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NEWFOUNDLAND AND QUEBEC.

COPIES OR EXTRACTS

OF

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

The Fire at Saint John's Newfoundland

AND

The Fire at Quebec.

1847.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND QUEBEC.

COPIES OR EXTRACTS

OF

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN THE

SECRETARY OF STATE and the GOVERNOR OF NEWFOUNDLAND on the SUBJECT of the FIRE at SAINT JOHN'S, and the MEASURES adopted for the RELIEF of the SUFFERERS ;

ALSO BETWEEN THE

SECRETARY OF STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT and the COMMITTEE for raising SUBSCRIPTIONS for the RELIEF of the DISTRESS occasioned by the same FIRE :

AND ALSO,

SIMILAR RETURNS RELATIVE TO THE FIRE AT QUEBEC.

Ordered to be printed 29th March 1847.

SCHEDULE.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

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SAINT JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 1.

(No. 38.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B., to the
Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 1.
Governor
Sir J. Harvey
to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone,
10th June 1846.

Sir,

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

It has pleased the Almighty to visit this Colony with a great Calamity. An awful and irresistible Conflagration has suddenly swept away Three Fourths of this so lately wealthy and prosperous City.

A Fire broke out at Half-past Eight o'Clock Yesterday Morning in the Western Section of the City; and owing to the Prevalence of a Westerly Gale of Wind, which unhappily continued to increase in Violence, before the Close of the Day most of its public Buildings, and the whole (with One single Exception) of its Wharves, Storehouses, and mercantile Establishments, upwards of a Mile in Extent, had been reduced to Ashes.

It is estimated that 2,000 Houses, and Property to the Amount of from 600,000*l.* to 1,000,000*l.* Sterling has been destroyed, and that 12,000 Persons are now houseless.

Much as the Hopes of the mercantile and the Sufferings of the labouring Classes claim our Sympathies, yet should our deepest Commiseration rest upon the middle Classes, who, accustomed to comparative Ease and Comfort, find themselves and their helpless Families suddenly reduced to a State of the most absolute Destitution. Every Effort dependent upon the Local Government will be made and is making for their Relief and that of the lower Orders; and even under Circumstances so apparently desperate, and with a Scene of such affecting Desolation before my Eyes, still do I indulge a sanguine Hope that, if promptly aided by the Benevolence and Liberality of the British People, of the Legislature and People of the neighbouring Colonies, but, above all, by the British Government and Parliament, not only will present Distress be at once alleviated, but the fine Site of the provincial Capital of this ancient and valuable Possession of the British Crown (which as a commercial Town may be said for the present almost to have ceased to exist) will again be occupied by Buildings, of so secure and durable a Description, laid out upon a Plan so judicious and well considered as, at no remote Period, to convert the Calamity which is now pressing so heavily upon its Inhabitants, into a great and inappreciable Blessing.

A similar Calamity, though not to the same Extent, was thus turned into a vast Benefit, even by the almost unaided Efforts of the Province itself, during the Period of my Administration of the Government of New Brunswick some Years ago.

In order to meet the pressing Emergency of our Situation I have adopted the following Measures:—

1st. I have, by Proclamation, convened the Local Legislature to meet in Six Days, viz. on the 16th instant.

2d. I have issued a Proclamation, laying an Embargo, for a limited Period, upon the Exportation of Provisions, other than such as are required for the Use of the Crews, Passengers, and the Fisheries.

3. I have issued a Proclamation, warning all Persons against the Re-construction of wooden Buildings upon the burnt District before the Intentions of the Local Legislature on the Subject shall be declared.

4th. I have addressed a circular Letter to the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors of all the British American Colonies, and to Her Majesty's Consul at New York, of which Copies are enclosed.

5th. I have authorized the chartering of Two Vessels, one to Halifax and the other to New York, for Provisions.

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6 CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE CONFLAGRATIONS

NEWFOUNDLAND.

6th. I called a Meeting this Day in this House, at which I presided, of all the Heads of the mercantile Establishments, as well as of the principal Inhabitants, the Clergy, Judges, and Officers of the Government. Copies of the Resolutions adopted at this Meeting, as well as of other Resolutions adopted at a Meeting of the Inhabitants previously held, are inclosed; the whole of which, it will be perceived, I had anticipated.

Friday, 12th June.

I have now the Satisfaction to report, that through the Operations of the Committee of Relief, appointed at the Meeting of Wednesday, all the houseless have been placed under Shelter, in aid of which I have placed Fifty (all) the Tents in the Ordnance Store at its Disposal; and an adequate Supply of Provisions, particularly Bread, has been and will be continued to be issued to them for the present. They (the Recipients) are, however, I understand, gradually dispersing in the Colony or emigrating. Fortunately, the Weather is fine.

For the Details of the Progress of the Fire, and of the Measures used for its Suppression, I beg Permission to refer to the accompanying Extract of a Report addressed by the Commanding Officer of the Royal Engineers to the Head of his Department on the Subject, and to the General Order which I have issued upon this melancholy Occasion, and to express my Hope that you will be pleased to receive the Details contained in these Documents in lieu of a more lengthened Despatch at the present hurried Moment, until I am enabled to enter more fully into the sadly altered Circumstances of this lately prosperous and happy Colony, which I shall scarcely be in a Position to do until after the Meeting of the Legislature.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HARVEY.

P.S.—With the Exception of the Two Soldiers of the Royal Artillery, the Injuries of one of whom are not dangerous, I believe very few Accidents to have occurred during the awful Conflagration; only One has as yet been made known to me from any authentic Source.

The Sketches of the Town which accompany my Despatches, though hurriedly prepared, show, with sufficient Precision, the Extent of the Ravages of this destructive Fire.

J.H.

Enclosure 1. in
No. 1.

Enclosure 1. in No. 1.

PROCLAMATION :

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

J. HARVEY. (L.S.)

Whereas the General Assembly of this Island stands prorogued until Tuesday the Twenty-third Day of June instant :

And whereas divers weighty Causes and Considerations render it expedient and necessary that the said General Assembly should be called together with as little Delay as possible : I, the Governor, do therefore by these Presents direct and appoint, that the said General Assembly shall meet, for the Despatch of important and urgent Business, on Tuesday the Sixteenth Day of this instant June; of which all Persons are required and commanded to take due Notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at the Government House at St. John's, in the aforesaid Island, the Tenth Day of June One thousand eight hundred and forty-six, in the Ninth Year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By his Excellency's Command,

(Signed) J. TEMPLEMAN, Pro. Secretary.

Enclosure 2. in No. 1.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 2. in
No. 1.

PROCLAMATION :

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

J. HARVEY. (L.S.)

Whereas in consequence of the disastrous and devastating Fire by which the Town of St. John hath been visited on Tuesday last, large Quantities of Bread, Flour, and all other Provisions have been destroyed, and it being found that a very scant Supply of such Provisions remains for the Subsistence of the Inhabitants of the said Town, and that it is necessary to retain the same for their Support, I, the Governor, do therefore, by and with the Advice of Her Majesty's Council, by this my Proclamation, forbid and prohibit any or all Ships, Vessels, and Boats from carrying away or exporting from the Port of St. John any Kind of Bread, Flour, or other Provisions, save and except in such moderate Quantity as may be deemed sufficient for the Subsistence and Uses of the Crews of such Ships, Vessels, or Boats respectively. And I do further order and direct, by and with the Advice aforesaid, that, in order to secure the Observance of this Order, all Ships, Vessels, and Boats departing from this Port shall first obtain a Certificate from the Collector of Her Majesty's Customs before they are allowed to depart from this Port.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at the Government House at St. John's in the aforesaid Island, the Eleventh Day of June One thousand eight hundred and forty-six, in the Ninth Year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By his Excellency's Command,

(Signed) J. TEMPLEMAN, Pro. Secretary.

Enclosure 3. in No. 1.

Enclosure 3. in
No. 1.

PROCLAMATION :

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

J. HARVEY. (L.S.)

Whereas the Town of St. John was, on Tuesday the Ninth Day of this instant Month of June, desolated and destroyed by a most calamitous Fire, the Ravages whereof have been chiefly occasioned by the Narrowness of the Streets and the Irregularities and insufficient Construction of the Houses and Buildings therein :

And whereas it appears that for the better Security of the said Town on its Re-erection, and for the Safety and Welfare of its Inhabitants in future, that further Laws and Regulations should be made to prevent, as far as may be found possible and expedient, the Recurrence of such Calamities: I, the Governor, do thereby, by and with the Advice of Her Majesty's Council, under this my Proclamation, hereby prohibit and forbid any and every Person and Persons from erecting or making any Building or Buildings whatsoever on the Site of any Buildings that have been destroyed by the late Fire, or upon any Ground contiguous thereto, until it shall be ascertained and publicly declared what Regulations the General Assembly (now immediately to be convened) shall establish for the better Formation of the Streets, and the Erection of all Houses and Buildings of the said Town.

And I further warn all Persons, at their Peril, to pay due Regard to this Injunction and public Notice, as in the event of any Person acting contrary to the same, and incurring Expense in the Erection of any Buildings contrary to such Regulations as the Legislature may deem fit to establish, such Persons will have no Claim to any Consideration or Compensation in respect to the same.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at the Government House at St. John's in the aforesaid Island, the Eleventh Day of June One thousand eight hundred and forty-six, in the Ninth Year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By his Excellency's Command,

(Signed) J. TEMPLEMAN, Pro. Secretary.

8 CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE CONFLAGRATIONS

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 4. in
No. 1.

Enclosure 4. in No. 1.

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

My Lord,

It is my painful and melancholy Duty to acquaint your Lordship that Almighty God has been pleased to visit this Town with an awful and devastating Conflagration, which has reduced the chief Portion of it to Ashes.

The Fire broke out about Half-past Eight o'Clock on the Morning of Tuesday last, the 9th instant, in the Western Extremity of the Town, and the Flames, borne onwards by a strong Wind from the same Quarter which prevailed during the whole of that Day and the succeeding Night, overcame every Effort to subdue them, and involved in one common Ruin (with scarcely an Exception) the whole of the mercantile Establishments, with their Stores of Goods and Provisions, very many of the public Buildings, and at least Three Fourths of the Dwelling Houses of the Inhabitants.

It has not been possible as yet to obtain a correct Return of the Number of Edifices burnt, but it is estimated that, in all, about Two thousand have been destroyed, and nearly Twelve thousand Persons rendered houseless.

I beg leave herewith to enclose for your Lordship's Information a Copy of certain Resolutions yesterday adopted by a Meeting of the Heads of Departments and principal Inhabitants of the Town, convened by me, at the Government House; and in consideration of the State of utter Destitution and Distress to which many Thousands of the poorer Inhabitants have been reduced by the Suddenness of this awful Visitation of Divine Providence, and on their Behalf, I have, through your Lordship, to make an earnest Appeal to the Sympathy and Philanthropy of the Inhabitants of the Province under your Lordship's Government for that Relief which I cannot doubt will be promptly extended to their fellow Subjects in this Colony who have been overwhelmed by so stupendous a Calamity.

Lieutenant General his Excellency
The Earl Cathcart, K.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

Enclosure 5. in
No. 1.

Enclosure 5. in No. 1.

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

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency Sir John Harvey, Governor of this Island, to communicate to you the painful Intelligence of the almost total Destruction of the Town of St. John's by Fire on the 9th instant.

The whole of the mercantile Establishments (with but One Exception) on the North Side of the Harbour have been utterly consumed, together with by far the greater Part of the Provisions and other Stores which they contained, the few mercantile Premises on the South Side being of comparatively little Importance.

By this calamitous Event nearly Twelve thousand Persons have been rendered houseless, and a Majority of them utterly destitute; for these, and on their Behalf, an Appeal is earnestly made, through you, to the Sympathy of the Citizens of New York.

I beg leave to enclose herewith a Copy of a Series of Resolutions submitted to and unanimously adopted by a Meeting of the Inhabitants of St. John's, held at the Government House yesterday, and presided over by his Excellency the Governor.

Her Britannic Majesty's Consul General,
New York.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Jo. NOAD, Pro. Secretary.

Enclosure 6. in
No. 1.

Enclosure 6. in No. 1.

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

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Meeting, that in order the most effectually to meet the Exigency arising from the present Calamity a Session of the Legislature should be immediately convened, and that a Deputation be appointed to wait upon his Excellency the Governor, instanter, to pray his Excellency to convene the Legislature at the earliest possible Period, for the Consideration of the best Means of arresting the present Suffering.

Resolved, That his Excellency be requested to adopt the best Means of affording Protection to the Persons and Property now exposed in this Town and Neighbourhood.

Resolved,

Resolved, That a Provisional Committee be appointed to solicit from the Clergymen of the several Congregations, from the Officers of the Irish and Natives Societies, the Conductors of the Factory, and all the public Buildings, the Use of the Churches and other Edifices under their Control, for the Shelter of the houseless.

Resolved, That the Committee be requested to pray his Excellency to cause a general Search to be made in every House in Saint John's and its Vicinity without Distinction, to ascertain the Quantity of Provisions in Town, and to discover such Provisions and other Property as any Individuals may have improperly appropriated.

Resolved, That the Committee be requested to pray his Excellency to cause Tents to be erected this Evening for the Shelter of the People.

Resolved, That the Honourable C. F. Bennett, the Honourable Robert Job, the Honourable John Stuart, and Messrs. Brooking, Alsop, M^rBride, Stabb, Glen, Nugent, Henry P. Thomas, Taylor, Milroy, Dillon, J. H. Warren, Eugenius Harvey, Ambrose Shea, Kenneth M^rLea jun., Marry, Howley, M^rKellar, and Cozens, do form such Committee, with Power to add to their Number.

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

1st. Resolved, That this Meeting are deeply impressed with the awful Visitation which Yesterday befel the City of St. John's, by which nearly 2,000 Houses, embracing the whole of the mercantile Establishments, with but One Exception, have been reduced to Ashes, and nearly 12,000 Individuals deprived of a Home.

2d. Resolved, That it is necessary, in order to guard against that Distress which Exposure to the Weather and an improvident Use of the small Quantity of Provisions that have happily been saved may occasion, that a Committee should be appointed, under whose Management, in co-operation with his Excellency Sir John Harvey, Relief may be afforded to those who are destitute, and Means taken to guard against Imposition.

3d. Resolved, That the Committee above mentioned do consist of the following Persons:

A Clergyman of each Religious Denomination.

The Honourable William Thomas.

The Honourable Charles Bennett.

The Honourable John Kent.

The Honourable Lawrence O'Brien.

Lieutenant Colonel Law, K. H.,

Major Robe, R. E.,

Major Wright, R. A.

Assistant Commissary General Weir,

Deputy Ordnance Storekeeper Winter,

Thomas Glen, M. G. A.,

Nicholas Stabb,

Richard Howley,

James Hutton,

George Brooking,

Charles Bowring,

Thomas Job,

Robert Prowse,

James Clift,

Nicholas Mudge,

J. B. Bulley,

John O'Mara,

} Ex-officio Members.

} Esquires.

Of whom Three shall form a Quorum.

4th. Resolved, That this Meeting are aware that the well-established Credit and Stability of the Trade of St. John's, coupled with the natural and inexhaustible Resources of its Fisheries, will speedily enable it to resume its usual Current, but that in the meantime it is necessary that Publicity should be given to the Demand for Provisions and Building Materials which at present exist in this Market.

5th. Resolved, That this Meeting have learned with great Satisfaction that his Excellency has issued a Proclamation convening a Meeting of the Legislature for the 16th instant, and they are assured that such remedial Measures will then be submitted to that Body as will tend to the partial Relief of present Suffering and the permanent Improvement and increased Security of the Capital of this Island.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 7. in No. 1.

Enclosure 7. in
No. 1.

EXTRACT from a Report made by Major Robe, commanding Royal Engineers, St. John's Newfoundland, to the Inspector General of Fortifications.

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

It is my painful Duty to report to you that this Town was visited Yesterday by one of the most calamitous Fires that has ever come within my Knowledge. It broke out in the Heart of the Town soon after Eight o'Clock in the Morning, raged furiously for the whole of the Day and Night, and is still at this Time, 10 A.M., unextinguished, though, I trust in God, its Fury is now nearly exhausted; but from the Mass of heated Ruins and burning Embers much Danger is still to be apprehended, especially should the Wind, which has continued to blow from the same Quarter since the Commencement of the Fire, W.N.W., change the Direction more to the Southward, and thus carry the Sparks over that Part of the Town which has yet escaped. It is impossible to describe or imagine the State of Distress which must ensue to the Inhabitants generally, both rich and poor, before any effective Relief can be obtained, as every Merchant's and nearly every Tradesman's and Shopkeeper's Premises, including Wharves, Stores, and in most Instances Dwelling Houses, have been entirely consumed, with the Exception of Messrs. Newman and Company, which were situated further West than the Point to which the Flames extended.

The Church of St. John's, the Court House, the Roman Catholic Convent and School (Two beautiful new Buildings), the Custom House, the Ordnance and Commissariat Store on the Ordnance Wharf, the Bank, and other public Buildings, have been destroyed, together with the whole Range of Water-side Premises from one End of the Town to the other; the Shipping having been compelled to cut adrift, some of them having been obliged to be scuttled to save the rest, and they are all either now anchored in the Narrows or close to the opposite or South Side of the Harbour. Flashes of Fire were carried across the Harbour, and up to the very Top of Signal Hill, setting fire to the Brushwood in various Places, making it necessary to send the Detachment stationed there back again to protect the new Barracks and Government Property on the Summit. The Merchants Powder Magazine, situated half way up the Hill, caught fire, and the whole of the Roof, which was shingled, was entirely burnt, without igniting the Powder in the Bomb-proof beneath. With the Exception of the Ordnance Wharf all the Property in charge of the Ordnance Department has providentially escaped, though great Fears were at One Time entertained for the Barracks at Fort Townshend, when the Convent was in Flames, and the surrounding Fences of the Fort ignited. Subsequently the Ordnance Yard was in imminent Danger, and nothing but the unwearied Efforts of the Troops and civil Workmen employed in my Department could possibly have saved it; had the Buildings in that Yard been burnt, the Barracks in Fort William would in all Probability have followed. The Governor's Residence, being situated on an isolated Spot to Windward of the Fire, has most providentially escaped, together with St. Thomas's Church (used as a Garrison Chapel), the Bishop's, Chief Justice's, Attorney General's, and Collector's Houses.

I regret that I have to report the Occurrence of a melancholy Accident, in the Death of a Gunner and severe wounding of a Serjeant of the Royal Artillery, in an Attempt to make a Fire-break by means of Gunpowder. The Powder was placed in Two Tin Canisters, containing about 30lbs. each, against the Chimney Shaft in the Centre of a wooden House, for the Purpose of throwing it down and loosening the Framework. In consequence of my Directions for firing the Charge not being exactly complied with, these Men had not Time to escape before the Explosion took place. Lieutenants Brettingham, Royal Artillery, and Binney, Royal Engineers, narrowly escaped Injury; the latter Officer was struck in the Knee with a Splinter at the Moment he discovered the Mistake, and was springing forward to endeavour to withdraw the unfortunate Men. The Serjeant Handyside has, I am happy to say, every Prospect of recovering without permanent Injury.

It is impossible to say to what State of Destitution and Distress the whole Town will be reduced before any effectual Relief can arrive. I am almost afraid to think to what State of Desperation the People may be driven when Starvation stares them in the Face, from which Calamity we may not ourselves be exempt; and it is to be hoped that the Government at Home, together with the Public at large, will take some immediate Steps to send us Relief, which will be most acceptable in any Form, whether Provision, Clothing, Bedding, or Materials for building and other Purposes. At this Moment the Mass of the People are houseless, and are spread about the open Fields, protecting what little Property they were enabled to save from the Conflagration. The Quantity of Bedding and other Stores now in charge of the Ordnance Storekeeper will go but little Way towards relieving the distressed; and the Provision in the Commissariat Store would also be of very little Service among so many, after the Wants of the Troops have been provided for.

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

GENERAL ORDER.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

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

No. 1.—Having witnessed and superintended the zealous, unwearied, and almost unaided Efforts of the Officers and Soldiers of this small Garrison to arrest the Progress of the awful Conflagration of Yesterday, his Excellency the Governor and Major General commanding deems it an imperative Duty towards them to place upon official Record the high Sense which he entertains of those Exertions, which, although, owing to a Concurrence of adverse Circumstances, were necessarily in a great Degree unavailing, were most unremittingly persevered in for Twenty-four successive Hours.

To the gallant and determined, and, in this Instance, successful Stand made towards the Close of the Day by this small Body of wearied and exhausted Men, under the immediate Directions of Lieutenant Colonel Law and Major Robe, by which the Direction of the Conflagration was diverted from the Ordnance Buildings, the Major General imputes, under Providence, the Preservation of all the Buildings, public and private, at the East End of this City, including the Barracks, &c. at Fort William, the Garrison Bakery (the only remaining one), the Commissariat House and Office, Saint Thomas's Church, the Theological Institution, the Collegiate School, the Residences of the Lord Bishop, of the Chief Justice, of the Attorney General, of the Collector of Customs, of the Honourable Messrs. Thomas, and even of the Government House, which, in the event of the Extension of the Fire to the Buildings above enumerated, must have been placed in imminent Danger.

In aiding in the Preservation of the Barracks at Fort Townshend, the Major General learns with much Satisfaction that the Conduct of Captain Hunt, Half Pay, late of the Royal Newfoundland Companies, the Guard of those Companies, and the few Individuals remaining in Barracks in the Absence of the Troops, was very praiseworthy.

Where all have so well performed their Duties, it is difficult to discriminate in bestowing individual Praise — to name those who have merited it would be to name all. The Major General must, therefore, rest satisfied for the present with offering his warmest Thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Law, commanding Royal Newfoundland Companies, to Major Robe, commanding Royal Engineer, and to Major Wright, commanding Royal Artillery, and to all the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Soldiers under their respective Commands, for their admirable Conduct Yesterday, Conduct which has entirely satisfied the Major General that the utmost Reliance can confidently be placed upon their Soldier-like Qualities, in whatever Exigencies of the Service they may be called upon to perform their Duties.

To the active and useful Exertions of the Officers attached to his Excellency's personal Staff, namely, Lieutenant F. C. Harvey, 34th Regiment, and Lieutenant H. B. Chambers, Royal Newfoundland Companies, the Major General has Pleasure in expressing his Acknowledgments; as well as to Fort Major Mason, Deputy Commissary General Green, Assistant Commissaries General Weir and Robinson, Deputy Ordnance Storekeeper Winter, and, generally, to all connected with the Public Departments, who were present and rendered all the Assistance in their Power.

However unusual a Proceeding under ordinary Circumstances, yet his Excellency the Governor and Major General commanding does not abstain from adverting in this Memorandum to the Zeal displayed by all the principal Persons connected with the Government, including the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Clergy of all Denominations, the Chief Justice (whose Exertions were conspicuously useful), the Judges, the Members of Her Majesty's Council, and all the principal Officers of the Government, who all evinced every Desire to render their Services useful upon this awful Occasion. The Major General cannot conclude this Notice without expressing his warm Acknowledgments to Captain Dacres, Royal Artillery (on Leave), and to Mr. Hele, Master of H.M.S. "Vindictive," (at Saint John's on Duty connected with a Civil Prosecution,) for their most valuable and unremitted Exertions throughout the whole Day.

The Names of several Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers, who have been reported to the Major General by their Commanding Officers as having prominently distinguished themselves, will be promulgated in a future Order.

No. 2.—Major General Sir John Harvey has Pleasure in accepting the offered Services of Captain Dacres, Royal Artillery, and of Captain Hunt, Half Pay, late of the Royal Newfoundland Companies, during the Continuance of the arduous Patrol and other Duties which have necessarily devolved upon this small Garrison; the Names of these Officers will accordingly be placed upon the Roster of Garrison Duty, and they will be attached, the former to Captain Wright's Company, Royal Artillery, and the latter to the Royal Newfoundland Companies, until further Orders.

By Command,

HUGH B. CHAMBERS,
Lieut. R. N. Companies,
Acting A.D.C.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 8. in No. 1.

Enclosure 8. in
No. 1.

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

[See Plans annexed.]

No. 2.

(No. 27.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE to Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B.

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

Sir,

Downing Street, 3d July 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge, with deep Concern and Commiseration, your Despatch No. 38., in which you make known to me the awful Conflagration with which it has seemed good to the Almighty that the Town of St. John's Newfoundland should be visited.

I have addressed by the Mail of this Day a Circular to the Governor and Lieutenant Governors of the other British North American Provinces, desiring them to render whatever Assistance it may be in their Power to give on this distressing Occasion; an Injunction which it was seemly for Her Majesty's Government to issue, but which I am sure is hardly necessary in order to secure their active Interest in the Measures of Relief which it may be requisite to adopt.

Although the Intelligence has reached England at a Moment when Her Majesty's Advisers only hold the Seals of Office until their Successors shall have been designated and shall be prepared to receive them, yet I have not scrupled, in conjunction with my Colleagues, to form the Judgment that the Character and Urgency of the Circumstances at the particular Moment imposed upon us the Duty to act decisively, so far as regards the affording immediate Relief.

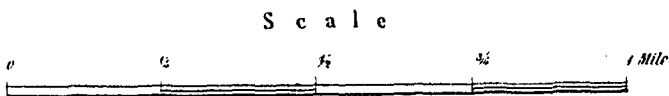
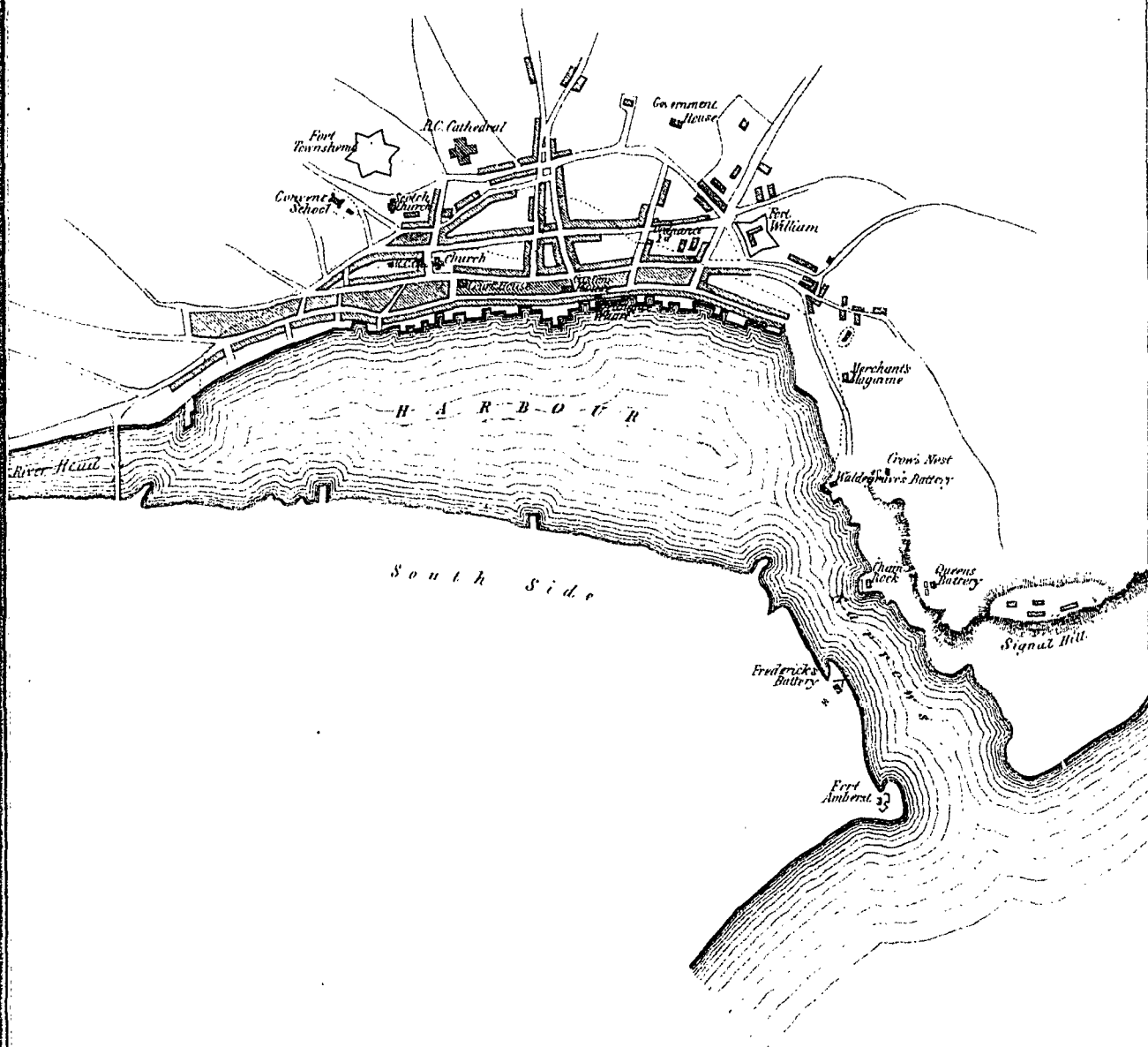
I am therefore to acquaint you, that you are at liberty either to apply to the Officer in charge of the Commissariat on the Station, or to draw upon the Lords of the Treasury, forthwith for a Sum not exceeding Five thousand Pounds, to be applied, under your Authority and Superintendence, towards such Purposes as may appear to you to be the most pressing in their Demands, and to be duly accounted for.

After considering and conferring with Gentlemen interested in the Colony, upon the Question, what Description of Relief would be most effective, I came to the Conclusion that it ought to be given in the Form of Money, and that all necessary Supplies could be better procured from Sources other than the public Stores of this Country.

It will remain for the Successors of the present Administration to determine whether any and what further Measures should be taken here in aid of the Sufferers by this dreadful Conflagration. They will approach the Consideration of that Question probably with full Information, and certainly with full Authority. We have been called upon to act in a Manner unusual under the Circumstances in which we stand, in consequence of the Exigency of the Moment; and our Part, therefore, has been confined to affording on the Part of this Country a Pledge of its Sympathy, and a Fund sufficient for the immediate Support of the destitute.

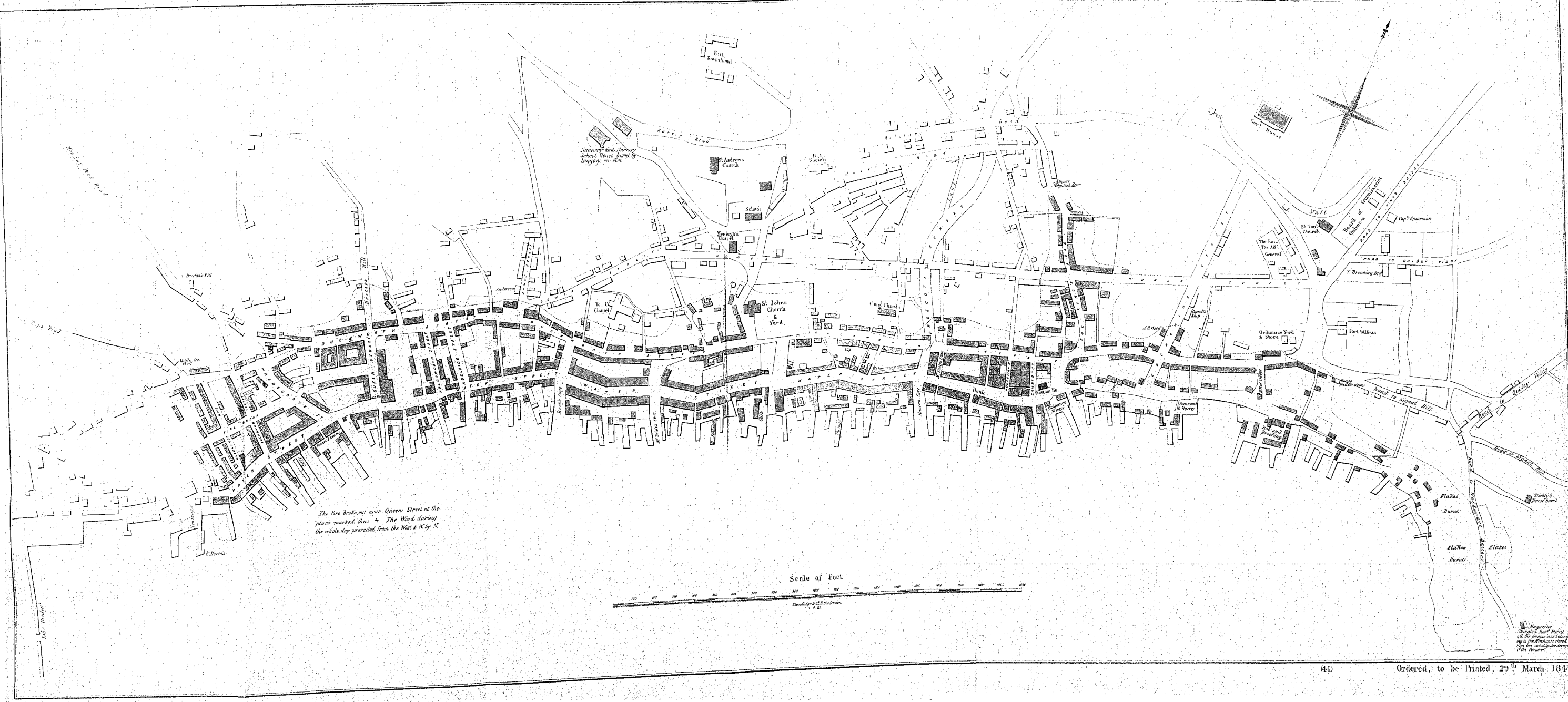
I have, &c.
W. E. GLADSTONE.

*Sketch of the Town of S^t John's, Newfoundland
Shewing by the Yellow Line the extent of the district
destroyed by Fire on the 9th June 1846.*

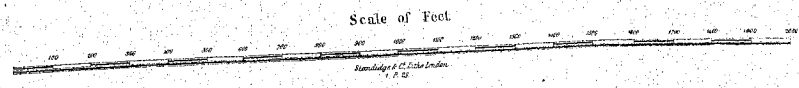


*Standidge & Co. Litho. London.
2. P. 23.*

ROYAL ENGINEERS OFFICE,
ST JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND. 12th JUNE, 1846
A. W. ROBE, MAJOR COMM^{DC} ROYAL ENGINEERS



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



Magazine damaged but burning all the magazines being up to the distance of 1000 yds but several of the contents of the Magazine.

No. 3.

COPY of a CIRCULAR DESPATCH from the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE to the GOVERNOR GENERAL and to the LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS of the NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

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

Sir,

Downing Street, 3d July 1846.

ON the 1st instant I received from the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland a Report of the calamitous Conflagration which has destroyed the greater and more populous Part of the City of St. John's in that Island. It appears from that Report, that of the 19,000 Persons by whom the City was inhabited 12,000 had been rendered altogether houseless, and that the Destruction of Provisions, wearing Apparel, and the other first Necessaries of Life had been such as most severely to enhance their Distress.

Her Majesty's Government have, by the Mail of this Day, authorized the Advance of a Sum of Money to provide some immediate Relief for the Sufferers. I am well assured that their Distress will have excited the lively Sympathy of the Queen's Subjects in all the neighbouring British Provinces, and that your own Attention will have been promptly given to the Discovery of the most effectual Means of relieving them. I cannot, however, permit this Mail to be despatched without instructing you to afford such Aid as it may be in your Power to bestow on the Victims of this Disaster, either by furnishing Supplies of Provisions and other Stores, or in any other Way which you may have Reason to believe will more effectually meet the Exigency of the Occasion.

I have, &c.

W. E. GLADSTONE.

No. 4.

(No. 96.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl CATHCART, K.G.B., to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE.

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

Sir,

Government House, Montreal,
22d July 1846.

I HAVE the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Despatch, No. 105., of the 3d instant, stating that you had received from the Governor of Newfoundland a Report of the calamitous Conflagration by which the greater Part of the City of St. John's has been destroyed, and instructing me to afford such Aid as it may be in my Power to bestow towards the Relief of the Victims of this Disaster. I have the Honour to inform you, in reply, that immediately on the Receipt of a Letter from Sir John Harvey, acquainting me with the Particulars of this Calamity, I lost no Time in bringing the Subject before the Executive Council of this Province, and had much Satisfaction in approving of their Recommendation that an Advance of Two thousand Pounds should be made from the Canadian Treasury towards the Relief of the immediate Wants of the Sufferers. This Sum was afterwards, by my Directions, paid into the Hands of the Committee appointed in this City to collect Contributions, and was by them employed in despatching a Schooner laden with Flour and other Provisions for Distribution at St. John's. I enclose for your Information a Copy of the Letter which I addressed to Sir John Harvey, acquainting him with the Measures adopted here for the Purpose of extending Assistance to the unfortunate Inhabitants of St. John's.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CATHCART.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure in
No. 4.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Government House,
Montreal, 11th July 1846.

Sir,

I AVAIL myself of the sailing of the "St. Croix," chartered for the Conveyance of Supplies for the Relief of the Sufferers at St. John's, to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 11th ultimo, with its Enclosures, communicating the Particulars of the destructive Fire which has reduced to Ashes the greater Part of that City.

With the ready Concurrence of my Council, under whose Consideration I lost no Time in bringing the Subject of your Despatch, I have directed an immediate Advance of 2,000*l.* from the Provincial Chest to aid in meeting the Appeal which your Excellency has made to the Sympathy of the Inhabitants of this Province, and I do not doubt that private Contributions to a large Amount will very speedily attest the general Feeling of the Community in behalf of their fellow Subjects who have been overwhelmed by this stupendous Calamity.

The Committee appointed to superintend the Collection of Expenditure of such Subscriptions in this City have entered on the Discharge of this Duty with much Energy, and the Subscription in this City is proceeding under their Superintendence in a highly encouraging Manner.

At their Suggestion I have caused the Amount of the Advance from the Provincial Revenue to be paid over to their Treasurer, to be invested in Provisions for immediate Export to Newfoundland. The accompanying Copy of a Letter from their Chairman will explain to your Excellency the Steps which they have taken and propose to take to carry out the Measures intended. Your Excellency, and the Inhabitants of the Province, under your Government, may rely on the sincere Anxiety which all Parties here manifest to aid in ministering to the utmost of their Power to the pressing Wants of the Sufferers by this Calamity.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) CATHCART.

No. 11, St F^{rs} Xavier Street, Montreal,
7th July 1846.

Sir,

By Direction of the Committee to procure Relief for the Sufferers by the late Fire at St. John's Newfoundland I have the Honour to transmit the enclosed Resolutions relative to the Manner in which they (the Committee) deem it proper that the Sum of 2,000*l.*, about to be granted by his Excellency the Governor General for the above Purpose, should be applied, and have to request that you will cause the said Resolutions to be submitted to his Excellency.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. CAMPION, Secretary.

No. 11, St F^{rs} Xavier Street, Montreal,
7th July 1846.

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

Mr. Tobin informed the Committee that the Governor General in Council had appropriated the Sum of 2,000*l.* to the Relief of the Sufferers at St. John's Newfoundland, whereupon it was moved by Mr. John Young, seconded by Mr. Joseph Knapp, That, in the Opinion of this Committee, it is deemed expedient to recommend to the Governor General that the Amount intended to be sent for the Relief of the Sufferers at St. John's Newfoundland be invested in 500 Barrels of prime Pork, and the Remainder in Flour. Carried.

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

(Signed) J. W. DUNSCOMBE, Chairman.

No. 5.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 18.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Earl CATHCART, K.C.B.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 18th August 1846.

I HAVE the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of the 22d July, No. 96, in which you report the Measures adopted by your Executive Government with the view of relieving the Distress prevailing at St. John's Newfoundland in consequence of the Fire at that Place, and I have to express to your Lordship the Satisfaction with which I have learnt the prompt and liberal Assistance which has been extended by your Government to the unfortunate Sufferers at St. John's.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 6.

(No. 76.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE.

Sir,

Fredericton, New Brunswick,
28th July 1846.

I HAVE had the Honour to receive your Despatch, No. 41., dated the 3d instant, and having been apprised by Sir John Harvey of the calamitous Conflagration which had occurred at St. John's Newfoundland, I lost no Time in calling a public Meeting in Fredericton, and in directing that public Meetings should be convened in the several Counties of the Province, with the Object of raising Subscriptions for the Relief of the Sufferers.

No. 6.
Sir W. M. G.
Colebrooke
to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone,
28th July 1846.

Enclosed I transmit a Copy of the Communication I caused to be circulated, and which has led to liberal Subscriptions being raised here and in some other Quarters. I enclose also Copy of a Letter which I have addressed to a Number of leading Gentlemen in St. John's, with the Object of aiding the private Subscriptions by a public Contribution, and in taking this Course under the Authority conveyed in your Despatch, I feel every Assurance that the Executive Council, when they meet here on the 31st instant, will concur with me in the Measure, and that the Assembly in the next Session will reimburse the Advance. I will take an early Opportunity of again addressing you on this Subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Enclosure 1. in No. 6.

CIRCULAR.

Enclosure 1. in
No. 6.

Sir,

Fredericton, 30th June 1846.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having this Day received the following Despatch from his Excellency Major General Sir John Harvey, Governor of Newfoundland, detailing the Circumstances attending the recent calamitous Conflagration in Saint John's, the Capital of that Island, the Lieutenant Governor directs, on Receipt of this Communication, that you will request the Sheriff of the County to call a public Meeting, to take the same into consideration, with a view of obtaining such Contributions as may be made available for the Relief of the Sufferers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN S. SAUNDERS,
Prov. Sec.

To the Clerk of the Peace
of the County of

COPY of a LETTER from Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY to Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE, dated Government House, Saint John's Newfoundland, 11th June 1846.

(For Copy of Sir J. Harvey's Letter to the Governor General and to the Lieutenant Governors of the North American Provinces, vide Page 8.)

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 2. in No. 6.

Enclosure 2. in
No. 6.

Gentlemen,

Fredericton, N. B., July 25th, 1846.

DESIRING to forward to the City of Saint John's Newfoundland as soon as possible a Supply of Articles the most urgently required for the Relief of the poorer Classes of the Inhabitants, so many Thousands of whom are in a State of Destitution from the late Conflagration, I request that you will do me the Favour to act as a Committee, to carry this Measure into effect. My Object is, that an Arrangement should be made for shipping immediately to Newfoundland, in a small fast-sailing Vessel, a Quantity of Flour and other Articles of Subsistence, of Building Materials, and also some Clothing and Bedding, particularly for infirm old People and Children requiring them, to be consigned for Distribution to the Committee now sitting at Saint John's Newfoundland. I propose to place at the Disposal of the Committee a Sum not less than 1,000*l.*, to be laid out in these Supplies by the Committee, of whom Seven may be a Quorum, and I leave to the Committee whether to obtain them and provide for their Transmission by public Tender or otherwise, and considering that the Object is one of Charity, their Efforts will, I am sure, be directed to rendering the Contribution as effective as possible, by reducing the attendant Expenses.

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

I would further suggest that the Committee should arrange for the Reception of voluntary Contributions in aid of the Supply it is proposed to forward, announcing by public Advertisement that they will be received and duly transmitted.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

No. 7.

(No. 12.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Sir,

Downing Street, 18th August 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the Receipt of your Despatch, No. 76., of the 28th July, in which you report the Measures which have been adopted in New Brunswick with the view of mitigating the Distress experienced at St. John's Newfoundland in consequence of the recent Conflagration in that City; and I have to signify to you my Approval of the Steps which have been taken for this Object in New Brunswick.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 8.

(No. 43.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir H. V. HUNTLEY to the Right Honourable
W. E. GLADSTONE.

Sir,

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
27th July 1846.

WITH reference to your Despatch, No. 26., of the 3d of July, relating to the Calamity which has so recently fallen upon the City of St. John's in Newfoundland, and desiring me to use every Endeavour to afford Assistance, I beg leave to transmit the Royal Gazette of this Island, in which will be found a Statement of Proceedings adopted by a Meeting of the principal Inhabitants and others residing in Queen's County.

Independently of the Money then subscribed there will be, I have no Doubt, further Collections from this as well as from the other Counties, which will be forwarded with the least possible Delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. V. HUNTLEY,
Lieutenant Governor.

Enclosure in No. 8.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

PUBLIC MEETING of the Inhabitants of Queen's County, to take into consideration the best Means of affording Relief to the Sufferers by the late Fire at Saint John's Newfoundland. Enclosure in No. 8.

(Reported for the Royal Gazette.)

The High Sheriff having read the Requisition calling the Meeting, it was moved by the Hon. the Secretary for the Colony, seconded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that the High Sheriff do take the Chair. The High Sheriff (W. Cundall, Esq.) having assumed the Chair, John Longworth, Esq., was requested to act as Secretary. The Chairman was supported by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and the Hon. the Chief Justice. A very numerous Assemblage of the Inhabitants of the County were present.

The High Sheriff briefly explained the Object of the Meeting, which was, he observed, not only to assist those who had suffered by the recent Fire at Saint John's, by contributing their Mite towards their Relief, but also to convey to the People of that City an Expression of Sympathy with their Sufferings under the calamitous Visitation which had befallen them.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor moved the First Resolution. He would first read to the Meeting a Despatch which he had that Morning received from his Excellency Sir John Harvey, similar to one which had been addressed to the Governor General and Lieutenant Governors of the British American Colonies.

His Excellency observed, that he thought it hardly necessary to appeal at any Length to the Feelings of the Meeting he then addressed. The Circumstances spoke for themselves. They had doubtless read the Particulars of the fearful Disaster which had befallen their fellow Colonists in Saint John's in the public Papers; and the Despatch which he had just read to them placed the Matter so clearly before them, that he felt assured they would respond to the Appeal made to them by Sir John Harvey. Nothing could exceed the Zeal, Humanity, and Promptitude displayed by that distinguished Officer. His Conduct had been above all Praise. In bringing the Resolution he then held in his Hand before them he would ask the Meeting to picture to themselves for a Moment the Miseries resulting from that dreadful Conflagration,—the Distress of Families,—Mothers unable to find Shelter for their helpless Children,—Fathers answering their Calls for Food by telling them "to wait for Daylight," and when that Daylight appeared finding they had little or none to give them. It was impossible to contemplate the Sufferings of the helpless without having their strongest Sympathies awakened. Nor ought this Picture to be considered as one representing a State of Things which passed away with the passing of the Night. The Sufferers were yet in want of Food,—were yet without Shelter. The Relief prayed for could not be afforded in a few Hours, and it was the obvious Duty of all Persons to contribute to their utmost Means to alleviate such Distress as this. There was also a Reason, and a very strong one, why this Colony should sympathize with and assist the Sufferers in Newfoundland. Were they only to argue it as a Question of Pounds, Shillings, and Pence, they would find the Claim that that Colony had upon them. It was one of their best and oldest Friends. It had been a Market for their Ships and Produce, and had ever maintained with them the greatest Honour and Integrity. Flourishing as the Circumstances of that Colony had been it was now laid even with the poorest, and the Feeling of the Situation in which such a Calamity would place the Inhabitants of this Town should stimulate them to Exertion on behalf of their fellow Colonists. Since he (Sir Henry Huntley) had been in the Government of this Island no less than Four Fires had taken place in Charlottetown, and though he was bound to acknowledge the Zeal and Promptitude of the Inhabitants on the Occasions alluded to in getting them under, they were indebted for Success in their Exertions to a higher Power than Man, without whose Divine Assistance the Town might have been laid in Ashes. The same Providence which had preserved them had afflicted the People of Saint John's with this Visitation, and it was their Duty not only as fellow Colonists, but as Christian Men, to afford all the Relief in their Power. It might be but small, but if all gave to the Extent of their Means, though it were but a Mite, a handsome Sum might be raised; he would therefore impress upon them the Duty which they had to perform, and tell them not to be deterred from performing it, because the Offering they brought was small. Though it were but a Penny it would prove acceptable; and Thousands had been collected by the smallest Contributions at the Doors of Churches. His Excellency concluded by expressing his earnest Hope and Belief that all Persons would lend their Aid, and contribute to the Extent of their Means towards the Object of the Meeting, and then moved the following Resolution:—

"It having pleased Almighty God in his inscrutable Providence to visit the Inhabitants of Saint John's Newfoundland with an awfully destructive Fire, we, the Inhabitants of Queen's County, Prince Edward Island, deeply sympathizing with our fellow Colonists in the overwhelming Calamity which has thus befallen them, deem it a Duty incumbent upon us (in common with the Inhabitants of the other Districts of this Island) to offer our humble Contributions towards their Relief. Resolved, therefore, That the most prompt and energetic Measures be taken by this Meeting for the Purpose of rendering every Assistance to the Sufferers, pecuniary or otherwise, which may have a Tendency to alleviate their present Distress."

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The Resolution was seconded by James Peake, Esquire.

The Hon. the Chief Justice observed, that it was quite unnecessary for him to enter into further Particulars connected with this melancholy Visitation of Providence than those which were known to the Meeting. They had only to read the Accounts already before them to awake their Sympathies; for they spoke at once to the Heart. A wealthy and flourishing City had been reduced in One Night from Affluence to Poverty, and when the Suffering which such an Event had produced was considered, he perfectly coincided in Opinion with his Excellency, that an Appeal to the People, not only in Charlottetown, but throughout the Island generally, would not be made in vain. He could not but recur to a similar Meeting which had been held last Year, at which he had the Honour of presiding, to extend Relief to the Sufferers by the great Fire at Quebec. He had received a Communication from that Place, in which their praiseworthy Exertions were not only duly appreciated, but he had heard from a credible Source that their Contribution exceeded in proportion any that had been made from elsewhere. He could not but therefore cherish a Hope that in considering this a Calamity of a more afflicting Nature than that which had happened to Quebec, the same good Feeling would be evinced, and the same Liberality shown. If the Feeling of Self-interest alone were to prevail, even that should induce them to extend all the Relief in their Power; for when they looked around them on their own Town, and contemplate the Probability of a similar Calamity,—when they saw the Blocks of wooden Buildings which might in a few short Hours be reduced to a Heap of Ruins,—while they acknowledged the protecting Hand of Providence, which had hitherto spared them, and felt that they were not exempt from similar Calamities to those which had befallen the other Colonies,—they should remember that they might To-morrow want that Assistance which it was now in their Power to bestow. But he (the Chief Justice) was satisfied it was quite unnecessary to press this Matter further on their Attention; he believed that charitable Feeling would prevail, and that they would liberally contribute to alleviate the Want and Distress which called so loudly and imperatively upon them.

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

“ 2. Resolved, That Subscription Lists be immediately opened, and that the Firewardens in this Town be appointed to solicit Subscriptions in their several Wards, and that they be requested to enter upon their Duties without Loss of Time.”

Dr. Conroy could not but feel the strongest Sympathy with the Inhabitants of Saint John's. Having Property in that City, which had been providentially preserved, he felt called upon to testify not only his own Gratitude, but how deeply he felt the Loss which the People of that Place had sustained, and to prove in every Manner his sincere Desire to alleviate the Sufferings which they laboured under. He had lately visited that Colony, and he should never forget the kind and hospitable Manner in which he had been received by all Ranks and Classes. He felt that the People of that Place had a strong Claim upon his Services, and he would endeavour to contribute in every Way towards the Object of the Meeting. It was of the greatest Consequence that the most prompt and energetic Measures should be adopted, and he was ready to afford every Assistance in his Power to alleviate the Sufferings which this awful Calamity had brought upon the People of Saint John's. He most cordially seconded the Resolution.

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

3. “ Resolved, That a Committee, consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Seven other Gentlemen, be appointed to carry into effect the Intentions of this Meeting, and also to correspond with such Persons as may be appointed at Saint John's Newfoundland, to ameliorate the melancholy Situation of the Sufferers at the late calamitous Fire at that Town, and to convey to them our Sympathy on the present trying Occasion, and that the following Gentlemen compose the said Committee, viz. :—

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

Mr. Owen suggested that it might be necessary for the Committee to correspond with other Persons than those named in the Resolution as it then stood.

The Resolution was altered to meet Mr. Owen's Suggestions, and—

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

4. “ Resolved, That the Committee now appointed be requested to correspond with the Ministers of the several Congregations throughout the Island, the following Gentlemen resident in the Country, and such other Persons as they may deem expedient, for the Purpose of soliciting such Subscriptions from the Inhabitants in their several Districts towards the same benevolent Object.

Benjamin Clow, Esq., Murray Harbour.

Joseph Wightman, Esq., Three Rivers, St. Andrew's Point.

Hugh McDonald, Esq., Georgetown.

Joseph

Joseph Dingwell, Esq., Bay Fortune.
 John Macgowan, Esq., Souris.
 James M'Callum, Esq., Brackley Point.
 Peter M'Callum, Esq., St. Peter's Bay.
 Charles Dingwell, Esq., St. Peter's Bay.
 William Hodges, Esq., Rustico.
 Robert Orr, New Glasgow.
 William Haslam, Esq., Lot 67.
 John C. Sims, Esq., New London.
 Charles M'Nutt, Esq., Darnley.
 William Bearistoe, Esq., Princetown.
 James Yeo, Esq., Port Hill.
 James Warburton, Esq., Lot 11.
 Allan Forsyth, Esq., Cascumpec.
 Nicholas Conroy, Esq., Tignish.
 Thomas Hunt, Esq., St. Eleanors.
 Lemuel Cambridge, Esq., Lot 16.
 Evan Thomas, Esq., Bedeque.
 Joseph Pope, Esq., Bedeque.
 John Clark, Cape Traverse.
 Samuel Dawson, Esq., Tryon.
 William Crosby, West River.
 John R. Bourke, Esq., Mill View.
 Allan Macdougall, Esq., Flat River."

During the Discussion of this Resolution several Suggestions were made by different Gentlemen. Among others, Mr. John Davis, jun., suggested, that, in consequence of the Scarcity of Cash, Provisions of every Description should be accepted as Subscriptions. In the State of Destitution which prevailed in Saint John's many might be induced to contribute more largely in this Manner, and all would prove acceptable.

The Chairman said this might be an Instruction to the Committee.

Hon. Mr. Haviland suggested the Use of the Words, pecuniary or otherwise.

The Chairman did not doubt that the Committee would willingly receive Assistance in every Form; but as the Proceedings of the Meeting would doubtless go to the Public, it was better so to frame the Resolution as to render it perfectly explicit.

Dr. De St. Croix thought it advisable that the Committee should request the Clergy in the different Parts of the Island to make Collections in their several Parishes.

Mr. George Beer thought it would be well if Part of the Subscriptions collected were laid out in the Purchase of Provisions. There was an Abundance in the Island, and it would be better to procure them than to remit Money.

Dr. De St. Croix reminded the Meeting that a Cargo of Wheat was to be sold on the following Day.

Mr. Reddin was of opinion that, if proper Means were adopted, a Cargo might be immediately shipped from the Island.

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

5. "Resolved, That it be a Recommendation to the Committee to adopt Means, as far as practicable, to provide Depôts in the most convenient Places at the different shipping Harbours for the Reception and storing such Grain, Provisions, Lumber, &c. as may be subscribed by different Individuals, who prefer paying their Subscriptions in that Manner."

The Object of this Resolution was, that the People of the Country should have it in their Power to contribute in perhaps the only Way they were able to do so. It was possible that in the out Harbours Grain and Lumber might be contributed, which it would be difficult, if not almost impossible, for the Parties contributing to forward to the Committee. If these Depôts were established, and Publicity given to the Fact, much Good might be done.

The Resolution was seconded by C. Binns, Esquire, who remarked that it was necessary that the People of the Country should have an Opportunity of contributing to the Object in view in the easiest and most practicable Manner.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor would remark, that he considered it far better, while the Committee accepted all Contributions that were sent to them, that as much Money as possible should be remitted. When a Sum of Money was subscribed, those for whose Benefit it was intended naturally wished to have the Disposal of it. Any Provisions might be placed in Depôt; but he for one certainly did not like the Idea of laying out any Money that might be contributed.

Mr. Reddin thought that it was probable that Produce, under present Circumstances, might be more acceptable.

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Mr. Brenan.—It would certainly be more generous to forward whatever Amount might be received in Money, and at the same Time it would not hinder the Committee from receiving Contributions in any other Form. It certainly did appear to him rather selfish to expend the Money, and it would be a Question whether the Articles purchased were actually required.

Mr. Coles believed that many Persons would contribute if they only knew that Produce would be received. He perfectly agreed with his Excellency that it was better to remit whatever Money was collected. It would not only look better but would be safer, as Articles might be sent which were not required, and of which they already had a Surplus. He would, as far as Contributions were concerned, neither limit nor name the Quantity or Rate at which Produce should be received. He anticipated no Difficulty in carrying out the Resolutions. He would mention that a Variety of useful Articles might be shipped at once by Individuals. He had himself shipped Half a Ton of Oatmeal to the Committee in St. John's, and if others would pay Attention to the Matter, immediate Relief, however small, might be afforded.

Mr. Brenan would again repeat, that the best Way was to open a general List; and if People could not give in one Way they might be able to do so in another. He was in favour of letting every Person give in what Manner he pleased.

Hon. Capt. Swabey thought that it might impede the Object the Meeting had in view if they tied up the Hands of the Committee. He fully concurred with those Gentlemen who advocated taking the Contributions in whatever way charitably disposed Persons might be able to give.

Dr. Conroy thought it was better to leave these Matters of Detail in the Hands of the Committee.

Mr. Henry Palmer proposed a Resolution to the Effect that it be a Recommendation on the Part of the Meeting, that the Executive be petitioned to grant a Sum of Money in aid of the Object of the Meeting.

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

Hon. E. Palmer was aware of the Provision in the "Appropriation Bill," but it was possible for the Executive to make any Advance, and afterwards ask for an Indemnity. These Matters were never acted upon in strictness, and under such Circumstances he, if he possessed the Power, should not oppose any such Proposition. It was true it rested with the Legislature to confirm or disallow the Act of the Executive, but this was the Case in all the Colonies, and an Indemnity under such Circumstances was always given.

Mr. Brenan thought there would be no Necessity to create the Possibility of Collision. He hoped the Motion would not be proposed.

Mr. H. Palmer had no Wish to press his Resolution.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor hoped and believed such a Step would not be necessary, and that there would be no Occasion to call upon the public Funds. He had that Confidence in the People of the Island that he hoped no such Call would be made until the Population had shown their Intentions. He thought that if the Matter were left to the open, honest, and frank Minds of the Public, it would be sufficient to answer the Object of the Meeting.

The Resolution was withdrawn.

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

"6. Resolved, That the most respectful Thanks of this Meeting be given to His Excellency Sir Henry Vere Huntley, Knight, for his Condescension and Promptness in attending this Meeting, and for his Liberality in contributing so handsomely to the Objects thereof."

His Excellency returned Thanks. In any Service which he might have rendered he had been assisted by the able Conduct of the Chairman, and kind Feeling of the Meeting. He regretted that the Word "Condescension" had been applied to an Act which was his Duty, and which was cheerfully performed at the Call of Benevolence. His Excellency concluded by moving the following Resolution, which was seconded by the Hon. the Chief Justice, and carried by Acclamation.

7. "Resolved, That the warmest Thanks of this Meeting be given to the High Sheriff of this County for the able Conduct which he has displayed in presiding over this Meeting."

The High Sheriff returned Thanks. It gave him much Pleasure to have presided over such a Meeting, and he hoped all who wished to carry out its Object would experience that it was "more blessed to give than to receive." He appreciated the Feeling shown, and returned the Meeting his sincere Thanks.

The Subscriptions were then entered into.

Amount of Subscriptions - - - £207 10s.

No. 9.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 5.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from EARL GREY to SIR H. V. HUNTLEY.

Sir,

Downing Street, 3d September 1846.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 43., July 27th, reporting the Proceedings which have taken place in Queen's County, Prince Edward's Island, for the Purpose of alleviating the Distress occasioned to the Inhabitants of St. John's Newfoundland by the recent Fire at that Place, and I have to express my Satisfaction at learning the Sympathy which has been exhibited in this County towards the distressed Population of St. John's.

No. 9.
Earl Grey
to
Sir H. V. Huntley,
3d Sept. 1846.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 10.

(No. 39.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B., to the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE.

Sir,

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

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 10th instant, No. 38., I have now the Honour to report that I opened the Special Session of the General Assembly on the 16th instant (every Member in the Island being in attendance, except One for one of the most remote Districts,) with a Speech, of which I have the Honour to transmit a Copy, as well as of the Address which was promptly adopted in answer, and presented to me by the Speaker and the whole House on the following Day. The only further Action which has as yet been adopted by the House is an Address to me for a Survey of the burnt District, which has already been furnished. The Discussion will now take place as to the Sum to be applied for in aid of the Reconstruction of the City (which will probably not exceed in the first instance), followed by the passing of a Bill for securing the punctual Payment of the Interest, and the ultimate Repayment of the Principal of the Loan.

No. 10.
Governor
Sir J. Harvey
to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone,
18th June 1846.

I am happy to say that, with the Exception of a few Hundred Persons, chiefly Women and Children, by whom the Tents continue to be occupied, the whole of the houseless appear to have found temporary Cover. Several Vessels have already entered the Port laden with Provisions. Many Shops have been reopened, chiefly on the South Side of the Harbour, and Articles of primary Necessity are being retailed at scarcely any Advance of Price. Employment of the industrious Classes is being gradually resumed. Order, Tranquillity, and comparative Cheerfulness prevail, and every thing appears to indicate that the Weight of the late Calamity, as respects the lower Classes, is beginning to be alleviated.

But, as the Summers are very short in this Climate, and it is most important that some Provision should be made as respects Shelter for such as may be found in need of it at the Approach of Winter, I would respectfully submit whether a Couple of good sized Vessels of War, to be moored in this Harbour, and used as receiving Ships for the houseless, might not be spared from England for this Service of Humanity; and if they were to bring out a Donation of Fuel (Coals), Provisions, Bedding and Blankets, coarse warm Clothing, &c., &c., their Advent would be a joyful and acceptable Event to the Poor of this afflicted Place; and I venture to add that if they had a few heavy Guns on board they would add greatly to the Defences of the Place in case of any unforeseen Emergency, of the Probability of which, and the consequent Value of this Suggestion, Her Majesty's Government must be the fittest Judge. In the meantime Funds have been placed at my Disposal by the Local Legislature for the Erection of such temporary Sheds as may serve for the Cover of the houseless during the Summer Months, as considerable Suffering is already beginning to be experienced in the (fireless) Tents during the Nights, which are at all Times cold in this Climate whenever the Wind is either northerly or easterly, and particularly as there is at present an unusual Quantity of Ice on this Coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

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Enclosure in
No. 10

Enclosure in No. 10.

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

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

THE great Calamity with which it has pleased the Almighty Disposer of Events to visit this Colony has imposed upon me the Necessity of suddenly resorting to your Advice and Co-operation, as well for the Purpose of providing Means of Relief for present Distress as for devising well-considered Measures for regulating the Reconstruction of that large portion of this City which has been swept away by the late awful Conflagration upon a Plan, which, while it shall confer that which St. John's has never before enjoyed, viz. a due Degree of Security (as far as can be effected by human Precautions) upon Property of every Kind deposited within it, shall at the same Time not only embellish the provincial Capital, but tend greatly to promote the Health, Comfort, and Convenience of its Inhabitants, Objects which I think you will agree with me in regarding as quite incompatible with that long continuous Line of wooden Wharfs, covered with every Species of Goods of the most inflammable Kind (including Oil Vats), and the close Admixture of Wood and Stone Buildings crowded together in narrow Streets, and without an adequate Command of Water which heretofore characterized it, and which leaves less Cause for Surprise at the Occurrence of the Calamity, than that it should not long since have happened.

In the Endeavour to effect Improvements of such Magnitude, and fraught with such incalculable permanent Benefit to this commercial Emporium, but of which the Attainment is obviously beyond the present unaided Powers, though I trust not beyond the ultimate Reach of the well-assured Resources, of the Colony, I am ready to concur with you in an Application to the Imperial Government to guarantee a Loan to Newfoundland to such an Amount, not exceeding Half a Million Pounds, as may, upon mature Consideration, be regarded as requisite and sufficient for effecting the Objects to which I have adverted, the punctual Payment of a moderate Rate of Interest, and the ultimate Repayment of the Principal within a specified Period, being provided for and secured by the Assignment of a sufficient Portion of its permanent Revenues.

In the meantime many preparatory Arrangements connected with the Preservation of the public Health, Peace, and Security of Property, the Continuance of the Supply of Food and Shelter to such of the houseless and destitute as may be incapable of Labour, but, above all, the Restoration of regular Employment to the industrious Classes, to whom, if I have not formed an erroneous Estimate of their general Character, I cannot doubt that the Bread of Independence would be far sweeter than that which is purely eleemosynary or unearned by honest Labour.

In proceeding to apprise you of the Measures which I deemed it necessary promptly to adopt (with the Advice and Consent of Her Majesty's Council), with a view to meet the pressing Emergency created by this awful Calamity, and in respect to which I have confidently anticipated your cordial Concurrence, I know not how that Object can be more readily effected than by reading to you an Extract of the Despatch which I addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, immediately after the Occurrence of the Calamity, and which is now on its Way to England.

"Sir,—It has pleased the Almighty to visit this Colony with a great Calamity. It was as if the Wing of the destroying Angel, in the Shape of an awful and irresistible Conflagration, had suddenly swept away Three Fourths of this so lately wealthy and prosperous City.

"A Fire broke out at Half-past Eight o'Clock Yesterday Morning in the Western Section of the City, and owing to the Prevalence of a westerly Gale of Wind, which unhappily continued to increase in Violence, before the Close of the Day most of its public Buildings, and the whole, with One single Exception, of its Wharves, Storehouses, and mercantile Establishments, upwards of a Mile in Extent, had been reduced to Ashes. It is estimated that 2,000 Houses, and Property to the Amount of from 600,000*l.* to 1,000,000*l.* has been destroyed, and that 12,000 Persons are now houseless.

"Much as the Losses of the mercantile and the Sufferings of the Labouring Classes claim our Sympathies, yet should our deepest Commiseration rest upon the Middle Classes, who, accustomed to comparative Ease and Comfort, find themselves and their helpless Families suddenly reduced to a State of the most absolute Destitution. Every Effort dependent upon the Local Government will be made and is making for their Relief and that of the lower Orders; but even under Circumstances apparently so destitute, and with a Scene of such affecting Desolation before my Eyes, still do I indulge a sanguine Hope, that if promptly aided by the Benevolence and Liberality of the British People, of the Legislatures and People of the neighbouring Colonies, but, above all, by the British Government and Parliament, not only will the present Distress be at once alleviated, but the fine Site of the Capital of this most ancient and valuable Possession of the British Crown, which, as a commercial Town, may be said for the present almost to have ceased to exist, will again be occupied by Buildings of so secure and durable a Description, laid out upon a Plan so judicious and well-considered, as at no remote Period to convert the Calamity which is now pressing so heavily upon its Inhabitants into a great and inappreciable Blessing.

"A similar

“ A similar Calamity, though not to the same Extent, was thus turned into a vast Benefit, even by the almost unaided Efforts of the Province itself, during the Period of my Administration of the Government of New Brunswick, some Years ago.

“ In order to meet the pressing Emergencies of our Situation I have adopted the following Measures :—

“ 1st. I have by Proclamation convened the Local Legislature to meet in Six Days; viz. on the 16th instant.

“ 2d. I have issued a Proclamation, laying an Embargo, for a limited Period, upon the Exportation of Provisions, other than such as are required for the Use of Crews, Passengers, and the Fisheries.

“ 3d. I have issued a Proclamation, warning all Persons against the Re-construction of wooden Buildings upon the burnt District before the Intentions of the Local Legislature upon the Subject shall be declared.

“ 4th. I have addressed a circular Letter to the Governor General and Lieutenant Governors of all the British American Colonies, and to Her Majesty's Consuls at Boston and New York, of which Copies are enclosed.

“ 5th. I have authorized the chartering of Two Vessels, one to Halifax and one to New York, for Provisions.

“ 6th. I called a Meeting this Day, in this House (at which I presided), of all the Heads of the mercantile Establishments, as well as of the principal Inhabitants, the Clergy, Judges, and Officers of the Government. Copy of the Resolutions adopted at this Meeting, as well as of other Resolutions adopted at a Meeting of the Inhabitants previously held, are enclosed, the whole of which it will be perceived I had anticipated.

“ June 12.

“ I have now the Satisfaction to report, that through the Operations of the Committee of Relief appointed at the Meeting of Wednesday, all the houseless have been placed under Shelter, in aid of which I have placed all the Tents in the Ordnance Store (Fifty-one) at its Disposal; and an adequate Supply of Provisions, particularly Bread, has been and will continue to be issued to them for the present.”

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

I have directed that the State of the Public Funds, including all Receipts and Expenditure since your recent Separation, shall be laid before you; and, inviting on your Part the most unreserved Communication and Interchange with me of such Ideas as may mutually suggest themselves to us as to the remedial Measures best calculated to aid the Colony in recovering from the Effects of this dire Calamity, I now leave you to your Deliberations.

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

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

May it please your Excellency,

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful Subjects, the Legislative Assembly of Newfoundland in General Session convened, beg leave to thank your Excellency for the gracious Speech with which your Excellency has been pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature.

While we deplore equally with your Excellency the calamitous Event which has occasioned our being assembled at this Season, we fully concur in the Opinion that an immediate and pressing Necessity exists for the Adoption, under the Sanction of legislative Authority, of such remedial Measures as may tend to the Relief of present Suffering, to the Prevention of a Recurrence of a Catastrophe so afflicting as that with which we have been recently visited, and to the permanent Improvement of the Capital of this Colony.

Upon the Subject of an Application to the Imperial Government for a Loan of Money to be appropriated towards the rebuilding of St. John's, we beg to assure your Excellency of our unqualified Concurrence in the absolute Necessity of such a Measure. With such Aid the Resources of the Colony will again be speedily developed; Trade will resume its Course, and Industry will obtain its accustomed Reward; but without it this valuable Colony will languish; many who still possess large Capital may lose much that remains to them for Want of present Assistance; and Thousands of our hardy Fishermen and Artificers, with their Families, driven in Destitution and Misery from our Shores, will emigrate to the United States of America, or be thrown upon the Resources of the Parent Country or our neighbouring Colonies. We heartily assure your Excellency that our best Endeavours and Co-operations shall not be wanting to carry into effect your Excellency's important Suggestions on this Point.

We thank your Excellency for the Measures which your Excellency has caused to be adopted for the present Relief of the most urgent Necessities of those of the Inhabitants of St. John's who have lost their Houses and Property in the recent Conflagration, for the prompt Communication of our Situation to Her Majesty's Government and the Govern-

NEWFOUNDLAND. ments of the neighbouring Colonies, and for the Applications for Assistance which your Excellency has kindly made on behalf of our poorer fellow Citizens.

We shall be glad to receive such Information upon our financial Condition as your Excellency may be pleased to communicate; and we beg to assure your Excellency of our earnest Desire to apply ourselves as speedily as possible to the framing and Adoption of such legislative Enactments as our present State and Circumstances may require, and as may most conduce to the permanent Welfare and Prosperity of this ancient Colony.

Passed the General Assembly, 17th June 1846.

(Signed) JOHN KENT, Speaker.

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

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

I AM happy to receive this prompt and emphatic Declaration of your Concurrence in the Views and Opinions which I Yesterday laid before you, and the Assurance of your Satisfaction with the Measures which I deemed it my Duty promptly to adopt for the Purpose of meeting, by the necessary Aid in Food and Shelter, the Distress which this great Calamity had suddenly brought upon so many of the poorer Classes of our fellow Subjects. No Time will be lost by me in bringing to the Knowledge of the Secretary of State the earnest Petition of the Legislature of Newfoundland that it may receive from the Imperial Government and Parliament that Aid by which it can alone hope to effect the great Object of renovating its commercial Capital in such a Manner as to confer upon it increased Security and consequent Prosperity. And I do not allow myself to entertain any Doubt that this Appeal will be met in a Manner accordant with the paternal Character of the Government of our Gracious Sovereign.

(Signed) J. HARVEY.

No. 11.

(No. 1.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B.

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

Sir,

Downing Street, 18th July 1846.

IMMEDIATELY after the Seals of this Office had been confided to me, my Attention was directed to the Consequences to the Inhabitants of Saint John's Newfoundland of the recent calamitous Fire at that Place. Finding that Her Majesty's late Government, in the Position which they occupied at the Period of the Departure of the last North American Mail, only felt themselves at liberty to authorize an Advance of Money to the Extent of 5,000*l.*, (that Sum being regarded as sufficient for affording Relief in urgent Cases for the Space of a Fortnight,) it devolved on Her Majesty's present Advisers to consider what Measures should be taken to afford further and more extensive Assistance. I have now the Satisfaction of acquainting you that, after ample Inquiry, Her Majesty's Government have determined upon applying immediately to Parliament for a Grant of 30,000*l.*, and that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will, by this Packet, instruct the Officer in charge of the Commissariat at Newfoundland to place at your Disposal the Sum of 25,000*l.*, which will complete the whole Amount proposed to be granted.

It is scarcely necessary for me to express my Conviction that you will make every Arrangement which may be expedient and effectual for ensuring the due Application of this Money to the Service of the Persons who have been rendered destitute by this calamitous Event.

A Deputation of Gentlemen and Merchants in this City, connected with Newfoundland, having waited upon me on this Subject, it was strongly pressed upon me at that Interview that, as your Successor in the Government could not be expected to reach the Colony for some Months, and as, under existing Circumstances, it would be very undesirable that the Administration of the Government should, in your Absence, devolve upon an Officer who would only exercise the provisional Functions of your Situation, it would be most conducive to the public Interests if you could be persuaded to remain at Newfoundland until the Spring. It is due to those Gentlemen to state that the above Suggestion most fully corresponds with my own Views, and I trust that the State of your Health and other Circumstances will not deprive the Colony of the Advantage of your Services and Advice during the ensuing Winter, which from the late Calamity may possibly be one of great Distress.

I reserve

I reserve for future Consideration the Question mooted in your Despatch, No. 39. of the 18th June, which has just reached me, as to the stationing of Two Vessels off St. John's to afford Shelter to the houseless Inhabitants of that City. NEWFOUNDLAND.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 12.

(No. 45.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR SIR JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B., to the
Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE.

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

Sir,

WITH reference to my Despatches of the 10th and 18th instant, Nos. 38. and 39. I have now the Honour to transmit to you an Act which has been passed by the General Assembly of this Colony, specially convened by me (chiefly with this Object), and to which I have this Day given my Assent, and by which Provision is made, secured upon the permanent Assignment of the whole of the Revenues of the Colony, for the punctual Payment of the Interest and the ultimate Repayment of the Principal, of any Sum not exceeding 250,000*l.*, which by the Aid and Guaranty of Her Majesty's Government may be raised in England for the Object of rebuilding that Portion of this lately wealthy City which was destroyed by the late Conflagration.

To this Act I have the Honour most earnestly to solicit your early and favourable Attention, and that of Her Majesty's Government, under the Conviction which I feel that by no other Means than those referred to in this Bill can the grievous and overwhelming Calamity with which it has pleased Almighty God to visit this lately prosperous and thriving Colony be repaired, its unaided Resources, great and stable as they assuredly are, being utterly inadequate to effect this great Work of Renovation within such a Period as may counteract the ruinous Consequences of the Withdrawal of any considerable Portion of the British Capital at present embarked in its Trade,—a Calamity which by prompt Relief may now be averted.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

P.S.—In presenting this Bill for my Assent, the Speaker said “that the passing of this Act added to the Confidence which was felt in the paternal Character of Her Majesty's Government,—had raised the drooping Spirits of the Citizens of Saint John's,” to which he added the Expression of the Conviction which was felt by the House and the Colony, that no Effort on my Part to promote its Success would be withheld.

J. H.

(No. 58.)

Enclosure in No. 12.

An Act to raise by Loan a Sum of Money for the rebuilding and Improvement of the Town of St. John's.

WHEREAS the Town of St. John's, the Capital of this Island, hath been recently visited by a devastating Conflagration which has destroyed the chief Portion thereof; and the extensive Ravages of the said Fire, and the consequent Destruction of Property, were mainly attributable to the inflammable Materials of which the Buildings were in a great measure composed, and to the Narrowness and Irregularity of the Streets: And whereas in the Reconstruction of the said Town it is highly expedient and necessary, as well for the Security of Property, and the Reduction of the Expense of Insurance, as for the Health and Convenience of the Inhabitants, that the Streets thereof should be laid out upon an improved Plan, both as to

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Width

No. 12.
Governor
Sir J. Harvey
to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone,
23d June 1846.

No. 58.

Enclosure in
No. 12.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Width and Regularity, and should be intersected at suitable Distances by open cross Streets or Fire-breaks; and further, that the Buildings to be erected in the said Town should be constructed in accordance with such Regulations for that Purpose as shall be made and declared by the Legislature: And whereas in consequence of the late Calamity it will press heavily upon the Means of private Individuals owning Property in the said Town, who may be required to reconstruct their Dwelling Houses and Stores of Stone or Brick, and it would greatly facilitate the rebuilding of the said Town, develope the Resources, and promote the Prosperity of the Colony, if Loans towards rebuilding on a new improved Plan of the Town were made to private Individuals on the Security of Mortgages on the Property so to be built upon: And whereas for the Purpose of aiding Parties by such Loans as aforesaid, as also for the Compensation of Persons whose Ground may be taken for the widening and altering of the Streets, and for other public Purposes, it is necessary that a Loan or Loans of Money, not exceeding in all the Sum of Two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds, should be raised, chargeable upon and to be repaid with Interest out of the Public Funds of this Colony, and it is desirable that such Loan or Loans should be raised by and through the Intervention and Guarantee of Her Majesty's Government: And whereas, in further Security for the Repayment of the Principal and Interest to grow due upon such Loan, it is expedient that (in addition to the Charge upon the Revenues of this Colony as aforesaid) the Mortgages of Property so to be executed as above mentioned should be made and executed to such Person or Persons in trust as shall for that Purpose be named and appointed by Her Majesty's Government: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, in Legislative Session convened, and by the Authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for the Governor or Person administering the Government of this Colony for the Time being, by and with the Advice of Her Majesty's Council, to negotiate with any Person or Persons, Bodies Politic or Corporate, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or elsewhere, either directly with such Person or Persons, or Bodies Politic or Corporate, or through the Intervention of Her Majesty's Government, as by and with the Advice aforesaid he shall deem most expedient, for the raising and obtaining, from Time to Time, by way of Loan, of such Sum or Sums of Money as may be requisite for the Purposes above specified, not exceeding in the whole the Sum of Two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds; which said Sum or Sums of Money shall be chargeable upon and be repaid out of the Public Funds of this Colony, together with Interest at such Rates, in such Instalments and Manner, and at such Times, as the Governor and Council may deem most expedient, and as shall be provided and agreed upon by and with Her Majesty's Government and the Parties advancing the Sums of Money to be loaned as aforesaid.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Governor or Person administering the Government for the Time being, and he is hereby authorized and empowered, by and with the Advice aforesaid, upon obtaining such Loan of Two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds, or any Portions thereof, from Time to Time to grant and issue, or cause to be granted and issued, One or more Debentures for the same, to be numbered in succession from One upwards; and such Debentures shall be in such Form and Words as is usual and customary in the like Cases, and as shall be needful for the Purposes of this Act, and shall be signed and executed on the Part and Behalf of this Colony by such Person or Persons as the Governor or Person administering the Government of this Colony shall, by Warrant under the Great Seal of the Colony, from Time to Time, for that Purpose, appoint.

III. And be it further enacted, That from and out of such Monies as shall from Time to Time remain in the Hands of the Treasurer of the Colony unappropriated, there be granted to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, such Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in all the Sum of Ten thousand Pounds annually, as may be necessary to defray the Interest yearly to grow due upon the said Sum of Two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds, or such Portion or Portions thereof as may be raised on Loan under and by means of this Act.

IV. And be it further enacted, That for the Purpose of enabling private Individuals to reconstruct their Dwelling Houses and Stores of Stone or Brick, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor or Person administering the Government, in Council, to receive the Applications of Persons desirous of obtaining Loans of Money for that Purpose; and upon Proof to the Satisfaction of the Governor and Council that the Title and Nature of the Interest of the Applicants in the Ground on which such Buildings are proposed to be erected are such as to afford reasonable Security for the Repayment of the Sums to be loaned thereon, to lend and advance to such Persons respectively such Sum or Sums as the Governor and Council shall deem proper, not exceeding in the whole Three Fourths of the appraised Value of the Interest of the Party borrowing in the Premises on which such Buildings shall be intended to be erected. And all such Loans to private Individuals shall be made upon the express Condition, and on due Security being taken, that the Sums advanced to them shall be expended in the Erection of Buildings on the mortgaged Premises respectively, in accordance with such Plan and Regulations as shall be made and prescribed by any Act or Acts of the Legislature of this Colony for that Purpose. And all and every Mortgages, Conveyances, Leases, or other Charges of and upon the respective Premises of the Parties to whom such Loans shall be granted

granted as aforesaid shall, for the better Security and Repayment of the said Public Loan of Two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds, be made and executed to such Person or Persons, in trust, as shall be named and appointed, and under and subject to such Rules, Regulations, and Restrictions, as shall be made and prescribed for that Purpose by Her Majesty's Government.

V. And be it further enacted, That no Part of the said Sum of Two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds, to be raised and borrowed on the Credit of this Colony, shall be expended or applied in any Way or Manner other than such as is herein directed and expressed, or shall be directed and expressed by some other Act or Acts of the Legislature of this Colony.

VI. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall not be of any Force or Effect until Her Majesty's Pleasure thereon shall have been first signified.

No. 13.

(No. 46.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR Sir JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B., to the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE.

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

Sir,

SINCE Three o'Clock Yesterday the General Assembly has (acting promptly upon my Suggestion) passed an Act to which I have just given my Assent, and by which it appears to me to have afforded unequivocal Evidence of its Desire to act in perfect good Faith in the Matter of the Loan, by having by this Bill assigned and placed beyond its own Control for an unlimited Period, or rather for a Period limited only by the Duration of the Obligation, the Import Duties on certain Articles of which the Produce may be fairly estimated at 16,000% per Annum, it never having fallen materially below that Amount, to be applied exclusively in the first instance to the Payment of the Interest of the Loan now proposed to be raised through the Aid and Intervention of the Imperial Government.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

No. 13.
Governor
Sir J. Harvey
to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone,
24th June 1846.

No. 59.

(No. 59.)

Enclosure in No. 13.

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

WHEREAS during this present Session of the General Assembly of the Island of Newfoundland an Act hath been passed, intituled "An Act to raise by Loan a Sum of Money for the rebuilding and Improvement of the Town of Saint John's:" And whereas by the said Act it is enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor or Person administering the Government of this Colony for the Time being, by and with the Advice of Her Majesty's Council, under the Provisions contained and expressed in the said Act, to negotiate for, raise, and obtain by way of Loan such Sum or Sums of Money as may be requisite for the Purposes mentioned in the said Act, not exceeding in the whole the Sum of Two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds, and which Sum and Sums of Money, together with Interest for the same, shall be chargeable upon and be repaid out of the Public Funds of this Colony: And whereas it is expedient and necessary that ample and satisfactory Securities should be provided for the due and regular Payment of the Interest as it shall grow due upon the said Sum of Two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds, or upon such Portion or Portions thereof as may be raised on Loan: And whereas in and by an Act passed by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of Newfoundland in the Ninth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain Duties on Goods, Wares, and Merchandize imported into this Colony and its Dependencies," the following Duties are imposed to be paid upon the Importation into this Colony of the several Articles of

Enclosure in
No. 13.

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NEWFOUNDLAND.

Wines, Spirits, Tea, Tobacco, and salted Provisions; that is to say, upon all Wines in Bottles, the Gallon Two Shillings and Sixpence, all other Wines the Gallon One Shilling and Sixpence; for every Gallon of Brandy, Geneva, Cordials, or other Spirits not therein defined or enumerated, the Gallon Two Shillings and Sixpence; for every Gallon of Rum and Whiskey the Gallon Sixpence, for every Pound of Tea Three-pence, for every Thousand of Cigars Ten Shillings, for every Pound of manufactured and for every Pound of Leaf Tobacco Two-pence, and for every One hundred and twelve Pounds of Tobacco Stems Two Shillings, for every One hundred and twelve Pounds of Meat salted or cured One Shilling and Sixpence; which said Act as is therein declared is made to continue and be in force from the Fifth Day of July One thousand eight hundred and forty-six, and thence for the Period of Eighteen Calendar Months and no longer: And whereas it is expedient that so much of the said Act as relates to the Payment of the several Duties on all the before-mentioned Articles, and also that all the Clauses, Provisions, and Regulations contained in the same Act for the levying and collecting the said Duties, should be made perpetual, and that the Produce of the said Duties should be applied in the first instance towards the Payment of the Interest to grow due upon the principal Monies to be raised on Loan, under the Provisions of the Act first above recited; be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, in Legislative Session convened, and by the Authority of the same, That all such Parts of the before-mentioned Act passed in the last Session of the General Assembly as impose the Payment of Duties on all and every of the above-enumerated Articles after the Rates aforesaid, and all and every the Clauses, Provisions, Regulations, and Restrictions relating to the levying, collecting, and securing of the same Duties as the same are declared and set forth in the said Act, shall be and the same are hereby made perpetual; and that all the Monies and Produce of the said enumerated Duties, or so much thereof as may become necessary for the Purpose, shall be paid and applied towards defraying the Interest to grow due upon the said Sum of Two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds, or such Portions thereof as shall be raised on Loan as aforesaid.

Passed the General Assembly, 24th June 1846.

(Signed) JOHN KENT, Speaker.

(Signed) J. HARVEY, Governor.

Governor's Assent given on the same Day.

No. 14.

(No. 7.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B.

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

Sir,

Downing Street, 27th July 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the Receipt of your Despatches Nos. 45. and 46. of the 23d and 24th of June, accompanying the Transcripts of Two Acts passed in the Month of June last by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of Newfoundland in Legislative Session convened, (and distinguished in the Records of this Department by the Numbers 58. and 59.), intituled,—

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

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

The Operation of the Act No. 58. is suspended for the Signification of Her Majesty's Pleasure.

Her Majesty's Government have already given the most conclusive Proof in their Power of the Regret and Sympathy with which they have regarded the calamitous Conflagration which has destroyed so large a Part of the City of St. John's Newfoundland; but their Anxiety to mitigate that Disaster would not justify their advising the Queen to assent to an Act framed on the Assumption that the Guarantee of the British Treasury will be given to a Loan to be raised in this Country for rebuilding and improving the City. If the local Legislature should see fit to pass a Law for raising such a Loan on the single Security

Security of the local Revenue, I foresee no Objection to such a Measure. But the Act No. 58. will not be confirmed, and consequently the Act No. 59. will not come into operation. It ought therefore to be repealed. NEWFOUNDLAND.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 15.

(No. 47.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B., to the
Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE.

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

Newfoundland, Government House, Saint John's,
26th June 1846.

Sir,

WITH reference to my Despatches Nos. 38. 39. 45. 46. of 10th, 18th, 23d, and 24th instant, I avail myself of a running Ship expected to make a quick Passage to Cork to transmit to you Copies of the Speech with which I opened on the 16th instant the Session of the local Legislature specially convened by me in consequence of the great Calamity which had so suddenly befallen this Colony in the Destruction of its Capital by Fire, of the Address in answer, with my Reply, and of Two Acts since passed, assigning the whole of the Revenues of the Colony for the ultimate Repayment of the Principal, and hypothecating a certain Portion thereof for the punctual Payment of the Interest of the Loan of 250,000*l.*, proposed to be raised through the Aid and Intervention of the Imperial Government and Parliament for the rebuilding of this Town on a more secure Plan.

*For Sir J. Harvey's
Speech, vide Pages
22 and 23.*

*For Acts Nos. 58.
and 59, vide Pages
25 and 27.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

No. 16.

(No. 50.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B., to the Right
Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE.

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

Sir,

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

IN compliance with the Wishes of the General Assembly I have the Honour herewith to transmit the Copy of an Address which has this Day been presented to me by a Deputation of that Body, of which the Object is to solicit a Grant from the Imperial Parliament for the Reconstruction of certain of the public Offices in this City destroyed by the recent Conflagration.

The Buildings referred to were all (except the Custom House) of Wood, and I would propose that the Court House, Police Office, Gaol, and Record Office should be reconstructed of Brick or Stone, and all included in One Building, of which the Cost need not, I should imagine, exceed from 8,000*l.* to 10,000*l.*

With respect to the Custom House, the Collector has obtained my Leave to proceed to England for the Purpose of submitting to his own Department a Plan and Estimate for the Reconstruction of that Office, and in which I would recommend to be included Accommodation for the Offices (so intimately mixed up in their Transactions) of the Colonial Treasurer and the Postmaster, an Arrangement in which the Collector fully concurs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

Enclosure in No. 16.

NEWFOUNDLAND.
Enclosure in No. 16.

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

May it please your Excellency,

THE House of Assembly beg leave respectfully to acquaint your Excellency that they are humbly of opinion that in the general Depression arising from the Effects of the late Conflagration, by which more than Two Thirds of Saint John's, the Capital of the Island, were swept away, it would greatly conduce to allay the Apprehensions of the industrious Classes, and retain them in the Colony, if those Buildings essentially necessary to the Administration of the Government were speedily to be erected.

They, therefore, respectfully pray your Excellency, that, in order to remove the Fears of the Population by the Diffusion of Employment, as soon as possible, your Excellency will please to represent to Her Majesty's Government the Importance of ordering the Erection of a Court House, Police Office, Gaol, Record Office, Custom House, Treasury, and Post Office, to replace those that have been destroyed.

(Signed) JOHN KENT,
Speaker.

House of Assembly,
3d July 1846.

No. 17.

(No. 9.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B.

No. 17.
Earl Grey
to
Governor
Sir J. Harvey,
30th July 1846.

Sir,

Downing Street, 30th July 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the Receipt of your Despatch, No. 50. of the 6th of July, in which you enclose an Address presented to you by the General Assembly of Newfoundland, praying that you would submit to Her Majesty's Government the Importance of directing the Reconstruction of the public Buildings in the City of Saint John's which have been destroyed by the recent Conflagration at that Place.

I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government are unable to comply with the Wishes of the General Assembly of Newfoundland on this Occasion, as they are not prepared to recommend the Imperial Parliament to make the pecuniary Provision which would be requisite for the Re-erection of the public Buildings in the Colony in addition to the late Grant of 30,000*l.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 18.

(No. 59.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B., to the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE.

No. 18.
Governor
Sir J. Harvey
to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone,
3d August 1846.

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

Sir,

WITH reference to your Despatch, No. 27. of 3d ultimo, authorizing me to call upon the Commissariat Chest to the Extent of 5,000*l.* in aid of Relief to the Sufferers by the late Conflagration, it cannot be otherwise than gratifying that that Donation was most opportune, as I had Occasion almost immediately to avail myself of it to the Extent of 2,000*l.*, principally for the Purpose of meeting the Demands of the "Relief Committee."

I have the Honour to enclose the Copy of a Resolution adopted by the General Assembly with reference to this Donation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Enclosure in
No. 18.

To his Excellency Major General Sir John Harvey, K.C.B. and K.C.H., &c. &c.
May it please your Excellency,

THE House of Assembly beg leave to thank your Excellency for your Excellency's Message of the 21st ultimo, transmitting to the House a Copy of a Despatch from the
Right

Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, bearing Date the 3d Day of July, acquainting your Excellency of the Measures adopted by Her Majesty's Government for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late Conflagration, and of the Donation of 5,000*l.* from the Imperial Treasury towards meeting the more pressing Demands growing out of that calamitous Event.

The House humbly beg leave, through your Excellency, to express the grateful Sense they entertain of the prompt and generous Assistance afforded to the Colony by Her Majesty's Government in the late afflicting Emergency, as well as for the kind and considerate Terms in which the Right Honourable Secretary has conveyed this Pledge of the Sympathy of the Mother Country.

Passed the General Assembly 1st August 1846.

(Signed) JOHN KENT,
Speaker.

No. 19.

(No. 17.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B.

No. 19.
Earl Grey
to
Governor
Sir J. Harvey,
18th August 1846.

Page 24.

Sir,

Downing Street, 18th August 1846.

IN my Despatch, No. 1. of the 18th July, I gave you Instructions to apply the Grant made by Parliament for the Relief of the Inhabitants of St. John's Newfoundland to the Service only of those Persons who had been rendered destitute by the Fire at that Place. It has, however, been suggested to me, that as the Subscriptions which are being raised in this Country, and in the North American Colonies, will amount to a considerable Sum, it would be a very desirable Mode of applying a Part of the Grant already placed at your Disposal in the Re-erection of the official Buildings of the Colony, which must, in consequence of the Decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the Application made by you for further Assistance towards this Object, otherwise be replaced by Resources derived from Taxation. I have, therefore, to instruct you, unless it would interfere with Arrangements which you have already made, to reserve at least a Portion of the Parliamentary Grant until the Expediency of such an Application as I have now mentioned can be further considered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 20.

(No. 61.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B., to Earl GREY.

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

Page 24.

My Lord,

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

I HASTEN to acknowledge your Lordship's Despatch, No. 1. of the 18th ultimo, transmitting an additional Sum of 25,000*l.*, making a total Amount of 30,000*l.*, as a Donation from Her Majesty's Government to the Sufferers by the late Conflagration in this City.

Not only will it be my Duty to cause the necessary Arrangements to be made for the strict Application of this munificent Gift to the Objects for which it has been granted, but I have Satisfaction in expressing to your Lordship my entire Conviction that this noble Donation, added to the Contributions which we are daily receiving from the neighbouring Colonies with those expected from the Mother Country, all Apprehension of any serious Amount of Distress during the ensuing Winter, arising out of the Consequences of the late Fire, may be regarded as entirely at an End.

I now advert to that Portion of your Lordship's Despatch which conveys to me the Expression of a Desire on the Part of certain Gentlemen and Merchants in London connected with this Island that I should continue in the Adminis-

NEWFOUNDLAND.

tration of its Government until the next Spring. In reply, I beg to observe that in proportion to the Satisfaction with which I regard the Expression of this Wish is the Regret which I feel that, with a due Regard to my own Health and that of other Members of my Family, and to other most weighty Considerations partly explained by me to your Lordship's Predecessor, I am unable to meet the Wishes of these Gentlemen by remaining another Winter in Newfoundland. In deference, however, to those Wishes, and to what your Lordship has said in their Support, my Departure from hence (which I had intended to have taken by the present Steamer, Three Fourths of my Effects being already at Halifax,) shall be deferred for One Month, or until the Arrival in the Colony of Mr. Crowdy, the Colonial Secretary, to whose Presence here, particularly during a provisional Administration, I certainly attach considerable Importance.

Mr. Crowdy is an old and experienced as well as a very valuable public Servant, possessing my entire Confidence, and with whom I shall have no Difficulty in making such Arrangements and leaving such Instructions as shall guard, as far as may be possible, against any Misapplication of the Funds so munificently bestowed upon the Sufferers by the late Calamity by the Queen's Government, as well as of those received from other Sources.

In the meantime it is very gratifying to me to be able to inform your Lordship, that while the Extent of the Calamity, as respects the Loss of Property, has been by no means over-rated, but on the contrary exceeds the Estimate assumed in my Despatch of the 10th June (No. 38.) by nearly 100,000*l.*, having been ascertained by the Commissioners who were appointed for that Purpose to amount to 888,156*l.* instead of from 600,000*l.* to 800,000*l.* as stated by me, the Distress among the labouring and mechanical Classes has actually almost ceased, in consequence of the full Demand for Labour. The real Sufferers are, as I at first stated, to be found among the middle and humbler Classes, and to them accordingly it will be my earnest Endeavour to ensure the Extension of effectual Relief (either by gratuitous Donations or *nominal* Loans) before I leave the Island. For many of the *lower* Classes Shelter has been provided in Huts and Tents which will answer tolerably well during the Summer Months; but I remain of the Opinion that the Presence of One or more large and capacious Ships of War in this Harbour during the ensuing Winter would be a great Blessing: in respect to Shelter to many who will *then* need it, particularly as Fuel and warm Clothing can be provided for them from the Funds already so liberally contributed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

No. 21.

(No. 19.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from EARL GREY to Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B.

Sir,

Downing Street, 3d September 1846.

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 61. of the 6th August.

Although it would have been extremely satisfactory if you could have deferred your Departure for Nova Scotia until the Termination of the Winter, I am ready to admit the Cogency of the Reasons which have precluded you from complying with the Wishes of the Gentlemen connected with Newfoundland, which I expressed in their Behalf in my Despatch No. 1. of the 18th of July. I am glad to be able to state that the recent Arrival in this Country of Mr. Bruce, who was not expected till the Spring, and his probable Departure for Newfoundland within the Course of a short Time, removes all Difficulty in respect to the Embarrassment which was apprehended from your own Departure from that Colony.

The Proceedings which you have adopted and still contemplate for the Relief of the different Classes of the Community of Saint John's who have been subjected to Privations and Distress in consequence of the late Calamity in that Town obtain my entire Approval; but I regret to inform you that it is totally

No. 21.
Earl Grey
to
Governor
Sir J. Harvey,
3d Sept. 1846.

totally out of the Power of Her Majesty's Government to station either One or more Men of War in the Harbour of Saint John's during the ensuing Winter with the View of affording Accommodation to Persons who may require Shelter during that Period of the Year. But I trust that the Means which have been placed at your Disposal both by the Government and private Subscriptions will enable you to make such Arrangements as will prevent in a great Degree any additional Suffering from the Inability of the Government to comply with your Suggestion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 22.

(No. 62.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY, K. C. B., to Earl GREY.

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

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

My Lord,

I HAVE the Honour herewith to transmit Copy of the Speech with which I closed the Special Session of the General Assembly of this Colony on the 4th instant. To this is added a Copy of the only Act of any Importance which was passed during the Session, and for which indeed they were convened. Copies of a few other Bills will be transmitted by the next Mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

P.S.—To the foregoing Documents I venture to add the Copy of an Address from the whole of the Inhabitants of this City and Community, which has this Day been presented to me, with that of my Answer.

J. H.

Enclosure 1. in No. 22.

COPY of the Speech of his Excellency Sir John Harvey, on closing the Special Session of the General Assembly on the 4th instant.

Enclosure 1. in
No. 22.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

IN releasing you from further Attendance upon your legislative Labours, it is my pleasing Duty again to tender to you, in the Name of the Sovereign, my cordial Acknowledgments of the Assiduity which you have bestowed upon the great Objects for which you were specially convened, and my Congratulations upon the Completion of a Measure which I gratify myself in believing to be fraught with more important and beneficial Consequences, as regards the future Interests and Prosperity of your commercial Capital, than any which has ever engaged the Attention of its Local Legislature at any Period since a constitutional Form of Government was conferred upon Newfoundland.

With the gratifying Feelings which this Reflection is calculated to inspire, you will return to your Constituency and your ordinary Avocations, while I on my Part shall not cease to cherish the Recollection that as our united and most earnest Endeavours have been unceasingly used to mitigate the Severity and to repair the Injuries inflicted by the great Calamity with which it has pleased the Almighty Disposer of Events to visit this City, it has also pleased Him thus far to direct and prosper those Endeavours.

In connexion with this Subject it cannot fail to be interesting to you to be informed that the total Amount of Property, real and personal, destroyed by the late Fire, has been estimated by the Commissioners appointed for the Purpose of obtaining that Information (in their Report just received) at the Sum of 888,356l.

Towards the paternal Government of Her Majesty, and for the benevolent Acts and Intentions of neighbouring Colonies, we are bound to record our most grateful Acknowledgments, which I therefore feel a Pride in doing, as the last Act of that Form of Government which, marked throughout its Proceedings by the best Understanding and Feelings, has been the Instrument of conferring many Advantages on this Colony, among the chiefest of which I cannot but regard the having, as I fervently trust, laid the Foundation of future legislative Harmony.

I have further to thank you for having, in compliance with my Suggestions, abstained from diverting your Attention during the Session from the great Object for which you were specially convened by engaging in the Consideration of other Subjects.

You will therefore, I trust, receive from me with your wonted Indulgence the Intimation that, with respect to the Measure which constitutes the only Exception, (and in which I find no suspending Clause,) I have felt myself restrained by the very important constitutional

NEWFOUNDLAND. Principles which are therein involved, and to which, under the present hurried Circumstances, I have not had the Means or Leisure to give that Degree of Attention which they demanded, to reserve that Bill for future Consideration, and for Communication with Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

It has too often been my pleasing Duty to advert in my Communications with you to the harmonious and satisfactory Course of your legislative Proceedings to render it necessary for me again to refer to that Subject; but I deem this, the Moment of my Departure from your Shores, a fitting Occasion upon which to place upon public Record an Opinion which a Residence of Five Years among them has led me to form of the Character of the great Body of Her Majesty's loyal Subjects in Newfoundland; not only has it not been found necessary to resort to the extreme Rigour of the Law in any Instance during that Period, but I feel that I should do less than Justice to them if I were to withhold the Declaration, that it has never been my Fortune to be connected with a Community in which there has been less of Crime committed, or Disposition to Turbulence or Opposition to the Law evinced, than in this Island.

Again I invoke the Divine Blessing and Protection on the Inhabitants and Interests of this ancient, loyal, and most important Colony.

Enclosure 2. in No. 22.

ADDRESS.

Enclosure 2. in
No. 22.

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

May it please your Excellency,

We, the Clergy, Magistrates, Merchants, and other Inhabitants of Saint John's, beg leave to approach your Excellency with Sentiments of sincere Respect and Esteem, to express our Feelings of deep Regret at the Termination of your Excellency's Administration of the public Affairs of this Colony; and to testify our Sense of the Benefits conferred upon this Community during the Period of your Excellency's Government.

Called to preside over the Councils of the Colony at a Time when a new and untried Form of Constitution was deemed necessary, your Excellency's Task was one of no ordinary Magnitude, and one which required the Exercise of the greatest Judgment. Within the short Period, however, during which your Excellency has conducted the Government of the Colony, we have had the Satisfaction of witnessing the Establishment throughout the Island of a liberal System of academical and general Education; the Encouragement and Extension of Agriculture beyond the Expectations of its most sanguine Advocates; the Accomplishment of Communication by Steam Vessels with England and the neighbouring Colonies; and the extensive Construction and Improvement of Public Works, especially the more important ones of Roads and Bridges; these and many other Blessings have been, in no small Degree, attributable to the personal Interest taken by your Excellency in the public Welfare; and to the unwearied Assiduity with which you have, at all Times, devoted yourself to its Promotion, aided by the valuable Experience of your Excellency in previous colonial Governments; whilst, at the same Time, it is to the wise and liberal Policy by which your Excellency has ever been guided, that we have now the Happiness of attributing the Feelings of general Harmony which are now diffused throughout this Community.

On the Occasion of the recent calamitous Event which reduced our once flourishing Town to Ashes, the prompt and humane Exertions of your Excellency to alleviate the Distresses of the Sufferers, and the successful Endeavours of your Excellency to awaken the Sympathies of the Mother Country and the surrounding Colonies in our Behalf, have been such as to demand the Expression of our deepest Gratitude.

Neither can we omit this Opportunity of recording the grateful Sense we entertain of the kind and affable Deportment which your Excellency has invariably displayed towards all who have had personal Interchange with your Excellency; and of thanking your Excellency for the fostering Patronage, as well as liberal Support, which you have uniformly bestowed upon all our public and private charitable Institutions.

We beg to be permitted at the same Time respectfully to tender to the Honourable Lady Harvey our liveliest Sentiments of Esteem and Regard; and to assure her that whilst her amiable and most estimable Qualities of Heart and Mind have endeared her to all who have enjoyed the Pleasure of her Acquaintance, she will never cease to be remembered in the Prayers of the Widow and the Orphan, whose Wants and Distresses have at all Times occupied her Thoughts, and to the Relief of whose Sufferings she has been so munificent a Contributor.

Whilst, however, we regret the Loss which this Colony will suffer by the Severance of your Excellency's Connexion with it, and more particularly at this important Crisis, we beg leave at the same Time to offer to your Excellency our hearty Congratulations on the

Mark

Mark of Royal Favour which our Gracious Queen has been pleased to bestow upon you in appointing you to the Government of the neighbouring Province of Nova Scotia; and, in conclusion, we beg to assure your Excellency, that to whatever Portion of Her Majesty's Dominions your high Duties may call you, in leaving our Shores you carry with you the cordial Esteem of all Classes of this Community.

On behalf of the Meeting.

(Signed) B. G. GARRETT, High Sheriff,
Chairman.

ANSWER.

My Lord, Reverend and Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

If not the highest, yet assuredly one of the most gratifying Testimonials which a public Man can receive is the publicly expressed Approbation of those of his Fellow Subjects over whom he has presided (for a Period sufficient to confer its due Value on the Sentiment) in the endearing (so suffer me to call it) Relation of the Representative of a beneficent and paternal Sovereign; that Reward it has pleased you this Day to confer upon me, and although it is not the first (by many) of a similar Character to which it has been my grateful Duty to respond for myself, and for her who has been the beloved Confidante of my Bosom, the Solacer of all my Cares, for a Period fast advancing to Half a Century, and to whose Worth you have been pleased to pay so affecting a Tribute, yet are there Circumstances which connect themselves with this particular Address which confer a Value upon it in our Estimation which I should ill attempt to describe. We arrived in this Community entire Strangers to you all; we have passed Five Years of our Lives among you, a Period which at our Age constitutes a large Portion of our waning Existence; we have lived in the Interchange of mutually kind Feelings; we have during that Period experienced our Trials and domestic Afflictions, and you have sympathized and mourned with us as Friends and Brethren; finally you have presented to us a Testimonial of your good Will which has deeply affected our Hearts. And how have we earned all this? Simply by following the Line of Conduct prescribed alike by a Sense of Christian Duty and natural Disposition; by being just to all, and showing a little Kindness to those who needed it, without Distinction of Creed, according to our limited Opportunities and Means.

Gentlemen, in one of my first Addresses to you, I told you that unless you would give me your Confidence and Support, any Efforts on my Part to promote your Interests must be unavailing; you frankly met my Appeal; in other Words you did Justice to the Sincerity of the Professions of my Desire to devote myself to your Service, and to identify myself with all your Interests; and if the Result has been satisfactory to you, to you belongs the Merit in a far higher Degree than any to which I can lay claim. I told you that while it was contrary to my Duty, as well towards my Sovereign as yourselves, to attach myself exclusively to any Party, or even to recognize its Existence, yet, that that Duty required of me to identify myself with all Classes, doing equal Justice to each; in these Views you, Gentlemen, have sustained me, and whatever of Credit may attach to the Result is yours.

You have been pleased to offer me your Congratulations upon the Transfer of my Services to a more extended Sphere of Action. To your Fellow Subjects of that noble Province I shall feel a Pride in bearing this your Testimonial, in the most entire Conviction that the Principles (few and simple) by which my public Conduct has been uniformly governed, and which have proved not otherwise than satisfactory to Three of the Five North American Colonies, will not be found to fail in their Application to the Fourth.

My Lord, Reverend and Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

For myself, Lady Harvey, and my Family, I bid you all an affectionate Farewell, and I entreat you to believe that our fervent Prayers for the Renewal of that Prosperity which it has seemed good to the Almighty to interrupt for a Season may again return to you and be long enjoyed.

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

(Signed) J. HARVEY.

Enclosure 3. in No. 22.

Enclosure 3. in
No. 22.

ANNO NONO & DECIMO VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

CAP. III.

An Act to regulate the rebuilding of the Town of St. John's, and the Drainage and Sewerage of the same, and to repeal certain Acts therein mentioned.

[Passed 4th August 1846.]

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

Preamble.

I.—Be it therefore enacted, by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, in Legislative Session convened, that Water Street, in the said Town of St. John's, shall extend from the Eastern Side of Quidi Vidi Firebreak on the East to Job's Bridge on the West, and shall

Water Street.

NEWFOUNDLAND. be Sixty Feet in Width from the South Line of the said Street; which said Line shall be as follows:

South Line.

Commencing at Station No. 1. on the Plan of the Commissioners appointed by his Excellency the Governor, certified under the Hands of the said Commissioners, and presented to the House of Assembly, and running thence to Station No. 4., according to the Line described on the said Plan; thence in a straight Line to a Point Three Feet North of the North-west Angle of Messrs. Dunscomb & Harvey's Premises; thence in a straight Line to the North-west Angle of Mr. Nicholas Gill's Premises; thence in a straight Line to the North-east Angle of Mr. Patrick Morris's Premises; thence in a straight Line to the North-east Angle of the House lately occupied by Mrs. Beck; thence according to the existing Line of Street to Prescott Street Firebreak, as herein-after described; then from a Point Ten Feet South of the North-east Angle of the House lately occupied by Mr. Henry Earle to the North-east Angle of Messrs. John M. Rendell & Co.'s Premises; thence through a Point Ten Feet South of the North-west Angle of Messrs. William & Henry Thomas & Co.'s Premises to the North-west Angle of the Stone House lately occupied by Mr. R. F. Trimmingham; then from the North-east Angle of the House lately occupied by Mr. Patrick Maher, by the existing Line of Street, to Beck's Cove; then from a Point Fifteen Feet South of the North-east Angle of Messrs. E. & N. Stabb's late Premises in a straight Line to the North-east Angle of Messrs. Shea & Murphy's Stone House; thence to the North-west Angle of the Dwelling House lately occupied by Mr. W. E. Taylor; thence in a straight Line to a Point in the Middle of Codner's Cove Fifteen Feet South of the existing South Line of Water Street; thence in a straight Line to the North-west Angle of the Premises of Mr. John H. Warren; thence by the existing Line of Street to the North-west Angle of Messrs. James & William Stewart's Premises; thence by the Line described on the aforesaid Plan to the North-east Angle of Messrs. Stuart & Rennie's Stone Buildings; thence by the existing Line of Street to the North-east Angle of Pie Corner Cove; thence in a straight Line to the North-east Angle of Mr. P. Morris's Brick Buildings; thence to the North-west Angle of the same; thence to Station No. 19., according to the Line laid down and described on the said Plan, being the North-east Angle of the Entrance of Job's Bridge; thence by a Line Sixty Feet distant from and parallel to the North Line of Street as laid down and described on the aforesaid Plan, to Station No. 21.

Duckworth Street.

II.—And be it enacted, That Duckworth Street in the said Town shall extend from the Eastern Side of Quidi Vidi Firebreak on the East to Flower Hill Firebreak on the West; and shall be Sixty Feet in Width from the South Line of the said Street, which said Line shall be as follows:

South Line.

Commencing at a Point opposite Station No. 1. in the said Street, as marked and described in the said Plan, and running thence to the North-east Angle of Woodley's Lane according to the Line laid down and described in the said Plan; thence in a straight Line to the North-east Angle of Mr. John Stears's House, West of the Hill of Chips; thence by the existing Line of Street to a Point Five Feet North of the North-east Angle of the House lately occupied by Jeremiah Hayes at the Head of the King's Beach; thence in a straight Line to the North-east Angle of Mr. Thomas Bearns's Stone Buildings; thence along the same and in a straight Line to the North-east Angle of Mr. William Flynn's Brick House; thence by the existing Line of Street to the North-west Angle of the Commercial Building; thence in a straight Line to the North-east Angle of Market Square; thence by the existing Line of Street to Beck's Cove Firebreak; and thence to Flower Hill Firebreak, by a Line parallel to and Twenty Feet South of the Southern Line as laid down by the said Commissioners for the South Line of the Continuation of Duckworth Street.

Eleven Firebreaks.

III.—And be it enacted, That there shall be laid down in the said Town and Suburbs Eleven Cross Streets or Firebreaks, as follows, that is to say:—

Church Hill.

CHURCH HILL FIREBREAK.—Which shall be according to the Lines laid down and described for the same, on the aforesaid Plan of the Commissioners.

Prescott Street.

PRESCOTT STREET FIREBREAK.—The existing Western Boundary of which, between Water Street and Duckworth Street, shall be the Western Boundary thereof, and a Space equal to the Breadth of M'Larty's Lane shall be added to the Width of the same, the Proprietors of Ground encroached on for this Purpose occupying the said Lane in lieu of the Ground so encroached on. Between Duckworth Street and the Northern Terminus of the said Firebreak, the Eastern Side of Cantwell's Lane, until it is intersected by the Eastern Side Line of Prescott Street, as laid down upon the said Plan, and thence to the said Terminus, the Eastern Side Line of the said Street, as described upon the said Plan, shall be the Eastern Side Line of the said Firebreak and Street; and that a Line parallel thereto at Sixty Feet Distance shall be the Western Boundary.

King's Beach Firebreak.

KING'S BEACH FIREBREAK.—Commencing at the North-west Angle of Mr. Nicholas Gill's House in Water Street; thence running in a straight Line to the South-west Angle of Mr. Michael Dealy's House in Duckworth Street; thence running in a straight Line to a Point Seventeen and a Half Feet East of the North-east Angle of the King's Road in Gower Street; thence in a straight Line to the South-east Angle of the Ordnance Lime-kiln Ground; and thence by the Eastern Boundary of the said Ground to the Military

Road;

Road; which said Lines shall form the Eastern Boundary of the said Firebreak; and that a Line or Lines parallel thereto at a Distance of Seventy Feet shall form the Western Boundary of the said Firebreak to the said Limekiln Ground; and that from thence the said Firebreak shall be bounded on the West by the Western Side of the King's Road. NEWFOUNDLAND.

HILL OF CHIPS FIREBREAK.—The Western Side of the said Firebreak shall be bounded by a straight Line commencing in Water Street and running along the North-eastern Foundation Wall of Mr. Patrick Kough's House (the late Billiard Room) to Duckworth Street, and a Line parallel thereto at Seventy Feet Distance shall be the Eastern Boundary thereof. Hill of Chips Firebreak.

QUIDI VIDI FIREBREAK.—The Western Side of the said Firebreak shall be bounded by a straight Line running from the Harbour along the Foundation Wall of Mr. James Brine's Premises to Duckworth Street, and a Line parallel thereto at Sixty Feet Distance shall be the Eastern Boundary. Quidi Vidi Firebreak.

MCBRIDE'S COVE FIREBREAK.—That from the North Side of Water Street to Duckworth Street the existing Western Boundary shall remain, and that a Line parallel thereto at Eighty Feet Distance shall be the Eastern Boundary thereof. McBride's Cove Firebreak.

BECK'S COVE FIREBREAK.—That the existing Boundary Lines of the said Cove and Firebreak between the Harbour and Duckworth Street remain unaltered, and that from the Northern Extremity of the Eastern Boundary of the said Firebreak a straight Line be extended to the North-west Angle of William Shea's House in Gower Street, and that a Line parallel thereto, at 60 Feet Distance, form the Western Boundary of the Continuation of the said Firebreak. Beck's Cove Firebreak.

CODNER'S COVE FIREBREAK.—A Line drawn from the Harbour along the Eastern Foundation Walls of Mr. John H. Warren's late Dwelling House to Water Street, and the existing Western Side Line of Adelaide Street to Duckworth Street, shall form the Western Boundary; and that the Eastern Side of Codner's Cove, and a Line Sixty Feet distant from and parallel to the Western Side of Adelaide Street, be the Eastern Boundary thereof. Codner's Cove Firebreak.

QUEEN STREET.—The existing Western Line of Queen Street, and a Line drawn from the South-west Angle of Barter's Hill Road, through the North-east Angle of the House at the First Turn of the said Road to the Westward, and thence to the rear Line of the Town, shall form the Western Boundary of the said Street; and Lines parallel thereto, at Sixty Feet Distance, shall be the Eastern Boundary thereof. Queen Street Firebreak.

STUART & RENNIE'S COVE.—The Eastern Boundary of Messrs. Stuart & Rennie's Premises shall be the Western Boundary of the said Cove; and a Line parallel thereto, at Sixty Feet Distance, shall be the Eastern Boundary thereof. Stuart and Rennie's Cove.

FLOWER HILL FIREBREAK.—A Line drawn from the Harbour along the Western Side of the Bonding Store of Messrs. Newman and Co. to the Corner of Mr. Jonas Barter's House, where it is touched by the Eastern Line as laid down and described upon the aforesaid Plan, and thence to the rear Line of the Town, the said Eastern Line shall form the Eastern Boundary of the said Firebreak; and a Line parallel thereto, at a Distance of Eighty Feet, shall form the Western Boundary of the same. Flower Hill Firebreak.

GAS WORKS FIREBREAK.—The Eastern Line of the said Firebreak as laid down and described on the said Plan of the Commissioners shall be the Eastern Boundary of the said Firebreak; and a Line parallel thereto, at Sixty Feet Distance, shall be the Western Boundary thereof. Gas Works Firebreak.

RIVER HEAD FIREBREAK.—The Eastern Line, as laid down and described on the aforesaid Plan, shall be the Eastern Boundary of the said Firebreak; and a Line parallel thereto, at Sixty Feet Distance, shall be the Western Boundary thereof. River Head Firebreak.

And be it enacted, That New Gower Street shall be laid down as follows: commencing at the South-east Angle of Philip Duggan's House; thence running in a straight Line, touching the South-west Angle of Stephen Ryan's House to a Point Sixty Feet beyond the Boundary of James Fergus's Ground; thence in a straight Line to a Point North of the North-west Angle of Waldegrave Street; and thence to a Point North of the North-west Angle of Cuddihy's House, being the Western Extremity of the burnt District; and further, that the Square laid down and described on the aforesaid Plan as Harvey Square be reserved and named Harvey Square, and that the Streets which form the North-east and South-west Boundaries thereof shall be of the Widths and Courses laid down and described for the same in the aforesaid Plan of the Commissioners. New Gower Street.

IV.—And be it enacted, That from and after such Time as the Streets and Firebreaks aforesaid shall be laid out, in manner herein-after directed, and Compensation shall be made or tendered for the Property necessarily appropriated for such Purposes, and Notice thereof shall have been given by Publication in the "Royal Gazette," the Ground included in the said Streets and Firebreaks shall be and become public Property; and all Buildings and Erections whatsoever, which now are or may hereafter be placed or erected upon any Part of the said Streets or Firebreaks so laid out, and which shall be suffered to remain thereon until the First Day of May One thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, shall be and shall be deemed public Nuisances, and may be abated accordingly by Order of Two or more Stipendiary Justices of the Peace for the Central District, who, after hearing the Streets and Firebreaks, how opened and laid out.

NEWFOUNDLAND. Party complained of, shall, if such Nuisance be proved, make an Order for the Abatement thereof, and shall furnish such Assistance of Constables and others as may be necessary for that Purpose; and every Person or Persons continuing or erecting any of such Buildings or Erections shall be subject to such Punishment as is by Law in such Case provided with respect to common or public Nuisances, or as shall be prescribed by this Act.

No Buildings other than of Brick or Stone to be built within certain Limits.

V.—And be it enacted, That from and after the First Day of May, Anno Domini One thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons whomsoever to build, erect, or put up any Building or Erection whatsoever, other than such as shall be built of Brick or Stone or other unflammable Materials, in any Part of the said Town Southward of a Line drawn parallel to, and Sixty Feet to the Northward of, the North Side of Duckworth Street in the said Town; and all Houses, Stores, and other Buildings South of the said Line shall be roofed or covered with Iron, Slate, or other unflammable Material; and that all Buildings and Erections which, since the Fire in the said Town on the Ninth of June last, have been or which may be hereafter built or erected to the Southward of the said Line, of Materials, or roofed or covered with Materials, or in a Manner other than such as are by this Act prescribed, shall be, after the First Day of May, Anno Domini Eighteen hundred and forty-nine, deemed public Nuisances, and the like Proceedings shall be and may be had with respect to the same, and with respect to the Person or Persons continuing, building, or erecting any of the same, as are herein provided with respect to any Building placed or erected upon any Street, Lane, or Firebreak aforesaid: Provided nevertheless, that nothing in this Act shall operate to prevent any Person now occupying, or that may hereafter occupy, any Fishing Room situate to the Eastward of Woodley's Cove, or to the Westward of Newman & Co's. Premises, from building of Wood, if he shall see fit, any House, Store, Stage, Flake, or other Erection to be used by him or his Servants employed by him exclusively for the Purpose of carrying on the Fishery upon such Fishing Room.

Proviso.

No Buildings to be erected within Twenty-five Feet of the Centres of certain Streets:

VI.—And be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons to build or erect in Gower Street, Queen's Road, the Military Road, and the Circular Road, or in any other Lane or Street within the said Town or Suburbs, which the Governor and Council shall declare to be a Main Street, any House or other Building nearer to the Centre of such Lane or Street than Twenty-five Feet; and all Houses or other Buildings erected on any of the said Streets or Lanes nearer to the Centre thereof than Twenty-five Feet shall be deemed public Nuisances, and the like Proceedings shall be and may be had with respect to the same, and with respect to any Person or Persons building or erecting the same, as are herein-before provided with respect to other public Nuisances of a like Nature.

Nor within Thirty Feet of the Centres of certain Firebreaks beyond certain Limits, beyond which such Firebreaks are not at present to be opened:

VII.—And whereas, by reason of the Expense of making Compensation in such Behalf, it is inexpedient that the following Firebreaks should at present be opened beyond the Limits herein-after mentioned, but it is expedient that no Buildings should be erected on the Sides of such Firebreaks beyond such Limits; be it therefore enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons to build or put up any Building or Erection whatsoever within Thirty Feet of the Centre of Quidi Vidi Firebreak to the Northward of Duckworth Street, within Thirty Feet of the Centre of the Hill of Chips Firebreak to the Northward of the Government Bakehouse, within Thirty Feet of the Centre of Prescott Street, and within Fifty Feet of the Centre of Church Hill Firebreak to the Northward of the Military Road, within Thirty Feet of the Centres of Queen Street and Flower Hill Firebreaks to the Northward of Gower Street, and within Thirty Feet of the Centres of Gas Works and River Head Firebreaks to the Northward of Water Street; and all Buildings and Erections made or built within the Distances aforesaid of the Centres of the said Firebreaks respectively to the Northward of the Limits aforesaid shall be deemed public Nuisances, and may be abated accordingly.

Nor at all on Firebreaks within the burnt District.

VIII.—And be it enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons whomsoever to construct or erect or cause to be constructed or erected, any Building or Erection of any Kind or Nature whatsoever within the Limits of the Firebreaks herein-before laid down and described, within that Portion of the Town of St. John's recently devastated by Fire; and that every Building or Erection which after the Time aforesaid shall be constructed or erected within the said Limits shall be deemed a public Nuisance, and may be abated accordingly.

Supervisor to be appointed by the Governor.

IX.—And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Governor or Administrator of the Government for the Time being to nominate and appoint One fit and competent Person to be a General Supervisor of Streets within the said Town and Suburbs, who shall superintend the carrying into Effect the Provisions of this Act; which Supervisor shall, before he enters upon the Duties of his said Office, be sworn before One of the Judges of the Supreme Court faithfully to discharge the Duties of his Office, without Fear, Favour or Affection; and such Supervisor shall lay down, upon such Plan and in such Manner as may be directed by the Governor in Council, such Common Drains and Sewers throughout the said Town as may be necessary for cleansing and draining the same; and there shall be paid to the said Supervisor an annual Salary of Three hundred Pounds: Provided that such Office of Supervisor shall continue for a Period of Five Years and no longer.

His Duties.

Office to continue for Five Years.

X.—And

X.—And be it enacted, That all Persons, Proprietors of Lands or Tenements within the said Town, whose Interests shall be in any way affected by the carrying into effect the Provisions of this Act, shall, before such Lands or Tenements be appropriated for public Uses, be paid Compensation for any Damage they may sustain in that Behalf; and that for the Purpose of ascertaining the Amount of Compensation to be made in any Case wherein the said Proprietors and Supervisor shall not agree, or wherein the Governor and Council may not approve of the Awards of the said Supervisor, it shall be lawful for the Party or Parties interested in the Property affected to name One Arbitrator, and the Supervisor to be appointed under this Act to name another Arbitrator, and such Two Arbitrators shall name a Third, and the Award of any Two of them shall be final and binding; and in case any Party interested in such Property as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to appoint an Arbitrator within Three Days after Notice shall be given him, her, or them by such Supervisor, or in case the Arbitrators shall disagree in the Choice of such Third Arbitrator, in either Case it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to nominate and appoint an Arbitrator, and the Award of any Two of such Arbitrators shall be of the like Effect as if One of such Arbitrators had been appointed by the Party, and the Third had been chosen by such Arbitrators; and such Arbitrators shall, before they proceed in the Execution of their Duty, be sworn before a Justice of the Peace faithfully and without Favour to either Party to discharge their Duties as such Arbitrators: Provided, that it shall be lawful for any Party who shall claim on Oath any Amount of Compensation beyond One hundred Pounds, and who shall be dissatisfied with any such Award, to appeal therefrom to the Judges of the Supreme Court by Petition, within One Week from the making of such Award, in Term Time or Vacation, and it shall be lawful for such Judges to summon all necessary Parties and Witnesses, and to inquire into the Merits of such Petition, and to make such Award and Decision thereon as shall be just and equitable, which Decision and Award shall be final; and provided further, that in ascertaining the Amount of Compensation under this Act the additional Value derived to the several Proprietors from the Convenience and Security afforded by the Improvement of the Streets shall always be taken into account.

NEWFOUNDLAND.
Mode of compensating Parties whose Interests may be affected.

Arbitration.

Appeal.

Proviso.

XI.—And be it enacted, That the Governor or Administrator of the Government for the Time being shall be authorized to draw Warrants on the Colonial Treasurer for the Payment of Compensation to be awarded under this Act, which Compensation shall not exceed in the whole the Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds; and that in discharge of such Warrants for any Amount not less than Twenty-five Pounds, as may from Time to Time be drawn upon him for such Purpose by the Governor for the Time being, it shall be lawful for the Treasurer, in discharge of such Warrants, to pay to Parties in whose Favour such Warrants may be drawn the Amount of Compensation to which he, she, or they may be respectively entitled, by Treasury Notes payable within Ten Years from the Date thereof, and bearing Interest at the Rate of Five per Cent. per Annum, which shall be redeemable on Three Months Notice being given in the "Royal Gazette," at the Expiration of which Notice all Interest on such Notes mentioned therein shall cease.

Amounts for Compensation under 25*l.* paid by Warrants on the Treasury; above 25*l.* by Treasury Notes.

XII.—And be it enacted, That in order to defray the Expense of laying down and constructing such Common Drains and Sewers as aforesaid, and of paying the Salary of the Supervisor, and for defraying the Cost for the raising and Collection of the Assessment herein-after mentioned, it shall be lawful for the Justices in Session of the District of St. John's, upon the Presentments of the Grand Jury of such Sessions of the Amount required for such Purposes, to make Orders, under their Hands and Seals, for the raising and levying of an Assessment or Assessments, at a Rate in the Pound on the Rents or appraised Values of all Houses and Buildings and Lands within the Limits of the said Town; all which Assessments shall be raised, levied, and collected from all Landlords, Lessees, or other Persons owning such Lands or Buildings, or deriving a Profit Rent thereupon.

Expenses of Drains, &c. and Supervisor's Salary to be raised by Assessment.

XIII.—And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Justices to appoint Three competent Persons to appraise the Value of all such Lands, Houses, and Buildings as aforesaid, and upon Appeal, in a summary Manner, at the Instance of any Party interested, to decide upon the Correctness of such Appraisal, and also to appoint a Receiver for the Collection of such Assessments; and in case any Person or Persons liable to contribute towards such Assessment shall refuse or neglect to pay, upon Demand, the Amount for which such Person or Persons shall be assessed, such Amount shall and may be recovered in a summary Manner, with Costs, by a Suit to be brought before any Two or more Justices of the said District in the Name of the Receiver (in which Action Service of Process upon the Agent of any Person absent from the Country shall be Service upon the Principal), and by Sale of the Defendant or Defendants Lands or Effects; and the Amount of such Assessments, when received, shall, after deducting the Costs of Collection, be paid over to the Colonial Treasurer for the Purposes of this Act.

Appraisers to be appointed by Justices.

Mode of recovering Assessment.

XIV.—And be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for the said Supervisor to proceed in the opening or laying down such Common Drains and Sewers as aforesaid in any other Way than by Contract on Tender, having first given public Notice for such intended Contract for the Space of Ten Days at the least, and all such Contracts shall be in Writing, and shall be signed by the Contractor, and subject to all the Conditions and Restrictions

All Drains and Sewers under this Act to be constructed on Contract by Tender.

NEWFOUNDLAND. for regulating Contracts for opening and making Roads under the Act to regulate the making and repairing of Roads, Streets, and Bridges within this Colony; and that all Payments on Contracts and other Charges shall be made by Warrant of the Governor.

Supervisor may give Proprietor of front Ground Land in the Rear in certain Cases.

XV.—And be it enacted, That if the Supervisor or Arbitrators so to be appointed as aforesaid shall be of opinion that any Proprietor or Proprietors of any Ground required for any Street or Firebreak as aforesaid may be indemnified at a less Expense to the Public by having an equal Portion of Ground assigned to him, her, or them from any Ground adjoining, and that such adjoining Ground may be taken without material Injury to the Proprietor thereof, it shall be lawful for the said Supervisor to mark off so much of the adjoining Ground as he shall think sufficient to replace the Ground required for such Street or Firebreak, and the same so marked off shall belong to the first-mentioned Proprietor from whom the same was taken, and shall be as a full Satisfaction and Release of the same, and all Right and Title thereto: Provided, that if the Land so to be given shall not be deemed an Equivalent for the Land dedicated to the Street or Firebreak, it shall be lawful to pay the said Proprietor such Sum as may be, with the Land so to be given, a full Satisfaction for the Land so dedicated.

Certain Acts repealed.

XVI.—And be it enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act the following Acts shall be and the same are hereby repealed; that is to say, an Act passed in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty, entitled “An Act to regulate the building of Houses in Water Street in the Town of St. John’s;” an Act passed in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty, entitled “An Act to provide for the Management of a certain public Wharf and Landing in the Town of Saint John’s;” an Act passed in the Third Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, entitled “An Act to repeal Part of an Act passed in the Second Session of the First General Assembly of this Island, entitled ‘An Act to regulate the building of Houses in Water Street in the Town of St. John’s;’” an Act passed in the Third Year of the Reign of His late Majesty, entitled “An Act for the Establishment and Regulation of Fire Companies in the Town of Saint John’s;” and an Act passed in the Fifth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty, entitled “An Act to amend an Act of the Parliament of this Colony, entitled ‘An Act for the Establishment and Regulation of Fire Companies in the Town of St. John’s.’”

No Buildings to be commenced without Notice to Supervisor.

XVII.—And be it enacted, That no Person whatsoever shall excavate or build upon the front Line of any Street, Lane, or Firebreak within the Town of St. John’s until he, she, or they shall have given or left at the Office of the said Supervisor a Notice in Writing at least Two Days before the Commencement of such intended Excavation or Erection; and thereupon it shall be the Duty of the said Supervisor to examine the said projected Work and see that it conform to the Line and Levels of such Street, Lane, or Firebreak; and that any Person neglecting to give such Notice, or acting contrary to the Directions in Writing of such Supervisor, according to the Provisions of this Act, touching the said Work, shall be liable to a Fine not exceeding the Sum of Five Pounds, to be recovered in a summary Manner before any Justice of the Peace for the Central District, and levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender’s Goods and Chattels; and any Work done contrary to such written Directions shall be deemed and taken to be a public Nuisance, and abated accordingly as other Nuisances under this Act.

Penalty.

Supervisor to regulate Party Walls.

XVIII.—And be it enacted, That in case of Dispute it shall be lawful for the said Supervisor to regulate the building of Party Walls, and the rateable Contribution to the Expenses thereof to be paid by the adjoining Proprietors or Tenants who may use the same, prescribing the Extent which such Party Wall shall occupy upon the Land of such Proprietors respectively.

Levels of Streets, &c. to be taken.

XIX.—And be it enacted, That the Governor for the Time being is hereby authorized to cause suitable Levels to be taken of the several Streets, Lanes, and Firebreaks within the said Town, by which Levels all Parties shall be required to govern themselves.

Regulations respecting Party Walls, Chimnies, &c.

XX.—And be it enacted, That every Party Wall within the Limits prescribed for the Erection of Buildings of Stone, Brick, or other unflammable Materials, shall project above and beyond the Roof at least Twelve Inches; and that no Wood or inflammable Material of any Description, except Doors, Door Frames, Window Sashes, Window Frames, and Roof Boarding, shall be placed within Four and a Half Inches of the Outside of the said Building; and that every Chimney shall extend to a Height not less than Two Feet above the Ridgepole.

Parapets, Balconies, &c.

XXI.—And be it enacted, That all Copings, Parapets, Cornices to overhang Roofs, Blocking Courses, Cornices, Piers, Columns, Pilasters, Entablatures, Facias, Door and Window Dressings, Balconies at least Ten Feet above the Level of the Street, or other architectural Improvements, may project beyond the general Line of Fronts in any Street, Lane, or Firebreak; provided that within the Limits prescribed for the Erection of Buildings of Stone, Brick, or other unflammable Materials, they be wholly composed of such unflammable Materials.

Ladders.

XXII.—And be it enacted, That a substantial Ladder shall be fixed to the Roof of every Dwelling House, and kept in good Repair, except where a regular Access to the Roof from the Inside is provided.

XXIII.—And

XXIII.—And be it enacted, That the Paths appropriated for the Use of Foot Passengers on each Side of Water Street and Duckworth Street be Ten Feet wide. Side Paths to be Ten Feet wide.

XXIV.—And be it enacted, That it shall be the Duty of the said Supervisor to inspect the several Chimnies and external Stove Pipes throughout the Town, and that the Tenant of every House who shall not, within Two Days after he, she, or they be notified of the defective State of such Chimney or Stove Pipe, cause the same to be properly repaired, shall be liable to a Fine of not less than Ten Shillings nor exceeding Forty Shillings, with Costs of Suit, to be recovered in a summary Manner before any Justice of the Peace for the Central District, and levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels. Defective Chimnies.

Penalty.

XXV.—And be it enacted, That no Building shall be erected to interfere with the Line of Fire from Fort William and Fort George towards the Harbour, provided that the Officers of Her Majesty's Board of Ordnance shall pay or tender to the Proprietors and Tenants of Land situate in the Line of Fire, Compensation for such Rights as would be interfered with by preventing the Erection of such Building, which Compensation shall be ascertained in manner herein-before prescribed for ascertaining the Value of Land taken for the Purposes of the Streets and Firebreaks. No Buildings to obstruct the Line of Fire from Forts William and George.

XXVI.—And be it enacted, That the Lines of Streets and Firebreaks laid out by this Act shall not be departed from, excepting in such Cases as the Description by the Points of the Compass may be erroneous; and such Departures in such Cases shall be first determined upon by the Supervisor and approved of by the Governor in Council. No Alterations to be made in Lines of Streets, except, &c.

XXVII.—And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for such Supervisor to administer an Oath to any Person claiming Compensation under this Act, as to his, her, or their Belief of the Reasonableness of the said Claim. Supervisor may administer Oath to Party claiming Compensation.

XXVIII.—And be it enacted, That in every Case wherein any Tenant holding under a Lease commencing previously to the Ninth Day of June last, and not surrendered in consequence of the Fire which occurred in the said Town on that Day, shall, under the Provisions of this Act, independently of any former Law, or of any Covenant or Agreement, be compelled to build of Brick, Stone, or any other unflammable Material, where such Tenant might otherwise have built of Wood, such Tenant shall, at the Expiration of such Lease, receive from his Landlord Compensation either by an Extension of his Lease for such Period as shall not (including the unexpired Term) exceed Forty Years in the whole, or by Payment of a Sum of Money, as may be determined by any Two of Three Arbitrators, of whom One shall be appointed by the Landlord, One by the Tenant, and the Third by the Arbitrators already chosen. Compensation to be made to Tenants by Landlords in certain Cases.

XXIX.—And be it enacted, That in the event of any such intended Arbitration not being carried into effect, either from the Refusal of the Landlord to appoint an Arbitrator, or from the Disagreement of the Arbitrators, or from any Cause other than the Refusal of the Tenant to appoint an Arbitrator, such Compensation as aforesaid may be recovered in an Action of Assumpsit as for Money paid, to be brought against the Landlord in any Court of Record. Mode of recovering Compensation.

XXX.—And be it enacted, That for the Purposes of this Act, the Boundaries and Limits of the said Town of St. John's shall be as follows; commencing at the Harbour and running along the Eastern Side Line of the Gas Works Firebreak, as laid down and described upon the aforesaid Plan, until it is intersected by the Monday Pond Road; thence in a straight Line to Rennie's Mill Bridge on the old Portugal Cove Road; thence by the Courses of the Stream running into Quidi Vidi Lake; thence from the Mouth of the said Stream in a straight Line to the Ordnance Boundary Line where it is intersected by the main Road leading to Signal Hill; thence by the Ordnance Boundary Line to the Harbour of St. John's, and thence by the Waters of the Harbour to the Place of beginning: Provided that all Government Buildings, Churches, Chapels, and Places of public Worship, all public Schoolhouses, and the Buildings of public charitable Institutions, shall be exempted from the Rates and Assessments herein-before mentioned. Limits of the Town prescribed.

XXXI. And whereas the House lately built upon the North Side of Duckworth Street by Robert Prowse, the House lately built on the North Side of Water Street by James Cullen, and the House lately erected on the North Side of Water Street by Walter Dillon, fall within the Lines of the said Streets respectively, but the said Houses being built of unflammable Materials, and the Expence which would be occasioned by their Remoyal being considerable, it is expedient that the said Houses should be made Exceptions to the Lines herein-before laid down; be it therefore enacted, That the said Houses, being finished and completed in the Manner herein-before prescribed with respect to Houses to be erected on Water and Duckworth Streets, may lawfully continue and be within the Lines of the said Streets, at the Option of the said several Parties, or any future Proprietors of the same, as such Houses now stand thereon, any thing herein-before contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. Certain Houses now in Lines of Street permitted to stand.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 23.

No. 23.
Earl Grey
to
Governor
Sir J. Harvey,
3d Sept. 1846.

(No. 21.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY.

Sir,

Downing Street, 3d September 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the Receipt of your Despatch, No. 62., of the 7th ultimo, announcing the Close of the Special Session of the Legislature of Newfoundland, and I have to signify to you my Approval of the Speech which you delivered on that Occasion.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 24.

(No. 38.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,

Downing Street, 6th November 1846.

No. 21.
Earl Grey
to
the Officer
administering the
Government
of Newfoundland,
6th Nov. 1846.

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

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

I also transmit a Copy of a Letter received from the Secretary to the Master General and Board of Ordnance, by which you will perceive that the Master General and Board desire that a Provision should be added to this Act, with special Reference to Ordnance Premises.

I do not doubt that the Assembly will readily adopt the Suggestion of the Master General and Board, and the more so, as it has not been made the Occasion of delaying the Queen's Confirmation of the Act. I have, therefore, to desire that you will take early Steps to procure the passing of a Law for this Purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

30th October.

Enclosure in No. 24.

Enclosure in
No. 24.

Sir,

Office of Ordnance, 30th October 1846.

HAVING submitted to the Master General and Board of Ordnance your Letter, dated the 22d instant, transmitting by Desire of Earl Grey a Copy of an Act No. 60. passed by the Legislature of Newfoundland on the 4th of August 1846, for the rebuilding of the Town of St. John's, and observing that the Twenty-fifth Clause exacts that no Building shall be erected to interfere with the "Line of Fire from Fort William to Fort George towards the Harbour," provided that the Persons so deprived of their Right of Building shall be compensated for their Loss by the Board of Ordnance.

I have the Honour, by the Master General and Board's Commands, to acquaint you, for his Lordship's Information, that the Locality named Fort George is not identified in the Plans in this Office, but they are not aware of any Objection to what is proposed to be enacted. The Master General and Board beg, however, to suggest that there should be a Clause to prevent any Interference with the Boundaries of, or the Communications leading to, any Ordnance Premises without the Permission in Writing of the Master General and Board, and that all Expenses attendant thereon, if required, should be defrayed out of the local Funds referred to in the Eleventh and Twelfth Clauses.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. BYHAM.

No. 25.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 68.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. HARVEY, K. C. B., to Earl GREY.

No. 25.
Governor
Sir J. Harvey
to
Earl Grey,
16th August 1846

My Lord,

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
16th August 1846.

HEREWITH I have the Honour to transmit the Copy of a Resolution of Thanks to Her Majesty's Government, adopted at a General Meeting of the Inhabitants of this City for its munificent Donation of 30,000*l.* for the Relief of those who have been rendered destitute by the Effects of the late awful and calamitous Conflagration. A similar Address would have proceeded from the General Assembly had the Mail Packet arrived one Day sooner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HARVEY.

Enclosure in No. 25.

Enclosure in
No. 25.

COPY of a Resolution proposed at a public Meeting of the Citizens of St. John's, and held in the Commercial Room on the 7th instant.

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

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

No. 26.

(No. 69.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. HARVEY, K. C. B., to Earl GREY.

No. 26.
Governor
Sir J. Harvey
to
Earl Grey,
18th August 1846.

My Lord,

Newfoundland, Government House, St. John's,
18th August 1846.

HAVING selected Lieutenant R. Carter, a Native of this Island (in which his Father held the Office of Judge of the Admiralty Court to the Period of his Death), a Member of the General Assembly, and who also holds the Rank and receives the Half Pay of a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, as a highly fit and proper Person to whom to entrust the Execution of the very important Duties of "Supervisor" for superintending the rebuilding of the burnt Part of this City, and to which Office a Salary of 300*l.* per Annum is attached, but which, depending upon future Assessments and including Heads of Expenditure by which it may possibly be reduced considerably below that Amount, I cannot safely assume as above 250*l.*, I have the Honour to request that your Lordship will be pleased to move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to cause a Notification to be made to Mr. Carter of their Lordships Consent to his Performance for the Term of Five Years, if the Necessity for them should continue so long, of the Duties attached to the Office to which I have adverted, without Prejudice to the Receipt by him of the Half Pay which he at present receives, and which I understand to be 103*l.* per Annum, considerably more than One Third of the Salary of Supervisor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HARVEY.

No. 27.

(No. 29.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 27.
Earl Grey
to
the Officer
administering the
Government
of Newfoundland,
12th Oct. 1846.

Sir,

Downing Street, 12th October 1846.

I HAVE received Sir John Harvey's Despatch, No. 69., of the 18th August, reporting that he had selected Lieutenant R. Carter of the Royal Navy for

(41.)

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the

NEWFOUNDLAND.

the Appointment of Supervisor to superintend the rebuilding of the burnt Part of the City of St. John's Newfoundland. Having referred this Despatch to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, their Lordships have apprized me that Orders have been given for Lieutenant Carter to be allowed his Half Pay upon his making the usual Declaration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

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

Page 24.

No. 28.

(No. 70.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR SIR JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B., to EARL GREY.

Newfoundland, Government House, Saint John's,
18th August 1846.

My Lord,

HAVING, with reference to your Lordship's Despatch, No. 1. of the 18th ultimo, given my anxious Consideration to the very important Subject of endeavouring to ensure the due Application of the Funds so munificently placed at my Disposal, "to the Service of those who have been rendered destitute (or severe Sufferers) by the Consequences of the late calamitous Fire," I have now the Honour to place before you and to invite your Lordship's Attention to a Memorandum which I yesterday addressed to the Chairman of the General Relief Committee, apprizing him of my Ideas, Wishes, and Intentions on this Subject, and which I do not entertain any Doubt will be readily acquiesced in by that Body.

With a Machinery thus constituted, the ultimate Operations of which, it will be perceived, are made to depend wholly upon the Governor and Council, I shall be enabled to quit the Colony under the satisfactory Conviction that, with an ordinary Degree of Supervision on the Part of the Executive Government, no serious Maladministration of those Funds can occur.

As the Members of the Commission will be nominated To-morrow, and their Operations be immediately commenced, they will have begun them before I quit the Colony, which I expect to do on this Day Week, supposing Mr. Crowdy to arrive by the Packet now expected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HARVEY.

P.S.—It will be seen that I have calculated the Expense of administering this Fund of 30,000*l.* at Two and a Half per Cent., and I trust your Lordship will be of opinion that I have made as economical an Arrangement as was practicable, consistently with the Object which I had in view, of enlisting the earnest Endeavours of the Members of the Commission in the Cause.

Two and a Half per Cent. on 30,000*l.* is 750*l.* Four Commissioners at 100*l.*, with a Chairman and Two Secretaries at 150*l.* each, equals 700*l.*, leaving 50*l.* for contingent Expenses.

J. H.

N.B.—The Reasons why I have found it necessary to resort to a *paid* Commission are, that the *unpaid* Committees had gradually relaxed their Exertions, (their whole Time and Attention being naturally engrossed by their own private Concerns,) so as at length to have devolved the Management of all their Relief Operations upon One irresponsible because unpaid Individual, and thereby to have given Cause for much Dissatisfaction, which I do not doubt that the Commission, as now constituted, will speedily remove, the small Amount of Stipend attached by me to their Offices rendering them as far *de facto* responsible as is in the Power of the Government to make them.

J. H.

Enclosure in No. 28.

Enclosure in
No. 28.

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

FROM both the Letter and Spirit as well of the Despatch of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State announcing the munificent Donation of 30,000*l.* by which I am required to take effectual Means for securing its due Application to the Service of the Persons who have

have been rendered *destitute* by the late calamitous Fire, as those from the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors of the neighbouring Colonies, it is sufficiently apparent that the contemplated Recipients are to be sought, not among the higher and more wealthy Sufferers, but among those who have been reduced to severe Distress or entire Destitution. In aid of such of the former Class as may need it, Application has been made to Her Majesty's Government for a Loan to the Colony to such an Amount as may enable the Local Government to make Advances, secured upon the Property itself, in aid of the Reconstruction of Houses, &c. of unflammable Materials; beyond this, it appears to me that it would be as uncalled for to offer public Relief to that Class, as to expect them to accept it.

In order, therefore, to effect the great Object of so administering the Funds which have been so munificently contributed, as to accord with the Intentions of the Donors and afford general Satisfaction, I propose to appoint a Board of Commissioners for the Purpose of aiding and assisting me in the Administration of the Funds which have been received by me from Her Majesty's Government and other Sources for the Relief of those who have been reduced to severe Distress by the late Fire, of which Two Members may be recommended by the Chairman and Board of the Relief Committee, the Three others, with the Secretary, being appointed by me.

2d. The Duty of this Board will be to receive and strictly to inquire into the Merits of all Applications for pecuniary Aid, and, after due Consideration, to recommend not only the Amount of Relief proper to be afforded but the Mode of that Relief, that is, whether by Loan or Donation.

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

4th. To the Door of the Board Room should be affixed a "Receiving Box," which will remain open for the Reception of Letters until Ten o'Clock in the Morning on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, at which Hour it will be closed by the Secretary in order to afford the necessary Time for him to examine and arrange (alphabetically) the Contents of the "Receiver" previous to the daily Meeting of the Board at Twelve o'Clock.

5th. When assembled, the Board will apply itself to the Consideration of the several Claims, and will adopt such Measures as it may deem best adapted for obtaining a thorough Knowledge of the Merits of each Case, whether by personal Visits to the Parties, or by requiring their Attendance at the private or public Office.

6th. The Out-door Inquiries to be conducted at the Discretion of the Board, whether singly by the Members or by Sub-Committees, as may be most convenient.

7th. In all Discussions at the Board the Secretary is permitted and invited to take a Part, but not in voting.

8th. At the rising of the Board each Day the "Receiver" to be again opened for the Reception of Applications, and in like Manner closed at Ten o'Clock the following Morning, but during the whole of Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays it will remain closed.

9th. On each Saturday before the Meeting of the Board the Secretary will be prepared with a Précis of all the Applications of the past Week, which, after the Results of the Investigation shall have been compared, and the Merits of each Application duly deliberated upon, will be embodied by the Secretary in a "Weekly Report," addressed to the Governor or Officer administering the Government, but to be forwarded by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to the Chairman of the General Relief Committee at its weekly Meeting on Monday, by whom it is to be transmitted, with any Observations, Suggestions, or Recommendations which that Body may wish to offer, to the Secretary of the Colony, to be by him laid before the Governor at or before Twelve o'Clock every Tuesday, by whom it will be taken into immediate Consideration (who will consult the Members of Her Majesty's Council upon it, if he should deem it necessary to do so), so that no unnecessary Delay will occur on his Part in the Issue of his Warrants for such Sums as may be approved by him, whether as Donations or Loans.

10th. As in the present Relief Committee that Class of Persons is not fully represented on whom the Losses sustained by the late Fire have fallen with the greatest Severity, I should approve of the Addition to such existing Committee of those Gentlemen whose Names will be found in the accompanying List.

11th. It will be seen from the foregoing Outline that the Duties, in-door and out-door, to be performed by the Members of this Committee will occupy much of their Time and Attention, especially will they be onerous upon the Secretary, whose Qualifications must include, not only Quickness, Method, Arrangement, and Classification, but also the Capability of expressing himself on Paper, so as to present the weekly and all other Reports of the Board in a clear and feasible Shape.

12th. Animated, as I am sure all concerned will be by a disinterested Desire to make their Services useful in this Cause of Charity and Benevolence, I must nevertheless require, as the Condition of the Acceptance by me of Services at this Board, that its Members shall consent to receive the Sum of 100*l.* Sterling each per Annum, with an Addition of 50*l.* each to the Chairman and Secretary, exclusive of a reasonable Allowance to the latter for Office Rent, Printing, Stationery, and other incidental Expenses.

13th. I would express my anxious Desire that the Operations of the Board may commence so soon as a suitable Office can be procured, by due public Notice given.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

14th. It will be perceived that I have confined myself in the foregoing Scheme altogether to the Subject of pecuniary Relief from Funds now at my Disposal. The Distribution of Provisions and Clothing, and providing Shelter, &c., I regard as within the more immediate Province of the General Relief Committee, with this Reservation, however, that no Provisions, Clothing, or any other Description of Stores, contributed by other Colonies or Communities (except so specified by the Contributors) be sold or converted into Money without the previous Concurrence and Sanction of the Governor or Officer administering the Government.

15th. I recommend that all Monies which are now or that may hereafter come into possession of the Relief Committee should be thrown into one general Fund, by being paid into the Military Chest or lodged in the Bank, for the express Object of meeting the Wants of the Governor under the Arrangement now communicated.

16th. Finally, that as the Sum at present at the Disposal of the Government can scarcely be said to exceed 25,000*l.* (it being my Intention to reserve 5,000*l.* to meet future unforeseen Contingencies and Demands), I should not therefore approve of the Relief, whether by Loans or Donations, to be recommended, exceeding in any Case 100*l.*

Government House,
17th August 1846.

MEMORANDUM for the Chairman of the Relief Committee.

LIST of Names to be added to the Relief Committee.

Mr. Henry Winton.
Patrick L. Power.
Peter Duchemin.
Patrick Mallowney.
Alex. M'Auslan.
James Callen.
Richard Perchard.
The Honourable The Colonial Secretary.
" Patrick Morris.
" The Surveyor General.
" Walter Greene.
Dr. Kielley.
Dr. Carson.
Mr. Patrick Keogh.
Mr. J. H. Warren.
Mr. A. Shea.
Mr. Douglas.

No. 29.

(No. 4.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Colonel LAW, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl GREY.

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

Government House, Newfoundland,
8th Sept. 1846.

My Lord,

I HAVE the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of the 18th ultimo, instructing me, if it should not interfere with Arrangements already made, to reserve a Portion of the Grant of 30,000*l.* for the Relief of the destitute Poor, to be applied in the Re-erection of the official Buildings of the Colony.

In reply I beg to acquaint your Lordship, that previous to his Departure for Nova Scotia, Sir John Harvey reserved 5,000*l.* of the 30,000*l.* to meet any unforeseen Demands. Of the remaining 25,000*l.* a considerable Sum has been already distributed, or is in course of Distribution amongst the Poor, but I hope to be enabled to add some Portion of it to the 5,000*l.* already reserved, to be made available in the Manner contemplated by your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT LAW.

No. 30.

(No. 20.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 30.
Earl Grey
to
the Officer
administering the
Government
at Newfoundland,
3d Sept. 1846.

Sir,

Downing Street, 3d September 1846.

I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty has been pleased to issue Her Royal Letters to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, authorizing their Graces to adopt proper Measures for promoting Subscriptions in their respective Provinces for the Relief of the Sufferers by the recent Fires at Saint John's Newfoundland. Arrangements have been made at the Bank of England for the Receipt of these Subscriptions, of which I shall have the Opportunity from Time to Time of reporting to you the Amount collected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 31.

(No. 22.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 31.
Earl Grey
to
the Officer
administering the
Government
of Newfoundland,
3d Sept. 1846.

Sir,

Downing Street, 3d September 1846.

SINCE my Despatch, No. 17. of the 18th ultimo, I have been led to consider the best Mode of distributing those Funds which have been placed at your Command by Her Majesty's Government as well as by the Generosity of several of the North American Colonies, and private Individuals.

I desire especially to call your Attention to the Subject, in order that the Relief to be given may, whilst it meets pressing Cases of urgent Distress by immediate pecuniary Aid or Food, or both, be so administered as to confer the largest Amount of permanent Benefit upon the Colony, and in the least objectionable Manner.

In order the more clearly to explain to you the Views I entertain I shall divide the Sufferers by the late destructive Fire into Three Classes, and then consider the respective Claims of each Class to Relief, and the best Mode of affording it.

1st. The superior Class of Merchants, in which I am informed there are many Individuals whose Losses are great, are, I imagine, either accustomed to insure against the Risk of Fire or possess Resources of their own, which will prevent probably any Application from any of this Body for Relief to the Committee.

2d. The middle Class, comprehending those engaged in the Retail Trade, Shopkeepers, and others, will, I have reason to think, furnish the largest Number of Applicants for Assistance, and which will require both Judgment and Discrimination in the Administration of it. In this Class the Losses have been extensive and keenly felt; but it does not appear to me as a general Rule that by the Aid of pecuniary Assistance alone their Application for Relief would be best provided for; and further, if in rendering Assistance to this Class it may be made serviceable to the Class below and to the Colony generally, it becomes of great Importance to consider well the Mode of affording it. The great Injury inflicted upon this Class by the Fire has arisen from the Destruction of their Houses; and hence, if the Relief afforded be such as will enable them to commence the rebuilding of their Dwellings at the earliest Period which the Season will permit, it will not only directly meet this Source of Suffering and Distress, but, by annexing the Conditions I propose, a Means of Employment will be provided for the Labouring Population which also will tend to relieve the latter, free from all the Objections to temporary and charitable Donations.

I am of opinion that, for the Purpose of rebuilding the Dwellings of the Class of which I am now speaking, it would be desirable to make the Sums to be contributed out of the Funds placed at your Disposal contingent upon an equal Amount being contributed by the Individuals applying for Assistance, the Consent of the Parties being previously obtained to the Application of the joint Sum thus appropriated to the Reconstruction of the Dwellings of the

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Parties, with Materials to be determined upon by the Local Committee, under the Advice of the Officer who will be appointed to assist the Committee. By adopting this View the Relief Committee will not only secure the rebuilding of the City with Materials calculated to resist such destructive Conflagrations as of late have unhappily fallen to the Lot of the City of St. John's, but extensive Employment, and for a considerable Time, will be given, and at the earliest possible Period, to the Labouring Population. With reference to this Class, which has not, as I am informed, suffered so severely as that to which I have just referred, I think the Relief that may be necessary may be given in Money or Food, or both, including some Provision for their Shelter, if required, during the Winter. I am happy to learn that generally they are well off, and aided as they will be by the Employment thus to be provided, I hope and believe their Sufferings may be in as great a Degree as possible mitigated.

By thus wisely economizing and applying the Fund as I have pointed out, there will probably be a large Surplus which may be devoted to the Erection of public Buildings, and thus still further increase the Means of employing the Working Classes.

To assist in the Construction of these Buildings, to determine upon the Plan, to select the Site, Her Majesty's Government propose to send out an Engineer Officer of Experience in the Construction of public Works and Buildings.

It will be no Part of his Duty to interfere with the Plans of private Houses, which (the Materials for their Reconstruction being decided on by the Committee) may be properly left to the Parties interested. But after conferring with the Authorities of the Colony upon all the Details of the Buildings in which public Business has to be transacted, this Officer will be empowered to decide upon the Site, Materials, and the Plan finally to be adopted, for the special Objects I have adverted to; and he will be instructed for this Purpose to put himself into communication with the Officers of the principal Departments, and endeavour cordially to act in conjunction with their Advice and Experience, subject to the Approbation of the Lieutenant Governor.

These Views, I trust, will be acceptable to the Relief Committee and those for whom they act. They are dictated by a sincere Desire to mitigate, as far as practicable, the Distress and Suffering consequent upon the Calamity which has befallen the City, and to attain that most desirable Object, the Reconstruction of the City upon a Plan and with Materials calculated to prevent the Recurrence of such a Calamity, and generally in the least injurious Manner, to distribute that Fund which the Liberality of the Government, of the neighbouring Colonies, and private Parties have contributed to the Relief of the Sufferers from the recent Destruction of the City.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 32.

(No. 24.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,

Downing Street, 24th September 1846.

I HAVE to acquaint you, that Her Majesty's Government have decided upon devolving upon Major Robe, R.E., the Task of reconstructing the public Buildings at St. John's Newfoundland, instead of sending to that Country an Officer of Engineers especially for that Duty. You will therefore communicate this Decision to Major Robe, though he will probably receive a similar Communication from the Master General and Board of Ordnance; and you will direct him to give his immediate Attention to the Preparation of Plans for the Buildings in question, in order that they may be submitted to Mr. Bruce on his Arrival in the Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

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

No. 33.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 32.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,

Downing Street, 17th October 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the Receipt of a Despatch from Sir John Harvey dated the 18th August, from Newfoundland, reporting his Proceedings in regard to the Distribution of the Parliamentary Grant intended for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late Fire at St. John's. Adverting to the Fact, that when Sir John Harvey wrote this Despatch, he was not in possession of my Instruction to reserve a Portion of the Grant for the Purpose of rebuilding the Town of St. John's, and that he acted upon the only Instruction which he had at that Time received from me on this Subject, I can have no Hesitation in approving his Proceedings as now reported to me.

No. 33.
Earl Grey
to
the Officer
administering the
Government
of Newfoundland,
17th Oct. 1846.

Page 44.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 34.

(No. 41.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,

Downing Street, 16th November 1846.

I HAVE to inform you that since my Despatch, No. 20. of 3d September, the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have communicated to me that Subscriptions for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late Fire at St. John's Newfoundland, amounting, on the 24th October inclusive, to 14,917l. 14s. 6d., have been raised and paid into the Bank of England, and that their Lordships have instructed the Officer in charge of the Commissariat on that Station to hold that Sum at your Disposal for the Purposes of the intended Relief.

No. 34.
Earl Grey
to the Officer
administering the
Government
of Newfoundland,
16th Nov. 1846.

Page 47.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 35.

(No. 7.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Colonel LAW, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl GREY.

My Lord,

Government House, Newfoundland,
10th September 1846.

AT the Request of the Lord Bishop and the other Subscribers thereto, I have the Honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying Memorial, addressed to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The severe Loss sustained by the Protestant Episcopalians of this City in the Destruction of their principal Church, the Impossibility of their finding sufficient Funds for its rebuilding, and the strong Fact of all Monies raised under the Queen's Letter being contributed by Members of that Communion, induce me most respectfully to entreat your Lordship's favourable Consideration and Recommendation of the Object sought in this Memorial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT LAW.

No. 35.
Lieut. Col. Law
to
Earl Grey,
10th Sept. 1846.

Enclosure in No. 35.

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Bart., M.P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, &c.

Enclosure in
No. 35.

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

Humbly sheweth,

That your Memorialists have learned, with Feelings of the deepest Gratitude, that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to issue Her Royal Letter, authorizing a

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Collection

NEWFOUNDLAND. Collection in the Churches of the Establishment throughout England for the Relief of the Distress occasioned by the calamitous Fire by which the greater Part of this City was desolated on the 9th of June last.

That during that Conflagration the only Place of public Worship destroyed in the Town was the Church of St. John the Baptist, which served as well for the Cathedral of the Diocese of Newfoundland as for the Parish Church.

That the heavy Losses which have fallen on the Members of the Church of England have through that Visitation precluded all Hope of the Church being restored by local Contributions.

That the special Appeal made in England on this Behalf is necessarily prejudiced to a considerable Extent by the Appeal made there simultaneously on behalf of those who have suffered temporal Loss by the Fire.

That the Collections to be made under the Authority of the Queen's Letter will be gathered wholly from Members of the Church of England, whilst a very large Majority of those to whose Benefit they will be applied here will not be of that Communion.

All which Premises your Memorialists respectfully solicit you to take into your favourable Consideration; and, as in Duty bound, they will ever pray.

(Signed) EDWARD NEWFOUNDLAND.
THOMAS F. H. BRIDGE, Rector.
THOS. ROW, C. Warden.
WM. RENDELL, J^r C. Warden.
E. BENNETT.
GEO. H. WILSON j^r.

No. 36.

(No. 42.)

No. 36.
Earl Grey
to
the Officer
administering the
Government
of Newfoundland,
17th Nov. 1846.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,

Downing Street, 17th November 1846.

IN pursuance of the Wish expressed in your Despatch, No. 7. of the 10th September, I transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Home Department the Petition addressed to him by the Bishop of Newfoundland, and by the Rector, Churchwardens, and other Inhabitants of the Town of Saint John's, on the Subject of rebuilding the Parish Church, which has been destroyed by the late Fire, and I transmit to you for your Information a Copy of the Answer which Sir George Grey has returned to me upon the Subject. I also enclose the Copy of a Correspondence which has passed between the Bishop of London and myself in reference to the Appropriation of a Portion of the Fund raised by the Subscriptions in consequence of the Queen's Letter to the rebuilding of this Church; and I have to inform you that I entertain no Objection to a limited Portion of the Fund being applied in the Manner desired by the Committee in London, at whose Request the Queen's Letter was issued.

I take this Opportunity of stating that if it be the Fact, as it is alleged to be, that the Relief Committee by whom the Parliamentary Grant has been distributed did not comprise amongst its Number any Member of the Church of England, it would be scarcely consistent with the Respect due to the Established Church to leave to a Committee so constituted the Distribution of the Funds raised under the Queen's Letter, and consequently it is to be presumed contributed entirely by Members of that Church. If, therefore, you should find it expedient to entrust the Distribution of the Money thus raised to the same Committee which was appointed for the Apportionment of the Parliamentary Grant, you will take care to place upon it, in addition to its present Members, One of the Clergy of the Church of England or One of the Churchwardens of the Parish.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

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

Enclosure 1. in No. 36.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,

Whitchall, 9th November 1846.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir George Grey to acquaint you, for the Information of Earl Grey, with reference to your Letter of the 15th ultimo transmitting the Copy of a Despatch from the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland, and of a Memorial on the Subject of rebuilding the Church of Saint John the Baptist in the City of Saint John's, that it appears to Sir George Grey to be right that Means should be adopted for securing the Application of a Portion of the Funds lately collected in pursuance of the Queen's Letter for the Relief of the Sufferers by Fire at Saint John's Newfoundland towards the rebuilding of the Church. It was intimated to Sir George Grey by the Lord Mayor of the City of London on the Part of the Committee for the Collection of Subscriptions for the Relief of the Sufferers, and at whose Request the Queen's Letter was issued, that the Committee would willingly concur in such an Appropriation of a Portion of the Proceeds; and Sir George Grey has reason to believe that an Expectation that such would be the Case was entertained by the Bishops and Clergy through whom the Collections in pursuance of the Queen's Letter were made. He therefore trusts that Arrangements will be made by which the rebuilding of the Church may be included among the Objects to which the Sum so collected will be applied.

Enclosure 1. in
No. 36.

Jas. Stephen, Esquire,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) S. M. PHILLIPPS.

Enclosure 2. in No. 36.

My Lord,

Fulham, 13th November 1846.

Enclosure 2. in
No. 36.

A SHORT Time before the issuing of the Queen's Letter, directing Collections to be made for the Relief of the Sufferers in Saint John's Newfoundland, I wrote to Sir George Grey, stating my Opinion, which was that of the Clergy in general, that as the Money would be collected exclusively from Members of the Church of England, a reasonable Proportion of it ought to be applied to the rebuilding of the Parish Church of Saint John's, the only Place of Worship destroyed by the Fire, and that some mention of this might be very properly made in the Queen's Letter.

Sir George Grey stated in reply, that no Alteration could be conveniently made in the Form of the Queen's Letter, but that the Arrangement suggested by me might be made by the London Committee, with whom would rest the Appropriation of the Money collected under the Authority of the Queen's Letter; and that he would communicate with the Lord Mayor, as Chairman of that Committee, who would no doubt give me the Assurance which I desired.

Accordingly I received a Letter from the Lord Mayor, assuring me, on the Part of the Committee, that a considerable Portion of the Collection should be applied as I had suggested.

I am now informed, that the London Committee will not be entrusted with the Appropriation of any Part of the Money so collected, but that it is to be paid over to a Committee in Newfoundland, appointed by the Governor, not One Member of which, as it is stated, belongs to the Church of England, or of which, at all events, a large Majority are of other Communions; and that no Part of the Money can be applied to the rebuilding of the Church.

If this should be the Case, I shall feel myself bound to protest in the strongest Manner against such an Arrangement, considering both the Equity of the Case and the Fact of a distinct Pledge having been given me by Sir George Grey, that it would be left to the London Committee to determine what Part of the Collection should be employed in the Manner which I had suggested.

There is a very strong Feeling on the Subject amongst the parochial Clergy, not a few of whom have urged, as a Reason for increased Liberality on the Part of their Parishioners, the Necessity of providing for the rebuilding of the Parish Church of St. John's, which will also be the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Newfoundland.

I trust that your Lordship will be able to give me such an Assurance on this Head as may remove the Anxiety occasioned to many others as well as myself by the Statement to which I have referred.

The Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. J. LONDON.

Enclosure 3. in No. 36.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 16th November 1846.

Enclosure 3. in
No. 36.

I HAVE had the Honour of receiving your Lordship's Letter of the 13th. My Attention had already been called to the Subject to which it relates by Sir G. Grey, and I had in consequence given Directions for the Preparation of a Despatch to the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland, directing him to apply a Portion of the Money

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raised

NEWFOUNDLAND. raised by the Collection which was made in consequence of the Queen's Letter to the rebuilding of the Cathedral Church of St. John's.

With this Despatch, which will be sent by the next Mail, I will forward a Copy of your Lordship's Letter to the Officer administering the Government, in order that he may be fully aware of what appear to be the Wishes of many of the Persons by whom this Money was given, as to the Use to be made of it.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 37.

(No. 13.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Colonel LAW, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl GREY.

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

Government House, Newfoundland,
25th September 1846.

My Lord,

Page 47.

I HAVE the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordship's Despatch, No. 22. of the 3d instant, suggesting the Mode in which your Lordship deems it desirable that the Relief afforded by the Government Grant and by private Subscriptions should be administered to the Sufferers by the late Fire in this City; and in reply I would respectfully beg Permission to offer the following Observations :

A considerable Part (upwards of 9,000*l.* Sterling) of the Government Grant has been already expended in the Relief of the Sufferers, under the Direction of Two Bodies constituted by Sir John Harvey for this Service. The first, selected for their Business Habits and their Knowledge generally of this Community, consists of *Five* Members and a Secretary, who sit every Day to receive Applications, and who, on due and full Inquiry, award to each Applicant such an Amount as the Circumstances of his Case and the Funds at their Disposal will in the Opinion of these Commissioners justify. These Awards are submitted once a Week to a Committee of Relief, consisting of *Forty* Members, chosen from various Classes, and are by them, after careful Examination, either sanctioned or objected to; they are then forwarded by this Committee to the Governor, who either of himself, or in Council, as he may deem necessary, gives his Assent to them, and they are then paid. Your Lordship will see that by this Course of Proceeding a rigid Scrutiny is instituted into every Case, and the Result has been the Extension of the larger Amount of Relief to those Cases coming under No. 2. of your Lordship's Classification.

This System, as now in operation, could not without great Complaint be interfered with. It is, I think, the best that could be devised; and I would, with the utmost Deference, express my Opinion, that the Plan suggested by your Lordship of Relief being in some Instances made contingent on an equal Amount being contributed by Individuals applying for Assistance, the whole Sum to be employed in the Reconstruction of the Dwellings of the Parties with such Materials as may be prescribed by the Committee, although very good in Theory, is quite unsuited to our Circumstances. The great Point, as respects the Recipients of Relief, is an early and prompt Distribution of the Funds to assist them in erecting Houses before our inclement Winter comes on; but with the Exception of the Two principal Streets, in which, in accordance with the Provisions of the Building Act now under the Consideration of the Government, the Houses must be built of Stone, the Buildings will be altogether, or nearly so, of Wood.

The lower Classes, and especially the Mechanics, have at this Period abundant and profitable Employment, but in consequence of many having been deprived of their Houses and Clothing, it has been necessary to give them the latter as well as Food and Money, and to have Shelter provided for them for the Winter.

I avail myself of this Occasion respectfully to urge on your Lordship the Necessity of an early Signification of Her Majesty's Pleasure on the Act before referred to, "for regulating the rebuilding of the Town of Saint John's," as many Matters growing out of it require a speedy Adjustment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT LAW.

No. 38.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 34.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,

Downing Street, 27th October 1846.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 13. of the 25th September, on the Subject of the Distribution of the Parliamentary Grant for the Relief of the Inhabitants of Saint John's Newfoundland.

I am aware that Sir John Harvey had appointed the Committee (of whose Proceedings you now furnish me with an Account) previously to the Receipt of my Instructions of the 3d September explaining the Mode which appeared to me to be the best calculated for affording immediate and substantial Benefit to the Inhabitants of St. John's. I am not, therefore, surprised to learn that, a considerable Part of the Grant having been already expended in the Relief of the Sufferers, under the Direction of Two Committees constituted by Sir John Harvey for this Service upon a System which you describe to me; this System of Relief, as it is actually in operation, could not now be interfered with without occasioning great Dissatisfaction. Such being the Case, although I must confess that I am not satisfied that the Plan on which the Committee is now acting is in itself the best that could have been adopted, and although I retain the Opinion I have already expressed, that the Grant which has been made for the Relief of the Inhabitants of St. John's would have been productive of greater permanent Benefit if so applied as to secure the Reconstruction of the Town in a solid and durable Manner, still I am not prepared to overrule the Proceedings of the local Authorities, who ought to be the best Judges upon such a Subject. It is right, however, that I should remind you that if this Opportunity of rebuilding the Town in a more solid Manner is not taken advantage of, and if it should be determined to reconstruct it of perishable Materials, it cannot be expected, in the event of another Fire, that the same liberal Assistance which has been granted by the Parliament of this Country will be again afforded.

Adverting to your Wish, that Her Majesty's Decision upon the Act regulating the rebuilding of the Town of St. John's should be signified without Delay, I have to inform you that Her Majesty was pleased, on the 30th ultimo, to leave the Act in question to its Operation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 38.
Earl Grey
to
the Officer
administering the
Government
of Newfoundland,
27th Oct. 1846.

No. 39.

COPY of a LETTER from the Lord Bishop of NEWFOUNDLAND to Earl GREY.

My Lord,

Exeter College, Oxford, 24th November 1846.

I HAVE the Honour to inform your Lordship that it is my Wish and Intention to return to Newfoundland by the Steamer on the 4th of next Month, via Halifax, if I can by that Time arrange the Business which brought me to England.

But I cannot fix on a Plan, or engage a Builder, for the new Church in St. John's, until I know what Portion of the Monies collected under the Authority of the Queen's Letter will be placed at our Disposal.

Your Lordship is, I presume, aware that the Episcopal Church was the only Place of public Worship destroyed in the late Conflagration, and that the Committee of Gentlemen who petitioned for the Queen's Letter distinctly named in their Petition the Restoration of this Church as one of the Objects contemplated and to be provided for. Several of the Bishops applied to Secretary Sir George Grey for Information and Satisfaction on this Point (whether, I mean, the Church would be rebuilt from the Funds so to be collected), who by him were referred to the late Lord Mayor, as Chairman of the Committee, who had applied for and obtained the Queen's Letter. The Lord Mayor in reply informed them that the Committee had included this Object in their Petition to Her Majesty, and that it was their Intention that Two Thirds or Three Fourths of the Amount collected should be devoted to that Purpose. This was supposed,

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posed,

No. 39.
The Lord Bishop
of Newfoundland
to
Earl Grey,
24th Nov. 1846.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

posed, through Sir George Grey's Reference, to be authoritative and conclusive. Some of the Bishops informed their Clergy to this effect, who again urged the Consideration on their Congregations, and much larger Alms in many Parishes were received in consequence. The Wish of the Relief Committee is still as stated above, and as declared by the Lord Mayor on their Behalf. I can venture to add that such an Appropriation will be in accordance with the Expectations of the Inhabitants generally of St. John's.

A very large Sum of Money will be required to build the plainest Church of Stone.

As I cannot arrange my Plans to leave England before I am certified in this Matter, and am very anxious not to make unnecessary Delay, may I ask your Lordship to allow me the Honour of an Interview for Information on this Point and several others of Importance, either on Wednesday or Thursday.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 40.

COPY of a LETTER from Earl GREY to the Lord Bishop of NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 40.
Earl Grey
to
The Lord Bishop
of Newfoundland,
26th Nov. 1846.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 26th November 1846.

I HAVE the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordship's Letter of the 24th inst, and to acquaint you, in answer, that it is not in my Power, from the Information which can be obtained in this Country, to determine what Proportion of the Sum raised by the Collection made in virtue of the Queen's Letter should be applied in rebuilding the Church of St. John in Newfoundland; this must depend upon the Nature and Extent of other Demands upon the Fund of which the local Authorities have alone the Means of judging.

I have, however, instructed the acting Governor of the Colony to apply a Portion of the Fund to this Object, and I regret that it is not in my Power to do more.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

P.S.—I enclose the Information respecting the Amount of the Collection made under the Queen's Letter for which after this Letter had been written your Lordship applied to me.

Amount already placed at the Governor's Disposal	-	-	£14,917	14	6
Subsequently paid into the Bank of England	-	-	11,436	3	9
			<u>£26,353</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>

No. 41.

(No. 46.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 11.
Earl Grey
to
the Officer
administering the
Government
of Newfoundland,
3d Dec. 1846.

Sir,

Downing Street, 3d December 1846.

I TRANSMIT for your Information the enclosed Copy of a Letter from the Bishop of Newfoundland, together with a Copy of the Answer I have returned to it, on the Subject of the Appropriation, to the rebuilding of St. John's Church, of that Portion of the Sum collected by virtue of the Queen's Letter, which has been paid into the Bank of England since the Date of my Despatch, No. 41. of the 16th of November.

I take this Opportunity of informing you that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have apprized me, that they have instructed the Officer in charge of the Commissariat on the Station to hold the further Sum of 11,436*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* at your Disposal, for the Purposes of the intended Relief.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

30 Nov. 1846.
3d Dec. 1846.

Enclosure 1. in No. 41.

Enclosure 1. in
No. 41.

My Lord,

79, Pall Mall, 30th November 1846.

I HAVE the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordship's Letter of the 26th instant, which followed me into the Country.

I trust I may be allowed to hope, and to ask, that that Portion of the Collection made under the Authority of the Queen's Letter now remaining in England may be devoted to the rebuilding of the Episcopal Church in St. John's.

This Division will not answer the Assurance which the late Lord Mayor, as Chairman of the Relief Committee, was allowed to give the Bishops; nor will it enable us to build such a Church as we had hoped and intended; but with the Assistance of private Subscriptions we may increase the Amount to 15,000*l.* or 16,000*l.*, which would only complete such a Church as in England would cost 11,000*l.* or 12,000*l.* If the Remainder be assigned to Church Purposes, we should be glad that the whole Sum forwarded to St. John's should be applied to the general Relief of the suffering Poor in temporal Things. It will not be forgotten that the Members of the Church of England in St. John's are the only Parties suffering in their religious Concerns through the Fire, and that the Money collected under the Authority of the Queen's Letter was obtained almost exclusively from Members of the Church; they also having otherwise contributed to the general Fund.

Your Lordship will, I doubt not, provide that no more of the Money leaves the Country without your Lordship's Knowledge and Approval.

The Earl Grey,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ED. NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 2. in No. 41.

Enclosure 2. in
No. 41.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 3d December 1846.

I HAVE the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 30th ultimo, expressing your Hope that that Portion of the Collections made under the Authority of the Queen's Letter now remaining in this Country may be appropriated to the rebuilding of the Episcopal Church in St. John's Newfoundland.

In reply I have to acquaint your Lordship that I am not prepared, without further Information as to the Extent to which Distress may be felt in Newfoundland, to give any positive Instructions to the acting Governor as to the Application of this Money to the rebuilding of St. John's Church, though I shall be glad to find that it can be so appropriated without Inconvenience.

The Right Rev.
The Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 42.

COPY of a LETTER from the Lord Bishop of NEWFOUNDLAND to Earl GREY.

No. 42.
The Lord Bishop
of Newfoundland
to
Earl Grey,
4th Dec. 1846.

My Lord,

26, Bury Street, 4th December 1846.

I HAVE the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordship's Letter of the 3d instant, in which your Lordship states, that, without further Information as to the Extent to which Distress may be felt in Newfoundland, you are not prepared to give any positive Instructions to the acting Governor as to the Application of this Money (that Portion of the Collections made under Authority of the Queen's Letter now remaining in this Country) to the rebuilding of Saint John's Church.

I am most unwilling to be or appear importunate and troublesome, especially after the kind Manner in which your Lordship has noticed my former Applications. But as my Letters from St. John's seem to supply the required, and I trust sufficient, Information, and which, though it cannot be regarded as official, may I think be relied on as correct, I venture to trouble your Lordship with some Extracts. It is right to add that my Correspondent is a Clergyman, and a Member of the Relief Committee, but as he never intended or expected that his Information would meet any Eye but mine, it could not be framed to persuade, or with any Object but simply to narrate Facts. He says, "Our Labours are nearly at an end. To-day we went through the last Précis of the Commissioners. The Sum expended in Awards for Compensation amounts to about 32,000*l.* Currency. In meeting which Half the Government

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Grant

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Grant of 30,000*l.* has been expended, and about 14,000*l.* of private Subscriptions. Of these latter there is a Balance in hand of about 5,000*l.* The Question now to be settled is, *What is to be done with the Surplus?* It is generally considered that the unexpended Residue of private Subscriptions will be more than enough to satisfy the Claims of those who are entitled to a further Instalment. The Government, both local and home, intend, I believe, to appropriate the remaining Moiety of the Imperial Grant (which has just arrived in hard Sovereigns) to the Restoration of Official Buildings. Then comes the Question, *What is to be done with the Queen's Letter Collections?*"

I do not like to trouble your Lordship with further Extracts, though there are several other Matters I should be glad to bring under your Notice. The above Extract is verbatim from the Letter, and it seems to show that (independently of the 14,000*l.* and upwards sent, as your Lordship informed me, from the Queen's Letter Fund,) there are Two Sums of 15,000*l.* and 5,000*l.* (the former the Moiety of the Government Grant, and the latter the Surplus of private Subscriptions,) actually in Saint John's; making in all nearly 35,000*l.* unemployed, and almost it would seem uncalled-for. My Friend thinks, "with many others, that if any additional large Sum be appropriated to the Sufferers by the Fire, it will do more Harm than Good." He gives Reasons which I am unwilling to quote. I cannot but hope, therefore, that your Lordship will find and grant (as you have kindly expressed a Wish might be the Case) that the whole Residue of the Queen's Letter Fund now remaining in this Country may be appropriated without Inconvenience to the rebuilding of our Church.

I would respectfully ask whether there is any Necessity of putting the Monies collected through the Queen's Letter into the acting Governor's Hands? I would humbly suggest that the Government at home might more conveniently direct the Application, and prescribe the Guarantees or Certificates, if it might not be put under my Control. I allude, of course, to the Residue reserved for rebuilding the Church.

I have, &c.

EDWD. NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 43.

COPY of a LETTER from Earl GREY to the Lord Bishop of NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 43.
Earl Grey
to
The Lord Bishop
of Newfoundland,
15th Dec. 1846.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 15th December 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordship's Letter of the 4th instant, on the Subject of the Appropriation of the remaining Portion of the Collections made under the Authority of the Queen's Letter. It will not be in my Power, in compliance with the Request contained in that Letter, to issue any Directions respecting the Appropriation of these Funds until I shall be in possession of the Report which I am expecting on the Subject from the Officer administering the Government of Newfoundland.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

No. 44.

(No. 25.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Colonel LAW, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl GREY.

No. 44.
Lieut. Col. Law
to
Earl Grey,
20th Nov. 1846.

Government House, Newfoundland,
26th November 1846.

My Lord,

THE Assistant Commissary General in charge on this Station having apprized me that he had received from the Lords of the Treasury Authority to draw for a Sum of 14,917*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, which has been paid into the Bank of England on account of the Collection under the Queen's Letter for the Sufferers by the Fire of the 9th June, I deem it my Duty to bring under your Lordship's Consideration some Circumstances connected with the Funds derived from the Government, and from other Sources, for the same Object.

Concurring

Concurring strongly in your Lordship's View of the Advantage to be derived from a Portion of the Government Grant being reserved for the Re-erection of official Buildings, or other public Purpose connected with the general Interests of the Colony, I have, since the Receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of 18th August, No. 17., taken every Step which I thought likely to effect this Object.

The Commissioners appointed by Sir John Harvey entertained, after rigid Scrutiny, upwards of 2,000 Cases, which, after being subjected to Examination by the Relief Committee, were relieved to the Extent recommended by those Two Bodies—the maximum Allowance being 50*l*.

The whole Amount expended on these Cases was nearly 32,000*l*. Currency, leaving of the Grants in the Hands of the Local Government about 15,000*l*. Sterling, and in those of the Relief Committee about 10,000*l*. Currency. At a recent Meeting of this Body, comprising in itself many Recipients and many Expectants of some of the Money received from the Government and from Individuals, it was determined that the Commissioners should again go over all the Cases previously relieved and award additional Sums, so as to make an Allowance of 15 per Cent. to all Persons who had sustained a less Loss than 500*l*., and 10 per Cent. to the Sufferers beyond that Amount,—the Extent in no Case to exceed 300*l*.

As it is contemplated that this is to be paid out of Government as well as private Funds, and as Sir John Harvey, on appointing the Commissioners, limited their Grants to 100*l*., I purpose, to avoid mixing up the Government in this Transaction, to put an end to the Commission; but as the Commissioners will still form a Part of the general Relief Committee, they can give the same Assistance in that Capacity as they could do as Commissioners in appropriating the Money at the Disposal of the Committee, with which Appropriation it is not my Intention to interfere.

My Object in laying before your Lordship this Statement of existing Circumstances is to request that your Lordship will give an absolute Direction that the 15,000*l*. Sterling remaining of the Government Money be retained to await your Lordship's final Instructions. I am induced to request your Lordship will assume this Duty, for the following Reasons, which in my Opinion would make it a very difficult Task for the Head of the Local Government.

The natural Anxiety of the unfortunate Sufferers by the late Fire to obtain Relief, has, under the Influence of the liberal Aid afforded to us, grown into a Demand, the Tendency of which appears to be of a demoralizing Character. An Idea is very generally prevalent that as long as any Money remains of public or private Grants, the Sufferers, whether in Poverty or not, have a Right to it; and this has led many to be Applicants who in the first instance did not think of it.

The Consequence is that those who have been relieved yet look for more; and those who have not yet received, but think they have a Right to do so, form a most powerful Combination, comprising a large Portion of the Inhabitants of St. John's.

The Merchants, and others of the better Classes, would I believe, with a few Exceptions, be glad if a Portion of the Grant were reserved for public Purposes. Our pecuniary Prospects are of a very painful Character; the fearful Distress in the Out-ports of the Colony will absorb a large Sum of Money, and the Revenue for the Quarter ending in October, notwithstanding the Necessity of replacing many Articles liable to Duty which were burnt, fell considerably short of that of the corresponding Quarter of the previous Year. So that we have the Colony suffering most severely, and the Relief Fund, with its present and prospective Receipts, most flourishing.

Under these Circumstances I trust that I may receive from your Lordship the Direction that I retain the Balance of the Government Grant now in the Commissariat Chest to await your Lordship's further Instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT LAW.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 45.

(No. 55.)

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

Page 56.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the
Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,

Downing Street, 23d December 1846.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 25. of the 26th November, bringing under my Notice the State of the Funds for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fire at St. John's Newfoundland, at present in the Hands of the local Government and in those of the Relief Committee.

Under the Circumstances stated by you, I feel no Difficulty in complying with your Request, by authorizing you to retain in your Hands the remaining Portion of the Government Fund, amounting to the Sum of 15,000*l.*, until you shall receive my final Instructions for its Appropriation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 46.

COPY of a LETTER from the Lord Bishop of NEWFOUNDLAND to Earl GREY.

No. 46.
The Lord Bishop
of Newfoundland
to
Earl Grey,
17th Dec. 1846.

My Lord,

26, Bury Street, 17th December 1846.

I HAVE the Honour to communicate to your Lordship the following Intelligence, received this Day from St. John's Newfoundland, which seems of Importance, as well generally as in reference to the particular Case on which I have had occasion to trouble your Lordship.

"The Payment of an Instalment to those whose Losses exceed 500*l.* has been determined on by the Relief Committee, at the same Rate of 10*l.* per Cent., at which Sufferers from that Amount downwards have already been compensated.

"And as some of those whose Losses are less than 500*l.* are in great Difficulties, it is intended to assist them further with not more than an additional 5*l.* per Cent., the Maximum of Relief to be 800*l.* The 10*l.* per Cent. will consume about 10,000*l.*, and the Committee have at their Disposal upwards of 11,000*l.* of private Subscriptions. The second Instalment of 5*l.* per Cent. or less to Losers of 500*l.* or less, will require about 4,000*l.* or 5,000*l.* Currency; so that even of the Government Grant there will be a large Balance, exclusive of the Queen's Letter Collections."

I earnestly hope the Despatches addressed officially to your Lordship may be of a similar Nature, and enable your Lordship to appropriate the Sum for rebuilding the Episcopal Church without Delay, that I may make the necessary Arrangements before my Departure.

I may be pardoned, I trust, in a Matter of so much Importance to myself and my Friends, if I respectfully remind your Lordship that Two Objects were mentioned in the Petition for the Queen's Letter, viz., the Relief of the Sufferers, and the rebuilding of the Episcopal Church; the former of those Objects has been provided for by the Remittance of nearly 15,000*l.* from the Collections; surely the Residue ought in Reason and Justice to be applied to the latter. It was the Wish of the Petitioners, and a Declaration was made to the Clergy that a much larger Portion should be so applied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ED. NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 47.

(No. 57.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the
Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 47.
Earl Grey
to
the Officer
administering the
Government
of Newfoundland,
25th Dec. 1846.

Sir,

Downing Street, 25th December 1846.

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 55. of 23d instant, I transmit for your Information and Guidance the Copy of a Letter I have addressed to the Bishop of Newfoundland respecting the Appropriation of the Fund collected under the Authority of the Queen's Letter for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fire at St. John's; and, in accordance with the Terms of that Letter, I have to authorize you to reserve One Half of the total Amount of these Collections, to be applied to the rebuilding of the Church of St. John.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

22d Dec. 1846.

Enclosure in No. 47.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Encl. in No. 47.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 22d December 1846.

IN reply to your Lordship's Letter of the 17th instant, I have to acquaint you that I have, by the last Mail, received a Despatch from the acting Governor of Newfoundland to the same Effect as the Statement contained in your Letter, and that, under these Circumstances, as I am aware that the Parties who applied for the Queen's Letter did mention the rebuilding of the Church of St. John as one of the Objects for which the Collection was desired, and also that it was one particularly referred to by many Clergymen in their Sermons preceding the Collection, I shall think it right to direct the Governor to reserve for this Purpose One Half of the total Amount of the Collections.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

To the Right Rev.

The Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

No. 48.

(No. 27.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut. Colonel LAW, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl GREY.

No. 48.
Lieut. Col. Law
to
Earl Grey,
10th Dec. 1846.

Page 50.

My Lord,

Government House, Newfoundland,
10th December 1846.

I HAVE the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of the 17th November, No. 42., on the Subject of a Portion of the Funds raised by the Subscriptions from the Queen's Letter being appropriated to the rebuilding of the Parish Church.

I have little Doubt that nearly every disinterested Person in the Colony would agree in the Propriety of such an Appropriation, but, for the Reasons detailed in my Despatch to your Lordship, No. 25. of the 26th ultimo, I would most respectfully beg leave to suggest that your Lordship should direct that a certain Proportion of the Fund in question, either One Third or One Fourth, be devoted to the Reconstruction of the Church.

Such a Proceeding on the Part of the Local Government might lead to Complaint, whilst, as your Lordship's Act, it would not, in my Opinion, meet with any Objection.

With reference to the concluding Part of your Lordship's Despatch, I beg to state that the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of London is in error in stating that there is not a Member of the Church of England on the Relief Committee, as the Rector of the Parish and several of the principal Members of that Church are on this Committee. The Body to which his Lordship must have alluded was the Board of Commissioners (consisting of Six) appointed by Sir John Harvey, on which, I believe entirely by Accident, there was no Protestant Episcopalian, but which Board has discharged its arduous Duties in such a Manner as to give general Satisfaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT LAW.

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No. 49.

COPY of a LETTER from Earl GREY to the Lord Bishop of LONDON.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 8th January 1847.

WITH reference to the Letter which I had the Honour to receive from your Lordship on the 13th of November last, relative to the Appropriation of a Portion of the Funds collected under the Authority of the Queen's Letter to the rebuilding of the Church of St. John's Newfoundland, I transmit for your Information an Extract from a Despatch which I have received from the Officer administering the Government of that Colony, from which your Lordship will perceive that the Rector of the Parish of St. John's and several Members of that Church are on the Relief Committee to whom the Distribution of the Funds in question is entrusted.

No. 49.
Earl Grey
to
The Lord
Bishop of London,
8th Jan. 1847.

No. 27.

10 Dec. 1846.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 50.

(No. 28.)

No. 50.
Lieut. Col. Law
to
Earl Grey,
10th Dec. 1846.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut. Colonel LAW, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl GREY.

Government House, Newfoundland,
10th December 1846.

My Lord,

I HAVE the HONOUR to forward herewith to your Lordship a Copy of the Speech with which on the 1st instant I opened the Sixth Session of the General Assembly of this Island, together with the Address of the House in answer thereto, and my Reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT LAW.

(Extract.)

Enclosure in No. 50.

Encl. in No. 50. SPEECH of his Honour the Administrator of the Government on opening the Sixth Session of the Third General Assembly, 1st December 1846.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

IN the Expectation of the early Arrival of our Governor, and with the Knowledge that the Season at which I have called you together may to some prove an inconvenient one, I should have abstained from assembling you on this Occasion could I have done so consistently with what I deem my Duty; but the pressing Necessities of the Poor of the Outports, arising out of the various Calamities with which the Colony has been afflicted during the present Year,—the apparent Necessity of some Amendments in the Saint John's Building Act, and the Fact that, according to the Opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, the present Assembly (which has been continued in its amalgamated Form by an Act of the Imperial Parliament) cannot, under the Operation of the Quadrennial Act, sit after the 14th of next Month,—render it indispensable that I should have recourse to your Counsel and Advice at the earliest possible Period.

I shall cause to be laid before you Statements of the Sums expended for the Relief of Distress originating in deficient Seal and Cod Fisheries, as also in a partial Failure in the Potato Crop; together with a Report by a Committee of the Council on Claims induced by the destructive Ravages of the Tempest of the 19th of September last.

I have directed a Bill to be prepared introducing such Amendments as are deemed advisable in the Saint John's Building Act. To a Subject so important it is unnecessary to request your earnest Attention; and it appears to me that whilst the great Object to be attained, at whatever Cost, is the Re-construction of this City of Materials of an incombustible and permanent Nature, our financial Condition unfortunately does not admit of an extensive Expenditure for Alterations or Improvements of an ornamental Character.

I must also call your Attention to the Absence of any Act for the Re-establishment of Fire Companies in this Community, than which nothing is of more paramount Importance.

Since the awful Calamity of the 9th June, Two superior Fire Engines, the Gift of the Phoenix Insurance Company, attached pro tempore to the Garrison, together with those belonging to Government, have been our only Resource; but if to these, others worked by equally efficient and well-organised Bodies, were added, as also an Auxiliary, in the Shape of a powerful floating Fire Engine, stationed on the Harbour, and available at all Times for the Extinction of Fire on the Water-side Premises, or to afford to other Engines a constant Supply of Water, coupled with the Establishment of the projected Water Company, I conceive that we shall, so far as human Precaution goes, have not only provided against the Repetition of such a frightful Visitation, but that the heavy Premiums now demanded on Insurance may, in consequence of the increased Security, be materially reduced.

Copies of Despatches from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, upon various Subjects of Interest, amongst which is one disallowing the Act for raising a Loan to be guaranteed by the Imperial Government, will be laid before you.

I cannot deny myself the Gratification of expressing, on this Occasion, my deep Sense of Gratitude, in which I am sure you will warmly participate, towards the parent Government, as well as to the other generous Donors of the munificent Contributions which have been remitted for the Relief of the Sufferers of this City, and which have afforded Support and Comfort to many poor and drooping Families. The Sums of Money so received and applied, in conjunction with the existing high Rate of Wages to Mechanics and Labourers, have tended much to abate the Demands which would otherwise have been made upon the Government for the Relief of the Poor of this District, and which, notwithstanding, I regret to say, have been considerably increased as compared with former Years.

ADDRESS

ADDRESS of the Assembly, in reply.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Passed as the Saint John's Building Act was, upon the pressing Exigency of the Occasion, without sufficient Time being afforded for such Consideration as their Importance deserved of the Details of an Act in itself voluminous and difficult, we are not surprised that Alterations in some of its Provisions should have been found necessary; and we shall endeavour, during the present Session, to render it as perfect as possible, by the Adoption of such Amendments as the intended Permanency of its Operation, and the great Extent, Importance, and Variety of the Interests involved in its Enactments, certainly require.

The providing, by the Establishment and Maintenance of efficient Fire Companies, of some Means for the Preservation of the Town from Fire, other than such as are found in the proper Regulation of the Structure of the Buildings, is a Subject which shall engage our early Attention; and we coincide in the Views expressed by your Honour as to the Mode in which an End so desirable can best be attained.

There is we trust but little Necessity for the Assurance, that we do indeed feel with your Honour deeply grateful for the Assistance afforded us under our great Calamity of the 9th of June last, by the munificent Donations of the mother Country and of our sister Colonies,—Donations the more highly valued from the sincere Expressions of heartfelt Sympathy in our Distress with which they were invariably accompanied.

No. 51.

(No. 58.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

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

Sir,

Downing Street, 2d January 1847.

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 57. of 25th ultimo, respecting the Appropriation of the Funds collected under the Queen's Letter for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fire at St. John's, I have now to instruct you that that Portion of the Contributions which I directed to be appropriated to the rebuilding of the Church of St. John should only be drawn for from Time to Time as Funds may be required for the Purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 52.

(No. 61.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to the OFFICER administering the Government of NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 52.
Earl Grey
to
the Officer
administering the
Government
of Newfoundland,
19th Jan. 1847.

Sir,

Downing Street, 19th January 1847.

FOR your own Information, and for the Information of the Bishop of Newfoundland, I transmit to you the accompanying Copy of a Correspondence which has taken place between this Department and the Office of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, respecting the Investment of the Sums received on account of the Relief Subscriptions under the Queen's Letter, and respecting the latest Receipts on that Account at the Bank of England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

Enclosure 1. in No. 52.

Sir,

Downing Street, 2d January 1847.

I AM directed by Earl Grey to transmit to you, for the Consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, an Extract from a Letter addressed to his Lordship by the Bishop of Newfoundland, on the Subject of the Subscriptions collected under the Queen's Letter for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fire at St. John's Newfoundland. Lord Grey has directed the Officer administering the Government to appropriate One Half of the total Amount thus collected to rebuilding the Church of St. John's; and I am to request you will state to the Lords Commissioners that it would, in Lord Grey's Opinion, be advisable that, in conformity with the Bishop's Suggestion, this Portion of the Fund should only be drawn for in the Colony as it is wanted to pay for the Work, and that in the meantime it should, if possible, be temporarily invested, so as to bear Interest.

Enclosure 1. in
No. 52.

29th Dec.

C. E. Trevelyan, Esq.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. STEPHEN.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 2. in No. 52.

Enclosure 2. in
No. 52.

My Lord,

26, Bury Street, 29th December 1846.

As I intend to leave for Newfoundland by the next Steamer, I would respectfully beg to be informed by whom and in what Way the Money for the Church in St. John's shall be drawn.

If it be necessary that the total Amount should pass through the Governor's Hands I can of course make no Objection; but there are several Reasons why it might with more Advantage be retained in this Country; among others, that it might bear Interest while the Work is in progress.

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

I should feel grateful for the Honour of an Interview before my Departure, either To-morrow or Thursday, at any Hour your Lordship will kindly name.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. NEWFOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 3. in No. 52.

Enclosure 3. in
No. 52.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 2d January 1847.

I HAVE the Honour to acquaint you, in reply to your Lordship's Letter of the 29th ultimo, that the Commissary on the Newfoundland Station was authorized, on the 30th October and the 24th November last, to pay over to the Local Government the respective Sums of 14,917*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* and 11,436*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, on account of the Subscriptions collected under the Queen's Letter for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fire at Saint John's, and that a further Sum of 2,379*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* has since been received by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and is now available in this Country.

It appears, from Inquiries which I have caused to be made at their Lordships Office, that, with the Exception of any Liabilities which may have been incurred in the Colony, there is probably the whole of this Sum in hand, the Commissary on the Station not having had the Means, it is supposed, of issuing any Portion of it.

I shall endeavour to meet your Lordship's Wishes as to the Retention in this Country until it is wanted of that Part of the Produce of the Collection which is to be set apart for rebuilding Saint John's Church.

To the Right Rev.
The Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

Enclosure 4. in No. 52.

Enclosure 4. in
No. 52.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 13th January 1847.

WITH reference to your Communication, dated the 2d instant, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request you will state to Earl Grey, that my Lords having, as his Lordship is aware, already authorized the Commissary in Newfoundland to pay over, upon Requisitions from the Governor of the Colony, the whole of the Sums received on account of the Relief Subscriptions under the Queen's Letter up to the 21st November last, amounting to 26,353*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, defer giving any Directions respecting the Investment suggested by the Bishop of Newfoundland until they shall have been apprized of the Extent to which the Governor may have availed himself of the Credit thus given to him on the Commissariat Chest in the Colony.

I am further to request you will state to Lord Grey that an additional Amount of 2,784*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* has been received at the Bank of England on account of the Subscriptions in question, which will be subject to Deduction for Expenses of Postage on the Communications to and from the Clergy throughout the Country relating to the Queen's Letter, but that my Lords will await the Receipt of Information regarding the Proceedings in the Colony, in the respect above adverted to, before they give any further Directions for the Disposal of the Residue of the Subscription Fund.

James Stephen, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.I am, &c.
(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 53.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

(No. 38.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Colonel LAW, administering the Government of Newfoundland, to Earl GREY.

No. 53.
Lieut. Col. Law
to
Earl Grey,
28th Jan. 1847.

My Lord,

Government House, Saint John's, Newfoundland,
28th January 1847.

I HAVE the Honour to transmit for your Lordship's Information a Copy of the Speech with which on the 14th instant I closed the final Session of the General Assembly of this Island.

(Signed) I have, &c.
ROBERT LAW.

Enclosure in No. 53.

EXTRACT from Lieutenant Colonel LAW'S SPEECH on closing the Session of the General Assembly.

Encl. in No. 53.

I TRUST that the Act for amending the St. John's Building Act*, whilst providing Security against the fearful Element by which this City has been destroyed, will be found to involve much less of Cost in its Operation than the previously existing Law.

COPIES OF EXTRACTS OF CORRESPONDENCE between the SECRETARY OF STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT and the COMMITTEE for raising SUBSCRIPTIONS for the RELIEF of the DISTRESS occasioned by the FIRE at SAINT JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 54.

COPY of a PETITION from the COMMITTEE for the RELIEF of the SUFFERERS at the late CONFLAGRATION at SAINT JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND to HER MAJESTY.

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

To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

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

Most humbly sheweth,

That on the Ninth Day of last Month a Fire broke out at Saint John's, the Capital of Your Majesty's most ancient Colony of Newfoundland, which, notwithstanding the most strenuous Efforts of the Inhabitants, assisted by the local Authorities and the Garrison, destroyed nearly the whole of the Town, including all the Mercantile Establishments, except One, many of the Public Buildings, and the Episcopal Church, leaving upwards of Ten thousand Persons houseless and destitute.

That owing to the large Destruction of Property, estimated at a Million Sterling, no adequate Means existed on the Spot to afford Relief in a Case of such general Suffering and Distress, and that it is of the utmost Importance

* This Act has not yet been received.

NEWFOUNDLAND. that prompt Assistance should be afforded before the Approach of Winter overtakes the Inhabitants in a State of extreme Destitution.

Your Majesty's Petitioners therefore most humbly pray that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to command that a Collection may be made in all Churches and Chapels for the Relief of the Sufferers, and for rebuilding the Episcopal Church.

And Your Majesty's Petitioners as in Duty bound will ever pray.

(Signed) JOHN JOHNSON, Mayor.

(Here follow other Signatures.)

Committee Room, 11, Leadenhall Street,
27th July 1846.

COPY of a LETTER from the Right Honourable Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart., to the COMMITTEE for the RELIEF of the SUFFERERS at the late CONFLAGRATION at SAINT JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND.

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

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Whitehall, 6th August 1846.

I HAVE laid before the Queen your Petition praying that Her Majesty would be pleased to issue Her Royal Letters for a Collection for the Relief of the Sufferers by the recent calamitous Fire at Saint John's Newfoundland, and I have the Satisfaction of acquainting you that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to consent thereto, and that the necessary Instruments will be forthwith issued for that Purpose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

QUEBEC.

No. 55.

(No. 299.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord METCALFE, G.C.B., to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 20th June 1845.

ON the 28th of last Month a dreadful and extensive Fire took place in the City of Quebec, by which several Lives were sacrificed, and many of its Inhabitants afflicted with extreme Suffering and pecuniary Distress.

Subscriptions have been opened for their Relief in Quebec, Montreal, and other Places, which have been liberally contributed to; and immediately on Intelligence of the Calamity being received here, I sanctioned a Grant of 2,000*l.* from the Provincial Treasury, preliminary to taking into consideration the Propriety of affording further Aid.

I submit, herewith, the Copy of a Letter and Resolution which I have received from the General Committee appointed at Quebec for the Relief of the Sufferers, and of the Answer which I caused to be made. Being aware of the Difficulty that will be experienced by the Imperial Government in meeting such an Application, I conceived it to be proper to warn them of it, lest Hopes might be encouraged, which, if not realized, would lead to Disappointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) METCALFE.

QUEBEC.

No. 55.

Lord Metcalfe
to
Lord Stanley,
20th June 1845.

10th June.

20th June.

Enclosure 1. in No. 55.

Sir,

Quebec, 10th June 1845.

HEREWITH enclosed I have the Honour to send you, for the Purpose of being laid before his Excellency the Governor General, Copy of a Resolution adopted Yesterday at a Meeting of the General Committee for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late Fire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. L. MONTIZAMBERT,
Sec^r General Committee.

J. M. Higginson, Esq., Civil Secretary,
Montreal.

Enclosure 1. in
No. 55.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the General Committee for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late Fire, at a Meeting held in the City Council Chamber at Quebec, on the 9th June 1845.

Resolved, That an Application be made by this Committee to his Excellency the Governor General, requesting his Excellency to bring under the view of Her Majesty's Government in England the Calamity which has lately befallen this City, and to solicit Her Majesty's Government to take into consideration the Expediency of some Aid being given on the Part of the Imperial Government for the Relief of the Inhabitants of Quebec, whom this Disaster has reduced to Destitution.

A true Extract.

(Signed) E. L. MONTIZAMBERT,
Secretary.

Enclosure 2. in No. 55.

Sir,

Civil Secretary's Office, Montreal,
20th June 1845.

Enclosure 2. in
No. 55.

HAVING laid before the Governor General your Letter of the 10th instant, together with the Copy of a Resolution adopted at a Meeting of the Committee for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late Fire, which accompanied it, on the Subject of applying for Aid to the Imperial Government, I am directed to inform you, that the Governor General

(41.)

I

will

QUEBEC.

will forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies a Copy of that Resolution, and entertains no Doubt of the anxious Desire of Her Majesty's Government to relieve the Distress of those who have suffered from that dreadful Calamity.

But in order to prevent the Disappointment that might otherwise arise, his Excellency deems it right that the Committee should be made aware that Her Majesty's Government have no Means of meeting such an Application except by a Proposition to the Imperial Parliament, and that he has no Recollection of any Instance in which Parliamentary Aid has been granted on the Occasion of a similar Calamity.

You will be pleased to assure the Committee of the cordial Co-operation of the Governor General in the humane and charitable Task that has devolved upon them in consequence of the awful Affliction with which it hath pleased Providence to visit the City of Quebec, and of the sincere Sympathy and Sorrow felt by him for the very severe Suffering to which so many of its Inhabitants have been exposed.

E. L. Montizambert, Esq., Quebec.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

No. 56.

No. 56.
Lord Metcalfe
to
Lord Stanley,
9th July 1845.

(No. 311.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord METCALFE, G.C.B., to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 9th July 1845.

It is with great Sorrow that I have to report the Occurrence, on the Night of the 28th ultimo, of another extensive Conflagration in the City of Quebec, by which many of the Inhabitants have been reduced to extreme Distress. The enclosed Copies of Communications from Major General Sir James Hope, in command of the District, to the Commander of the Forces, detail the Particulars of this and the preceding dreadful Calamity during the Progress of the Fire, and the accompanying Sketch of the City shows the Portions of the Suburbs destroyed on both lamentable Occasions.

I also submit for your Lordship's Information Copies of a Letter from the Mayor, and of Resolutions passed at a public Meeting of the Citizens, soliciting the Interposition of the Government in behalf of the Sufferers, and of the Reply which I directed to be made to the Application. If the Measure for raising a Loan in Great Britain should be adopted, it will become my Duty to address your Lordship again upon the Subject.

The unremitting and well-directed Exertions of the Troops in Garrison under the Command of Sir James Hope may be considered to have saved those Parts of the City which have escaped Destruction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) METCALFE.

(Extract.)

Enclosure 1. in No. 56.

Enclosure 1. in
No. 56.

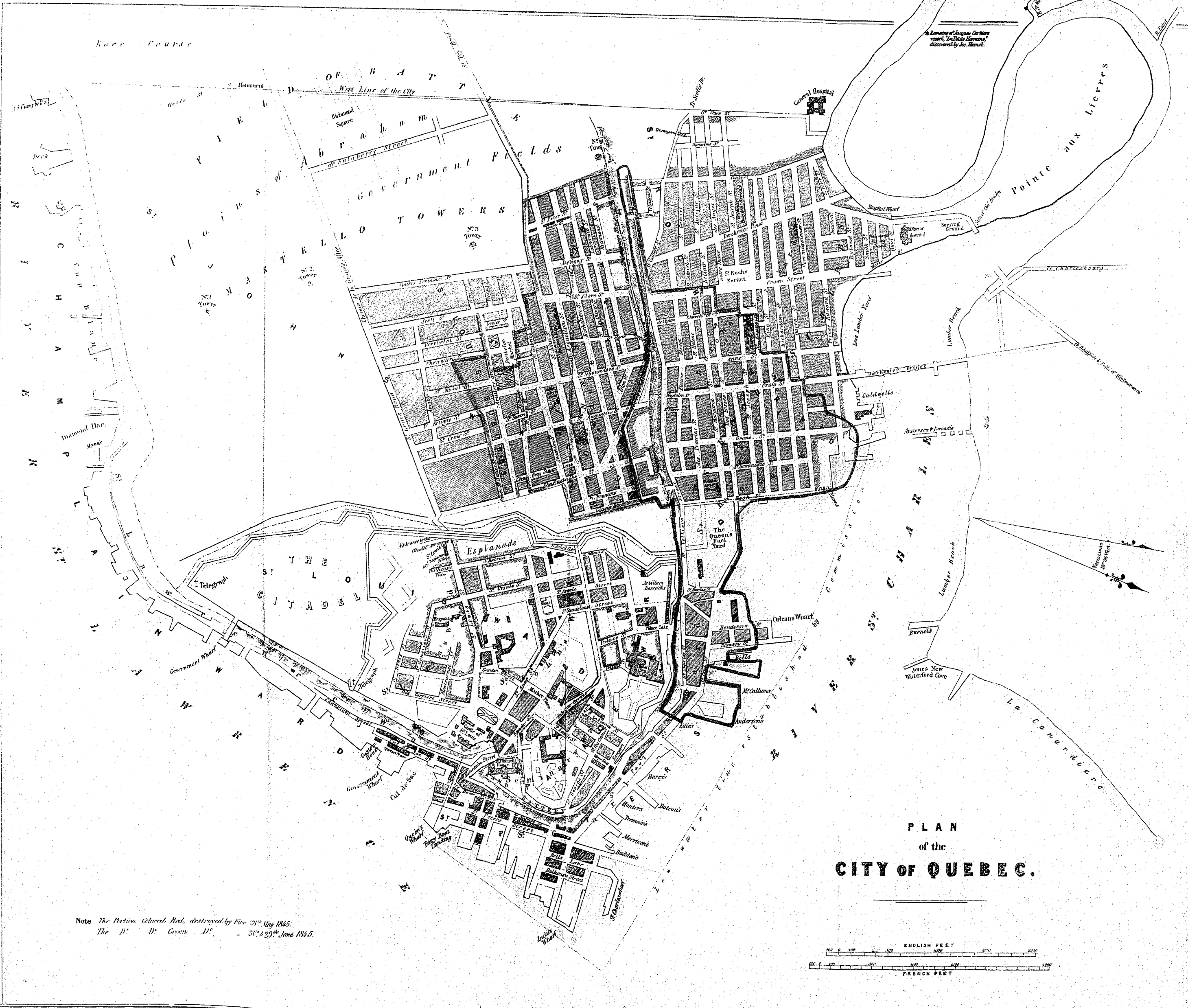
Sir,

Quebec, 30th May 1845.

It is with great Regret I have to communicate to your Excellency that a Fire broke out about Eleven o'Clock in the Morning of the 28th instant, in a Tannery at the Foot of Abraham's Hill on the Road leading to Scott's Bridge. This Accident I am informed occurred from the bursting of some of the Steam Apparatus. Owing to a strong Gale of Wind from the West the Fire not only communicated to the contiguous Houses, but broke out at Intervals of several Hundred Yards, and before Three o'Clock P. M. the Flames had reached St. Roch's Church, which was consumed, and had spread over I should think Five Sixths of the Suburbs of St. Roch, and only stopped in their Progress by the River St. Charles.

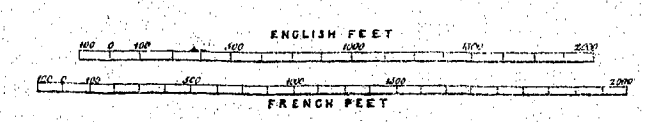
I am sorry to report to your Excellency that the whole of the Wood-yard was consumed; and I herewith enclose a Report from Mr. Assistant Commissary General Milliken. The Fire proceeded up Abraham's Hill, skirting the St. John Suburbs to the Glacis of the Town, and also extended along the Foot of the Hill to the Street immediately below the Artillery Barracks. By a Report from Lieutenant Colonel Walker your Excellency will see that the Barracks were only saved by being covered with Tin; the Mess House and Officers Apartments, at present roofed with Shingle, were on Fire, and only preserved by the Exertions of the Men. Had this Building caught Fire it must have communicated to the contiguous Houses belonging to the Upper Town, and it is impossible to say how far the Devastation would have reached.

Lieutenant Colonel Ward of the Royal Engineers had taken every necessary Precaution to secure the Powder Magazine near to the Hotel Dieu, a short way East from Palace Gate,



Note The Bottom Colored Red, destroyed by Fire 25th May 1865.
 The D^r. D^r. Green D^r. " 38th & 29th June 1845.

PLAN
 of the
CITY OF QUEBEC.



Gate, and I am happy to inform your Excellency that no Accident occurred, though the Wood and Copings on the Top of the Ramparts, not further than betwixt Twenty and Thirty Yards from the Magazine, were on Fire, and had to be torn up and thrown over the Rock.

The Flames continued their Progress with frightful Rapidity, consuming the Houses and Two large Breweries along the Foot of the Rock leading to Hope Gate, and every Man that could be collected was employed in destroying the Buildings, and cutting off the Communication from the lower Town, at a Point where the Salient Rock approached near to the River St. Charles. Had the Flames continued beyond this narrow Space, nothing could have saved a great Part of the Lower Town and the Quays from being destroyed. Owing, however, to the Exertions of the Troops, whose steady, active, and willing Conduct on this melancholy Occasion exceeds any Praise that I can bestow on them, the Communication was successfully cut off, and the Fire completely stopped by about Half past Ten o'Clock P.M. One House was unroofed, but this was found to be too slow an Operation, and the Two contiguous Houses had to be blown up. The Flames had communicated about Eight o'Clock P.M. to a large Yard filled with Stacks of Deals close to the River St. Charles, and a Separation had to be made through the Middle of the Yard by the Removal of a great Part of the Wood, to cut off the burning Stacks of Deals from the Range of Quays round the Lower Town, which was effected by the unremitting Exertions of the Soldiers and the Aid of Two Fire Engines ordered to this Point by Mr. Caron, the Mayor of Quebec. Some Time about Eight P.M. the Wind moderated and changed to the Southward, to which providential Circumstance the Safety of the Lower Town is chiefly to be attributed. I beg to remark to your Excellency that the Troops performed this Service during the whole Time.

I beg to repeat to your Excellency that nothing could exceed the willing Exertions of the different Commanding Officers and of all Ranks employed, and I am happy to say that during the whole Time the Fire lasted I did not observe One single drunken Soldier. The Suburbs of St. Roch present an Appearance of frightful Desolation, from the greater Part of the Houses being of Wood, chiefly belonging to Artizans and the Poor; there is nothing to be seen but a Forest of Chimneys; and I am apprehensive that the Rapidity of the Fire prevented many from escaping, and that there are a Number of Victims to the Flames. The Fire communicated so suddenly and spread with such Rapidity over the Wood-yard that it was with Difficulty the Troops employed escaped from the Flames. I am happy to say that though the Men were frequently exposed to Danger and acted with fearless Intrepidity, I have not heard of any Casualties. The Officers and Men of the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, and of the Wing of the 14th Regiment, of the 43d Light Infantry, and of the 89th Regiment, are fully deserving of any Expression of Approbation which your Excellency may think proper to bestow on them. It is computed that about Fifteen hundred Houses have been consumed, and Fifteen thousand Inhabitants deprived of their House and Home, and many of the Poor solely depending on the Benevolence and Charity of the People.

His Excellency
Lieutenant General Sir R. D. Jackson, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. HOPE,
Major General.

Enclosure 2. in No. 56.

My Lord,

Quebec, 1st July 1845.

Enclosure 2. in
No. 56.

It is with great Grief that I have to repeat to your Excellency another dreadful Conflagration that took place in the Suburbs of Quebec on the Night of the 28th June, by which Twelve hundred Houses were consumed. The Fire is said to have originated about Twenty Minutes before Twelve o'Clock at Night, in a Hangard behind the House of Mons^r Tessier, a Notary, at the beginning of Aiguillon Street, close to the Glacis outside of St. John's Gate, and spread with frightful Rapidity along the whole Length of that Street, of St. John's Street, consuming the whole of the Suburbs of St. John's, and extending to the Ruins of the St. Roch's Suburbs burnt by the former Fire. There was no Time lost in turning out the whole of the Troops, but the Rapidity of the Flames for a considerable Time defied all human Exertion, and continued their frightful Progress along the St. Foy Road, a Distance of 1,200 Yards, as long, with very few Exceptions, as there were any Houses to burn, and spreading against the Wind from one narrow Street to another in the Direction of the St. Louis Road; unfortunately a Gale of Wind was blowing from the East, and the whole Breadth of the St. John's Suburbs appeared to be on Fire at the same Moment.

During the Night Monsieur Caron, the Mayor of Quebec, came to me to point out a Spot near the Glacis, betwixt the St. John's and the St. Louis Gates, that should be cut off, and a House was immediately blown up, by which a considerable Part of the Suburbs of St. Louis was saved. It was therefore to the Mayor's judicious Selection of this Spot

QUEBEC.

that this important Service was performed, and I have strongly to express to your Excellency that Monsieur Caron exerted himself during the whole of the Night to the utmost, and owing to the great Extent of the Conflagration was obliged to invest me with full Authority to take every Step that the Circumstances required. Some Houses and a Chapel were blown up in the intervening Space, from where the Fire commenced to the Spot where it was finally checked, without producing any good Effect, except at one Spot pointed out to me by Captain Warburton of the Royal Artillery, who reported that by the blowing up of Two Houses at the Corner of one of the Streets leading towards the St. Louis Road, and taking Advantage of some open Spaces, a Stop might be put to the Flames in that Direction. I immediately directed him to do so, and I am happy to do Justice to the Intelligence of this young Officer, in reporting to your Excellency that the Operation was attended with Success; and I have to add Lieutenant Shakspeare's, of the Royal Artillery, Name as equally deserving of Praise, both these Officers being entrusted with the perilous Duty of placing the Barrels of Gunpowder in the Houses frequently within a few Yards of the Conflagration.

By the blowing up of several Houses in rapid Succession at the Spot where the St. John's Suburb extended beyond the St. Louis Suburb, taking advantage of some open Spaces, and by the clearing away a Space betwixt the burning Buildings and the upper Part of the Suburbs of St. Louis, the Flames that had raged to this Spot with unabated Violence were checked at about Eight o'Clock on the Morning of the 29th June, and this direful Visitation suddenly and in an Instant subdued into the Stillness of exhausted Desolation.

A great Part of the St. Louis Suburbs, the whole of the St. John's Suburbs, with very few Exceptions, Five Sixths of the Suburbs of St. Roch, the Streets extending along the Foot of the Rock to the Point where the Fire was stopped on the former Occasion, present One Scene of continuous Ruins, having deprived at least 22,000 Persons of their Houses and Homes, entailing on the poorer Part of the Population of this devoted City inexpressible Misery, and sent Thousands to wander for Shelter and Bread, and to depend for Relief and Consolation on the Benevolence and the Generosity of a feeling Public. It may be permitted to me, under these appalling Circumstances, to go a little out of my Way, and to beg of your Excellency to use all your Influence that some legislative Measure should be adopted in the Reconstruction of this unfortunate Town, that the Houses should be built as much as possible with Stone or Brick, and roofed with some Material to resist the Flames, and that a Line should be drawn round the Works, and no Houses allowed to be built within that Line, but of Stone or Brick, and securely roofed. Besides almost the whole of these Suburbs being constructed of Wood, all the intervening Spaces betwixt the Streets, the Gardens, Yards, &c. were filled with Stacks of Deals, connected by wooden Palings, and every Sort of combustible Matter heaped together. It therefore ceases to be a Matter of Surprise that these Two dreadful Calamities have occurred, and rather to be wondered at that such a dreadful Visitation has not taken place before.

The Spot where the Houses were latterly blown up was at the Point where the St. John's Suburbs extend beyond the St. Louis, and owing to these Houses being rapidly blown up, and by the utmost Exertions of the Troops in clearing a Space, a great Part of the St. Louis Suburbs, the whole of Clapin Terrace, consisting of Villas, and the Gentlemen's Seats on each Side of the St. Louis Road, were saved.

I wish it had fallen to my Lot to report to your Excellency the Services of the Officers and Men employed during the Progress of both the late lamentable Events on Occasions more honourable and more congenial to their Profession, but it would indeed be unjust if I did not mention the Names of Captain Boxer of the Royal Navy, whose Exertions during the whole Night and particularly at the End of the Fire, in directing the Spaces to be cleared, were of the greatest Service; of Lieutenant Colonel Walker, commanding the Royal Artillery; of Major Watson, commanding the 14th Regiment; of Lieutenant Colonel Thorp, commanding the 89th Regiment; and I have also to state that I received every Assistance from the Suggestions and Activity of Lieutenant Colonel Ward and the Officers of the Royal Engineers; of Lieutenant Colonel Pritchard, Assistant Adjutant General; of Captain Ingall, D. A. Quarter Master General; of Town Major Knight; and of my Aide-de-Camp Captain Hope. The Conduct of the Non-commissioned Officers and Men, as I expressed on the Occasion of the former Conflagration, exceeds any thing I can say in their Praise. Though this dreadful Misfortune occurred during the Night, when the Men were frequently scattered in various Directions, they were quickly assembled at the Sound of the Bugle, and never relaxed for an Instant in their Exertions; and I am happy to add that but One Person was killed, One Man's Legs broken, and Three or Four contused by the several Explosions that took place, and that no Pains were spared to get the People out of the Way. There have been no Casualties amongst the Troops.

I directed that the whole of the Tents should be pitched near the old French Works, and the Splinter-proof Barracks given up for the Accommodation and Relief of the Sufferers, and to be placed at the Disposal of the Mayor.

His Excellency
Lieut. Gen. the Earl Cathcart,
&c. &c. &c.

I have &c.
(Signed) J. A. HORE,
Major General.

Enclosure 3. in No. 56.

QUEBEC.

Enclosure 3. in
No. 56.

Monsieur,

Quebec, 30^{me} Juin 1845.

J'AI à remplir la pénible tâche de vous prier d'informer son Excellence le Gouverneur Général qu'un incendie affreux et comparable à celui du 28 Mai dernier, sinon plus grand, vient de réduire en cendres le Faubourg St. Jean et la plus grande partie du Faubourg St. Louis.

Dans l'état de trouble et d'affaissement dans lequel m'a jeté ce nouveau malheur, qui consomme presque la ruine totale de notre malheureuse cité, je ne puis fournir à son Excellence les détails que je désirerais lui soumettre, afin de le mettre en état de faire ce que son cœur guidé par le devoir lui suggérera pour rencontrer la circonstance tout à fait extraordinaire dans laquelle nous nous trouvons placés. Je me bornerai à dire que plus de douze cent maisons, d'une valeur plus ou moins grande, ont été la proie des flammes dans la nuit du 28^{me} ou 29^{me} Juin, et que par suite de ce désastre un nombre proportionné de familles se trouvent destituées de logis, de moyens de subsistance, et plongées dans la plus profonde misère; leur situation est d'autant plus à regretter, que malgré les sacrifices faits, ici et ailleurs, avec une libéralité que l'on pouvait à peine attendre, les produits sont loin d'être proportionnés aux besoins, et que ce serait injuste d'attendre beaucoup des efforts privés d'après ce qui vient d'être fait à l'occasion du feu de St. Roch.

Des détails plus étendus seront fournis à son Excellence par les messieurs, au nombre de cinq, qui ont été chargés hier par un nombre des citoyens de cette ville de se rendre auprès de son Excellence à l'occasion de l'affreuse calamité qui vient de plonger Québec dans la consternation pour la seconde fois.

Je me contenterai d'ajouter que dans cette triste occasion, comme dans la précédente, nous avons reçu du militaire stationné dans notre ville les secours les plus prompts et les plus efficaces; sans leur aide inappréciable, l'étendue et les suites du désastre auraient été beaucoup plus affreux; je ne puis surtout taire à son Excellence les sentimens de reconnaissance que j'éprouve, et qui sont à juste titre partagés par tous mes concitoyens, à l'égard de Sir James Hope, qui a été sur la scène du sinistre aussitôt qu'il en a été informé, y est resté jusqu'à la disparition totale du danger, et y a dirigé, avec un sangfroid et une habileté dignes du haut grade qu'il occupe, les divers travaux et opérations exécutés par les troupes sous ses ordres, auxquels nous sommes peut-être redevable d'avoir été préservés d'une destruction totale, sans parler de la bonne volonté avec laquelle il a offert et mis à ma disposition tout ce qui était sous son contrôle pour fournir aux infortunées victimes un abris contre les intempéries de l'air et un soulagement à leurs malheurs.

Je terminerai en vous priant d'assurer son Excellence que sans un secours immédiat et plus qu'ordinaire, Québec, l'ancienne métropole du pays, sera ruiné de fonds en comble; et que pour éviter un malheur aussi grand, je compte beaucoup sur la sympathie et le bon vouloir de son Excellence, à qui je vous prie de présenter mes plus profonds respects.

Agréer pour vous même l'expression de la haute considération avec laquelle je me soustris,

Hon. D. Daly, M.P.P., Provincial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Votre, &c.
(Signed) E. CARON, Maire.

Enclosure 4. in No. 56.

Enclosure 4. in
No. 56.

At a Public Meeting of the Citizens of Quebec, held in the City Council Chamber, at One P.M. this Day, for the Purpose of devising Measures for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fire of Yesterday Morning; it was—

Resolved, That this Meeting approves of the General Committee for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late calamitous Fire in St. Roch's extending their Aid to the Sufferers by the Fire of Sunday Morning, and authorizes them hereafter to include these Sufferers equally in the Application of any Funds which have been or may be placed at their Disposal.

2. That this Meeting, considering it the Call of Providence both to take Measures for the immediate Relief of their Fellow Citizens who have suffered in the late calamitous Visitation, and, as far as human Precautions can, to provide against the Recurrence of such Calamity, are decidedly of opinion that temporary Accommodation for the Families burnt out and the permanent rebuilding of the City are Objects to be considered apart; and that in order to a due and proper Consideration of the latter, the former should be immediately entertained, and prompt and decisive Measures taken for effecting it.

3. That inasmuch as a sufficient Number of properly constructed Houses, whether of Stone or Wood, cannot be raised before the Winter Months for the full Accommodation of the Sufferers, professional Men be called upon to furnish Plans and Estimates of the

QUEBEC.

Expense of raising wooden Sheds or Shanties capable of accommodating Families for the next Eighteen Months, such Erections to be made in the cheapest Manner compatible with Health, Safety, and Comfort during the Winter Months; and that the Committee be authorized, if they shall deem it necessary, and to the Extent they shall deem it necessary, from Funds at their Disposal, to make such Erections forthwith, and to seek the most convenient and favourable Localities for them.

4. That in the Opinion of this Meeting it is expedient that a Sum of Money be obtained, if practicable, by way of Grant or Loan from the public Funds, as an Aid towards the Reconstruction of the Suburbs of St. Roch, St. John, and St. Louis on a new, enlarged, and improved Plan, and of such Materials as to afford the greatest practicable Security against the Recurrence of the Calamities lately suffered; such Loan to be effected by the Corporation under the Guarantee of the Legislature, and applied under their Direction.

Attested.

Quebec, 30th June 1845.

(Signed) F. X. GARNEAU,
City Clerk.

Enclosure 5. in No. 56.

Enclosure 5. in
No. 56.

Provincial Secretary's Office, Montreal,
4th July 1845.

Sir,

I HAVE the Honour, by Command of the Governor General, to inform you, that his Excellency has had under Consideration, in Council, your Letter of the 30th ultimo, reporting the Second disastrous Fire at Quebec, which took place during the Night of the 28th ultimo, and also the Resolutions on the Subject adopted at the Public Meeting of the Citizens of Quebec held on the 30th.

His Excellency commands me now, in reply, to assure you, and through you the Citizens of Quebec, that he most deeply sympathizes with them in the Magnitude and distressing Circumstances of this Calamity, in the individual Loss and Suffering it has caused, and in the general Injury it is calculated further to inflict. With this Feeling he has anxiously considered in what Manner public Aid can be legitimately afforded, and what Steps can be taken for the Prevention of such fearful Disasters hereafter.

To aid in the Erection of temporary Buildings (having in view the Impossibility of a sufficient Number of permanent Buildings being prepared before next Winter) and also in the affording of necessary Relief to Persons otherwise destitute, his Excellency has been pleased in Council to direct that Advances may be made from the Public Chest, as required from Time to Time by yourself, as Mayor of the City, or by the Committee of Relief, to the Extent of 5,000*l.* Currency, to be submitted for the Approval of the Provincial Parliament at the next Session.

For the permanent rebuilding of the destroyed Suburbs his Excellency will be prepared to recommend to Parliament to authorize the Negotiation of a Loan in England on the Security of the Province for the Sum of 100,000*l.* Currency, payable with Interest, in a fixed Number of Years; the Monies so to be raised to be employed in granting to Owners of Land within the Limits of the Fires, to aid them in building thereon, Loans on as favourable Terms as may be found practicable without ultimate Loss to the Province; the Sums so loaned to be secured on the Lands of the Borrowers, and perhaps made a privileged Claim thereon, and further Security where required to be taken; each Loan to any Individual and the Security offered by him to be approved by the Attorney General for Lower Canada; and all other necessary Precautions taken to secure the Expenditure of all Monies so loaned on the Erection of Buildings of specified Materials and Character.

For the Prevention of such Disasters hereafter, his Excellency will further be prepared to recommend to Parliament to confer on the Corporation of the City very extensive Powers for the Regulation of the Mode of building within the City Limits and for the widening of Streets, on making Compensation for Land taken.

Upon the many Details of the Measures above suggested, his Excellency is desirous to receive Suggestions from yourself and the Corporation; and I am accordingly to assure you that any Representations which that Body or yourself may make in regard to them will not fail to receive his most attentive Consideration.

Hon. R. E. Caron, Mayor,
Quebec.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. DALY.

No. 57.

QUEBEC.

(No. 408.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lord METCALFE, G.C.B.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 4th August 1845.

I HAVE laid before Her Majesty your Despatches Nos. 299. and 311. of the 20th June and 9th July last, communicating the melancholy Intelligence of the Two Fires by which the Town of Quebec has been successively desolated.

I have received Her Majesty's Commands to express the deep Sorrow with which She has received the Information, and the Sympathy which She feels for the many Sufferers by these Misfortunes.

Her Majesty has felt great Pleasure in giving Effect to an Address from the House of Commons requesting that a Sum not exceeding 20,000*l.* be applied to the Relief of the Sufferers by these calamitous Fires, and I am commanded by Her Majesty to inform you that the Sum of 20,000*l.* is accordingly placed at your Disposal to be applied in whatever Manner you consider most conducive to that Object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

No. 57.
Lord Stanley
to
Lord Metcalfe,
4th August 1845.

No. 58.

(No. 409.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lord METCALFE, G. C. B.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 4th August 1845.

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 408. informing you that the Sum of 20,000*l.* had been placed at your Disposal for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fires at Quebec, I enclose you the Copy of a Communication from the Secretary to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, explaining the Mode in which Provision has been made for Payment of the Amount.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

No. 58.
Lord Stanley
to
Lord Metcalfe,
4th August 1845.

2d August.

Enclosure in No. 58.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 2d August 1845.

I have it in Command to acquaint you, for the Information of Lord Stanley, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has stated to this Board, that Her Majesty, having been graciously pleased to accede to the Address of the House of Commons relating to the Relief of the Sufferers by the late calamitous Fire at Quebec, has expressed Her Desire that such Relief should be afforded without Delay; and I am to request that you will state to Lord Stanley that in compliance with Her Majesty's Desire my Lords have thought it advisable that the Amount contemplated by the House of Commons should be placed at the immediate Disposal of the Governor General of Canada, in order that it may be applied for the Relief and Assistance of the Sufferers in such Manner as the Governor General may see fit; and you will further acquaint Lord Stanley that my Lords will accordingly forthwith instruct the Officer in charge of the Commissariat in Canada to make such Issues from the Chest of his Department for the Purpose in question to the Extent of Twenty thousand Pounds as the Governor General may require and direct; and you will move Lord Stanley to cause the Governor General to be apprized of these Instructions, and to authorize the Governor General to make such Distribution or other Application of the Money as he may deem most conducive to the Object for which it has been granted.

J. Stephen, Esquire,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. W. BRANDE,
Pro Sec.

Enclosure in
No. 58.

No. 59.

(No. 349.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord METCALFE, G.C.B., to Lord STANLEY.

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 8th September 1845.

HAVING communicated to the Mayor of Quebec your Lordship's Despatch, No. 408. of the 4th ultimo, announcing that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to give Effect to an Address from the House of Commons, requesting

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that

No. 59.
Lord Metcalfe
to
Lord Stanley,
8th Sept. 1845.

QUEBEC.

that a Grant not exceeding 20,000*l.* be made for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late calamitous Fires in that City, I submit herewith a Copy of the Reply which I have received from the Mayor in reference thereto.

26th August.

I beg leave to report that there is no immediate Demand for the Money, and that I have not yet been able to determine upon the Manner in which it is to be applied; I therefore retain it for Consideration as to how it can be most advantageously disbursed for the Benefit of those for whose Relief the Grant has been so generously accorded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) METCALFE.

Enclosure in No. 59.

Enclosure in
No. 59.

Monsieur,

Québec, 26me Aout 1845.

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser la réception de votre lettre d'hier avec laquelle vous me transmettez de la part de son Excellence copie d'une dépêche reçue du Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Colonies.

Cette dépêche, que je m'empresse de faire connaître à ceux qu'elle regarde plus immédiatement, ne manquera d'être accueillie par tous les citoyens de Québec avec les sentimens d'une juste et vive reconnaissance, et cette nouvelle marque de la libéralité et de la sollicitude du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté envers cette colonie sera, j'en suis sûr, appréciée à sa vraie valeur, et sera pour nous une raison additionnelle de nous féliciter de ce que nous appartenons au vaste et puissant empire qui nous donne aujourd'hui une preuve si distinguée de sa munificence et de sa libéralité.

Veillez prier son Excellence de vouloir bien nous servir d'interprète auprès de Sa Majesté pour lui faire agréer nos plus respectueuses et nos plus sincères actions de grâces en attendant que nous puissions remplir ce devoir d'une manière plus publique et plus solennelle.

Veillez aussi présenter à son Excellence l'assurance réitérée de notre gratitude et de notre reconnaissance pour cette nouvelle instance de sa sympathie à laquelle nous devons déjà tant, et à laquelle nous sommes redevables, en grande partie du moins, du beau don que j'ai l'honneur d'accuser par la présente.

L'Honorable D. Daly,
&c. &c. &c.

Je suis, &c.
(Signed) R. E. CARON.

No. 60.

No. 60.
Lord Stanley
to
Lord Metcalfe,
2d Sept. 1845.

(No. 428.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lord METCALFE, G.C.B.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 2d September 1845.

I HAVE to acquaint your Lordship that certain Collections are in progress in this Country for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late Fires at Quebec, and that Arrangements have been made for paying the Amount thereof into the Bank of England to your Credit. The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have also directed their Commissariat Officer in Canada to pay such Drafts as you shall think fit to draw upon him on account of this Fund, after the Money shall have been lodged in the Bank.

I am not at present acquainted with the Amount of the Collections paid into the Bank of England, but I shall probably be informed thereof before the next Mail for British North America, and I will apprise you by that Opportunity of the Extent to which you may draw on the Commissariat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

No. 61.

No. 61.
Lord Stanley
to
Lord Metcalfe,
18th Sept. 1845.

(No. 439.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lord METCALFE, G.C.B.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 18th September 1845.

WITH reference to my Despatch, No. 428. of the 2d instant, in which I stated that you should receive an Intimation by this Mail of the Extent to which you might draw on the Commissariat in Canada for the Money raised under the Authority of the Queen's Letter for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fires at Quebec,

Quebec, I have now to inform your Lordship, that Four thousand six hundred and three Pounds have been paid into the Bank of England as the Produce of the Collection in question, and that you are at liberty to draw on the Commissariat in Canada for that Sum.

QUEBEC.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

No. 62.

COPY of a LETTER from JAMES STEPHEN Esq. to CAPTAIN HIGGINSON.

Sir,

Downing Street, 18th October 1845.

IN Lord Stanley's Absence from London at his Residence in Lancashire, I enclose (as the only Means of saving the Mail which is to be despatched this Evening) the accompanying Copy of a Letter which has been received at this Office from the Office of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, announcing the Amount of Subscriptions which have been paid into the Bank of England for the Relief of the Sufferers by the late Fires at Quebec. It would seem necessary that Lord Metcalfe should be in immediate Possession of this Intelligence. His Lordship will receive by the next Mail the official Communication of it from Lord Stanley himself.

No. 62.
J. Stephen, Esq.
to
Captain
Higginson,
18th Oct. 1845.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. STEPHEN.

Enclosure in No. 62.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 16th October 1845.

WITH reference to the Letter from this Department of the 22d ultimo, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the Information of Lord Stanley, that the further Sums, in addition to the Sum of 4,603*l.* therein stated, which have been received into the Bank of England on account of Subscriptions for the Relief of Sufferers by the late Fires at Quebec amount to 25,635*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, and the Officer in charge of the Commissariat in Canada has been directed to pay the same to the Order of the Governor General.

Enclosure in
No. 62.

J. Stephen, Esquire,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 63.

(No. 451.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lord METCALFE, G.C.B.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 3d November 1845.

REFERRING to my Despatch of the 18th September, No. 439., and to Mr. Stephen's Letter to Captain Higginson of the 18th October, on the Subject of the Subscriptions for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fires at Quebec, I have now to acquaint your Lordship, that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have reported to me, that in addition to the Sum of 25,635*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* a further Sum of 9,649*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* has been collected, and paid into the Bank of England on this Account.

No. 63.
Lord Stanley
to
Lord Metcalfe,
3d Nov. 1845.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

No. 64.

(No. 468.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord STANLEY to Lord METCALFE, G.C.B.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 29th November 1845.

I HAVE the Honour to inform you that Subscriptions for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fires at Quebec to the further Amount of 1,939*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* have been received at the Bank of England, in addition to the several Sums, amounting to 39,887*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, of which you have already been apprised, and that the Commissary General in Canada has been instructed to hold this further Sum at your Disposal.

No. 64.
Lord Stanley
to
Lord Metcalfe,
29th Nov. 1845.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STANLEY.

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QUEBEC.

No. 65.

(No. 15.)

COPY of a LETTER from the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE to the Earl CATHCART, G.C.B.

No. 65.
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone
to
Lieut. Gen.
the Earl Cathcart.
3d Feb. 1846.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 3d February 1846.

WITH reference to the several Despatches which have been addressed from this Office to your Predecessor in the Government of Canada on the Subject of the Subscriptions raised in this Country for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fires at Quebec, I have to inform your Lordship that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have reported to me, in a Letter dated the 2d instant, that a further Sum of 733*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* has been collected and paid into the Bank of England on this Account, and that their Lordships have directed the Officer in charge of the Commissariat in Canada to place that Sum at your Disposal for the Purposes of the Subscription.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GLADSTONE.

No. 66.

(No. 42.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE to the Earl CATHCART, G.C.B.

No. 66.
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone
to
Lieut. Gen.
the Earl Cathcart.
26th Mar. 1846.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 26th March 1846.

I HAVE the Honour to inform your Lordship that Subscriptions for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Fires at Quebec to the further Amount of 130*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* have been received at the Bank of England, in addition to the several Sums of which you have already been apprised, and that the Commissary General in Canada has been instructed to hold this further Sum at your Disposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GLADSTONE.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND QUEBEC.

COPIES OR EXTRACTS

OF

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

The Fire at Saint John's Newfoundland

AND

The Fire at Quebec.

1847.