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R E P O R T

Of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the origin and cause of the Fire at the Grey Nunnery or "Hospice des Sœurs de la Charité," on the Third of May last, and the circumstances attending the same:—

To His Excellency the Right Honorable JAMES, Earl of ELGIN and KINCARDINE, Baron ELGIN, K.T., Governor General of British North America, and Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

May it please Your Excellency :

The undersigned Commissioners appointed by His Excellency Lieutenant General ROWAN, late Administrator of the Government of Canada, to inquire into the origin of the Fire which, on the third day of May last, consumed the building known as the "*Grey Nunnery*" or "*Hospice des Sœurs de la Charité*," in St. John Suburb of this City; and which, on the twenty-fourth of March last, was leased by Government, from His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec, for the sittings of the Provincial Parliament, have the honor to report:—

That, having taken the Oath of Office prescribed by law, and obtained the use of the Appeal Office, (Queen's Bench,) in the Court House of this City, for the sittings of the Commission, they, on the eighth day of the said month of May last, commenced their investigation, and continued from day to day thereafter, calling before them such persons as it was believed would be able to establish, by their testimony, the state and condition of the Building immediately preceding the fire, or who might have it in their power to throw some light upon its origin and cause, and the circumstances connected therewith. They also requested by public notice (Appendix B.) all persons who might have any knowledge of the manner in which the fire originated, or who might be in possession of any facts or circumstances calculated to forward the object of the investigation, to appear before them and give their evidence; which notice had, however, no effect in eliciting any additional testimony.

The calamity, into the causes of which the undersigned have been appointed to inquire, having so closely followed the destruction, by fire, of the Parliament Buildings within the walls of this City, they felt that it was their duty to give the fullest scope to their investigation, and to leave no means untried, however remote, which might assist them in discovering how the Fire had originated; whether ascribable to negligence, or to one of those accidents which will sometimes occur, despite of ordinary, and even extraordinary precautions against fire, or to the torch of the incendiary.

The inquiry of the Commission has been more particularly directed to the following points:—

1o. The state of the building on the day of the fire, and at the latest possible moment immediately preceding the discovery that it was on fire.

2o. The measures which had been adopted, either to prevent or to meet accidents by fire.

3o. The precise part of the building in which the fire originated, and the time of its commencement.

4o. The cause or origin of the fire.

1o. The edifice which was consumed by fire on the third day of May last, consisted of—1st. A central building of six stories, on St. Olivier Street, (besides the basement,) from which extended the Chapel in rear, facing upon Richelieu Street, the floor of the Chapel corresponding with the third story on St. Olivier Street, owing to the difference of elevation between those two streets. 2ndly. A wing to the westward of the centre building, four stories high, on St. Olivier Street. 3rdly. Another wing, called the Southern or South-west wing, projecting *en arrière corps* from the West wing, and having an entrance on Richelieu Street, to the line of which it extended.—(Vide plans, A. B. C. D. E. F. and G., hereunto annexed.)

The building occupied by the Reverend Sisters of Charity or *Sœurs Grises*, formed, to the Eastward, another wing on St. Olivier Street. This wing was the only part of the whole fabric which escaped the conflagration, its preservation being entirely due to iron doors which closed the communication between the old and the new buildings, and which had providentially been placed a day or two before the fire.

On the third day of May last, most of the carpenter's and joiner's work was completed in the wings and centre building, and also in the chapel. The plastering was also far advanced. There were still, however, on that day, upwards of one hundred and fifty carpenters and joiners in active employment within the building, working under the direction of the several contractors, Messrs. Benoit, Giroux, Patry and Vezina. There were also some plasterers and labourers employed, besides plumbers and gas-fitters, forming a total of about two hundred mechanics and labourers at work in the various parts of the building on the day in question.

The floors of the fifth and sixth stories had been washed, and the char-women had, on the day of the fire, commenced to wash the floors of the fourth story, from which the rubbish had been previously removed for that purpose.

In the other parts of the building chips and shavings were to be found in greater or less quantities, notwithstanding the daily removal out of doors and the carting away of large quantities of them.

There were twelve or thirteen stoves dispersed throughout the building, which were shifted, as occasion required, from one place to another. Of these stoves, four, it appears from the evidence of Giroux, contractor, were in the chapel; every other witness appears to have seen but two there.

One of the stoves was in the apartment designated on the plan D of the third story, as the "Speaker's room," in rear of the chapel; the other stoves were variously disposed in the wings and the other stories of the central building.

When the stoves were heated, chips and shavings were used as fuel; but it is in evidence that several of the stoves had not been heated on the third of May; and, as regards the stove which was in the apartment where the fire originated, no fire had been made in it for four or five days immediately preceding the disaster. One of the men who worked in that room had, on the day in question, some of his tools (having wooden handles) deposited on the stove.

Such was the state of the building on the evening the fire broke out.

2o. As regards the precautions adopted to prevent accidents by fire, it would appear that, besides the strictest prohibition against smoking within the building,

a most careful supervision of the stoves was practised, no fires being allowed to be made, after five o'clock, p.m., whilst at six they were to be extinguished altogether. There is no evidence that these injunctions were violated. The surveillance of the interior of the building was entrusted to Jean Patry, one of the Contractors, in conjunction with the Reverend Ladies of the *Hospice de la Charité*, two or more of whom visited the whole of the building every day, after the departure of the workmen, at noon and at six in the evening; and then again, between eight and nine o'clock at night, the inspection was repeated, one of the Nuns, in their latter visit, carrying an ordinary glass lantern, lighted by a common tallow candle. On these occasions the stoves were examined, the dampers closed, and chips and shavings, when found near them, were removed, and every care seems to have been taken, to avoid the possibility of danger from the stoves in question.

The interior of the building being thus superintended, the outside was guarded by one Pierre Rousseau, who had been specially appointed by order of the Chief Commissioner of Public Works to watch during the night. This night-watch commenced usually at eight o'clock, and was continued until about four in the morning, at which hour the Nuns are in the habit of rising.

The Chief Commissioner of Public Works had, a few days before the fire, directed that water casks should be placed within the building, and that a fire engine should be also kept in the chapel, to be in readiness to meet any accident that might occur. The former direction had, on the third of May, been so far complied with, that a cask of water was lodged in the inside of the Chapel, near the door on Richelieu Street, and another had been placed near the principal entrance on St. Olivier Street. The order to lodge a fire engine in the Chapel had not yet been complied with, in consequence, as it appears, of the fire engine designed for that purpose having been sent to Mr. Louis Lemoine, Mechanician, for repairs, previously to its being placed in the building in question, and these repairs, although pressed by the Government Architect, not having yet been completed; a delay the more to be deplored from the conviction on the minds of the Commissioners, resulting from the evidence, that had such an engine with proper hose been on the spot when the fire was first discovered, it would have been easily mastered and extinguished.

30. It has been established, with a precision seldom attainable in such cases, that the fire originated in the North-easterly part or angle of the apartment designated on the architect's plan D, hereunto annexed, as the "Speaker's room;" which was the second room in the third story on St. Olivier Street, to the Westward of the division-wall between the old and the new building, and in the rear of, and upon a level with, the chapel. The testimony of Rousseau, who, it seems, first discovered the light in the Eastern windows of the chapel, about fifteen or twenty minutes after nine o'clock, is positive upon that point, and his statement, in that particular, is fully confirmed by others. From a pile of boards, on Richelieu Street, he saw, through the large window on the Eastern side of the chapel door, that the fire had commenced in a heap of shavings in the room referred to, and he could even distinguish the broken laths, which the flames had not yet reached, in the burning heap. It was then that he hastened to the door of the Convent to alarm the Nuns, and met the three men, whom he described as coming up the *Côte à Cotton*, crying out "Fire!" The knocking at the Convent door not being immediately replied to, Rousseau hurried along St. Olivier Street, to the central door of the building on fire, intending to force it open; but he found the small door ajar or partly open, (*entre ouverte*,) and, merely pushing it, rushed up stairs to the third story, followed by the three men referred to; and, from the landing of the centre stairs, saw, through the open doors of the Speaker's apartment, the fire blazing along its floor and apparently more violent towards the North-east angle of the room in which were accumulated the shavings, which he

mentioned as having first seen through the chapel window, on Richelieu Street. Rousseau then returned to the street, with the three persons who had followed him up stairs, and, hastening again to the Nunnery door, saw there three policemen, who were knocking loudly to arouse the Nuns, one of whom, the Lady Superior, then opened the door, and led the persons, who had been thus knocking, through the Convent yard, into the new building, and left them at the foot of the principal staircase, upon which many people were already crowding, some of whom were bringing down burthens which, it seems, were chests of carpenters' tools, which the mechanics were saving from the flames. In the mean time, Jean Patry, one of the contractors, who owned and occupied an adjoining house, and who kept the key of the main door in the Westerly wing, having been roused by the cry of "Fire!" and warned by his neighbour, Mrs. Thomas, that the fire was in the new building, had hastened, with a lantern, to the spot, and entering by the door of which he had the key, ascended, by two flights of stairs in the South wing, to the third story, and reached, by the corridors of that story, the apartment in which the fire was to be seen at the head of the main or central staircase, and identified as the room designated on the plan D, and intended for the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, as before mentioned. Much of the floor was in flames, as also the partition of rough boards, which divided that apartment from a smaller one to the North-east, and which is designated on the same plan as "Dressing-room." Patry instantly ran to the chapel door, in quest of water, a cask of which he was aware had been deposited there; but, finding no buckets, he unbarred the chapel door and called aloud for buckets, which he immediately obtained, and, hurrying back with water, followed by several persons, he threw the contents of the bucket into the flames, and, hastening back for more, saw a person, whom he did not know, (and who turns out to have been Mr. Audy, of the Inspector General's Department, a witness since examined,) who took from him his lantern and his bucket, telling him to run home and get others,—which he did. When he returned the flames had already invaded the chapel.

Rousseau and Patry do not appear to have met, although both must have stood at the head of the stairway, in the centre building, within a few minutes of each other.—This, it is thought, may be satisfactorily accounted for by Rousseau having ascended and immediately descended again by the main central staircase, and issuing out of the centre door, whilst Patry went up to the third story by the staircase in the south wing, and then probably reached the head of the main staircase a minute or two after Rousseau and the three men who were with him had left it.—This presumption is confirmed by the fact that, when Rousseau went round to the chapel door on Richelieu Street, he found it open and several persons already entering by it, the bars having been withdrawn by Patry. Rousseau was therefore the first who entered the building with the men who followed him,—Patry the next;—and both agree perfectly in describing the fire as having originated in the room designated, and in the north-eastern part of that room towards St. Olivier Street.

40. The Commissioners, after having carefully and minutely interrogated each witness, and having given the most attentive and mature consideration to the mass of testimony to be found in the Appendix to their report (C.) have been unable to come to any determination whatever as to the origin or cause of the fire, the facts disclosed not being such as could lead to any conclusion beyond mere conjectures as to certain possible casualties, which are as much within the reach of the reader of the evidence as of the Commissioners, as they have received no impression calculated to give weight or effect to one portion of the testimony more than another, or tending to any conviction different from such as may be produced by the evidence itself.

There is no doubt that from the magnitude, form and distribution of the building the numerous apartments into which it was subdivided, and the facilities of access to the

interior, through openings in the basement of the south-west wing, an evil-designed person might have penetrated into the room, where the fire is shown to have originated, and fired the building; but the Commissioners are not only of opinion that there exists no evidence that would justify the inference that the fire in question was the act of an incendiary, but, during the whole course of the examination, the conviction continually gained ground that this calamity was the result of pure accident, of which however they could obtain no trace. Nor does there appear to have been any neglect in guarding against accidents by fire on the part either of the contractors, or of others entrusted with the superintendence of the edifice during its progress to completion. The ordinary precautions, at least, seem to have been taken to guard against such accidents; but the Commissioners are impressed with the conviction, in considering the evidence which they have recorded on the present investigation, that, had the wise injunction given by the Chief Commissioner of Public Works to the Government Architect, three days before the occurrence of the fire, to place a fire engine within the walls of the chapel, been immediately complied with, the building would, without doubt, have been saved, since all the witnesses, who were early on the spot, concur in declaring that a comparatively few buckets of water might, in the outset, have subdued the flames and extinguished them.

The undersigned, although their instructions limited them to the investigation of the origin of the fire which consumed the above mentioned Building, and although any observation, beyond the immediate sphere of their inquiry, may be considered gratuitous and as transcending their functions, would, nevertheless, respectfully submit to His Excellency, as the result of their investigation, coupled with some knowledge of the internal construction of the Parliament House previously destroyed, that in all Public Buildings, whose dimensions greatly exceed those of an ordinary private dwelling house, there can be no effectual precautions adopted against fire, unless, in conjunction with the most rigid surveillance by night and day, the construction of the building be such as to divide it into separate portions, each perfectly insulated by the intervention of stone walls, with double iron doors, so as thereby, or by any other more certain means, to prevent the extension of the flames from any portion of the building wherein a fire may originate, to the remaining portion of it, as was strikingly illustrated by the preservation from the flames of the eastern wing of the "*Hospice de la Charité*," in the actual occupation of the Nuns, by the iron doors, to which allusion has already been made: and in every instance in which the form of the building departs from one straight line, and consists of wings at right angles or otherwise, so as to place windows or other openings opposite and in too close proximity to each other, and thereby to expose them to the action of the flames or of intense heat, they would suggest that the window frames and sashes be made of incombustible materials, and that they be further protected by massive iron shutters on such sides of the building as would be exposed to danger from the flames issuing from other buildings or from parts of the same building.

All which is humbly submitted.

DUNBAR ROSS,
R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

QUEBEC, 19th June, 1854.

APPENDIX.

- A.—COMMISSION.
 B.—PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT.
 C.—EVIDENCE.
 D.—DRAWINGS, (FROM A. TO G.)

Appendix A.

[L. S.] { PROVINCE OF }
 { CANADA. }

By His Excellency Lieutenant General WILLIAM ROWAN, C.B., Administrator of the Government of the Province of Canada, and Commander of Her Majesty's Forces therein, &c., &c., &c.

To all to whom these presents shall come, or whom the same may concern,

GREETING :

WHEREAS, on the night of the third day of May instant, the building known as the Grey Nunnery, situated in the City of Quebec, and temporarily engaged for holding therein the meeting of the Legislature, was wholly consumed by fire; and, whereas it is highly desirable that the cause of the said calamity, and all the circumstances connected therewith should be investigated into and ascertained.

Know Ye, that under and pursuant to the provisions of an Act of the Legislature of the Province of Canada, passed in the ninth year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act to empower Commissioners for inquiring into matters connected with the public business, to take evidence on oath," the authority in me thereby vested, and by and with the advice and consent of Her Majesty's Executive Council for the said Province, I have nominated, constituted and appointed, and by these presents do nominate, constitute and appoint Dunbar Ross and Robert S. M. Bouchette, of the City of Quebec, in the District of Quebec, to be Commissioners to make inquiry into the causes of the said fire, and all the circumstances connected therewith; and I do hereby authorize and empower them, the said Dunbar Ross and Robert S. M. Bouchette, as such Commissioners, to summon before them any person or persons as witness or witnesses, and to require such person or persons to give evidence on oath, orally or in writing, and to produce such documents and things as they the said Dunbar Ross and Robert S. M. Bouchette deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters and things aforesaid. To have and to hold the said Office of Commissioners, for the purposes aforesaid, unto them the said Dunbar Ross and Robert S. M. Bouchette, during pleasure. And I do hereby require the said Dunbar Ross and Robert S. M. Bouchette to report the result of the above-mentioned investigation, with all convenient speed, to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Person Administering the Government for the time being.

Given under my hand and Seal at Arms, this fourth day of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and in the seventeenth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

(Signed,) WM. ROWAN.

By Command,
(Signed,) PIERRE J. O. CHAUVEAU,
Secretary.

(ENDORSED.)

I certify that the within named Dunbar Ross and Robert Shore Milnes Bouchette appeared before me this day, and personally took and subscribed the oath for the faithful discharge of the trust hereby reposed in them.

(Signed,) J. GREEN,
C.P.D.P.

QUEBEC, 6th May, 1854.

Appendix B.

[Notice published in all the Quebec Newspapers.]

PUBLIC NOTICE.

THE undersigned, Commissioners appointed to Inquire into the origin of the fire, which, on the third day of May instant, destroyed the building in St. John Suburb of this City, known as the *Hospice de la Charité* or Grey Nunnery, and leased for the sittings of the Legislature, request all persons having any knowledge of the origin of the said fire, or of the circumstances therewith connected, to appear and give evidence before the Commission now sitting every day, between the hours of ten and four, in the Appeal Office, in the Court House of this City.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" B. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

QUEBEC, 11th May, 1854.

Appendix C.

[List of Depositions.]

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| No. 1.—The Honorable Jean Chabot. | No. 6.—Charles Gingras. |
| 2.—Charles Baillargé. | 7.—John Fennings Taylor. |
| 3.—Jean Patry. | 8.—Mrs. Widow Thomas. |
| 4.—Jean Benoit. | 9.—Révérende Sœur Mallet. |
| 5.—Maurice Marcoux. | 10.—do Sœur St. Louis. |

- No. 11.—Pierre Rousseau.
 12.—Philippe Marcoux.
 13.—Révérende Sœur Lapierre.
 14.—Grégoire Couture.
 15.—Henriette Lapierre.
 16.—Jean Petit.
 17.—John Pye.
 18.—Widow John Ray.
 19.—Michael Keating.
 20.—Etienne Gingras.
 21.—John Webb.
 22.—William Drum.
 23.—George Langlois.
 24.—Mrs. François Ratté.
 25.—Henry Dean.
 26.—Mrs. Louis Moisan.
 27.—Edmund Paddon.
 28.—Wm. Roger Dean.
 29.—Jean Btc. Gilbert.
 30.—Mrs. Pierre Rousseau.

- No. 31.—Mrs. George Langlais.
 32.—The Honorable Louis Massue.
 33.—George Harwood.
 34.—Elmiré Harwood.
 35.—Thomas Andrews.
 36.—Ferdinand Gingras.
 37.—Louis Cantin.
 38.—Raphaël Giroux.
 39.—John Gilmour.
 40.—Toussaint Vézina.
 41.—Jacques Roy Audy.
 42.—James Dean.
 43.—Apolline Gingras.
 44.—Joseph Gingras.
 45.—Michael McAvoy.
 46.—John O'Leary.
 47.—Benjamin Daikers.
 48.—Louis Lemoine.
 49.—Pierre Gauvreau.

No. 1.

PROVINCE OF } THE Honorable JEAN CHABOT, Chief Commissioner of
 CANADA. } Public Works for the said Province, being duly sworn on the Holy
 Evangelists, doth depose and say:—In the beginning of March last, the Commis-
 sioners of Public Works, pursuant to an order in Council, rented of His Grace
 the Archbishop of Quebec, the building then in course of construction by him, in
 St. John's Suburbs, and intended as a residence for the Nuns, called the Grey
 Nuns or Sisters of Charity, for the purpose of there fitting up the rooms required
 for the sittings of the Legislature and clerks thereof. The Commissioners bound
 themselves to furnish and complete the building in question at the expense of the
 Government, the Archbishop furnishing all the materials then purchased, and the
 work commenced.

The workmen were bound to do the necessary work, viz:—Messrs. Benoit,
 Toussaint Vezina, Jean Patry and Raphael Giroux. Each of these four workmen
 was respectively in charge of the following works:—Raphael Giroux had the
 interior of the chapel; Benoit the centre building, six stories high; Vezina the
 new building, four stories high, between the centre building and the South-west
 wing, and Patry the rear wing.

Messrs. Murphy and O'Leary were the contractors for the rendering and plas-
 tering.

These workmen, with the men engaged by them, were the only persons who
 worked inside the building. Mr. Charles Baillargé, architect, had the superin-
 tendence and direction of all the work. The Sisters of Charity had undertaken to
 watch the interior of the building, as well at noon as in the evening, after the work-
 men left, jointly with the said Jean Patry,—the Commissioners having considered
 that more care and attention would be shewn by the Nuns than by any other per-
 sons, in watching; and it was understood and agreed that the same salary should
 be allowed to the Nuns as would be given to any other person for thus watching.

Towards the end of April last, on representations made by Mr Thomas Amiot

and others, that heaps of shavings were sometimes left about the building outside, and that evil-disposed persons might set fire thereto, or that fire might be set to them by smokers passing by, I ordered Pierre Gauvreau, Architect of the Department of Public Works, to send to the building in question a fire engine and some casks or barrels for holding water.

On the first instant I engaged Pierre Rousseau to watch around the building every night, and he was to associate with him such other fit and trustworthy persons as he should deem proper, and he was to commence the watch in question on the evening of the third of the present month.

On the third instant about half-past nine or a quarter to ten in the evening, some one knocked at my door, and the servant girl having opened it, there was a cry "tell Mr. Chabot the new Parliament House is on fire." I looked out of window in that direction, but I saw no light. I immediately went out, and, on doing so, perceived the light.

When I reached St. John's Gate I heard the fire-bell begin to ring. When I arrived at the building it was all on fire—the dome and the steeple had not yet fallen. I immediately entered the residence of the Nuns adjoining the said building and to the north-east of it, and I remained there watching those who were endeavouring to prevent the fire communicating with the said residence.

Between the Nuns' residence and the burned building there were iron doors on the three stories. These doors had been placed there a few days previously; I believe that the fixing of them had been completed only on the evening of the fire. The iron door intended to be placed in the cellar was on the premises but had not been fixed in its place. This opening was watched during the fire by several persons, and stopped up with earth and other materials. But for these iron doors it would have been impossible to have preserved the Nuns' residence from fire.

I had given positive orders not to allow any person to smoke within the building in question, and that if any of the workmen disobeyed those orders, the Contractors should immediately discharge them; and placards had been put up inside the building to the same effect, as regarded visitors.

The Archbishop had insured the building for six thousand pounds, and the Government was bound to pay the extra premium required by the Insurers while the men were working. And further deponent saith not.

The above deposition having been read by deponent, he declares that it contains the truth, persists therein, and hath signed.

(Signed,) J. CHABOT.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
the eighth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

(Signed, DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 2.

PROVINCE OF } CHARLES BAILLAIRGE, Esquire, of the City of Quebec,
CANADA. } Architect, aged twenty-seven years, appeared before the Commissioners above-named, and being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—I was the Architect employed by the Commissioners of Public Works to draw plans for the interior division of the building known as "the Grey Nuns' Charitable Asylum," situate in St. John's Suburb, of the City of Quebec, which building was destroyed

by fire on the third instant. I was engaged in the month of March last to alter the original interior of the said building, so as to suit it for its intended occupation by the Provincial Parliament. In consequence I made plans of the building in question and of the distribution of each story and of the basement, copies of which plans I now produce, marked A. B. C. D. E. F. and G.

The distributions, as indicated in the said plans, have undergone partial modifications during the progress of the work.

I visited the said building daily, whilst the work was going on.

My duty as Architect, was to direct, and see that the work was executed according to the plans, and to give the workmen the necessary explanations to execute the same.

On the third of May instant, the whole of the divisions of the Carpenters' and Joiners' work of the centre building was done, and most of the divisions of the south wing were also made. The Carpenters and Joiners were, however, still at work, as well in the centre as in the other parts of the said building.

The sixth, fifth and fourth stories of the centre building were, I believe, completely divided and finished, with the exception of the papering of some of the partitions, and no workmen were employed there on the third of May instant, except some plasterers, to the best of my belief. The divisions in the third and second stories were complete, but a number of joiners were still at work in each of those two stories, and preparing some work for the other parts of the building.

As to the first or lowest story, on St. Olivier Street, it was finished, with the exception of the plastering, and occupied as school rooms by the Grey Nuns.

Labourers were at work in the basement, preparing mortar and digging drains.

The floor of the chapel, in the rear of the centre building and facing Richelieu Street, was on a level with the floor of the third story of the centre building on St. Olivier Street, and the vault or ceiling of the chapel rose above the level of the other three stories.

The whole of the Carpenters' work was done in the chapel, and the first coat of the plastering was laid; the Joiners were still at work there. There was a great quantity of scaffolding and of wood work and materials in the chapel. About thirty men were at work there.

The divisions of the south-west wing were finished except in the two lowest stories of the south section. The joiners were still at work in the south-west wing, making shelves for the Library, seats for the Council Gallery, &c.

On the third of May instant there were two stoves in the chapel, with about twenty-five feet of stove-pipes to each; the pipes entered the chimneys at the ordinary height of a stove-pipe, immediately under the first gallery, that is, about two or three feet lower.

There were about three or four stoves in the centre building, that is, in the second and third stories, and one in the sixth story; those stoves were shifted from one place to another as occasion required. I do not exactly recollect the position or length of the pipes; some were about twenty or thirty feet long and may have passed through partitions in which stone rings had been placed.

On the third day of May instant, I was in the said building until about a quarter past seven o'clock in the evening. The Contractor for the chapel, Raphaël Giroux, was there at the time, as also Jean Patry, another of the Contractors, Mr. Taylor, the Clerk of the Council; one Mr. Drum, Upholsterer, and two of his sons were also in the building on that evening, at the hour above stated. When I went away, at a quarter past seven on that evening, I left Raphaël Giroux in the chapel, who bolted the door (of the chapel) through which I went out, after me. I did not see

Jean Patry in the building, when I left it, but he was there a few minutes before. I left Mr. Taylor and the Drums in the fourth story of the west wing, in the Council Chamber.

At about half-past six o'clock that evening, I saw two or three of the Nuns going through the building, on their usual tour, and looking into every stove, putting away the shavings and taking other precautions against fire. It was then quite light. I saw them in the centre buildings and in other parts of the edifice.

There was a large quantity of chips and shavings throughout the unfinished part of the building, and the stoves were heated with them.

On the third of May instant there was, I think, more shavings than had been produced that day. There appeared to be an accumulation of chips and shavings. The stoves in the building could not consume the quantity produced daily, and but a small quantity was, I believe, removed from the building through the Church door. The shavings may possibly have been removed unknown to me, through the doors opening on St. Olivier Street. The prohibition to smoke in the building was, as far as I could see, strictly enforced. At least I saw no one smoking there.

For several days previous to the third of May instant, I remarked that no fire had been made in the second and third stories of the centre building. I repeatedly applied my hands to the stoves and found them cold, and I do not believe that there was any fire made in the stoves in the said stories on the third day of May instant, but I do not remember examining if there was any.

I was early enough on the ground, on the third May instant, to perceive that the fire must have originated in the second or third story of the centre building.

The only fire which I saw in the building, besides that in some of the stoves, was made by the plumbers in the hearth of the basement.

The iron doors, between the old wing occupied by the Nuns and the new building, must have been put up within two days previous to the night of the fire. There were three of the iron doors placed. The one in the basement was not put in. The aperture was closed with sand, during the fire, to protect the old wing.

The accumulation of shavings and other combustible matter in the building necessitated the greatest care to guard against fire.

There were three outer doors in use in the building, namely, the door of the chapel on Richelieu Street, one door in the main or centre part of the building on St. Olivier Street. Through these doors the contractors and their men went in and out. There was also one door facing the yard, through which access could be had to the interior of the building when the gate was opened. There were several of the cellar windows and doors on St. Olivier Street which were used during the day, for the purpose of taking in sand, mortar and other materials, and they were temporarily closed at night by placing boards against them, supported by another board behind them. It would have been possible to remove those boards, and to gain access to the interior of the building by that means. There were also in the South wing several cellar windows which, I believe, remained open at night. They had been lately made, and through them access might be had to the interior of the building, by climbing over the yard fence, which was about ten feet high, and, having entered that wing, the centre building could be easily reached, there being several communication doors. These several openings were not overlooked by any buildings immediately opposite.

I believe that the Nuns had the key of the door in the centre building, on St. Olivier Street; Giroux had the key of the chapel on Richelieu Street, and Patry had the key of the South-west wing.

Messrs. Murphy and O'Leary, the plasterers, had the charge of blocking up the cellar doors and windows, at night; they used the cellars to prepare their mortar and plaster.

My impression was, when I first saw the fire, and still is, that it originated in the apartments marked on the plan of the third story as the "Speaker's room" and "Dressing-room." I do not recollect going into those two rooms on the third of May instant. I believe there was a stove in the Speaker's room, but I believe it was not heated on that day. My reason for this belief is, that I know that it had not been heated for several days before the third instant. I believe that there were some shavings in that room, when I went into it. Joiners and carpenters were at work on the third instant, in some of the rooms of the third story of the centre building. They were preparing work for other parts of the building. The interior doors in that story, nor in any other part of the centre building, were not yet placed, (with the exception of the door of the Speaker's room communicating with the lobby, which, I believe was hung,) and that circumstance must, in a great measure, account for the rapidity with which the fire spread throughout the building.

Question,—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing, touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer,—I know nothing more than what I have deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) CHS. BAILLAIRGE'.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
the 8th May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 3.

PROVINCE OF } JEAN PATRY, of the City of Quebec, Master Joiner, being
CANADA. } duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:—At the beginning of the month of March last, I contracted with the Commissioners of Public Works for this Province, for the finishing of a part of the building then in course of construction by His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec, in St. John Suburb of the said City, intended as a residence for the Religious Ladies called Grey Nuns or Sisters of Charity. It was the southern part of the said building, that is to say, the south wing adjoining the west wing, that I thus undertook to finish.

On the third of May instant the work undertaken by me was nearly finished and I expected to complete my contract during the present week. There were remaining there only the shavings of the third of May.

When this building was commenced, I was employed by His Grace the Archbishop to do the work required in the west wing; and during the whole time that I was thus employed, I had, jointly with the Nuns, the watching of the building, and I continued that watch jointly with those Ladies, until the evening that the fire took place.

On the evening of the third of May instant, I left the building at seven o'clock

and left there Raphael Giroux who kept the key. He had some work to do in the Chapel,

As soon as the clock struck six, most of the workmen left, and two of those Ladies entered the building, to make their usual visit. I accompanied them for some time. I believe these Nuns were Sister St. Louis and Sister Lefèbvre.

It was on leaving Mr. Baillaigé the Architect, and Raphael Giroux the Sculptor, in the Chapel, that I met the Nuns going their round. I had already seen them pass from one room to another some moments before. I went through several apartments and put my hands upon the stoves, which I found cold. I did not on that evening, go into the room marked on the plan D., "Speaker's Room," but I saw that the floor had been washed on that day. There were a few shavings in the passage into which that room opens. I went into nearly every room of the centre part of the said building, from the ground floor on St. Olivier Street, to the third story inclusively. I did not go higher up that day. I then left the building by the outer door of the west wing of the said building, on St. Olivier Street. I usually had the key of that door, but I left it that evening with Raphael Giroux, as above stated. He had not returned it to me at about a quarter or half-past seven the same evening. I had it in my possession when the alarm of fire was given. This was the only door of the building which locked outside; all the other doors were barred inside.

The only persons who, to my knowledge, were in the building when I left, were MM. Baillaigé and Giroux, and the Nuns mentioned by me.

There were shavings in the three lower stories, but not a large quantity.

The rooms marked on the said plan D. "Translators' Rooms," had not been washed. The Speaker's throne was being made; two joiners named Béland were working at it. I passed through the passage opposite the said rooms as I went away. The workmen were not there, and there was no fire in the stove therein.

I live in a house built on the ground on which the said building is erected. I was in the habit of visiting the outside of the building, and going round it almost every evening before going to bed. I did not do so on the third of May instant, as I was away from home. I always found the air-holes of the cellar of the part of the centre opening on St. Olivier Street shut. I cannot say that they were so on that day.

I never saw any one smoke in any part of the building. I had twenty-seven joiners under me in the South wing, also four masons and nine labourers.

About a quarter or half-past nine in the evening of the third of May, I was at home, preparing to go to bed, when I heard a piercing cry in the street. I opened my door, and heard the cry of "Fire!" I saw no sign of fire, but a Mrs. Thomas, who lives opposite to me, told me, in English, that the fire was in the Nuns' building. I immediately had a lantern got ready, and in the mean time I put on my boots. I left immediately with the key of the door of the building, which I had in my possession, and on reaching the middle of the street, I perceived light in the window marked on the said plan D, being the second window of the third story of the said centre building, from the house occupied by the Nuns. I then entered by the door, of which I had the key, as above stated, and I went up directly to the third story by the staircase leading from the South wing to the said third story, and I went with all haste to the room from which the light proceeded. I found the doors of that room open, and a part of the interior was on fire, namely, the part nearest the window, looking into St. Olivier Street. The floor was on fire, as well as the partition which separates that room from the adjoining one, and which is marked on the said plan D, "Dressing-room". This partition was made of rough deals. I immediately ran towards a barrel of water which was near the door of the chapel and inside. There was water, but no buckets. I then opened the door of

the chapel and called out for a bucket, which I obtained almost immediately. I returned with the bucket of water to the room which was on fire, and threw on it the water, which had the effect of reducing the fire a little. Some persons had followed me when I entered the building. I do not know them. I have no doubt that it was in the room in question that the fire began; and if I had been assisted by one or two persons with buckets, I believe it would have been possible to extinguish the fire when I entered the building. When I wished to run and fetch another bucket of water, some one took my bucket and lantern from me, and told me to go home and get others, which I did. When I returned the fire had already reached the chapel.

Considering the particular care which the Nuns and myself took of the said building, my opinion is that the fire was maliciously set, and that some one had concealed himself in the building to set it on fire, but I have no reason to suspect any person soever.

From what I saw on reaching the room which was on fire it appeared to me that the fire had taken in the flooring, for that was more burned than the partition. On reaching the door of the room opening into the passage I crossed the said room and went out by the door of the said room leading to the Chapel, for there was not then enough fire to prevent me passing in that room, for it did not then extend beyond the North-east angle of that room.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing, touching or in anywise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing more than what I have already stated.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) JEAN PATRY.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 9th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 4.

PROVINCE OF } JEAN BENOIT, of the City of Quebec, Joiner and Cabinet-
CANADA. } maker, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:—About the seventh or eighth of March last I was engaged by the Commissioners of Public Works of this Province to finish certain parts of the building known as the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity or Grey Nuns, situated in St. John's Suburbs, of the City of Quebec. The work was to be done by the day, and consisted first, of all the dwelling house, containing six stories fronting on St. Olivier Street, also of two stories under the Chapel, and the Library on the second story of the west wing. On the third of May instant, the sixth, fifth, and fourth stories of the centre were finished, except the doors which were hung in the sixth story only; the floors had been washed in the sixth and fifth stories, and the wash-

ing in the fourth story had been commenced, that is to say, in the room marked on the plan E, "The Speaker's Room."

Some of my men were working on the third of May instant in the second, third and in part of the fourth story of the centre, where the washing of the floors had commenced as aforesaid; they worked also in the attic at the stair-case of the dome; other workmen were employed on that day varnishing furniture saved from the fire at the Parliament House, and deposited in the attic of the said dwelling house. The plumbers had been engaged for several days about their work in the second and third stories of that part of the building; they were working at the water-closets one of which was contiguous to the rooms of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, on the third story; these men were under the direction of Mr. Pye, Plumber, of this city. Men were also engaged in placing the gas-pipes under the direction of Mr. Andrews, Plumber, of this city: these workmen worked in the centre building, and, I believe, that on the third of May they were in the third or fourth story on St. Olivier Street. My men were still working in the story immediately under the floor of the Chapel.

On that day, the third of May instant, I had forty-five or fifty men employed in the said building, and a foreman named Maurice Marcoux. I went every day to the building in question and I spent several hours there; on the third of May instant I went there about one or two o'clock and left between four and five, after having gone my usual rounds and examined the progress of the work.

I then went into all the rooms of the six stories of the principal dwelling house, into the Library and into the story under the Chapel; I went also into the Chapel.

On the third of May instant, there were shavings in that part of the building where my men were working. In the chapel there was a great quantity of wood, scaffolding, shavings and chips.

In the second story of the centre part, on St. Olivier Street, men were working, and there were four benches in use, and three others in the library. There were also other benches in use under the chapel. On the third story there were two benches; one in the Speaker's room and the other in the small room adjoining, marked on the plan D, "Dressing-room."

There was also a bench in the room intended for the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, on the third story, and a fourth bench in the adjoining room on the West. The men who worked in the Speaker's rooms were Philippe Marcoux, André Blais, Grégoire Couture and Charles Gingras. Three of these four men had been working there for several days, and the fourth began on the afternoon of the third of May instant. They were employed on the joiners' work of the water-closets and the skirting. There was a stove in the South-east corner of the Speaker's room, and the pipe passed through the plaster partition which had a stone ring fixed in it for that purpose, and crossed the passage or corridor to reach the chimney. This pipe may have been seven or eight feet long. There had been no fire in that stove during the day of the third of May, nor for three or four days previously. The bench in this room stood opposite the window.

The partition which separated the two rooms of the Speaker were made of rough deals. The door communicating between those two rooms was not hung that day, the third of May instant.

There were, on that day, shavings near the bench in the Speaker's room. I do not think there were any shavings in the passage on that day; many had, however, been carried through the passage in clearing them away.

The doors in the Speaker's room were fixed on the third of May. Smoking had been expressly forbidden in the said building, and any one disobeying this order was immediately to be dismissed. No fire was to be made in any of the stoves after five o'clock in the afternoon, and if, by chance, any fire remained at six

o'clock, in any of the stoves, it was to be put out, before leaving, by throwing water thereon. I am not aware that these orders were disobeyed.

I do not know how the fires were lighted, when required, and I never saw matches in the possession of any of my men.

It was I who employed the women who washed the floors; there were two, one named Ratté and another whose name I do not know.

I had caused a barrel of water to be conveyed to the fourth story for the use of these women. I think there was some water in that barrel on the evening of the third of May; the barrel had been filled on the morning of that day. These women heated the water used by them on the stoves on the fourth story.

On the third of May instant, I saw a barrel full of water at the entrance into the Chapel, in Richelieu Street.

I was present two or three days previously, when the Honorable Mr. Chabot ordered Mr. Gauvreau, the Architect of the Department of Public Works, to have barrels of water and a fire engine conveyed to the said building. Mr. Chabot said at the same time that it would be necessary to name and station watchmen.

I reside in DesFossés Street, St. Rochs; the first information I had of the fire on the third of May, was given to me by a man named Dorion; it was then ten o'clock in the evening and I was in bed; I got up immediately and went with the said Dorion to the building in question. When I arrived there, the fire was issuing from the openings in the third and fourth stories on St. Olivier Street. I went up to the second story which the fire had not then reached, but a large quantity of fire fell through the openings made in the floor for placing the pipes of the heating apparatus.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing, touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—No. I know nothing further.

I cannot say positively whether the principal door on St. Olivier Street was locked. I think it was fastened with a bar. I do not know how the wicket in the said door was fastened. I think it was Jean Patry on whom the duty of shutting these doors was imposed.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) JEAN BENOIT.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 10th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 5.

PROVINCE OF } MAURICE MARCOUX of Quebec, Joiner, being duly sworn,
CANADA. } doth depose and say:—On the third of May instant, I was
employed as Foreman by Mr. Jean Benoit, to superintend the execution of the

Joiners' work of the main dwelling house of the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity, situated in St. John's Suburbs of this City, on Richelieu and St. Olivier Streets.

In my said capacity I was present in the said building on that day, and it was my duty to direct the men employed, and place them where I thought fit.

On that day the work undertaken by Mr. Benoit was nearly all finished in the four upper stories of the said main dwelling; the washing of the floors had been begun, and they were finished on the sixth and fifth stories; they were washing them that day on the fourth story where the rooms had been swept, preparatory to washing the floors. They had not been swept on the third story; the men were still working there at their benches. There was a bench in each of the rooms intended for the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

The bench which was in the larger of those two rooms on the third of May, stood in the middle of it, opposite the window, and the one in the smaller of those rooms was so placed that one end of it fronted the window. Two men were employed at each of these benches; André Blais and Charles Gingras worked in the larger of those two rooms, and Phillippe Marcoux and Gregoire Couture in the smaller one. They all four worked at the Joiners' work of the water closets and of the skirting; one of these water closets was contiguous to the rooms of the Speaker. There was a stove in the larger of those rooms, it stood in the south-east angle of the said room, and the pipe went through the plaster partition and passed into the passage where it entered the chimney. This pipe may have been ten or twelve feet long. The stove had not been heated that day nor for five days previously, to the best of my knowledge.

On the third of May instant, I left a little after six o'clock in the evening with the men. I do not know when the four men, who were working in the Speaker's room, left.

I do not know that the plumbers worked in the Speaker's room on the third of May, but I believe that on that morning they had been at work on the second story. There was no chimney nor fireplace in either of these two rooms. The door communicating between the two rooms intended for the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, according to the plan D, was opposite the door opening into the passage in the larger of those two rooms, and about ten or twelve inches from the plaster partition which separated that room from the passage, and thirteen or fourteen feet from the front wall.

On the third of May there were some shavings about the benches in those rooms, perhaps more than had been made on that day. There were also some gathered up in the corners of the said rooms.

The work done on that day did not require glue. Two or three days before the said third day of May instant, I saw a barrel of water inside the building, near the door by which I usually went out. It was on the first story of the main dwelling-house. The first information I had of the fire in question was by the alarm given in my ward, Craig Street, St. Roch's, and by the firebell which I heard ringing.

On arriving at the spot, I saw that the third and fourth stories were on fire. I endeavoured to enter the building, to save the chest which contained my tools, but I could not succeed.

While I was working at the said building, a great number of strangers came, and on the third of May no greater number than usual came, as far as I know.

I know that the plumbers made fire in one of the fire-places on the second story, to heat their soldering irons, which they brought red hot to the spot where they had any thing to solder; but I think that on the third of May they were engaged in soldering some parts of the pipes of the water closets on the second story.

There is no house in front of the said building on St. Olivier Street, and there

is only a small house a little to the west on Richelieu Street and on the other side of that street.

The air holes of the cellars were opened during the day by the workmen to prepare their mortar there, and take in sand, lime, &c., and they were closed in the evening by the same workmen, but I do not know if they were sufficiently closed to prevent an entrance into the building.

I believe that without careful watching of the building, which was so located in streets little frequented, especially of an evening, it would have been easy to get into it, as there was no inhabited house from which the said building could be seen.

The size of the building and the great number of rooms and nooks make it very easy for any one to conceal himself in the day time, and set fire to it after the departure of the workmen.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing more than what I have just stated.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) MAURICE MARCOUX.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 10th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 6.

PROVINCE OF } CHARLES GINGRAS, of the City of Quebec, Joiner, being
CANADA. } duly sworn, doth depose and say:—On the third of May instant, I was working under the direction of Mr. Jean Benoit, Master Joiner, at the building known as the “Asylum of the Sisters of Charity,” situated in St. John’s Suburbs of this City, on St. Olivier and Richelieu Streets. I had been working there for several days when that building was destroyed by fire. Until about four o’clock on the afternoon of the third instant, I had worked in the second story of the main dwelling part of that edifice, on St. Olivier Street. About four o’clock in the afternoon of that day, Maurice Marcoux, the foreman employed by Mr. Benoit, ordered me to go and work on the third story, in the room marked upon the plan D., now produced by me, being the second on the third story going from the dwelling of the Grey Nuns, contiguous to and to the east of the said building. I cannot read and do not know if this room is marked on the plan as “Speaker’s Room,” nor have I heard it said that it was intended to be occupied by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. This room had but one window, and it looked into St. Olivier Street. A man named Blais worked with me in this room. We had a bench there. We were employed in planing boards, which made many shavings. This bench was placed in about the middle of the room and parallel to St. Olivier Street. In the room where I worked with Blais there was a stove which was placed in the south-east corner thereof, and the door communicating from this room to that which

joined the dwelling of the Grey Nuns, was opposite the stove. I did not notice how the pipe was placed nor where it entered the chimney, nor can I recollect on which side the door of the stove was, whether it was opposite the said middle door or on the other side. Two men, namely, Philippe Marcoux and another, whose name I do not know, worked in the room adjoining that mentioned by me. There was also a bench in that room, standing from South to North. There was no stove in the last room. These two men were preparing wood; I do not know for what work, but this work made many shavings. I did not see any visitors or strangers in the said two rooms, from the time I entered until I left at six o'clock in the evening, on the third instant. Neither the plumbers nor the men employed in placing the gas-pipes worked that afternoon in the said two rooms. They left at noon, and did not return. When I left on the evening of the third instant, the man who worked with me, and the two who worked in the adjoining room, left the building at the same time. There was then in the room in which I had been working four hours, as above stated, a pretty large quantity of shavings. There were some in the other room, to the East, but I do not know if there were as many as, or more than, in that where I worked. The greatest part of the shavings was gathered up in the North-west corner of the room where I worked, but there were some in all parts of the room, and particularly at the East end of our bench.

When I left at six o'clock in the evening, there was no appearance of fire in those rooms. I cannot say whether there was or had been fire in the stove which was there, but I had neither made any nor seen any made.

When I left that evening, I carried away a bundle of chips, and went out by St. Olivier Street, with a good number of men.

If the doors of these two rooms were hung, they were open.

In the passage adjoining the two rooms in question, one or two of the planks of the floor had been taken up by the men who were introducing the gas, or by those who were working at the heating apparatus. They were Mr. Andrews, the plumber's men, who were engaged on these works.

I had no matches about me, and I saw none in the possession of those who worked with me. I saw no fire in the building on that day, and I cannot imagine how the fire could have taken in the room where I worked, if it did take there, for I reached the spot too late to see where it had begun, and even to save my tools.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing touching or in anywise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing more than what I have just deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and having declared himself unable to sign, hath made his mark of a cross.

his
 CHARLES X GINGRAS.
 mark.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
 this 11th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
 " R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 7.

PROVINCE OF } JOHN FENNINGS TAYLOR, Esquire, of the City of
 CANADA. } Quebec, Clerk of the Legislative Council of Canada, after being
 duly sworn, deposed and saith:—I knew the building leased by the Provincial
 Government for the sittings of the Legislature, in St. John Suburb of this City,
 and known as the *Hospice* of the Sisters of Charity, and which was consumed by
 fire on the third of May instant.

After the Government had taken this building, and whilst they were prosecuting the necessary works for its completion, I was in the habit of visiting the building daily, and remained there until the workmen had left it, and even until seven o'clock in the evening. Almost every day, after the workmen had left, I saw some of the Sisters enter it, and I have since ascertained that it was with a view to examine and see that every thing was safe and the fires extinguished.

On the third of May I was there, as usual, but left at six o'clock, having an engagement elsewhere.

I generally entered the building through the chapel door on Richelieu Street, but frequently also through the basement, on St. Olivier Street. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when I went to the building, on the third of May. I immediately went to the rooms destined for the Legislative Council. I was alone.

On the day previous, namely, on the second instant, I was engaged in the Council Chamber with Mr. Drum, upholsterer, who was measuring and cutting out a carpet, and we remained there until after seven o'clock.

I left Drum and his sons in the Council Chamber, when I went away. This chamber is in the fourth story of the west wing. I went out through the principal door of the basement of the west wing that evening.

To the best of my recollection, on the third of May I did not go through any part of the centre building, but went immediately to the Council Chamber; and therefore I do not know anything about the state of the rooms in that part of the building on that day.

On the day previous, that is, on the second of May, whilst engaged with Drum, as I have stated above, I remarked that there was smoke in the Council Chamber.

On my alluding to that circumstance before Vezina, one of the principal contractors, after the burning of the building, he stated that there had been no fire in the stove in the Council Chamber for some days, but that the chimney was so defective that even when there was no fire in that stove smoke issued from the pipe. Seeing smoke in that room had, however, led me to suppose that there was fire in that stove at that time.

I do not recollect having seen any of the stoves in the building heated, during several days before the fire, and I have myself observed and made the remark that the injunction against smoking was strictly obeyed.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing more than what I have deposed already.
And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) J. F. TAYLOR.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 11th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 8.

PROVINCE OF } ANN WILSON, widow of the late Adolphus Frederick
CANADA. } Thomas, Esquire, in his lifetime of the Ordnance Department, after being duly sworn, deposes and saith:—I reside in St. Olivier Street, in the St. John Suburb of this City, opposite to one Jean Patry, joiner, and to the South-west of the building destroyed by fire on the third of May last.

On that evening, some time after nine o'clock, I do not know exactly how long, I heard the cry of “fire” in the street, and a second cry immediately after. I looked out of the window, and I saw a great light issuing from one of the windows in the third story of the centre building in question. It appeared to me to be about the centre of the said centre building. I exclaimed “Oh! the Convent is on fire,” and I shut the window. I do not recollect seeing any one in the street at that time. I was very much alarmed, and I commenced preparing my children and some of my property to remove, in case it would become necessary. And further deponent saith not and has signed.

(Signed,) ANN WILSON.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
on the 13th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 9.

PROVINCE OF } THE Reverend Sister MALLET, Superior of the Sisters
CANADA. } of Charity, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—Some time after the passing of the lease of the building in course of construction and adjoining our residence on St. Olivier Street, St. John's Suburbs of Quebec, which building was destroyed by fire on the third instant, the Honorable Jean Chabot, Chief Commissioner of Public Works, asked us and we consented to visit the building at noon, after the departure of the workmen, as well as in the evening at six o'clock and at half-past eight; this latter visit was made by us for our own satisfaction and not at the request of Mr. Chabot.

For this object I made choice of two of our Sisters, one of whom made the noon-day visit, and the other the evening one at six o'clock, each of them accompanied by another of the Sisters. At the last visit in the evening, those who made it were accompanied by a servant girl of the establishment.

On the third of May instant, the three visits were made as usual. That at noon was made by Sisters St. Pierre and St. Amable, those of six and eight o'clock

were made by Sisters St. Louis and Lefèvre, accompanied by a servant girl named Henriette Lapierre. I do not think I went during the day of the third instant, but I am certain I did not go that evening.

I generally go to bed the last in the establishment. That evening I had just gone to bed when I heard cries in the street. I immediately rose and looked towards the Chapel in Richelieu Street; I there saw through the windows on the East side the light which extended into the Chapel. After having awaked my Sisters, and dressed myself, I ran to a window in front of our dwelling in St. Olivier Street, and I saw a very bright light from the third story, which was that in which I slept. The fire appeared already very brisk. As I went down I heard violent knocking at our door. I there found many persons who asked for some buckets and water. I conducted them into the new building by the yard of our house, as far as the principal staircase and to the middle of the first story of the said building. There were many people there, some of them who were going down had something in their arms. I then returned to our house to save the goods. Between our house and the building destroyed by fire there were four doors of communication, three of which made of iron were hung, the fourth was on the spot but was not hung; there was one of these doors on each story of our house, one is in the cellar; three of these doors are in the west gable in the back of our house, and that of the cellar in the front.

I think that the iron door of the first story had been hung that evening. The doors of the second and third stories had been fastened, and I do not think they had been opened on that day. On the first story of the burned building there were two rooms used by us as "Class Rooms" and with which we generally communicated by the yard, and the door through which I conducted the persons of whom I have spoken above, and by the doors on the west gable, until the iron doors were hung.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—No; I know nothing further.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) M. M. MALLET,
Superior.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 12th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 10.

PROVINCE OF } THE Reverend Sister MAHON, otherwise called ST. LOUIS,
CANADA. } being sworn on the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :—
I was directed by our Lady Superior to make the two visits, on the third of May instant, of the building burnt upon that day, and known as the "Asylum of the

"Sisters of Charity," (*Hospice des Sœurs de la Charité.*) These visits were made in the evening, at six o'clock, after the departure of the workmen, and between eight and nine o'clock.

On the said third of May, in order to make the six o'clock visit, I passed either by the yard of our house or by a door on the first story of our said house, and I entered the burned building by the first story. I was accompanied by Sister Lefèvre. We went down into the cellar, and after having examined it we returned to the first story, which we had already visited, with the exception of one of the rooms occupied as "Classes," and which I thought was locked, as it was generally so at that hour. The principal door on the centre on St. Olivier Street was still open, there were some workmen still there. There was another door at the western extremity, on the same story, also open; we had closed it but had not barred it, as that was the duty of a man named Patry, one of the Contractors; we then went up into the second story, which we also went through, carefully examining the stoves, to remove from them the chips, and to see that there was no danger from fire. I do not recollect if there was any fire in any of the stoves or fire-places on the second story; one of us two visited the rooms on the second story.

We then went up to the third story, which is that on the level of which was the Chapel, opening on Richelieu Street. We entered the Chapel: we examined the two stoves which were there; there was a little fire in one of these stoves, which I discovered by touching it with my hand, which we were in the habit of doing. The door of the Chapel was open, we did not shut it, for that was to be done by Raphaël Giroux, who was still there. We left the Chapel and continued visiting the third story; at first we visited the spot where they were making water-closets, also the little room adjoining the division wall between our house and the burned building; we also visited the adjoining room marked on the plan "Speaker's Room," but I do not recollect whether it was before or after our visit to the little room. I do not recollect having seen any stove in either of these two rooms, and I have a rather confused idea of the position of the stoves, considering the number of rooms through which we passed in our visits and in some of which only there were stoves. I believe there was a bench in the former or smaller of these two rooms; I cannot say whether there was one in the other or not. I did not notice whether there were or were not any chips or shavings in these two rooms.

We then continued our visit in the third story through the passages, looking into each room and entering to shut the windows when they were open, and examining the stoves.

We also continued our visit in the other upper stories as far as the dome; we found one room locked, I think it was on the fifth or sixth story; I could see, however, through the ventilator, that this room contained stationery.

We found some fire in a stove in a room on the sixth story, where wood was being dried; the room was on the south-west of the building, but there was no danger of fire. There were neither chips nor shavings around the stove. We also visited a room in the attic where the furniture was varnished; all was in order there. Having closed the attic door to come down, I saw two men, whom I supposed to be workmen, going up to the dome; one of them said to the other, "there is nothing here," or some similar words; I did not see them come down. We came down by the centre staircase, and on looking into the Chapel I saw some people; I was not uneasy about that, as Mr. Giroux was to shut the door of the Chapel. When we reached the first story we ascertained that the front door was shut and that there was a piece of wood in the latch of the wicket, so placed that neither the large door nor the wicket could be opened without breaking through them. We then returned home satisfied that all was safe; it was then about half-past six o'clock. On the same evening, the third of May. I returned to the said building about half-past eight, accompanied by Sister Lefèvre and a girl named Henriette Lapierre.

We entered the building by the yard door. We visited the first story after having visited the cellar. We had a glass lantern, that now produced, with a candle therein. We found the front door closed as well as the wicket, but the piece of wood which was on the latch at about half-past six had been taken away; we placed it there again and continued our visit throughout the first story, but, as on our six o'clock visit, we did not go into the Class Room, which was locked, as I supposed. The outside door of the south-west wing was then locked.

In the gable of the South-west wing on the first story there were openings not yet stopped up, and which communicated with the yard contiguous to that of the houses on St. Eustache Street. It was easy for any one who would have got over the fence separating those two yards, to get into that building, and to reach every part of it, by means of a staircase near those openings, and by which access to all the rooms could be had. A person wishing to go to the Speaker's room could ascend by that staircase to the third story, reach the passage on that story, pass along the centre of the west wing, and then by continuing in the centre building, reach the Speaker's room, or after having entered by the said openings, might cross the first story as far as the staircase of the centre, and go up to the third story, where the staircase is only a few feet from the door of the Speaker's room.

We then visited the second story, as at six o'clock, and there noticed nothing indicating the slightest danger from fire. It was I who carried the lantern, Sister Lefebvre followed me, as did also the girl. We then went up into the third story and after having visited the west wing, we entered the Chapel to ascertain that the door was shut, and to examine the stoves. We found every thing in order; the door was barred, and although there had been fire in the stoves that day there was no danger. We then visited the room called the "Dressing room." I saw no fire there, nor did I smell smoke. We also visited the adjoining room. I do not think we went in as far as the window of that room, but we looked into it as we passed. Had there been any fire there we could not have failed seeing it. I do not recollect having seen either chips or shavings there. There were many shavings scattered here and there, but I do not recollect in which room or in what place there was the greatest quantity, as we did not pay more attention to one room or part of the building than to another.

We then passed by the passage and visited the other apartments of the main body of the building; we there saw nothing to excite our alarm, every thing appeared to be in order and in safety. We then went up to the fourth story, by the centre staircase. We then passed into the room separated from the Chapel by a plaster partition; everything appeared safe. I was always accompanied by Sister Lefebvre and Henriette Lapierre. We then went into the passage, and from there, I am under the impression that we passed into a little room, the door of which was at the bottom of the passage, on the east, and I must have retraced my steps in the passage to enter a room immediately beneath the Speaker's room, and marked L, on the plan E of the fourth story, on St. Olivier Street.

Before entering this room, I perceived that my lantern was open; I immediately shut it, and before we went into the room L. In that door there was a stove, the front of which faced St. Olivier Street, and it was placed in such a manner that to get into the room, we were obliged to pass a little sideways. We came out of that room by another door, which opened on the centre passage. I do not know precisely if on my passage from one door to another, in crossing this room, I was followed by Sister Lefebvre and the girl, but we were all three together in the passage. The stove in question was cold, and there was neither fire nor smoke in the room; everything appeared to us safe in this story. We then went to the fifth and sixth stories as far as the attic under the dome. With the exception of the room where the stationery was, of which I have spoken above, we visited I believe, all

the rooms on that story; every thing appeared safe. From the attic we came down to the first story, by the centre staircase.

I saw nobody in the building during the whole of that visit, except those who were with me, and I did not perceive any smoke, or smell of smoke, coming down to go to the Community. It was I who carried the lantern during the whole visit, and I do not remember having put it down in any place, always keeping it in my hand. This lantern was lighted by a tallow candle. In going down we passed near the Speaker's room, on the third story. It is very probable that if there had been a light in that room, we should have seen it, if the doors of the room were open, which I cannot state was the case. We went out of the building by the door by which we had entered. Nine o'clock had struck when we returned. The Community had retired. I had only been a few minutes in bed when I heard cries in the street, which appeared to me to proceed from St. Olivier Street. This could not have been more than twenty minutes or half an hour after I entered. These cries were soon followed by persons knocking at the doors, and by a general alarm of fire in the house. Immediately after getting up, I went to one of the windows of my dormitory, which is on the third story, and looked into Richelieu Street, from which I perceived, in the windows of the East side of the chapel, a light which appeared to proceed from the inside. I then went down stairs, and conducted, by the yard door, persons who asked to go into the building on fire.

Having so recently visited the building, and having left it under the conviction that all was safe, I was surprised to see fire there, and I could not in my own mind get rid of the suspicion, that the fire had been set, without having any fact or data upon which I could base this suspicion.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I heard some one say that they supposed the fire had been maliciously set; this was in a general manner, and without having any reason upon which to base our suspicions. During the visits that I made before the day of the fire, I had sometimes found the stoves very hot, and I had been obliged to go and fetch some water to put out the fire.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,)

Sr. SAINT LOUIS.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 12th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 11.

PROVINCE OF } PIERRE ROUSSEAU, of St. John's Suburb, Quebec, la-
CANADA. } bourer, being sworn, doth depose and say:—I reside in Riche-
lieu Street, on the South-west of the door of the chapel of the "*Hospice des Sœurs*
de la Charité," destroyed by fire on the third instant.

On the second of May, the day before the fire in question, Mr. Gauvreau, architect for the Commissioners of Public Works, engaged me to watch the outside of the said building, then in course of construction; and in consequence I had, on that evening, the second of May, kept watch round about and in the neighbourhood of the said building, from eight in the evening until four o'clock in the morning, at which hour the Grey Nuns arose. It was then day light.

On the third of May I commenced my watch at the same hour as on the previous day, viz., at eight o'clock in the evening. I carried a lighted lantern. It was a pressed glass lantern, without any frame, and lighted by oil.

On that evening, the third of May, I did not examine whether all the openings were closed. I confined myself to keeping watch around the building, starting from my house, passing in front of the building on Richelieu Street, going down *Côte-à-Coton*, and passing along the said building in St. Olivier Street, and then returning by the same road as far as the Western extremity of the said building, on Richelieu Street. I had made this round twice before the fire broke out. It was moonlight that night. I did not enter the building, and I saw no person near it during my rounds.

About a quarter or twenty minutes after nine, in returning from St. Olivier Street, after having examined, in passing, the front of the building, where I perceived no light, and as I arrived at the corner of Richelieu Street, after having come up *Côte-à-Coton*, I perceived a light in one of the North-east windows of the chapel. I did not pay much attention to it, thinking it was the light carried by the Nuns in making their rounds. I then went as far as the door of the chapel and a few steps further. There I turned round to see if this light was that which the Nuns might carry. Perceiving a great light by the window to the North-east of the door, I got up on a pile of wood, and discovered that the fire was in a heap of shavings, in one of the rooms, which is to the right behind the chapel, and the doors of which were open. I did not see the Nuns at that moment. I had seen their light in the building about nine o'clock. I know that it was the light they carried, because it went round in different parts of the building.

I started immediately, and on reaching the corner of the house occupied by the Sisters, I met three men who appeared to come from *Côte-à-Coton*, and who were crying "Fire". I opened at first the door of the small yard of the Convent on St. Olivier Street; I was then followed by these three men, and after having knocked and called several times without the door being opened, I then ran to the centre door of the main building, intending to break it open to get in, but I found the wicket in the large door, which had been temporarily fixed, open three or four inches; I had only to push open this wicket, and, followed by these three men, I entered the building and went up two staircases leading to the north-east, and having reached the third story I perceived the fire running along the floor in a room some paces distant, at the north-east of the said staircase.

I believe I was the first who entered the said building with these three men, and I saw no other persons than those who were with me at the time. I perceived, in the north-east corner of the room, which I have just mentioned, a heap of shavings with laths stuck in them, as if they had been gathered up with the feet; they were on fire. The room in question appeared to be near the residence of the Sisters and was certainly on the third story on St. Olivier Street; if we had had three or four buckets of water, I think we could have put out the fire.

Seeing the three men who had followed me go out, I went down and again ran to the Nuns' door; I there met three watchmen who were knocking at the door; some moments after, one of the Sisters, who, I think, was the Superior, opened the door: they told her the house was on fire, and to run and open the Chapel door on Richelieu Street, whither I hastened myself to take a bucket which I had placed on that evening near the said door outside. A barrel of water had been placed inside near

that door, two days before; I had on the same day, the first of May, placed another barrel of water on the first story on St. Olivier Street near the main door inside.

On reaching the door of the Chapel I found it open, and there were already people carrying water, going through the Chapel. I then recognised a person named George Langlais, junior, who had a tin pail in his hand in which he was carrying water. I filled my bucket with water and went through the Chapel to reach the place where the fire was; having reached the end of the Chapel near the passage, I could still see that the fire was in the corner of a room upon the same story as the Chapel, and to the right hand. I am certain that it was on the third story of the centre part of the building, in the north-east corner of a room near the residence of the Sisters, that I saw the fire for the first and second time as I have before mentioned. I do not remember having seen shavings in the passage which led to the room where the fire was.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing more than what I have above stated.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) PIERRE ROUSSEAU.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 12th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 12.

PROVINCE OF } PHILIPPE MARCOUX, residing in St. François Street,
CANADA. } St. Roch's, joiner, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—
On the third of May instant, I worked, under the direction of Mr. Jean Benoit, in the third story of the main body of the building of the “*Hospice des Sœurs de la Charité*,” situated in St. John's Suburb of this City, on St. Olivier and Richelieu Streets. I worked in the room to the East of the said main body of the building, that is to say, in the room nearest to the abode of the Grey Nuns. This room had a window facing on St. Olivier Street. It was the smaller of the two rooms intended for the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. There was a partition of rough deals between the said two rooms of the Speaker, and the door of communication between these two rooms was near the plaster partition that separated them from the passage. To enter the room where I worked with Couture, I passed by the passage; I entered the Speaker's room, where Gingras and Blais worked, and passing between the stove and the plaster partition, I went into the said room where I worked. The stove that was in the Speaker's room, was placed with the door westward. We were engaged in these two rooms planing wood, which made many shavings; and although they were carried away every day, there still remained a little.

On the evening of the third of May instant, when we went away, there still remained some shavings in these two rooms. There had not been any fire in the stove

in question for five or six days. I am very certain there had not been any in it on the third of May, for it was cold when we left, and I had some tools on it. There were also some shavings in the passage. That evening I went out of the building by the large door on St. Olivier Street.

I arrived at the fire too late to form any idea of the origin of it, or in what part of the building it had commenced.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing further than what I have just deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and having declared himself unable to write or sign, hath made his mark of a cross.

his
PHILIPPE ✕ MARCOUX.
mark.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 12th May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 13.

PROVINCE OF } THE Reverend Sister ANGELIQUE LEFEBVRE, of the
CANADA. } “*Hospice de la Charité*,” in the City of Quebec, being duly sworn on the holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:—Sister St. Louis and myself were directed by our Lady Superior to make the visits that were to be made at six o’clock and at half-past eight, in the building destroyed by fire on the third of May instant, and known under the name of the “*Hospice de la Charité*,” in St. John’s Suburbs of this city. On the third of May, the day of the fire, I made with Sister St. Louis, the visit at six o’clock, also that at half-past eight, at the latter of which we were accompanied by a servant girl of the establishment, named Henriette Lapierre. There were, between the building destroyed by fire and the house that we occupy, three doors of communication, one of which was on each story of the building, towards the south-west angle; a fourth door was in the cellar in the same division wall.

Some days before the fire we were in the habit of passing by one of those doors on the second story, to get into the building then in course of construction, to make the inspection above mentioned, or to get to the class rooms which were on the first story of that building, on St. Olivier Street; but on the third of May, the day of the fire, it was fastened. We passed also through the yard at the back of the house, and we entered the edifice destroyed by fire by means of a door in the wall at the back part of the said building and opening into the same yard. I do not recollect by which of these doors we passed to make the visit at six o’clock; it must have been by the door on the first story in the division wall, or by the yard door of which I have spoken.

Sister St. Louis and myself first made the visit to the first story; this story con-

sisted, first of two class rooms on St. Olivier Street, in the centre part of the building, and of other rooms in the wings to the west and south-west. We did not exactly enter into the class rooms, one of the Sisters who heard the classes being still there. The principal door of the building, that opened on St. Olivier Street, was open; we then, I think, went immediately to the cellar, where everything appeared safe; then we went up again to the first story to finish the inspection in the wings. The door at the extremity of the west wing on St. Olivier Street was open; we shut it, but did not lock it, Mr. Patry the Contractor having this key in his possession. There was, I think, a stove in the largest of the rooms of the west wing, but I cannot say whether there was any fire in it; I saw no shavings near this stove. There was another stove in an apartment at the back of that where the classes were held, in the west part of the centre of the building; I saw neither shavings nor wood near this stove, in which there appeared to me to be very little, if any, fire, for the door of the stove was well shut. We were satisfied, after having gone through this first story, that there was no danger of fire.

We then went up to the second story by the centre staircase. We had made the inspection from one end to the other, sometimes both of us entering the same room together, and sometimes Sister St. Louis one, and myself another. There was, to the best of my knowledge, a stove in the large apartment facing St. Olivier Street, another in one of the small apartments under the Chapel, and a third in an apartment in the South wing. I do not recollect if I ascertained whether there was, or was not, any fire in any one of these stoves, but it did not appear to me that any of these stoves were heated at the time. The stove in the South-west wing was enclosed with sheet-iron. There was not, I believe, any shavings near this first mentioned stove, nor in the little room where the second one was.

Having thus finished the visit to the second story, we commenced that of the third, going up the stair-case in the South wing, on Richelieu Street. We then visited the various apartments in the South and West wings, in passing through which we got to the Chapel. When we entered the chapel, which was on a level with the third story on St. Olivier Street, but facing on and level with Richelieu Street, we there saw Mr. Giroux one of the Contractors; he is the only person whom I saw there, besides my companion. There were two stoves in the Chapel. I did not go far into the Chapel, Sister St. Louis went further in, quite near to the stoves. I cannot say myself whether these stoves were hot, but I could see that the damper of one of these stoves was shut, as to the other I could not see whether the damper was closed or not, for its position hindered me from seeing it. We then went out of the Chapel, leaving Mr. Giroux there, who was in the habit of working there till half past seven. It was he that generally locked the door of the Chapel inside. We passed, I think, on the East side of the Chapel to go out, and I believe, that we were in a passage which crossed the centre part of that story parallel to St. Olivier Street; from this passage we went into that where the water closets were being constructed, thence we passed into a little room along the division wall between the house which we occupied and the building destroyed by fire, and opening on St. Olivier Street, marked on the plan D, now exhibited to me, "Dressing Room." The door by which we entered was opposite the window. There was in this room a bench about which there were some shavings; there was no stove in this room: we passed from this room into an adjoining one by a door in the partition, pretty near the door by which we entered the room; in this room, which we entered, there is a stove a little to the right on entering; the door of this stove was turned towards the passage on the west of the room: one side of the stove was opposite the window of this room, we then passed between the partition and the stove of this room, and then left by the west door opening upon the large passage. In this last room, and in that marked on the plan D, "Speaker," the stove was cold. It seems to me that there was a bench in this room; there were some

shavings and chips there. We finished our visit of the third story by the examination of the other rooms, adjoining on the west that of the Speaker, and fronting St. Clivier Street. Every thing having appeared to us safe, we then went up to the fourth story by the centre staircase; we examined it as carefully as the lower stories, having both, or one of us, entered every room. There was, I think, in the large hall intended for the Council, on this story, a stove, but it was without pipes and there was, therefore, no fire made in it. In the south wing there was no stove on the fourth story. In the centre of the building, on the fourth story, I do not recollect whether there was a stove or not in any of the apartments. I do not remember whether there was a stove in either of the rooms immediately over that of which I have spoken, (in the third story,) and marked respectively by the words "Dressing Room," and "Speaker;" but there may have been one there that I do not recollect. We did not find in the fourth story, any more than in the third and other stories which we visited, any thing to cause us uneasiness as to fire. We then went up to the fifth and sixth stories, and visited them in the same manner, and found every thing was safe. We went into the attic, and entered a room where they varnished furniture. The men, however, were not there, being, as well as the other workmen, the most part of them gone away.

While Sister St. Louis shut the door of the room where they varnished in the attic, we saw two men go up to the dome. These men appeared to me to be some of the workmen. One said to the other, on reaching the dome: "There is nothing here." We then went down, leaving them there. We went down by the centre staircase, passing by the different stories as far as the first; and we then immediately went into the community, passing by the yard door. The only persons whom I recollect having seen in the building, when we made the visit, were Mr. Giroux, Mr. Patry, Mr. Baillaigé, the architect, the two men who went up to the dome, and one of the workmen, who was gathering up chips, as well as a few of the Convent orphans.

Sister St. Louis and I renewed our visit to the building in the evening, about half-past eight o'clock. We were accompanied in this visit, on the said third of May, by a young servant girl of the establishment, named Henriette Lapierre. We made this visit by the light of a glass lantern, which Sister St. Louis carried, and which she had carried during all the visit; and she entered the community with this lantern. It is the lantern now produced.

We entered the building where we went to make the visit, by the yard door of which I have above spoken. We followed Sister St. Louis, who went in front with the lantern. We first visited a large apartment, which was north of the passage that crossed the centre of the building on the first story; from there we went down to the cellar, and having gone up again to the first story, we visited but one of the class rooms, the other being locked. We ascertained that the front door, that is, the main door of the centre of the building on St. Olivier Street, was shut, and that a piece of wood was placed on the latch, so that it could not be opened from outside. We continued our visit of the first story in the west and south-west wings, and went to the door at the extremity of the west wing, the care of which was confided to Jean Patry, and we found it locked.

After we were satisfied that there was no danger to be apprehended from fire on that story, although there were some openings in the south-west wing which opened on the yard, and which we could not block up, and by which it would have been easy to enter the building, we then went up to the second story, passing by the staircase at the junction of the west and south-west wings. We first visited the south-west wing; we then returned to the west wing, passing by the large hall intended for the Library; thence we went to the centre of the building, facing on Richelieu Street, and made the visit to the apartments underneath the chapel, south of the passage. We then came to the apartments facing St. Olivier Street,

having carefully examined all about to see if there was any danger to be apprehended from fire, and finding none, we went up to the third story by the centre staircase. We did, I believe, first enter the chapel, where we had crossed as far as the door on Richelieu Street. This door was fastened inside. We then returned to the rooms facing St. Olivier Street, on the third story, and which are divided from the chapel by a passage. We commenced the visit in the north-east room, on St. Olivier Street, marked "Dressing Room," which we entered by a door opposite a window that opened on St. Olivier Street. We found this room in the same state as it was at the visit of half-past six. There was a bench and some shavings there. From this room we passed into the adjoining room, marked "Speaker's Room," by a door near that by which we entered into the "Dressing Room," crossing this Speaker's room to reach a door that opened opposite into the passage. In crossing this room, we passed between a stove and the partition. This stove was a little on one side of the door of communication between these two rooms. The stove opened on the side towards the passage door. I put my hand on the stove; it was cold. There was a bench in this room, towards the middle of the room. There were some shavings and chips on the floor of this room, as on that of the other. We all three passed through these two rooms, but I do not recollect which of us preceded the other two. I do not know that the door of the lantern was open either in our passage across these two rooms or elsewhere during this visit. A common tallow candle was used to light this lantern. It was usually Sister St. Louis who went first. It might have been a quarter to nine. The windows of these two rooms were shut; the window-frames were glazed, but I am not sure whether the bolts were fixed. I did not remark if any of the panes of glass were broken. There was neither fire nor smoke in these rooms, nor anything to afford any appearance of fire, or to cause uneasiness on that subject. We continued the visit of the other rooms on this third story, as well in the centre as in the West and South-west wings, as we had previously done at the six o'clock visit. Every thing having appeared safe, we went up to the fourth story by the staircase in the South-west wing, near Richelieu Street. We went through the different rooms and halls of these two wings, and to the centre of the main body of the building as far as the division wall between the old and new buildings. We entered the rooms above the Speaker's room, but I do not recollect which way we went in or came out, nor do I recollect having seen a stove or any shavings; but neither on this story, any more than in the others, was there any appearance of fire, and every thing appeared safe. It was the same on the fifth and sixth stories and the attic, which we carefully visited. We neither met nor saw any person. Having finished our visit, we went down by the centre staircase, stopping at each story, to give a last glance, in passing, and did not perceive either fire or smoke in any of the rooms or passages which were on our way. Amongst these rooms must have been that on the third story, marked "Speaker's Room." We never saw any pipes in the hands of the workmen, or in the building, with the exception of a small bit of a pipe that Sister St. Louis found a long time before the fire.

Five or six days after the workmen had commenced working for the Government, some matches were found on one of the stoves, but none have been seen since. There was a chimney in the division wall between the house of the Community and the building destroyed by fire.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing, touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the

contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing more than what I have just deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) Sr. LEFEBVRE.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 15th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 14.

PROVINCE OF } GREGOIRE COUTURE, of Quebec, Joiner, being duly
CANADA. } sworn, doth depose and say :—On the third of May instant, I worked as a joiner under Mr. Benoit, the Contractor, in the third story of the centre building of the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity, situate in St. John's Suburb of this City, and which was afterwards destroyed by fire. The room in which I worked, with a man named Philippe Marcoux, was a small room adjoining the division wall between that building and the residence of the Grey Nuns, which is on the North-east. This room was adjacent to that intended for the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. These two rooms were on the same story as the Chapel, which opened on Richelieu Street. To get into the room where I worked, I entered by the passage into the Speaker's Room, by a door which was opposite the door of communication between these two rooms. The door by which I entered was in the South-west angle of the Speaker's room. This was the only one by which they could enter this room, and there was but one door to enter the room where I worked. There was another door in the South partition of the Speaker's room, but it was blocked up with a pile of deals, and it had not been in use for several days. In the Speaker's room there was a stove placed near the door of communication between the two rooms, and from East to West, with the door West-ward; so that it was necessary to cross the first, or Speaker's room, passing between the South partition and the stove, to get to the room where I worked. I do not believe there had been any fire in this stove on that day, nor for five or six days previously. I believe it was myself that made up the last fire to heat the glue.

On that day, the third of May, we were engaged on some joiner's work, and there were a great many shavings in these two rooms; and although they had been carrying some away during the day, there still remained a few, that is to say, there were a few all over the two rooms, but not very thick, when I left that evening at six o'clock. There were more along the partitions and in the corners than near the benches, for they had been removed by walking past the benches.

I do not recollect having seen a single pipe or cigar in use in the said building during all the time I worked there, and I never discovered the smell of tobacco smoke.

When we went away on the evening of the third of May, at six o'clock, I saw no appearance either of fire or smoke.

I went up to the fourth story of the centre part of the main body of the building; I likewise worked there; but I do not recollect the distribution of the rooms.

When I heard of the fire, I hastened to it. I saw that the fire had not yet made much progress, and there was yet but very few people on the spot. The fire issued

by the window of the Speaker's room, adjoining that where I had worked the day of the third of May; and it appeared to me that it was there the fire began. I entered the building by the door of the west wing, accompanied by Alexandre and Cyrille Corriveau, and I went up as far as the top of the staircase, which ends near the door of the Speaker's room on the third story, to try and save my tools, which were in the adjoining room; but we could not get through, as the fire was too strong; and we then came down into St. Olivier Street.

Going up stairs to the third story, as aforesaid, I met Napoleon Julien and Joseph Julien, who worked, with others, to save what they could; also, some persons who were going out with a box of tools.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing touching or in anywise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable or exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing more than what I have above deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) GREGOIRE COUTURE.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 15th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 15.

PROVINCE OF } HENRIETTE LAPIERRE, of the City of Quebec, in the
CANADA. } service of the Community of the “*Hospice de la Charité*”
being sworn on the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:—On the third of May instant, the day of the burning of the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity, I accompanied the Sisters who made the visit to the building about half-past eight o'clock. Sister St. Louis preceded us and carried in her hand a glass lantern closed. We entered by the yard door. We first visited the cellar, then the class rooms on the first story; we then visited the second story; we found every thing safe in the cellar and the two stories above mentioned. We then went up to the third story and first visited the Chapel; we there found every thing safe. There was no fire in the stoves; we then entered the little room in the north-east corner, adjoining the Community; I cannot recall to mind if there were any shavings, chips or bench in that room: we then entered an adjoining room marked on the plan “Speaker's Room,” it was I that entered the first into this room, followed by Sisters Lefèbvre and St. Louis. Sister St. Louis was the last, and in going out Sister St. Louis was the first and myself last; they had gone round the room while I was looking on, and they went out before me. There was a bench in this room opposite the windows; there were many chips and a few shavings spread on the floor round the bench. I do not remember whether there was a stove or not. Every thing appeared safe.

We then visited the other rooms on the same story, and from there we went up to the fourth, which we also visited.

Sister St. Louis always preceded us, with the exception of the time when I entered first into the Speaker's room.

I did not perceive, during any part of the visit, that the door of the lantern was open, and I did not see any spark escape from it. If it had been the case, I should have perceived it. I accompanied the two Sisters, during all the continuance of their visit. They visited all the rooms, with the exception of one only that was locked, but I do not recollect on which story this room was. We found everything safe, and we saw no appearance either of fire or smoke.

I recollect, on entering in the first story, that we found the wicket of the entry door was unbarred, and that one of the Sisters barred it.

We then went down by the centre staircase, and returned to the Community.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing, touching or in anywise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—No; only that when I saw that the wicket of the entry door was open, it made me think that some person might have entered and hid himself in the building, and I was afraid during all the visit, and could not help often looking round me to see if there was any person there.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) HENRIETTE LAPIERRE.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 16th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 16.

PROVINCE OF } JEAN PETIT, of Quebec, mason, being sworn on the Holy
CANADA. } Evangelists, doth depose and say:—On the third of May instant, I worked as plasterer in the building of the Grey Nuns, situated in St. John's Suburbs, on St. Olivier and Richelieu Streets, that was burnt on that day. I worked under the direction of Messrs. Murphy and O'Leary. It was in a room immediately under the chapel that I had worked that day. I had left my tools there, on leaving after my day's work. When I left the building there was no appearance of fire. For several days previously there had been no fire, to my knowledge.

On the third of May, about ten o'clock, I was in St. John Street, (in the suburbs,) at a person's named Fortier, with two of my friends; and having been informed that there was an alarm of fire, I went out and perceived some smoke from a light in the direction of the said building. I was about the distance of two arpents from the said building. I immediately ran home, and there took my uniform and fireman's tools. I belonged to the Voltigeurs' Company. I ran immediately to the fire.

On arriving at the corner of the residence of a man named Jean Patry, I perceived that the fire issued from one of the windows of the third story, which was

the second on the north-east side, that is to say, towards the abode of the Grey Nuns, and marked on the plan D, now exhibited to me, as the window of the "Speaker's Room." I entered the building by the door of the west wing, near Patry's, on St. Olivier Street, and I went to the second story, under the chapel, passing by the staircase of the said wing, and I reached the room where I had been working that day. I there took my tools and those of one of my companions, and I went out by the same road that I had entered.

On entering by the said door of the west wing, in the passage at the foot of the stairs, I met a man named Keating, Messenger of the Legislative Council. I did not speak to him. He appeared to me to come from the staircase towards the door.

I carried my tools to one of the neighbour's, and I went back again, but finding it too dark, I ran to a person named Gingras, Joiner, a neighbour of Patry's, on St. Eustache Street, where I obtained a candle, and I went back again by the same door of the west wing of the said building, where I lighted my candle. I went up the same staircase as the first time, and having reached the top, some one cried out to me, "Put out your candle." Some minutes after, my candle went out, some one having struck my hand or some thing having fallen on it; I then went down again and joined my company.

The general question being put to the deponent, he replied:--

I know nothing further than what I have just deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) JEAN PETIT.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 17th of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 17.

PROVINCE OF } JOHN PYE, of the City of Quebec, plumber, being duly
CANADA. } sworn, doth depose and say:—I had been spoken to by His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec, to fit up the plumbers' work of water-closets in the building known as the "*Hospice de la Charité*," in St. John's Suburb of this City, before that building was leased by the Government; and, after it was so leased, I was employed by the Commissioners of Public Works to execute the work. The water-closets I had engaged to make were in the centre building, along the wall of division between the Nuns' house and the new building. They extended from the cellar to the attics. I commenced working about five or six weeks before the fire which destroyed the building.

On the third of May I was at work in the said building until twelve o'clock, (noon,) with two boys and a journeyman. We did not return that afternoon. The journeyman's name is Charles Phillips, and John Thornbeer and George Bacon were the two boys. We were at work in the third story and in the others above and below it. In the third story, we were working at the closets adjoining that of the Speaker, attached to his Dressing-room. We were placing pipes running from the top to the lower stories, namely, soil-pipes, &c. These require soldering, and we had been soldering that morning. To do this, we used a portable furnace, placed in one of the hearths of the second story, on the Western side of the building, and there we heated our soldering irons. The liquid soldering and the

hot irons were carried from that place to where they were required. I am certain that the furnace was never carried from one room to another. I never saw sparks issuing from red hot iron, unless they were heated white; and we could not obtain that degree of heat in our furnace. There was no communication between the Speaker's dressing-room and the closets. The partition was up. To get into the Speaker's dressing-room you had to pass through the lobby into the Speaker's room, between which and the dressing-room there was a door.

On the third of May, I think I went into the Speaker's rooms and closet. There were chips and shavings, I suppose the produce of that day's work. About nine o'clock in the evening, I heard the cry of "Fire!" and about five or six minutes afterwards, I was on the spot, and saw the flame coming out of the window above the main door, and on the third flat. I went into the building, but could not penetrate further than the second story.

On that day neither the furnace nor the gas apparatus were in a state to be used at all; they were not yet complete.

The general question being put to this deponent, he answers:—

I know nothing more than what I have deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) JOHN PYE.

Sworn between us, at Quebec,
this 18th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 18.

PROVINCE OF } MARY RAY, widow of the late John Ray, residing at Quebec,
CANADA. } Housekeeper to James Dean, Esquire, St. Olivier Street,
St. John's Suburb, after being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I reside at James Dean's, Esquire, in St. Olivier Street, St. John's Suburb, of the City of Quebec, opposite to, and to the north of the residence of the Grey Nuns. I lived there on the third of May instant. On that evening at about half-past nine o'clock, having occasion to go into one of the front rooms (on St. Olivier Street) of our house, I perceived a great light shining through the two windows in the third story of the building then being constructed and known as the *Hospice des Dames de la Charité*, nearest to the residence of the Grey Nuns; there appeared to be more light in the window nearest to the Nun's residence, and I think the fire began in the room where that window was, and it appeared to be on the floor. I observed to my grandson, then near me, that this light could not proceed from a candle, as it seemed to vacillate and increase rapidly; he said "No, the place must be on fire."

I ran down to the dining room where Mr. Dean and a friend were then sitting, and told them that the building in question was on fire; they immediately ran out.

I opened one of the windows and looked at the fire. I found that it had increased. I then heard a man crying out "Fire!" He went to the door of the Nuns' residence, to waken them. I shut the window and prepared to remove the articles and furniture from our house.

The general question being put to the deponent, she answers:—

I know nothing more than what I have deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) MARY RAY.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 18th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 19.

PROVINCE OF } MICHAEL KEATING, Chief Messenger of the Legislative
CANADA. } Council, residing at Quebec, being duly sworn, doth depose
and say :—On the third of May instant I lived at one Paddon's, in St. John's
Street, St. John's Suburb. At about nine o'clock in the evening, as I was going
to bed, I heard a cry of "Fire," just opposite my window in the house forming the cor-
ner of St. John Street and "Coton Hill." I immediately dressed myself and looked
at the window, but saw nothing; I then heard that the Nunnery was on fire. In
about half an hour or three-quarters of an hour, I went down to the spot, amongst
the crowd. There being nothing in the building belonging to the Legislative
Council, I did not enter it. When I went down, the whole place was on fire. I
could then form no idea as to the place where the fire had originated. I had been
in the building twice during that day; once between eleven and twelve o'clock, and
and another time between three and four o'clock in the afternoon. The place seemed
to me to be very insecure, there being shavings lying about in all directions, and near
the stoves. I did not take notice whether the stoves were heated on that day. I
did not know which room in the building was intended for the Speaker of the
Legislative Assembly.

The general question being submitted to this deponent, he answers negatively,
but adds to the foregoing :—

Paddon was in the house during the evening, and looked out of the window at
the fire with me.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) M. KEATING.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 18th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 20.

PROVINCE OF } ETIENNE GINGRAS, of Quebec, master-joiner, being duly
CANADA. } sworn, doth depose and say :—On the third of May instant, I
was working, as I had done since last autumn, at the staircases of the building
known as the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity, situate in St. John's Suburbs of
this City, on St. Olivier and Richelieu Streets, destroyed by fire on the said
third of May. On that day I was engaged in making the staircase leading from
the seventh story to the dome of the said building, and also stopping up openings
in the dome. I worked on the seventh story and in the dome with three men,

named Jean Bte. Gilbert, Louis Cantin, and my son Ferdinand Gingras; and in the course of the day I went up into the dome, to look over the work which was being done there under my direction. Gilbert worked there all day.

On that day, the third of May, about twenty minutes to six in the evening, I had occasion to go into the Speaker's room, situated on the third story of the said building, on St. Olivier Street, as well as into the little room next it and adjoining the present residence of the Grey Nuns, situate to the north-east of the said building. These rooms are marked on the plan D, "Speaker's Room" and "Dressing Room." I am well acquainted with the plans of the said building. Gregoire Couture and another man, whose name I do not know, worked, on the third of May, in the said "Speaker's Room," and Philippe Marcoux and another man worked in the said "Dressing Room." I saw them all four there at the hour above mentioned.

I entered the "Speaker's Room" by a door on the passage in the west partition thereof; there was another in the east partition which led to the "Dressing Room," these two doors were opposite each other.

There was a stove in the Speaker's Room, in the south-east corner thereof, you could pass all round it, but to go into the "Dressing Room" it was necessary to make a little turn as the stove was opposite and near to the latter room. I did not notice that the stove was then heated. It was a two feet and a half stove, the door of which was turned towards St. Olivier Street, the stove standing from north to south.

There was a bench in each of these rooms, that in the larger room (Speaker's Room) stood east to west, and that in the smaller of these two rooms, north to south. The four joiners who worked in these two rooms were engaged on work which produced shavings. There were, on that day, at the hour above mentioned, the shavings made by them during that day; there were some round the benches in both rooms. The larger of these two rooms is about fifteen feet by seventeen; there is a window in each of these two rooms, looking on St. Olivier Street.

The bench placed from east to west, in the larger of these two rooms, was about five feet from the window and was about three feet wide. The back of the stove was about three feet from the south partition, through which the pipe passed, crossed the passage and then entered a chimney. There were many shavings, chips, scaffolding and other wood in the Chapel.

I left the building after my day's work at six o'clock. There was then no appearance of fire. I neither smelt smoke nor discovered any smell of burnt wood. I never saw any one smoke there. I was at home at about half-past nine the same evening, "third of May," when my son entered and told me, that the *Hospice de la Charité* was on fire. I hastened thither by running. On arriving at the corner of St. Olivier and St. George Streets, I saw, indeed, that that building was on fire; and on coming near to it, I saw that the flames came out of the second window of the third story, to the East of the said building, that is, the window of the "Speaker's Room" above mentioned. I could not enter to save my tools.

And the general question being put to the deponent, he answers:—
I know nothing more than what I have just deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and having declared himself unable to write, hath made his mark of a cross.

his
ETIENNE X GINGRAS.
mark.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 18th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 21.

PROVINCE OF } JOHN WEBB, of the City of Quebec, Apprentice Shipbuilder,
 CANADA. } being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I reside in King Street, St. Roch's Suburbs of Quebec. On the third of May instant, I was on a visit at my grandmother's, Mrs. Ray, who resides in St. Olivier Street in St. John's Suburb. Her residence is opposite to the house or dwelling occupied by the Grey Nuns or *Sœurs de la Charité*, and nearly opposite to that part of the new building adjoining the nunnery on St. Olivier Street, which was destroyed by fire on the evening of the third of May.—About nine o'clock in the evening of that day, I was going with my grandmother into a room on the second flat, having view on St. Olivier Street, and, on entering, discovered, through the front windows, a light in the new building above mentioned; the light appeared in those two of the windows of the third story of the new building nearest the wing or house occupied by the Nuns. The flames had not yet burst through the sashes; both windows appeared to be equally illuminated. I immediately left with a younger brother, to take him to St Roch, and leaving him at Mrs. Baldwin's, where I boarded, I returned to the fire and found the flames bursting from several of the windows of the third story.

My grandmother, Mrs. Ray, is housekeeper to Mr. Dean, who is proprietor of the house in which he resides, in St. Olivier Street. Mr. Dean was at home in his parlour at the time I first discovered the fire. Two of his sons, one William and the other Henry, lived with their father, but neither of them was at home at the time I mention; I did not see them until after my return from St. Roch's.

The general question being put to this deponent, he answers negatively.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) JNO. WEBB.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
 this 18th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
 " R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 22.

PROVINCE OF } WILLIAM DRUM, of the City of Quebec, Cabinetmaker,
 CANADA } being duly sworn, deposeseth and saith:—I reside in St. Paul Street of this City. On the evening before the destruction by fire of the buildings in St. John's Suburbs of this City, known as the "Grey Nunnery," and which had been leased by Government for the sittings of the Provincial Parliament, I was in the building examining and measuring the Hall of the Legislative Council, for the purpose of placing the Speaker's Chair, and fixing the carpets. Mr. Baillaigé and Mr. Taylor were with me.

I was not in the building at all on the day or the evening of the fire, nor was any one of my men, to my knowledge. I was down at my Mill, at Chateau Richer, on the evening of the fire.

The general question being put to the deponent, he answers:—

No—unless this: that, in consequence of the extent of the building and the number of carpenters and joiners at work there, I think that, to guard it from the reach of fire, there ought to have been men inside, continually watching the building and all over it, and a barrel of water and a few buckets in each flat.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) WM. DRUM

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 18th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. M. S. BOUCHETTE.

No. 23.

PROVINCE OF } GEORGE LANGLAIS, of the City of Quebec, butcher,
CANADA. } being duly sworn, doth depose and say :—I live in Richelieu Street, St. John's Suburbs of this City, opposite the south wing of the building destroyed by fire on the third of May instant, and known as the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity.

Between a quarter and twenty minutes past nine in the evening of the said third day of May, I was reading a newspaper, when I thought I heard the alarm of fire. I opened a wicket to listen, but I heard nothing further. My wife then opened the window, and I heard the cry of “Fire.” I perceived a light in one of the windows of the west side of the chapel, near the inner angle, which forms the chapel of the said building, where it widens, that is to say, in the fourth window of the west side of the chapel from Richelieu Street. I put on my shoes, and took two buckets of water that my wife had got ready, and started to go to the chapel door, but fell and upset the water; nevertheless, I reached the door of the chapel on Richelieu Street, where I found two or three men, Jean Patry and Pierre Rousseau. I went into the chapel, and seeing that the fire was in one of the rooms of the third story on St. Olivier Street, and on a level with the floor of the chapel, I crossed the chapel, and saw that the fire was in the second room from the Grey Nuns, and marked on the plan “Speaker's Room.” I immediately went near the Chapel door on Richelieu Street, where there was a barrel of water inside. I took a bucket of water which I ran to throw on the fire, which was not yet very great, and I returned to get more water. I then met about ten people, to whom I said, “Come and help me; we can master the fire;” but they seemed to me to be busy saving something. I continued to carry water, and as I threw it on the fire, the smoke increased. I requested Rousseau, the watchman, who carried a lantern, to light me, for the smoke was so dense that I was unable to see. Rousseau followed me as far as the steps of the Speaker's throne, but he then went back, and being unable to resist further, I was obliged to give up carrying water. I saw no one coming by St. Olivier Street to bring water. I think that if I had been assisted by the people that I saw near the barrel of water, when I went into the room where the fire was, the fire could have been put out. On that evening I had seen Pierre Rousseau, the watchman, go his round of the said building; he afterwards came to our house, and had left about a quarter of an hour when I heard the alarm.

The general question having been put to the witness, he replied in the negative.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) GEORGE LANGLAIS.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 18th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 24.

PROVINCE OF } MARIE DIGNON, wife of François Ratté, of Quebec, la-
 CANADA. } borer, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :—On the third
 of May instant, I was employed to wash and clean the different apartments of the
 building known as the “Asylum of the Sisters of Charity,” that was destroyed
 by fire on that evening. That building was not then finished. There were two of
 us so employed ; the other woman was Mrs. François Moisan. We began by the
 first story immediately below the attic ; we then cleaned the second (going down-
 wards,) except, however, some rooms where there was wood. It was the day of the
 fire that we began to clean the third story, which is the fourth from below, on St.
 Olivier Street. We washed four rooms on the said story, and there were three
 left to be washed on the east side, going towards the residence of the Grey Nuns ;
 we swept these three rooms so as to be able to wash them the next day. We had
 neither swept nor washed any room on the story which is the third from the ground
 floor on St. Olivier Street. The woman named Moisan and myself left the build-
 ing in question, on the third of May, at six o'clock in the evening. During the
 day of the third I was not in the rooms on the east side of the third story from
 below. In a large room on the third story, I saw, on that day, a labourer gathering
 up shavings and carters who were conveying them away. The person who was so
 gathering up the shavings is my son, and he was so engaged all day.

About half-past nine or ten on the evening of the third, I heard a fire-engine pass.
 I immediately opened my door, and perceived fire coming out of a window on the
 third story of the said building, in the east part thereof, and near the residence of
 the Grey Nuns.

During the two days and a half that I worked in the said building, I saw no one
 smoke, and I never smelt smoke there.

On the third of May we made some fire, to heat water, on a stove in an apartment
 to the south-east of the Council Chamber ; but at four o'clock in the afternoon I
 extinguished that fire.

The general question being put to the deponent, she answers in the negative.

And further deponent saith not, and having declared herself unable to write, hath
 made her mark of a cross.

her
 MARIE X DIGNON.
 mark.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
 this 18th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
 “ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 25.

PROVINCE OF } HENRY DEAN, of the City of Quebec, Merchant's Clerk,
 CANADA. } being duly sworn, doth depose and say :—I reside, and on the
 third of May instant, I resided in the St. John's Suburb of this City, in St. Olivier
 Street, and opposite the residence of the “Grey Nuns.” On the evening of that
 day, third of May instant, I was at Cape Diamond, and there heard the alarm of
 fire. I immediately left the Cape to go and ascertain where the fire was, and,
 when in Garden Street, I believe, I was informed that the building near my resi-
 dence, and known as the “*Hospice des Dames de la Charité*,” was on fire. I ran to

the spot, and when I arrived there, the fire was issuing from the first or the second window in the third story, nearest to the Nuns' residence, and on St. Olivier Street. Other windows on the same story were also illuminated. There was then a great number of persons about the building. I did not go into the building, but repaired to our own residence to prepare to remove the furniture, as it appeared our house was in danger of being burnt. During the rest of the night I was occupied in protecting our property, and did not see what was going on in or about the building in question. All I know is, that it was totally destroyed by fire that night.

I only entered the said building once; that was on the twenty-sixth of April last. It did not then appear to me to be more exposed to the danger of fire than other buildings in the course of construction.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing more. I never noticed that any of the apertures in the said buildings were left open at night.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) HENRY DEAN.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 19th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 26.

PROVINCE OF } GENEVIEVE ROY, wife of Louis Moisan, of Quebec, la-
CANADA. } borer, being sworn, doth depose and say:—On the third of May, instant, I was engaged washing the floors and woodwork in the new building, known as the “Asylum of the Sisters of Charity,” situate on St. Olivier and Richelieu Streets, in St. John's Suburbs of this City. I had been thus employed since the first of that month, at noon. Marie Dignon, wife of Ratté, worked with me, and commenced at the same time as myself.

On the third of May we had finished cleaning the first and second stories from above, with the exception of some rooms where there was some wood; and we had begun washing the floors on the third story, and swept the other rooms to wash them next day, the fourth of May. While we were working in the said third story, reckoning from above, we had to come down a staircase, to enter the chapel, where we passed many times a day, to throw away the dirty water in Richelieu Street.

When we left the building on the evening of the third of May, at six o'clock, there were neither shavings nor chips in the rooms of the said third story.

Louis Ratté had thrown them to the foot of the staircase, and then we had swept, a carter being at the same time engaged in carrying them away by St. Olivier Street.

We heated the water necessary for our work, on a stove placed in an apartment

above the galleries of the Chapel, and to the West thereof. I cannot say whether there was any fire in this stove when we left the building on the third of May, after our day's work. It was the woman named Ratté who had charge of the stove.

On the same day, the third of May, at noon, my little boy came to bring me my dinner, and took away two bags full of chips which I had gathered up, partly in the two rooms on the fourth story, reckoning from above, that is, to the east of the said building and nearest the abode of the Grey Nuns. I cannot say whether these two rooms were or were not intended for the Speaker, but it was the two rooms that were east of the building destroyed by fire, on the same story as the floor of the chapel. I did not remark if there was, or was not, a stove in either of these rooms. There was a bench in each of these rooms. I did not remark how they were placed, nor in what position were the openings of these two rooms. We entered in the morning and went out in the evening, by the main door in St. Olivier Street. I live in Latourelle Street, in a house situate in such a manner that from our house we could not see the building destroyed by fire, nor even the dome. That is why, when I heard the alarm, I could only see the light in the sky and the sparks.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing, touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing further than what I have just deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and having declared herself unable to write or sign, hath made her mark of a cross.

her
GENEVIEVE ✕ MOISAN.
mark.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 19th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 27.

PROVINCE OF } EDMUND PADDON, of Quebec, Shoemaker, being duly
CANADA. } sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say:—I reside in St. John's Suburb, No. 2, St. John Street, of this City of Quebec, in the house forming the corner of St. John Street and Côte à Coton.

On the third May instant, between nine and half-past nine in the evening, I heard the cry of “fire” in the street, and, upon going to the door, Mr. Wright, Merchant Tailor, told me that the building of the Nunnery was all in a blaze. I then went up stairs, and informed Mr. Keating, who boarded with me, that the Nunnery was on fire. From the proximity of my house to the fire, I was rather anxious, and did not go down immediately to the fire, but sent two of my men, Henri Rousseau and another of the name of Robert, whose surname I do not re-

member, down to the building, to assist in saving property. Mr. Keating and I went down about half an hour after, and found the building all in a blaze.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing touching or in any wise relating to the said fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing else, except that I heard from Mr. McCoy, senior, Painter, that the building was knee-deep in shavings, and exposed to the danger of fire, on that account; but I did not see the state of the building myself for three weeks before.

And further this deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) E. PADDON.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 20th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 28.

PROVINCE OF } WILLIAM ROGER DEAN, of the City of Quebec, Mer-
CANADA. } chant Shipbuilder, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—
On the evening of the third of May instant, at about half-past nine o'clock, when walking in St. Valier Street, below “Coton Hill,” I met two men whom I did not recognise; they told me that the new Parliament House,—that is the building then in the course of construction, and situate in St. John’s Suburb of this city, on St. Olivier and Richelieu Streets, was on fire.—I ran up the hill along with them, and when I entered St. Olivier Street from the hill, I saw a light, not a very bright one, in the second window of the third story of the said building, and in the eastern part of it, that is, the second window from the Nuns’ residence. I immediately entered our residence opposite the Nuns’ house, and asked the servant-girls if the man-servant was in; he happened to be absent. I asked them if there was any water in the well; they said there was plenty. I immediately went out and ran to the door of the Nuns’ residence and tried to open it, crying “fire!” as loud as I could. Some policemen then came up, and they were trying to open the said door, when one of the Nuns opened it, and asked the persons near to enter their house, which they did. I then ran to the main door of the building on St. Olivier Street, and entered it; I did not go further than the second story. In a room immediately under the spot where the fire appeared to be, some molten lead was running from above through an aperture in the ceiling. A good many persons came in the building when I did, and some were going out when I did. The fire spread very rapidly. Convinced that our stable, which stood immediately opposite to the building on fire, would be destroyed, I ran back to it and took out the horse, and shortly after we removed the furniture out of our house.

I had entered the building in question, about two weeks before the fire, for the last time.

I was so busy protecting our property that I did not look at the fire after I had commenced removing our property.

I have two other brothers, one is married and lives on the Cape, and the other, Henry, was not at home that evening.

The general question being submitted, was answered negatively.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) WM. R. DEAN.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 20th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 29.

PROVINCE OF } JEAN BAPTISTE GILBERT, of Quebec, Joiner, being
CANADA. } sworn, doth depose and say:—On the third of May instant, the day of the burning of the "Asylum of the Sisters of Charity," situate in the St. John's Suburbs of this City, on St. Olivier and Richelieu Streets, I worked for Mr. Jean Benoit, under the direction of a man named Etienne Gingras, and I was employed with the said Gingras, his son Ferdinand Gingras, and Louis Cantin, to make the staircase which was to lead from the attic of the said building to the dome of it. I had been working a year at that building, and I was acquainted with every part of it. The staircase to the dome was the sixth that we had made in this building. This kind of work was mine as well as that of Gingras. I am well acquainted with the man named Philippe Marcoux, joiner, and Gregoire Couture, also a joiner, who worked in the said building. It was in the room of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, in the third story, where they worked together; this room is marked on the plan D, now shown to me, "Speaker's Room." I went to see them in this room twice a week. Marcoux and I were friends. On that day, the third of May, I did not go into that room, but I spoke to Marcoux as I was standing near the passage door. Opposite this passage door, in the west partition wall of this room, there was another in the partition that separated the "Speaker's Room" from the next room adjoining to the building of the Grey Nuns: I do not know whether on that day any one worked in this last room. In the room where Marcoux worked, there was a bench placed as the words "Speaker's Room" are written on the plan, that is to say, from east to west, and seven or eight feet from the window of the said room, fronting on St. Olivier Street. There was also a stove in this room; I do not know if it was there on that day, but it was there at the end of April, at the south of the bench; I do not know in what direction it was placed. On the third of May, when I spoke to Marcoux, as I have above stated, I did not remark if there were any shavings in the room where he worked; but there must have been some, seeing that these two men were preparing and planing wood. The stove that was there was a good cast iron stove. I never saw a stove in the little back room called "Dressing Room." I cannot say who could have had business in the dome after six o'clock in the evening, unless they were strangers to look at the building, because some went up occasionally. The workmen whom I have mentioned were the only ones who worked at the staircase of the dome, which was not yet completed, as there were yet some window frames and blinds to put there, and other joiner's work to do. I left at six o'clock.

The general question being put to the deponent, he replies:—

Considering the size of the building and the number of rooms, passages, &c., it was easy for any one to hide himself in some part of the building, even while the men were working there, and to stay there after their departure.

And further deponent saith not, and having declared himself unable to sign, hath made his mark of a cross.

JEAN BAPTISTE ^{his} ~~X~~ GILBERT.
mark.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 20th of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 30.

PROVINCE OF } ANGELIQUE DROUIN, wife of Pierre Rousseau, of Que-
CANADA. } bec, laborer, being sworn, doth depose and say:—I reside in the St. John's Suburbs of this City, in Richelieu Street, and opposite the south wing of the building burnt on the third instant, and known as the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity. We lived next door to George Langlais, on the south side. My husband had been, two days previously, named Watchman of the said building, that is to say, to act as patrol. Between eight and ten minutes past eight in the evening, my husband left home with a pressed glass lantern, lighted by a lamp, to go his round about the said building. I was on the hill, watching him making his rounds. He was then near the chapel door. He did not smoke. I spoke to him. While I was on the hill, I saw through the windows of the west wing, that is to say, in the second window, two of the Grey Nuns, with a girl, who were going their rounds, as it appeared to me. They had a lantern, that appeared to me to be carried by the girl. This girl had not a nun's dress. I then called Mrs. Langlais, who was then near me, in the street, and I said to her: "Come and see the Nuns, who are going their round in the building; assuredly there is no danger from fire, for my husband goes his round outside, and the Sisters make their visit inside." After having seen the light in the second window, I lost sight of it. I did not pay any more attention to it. The Sisters then appeared to me to return.

I then went home, and went to bed. Nearly twenty minutes afterwards, the woman named Langlais, my neighbour, came and knocked at my window, telling me that the building in question was on fire. I rose, and went to the top of the hill. I was so frightened that I am not able to say what I then saw. Nevertheless, I saw a light in the windows of the angle formed by the Chapel and the west wing. I went home again and from there I saw the chapel on fire. When I was with Mrs. Langlais on the hill, I saw some persons in the street, but I did not know them. The only neighbours near the building in question on Richelieu Street are George Langlais, Pierre Rousseau (my husband,) John Harwood, and a lodger of Harwood's. A person named Joseph Gingras is the proprietor of a house at the corner of Richelieu and St. Eustache Streets, and has for a tenant a woman named Wilson; there were also other lodgers in this house, whom I do not know. The adjoining house on St. Eustache Street is occupied by Gingras himself. The third and last house on St. Eustache Street, on reaching St. Olivier Street, is that of Patry, the gable end of which is fronting on St. Eustache Street, as also that of Gingras, which is on Richelieu Street.

Question.—Do you know, can you state, or have you been informed, and by whom, of any other matter or thing touching or in any wise relating to the said

fire, or to the buildings which were destroyed by it, of a nature to explain or account for the origin or cause of the said fire? Or have you heard, or are you acquainted with any fact or circumstance, or matter or thing whatever, calculated to shew that the said buildings were liable and exposed to the danger of fire, or the contrary? If so, state the same as fully and minutely as if you were thereunto specially interrogated.

Answer.—I know nothing more than what I have just deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and having declared herself unable to write or sign, hath made her mark of a cross.

ANGELIQUE ^{her} X ROUSSEAU.
mark.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 22nd day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 31.

PROVINCE OF } MARGUERITE TRUDEL, wife of George Langlais, being
CANADA. } duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I live in Richelieu Street, St. John's Suburbs, opposite the south wing of the building burnt on the third of May instant, and known as the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity. On that evening, about nine o'clock, my neighbour, the wife of Pierre Rousseau, called me, saying, "Come and see the Nuns going their round." I went down to join her at the foot of the street, and I saw a light in a window which is towards the south, in the wide part of the chapel adjoining the west wing. I paid no attention to the persons who carried this light, nor to those who followed them. It appeared to me that there were two or three persons. I was under the impression that it was the Grey Nuns, who were going their ordinary round, as I had seen them do several times. I saw that they carried a lantern; I do not know what kind. I stopped in the street with the woman named Rousseau, nearly five minutes. I saw that this light went towards the further end of the chapel, and I lost sight of it when it reached the back of the chapel, towards the north-east. I did not see that light any more. We then both went home. Some minutes before nine o'clock, Rousseau, the watchman, entered our house with his lighted lantern, as he said, to light his pipe. He did not sit down, but went out immediately to finish his rounds. It was after this that Mrs. Rousseau and I went to the foot of the street, to see the light of which I have spoken.

Mrs. Rousseau then observed to me that the building would be well guarded that evening, for her husband was going the round outside, and the Nuns were making their visit inside.

A quarter of an hour or twenty minutes after, I heard cries that appeared to come from St. Olivier Street. My husband then opened one of the wickets of a window facing on Richelieu Street. I remarked to him that the fire must be in St. Roch's, for I saw the light through the chapel windows. He said to me, "No; the fire is in the church." I immediately opened the window, and I perceived the light in the window of the chapel facing the west. I went immediately and woke Mrs. Rousseau, telling her that the fire was in the chapel. I went down the street; but as the level is much lower than our house, I could see nothing. I went up to the house, to send my husband to the spot; and I went down again towards the chapel door, which Jean Patry then opened. He asked for help, and

some buckets. There were two men in the street before Patry had opened the door. I said to them, "Come home with me, and I will give you some water and "buckets." I then carried several buckets of water as far as the door of the chapel. Some men who were there took the buckets of water, and I went home, to protect my children and my goods, to which I afterwards gave my exclusive attention.

I entered this building only once, which was on the evening of the fire, about seven o'clock, to go and fetch my children; and then I went only near the door inside the chapel. I then saw Mr. Baillaigé, the architect, and Messieurs Giroux and Patry, contractors, who were talking together in the chapel. Mr. Patry told me that my children were there. They are both girls; the one thirteen, and the other twelve years old. They were playing at the further end of the chapel, when I called them.

The general question being put to the witness, she answered in the negative.

And further deponent saith not, and having declared herself unable to write or sign, hath made her mark of a cross.

her
MARGUERITE ✕ LANGLAIS.
mark.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 22nd day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 32.

THE Honorable LOUIS MASSUE, of the City of Quebec, Surveyor of Her Majesty's Customs, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—On the third of May instant, between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, as I was taking a walk in St. John's Suburbs, I went to visit the building known as the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity, destroyed by fire the same evening. Near the door of the chapel I met Sister St. Croix, and I entered the building with her. I continued alone to visit the interior; I went from the cellar up to the sixth story. There was no person with me to point out the destination of the different apartments; I did not therefore notice any one in particular. I believe I entered the rooms on the fourth story on St. Olivier Street, but not those on the third story. Some women were washing the floors in the rooms on the fourth story. I do not believe there was a stove in the rooms marked "Translators' Rooms" on the plan E now shown to me. I only saw two stoves in the chapel, and one plumber's fire-pot in one of the fire-places on the second story, on the west side. There was no fire in these stoves; there was some in the fire-pot. There were a good many shavings and chips in most of the apartments which I visited. I saw no person engaged in carrying away shavings.

The general question being put to the deponent he answered:—

I know nothing more than what I have already stated.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) L. MASSUE.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 22d day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 33.

PROVINCE OF } GEORGE HARWOOD, of the City of Quebec, aged fifteen
 CANADA. } years, son of John Harwood, printer, being duly sworn, doth
 depose and say :—I live with my father, in Richelieu Street, St. John's Suburbs
 of this City. On the third of May instant, about half-past nine in the evening,
 my sister called me, (for I was in bed in my room,) telling me that the "Asylum
 "of the Sisters of Charity" was on fire. The window of my room is opposite the
 window of the chapel, on the west side. I hastened to look out of my window,
 and I perceived light in the said window. The fire appeared to be behind the chapel,
 in one of the rooms on St. Olivier Street. I dressed myself, and ran immediately
 towards the door of the chapel on Richelieu Street. They had just opened it.
 There were five or six persons there. I knew two of them, Mr. Patry and Mr.
 George Langlais, our neighbour. I went through the chapel and reached the room
 where the fire was. It was the room marked on the plan D, (which is now shown
 to me,) "Speaker's Room." This room is on the third story on St. Olivier Street.
 The room was full of flames. The partitions were on fire. I did not see the little
 room to the east of the "Speaker's Room;" the flame was too great. I could see
 the fire in the said room through the two passage doors. I ran to fetch a bucket of
 water, which I gave to Mr. Patry.

The general question being put to the deponent, he replies in the negative.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) GEORGE HARWOOD.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
 this 22nd day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
 " R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 34.

PROVINCE OF } ELMIRE HARWOOD, of the City of Quebec, aged eighteen
 CANADA. } years, daughter of John Harwood, Printer, being duly sworn,
 doth depose and say :—I live with my father in Richelieu Street, in the St. John's
 Suburbs of this city, and nearly opposite the door of the Chapel of the building
 that was destroyed by fire on the third instant, and known as the "Asylum of the
 Sisters of Charity".

On the said day, the third of May instant, I was at home engaged in sewing, on
 the other side of the house, when I heard a cry of "Fire!" I opened a window
 and perceived that the second story of the said building was on fire, that is to say,
 the story on a level with the floor of the chapel. The light shone through the two
 windows which are on each side of the door of the chapel, and the fire appeared to be
 behind the Chapel. It was between twenty minutes and half-past nine o'clock. The
 lower part of our house was occupied by a person named Perry and his family. A
 married woman, named Charles, was spending the evening with me; it was she who
 went below to wake Perry. This woman has since gone away to Toronto.

When I opened the window, I saw no one in the street. I then directed my at-
 tention to saving our property, and I saw nothing else that took place.

The general question being put to the deponent, she replies :—

I know nothing more than what I have just deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) ELMIRE HARWOOD.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 22nd day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 35.

PROVINCE OF } THOMAS ANDREWS, of Quebec, Plumber and Gas-fitter,
CANADA. } being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I was employed by
the Commissioners of Public Works, in April and May last, to put up the leaden
pipes for the water-closets, for that part of the building, known as the *Hospice des*
Dames de la Charité, which was to be occupied by the Legislative Council, and to
fit the Gas-conductor throughout the building.

On the third of May instant, neither I nor my men had been at work in the
building, but three or four of my men were there the day before, working on the
fourth and fifth flats, taking up floors in the corridors or passages in the centre
building, to place the gas-pipes. The men so employed were — St. Michel,
John McGolrick and William Ford. St. Michel and Ford are still in my employ.
John McGolrick is now working for Charles Garth, Plumber, in St. John Street
of this city. On the first of May instant, he left my employ, as I would not give
him higher wages, but we had no angry words together.

The soldering pot was always carried from one story to the other, and placed in a
portable furnace, and the furnace placed in one of the hearths or on a stove, or on
our bench in an iron pan. It contained about half a gallon of charcoal; a man
was always alongside of it. When it was no longer required, the fire was carefully
put out, and the furnace taken to one of the hearths. That furnace had not been
used during the two days preceding the third of May, nor on that day.

The main gas-pipe was introduced into the centre building in question, at the
North-east angle of it, and ascended from the basement to the garret.

On the second of May, I believe my men were employed in lifting part of the
floors in the corridors of the fourth story, and in the rooms marked on the plan E
of that story, as "Translators' rooms," with a view of laying the pipes from the
main one in the north-east angle, to the other parts of that story; and I am certain
that no soldering was done that day.

I do not think that any part of the floors was taken up in the third story.

When I reached the building, at about a quarter past nine o'clock in the evening,
the fire had made so much progress that it was impossible to form an idea as to
where it had commenced.

There was, I think, a stove in the room marked "Translators' Room," on the
fourth flat. I had not been in those rooms for two days before the fire.

The general question being submitted to the deponent, he answers:—

I do not know, nor can I state any cause by which the fire originated, nor have
I heard of any, unless it be from the chance of an accident, owing to the quantity
of shavings accumulated in the building. The stoves appeared to be carefully
watched, and I did not see any one smoking in the building, and every care seemed
to be taken.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) THOS. ANDREWS.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 23rd day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 36.

PROVINCE OF } FERDINAND GINGRAS, joiner's apprentice, aged twenty
CANADA. } years, living in St. John's Suburb of this City, being duly
sworn, doth depose and say:—I worked on the third of May instant, in the building known as the "Asylum of the Sisters of Charity," situate in St. John's Suburbs, on Richelieu and St. Olivier Streets, and burnt on the said day. I had worked there since last All Saints' day. On that day, the third of May, we had worked in the attic of the said building, making a staircase there which was to lead to the dome. My father, (Etienne Gingras,) Jean Baptiste Gilbert, and Louis Cantin worked with me. I went down several times that day, the third of May, from the attic, and I saw Philippe Marcoux and Gregoire Couture working in two rooms on the third story, at the eastern extremity of the said building, facing on St. Olivier Street. Couture worked in the room marked "Speaker's Room," on the plan D, now shewn to me; and Marcoux worked in the last room to the east. I did not enter these rooms on that day. I do not know whether there was a stove in either of these rooms. There was one during the winter. There was a bench in each room. I did not notice whether there were many shavings in these rooms, on the day in question. There appeared to be the day's shavings there.

The staircase that we were engaged in making was only just begun, but there was a temporary staircase to go up to the dome. The Grey Nuns had forbidden us to allow strangers to go up to the dome, but it sometimes happened that we did not see them go up. I made some go down myself.

The evening of the said third of May, at six o'clock, I left the building by the centre door, on St. Olivier Street. I noticed nothing extraordinary. There was no smoke in the building. On the same evening, at twenty-five minutes past nine o'clock, I was at a person's house named Lefèbvre, in St. Olivier Street, at about twelve arpents from the building destroyed by fire, when, having heard cries in the street, I went out and perceived that these cries were those of three men in a cart near Lefèbvre's. They again cried "Fire," and went towards the building. I then saw that it was on fire, and that the flames issued from the windows East of the third story, on St. Olivier Street. These windows faced on St. Olivier Street. I ran to my father's to inform him of it, and we proceeded to the spot. I here discovered that the fire appeared to have begun in one or the other of the two rooms where Marcoux and Couture worked, as I have above stated. I did not enter the building that evening.

The general question having been put to the witness, he replied in the negative. And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) FERDINAND GINGRAS.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 24th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 37.

PROVINCE OF } LOUIS CANTIN, Joiner, of Quebec, being duly sworn, doth
 CANADA. } I depose and say:—On the third of May instant, I had been working three years at the building known as the “Asylum of the Sisters of Charity,” situate on Richelieu and St. Olivier Streets, in St. John’s Suburbs of this City, destroyed by fire on the said third day of May. Since last fall I had worked immediately under Etienne Gingras, who was the principal workman entrusted with the construction of the staircases of the said building. On that day Etienne Gingras, Ferdinand his son, Jean Baptiste Gilbert and I, worked in the attic of the said building, at the staircase which was to lead to the dome. There was a temporary staircase that went up to the dome. We had worked there all day long on the third instant, and I had been down several times during the day. Strangers often came up as far as the dome, but I cannot say whether any came up that day. We had received orders from the Grey Nuns not to allow any one to come up, but some people often went up without our knowing it. I sometimes went into the rooms where Philippe Marcoux and another man worked: on the third of May in question, passing through the passage I saw them but I did not enter that room on that day. I know there was a bench there, but I cannot say whether there was a stove in that room; this was the most frequented part of the building. I did not pay any attention whether there were many shavings in this room on the third of May.

On the morning of the third of May, I saw the plumbers working in several rooms of the building; I did not see them during the afternoon.

I left the building at six o’clock in the evening of the said day, the third of May. The other workmen left at the same time. The two Gingras and Gilbert went out with me. I did not pay much attention as to whether there was any one in the chapel. We went out by the wicket in the large central door of the main body of the building; as I was not the last that went out, I did not see that the door was shut.

I never saw any one smoke in the building, except in the cellar where they made the mortar. There were not many shavings in the passages that evening; they had been recently taken away.

On the third of May, I saw some women washing the floors on the fourth story; they had begun above, and had not yet reached the third story on St. Olivier Street.

I live in the said Richelieu Street, at the west end of it, that is to say, at a distance of more than twenty arpents from the said building. Having heard the alarm of fire, I went out to make inquiries, and hearing that it was the building in question that was on fire, I hastened to it, and, on approaching the building by St. Olivier Street, I perceived that the fire was at the north end of the third story, and was catching the fourth story.

I entered the door in the west wing, near Jean Patry’s, and went up as far as the second story; I could not go any further, for the firemen were there, and the fire would have prevented me. From there I could still see that the fire had begun in that corner, that is to say, in one or other of the rooms north of the third story. There were already several persons on the spot.

The general question having been put to the witness, he replies:—

I know nothing more than what I have just deposed.

And further deponent saith not, and having declared himself unable to write or sign, hath made his mark of a cross.

his
LOUIS X CANTIN.
mark.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 24th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 38.

PROVINCE OF } RAPHAEL GIROUX, of Quebec, Sculptor, being duly
CANADA. } sworn, doth depose and say :—Since the month of January last, I have worked at the building known as the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity, situated in the St. John's Suburbs, in this City, on Richelieu and St. Olivier Streets, and destroyed by fire on the third of May instant. I had the Contract for the Chapel.

On or about the fifteenth of March last, the Government having leased this building, to hold the sittings of Parliament there, the contract which I had entered into with the Archbishop of Quebec, was accepted by the Commissioners of Public Works, in all its details, except the time when the said works were to be finished, and certain modifications as to the division of the interior of the chapel. This work consisted of all the joiners' work, carving and the painting of the chapel from the floor to the roof.

On the second and third of May, I had about twenty-five men under my direction in this building; they were employed in planing wood and other joiners' work which produced many shavings. I had them gathered up and burnt in the four stoves in the chapel. Two or three of these stoves had been heated on the third of May; on that day there were fewer shavings than usual in the chapel.

I had expressly forbidden smoking there, and had bills put up to that effect; I am not aware that this prohibition was infringed. On that day, the third of May, I remained in the chapel of the said building till about half-past seven o'clock in the evening, with Mr. Baillairgé, the Architect, who superintended the execution of the plans. We were engaged in examining the work and settling what was to be done the next day. We were alone. About a quarter past seven, Mr. Baillairgé left and I still remained about a quarter of an hour, after having shut the door of the chapel at the time Mr. Baillairgé went out. Before going away I visited the stoves, as was usual with me, and found the fires out or nearly out; then I went through the building to get out by the door of the south-west wing, on St. Olivier Street, near Jean Patry's. I did not smell any smoke, nor did I see any appearance of fire. I did not hear the least noise in the building. I shut that door and locked it, and left the key at Jean Patry's, one of the contractors, living next door to the building.

While I was in the chapel with Mr. Baillairgé, as I have above stated, I saw two of the Grey Nuns making their visit of the building; they entered the chapel and examined the stoves which were there. I do not know the names of those ladies.

While I was in the chapel, after six o'clock, that evening, I had many times listened, as was usual with me, to discover if any one remained in the building, but I did not hear any noise, and saw no person going about or going up to the dome.

To go out by the west wing of the building, I passed about twenty feet from the main door of the building, on St. Olivier Street, which is in the centre of the main body of the building, but I did not notice that either it or the wicket in it was open.

I do not recollect having been, on the third of May, in the rooms laid down on the plan D, now shown to me, and marked respectively, "Speaker's Room" and "Dressing Room." I do not recollect having seen the plumbers at work there, or in any part of the third story on that day.

There was in the chapel, near the door, a barrel of water, and I saw a large tub with water in it, on one of the upper stories; I cannot say whether it was on the fourth or fifth story. I did not notice a barrel of water near the door on St. Olivier Street.

A person named Bte. Nadeau was foreman under me. None of my men had left my employ recently, and those who went away about a fortnight before the fire, did so quite satisfied.

I live in St. Roch's Suburbs, in St. François Street, where I was when I heard the alarm of fire, on the evening of the third of May. I ran to the building in question, and got in by the door of the chapel on Richelieu Street, as far as the platform of the Speaker's throne. I then perceived that all the surrounding parts were on fire, and I could go no further, so thick was the smoke. I cannot, from what I saw, form any opinion as to the cause of the fire, or in what part of the building it commenced, except, that I am certain that it was not in the chapel that it began. There were many people on the spot, when I arrived at the building.

The general question having been put to the deponent, he replies:—

I have reflected on the causes of this accident, without being able in any way to account for it. As to the possibility of smoking in the "Speaker's Room," without being perceived, it did not exist, for that was the most frequented part of the building. I may add, that it was possible for any one to hide himself in that immense building.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) RAPHAEL GIROUX.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 24th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 39.

PROVINCE OF } JOHN GILMOUR, Esquire, of the Parish of Quebec, after be-
CANADA. } ing duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I know the building called
the "*Hospice des Dames de la Charité*," situate in St. John's Suburb of this City,
in Richelieu and St. Olivier Streets, and which was destroyed by fire on the third
instant.

About three or four weeks before the said fire, I went into the building in question, to view the interior, and I remained there about ten minutes. I entered it through a Gothic door on Richelieu Street, and did not go beyond the chapel. There were stoves in the chapel; I do not know how many. I noticed a great accumulation of chips and shavings, and it struck me that sufficient precaution was not taken against accidents by fire. I never returned there, and I had no knowledge of its destruction by fire until the day following the accident.

The general question being submitted to the deponent, he answers:—
I know nothing further respecting the said fire.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) JOHN GILMOUR.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 27th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 40.

PROVINCE OF } TOUSSAINT VEZINA, of Quebec, Master joiner, being
CANADA. } duly sworn, doth depose and say:—When the Government
leased the building, known as the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity, situated in St.
John's Suburbs of this city, destroyed by fire on the third instant, I was engaged
by the Honorable Mr. Chabot, Chief Commissioner of Public Works, to finish
and complete the carpenters' and joiners' work of that part of the said building
called the West wing, that is to say, all that part comprised between the western
extremity of the main dwelling and the South wing. The West wing in question
had four stories, and fronted on St. Olivier Street. It was about the beginning of
March that I began to work there. I had in my employ nearly fifty men, about
thirty-five of whom worked in the said building, and the others at my shop pre-
paring a part of the necessary wood.

While I worked in that building, I went almost every day into all the rooms of the
building which were not locked. I do not, however, recollect having been in either of
the two rooms on the third story nearest the residence of the Grey Nuns. I know
Philippe Marcoux by sight. I do not know André Blais, Gregoire Couture, or
Charles Gingras. I do not know in which room Marcoux worked. Indeed, I only
passed through the passages and apartments of the building, without paying atten-
tion to what was going on there. I saw stoves on the different stories of the main
dwelling part of the building, but I cannot say either on which story or in which
rooms. I saw a large one in the chapel. I did not remark whether there were
many shavings or chips in those parts of the building. There was a large quantity
of unemployed wood in the chapel, also much scaffolding. I had the shavings and
chips taken away every day from the part where I worked, and I know that there
was a carter constantly employed in removing them from the other parts of the
building. I left the building at six o'clock in the evening; my men left one after
another after that hour. I went out by the door of the west wing on St. Olivier
Street. I do not know who had charge of the large door on the same street. The
first coat of plaster on the walls had been given throughout the west wing, except
on the first story. The plastering was not so far advanced in the other parts of the
building, but they were working at it and many hands were employed on it. When
I left the building that evening, I discovered no smell of smoke or burnt wood, nor
any thing unusual.

I never saw any one smoke in the said building nor even near the door. None
of my men had left my employ since I begun to work there.

About half-past nine or ten o'clock on the evening of the third of May, I was in
bed when I heard the cry of "Fire." I got up and ran to the door, when I learned
that it was the said building that was burning. I took but little time in going
thither. However the fire was already issuing through the openings of the princi-

pal dwelling part, and the dome was on fire. I did not go into the building. I met some of my men who were saving the tools, wood, doors, &c. I have no idea of the origin of the fire, nor where it commenced.

The general question being put to the deponent, he answers :—

All that I can add, is, that I cannot believe that the said building was exposed to danger from fire; for I never saw so much care taken to guard against such accidents as was taken by the Grey Nuns as well as by the workmen.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) T. VEZINA.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 29th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 41.

PROVINCE OF } JACQUES ROY AUDY, of the City of Quebec, Esquire,
CANADA. } Advocate, being duly sworn, doth depose and say :—I reside, and I resided on the third of May instant, at the east end and on the north side of D'Aiguillon Street, about an arpent to the South-west side of the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity, destroyed by fire on the said third day of May.

Three or four days before the burning of the said building I went in, out of curiosity. I found that they allowed a great quantity of shavings to accumulate. I visited the chapel only.

On the evening of the third of May, about a quarter past nine o'clock, I was at home with Mr. Alexander Menzies, when I heard a cry in the street; I went out immediately, and saw two young boys running and crying. I followed them, and when I reached the hill opposite the door of the chapel, on Richelieu Street, I perceived a light, without being able to distinguish whence it proceeded. I returned home to get my hat, and then went to the door of the said chapel; I then saw a light in the window to the east of the said door, which was still shut. I knocked a few times, and a man carrying a lantern came and opened it with some difficulty; I asked him, "Is there no watchman in the building?" He replied, that there was one, but that he had been out a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes. This man is unknown to me, but he appeared to me to be in the service of the Nuns, and I should know him again if I was to meet him. I have not seen him since: he spoke French to me, like a Canadian. I asked him if there were any buckets there; for I saw two or three barrels of water inside. He replied, that he did not know where to get any. Some persons then brought three or four buckets; I then took the lantern which this man carried, telling him to go and carry some water, but he disappeared. After having stayed some time near the door, to prevent the crowd from going in, I left the lantern inside the chapel, and ran home to protect my property.

When the Chapel door was first opened, the fire appeared to me to be in a room on St. Olivier Street, and to my right, that is to say, in the East part of the third story. The fire was already very great.

When I arrived at the Chapel door, as above stated, it was still shut; there was only one woman near, who lived opposite the Church, and who, as she said, had removed thither that morning. Messrs. Alexander Menzies and Michel Tessier arrived the first after me. I saw a dozen buckets of water carried.

I am certain that the Chapel door was opened by a man carrying a lantern, and that he was alone and very agitated.

About half-past seven of the same evening, Mr. Menzies and I saw a man working in the dome of the said Chapel. We remarked that he was working very late.

The general question being put to the witness, he replies in the negative.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) J. R. AUDY.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 30th day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 42.

PROVINCE OF } JAMES DEAN, Esquire, of the City of Quebec, Merchant,
CANADA } being duly sworn, deposes and saith:—On the third of May instant, I resided in St. John's Suburb, in St. Olivier Street, immediately opposite to the residence of the Grey Nuns.

At about half-past nine o'clock, in the evening of that day, some one entered the room where I was sitting, and told me that the new building, known as the "*Hospice des Dames de la Charité*," contiguous and to the west of the Nuns' residence, was on fire. I immediately went out, and saw a bright light in two of the windows of the third story of the said new building, and close to the Nuns' residence. On my going out, a man came up to me and said he thought he was the first who saw the fire from his own residence below the hill, and that he immediately came up, and found the watchman apparently unaware that the building was on fire.

While I was looking at the fire, a man came to me, and said he had been in the building and that it was impossible to save it, as it was full of wood and shavings. That man is unknown to me. There was then but few persons in the said street, and I think that it was after the man had come out of the building, as I have just stated, that I saw some men knocking very hard at the door of the Nuns' residence. A short time after I had first seen the fire, the windows were burst by the flames, and the fire invaded the whole building.

I afterwards attended to the saving of my property, but almost constantly saw the progress of the fire.

I think that the man who stated that he had been in the building, as I have stated above, is the one who told me that he had perceived the fire from below the hill, but I am not certain; he spoke in English to me.

I had been in some parts of the building twice, sometime, at least a fortnight before the fire. I did not perceive any thing extraordinary about the building. There was, as in every building in the course of erection, a large quantity of shavings and wood.

The general question being put to this deponent, he answers negatively.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) JAMES DEAN.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 31st day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 43.

PROVINCE OF } A POLLINE GINGRAS, of the City of Quebec, spinster,
CANADA. } being duly sworn, doth depose and say :—I live in St. Eustache Street, St. John's Suburbs. The yard of our house is bounded by the wall of the west gable of the building destroyed by fire on the third instant, and known as the Asylum of the Sisters of Charity.

On the evening of the third of May instant, about a quarter past nine o'clock, I saw two or three of the Grey Nuns (whom I knew by their dress) pass into the different apartments of the west wing of the said building. It appeared to me that they were accompanied by a man, and that they had a lantern. The same evening, about half-past nine o'clock, I heard the cry of "Fire," in the street. Having opened a window, I heard them say that it was the Convent of the Grey Nuns that was on fire. I begged of my nephew, who came in, to go and see if there was any danger for our house. On his return, he satisfied me, telling me that there was no danger,—that the fire was in the Nuns' room,—that there was a *coupe-feu* which protected us. I went on a gallery that was at the back of our house, and that faced the west gable of the new building, to get in some linen that was spread out there. I returned there several times. I could then see the light on a shed opposite the new building, on the other side of St. Olivier Street. The first or second time that I went on the gallery, I saw a man come out of one of the openings of the collar of the west wing of the building destroyed by fire. He was in his shirt sleeves, or dressed in a vest with sleeves to it. I do not know him. I did not notice him much, for I was very much alarmed. On coming out, the man looked up in the air, and went towards Richelieu Street, where there was a yard door. I did not see him again. It was twenty minutes to ten when I entered the second time, with some linen that I had been to fetch on the gallery.

I was not in St. Olivier or Richelieu Street that evening. I was busy saving my goods.

Our yard is separated from the building, destroyed by fire, by a fence which runs along the west gable, at a distance of about thirty feet from Richelieu Street, going towards the property of Jean Patry.

The general question being put to the witness, she replies in the negative.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) APOLLINE GINGRAS.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 31st day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 44.

PROVINCE OF } JOSEPH GINGRAS, of the City of Quebec, Plasterer, being
CANADA. } sworn on the Holy Evangelists, doth depose and say :—I resided, on the third of May instant, at my aunt's, Apolline Gingras, in St. Eustache Street, St. John's Suburb. The west gable of the building, known as the "Asylum of the Sisters of Charity," and destroyed by fire on the said day, is about sixty feet from the back of our residence, behind which there is a gallery, the floor of which is nearly level with the top of the fence which separates our yard from the ground belonging to the said building. From this gallery we can see what takes

place in the yard belonging to the said building, that is to say, on the ground between it and the fence of our yard.

On the said third day of May, in the evening, I got home at half-past nine o'clock. About five minutes after, we heard the cry of "fire." We opened a window on St. Eustache Street, and some one told us that the building in question was on fire. I ran to the gallery behind our house, and I saw the light on the shed, which was opposite the main body of the said building, on the North side of St. Olivier Street. I immediately ran to get my fireman's tools, that is to say, my key and my belt, and I went down St. Olivier Street, opposite the said building. There, I saw that the flame issued through two of the windows of the third story of the main body of the building, and near the abode of the Grey Nuns. I then went up to fetch my tools, that were in the building, but I was called to fulfil my duties as fireman. It would have been, I believe, possible to reach the third story, by passing through the Chapel.

Apolline Gingras, my aunt, at whose house I lived, and still live, told me the day after the fire, that she had seen a man go out of the cellar of the said building, by one of the openings in the lower part of the west gable. I did not see this man.

The general question being put to the witness, he replies in the negative, and adds:—

I had been working in the said building for about six weeks. I never saw any one smoke there, except once, when a man named Narcisse Bolduc had just light his pipe, when one of the Grey Nuns passed, and made him put it out. This took place more than a month before the fire. Two days before the fire, I had ceased working at the said building.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) JOSEPH GINGRAS.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 31st day of May, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" B. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 45.

PROVINCE OF } MICHAEL McAVOY, of the City of Quebec, Master-tailor,
CANADA. } after being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—On the third of May last, I took possession of a house which I had previously let for the current year; it is situated at the corner of St. Eustache and Richelieu Streets, in St. John's Suburb of this city, and is contiguous to the western boundary of the property belonging to the "*Hospice des Dames de la Charité*."

On the evening of the third of May last, at about half-past nine o'clock, I heard the cry of "Fire," and I went down to St. Olivier Street and saw smoke issuing from some of the windows of the main building, either in the second or third story, I cannot tell which. There was a great number of persons in the street then. I was very much alarmed, and ran back to remove my property out of danger. I had only arrived at Quebec that afternoon at about four o'clock, and I had never entered the building in question.

The general question being submitted to the witness, he answers negatively.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,)

MICHL. McAVOY.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 1st day of June, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
“ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 46.

PROVINCE OF } JOHN O'LEARY, of the City of Quebec, Master-plasterer,
CANADA. } being duly sworn, doth depose and say:—I knew the building known as the “*Hospice des Dames de la Charité*,” which was destroyed by fire on the third of May last. I had been working at that building, with my co-partner, Thomas Murphy, during the six or seven weeks which immediately preceded the said fire. We employed about fifteen men in the building, in lathing and plastering. I had been in the building during the said day, third of May, and had left it a few minutes before six o'clock in the evening. I was in the habit of going there daily, since we had commenced working there. On that day, some of our men were at work in the apartments immediately under the chapel, and some others in the Western and Southern wings. When I left the building on that evening, I noticed a great many shavings in the stairs, but men were employed to take them away.

I was in the habit of going almost daily through most of the rooms in the said building, but I do not believe that I visited the “*Speaker's room*” and “*Dressing-room*” in the third story, on the third of May. I had been there some days before. I cannot tell positively whether there was a stove in one of those two rooms, but I think there was. Some joiners were at work in those rooms, and there were shavings in them. I was in the habit of visiting the different rooms, to see if the plastering was drying well.

At about three-quarters past nine o'clock in the evening of the third of May, I heard the alarm of fire, and having ascertained that the building in question was on fire, I ran down, and when I reached the front of the building on St. Olivier Street, I saw the flames coming out of the windows of the third story of the centre building. I think it was out of a window in the Eastern part of that story. The light was seen through the other windows of that flat. When I first reached St. Olivier Street, there were about forty or fifty persons scattered about the street. I immediately entered the centre building through the principal door, and went up to the second flat, but finding that the fire was immediately above me, I went along the passage of the Western wing, and led some of the firemen to the fourth story, to place their hose. I could not, from any part of the building that I reached that evening, discover exactly in what room the fire had commenced; but I am certain that it must have originated in one of the rooms on a level with, and behind the chapel.

The mortar used for plastering was prepared in the basement story, the apertures of which were on a level with the ground, on St. Olivier Street. They were temporarily closed at night by boards or shutters kept up by means of other boards bearing against them inside. These boards or shutters could easily be removed from outside.

The plumbers were at work in the building on the third of May. They made some fire, (for the purpose of soldering,) in a fire-place under the North-western part of the chapel. I do not remember seeing them carry their portable fur-

naces, from room to room, as they might want them, but they carried hot soldering irons about the place. I have often seen some of the Nuns going through the different rooms of the building, at noon, and in the evening, after the departure of the workmen.

The general question being put to this deponent, he answers negatively.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) JOHN O'LEARY.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 2nd day of June, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 47.

PROVINCE OF } BENJAMIN DAIKERS, of the City of Quebec, Book-keeper,
CANADA. } being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—I reside in the upper part of Jean Patry's house, forming the north-east corner of St. Eustache and St. Olivier Streets, in St John's Suburb of this City, and contiguous to the property of the *Dames de la Charité*.

On the third of May last, at about fifteen minutes before ten o'clock in the evening, as I was returning home I perceived a light in the direction of my dwelling. I hurried home to ascertain if it was in danger; when I reached my house, I saw that the building known as the *Hospice des Dames de la Charité* was on fire, and the flames appeared to issue from some of the windows of the eastern part of the third story, near the Nuns' residence. I did not stop to witness the progress of the fire, but immediately commenced removing my property.

I had never entered the said building and consequently know nothing of the state in which it was on the evening of the fire; but the immense quantity of sparks and burning pieces of wood which poured upon my dwelling and its out-houses, indicated that there must have been a large accumulation of wood and chips in the building.

I did not notice any apertures in the western gable wall or in the front basement remaining unclosed at night.

The house adjoining to my residence is, I believe, the property of one Gingras, and is tenanted by two or three families.

The general question being put to the witness, he answers negatively.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) B. DAIKERS.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 7th day of June, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 48.

PROVINCE OF } LOUIS LEMOINE, of the City of Quebec, Mechanician, be-
 CANADA. } ling duly sworn, doth depose and say :—I knew of the fire which
 on the third of May last consumed the building known as the “Asylum of the Sisters
 of Charity,” and situated on St. Olivier and Richelieu Streets, in the St. John’s
 Suburbs of this City. About a fortnight before this fire, I went to the old chateau,
 to examine a fire-engine there, which Mr. Pierre Gauvreau wished me to repair.
 The same day, or the next morning, I had this engine taken to my house, and after
 having examined it, I perceived that it required considerable repairs. When Mr.
 Gauvreau asked me to repair this engine, he spoke to me in such a manner as to
 make me believe that it belonged to him, as having bought it at the sale of goods
 saved from the fire at the Parliament Buildings in February last. No fixed time
 was agreed upon between us, within which I was to make these repairs. Some
 days before the fire, Mr. Gauvreau told me, that, when this engine was repaired, he
 wished me to have it conveyed to the building in question. One or two days be-
 fore the fire of the third of May, a man came from Mr. Gauvreau to ask me if the
 engine which that gentleman had ordered me to repair and convey to the “Asylum
 of the Sisters of Charity,” was ready; I told him that it was not, and that it would
 not be so for a week.

On the third of May, about ten o’clock in the evening, being in St. John
 Street within the walls, I heard the alarm of fire, and I learnt that the building in
 question was on fire. I went there, and, on arriving in St. Olivier Street, I per-
 ceived that the fire was in the third story; and just at the same moment, the flames
 burst out through the windows. I then gave much of my attention to the direction of
 the engines. I had never entered this building.

The general question having been put to the deponent, he replies in the negative.
 And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) L. LEMOINE.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
 this 12th day of June, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
 “ R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

No. 49.

PROVINCE OF } PIERRE GAUVREAU, Esquire, Architect and Superinten-
 CANADA. } dent of Public Works for Lower Canada, aged forty years, be-
 ing sworn, doth depose and say :—I have been Superintendent of Public Works
 in Lower Canada ever since the year 1849. When the Government leased the
 building known as the “Asylum of the Sisters of Charity,” destroyed by fire on
 the third of May last, the Chief Commissioner of Public Works for Lower Can-
 ada directed me to arrange with Mr. Baillaigé, the architect, as to the internal
 division of that building, then unfinished. I did so. After the performance of that
 duty, I had nothing more to do with that building.

Some days before the fire of the third of May, I was desired by the Chief Com-
 missioner of Public Works, Mr. Chabot, to have some barrels of water conveyed
 to the said building; which I had done immediately. That gentleman directed
 me also to have a little fire-engine, belonging to Government, carried to the said
 building, and which has been for three weeks at Mr. Lemoine’s, mechanician, of
 this City, to be repaired. I immediately attended to the execution of that order;

and, the day previous to the fire, I sent to the said Louis Lemoine, to get the said engine; but he sent word that it was not ready, and that it would not be ready for some days.

I went twice into the said building, after the Government had commenced working there. I had been there several times, before the commencement of the work, to examine the interior, with Mr. Baillairgé, and to arrange as to the most convenient division thereof for the use of Parliament. I did not go there when I had the barrels of water conveyed thither.

On the third of May, being at home, about half-past nine in the evening, I heard the cry of "Fire," and from my yard I perceived a light in the direction of the building in question, which was about four arpents to the north-east of my house. I ran thither immediately. On reaching Richelieu Street, opposite the said building, I met four men, two of whom are known to me, namely, François Masson, and Mr. Peters, master-joiner and builder. The wicket, temporarily made in the large door of the main building, was open. I asked those four men to follow me, telling them that there was no danger,—that I knew all the nooks and corners of the said building: they did so. I went up as far as the third story, which was on a level with the floor of the chapel, and perceived fire in the room intended for the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. That room was in the east part of the said building. The fire was on the floor, in some shavings, and had already extended into the passage leading to the chapel. To get into the chapel, we were obliged to move away burning shavings. The door of the chapel was shut, and was not opened for some time after. I cannot conceive how any body could have got in before me. I did not see Mr. Audy nor George Langlais. I was followed by the men who accompanied me, and we there found three barrels in which there was water. We found also some buckets there, which, perhaps, belonged to the women employed to wash the floors. We immediately set about carrying water, and had succeeded in reducing the fire when the water failed us. Rousseau did not come to the Chapel door until sometime after I had entered, accompanied by the four men of whom I have just spoken. We had already emptied the barrels of water, when he arrived. As I knew that he ought to keep watch round the building, I called him at different intervals. He told me that he had been to knock at the door of the Convent to wake the Nuns. I asked him how it happened that the door on St. Olivier Street was open; he told me that, as soon as he knew of the fire, he had gone to enter by that door, and that he had found it open. When the barrels of water were emptied, I ran with Messrs. Marshall Murray and John Pye, to the aqueduct station on Glacis Street. The keeper told us that the pipes were too leaky, that he could not give us any water. We then went to another station situated at the corner of St. George and Richelieu Streets. There was no key there to open the pipes. When I returned to the building, the fire had made such progress that it was impossible to save it. There were fire-engines on the spot, but they remained there half an hour without being able to play, from want of water.

The general question being put to the deponent, he answers in the negative.

And further deponent saith not, and hath signed.

(Signed,) P. GAUVÉAU.

Sworn before us, at Quebec,
this 19th day of June, 1854.

(Signed,) DUNBAR ROSS,
" R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

Appendix D.

Drawings marked A, B, C, D, E, F, and G, (submitted with the Report,) illustrative of the Evidence contained in the Depositions.