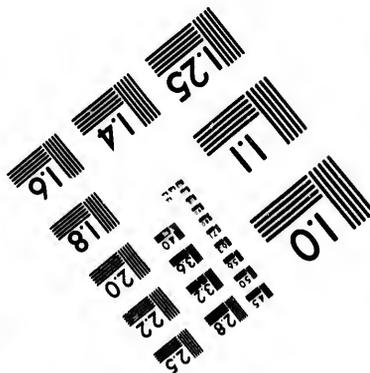
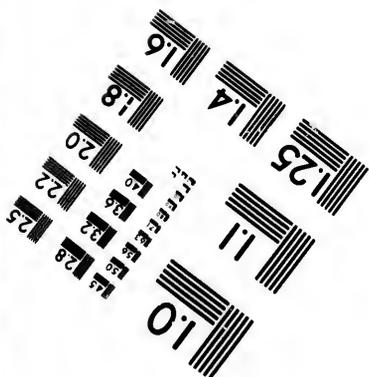
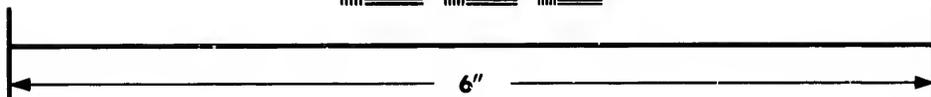
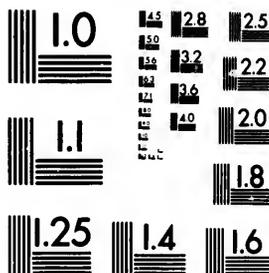


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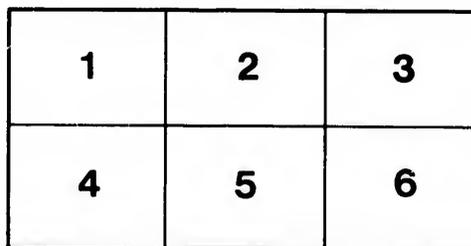
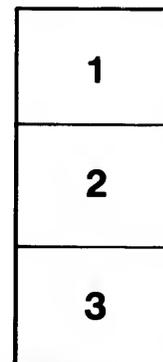
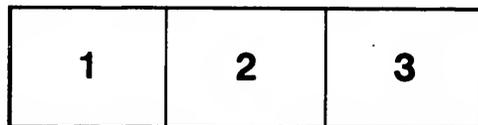
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**NARRATIVE**

OF THE

**Great Fires**

AT

MIRAMICHI, NEW-BRUNSWICK;

WITH AN

**APPENDIX.**

CONTAINING

THE STATEMENTS OF MANY OF THE SUFFERERS,

AND A VARIETY OF INTERESTING OCCURRENCES:

TOGETHER WITH

**A POEM,**

ENTITLED

“**THE CONFLAGRATION.**”

---

All things come alike to all, there is one event to the righteous  
and the wicked.—*Ecclesiastes, c. 9. v. 2.*

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He doth not afflict willingly or grieve the children of men.—  
*Lamentations, c. 3. v. 35.*

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HALIFAX, N. S.

Printed at the office of P. J. HOLLAND,

1825.

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## PREFACE.

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**I**N attempting to delineate the occurrences that form the subject of the following pages, some inaccuracies will probably arise. The suddenness of the calamity at Miramichi prevented that cool and collected observation of facts, so desirable to form the ground-work of a correct narration. In addition, the present work has been rather hastily prepared, under the impression, that by conveying a complete account of the losses and sufferings of this unhappy settlement, an increased feeling may be excited to aid the survivors. One of the unhappy sufferers has furnished the author with the details of the destruction, of which he was an eye-witness; and, through the loss of property, a victim: and the description throughout has been drawn from the best sources of information that could be obtained at Miramichi, and at Halifax, whither many of the unfortunate people have resorted.

The fires that have raged on other parts of this continent about the same period having apparently originated from causes similar to those which produced this most destructive conflagration, it has been thought proper to add such notices of them as could be obtained in time. A short account of the previous settlements on the River is also appended; and in conclusion, the reader will find a notice of the measures taken in the cities and settlements of New-Brunswick, Nova-Scotia and Canada, and in the United States, to afford assistance to their distressed brethren.

## Narrative.

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**T**HE settlements on the river Miramichi have flourished almost beyond example in this part of the New World.

The first town that was built there, called Chatham, lies on the south bank of the river, and dates its origin about 30 years from this period. Its advances were gradual, but Newcastle, situate on the north side of the stream, counted previous to the devastation in this autumn, upwards of 450 houses in the parish or circle around it, where ten years since there were hardly a dozen buildings.—The lumber trade, for which the site of Newcastle is eminently favorable, has, within a very few years, given a rapid growth to the settlements on both sides of the river. Large mercantile establishments have been formed there, and a numerous population of emigrants were employed in cutting lumber in the woods, and bringing it to the place of embarkation. The country around was rapidly improving, and within three months of the last summer 146 large vessels sailed from the port to Europe with full cargoes of timber. The forests seemed almost inexhaustible, and the spirit of industry brought the blessings of trade and consequent affluence to the active inhabitants. Two printing presses had been established, one at Newcastle, and the other at Chatham, where a newspaper was commenced.

The estimable and energetic governor of New-Brunswick, Sir Howard Douglas, desirous of securing to the people of every section in the country under his management, the advantage of having their situation, local wants, and resources, known to the executive, had gone in every direction through New Brunswick, receiving in his progress the most sincere tokens of personal respect and attachment. At Miramichi in particular, his visit gave the greatest satisfaction. The inhabitants were charmed with seeing, for the first time, an officer of his rank, come among them with parental solicitude, to see with his own eyes the state of the country. A new town 2 miles

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below Newcastle, was named Douglastown in honor of his administration. He assisted in person at the ceremony of laying the corner stone of a Church to be erected at Newcastle. He was complimented with a public dinner by the people, and he left them impressed with a high sense of his public spirit and zeal for the happiness of the colonists.

Their cup of happiness was filled to the brim, when misfortune as tremendous as it was unexpected, in one night, nay in a few hours, hurled the largest portion of the settlements into ruin, involving life and property in the vortex of destruction.

The summer of 1825 was unusually warm in both hemispheres. Its bad effects were visible in America, in the prevalence of epidemical disorders, and many fell victims to the intense heat. Emigrants in the United States (of the laboring classes) frequently fell dead, after indulging their intolerable thirst, with cold water. In Nova-Scotia, fires raged in August and September, in the woods, through the whole eastern division of the peninsula, though little injury was sustained, the country being generally cleared for a considerable distance round the villages and farm-houses, and much intersected with lakes and rivers that intercept and suspend the violence of the fire. Rain had checked and nearly put out those fires about the middle of September.—In Miramichi the season had been very dry, rain had not fallen there during the whole summer; but this produced no inconvenience, as the vicinity abounds with the most delightful and perennial springs. The woods to the north of the river in the direction of the district of Gaspé had been fired in some places in the early part of the season, and the flames were visible at Miramichi; but fires in the woods are usual every summer in the British provinces, being the mode of clearing the soil adopted by the farmers, and no damage was anticipated nor the slightest apprehension entertained.

On the afternoon of Friday the 7th of October 1825, about half-past 3 o'clock P. M. a broad and dense column of smoke was seen to rise in a vertical direction, at a considerable distance in a direction N. W. of Newcastle. The atmosphere was partially obscured by it, but the wind, which was moderate though shifting, blowing from the north, appeared to carry it to the leeward of those parts of the river that were more thickly inhabited, and consequently, little or no apprehension of danger was entertained. It was, however, supposed that extensive fires must be raging in that quarter, but they excit-

ed no alarm in the minds of the people, which can hardly be accounted for except from the circumstance of their never having experienced the sad effects of fires in any former instance, and their not estimating properly the great aridity of the forests that followed the extraordinary and long-protracted heat of the past summer.

At 7 o'clock P. M. a smart breeze sprung up from the N. W. and the air became almost instantaneously so darkened that no objects whatever could be perceived at any distance.—Ashes and cinders showered down in such quantities, that those persons who were exposed were nearly blinded and suffocated before they could retreat under cover. The inhabitants kept within doors, and many had retired to their beds as usual with them on dark nights. They had no fears of any further consequences than the temporary inconvenience.

About 8 o'clock P. M. a loud roaring was heard in the woods, and from the burnt substances still continuing to thicken the atmosphere, it was so dark that the flames could not be distinguished, though they were at that time at a distance of not more than one mile from the river. Immediately after, the wind blew a hurricane—the roaring noise becoming more and more tremendous, and seeming to the astonished and dismayed hearers as if earth had loosened from her ancient foundations, and that the elemental strife of chaos were recommencing. Flames burst in masses upon their affrighted vision; earth, air and sky were illuminated by an immense sheet of fire that rushed with inconceivable velocity from the adjacent woods, and in a moment enveloped the devoted settlements of Newcastle, Douglstown, and in fact, the whole northern side of the river, with flame, cinders, ashes, and heated sand. The hope of preserving life became the sole idea that presented itself to the appalled and horror-stricken people, who fled in every direction with the most precipitate eagerness. In about three minutes from the appearance of the flame, their houses were all blazing.

At this period the scene was awfully terrible. The dazzling brightness of the flames—the tremendous blasts of the storm that swept them with an inconceivable impetuosity, over the surface of the earth and water—the agonized feelings, and the horrors of the flying and distracted inhabitants—the screams of the burnt, the burning, and the wounded, mingled with the cries of domestic animals scorched and suffocating with the heat. Men flying half naked—the sick, of whom there were many from the epidemical fever, endeavouring to save their

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feeble stake in existence—women with their infants,\* all urging their way through the volumes of smoke and fire that gleamed destruction around them and seemed to bar retreat. In fact no description can do justice to the miseries of those fatal moments, as the proximity of immense forests parched up to tinder by the summer's heat, and now in one universal conflagration, caused an ocean of fire that we may conclude to be unparalleled in the history of forest countries, and perhaps not surpassed in horrific sublimity by any natural calamity from this element, that has ever been recorded.

Some of the people ran to the river side and plunged up to their necks in the water for safety. Others betook themselves to rafts of timber, floating logs, canoes, boats and scows, and suffered themselves to drift at the mercy of the wind and tide, without oars, sails, or any other assistance to guide them, and ignorant whether they could find an asylum from the blazing storm that blew death and havoc among them. To many, this resource was unavailing, and they sunk in the treacherous wave never to rise. Hundreds took refuge in a marsh lying near the river, and about half a mile southwest of Newcastle, expecting each moment would be their last, as the fire which they had left behind began to pursue them faster than they could fly before it. There was little of a combustible nature between the town and the marsh, so that it proved the safest retreat which could be afforded to the inhabitants, and this fortunate circumstance saved many valuable lives.—To detail the means by which the different persons who survived obtained their safety, or to describe the manner in which the unhappy victims perished, would occupy more space than the limits of this work could afford: danger and difficulty stared the people in front, wherever they sought shelter; and their escapes were in many instances hazardous in

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\* Many were obliged to fly from their beds with no covering but a blanket, others partly dressed, few with all their clothes on, and none had time to stop to save any part of their property. The cattle were partly destroyed on the spot, part in endeavoring to effect their escape were drowned in the river, which was half a mile broad at that place, and some succeeded in swimming across to the south side. Men, women and children were heard screeching in every direction, some rushing from the fire, bemoaning the loss of their husbands, children, parents, wives, brothers, friends, and many suffering under the most excruciating agonies from the burns which they had received.

the extreme. The most striking instances, however, are given in the Appendix.

It has since been ascertained that the conflagration extended from the northward from the neighbourhood of the Bay Chaleur, where two cottages in the forest were consumed, to Richibucto, a distance of 85 miles by land,—and from that place over the whole extent of the Miramichi and its North and South West Branches, the Baltibogue, Nappan and Black Rivers, and other tributaries, including a tract of more than 100 miles in a direct line, and containing about 8000 square miles of forest in New-Brunswick, subjected to the ravages of flame and hurricane. In connection with this may be viewed the burning of a great part of the town of Fredericton, the seat of the government of that province, on the same day that Newcastle suffered, and the fires in the forests of Upper and Lower Canada, and the State of Maine, where the river Penobscot was described as resembling a sea of fire for thirty miles of its course, and the reader may judge of the extent of the injury to the wood, and the ungovernable rapidity with which the flames must have been carried by the winds, to find them at the same period desolating various parts of America, from Brockville to Miramichi, and from the Saint Lawrence to the Penobscot. In this extensive range of mischief, the sufferings of the parish of Newcastle were far surpassing all the rest in proportion and miserable consequences. Such horror and confusion reigned in the minds of the people, that very many were persuaded that the great and terrible day had arrived when the Almighty is to judge of the hearts and actions of all his creatures.\*

The fire in extending through Douglastown exposed the shipping to the greatest danger, and three vessels were burnt. It proceeded on to Baltibogue at a distance of about 12 miles down the same bank of the river towards the mouth, where it added inevitable death to the most afflicting scenes of distress and danger; and if it were possible that the sum of human misery was proportionably greater in any particular part, it was in these settlements where whole families at once have perished.

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\* The master of a vessel lying in the stream took up a bible and compared the predictions of the Last Day as there set out with the sights and sounds that assailed him, and believed firmly at the moment that it was indeed the end of all things.

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The shipping lying in the river amounted to 120 sail of square rigged vessels; and during the whole of the hurricane they were in the most imminent danger from the violence of the wind and the fierceness of the flames. Numbers caught fire in the rigging and their lighter upper works. The assiduous care and perseverance of the seamen saved them all with the exception of the three before mentioned\*, and two others that were at the time on the stocks, belonging to Messrs. Abrams & Co. which were consumed: and, notwithstanding the seamen could barely preserve their own vessels, they boldly exerted themselves in rescuing from the water, some of those unhappy persons who had made it their refuge.

The town of Chatham on the southern side of the river was most happily preserved, otherwise all the unfortunate beings who escaped with their lives must have become the victims of starvation, or perished for the want of shelter. The fires were raging both above and below Chatham, and it was once actually on fire; but the unremitting activity of its inhabitants extinguished the fire before it had obtained too great an influence. It was so situated that hardly a soul could have been saved from it, if the fire had gained a footing, as the woods in every direction around it were burning, and the waters were there too agitated and violent to admit of crossing.

The scene which morning presented to the eye, was melancholy indeed. Where villages, houses and improvements had existed on the previous day, blackened heaps of ruins met the view. Tall chimnies standing alone or in clusters, marked the sites of the large and elegant wooden buildings, of which they were the sole remnants. Vessels on shore, logs of timber adrift and scattered on the shores, with fragments of household utensils. The lofty pines stripped of their verdure and beauty, and standing scathed monuments of the devastation.

The bodies of the burned were to be seen in some instances so horribly mangled that nature recoiled at the spectacle. Some that when touched fell to pieces in almost a pulverized state, others mutilated. Of some the heads were partially destroyed and the brains bursting out of the integuments; in others the entrails were bared. Many were so disfigured that they could not be recognized. In every direction such horrible objects were to be seen, frequently in the convulsed posture in which their distracted tortures had terminated existence. The bodies of the drowned were cast on the shore, partially burnt or otherwise mangled. The horses, oxen, sheep, dogs, and in fine all kinds of domestic animals had shared with their proprietor, man, the miseries and destruction of the horrible night, and were scattered around dead or dying on the land and the waters.

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The ships Concord and Canada, and brig Jane.

Those persons who survived had in many instances their hands and feet much burnt, and the faces of some were much scorched and injured. Many were temporarily deprived of their vision, and nearly all had their eyes affected and reddened from the showers of hot sand and ashes they had encountered. The fever had prevailed much in Miramichi before this fire, and very many who escaped the flames were suffering under its inflictions. The appearance of the place and the physical suffering undergone, were truly deplorable; but the feelings of those unhappy persons at this conjuncture almost defy description. The sad reality of their losses weighed them down. Here and there a solitary individual was to be seen brooding in unutterable anguish on the loss of property, of kindred, and of bosom friends; while elsewhere a group of the heartless and disconsolate sufferers were recounting their miseries to each other, and vainly essaying to extract a ray of hope from the horrible catastrophe before them. The insufficiency of means to provide for the wretched and destitute—the fears for the fate of the numerous parties of lumberers connected with the place and bivouacked in the recesses of the forest, of whom 3000 were known to be out, were the subjects of their lamentations. Very many were so astounded at what they had undergone, that they could not realize the truth of their appalling calamities; and man, confounded and bewildered at the prostration of his hopes and the insufficiency of his powers, seemed to lose the ballast of reason and the anchor of hope. The earth, the woods, the waters, and the brute creation, all seemed to bear witness of the horrors of the past night, and to sympathize with suffering humanity while to man all was silence, desolation and despair.

Chatham then became the refuge of its unhappy neighbours, who thronged in daily and hourly from all parts of the river, and back settlements, in the most destitute condition, to seek a mouthful of food and an asylum from the inclemencies of the season. The dead and dying, the wounded, the naked and the starving were congregated together in that place, and their numbers every moment increased. The people of Chatham opened their doors to the sufferers, and did every thing in their power to assuage their sufferings. Overwhelmed by the miseries around them, they for some time had not the presence of mind to devise such measures as on reflection appeared necessary; but on the 10th of October, the third day after the destruction, they despatched letters to Halifax, Fredericton and St. John, and the following handbill was printed and a copy of it was received at Halifax:—

CHATHAM, OCTOBER 10th, 1825.

### FIRE AND HURRICANE !

“ Amidst confusion and distress, the inevitable consequences of the dread dispensation of Providence, which has befallen our devoted colony, it is all

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gether impossible to calculate or describe the extent of its destructive effects, but to awaken the sympathy of those who under the Divine Protection of Almighty God, have escaped the awful calamity; it will be sufficient thus briefly to state, that more than a Hundred Miles of the shores of Miramichi are laid waste: independent of the North west Branch, the Baltibogue, and the Nappau Settlements, from one or two hundred people have perished within immediate observation, and thrice that number are miserably burnt or otherwise wounded; and at least two thousand of our fellow creatures are left destitute of the means of subsistence, and thrown at present upon the humanity of the Province of New Brunswick.

“The number of lives that have been lost in the remote parts of the woods, among the lumbering parties cannot be ascertained for some time to come, for it is feared that few are left to tell the tale.

“It is not in the power of language to describe the unparalleled scene of ruin and devastation which the parish of Newcastle at this moment presents; out of upwards of two hundred and fifty houses and stores, fourteen of the least considerable only remain. The Court House, Gaol, Church, Barracks, Messrs. Gilmour, Rankin & Co. and Messrs. William Abrams & Co's Establishments are reduced to ashes.

“The loss of property is incalculable, for the Fire, borne upon the wings of a Hurricane, rushed upon the wretched inhabitants with such inconceivable rapidity, that the preservation of their lives could be their only care.

“The ships Concord and Canada, and brig Jane, were burnt to the water's edge, and many others took fire, but by great exertion were saved: two vessels in the stocks, belonging to Wm. Abrams & Co. were entirely consumed.

“About three hundred of the sufferers are already in Chatham, and numbers of men, women, and children, are hourly pouring in and throwing themselves upon the bounty of its inhabitants.”

On the 11th, the more fortunate portion of the people met at Chatham, and subscribed in cash alone to the amount of £850, for the relief of the sufferers. Their generosity will be better understood and more highly valued, when it is mentioned, that most of the principal men in Chatham had lost immense sums through the destruction of property in the other settlements, as they had debts owing them among the lumberers and others to whom the merchant usually makes advances to enable them to prosecute the lumbering business,

R. 10th, 1825.

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by giving them supplies of British and West India goods for the season.

The intelligence arrived at Halifax on the afternoon of Saturday the 15th October; and early on Sunday morning the 16th a town meeting was held, and £1200 subscribed on the spot. Committees were sent round the town and vicinity to solicit subscriptions, and a young gentleman was dispatched overland, to carry intelligence to Miramichi, that provisions and clothing would immediately be forwarded. His Excellency Sir James Kempt attended the Meeting, and on the ensuing morning (Monday) convened his Majesty's Council, and in conjunction with the members of the Assembly then in Halifax, they directed £1000 to be given out of the Provincial Treasury. The garrison and the navy in harbour gave a day's pay. Sermons were preached by all the clergy, and collections made in their respective churches; and the greatest anxiety was manifested by all the inhabitants for their suffering brethren. Servants requested their employers to settle their wages, that they might contribute their mite to the cause. A ship of war, the Crestes, Capt. Litchfield, was dispatched with provisions, &c. and three or four smaller vessels, and several military surgeons volunteered to go, that they might be of service to the wounded.—The subscriptions in Halifax soon amounted to upwards of £2000, besides the grant of £1000 from the Treasury, and articles of necessity contributed in lieu of money, and estimated at above £1000; and throughout Nova Scotia, as will be seen in the Appendix, the example of Halifax was promptly imitated.

The subscriptions that were made in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and abroad, as far as they have come to hand at the time of publishing this work, will be also found in the Appendix. And the particulars of the loss of lives and effects as more correctly ascertained, are there stated.

Great praise is due to the prompt zeal and enlightened benevolence displayed by Sir James Kempt on this occasion. The example of men in high station when it tends to good purposes, is efficacious in the extreme; and the readiness with which the people of Nova Scotia follow the good examples of eminent persons, is often manifested.

When the intelligence of these disasters reached Fredericton (itself half destroyed by the same element) Sir Howard Douglas called a public meeting, and addressed the people in the following terms:—

“The last Meeting was called to devise measures and raise funds for the relief of those persons who have suffered loss in the late calamitous fire; and this was done impressed with thankfulness to Almighty God, that however great that calamity was, it had been assigned limits to by his merciful interposition, which have left some persons with means sufficient to assist others in those calamities which the menacing aspect of the woods and of the atmosphere portend.

ed. When I suggested this provision and purpose, I anticipated not that such claims to both were so near, or so awful ; but it has pleased God that the desolation we here suffered, has been driven with terrific fury elsewhere. The destructive element which was causing such devastations in these parts of the province, has extended widely and terrifically, by the gale which was experienced here, and by which the mighty action more extensively and rapidly increasing, dilated, as it proceeded, to a most impetuous hurricane. Thus the enraged elements, acting upon and exciting each other, burst into a flood of flame upon the devoted settlements on the Miramichi River, and have occasioned ruin, desolation, death and misery, where late I witnessed prosperity, plenty and comfort. In that town which is now laid in ashes, I placed under the foundation of a sacred edifice about to be raised, inscriptions and the coins which were, I fondly hoped, to convey to remote ages, how long that edifice had stood, and its town had flourished : what a lesson this to human presumption — what a subject for thankfulness, and benevolence, and charity. In other parts of the province too, less remote from the seat of government, disastrous effects from the same cause have been produced ; and on the Oromocto, and the Robbinston, tributaries of the river on which you live, cases of the deepest distress call for succour and comfort.

“When I first received the melancholy account of these calamities, I was desirous that a subscription should be raised here, in addition to what have already been done ; but fearful to press upon the distress which were then so recent, and doubtful whether they could be so soon relieved, I sent a considerable remittance from the King’s Revenue, and my own funds, to the site of the greater calamity, and by and with the advice of his Majesty’s Council, who, deeply affected by the awful calamity, concurred with me as to the necessity of adopting effectual arrangements for immediate relief, proceeded with other measures, which will convey in a very few days to Miramichi, succours to the extent of five or six thousand pounds. Means sufficient for immediate relief being thus provided by the abundant good feeling, benevolence, and charity, which have manifested themselves in our own and in our Sister Province, on this melancholy occasion, I revert to the reserved purpose of endeavouring to procure provision for more remote relief, in restoring and relieving what this calamity has levelled and ruined, by a general fund, which I trust will be raised to relieve those cases of greatest distress, namely, persons of a condition which compels them to endure their misery silently though severely ; to reestablish in business many persons who have entirely lost their little capitals invested in the beginning of a productive trade, in the prosperity of which the Mother Countries participate ; to aid and to contribute to the rebuilding of habitations in the

towns, in a way which I hope the Legislature will enforce to prevent the recurrence of like dangers ; but which could not be effected if the sufferers are constrained from insufficiency of means to reconstruct their establishments in the cheaper but more perilous manner and material of the country.

“ To this fund, part of which should be immediately remitted for the use of your unfortunate fellow sufferers, (for the destruction of so much provisions and stores, puts it out of your power to send aid in kind,) I shall contribute farther from my private purse, in addition to what I have already given ; and I shall crave his Majesty’s liberality from his provincial fund, in aid : and having thus done all in my power for immediate and prospective relief and restoration, I am about to proceed to the seat of greater calamity, that I may be under no uncertainty as to the sufficiency of means, ere the rigours of winter add to the severity of the catastrophe.

“ What good I may be able to effect there, I know not. But I obey the impulse of feelings, and a sense of duty, which tell me, that where the people are in calamitous difficulties that admit of alleviation, which by any possibility may be within his power, there the Governor ought to be.”

His Excellency then set out for the scene of woe, to carry consolation and advice to the afflicted inhabitants.

One is naturally led to reflect on the causes which produced these misfortunes, and the means which might have lessened their bad effects, or prevented their occurrence.—That more caution than is at present used in North America, with respect to the clearing of woodland by fires, should be adopted, seems highly desirable. That settlements should never be made until a sufficient extent of country be cleared to protect them from fires in the woods, seems also an object of the first importance ; and when we consider the incalculable losses sustained in every direction, from the fallacious economy of preferring wooden houses to those of stone and brick, it seems very necessary that some additional and more effectual laws should be enacted by the Legislatures of the northern colonies, to meet the circumstances in which they are now placed ; and to guard, as far as possible, against the recurrence of those evils.

To those who have it in their power to add to the contributions already made for the sufferers under this unequalled misfortune, we would address the simple words of scripture—“ Do unto others as you would they should do unto you.” It is easy to conceive what one placed under such trying circumstances would hope for from the kindness and good will of his fellow creatures, subject, like himself, to be visited in the same terrible manner. He would hope for the most ready assistance—the most frank generosity. If then, reader, such would be your expectations from the humanity of your fellow

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mortals, remember that very many have, in this instance, been deprived of every thing that made life valuable to them ; and their condition is therefore more pitiable than that of those who expired in the flames. Recollect how little can be done with the few thousand pounds that have yet been subscribed, and which hardly will suffice to keep in existence, during the coming winter, the relics of this once flourishing place. A population of fifteen thousand souls on this river have been all more or less sufferers in life, person, or property, by this event ; and too much cannot be done towards reinstating them in the means of earning their livelihood, which, if neglected, will leave many of them wanderers and outcasts on the earth.

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# APPENDIX.

*Extracts from the Sketches of New Brunswick.*

## COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

**RIVER MIRAMICHI.**—This is one of the finest rivers for lumber in the province. Its banks, as well as the banks of the numerous streams that fall into it, are covered with pines of the finest growth, which appear to be almost inexhaustible, for although lumbering has been prosecuted on this river to a great extent for a number of years past, there is still abundance found by going a little back from the water. It is indeed the main source of the trade of the large county of Northumberland. One hundred and forty one thousand three hundred and eighty four tons of timber were shipped at the port of Miramichi in 1824. Rafts are taken down this river with the greatest safety to the shipping, which load at different places from the mouth of the river up to Fraser's Island. It has two main branches called the north west and south west, which run a great way into the country, and with their numerous streams lay open the inmost recesses of this extensive county. Several fine islands lay in the course of this river, covered with elm, ash, butternut, &c. which invariably denote the most luxurious soil. Its waters are well stored with excellent salmon and other fish, which are caught here in great abundance. There are several settlements along this river none of which merit a particular description, the improvement of the country being neglected for lumbering. The branches of this river approach in several places very near to streams falling into the river St. John, which communicate by short portages.

The county of Northumberland joins Westmoreland on the southward, and is bounded eastwardly by the Gulph of Saint Lawrence, and Bay of Chaleur. On the northwestward by the Bay of Chaleur to the river Ristigonche, and westwardly by a continuation of the western boundary line of Westmoreland. The population of this county amounts to 15,829.

This extensive county lies along the Gulph of Saint Lawrence having a great extent of sea-coast. It includes several large bays and rivers, and comprises more than one third of the province. It contains the following parishes:—Newcastle, Chatham, Ludlow, Northesk, Alnwiek, Carleton, Beresford, Glenelg, Saumarez, Wellington, and Nelson. It is a great lumbering county, and furnishes more squared timber annually than the whole province besides. The pine is of the best quality, and found in immense quantities along the numerous streams, and rivers with which this part of the country abounds. The lumber shipped from this county generally commands a better price in the British market than

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from any other part of the province. The principal port for shipping is Miramichi, which is crowded with vessels during the summer and autumn.

Newcastle is a considerable place for loading, and although it may be considered the county town, has nothing particular. About two miles below this place there is a trading establishment belonging to Mr. Abrams, and two miles farther down is the establishment of Gilmour & Co. Indeed wherever there is a convenient cove, vessels lie and load. Chatham five miles below Newcastle on the opposite side of the river, is also a considerable shipping place. It has churches with several fine stores and buildings. There are but few places along the entrance of this river but what are convenient for shipping. Upwards of three hundred sail load annually at Miramichi. The timber is paid for part in specie, and part in British and West India goods and provisions.

## IMPORTS FOR 1824.

327 Vessels—94,601 Tons—4,274 Men.

Wheat Flour, barrels,	17,285	Naval stores, barrels	212
Bread, barrels	1,063	Tobacco, cwts.	727
Corn, bushels	17,262	Tea, chests	280
Meal, barrels	11,598	Cordage, coils	1,144
Rice, cwts.	160	Coal, chaldrons	1,063
Beef and pork, barrels	6,016	Onions, Seeds, Apples, Nuts, &c.	
Peas and beans, barrels	1,204	barrels	710
Wine, gallons	6,493	Iron and Copper, tons	125
Brandy and Gin, gallons	23,533	Hides, number	94
Rum, gallons	86,977	Mahogany, Logwood, &c. tons	42
Molasses, gallons	23,533	Bricks, M.	82
Coffee, cwts.	126	Stone ware, pieces	60,300
Pimento, lbs.	224	Slates, M.	34
Sugar, cwts	2,462	Barley, bushels	200
Salt, tons	410	British merchandize, packages,	3,600

## EXPORTS IN 1824.

331 Vessels—94,800 Tons—4,341 Men.

Timber, tons	141,384	Dry fish, quintals	266
Pine boards and plank, M. feet	1,256	Pickled fish, barrels	580
Staves, M.	304	Smoked herrings, boxes	70
Shingles, M.	8	Flour, barrels	737
Masts and spars	1,300	Bread, do.	7
Oars and oar rafters	702	Rum, gallons	8,627
Handspikes, number	888	Naval stores, barrels	45
Lathwood, cords	3,080	Tobacco, cwts.	106

[The number of inhabitants in the different parishes in the county of Northumberland is computed as follows:]

Newcastle,	1637	Carleton,	1965
Chatham,	1452	Beresford,	1086
Ludlow, 1st district,	918	Glenelg,	836
Ludlow, 2d do.	390	Saumarez, 1st district,	949
Northesk, 1st do.	1243	Saumarez, 2d do.	1828
Northesk, 2d do.	200	Wellington,	1555
Alwrick, 1st do.	245	Nelson,	1134
Alwrick, 2d do.	373		

REMARKABLE INSTANCES OF SUFFERINGS AND UN-  
COMMON INCIDENTS.

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**T**HE miseries sustained by some of the unfortunate people and many of the lumbering parties in the interior, infinitely surpassed those which others among them had to undergo. The following notices of extraordinary suffering have been selected, as showing most clearly the horrors of the fire.

A female had waded above her neck into the river, to avoid the flames; but while thus seeking shelter from their violence, they pursued her with such force, that unable longer to bear the intense heat, she sunk into the stream and perished. Her body was discovered in the morning at some distance from the channel, near the border of a grass plot, whither the storm had thrown her. A livid scar seamed her countenance from above the left eye to the lower part of the right cheek.

At about 14 miles distance from Newcastle two men were surprized by the fire, and betook themselves to a brook for safety. They immersed themselves in the water, and thus were saved, while the flame passed speedily over them. One however had his face partly burned, as he had not succeeded in entirely covering it with water.

In a house on the south side of the river, half a mile from a settlement called Nelson, the fever of the summer had carried off the husband a few weeks previous to the fire. The wife was left with three children, all with the same complaint. She fled from the fire when it approached, and it has since been ascertained, that besides her dwelling, the three infants with herself were consumed.

A coloured girl had been imprisoned in the jail for making away with an illegitimate child. When the doors were opened, she ran out; but finding the fire had communicated to every part of the town, and perhaps supposing that to remain in a stone building might prove as safe as to be exposed outside, she ran in again; but by this time the stone had been literally heated as a furnace, and she was compelled to retire a second time, in attempting which she was burnt to death.

Two young brothers about 14 or 15 years of age, who had fled from their home, which was taking fire, made for a clear spot in the woods, which they supposed would not be subject to the flames. In this they were mistaken, and the fire destroyed them both. On the following morning, they were found clasped in each other's arms.

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A poor woman at Nappan who had been some distance from her habitation, left her children at home, consisting of brothers and sisters amounting to five in number; and before she could return in time to rescue them from the flames they were all burnt to cinders.

A merchant whose establishment was situated several miles below Douglastown, lost his mother, sister, and five children in the fire, and his father died the following day of a severe cold he had caught, while standing in the water to avoid the flames.

Of a family of nine in number, not one escaped; and out of another, seven perished—Some had their heads burned off—some their brains exposed to view—some their bowels bursting out, while all other parts of their bodies were burnt as though it were tinder; and others were so much burnt that the human form could scarcely be distinguished.

Out of a lumbering party of 8 in number, but one succeeded in saving himself. The fire came through the woods with that velocity, that in the situation of some of the lumberers, it would be as safe for them to attempt to penetrate it, as to retreat from it. This individual reasoned in this manner, and recollecting the situation of a green hard wood grove in the vicinity of his camp, immediately made for it, where he met the fire and passed through it without receiving any material injury!

A person attempting to escape from the flames, took his child in his arms, and in the confusion he fell down with it, and it was trampled upon; he succeeded in securing it, and made for the river: in this condition the flames came upon them, and it was with much difficulty that by a constant splashing of the water over the child and himself, with the unoccupied arm, that they were saved with little or no injury.

An inhuman wretch and a father of three children in the parish of Newcastle left them at home, and in the midst of the confusion resorted to plundering. His children were burnt to death, and he but barely escaped himself.

An honest laboring man whose wife and child were sick of the fever, lost all his tools, household property and clothing. He was seen carrying his wife towards the marsh with only a blanket around her, to shelter her from the severity of the night. It was not until the afternoon of Sunday following that he could get them into a place affording even the most indifferent accommodation, when he was observed requesting a morsel of bread for himself, having almost totally denied

himself up to that period, that the objects of his care should be first served.

Two or three families, comprising some sick persons, were obliged to erect a temporary platform under the eaves of part of the south bank of the river, a short distance above Chat-ham ; and in this situation they remained both day and night, exposed to the cold, deficient of provision, and with clothing scarcely sufficient to cover themselves.

On the morning after the fire, a poor man was seen deprived of both his eyes, and from the incompetency of medical aid, he was under the necessity of having the wounds dressed in the best possible way, and their places were supplied with lint !

A creature in the shape of a human being, took advantage of the hour of distress, and robbed his aged mother-in-law of £50—the only cash she possessed.

The house of Mr. M<sup>c</sup>Callum in the vicinity of the marsh at Newcastle was spared, and afforded a grateful shelter to the sick particularly, and to as many others as could obtain room sufficient to either sit or stand. In this place one individual had the ingratitude to rebuke the kind host with a want of attention in not furnishing him with a place of rest similar to that which the diseased occupied. The same unconscientious wretch was placed in the possession of a piece of fine cloth, by a merchant who saved it in the stead of his books and desk, with which he immediately decamped. He was, however, pursued, overtaken, and the property regained. The next morning he requested a reward for his trouble !

One instance will be sufficient to furnish the reader with an idea of the suddenness of the fire. A person was landed at the ferry at Newcastle, just as the ashes and cinders were beginning to fall, when he immediately repaired to his lodgings. He had not been there long when he heard a tremendous roaring in the woods on the hill in the rear of the town, and perceived through the window a yellow cast in the atmosphere—a total darkness having prevailed before. He directly made towards the hill in order to ascertain the cause of the noise, and had reached a distance of 200 yards from the house, when the hurricane drove down such quantities of ashes and smoke, that he was compelled to return. He had gone about half way, when his breast became oppressed with a painful sense of approaching suffocation. He lost all trace of where he was, and was in the act of making for the river, when he inquired of a person who was running past him what part of the town they were in, and was informed, accidentally nam-

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ing the distance from his lodgings. At this juncture the fire began to shower down in torrents, and he had only time to reach the house, secure a small parcel, and regain the street, when the roof was on fire, and the town beginning to be enveloped in flames!

Among the strange incidents which occurred on the occasion the following will serve to manifest the necessities and devastations to which all living creatures were subject:—The cattle wherever they could, resorted to the river, and in one instance a bear was discovered amongst them, where he remained until the danger had passed over, when he quietly departed without attempting to do any mischief.

The salmon in the respective branches of the main river, where the conflagration had prevailed, were literally bruised to death and suffocated, from the substances which poured upon the waters and the disturbance occasioned by the hurricane, as immense numbers of them, with bass, trout, &c. were found on the shores the next day. The same causes produced the like effects upon the sea fowl—numbers of them, particularly gulls, having been discovered dead upon the shores.

On the approach of the fire, the snakes made for the clearings, and in some places where they could not make further efforts to escape from the flames which raged on both sides of the roads, many were found dead the next morning.

On the point above Chatham, the fire raged and destroyed the woods and every thing that could be consumed around a dwelling house, for the distance of 60 yards from it; but fortunately the house did not receive the slightest injury.—The fire also came so near to the new Gothic English Church, situated on an eminence to the southward of the point, that the wooden railings, which were not 13 yards from the door, were burnt; and the building itself stood without the smallest symptoms of even the paint having been heated!—A little below the point the wind was awfully furious—strong green trees were lifted by their roots out of the ground, and some which retained their hold were wrenched down in the centre by the weight of their tops. A green hemlock situated on the verge of the bank of the river, of about 20 diameter inches, was broken off in the middle, and the top blown into the road, about 20 feet from the stump which was left standing!

Within 50 yards around the house occupied by Mr. Gilmour the fire consumed every thing in its way; and although this is a large wooden building and situate on an eminence, where one would imagine it impossible to escape, it was not injured.

The heat of the fire was intense beyond conception. In some cases, gold and silver cemented; the largest pieces of iron were reduced a quarter of an inch, and peeled off in flakes—some pieces of that size were nearly consumed into ashes; brass and copper of considerable bulk melted like lead. In several places the fire burnt the soil to the depth of one and two inches.

The master of a regular trader from the Bay of Verte to Miramichi states, that on the night of the fire while running before the wind, off point Escuminac, it became at once so dark, that from the helm he could not distinguish the main boom, and only now and then when the heavy and boiling seas broke upon his vessel, he could perceive the furious and fiery liquid; that the ashes and cinders showered upon the vessel so dense, as to affect both sight and respiration; and that although the wind was favorable to his course, it was with much difficulty he succeeded in saving his vessel. The lunes, he remarked, appeared to be unusually confused and distressed on the day before, even though a storm was approaching, and kept up an incessant screaming.

Mistakes have been made as to the fires raging after the conflagration. This was not the case—All the damage that the fire could produce in the woods, particularly on the point above Chatham, and on the northern banks of the river, was effected on the night of the calamity, as on the following morning it was nearly all extinguished without the agency of rain—for after the light stuff had been burnt, the strength of the wind and flying sand, &c. tended to repress the influence of the fire, and hardly any materials were left for consumption. There were, notwithstanding, a few exceptions; but the smoke which issued from the earth, was, apparently, not great; and flames were not to be discovered in the vicinity. In the interior parts of the woods, however, some fires remained.

#### *Proceedings at Chatham.*

For three days and nights after the fire, there was no wind of any consequence; the immense bodies of smoke therefore fell to the earth. On the succeeding Sunday, the weather being calm, it was so thick that no objects could be distinguished at a distance of only 30 yards. At 12 o'clock, the alarm was given that cattle had suffocated, and the wretched inhabitants expecting it soon to be their own doom (a heavy pressure upon the breast being already felt) prepared themselves the last alternative, by digging holes in the ground, to inhale

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the fresh turned up earth. The air, however, continued in the same temperature until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the cinders again began to fall and darkened the atmosphere. A distressing melancholy was immediately visible in the countenance of every one; and at Chatham, those who owned property began to exert themselves for the safety of the place, as it was thought that a second attack was not far distant. By this time holes also were dug in the earth, to deposit the most valuable articles; and watchmen were out in different directions to give the alarm, when the fire was approaching. There was, however, little to be discovered, though all were ready to fly for their lives.—The next morning the dreadful suspense of the people began to subside, from the smoke getting thinner, and the cinders ceasing to fall: and these circumstances proved to be nothing more than the light burnt substances floating in the air from the previous conflagration, as there was a light and unsettled air on Saturday which kept them above, and a heavy dew beginning to fall, brought them to the earth. On the following morning it cleared up and presented to the eye, as far as it could stretch, a perfect view of the opposite side of the river. But one black waste was perceptible, and nothing but stacks of chimnies which ranged along its banks, and a field here and there not touched by the fire, alone remained as emblems of its once gratifying and prosperous condition.

It was not until Tuesday the 11th October, that any effectual aid was rendered to the distressed and starving people. Every one who had it in his power exerted himself strenuously, though individually, to apply immediate relief—but the turbulent state of some of the sufferers; the intense ardor of their benefactors, and the absence of a system by which to remove their wants effectually, deterred them from coming to any decided arrangements until ten o'clock of the morning of that day, when a meeting took place at the house of Mr. George Johnson at Chatham, which was attended by the people of that Parish. They simultaneously assented to the following Resolutions, and in a few minutes subscriptions to the amount of eight hundred and five pounds ten shillings were obtained.

THOMAS H. PETERS, Esquire, in the Chair,

RESOLVED,—That a communication be immediately made to Head Quarters stating the heavy calamity with which this place has been visited.

That it is the opinion of this meeting, that no description of provisions be allowed to leave the River of Miramichi, and that it be recommended to the Magistrates to take the necessary and proper steps to cause the same to be detained, until communications can be made to Head Quarters.

That all possible means be taken for the purpose of raising subscriptions to aid the sufferers by this calamity, and that all masters of vessels and others about to leave the place, be applied to for subscriptions to aid the cause.

That communications be immediately made to Fredericton, St. John, Halifax, Pictou, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, &c. &c. to make known the deplorable situation of this part of the country, and to solicit aid from those places.

That Mr. Douglas Thompson is entitled to the thanks of this community for his services already performed as Secretary of the committee for the relief of the sufferers, and that he and Mr. Isaac Paley be solited to discharge the duties of secretaries in future, and that the present office be continued.

That the necessary measures be adopted for the burial of the dead.

That the cattle left without fodder be immediately purchased on the best possible terms, and salted, for the purpose of adding to the stock of provisions.

That a committee be appointed to draw up the communication to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and to suggest such measures as may be most efficacious in relieving the sufferers; to superintend the purchases of cattle and provisions of all kinds, that have or may arrive, and be required for the relief and support of the sufferers; and that all the magistrates and the following persons, to act as a committee of management :—

Thomas H. Peters,  
John Wright,  
Francis Peabody,  
Joseph Cunard,  
James Ledden,  
George Taylor,

J. M. Johnson,  
Richard Blackstock,  
John Clark,  
Alexander Rankin,  
Alexander Fraser, Jun.

Thomas H. Peters, Chairman,

John M. Johnson, Secretary,

Isaac Paley, Secretary to the Committee.

Soon after these arrangements had been made, the Messengers were accordingly dispatched; and upon the arrival of Mr. Joplin at Fredericton, His Excellency Sir Howard Douglas held a Council on the 15th October, when a resolution was passed to dispatch that Gentleman to Quebec, authorizing him to purchase 1000 barrels of Flour, 500 barrels of Pork, and an assortment of clothing, to the amount of 5 or £6000. His Excellency also remitted £200 from His Majesty's Revenue, and £50 from his private funds, for the immediate relief of the sufferers.

Several private letters were also dispatched in every direction, and those which were received in Halifax are subjoined.

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*Extract of a letter, to a Gentleman in Halifax, dated Miramichi,  
October 10.*

\* In the midst of the utmost confusion, and the greatest destruction of lives and property ever recorded, I write you those few lines, to solicit your aid, and that of all friends to humanity, to assist those of us, who have partially escaped from total ruin, to support the numerous distressed individuals who are thrown upon us for food, shelter, raiment and medical assistance, at a most unfortunate season, with the prospect of a long and severe winter before us, and an unprecedented scarcity of provisions. The extent of destruction on the fatal night of the 7th inst. is unknown and indescribable; nearly the whole of the Parish and Town of Newcastle lie in smoking ruins. The settlements of Baltibogue, Nappan, and back settlements of Chatham and Newcastle are not only nearly all destroyed, but few souls saved to tell the doleful tale.

It would melt the heart of the most unfeeling, to see the numerous individuals, who have just escaped total destruction by the fire, and many now perishing from their wounds. Chatham has miraculously escaped destruction in a great measure, many of the shipping have suffered much, and three loaded ships fell a sacrifice to the flames. Gilmour & Co. have saved the Dwelling House only from its being situated so high, that the Hurricane blew the flames past and over it, which however destroyed every other building belonging to them; they saved their books and papers; Mr. Abrams, saved nothing but what he and his family stood in, merely night clothes. It is mere mockery to try to describe the horrors this scene presents, and the abject distress that every where presents itself.

We trust however, that our case will be taken into consideration, and that liberal subscriptions will be raised for the relief of our suffering fellow creatures. There are but few here who have escaped much short of total ruin. From the high character the inhabitants of Halifax bear, for liberality in such cases, I have no doubt but their assistance will be most promptly obtained on this distressing occasion, by sending us provisions and clothing; and from the lateness of the season, not an hour can be lost, otherwise the most desperate consequences are to be dreaded; from the characters of numbers who will be in wretchedness, and will no doubt turn to plundering those who have any thing left."

*Extract of a letter from a Mercantile House to their Friends in Halifax.*

"We have the awful story to tell you, that one half of the people on this River are now destitute of house, home and property of any description. We had a most awful night on Friday the 7th inst.—The Fire appeared to come all at once, and nothing but destruction before our eyes.—Newcastle and Douglastown are all burnt to the ground, except a few houses, and it appears as though Chatham and Nelson were only preserved as a refuge for the distressed. We have now some hundreds in Chatham who escaped from the fire, some half burnt and others dying from suffocation; indeed it is not in the power of any one to

describe the scene which we now witness—men, women and children coming in from all parts of the River, without clothing to cover them.—We have all been up these two nights past watching, and preparing for the worst. Gilmour & Rankin's stores and all their property except their dwelling house, have been destroyed, Mr. Abrams escaped with his family, some of them with nothing but their linen on; Salters, Allan, Crane and Allison, Nesmith, Elder, and indeed all at the Court House have lost every thing, and just escaped with life.—Gilmour & Rankin, Nesmith, Duncan & Lock were the only persons who saved their Books and Papers."

*Extract of a letter to a Gentleman in Halifax, dated Chatham, Oct. 10.*

"The enclosed will convey but an inadequate idea of the awful state of the country; every house from this to Nelson is filled with the sufferers.—Mr. Call attempting to escape from the flames, fell over the precipice, and was supposed to have perished, until the morning, when he was found, dreadfully mutilated: his daughter that had been ill three weeks with a fever, had a similar fall to her father, and remained hours in the water to avoid being consumed by the fire; many that are dangerously burnt and bruised have not had the benefit of medical aid: so numerous are the calls, and such has been the demand on individuals to protect themselves and property, that the dying have had to expire unnoticed, and the dead remain unburied—Rain has at last come to relieve the minds of the people.—A meeting will take place in the morning to accomplish all that is possible. From this to Nelson every House is filled with the unfortunate beings, and it is difficult to say how many are yet to arrive, as from some quarter nothing has been heard; and it is not impossible none remain to tell the tale.—If large subscriptions of Provisions and Clothing are at once obtained, there will be some prospect of getting through the winter without starvation.

*Extract of a letter, from a Gentleman to his brother in Halifax, dated Miramichi, October 10.*

"It is with sorrow that I make known to you, that our late flourishing settlement is laid in ashes. On the evening of the 7th current, fire communicated from the woods, which came with such a dreadful violence, accompanied with a hurricane, that it literally showered down fire and sand, so that it was with the greatest difficulty we escaped with our lives; poor William made his retreat with Caroline to the house of Mr H. McCallum, which escaped being burnt; he got his right hand much hurt in getting out of the house; Caroline is as well as can be expected. I stopped behind at the store, endeavouring to save our books, papers, &c. but it came so fast that I had to run for my life, and leave all behind,—I took to the river, from whence I was taken up by a ship's boat and carried on board; I bless God that our lives are saved, although our property is gone. The only thing we have saved is our timber, and a few things

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in Ledden's store; fortunately this morning some pork and flour have arrived from Liverpool for us; at present we are getting a meal's victuals where we can find it—these few persons who have their houses saved, are kind to the distressed; the fire commenced, it is said, some where about Baltibogue and came up the bank of the river with a rapidity impossible to conceive, destroying all as it came. The people of Newcastle had no idea of the fire being so near, the smoke having been so great all day that none could see where the flames were, until they came down upon them.—Many people have lost their lives: whole families have been burnt to ashes round their dwellings. The Clatham side of the river has escaped destruction; but the Newcastle side is entirely destroyed, with the exception of a house here and there, in low situations, so that the fire passed over them.

Mr. and Mrs. Robson have taken passage in the same vessel they came out in (which happened to be the ship *Luna* for Liverpool,) to lay a statement of our loss and misery before our agents. The government of these two provinces will surely take into consideration our deplorable condition. Last night I had to take my turn to watch a store of provisions, which had been threatened by the hungry poor to be broken open. The magistrates and others are doing the best they can to feed them for the present; but there are so many that it cannot last long without something else be done: Numbers have expired with cold and hunger; and many poor sick people just rescued from the fever, have perished from the effects of fatigue, after having escaped the fire.

“ God only knows what is to become of this place; for the only article of export we had to depend upon is, I fear, completely destroyed—for it seems even now, as though the whole country is in flames. The smoke is so great, that in truth, the place seems buried in rains and suffocation—it has indeed a most awful appearance.

“ You may publish the particulars of the above, if you think proper, so that the distresses of the poor and miserable may be taken into consideration.—God bless you all, and preserve you from the like calamity.

*Extract of a letter from a gentleman to his brother in Halifax, dated Beaubair's Island, October 10.*

DEAR WILLIAM,—I have the painful and distressing task to inform you of the total destruction of Newcastle, with all the property in it. I have this moment learnt that an express is going off to Halifax, and have only to say, I have little else to think of, but to offer up my prayers to heaven for the preservation of my life, it was saved with our good friend A. S. in a canoe,—we took refuge on a raft of timber. The fire broke out about 9 o'clock at night; in the country several hundreds of lives have been lost; the country is yet on fire; the man is just going off, I will write you fully to-morrow.

Another letter states.—“ The salmon and trout were found immediately after the hurricane and the worst of the fire, floating on the water in thousands, and it is supposed they were killed by the heat of the water. You probably may form an idea of the state of the air, when I tell you that in the vicinity of Chatham, 2 cows which were well the day after the fire, have been suffocated with smoke, and it is said an immense number of others have shared the same fate,”

*Estimate of the Losses sustained.*

From the numerous quantities and variety of property which fell a prey to the flames, no accurate calculation has yet been made as to the extent of the loss ; but when it is considered that in so large a range of country as that which was subject to the conflagration the most valuable portion of it was situated, the destruction must have been great ; and it is generally supposed that little less than £700,000 would cover the damages. The loss which Messrs. Gilmour, Rankin & Co. alone sustained, was upwards of £40,000 ; and Messrs. Wm. Abrams & Co. about the same amount.

Not more than 25 buildings out of 600 houses and stores in the parish of Newcastle are left standing ; 14 remain out of 260 in that town, 3 are stores, and the chief part of the remainder are the most inconsiderable of the place ; and only 6 remain at Douglstown. The Court House, Jail, Barracks, the new Presbyterian Church, the new Seamen's Hospital, and the new printing establishment, shared the common fate of the conflagration ; and but one mercantile establishment out of 40 escaped.

It is calculated that not less than 250 souls perished. The back settlements suffered severely, as at Baltibogue and Nappan alone, from 60 to 70 are known to have been burnt to death : and about 50 have since died through a want of medical attendance and the effects of the danger to which they were exposed at the time of the fire.

The timber was not so much damaged as was feared, and immense forests are remaining without injury. The lumbering parties comprise about 3000 men : but their injuries were not so great as was reported—Several parties, however, lost some of their number—4 out of 20, 7 out of 8, and 16 out 18, were known to have been destroyed ; but great as these losses are, their destruction did not extend much farther.

The number of houses which escaped the flames were inadequate to contain the sufferers, there being upwards of two

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thousand five hundred, and in many places 5 and 6 families were huddled together in one small rude dwelling, perhaps without a chimney in it, or any convenience in its stead.

Some of the dead were carried to the grave yard in a common box cart, without a priest, and only a few persons following in an irregular manner. In some places they were roughly thrown into the earth and covered, and in the rear of Douglastown 27 burnt bodies were interred in this way.

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#### PROCEEDINGS AT HALIFAX, &c.

The awful intelligence reached Halifax on the afternoon of Saturday the 15th of October, when the countenance of every individual soon bespoke the conviction of its horrid reality. Impressed with a sense of the situation of their unfortunate fellow creatures, the people lost no time in coming to the most decisive and effectual arrangements for the alleviation of their miseries; and, deeming it an instance of unparalleled necessity, handbills were immediately circulated throughout the town, calling a meeting of them at the County Court House, at 9 o'clock on the following morning, (Sunday,) when they convened accordingly. William Lawson, Esquire, was called to the chair, and 1200 pounds were instantly subscribed by those present, for the relief of the sufferers. A committee composed of S. Deblois, James Tobin, Samuel Cunard, G. N. Russell and John Clark, Esquires, were organized to receive the subscriptions and direct the distribution. Other committees were dispatched to collect subscriptions through the town and peninsula from those who were not present at the town meeting.

The following resolutions were also passed:—

“That provisions and other articles for the relief of the sufferers, be sent to the store of Messrs. Deblois & Mitchell.

“That letters be written to different parts of the province, requesting the aid of their inhabitants.

“That a Committee be appointed to request that collections may be made in the different places of worship, in this town, on Sunday next, for this charitable purpose.

“We hardly think it needful to appeal to the sympathy and liberality of the inhabitants of the province in general, as we entertain not the least doubt that the example of Halifax will be readily and universally followed.

“Subscribers are requested to forward the amount of their subscriptions to the Bank, where the books are left for further donations.”

A gentleman was dispatched on the same day, by the land route, to convey information of the proceedings to Miramichi.

On Monday morning his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor convened the Legislative and Executive Council, to consult with them on the measures which this melancholy occurrence demanded.

“ His Excellency informed the council, that Rear Admiral Lake, the Commander in Chief of his Majesty’s ships on this station, had most kindly offered to send his Majesty’s ship *Orestes* to Miramichi, to convey such relief as could be transmitted from hence, and he also informed them that the members of the house of Assembly residing in town,—William Lawson, Lawrence Hartshorne, John Albro, and Charles R. Fairbanks, Esquires, had waited upon him, to assure him of their conviction, that the House of Assembly would most readily concur in a vote of money for the relief of the unfortunate sufferers.

“ His Excellency also informed the council, that a meeting of the inhabitants of the town, took place yesterday morning, at which a committee had been appointed to collect subscriptions in the town for the same purpose.

“ The council were of opinion that the province of Nova Scotia was imperatively called upon, to afford relief to their fellow subjects in the sister colony under these distressing circumstances, and as the wants of the sufferers were most pressing, and the navigation of the river Miramichi would close before the General Assembly would meet,—they recommended to his Excellency to appoint a committee of his Majesty’s Council, to communicate with the committee appointed by inhabitants of the town, in order to ascertain the amount of subscriptions in the town of Halifax; and what further sum would be requisite, to procure such articles of food and clothing as can be procured here, to afford a temporary relief to those unhappy and destitute persons;—which sum they recommended to his Excellency to advance out of the treasury.

“ A committee was accordingly appointed, consisting of the Hon. the Attorney General, Judge Halliburton and Enos Collins; this committee repaired immediately to the committee room of his Majesty’s Council, and gave notice to the committee appointed by the inhabitants of Halifax, that they were ready to communicate with them upon the subject of this awful calamity.

That committee consisting of the following gentlemen—Samuel Cunard, Stephen Deblois, James Tobin, G. N. Russell and John Clark, Esquires, attended at the Committee Room, in the course of a quarter of an hour; and at 11 o’clock the committee of his Majesty’s Council reported to his Excellency that the subscriptions collected in town during yesterday, amounted to the sum of £1,800.

“ That the committee of the town have already invested that sum in procur-

ing articles of the first necessity, viz.—medicines and medical attendance for the wounded—food and clothing for the hungry and the naked; and that they were so busily engaged in shipping them on board his Majesty's ship *Orestes* and small vessels which they had chartered for the occasion, that they hoped to have them all on board before the evening of that day.

"That if the government would advance the further sum of £1,000, which they earnestly requested might be done; they would engage to provide similar articles to that amount before Wednesday evening, and have them in readiness to send forward by the arrival of the next post from that quarter which would probably bring information of similar calamities in the neighborhood.

"The committee of the town further stated to the committee of his Majesty's Council, that the stores and shops in the town were almost destitute of bedding, and that it would greatly facilitate the benevolent intentions of the inhabitants of Halifax, if the Commanders in Chief of his Majesty's military and naval forces, would sanction the loan of such articles of bedding and clothing, as could be spared without inconvenience to the public stores.

"The committee further stated, that Captain Litchfield of his Majesty's ship *Orestes*, had volunteered his services on this melancholy occasion in the kindest manner, and that it was their intention to request that gentleman to have the goodness to join the committee, which they had named to superintend the distribution of the articles at Miramichi.

"The committee further suggested the propriety of directing the *Chebucto* to proceed to Pictou from Canso where she now is; from whence further supplies may be forwarded to the sufferers.

"On which his Excellency directed the committee of the town to make purchases for their relief to the amount of £1,000, besides their subscriptions, and gave orders that the *Chebucto* should proceed to Pictou. He assured the town committee that he would take the whole of their report into consideration with every disposition to give effect to its objects as far as lay in his power."

On Monday a gentleman arrived from the scene of devastation, who stated that the flame was still raging in its neighbourhood, and that many deaths had been ascertained from the arrival of lumber men from the woods, bringing accounts of their misfortunes. In one instance, of a lumbering party of eighteen only two had escaped alive.

The circumstances attendant on this affliction have all tended to augment its horrors. The time of night—the suddenness with which the broad sheet of fire rushed upon the dismayed victims—the situation to many, precluding all hope of escape, must have terrified and amazed the unhappy settlements. Some in the bewildered confusion of their intellects thought it the last and awful day of Judgment. This devas-

tating element has hurried through the wildernesses of Maine on the Atlantic and swept onwards on the blast of the hurricane, until stayed by the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. On every side of its line of march, the forests, parched by the excessive and protracted heats of this uncommonly warm season, must be a prey to destruction; and numberless lives of the wood settlers will be lost, of which no information can be attainable.

The humanity of feeling that pervades all North America, will, we doubt not, display itself unsolicited at the affecting narrative of this unprecedented calamity, conveyed in the hurried accounts written on the spot. Halifax has done what its means would permit. Just recovering from long depressed circumstances, it had not much to give; but it is given in the warmest feeling of kindness to those with whom it is connected by similarity of government, descent and manners. We wish to solicit our readers to add to this subscription, as far as in their power; but we are only able to state the facts, as the sensations flowing from a review of the subject are too acute to admit of eloquence or ornament in making this appeal to their hearts.

On Tuesday his Majesty's ship *Orestes*, and the schooners *Active*, *Albion*, and *Elizabeth*, sailed with provisions and clothing, &c. for *Miramichi*.—*Acadian Recorder*.

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### Lunenburg, October 19.

Intelligence having arrived here at a late hour yesterday afternoon, announcing the dreadful and destructive fire at *Miramichi*, and of the destitute state of the inhabitants of that place, a meeting was called this morning of the inhabitants of this town, at as early an hour as the state of the weather would permit, for the purpose of taking speedy measures for their relief. About 11 o'clock, A. M. a number of gentlemen having assembled at the Court House for the above purpose, John C. Rudolf, Esquire, was called to the chair, when the following resolutions were proposed and instantly adopted:—

Resolved—That a Committee of five be chosen for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions in aid of the unfortunate sufferers at *Miramichi*, by the late dreadful and destructive fire; and that the following gentlemen compose the Committee:—

Thomas Godfrey, Esquire,  
John Creighton, jun. Esq.  
Mr. William Rudolf,  
Mr. Michael Rudolf,  
Mr. Martin Oxner.

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Resolved—That notice be immediately given to the Magistrates of the townships of Chester and New Dublin, informing them of the calamity, and requesting their exertions in behalf of the sufferers.

Resolved—That the Rev. J. C. Cochran, Rev. S. C. Tamme, Rev. A. Moshell, Rev. George Orth, and Rev. W. Davis, be requested to use their influence on Sunday next, with their respective congregations, in any manner they may deem expedient in furtherance of so desirable an object.

Resolved—That to give as much opportunity as possible, some gentlemen be requested to solicit subscriptions in various parts of the country.

Resolved—That provisions of all kinds be accepted from the people in the country and shipped off immediately for Miramichi.

A subscription was then opened, and in less than an hour the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds were cheerfully subscribed by the inhabitants of the town only, which increased during the day to upwards of £150.

The Committee immediately hired a large schooner, which they propose loading with provisions and clothing, and despatching her direct for Miramichi.—Although no opportunity has yet been afforded to the country people to lend their aid, the Committee feel well assured, that they will in a few days, with their assistance, be enabled to dispatch one vessel, if not two, with relief to their distressed fellow creatures.

November 1.

The following is a statement of the contributions received by the Committee at Lunenburg, towards the relief of the sufferers at Miramichi :—

Cash,.....	£236	14	1
Fifteen hundred bushels of potatoes at 1s3d.....	92	15	0
Clothing, blankets, &c.....	30	14	0
Fifteen barrels common flour,.....	15	0	0
	£378	3	1

From the above sum of £239 14 1, the committee found it necessary to apply the sum of £60 for the charter of a schooner for the conveyance of the above enumerated articles; and the balance of £179 14 1 were expended in the purchase of such further supplies as were deemed most requisite; and the vessel, thus completely loaded, was dispatched this day.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Windsor, on Monday the 24th ultimo, the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

“That the distress and misery which have visited those who have survived the awful conflagration at Miramichi, have a claim to a prompt and liberal relief from the inhabitants of this township, in aid of that from other parts of the province.

“That a Committee be appointed to make collections in money, and to remit

the same as early as possible to the Committee at Halifax, nominated to receive the same.

“That Captain Mackay, Mr. Tonge, Mr. N. Jenkins, and Mr. James Robertson, be a Committee for that purpose.”

Since the above resolutions were passed 109l. 1s. have been collected and remitted to Halifax.

A Meeting was held at Mr. Benjamin Casey's in Rawdon, on the 31st ultimo, to devise means to assist the sufferers at the late fire at Miramichi—J. Withrow, Esq. in the chair, when it was

Resolved—That Messrs. J. Withrow and Joseph Wilson take the eastern district of Rawdon; Benjamin Casey and Samuel Wier the middle district, and John M'ellan and Henry Best, the southern district of said township, and be a Committee to carry subscriptions, and to solicit from the public, flour, clothing, &c. to send to Halifax, to be forwarded to Miramichi.

Halifax, October 26.

The amount now collected in money exceeds £2000, exclusive altogether of the provisions, clothes, &c. which the charitable have contributed and also of the following sums, which were respectively collected at the different places of worship on the last Lord's Day.

At St. Paul's.....	£57	5	2
St. George's.....	50	14	0
St. Andrew's.....	44	13	0
St. Mathew's.....	41	9	10
Wesleyan Chapel.....	24	16	10
Baptist Meeting.....	15	8	0
St. Peter's.....	15	0	0
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>£249</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>

The Officers and Soldiers in the Garrison, the officers and sailors of the Navy, have likewise contributed handsomely to so humane an object—£50 has been raised at Dartmouth,—all which sums when added to the value of the provisions, and the £1000 voted from the Provincial Chest, will carry the subscription well nigh £4000.

A private letter from Pictou states that 250l. had been raised there, before the post started.

A letter from St. John, New Brunswick, also states, that 5000l. had been raised in that city, for their distressed fellow sufferers at Fredericton and Miramichi.

A letter, received by the Committee from Chester, states that immediately upon the receipt of the news a public meeting was convened, and a subscription list opened. On Monday last two vessels arrived here with the following articles on board:—23l. in cash, 1 box of clothing, several bushels of wheat and barley, 7 bbls

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beef, 3 do hulled barley, 900 bushels potatoes— a subscription, which, considering the extent of the settlement, is more than liberal, and reflects high credit upon their humane feelings.

Dr. Grieve, who arrived in the packet from Liverpool on Monday, has paid over to the committee 223*l.* : 7 : 8 in cash, and the amount of subscription from that town.

By a letter, addressed to J. Clarke, Esq. from Mr. Jas. Walker of the settlement of Blandford, we also learn, that 175 bushels of potatoes, were there cheerfully subscribed, which will either be forwarded by the first opportunity to Halifax or be kept till the spring, as the committee may direct.

George McLeod, Esq. of Baillie's Brook, Gulph Shore, writes, that the inhabitants of that small settlement have brought to his store 230 bushels of potatoes and several articles of clothing, which he intended to send to Merigonish, to be added to a liberal subscription preparing there, and to be forwarded to the committee at Fictou.

From Antigonishe, advices state that a cargo of provisions, together with several articles of clothing, had been collected there, and should be immediately shipped for Miramichi, on the arrival of Captain Graham from Halifax.

We are desirous to mention as a proof of the state of feeling towards the Miramichi sufferers, that on Sunday last a gold ring was given at the Baptist Meeting.—*Nova Scotian.*

A meeting of the inhabitants of the township of Newport was held for the purpose of aiding in the good work, and a committee was appointed to procure subscriptions. The sum of 150*l.* was obtained in cash, clothing and produce, and forwarded to New Brunswick. In addition, sixty tons of Plaister of Paris were sent to the Lines to be sold, and the product of the same to be expended in the purchase of the most necessary articles, to be conveyed to Miramichi.

At Annapolis, the inhabitants also assembled, and a committee were appointed to collect contributions in that place, at Granville and Clements, and to correspond with the magistrates of Wilmot, &c. The sum of 80*l.* were remitted to the Committee at Halifax.

The amount remitted from Parrsborough is 20*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* and from Aylesford Church, where a collection had been made 20*l.*

ST. JOHN, N. B. OCT. 25.

A Charity Sermon was preached in the Roman Catholic Chapel on Sunday last, in aid of the subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers by fire at Miramichi, when the collection made amounted to £56 : 13 : 3.

Among the many acts of liberality which have distinguished all classes of our fellow citizens, we ought not to omit the

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praiseworthy and generous offer of the St. John Fishing Company, recently formed in this city, the gentlemen composing which, had given their vessel the Olive Branch, for the purpose of carrying supplies to the unfortunate sufferers at Miramichi. This vessel is loaded with provision and clothing of all kinds, and sailed last Wednesday afternoon. She carries with her the prayers of thousands for her speedy arrival at the place of destination. Her cargo consists principally of beef, pork, flour, corn-meal, and clothing, valued at £1700.

In addition to the above we learn, the committee for procuring supplies have also sent provisions and clothing, to the amount of £1000 in the Steam Boat, to Fredericton, to be conveyed over land to Miramichi.

The Saint Patrick's Society have also subscribed £50.

The Gentlemen who compose the Phil-Harmonic Society gave a Concert on Tuesday evening last. The net proceeds paid to the committee, we understand amounted to about £35.—STAR.

The subscriptions at St. John, N. B. in favour of the sufferers at Miramichi, have been more than liberal, when we reflect on the distress and destruction that prevailed at the seat of government, and which first claimed the humanity and benevolence of the inhabitants—their assistance was prompt and efficient, and manifest a handsome share of the abundance they enjoy.

At Fredericton, no exertion was wanting to meet the shock which itself had sustained and the sufferings of Newcastle.—The destruction at that place could not be repaired by any thing less than £22,522—the computed loss. Eighty nine houses, barns, &c. and immense quantities of other valuable property were laid in ashes. Subscriptions were raised to a considerable amount—a committee were appointed to carry their means into immediate operation, and deeming the wants of the sufferers at Miramichi to surpass those of their own townsmen, out of the sums that were subscribed, £250 were remitted to the committee there.—On the Oromocto, the fire had also committed serious depredations.—At St. Andrew's too, considerable damage had been sustained. Two houses on the commons were burnt, and at St. David's, the injury was more extensive.

The subscriptions at Montreal and Quebec bear evident marks of the sensation which the calamity must have produc-

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ed among the inhabitants. £6000 in clothing, provisions, &c. were soon obtained, and a vessel was chartered by government to sail early in November for Miramichi, where she arrived on the 18th.

At Prince Edward Island the subscriptions were also liberal, indeed symptoms of apathy are scarcely to be discovered in any quarter. The most prompt and effectual measures were embraced.—Supplies were obtained and immediately forwarded to the scene of distress and misery.

About £700 in clothing, provisions, &c. were subscribed at Newfoundland on the arrival of the news, and a vessel was chartered to carry the same to the sufferers.

A letter from Sydney to the Committee at Halifax states that a vessel had been dispatched to Miramichi with 1500 bushels of potatoes, and other articles of provisions, and clothing.

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#### PROCEEDINGS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Since the first part of this work was in type, the American papers have brought intelligence of liberal subscriptions made in New York, Boston, and Eastport, for the unhappy sufferers in New-Brunswick. One generous flame of sympathy appears to actuate our neighbors in every direction. The citizens of Boston a few years since gave the most prompt and adequate relief to the inhabitants of St. John's, Newfoundland, where a fire had swept away a large part of the town, and the people were on the eve of starvation, from the season, and their distance from any place of supply. The same enlarged feelings appear still to prevail in that country, and while they have hundreds of destitute persons of their own to provide for from the destructive fires in Maine, they have yet their hearts alive to the cry of distress, and sympathize with suffering humanity, without distinction or prejudice. Who can be insensible to the merit of such conduct? It is thus that men vindicate the honor of the human race—then most resembling their divine author, when they imitate his most favored attributes—Benevolence and Mercy.

At a public meeting held at Syke's Collee House in New York on the 1st of November, a Committee were appointed to open a Subscription in aid of the unfortunate sufferers; and by the evening of the day following, 3884 dollars were collected, when the Committee immediately dispatched to Sir Howard Douglas a draft for 5000 dollars. By the evening of the ensuing Thursday 1200 dollars in addition were subscribed; and at the last dates the total sum amounted to 8000 dollars, when the good work was progressing.

The inhabitants of Boston were notified to assemble at Merchant's Hall on Monday the 7th November, where they met according to appointment. A Committee were organized to adopt such measures as they might deem necessary to carry into effect the charitable object of the meeting. A circular was issued appealing in the most

affecting terms to the inhabitants for their benevolence, and 3000 dollars were soon obtained. In addition, nearly 5000 dollars were collected in the respective churches, and the Committee were continuing to exert themselves.

At Eastport 400 dollars were subscribed, and more extensive donations were in progress.

#### Miramichi, October 31.

On Thursday, the 27th instant, the inhabitants were literally astonished to find their beloved and most excellent Governor among them. His Excellency with his Aid de Camp, Capt. Douglas, arrived at the Reverend Mr. Bacon's in Chatham, at 12 o'clock. Overjoyed at a visit so unexpected, the inhabitants hastened to call upon his Excellency to express their gratitude for this instance of the most condescending benevolence. When we take into consideration the season of the year, and the state in which his Excellency must have left his own numerous family, not yet, as we understand, lodged in their winter habitation, after having been so recently unhoused by that most destructive element *Fire*, our admiration is excited to its highest pitch at the disposition of mind, which prompted this charitable visit.—He came to "*to visit the Fatherless and Widows in their affliction*;" and we cannot doubt of his meeting with the reward promised to those whose conduct is thus influenced by principles of "*pure religion*." Arrangements were immediately made for his Excellency's visiting, the next day, the back settlements in rear of Douglas Town, and on the River Nappan; but a violent storm of rain prevented this being carried into effect. On Saturday, his Excellency attended a meeting of the inhabitants (assembled at his request) and feelingly addressed them in the following words:—

"So soon as the arrangements necessary for the immediate relief and succour of the destitute sufferers in the late calamitous conflagrations had been completed, I hastened hither to do all that might further be in my power, to relieve and encourage this afflicted population, and to dispel those apprehensions, with respect to want during the approaching winter, which there was at one time too much reason to entertain.

"The extreme lateness of the season, limiting my stay here to a very short period, I have caused this meeting to be announced to give the afflicted and the distressed an opportunity of access to their Governor, and to enable me to address to them a few words of comfort, condolence and encouragement. But I feel I have undertaken what I shall not be able properly to perform. For the

the awful traces of havoc and devastation which I see in this once flourishing settlement; that charred, blackened forest, and scorched bank, the vast funeral pile, in whose flames great numbers of our fellow creatures have perished; the direful, heart-breaking tales of woe which I hear related of whole families and whole settlements annihilated, or the still more afflicting accounts of fragments saved to mourn in misery.—The presence too, of persons, (and such persons!) whom this awful calamity has put in mourning, or reduced from affluence to want and difficulty; these altogether overpower me, and I cannot proceed in speech as I purposed.

“The impressions made upon me, when I visited you in your prosperity, have created feelings, whose impulses on this melancholy occasion, I would not, nor could not resist, to revisit you in your calamity; how awful is the contrast! you have experienced one of the most dreadful visitations that ever fell upon the earth.—If the whole globe had been in combustion, not more of terror, and little more in effect could have been accumulated on that desolate part. Where late I witnessed prosperity, plenty, and hilarity, their abodes are prostrated in ruins. There, in the foundation of a sacred edifice, about to be raised, I recently placed the inscription and the coins which were designed to convey to remote ages, how long that edifice had stood; and I fondly hoped, how greatly this settlement had flourished.—What a lesson this, for human presumption; what a subject for reflection and meditation—of thankfulness from those who have escaped, and of charity and benevolence towards the sufferers.

“I am very sensible that the language, which such reflections have prompted, is not that which is calculated to excite exertion: But I came not hither to indulge in despondency. My tears have already fallen at the recital of your sufferings, and I have poured the tribute of fresh affliction upon viewing those dismal scenes, where the untimely ashes of the dead, and the cinders of their late inhabitants, lie in promiscuous heaps of ghastly ruins. I came hither to speak the language of hope; to encourage exertion and occupation; to dispel gloom and despondency; to assure you that the government of your province—the sympathies and liberality of your fellow men—the succours which your sister province has been prompt to throw in, and the abundant charity and benevolence which will move the mother countries, have already provided against the possibility of want, or will pour in more remote succours, to restore and retrieve in some degree, hereafter, what has been levelled and ruined. Losses have been sustained, which no human means can restore. We cannot raise the dead; but we can relieve and comfort the living. We cannot re-produce the capital which has been utterly consumed; but we can create wealth again, by active, enterprising industry. The pine stands unhurt, in the vast forests of our country, and the other fields for exertion, the natural resources of the country, which I have so often recommended you to cultivate more industriously, are

open to you. Let no man then, yielding to groundless despondency, quit the country, but remain in confidence, that with the blessing of Almighty God, the country will be carried and supported through its present difficulties. It is right you should know, on what information I pronounce this, ere the approaching long winter commences. So soon as I received the communication of these disasters, I assembled his Majesty's Council, to consult on the measures, it would be expedient to adopt; when it was instantly determined to send an agent to Quebec, to purchase a supply of provisions and clothing, to the amount of between five and six thousand pounds; and Mr. Joplin, was requested to take charge of this investment and proceed to Miramichi, where, he, too, had suffered considerable loss in the late fire. Large sums have been raised by the liberality and benevolence of our fellow subjects in St. John. Two vessels laden with supplies, are in voyage to this place; a convoy of clothes and blankets, is in progress through the country; considerable contributions have been made at Fredericton, and these will probably be remitted in cash, for her share in this calamity admits not of aid being sent in kind. We are greatly indebted too, to the humane and benevolent disposition of the Lieutenant Governor of our sister province, who, supported by the sentiments of the Government and the people, has promptly dispatched extensive succours, which I have reason to believe, have arrived in the river, in one of his Majesty's ships, which Admiral Lake has, with other marks of strong feeling for your calamities, assigned to this service, and whose officers undertake it with zealous good feeling to be forward on the occasion. These succours will be dispensed by the committee of management, of whose indefatigable, humane and active exertions, I speak and feel most strongly. It is indeed a matter of great consolation, and a reflection which will ease my anxiety when I am gone, that I have witnessed these qualities so generally, and have observed the fortitude, and resignation, and magnanimity which have been so beautifully displayed upon this calamitous occasion. I cannot conceal from you that great exertions must be used, and privations endured by yourselves; but with industry and emulation, and the succour you are receiving, you will prevail.

“ I think it indispensable now to add a few observations, which may be very useful in this work of restoration.

“ When calamities such as these occur, it is always prudent before, the work of restoration be commenced to consider what inconveniences or disadvantages may have been experienced, or imperfections observed to exist, in what has been ruined; so that well digested plans and measures of renovation may be adopted, to remedy the acknowledged defects, by a system which shall reach beyond the temporary interests of a day, into that prospective period and enlarged view, of real permanent interests, which should be studied; and to contemplate ages, not days.

On my late visit to this place, I was forcibly struck with the inconvenient disadvantages, and greatly scattered condition of Miramichi. When the affairs of a country require the agency of men of business in the different professions and trades which the concerns and wants of society require, those agents should congregate into dense community. Business cannot be conveniently, very productively, quickly or successfully carried on elsewhere. Here a population which would be powerful, and most generally prosperous, had it been formed into one town by timely measures, is scattered on opposite sides of a great river, and extending for many miles on each bank. I appeal to all who hear me, whether they have not experienced, in this distended form, that there is a term to success in their respective avocations, far short of what it would be, where there is industry exercised in the greater field of a more dense community; and whether it is not evident that the religious and moral instructions of the country suffer great detriment in utility and effect from the same cause.—At the extremes of these scattered hamlets stood two rival towns. The Church, instead of being placed in an important town, which those might have formed, is situated in neither; several schools, none of them considerable, are scattered to correspond with extended settlements; and not any convenient to the greater portion of those who should resort to them. The only grammar school of the settlements is indifferent and insignificant. In such a state of society, professional men must be as country practitioners, instead of the solicitor and physician of the populous town. There is consequently too contracted a field to reward and retain talent and celebrity.—Jealousies, rival feelings, and want of harmony are sure to spring from such arrangement of society. The business of an exclusively peculiar trade in procuring the staple of the country may be carried on any where; but the business of the merchant, who generalizes his concerns, will prosper most in the town. So long as the great staple trade of the country may last, the isolated merchant may suffer no inconvenience; but I have always told you, that this is a trade which must terminate some time or other from exhaustion of the material, and which will change its seat of business by migrating in the province to parts situated in the vicinity of the next progressive forests; and which besides, is exposed at any time to injury or cessation from external circumstances, over which we have controul. Were any or either of these circumstances to happen in the present condition of Miramichi, I can conceive nothing more ruinous than your situation would be. The persons who carry on this peculiar trade, on the capital of exterior establishments would withdraw, and you would be left with every necessity seeking to be supplied by purchase, and to produce industry with which to purchase those wants. The persons, then, who feel that they have a stake in the country's real statistical progress, should dispose themselves to generalize pursuits, and cultivate its real resources; and distribute population, in a suit-

able manner. There is no object more important in providing for the progress of a strong country, than that of providing every facility for establishing, encouraging and raising towns to consideration; and accordingly you perceive that this is a leading provision in the prudent policy of a neighbouring people who have proved that they know well how to bring on a young country to power, prosperity and great intelligence, by providing those capacities which a town offers for progress, in the sphere assigned to it, onwards from agricultural industry, where it commences, to improvement in the mechanic arts, commerce, domestic manufacturers, manufacturing establishments, arts and sciences.

"However distinctly these facts and observations may have occurred to me when I visited you in August, there did not appear to be any practicable, immediate remedy. The county town had long been established by Legislative enactment, but still the population had scattered from it. The very disadvantageous tenure upon which the lots at Newcastle are held, may partly account for this. But that town is now unhappily almost destroyed; and many of the dispersed habitations in the parish of Newcastle ruined. This, therefore, is a crisis which should be taken advantage of, somehow or other, to concentrate the late dispersed population. In what way this may be effected, depends very much upon yourselves. Consider it well, and go all together. Should any plan be proposed by your concurrent wishes, to produce such general good, and at the same time to do no injury to individuals who have already too severely suffered, and which might require to be submitted to the consideration of the Legislature, I am well persuaded, from the experience I have had of their wisdom, that they would, under these altered circumstances, receive it with that consideration, which it appears to me to merit.

"I earnestly recommend, then, concentration somewhere. If things are restored to what they were, disadvantages and inconveniences the most serious will be perpetuated; and you will ere long find towns rising to consideration in your vicinity, soon to surpass yours, and you will reproach yourselves, hereafter for not having taken timely warning. For myself, so persuaded am I of the truth of what I have stated, that I shall take not with me into after life, any document, that can more entirely satisfy the zeal, with which I endeavor to serve you than that document in which I shall record this opinion and this advice."

When his Excellency had delivered this address, he conversed for some time with various groups of sufferers and poor people from the back settlements, and then proceeded to visit the ruins of Douglstown, Newcastle, the establishments of Gilmour, Rankin & Co. and Witham Abrams & Co. and the upper part of the village of Chatham. On Sunday his Excellency attended divine service in St. Paul's Church; after which he was waited upon at the rectory, by a number of the principal inhabitants, who presented to him an address, expressing their gratitude for the deep sympathy, and lively interest which his Excellency had manifested in their behalf:—to which his Excellency replied in the most encouraging terms. He then proceeded to Beaubair's

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Island, where he dined and remained during the night; and on the following morning he proceeded up the river in a birch canoe, on his return to the seat of government.

The Central Committee at Fredericton in publishing a statement of their proceedings, annexed an address, requesting the aid of the British Nation, in favor of the New Brunswick sufferers. The following is a copy:—

**TO THE BRITISH NATION !**

*The General Report and Humble Appeal of the Central Committee in Fredericton, appointed under his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Major-General Sir Howard Douglas, Bart. K. C. B. &c. &c. &c. to inquire into, and relieve the immediate wants and necessities of the sufferers by the late fires in New Brunswick.*

WE, the undersigned having been appointed a Committee to devise means for the relief of those who have suffered in Fredericton, from the effects of the late lamented conflagration, deem it a duty which we owe to them, as well as to others involved in the same distress, to endeavour, through you to excite the compassion, and to call forth in their behalf the liberality of the British Nation—This province, has hitherto in general been exempted in a remarkable manner, from visitations of an awful nature, until during the course of a few weeks past, we have been destined to feel the destructive ravages of fire, in no common degree—On the 19th of last month, the Government House in the immediate vicinity of this town accidentally caught fire, and in spite of every effort to save it, it was in a short time, with the exception of a small part of the building, consumed. On the seventh of October, a fire was discovered on the premises of the commissioner of Crown Lands and Forests, about a mile from town, this drew out the fire engines, the troops of the garrison, and the greater part of the inhabitants, leaving few in the town but women and children, and the least efficient part of the population. Whilst in this defenceless state, a fire most unfortunately broke out in town. When this was reported, as many as possibly could, made every haste to reach town; but from the fatigue, and exhaustion they had previously undergone, (the weather then being intensely and unseasonably hot, and the wind blowing with great violence,) they were for a long time unable to stop the progress of the flames. The devouring element raged with great fury until near 9 o'clock at night, when it was through the persevering efforts of the inhabitants and military, aided by the blessing of God, finally checked. Forty one dwelling houses, with their out houses, besides stores; (being about one third of the whole town,) have been destroyed in Fredericton; in all 89 buildings. But this calamity, dreadful as it is, can scarcely be compared with what we have to relate of other parts of the province. On the river Oromocto, about 25 miles from this place, 15 houses were destroyed on the same evening, three children burnt to death, two others and the mother much burned, and the father missing; and also, on the ill fated night, the town of Newcastle, about 120 miles distant on Miramichi river, with many of the surrounding settlements, were visited by one of the most tremendous hurricanes and conflagrations ever witnessed in any part of the world, and which resembled more the immediate interposition of the hand of the Almighty, than the rage of the elements in an ordinary state of convulsion. But we cannot do better than to annex hereto their own heart rending narrative—The most deplorable part of the calamity, as you will perceive, is the unprecedented loss of human lives attending it; thus leaving many surviving sufferers, not only destitute of every means of relief, but in a state of mental distress, grief and anguish, beyond the power of

language to describe. In order to afford immediate aid to the sufferers in Fredericton and its vicinity, his Excellency Sir Howard Douglas convened a meeting of the inhabitants on the 8th instant, and after having in an eloquent and appropriate speech, explained the best means to be adopted for that purpose, a committee was formed, and subscriptions entered into. At the head of the list, his Excellency placed £200 from his Majesty's Revenue, and a donation from himself, which with his other subscriptions amount to the sum of One hundred and ten pounds. It is with heartfelt gratitude that the committee, acknowledge the very liberal sums which have thus been procured, and in an especial manner, we feel ourselves bound to return sincere thanks to the Mayor, Corporation and Inhabitants of St. John for their prompt and great generosity. By the means thus providentially put into our hands, we have had the satisfaction of being able to relieve, in some degree, the immediate wants of the most necessitous in Fredericton; but we still feel ourselves unable to repair the losses of our fellow subjects laboring under so great a misfortune, in the manner that we could wish, without that assistance from the mother country, which from the well known benevolence of the British Nation, we confidently anticipate. We hope to be pardoned in putting you in mind, that this country when a wilderness was settled by those who abandoned all that is dear to man in this life, rather than forfeit allegiance to their Sovereign, and attachment to his Government. These first settlers had difficulties to struggle with, of which none can form an adequate conception except those who experienced them.— But by perseverance those difficulties were surmounted, and the Province has continued to advance in prosperity, to a degree not surpassed by any of his Majesty's Possessions, until checked by the late melancholy events; as a proof of which we beg leave to mention that no less than £200,000 was paid into the Treasury of Great Britain last year, from the commerce of this Province. Although we have deemed it our duty to state these facts, we are certain that nothing is required to call forth the liberality of the British nation, but a well authenticated tale of woe. It has ever been the glory of that country to alleviate human misery in all its various forms, by every means within the reach of human power. When we call to remembrance that in the diffusion of this charity the distinction of Stranger and Foreigner has been sunk in that of Man; and that even the natives of a country, long hostile, when cast as exiles upon the shores of Britain, in the shock occasioned by a great Revolution, found an asylum and a home—we indulge the hope that the sufferings of a people, whose glory it is to form a part of that Empire, derived from the same origin, speaking the same language, subject to the same laws and form of government, blessed with the same Divine Religion, and yielding to none in loyalty to the august and gracious Prince, at present on the throne, will not in this day of deep distress, plead in vain.

Signed by the Committee,

GEORGE SHORE, of his Majesty's Council,  
 THOS. BAILLIE, of his Majesty's Council,  
 GEO. BEST, Archdeacon of the Province & Rec. of Fredericton,  
 JAMES SOMERVILLE, A.M. Pres. of the College of N. Bruns.  
 EDWARD W. MILLER, High Sheriff,  
 WM. J. BEDELL, Justice of the Peace,  
 WILLIAM TAYLOR, Coroner,  
 HENRY G. CLOPPER, Clerk of the Peace.

Fredericton, N. B. October 25th, 1825.

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When his Excellency Sir Howard Douglas received the news of the fire from Miramichi, he dispatched a letter to his Excellency Sir James Kempt, appealing to him for assistance in relieving the afflicted people; but his Excellency had previously received information of the calamity, and had already forwarded to Sir Howard a report of the proceedings of the Town Committee, expressing at the same time, the cordial cooperation of Admiral Lake in sending his Majesty's ship *Orestes* at the shortest notice, with the supplies of clothing, food, &c. to the sufferers. In replying to Sir Howard's communication his Excellency attached a second report of the proceedings of the Committee, stating that £2201 : 19 : 11 had already been forwarded in supplies—that £1133 : 10 : 1 remained in their possession—that they were engaged in preparing other articles of the same description—that his Excellency might rely upon their affording them every assistance in their power,—and that as soon as the Committee could close their accounts, they should not fail to make a final report of their proceedings.

The subscriptions have already amounted to £25,000, and the Committee at Chatham had commenced the distribution of supplies to the sufferers. A man, wife and four children were allowed a suit of clothes, with shoes to each, 24 yards of osnaburgh, two pair of blankets, a barrel of flour, one of meal, one of pork or two of fish, six barrels of potatoes, with tea and sugar: and by the approach of the cold weather the sufferers would be made comfortable for the winter. This is a pleasing fact, and when it may be calculated that additional subscriptions will be sent from Great Britain, there will be sufficient to relieve every sufferer in a way that will deter him from deserting the place and enable him to recover his losses.

Previous to the departure of the *Orestes* from Miramichi, the following address was presented to Captain Litchfield by the Committee of Management at Chatham:—

Sir,—With the most lively sense of gratitude, we the undersigned persons, in behalf of ourselves and the inhabitants of Miramichi, beg permission, prior to your departure from this place, respectfully to express our sincere thanks for the philanthropic and humane exertions of yourself and officers, to assist the sufferers by the late disastrous fire in this part of the Province.

The zeal and promptitude with which you proceeded to Miramichi with relief for the sufferers—the judicious and important assistance you have afforded in the distribution of that relief; (and that too, when in a state of health that would hardly justify your leaving your couch) and the warm interest you have taken in the cause throughout, manifest a degree of magnanimity and benevolence of mind that calls forth our highest admiration and praise; and long will the name

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of "Litchfield and the officers of the Orestes," be remembered by the inhabitants of Miramichi with gratitude and esteem.

Accept this mark of respect, as a small testimony of our high regard; and may the Supreme Director of the Universe speedily restore you to health, watch over you and protect you through life—and that our most gracious Sovereign may bestow upon you the just and merited reward of an active, humane and deserving officer, is the ardent wish of our hearts.

Permit us also to beg, that you will express to Rear Admiral Lake, our warmest acknowledgments for his benevolent and sympathetic conduct on the occasion; and with every wish for the success of the Orestes, We have the honor to be, Sir, with the greatest respect, your obedient servants,

Francis Peabody,  
William Abrams,  
Thomas Peters,  
John Clarke,  
John Fraser,  
Joseph Cunard,

H. Street,  
Richard Blackstock,  
Alexander Fraser, jr.  
Thomas C. Allen,  
Chris. V. Clarke,  
Archibald Rankin.

To the Committee for the Relief of the Sufferers, and Inhabitants of  
Miramichi :—

GENTLEMEN,—I receive your address with much pride and satisfaction :—On behalf of my Officers and myself, I most cordially thank you for this handsome mark of respect and attention.

I regret that it is not in our power to remain with you longer, to aid and assist in the distribution of your Charity. If our humble services or presence, have in any way contributed to relieve or assist the distressed, the object of our mission is answered, and we feel truly happy and proud, that we anchored in your port.

I have witnessed the resignation and magnanimity which have hitherto been displayed on this melancholy occasion by all classes; and I am delighted to see, that amongst their other good qualities, the Unfortunate are endowed with Christian fortitude and submission to the Divine Will, to enable them to bear even this most heart rending calamity.

I shall not fail to express in the strongest manner to Rear Admiral LAKE, your acknowledgements; and I am certain he will feel highly gratified, if his benevolent exertions have in any way attended to alleviate the distresses of the unfortunate sufferers.

Before we part, allow me to congratulate you upon the great blessing you possess, amidst your misfortunes, in having so able and excellent a man to preside over your Province as his Excellency Major General Sir Howard Douglas. He has sympathised deeply with you—he has taken a lively interest in all that concerns you; but I need not mention these facts, they are your own sentiments.

Anticipating, as I do, a continuance of your exertions and active measures, in affording relief to the fatherless and widows in their affliction, I take my leave; and that the Almighty may continue to give you and all your families strength of mind to endure this stroke of affliction, is the earnest wish and devout prayer of your faithful and obliged servant,

HENRY LITCHFIELD, Commander of H. M. S. Orestes.

Miramichi, N. B. Nov 18, 1825.

On the arrival of the Orestes at Halifax from Miramichi, the Committee of His Majesty's Council and the Committee of Charity in aid of the sufferers presented an address to Captain Litchfield, expressing their approbation of his services on the melancholy occasion, and congratulating him on his arrival; to which he returned a suitable reply.

# The Conflagration.

A POEM.

AH! who can now relate  
The terrors of that night,  
When the sudden storm of Fate  
To the forest brought affright?

Ye silken sons of ease,  
Who hardship never felt—  
How can the picture please,  
That the holdest heart would melt.

Ye heroes who of war  
Have heard the thunder roar—  
Ye might know the sounds afar  
That were heard upon our shore.

The flame volcanic spread  
O'er mountain and o'er plain—  
The sky's terrific red  
Reflected on the main.

From point to point it flew,  
While the lofty pines consumed,  
And bared to human view—  
The soil its light illum'd.

The soil for ages past,  
Embosomed in the wood,  
Where on a whirlwind's blast,  
Flew swift the fiery flood.

A hundred leagues away  
Were the smoking ashes borne,  
While the sand and cinders grey  
From th' stubborn glebe were torn.

Each village, cot and spire,  
On Miramichi's stream,  
Soon wrapt in fatal fire  
With blazing Ruins gleam.

The barks that proudly ride,  
In flames appear around;  
Nor in the swelling tide  
Is protecting Safety found.

His glittering torch Death shakes,  
And sweeps the quiv'ring band,  
Whom fear too late awakes,—  
And stalks upon the land.

Oh! hear that anguish'd cry—  
'Tis the mother and her child—  
"My little one must die,"  
She screams with frenzy wild.

Thro' yonder arching trees  
She speeds to save its life,  
But tremor shakes her knees  
And she sinks beneath the strife.

Quick circling comes the fire—  
"My child, my child" she cries—  
Its stifling sobs expire,  
She hugs it and she dies.

Where in the deepest shade  
A lumbering party dwell,  
And ply their busy trade,  
And tallest timber fell.

Alarmed they cluster now,  
And try some hope to gain,  
Or send to Heaven their vow,  
While spreads the fire anain.

Now, now the loaded air  
Has shut all prospect in;  
They late remember where  
Their safety they might win.

They rush thro' thickest gloom  
Midst the hurricano's blast—  
They start, their fiery tomb  
Is circling round them fast.

"Alas there's no retreat"  
Each tongue now vain would say;  
But chok'd with parching heat,  
The faint sound dies away.

Dismay, despair and grief  
Dim every manly eye—  
No tear brings it's relief  
To calm their agony.

My wife, my babes, the thought  
By which their hearts are riven;  
By some the mercy's sought  
Of all o'erseeing heaven.

A blast like the Simoom.  
Has taken their breath away;  
They fall in life's fair bloom  
And mingle with the clay.

The desolating scourge  
That o'er the woodland flies—  
His murderous darts must urge,  
All deaf to human cries.

See madd'ning wretches speed,  
And leave their young to death,  
With feeble age that needs  
A little longer breath.

Linked in each other's arms  
Two youthful brothers lie—  
Or both would 'scape those harms,  
Or both together die.

Oh! noble sight—the innocents  
In fond fraternal love:—  
They left our sin-polluted tents  
To swell in bliss above.

Near young Newcastle's rising town,  
Now blowing to the left,  
The exiling wretches hurry down,  
Of all on earth bereft.

Bewildered by the dazzling light  
Headlong o'er cliffs they roll,  
Or wade into the stream that night,  
While terror shakes their soul.

The fevered patient who had scarce  
An hour of life to save,  
His wasted limbs from slumber tears,  
And rushes in the wave.

The roaring of the flame  
Is mingled with the blast,  
And the dashing of the waves  
On that hapless channel cast.

The sound of thunder joins  
To swell the wild affray,  
While round their fated heads  
The treach'rous lightnings play.

The trembling earth appears  
To shake from pole to pole,  
As when the trumpet shall call  
To its last doom, each soul.

Old Chaos thro' the storm  
His monstrous form displays;  
And demons in alarm,  
Shrink back and will not gaze.

The dying scream, the heart-wrung  
groan  
Is mingling with the hapless moan,  
Destruction wakes her voice.  
The poor, the feeble, shudder back,  
The rich and great are faint and weak,  
Nethell's worst fiends rejoice.

Both Douglas town and Baltibogue  
Are black'ning heaps 'neath yon red  
sky;  
And right and left the flames are driven  
Thro' groves with parching summer  
dry.

Wild beasts forget their savage ire  
And herd for safety with the fall;  
The poor green snake can't scape the  
fire.

But lies in a rolled,  
owing knee of  
stuffed fal' deal er;

The faithful dog his master seeks,  
And shares with him escape or  
slaughter.

The fire is spent, the morning breaks at  
last,  
With the sad recollection of the past;  
The houseless, heartless wanderers sink  
oppress'd,  
And misery sits triumphant in their  
breast.

But generous Chatham opens her gates,  
And light, and life, and succour brings;  
Proud to do good each heart dilates,  
And healing bears beneath its wings.

Thro' all Columbia speeds the tale,  
And showering tears all eyes overflow  
"Quick man the bark and spread the  
sail,  
"And bear relief to soothe their  
woe."

First sends her tribute Halifax—  
She for a suffering neighbor feels;  
St. John, St. Andrew, Eastport haste,  
And each a generous soul reveals.

Boston, long fam'd for noble deeds,  
Swift in the work of pity seen;  
New York in flowing zeal succeeds,  
That shivers from feeling prompt and  
keen.

Montréal and Quebec are next  
The stream Benevolence bestows,  
While thro' Acadia's ancient bounds  
One boundless sympathy descends.

To Kempt and Douglas, who have ain'd  
Foremost in battles this a name,  
Whose banners wave aloft must  
be,  
Marshalled in proudest rank of fame,  
The muse must in her humble lay  
Give thanks and potent honors now;  
The laurel met them in the tray,  
The oaken garland crowns their brow.  
For many a hardy settler owes,  
His life to their prompt zeal and care;  
Well may the war worn knight repose,  
Who knows both how to do and dare

Soon may the villages restored,  
Efface the horrors of the fire,  
And lasting structures grace the spot,  
With halls and towers and holy spire,

And may this painful blow revive  
In breasts obdurate, softer sense;  
And long may grateful hearts survive  
To bless thy reign—BENEVOLENCE.

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