; thence by the Ordnance boundary line to the Harbour of St. John's, and thence by the waters of the Harbour to the place of beginning: Provided, that all Government buildings, churches, chapels and places of public worship, all public school-houses, and the buildings of public charitable institutions, shall be exempted from the rates and assessments hereinbefore mentioned. Limits of the town prescribed.

XXXI. And whereas the house lately built upon the north side of Duckworth-street by Robert Prowse, the house lately built on the north side of Water-street by James Cullen, and the house lately erected on the north side of Water-street by Walter Dillon, fall within the lines of the said streets respectively, but the said houses, being built of unflammable materials, and the expense which would be occasioned by their removal being considerable, it is expedient that the said houses should be made exceptions to the lines hereinbefore laid down; be it therefore enacted, that the said houses, being finished and completed in the manner hereinbefore prescribed with respect to houses to be erected on Water and Duckworth streets, may lawfully continue and be within the lines of the said streets, at the option of the said several parties, or any future proprietors of the same, as such houses now stand thereon, anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. Certain houses now in lines of street permitted to stand.

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— No. 23. —

No. 23.
Earl Grey to
Governor
Sir J. Harvey.
3 September 1846.

(No. 21.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir John Harvey.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 September 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 62, of the 7th ultimo, announcing the close of the Special Session of the Legislature of Newfoundland, and I have to signify to you my approval of the speech which you delivered on that occasion.

The Act, of which you transmit a copy, for regulating the rebuilding of the town of St. John's, is at present under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

— No. 24. —

No. 24.
Earl Grey to the
Officer administering the Government of
Newfoundland.
6 November 1846.

(No. 38.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 November 1846.

AN Act passed by the Legislature of Newfoundland, in the month of August 1846, intituled, "An Act to regulate the rebuilding of the Town of St. John's, and the Drainage and Sewerage of the same, and to repeal certain Acts therein mentioned," having been referred by the Queen in Council to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, that Committee have reported to Her Majesty in Council their opinion that the said Act should be left to its operation.

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of Her Majesty in Council, dated 30th October, approving that report.

I also transmit a copy of a letter received from the Secretary to the Master-general and Board of Ordnance, by which you will perceive that the Master-general and Board desire that a provision should be added to this Act, with special reference to Ordnance premises.

I do not doubt that the Assembly will readily adopt the suggestion of the Master-general and Board, and the more so, as it has not been made the occasion of delaying the Queen's confirmation of the Act. I have, therefore, to desire that you will take early steps to procure the passing of a law for this purpose.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

Enclosure in No. 24.

Sir,

Office of Ordnance, 30 October 1846.

Encl. in No. 24.

HAVING submitted to the Master-general and Board of Ordnance your letter, dated the 22d instant, transmitting, by desire of Earl Grey, a copy of an Act, No. 60, passed by the Legislature of Newfoundland on the 4th of August 1846, for the rebuilding of the town of St. John's, and observing that the 25th clause enacts that no building shall be erected to interfere with the "line of fire from Fort William to Fort George towards the Harbour," provided that the persons so deprived of their right of building shall be compensated for their loss by the Board of Ordnance.

I have the honour, by the Master-general and Board's commands, to acquaint you, for his Lordship's information, that the locality named Fort George is not identified in the plans in this office, but they are not aware of any objection to what is proposed to be enacted. The Master-general and Board beg, however, to suggest that there should be a clause to prevent any interference with the boundaries of or the communications leading to any Ordnance premises, without the permission in writing of the Master-general and Board, and that all expenses attendant thereon, if required, should be defrayed out of the local funds referred to in the 11th and 12th clauses.

I have, &c.
(signed) R. Byham.

Jas. Stephen, Esq.
&c. &c.

—No. 25.—

(No. 68.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. Harvey*, K.C.B., to Earl Grey.No. 25.
Governor Sir
J. Harvey to
Earl Grey.
16 August 1846.Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
16 August 1846.

My Lord,

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit the copy of a resolution of thanks to Her Majesty's Government, adopted at a general meeting of the inhabitants of this city for its munificent donation of 30,000*l.* for the relief of those who have been rendered destitute by the effects of the late awful and calamitous conflagration. A similar address would have proceeded from the General Assembly had the mail packet arrived one day sooner.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey.*

Enclosure in No. 25.

COPY of a Resolution proposed at a Public Meeting of the Citizens of St. John's, and held in the Commercial Room on the 7th instant. Encl. in No. 25.

Proposed by the Honourable Judge Desbarres, and seconded by the Honourable William Thomas,—

That the inhabitants of St. John's are deeply sensible of the liberal aid afforded to them by Her Majesty's Government, and that his Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to convey to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies their heartfelt gratitude for the munificent grant of 30,000*l.*

—No. 26.—

(No. 69.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. Harvey*, K.C.B., to Earl Grey.No. 26.
Governor Sir
J. Harvey to
Earl Grey.
18 August 1846.Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
18 August 1846.

My Lord,

HAVING selected Lieutenant R. Carter, a native of this island (in which his father held the office of Judge of the Admiralty Court to the period of his death), a member of the General Assembly, and who also holds the rank and receives the half-pay of a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, as a highly fit and proper person to whom to entrust the execution of the very important duties of "supervisor" for superintending the rebuilding of the burnt part of this city, and to which office a salary of 300*l.* per annum is attached, but which, depending upon future assessments, and including heads of expenditure by which it may possibly be reduced considerably below that amount, I cannot safely assume as above 250*l.*, I have the honour to request that your Lordship will be pleased to move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to cause a notification to be made to Mr. Carter of their Lordships' consent to his performance for the term of five years, if the necessity for them should continue so long, of the duties attached to the office to which I have adverted, without prejudice to the receipt by him of the half-pay which he at present receives, and which I understand to be 103*l.* per annum, considerably more than one-third of the salary of supervisor.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey.*

NEWFOUNDLAND.

— No. 27. —

No. 27.
Earl Grey to
the Officer ad-
ministering the
Government of
Newfoundland.
12 October 1846.

(No. 29.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl *Grey* to the Officer administering the
Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 October 1846.

I HAVE received Sir John Harvey's despatch, No. 69, of the 18th August, reporting that he had selected Lieutenant R. Carter of the Royal Navy for the appointment of supervisor to superintend the rebuilding of the burnt part of the city of St. John's, Newfoundland. Having referred this despatch to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, their Lordships have apprized me that orders have been given for Lieutenant Carter to be allowed his half-pay upon his making the usual declaration.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey*.

— No. 28. —

No. 28.
Governor Sir
J. Harvey to
Earl Grey.
18 August 1846.

(No. 70.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *John Harvey*, K. C. B., to Earl *Grey*.

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,

18 August 1846.

My Lord,

HAVING, with reference to your Lordship's despatch, No. 1,* of the 18th ultimo, given my anxious consideration to the very important subject of endeavouring to ensure the due application of the funds so munificently placed at my disposal, "to the service of those who have been rendered destitute (or severe sufferers) by the consequences of the late calamitous fire," I have now the honour to place before you and to invite your Lordship's attention to a memorandum which I yesterday addressed to the chairman of the General Relief Committee, apprizing him of my ideas, wishes and intentions on this subject, and which I do not entertain any doubt will be readily acquiesced in by that body.

With a machinery thus constituted, the ultimate operations of which, it will be perceived, are made to depend wholly upon the Governor and Council, I shall be enabled to quit the colony under the satisfactory conviction that, with an ordinary degree of supervision on the part of the Executive Government, no serious maladministration of those funds can occur.

As the members of the commission will be nominated to-morrow, and their operations be immediately commenced, they will have begun them before I quit the colony, which I expect to do on this day week, supposing Mr. Crowdy to arrive by the packet now expected.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey*.

P. S.—It will be seen that I have calculated the expense of administering this fund of 30,000 *l.* at two and a half per cent., and I trust your Lordship will be of opinion that I have made as economical an arrangement as was practicable, consistently with the object which I had in view, of enlisting the earnest endeavours of the members of the commission in the cause.

Two and a half per cent. on 30,000 *l.* is 750 *l.* Four commissioners at 100 *l.*, with a chairman and two secretaries at 150 *l.* each, equals 700 *l.*, leaving 50 *l.* for contingent expenses.

J. H.

N. B.—The reasons why I have found it necessary to resort to a paid commission are, that the unpaid committees had gradually relaxed their exertions, (their whole time and attention being naturally engrossed by their own private concerns), so as at length to have devolved the management of all their relief operations upon one irresponsible because unpaid individual, and thereby to have given cause for much dissatisfaction, which I do not doubt that the commission, as now constituted, will speedily remove, the small amount of stipend attached by me to their offices rendering them as far *de facto* responsible as is in the power of the government to make them.

J. H.

Enclosure in No. 28.

MEMORANDUM for the Chairman of the General Relief Committee, and also to serve as Instructions for the Pecuniary Relief Commissioners.

FROM both the letter and spirit as well of the despatch of the Right honourable the Secretary of State, announcing the munificent donation of 30,000*l.*, by which I am required to take effectual means for securing its due application to the service of the persons who have been rendered destitute by the late calamitous fire, as those from the Governor-general and the Lieutenant-governors of the neighbouring colonies, it is sufficiently apparent that the contemplated recipients are to be sought, not among the higher and more wealthy sufferers, but among those who have been reduced to severe distress or entire destitution. In aid of such of the former class as may need it, application has been made to Her Majesty's Government for a loan to the colony to such an amount as may enable the local Government to make advances, secured upon the property itself, in aid of the reconstruction of houses, &c. of unflammable materials; beyond this, it appears to me that it would be as uncalled for to offer public relief to that class, as to expect them to accept it.

Encl. in No. 28.

In order therefore to effect the great object of so administering the funds which have been so munificently contributed, as to accord with the intentions of the donors and afford general satisfaction, I propose to appoint a Board of Commissioners for the purpose of aiding and assisting me in the administration of the funds which have been received by me from Her Majesty's Government and other sources for the relief of those who have been reduced to severe distress by the late fire, of which two members may be recommended by the Chairman and Board of the Relief Committee, the three others, with the secretary, being appointed by me.

2d. The duty of this Board will be to receive and strictly to inquire into the merits of all applications for pecuniary aid, and, after due consideration, to recommend not only the amount of relief proper to be afforded, but the mode of that relief; that is, whether by loan or donation.

3d. The Board so constituted will immediately proceed to provide itself with a suitable office, in which there should be a separate room with a separate access, exclusive of the Board or office room, but communicating with it.

4th. To the door of the Board room should be affixed a "receiving box," which will remain open for the reception of letters until 10 o'clock in the morning on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, at which hour it will be closed by the secretary in order to afford the necessary time for him to examine and arrange (alphabetically) the contents of the "receiver" previous to the daily meeting of the Board at 12 o'clock.

5th. When assembled, the Board will apply itself to the consideration of the several claims, and will adopt such measures as it may deem best adapted for obtaining a thorough knowledge of the merits of each case, whether by personal visits to the parties, or by requiring their attendance at the private or public office.

6th. The out-door inquiries to be conducted at the discretion of the Board, whether singly by the members or by sub-committees, as may be most convenient.

7th. In all discussions at the Board the secretary is permitted and invited to take a part, but not in voting.

8th. At the rising of the Board each day the "receiver" to be again opened for the reception of applications, and in like manner closed at 10 o'clock the following morning, but during the whole of Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays it will remain closed.

9th. On each Saturday before the meeting of the Board, the secretary will be prepared with a précis of all the applications of the past week, which, after the results of the investigation shall have been compared, and the merits of each application duly deliberated upon, will be embodied by the secretary in a "weekly report," addressed to the Governor or officer administering the government, but to be forwarded by the chairman of the Board of Commissioners to the chairman of the general relief committee at its weekly meeting on Monday, by whom it is to be transmitted, with any observations, suggestions or recommendations which that body may wish to offer, to the secretary of the colony, to be by him laid before the Governor at or before 12 o'clock every Tuesday, by whom it will be taken into immediate consideration (who will consult the members of Her Majesty's Council upon it, if he should deem it necessary to do so), so that no unnecessary delay will occur on his part in the issue of his warrants for such sums as may be approved by him, whether as donations or loans.

10th. As in the present relief committee that class of persons is not fully represented on whom the losses sustained by the late fire have fallen with the greatest severity, I should approve of the addition to such existing committee of those gentlemen whose names will be found in the accompanying list.

11th. It will be seen from the foregoing outline that the duties, in-door and out-door, to be performed by the members of this committee will occupy much of their time and attention, especially will they be onerous upon the secretary, whose qualifications must include, not

NEWFOUNDLAND. only quickness, method, arrangement and classification, but also the capability of expressing himself on paper, so as to present the weekly and all other reports of the Board in a clear and forcible shape.

12th. Animated, as I am sure all concerned will be by a disinterested desire to make their services useful in this cause of charity and benevolence, I must nevertheless require, as the condition of the acceptance by me of services at this Board, that its members shall consent to receive the sum of 100*L.* sterling each per annum, with an addition of 50*L.* each to the chairman and secretary, exclusive of a reasonable allowance to the latter for office-rent, printing, stationery, and other incidental expenses.

13th. I would express my anxious desire that the operations of the Board may commence so soon as a suitable office can be procured, by due public notice given.

14th. It will be perceived that I have confined myself in the foregoing scheme altogether to the subject of pecuniary relief from funds now at my disposal. The distribution of provisions and clothing, and providing shelter, &c., I regard as within the more immediate province of the general relief committee, with this reservation, however, that no provisions, clothing, or any other description of stores, contributed by other colonies or communities (except so specified by the contributors) be sold or converted into money without the previous concurrence and sanction of the Governor or officer administering the Government.

15th. I recommend that all monies which are now or that may hereafter come into possession of the relief committee should be thrown into one general fund, by being paid into the military chest or lodged in the bank, for the express object of meeting the wants of the Governor under the arrangement now communicated.

16th. Finally, that as the sum at present at the disposal of the Government can scarcely be said to exceed 25,000*L.* (it being my intention to reserve 5,000*L.* to meet future unforeseen contingencies and demands), I should not therefore approve of the relief, whether by loans or donations, to be recommended, exceeding in any case 100*L.*

Government House, 17 August 1846.

MEMORANDUM for the Chairman of the Relief Committee.

LIST of Names to be added to the Relief Committee.

Mr. Henry Winton, Mr. Patrick L. Power, Mr. Peter Duchemin, Mr. Patrick Mallowney, Mr. Alexander M'Auslan, Mr. James Callen, Mr. Richard Perchard.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, the Honourable Patrick Morris, the Honourable the Surveyor-general, the Honourable Walter Greene.

Dr. Kielley, Dr. Carson, Mr. Patrick Keogh, Mr. J. H. Warren, Mr. A. Shea, Mr. Douglas.

— No. 29. —

No. 29.
Lieut.-Col. Law
to Earl Grey,
8 September 1846.

(No. 4.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Colonel *Law*, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl *Grey*.

Government House, Newfoundland,
8 September 1846.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 18th ultimo*, instructing me, if it should not interfere with arrangements already made, to reserve a portion of the grant of 30,000*L.* for the relief of the destitute poor, to be applied in the re-erection of the official buildings of the colony.

In reply I beg to acquaint your Lordship, that previous to his departure for Nova Scotia, Sir John Harvey reserved 5,000*L.* of the 30,000*L.* to meet any unforeseen demands. Of the remaining 25,000*L.* a considerable sum has been already distributed, or is in course of distribution amongst the poor, but I hope to be enabled to add some portion of it to the 5,000*L.* already reserved, to be made available in the manner contemplated by your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Law.*

— No. 30. —

(No. 20.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl *Grey* to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 September 1846.

I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty has been pleased to issue Her Royal Letters to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, authorizing their Graces to adopt proper measures for promoting subscriptions in their respective provinces for the relief of the sufferers by the recent fires at St. John's, Newfoundland. Arrangements have been made at the Bank of England for the receipt of these subscriptions, of which I shall have the opportunity from time to time of reporting to you the amount collected.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey*.

No. 30.
Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.
3 Sept. 1846.

— No. 31. —

(No. 22.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl *Grey* to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 September 1846.

SINCE my despatch, No. 17, of the 18th ultimo,* I have been led to consider the best mode of distributing those funds which have been placed at your command by Her Majesty's Government, as well as by the generosity of several of the North American colonies, and private individuals.

I desire especially to call your attention to the subject, in order that the relief to be given may, whilst it meets pressing cases of urgent distress by immediate pecuniary aid or food, or both, be so administered as to confer the largest amount of permanent benefit upon the colony, and in the least objectionable manner.

In order the more clearly to explain to you the views I entertain, I shall divide the sufferers by the late destructive fire into three classes, and then consider the respective claims of each class to relief, and the best mode of affording it.

1st. The superior class of merchants, in which I am informed there are many individuals whose losses are great, are, I imagine, either accustomed to insure against the risk of fire or possess resources of their own, which will prevent probably any application from any of this body for relief to the Committee.

2d. The middle class, comprehending those engaged in the retail trade, shopkeepers and others, will, I have reason to think, furnish the largest number of applicants for assistance, and which will require both judgment and discrimination in the administration of it. In this class the losses have been extensive and keenly felt; but it does not appear to me as a general rule that by the aid of pecuniary assistance alone their application for relief would be best provided for; and further, if in rendering assistance to this class it may be made serviceable to the class below and to the colony generally, it becomes of great importance to consider well the mode of affording it. The great injury inflicted upon this class by the fire has arisen from the destruction of their houses; and hence, if the relief afforded be such as will enable them to commence the rebuilding of their dwellings at the earliest period which the season will permit, it will not only directly meet this source of suffering and distress, but, by annexing the conditions I propose, a means of employment will be provided for the labouring population, which also will tend to relieve the latter, free from all the objections to temporary and charitable donations.

I am of opinion that, for the purpose of rebuilding the dwellings of the class of which I am now speaking, it would be desirable to make the sums to be contributed out of the funds placed at your disposal contingent upon an equal amount being contributed by the individuals applying for assistance, the consent of the parties being previously obtained to the application of the joint sum thus appropriated to the reconstruction of the dwellings of the parties, with materials

No. 31.
Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.
3 Sept. 1846.
* Page 27.

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to be determined upon by the Local Committee, under the advice of the officer who will be appointed to assist the Committee. By adopting this view the Relief Committee will not only secure the rebuilding of the city with materials calculated to resist such destructive conflagrations as of late have unhappily fallen to the lot of the city of St. John's, but extensive employment, and for a considerable time, will be given, and at the earliest possible period, to the labouring population. With reference to this class, which has not, as I am informed, suffered so severely as that to which I have just referred, I think the relief that may be necessary may be given in money or food, or both, including some provision for their shelter, if required, during the winter. I am happy to learn that generally they are well off, and aided as they will be by the employment thus to be provided, I hope and believe their sufferings may be in as great a degree as possible mitigated.

By thus wisely economizing and applying the fund as I have pointed out, there will probably be a large surplus which may be devoted to the erection of public buildings, and thus still further increase the means of employing the working classes.

To assist in the construction of these buildings, to determine upon the plan, to select the site, Her Majesty's Government propose to send out an engineer officer of experience in the construction of public works and buildings.

It will be no part of his duty to interfere with the plans of private houses, which (the materials for their reconstruction being decided on by the Committee) may be properly left to the parties interested. But after conferring with the authorities of the colony upon all the details of the buildings in which public business has to be transacted, this officer will be empowered to decide upon the site, materials, and the plan finally to be adopted, for the special objects I have adverted to; and he will be instructed for this purpose to put himself into communication with the officers of the principal departments, and endeavour cordially to act in conjunction with their advice and experience, subject to the approbation of the Lieutenant-governor.

These views, I trust, will be acceptable to the Relief Committee and those for whom they act. They are dictated by a sincere desire to mitigate, as far as practicable, the distress and suffering consequent upon the calamity which has befallen the city, and to attain that most desirable object, the reconstruction of the city upon a plan, and with materials calculated to prevent the recurrence of such a calamity, and generally in the least injurious manner, to distribute that fund which the liberality of the Government, of the neighbouring colonies, and private parties have contributed to the relief of the sufferers from the recent destruction of the city.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

— No. 32. —

No. 32.
Earl Grey to
the Officer administering the
Government of
Newfoundland.
24 Sept. 1846.

(No. 24.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl *Grey* to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

Sir.

Downing-street, 24 September 1846.

I HAVE to acquaint you, that Her Majesty's Government have decided upon devolving upon Major Robe, R.E., the task of reconstructing the public buildings at St. John's, Newfoundland, instead of sending to that country an officer of engineers especially for that duty. You will, therefore, communicate this decision to Major Robe, though he will probably receive a similar communication from the Master-general and Board of Ordnance; and you will direct him to give his immediate attention to the preparation of plans for the buildings in question, in order that they may be submitted to Mr. Bruce on his arrival in the colony.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

— No. 33. —

(No. 32.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 October 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of a despatch from Sir John Harvey, dated the 18th August*, from Newfoundland, reporting his proceedings in regard to the distribution of the Parliamentary Grant intended for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire at St. John's; adverting to the fact, that when Sir John Harvey wrote this despatch he was not in possession of my instruction to reserve a portion of the grant for the purpose of rebuilding the town of St. John's, and that he acted upon the only instruction which he had at that time received from me on this subject, I can have no hesitation in approving his proceedings as now reported to me.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

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No. 33.

Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

17 October 1846.

* Page 40.

— No. 34. —

(No. 41.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 16 November 1846.

I HAVE to inform you, that since my despatch, No. 20†, of 3d September, the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have communicated to me that subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire at St. John's, Newfoundland, amounting, on the 24th October inclusive, to 14,917*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, have been raised and paid into the Bank of England, and that their Lordships have instructed the officer in charge of the commissariat on that station to hold that sum at your disposal for the purposes of the intended relief.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

No. 34.

Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

16 Nov. 1846.

† Page 43.

— No. 35. —

(No. 7.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Colonel Law, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl Grey.

My Lord,

Government House, Newfoundland,
10 September 1846.

At the request of the Lord Bishop and the other subscribers thereto, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying memorial, addressed to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The severe loss sustained by the Protestant Episcopalians of this city in the destruction of their principal church, the impossibility of their finding sufficient funds for its rebuilding, and the strong fact of all monies raised under the Queen's Letter being contributed by members of that communion, induce me most respectfully to entreat your Lordship's favourable consideration and recommendation of the object sought in this memorial.

I have, &c.
(signed) Robert Law.

No. 35.

Lieut.-Col. Law to Earl Grey.

10 Sept. 1846.

Enclosure in No. 35.

To the Right honourable Sir George Grey, Bart., M. P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, &c. Encl. in No. 35.

The Memorial of the Bishop of Newfoundland, and of the Rector, Churchwardens, and other Parishioners of St. John's, in the said Island;

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your memorialists have learned, with feelings of the deepest gratitude, that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to issue Her Royal Letter, authorising a collection

NEWFOUNDLAND. collection in the churches of the Establishment throughout England for the relief of the distress occasioned by the calamitous fire by which the greater part of this city was desolated on the 9th of June last.

That during that conflagration the only place of public worship destroyed in the town was the church of St. John the Baptist, which served as well for the cathedral of the diocese of Newfoundland as for the parish church.

That the heavy losses which have fallen on the members of the Church of England have, through that visitation, precluded all hope of the church being restored by local contributions.

That the special appeal made in England on this behalf is necessarily prejudiced to a considerable extent by the appeal made there simultaneously on behalf of those who have suffered temporal loss by the fire.

That the collections to be made under the authority of the Queen's Letter will be gathered wholly from members of the Church of England, whilst a very large majority of those to whose benefit they will be applied here will not be of that communion.

All which premises your memorialists respectfully solicit you to take into your favourable consideration; and, as in duty bound, they will ever pray.

(signed) *Edward Newfoundland.*
Thomas F. H. Bridge, Rector.
Thos. Row, Churchwarden.
Wm. Rendell, Jun. Churchwarden.
E. Bennett.
Geo. H. Wilson, jun.

No. 36.

Earl Grey to the
 Officer administering
 the Govern-
 ment of Newfound-
 land.

17 Nov. 1846.

— No. 36. —

(No. 42.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to the Officer administering the
 Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 November 1846.

In pursuance of the wish expressed in your despatch, No. 7, of the 10th September, I transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Home Department the petition addressed to him by the Bishop of Newfoundland, and by the rector, churchwardens and other inhabitants of the town of St. John's, on the subject of rebuilding the parish church, which has been destroyed by the late fire: and I transmit to you for your information, a copy of the answer which Sir George Grey has returned to me upon the subject. I also enclose the copy of a correspondence which has passed between the Bishop of London and myself in reference to the appropriation of a portion of the fund raised by the subscriptions in consequence of the Queen's Letter to the rebuilding of this church; and I have to inform you that I entertain no objection to a limited portion of the fund being applied in the manner desired by the committee in London, at whose request the Queen's Letter was issued.

I take this opportunity of stating, that if it be the fact, as it is alleged to be, that the relief committee by whom the Parliamentary Grant has been distributed did not comprise amongst its number any member of the Church of England, it would be scarcely consistent with the respect due to the Established Church to leave to a committee so constituted the distribution of the funds raised under the Queen's Letter, and consequently it is to be presumed contributed entirely by members of that church. If, therefore, you should find it expedient to entrust the distribution of the money thus raised to the same committee which was appointed for the apportionment of the Parliamentary Grant, you will take care to place upon it, in addition to its present members, one of the clergy of the Church of England, or one of the churchwardens of the parish.

I am, &c.
 (signed) *Grey.*

Home Office,
 9th Nov.
 Bishop of London,
 13th Nov.
 Lord Grey,
 16th Nov.

Enclosure 1, in No. 36.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Encl. 1, in No. 36.

Sir,

Whitehall, 9 November 1846.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir George Grey to acquaint you, for the information of Earl Grey, with reference to your letter of the 15th ultimo, transmitting the copy of a despatch from the officer administering the government of Newfoundland, and of a memorial on the subject of rebuilding the church of St. John the Baptist in the city of St. John's, that it appears to Sir George Grey to be right that means should be adopted for securing the application of a portion of the funds lately collected in pursuance of the Queen's Letter for the relief of the sufferers by fire at St. John's, Newfoundland, towards the rebuilding of the church. It was intimated to Sir George Grey by the Lord Mayor of the City of London on the part of the committee for the collection of subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers, and at whose request the Queen's Letter was issued, that the committee would willingly concur in such an appropriation of a portion of the proceeds; and Sir George Grey has reason to believe that an expectation that such would be the case was entertained by the bishops and clergy through whom the collections in pursuance of the Queen's Letter were made. He therefore trusts that arrangements will be made by which the rebuilding of the church may be included among the objects to which the sum so collected will be applied.

I am, &c.

Jas. Stephen, Esquire,
Colonial Office.

(signed) S. M. Phillipps.

Enclosure 2, in No. 36.

My Lord,

Fulham, 13 November 1846.

Encl. 2, in No. 36.

A SHORT time before the issuing of the Queen's Letter, directing collections to be made for the relief of the sufferers in St. John's, Newfoundland, I wrote to Sir George Grey, stating my opinion, which was that of the clergy in general, that as the money would be collected exclusively from members of the Church of England, a reasonable proportion of it ought to be applied to the rebuilding of the parish church of St. John's, the only place of worship destroyed by the fire, and that some mention of this might be very properly made in the Queen's Letter.

Sir George Grey stated in reply, that no alteration could be conveniently made in the form of the Queen's Letter, but that the arrangement suggested by me might be made by the London committee, with whom would rest the appropriation of the money collected under the authority of the Queen's Letter; and that he would communicate with the Lord Mayor, as chairman of that committee, who would no doubt give me the assurance which I desired.

Accordingly I received a letter from the Lord Mayor, assuring me, on the part of the committee, that a considerable portion of the collection should be applied as I had suggested.

I am now informed, that the London committee will not be entrusted with the appropriation of any part of the money so collected, but that it is to be paid over to a committee in Newfoundland, appointed by the Governor, not one member of which, as it is stated, belongs to the Church of England, or of which, at all events, a large majority are of other communions; and that no part of the money can be applied to the rebuilding of the church.

If this should be the case, I shall feel myself bound to protest in the strongest manner against such an arrangement, considering both the equity of the case and the fact of a distinct pledge having been given me by Sir George Grey, that it would be left to the London committee to determine what part of the collection should be employed in the manner which I had suggested.

There is a very strong feeling on the subject amongst the parochial clergy, not a few of whom have urged, as a reason for increased liberality on the part of their parishioners, the necessity of providing for the rebuilding of the parish church of St. John's, which will also be the cathedral church of the diocese of Newfoundland.

I trust that your Lordship will be able to give me such an assurance on this head as may remove the anxiety occasioned to many others as well as myself by the statement to which I have referred.

The Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) C. J. London.

Enclosure 3, in No. 36.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 16 November 1846.

Encl. 3, in No. 36.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Lordship's letter of the 13th. My attention had already been called to the subject to which it relates by Sir G. Grey, and I had in consequence given directions for the preparation of a despatch to the officer administering the government of Newfoundland, directing him to apply a portion of the money raised by

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the collection which was made in consequence of the Queen's Letter to the rebuilding of the cathedral church of St. John's.

With this despatch, which will be sent by the next mail, I will forward a copy of your Lordship's letter to the officer administering the government, in order that he may be fully aware of what appear to be the wishes of many of the persons by whom this money was given, as to the use to be made of it.

The Right hon. and Right Rev.
The Lord Bishop of London.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

—No. 37.—

No. 37.
Lieut.-Col. Law to
Earl Grey.
25 Sept. 1846.

(No. 13.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Colonel *Law*, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl *Grey*.

Government House, Newfoundland,
25 September 1846.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 22,* of the 3d instant, suggesting the mode in which your Lordship deems it desirable that the relief afforded by the Government grant and by private subscriptions should be administered to the sufferers by the late fire in this city; and in reply I would respectfully beg permission to offer the following observations:

A considerable part (upwards of 9,000*l.* sterling) of the Government grant has been already expended in the relief of the sufferers, under the direction of two bodies constituted by Sir John Harvey for this service. The first, selected for their business habits and their knowledge generally of this community, consists of five members and a secretary, who sit every day to receive applications, and who, on due and full inquiry, award to each applicant such an amount as the circumstances of his case and the funds at their disposal will in the opinion of these commissioners justify. These awards are submitted once a week to a committee of relief, consisting of 40 members, chosen from various classes, and are by them, after careful examination, either sanctioned or objected to; they are then forwarded by this committee to the Governor, who either of himself, or in council, as he may deem necessary, gives his assent to them, and they are then paid. Your Lordship will see that by this course of proceeding a rigid scrutiny is instituted into every case, and the result has been the extension of the larger amount of relief to those cases coming under No. 2 of your Lordship's classification.

This system, as now in operation, could not without great complaint be interfered with. It is, I think, the best that could be devised; and I would, with the utmost deference, express my opinion, that the plan suggested by your Lordship of relief being in some instances made contingent on an equal amount being contributed by individuals applying for assistance, the whole sum to be employed in the reconstruction of the dwellings of the parties with such materials as may be prescribed by the committee, although very good in theory, is quite unsuited to our circumstances. The great point, as respects the recipients of relief, is an early and prompt distribution of the funds to assist them in erecting houses before our inclement winter comes on; but with the exception of the two principal streets, in which, in accordance with the provisions of the Building Act now under the consideration of the Government, the houses must be built of stone, the buildings will be altogether, or nearly so, of wood.

The lower classes, and especially the mechanics, have at this period abundant and profitable employment, but in consequence of many having been deprived of their houses and clothing, it has been necessary to give them the latter as well as food and money, and to have shelter provided for them for the winter.

I avail myself of this occasion respectfully to urge on your Lordship the necessity of an early signification of Her Majesty's pleasure on the Act before referred to, "for regulating the rebuilding of the town of St. John's," as many matters growing out of it require a speedy adjustment.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Law.*

— No. 38. —

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 34.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

No. 38.

Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

27 October 1846.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 October 1846.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 13, of the 25th September, on the subject of the distribution of the Parliamentary grant for the relief of the inhabitants of St. John's, Newfoundland.

I am aware that Sir John Harvey had appointed the committee (of whose proceedings you now furnish me with an account) previously to the receipt of my instructions of the 3d September, explaining the mode which appeared to me to be the best calculated for affording immediate and substantial benefit to the inhabitants of St. John's. I am not, therefore, surprised to learn that a considerable part of the grant having been already expended in the relief of the sufferers, under the direction of two committees constituted by Sir John Harvey for this service, upon a system which you describe to me, this system of relief, as it is actually in operation, could not now be interfered with without occasioning great dissatisfaction. Such being the case, although I must confess that I am not satisfied that the plan on which the committee is now acting is in itself the best that could have been adopted, and although I retain the opinion I have already expressed, that the grant which has been made for the relief of the inhabitants of St. John's would have been productive of greater permanent benefit if so applied as to secure the reconstruction of the town in a solid and durable manner, still I am not prepared to overrule the proceedings of the local authorities, who ought to be the best judges upon such a subject. It is right, however, that I should remind you that if this opportunity of rebuilding the town in a more solid manner is not taken advantage of, and if it should be determined to reconstruct it of perishable materials, it cannot be expected, in the event of another fire, that the same liberal assistance which has been granted by the Parliament of this country will be again afforded.

Adverting to your wish that Her Majesty's decision upon the Act regulating the rebuilding of the town of St. John's should be signified without delay, I have to inform you that Her Majesty was pleased, on the 30th ultimo, to leave the Act in question to its operation.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

— No. 39. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland to Earl Grey.

No. 39.

The Lord Bishop of Newfoundland to Earl Grey.

24 November 1846.

My Lord,

Exeter College, Oxford, 24 November 1846.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that it is my wish and intention to return to Newfoundland by the steamer on the 4th of next month, *vid* Halifax, if I can by that time arrange the business which brought me to England.

But I cannot fix on a plan, or engage a builder, for the new church in St. John's, until I know what portion of the monies collected under the authority of the Queen's Letter will be placed at our disposal.

Your Lordship is, I presume, aware that the Episcopal Church was the only place of public worship destroyed in the late conflagration, and that the committee of gentlemen who petitioned for the Queen's Letter distinctly named in their petition the restoration of this church as one of the objects contemplated and to be provided for. Several of the Bishops applied to Secretary Sir George Grey for information and satisfaction on this point (whether, I mean, the church would be rebuilt from the funds so to be collected), who by him were referred to the late Lord Mayor, as chairman of the committee who had applied for and obtained the Queen's Letter. The Lord Mayor, in reply, informed them that the committee had included this object in their petition to Her Majesty, and that it was their intention that two-thirds or three-fourths of the amount collected should be devoted to that purpose. This was supposed,

NEWFOUNDLAND.

posed, through Sir George Grey's reference, to be authoritative and conclusive. Some of the Bishops informed their clergy to this effect, who again urged the consideration on their congregations, and much larger alms in many parishes were received in consequence. The wish of the Relief Committee is still as stated above, and as declared by the Lord Mayor on their behalf. I can venture to add that such an appropriation will be in accordance with the expectations of the inhabitants generally of St. John's.

A very large sum of money will be required to build the plainest church of stone.

As I cannot arrange my plans to leave England before I am certified in this matter, and am very anxious not to make unnecessary delay, may I ask your Lordship to allow me the honour of an interview for information on this point and several others of importance, either on Wednesday or Thursday.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edward Newfoundland.*

— No. 40. —

No. 40.
Earl Grey to the
Lord Bishop of
Newfoundland.
26 Nov. 1846.

COPY of a LETTER from Earl Grey to the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 26 November 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 24th instant, and to acquaint you, in answer, that it is not in my power, from the information which can be obtained in this country, to determine what proportion of the sum raised by the collection made in virtue of the Queen's Letter should be applied in rebuilding the church of St. John in Newfoundland; this must depend upon the nature and extent of other demands upon the fund, of which the local authorities have alone the means of judging.

I have, however, instructed the Acting Governor of the colony to apply a portion of the fund to this object, and I regret that it is not in my power to do more.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

P.S.—I enclose the information respecting the amount of the collection made under the Queen's Letter, for which, after this letter had been written, your Lordship applied to me.

Amount already placed at the Governor's disposal	-	-	14,917	14	6
Subsequently paid into the Bank of England	-	-	11,436	3	9
					£. 26,353 18 3

— No. 41. —

No. 41.
Earl Grey to the
Officer administering
the Government of Newfoundland.
3 December 1846.

(No. 46.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 December 1846.

I TRANSMIT for your information the enclosed copy of a letter from the Bishop of Newfoundland, together with a copy of the answer I have returned to it, on the subject of the appropriation, to the rebuilding of St. John's Church, of that portion of the sum collected by virtue of the Queen's Letter, which has been paid into the Bank of England since the date of my despatch, No. 41,* of the 13th of November.

I take this opportunity of informing you that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have apprized me, that they have instructed the officer in charge of the Commissariat on the station to hold the further sum of 11,436*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* at your disposal, for the purposes of the intended relief.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

30 Nov. 1846.
3 Dec. 1846.

* Page 45.

Enclosure 1, in No. 41.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Encl. 1, in No. 41.

My Lord,

79, Pall Mall, 30 November 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 26th instant, which followed me into the country.

I trust I may be allowed to hope, and to ask, that that portion of the collection made under the authority of the Queen's Letter, now remaining in England, may be devoted to the rebuilding of the Episcopal church in St. John's.

This division will not answer the assurance which the late Lord Mayor, as Chairman of the Relief Committee, was allowed to give the Bishops; nor will it enable us to build such a church as we had hoped and intended; but with the assistance of private subscriptions we may increase the amount to 15,000*l.* or 16,000*l.*, which would only complete such a church as in England would cost 11,000*l.* or 12,000*l.* If the remainder be assigned to Church purposes, we should be glad that the whole sum forwarded to St. John's should be applied to the general relief of the suffering poor in temporal things. It will not be forgotten that the members of the Church of England in St. John's are the only parties suffering in their religious concerns through the fire, and that the money collected under the authority of the Queen's Letter was obtained almost exclusively from members of the Church; they also having otherwise contributed to the general fund.

Your Lordship will, I doubt not, provide that no more of the money leaves the country without your Lordship's knowledge and approval.

The Earl Grey, &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ed. Newfoundland.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 41.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 3 December 1846.

Encl. 2, in No. 41.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, expressing your hope that that portion of the collections made under the authority of the Queen's Letter now remaining in this country may be appropriated to the rebuilding of the Episcopal church in St. John's, Newfoundland.

In reply, I have to acquaint your Lordship that I am not prepared, without further information as to the extent to which distress may be felt in Newfoundland, to give any positive instructions to the acting Governor as to the application of this money to the rebuilding of St. John's Church, though I shall be glad to find that it can be so appropriated without inconvenience.

The Right Rev.
The Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

— No. 42. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Lord Bishop of *Newfoundland* to Earl Grey.

No. 42.
The Lord Bishop
of Newfoundland
to Earl Grey.
4 December 1846.

My Lord,

26, Bury-street, 4 December 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 3d instant, in which your Lordship states, that, without further information as to the extent to which distress may be felt in Newfoundland, you are not prepared to give any positive instructions to the acting Governor as to the application of this money (that portion of the collections made under authority of the Queen's Letter now remaining in this country) to the rebuilding of St. John's Church.

I am most unwilling to be or appear importunate and troublesome, especially after the kind manner in which your Lordship has noticed my former applications. But as my letters from St. John's seem to supply the required, and I trust sufficient, information, and which, though it cannot be regarded as official, may I think be relied on as correct, I venture to trouble your Lordship with some extracts. It is right to add that my correspondent is a clergyman, and a member of the Relief Committee, but as he never intended or expected that his information would meet any eye but mine, it could not be framed to persuade, or with any object but simply to narrate facts. He says, "Our labours are nearly at an end. To-day we went through the last précis of the Commissioners. The sum expended in awards for compensation amounts to about 32,000*l.* currency; in meeting which, half the Government grant of 30,000*l.*

NEWFOUNDLAND. has been expended, and about 14,000*l.* of private subscriptions. Of these latter there is a balance in hand of about 5,000*l.* The question now to be settled, is, *What is to be done with the surplus?* It is generally considered that the unexpended residue of private subscriptions will be more than enough to satisfy the claims of those who are entitled to a further instalment. The Government, both local and home, intend, I believe, to appropriate the remaining moiety of the Imperial grant (which has just arrived in hard sovereigns) to the restoration of official buildings. Then comes the question, *What is to be done with the Queen's Letter collections?*"

I do not like to trouble your Lordship with further extracts, though there are several other matters I should be glad to bring under your notice. The above extract is verbatim from the letter, and it seems to show that (independently of the 14,000*l.* and upwards sent, as your Lordship informed me, from the Queen's Letter Fund) there are two sums of 15,000*l.* and 5,000*l.* (the former the moiety of the Government grant, and the latter the surplus of private subscriptions,) actually in St. John's; making in all nearly 35,000*l.* unemployed, and almost, it would seem, uncalled for. My friend thinks, "with many others, that if any additional large sum be appropriated to the sufferers by the fire, it will do more harm than good." He gives reasons which I am unwilling to quote. I cannot but hope, therefore, that your Lordship will find and grant (as you have kindly expressed a wish might be the case) that the whole residue of the Queen's Letter Fund now remaining in this country may be appropriated without inconvenience to the rebuilding of our church.

I would respectfully ask, whether there is any necessity of putting the monies collected through the Queen's Letter into the acting Governor's hands; I would humbly suggest that the Government at home might more conveniently direct the application, and prescribe the guarantees or certificates, if it might not be put under my control. I allude, of course, to the residue reserved for rebuilding the church.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edwd. Newfoundland.*

— No. 43. —

No. 43.
Earl Grey to the
Lord Bishop of
Newfoundland.
15 Dec. 1846.

COPY of a LETTER from Earl Grey to the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 15 December 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 4th instant, on the subject of the appropriation of the remaining portion of the collections made under the authority of the Queen's Letter. It will not be in my power, in compliance with the request contained in that letter, to issue any directions respecting the appropriation of these funds until I shall be in possession of the report which I am expecting on the subject from the officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

— No. 44. —

No. 44.
Lieut.-Col. Law
to Earl Grey.
26 Nov. 1846.

(No. 25.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Colonel Law, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl Grey.

Government House, Newfoundland,
26 November 1846.

My Lord,

THE Assistant Commissary-general in charge on this station having apprized me that he had received from the Lords of the Treasury authority to draw for a sum of 14,917*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, which has been paid into the Bank of England on account of the collection under the Queen's Letter for the sufferers by the fire of the 9th June, I deem it my duty to bring under your Lordship's consideration some circumstances connected with the funds derived from the Government, and from other sources, for the same object.

Concurring

Concurring strongly in your Lordship's view of the advantage to be derived from a portion of the Government grant being reserved for the re-erection of official buildings, or other public purpose connected with the general interests of the colony, I have, since the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of 18th August, No. 17, taken every step which I thought likely to effect this object.

The Commissioners appointed by Sir John Harvey entertained, after rigid scrutiny, upwards of 2,000 cases, which, after being subjected to examination by the Relief Committee, were relieved to the extent recommended by those two bodies—the maximum allowance being 50 *l.*

The whole amount expended on these cases was nearly 32,000 *l.* currency, leaving of the grants in the hands of the local Government about 15,000 *l.* sterling, and in those of the Relief Committee about 10,000 *l.* currency. At a recent meeting of this body, comprising in itself many recipients and many expectants of some of the money received from the Government and from individuals, it was determined that the Commissioners should again go over all the cases previously relieved and award additional sums, so as to make an allowance of 15 per cent. to all persons who had sustained a less loss than 500 *l.*, and 10 per cent. to the sufferers beyond that amount,—the extent in no case to exceed 300 *l.*

As it is contemplated that this is to be paid out of Government as well as private funds, and as Sir John Harvey, on appointing the Commissioners, limited their grants to 100 *l.*, I purpose, to avoid mixing up the Government in this transaction, to put an end to the Commission; but as the Commissioners will still form a part of the general Relief Committee, they can give the same assistance in that capacity as they could do as Commissioners in appropriating the money at the disposal of the Committee, with which appropriation it is not my intention to interfere.

My object in laying before your Lordship this statement of existing circumstances is to request that your Lordship will give an absolute direction that the 15,000 *l.* sterling remaining of the Government money be retained to await your Lordship's final instructions. I am induced to request your Lordship will assume this duty, for the following reasons, which, in my opinion, would make it a very difficult task for the head of the local Government.

The natural anxiety of the unfortunate sufferers by the late fire to obtain relief, has, under the influence of the liberal aid afforded to us, grown into a demand, the tendency of which appears to be of a demoralizing character. An idea is very generally prevalent that as long as any money remains of public or private grants, the sufferers, whether in poverty or not, have a right to it; and this has led many to be applicants, who, in the first instance, did not think of it.

The consequence is that those who have been relieved yet look for more; and those who have not yet received, but think they have a right to do so, form a most powerful combination, comprising a large portion of the inhabitants of St. John's.

The merchants, and others of the better classes, would, I believe, with a few exceptions, be glad if a portion of the grant were reserved for public purposes. Our pecuniary prospects are of a very painful character; the fearful distress in the out-ports of the colony will absorb a large sum of money, and the revenue for the quarter ending in October, notwithstanding the necessity of replacing many articles liable to duty which were burnt, fell considerably short of that of the corresponding quarter of the previous year. So that we have the colony suffering most severely, and the relief fund, with its present and prospective receipts, most flourishing.

Under these circumstances, I trust that I may receive from your Lordship the direction that I retain the balance of the Government grant now in the commissariat chest to await your Lordship's further instructions.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Robert Law.*

NEWFOUNDLAND.

— No. 45. —

No. 45.
Earl Grey to the
Officer administering
the Government
of Newfoundland,
23 December 1846.

(No. 55.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to the Officer administering the
Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 23 December 1846.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 25,* of the 26th November, bringing under my notice the state of the funds for the relief of the sufferers by the fire at St. John's, Newfoundland, at present in the hands of the local Government and in those of the Relief Committee.

Under the circumstances stated by you, I feel no difficulty in complying with your request, by authorizing you to retain in your hands the remaining portion of the Government fund, amounting to the sum of 15,000 *l.*, until you shall receive my final instructions for its appropriation.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

No. 46.

The Lord Bishop
of Newfoundland
to Earl Grey,
17 December 1846.

— No. 46. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland to Earl Grey.

My Lord,

26, Bury-street, 17 December 1846.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Lordship the following intelligence, received this day from St. John's, Newfoundland, which seems of importance, as well generally as in reference to the particular case on which I have had occasion to trouble your Lordship.

"The payment of an instalment to those whose losses exceed 500 *l.* has been determined on by the Relief Committee, at the same rate of 10 *l.* per cent., at which sufferers from that amount downwards have already been compensated.

"And as some of those whose losses are less than 500 *l.* are in great difficulties, it is intended to assist them further with not more than an additional 5 *l.* per cent., the maximum of relief to be 300 *l.* The 10 *l.* per cent. will consume about 10,000 *l.*, and the Committee have at their disposal upwards of 11,000 *l.* of private subscriptions. The second instalment of 5 *l.* per cent. or less to losers of 500 *l.* or less, will require about 4,000 *l.* or 5,000 *l.* currency; so that even of the Government grant there will be a large balance, exclusive of the Queen's Letter collections."

I earnestly hope the despatches addressed officially to your Lordship may be of a similar nature, and enable your Lordship to appropriate the sum for rebuilding the Episcopal church without delay, that I may make the necessary arrangements before my departure.

I may be pardoned, I trust, in a matter of so much importance to myself and my friends, if I respectfully remind your Lordship that two objects were mentioned in the petition for the Queen's Letter, viz., the relief of the sufferers, and the rebuilding of the Episcopal church; the former of those objects has been provided for by the remittance of nearly 15,000 *l.* from the collections; surely the residue ought in reason and justice to be applied to the latter. It was the wish of the petitioners, and a declaration was made to the clergy that a much larger portion should be so applied.

I have, &c.
(signed) Ed. Newfoundland.

— No. 47. —

No. 47.
Earl Grey to the
Officer administering
the Government
of Newfoundland,
23 December 1846.

(No. 57.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to the Officer administering the
Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 December 1846.

WITH reference to my despatch, No. 55, of 23d instant, I transmit for your information and guidance the copy of a letter I have addressed to the Bishop of Newfoundland respecting the appropriation of the fund collected under the authority of the Queen's Letter for the relief of the sufferers by the fire at St. John's; and in accordance with the terms of that letter, I have to authorize you to reserve one-half of the total amount of these collections, to be applied to the rebuilding of the church of St. John.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

23 December 1846.

Enclosure in No. 47.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Encl. in No. 47.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 22 December 1846.

In reply to your Lordship's letter of the 17th instant, I have to acquaint you that I have, by the last mail, received a despatch from the acting Governor of Newfoundland, to the same effect as the statement contained in your letter, and that, under these circumstances, as I am aware that the parties who applied for the Queen's Letter did mention the rebuilding of the church of St. John as one of the objects for which the collection was desired, and also that it was one particularly referred to by many clergymen in their sermons preceding the collection, I shall think it right to direct the Governor to reserve for this purpose one-half of the total amount of the collections.

To the Right Rev.
The Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

— No. 48. —

(No. 27.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Colonel *Law*, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl *Grey*.

No. 48.

Lieut.-Col. Law to
Earl Grey.
10 December 1846.

Government House, Newfoundland,
10 December 1846.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 17 November, No. 42,* on the subject of a portion of the funds raised by the subscriptions from the Queen's Letter being appropriated to the rebuilding of the parish church.

* Page 46.

I have little doubt that nearly every disinterested person in the colony would agree in the propriety of such an appropriation, but, for the reasons detailed in my despatch to your Lordship, No. 25,† of the 26th ultimo, I would most respectfully beg leave to suggest that your Lordship should direct that a certain proportion of the fund in question, either one-third or one-fourth, be devoted to the reconstruction of the church.

† Page 52.

Such a proceeding on the part of the local Government might lead to complaint, whilst, as your Lordship's act, it would not, in my opinion, meet with any objection.

With reference to the concluding part of your Lordship's despatch, I beg to state that the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of London is in error in stating that there is not a member of the Church of England on the Relief Committee, as the rector of the parish and several of the principal members of that church are on this Committee. The body to which his Lordship must have alluded was the Board of Commissioners (consisting of six) appointed by Sir John Harvey, on which, I believe entirely by accident, there was no Protestant Episcopalian, but which Board has discharged its arduous duties in such a manner as to give general satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Law.*

— No. 49. —

COPY of a LETTER from Earl *Grey* to the Lord Bishop of *London*.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 8 January 1847.

WITH reference to the letter which I had the honour to receive from your Lordship on the 13th of November last, relative to the appropriation of a portion of the funds collected under the authority of the Queen's Letter to the rebuilding of the church of St. John's, Newfoundland, I transmit for your information an extract from a despatch which I have received from the officer administering the government of that colony, from which your Lordship will perceive that the rector of the parish of St. John's and several members of that church are on the Relief Committee to whom the distribution of the funds in question is entrusted.

No. 49.
Earl Grey to the
Lord Bishop of
London.
8 January 1847.

No. 27.
10 Dec. 1846.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 50.
 Lieut.-Col Law to
 Earl Grey.
 10 December 1846.

—No. 50.—

(No. 28.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Colonel Law, administering the
 Government of Newfoundland, to Earl Grey.

Government House, Newfoundland,
 10 December 1846.

My Lord.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship a copy of the
 speech with which on the 1st instant I opened the sixth session of the General
 Assembly of this island, together with the address of the House in answer
 thereto, and my reply.

I have, &c.
 (signed) Robert Law.

Enclosure in No. 50.

(Extract.)

Encl. in No. 50.

SPEECH of his Honor the Administrator of the Government on opening the Sixth
 Session of the Third General Assembly, 1st December 1846.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

IN the expectation of the early arrival of our Governor, and with the knowledge that
 the season at which I have called you together may to some prove an inconvenient one,
 I should have abstained from assembling you on this occasion could I have done so con-
 sistent with what I deem my duty; but the pressing necessities of the poor of the
 outports, arising out of the various calamities with which the colony has been afflicted
 during the present year,—the apparent necessity of some amendments in the St. John's
 Building Act, and the fact that, according to the opinion of the law officers of the Crown,
 the present Assembly (which has been continued in its amalgamated form by an Act of the
 Imperial Parliament) cannot, under the operation of the Quadrennial Act, sit after the
 14th of next month, render it indispensable that I should have recourse to your counsel
 and advice at the earliest possible period.

I shall cause to be laid before you statements of the sums expended for the relief of
 distress originating in deficient seal and cod fisheries, as also in a partial failure in the
 potato crop; together with a report by a Committee of the Council on claims induced by
 the destructive ravages of the tempest of the 19th of September last.

I have directed a Bill to be prepared introducing such amendments as are deemed
 advisable in the St. John's Building Act. To a subject so important it is unnecessary to
 request your earnest attention; and it appears to me that whilst the great object to be
 attained, at whatever cost, is the re-construction of this city of materials of an incombustible
 and permanent nature, our financial condition unfortunately does not admit of an extensive
 expenditure for alterations or improvements of an ornamental character.

I must also call your attention to the absence of any Act for the re-establishment of fire
 companies in this community, than which nothing is of more paramount importance.

Since the awful calamity of the 9th June, two superior fire engines, the gift of the Phœnix
 Insurance Company, attached *pro tempore* to the garrison, together with those belonging to
 Government, have been our only resource; but if to these, others worked by equally
 efficient and well-organized bodies, were added, as also an auxiliary, in the shape of a
 powerful floating fire engine, stationed on the harbour, and available at all times for the
 extinction of fire on the water-side premises, or to afford to other engines a constant supply
 of water, coupled with the establishment of the projected water company, I conceive that
 we shall, so far as human precaution goes, have not only provided against the repetition of
 such a frightful visitation, but that the heavy premiums now demanded on insurance may,
 in consequence of the increased security, be materially reduced.

Copies of despatches from the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies,
 upon various subjects of interest, amongst which is one disallowing the Act for raising a
 loan to be guaranteed by the Imperial Government, will be laid before you.

I cannot deny myself the gratification of expressing, on this occasion, my deep sense of
 gratitude, in which I am sure you will warmly participate, towards the parent Government,
 as well as to the other generous donors of the munificent contributions which have been
 remitted for the relief of the sufferers of this city, and which have afforded support and
 comfort to many poor and drooping families. The sums of money so received and applied,
 in conjunction with the existing high rate of wages to mechanics and labourers, have tended
 much to abate the demands which would otherwise have been made upon the Government
 for the relief of the poor of this district, and which, notwithstanding, I regret to say, have
 been considerably increased as compared with former years.

ADDRESS of the Assembly, in reply.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

PASSED as the St. John's Building Act was, upon the pressing exigency of the occasion, without sufficient time being afforded for such consideration as their importance deserved of the details of an Act in itself voluminous and difficult, we are not surprised that alterations in some of its provisions should have been found necessary; and we shall endeavour, during the present Session, to render it as perfect as possible, by the adoption of such amendments as the intended permanency of its operation, and the great extent, importance, and variety of the interests involved in its enactments, certainly require.

The providing, by the establishment and maintenance of efficient fire companies, of some means for the preservation of the town from fire, other than such as are found in the proper regulation of the structure of the buildings, is a subject which shall engage our early attention; and we coincide in the views expressed by your Honor as to the mode in which an end so desirable can best be attained.

There is, we trust, but little necessity for the assurance, that we do indeed feel with your Honor deeply grateful for the assistance afforded us under our great calamity of the 9th of June last, by the munificent donations of the mother country, and of our sister colonies, donations the more highly valued from the sincere expressions of heartfelt sympathy in our distress with which they were invariably accompanied.

— No. 51. —

(No. 58.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 2 January 1847.

WITH reference to my despatch, No. 57, of 25th ultimo, respecting the appropriation of the funds collected under the Queen's Letter for the relief of the sufferers by the fire at St. John's, I have now to instruct you that that portion of the contributions which I directed to be appropriated to the rebuilding of the church of St. John should only be drawn for from time to time as funds may be required for the purpose.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

No. 51.
Earl Grey to the
Officer administering
the Government of Newfoundland.
2 January 1847.

— No. 52. —

(No. 61.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 January 1847.

FOR your own information, and for the information of the Bishop of Newfoundland, I transmit to you the accompanying copy of a correspondence which has taken place between this department and the office of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, respecting the investment of the sums received on account of the relief subscriptions under the Queen's Letter, and respecting the latest receipts on that account at the Bank of England.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

No. 52.
Earl Grey to the
Officer administering
the Government of Newfoundland.
19 January 1847.

Enclosure 1, in No. 52.

Sir,

Downing-street, 2 January 1847.

I AM directed by Earl Grey to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, an extract from a letter addressed to his Lordship by the Bishop of Newfoundland, on the subject of the subscriptions collected under the Queen's Letter for the relief of the sufferers by the fire at St. John's, Newfoundland. Lord Grey has directed the officer administering the Government to appropriate one-half of the total amount thus collected to rebuilding the church of St. John's; and I am to request you will state to the Lords Commissioners that it would, in Lord Grey's opinion, be advisable that, in conformity with the Bishop's suggestion, this portion of the fund should only be drawn for in the colony as it is wanted to pay for the work, and that in the meantime it should, if possible, be temporarily invested, so as to bear interest.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Stephen.

C. E. Trevelyan, Esq.

Encl. 1, in No. 52.

29th Dec.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Encl. 2, in No. 52.

Enclosure 2, in No. 52.

My Lord,

26, Bury-street, 29 December 1846.

As I intend to leave for Newfoundland by the next steamer, I would respectfully beg to be informed by whom and in what way the money for the church in St. John's shall be drawn.

If it be necessary that the total amount should pass through the Governor's hands, I can of course make no objection; but there are several reasons why it might with more advantage be retained in this country; among others, that it might bear interest while the work is in progress.

I presume the collections have now been generally made, and your Lordship may be able to inform me what the half will amount to, which would be all I should need to enable me to choose my plans, or to leave necessary directions. I reckon upon nearly 15,000 *l*.

I should feel grateful for the honour of an interview before my departure, either to-morrow or Thursday, at any hour your Lordship will kindly name.

The Right hon. Earl Grey.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. Newfoundland.*

Enclosure 3, in No. 52.

Encl. 3, in No. 52.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 2 January 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, in reply to your Lordship's letter of the 29th ultimo, that the Commissary on the Newfoundland station was authorized, on the 30th October and the 24th November last, to pay over to the local Government the respective sums of 14,917*l*. 14*s*. 6*d*. and 11,436*l*. 3*s*. 9*d*., on account of the subscriptions collected under the Queen's Letter for the relief of the sufferers by the fire at St. John's, and that a further sum of 2,379*l*. 2*s*. 10*d*. has since been received by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and is now available in this country.

It appears, from inquiries which I have caused to be made at their Lordships' office, that, with the exception of any liabilities which may have been incurred in the colony, there is probably the whole of this sum in hand, the Commissary on the station not having had the means, it is supposed, of issuing any portion of it.

I shall endeavour to meet your Lordship's wishes as to the retention in this country until it is wanted of that part of the produce of the collection which is to be set apart for rebuilding St. John's church.

To the Right Rev.
The Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

Enclosure 4, in No. 52.

Encl. 4, in No. 52.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 13 January 1847.

WITH reference to your communication, dated the 2d instant, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request you will state to Earl Grey, that my Lords having, as his Lordship is aware, already authorized the Commissary in Newfoundland to pay over, upon requisitions from the Governor of the colony, the whole of the sums received on account of the relief subscriptions under the Queen's Letter up to the 21st November last, amounting to 26,353*l*. 18*s*. 3*d*., defer giving any directions respecting the investment suggested by the Bishop of Newfoundland until they shall have been apprised of the extent to which the Governor may have availed himself of the credit thus given to him on the commissariat chest in the colony.

I am further to request you will state to Lord Grey, that an additional amount of 2,784*l*. 17*s*. 1*d*. has been received at the Bank of England on account of the subscriptions in question, which will be subject to deduction for expenses of postage on the communications to and from the clergy throughout the country relating to the Queen's Letter, but that my Lords will await the receipt of information regarding the proceedings in the colony, in the respect above adverted to, before they give any further directions for the disposal of the residue of the subscription fund.

James Stephen, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.I am, &c.
(signed) *C. E. Trevelyan.*

— No. 53. —

(No. 38.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Colonel *Law*, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl *Grey*.

No. 53.
Lieut.-Col. Law
to Earl Grey.
28 January 1847.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
28 January 1847.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your Lordship's information a copy of the speech with which on the 14th instant I closed the final session of the General Assembly of this Island.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Law*.

Enclosure in No. 53.

EXTRACT from Lieut.-Colonel *Law*'s Speech on closing the Session of the General Assembly.

Encl. in No. 53.

I TRUST that the Act for amending the St. John's Building Act, whilst providing security against the fearful element by which this city has been destroyed, will be found to involve much less of cost in its operation than the previously existing law.

COPIES of CORRESPONDENCE between the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Committee for raising Subscriptions for the Relief of the Distress occasioned by the Fire at *St. John's, Newfoundland*.

— No. 54. —

COPY of a PETITION from the Committee for the Relief of the Sufferers at the late Conflagration at *St. John's, Newfoundland*, to Her Majesty.

No. 54.
Petition from
Committee for
Relief of Sufferers
at Newfoundland
to Her Majesty.

To the QUEEN'S most Excellent MAJESTY.

The dutiful Petition of the undersigned Members of a Committee appointed at a Public Meeting in London on the 15th instant, to promote Subscriptions in aid of the Sufferers by the late Conflagration at *St. John's, Newfoundland*. The Right honourable the Lord Mayor in the Chair.

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT on the 9th day of last month a fire broke out at *St. John's*, the capital of Your Majesty's most ancient colony of Newfoundland, which, notwithstanding the most strenuous efforts of the inhabitants, assisted by the local authorities and the garrison, destroyed nearly the whole of the town, including all the mercantile establishments, except one, many of the public buildings, and the episcopal church, leaving upwards of 10,000 persons houseless and destitute.

That owing to the large destruction of property, estimated at a million sterling, no adequate means existed on the spot to afford relief in a case of such general suffering and distress, and that it is of the utmost importance that

NEWFOUNDLAND.

prompt assistance should be afforded before the approach of winter overtakes the inhabitants in a state of extreme destitution.

Your Majesty's Petitioners therefore most humbly pray, that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to command that a collection may be made in all churches and chapels for the relief of the sufferers, and for rebuilding the episcopal church.

And Your Majesty's petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(signed) *John Johnson*, Mayor.

(*Here follow other Signatures.*)

Committee-room, 11, Leadenhall-street,
27 July 1846.

Sir G. Grey to
Committee for
Relief of Sufferers
at Newfoundland.

COPY of a LETTER from the Right honourable Sir *George Grey*, Bart., to the Committee for the Relief of the Sufferers at the late Conflagration at *St. John's*, Newfoundland.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

Whitehall, 6 August 1846.

I HAVE laid before the Queen your petition praying that Her Majesty would be pleased to issue Her Royal Letters for a collection for the relief of the sufferers by the recent calamitous fire at *St. John's*, Newfoundland, and I have the satisfaction of acquainting you that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to consent thereto, and that the necessary instruments will be forthwith issued for that purpose.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. Grey*.

— No. 55. —

No. 55.
Lieut.-Col. Law
to Earl Grey.
27 January 1847.

(No. 34.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Colonel *Law*, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl *Grey*.

Government House, Newfoundland, 27 January 1847.

(Received, 17 March 1847.)

My Lord,

(Answered, 22 March 1847, No. 65, page 61.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 55,* of 23d December, directing me to retain 15,000*l.* of the remaining portion of the Government Fund granted for the relief of the sufferers by fire, for your Lordship's final instructions for its appropriation.

I have already brought under your Lordship's notice the general state of suffering to which the people of this colony have been reduced by the failure of the fisheries, the partial destruction of their potatoes, and the severe effects of the tempest of the 19th September last, to which has been added great injury to the remaining potatoes by an unusually severe frost. I felt it my duty to extend relief on my own responsibility, before the meeting of the Legislature, to many of these sufferers; and I requested the House when in session, to place at my disposal a further sum of 1,500*l.* for this purpose. The House, in reply, requested me to expend any additional amount I thought necessary, not exceeding 6,000*l.*; and the demands, of themselves sufficiently urgent before this appropriation, were much increased when it became known. I have, however, been enabled to confine the expenditure, including that portion made previously to the meeting of the House, to the grant of 6,000*l.*

As a considerable part of this distress was occasioned indirectly by the fire in the capital, which, by limiting the means of the merchants, prevented them furnishing the usual supplies to their dealers in the outports for the winter; and as our revenue is not at this time in a condition to meet any extraordinary demands on it, I have ventured to transfer to the treasury of this colony 6,000*l.* of the Government Fund which your Lordship has directed to be reserved subject to your Lordship's approval, which I earnestly trust I may have the honour

of

* Page 54.

of receiving; as I can assure your Lordship that nothing but the fear of the colony being involved in pecuniary difficulties would have induced me to take this step without having previously obtained your Lordship's sanction. NEWFOUNDLAND.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Law.*

— No. 56. —

(No. 65.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

No. 56.
Earl Grey to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.
22 March 1847.
* Page 60.

Sir,

Downing-street, 22 March 1847.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 34,* of the 27th January, in which you report the circumstances which have induced you to transfer to the local treasury the sum of 6,000*l.* from the Parliamentary grant, in repayment of an advance which you had been compelled to make, to relieve the distress prevailing in Newfoundland amongst the indigent class of the community.

Although I cannot but regret the necessity which obliged you to draw upon the fund which I had especially instructed you to reserve for other purposes, I will not withhold my sanction from the step which you have taken, concluding that the circumstances of the colony left you no alternative.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

— No. 57. —

(No. 50.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Colonel Law, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl Grey.

No. 57.
Lieut.-Col. Law to Earl Grey.
1 March 1847.

Government House, Newfoundland, 1 March 1847.
(Received, 16 April 1847.)

My Lord,

(Answered, 1 May 1847, No. 7, page 63.)

I DO myself the honour to transmit herewith, at the request of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Newfoundland a letter addressed by him to your Lordship on the subject of the losses sustained by him and his flock in consequence of the destructive ravages of the fire of the 9th June last, and requesting your Lordship's favourable consideration towards granting him such pecuniary aid for the reconstruction of the convent and school-house referred to, as to your Lordship may seem meet.

26 February 1847.

The losses sustained by Dr. Fleming on the occasion referred to were certainly most severe, and will doubtless tend to retard the education of the Roman Catholic children of this community until these buildings shall have been restored, towards which the Legislature of this colony in its late session voted the sum of 500*l.*; but as that amount is totally inadequate for the purpose, I beg to submit the Bishop's request for your Lordship's decision thereon.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Law.*

Enclosure in No. 57.

Episcopal Residence, St. John's, Newfoundland,
26 February 1847.

My Lord,

PRESUMING on the kind feelings and warm sympathy repeatedly expressed by your Lordship, and not only expressed, but well testified by your Lordship's acts towards the sufferers by the fire which so lately desolated this town, I beg leave to solicit your Lordship's attention while I trespass upon your Lordship with a detail, as brief as possible, of the circumstances under which I labour, or rather, through me, the female poor of St. John's, and to pray your Lordship to take the circumstances under your kind consideration.

Encl. in No. 57.

In 1839, I was, from the humble condition of a curate here, which office I had endeavoured to discharge for several years, raised to the episcopacy, and at all times solicitous

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for the promotion of education, it had, during the whole period of my missionary labours, been a source of affliction to me that there was not in the colony a school exclusively for females, but that in every one both sexes were indiscriminately huddled together in a manner greatly calculated to endanger the virtue of both.

To the remedying this evil was my earliest attention bestowed on reaching the vicariat; but as a considerable outlay was necessary, and as I had no means of accomplishing my object but by reducing my expenditure even below what had been my wont during my curacy, four years elapsed before my savings enabled me to lay the foundation of an institution that was destined to bestow a moral, a virtuous, a religious education to the female poor of the country, and in 1833 I established a convent of the order of the Presentation, bringing out eight professed nuns of that order from Ireland, ladies of family and of superior education, who sacrificed their country and their kindred to serve the poor of Newfoundland.

From the moment they left their convent in Ireland, all their expenses were defrayed by me alone, and on their landing I built a school-house for them that cost me nearly 500 *l.*, but as the place that then offered for them was not eligible in situation, and a more suitable one shortly after offered, I removed them in a few months, and had to build a new school-house, and here they remained up to a recent period.

Both of these places had been subject to an exorbitant rent, and I was long desirous of giving the institution more permanency of character, and of relieving myself at the same time from the heavy burthen of this rent; for which purpose I purchased a piece of ground in the rear of the town, and commenced the erection of a very beautiful and extensive dwelling, to which I also built a school-house to accommodate 2,000 children, and in 1845 I was able to introduce the pious teachers to their habitation, where, from its extreme isolated position, I had every reason to hope for their security; and these buildings, including the purchase fee for the ground, cost about 5,000 *l.*

My Lord, the desolating fire of the 9th of June swept away these buildings, which had been regarded as the great embellishments of our town, and drove from their peaceful home, without a moment's notice, eight ladies whose lives had been devoted to the instruction of the poor, and deprived 2,000 children of all means of education.

I am aware, my Lord, that through the charitable feeling of Her Majesty a sum of money has been collected for the re-erection of the Protestant church, which has also been consumed, and for the relief of the sufferers by this fire, and it is generally understood here, that of this sum one-half, being about 14,000 *l.*, has been placed for the former purpose in the hands of his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Field, while the remainder has been placed at your Lordship's disposal; and it is for this reason that an humble hope has been awakened within me, that my prayer in behalf of the female poor of St. John's will not be unavailing, when it is taken into consideration, that of all the religious establishments in this town two only have been destroyed, the one an unsightly building, condemned as unsuited to its purpose, and the whole materials of which were not worth 200 *l.*; the other, one of recent construction, admitted by all to be an edifice truly beautiful, and which, with the schools adjacent, cost nearly 5,000 *l.*: the one belonging to a congregation which includes almost all the mercantile community, the officers of the Government, and indeed, with one or two exceptions, all the men of wealth in the island; the other belonging to a congregation of humble fishermen, at present in a state of pauperism.

This institution, my Lord, has been now 14 years in existence, and has already sent abroad into the world not fewer than 7,000 young women, with well-informed and virtuous minds, to fill the social offices of wife and mother and servant. It has cost me, from the first day those pious ladies left their parent house in Galway, including the expense of the erection of the house and schools last alluded to, nearly 8,000 *l.*, and by the fire I lost not only all my furniture and library and plate, together with altar furniture and habiliments (only a few weeks previously imported, for the chapels of the whole island, at a cost of 900 *l.*), together with all the funds reserved for the prosecution of the works of my cathedral, a building not second in elegance of design and beauty of construction to any in British North America; and it is under these distressing circumstances, my Lord, I presume to present my prayer, that your Lordship would deign, in your appropriation of any money that may be at your Lordship's disposal on account of the fire, to devote such sum as your Lordship may deem advisable, to enable me to supply the poor of my congregation their great loss, and to enable the ladies of this institution to continue their services to the public in an efficient manner.

The population of St. John's, my Lord, is now nearly double what it was when they first commenced their labours, being upwards of 22,000, and not only in St. John's, but throughout the island. The Government of England have never expended a shilling in the education of the people, rich or poor; surely then, my Lord, it is not unreasonable if I, with the deepest respect and in all the humility of sad suffering, pray your Lordship to extend here a kind and helping hand to enable me once more to open a school, to which no fewer than 3,000 children are now in vain looking for instruction; for, believe me, so reduced are my own means by my own personal losses, that I am unable to do so, and I therefore throw myself on your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.
(signed) + *Michl. Anthony Fleming,*
Roman Catholic Bishop.

The Right hon. the Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 58. —

(No. 7.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 May 1847.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Colonel Law's despatch, No. 50,* of 1st March last, transmitting a letter from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Newfoundland, in which he requests that some pecuniary aid may be granted towards rebuilding the convent and school-house, which were destroyed in the late fire at St. John's.

You will express to Dr. Fleming my regret that it is not in my power to accede to his application. The only ground upon which I thought it right to order that half of the collection under the Queen's Letter should be applied to rebuilding the Protestant church was, that this money had been raised by a collection from members of the same church in this country, and it appeared clearly to have been the desire and expectation of the donors, that a part of their contribution should be so applied. No such reason can be assigned for ordering the application of any part of the money still in hand in the manner desired by Bishop Fleming; if, however, upon considering how the sum reserved ought to be applied, you should think it proper to recommend that a portion of that which is intended for the restoration of the public buildings, should be applied in rebuilding the Catholic school, I am not aware of any reason for objecting to such an appropriation of the money.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

NEWFOUNDLAND;

No. 58.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
1 May 1847.
† Page 61.

— No. 59. —

(No. 10.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 18 May 1847.

MR. J. O'CONNELL has communicated to me a letter received by him from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Newfoundland, in which I find the following statement respecting the Protestant church at St. John's, which was destroyed in the late fire at that place:

"The older church of the Episcopalians was burned, but it had long been condemned, and the erection of a new one had been determined on even before the appointment of Dr. Field, the Protestant Bishop, and this house that was burned was not intrinsically worth 200 £. Her Majesty's benevolence induced her to issue her Letter to the people of England for the relief of the sufferers, and some 29,000 £. were raised upon its influence, and of this sum, the wealthy Protestants, for the loss of their church, not worth 200 £., have got 14,000 £. placed in the hands of their Bishop to replace this loss."

You will ascertain and report to me to what extent the information received by Bishop Fleming, and by him transmitted to Mr. O'Connell, is accurate or erroneous, and you will afford to the Bishop of Newfoundland every necessary opportunity for controverting or correcting Bishop Fleming's statements.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

No. 59.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir G.
Le Marchant.
18 May 1847

— No. 60. —

(No. 52.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Colonel Law, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl Grey.

Government House, Newfoundland, 1 March 1847.

(Received, 16 April 1847.)

My Lord,

Answered { 10 May 1847, No. 9, page 64.
26 May 1847, No. 16, page 64.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 19th January, No. 61,† I have the honour to apprise your Lordship for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, that no part of that portion of the collection under the Queen's

679.

I 4

Letter,

No. 60.
Lieut.-Col. Law
to Earl Grey.
1 March 1847.

† Page 57.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Letter, which is to be expended in the reconstruction of the Protestant cathedral, has been drawn for.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland is desirous that, of the sum so applied, 10,000*l.* should be invested, as his Lordship will have occasion to draw for the remainder to defray the current expenses of the building during the approaching summer.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Law.*

—No. 61.—

No. 61.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
10 May 1847.

(No. 9.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 10 May 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, with reference to your despatch, No. 52, of 1st March, that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have, in compliance with the wish expressed by the Bishop of Newfoundland, given directions for the purchase of Exchequer bills to the amount of 10,000 *l.*, and for the deposit of the same at the Bank of England, in the joint names of William Sargent, Esq., Paymaster of Civil Services, and Peter Smith, Esq., Chief Clerk of this office, as trustees of a fund to be set apart for rebuilding the church at St. John's, Newfoundland.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

—No. 62.—

No. 62.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
26 May 1847.

(No. 16.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 May 1847.

WITH reference to my despatch, No. 9, of 10th May, I have to acquaint you that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have apprised me that the purchase of Exchequer bills for 10,000 *l.* as a fund to be set apart for rebuilding the church at St. John's, Newfoundland, has been effected, and that a sum of 6,771 *l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* out of the amount which had previously been placed at the disposal of the Local Government, through the commissariat chest on the station, has been applied to this purpose, reducing by so much the amount you are authorized to draw from that chest.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

—No. 63.—

No. 63.
Lieut.-Col. Law
to Earl Grey.
20 April 1847.

(No. 60.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Colonel *Law*, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl *Grey.*

Government House, Newfoundland, 20 April 1847.

(Received, 15 May 1847.)

(Answered, 21 May 1847, No. 12, page 65.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, to be laid at the foot of the Throne, the accompanying petition to Her Majesty from certain inhabitants of this colony, who state themselves to have been sufferers by the fire of the 9th of June last, praying that no portion of the sum granted by Parliament, or of that raised by Her Majesty's Letter for the relief of those who suffered by that fire, should be diverted to any other purpose than the relief of such suffering.

In transmitting this petition, I feel it to be my duty to state to your Lordship, that I have always understood that the class of persons to which the far greater number of its subscribers belong, have not only received a very large proportion of the relief which has been distributed, but, in many instances, more than the loss actually sustained; and this opinion will, I believe, be supported by the record of the proceedings of the Relief Committee; and I would also state, in addition to the ordinary

ordinary occupations of the colony, the extensive employment which will be given during the approaching summer, by rebuilding of the city, will tend to place industrious mechanics and labourers in a better position than that in which they were previous to the fire.

It is unnecessary for me to remark to your Lordship on the facility with which petitions of this character are got up where the signatures, as in the present instance, are written by a comparatively small number of persons, and many whose names are attached are probably in entire ignorance of the nature of the document to which they are so appended; and I must also observe, that they consist almost entirely of Roman Catholics.

I beg to apprise your Lordship that a sum of about 8,000 *l.* sterling remains at the disposal of the Local Government for the relief of the sufferers by the fire, and will be dispensed as circumstances may make it necessary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Law.*

Enclosure in No. 63.

To the QUEEN'S most Excellent MAJESTY.

May it please your Majesty,

The Petition of your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, sufferers by the Fire of 9th June, in *Newfoundland*, Encl. in No. 63.

Humbly showeth,

THAT your Majesty's petitioners are impressed with the deepest sentiments of loyalty and devotion for your Majesty's throne and person.

That your Majesty's petitioners are further impressed with feelings of the most profound gratitude for the extension of your Majesty's royal bounty to us in our great distress, by the munificent grant out of the Imperial Treasury of 30,000*l.*, as also for the large sums raised by virtue of your Majesty's letter patent addressed to the churches.

That it is with feelings of surprise that your petitioners understand, that a part of the Imperial grant (believed to be solely intended for the sufferers), with a part of the funds raised by virtue of your Majesty's letter patent, is to be applied to the purposes of erecting public buildings in this town as contemplated by the authorities who have the power of distributing these charitable funds, to the great disappointment of your Majesty's still suffering subjects by that dreadful calamity.

That your Majesty's petitioners, were subject to a great many privations and wants since the event of that catastrophe, principally owing to the nature of the temporary erections they were obliged to build, in many instances being previous to the inclemency of the weather, during an unusually cold winter, coupled with the very high price of provisions.

That your Majesty's petitioners, who are in the expectation of receiving further relief from the munificent funds at the disposal of the Government here, are dismayed to find that a large portion of them is to be applied to purposes foreign to the intentions of your most gracious Majesty and the donors.

And, therefore, your Majesty's petitioners most humbly implore that your most gracious Majesty will take into your royal consideration petitioners' sufferings, and be graciously pleased to grant your royal order, that the aforesaid sums shall be solely applied to the purposes for which your Majesty's petitioners believe they were originally intended, thereby affording that relief to your Majesty's suffering petitioners which they so much require.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray

St. John's, Newfoundland, 26 March 1847.

—No. 64.—

(No. 12.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21 May 1847,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Lieutenant-colonel Law's despatch, No. 60,* of the 20th April, in which he transmits a petition addressed to the Queen by certain inhabitants of Newfoundland, praying that no portion of the sum granted by Parliament, or of that raised by the Queen's Letter, may be applied to any other purpose than the relief of those persons who suffered by the fire at St. John's, on the 9th of last June.

679.

K

You

No. 64.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
21 May 1847.
* Page 64.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

You will acquaint the petitioners that I have laid their petition before the Queen, but that I have not been able to advise Her Majesty to comply with the prayer contained in it.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

—No. 65.—

No. 65.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
26 April 1847.

(No. 4.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant* to Earl *Grey.*

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
26 April 1847.

(Received, 15 May 1847.)

(Answered, 25 May 1847, No. 14, page 67.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the enclosed letter from the Right Reverend Lord Bishop of Newfoundland, with the accompanying memorial from the rector and churchwardens of St. John's, tendering their respectful acknowledgments of your Lordship's consideration in allowing the appropriation of half the amount of the money collected in the churches, under the authority of the Queen's Letter, for the relief of the sufferers by the fire of the 9th June, towards the rebuilding of the parish church.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Gaspard Le Marchant.*

27 April 1847.

Encl. 1, in No. 65.

Enclosure 1, in No. 65.

My Lord,

St. John's, Newfoundland, 24 April 1847.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a letter addressed to me by the rector and churchwardens of St. John's, in their own name, and that of the parishioners generally, assembled in their annual meeting on Easter Tuesday.

Your Lordship will perceive that I am desired to tender their respectful acknowledgments of your Lordship's consideration in allowing the appropriation of half the amount of the money collected in the churches, under the authority of the Queen's Letter, for the relief of the sufferers by the fire of the 9th June, towards the rebuilding of the parish church.

Your Lordship, I trust, will not be displeased by this expression of their joyful and grateful feelings.

Allow me further to inform your Lordship, that I have made contracts with Messrs. Scott & Moffatt for a church, which will be, I devoutly hope, for generations to come, a public ornament as well as a public blessing.

The Right hon. the Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edward Newfoundland.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 65.

Encl. 2, in No. 65.

May it please your Lordship,

St. John's, 19 April 1847.

WE, the rector and churchwardens of St. John's, have been deputed by our parishioners to tender to your Lordship their thanks for the communication made to them at their annual meeting on Easter Tuesday, respecting the appropriation, by the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, of one-half of the fund collected in England under a Queen's Letter, for the restoration of the parish church of this city; and further to request your Lordship to convey to Lord Grey their respectful acknowledgments.

Although, from the known intentions of the Relief Committee in London, who applied for the Queen's Letter, as declared by their chairman to several of the bishops at home, and from the fact of the clergy having made the restoration of our parish church a ground of their appeal to their congregations, some had been led to expect that a larger portion of the money, contributed by our brother churchmen in England, might have been appropriated to that object, yet we are sincerely grateful for the assistance which has been extended to us.

We rejoice to find that your Lordship has been enabled to take the requisite steps for supplying our great and pressing religious wants; and we now look forward with a confident hope to the time, when we shall be again permitted to offer up our devotions in a temple duly consecrated to the service of Almighty God, and both your Lordship's exertions will be crowned with success, and the benevolent intentions of our brethren at home realized.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Thomas F. H. Bridge,*
Rector of St. John's.
Bryan Robinson, }
Wm. Rendell, jun., } Acting Churchwardens.

The Right. Rev. the Lord Bishop
of Newfoundland.

— No. 66. —

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 14.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

No. 66.

Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
25 May 1847.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 May 1847.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 4, of the 26th April, transmitting a letter from the Bishop of Newfoundland, together with a memorial from the rector and churchwardens of St. John's, expressing their thanks for the appropriation which has been made of half the sum collected under the authority of the Queen's Letter to the rebuilding of the parish church.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

— No. 67. —

(No. 5.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. Le Marchant to Earl Grey.

No. 67.

Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
10 May 1847.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
10 May 1847.

(Received, 31 May 1847.)

(Answered, 17 June 1847, No. 19, page 68.)

My Lord,

IN transmitting herewith, for your Lordship's information, my report on the present aspect and probable condition of the finances of this colony, as well as a statement, showing the actual amount of debt now incurred, and that about to be raised under votes already passed by the Legislature, it is not my intention, on the present occasion, so much to dwell on the pecuniary resources of this island, as to lay before your Lordship, in a succinct and clear manner, the condition of the colony at the time of my assumption of its government.

It appears, by the financial statements that have been laid before me, that for the year ending 30 June last, the probable amount of income was estimated between 51,000*l.* and 52,000*l.*

The expenditure for the self-same year, between 55,000*l.* and 56,000*l.*, the excess in the expenditure over the income being about 4,000*l.*; this sum has, however, been increased, in consequence of the losses sustained by the island from the fire, and subsequent hurricane in the past year, and on the 30th June next, the deficiency is calculated at 6,200*l.*

The revenue for the ensuing year ending the 30th June 1848, is estimated at 52,500*l.*, and the expenditure at 56,455*l.*, leaving a deficiency for that year of nearly 4,000*l.*

The amount of debt already incurred by the colony may be thus arranged :

Lighthouses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£. 5,450
Road loan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,000
Loan for general purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,500
Colonial buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,559
									TOTAL
									£. 51,509

In addition to this, the foregoing sums have been voted to be raised under Acts of the Provincial Legislature :

Colonial buildings and market-house	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£. 12,441
Academy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Compensation for ground under St. John's Building Act, and for improving the town and harbour of Grace	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,000
									TOTAL
									£. 38,441

Making, therefore, the debt already incurred, and that about to be raised, to amount to the sum of 89,950*l.*

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Of the foregoing items, it may be necessary to thus briefly remark, that in the case of the amount of 5,450*l.* for the lighthouse, the dues pay the expense of light and the interest of the debt, and have a small surplus.

Of the road loan, now amounting to 18,000*l.*, the sum originally was 20,000*l.*, of which 2,000*l.* has been paid off, and the sum of 6,000*l.* will have to be repaid in the course of the present year, and the remainder in two years.

Of the sum of 18,500*l.* for general purposes, the sum has to be repaid in five or ten years from the time of borrowing.

With regard to the erection of the colonial building and market-house, the sum of 22,000*l.* was authorized to be borrowed, and the amount to be repaid in ten years if demanded; of this sum 9,559*l.* has been already raised.

All these foregoing amounts are borrowed at six per cent.

With regard to the amount of 23,000*l.* paid for compensation for land, &c. in rebuilding the town of St. John's and improvements in the town and harbour of Grace, debentures are to be issued at 5*l.* per cent., and paid off at the option of Government.

In addition to the afore-named sums, an Act was passed in the last session, but has not yet received the royal assent, for raising a loan of 200,000*l.*

In submitting this report to your Lordship, I would desire to draw your Lordship's attention to the facts, not only of the expenditure greatly exceeding the revenues of the colony, but of there being no available sources of income whatever in the treasurer's hands, either for carrying out any internal improvements in the island, or of meeting any of those unforeseen occurrences, such as failures of the fisheries or blights of the potato crops: for on such calamities befalling this island, the population resident in the outports, who are verging on pauperism, will be again thrown, as was the case in the past winter, on the resources of the Government for their own and families' sustenance.

With regard to the estimates made for the erection of the public buildings above alluded to, I greatly fear they will be found very inadequate; and in addition to these, for which no provision has yet been thought of, or even calculated on, there is a lunatic asylum and a public gaol to be erected, the prisoners at present being confined in a condemned barrack. Nor has any provision been made for the sewerage and drainage of the town, although a Bill has been passed by the Legislature for their immediate execution.

I much fear from the elements which compose the Legislative Assemblies in Newfoundland, that difficulties would attend any immediate efforts in bringing forward measures for relieving the present straitened circumstances in which we are now placed, either by direct taxation or local assessments, which have always been particularly unpopular here; but at the same time, I do assure your Lordship, that my most unwearied exertions and the strictest economy in the administration of affairs shall be employed in endeavouring to surmount our present financial condition.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Gaspard Le Marchant.*

— No. 68. —

(No. 19.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 June 1847.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 5,* of the 10th May, containing a report of your views upon the financial condition of Newfoundland. I have to thank you for your clear exposition of this subject. I much regret that the expenditure of Newfoundland should at present exceed its resources, but I trust that by a prudent course on the part of the Legislature, the revenue may soon regain its former prosperous condition.

From

No. 68.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
17 June 1847.
- Page 67.

From your observations respecting the composition of the Legislative Assembly, I can understand that there may be difficulties in readjusting the finances of the colony, but I rely on your best exertions to surmount those difficulties. Much may be done by pointing out to the members of the Assembly, both collectively and individually, the urgent necessity of maintaining the public credit unimpaired, by making provision against the continuance of the existing debt, and by guarding against future deficiencies.

To this end I should wish you to direct the attention of the Assembly to the propriety of relieving the general revenue of the colony, by charging the expenses of a purely local character upon the rates to be levied on the towns.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

— No. 69. —

(No. 6.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. Le Marchant to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
10 May 1847.

(Received, 31 May 1847.)

(Answered, 3 June 1847, No. 17, page 77.)

My Lord,

HAVING devoted my time and most anxious attention, since assuming the government of this colony, to the consideration of the social as well as general condition and interest of the town of St. John's with the inhabitants generally of this island, I now do myself the honour of submitting to your Lordship my opinions on this very important subject; and intimately connected as such subject is in its general bearings with my despatch of this date, No. 5,* on the present financial difficulties of this colony, I am assured such report will invite your Lordship's best consideration.

The present population of the town and environs of St. John's may fairly be computed at upwards of 20,000 inhabitants. This community may be divided, with very slight exceptions, into two classes; the merchants, who are occupied partly in the fisheries and partly in superintending their trading establishments; these form the first and highest order of society in the colony: the second consists of the planters or middlemen and their assistant fishermen, who live under the control and influence of the merchants, and are with their families dependent on them for the necessaries of life and the means of procuring subsistence.

After the destruction of the town of St. John's by the fire that occurred on the 9th of June last, a short session of the Legislature was held, during which an Act was passed on the 4th August 1846, called, "An Act for Rebuilding the Town of St. John's, and for the establishment of a proper system of Drainage and Sewerage;" this enactment was made with a view of restoring the capital of this colony in a manner as conducive as possible to the health and security of the town by substantial buildings, as likewise, by the regularity of the streets and general improvement in architecture and design, to render it ornamental in appearance.

This Act further provided that the two principal streets, Water-street and Duckworth-street, should be built either of stone or brick, and its width to be about 80 feet: Water-street commanding the whole frontage of the harbour, and running from right to left through the entire city; Duckworth-street being immediately above it in a parallel line.

But on the meeting of the next and last session of their Legislature, popular feeling and conflicting interests became too strong for carrying this enactment into execution; and the members, some swayed by their own personal interests, and others by the representation of their constituents, were influenced to pass on the 14th January last another Bill, amending the clauses in the former Act, that regulated the materials with which one side of Duckworth-street should be constructed; and now the houses on the north side of that street are permitted to be as of old, made of wood, and the south side only of stone or brick; the consequence of such Act being inevitably to deter parties from building in stone,

No. 69.

Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
10 May 1847.

* Page 67.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

both from the expense of materials and the advanced rate of insurance, the rate having been greatly increased in consequence of this amendment, and the danger apprehended from the contiguity of the wooden buildings.

The rate of insurance at present in St. John's is raised to 4 per cent. on stone buildings, and between 7 and 8 per cent. on those constructed of wood in certain quarters; in other quarters of the town no insurance can be effected on houses at all.

In adverting on the state of the other parts of St. John's, I regret much not having it in my power to report favourably either of the mode in which the buildings are erected, or the material with which they are constructed. for instead of adopting the plan for laying out their town, which was ably drawn out by the Commanding Officer of the Engineer Department, whose report however was only read to be laid aside; the town is being built with no regard, I may say, to any regularity whatever, neither parallel lines or right angles to streets are in any way regarded, considered or observed.

The houses are densely crowded together, made of wood, and run up merely for temporary purposes, and with the exception of the two principal streets, there is no order or regularity in the building allotment, but the town is, if I may so express it, situated on the declivity of a hill, with the houses thrown on it, wherever a vacant spot can be seen.

The two extremities of the town, comprising the chief population, represent in all its deformity and squalid dirt the very worst description of an Irish town.

Even of the two principal streets, few houses have been erected of stone, and a vast number of wooden houses serving temporary purposes have grown up. The Building Act will not come into operation for the next three years, and it is the opinion of the best-informed here, that at the expiration of such period, parties will plead their inability to build in stone, and the Local Government will not have sufficient power without immense difficulties to enforce its authority.

Thus the lesson of the late destructive fire will entirely be thrown away, and the town of St. John's, instead of profiting by the opportunity presented to it of having streets and buildings erected in a manner suitable to its importance as the capital of this colony, will be in a condition very little, if at all, superior to that in which it was prior to the visitation on the 9th June last.

The sanitary condition of the town is much to be deplored, when from its site every natural advantage is offered both for the promotion of the health and for the encouragement of cleanliness among the inhabitants.

There are no under-drains or sewers, with one slight exception, throughout the whole town, and no sewerage whatever from houses connected with such drains; I also regret to remark that not one house in 20 in the town is provided with the ordinary and necessary means of cleanliness, and from the absence of sewerage, all the filth of the houses is thrown from necessity into the surface drains where they exist; generally, however, everything from the houses is cast before the doors, and there collected throughout the whole winter, forms a mass of putrid matter, obnoxious as well as discreditable to any town, and this is only carried away for their gardens during the spring.

Such has been the toleration of the authorities here, and which I am endeavouring now to counteract.

The town is, I may observe, generally destitute of public pumps, there not being six in number, and the water is only obtained from sunken wells in the town, which in reality are nothing more than small barrels fed by springs from the bottom, and though useful for washing and household purposes, are quite inapplicable to meet the dangers arising from the fires that are constantly occurring here, of which we have had two instances during even the few days that have elapsed from my arrival, on the last of which no water could be procured, so few in number and so widely scattered are even these small wells; and had not the night been perfectly calm, not a breath of air stirring, all the exertions of the military force stationed here, on whom the inhabitants on such occasions almost solely depend for assistance, could not have prevented the whole city being again laid in ashes.

And I would here wish to draw the attention of your Lordship to the fact of the large seal vats, full of oil, and constructed of wood, being again placed in the very centre of the town, within a few yards of the chief houses and stores in Water-street, and also within a few yards of the wharfs crowded with shipping.

These

These vats are as dangerous to the town as if they were filled with gun- powder. NEWFOUNDLAND.

The water running from the heights above is carried over the worst and filthiest parts of the town, and it likewise receives the discharge of two densely crowded burial-grounds situated in the very heart of the city, which not only pollute the streams, but from the opinion given me in the course of the last few days by the chief medical officer, Dr. Carson, it appears that frequently, if not invariably, at certain seasons of the year deposits of ammonia and animal matter are found in the vessels used for household purposes, after subjecting the water to the action of fire.

From a conversation I have had with the agent who has arrived here from Scotland with a view to the carrying out the waterage of this town, I have learnt that he apprehends the scheme at present in contemplation for that purpose cannot be accomplished under the sum of 20,000*l.*, a sum exceeding by 14,000*l.* the estimated expense, and which therefore, I fear, offers but little prospect of being carried out. In the meantime, the town is left wholly destitute of any adequate supply available in the case of fire.

The circumstance of this town being free from the visitations of fever and illness to the same extent as that with which other cities destitute of drainage and sewerage are afflicted, may be ascribed to the hand of Providence, that gives her one of the finest and most salubrious of climates, for there is no other city in the empire in which is displayed a more total disregard to all those advantages generally considered essential both to the health and morals of a population.

The town is wholly unprovided with a fire brigade, or any such organized company as might be expected in a city of 20,000 inhabitants, and now labouring under the distresses occasioned by the late visitation, which, however extraordinary it may seem, appears to have created no wish or even desire on the part of the community at large to take those measures for guarding against the recurrence of a like calamity which have long been established in all other parts of our North American colonies; viz., the establishment of efficient fire societies, and which one would have supposed to be the first and engrossing object of a population resident in a wooden town.

The engines at present belonging to the town are locked up in the forts, under the care of the officers of the garrison; but no systematic arrangement has yet been made by the inhabitants for working them, with the exception of one which is manned by a volunteer company, which, though well intentioned, has proved quite inefficient for the members in the time of general need, or thinking, and perhaps naturally enough, of the preservation of their own respective properties rather than the public welfare. Thus, from the general apathy displayed on this most vital and important subject, the town of St. John's will be unequal to offer any organized resistance to that most destructive element that only a few months back laid the city in ashes.

With regard to the public buildings, the entire of them were destroyed at the time of the late fire.

As yet no commencement has been made relative to their being re-erected, with the exception of the Custom-house and Colonial buildings, and a lengthened period must elapse before they will be in a state fit for occupation.

Respecting the erection of the other public edifices, so essential to the welfare of this town, I fear that the financial difficulties of the colony will offer a most serious obstacle to our carrying out, but most slowly, the wishes of the Government.

The social condition of the poorer inhabitants of St. John's I consider generally better, and further removed from extreme poverty and destitution than most cities of the British empire; the recognized poor of this town do not exceed 500, and in that number the outports are included, and these are supported by the public chest, at an expense of about 5,000 *l.* a year.

The wages received by those engaged in the prosecution of the fisheries will, in seasons of tolerable success, support them, in most instances, throughout the winter, coupled with the additional aid they usually receive from the merchants in the shape of supplies for their own and families' subsistence, a practice which for a lengthened period has been carried on in this island.

But throughout the whole of last winter the inhabitants of the several outports and small bays with which the coast of this island is indented have been suffering great privations and distress, in consequence of a violent hurricane that swept

NEWFOUNDLAND.

along the shores of this island in September last, and created so great a havoc amongst their boats and nets, &c., in addition to the great loss of life, that the fishery proved a most disastrous failure, and this misfortune, connected with a partial blight in the potato crop, and the inability of the merchants, in consequence of their losses by the fire, to furnish the accustomed supplies, has prostrated the whole population inhabiting these various outports, and they have been solely dependent on the Local Government for their own and families' subsistence.

With regard, however, to the inhabitants of St. John's, destitution and want of means did not prevail during the season just passed to nearly the same extent as in the outports, nor would the sufferings of the lower classes have been nearly so great, except from the fact of these people, from their seafaring habits and migratory disposition, being averse to any kind of labour to which they are unaccustomed.

For the purpose of demonstrating the fact of the demand for labour at the present time being great, and at highly remunerative rates, I need only here mention that able-bodied men, to any number that may offer, obtain 3s., and the mechanics no less than 10s. a day for their labour.

And since my assumption of the government, I have been at all times and all hours throughout this town, and in no one instance have I seen the direct appearance of poverty, all being uniformly well clothed, and I have not met a single beggar in the streets appealing to the hand of charity, and this opinion has been fully confirmed in my interviews with the members of the relief committee.

It is much to be regretted that the promotion of agriculture has been not only neglected, but for so many years discouraged in this island.

However, from my intercourse with the labouring population in my visits in the vicinity of this town and the adjacent bays, I find an opinion spreading among them, that with families to rear and support, the earning of the fisheries is inadequate, the population exceeding the demand for such labour.

An impetus has accordingly been given to the cultivation of the soil, and among the lower orders there is a growing desire to obtain grants of land near their cottages, where they may grow a sufficient quantity of potatoes for their support, and a small crop of hay and oats for the keep of the few cattle they may afford to have.

This opinion is also happily extending itself among the classes of the community, who for many years were its chief opponents, and it is one which I shall use my utmost endeavours to extend, being fully satisfied that on the development of agriculture, the future welfare and happiness of a large portion of the population of this island will depend.

This is another point which I conceive highly important to draw your Lordship's attention to, viz. the great difficulty in which the Executive Government is here placed from their total inability to obtain full and perfect information as to the correctness of the numerous petitions which are poured in upon us from the several outports, all of which are certified by the merchants and leading inhabitants of the several localities, and whose interest it is to obtain for the petitioners as large a grant as they can from the public chest, thereby relieving themselves from the burthen of contributing anything from their own resources towards the maintenance of the poor resident among them; these difficulties become further increased by the clergymen and stipendiary magistrates in these outports, being men of narrow means and mainly dependent on the merchants for the supplies necessary for the support of their families, and who by the influence of the merchants are induced to lend their utmost support to these petitions, and thus no power is left in our hands of testing their proper value.

Having carefully considered the whole of the circumstances of the case, and it also appearing very desirable that a personal inspection should be made into the state of society dwelling in these several cut-houses and bays, I have addressed a letter to the Admiral on this station, requesting that he would place a steamer at my disposal for a few weeks in the course of the ensuing summer, if he can do so with convenience to the public service, and to which request I trust your Lordship will be pleased to call the attention of the Admiralty at home. For many great and important advantages to the administration of the government of this colony will, I am confident, result from a personal tour along the coast, and the information it will enable me to collect on the spot.

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As I am of opinion that without such personal observation, before the next winter it will be wholly impossible for me to know their actual condition, or to depend on the reports from such distant points, swayed so powerfully as these parties are by their own personal and local interests, and in the event of the fisheries proving unsuccessful, or a partial failure of the potato crop, even to the same extent as last year, the Government in the financial difficulty in which it now stands would be placed in a most embarrassing, painful and unexampled position, and indeed without any apparent means of extricating themselves.

Since my assumption of the Government, I have met with but one feeling from the merchants and the more respectable classes of the community, who all express their readiness to give me their entire support in remedying the various ills under which this population is labouring, and furthering the happiness and welfare of the community at large.

My earnest endeavours have been directed to awaken the more intelligent class residing in St. John's to the general wants of the town, and the benefits which will accrue to them in forwarding its best interests, and but few days have passed since my arrival without my receiving addresses from the clergy and almost every society in this town, offering me their aid, influence and support.

A public meeting will be held in the course of the ensuing week, convened by the high sheriff and mercantile body in this town, for the purpose of drawing public attention to the total and entire absence of organized fire societies, and for adopting such resolutions and preliminary measures as may lead to their speedy formation.

To ensure drainage, sewerage and waterage to the town of St. John's, I have formed a commission, in which I have placed the men most qualified by their talents and previous education in such matters, as the colony could produce, and as soon as I have received their report, pointing out the way in which the same can be most effectually carried out, I will take immediate steps for commencing this work, and likewise establishing those sanitary regulations which are now so beneficially operating in the large towns of England, and which have been so long neglected in this city.

I have likewise instructed the attorney-general to prepare a Bill, with the advice of the chief justice, to be submitted to the Legislature for the establishment either of a corporation or a commission, as may be judged most expedient for managing the local affairs of the town, and of which it is at present wholly destitute. Also Bills for the better regulation of the poor and the establishment of some system to suspend the loose and unsatisfactory way in which the outdoor relief is at present administered, and for the registration of births, deaths and marriages.

I have been induced to enter thus into details with regard to the different matters connected both with this town and the colony generally, from the directions I received from your Lordship previous to my leaving London, and which I trust will meet with your Lordship's wishes and approbation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Gaspard Le Marchant.*

—No. 70.—

(No. 7.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant* to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
10 May 1847.

(Received, 31 May 1847.)

(Answered, 3 June 1847, No. 17, page 77.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit for your Lordship's information and future consideration, my report, both with respect to the sums voted for the relief of this colony by the Imperial Parliament, as likewise the amount raised in the United Kingdom under the authority of the Queen's Letter, together with the various subscriptions raised for the same purposes at home, by the local Government here, and in the other North American provinces; and in the following details I propose to lay before your Lordship the amount expended previous to my arrival here, and the residue which is now at the disposal of the local Government.

Imperial Grant	£. 30,000
	£.
Expended	15,000
In hand	9,000
	£. 30,000

Of the 30,000*l.* voted by the Imperial Parliament, it would appear that 15,000*l.* has already, under your Lordship's sanction, been expended in the relief of the sufferers by the fire that visited this town on the 9th June last; in this account is included the charge of 800*l.* which was incurred in defraying the expenses of the commission appointed by Sir John Harvey for investigating the claims of such applicants.

A further sum of 6,000*l.* out of the above Imperial grant has also, under your Lordship's sanction, been expended in the various outports and bays of this island for the relief of the destitute poor, the total of the sums so expended being 21,000*l.*, leaving out of the grant of 30,000*l.* by the Imperial Parliament a remainder of 9,000*l.* in the treasurer's hands for further disposal.

Queen's Letter	£. 29,000
	£.
Protestant Church	14,500
Sufferers by Fire	6,000
In hand	8,500
	£. 29,000

The sum raised under the authority of the Queen's Letter amounted to 29,000*l.*

And this grant has been allocated in the following manner; viz.: £. 14,000 set apart for the rebuilding of the Protestant church, and £. 6,000 expended for the relief of the sufferers by fire, leaving, therefore, out of the aggregate sum of 29,000*l.* a residue of 8,500*l.* available to Government in the colonial treasurer's hands.

The amount received from the other sources adverted to in the commencement of my despatch may be thus arranged:

Imperial Grant	£. 30,000
Queen's Letter	29,000
Subscription from	
Home	40,000
Nova Scotia	1,000
Local Government	2,500
	£. 102,500

£. 40,000 subscribed and remitted to the colony from various parts of the United Kingdom: 15,000*l.* from the Government of Nova Scotia; and 2,500*l.* from the local Government; in all making a total of 102,500*l.*

And here I would particularly wish to draw your Lordship's attention to the fact of the town of St. John's having within the last year derived and enjoyed the benefit, out of the sum just before mentioned, of the enormous amount of 64,000*l.* sterling, or 76,000*l.* currency.

This munificent donation it would appear, by a report now before me from the secretary of the committee appointed by Sir John Harvey for distributing the relief to the sufferers by fire, has actually been allotted to 2,700 separate applications, and according to the estimate made by such committee, those applications will embrace about 8,000 souls. From the further information which has just reached me from the committee, about 1,700*l.* remains in their hands, and will shortly be in course of distribution.

It is impossible for me, in reviewing the effects of these great subscriptions on the colony generally, to overlook the fact of the very small amount of real benefit that has accrued to the population resident either in the town or the outports.

From my own personal observations, and from the opinions which have been freely expressed to me, not only by the clergy of all persuasions, but even by every respectable individual with whom I have come in contact, it cannot but be admitted, that although the middle and lower classes have more than redeemed their losses (in fact, it is asserted that during the fire plunder was carried on to a great extent, and many small shops were established out of such spoil), dissatisfaction and a spirit of discontent prevail to a great degree; and this is not confined to this town alone, but great demoralization has likewise extended to several of the outports.

And a body of pauper poor have grown up out of these large subscriptions, intended as they were for a benefit to the colony, and which state of things never before existed in the same districts.

It must appear incredible to your Lordship that destitution to any great extent should prevail after the hand of charity has been so unsparingly dealt out to the lower classes of this community; and here I would wish to draw your Lordship's attention to the praiseworthy and laudable example set by the merchants of this city, the real and true sufferers by the fire, and whose losses in many instances were enormous; who one and all refused any compensation, leaving the contributions to their humbler and more indigent fellow-citizens; and with that striking energy of character for which the British merchant stands pre-eminent, devoted their best exertions to retrieving their losses, and the restoring the trade and credit of the town; and it is a most pleasing duty for me further to invite your Lordship's notice to the fact of not one mercantile house having failed in consequence of the late calamity; and there is every reason to hope that their labours will be crowned with success to themselves and advantage to the other parts of the community, whose interests are in so remarkable a degree interwoven with their prosperity.

I must

I must not, however, disguise from your Lordship that the whole of the middling and lower classes in this colony are of opinion that the sums granted by the Imperial Parliament, as well as those raised by the Queen's Letter, are theirs by right, and there are not wanting troublesome spirits even, I regret to say, among the better educated and more intelligent portion of the community, to disseminate these doctrines; and I am quite assured, that until your Lordship firmly decides on the distinct and positive appropriation of the residue of the two grants, viz., the 9,000*l.* from the Imperial Parliament, and the 8,500*l.* from the Queen's Letter, much discontent and dissatisfaction will continue to exist.

And in the confirmation of which opinion, I must here observe that I have received an address from the same body and character of people who drew up the memorial forwarded to your Lordship by Colonel Law, such class being composed of the broken-down mechanics of this town; and, in reply to such address, I acquainted them that, in my own opinion, and the opinion of my Council, relief more than enough had been already afforded to the fire sufferers of this town; and with the summer season and its resources now before them, I did not consider it advisable or expedient, except under very peculiar circumstances, to afford further aid; that I interpreted the Queen's Letter totally different from what they had done, which was intended for the general relief and benefit of the colony, and that I should await the further instructions of the Home Government on the subject. And I still adhere to my opinion, that more has been given them than there was occasion for; and the issue of these sums at this season of the year to the inhabitants of St. John's would only increase that demoralization which I have adverted to in a former part of my despatch.

I am disposed to hope that your Lordship will agree with me in the opinion that distress ought scarcely, if ever, to press heavily on the lower classes either of this town or the colony generally.

In the spring of the year, for five and six weeks, the seal fishery employs about 12,000 persons; and their gains for that short period average about 15*l.* a man, during the whole of which time they are not only well but profusely fed.

I may here remark that the seal fishery has not yet terminated sufficiently as to admit of my stating the effect of such trade on the colony for the present season; but I am justified in saying the amount is not likely to be under 200,000*l.* and which is more than an average year.

The seal fishery terminates generally early in May, at the end of which month until the month of October, the cod fishery occupies about 50,000 persons; and at the expiration of this fishery, their gains average from 12*l.* to 15*l.* a man; during the whole of their employment in the cod fishery, as in the seal fishery, they are supplied not only with a greater quantity of provisions; but those of a far superior quality than I believe any body of men in the same class of life ever enjoy in the other parts of the world.

In the winter season the wide forests supply firing to the cottages, and a most ample return to the able-bodied who desire to seek it; the merchants at the outports taking at high prices the wood so collected for building and other purposes.

It is much to be regretted, however, that they squander their earnings as rapidly as they are gained, and out of their ships, and off the seas, are idle and averse to any description of hard labour; and, therefore, to the extreme prodigality of the people must oftentimes their distress be described.

As great privation and suffering is at present experienced at the outports; in consequence of the hurricane with which the whole coast was visited in September last, and a partial blight having afflicted the potato crop of the southern part of the island, I have, under the advice of my Council, purchased a certain quantity of potato seed, for which I intend to exact a return either in remunerative labour on the roads, or an equal supply in kind; and by such latter restriction I hope to teach the poor a sense of prudence; as likewise it is not the intention of Government wholly to support them during their winters and seasons of adversity, but to only assist, as far as the resources of the colony will admit of, in ameliorating their condition.

Under these circumstances, and the great uncertainty which as yet overhangs the approaching season, I would suggest to your Lordship's consideration the reservation of a portion of the amount raised by the Queen's Letter, to meet any

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unforeseen exigencies which may arise either from a shortness of the fisheries, or a repetition in the failure in the crop, more especially in the outports, as in the present crippled state of the finances of the colony, the Government would have no resources to fall back on.

I would further, under the especial advice and full concurrence of my Council, venture strongly to recommend to your Lordship the reservation of the residue of the Imperial grant, in order that it may at our discretion be devoted for the purposes of erecting these Public Buildings which may be most conducive to the interests of this town, and the advantage of the colony at large.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. G. Le Marchant.*

The above statement of the disposal of the sums arising from the Imperial grants, Queen's Letter, &c., have been taken from documents and extracts furnished by the Colonial Secretary.

(signed) *J. G. Le M.*

— No. 71. —

(No. 8.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant* to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
10 May 1847.

(Received, 31 May 1847.)

(Answered, 3 June 1847, No. 17, page 77.)

My Lord,

With reference to the conversation which I had the honour to hold with your Lordship, previous to my departure from England, on the subject of the erection of a new Government House, and the appropriation of the present building for a Colonial House of Assembly, I have now the honour to transmit for your Lordship's consideration the enclosed report of the officer commanding the Engineers on this station.

The present Government House, as will be shown by such report, is in a very dilapidated state, and from the insecurity of its roof during the winter season, admits of water throughout the principal rooms to an extent to render it no less unhealthy, as in a great degree, in fact, uninhabitable, thereby causing an annual expense to the Colonial Government of between 500 *l.* and 600 *l.* a year, which, in the opinion of the architects, will be very much increased, unless a thorough repair be now made good.

In the present state of the finances of the colony, I wholly despair of the Legislature ever consenting to the building a new Government House.

The site of the colonial building was previous to my arrival decided on, the contracts taken, and is now in the course of erection.

A market-house, lunatic asylum and new courts of justice have to be built, and further, the drainage and sewerage of the town is in operation; therefore, under such adverse circumstances I am firmly of opinion that the safest and wisest course to pursue, both with regard to the financial position of the colony, as well as the comfort of the Governor, is to adopt the proposed plan of the officer of the Engineers, and render, by the outlay of between 3,000 *l.* and 4,000 *l.*, the Government House a desirable as well as suitable residence.

There has always been a strong predilection in this colony in favour of the present Government House, as also a strong feeling among all classes against its alienation, and, under the advice and with the full concurrence of my Council, who have given the subject their mature consideration, I beg to represent to your Lordship that, in our opinion, the course most advisable to adopt, and in which its best interests would be consulted, is the setting aside for this purpose a portion of the Imperial grant, which measure will not only facilitate the immediate renewal of the building, but such appropriation greatly tend to relieve the pressure on the finances of this island arising from the erection of so many public buildings.

Waiting your Lordship's commands on this subject,

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Gaspard Le Marchant.*

No. 71.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
10 May 1847.

Enclosure in No. 71.

Royal Engineers' Office, St. John's,
7 May 1847.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that, in obedience to your Excellency's commands, I directed the clerk of the works in this department, in conjunction with the inspector of public buildings, to make a survey of the state of Government House; and I have to report, that I consider the damp state of the interior is chiefly to be attributed to the condition of the parapet and gutters of the roof, which, from the numerous joints and cracks, admit the wet throughout the whole extent of the building. To remedy this defect, it is proposed to remove the parapet wall and the slates of the present roof, and to construct a new light roof or covering over it, projecting over the whole of the exterior walls, the top of the cornice being overlaid with a wooden water shoot covered with lead, whereby the whole of the openings which now admit wet would be protected. The expense of this part of the work would be probably about 1,200 *l.* This measure was also proposed by my two immediate predecessors as the most effectual means at the least cost of securing the building from wet. In addition to this, the whole of the walls must be well pointed with cement.

The area wall is in a very ruinous condition, and would require to be rebuilt at an expense of about 800 *l.* A large portion of the pavement must also be relaid and partly renewed, and the sewers opened and cleansed; most of the interior requires painting, and some of the rooms require papering; none but partial work of this nature having been performed since the completion of the building, 17 years ago. Besides the above, there are sundry repairs required of a general character, but of minor importance, such as bells, locks, fastenings, &c.

The time afforded has not enabled me to have measurements taken with sufficient accuracy to form an exact estimate of the expense of these repairs and alterations, but from the rough calculations, it appears by the joint estimate of the two surveyors above named, that from 2,600 *l.* to 2,800 *l.* would cover the amount, though, in my own opinion, considering the present very high price of labour and materials, I do not think it would be safe to calculate on a less expenditure than 3,000 *l.*

With regard to the conversion of the Government House into a colonial building for the House of Assembly, Law Courts, &c., and the erection of distinct buildings for the Governor's residence, and offices for the Colonial Secretary, Treasurer and Surveyor-general, I am not prepared to give any but a general opinion.

There is no room in Government House sufficiently large for the House of Assembly, and any alterations in the present party walls to obtain the necessary space would be unadvisable, both on the score of expense and risk to the stability of the building.

The same objection applies to the courts of law; without specific plans and detail, it is impossible to form any but a vague idea of the expense attendant on this project, but I should not think it could be carried out for a less sum than 35,000 *l.* or 40,000 *l.*, in addition to the expenses already entailed towards the erection of a colonial building, and the compensation which the contractor might be entitled to. No time will be lost by the clerk of the works, consistent with his other duties, in preparing a detailed estimate of the work required to put Government House in proper repair, which I shall have the honour of submitting to your Excellency as soon as it is completed.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. W. Robe*, Lieut.-col.
Commanding Royal Engineers.

His Excellency Sir G. Le Marchant,
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 72. —

(No. 17.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 June 1847.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt by the last North American packet of your three despatches, Nos. 6,* 7,* 8,* dated the 10th ultimo, reporting upon the state of affairs in Newfoundland.

The interval between the arrival and the departure of the North American mails is so short, and the demands on my time at this season of the year are so numerous, that I must postpone for a short time the attentive examination which I should wish to give to these despatches. But I trust that I shall be enabled to convey to you by the next packet the opinions which I shall have formed by that time upon the various important topics you have brought under my notice. I will not, however, allow the present opportunity to pass, without informing you that I entirely approve of your proposal to devote no more money to individuals, but to apply the residue of the sum voted by the Imperial Parliament for the relief of Newfoundland (and I would even add, any other fund raised for the same purpose, either in this kingdom or elsewhere over which you are at

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No. 72.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant,
3 June 1847.

* Pages 69. 73. 75.

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liberty to exercise any control) to the erection of such public buildings and works as are most urgently required, and will be most conducive to the interests of the town of St. John's, and its security against the recurrence of a similar calamity to that from which it has just suffered. Such a mode of using this money I conceive will be that calculated most effectively to relieve the mercantile class, which you describe as being the one which has in reality suffered most by the fire.

The only object of this nature, which with the information now before me I am prepared to specify as one which should be immediately undertaken, is that of putting the Government House into a thorough state of repair, and you have accordingly my authority for taking measures without loss of time for that purpose. I must leave it to your own judgment to determine what other objects of the same kind should next be selected, reporting of course to me for my sanction the works you may purpose to undertake.

I have requested the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to comply with your application for a vessel to convey you on a tour to the outports of your government; but I am apprehensive that there will be great difficulties in acceding to your application.

In conclusion, I have to inform you that the despatches which you have addressed to me on the affairs of the colony are entitled, from their clearness and fullness, to my entire approval, and that the general views which you have expressed in them appear to me most judicious, and obtain my concurrence.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

— No. 73. —

No. 73.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
17 June 1847.

(No. 20.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 June 1847.

No. 6, 10 May,
page 69.
No. 7, 10 May,
page 73.
No. 8, 16 May,
page 76.

IN pursuance of the intimation contained in my despatch of the 3d instant, I have reconsidered your despatches of the dates mentioned in the margin, and I do not find, notwithstanding the importance of their contents, that they require any very material additions to the answer which I have already returned to them. They certainly disclose the existence of very serious evils, affecting in some degree the colony generally, but more especially the town of St. John's. Those evils, however, are of such a kind, that the application of appropriate remedies appears to be rather within the province of the Local Legislature than in that of Her Majesty's Government. It is satisfactory to me to derive from these despatches a full assurance that the Legislature, in considering what those remedies ought to be, will receive from you the most judicious advice, which will, I trust, meet with the attention it deserves.

I can hardly doubt, from the information now afforded to me, that very unfortunate errors have been committed in the measures adopted for the restoration of the town. I greatly regret that the plan for rebuilding the town which was furnished by Major Robe should have been so entirely neglected, and the alteration of the laws originally passed upon this subject, by the subsequent Act passed in January, appears to have been highly injudicious; but as the officer administering the Government did not at the time explain to me either the nature of these alterations, or the grounds upon which he was led to assent to them, I have not the means of judging whether he had any sufficient reason for taking that course, and the Act itself having only reached me on the 15th instant, I have not yet had an opportunity of submitting to Her Majesty my advice, either for its disallowance or confirmation. It further appears to me that there is good ground for the apprehension which you state to be entertained, that in consequence of the law requiring houses in certain situations to be built of stone instead of wood not coming into operation for three years, it will then be very difficult to enforce the provisions of the law, but it will deserve the consideration of the Legislature whether, if it should be found absolutely necessary to relax the law, the alteration ought not to be effected in such a manner as to make it the interest of the parties gradually to substitute houses of a better for those

those of an inferior description; and I would suggest to you whether this might not be accomplished by subjecting to double rates houses built of materials not sanctioned by the law as it at present stands. Notwithstanding the dislike which you state to exist to the adoption of local taxation for the purpose of providing for local charges, I trust that the Legislature will be induced to agree to the introduction of a system which, I am convinced, must be the first step towards any real improvement, and of which the advantages are so clearly shown by the experience both of this country and of the United States. Should a system of local assessment for local objects be adopted, nothing could be more reasonable than to subject to a higher rate of payment houses built of a material which renders them a cause of so much danger to the town. The necessity of adopting all the precautionary measures in their power in order to guard against the recurrence of such a calamity as that from which they have so lately suffered, cannot be too strongly pressed upon the inhabitants of St. John's, since, if owing to a want of this ordinary prudence they should again be exposed to another disaster of the same sort, they must not expect again to receive the assistance which upon the last occasion was so generously afforded to them. In considering the means by which such a calamity might be guarded against, there is none which appears to be of greater importance, and at the same time more calculated to be of advantage in other respects to the inhabitants of the town, than undertaking works for procuring and distributing to all parts of St. John's an ample supply of water. I am therefore of opinion that there is no purpose to which the balance still in hand of the money raised for the relief of the sufferers by the fire could so fitly be applied.

I concur in the opinion expressed by you as to the importance of directing more attention to agriculture, and in order to encourage it, roads should be extended as much as possible. I trust, however, you will, so far as possible, discourage a too great reliance upon potatoes, a crop the uncertainty of which seems to have been experienced in Newfoundland, though hitherto only in a trifling degree as compared to this country.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

— No. 74. —

(No. 17.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. Le Marchant to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
24 June 1847.

(Received, 14 July 1847.)

(Answered, 19 July 1847, No. 29, page 83.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch, No. 17,* of the 3d instant, acquainting me of your Lordship's approval of my three despatches, Nos. 6, 7 and 8, of the 10th ultimo, as well as your Lordship's concurrence in the general views taken and therein expressed by me on the present state of affairs in Newfoundland, together with your Lordship's instructions respecting the disposal of the residue both of the vote granted by the Imperial Parliament for the relief of this colony, and the funds raised for the same purpose in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

In reply, I can assure your Lordship that your entire approval of the views which I had the honour of submitting to your Lordship in those despatches is peculiarly gratifying to myself, and neither time nor labour on my part shall be spared in carrying out, to the fullest extent, your Lordship's wishes and views.

As your Lordship has been pleased to assent to my recommendation of the Government House being put in a thorough state of repair, the business has at once been placed in the hands of Colonel Robe, the officer commanding the Royal Engineers on the station, with directions to proceed with the work forthwith.

Contracts have already been prepared by him and taken for a portion of the work, and which will be carried out under his personal inspection and the superintendence of the Ordnance Department.

No. 74.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
24 June 1847.

* Page 77.

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The entire cost of the perfect re-establishment of the building, with other necessary conveniences and comforts connected with such residence, is estimated at or about 3,500*l*.

And the appropriation of such monies is viewed by the more respectable inhabitants of St. John's as most just and proper; and in like manner it is impossible to disguise the fact, that without such appropriation by your Lordship, the building would soon fall into a ruin, and the Governor's family this winter be exposed to every sort of discomfort from the inclemencies of the season; and, further, in the present financial condition of the colony, it would be quite impossible to obtain the necessary funds beyond the most ordinary repair.

With reference to that part of your Lordship's despatch stating that you must leave it to my own judgment to determine what other objects of the same kind should next be selected, your Lordship's sanction of course being obtained previous to their being undertaken, I now proceed to submit to your Lordship the measures which, in my opinion, I consider should be adopted.

In the first place, the want of a fish market is much complained of, as well as greatly felt by the inhabitants generally, and it would be a building of not only of very great utility to all classes of this community, but would also very essentially conduce to the cleanliness and comfort of the town; for it is scarcely to be believed that in a population of 20,000, there is not only not one fishmonger's shop, but not even a stall; the fish at present are laid in rows in the gutters of the streets, and in that filthy state are exposed for sale.

The estimated cost of such buildings as I should propose to erect would be about 1,000*l*, and which I calculate, by leasing out every season, would bring into the Government at least 5 per cent. on such outlay.

I have already undertaken one tank of 25 feet by 30, and 10 feet deep, for which a certain sum has already been voted by the Legislature of this country; I would now propose the erection of a second in an opposite direction of the town; the water thus supplied will be an incalculable blessing to the people, which at this season they can only attain with the very greatest difficulty, from the springs being chiefly dried up; as likewise in the case of fire, it would afford immediate assistance and relief.

These tanks will be both frost-proof and fire-proof, and would be constructed at the cost of about 250*l* each.

I would further desire to press on your Lordship's notice the state of the burial-grounds of this town, not only placed in the very heart of the city, but crowded to a disgusting excess; and from the two chief springs of the town percolating through them, they are the sources of great distress to the inhabitants, and at any moment are liable to originate the most infectious diseases; I would, therefore, propose that a certain sum be set aside for the purchase of fresh burial-grounds; that is so generally felt, that I am convinced your Lordship's sanction of such measures would be received with true satisfaction, and the amount of which should not exceed 500*l*.

Scarcely a day passes but that the press of this country is not loudly calling on the Executive for their direct interference for the closing of these grounds.

The town of St. John's is unprovided, as in other cities in Europe and elsewhere, with any sort of walk or public ground for the health as well as the recreation of the people; I have, therefore, after full consideration of the subject, desired that a line of road, a quarter of a mile in extent, running along each side of the river, be granted to the inhabitants for such purposes.

It is the chief outlet of the town to the country, and also being the only part of the town lining the banks of the river not publicly disposed of, may be regarded as the lungs of the city.

This ground, at an expense of less than 500*l*, might be converted into an admirable promenade; and during the winter season I would propose to make all able-bodied applicants for relief repay, by their labour on such work, the amount of assistance given.

The residue of the Imperial grant I would most strongly and urgently recommend to be exclusively devoted to the improvement of the old lines of road, as likewise to the formation of such others as will open a new country to the enterprising; and in the support of which view, I herewith transmit, for your Lordship's perusal, a letter that this day has been addressed to me by the chairman of the Board of the Road Commissioners for the district of St. John's, pointing out the great and manifold advantages which would result in the uniting many
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of the distant bays and harbours from which the capital is at present entirely cut off, and thus enabling the markets of the city to be supplied from these points, now wholly beyond reach.

In adverting to your Lordship's recommendation, that the Imperial grant should be devoted to the erection of public buildings, I would here observe, that the number now in the course of erection (with such as I have in this despatch proposed) would render it difficult, if not impracticable, to commence others before the spring of the ensuing year.

And, further, the residue of the Imperial grant, after the re-establishment of Government House, even without any reference to the suggestions I have drawn your Lordship's attention to in this despatch, would in itself constitute a sum wholly inadequate for such purpose, as no public building could be erected much short of 7,000*l.* or 9,000*l.* sterling.

And though the colony may decidedly be in want of halls of justice, a lunatic asylum and a public gaol, yet I am of opinion that, under existing circumstances, such temporary accommodations as they now have, may, without any very great inconvenience to the community, fully meet the desired ends until the colony be in a condition equal to incur the expenses arising out of the increased demand for the erection of such public buildings.

After a full consideration of your Lordship's despatch, I have come to the conclusion, that the chief object your Lordship has in view, in the distribution of this money, is the diffusion thereby of the greatest amount of relief, happiness, comfort and general utility to the inhabitants of this town, as also to the colony of Newfoundland at large.

Embracing therefore, as I do, this opinion, I would desire to impress on your Lordship's attention, that the erection of public buildings, as also the relief arising thereout, must necessarily be confined to the inhabitants of St. John's; and this to the exclusion of the population of the outports, amounting to 80,000 souls, which are the chief seats of indigence.

I, therefore, am most deliberately of opinion, that by opening new roads, and employing on these works all the able-bodied destitute for the winter season, we shall be conferring far greater and more lasting benefits on the inhabitants generally, as well as bestowing an inestimable blessing on Newfoundland at large by the adoption of such measure, rather than by limiting the advantages to the town of St. John's, by the erection of public buildings; though I regret to be obliged to state, that the jealousy between the town of St. John's and the out-harbours of the island is so great, that the conferring a boon to the one is considered by the other as an act of injustice towards their side, to the like extent.

Until the results of the harvests in this country, as well as in America and Europe, have become known, it is quite impossible to form or convey to your Lordship any real or accurate opinion as to the probable condition of this colony during the next winter.

But as it is an ascertained fact, that provisions are at this moment 100 per cent. higher than they were this time last year, they may, unless Providence does most abundantly, and even profusely, bless the approaching seasons, reach prices far beyond the means of the mass of the population.

No grain of any kind worth mentioning is grown in this country, and but few cattle are reared in it. Thus on foreign markets the population are dependent for the chief articles of food, their land being almost confined to the culture of the potato, and the setting of which is estimated to be, this season, short by one-third, if not more, than last year.

I, therefore, with your Lordship's sanction and approval, would propose investing in the autumn such sums from the Queen's letter money as I might deem desirable or expedient, in the purchase of large supplies of provisions from America, instead of obtaining them at the enormous retail prices of this town, as has heretofore been the practice in administering relief.

I would then suggest that such supplies should be sent into the country, and depôts of provisions formed on the various lines of roads about to be put in operation.

That such depôts should be placed under the superintendence of the Road Commissioners, and a clerk employed for keeping the proper books of detail, and accounting to the Government for the receipt and expenditure of all provisions.

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A portion of the Queen's Letter money I would also suggest being devoted to the construction of new roads and new lines, and that all demands of relief from the strong and able-bodied should at once be firmly, as well as decidedly, met by the Commissioners, offering them labour on such public roads in exchange for the provisions necessary for their support.

And I would also recommend that a portion should be expended in procuring large supplies of corn, seed and potatoes, to be stored in our granaries this winter, so that on the approach of next spring Government, at a very small price, would be able widely to distribute seed for the culture of the lands, thus affording opportunities, which the inhabitants have never before possessed, of trying the experiment of raising corn and oats for their own consumption, and which I have every reason to believe would grow as well here as in most of our other North American colonies.

Such supply of seed would not only effectually secure the subsistence of the people at the outports for the following winter, but give an impetus to all classes in raising new food, and creating in themselves fresh sources for their own maintenance and independence, which before have never been resorted to; the merchant and his stores being their only support, their only hope and dependence.

I see no other plan of relief that I could conscientiously recommend to your Lordship for the distribution of such public monies, except that of entrusting it, as was the case last year, to the discretion of the Relief Committees.

My knowledge of the people of St. John's, confirmed as it has been by the well-grounded opinion of the best and most influential class here, satisfies me that the adoption of such latter measure would in no way and in no manner conduce to the happiness, welfare or the improvement of the population of this town.

And I further consider it my duty to acquaint your Lordship of the fact, of the vast sums distributed by such committees last year having left such a craving and insatiable desire for the entire appropriation of the residue of these monies among themselves, that the diversion of any part of it into any other channel is regarded as a direct misappropriation of the principle on which it was raised.

To avoid labour and enjoy in idleness the fruits of these sums, is the evident desire of the multitude; and, owing to the intrigues of certain people (which are totally unconnected with the higher classes of this community), nothing but the entire surrender of the public money to them, according to their own ideas, will please or satisfy the people and the popular leaders of this town; and any other course, or even the measures suggested by me, will, I am assured, on the approaching meeting of the Legislature, encounter the most rancorous opposition; and I am informed I may anticipate, in accordance with their constant practice, frequent deputations from the House, demanding copies of the correspondence that has passed between the Home Government and myself on this subject.

I have further to report to your Lordship the arrival of Her Majesty's steam sloop "Vesuvius," at St. John's, together with a letter from the admiral on the station, stating that his services have been placed at my disposal in accordance with my request.

On the departure of this mail I shall avail myself of her services for the purpose of visiting the different districts and out-harbours of my government; at the same time care shall be so taken in the management of my plans, that the performance of her duties connected with the fisheries shall in no way be interfered with.

My course will first be directed to the southern and western coast of the island, and I purpose devoting special attention to the careful investigation of the settlements at Great Codroy River, St. George's Bay and the Bay of Islands; and on my return a full report shall be prepared for your Lordship's information, describing the existing state of that part of Newfoundland, together with the measures which should in my opinion be undertaken for the more extensive development of the natural resources of this portion of my government.

This tour most probably will occasion my absence from St. John's for about a fortnight; however, in the present state of affairs here, I do not anticipate any inconvenience arising to the public service therefrom.

I further propose towards the latter end of July, when the potato-crops are well advanced, to visit the whole of the north-east coast, and personally examine into

into the social as well as the general condition of the inhabitants of this island, so that by the close of the summer I shall propose to myself the duty of laying before your Lordship a full and general report on the state of this country.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. G. Le Marchant.*

Enclosure in No. 74.

Sir,

St. John's, 24 June 1847.

Encl. in No. 74.

I AM specially directed by the Road Commissioners for this district to bring the unfinished state of the main lines of road under the notice of the Governor, in hopes that his Excellency may devise some way in which the necessary work in such lines may be continued.

To make such roads as the Commissioners have in view passable, would have the effect of opening a communication between the capital and some of the more important and distant settlements of the island, of developing the agricultural capabilities of the colony, and afford an opportunity of bringing to market not only every product of the soil, but also the surplus stock of cattle, butter, &c. which is pretty abundant on the western coast, and which, whilst the main roads are left in their present condition, cannot be accomplished.

The roads which claim particular attention are those from Topsail to Holy-Rood, thence to Salmonier and Placentia; also from Salmonier to St. Mary's, the opening and making of which could hardly fail to be productive of vast benefit to the trade and agriculture of the colony; these roads are intended to connect the Bays of Placentia and St. Mary's with Conception Bay and St. John's, the accomplishment of which is most desirable.

The Bay Bulls Road, which is the main (indeed the only) outlet to all the southern settlements of the colony, claims equal consideration; and to complete it, especially between the settlements of Bay Bulls and St. John's is of paramount importance. It is also of much consequence to keep in good repair the road and bridges from St. John's to Portugal Cove.

The sums appropriated by the Legislature for the above objects have been almost wholly expended, and the work must therefore of necessity cease, unless some further means can be appropriated for the same service. To suspend operations on roads which have been opened and partially made, would in its effects be very injurious, as such work could only be resumed at a future period under great disadvantages; and the Commissioners would respectfully urge the expediency of prosecuting the work they have named as soon after the termination of the fishery as possible, when employment to the poor would be most beneficial, and better performed at a less cost.

On the road from St. John's to Bay Bulls there is five miles on which little has been done beyond opening and draining; to make this passable for carts would take 600*l.*

To make the main road from Topsail to Salmonier, and thence to Placentia, in the same state, would require a sum equal to 4,000*l.*

The road from Salmonier to St. Mary's is now being opened. To complete this preliminary work will absorb nearly the whole sum appropriated for that part of the country. The making of this road passable is essentially necessary to the establishment of a continuance of the main line between St. John's and the settlement of St. Mary's, and would require a sum of 1,600*l.*

I have, &c.
(signed) *James Douglas,*
Chairman.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

RECAPITULATION.

	£.	s.	d.
Bay Bulls - - - - -	600	-	-
Topsail to Salmonier - - - - -	4,000	-	-
St. Mary's - - - - -	1,600	-	-
	<hr/>		
	£. 6,200	-	-

— No. 75. —

(No. 29.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 July 1847.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 17,* of the 24th June, in which you enumerate the various public works which it would, in your opinion, be most conducive to the interests of the inhabitants of St. John, and to the advantage of

No. 75.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir G.
Le Marchant.
19 July 1847.

* Page 79.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Newfoundland generally, to undertake with the money still at the disposal of Government for the relief of the sufferers from the fire of last year.

I am happy to be enabled to convey to you the expression of my approval as to the different works which you recommend for adoption, and to inform you that the reasons which you have assigned for not undertaking the erection at present of any public building besides the Government House are quite conclusive.

I entirely concur with you in thinking that there is no mode of applying the funds still at your disposal which is likely to be so effectual, both in relieving present distress by the employment afforded, and in promoting the permanent welfare of the community, as that of undertaking the formation of roads, which will facilitate the intercourse between the capital and other parts of the colony.

The question, whether any part of the imperial grant could, with propriety, be appropriated to the restoration of the Roman Catholic convent and school, has probably not escaped your attention, but as I do not observe any allusion in your despatch to such an application of the public money, I have to request that you will inform me what is the view you have taken of the claims for assistance towards this object, which have been preferred by Dr. Fleming, and which I brought under your consideration in my despatch of 1st May 1847.

The only part of the measures which you propose to adopt on which I entertain some doubt is, that which relates to the importation and sale of provisions on the Government account. In general I consider it better to leave arrangements for the supply of food to the private trader, whose interests will induce him to take adequate precautions against such deficiencies as you apprehend. But even upon this point it is not my wish to impose any restrictions upon your discretion to act as you may think proper, as I am satisfied that I may safely rely upon your judgment, and that you have means, which at this distance I cannot possess, of deciding whether the peculiar circumstances of Newfoundland do not at this moment justify a partial departure from the rules which should usually be followed by the Government in matters of this description.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

— No. 76. —

(No. 18.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant* to Earl *Grey*.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
25 June 1847.

(Received, 14 July 1847.)

My Lord,

With reference to your Lordship's despatch, No. 10,* of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the enclosed letter from the Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Newfoundland, in reply to the statement of Dr. Fleming, the Roman Catholic Bishop, with respect to the value of the Protestant church at St. John's, destroyed in the late fire, and which was communicated in letter to your Lordship by Mr. John O'Connell.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Gaspard Le Marchant.*

Enclosure in No. 76.

My Lord,

St. John's, New Brunswick, 25 June 1847.

His Excellency the Governor has, by your Lordship's desire, made me acquainted with the contents of a despatch dated 18th May, addressed to his Excellency, on the subject of Dr. Fleming's letter to Mr. John O'Connell.

I hardly think Dr. Fleming would have written as he did to Mr. O'Connell had he been aware that the rebuilding of the Episcopal church was one of the objects contemplated and named by the committee who applied for the Queen's Letter. I have been informed that several Roman Catholics were ignorant of that fact, and withdrew their objections on being made acquainted with it.

I presume Dr. Fleming would do the same, as I cannot suppose he would interfere except under the idea that there has been a misappropriation.

To

No. 76.
Governor Sir *G.*
Le Marchant to
Earl *Grey*.
25 June 1847.

* Page 62.

Encl. in No. 76.

To prove that there has been no misappropriation, I need only refer to the official Correspondence printed by order of the House of Lords, and the Petition of the London Committee appended thereto.

It is quite true, as Dr. Fleming remarks, that the erection of a new church had been determined on, and several thousand pounds had been subscribed: these subscriptions would have been enlarged if the fire had not crippled the means of most of our wealthy merchants and other members who were principal sufferers by the fire—still it would have been necessary to appeal to our friends in England for further assistance, I mean, even if the fire had not occurred. Nobody knows better than Dr. Fleming that 14,000*l.* or 20,000*l.* would not suffice to erect a handsome and capacious stone church in this country, even in much less expensive times. I need not say that the appeal to our friends in England, which I was desired to make, was effectually hindered, and I am thankful to say, rendered unnecessary by the application of the London Committee for a Queen's Letter.

It is not true that our old church was not worth 200*l.* This statement is very far indeed from being a correct one. To prove that it is not correct, it may suffice to say that the church accommodated with decent and sufficient pews and sittings 800 persons, and was supplied with all usual and necessary appendages and furniture. I had myself expended nearly half that sum a short time before on some internal fittings and alterations.

As the object of Dr. Fleming's letter is not revealed, it is difficult to know how to meet it, and I forbear all imputations of unkind motives and recriminatory assertions. I would rather hope that the appended statement (addressed soon after my return to Lieutenant-colonel Law, then administering this government) may be satisfactory to him and his friends in Ireland, as it has proved to many here.

The Right honourable the Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edward Newfoundland.*

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 76.

Sir,

St. John's, 17 April 1847.

MAY I be allowed to take this opportunity of stating, for the better information of your Honor, the circumstances under which a moiety of the collections, made by authority of the Queen's Letter, was granted towards the rebuilding of St. John's Church.

The committee of gentlemen who applied for the Queen's Letter, expressly mentioned in their application the rebuilding of the Episcopal Church in St. John's as one of the objects contemplated in the appropriation of the proceeds: the only other object being the relief of the sufferers.

When it was understood, that a Queen's Letter would be granted, several bishops, before directing the clergy to preach and make collections, applied to Sir George Grey to know whether any part of the proceeds would be so devoted to the building of the church: urging that the money would be gathered from Church people, and through the sole agency of the Church clergy, after they had in many cases already subscribed to the general relief of the sufferers. Sir George Grey, in reply, said he quite approved of such an appropriation, and referred the bishops to the Lord Mayor of London as the chairman of the committee, on whose application the letter was granted for further satisfaction. The Lord Mayor informed the bishops that it was the wish and intention of the committee, that a considerable proportion of the proceeds (at least three-fourths) should be given to the Church. Accordingly, one at least of the bishops (whose printed circular addressed to his clergy I saw) declared that he was authorized to state, that three-fourths of the collections would be so given and employed. All this was done and settled before I reached England, and without any communication to or from me.

When I arrived in England I was so far gratified by this intelligence, that I felt relieved of the necessity of making collections, as I had intended, through the clergy and in the churches.

But it should be considered at the same time, that had I been permitted to make my own appeal (which was effectually prevented by the Queen's Letter), it would have resulted in very large contributions, nearly approaching, if not equalling, the proportion assigned to me of the Queen's Letter fund. This I certainly infer from the sympathy manifested, and the declarations made to me.

Soon after my arrival in London I waited on the Lord Mayor, who confirmed to me by word of mouth the above statement, referring to the large sum subscribed in London and elsewhere, as well as the Parliamentary grant for general relief.

On applying to Sir George Grey, I was answered by a letter from himself in these words: "On my representation to the late Lord Mayor as chairman of the committee, &c., his Lordship gave me an assurance, which I believe he also conveyed, at my suggestion, to the Bishop of London, that the committee would include the rebuilding of the church among the objects to which the funds should be applied. I have officially acquainted Lord Grey with the fact, &c. &c. &c."

Lord Grey recognized our claim to a share of the collections, but thought fit to retain half the amount for the general relief of the sufferers. It will, I trust, be understood from the above statements, that the Queen's Letter was solicited with a view to the

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rebuilding of the Episcopal Church; that Sir George Grey, who granted the letter in Her Majesty's name, assented to such an appropriation; that the Lord Mayor and Committee who obtained the letter assured the bishops that a very large proportion of the amount collected would be so appropriated; that these bishops instructed their clergy accordingly, and so the collections were made—made, let it be repeated, through the sole agency of the Church clergy in their churches, and from their parishioners. Yet, even so, one-half of the sums collected has been granted to the relief of persons, of whom the far greater number are of other denominations. Is it too much to expect, that the persons so assisted should show some gratitude towards the Church, which has been so large and unreserved in her bounty towards them, &c.

Allow me to add in conclusion, that the church to be built will be no place of party or private property. All may, all are invited to attend her services, and partake of her blessings. We shall not be unmindful of the sacred injunction, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

I have, &c.

(signed) *Edwd. Newfoundland.*

His Honor the Administrator of the Government,
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 77. —

No. 77.
Governor Sir G.
Le Marchant to
Earl Grey,
9 August 1847.

(No. 31.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. *Le Marchant* to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
9 August 1847.

My Lord,

(Received, 30 August 1847.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 29,* of the 19th ultimo, conveying therein your Lordship's approval and sanction of the different works recommended by me in my despatch (No. 17, of the 24th June), to be undertaken with the residue of the money still at the disposal of Government for the relief of the sufferers from the fire of last year.

With regard to the observation of your Lordship, "whether in consequence of no allusion having been made by me in my despatches, of applying part of the Imperial Grant to the restoration of the Roman-catholic convent and school, the question has not probably escaped my attention;" I can assure your Lordship that such has not been the case, as the subject has received my fullest consideration; and had it not been for Dr. Fleming's absence from Newfoundland, my views upon your Lordship's recommendation in the despatch (No. 7,† of the 1st May) "of applying a portion of the sum intended for the restoration of the public buildings in rebuilding the Catholic school," would have been expressed to your Lordship in my despatch of the 24th June.‡

But I deemed it more expedient to await Dr. Fleming's return, who is shortly expected back in the colony, when, from a personal interview, I might become better acquainted with his wishes and intentions upon the subject.

And then I confidently hope to have it in my power to inform your Lordship, that a sum of money has been appropriated for such purpose as will not only meet the fair and reasonable expectations of both Dr. Fleming and the Roman-catholic portion of the community, but also will in amount be such as to accord with your Lordship's views on the subject, as I am convinced that such measure will tend very much to soften the bitterness and ill-feeling that is now existing among that party, from the exclusion hitherto of their participation, as far as public edifices are concerned, in the benefits arising from the distribution of these grants.

With regard to the other observation of your Lordship, that you entertain some doubt on the expediency of adopting that portion of my measure which relates to the importation and sale of provisions on the Government account, I must confess, that on a more full deliberation on this subject, I cannot but agree in the views which your Lordship has taken, "that in general it is better to leave arrangements for the supply of food to the private trader, whose interests will induce him to take adequate precautions against such deficiencies," as were adverted to in my despatch proposing these measures.

And further, I may add, that my acquiescence in your Lordship's views is much strengthened from the information that I have been enabled to collect during my late visit to the various out-ports of this island. In the first place, the machinery for carrying into operation the plan recommended by me, could

not

* Page 83.

† Page 63.

‡ Page 79.

not be arranged without great difficulty and expense; and, in the second place, its working successfully is very doubtful, as the several individuals in the out-ports who from necessity the Government would be obliged to entrust with the care and distribution of these provisions, are not safely to be depended upon.

In the application therefore, of the funds remaining at the disposal of the Government, it is my intention, together with the carrying out these different public works already approved of by your Lordship, to adopt those measures for the relief of the present distress, and the promotion of the permanent welfare of the community, which have been pointed out by your Lordship in your several despatches; viz. by the employment of all the able-bodied paupers on the formation and reconstruction of those various lines of road that may be most beneficial to the interests of the colony at large.

And further to guard against the recurrence of those evils arising from an indiscriminate mode of relief, it is my determination that the rate of wages for this work shall not exceed 2s. per diem.

This, with the sum I propose devoting to the purchase of various descriptions of seed, together with a few models of agricultural implements, which are almost entirely unknown in the out-harbours (in all not exceeding 600*l.*), I confidently anticipate will not only relieve the distress now spreading over the land, but will eventually be the means of improving the general resources of the country, by the additional stimulus given to agriculture, and the greater encouragement afforded to independence on the part of the working classes of the colony, from their having at command fresh means of subsistence, which to the industrious will always be capable of very considerable increase; and also, in my opinion, it will further operate most beneficially on the majority of the inhabitants of this colony, by turning their attention from the potato plant, now almost their exclusive dependence, to the cultivation of corn crops, which are less liable to the destructive blights that have of late years visited Europe, and from which this island in the last year has not been exempt.

In the hope of adding some encouragement to this plan, I have generally made known my intention of bestowing, from my own income, at the meeting of the Agricultural Society next year, a silver cup to the person who for two successive years has raised the most corn, as likewise two smaller prizes for the improved breed of cattle, and the man who has brought the greatest extent of ground into cultivation within the year.

I merely mention these facts to your Lordship as tending to prove that every encouragement, both public and private, on my part, shall be given to the advancement of the interests and welfare of the colony, and I do earnestly hope, that my efforts may not only exercise beneficial influence on society generally, but at the same time may be the means of ameliorating the distress occasioned by the calamities of last year, and also eventually ensure plenty and abundance to this land.

By the next mail I trust to be able to forward to your Lordship a detailed report on the general state of the out-harbours and settlements of this country, which I have had the opportunity of visiting and inspecting in H. M. S. "Vesuvius," and from which duty I only returned the day before yesterday.

My report will be accompanied with one from the Surveyor-general on the entire West Coast of the island, pointing out its several capabilities, resources and fitness for extensive colonization.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. G. Le Marchant.*

—No. 78.—

(No. 36.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 14 September 1847.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 31,* of the 9th of August, respecting the appropriation of the residue of the fund still at the disposal of the local Government, for the relief of the sufferers from the recent fire at St. John's.

I have read with much satisfaction the luminous and judicious exposition which this despatch contains of your views on a subject of no light difficulty; I subscribe

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No. 78.

Earl Grey to
Governor Sir G.
Le Marchant.
14 Sept. 1847.

* Page 86.

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scribe to those views as sound and accurate, and I fully participate in the hope which you express, that the proposed measures will tend to alleviate the distress at present prevailing in the island.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

— No. 79. —

No. 70.
Governor Sir G.
Le Marchant to
Earl Grey.
19 August 1847.

(No. 33.)
EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant* to Earl *Grey* ;
dated Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, 19 August 1847.

(Received, 14 September 1847.)

(Answered, 6 October 1847, No. 39, page 96.)

"It is with feelings of much regret that I am again obliged to intrude on your Lordship's notice another petition on the subject of the Queen's letter-money, which has been placed in my hands by a deputation from the Relief Committee.

As no comments have as yet been made by me to your Lordship with regard to the proceedings of this body, I consider it my duty to call your Lordship's attention to a few facts in connexion with its original constitution, as also with the manner in which its functions have from the outset been discharged, which are clearly indicative of the disposition and character of the majority, who exercise uncontrolled sway in this Assembly.

This committee was formed by Sir John Harvey, at a meeting of the principal inhabitants, convened at Government House on the day after the fire.

In a short time, however, Sir John Harvey found it necessary to resort to a paid commission, from the fact of the unpaid committee having gradually relaxed in their exertions, "their whole time," as he observes in his despatch to your Lordship, No. 70,* of the 18th August 1846, "being naturally engrossed by their own private concerns."

* Page 40.

The first committee was not, however, broken up, but the two bodies both continued to discharge their respective duties till the paid committee was dissolved by Colonel Law, and which circumstance he reported to your Lordship in his despatch, No. 25,† of the 26th November 1846, and at the same time he observed, that "these commissioners will still form a part of the General Relief Committee, and they can give the same assistance in that capacity as they would do as commissioners in appropriating the money at the disposal of the committee, with which appropriation it is not my intention to interfere."

† Page 52.

From that period this body, comprising within its number many recipients and also many expectants for a share in the distribution, have continued to hold their meetings, and they have had at their disposal very large subscriptions remitted to them, both from the United Kingdom and elsewhere, and there is still remaining in their hands the sum of 1,700*l.*, which as yet they have not thought proper to distribute.

I think it but just to apprise your Lordship, that the meeting in question who drew up the petition, the subject of my present despatch, was convened on the 2d of this month, and consisted of 11 members only out of 40, which number comprised the entire committee, and on the resolution being put to the vote, they were passed by nine against two, all the nine being either Roman-catholics or Dissenters. This petition, with the signature of the acting chairman, Mr. Prowse, alone attached to it, was then delivered to me to be forwarded to your Lordship.

But as I had every reason to believe that the resolution was not one that spoke the general sense of the entire body, and also that at the instigation of some of the popular party it had been hurried through, without giving a fair notice to the members generally of the real object of the meeting; and further that even of the nine who voted in favour of the resolution accompanying the petition not one had the moral courage openly to affix his name to the document, but each endeavoured to cloak himself behind the signature of the chairman, a very common practice with persons of this stamp and class here; at the advice of the Attorney-general I requested that the subject, before I transmitted the petition to your Lordship, should be brought before a full meeting of the committee-

mittee-

mittee specially convened for this purpose, and that the parties agreeing in the views set forth in their report, should then and there affix their names to the document.

This, however, on being put to the vote, was lost by a majority of six in a meeting consisting of 26 members.

* * * * *

Owing to its composition, the proceedings of this Board have usually been marked with much violence, indeed so much so, that for a considerable time past, nearly all the leading merchants and influential parties of this town have withdrawn themselves from their meetings.

Since my arrival in this country, I have given my very best attention to the consideration of this money question, and especially to the distinct characters which in the minds of the public are in general assigned here to each particular grant, and so far from seeing anything to change or alter the view I originally took and expressed to your Lordship on this subject, I daily find this opinion strengthened, and am firmly convinced that the course hitherto pursued is not only strictly just, but planted on grounds which are unassailable.

At the hazard of troubling your Lordship with a subject, I believe, more than once adverted to in my former despatches, I will now venture to take up the particular points dwelt on by these petitioners in their present memorial; and even for arguments sake conceding to them that their views regarding the disposal of the Queen's letter-money is just, I think I can show to your Lordship that by their own admissions and reasonings, they not only confute themselves, but bear out in the fullest sense the course adopted by the home Government in the appropriation of their several grants.

In the first instance, a grant of 30,000*l.* was made by the Imperial Parliament for the relief of the colony. And afterwards the sum of 29,000*l.* was raised under the authority of the Queen's letter in England, for the relief of the sufferers by the fire, and the rebuilding of the Protestant church.

These two separate grants were evidently made to meet distresses of every character, class and kind, and to be apportioned in the manner and way most conducive to the ameliorating that distress under which the town and population were suffering, and also most in accordance with the general views and wisdom of the Executive, the Assembly and the people, the sanction and approval of the Home Government being of course obtained thereto.

These two grants should therefore have been kept distinct, instead of which, they were almost blended from the first, and thrown into one common fund.

By the official returns of the distribution of these monies, the sum of 21,000*l.* has been placed by the Executive at the disposal of this committee, and which amount may fairly be asserted to have been given to carry out the intent and meaning of the Queen's letter.

The petitioners do not question the right or justice of a certain portion of the monies raised under such letter being applied to the rebuilding of a church, but they object to so large an appropriation as one-half of the amount collected.

In order to make your Lordship comprehend the view taken by me of the question, and the basis of my present argument raised in defence of the course adopted by the Government, and in opposition to the prayer of these petitioners, I would wish to place the matter thus: supposing a surrender of the Queen's letter-money had been made to these parties, they make no claim, nor have they, I contend, any right so to do; with regard to the appropriation of the Imperial Grant, they must admit having received from the public chest 21,000*l.* to be distributed at their own discretion, thus only leaving 8,000*l.* remaining out of the sum of 29,000*l.*, the total of the Queen's letter-money, which amount they cannot fairly object to as being too large for the rebuilding of the Protestant church.

In a former part of my despatch I adverted to the original necessity of keeping those two grants distinct, which hitherto has not been the case; for 15,000*l.*, the larger portion of the sum as yet devoted to the relief of the fire sufferers, has been drawn from the Imperial grant, and not the Queen's letter-money; and admitting my argument to be a fair one, the Executive here would have a right to claim the reimbursement of that amount from the latter fund.

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See page 26 of this
Paper.

And to strengthen further this argument, I would refer your Lordship to the enclosed Address from the House of Assembly, dated the 3d July 1846, requesting that the then Governor, Sir John Harvey, would appeal to the Imperial Parliament for a sum to be given to St. John's, the capital of the island, for the prompt erection of certain public buildings and public works; such Address goes on to state that such relief is not only necessary to allay the apprehensions of the industrious classes, as well as actually to retain them in the colony, but such buildings are essentially necessary for the administration of the Government, thus evidently showing, that in the month of July 1846, whatever they may now say to the contrary, the erection of public buildings and the undertaking of public works for the restoration of the town, was considered of the most vital importance by the inhabitants of the whole island, speaking their sense through their House of Assembly.

* Page 73.

In despatch No. 7* (of the 10th May), I drew your Lordship's attention to the fact of 64,000*l.* sterling, or 76,000*l.* currency, having been distributed in actual relief to the fire sufferers of St. John's, a sum in itself of vast amount, and most certainly far exceeding the hopes or expectations of either the people or House of Assembly when they first applied to the Government for assistance.

Up to the present moment no sum has been expended for public works, and the necessity for the reconstruction of such works so forcibly recommended in the Address above alluded to, has not been lessened either by time or circumstances.

Moreover, I do further assert, that after so large a sum having been expended on the poor, to the utter exclusion of the merchants, who are the chief sufferers, it is but fair and just that the residue of the sums now at the disposal of the Government should be applied to relieve that pressure from taxation in the erection of public buildings, and the undertaking of those public works essential to the welfare of the colony at large, which otherwise would fall on the merchants alone.

And holding these opinions, I have considered it my duty to point out to the various deputations that have waited on me, as also to the leaders of the popular party, the views which I entertain on the subject, and which I have had the honour of expressing to your Lordship; and upon the fullest deliberation I can only arrive at the conclusion, that after the sums expended in St. John's for the relief of the necessitous and the rebuilding of the church, the appropriation of the residue of those several monies by your Lordship in the erection of public buildings and in the construction of roads, is not only in strict accordance with the Address of the House of Assembly of the 3d of July 1846 now before me, but is even the mode of relief specified, detailed and laid down by the very House itself, as the way of all others the most conducive to allay the painful apprehensions of the industrious classes, and to diffuse lasting benefits throughout the town of St. John's and the colony generally. And any other course but that prescribed by your Lordship, would evidently have been not only at variance, but in direct opposition to the voice of the people so calmly and so deliberately expressed in the Address of the House to Sir John Harvey."

Enclosure 1, in No. 79.

MEMORIAL.

Encl. 1, in No. 79.

To the Right Honourable Earl Grey, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Memorial of the Committee at St. John's, Newfoundland, for the distribution of the Funds raised for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fire which laid waste the principal part of the Town on the 9th June 1846,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your memorialists have learnt with deep concern that your Lordship has acceded to a recommendation from the Executive Government here, that a considerable portion of the monies granted by the Imperial Parliament and by the Local Governments of our neighbouring colonies, as well as what was collected in England under the sanction of the Queen's letter, shall be expended in the erection of public buildings in this town; and
your

your memorialists feel assured, from the tenor of your Lordship's communication of the 3d September last to the Administrator of the Government here, that your Lordship would never have sanctioned such an appropriation had your Lordship been made acquainted with the real condition of a great number of the sufferers, by whom the loss has been, and still continues to be, felt most severely.

Your memorialists lament exceedingly their not having been made acquainted with the views your Lordship entertained and expressed in the communication above referred to, views in every way consonant with those of your memorialists, and the valuable suggestions offered by your Lordship would, doubtless, have been acted upon, had your memorialists been aware of them at the time; but it was not until it appeared in the public prints here, some 10 days or a fortnight since, that your memorialists had the slightest information upon the subject.

Your memorialists have carefully reviewed the correspondence and documents having reference to the sufferers by the fire here, published by order of the House of Lords, and they most respectfully solicit your Lordship's perusal of their report upon the same, feeling assured that your Lordship will approve of the sentiments therein set forth; and they therefore pray that your Lordship will be pleased to cause the benevolent intentions of Her Majesty's Government, and those who subscribed to the relief fund, to be carried into effect, by directing the monies to be applied for the relief of the sufferers, instead of to the erection of public buildings.

And, as in duty bound, your memorialists will ever pray.

On behalf of the Committee,

St. John's, Newfoundland,
2 August 1847.

(signed) *Robt. Prowse,*
Chairman.

Enclosure 2, in No. 79.

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 *l.*, 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 *l.*, making a total of 61,516 *l.* Encl. 2, in No. 79:

But there are one or two topics embraced in the correspondence 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 correspondence 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 which follows, they think it due to themselves to state, with reference to a note appended to a despatch of Sir John Harvey to Earl Grey, under date the 18th August, intimating the appointment of a commission, and the reason assigned for that appointment, that they stand in no chargeable with the imputation laid upon them by Sir John, unconscious as they totally are of the smallest dereliction in the discharge of the duties assigned them.

* So in copy.

Referring to the public proceedings which have taken place, and in the order in which they have occurred, since the period of the awful calamity which has given birth to them, the attention of the committee is first drawn to the fact, that on the 3d day of July 1846, the House of Assembly, then in session, presented an address to Sir John Harvey, requesting his Excellency to represent to the Home Government the importance of ordering the erection of public buildings for the purpose of allaying the apprehensions of the population as to the diffusion of employment. The object was to solicit a grant from the Imperial Government towards the erection of such buildings.—See pages 29, 30, of the Correspondence.

And by a despatch, dated 18 August, Earl Grey states to Sir John Harvey, that it has
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been suggested to him, that as the whole amount of subscriptions at home and in the colonies will be considerable, it would be desirable to apply a part of the grant already at the Governor's disposal, to the re-erection of the official buildings, which must otherwise be replaced by taxation. Sir John is, therefore, instructed, unless it would interfere with his previous arrangements, to reserve a portion of the Parliamentary grant until the expediency of the application just mentioned can be further considered.—Page 31.

Here, then, it is, that the committee observe the first oblique tendency; the first attempt to diverge from the original and straight-forward intention of appropriating the whole public contribution towards the relief of the sufferers by fire.

They acquit the House of Assembly, in their appeal through Sir John Harvey to the Home Government for an Imperial grant in aid of the public buildings, from any attempt to mislead the Government; but they perceive that the application itself, coupled with the prospect of a very large amount of contributions, suggested the idea, that in the erection of the public works, the labouring classes and the mechanics would find ample employment, and a sufficient recompense for their labour.

On the 8th September, Colonel Law replied to the foregoing despatch by stating, that Sir John had reserved 5,000*L.* out of the Government grant of 30,000*L.* to meet unforeseen demands; that of the remaining 25,000*L.*, a considerable sum had already been, or was in the course of distribution; but the Colonel hoped to be enabled to add some portion of it to the 5,000*L.* already reserved, to be made available in the manner contemplated by his Lordship.—Page 46.

On the 3d September, Earl Grey communicated his views as to the proper mode of distribution, and recommends that the middle classes should be provided with means (of which they themselves were to contribute one-half) of rebuilding their houses, thus affording employment for the labouring population. He thinks, that by thus economizing and applying the funds, there would be a large surplus, which may be devoted to the erection of public buildings, thus further increasing the means of employing the working classes.—Pages 47, 48.

To the foregoing, Colonel Law replied on the 25th September, stating that 9,000*L.* sterling of the Government grant, had already been distributed. Stated also, the system which had been adopted for agreeing upon the awards by the Commission and Relief Committee, which system could not, without much complaint, be interfered with; and that the plan suggested of relief being in some instances made contingent on an equal amount being contributed by individuals, although good in theory, is not suited to our circumstances.—Page 52.

Thus, then, so far as anything in the correspondence appears to the contrary, the intention of applying any part of the relief funds to the erection of public buildings, appears virtually to have been almost abandoned. The committee employ the term virtually, because there exists a very general apprehension, that the still unappropriated monies are, at least in part, to be devoted to that purpose, a measure which the committee hope to make appear, would be unjust towards a class of sufferers, who have as yet, shared either not at all, or but comparatively trifling in any of the Government bounty.

None can more deeply lament than the committee do, the painful fact, that the Episcopal church in this town became a prey to the devouring element, upon the deplorable occurrence which they all so vividly recollect. It is remarkable, that this was the only place of public worship which fell in the general catastrophe, and there was, and still is, a kindly desire on the part of the inhabitants, of whatever denominational creed, to see it restored, at least in all its original simplicity. It was a plain, unpretending edifice constructed of wood, as all other places of worship were. It was commodious and convenient, but it was an old building, rapidly approaching to decay, so much so, that measures had been taken for the construction of a new one of more durable materials. Subscriptions had been raised, and a large quantity of cut stone had been imported and deposited upon the ground for the purpose of proceeding with the erection, and the foundation stone had been already laid. In exactly this condition of affairs, the fire occurred. With these preliminary observations upon this part of the subject, the committee desire to draw public attention to that portion of the correspondence under their review which has immediate bearing upon it.

They find that on the 10th September last, Colonel the Hon. Robert Law, then administering the Government of the colony, transmitted a despatch to Earl Grey, enclosing a memorial from the Lord Bishop and others to the Secretary for the Home Department, for which he entreats the favourable consideration of the noble Earl, in consequence of the severe loss sustained by the Protestant Episcopalians, the destruction of their church, the impossibility of their rebuilding it, and the strong fact of all the monies raised under the Queen's letter being contributed by members of that communion. (It should be observed, that the intimation of the Queen's letter having been issued to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, authorizing them to cause subscriptions to be made in the churches throughout the country on behalf of the sufferers by the fire, was contained in a despatch from Earl Grey to the Administrator of the Government, under date the 3d September (p. 47). The memorial sets forth, that memorialists had heard with feelings of the deepest gratitude, that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to issue Her Royal letter, authorizing a collection in the churches of the establishment throughout England, for the relief of the distress occasioned by the calamitous fire; that the only place of public worship destroyed was the church of St. John; that the losses which had fallen on the members of the Church of England, precluded all hope of the church being restored by local contributions; but the special appeal made in England on this behalf, was necessarily prejudiced by the simultaneous appeal on behalf of those who had suffered temporal loss, and that the collections under the Queen's letter would be gathered wholly from the members

members of the church, whilst a very large majority of those to whose benefit they will be applied here, will not be of that communion, which memorialists pray may be taken into favourable consideration.—Pages 49, 50.

There seems to be one fact disclosed in this memorial, which was either wholly unknown, or, at least, lost sight of—that the especial appeal to the people of England on behalf of the new church in St. John's was still kept alive, and existed contemporaneously with the general appeal which was made last year on behalf of the sufferers by the fire, to which, as it will be seen by and by, a claim is set up for one half for the same identical purpose with that for which the special appeal was then going forward. Upon this circumstance the committee refrain from all comment, but they proceed with the facts of the case.

Despatch dated November 17th, from Earl Grey to Colonel Law, contains copy of Sir George Grey's answer to the foregoing, together with correspondence between the Bishop of London and Earl Grey, in reference to the appropriation of a portion of the fund raised under the Queen's letter to the rebuilding of the church; Earl Grey has no objection to a limited portion of the fund being applied in the manner desired by the committee in London, at whose request the Queen's letter was issued. Colonel Law is instructed to place one of the clergy of the Church of England, or one of the churchwardens, upon the relief committee, in addition to the present committee, if it was the fact, as it had been alleged, that it did not comprise any member of the church.—Page 50.

By whom, or with what especial object in view, the misrepresentation was made to Earl Grey, that there was no member of the Episcopal Church upon the relief committee, the committee decline to express their opinion. Not only was the rector of the church, but so also were several of his most respectable parishioners placed upon that body; indeed, the gentleman who presided at all the meetings is an Episcopalian himself, and so also is the secretary. If, in answer to this, it is attempted to shift the ground, by stating that instead of the relief committee, the Government commission was meant, there is again an untruth, for among the five or six commissioners one at least was a member of the church.

On the 17th November Earl Grey acknowledged the receipt of the Lord Bishop's memorial, and stated that he had forwarded the same to the Secretary of State for the Home department. The noble Earl himself entertained no objection to a limited portion of the fund being applied in the manner desired by the committee in London, at whose instance the Queen's letter was issued. This despatch contained an enclosure, being copy of a letter from Sir George Grey, for the information of Earl Grey, in which Sir George expresses himself to the effect that he thinks it right that arrangements should be made, by which the rebuilding of the church may be among the objects to which the sum so collected will be applied, Sir George having reason to believe that an expectation that such would be the case was entertained by the bishops and clergy through whom the collections has been made.—Page 51.

A letter from the Lord Bishop of London, 13 November, to Earl Grey, states that before the issuing of the Queen's letter, he had written to Sir George Grey, stating his opinion, and that of the clergy generally, that as the money would be collected exclusively from members of the Church of England, a reasonable proportion ought to be applied to the rebuilding of the church; that Sir George stated that no alteration could be conveniently made in the form of the Queen's letter, but that the arrangement suggested might be made by the London Committee, with whom would rest the appropriation of the money. That a subsequent letter from the Lord Mayor had assured him that a considerable part of the collection should be applied in the manner proposed. He had now been informed that the London Committee would not be entrusted with the appropriation, which would be handed over to a committee in Newfoundland, not one of which, it is stated, belongs to the church, or of which a large majority are of other communions, and that no part of the money can be applied to the rebuilding of the church. He (the Bishop of London) felt himself bound, if such should be the case, to protest in the strongest manner against it; begs that Earl Grey would give him such an assurance upon the subject as may remove the anxiety occasioned to many by the statement referred to.—Page 51.

The Committee do not for a moment entertain the belief that all the funds raised under the authority of the Queen's letter were contributed exclusively by members of the Church of England; they suppose, and with some grounds for the supposition, that very many dissenters from the Church contributed largely towards the common fund, and aided in the one great object of benevolence towards their fellow subjects in this colony, without any regard to the particular religious denomination to which they belonged. But admitting, for the sake of argument, that the funds which have been so handsomely contributed were raised from the pockets of the members of the Church of England exclusively, is it proper and christian-like that such a circumstance should dam up the current of public charity, or in any degree impede the full tide of it?

To the Lord Bishop's letter, Earl Grey replied on the 16th November, stating that he was about to transmit a despatch, directing the administrator of the Government to apply a portion of the money raised under the Queen's letter to the rebuilding of the church.—Page 52.

On the 24th November the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland again wrote to Earl Grey, desiring to know what portion of the collections would be placed at his disposal. The Lord Mayor had stated to several of the Bishops that it was the intention that two-thirds or three-fourths of the amount collected should be devoted to that purpose, and this had been thought to be conclusive.

Such an appropriation would be in accordance with the expectation of the inhabitants generally of St. John's. Prays to be certified in this matter, as he is desirous to make no further delay in his return to St. John's. Begs an interview.—Pages 53, 54.

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The Committee are utterly at a loss to conceive upon what possible grounds it could be assumed that two-thirds or three-fourths of a sum raised ostensibly for the purpose of relieving the sufferings endured by a people under such an afflicting dispensation; how so large a portion of it, not devoted to the construction of a parish church suitable and necessary for religious worship, but to a magnificent cathedral, could be considered as in accordance with the expectations of the general inhabitants of this town. So far were the inhabitants generally from any expectation of the sort, that there is a strong and almost universal feeling adverse to the Lord Bishop's views. Had the recommendation of Colonel Law, contained in his despatch of the 10th December, been acted upon, and one-fourth of the whole amount been appropriated for this purpose, no serious objection would have been urged.

But Earl Grey, on the 26th November, to the Lord Bishop, replies, that it was not then in his power, from the information that could be obtained in that country, to determine what proportion of the amount raised should be applied to the rebuilding of the church; that must depend upon the nature and extent of other demands, of which the local authorities alone had the means of judging. He had instructed the application of a portion of the funds, and could do no more.—Page 54.

The Lord Bishop of Newfoundland again to Earl Grey, December 4, declares himself unwilling to appear importunate or troublesome, but his own letters from St. John's, seemed to supply the required, and he trusted sufficient information, and which may be relied on as correct. His correspondent was a clergyman, and member of the Relief Committee. He says, that on that day "they had gone through the last precis of the commission. The sum expended amounted to about 32,000 *l.* currency, in meeting which, half the Government grant of 30,000 *l.* had been expended, and about 14,000 *l.* of private subscriptions, and of the latter there was a balance in hand of 5,000 *l.* It was considered that the unexpended residue of private subscriptions would be more than enough to satisfy the claims of those who were entitled to a further instalment. The Government, both local and home, intend, I believe, to appropriate the remaining moiety of the Imperial grant, (which has just arrived in hard sovereigns) to the restoration of official buildings. Then comes the question, What is to be done with the Queen's letter collections?" The Bishop does not like to trouble Earl Grey with further extracts, but the above seems to show that there are actually in St. John's nearly 35,000 *l.* unemployed, and almost it would seem uncalled for. His (the Lord Bishop's) friend thought with many others, that if any additional large sum be appropriated to the sufferers by the fire, it would do more harm than good. The Lord Bishop therefore hopes that Earl Grey will find, and grant that the whole residue of the Queen's letter fund now remaining in England, may be appropriated without inconvenience, to the rebuilding of the church. His Lordship asks whether there is any necessity of putting the monies collected through the Queen's letter, into the acting Governor's hands? He would suggest that the Government at home might more conveniently direct the application, and prescribe the guarantees or certificates, if it might not be put under his control. He alluded to the residue reserved for rebuilding the church.—Page 56.

Letter from Earl Grey to the Lord Bishop, dated 15th December: it was not in the power of Earl Grey to issue any directions respecting the appropriation of these funds until he had been in possession of the report which he was expecting on the subject from the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.—Page 55.

Colonel Law to Earl Grey 26th November, in explanation of some circumstances connected with the funds derived from the Government and other sources. He concurs in the advantage to be derived from a portion of the Government grant being reserved for the re-erection of official buildings, or other public purposes connected with the general interests of the colony, and had taken every step which he had thought likely to effect it. Wished directions to retain the balance of the Government grant now in the Commissariat chest, to await his Lordship's further instructions.—Page 57.

In reply, 23d December, Colonel Law is authorized to retain in his hands the remaining portion of the Government fund (15,000 *l.*) until the receipt of final instructions for its appropriation.—Page 58.

Another application from the Lord Bishop to Earl Grey (17th December) states, that after the second instalment to the sufferers, there will be a large balance of the Government grant, exclusive of the Queen's letter collections. Hopes the appropriation for the Episcopal church will be made without delay. The residue from the Queen's letter might in reason and justice be applied to the rebuilding of the church.—Page 58.

To which, on the 22d December the Noble Earl replied, that he had received by the last mail a despatch from the acting Governor of Newfoundland, confirming certain statements (as to the payments which had been made, and the funds remaining) and that he (Earl Grey) had thought it right to direct the Governor to reserve for the purpose of rebuilding the church, one-half of the total amount of collections.

It is proper to state, that between the date of the foregoing despatch and its reception here, Colonel Law replied to Earl Grey's despatch of the 17th December, and recommended one-third or one-fourth of the money collected under the sanction of the Queen's letter to be appropriated to the church. He also stated the error into which the Lord Bishop had fallen with respect to being no member of the Church of England on the committee; although he believes, entirely by accident, that was the case in the commission, which had performed its arduous duties in such a manner as to give general satisfaction.—Page 59.

Before the committee leave this part of the subject, they cannot refrain from remarking upon the exceeding zeal and assiduity with which the applications for so large a portion as one-half (say 15,758 *l.* sterling) of the collections under the Queen's letter have been followed

followed up, and to express their regret that these repeated appeals should finally have been successful; a regret in which they think the subscribers to the relief fund, as well as the whole British public, would readily participate.

Adverting to the first of the despatches under the head of General Correspondence, that of his Excellency Sir John Harvey to the then Secretary of State, there is this significant passage: "Much as the hopes of the mercantile and the sufferings of the labouring classes claim our sympathies, yet should our deepest commiseration rest upon the middle classes, who accustomed to comparative ease and comfort, find themselves and their helpless families suddenly reduced to a state of the most absolute destitution."—Page 5.

In despatch No. 1, from Earl Grey to Sir John Harvey, 18th July, the first intimation is given of the extension of the Government aid to the sum of 30,000*l.*, and in that despatch his Lordship observes, "It is scarcely necessary for me to express my conviction, that you will make every arrangement which may be expedient and effectual for ensuring the due application of this money to the service of the persons who have been rendered destitute by this calamitous event."—Page 24.

And in the memorandum of Sir John Harvey for the Chairman of the General Relief Committee, and also to serve as instructions for the Pecuniary Relief Commissioners, Sir John Harvey observes, that both from the letter and spirit as well of the despatch of the Right honourable the Secretary of State announcing the munificent donation of 30,000*l.* by which he is required to take effectual means for securing its due application to the service of the persons who have been rendered destitute by the late calamitous fire, as those from the Governor-general and the Lieutenant-governors of the neighbouring colonies, it is sufficiently apparent that the contemplated recipients are to be sought, not among the higher and more wealthy sufferers, but among those who have been reduced to severe distress or entire destitution; and the reason for this is stated, that in aid of such of the former class as may need it, application had been made to Her Majesty's Government for a loan to the colony to such an amount as may enable the local Government to make advances, secured upon the property itself, in aid of the reconstruction of houses, &c.—Page 45.

But it will be remembered that Her Majesty's Government refused to accede to the application for the loan spoken of, and therefore the higher and more wealthy classes of sufferers were either not relieved at all, or but in a very scanty measure. They waited patiently in the expectation that their cases would be entertained after the humbler, but scarcely more needy classes had been disposed of, and thus in some instances were altogether deprived of any assistance, and in others, of any thing but a fair proportion of that to which they were entitled. It is true that in his despatch of the 25th September, the administrator of the Government, in detailing to Lord Grey the system by which the awards to each applicant was made up, Colonel Law stated that under that system the greatest amount of relief was afforded to No. 2 (that is the middle class) in Earl Grey's classification; but this is only true in a certain sense, for if 50*l.* then and 100*l.* afterwards were the maximum allowed to any applicant, however great his loss may have been, it is clear that the relief so extended could have but little effect in reducing heavy liabilities, in addition to actual loss in property of from 2,000*l.* to 3,000*l.* and upwards; whereas the sum of 5*l.* or 10*l.* to some of class No. 3 was a very large compensation.

Again, under this division of the subject the committee would refer to Earl Grey's despatch to the Officer administering the Government, dated 3d September, in which dividing the sufferers into three classes, his Lordship says, "The middle class, comprehending those engaged in the retail trade, shopkeepers and others, will, I have reason to think, furnish the largest number of applicants for assistance, and which will require both judgment and discrimination in the administration of it. In this class," his Lordship truly says, "the losses have been extensively and keenly felt," and elsewhere his Lordship intimates that by relieving them, after the manner which his Lordship points out, means of employment would be provided for the labouring population.—Page 47.

But the fact is, that while the labouring and humbler classes have been provided for to a very ample extent, and in numerous instances placed in more comfortable circumstances than they were before the fire occurred; for in Sir John Harvey's despatch to Earl Grey, dated so far back as August last, he stated that distress among the labouring and mechanical classes had actually almost ceased in consequence of the full demand for labour, and that the real sufferers were to be found among the middle and humbler classes (pp. 31, 32); it is undeniable that the middle, and some of the wealthier portion of the sufferers stand at this moment in need of all the funds remaining from the Government and general contributions that can possibly be made available to them. They are aware that the main object of all the contributions was the relief of those who were reduced to needy circumstances in consequence of the fire; that no such object was originally contemplated as the reconstruction of public buildings, or the erection of a magnificent cathedral out of the funds so subscribed, or any part of them. That, as respects the former of these, it is but just that, if the expense is to be borne by the colony, the burthen of it should fall alike upon the whole of its inhabitants; and that, as it respects the latter, that as the majority of them are not Episcopalians, it is not just that monies which were intended for the relief of their necessities should be expended in the construction of a splendid edifice for the public worship of God, when a building in every way adequate for the purpose may be erected for a reasonable sum, and towards which they would have acquiesced in the appropriation of 5,000*l.* or even 6,000*l.*

That upon a review of all the circumstances, if it should be found that the decision of the Government as to the appropriation of one-half of the amount raised under the Queen's letter is irrevocable, then they are of opinion that a memorial to Her Majesty's Government

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may with great justice and propriety be made, the prayer of which should be, that Her most gracious Majesty may be pleased to direct the immediate distribution of the remaining funds at the disposal of the Government, with especial reference to that class of the sufferers which has either not been considered at all, or to whom the award given has fallen far short of relieving them from their pressing necessities. In this view of the matter the committee feel themselves fortified by the concurrently expressed opinions of the noble Earl at the head of the Colonial Department, and his Excellency Sir John Harvey, the late head of of the Executive here.

— No. 80. —

No. 80.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
6 October 1847.

(No. 39.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 October 1847.

I HAVE given my careful consideration to the memorial enclosed in your despatch dated the 19th August 1847 (No. 33)* and purporting to proceed from the committee at St. John's, Newfoundland, for the distribution of the funds raised for the relief of the sufferers by the fire of the 9th June 1846. As, however, that memorial is signed only by Mr. Prowse, the chairman of the committee, and as there is nothing to indicate which (if any) of the members of that body have assented to it, I can regard it only as proceeding from that gentleman individually.

I have been unable to find in Mr. Prowse's memorial, or in the annexures to it, any statement or argument, which (as it appears to me) requires or would justify a change in the decision which I have already communicated to you on the question to which his memorial refers. You will accordingly acquaint Mr. Prowse, that in sanctioning half the amount of the collection under the Queen's letter to be applied to rebuilding the Protestant Cathedral, I consider that I have only fulfilled the expectation of those by whom that money was collected and given, while the application to the contemplated public works of the sums reserved for that purpose will prove, I am convinced, the most effectual mode of relieving those classes who, after the relief which has already been granted to many of the inhabitants of St. John's, now possess the strongest claim to assistance, and upon whom the pressure of the taxation which must otherwise have been imposed to provide for these objects would have fallen with the greatest weight. Such an application of the money will further have the great advantage of being entirely free from the danger of producing those demoralizing effects which grants of money to individuals, however carefully distributed, seldom fail to occasion.

For these reasons I must decline to make any alteration in the instructions I have already given with regard to the application of the sums still remaining at the disposal of the local Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

— No. 81. —

No. 81.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
24 August 1847.

(No. 34.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. Le Marchant to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
24 August 1847.

(Received, 14 September 1847.)

My Lord,

(Answered, 7 October 1847, No. 40, page 106.)

SUBSEQUENT to my despatch of the 19th instant (No. 33)† two other petitions have been placed in my hands, on the subject of the disposal of the residue of the monies remaining in the hands of the Government here, for the relief of the sufferers by the fire of St. John's last year and which I now have the honour of forwarding to your Lordship.

Having on former occasions entered so fully into the subject of the appropriation of the residue of these monies, I consider it is not incumbent for me to do more than briefly state to your Lordship the class of persons, who are parties to the present petitions.

The one addressed to Her Majesty is from the same body who in the month of April last forwarded through Colonel Law, the then administrator of the Government, a like memorial to be laid at the foot of the Throne (despatch No. 60,

† Page 88.

No. 60* of the 20th April 1847) and which your Lordship replied to in despatch No. 12† of the 21st May.

The other petition addressed to your Lordship is from "certain middle classes in St. John's" who describe themselves "as sufferers by the conflagration of the 9th June."

There is only one observation in this latter memorial, to which I deem it requisite to draw your Lordship's attention, viz. "if the idea prevailed that all the sufferers, whether in poverty or not, had a right to it; there was high authority for the opinion, for the only Judge in the land in October enunciated the principle from the Bench, that all who had suffered by the fire had an equal right to the share of the money, and that they might sue for it."

The Judge here adverted to is Judge Des Barres, and being desirous of ascertaining the truth of this statement, I placed myself in communication with him, and his reply is annexed, as well as a counter-statement by Mr. Kent, in support of that set forth by the petitioners.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Gaspard Le Marchant.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 81.

To the QUEEN'S most Excellent MAJESTY.

May it please Your Majesty—

The humble Petition of the Sufferers by the Fire of 9th June 1846, at *St. John's, Newfoundland.*

Showeth,

THAT your petitioners are desirous of expressing their heartfelt thanks to your most gracious Majesty for your Majesty's great kindness and philanthropy in causing your Majesty's letter to be written, whereby the sum of nearly 50,000*l.* was collected for our benefit; and also we desire to pour out our grateful acknowledgments for the munificent grant of 30,000*l.* by Parliament for the same purpose, namely, to prevent that destitution and misery to which the fire had reduced the entire population of St. John's, with, comparatively speaking, a very few exceptions.

Encl. 1, in No. 81.

That your petitioners have learned with dismay, that your Majesty's Secretary for the Colonies, the Right honourable Earl Grey, has retained one half of the sums so granted and collected, advised by certain information contained in a despatch of a late administrator of the Government of Newfoundland, Colonel Law, to the effect that your petitioners had become "demoralized" from the distribution of one-half of the Parliamentary Vote, and requesting that the rest of the funds might be placed and kept in the hands of the Secretary for the Colonies, to be appropriated as the Honourable Lord thought fit; and, in particular, recommending that 14,000*l.* of it should be applied to the rebuilding of the Episcopal Church, because the small shopkeepers, on whom the expense of re-erecting the church would principally fall, had not, like others, received the amount of their losses.

May it please your Majesty,

Your petitioners have ever been celebrated for their marked loyalty to your Majesty's Crown, and they have always been anxious to pay implicit respect and obedience to your Majesty's representative in this colony; but they cannot suffer imputations of the kind above stated to go to your Majesty without explanation, from what quarter soever they may emanate; and they therefore promptly and most emphatically deny the statements of the despatch referred to by Earl Grey; they deny that the distribution had a tendency in the remotest degree to demoralize the people; they deny that the sufferers "had received almost the whole amount of their losses;" they deny that the "small shopkeepers" have any connexion with the restoration of the church, because almost the entire of them are of a different faith; that the church was never intended to be restored, as it had been condemned, and a cathedral church commenced long before the conflagration; they deny all these statements of that despatch (which caused your Majesty's Minister for the Colonies to change his views) which must have been made upon the most groundless and erroneous data.

That your Majesty's petitioners have been grievously injured by the erroneous statements contained in that despatch of Colonel Law; that many, very many of your petitioners have contracted debts and other liabilities in the full belief that your Majesty's Right honourable Secretary would have carried out the intention of Parliament in granting the 30,000*l.*, and that the funds collected under your gracious Majesty's Royal letter would have been distributed in accordance with the desire of the donors, namely, to relieve the destitution of the sufferers by the fire, many of whom, to the extent of hundreds, are now compelled still live in sheds scarcely screened from the weather, unable to procure better shelter, with death by typhus is daily carrying numbers to the tomb.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

May it please your Majesty,

Your petitioners humbly pray, that your Majesty will interpose your Royal Authority in behalf of your loyal people of Newfoundland, and cause an instant investigation to be made into the truth of the despatch dated the 26th November 1846, signed by Colonel Robert Law, which had the effect of withholding from your suffering subjects the stream of charity which your gracious Majesty had caused to flow towards them; to ascertain whether the statements therein be true or false; if they be true, your petitioners are satisfied to be deprived; but if they be found to be false, false in every particular, your petitioners humbly pray, that the monies now retained by the Colonial Secretary and by the local Executive, be, by your Majesty's Royal Order, devoted to the purpose originally intended, distributed among your injured subjects of St. John's, sufferers by the fire of the 9th June 1846.

And, as in duty bound, petitioners shall ever pray.

St. John's, Newfoundland,
9 August 1846.

COPY OF RESOLUTIONS unanimously passed at a Meeting of the Fire Sufferers.

1. *Resolved*, THAT it is the opinion of this meeting, that Her Majesty's loyal subjects, sufferers by the late fire in Newfoundland, are desirous of expressing their heartfelt thanks to the parent Government, for the munificent grant of 30,000 *l.* sterling, so promptly voted and handsomely placed at the disposal of Sir John Harvey, to enable the sufferers again to resume, to some extent, their usual avocations, and so provide against the rigours of a coming winter.
 2. *Resolved*, That this meeting have heard with feelings of indescribable anguish and indignation, that one-half of the amount granted by the British Parliament, as well as a large portion of other money collected in Britain and the colonies for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire, in all, amounting to 50,000 *l.*, have, through a false and malicious libel upon the people of St. John's, contained in a despatch of the Administrator of the Government, Colonel Law, to Earl Grey, the Secretary for the Colonies, been withheld from the sufferers, and to be appropriated to objects vastly different in their nature and tendency.
 3. *Resolved*, That the assertion contained in the despatch of Colonel Law of 26th November, that "the grant of money that had been already made, had had a demoralizing tendency," is a false, calumnious and insidious charge, invented for the purpose of despoiling us, poor and unfortunate sufferers, of the funds charitably intended by the British Government and people to sustain us under the great and overwhelming calamity to which Providence had subjected us; on the contrary, that the distribution of the small amounts doled out had the most beneficial effects, effects visible everywhere on the entire population of the town.
 4. *Resolved*, That the assertion of the Administrator of the Government, Colonel Law, that "the principal sufferers had received almost the whole amount of their loss," and that "the expense of restoring the Episcopal church would fall upon the small shopkeepers, who had not received" almost the whole amount of their loss; does not contain one word of truth; not one in every ten of the "small shopkeepers" has any connexion with or interest in the church to which their proportion of the money is intended to be improperly and most unjustly applied.
 5. *Resolved*, That it is due to the loyal people of Newfoundland, a large proportion of whom had been so infamously accused, secretly scandalized, and deeply injured by the Executive Government, which is irresponsible to the people, by the Imperial Government of Britain, that an immediate, strict and impartial investigation be made into the conduct of the local authorities in this matter, with a view to the punishment of those who dared to trepan the British Minister into an act so unjust and inexcusable as to agree to deprive the sufferers by the fire of the charities collected for their relief; and for the purpose of blotting out the foul stain which Colonel Law's despatch has inflicted on the character of the people of the colony; the oldest and loyalist, and freest from crime, belonging to the British Crown.
 6. *Resolved*, That the conduct of the head of the Executive, and of the whole Executive body, who had any alliance with the despatch containing these false, scandalous and malicious statements, merits the strongest condemnation of this meeting of citizens and sufferers, whom they have so deeply injured.
 7. *Resolved*, That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, containing the spirit of these resolves, accompany the petition to the Queen.
 8. *Resolved*, That this meeting are further of opinion, that in consequence of the local Government withholding from the sufferers the monies granted by the Legislatures of the sister colonies for their relief, petitions be prepared and transmitted to the different Legislatures, praying them to interpose their influence in causing the Government to distribute their monies as originally intended.
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Enclosure 2, in No. 81.

NEWFOUNDLAND

To the Right Honourable Earl Grey, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c. &c. &c.

The Memorial of certain of the Middle Class in St. John's, Sufferers by the "Conflagration of 9th June."

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your memorialists are deeply and gratefully impressed with the liberality so kindly and promptly extended to them in their distress, by the munificent grant of 30,000 *l.* sterling from the paternal Government; and further (if it were possible), their loyalty to the Crown and affection to the person of Her Majesty have been increased by Her Majesty's most gracious letter to the churches, authorizing additional subscriptions to be made for their relief.

Encl. 2, in No. 81.

That your memorialists beg to refer to the following quotation from your Lordship's despatch (No. 11 in the printed Correspondence), 18th July 1846, to Sir John Harvey, "It is scarcely necessary for me to express my conviction, that you will make every arrangement which may be expedient and effectual for ensuring due application of this money (the 30,000 *l.* sterling), to the service of the persons who have been rendered destitute by this calamitous event."

That your memorialists beg to refer to the despatch (No. 28) 18th August, from Sir John Harvey, informing the Government that he had appointed a commission at an expense of 750 *l.* or 2½ per cent. on the amount, for the sole and express purpose of administering the Government grant to the sufferers.

That your memorialists beg to refer to the Address of the House of Assembly contained in Sir John Harvey's despatch No. 16, 16th July, soliciting a grant from the Imperial Parliament for the re-erection of public offices; they urge that that Address and other measures of that session, were passed while the public mind, intensely occupied with its own sufferings and difficulties, could not interpose the wholesome check of public opinion against measures which they saw would operate to their disadvantage; they urge also that no necessity existed for such an application; that the duties from the bare replacing of the destroyed stock and property which will be realized within five years may fairly be estimated at 40,000 *l.* over the ordinary revenue; and they most humbly submit, that if an estimate of one-fourth this sum had been laid before your Lordship, your Lordship would never have sanctioned a diversion of any portion of the government grant from the original intention, respecting which your Lordship expressed yourself so emphatically in the despatch quoted above; in compliance with which despatch Sir John Harvey appointed the paid commission above alluded to; and which grant of 30,000 *l.* by these means became morally if not legally the sole right and property of the unfortunate sufferers.

That your memorialists submit that the Address of the Legislature which they have now adverted to, drew forth from your Lordship the very guarded and conditional despatch No. 19, 18th August, in which you instruct the Governor "unless it would interfere with arrangements which you have already made, to reserve at least a portion of the Parliamentary grant until the expediency of such an application as I have now mentioned can be further considered." Your memorialists submit that the administrator of the Government, in reply to the despatch just quoted, considerably exceeded the spirit and letter of his instructions, he says, Sir John Harvey reserved 5,000 *l.* of the 30,000 *l.* to meet any unforeseen demands. Sir John directed the commission to distribute 25,000 *l.* sterling, reserving 5,000 *l.* to defray expenses and meet unforeseen contingencies of distress during the winter. The administrator continues, "of the remaining 25,000 *l.*, a considerable sum has been already distributed, but I hope to be enabled to add some portion of it to the 5,000 *l.* already reserved to be made available in the manner contemplated by your Lordship." Your memorialists submit that the setting aside of even the 5,000 *l.* was an interference with "arrangements already made," arrangements which received the approval of your Lordship in the despatch No. 33, 17th October, while the hope expressed of being "enabled to add some portion" of the 25,000 *l.* "to the 5,000 *l.* already reserved," and so extensively acted upon, was a proceeding neither required nor expected of his honor the administrator; a proceeding too which only succeeded by levying a contribution from the funds of the Relief Committee under the pretext of a loan, till the arrival of the second moiety of the Government grant, which has never been refunded.

Your memorialists beg to refer to the despatch from your Lordship, No. 31, 3d September, for the purpose of expressing equally their admiration and regret; admiration for the kindness, benevolence and sound statesmanship which prompted the terms of that despatch, and regret that no disposition was ever evinced by the local Government to act in accordance with it; not even so far as submitting the despatch to the Relief Committee for an opinion as to its practicability. Your memorialists urge, that if that despatch had been acted upon, many of them would have stone or brick houses in course of erection, which now they have no reasonable prospect of, for they have expended sums for comfortless temporary erections which must be taken down within two years, which sums, if aided by an equal gratuity or larger loan, would have gone far towards erecting permanent dwellings, would have diminished the risk of fire and rate of insurance, and have aided the permanent improvement and prosperity of the colony.

Your memorialists have now the unpleasant task of remarking upon the extraordinary procedure of the Episcopal Bishop of St. John's, in reference to the monies raised under the Queen's letter. They premise that Her gracious Majesty is never advised to issue such letters, except in cases of extraordinary distress; that the simple destruction of a

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church, or cathedral, even if that had involved the loss of surrounding property to a large extent, would not have elicited those "letters" if there had not been such an overwhelming amount of suffering and distress; that the replacing of an old wooden building overvalued at 500*l.*, which was to have been taken down within a year or two, by a stone cathedral, the foundation-stone of which was laid nearly three years before the fire, at which time Bishop Spencer returned thanks to the Almighty for inclining the hearts of his church to contribute the means for its erection, the materials for which were paid for and on the spot; that Bishop Field, should, under these circumstances, have placed the distress of 12,000 persons in equal balance with the object of his ambition, is matter of surprise to all, of injustice to many of his own denomination, and of serious injury to the cause of religion he is sworn to protect. The declaration contained in his letter of the 24th November, to your Lordship, "I can venture to add, that such an appropriation will be in accordance with the expectations of the inhabitants generally of St. John's," your memorialists unequivocally characterize as unauthorized.

Your memorialists submit, that the diversion of a portion of the Government grant and of the Queen's letter collections from the original intention, has been sanctioned by your Lordship upon imperfect and inaccurate information of the circumstances—imperfect and inaccurate on the part of communications from the Bishop—inasmuch as one-sided reasoning, special and importunate pleading, and a total suppression of all the previous facts in connection with the cathedral, have made out a stronger case than a plain and simple statement of all the facts would have warranted, imperfect and inaccurate on the part of the despatch, No. 44, 26th November, from the Administrator of the Government, inasmuch as the despatch conveys a higher idea of the relief intended than was actually afforded—the greatest amount given, instead of 300*l.*, being only 150*l.* or 125*l.* sterling. With reference to the reasons which accompanied the Administrator's request for reserving 15,000*l.* of the Government grant, your memorialists would observe, that they never demanded assistance, either from the Government or from private benevolence, but that large sums having been contributed from both sources, and deposited with the local authorities for their relief, it is not to be wondered at, if after five months, with the near approach of an inclement winter, the natural desire to receive what should not have been so long withheld, should have appeared something like a demand. As to its "demoralizing tendency" your memorialists submit that the idea of continued privation and distress, while the means of relief were withheld, was infinitely more demoralizing than if the sufferers were raised at once to their former degree of comfort. If the idea prevailed that all the sufferers, "whether in poverty or not, had a right to it," there was high authority for the opinion, for the only Judge in the land in October enunciated the principle from the Bench, that all who had suffered by the fire had an equal right to a share of the money, and that they might sue for it. With reference to the statement made by your Lordship in the House of Lords, May 28th, as reported, "that the principal sufferers had received almost the whole amount of their loss," whilst those who had not "received the amount of their losses, were the small shopkeepers, on whom the expense of restoring the church would principally fall," your memorialists beg to refer your Lordship to the Schedule of Loss, &c., annexed to their signatures, observing that there is no such class of shopkeepers as referred to in connection with the church.

Your memorialists beg now respectfully to draw your Lordship's attention to their present and prospective condition, the greater number, with the moral certainty before them of enlarged assistance, have either commenced erections in the wooden district which they are unable to finish, or have erected comfortless sheds, which by local enactment, must come down within two years, hoping by a loan, which was expected to be raised on the faith of the colony, with what other means they might command, to be enabled to replace them with permanent buildings. Of the Loan Bill they have not the remotest hope; while 50,000*l.* which was absolutely granted and contributed for their relief, and which would have materially assisted a large number, even if restricted for building purposes, has been reserved or misappropriated.

Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully solicit your Lordship's consideration of all these circumstances, and pray that your Lordship will be pleased to resume the control of the whole of the Queen's Letter Fund, and of the 15,000*l.* reserved of the Government grant, and order their application in accordance with the suggestions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 3d September last, or in any other way your Lordship may consider most conducive to the relief of the sufferers.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Wm. Walsh.	Wm. T. Parsons.
Thomas M'Murdo.	James Murray.
William Morrison.	James Mulloy.
Thomas Grace.	Wm. M. Blake.
Alex. M'Austan.	Patrick Walsh.
Samuel Knight.	Patrick Jordan.

St. John's Newfoundland,
24 August 1847.

AT ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

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NAME.	OCCUPATION.	DENOMINATION,					Amount of Loss.			Amount received.		
		Catholics.	Wesleyans.	Presbyterians.	Episcopalian.	Congregational.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Thomas M'Murdo & Co. -	druggist -	-	-	1	-	-	4,200	-	-	150	-	-
Laurence Macassey -	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	-	3,687	-	-	150	-	-
James Cullen -	ditto -	1	-	-	-	-	4,400	-	-	150	-	-
John Dillon -	ditto -	1	-	-	-	-	4,700	-	-	150	-	-
Mary Ann MULLOWNY (John P.)	ditto -	1	-	-	-	-	3,000	-	-	150	-	-
Peirce Grace -	ditto -	1	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	150	-	-
Thomas Grace -	tailor -	1	-	-	-	-	2,103	-	-	150	-	-
Archibald Kerr -	general merchant -	-	-	1	-	-	2,400	-	-	150	-	-
John Harding -	house proprietor -	1	-	-	-	-	2,200	-	-	150	-	-
Patrick L. Power -	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	-	1,850	-	-	150	-	-
Edward Brennan -	ditto -	1	-	-	1	-	1,950	-	-	150	-	-
Richard Trelegan -	ditto -	1	-	-	-	-	1,670	-	-	150	-	-
William Walsh -	planter -	1	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	150	-	-
Patrick Jordan -	clothier -	-	-	-	1	-	1,100	-	-	110	-	-
John Reanouf -	shopkeeper -	-	-	-	-	-	3,634	-	-	150	-	-
George Pendergast -	cooper -	1	-	-	-	-	1,479	-	-	147	-	-
Peter Aspel -	house proprietor -	1	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	80	-	-
Michael Grace -	cooper -	1	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	100	-	-
William Flinn -	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	-	1,020	-	-	100	-	-
John Power -	blacksmith -	1	-	-	-	-	1,813	-	-	150	-	-
Charles Loughnan -	blacksmith -	1	-	-	-	-	1,175	-	-	50	-	-
Michael Foaley -	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	-	2,400	16	6	150	-	-
James Mulloy -	ditto -	1	-	-	-	-	1,550	-	-	150	-	-
John Kirkham -	blacksmith -	1	-	-	-	-	1,300	-	-	100	-	-
James Tubrid -	carpenter -	1	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	150	-	-
Edmond Byrne -	house proprietor -	1	-	-	-	-	1,400	-	-	107	-	-
William Ash -	mason -	1	-	-	1	-	1,000	-	-	120	-	-
Edward St. John -	shopkeeper -	-	-	-	-	-	1,035	-	-	100	-	-
James Byrne -	haker -	1	-	-	-	-	954	-	-	95	-	-
Margaret Mahon (widow)	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	30	-	-
John Tucker -	house proprietress -	1	-	-	-	1	1,100	-	-	112	-	-
Michael M'Carthy -	house proprietor -	1	-	-	-	-	356	-	-	37	10	-
Boyd & M'Dougall -	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	-	1,005	-	-	100	-	-
Walter Dillon -	supplying merchants -	1	-	1	-	-	1,700	-	-	150	-	-
Parker & Gleeson -	ditto -	1	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	-	-	-
John Kelly -	merchants -	1	-	-	-	-	3,200	-	-	50	-	-
Catharine Burke (widow)	butcher -	1	-	-	-	-	1,200	-	-	120	-	-
Morrison & Sons -	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	-	1,200	-	-	120	-	-
Henry Adams -	bootmakers -	1	-	-	-	-	3,500	-	-	-	-	-
James Power -	Deist, English proprietor -	-	-	-	-	-	999	11	8	99	-	-
Patrick Walsh -	cooper -	1	-	-	-	-	900	-	-	90	-	-
William Coyell -	butcher -	1	-	-	-	-	883	-	-	83	-	-
Stephen Ryan -	builder -	-	-	1	-	-	900	-	-	83	-	-
James Fogarty -	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	-	900	-	-	75	-	-
Mary Prendergast -	butcher -	1	-	-	-	-	800	-	-	83	-	-
John M'Lellan -	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	1	950	-	-	55	-	-
Edward Laufer -	house proprietor -	-	-	-	-	-	719	2	6	66	-	-
John Maher -	cooper -	1	-	-	-	-	750	-	-	75	-	-
William Power -	blacksmith -	1	-	-	-	-	687	-	-	68	-	-
Edmund Nowlan -	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	-	600	-	-	60	-	-
John Tuhan -	ditto -	1	-	-	-	-	757	-	-	88	-	-
Patrick Tarehir -	cooper -	1	-	-	-	-	900	-	-	-	-	-
Matthew Prim -	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	-	675	-	-	45	-	-
Clement Carew -	cooper -	1	-	-	-	-	1,051	5	-	83	-	-
Thomas Bearns -	ditto -	1	-	-	-	1	550	-	-	-	-	-
John Surlong -	house proprietor -	-	-	-	-	-	840	-	-	52	-	-
Michael Meehan -	tailor -	1	-	-	-	-	854	-	-	84	-	-
Patrick Bremcock -	house proprietor -	1	-	-	-	-	700	-	-	44	-	-
David Morley -	blockmaker -	1	-	-	-	-	900	-	-	90	-	-
Thomas Byrne -	shoemaker -	1	-	-	-	-	750	-	-	67	-	-
A. & R. Blackwood -	hairdressers -	-	-	-	1	-	586	-	-	72	-	-
Elizabeth English (widow)	house proprietress -	-	-	-	-	1	830	-	-	84	-	-
Thomas Long -	house proprietor -	1	-	-	-	-	700	-	-	74	-	-
Honor Mackey (widow)	shopkeeper -	1	-	-	-	-	325	-	-	44	-	-
James Cantwell -	printer -	1	-	-	-	1	500	-	-	40	-	-
Mary Ferris -	house proprietress -	-	-	-	-	1	650	-	-	75	-	-
Edward Smith -	shopkeeper -	-	-	-	-	1	790	-	-	79	-	-
James Murray -	ditto -	-	-	-	1	-	800	-	-	30	-	-
Mary Barron (widow)	house proprietress -	-	1	-	-	-	750	-	-	75	-	-
W. Branscombe -	accountant -	-	-	-	-	1	860	-	-	117	-	-
Thomas Murphy -	blacksmith -	1	-	-	-	-	600	-	-	50	-	-

(continued)

CORRESPONDENCE relating to the CONFLAGRATION

NAME.	OCCUPATION.	DENOMINATION.					Amount of Loss.			Amount Received.		
		Catholic.	Wesleyans.	Presbyterians.	Episcopals.	Congregational.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
James K. Moore	painter	-	-	-	-	-	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
John O'Flanagan	trader	-	1	-	-	-	616	-	-	57	10	-
James Trasy	shopkeeper	1	-	-	-	-	360	-	-	54	-	-
Catherine Flavin & Mary Power	ditto	1	-	-	-	-	780	-	-	70	-	-
George G. Geddes	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	534	-	-	52	10	-
Duncan Thomson	accountant	-	-	1	-	-	516	-	-	55	-	-
Thomas Blake	tinsmith	-	-	1	-	-	560	-	-	55	-	-
Samuel Knight	shopkeeper	1	-	-	-	-	1,400	-	-	140	-	-
James Fox & Co.	ditto	-	-	-	-	1	660	-	-	63	-	-
John Coady, per P. Hayes, Memorial bearer.	sailmaker	1	-	-	-	-	683	4	7	68	-	-
William Foaly, per P. Hayes	baker	-	-	-	-	-	775	-	-	45	-	-
M. Cummins	mariner	1	-	-	-	-	600	-	-	57	-	-
Valentine Merchant	tailor	1	-	-	-	-	992	-	-	99	-	-
William Hogan	saddler	1	-	-	-	-	765	-	-	50	-	-
John Power	cooper	1	-	-	-	-	450	-	-	55	-	-
Patrick Brazee	house proprietor	1	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	30	-	-
Patrick Doutney	ditto	1	-	-	-	-	550	-	-	50	-	-
Alexander McAusland	smith	1	-	-	-	-	450	-	-	37	10	-
Laurence Geran	shipmaster	-	-	1	-	-	475	-	-	67	-	-
Hilliard & Osbourn	fishermen	1	-	-	-	-	775	-	-	63	-	-
Daniel Henesy	shopkeeper	1	-	1	-	-	463	-	-	53	8	-
Richard Cudipy	trader	1	-	-	-	-	675	-	-	67	10	-
James Collins	shopkeeper	1	-	-	-	-	420	-	-	50	-	-
Thomas Rendle	ditto	1	-	-	-	-	428	-	-	50	-	-
James Deady	baker	-	-	-	1	-	147	-	-	21	-	-
John Walsh	house proprietor	1	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	50	-	-
Patrick Scanlan	copier and grocer	1	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	50	-	-
Michael Gallivan	cooper	1	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	50	-	-
James Linnegar	house proprietor	1	-	-	-	-	540	-	-	52	10	-
Charles Ryan	ditto	1	-	-	-	-	495	-	-	65	-	-
James Hanlan	cooper	1	-	-	-	-	415	-	-	42	-	-
Edward Hanlan	shoemaker	1	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	45	-	-
Patrick Tobin	cooper	1	-	-	-	-	447	-	-	50	-	-
John Walsh	master mariner	1	-	-	-	-	600	-	-	58	-	-
Patrick Maher	shopkeeper	1	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	37	10	-
John Funcheon	farmer	1	-	-	-	-	550	-	-	55	-	-
John Gallishen	house proprietor	1	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	50	-	-
Redmond Colbert	butcher	1	-	-	-	-	368	-	-	40	-	-
Edward Moran	shopkeeper	1	-	-	-	-	450	-	-	50	-	-
Thomas O'Brien	ditto	1	-	-	-	-	425	-	-	42	-	-
Michael Phelan	house proprietor	1	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	22	-	-
John Griffin	ditto	1	-	-	-	-	408	-	-	40	-	-
Anatta Power (widow)	ditto	1	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	44	-	-
Patrick Flood	blacksmith	1	-	-	-	-	420	-	-	46	-	-
Thomas Duder	butcher	1	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	60	-	-
John Franey	house proprietor	1	-	-	-	1	490	-	-	35	-	-
Patrick Durphy	cooper	1	-	-	-	-	480	-	-	45	-	-
John Bovey	shopkeeper	-	-	-	-	-	640	-	-	62	-	-
Patrick M'Carthy	ditto	1	1	-	-	-	350	-	-	47	-	-
Mark Coxson	blacksmith	-	1	-	-	-	285	-	-	28	-	-
William Doyle	shopkeeper	1	-	-	-	-	350	-	-	22	10	-
Thomas Allen	planter	1	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	30	-	-
William Walsh	cooper	1	-	-	-	-	350	-	-	45	-	-
Michael Harding	ditto	1	-	-	-	-	420	-	-	51	-	-
John Buckley	blacksmith	1	-	-	-	-	290	-	-	35	-	-
Thomas S. Selby	shopkeeper	1	-	-	-	-	375	-	-	50	-	-
George Dousley	ditto	-	-	1	-	-	210	-	-	30	-	-
Philip Knight	ditto	1	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	30	-	-
Denis O'Reardon	ditto	-	-	-	1	-	275	-	-	37	10	-
Margaret Connell	publican	1	-	-	-	-	699	10	-	69	-	-
Widow Dwyer	dressmaker	1	-	-	-	-	310	-	-	42	10	-
Johanna Bourke	shopkeeper	1	-	-	-	-	280	-	-	42	-	-
William Tobin	ditto	1	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	21	10	-
Richard Mainwaring	shoemaker	1	-	-	-	-	530	-	-	43	-	-
Widow M'Donald	house proprietress	1	-	-	-	-	347	-	-	30	-	-
Charles Dendry	tailor	1	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	25	-	-
Joseph Murphy	carpenter	1	-	-	-	-	240	-	-	34	-	-
James Clooney	wheelwright	1	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	37	10	-
Thomas Cuddehy	labourer	1	-	-	-	-	320	-	-	43	-	-
							220	-	-	37	10	-

NAME.	OCCUPATION.	DENOMINATION.					Amount of Loss.	Amount Received.			
		Catholics.	Wesleyans.	Presbyterians.	Episcopalians.	Congregational.					
						£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Peter Allen	fisherman	1				250			30		
Thomas Flahoran	tailor	1				250			37	10	
William Birch	painter	1				289			24		
John Branel	cooper	1				360			45		
Mary Walsh, Elizabeth Walsh	shopkeepers	1				330			43		
Patrick Duggan	shipwright	1				230			33		
John O'Donnell	fisherman	1				215			15		
Andrew Power	shopkeeper	1				390			42	10	
Thomas Zandler	- ditto	1				265			30		
Lawrence Maccassey	cooper	1				230			22	10	
Thomas Howlett	- ditto	1				306			42		
William Barnes	carpenter					150			35		
Thomas Morton	house proprietor	1				196			37	10	
James Condon	shopkeeper	1				140			27	10	
William Quinn	- ditto	1				200			11	5	
Thomas Dammerall	shoemaker				1	260			37	10	
Thomas Murphy	carpenter	1				303			32		
James Wiseman	storekeeper		1			260			45		
James Brine	carpenter	1				360			55		
John Jynan	shoemaker	1				350			40		
John Blundon	tailor	1				400			37	10	
C. M. Manus	blacksmith	1				550			52	10	
John Maden	cooper	1				330			45		
John Egan	shopkeeper	1				250			42		
Richard Comerford	cooper	1				400			45		
William Hennesey	publican	1				360			40		
William Parsons	watchmaker			1		400			52		
John Nowlan	publican	1				450			50		
C. H. Renou	surgeon	1				350			35		
John Connor	butcher	1				250			25		
W. B. Dryer	accountant				1	350			45		
John Woods	shipwright			1		200			28		
William Kielley	house proprietor	1				488			34	10	
Thomas Costello	- ditto	1				450			37	10	
Alice Maher (widow)	sempstress	1				120			26	5	
Rose Hearne (widow)	house proprietress	1				350			35		
Anna Murphy (widow)	- ditto	1				410			50		
Widow M'Donald	- ditto	1				450			55		
Patrick Canning	tinsmith	1				414			42	10	
Thomas D. Quinn	trader	1				500			50		
John Berrigan	tailor	1				450			53		
Richard Collins	carpenter	1				315			42	10	
Henry Earle	tailor				1	343			42	10	
Samuel Creed	cabinet-maker			1		380			50		
Elizabeth Wiley (widow)	house proprietress	1				320			37	10	
Thomas M'Grath	blacksmith	1				450			27	10	
James Bergin	carpenter	1				450			30		
William Joy	fisherman	1				400			42	10	
Felix Dowsley	druggist	1				501	5	7	55		
James Kielley	householder	1				450			45		
Matthew Johnson and T. Packer	carpenters				1	340			45		
Ann Eagan (widow)	house proprietress	1				500			45		
Denis Sullivan	dealer	1				437			52	10	
Philip Moore	planter	1				500			62		
William Byrne	house proprietor	1				380			45		
William Webber	planter				1	369			46		
Patrick Lynch	master mariner	1				380			45		
Mary Thomson (widow)	housekeeper				1	313			42	10	
James Cummins	house proprietor	1				300			42	10	
Edward Power	- ditto	1				380			35		
John Carter	shopkeeper	1				423			50		
Joseph English	tailor	1				250			22	10	
Edmond Power	house proprietor	1				240			35		
John O'Donnell	shopkeeper	1				350			44		
William Dalton	cooper	1				250			37	10	
Richard Cummins	shopkeeper	1				304			42	10	
James Fogarty	dealer	1				350			42	10	
Matthew Doyle	tailor	1				300			37	10	
Solomon Goss	house proprietor	1				220			19	10	
John Warren	master mariner				1	450			49		
Patrick Dohenny	fisherman	1				250			45		

CORRESPONDENCE relating to the CONFLAGRATION

N A M E.	OCCUPATION.	DENOMINATION.					Amount of Loss.	Amount Received.
		Catholics.	Wesleyans.	Presbyterians.	Episcopopians.	Congregational.		
Ambrose Rosssdyne - - - -	publican - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Patrick Kulty - - - -	innkeeper - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	380 - - -	27 - - -
John Pinnell - - - -	house proprietor - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	997 - - -	50 - - -
William Parker - - - -	merchant - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	500 - - -	52 10 - -
John Donnelly - - - -	house proprietor - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	400 - - -	- - - -
Thomas Murray - - - -	tailor - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	480 - - -	53 - - -
Thomas Power - - - -	carpenter - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	500 - - -	55 - - -
Robert Finlay - - - -	broker - - - -	-	-	-	-	1	450 - - -	51 - - -
Thomas Doyle - - - -	shopkeeper - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	440 - - -	57 10 - -
Patrick Breen - - - -	blacksmith - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	- - - -	25 - - -
Mary Ann Moran - - - -	publican - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	240 - - -	30 - - -
John Long - - - -	carpenter - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	300 - - -	45 - - -
John D. Ryland - - - -	accountant - - - -	-	-	-	1	-	600 - - -	60 - - -
John D. Ryland and Brothers - - - -	gentlemen - - - -	-	-	-	1	-	945 - - -	50 - - -
Dicks and Brace - - - -	stationers - - - -	-	1	-	1	-	1,022 - - -	100 - - -
John Condon - - - -	fisherman - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	348 - - -	42 - - -
James St. John - - - -	tailor - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	380 - - -	45 - - -
Margaret Mickelmore - - - -	house proprietor - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	250 - - -	37 - - -
							333 - - -	50 - - -

N A M E.	OCCUPATION.	RELIGION.			Amount of Loss.	Amount Received.
		Roman Catholics.	Episcopopians.	Dissenters.		
Patt Burnett - - - -	butcher - - - -	1	-	-	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
William Scott - - - -	trader - - - -	1	-	-	104 - - -	35 - - -
Thomas Cashen - - - -	shopkeeper - - - -	1	-	-	100 - - -	30 - - -
W. Collier (not insured) - - - -	sailmaker - - - -	1	-	-	120 - - -	22 10 - -
Laurence Doutney (not insured) - - - -	master tailor - - - -	1	-	-	97 - - -	30 - - -
Pat. Doutney (not insured) - - - -	baker - - - -	1	-	-	170 - - -	30 - - -
Bartholomew Doutney (not insured) - - - -	teacher - - - -	1	-	-	120 - - -	18 - - -
Robert Meany - - - -	fisherman - - - -	1	-	-	210 - - -	15 - - -
Martin Daly - - - -	- ditto - - - -	1	-	-	100 - - -	24 - - -
Henry Chafe - - - -	- ditto - - - -	-	1	-	82 - - -	15 - - -
Daniel Murphy - - - -	- ditto - - - -	1	-	-	140 - - -	30 - - -
Phebe Undrey - - - -	house proprietress - - - -	-	1	-	150 - - -	22 10 - -
Arch. Graham - - - -	dealer - - - -	-	-	1	120 - - -	30 - - -
John Breen - - - -	fisherman - - - -	1	-	-	120 - - -	22 10 - -
Margaret Doherty - - - -	house proprietress - - - -	1	-	-	90 - - -	24 - - -
Edward Lascombe - - - -	carpenter - - - -	-	-	1	140 - - -	24 10 - -
Michael Coady - - - -	fisherman - - - -	1	-	-	98 - - -	30 - - -
Patrick Fennessey - - - -	cooper - - - -	1	-	-	190 - - -	28 - - -
Elizabeth Kenny (widow) - - - -	shopkeeper - - - -	1	-	-	180 - - -	37 10 - -
James O'Mara - - - -	shoemaker - - - -	1	-	-	105 - - -	25 15 - -
Stephen O'Mara - - - -	- ditto - - - -	1	-	-	100 - - -	25 - - -
Patrick Howlet - - - -	labourer - - - -	1	-	-	167 - - -	25 10 - -
John Ryan - - - -	pilot - - - -	1	-	-	150 - - -	30 - - -
John Brown - - - -	fisherman - - - -	1	-	-	180 - - -	37 - - -
Robert Dealy - - - -	labourer - - - -	1	-	-	100 - - -	26 - - -
Peter Kelly - - - -	- ditto - - - -	1	-	-	125 - - -	30 - - -
Richard Mullowney - - - -	shopkeeper - - - -	1	-	-	195 - - -	22 10 - -
John Cunningham - - - -	fisherman - - - -	1	-	-	126 - - -	22 10 - -
Dennis O'Neil - - - -	tailor - - - -	1	-	-	160 - - -	22 10 - -
John Gleeson - - - -	blacksmith - - - -	1	-	-	100 - - -	15 - - -
John Delahunty - - - -	tailor - - - -	1	-	-	185 - - -	27 - - -
Alice Mullowney - - - -	widow - - - -	1	-	-	120 - - -	26 5 - -
Patrick Furlong - - - -	shopkeeper - - - -	1	-	-	150 - - -	26 5 - -
Catherine Kenny - - - -	dealer - - - -	1	-	-	200 - - -	35 - - -
James English - - - -	shoemaker - - - -	-	-	1	164 - - -	25 - - -
John Fitzgerald - - - -	labourer - - - -	1	-	-	220 - - -	30 - - -
Elenor Bolenor (widow) - - - -	house proprietress - - - -	1	-	-	163 - - -	24 - - -
Wm. Armstrong - - - -	sailmaker - - - -	1	-	-	190 - - -	35 - - -
Patrick Morris - - - -	house proprietor - - - -	1	-	-	100 - - -	22 10 - -
W. Postlethwaite - - - -	shopkeeper - - - -	1	-	-	100 - - -	26 5 - -
William Foley - - - -	cooper - - - -	1	-	-	200 - - -	30 - - -
					112 - - -	25 - - -

NAME	OCCUPATION.	RELIGION.			Amount of Loss.	Amount Received.
		Roman Catholics.	Episcopalians.	Dissenters.		
					£. s. d.	£. s. d.
John Lannigan	fisherman	1	-	-	180	30
Christiana Morley	teacher	1	-	-	150	15
Henry Geary	cooper	1	-	-	165	22 10
Thomas Fuhy	carpenter	1	-	-	180	30
Luke Bryan	ditto	1	-	-	120	25
Michael Wall	ditto	1	-	-	137	20 10
Mathew Leary	baker	1	-	-	133	25
Nicholas Wadden	labourer	1	-	-	150	25
William Kennedy	fisherman	1	-	-	131	30
Patrick Dwyer	ditto	1	-	-	156	22 10
W. S. Pope	blacksmith	-	1	-	213	31 10
Peter Webber	tailor	-	1	-	130	37 10
Elizabeth Prowse	house proprietress	-	1	-	200	36
John Perrin	cooper	-	1	-	130	25
Patrick M'Namara	house proprietor	1	-	-	250	51
James Hurvey	shipwright	-	1	-	225	*125
John Woods	ditto	-	1	-	160	22 10
Nicholas Coady	fisherman	1	-	-	180	37 10
Jane Angle (widow)	house proprietress	-	1	-	120	22 10
Sarah Hanley (widow)	ditto	-	1	-	111	22 10
Michael Cahill	tailor	1	-	-	109 6 3	25
James M'Creath	shopkeeper	-	-	1	109	27 10
William Cashin	tailor	1	-	-	110	15
William Maxwell	ditto	1	-	-	100	15
Joseph Dicks	sailmaker	-	-	1	175 10	28 10
Wm. M. Blake	copper and tinsmith	1	-	-	1,300	114
Laurence Dennahey	fisherman	1	-	-	200	30
Thomas Ryan	ditto	1	-	-	188	27 10
Joseph Byrne	ditto	1	-	-	180	22 10
Richard Quin	butcher	1	-	-	250	22 10
William Mitchelmore	carpenter	-	1	-	212	24
Patrick Wiley	cooper	-	-	-	164	24
John M'Grath	blacksmith	1	-	-	250	22 10
Wm. M. Davis	carpenter	-	1	-	250	37 10
Thomas Kelly	butcher	1	-	-	130	30
George Hamlin	cooper	-	1	-	180	23 10
Hugh Hamlin	farmer	-	1	-	480	55 10
Thomas Pine	fisherman	1	-	-	80	24
Joseph Kavanagh	cooper	1	-	-	113	18 15
Samuel Shamler	shipwright	-	1	-	150	30
John Chafe	fisherman	-	1	-	140	30
John Moore	sailmaker	-	1	-	160	26 10
James Mullay	carpenter	1	-	-	192	30
Michael Magee	cooper	1	-	-	210	30
Thomas Curran	tailor	1	-	-	200	30
Patrick Power	carpenter	1	-	-	190	28
John Hurley	cooper	1	-	-	158	24
Patrick Donovan	tinsmith	1	-	-	110	18 15
James M'Donnell	fisherman	1	-	-	130	26 5
Michael Loughnan	house proprietor	1	-	-	120	18
William Coughlan	farmer	1	-	-	120	19 10
John O'Brien	tailor	1	-	-	180	32 10
Honora Shea (Patrick)	fisherman	1	-	-	110	25
James Gallinon	fisherman, 75 years old	1	-	-	100	35
Edward Leary	house proprietor	1	-	-	130	20
Martin Dandy	ditto	1	-	-	175	25
Richard Fleming	shoemaker	1	-	-	100	22 10
George Martin	tailor	-	-	1	120	25 10
Ann Knight	widow	-	-	1	200	25
John Nurse	pilot	1	-	-	223	33
Patrick Byrne	publican	1	-	-	144	22
George Marshall	fisherman	-	1	-	125	37 10
Thomas Lynch	house proprietor	1	-	-	117	26 5
Charlotte Grimstead	house proprietress	-	1	-	150	22 10
Edward Walsh	shoemaker	1	-	-	190	30
William Westcott	fisherman	-	1	-	100	22 10
John Quin	publican	1	-	-	159	26 5
James English	cooper	1	-	-	125	33

* £.100 Compensation for House pulled down to stop the Fire.

NAME.	OCCUPATION.	RELIGION.			Amount of Loss.	Amount Received.
		Roman Catholics.	Episcopalian.	Disenters.		
Michael Power	cooper	1	-	-	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Michael Leary	fisherman	1	-	-	114 - -	26 5 -
Michael Hayes	house proprietor	1	-	-	130 - -	19 10 -
John Whelan	publican	1	-	-	150 - -	22 10 -
Thomas Whelan	fisherman	1	-	-	150 - -	27 10 -
James Cody	shopkeeper	1	-	-	190 - -	28 10 -
Thomas Nurse	fisherman	-	1	-	116 - -	34 - -
Martin Smart	mariner	-	1	-	160 - -	22 10 -
Andrew Clooney	cooper	1	-	-	150 - -	10 - -
Joseph Walsh	fisherman	1	-	-	107 - -	22 10 -
John Nurse	- ditto	-	1	-	174 - -	22 10 -
George McLennan	cooper	1	-	-	105 - -	26 5 -
Patrick Fitzgerald	fisherman	1	-	-	165 - -	25 - -
George Hatchett	shoemaker	1	-	-	166 - -	27 10 -
John Kenny	fisherman	1	-	-	170 - -	35 - -
Richard Power	butcher	1	-	-	120 - -	18 - -
Ann Burke	house proprietor	1	-	-	187 - -	25 - -
Ellen Burke	feesimple estate	1	-	-	200 - -	22 10 -
Edward Johnson	innkeeper	1	-	-	150 - -	- - -
David Hayes	cooper	1	-	-	250 - -	30 - -
Thomas McDonald	labourer	1	-	-	142 - -	26 5 -
Michael Grey	seaman	1	-	-	170 - -	26 5 -
James Power	shipowner	1	-	-	150 - -	22 10 -
Garret Dooly	innkeeper	1	-	-	112 13 -	26 5 -

Enclosure 3, in No. 81.

St. John's, Newfoundland,
23 August 1847.

Encl. 3, in No. 81.

Sir,

I beg to thank his Excellency the Governor for the opportunity you have afforded me of seeing a paragraph contained in a memorial addressed to Lord Grey by persons representing themselves to be sufferers by the fire of 9 June 1846, which is to the following effect: "there was high authority for the opinion, for the only Judge in the land in October enunciated the principle from the Bench, that all who had suffered by the fire had an equal right to a share of the money, and that they might sue for it." The memorial in question has reference to the grant made by the Imperial Parliament, and the money collected in the churches under the Queen's letter, and as any observations I may have made had reference solely to the private contributions of individuals; the statement in the paragraph must have been made under misapprehension, as it is entirely without foundation.

I have &c.

(signed) A. W. Desbarres.

The Honourable James Crowdy,
&c. &c. &c.

Tuesday, 24 August 1847.

Messrs. M'Auslan, Knight & Jordan, having called on me to question me as to the accuracy of a statement made in a memorial to Earl Grey, to the effect that Judge Desbarres, from the Bench, enunciated the opinion that "all who had suffered by the fire had an equal right to a share in the money, and that they might sue for it." As I was in court at the time, and as the observations of the learned Judge were principally directed to myself, I believe the report contained in the memorial, and already quoted by me, to be substantially correct.

(signed) John Kent.

— No. 82. —

No. 82.

Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
7 October 1847.

(No. 40.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 7 October 1847.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 34*, of the 24th August, transmitting a Petition to the Queen from the inhabitants of St. John's, together with one addressed to myself, on the subject of the distribution of the residue

residue of the money remaining in the hands of the Government of Newfoundland, for the relief of the sufferers by the recent fire.

You will acquaint the petitioners that I have laid their petition before the Queen, who was pleased to receive it graciously, but that for the reasons I have stated to you in my despatch No. 39,* of 6th instant, I have not been able to advise Her Majesty to comply with the prayer of it.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

* Page 96.

— No. 83. —

(No. 49.)
EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. Le Marchant to Earl Grey;
dated St. John's, Newfoundland, 18 October 1847.

(Received, 16 November 1847.)

No. 83.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
18 October 1847.

“ On the 9th ultimo, a strong wind blowing from the north-east, bearing with it a heavy cloud, charged apparently with electric fluid, in its rapid course over the land, changed the luxurious appearance of the crops to blighted stalks, and the opinion then generally entertained of its character and the probable results, has been but too truly verified, for the same disease of the potato, the cause of so much misery and distress in the last two years in Ireland, and which, in the past year partially attacked a few settlements in this colony, has now overspread the whole country.

A visitation of this nature would, in any country, be the occasion of much alarm, and excite the deepest apprehensions for the consequences that must inevitably result on the withdrawal of even a portion of an article of food on which the mass of the population rely for their subsistence; but here, where no other substitute exists, the culture of the soil, limited in extent as it even is, being entirely confined to this plant, such calamity befalling the land, is one that presents to my mind the most painful and the most anxious thoughts.

* * * * *

In other years the position and prospects of the people would, under the present circumstances, have been rendered infinitely more severe from the insufficiency of the pecuniary resources at the command of the Government.

But such is not now the case, for by your Lordship's wisdom in reserving for the benefit of the colony generally the residue of the monies remaining in the hands of the Government here, for the relief of the sufferers by the fire of St. John's last year, we are at once enabled, with both efficiency and promptitude, to meet the necessities of the people, and without such foresight on the part of your Lordship, our wishes, however benevolent and well intentioned, must, from the absolute exhaustion of all funds at our disposal, have remained inactive and powerless.

In accordance with your Lordship's suggestions, eleemosynary aid on the part of the Government has been entirely withheld; nevertheless relief has been freely and liberally administered to every applicant, and from the recipient, reproductive labour has been exacted.

In the carrying this plan into general operation, new roads are being opened, and many of them similar to the one to Placentia, will, most assuredly contribute, as well to the general convenience as to the commerce of the country.

The distribution, even of the various implements required for the prosecution of the works along the several lines of road, has been attended with most happy results; for while in some parts they were often not procurable, so in others they were entirely unknown.

For the purpose of checking and controlling the wasteful expenditure of provisions by those labouring on the roads, directions have been issued for only one-half of the daily wages to be paid at the present time, and the remainder to be reserved until the approach of spring, when, from my experience during the late occurrences in Ireland, the pressure on the people will be most severely felt.

* * * * *

In addition, moreover, as a like failure has occurred in Nova Scotia, and where, to us of greater consequence, in Prince Edward's Island, the granary, as

NEWFOUNDLAND. it may be termed, of Newfoundland, it is incumbent that the best exertions as well of the Government as of the people themselves, should be employed in providing a substitute for this plant, the staple article of food at present in this colony.

Measures have accordingly been taken for reserving out of the resources at the disposal of the Government, the sum of \$00 L., to be expended in the purchase of the several descriptions of corn seeds.

These will be distributed throughout the country, with but this one condition attached, that the recipients in each case after the harvest return to the Government an equal amount of seed to that originally given out, and which will again in the following season be in like manner distributed among the people."

— No. 84. —

No. 84.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
10 November 1847.

(No. 54.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant* to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
10 November 1847.

(Received, 30 November 1847.)

My Lord,

(Answered, 13 December 1847, No. 52, page 109.)

I HAVE much satisfaction in transmitting for your Lordship's information an Address presented to me this day by a deputation of the principal merchants of this capital.

It is with much pleasure that I submit to your Lordship a document of such character and weight, proceeding as it does from the leading mercantile houses and householders, and comprising the names of the chief wealth and respectability of the town, who, although the greatest sufferers by the fire have received no portion of the funds arising out of the Queen's letter, the Imperial grant or private subscriptions.

It affords me sincere gratification to find the wealth and intelligence of the island, uniting in the expression in such full and forcible terms, not only of their entire confidence in the proceedings adopted by the local Government to meet the calamity under which the colony is suffering, but of their entire concurrence in the course pursued by your Lordship in the appropriation of the money in question, and it will, I am sure, be satisfactory to your Lordship to find, that in the unbiassed opinion of these gentlemen, the course so pursued by your Lordship is that best adapted to carry out to the fullest extent the meaning and intention of the donors to these charitable funds.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Gaspard Le Marchant.*

Enclosure in No. 84.

Encl. in No. 84.

To his Excellency Sir *John Gaspard Le Marchant*, Knight, and Knight Commander of the Orders of Saint Ferdinand, and of Charles the Third of Spain, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies.

May it please your Excellency,

WE the undersigned merchants and householders of the town of St. John's, having been sufferers, many of us, to a very large extent, by the disastrous fire of the 9th June 1846, feel impelled under the circumstance of the unhappy destitution which prevails among the fishing and labouring population throughout several portions of this colony, to address your Excellency, and express to you our humble tribute of approbation at the promptitude and energy with which your Excellency has taken measures to meet a crisis unprecedented in this colony, and especially at the judicious course which your Excellency has adopted in availing yourself of the residue of the fire funds under your control, for purposes of general relief, in preference to providing the extensive relief that must necessarily be required, in a manner to increase the heavy burthens upon the already depressed trade and fisheries of the colony.

Although such severe sufferers by the fire of last year, we have not any of us hitherto participated in the relief afforded by the distribution of the fire fund, but we conceive that if a further distribution of the residue among fire sufferers were to take place, we might reasonably establish claims to a portion, before further payments should be made to persons who have already received large sums.

Our

Our knowledge, however, of the distress and destitution prevalent, especially in some of the out-districts, and a consciousness that the imperative necessities of the greater number ought, in reason, to be paramount to the claims of the few, amply justify, in our opinion, the appropriation of these funds to the relief of the whole people of the colony wherever destitution or want may exist, and we feel satisfied that the intentions of the donors will thereby virtually and in spirit be carried out.

We have every confidence that your Excellency will adopt such measures as may be best calculated to meet any further exigencies and necessities of the colony that may arise.

St. John's Newfoundland, 8 November 1847.

(signed) Baine, Johnstone & Co.
J. Bond.
Mudge & Co.
Job Brothers & Co.
Robinson, Binking & Co.
M'Bride & Kerr.
Stubb, Row & Holmwood.
E. & N. Stubb.
Wilson & Meynell.
Wm. Warren, jun.
Wm. Griere & Co.
S. G. Archibald.
Hormsell, Schenk & Hormsell.
Robert Alsop & Co.
John Cusack & Sons.
P. & W. Carter.
Morier W. Hutchings.
Wm. & H. Thomas & Co.
Edward Kiellery.
Brocklebank & Anthony.
Hunters & Co.
P. W. Carter, J. P.
Rennie, Stuart & Co.
Robert Carter.

Samuel Langley.
R. & J. S. Rutherford.
Thomas Cliff.
C. Bonnell & Co.
Eugenius Harvey.
Bowring, Brothers.
Matthew Stewart.
Jas. & W. Stewart.
P' pro Newman & Co.,
Thos. G. Mony.
John H. Warren.
William Lach.
P' pro Wm. E. Taylor,
Daniel Mackenzie.
G. F. Boun.
Thos. Williams.
Arch. Gill.
Warren, Brothers.
Chas. Simms.
Lewis Tessin.
Murray & Small.
Wilson & Co.
Bryan Robinson.

— No. 85. —

(No. 52.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 December 1847.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 54,* of 10th November last, transmitting an Address which had been presented to you by a deputation of the principal merchants of St. John's, Newfoundland, expressing their confidence in the measures adopted by the local Government to meet the calamity under which the colony is suffering.

I fully participate in the gratification which the receipt of this Address has afforded you, and you will assure the gentlemen from whom it proceeds, that Her Majesty's Government readily acknowledge and highly appreciate the liberal and disinterested motives by which they have been actuated on this occasion.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

No. 85.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
13 December 1847-
* Page 108.

— No. 86. —

(No. 63.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. Le Marchant to Earl Grey;
dated Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, 31 December 1847.
(Received 27 January 1848.)

No. 86.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
31 December 1847-

In gratefully acknowledging this munificent contribution on the part of Her Majesty's Government towards the mitigation of the severe privations against which the labouring classes of Newfoundland are now struggling, I have much satisfaction

NEWFOUNDLAND.

satisfaction in acquainting your Lordship, that by closely following the course laid down, and the rules prescribed by your Lordship in your several despatches to me since my assumption of the government of this colony, the Executive here has been enabled on every occasion that has yet arisen, to administer prompt as well as efficient relief.

Your Lordship's directions to me on the 3d of June last, to devote no more money to the relief of individuals, but to apply to the relief of the colony generally the residue of the sum voted by the Imperial Parliament, as well as that raised under the authority of the Queen's letter, placed such resources at our disposal; that we have thereby been enabled to lay in a store of provisions to the extent of 12,000 barrels of Indian meal.

This amount of provisions, paid in the shape of wages to the destitute poor employed on the various public works, will, we have every reason to hope, be found sufficient to meet the wants of the population this season, and carry them through the difficulties now hanging over them.

This large supply of food has also had a very salutary effect in checking the rise generally throughout the colony in the price of provisions, which were attaining a height likely to lead to serious consequences; and I have been informed by persons well versed in the trade, that the measures of the Government have reduced the prices some 20 or 25 per cent.

Although some dissatisfaction and show of opposition was at the outset exhibited by a part of this community who expected to participate in the distribution of these funds, yet even among this class the feelings of discontent are fast dying away, and I am happy to have it in my power to say, that the decision of your Lordship with respect to the appropriation of these monies is now very generally appreciated among all classes.

In confirmation of which fact I will merely mention, that the Relief Committee, the framers of the petition of remonstrance to your Lordship in the month of August last, signed by their chairman, Mr. Prowse, have at their final meeting held within the last few days (a copy of proceedings on the occasion is herewith transmitted), resolved to adopt the very same course as that prescribed by your Lordship to the Executive here, and accordingly they have ceased to administer any further relief to the class denominated "Fire Sufferers," but have placed the residue of their funds, about 800*l.* in the hands of the parochial clergy of this town, to be by them distributed among the really necessitous in the course of next spring, at which time the greatest amount of distress may be expected to be experienced among the poor and indigent.

The measures that we have adopted for the investigation of the various petitions and representations of distress from the different out-harbours of the colony, have been attended with most satisfactory results; and from the reports received in obedience to our instructions monthly from the stipendiary magistrates, we are enabled to test with accuracy the calls now daily made on us, even from the most distant quarters.

These demands, together with the reports, are weekly brought under the consideration of my Council, and I am happy to say that the mode as well as the extent of relief awarded in each case has always met with the unanimous concurrence of the whole body.

By the careful husbanding of our resources, as also the steady determination of rejecting the solicitations of interested parties, and confining ourselves solely to those who are in a destitute condition, we shall, with our present resources, be able, we confidently anticipate, to supply the immediate wants of the population.

Enclosure

Enclosure in No. 86.

COPY of the RESOLUTION passed at the last Meeting of the General Relief Committee.

Resolved,—That the remaining funds at the disposal of the General Relief Committee be transferred to a committee named below, with power to add to their numbers, to form part of a fund, that the committee are desirous should be hereafter increased for the relief of their fellow-countrymen in this island.

Committee nominated :—Messrs. Robert Prowse, P. Morris, P. Kough, T. Glen and G. T. Brooking.

Encl. in No. 86

— No. 87. —

(No. 2.)
EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant* to Earl *Grey* ;
dated Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, 24 January 1848.

(Received, 5 February 1848.)

(Answered, 24 March 1848, No. 65, page 112.)

“CIRCUMSTANCES have lately arisen here that render it incumbent on me to recal your Lordship's attention to that part of my despatch of the 9th August 1847*, having reference to the propriety of appropriating part of the Imperial Grant to the restoration of the Roman-catholic Convent and School, and which had been previously adverted to by your Lordship in your despatches, Nos. 7 † and 29. ‡ the former dated the 1st May, and the latter the 19th July of the past year.

* Page 86.

† Page 63.

‡ Page 83.

Agreeably with my intention expressed to your Lordship in the afore-named despatch, immediately on Bishop Fleming's return to the colony last autumn, I took the opportunity in an interview with him, of acquainting him with your Lordship's views on his claims on the Government for assistance in rebuilding his school, as well as my most anxious desire to further the same to the utmost extent of my ability and means, and thereupon informed him, that out of the resources placed at my disposal, I was happy to have it my power to present him with 1,000*l.* for the accomplishment of this object.

This offer Bishop Fleming thought proper at once to decline, observing that the amount was insufficient to be of any real use for the object he had in view, and that nothing under 2,000*l.* would be of any avail. After some further conversation, and the expression of a wish on the part of the Bishop that the matter should undergo further consideration, the subject was dropped.

Being perfectly cognizant of the cost at which wooden buildings can be erected in this country, the reply of Bishop Fleming certainly surprised me: for the amount I offered, taken in conjunction with the 500*l.* voted by the House of Assembly in furtherance of the same object, was sufficient as well as ample for all requisite purposes.

In the month of November Bishop Fleming again repeated his visit, and this time on renewing his request for assistance in the erection of these buildings, applied for the sum of 1,500*l.*

During this interval, as your Lordship is aware, the position of the Executive Government here had undergone a very material change: the state of the country and the amount of distress likely to befall the lower classes in the approaching winter, was such as to leave me no other alternative but to husband with the strictest care and economy all my available resources, and to restrict myself solely to the relief of the destitute, and the supplying of food to the starving multitudes then daily importuning the Government from all quarters of the island, so that of necessity therefore any former intentions that I had expressed respecting the disposal of the monies in my hands, must for a time be suspended.

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This I endeavoured to impress on the mind of Bishop Fleming, and not any disinclination on my part to forward his views to the utmost extent of my ability and means, was the sole reason and cause why the matter must remain in abeyance, until the approach of spring would enable the Government clearly to perceive their true position with respect to the wants and necessities of the people; and that I earnestly hoped that the disposition I had ever displayed towards himself personally and his Roman-catholic brethren, would be a sufficient guarantee of my intention to act towards him in an honourable, fair and straightforward manner.

* * * * *

Up to the present date all the measures adopted for the relief of the people have been perfectly successful, and at the meeting of the Council the day before yesterday, when the various reports from the stipendiary magistrates on the state of their respective districts were submitted for their consideration, there appeared no reason to expect any increased amount of distress, and in those several localities, as well as in this town, the strictest attention has ever been paid to the association of the Roman-catholic clergy in equal numbers with the Protestant in the formation of every charitable board, and relief has been most impartially administered to all applicants without any respect to their separate creeds or persuasions, and I may truly say from the day of my arrival in the colony, an equal degree of attention and courtesy has ever at Government-house been manifested to the Roman-catholic as well as the Protestant; and every endeavour has been exerted on my part to remove all feelings of jealousy, and to show the fixed determination of the Executive to pursue a fair and open course towards parties of all religious denominations.

* * * * *

Through some misunderstanding of the post-office authorities, the last mail of the 1st instant from England has been detained at Halifax, and consequently will not now arrive here until the middle of the next month, I therefore take the opportunity of forwarding this by a sailing vessel leaving to-morrow direct for Cork."

— No. 88. —

No. 88.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
24 March 1848.
* Page 111.

(No. 65.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street 24 March 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 2,* of the 24th January last, in which you relate the purport of certain interviews which you have had with Dr. Fleming, respecting the appropriation of part of the Imperial Grant to the restoration of the Roman-catholic Convent and School in Newfoundland, and I have to signify to you my approval of the view which you have taken as to the amount of assistance which, consistently with the other claims on the grant, you could afford to give to the Bishop.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

— No. 89. —

No. 89.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
23 May 1848.

(No. 19.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. Le Marchant to Earl Grey; dated Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, 4 May 1848.

(Received, 23 May 1848.)

Town of St. John's.—DURING the past year, great exertions have been made by the inhabitants of the town of St. John's, to repair their losses occasioned by the fire of the 9th June of the preceeding year. New lines of streets have been laid out on an improved plan, both as to width and regularity, and intersected at suitable distances with cross streets or fire-breaks. In several quarters of the town, new buildings have been commenced, and the works carried on with great spirit and energy.

In

In the Lower-street, Water-street, on the side commanding the frontage of the harbour, many handsome shops and substantial warehouses of stone and brick have been erected at very considerable expense, by the merchants, and this part of the town wears an improved appearance. Very many of these have been erected at a cost varying from 4,000*l.* to 8,000*l.*, and the ground-rental of the premises lining this frontage, averages 3*l.* a square foot.

The Act, however, rendering it compulsory that all buildings in this street, as well as the south side of the street lying immediately above it in a parallel line, called Duckworth-street should be either of brick or stone, does not come into operation till the next year; and it is much to be feared, that at the meeting of the local Legislature, many and strenuous attempts will be made, and those successfully, for a further postponement of this most desirable measure; for until this has been effected, in consequence of the contiguity of so many wooden buildings, serving only temporary purposes, the danger of a fire again spreading its ravages throughout the city, though to a certain degree lessened, will not be removed.

The public buildings now in the course of erection are the Custom-house, which will be completed in the spring; the Colonial Building, to be appropriated for the meetings of the local Legislature, and the Protestant Cathedral, towards which half the amount raised under the authority of the Queen's Letter for the relief of the sufferers by the fire, has been appropriated. A site has been fixed on for a Market-house, and a sum of money voted for its erection, but owing to the embarrassed condition of the finances of the colony, as yet no progress has been made with the work.

In the past year, I have, out of the funds at the disposal of the Government, formed two large tanks in the centre of the town, affording at all times a copious supply of pure and excellent water, and likewise being frost-proof, of the greatest utility in event of accidents by fire occurring in their neighbourhood.

At one of the chief outlets of the town, commanding the frontage of the river, and forming the upper part of the harbour, a public walk, affording a place of recreation to all classes, as well as contributing to the health of the inhabitants, has been commenced, and in the course of the ensuing season will be completed.

The crowded state of the burial-grounds in this town has likewise occupied my most serious attention, and for the purpose of abating, if not entirely removing this evil so loudly complained of by the inhabitants generally, I have purchased a piece of ground without the town, of nine acres in extent, and intend dividing and appropriating it as a cemetery for parties of all religious denominations, in proportion to the number composing the several creeds, and shall use my best endeavours for the closing of those within the town.

Two companies, the one for supplying the town with gas, the other for the supply of water, have been incorporated by Acts of the local Legislature, the former in the year 1844, whose works are completed and in full operation; the latter in the year 1846, whose pipes are now being laid down, and it is presumed the town will have the benefit of the undertaking in the course of the spring.

As no assessments are in force for any local or fiscal purposes, it is impossible to form any accurate estimate of the value of either household or other property in this town; the rental, however, of Water and Duckworth-streets has been by competent judges, computed at between 35,000*l.* and 40,000*l.* a year."

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No. 90.

Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
21 May 1848.

(No. 25.)

— No. 90. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. Le Marchant to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
20 May 1848.

(Received, 15 June 1848.)

My Lord, (Answered, 14 August 1848, No. 87, page 117.)

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a letter that I have received from the Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Newfoundland, at the same time accompanied with a report on the progress of the work at the new church up to the 1st of last March.

The amount already drawn from the Queen's Letter-money up to this date, for the re-building of the church, is 6,700 *l.* (4,200 *l.* last year and 2,500 *l.* this year).

As the whole of the remaining sum that has been set apart for this purpose will be required in the progress of the works during the present year, the Lord Bishop now requests that the Exchequer bills, to the amount of 10,000 *l.*, bought in the joint names of William Sargent, Esq., Paymaster of Civil Services, and Peter Smith, Esq., Chief Clerk of the Colonial Department, may be sold and placed at his disposal through the orders of the Commissary here, to be drawn for as required.

Referring to the former correspondence, noted in the margin, with reference to the amounts collected under the authority of the Queen's Letter, it appears that the three following sums have been paid in on this account to the Bank of England; first, up to the 24th October 1846, 14,917 *l.* 14 *s.* 6 *d.*; second, to the 3d December, the further sum of 11,436 *l.* 3 *s.* 9 *d.*, and third, by Mr. Trevelyan's letter to Mr. Stephens on the 13th January 1847, an additional amount of 2,784 *l.* 17 *s.* 1 *d.* "which will be subject to deductions for expenses of postages, &c.," making in all 29,138 *l.* 15 *s.* 4 *d.*

Of the two first amounts, the Commissary here has been apprized, but he has received no communication with regard to the third and last instalment, and therefore I am desirous of ascertaining whether this last sum forms a part of the purchase-money of the 10,000 *l.* Exchequer bills adverted to in your Lordship's despatch, No. 9.* of the 10th May 1847.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Gaspard Le Marchant.

Enclosure in No. 90.

Sir,

St. John's, 19 May 1848.

Encl. in No. 90.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Excellency a Report on the progress of the work at the new church up to the 1st of March, together with an account of the expense incurred to that date, and a probable estimate of the cost of the remaining portion of the nave, and of the transepts and tower; and I request that the same may be forwarded, should your Excellency approve, to the Right honourable the Secretary for the Colonies.

I ought, perhaps, to mention that the report and estimate were prepared by Mr. Hay (the superintendent of the work) without any intention or expectation of their being submitted to his Lordship the Secretary for the Colonies, or to your Excellency.

It will be seen that the expense of building is enormous, far beyond what the architect or any of our friends in England had calculated on; that almost 5,000 *l.* had been expended up to the 1st of March in this country, besides very nearly 1,000 *l.* in England; and that it will require 15,000 *l.* currency more to finish only the nave, without seats or other fittings or glass to the windows, and at least 7,000 *l.* for the transepts and tower.

Unfortunately the freestone found in the neighbourhood of St. John's (at Bell Isle) has not answered the builder's expectations, having split with the frost. We have in consequence been obliged to take down several portions of the wall built last year, and we shall all be afraid to trust that material any more; though it is very probable, if the quarry should be further opened, the state of stone may improve, and be both less hard to work and less liable to crack.

Your Excellency is aware of the amount which has been drawn from the Queen's Letter Fund up to this date (May 19), viz., 4,200 *l.* last year, and 2,500 *l.* this year, making in all 6,700 *l.*; and I have now respectfully to request that the remainder of the sum allotted for the rebuilding of the church (which I believe has been put into Exchequer bills) may be placed at my disposal, either through your Excellency's orders on the Commissary, or in such other way as may be thought expedient by his Lordship the Secretary for the Colonies.

We

Lord Grey, No. 41,
16 Nov. 1846,
page 45.
Lord Grey, No. 46,
3 Dec. 1846,
page 50.
Lord Grey, No. 61,
19 Jan. 1847,
page 57.

* Page 64.

We shall probably require the whole remaining sum (which I understand to be about 8,000*l.* besides interest) during the present year. All the piers have been contracted for in Scotland, and we shall be obliged to procure large quantities of stone from Nova Scotia. If there should be no delay in procuring materials, we hope to get up the walls this year and roof the aisles.

Any particulars which your Excellency may desire to be forwarded to Earl Grey, I shall be happy to furnish to the best of my ability.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ed. Newfoundland.*

Mr. Hay's report will repay the trouble of perusal.

His Excellency Sir J. Gaspard J.e Marchant,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 91.

Mr. Hay's REPORT, &c.

To the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

My Lord,

Cathedral Works, St. John's.

I HAVE now the honour of submitting to your Lordship an account of the expense incurred at the cathedral works from the commencement of the building on the 1st of June 1847, to the 1st of March 1848, and also a probable estimate of the cost of completing the nave, transepts and tower, leaving out the choir.

The amount of work done up to this period, as your Lordship is aware, comprises the walls of south aisle and transept (extending from the west entrance to the junction of the transept with the choir), which are carried up to the level of the church floor at an average height from the ground of 16 feet.

The walls of north aisle, extending from the west entrance to the west wall of north transept, levelled from the string course under the sills of windows. The west wall of north transept levelled for the base plinth. The outer and inner doorways of north porch completed, and the side walls of the porch nearly up to the eave. The western doorway at the springing of the arches, and the foundations of the south range of nave piers, with a considerable portion of the interior walls of crypt, carried up to the springing of the vaulting.

The total expenditure up to the 1st March amounts to 4,455*l.* (see the detailed statement), exclusively of sums paid in England, &c.

It is needless for me to offer any remarks on the progress of the building, as your Lordship is well aware of every circumstance connected with our past operations, which have all come under your own observation. The arrangements made for enabling the men to work during the winter, I am happy to say have succeeded very satisfactorily, by which means we have got over a large portion of the most tedious description of the work, which otherwise would have proved a serious delay to our general operations during the ensuing summer. But I do not consider we have effected any saving of money by this means; I should say rather the reverse; the expense of erecting weather-proof sheds, stores, fuel, &c., added to the circumstance of diminished hours of labour, was perhaps more than has been compensated for by the reduced rate of wages. But the advantage to the community must have been felt from the fact of such a large number of men earning from 4*s.* to 8*s.* every day during the long season of winter, in which no work of the kind had been previously attempted in the colony.

Your Lordship will excuse me from mentioning a fact that has not escaped your own observation; viz. that the money has been chiefly expended on labour and materials the produce of the colony; out of the 5,000*l.* not more than 300*l.* of materials have been imported; and the money paid for materials has been circulated chiefly among the poorer classes of the community, such as masters and crews of small vessels, carmen, quarriers, &c. In this respect, I should say, that the building of the cathedral will prove a greater benefit to the community than all the stone buildings yet erected, for which prepared materials have generally been imported from England and Ireland.

In the accompanying Schedules, your Lordship will find a detailed estimate of the cost of completing the different portions of the edifice, excepting the choir, an estimate of which I shall prepare at some future time. I have estimated the expense of slating only with common slate, by an estimate I have received from a slate quarrier here; for furnishing a good description of flags, one inch thick, I find that the cost (1,100*l.*) for the slate only, would be little short of the price of a lead covering; I am of opinion that a common slate roof would be so liable in this country to get out of repair, that at the end of 20 or 30 years the expense would be more than the original cost of lead; whereas a lead covering, when well done, requires little repair afterwards, and the material deteriorates but little in value.

I have prepared the estimates from the data last years' prices of labour and materials afforded me, but I am in hopes that this year the prices will be much lower, and that I will be able to accomplish the work rather under the estimated sum.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Hay.*

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Detailed Account of Work Executed at the Cathedral up to 1st March 1848.

		£.	s.	d.
	1,740 perches of rubble masonry, at 22s.	1,914	-	-
	Excavating, &c.	60	-	-
	Masonry of north porch -	708	-	-
	West entrance, part built, part prepared -	474	-	-
	Part of piers prepared (west wall) -	20	-	-
	Inside dressings of windows -	90	-	-
232	Lineal limestone, base course, at 15s.	174	-	-
406	„ limestone quoines, at 4s.	81	4	-
340	„ limestone weatherings under base, at 5s.	85	-	-
	Five quatrefoil windows in crypt, at 10 <i>l.</i>	50	-	-
		£.	s.	d.
	West door of crypt - - - - -	25	-	-
	South door of crypt - - - - -	30	-	-
	East door of crypt - - - - -	10	-	-
	One double window in transept - - - - -	18	-	-
	Two single windows in transept - - - - -	12	-	-
	Chimney - - - - -	8	-	-
	Stone corbels in crypt - - - - -	14	-	-
1,220	Superficial limestone ashlar, under base, at 2s. per foot (this ashlar being partly prepared before) -	122	-	-
104	Lineal Belle Isle stone quoines, at 10s.	52	-	-
			3,947	4 -
	500 tons rubble building stone on the ground, at 5s. per ton - - - - -	125	-	-
	Timber for roofing, including working - - - - -	250	-	-
	Sheds, coverings, &c. - - - - -	132	16	-
			507	16 -
			4,455	- -
	Paid in England Mr. and Mrs. Hay (journey by steamer, salary, &c.) - - - - -	335	-	-
	Mr. Samuel, shipping men and materials - - - - -	470	-	-
	Mr. Scott, architect (on account) - - - - -	100	-	-
			905	- -
TOTAL to 1 March 1848 - - - - £.			5,360	- -

Probable Estimate of Completing Transept and Tower.

Feet.		£.	s.	d.
	2,544 perches rubble-work, at 22s. - - - - -	3,898	8	-
139	Lineal base course of transept, at 15s.	104	5	-
139	Lineal string course of transept, at 4s.	27	16	-
540	Lineal corners of buttresses, at 4s. 6 <i>d.</i>	121	10	-
864	Lineal weatherings of buttresses, at 6s.	259	4	-
	Four skew corbels, at 40s.	8	-	-
148	Lineal skews, at 15s.	111	-	-
300	Lineal window rybats, at 7s.	105	-	-
300	Lineal window rybats inside, at 6s.	90	-	-
	Five window heads - - - - -	8	-	-
	Two quatrefoil windows - - - - -	40	-	-
	Two crosses - - - - -	16	-	-
100	Lineal staircase of tower at 20s.	100	-	-
140	Lineal weather-course of tower at 7s.	49	-	-
	Four single windows at 5 <i>l.</i> each - - - - -	20	-	-
	Eight large windows at 15 <i>l.</i> each - - - - -	120	-	-
140	Lineal corbel table at 25s.	170	-	-
180	Lineal quoins, at 4s. 6 <i>d.</i>	40	10	-
280	Lineal weatherings of roof, at 3s. 6 <i>d.</i>	49	-	-
	One door, north transept - - - - -	50	-	-
	Two piers and three arches of tower - - - - -	760	-	-
	32 stone corbels, at 10s.	16	-	-
1,250	Superficial flooring and beams of tower, at 4s. per foot	250	-	-
	Temporary roof of tower - - - - -	200	-	-
	Scaffolding for tower and transept - - - - -	200	-	-
2,081	Square yards of plastering for tower and transept, at 1s. 6 <i>d.</i> per yard -	156	1	6
		£.	6,974	14 6

Probable Estimate of the Work remaining to be done with the View of Completing the Nave and Aisles, leaving out the Transept and Tower. NEWFOUNDLAND.

Feet.	£.	s.	d.
2,892 perches in walls, &c. at 22s. - - - - -	3,181	4	-
West window, inner penthouse, &c. - - - - -	600	-	-
Quatrefoil windows over inner penthouse, &c. - - - - -	25	-	-
504 Superficial ashler of large buttresses at west end of nave, at 4s. -	100	16	-
30 Lineal string course, at 4s. - - - - -	6	-	-
Four skew corbels, at 100s. each - - - - -	20	-	-
42 Lineal skewes of aisles, at 25s. per foot - - - - -	52	10	-
68 Lineal skewes of nave, at 18s. per foot - - - - -	61	4	-
To complete west porch - - - - -	300	-	-
To complete north porch - - - - -	300	-	-
187 Lineal base course, at 15s. - - - - -	140	5	-
411 Lineal string course, at 7s. - - - - -	143	17	-
1,092 Superficial weatherings of buttresses, at 6s. - - - - -	327	12	-
468 Superficial weatherings of buttresses, at 6s. - - - - -	140	8	-
140 Lineal corner of buttresses, at 4s. 6d. - - - - -	31	10	-
60 Lineal corner of buttresses, at 4s. 6d. - - - - -	13	10	-
72 Lineal corner of buttresses, at 4s. 6d. - - - - -	16	4	-
206 Lineal block cornice, at 15s. - - - - -	154	10	-
191 Lineal block cornice, at 15s. - - - - -	143	5	-
330 Lineal ridge weathering, at 3s. 6d. - - - - -	57	15	-
Eight single windows of aisles, at 33l. 3s. 3d. - - - - -	257	6	-
Six double windows of aisles, at 38l. 16s. 6d. - - - - -	232	19	-
Twelve clear story windows, at 40l. - - - - -	480	-	-
180 Lineal arches across aisles, at 25s. - - - - -	225	-	-
196 Lineal string course clear story, at 6s. - - - - -	58	16	-
196 Lineal columns, at 9s. per foot - - - - -	88	4	-
28 corbels and capitals for columns, at 28s. - - - - -	39	4	-
Probable expense of piers and arches of nave - - - - -	3,000	-	-
6,000 Superficial pavement, at 2s. 6d. - - - - -	750	-	-
Two crosses, at 7l. 10s. each - - - - -	15	-	-
Steps and retaining wall in front - - - - -	200	-	-
Excavating, &c. - - - - -	200	-	-
Scaffolding, &c. - - - - -	250	-	-
For roofing aisles and nave, and carpentry of outer doors, &c. -	2,500	-	-
224 Perches of temporary wall east end, at 20s. - - - - -	224	-	-
1,322 square yards slating (common slates), at 12s. - - - - -	793	4	-
1,530 square yards plastering walls of nave and aisles, at 1s. 6d. per yard - - - - -	114	15	-
	£.	15,442	18 -

If the Nave and Aisles were to be covered with lead 10 lbs. to the square foot, the cost would be 1,650 l.; covered with lead 8 lbs. to the square foot, the cost would be 1,510 l.

— No. 91. —

(No. 87.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 14 August 1848.

HAVING referred to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury your despatch of the 20th May, No. 23,* enclosing the copy of a letter from the Bishop of Newfoundland, requesting that the Exchequer bills, in which a portion of the contributions for the relief of the inhabitants of St. John's after the fire had been invested, might be sold, in order that the produce might be applied to the reconstruction of the Protestant church, I transmit to you herewith the copy of a letter from their Lordships' Assistant Secretary, stating that the wishes of the Bishop in respect to the sale have been complied with, and that the aggregate produce of the investment and sale amounts to 10,748 l. 16s. 1 d., which sum has been placed at the disposal of his Lordship through the Commissariat.

You will likewise find, in the accompanying letter, a statement of the relief fund, with which I collected from your despatch that you were desirous of being furnished.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

No. 91.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
14 August 1848.
* Page 114.

7 August 1848.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure in No. 91.

Encl. in No. 91.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 7 August 1848.

With reference to your letter dated the 29th of June last, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state to you, for the information of Earl Grey, that the sale of the Exchequer bills, in which a portion of the contributions for the relief of the inhabitants of Newfoundland after the fire at St. John's had been invested, has been effected, and that the aggregate produce of the sale, with interest accrued on the bills, amounts to 10,748 *l.* 16 *s.* 1 *d.*, which my Lords will direct the officer in charge of the Commissariat at Newfoundland to hold at the disposal of the Governor of that colony.

I am further to state, with reference to the desire signified by Earl Grey to be furnished with the means of answering the inquiry in Governor Sir G. Le Marchant's despatch respecting the relief fund, that the collections under the authority of Her Majesty's letter amounted in all, after the deduction of expenses for printing and postage, to 29,626 *l.* 1 *s.* 4 *d.*, of which 10,043 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* was applied to the purchase of the Exchequer bills now re-sold, and the residue, 19,582 *l.* 14 *s.* 8 *d.*, remained at the disposal of the Colonial Government, being the amount of the sums of 14,917 *l.* 14 *s.* 6 *d.* and 11,436 *l.* 3 *s.* 9 *d.* mentioned in Sir G. Le Marchant's despatch, after the deduction of the sum of 6,771 *l.* 3 *s.* 7 *d.* referred to in the communication made to Earl Grey by direction of this Board on the 18th May 1847.

I am, &c.
(signed) C. E. Trevelyan.

— No. 92. —

No. 92.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
27 Sept. 1848.

(No. 45.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. Le Marchant to Earl Grey ;
dated Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, 27 September 1848.

(Received, 18 October 1848.)

"I AM enabled, with much pride I admit, to affirm that the measures adopted by the Government here have been not only sufficient to allay and soften the misery and distress occasioned by the several calamitous visitations that within so short a period of each other spread desolation throughout the island, but also honestly to declare, that in no one instance have we, from insufficiency of means, been compelled to withhold aid from the deserving applicant.

Your Lordship's valuable suggestions in the appropriation of the funds at the disposal of the Government, as well as in the mode of their distribution, were from the first stedfastly kept in view, enabling us thereby to lay in an amount of provisions, capable in quantity of averting the horrors of famine, and of that quality so as to test the truth of the application. And although the Indian corn meal was at the outset of the distress, partly from prejudice, and partly from ignorance (it never having been imported as an article of food before into the colony), viewed with distaste and dissatisfaction by some, yet now they all do not hesitate to express their heartfelt thanks for the provision made for them by the Government, and without which they are free now to admit that thousands of their fellow-creatures must have perished; and even with the few that might have struggled through the severities of the winter, their little store of seed for the sowing of the potato this year must have been inevitably exhausted.

The mode of relief has likewise contributed much towards the advantage of the colony, as well as that of the recipients themselves. Gratuitous relief from the very outset was discarded; labour on the roads was in all cases exacted in return for the provisions given, thereby removing from the minds of the lower classes the baneful feeling of their existence being dependent on the charity of the public purse; instead of which, by the opening of various new lines of communication between the several settlements of the colony, and the repair of existing roads, the parties are enabled to profit by their own labours; and in the enjoyment of the advantages thus acquired, the remembrance of past trials and privations is now being effaced from their minds.

In such an issue from our misfortunes, no one will, I am confident, more heartily rejoice than your Lordship, to whose counsel and advice we are all so much indebted, the value of which cannot be appreciated but by a review of our condition at this time last year; and when the position of the Government at that time, with the means at their disposal, is taken into calm and impartial consideration, and then compared with the existing state of things. I am sure that the conduct of the Executive will on all sides meet with fair and honourable support."

— No. 93. —

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 53.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant* to Earl Grey.Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
20 December 1848.

(Received, 10 January 1849.)

(Answered, 17 January 1849, No. 100, page 121.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying letter from the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland, together with a report on the progress made in the erection of the new Protestant Church in this town.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. G. Le Marchant.*

No. 93.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
20 December 1848.

Enclosure in No. 93.

My Lord,

St. John's, Newfoundland, 20 December 1848.

I HAVE the honour of submitting to your Lordship a second report on the progress of the new church in St. John's, drawn up by the superintendent Mr. Hay, which I trust will meet your Lordship's approval.

Encl. in No. 93.

The work may not have proceeded so quickly as our friends in England may perhaps expect, but the delay has arisen solely, I think, from the difficulty of procuring building stone, to which Mr. Hay alludes; although I have been absent from St. John's a great portion of the year, I can say with confidence that the work has not been neglected; and that all which has been done has been well done; and I have reason to think that some persons, who were once opposed to the application of the Queen's Letter Fund to the rebuilding of the church, are far better satisfied, now they see the noble structure so far advanced.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ed. Newfoundland.*

The Earl Grey.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 93.

REPORT on the Progress of the Building of the Cathedral of St. John Baptist, *St. John's, Newfoundland.*

To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

Cathedral Works, St. John's, Newfoundland,
8 December 1848.

My Lord,

I HAVE again the honour of submitting to your Lordship a short report on the progress of the works committed to my care; but while doing so, I feel convinced that I can bring nothing under your Lordship's notice that you are not already acquainted with.

I am happy to be able to give a very favourable account of the progress of the works since we recommenced building in the spring of this year; notwithstanding the delay in getting forward the stone ordered from Nova Scotia, which caused a number of our masons to be idle for nearly six weeks, in the best part of the building season; and although the season has not, on the whole, been so favourable for building as last year, yet we have gone through a much greater proportion of work, with an equal number of hands, which I attribute to the fact of our having secured the best workmen the place could afford, by our rate of wages this year being on a par with the rates current at other buildings in the town; and I find a general disposition among the tradesmen to make the first offer of their services to the cathedral. But, in addition to our local choice, which, at the best, is but indifferent, we have had the services of another body of masons from Scotland, equal to the first, and altogether a better description of tradesmen than have hitherto emigrated to this colony.

The walls of the aisles are now ready to receive the roofs, the north porch is roofed in, and, excepting the slating, wants only the apex-stone and cross to be complete. The west window is finished, and the first course of weatherings laid on the gable, and the unfinished wall housed in for the winter. All the wall-heads are roofed over, and the ends boarded up in the same manner as they were last winter, having the space between the boarding and the masonry, well stuffed with shavings. The greater portion of the vaulting of the crypt is completed; and, being of well-built stone work, will not, I think, suffer much by being exposed to the weather through the winter. A quantity of London bricks has been purchased for completing the other part, at, what is considered here, a low rate, 3*l.* 10*s.* a thousand. The price last year was 7*l.* All the piers of the nave, and the western piers of the tower, with three courses of arch-stone on each of the nave piers have been completed by two masons in little more than three weeks, assisted only by labourers in moving and hoisting the stones. We commenced this on the 3d of last month, before all the stones were got out of the vessel, and had we got the piers, and the whole of the arches a month earlier, we should have had the whole erected by this time. The pieces have been so well

NEWFOUNDLAND.

cut, and so carefully packed in their cases, with their positions so correctly marked, that they require very little labour in erecting.

The precautions we took to save our unfinished walls from the effects of last winter's frosts and snow, succeeded beyond my expectations. We had not to remove a single stone, and the mortar was perfectly sound on the tops of the walls, without either crack or flaw. I feel the more satisfied with our success in this respect, when I remember that the walls of another building, not so carefully protected, were so much injured, that they had to be taken down in some places to a depth of some fifteen or twenty feet. The effects of the frosts and rains, however, on the sides of the building exposed to the south and west, were very striking. The mortar was loosened and washed out to the depth of an inch or more, and the general appearance was like that of a building which had stood unheeded for centuries. The horizontal joints of the stones were apparently widened by the frost, and I feel convinced that the whole mass of wall had been slightly upheaved, as well as expanded by its influence. The same effects did not appear to follow where the Nova Scotia sandstone was used. This stone, although of a very compact nature and close texture, absorbs the moisture of the mortar, and prevents the frosts from acting upon it. A wall built entirely of this stone, or of any absorbent stone, would not, in my opinion, be disturbed by the frost, as the mortar dries more rapidly; but the wall would not be so durable, not only on account of the less durable nature of the stone, but the mortar being subjected to a rapid crystallization, becomes more porous and friable, whereas with a hard, obdurate stone, like the stone of this country, which has been chiefly used in the building of this cathedral, the mortar retains its moisture for a long period, the crystallization is slower and more perfect, and when once thoroughly dry, becomes nearly as hard as the stone itself; and this, I think, must be the cause of the mortar being so hard which we find in old buildings, the enormous thickness of the walls favouring the slower crystallization.

The frost loosened the mortar near the surface, but did not appear to penetrate beyond an inch or two; and by allowing the frost to clean out the joints of the stones for one winter, it saves much trouble in preparing them to receive the cement in pointing, which is always necessary; and I find the cement we have used has completely resisted the strong frosts we have had during the last three or four days.

By the end of July next, if we get out the remainder of our arches early, I expect to have the nave ready for the roof, and to have the roofs finished by the middle of November following.

I find, from a list of the prices of slate sent me by Mr. Scott, that it will be cheaper to use the slate of this country, which we can now procure at a lower rate than when I made my former inquiries. I have procured some specimens, which I will submit to Mr. Scott for his opinion.

The money expended up to this date appears, from Mr. Bridge's entries, to amount to about 11,400 *l.* currency, but this does not include the money expended in England, which may amount to 2,400 *l.* currency.

Altogether (in Newfoundland currency) 13,800 *l.*

From this sum has to be deducted the following account, charged to the Cathedral as a temporary convenience, but belonging to other works; the detailed accounts are in the hands of Mr. Bridge.

	£.	s.	d.
	776	-	8
There has also to be deducted for stoppage made from the wages of the workmen on account of advance, and money received from the sale of stone, cement, timber, &c, an account of which I have rendered, and paid over the amount to Mr. Bridge	390	12	11½
Therefore, Total Amount to be deducted	1,166	13	4½
Total cost of the Building up to this date	£. 12,633	6	4½

From the favourable progress of the building during the past season, I am in hopes of being able to complete the nave at a cost, less by 2,000 *l.* than what I estimated in my last report.

I cannot conclude these remarks, my Lord, without expressing my sincere thanks for the many kindnesses I have received at your Lordship's hands, since I had the good fortune of being appointed to carry out so noble an undertaking, and also for the many encouragements given to the workmen under my charge.

I have, &c.

(signed) *William Hay,*
Master of the Works.

— No. 94. —

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 100.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl *Grey* to Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 January 1849.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 53,* of the 20th December last, forwarding a letter from the Bishop of Newfoundland on the subject of the progress made in the erection of the new Protestant Church at St. John.

You will have the goodness to acquaint the Bishop that I have duly received his letter, and that the information which it contains of the progress made in the erection of the church, has afforded me much satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey*.

No. 94.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
17 January 1849.
* Page 119.

— No. 95. —

(No. 11.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant* to Earl *Grey*.Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
16 March 1849.

(Received, 4 April 1849.)

My Lord,

(Answered, 31 May 1849, No. 112, page 122.)

THE Attorney-general of Newfoundland has lately brought under my notice the somewhat conflicting operation of the Acts of the local Legislature for regulating the rebuilding of this town (9 & 10 Vict. c. 3, and 10 Vict. c. 1), and the Act of the Imperial Parliament 1 Geo. 4, c. 51, passed for the like purpose after the destruction of the town by fire in 1818, and has suggested the propriety of my directing your Lordship's attention to the matter, as in his opinion it is essential to the operation of our local enactments, that a short Bill be introduced into the Imperial Parliament, by which the provisions of the first-recited Acts may be confirmed in respect to the width and direction of the streets and fire-breaks; and also power given to the General Assembly by any Act or Acts, further to vary, alter or repeal the provisions of the Imperial Act.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter from the Attorney-general, and to request your Lordship's consideration of the subject at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Gaspard Le Marchant*.

No. 95.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
16 March 1849.

Enclosure in No. 95.

Sir,

St. John's, Newfoundland, 15 March 1849.

I BEG leave respectfully to call your Excellency's attention to the somewhat conflicting operation of the Acts of the local Legislature for regulating the rebuilding of this town (9 & 10 Vict. c. 3, and 10 Vict. c. 1), and the Act of the Imperial Parliament 1 Geo. 4, c. 51, passed for the like purpose after the destruction of the town by fire in 1818. The last-mentioned Act is a permanent one, and no authority having been granted by Parliament to the local Legislature (as was the case with respect to the Judicature Act), to repeal, alter or vary it, its provisions are still in many cases in force, where it may be expedient for the local Legislature to substitute others; indeed, the alterations already made by the Legislature in the width and direction of the fire-breaks or cross streets, as well as of the main streets, may in some instances possibly lead to litigation by parties who consider such alterations as in contravention of the provisions of the Imperial Act, which stands as yet unrepealed; and it may be a question with a court of law, whether our Acts are not in some cases void, where their provisions conflict with those of the Imperial Statute.

As it is therefore in all respects most desirable to set at rest any doubts upon this subject, and to invest the local Legislature with power to repeal or alter the Imperial Act, I beg respectfully to suggest the propriety of your Excellency's calling the attention of the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the matter, as I think it essential to the operation of our local enactments, that a short Bill be introduced into Parliament at the earliest possible period, reciting the Imperial and Local Acts in question, and that their provisions may in some instances be conflicting, and thereupon confirming the provisions of

NEWFOUNDLAND. the latter Acts in respect to the width and direction of the streets and fire-breaks. A second section should give power to the General Assembly, by any Act or Acts, further to vary, alter or repeal the provisions of the Imperial Act.

His Excellency the Governor,
 &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *E. M. Archibald,*
 H. M. Attorney-General.

— No. 96. —

No. 96.
 Earl Grey to
 Governor Sir
 G. Le Marchant.
 31 May 1849.
 * Page 121.

(No. 112.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 May 1849.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 11,* of the 16th of March last, bringing under my notice the conflicting operation of the Acts of the Legislature of Newfoundland for regulating the rebuilding the town of St. John, and the Imperial Act 1 Geo. 4, c. 51.

I transmit herewith copies of an Act † which, in accordance with your suggestion, Her Majesty's Government introduced into Parliament, confirming the local Acts to which you refer, and enabling the Legislature of Newfoundland to make other provisions respecting the rebuilding of the town.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *Grey.*

— No. 97. —

No. 97.
 Governor Sir
 G. Le Marchant
 to Earl Grey.
 27 July 1849.

(No. 32.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. Le Marchant to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
 27 July 1849.

(Received, 21 August 1849.)

My Lord,

(Answered, 1 September 1849, No. 121, page 123.)

It is with much reluctance that I am again under the necessity of troubling your Lordship with another memorial on the subject of the disposal of the monies raised for the relief of the sufferers by the fire of St. John's in the year 1846.

The present petition addressed to Her Majesty, is from certain middle classes in St. John's, who describe themselves as sufferers by the conflagration of the 9th June, and whose former petition to your Lordship was forwarded by me in my despatch No. 34, ‡ of the 24th August 1847.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *J. Gaspard Le Marchant.*

Enclosure in No. 97.

To the QUEEN'S MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY.

Encl. in No. 97.

WE, the undersigned inhabitants of the town of St. John's, in the island of Newfoundland, your Majesty's loyal subjects, beg leave to approach your Majesty with feelings of profound respect, loyalty and attachment to your person and Government, and request a gracious perusal of the following case, which we conceive to be one bearing with great hardship on your memorialists.

May it please your Majesty,

On the 9th day of June 1846, the greater portion of this city was reduced to ashes by fire, which destroyed a large amount of property, the accumulation of many years of persevering industry and frugality. Upon intelligence of this calamity reaching England, the Parliament of the United Kingdom, with that generosity for which it is so conspicuous, immediately voted for our relief the large sum of 30,000*L.*, and your gracious Majesty exercised your Royal prerogative in our favour, and by your Letters Patent caused a subscription to be set on foot in all the churches throughout England, under which was raised the sum of 31,515*L.*, which, together with the sum before mentioned and the subscriptions received from the neighbouring colonies, raised the fund intended for the relief of your memorialists to the sum of 63,201*L.*, out of which large amount the actual sum distributed amongst

† 12 Vic. c. 31, "An Act to confirm certain Acts of the Legislature of Newfoundland, respecting the rebuilding of the Town of St. John, Newfoundland, and to enable the said Legislature to make other Provisions respecting the rebuilding of the said Town."

amongst the sufferers by the fire of 1846, amounts to the small portion of 24,000*l.*, the remainder having been spent by the Executive of the colony on other purposes. NEWFOUNDLAND.

That your memorialists have learnt, that upon the assumption of the Government of this colony by his Excellency Sir Gaspard Le Marchant, your Majesty's Government placed at his disposal the sum of 30,000*l.* for the general purposes of the colony, which sum, as we believe, he has never drawn upon, having made the outlays which he thought necessary from the fire funds

Your memorialists, therefore, humbly pray, that your Majesty will be pleased to order that the said sum of 30,000*l.* be transmitted to this colony for distribution amongst the sufferers by the fire of 1846.

And as in duty bound will ever pray,

[1,101 signatures.]

St. John's, Newfoundland,
16 July 1849.

— No. 98. —

(No. 121.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 September 1849.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 32, of the 27th of July last, enclosing a memorial from the inhabitants of St. John, on the subject of the disposal of the money raised for the relief of the sufferers by the fire in 1846.

You will acquaint the memorialists that I have laid their memorial before the Queen, and that Her Majesty was pleased to receive it very graciously, but that it was not in my power to advise Her Majesty to return any answer to their petition other than that communicated to you in my despatch No. 40,* of the 7th of October 1847.

You will also inform the memorialists, that they are mistaken in supposing that any further sum beyond the grant voted by Parliament, and the subscriptions, was available for the general service of the colony.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

No. 98.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
1 September 1849.

* Page 106.

— No. 99. —

(No. 1.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. Le Marchant to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
3 January 1850.

(Received, 23 January 1850.)

My Lord,

(Answered, 30 January 1850, No. 142, page 125.)

I HAVE the honour, at the request of the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland, to transmit the enclosed letter to your Lordship, at the same time accompanied with a report of the architect on the state and progress made in the erection of the new cathedral.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Gaspard Le Marchant.

No. 99.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
3 January 1849.

Enclosure in No. 99.

My Lord,

St. John's, Newfoundland, 31 December 1849.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship Mr. Hay's (the builder's) third report, on the progress and state of our cathedral. It seems necessary to remark, with reference to this report, that Mr. Hay is not fully acquainted with the sums expended in England, and that I am apprehensive the amount is considerably larger than he supposes.

It will be seen, that the whole amount expended already, exceeds the sum, which your Lordship thought it right to set apart from the collections made under the authority of the Queen's letter, for the restoration of our church; and that more money is yet required to complete that portion now in progress.

The work is carried on by private bounty, and I trust funds may be supplied (though I really know not from what quarter to expect them), to put the present building in a state fit for use during the ensuing year (1850), possibly by Michaelmas. The inhabitants will then be provided with a church, which even in its unfinished state will be an ornament and

Encl. in No. 99.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

honour to the capital of the colony, and for which many I trust, one at least I am sure, will always feel that we are indebted (and how much indebted!) to your Lordship's right sense of justice and charity.

The Right hon. the Earl Grey,
&c &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) Edward Newfoundland.

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 99.

ABRIDGED REPORT on the Progress of the Cathedral of St. John, Newfoundland.

To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

My Lord,

Cathedral Works, 29 December 1849.

WHEN I last had the honour of reporting to your Lordship on the progress of the works, we were waiting the arrival of hewn stone for the arches of the nave, which did not arrive until the beginning of July, when we fairly commenced the building operations of this year. The men were put on extra time, and having most of the hewn stone of the clerestory previously prepared, the nave was ready for the roof by the beginning of September.

Unfortunately, great delay and difficulty were experienced in getting to hand the timber for the roof, owing to the carelessness of the merchant from whom it was ordered, but by great exertions the nave was boarded in ready for slating before the first fall of snow. The aisles had been previously slated, but the slating of the nave has been necessarily deferred until the ensuing spring. The slates were imported from England, being disappointed in our expectations of using the slate of the colony by the uncertainty of being supplied.

The carpentry of the roof will be completed about the end of January next (1850). Two of the compartments are already partly stained with a decoction of the bark of the juniper and fir trees which gives to the wood-work a rich brown tint, besides assisting materially in its preservation.

The interior stone-work is now under process of cleaning off, and will be finished in about a fortnight.

What remains now to be done to complete the nave, independently of fittings, is—

	£.	s.	d.
1. To complete the roof, carpentry and slating, probable estimate	186	10	—
2. Paving passages with stone slabs	180	—	—
3. Flooring under benches and platform for sacarium	70	—	—
4. Slating outside of wooden screen under great arch, removing temporary coverings, pointing with cement, and covering unfinished walls with clapboard	64	16	—
5. Plastering inside walls of church	114	14	—
6. Windows (plain glass)	90	—	—
7. Doors, with ornamental iron-work	77	—	—
8. Cutting and setting steps and parapet wall at west entrance (part being already done)	130	—	—
9. Flooring crypt with rough flags	40	—	—
10. Heating apparatus	73	—	—
11. Clearing away rubbish and lowering part of road	120	—	—
12. Erecting fence extending 465 feet	300	—	—
	£.	1,446	—
Probable amount of account for timber due		300	—
Gross amount already expended, including the money paid in England		20,330	1 5
	£.	22,076	1 5
Abstract of accounts to the credit of the Cathedral:—			
By advance of wages to workmen repaid and monies realized from sale of materials, &c.	£.	s.	d.
	334	13	10½
By accounts due for work done to out-harbour churches, &c.	1,913	7	2½
		2,258	1 1
Newfoundland Currency	£.	19,818	— 4

At the commencement of the work, wages of mechanics and labourers were not only extravagantly high, and materials of every description scarce and high priced, but the amount of labour a man would produce became less, in proportion as the demand for it increased. The wages of an ordinary mason at some of the other buildings in the town, would occasionally amount with extra time to 5*l.* per week, the effect of which on workmen

men receiving only 8s. or 10s. per day, was to render them dissatisfied, considering themselves underpaid, and justified in refusing to give a fair amount of labour.

I have no doubt that had the works been delayed a year or two, a saving of at least a fifth of the cost might have been effected. But everything has been done to lessen the expense that economy or prudence could dictate; and bearing in mind the cost of work generally in the colony, the sum expended on such a building as the cathedral will not appear extravagant.

The probable cost of erecting the transepts and tower, would be about 5,000*l.*, that of the choir 10,000*l.* currency.

At any future time, when the erection of the transepts and choir may be proceeded with, I would strongly recommend the preparation of all the hewn stone-work previous to laying a stone of the building.

Much expense might be saved, notwithstanding packing, &c. by having the stone prepared at home, as building masons will always be more easily procured here than stone-cutters, and the first cost of the stone is much less in England or Scotland than here.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Hay.*

— No. 100. —

(No. 142.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 January 1850.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 1,* of the 3d of January, enclosing a letter addressed to me by the Bishop of Newfoundland, accompanied by a report of the architect on the state and progress of the new cathedral now in the course of erection at St. John's.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Grey.*

No. 100.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
30 January 1850.
* Page 123.

— No. 101. —

(No. 51.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *G. Le Marchant* to Earl Grey.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
8 October 1850.

(Received, 28 October 1850.)

My Lord,

(Answered, 1 November 1850, No. 178, page 127.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the enclosed letter, at the request of the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Gaspard Le Marchant.*

No. 101.
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant
to Earl Grey.
8 October 1850.

Enclosure in No. 101.

My Lord,

St. John's, Newfoundland, October 1850.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the cathedral church in this town was consecrated on the 21st ultimo (St. Matthew's day), and is now in constant use. It has been my earnest endeavour that the sacred building should be an ornament to the town, as well as convenient for the congregation, and suitable to its high and holy purpose.

Encl. in No. 101.

I am, perhaps, not the proper person to report how far these objects have been realized; but I hope and believe, that with respect to the beauty of the building and its furniture, there is no difference of opinion. The cost has been very great. I believe that the last account forwarded to your Lordship, showed that the whole amount placed at my disposal by your Lordship had been expended. Considerable sums, contributed by private friends and by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, have been also spent on the building, furniture and fences. I am not able to forward a detailed account of the expenditure, in consequence of several bills from England (which are paid) not having been yet furnished. I will only add, that all the sums entrusted to my disposal have been faithfully (I dare not say in every case wisely) spent.

I take the liberty of enclosing a printed account of the consecration, &c.

I feel it right to mention to your Lordship, that under authority of Her Majesty's letters patent, granted to me when appointed to this see, I have founded and constituted one archdeaconry in this diocese, by the title of the Archdeaconry of Newfoundland and Labrador, and have collated thereto the Rev. Thomas F. H. Bridge, M.A., to be the first Archdeacon of Newfoundland and Labrador.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

I have further the honour to inform your Lordship, that I intend to leave Newfoundland by the present packet, *en route* for Bermuda, and that I have drawn on Her Majesty's Paymaster-general for the usual allowance of sixty pounds (60 *l.*) towards the expenses of my journey and visitation.

The Right hon. the Earl Grey,
Her Majesty's Secretary for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edward Newfoundland.*

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 101.

From the "Times" of Wednesday.

THE Lord Bishop of the diocese held his triennial visitation of the clergy on Saturday last, the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle. This event, always interesting and important to the ministers and members of his Lordship's flock, was rendered particularly so on this occasion, by being held in the new cathedral on the very day of its consecration. The consecration of the cathedral, immediately followed by the Bishop's installation, was celebrated in the morning, and in the afternoon his Lordship delivered his charge to the clergy.

Of the cathedral itself we do not feel competent to furnish any description in detail. We believe it to be generally admitted, that if the design of the architect were carried out and completed, no ecclesiastical edifice in British North America could rival it. The part now built consists only of the nave and aisles, and in consequence the great height is very much out of proportion. The height is increased on the south side by the sloping ground, but the whole building would be much more imposing from this circumstance. This additional elevation has given occasion for, or rather has made necessary, a fine crypt or under-croft, extending the whole length of the aisle (fully 100 feet), which might be available for schools or vestries, or any similar purpose. The unfinished state of the building is proclaimed not only by the disproportionate height, but by a clothing of clapboard on the whole eastern end, which is necessary for the protection of walls not intended to be exposed. This clapboard dress is of most unecclesiastical character, and betrays unmistakably the abrupt stop put to the progress of the work through the want of funds. A temporary apse has been erected, sufficient for the holy table with its furniture. There are two noble porches, one at the west end, approached by a very handsome flight of steps, and another on the north side, with a beautiful groined roof; over this is the parvise.

The doors and hinges are of very beautiful workmanship, and in admirable keeping with the style of the building.

The fittings of the interior were imported ready made from England; they were designed by Mr. G. Gilbert Scott, the architect, and fully sustain his reputation for perfect knowledge of all the details of ecclesiastical art and ornament. All are of English oak; the holy table, pulpit, and seats for the clergy enriched with carving; the seats (which are all open) of the same substantial make and material, but (except the Governor's pew) with plain square ends. Seats are provided for 800 persons. The windows were furnished by Mr. Wailes, of Newcastle, and are of that kind of glass called, we believe, cathedral green, which being very thick, subdues the light, and gives some of that "dim religious" character, which the poet admires in the "richly-dight windows" of our ancient churches.

Considerable fears were entertained lest the fittings and windows should not be fixed by the Visitation, as the latter arrived little more than a fortnight, and the seats and other furniture not ten days, before the time. It was originally intended that the consecration should take place on Sunday the 15th instant, and be followed by appropriate services every day till the Visitation; but it was with great difficulty, and by working day and night, that all was finished and furnished on the 19th, and a single day left for other necessary arrangements.

The service of consecration commenced at 10 o'clock. The Bishop, preceded by his domestic chaplain (the Rev. Mr. Grey) bearing the pastoral staff, and followed by the rest of the clergy, two and two (36 in number), all in surplices, walked in procession from the crypt, and on entering at the west door, began to chant the 24th Psalm. This was continued till the Bishop reached the sacrarium, or platform at the eastern end; on either side of which are the stalls or seats of the clergy. A chair was placed in the centre for the Bishop. On his Lordship's right hand stood the registrar, and on his left the chaplain holding the staff. The deed of conveyance of the site was then presented to the Bishop, and, after an address and prayers appropriate, the sentence of consecration was read by the registrar. The sentence recited the grant of the site to the first Bishop of Newfoundland, for the uses and purposes of the Established Church, and the ceremony of laying the first stone by his Lordship in the year 1842. Then, after mention of the translation of Bishop Spencer to the See of Jamaica, and the appointment and consecration of Bishop Field, it was further stated, that by the charity of Christian friends and benevolently disposed persons, the building had been carried on to that degree of completion that the Bishop's chair might be conveniently set up, and Divine Service decently celebrated with all due and accustomed solemnities; and was now to be consecrated to the honour and service of Almighty God, by the name, title, and dignity of the Cathedral Church of "St. John the Baptist." The Bishop signed the sentence, and ordered it to be preserved in the archives of the diocese.

His Lordship was then conducted to his episcopal chair, by the Archdeacon and his chaplains, and the ceremony of installation gone through according to the ancient forms.

The

The pastoral staff was attached to the left-hand side of the Bishop's chair, and the Archdeacon and chaplains retired to their stalls.

The service of the day then commenced. The prayers were intoned with excellent effect by the precentor (that Rev. Mr. Tuckwell). Mr. Mudge, one of the theological students, presided at the organ, and (though the choir were inconveniently placed in consequence of all the seats in the sacarium being occupied by the clergy,) the chanting of the Canticles and Psalms gave general satisfaction. The anthem was from the 150th Psalm, "O praise God in His holiness." The Sanctus, sung as an introit, was that by O. Gibbons. The organ is small, but being a great novelty in Newfoundland, was much admired; and undoubtedly gave a solemnity to the service which no other instrument can give. The Litany was sung by the Bishop's command; the Archdeacon read the Ante-Communion Service; the Bishop preached, and after dwelling upon the wonderful circumstances under which the church had been erected, and the lessons which the remembrance of these circumstances ought to teach those who frequent and use it, at least for this generation, he took occasion to explain the nature and purpose, first, of a church generally, and second, of a cathedral, and particularly insisted on the impropriety of letting or appropriating seats in that church, which is, in fact, the mother or parish church of the whole diocese. We understand that all the seats are free, and though some have been assigned to prevent confusion, no payment in the way of rent will be received. After the sermon, the Offertory sentences were read, and a collection was made from the communicants and congregation. Five of the clergy assisted his Lordship in the distribution of the sacrament. A large number of persons communicated with the clergy. The offerings amounted to 105*l.*, in addition to 35*l.* subscribed specially by the clergy for a painted window. The service concluded at two o'clock.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

— No. 102. —

(No. 178.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl Grey to Governor Sir G. Le Marchant.

Downing-street, 1 November 1850.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 51, of the 8th of October, enclosing a letter addressed to me by the Bishop of Newfoundland, and to request that you will acquaint his Lordship that it afforded me much satisfaction to learn that the cathedral church at St. John's has been consecrated, and that the building, though not completed, is now in constant use.

I have, &c.
(signed) Grey.

No. 102.
Earl Grey to
Governor Sir
G. Le Marchant.
1 November 1850.