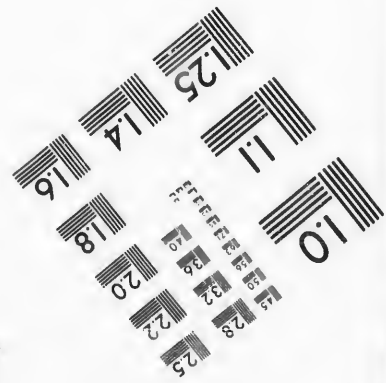
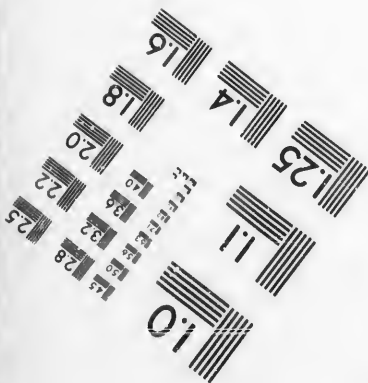
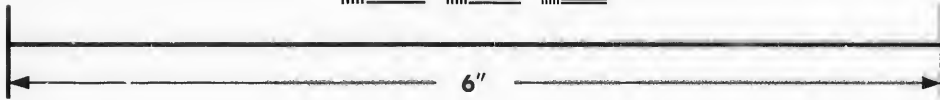
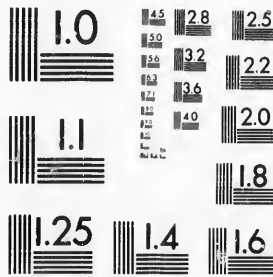


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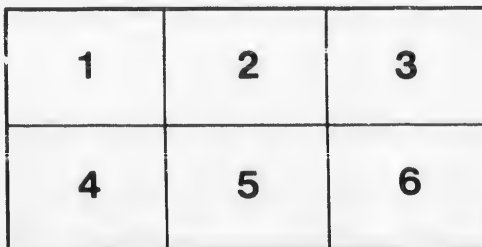
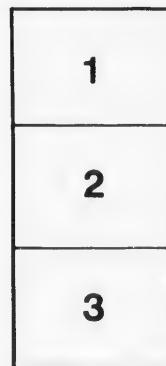
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ADDRESS AND REPORT,
OF THE
VENERABLE THE ARCHDEACON OF YORK,
TOGETHER WITH THE
PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING,
OF THE
PEW HOLDERS AND PERSONS INTERESTED IN
ST. JAMES' CHURCH,
HELD IN THE CITY HALL.
JANUARY 9, 1839.

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At a Meeting of the Pew Holders, and persons interested in ST. JAMES' CHURCH, Toronto, convened by a Requisition of the Venerable Archdeacon of York and the Church Warden, of the said Church, on Wednesday, the 9th day of January, 1839.

THE VENERABLE THE ARCHEACON was called to the Chair, who presented to the meeting the following ADDRESS AND REPORT :

GENTLEMEN :

The cause of our present meeting is indeed melancholy and much to be deplored, but I trust we shall be able through the Divine blessing to improve it as a trial of our Faith, and of the sincerity of our principles. It is on such occasions as this, that men's hearts are proved, and I feel confident that we shall not be found wanting.

Twenty-seven years are nearly passed since I became Pastor of St. James' Church. Many of my dearest and most intimate Friends have, during that long period, departed from this world, and it is hoped to a far happier place of existence, and only a few companions of my own age are now left ; yet the Congregation has increased most wonderfully, and I find myself chiefly surrounded by those whom I have had the satisfaction of educating, or been permitted to baptize. I cannot, therefore, anticipate any disappointment, when I implore your help in providing an effectual remedy for the

calamity that has befallen us. I shall, therefore, proceed to explain to you what appears to me, and to many who are wiser than I am, the most convenient, prudent, and easy method of removing our present difficulties.

There are, however, one or two points to which I beg to direct your attention for a moment before proceeding to the business of the meeting.

First—Although I judged it necessary to open two places of Worship till the Church is again restored, because no one place large enough could be found to accommodate my people, it is not my intention in any manner to promote or sanction a division of the Congregation. So far to the contrary, that those who constantly attend the separate places will find the Services performed to be exactly the same as when we all worshipped under one roof. The Reverend Mr. GRASSETT and I will serve alternately at each of the two places, so that the portion of the Congregation who attend regularly here, and the other portion who attend in the College Hall, will find no difference from what the whole Congregation would have done had they been able to assemble in St. James' Church.

The time will soon arrive when Chapels of Ease will be required at the West end of the City, towards the Garrison—on Yonge-Street, near the Toll-gate, and near the Don Bridge; and I trust, through God's mercy, that the Mother Church will be in a capacity to assist and encourage their erection;—but this is not the season to think of the slightest separation. In the hour of misfortune it is our wisdom to cling together and to combine

all our energies in overcoming the present difficulty, and when we are without encumbrance and St. James' Church is again restored to more than her former completeness, she will hold out a liberal hand towards the building of such Chapels as her children in the neighbourhood may require, but at present division must not even be thought or dreamt of. This is our hour of trial; the hearts of the whole Congregation should be knit together as the heart of one man, and thus shall we be the better prepared to meet the storm and repair the damage which it has made.

Second—There is one other point on which I beg attention—it is, that we are met for one single object, namely, to consider the most convenient method of restoring St. James' Church to its former condition. There is no other question before us, and it is necessary to keep this in view, that we may not consume our time or perplex ourselves with extraneous matters or details which will be more conveniently settled by the Committee which may be chosen to execute the Resolutions which we may finally adopt.

On Monday morning, when I had in some degree recovered from the stupor of the calamity which had fallen upon us, I wrote Mr. STANTON the following letter :

“TORONTO, JAN. 7, 1839.

“SIR :

“It is with deep sorrow that I communicate to you the great disaster which happened to the Parish yesterday in the destruction of St. James' Church, as

the Agent of the Phoenix Office, at which it was insured in the small amount of Five Thousand Pounds, Currency.

“I have thought it prudent and necessary to institute an investigation as to the cause of this deplorable calamity, which will take place this day, and at which I mean to assist.

“The Report, when completed, I shall forward for your information, and that of the respectable Company for whom you act.

“I have the honor, &c.

“ROBERT STANTON, Esq.”

The investigation took place accordingly, and was conducted by the Honourable Robert B. Sullivan, Executive Councillor, Christopher A. Hagerman, Esquire, Her Majesty's Attorney General, John Powell, Esquire, the Mayor of the City of Toronto, Alexander Dixon, Esquire, Alderman, The Rector of St. James' Church, and Robert Stanton, Esquire, Agent for the Phoenix Company, being present and assisting. The conviction at which we arrived was that the Fire was purely accidental—no positive evidence could be discovered of its actual commencement, but the most reasonable conjecture seems to be that it had reached one of the Pillars, which being in a great degree hollow, acted like a funnel and carried the flame instantly to the roof, and in a few minutes set the whole in a blaze.

We now applied ourselves to the consideration of the steps necessary to be taken to remedy, as far as possible, the evil which has overtaken us. On examining the Church account, we had the mortification to find

that the debt amounted to somewhat more than four thousand pounds ; a considerable portion of this had arisen from the accumulation of interest.

It is true we found two items which may be fairly placed against the large debt :

<i>First</i> —Money due the Church from arrears in the purchase of Pews and Rents, about	£1100
<i>Secondly</i> —The Parsonage House,	800
In all,	<hr/> £1900

But though these items reduce the actual debt nearly one half, yet only one of them can be made available hereafter for the benefit of rebuilding the Church.

After much consideration the following plan suggested itself as the best in every respect for restoring the Church to its former state of comfort and accommodation—namely, that the recent Pew-holders have their Pews restored to them in the same state as when first purchased, on paying one third of the original upset price, together with such arrears upon the former sale and accruing rent as may be still due. The consequence of this plan will be that of giving us a new capital of almost £3600. But to explain the operation of the principle, it is to be recollected that the Pews of St. James' Church are ranged under three different classes :

The First Class valued at	50 pounds.
The Second “ “	40 “
The Third “ “	25 “

Now the purchaser of a Pew of the first class will be entitled to have his Pew returned to him as complete as when first bought, on paying one-third of £50, or £16 13s. 4d. ; the purchaser of a £40 Pew on paying £13 6s. 8d. ; and the purchaser of a £25 Pew on paying £8 6s. 8d. It is proposed that to render these payments more easy, they be divided into three equal instalments, that is to say, the purchaser of a £50 Pew to pay £5 10s. 6d. on being put in possession—the like sum of £5 10s. 6d. with interest, at six and twelve months—the instalments for the £40 and £25 Pews would be £4 9s. and £2 16s. respectively. Now these payments are so small that they cannot operate with much hardship upon any individual.

The adoption of the principle has this further advantage of securing all the arrears of purchase money, and rent now due—a consequence in itself not only perfectly reasonable, but which confers a great obligation on the defaulters who are thus put on an equality with those who have paid up for years all demands of the Church, while their backwardness has added to our difficulties.

Should any defaulter be unable to avail himself of the advantage proposed, his Pew can be sold to a new purchaser at the full price, and should it be found on examining his accounts with the Church, that he had an equitable claim to any balance, the same may be paid.

It is further proposed to apply for Gifts or Donations from the more opulent Members of the Congregation, in order the more readily to restore the accommo-

class will complete £50, or in paying on paying these pay-ual instal-0 Pew to—the like d twelve £25 Pews Now these erate with

ation of the poor, and such other matters as are necessary for replacing the Church in its former state of completeness. I am aware that many would most readily meet this call if it were in their power, but I trust there are also many who will put themselves to considerable inconvenience to assist in restoring the Church and who consider its destruction, as an ardent and generous spirit told me, like the destruction of part of their own homes. As to me, though less able than many, I shall be willing to go as far as an hundred pounds, including the third of my Pews, and more if found necessary.

On the whole, the ways and means appear as follows :

1st,	The sum insured,	£5,000
2nd,	The assumed third in Pews,	2,500
3rd,	The debts on the Church will be received, amounting as already stated at	1,100
4th,	Donations, which I place low, at	1,000
5th,	Pews unsold, 60 at least,	1,500
		<hr/>
		£11,100
	Deduct the Debt,	4,200
		<hr/>
	Balance to commence building	£5,900

In regard to these several items it may be satisfactory to make a remark or two—the amount assumed for donations is one thousand pounds ; I hope and trust it will rise higher ; it may, however, be lower, and therefore being the only contingent item, it is right to call attention to it, for even if expunged our means are good.

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With respect to the £1500 taken for Pews unsold, I must confess that the examination of this particular surprised me, as much as it will this meeting. It appears that the Church contained two hundred and eighty-two Pews—of these one hundred and twenty-two only were sold; some few were let, but a great number yielded no revenue. It is, therefore, evident that great numbers who attended Church, for it was commonly full, contributed nothing towards its support. The Pews not disposed of were one hundred and fifty-eight; now after allowing fourteen for the Organ and Gallery, eighty-four for the Troop and Poor; there remain sixty to be sold of different classes, but assuming them all to be of the lowest class, they will bring £1500.

This sum of £5900 will do much more than restore the Church to its former position, and would justify the committee that may be appointed in borrowing such an additional sum as would build the steeple, and procure the Organ, with a ring of Bells.

The whole of this Report may be summed up in the following Resolutions:

1st. That steps be taken immediately for restoring the Church to the same state of comfort and accommodation as before the fire.

2nd. That for the purpose it be resolved, That the recent Pew holders shall have their Pews restored to them in the same state as when purchased, on paying one-third of the original upset price, together with such

arrears upon the former sale and accruing rent as may still be due.

3rd. That if any are unable to comply with the condition, an equitable arrangement be made with them, and the Pew sold to the highest bidder being a Member of the Church.

3rd. That in order to meet the expense of restoring accommodation to the poor, and such other matters as are necessary for replacing the Church in its former state of completeness, donations be solicited from the more opulent Members of the Congregation. Should this plan be adopted it would only remain to appoint a Committee to carry it into effect, and to commence operations the moment that the Insurance Office in Montreal satisfies our demand against it.

As the principle on which the Report is founded has received the approbation of many present, and its details modified by their advice and assistance. I have only to add that Mr. Ritchie, the former builder, is ready to do the Carpenter's work at the same rate as he did before, and the necessary stone work at a reasonable rate, and to place the Church in its former state before winter. And as every one must allow that the work was substantially as well as elegantly done, I therefore consider it no more than justice to Mr. Ritchie, to state that the Building Committee had the fullest satisfaction in doing business with him, and that every thing went on in the greatest harmony.

I now respectfully submit this scheme to your consideration. It is simple in its principle, easy for the Pew holders, and effectual in accomplishing the object in view. I have avoided minute details because they more properly belong to the Committee that may be named by the meeting. The results, however, at which I have arrived are founded on data that I think will bear investigation. I now conclude with an earnest desire that we may not separate without coming to a final conclusion in regard to the business which has brought us together, for all of us have experienced the difficulty of getting together respectable meetings in this City, and there is much evil to be apprehended from delay.

Which Address and Report being read,

It was Resolved,

1st. That the Address and Report of the Venerable the Archdeacon be received, and printed for the use of the Congregation.

2nd. That steps be taken immediately for restoring St. James' Church to the same state of comfort and accommodation as before the Fire.

3rd. That preparatory to the adoption of any plan for the rebuilding of the Church, it is most essential that the proprietors of the Pews and others interested in the affairs of the Church, should be fully informed of the state and condition of the Church property and funds, and also of the amount of the debt chargeable thereon.

4th. That the Report be referred to a Committee to examine into the property and funds of the Church generally, and report thereon, as well as the ways and means to be adopted to carry into effect the foregoing resolutions, so as to replace the Church in the state in which it originally was, with such alteration as they may suggest.

5th. That the Honourable the Vice Chancellor, the Solicitor General, John Macaulay, of Yonge Street, George Monro, Charles C. Small, John G. Spragge, Thomas Hellewell, and Clarke Gamble, Esquires, do compose such Committee.

6th. That the meeting do adjourn until this day week to receive the Report of the said Committee.

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