

Another dreadful FIRE!

We have this day to discharge the melancholy office of presenting to our readers an account of another dreadful fire with which this town has been afflicted.—The ruins left by the fire of the 7th inst. were still smoking; and the minds of the public, were not yet recovered from their extreme agitation, when they beheld the town again enveloped in the same destructive element, the ravages of which they had so lately witnessed.—Soon after three o'clock on Friday morning last the inhabitants were roused from their slumbers by the dreadful alarm of fire.—The effect of such an alarm (rendered more serious by our having so recently experienced it) may perhaps be conceived, but cannot be adequately described. It was soon discovered that the premises of Messrs. Huie, Reed & Co. were in one entire blaze—they were indeed nearly consumed before the Engines could be brought into action.—In the mean time the flames made dreadful progress.—Although there was but little wind, yet the narrowness of the street in front, the combustible matter in the rear, and the close connexion of the houses right and left, not only made the destruction of that range inevitable, but threatened to reduce the whole western part of the town to one general mass of ruins. The flames ascending with a strength and steadiness not easily overpowered, seemed to defy all the powerful exertions of the Engines with every means used to check their progress.

It was with extreme satisfaction that we beheld all ranks laudably active in direction, and personal exertion, by which means the ravages of the Fire were most providentially prevented from extending beyond the premises of Messrs. Murphy & Gleeson.—From these premises the Fire pursuing its way to the Eastward, has left nothing standing as far as the Governor's wharf, on the lower side of Water-street; and from Mr. Benjamin Bowring's to the house of Messrs. Perkins & Winter, on the upper side.—Fifty-five dwelling-houses are thus consumed, together with the extensive pile of buildings belonging to Messrs. Cunningham, Bell & Co.—the Stores of Huie, Reed & Co.—Ryan & Sons—Daniel Ryan—Geo. Lilly—John Burke—Robt. Nevins, (late Murphy & Gleeson's), James Clift, and all the intermediate houses.—Upwards of five hundred persons are reduced to the necessity of seeking shelter in some other quarter from the inclemency of an approaching winter.

It is in vain to attempt a description of the scenes of horror with which our eyes were assailed—a broad glare of light shining over the town—the crackling of the flames—the falling of the roofs—the cries and lamentations of the sufferers—all combined to present an awfully magnificent spectacle. The rising Sun itself, cheering as its beams usually are, seemed, when viewed through the clouds of smoke, to present an aspect, rather terrific and melancholy, than evening. The morning was beautifully clear and serene, but perhaps never before did such a day dawn on St. John's.

It was by the most unceasing and strenuous exertion, aided by a happy shift of the wind, that about ten o'clock in the forenoon the premises of Messrs. Perkins & Winter, with the buildings leading up the Church-hill, were preserved. No less great, and happily as successful, were the exertions used in saving that part of the premises of Messrs. Trimmings & Co. which so narrowly escaped the fire of the 7th inst.

When we observe it is calculated that by the Fire of the 21st, Property to the amount of not less than One hundred and Fifty thousand pounds is destroyed; that this catastrophe occurred in the short space of a fortnight after a still more destructive conflagration, we shall be believed when we state, that a great portion of the community must be involved in extreme distress! Whilst, however, we lament the recent melancholy events, we earnestly hope that the most decisive precautionary measures will be adopted to guard against their recurrence. As public Journalists, it is perhaps rather our duty to record than to advise—yet we cannot refrain from most earnestly beseeching all masters of families to be extremely vigilant in watching over the different fires and lights in their premises. Between mere accident and even culpable carelessness, we

would wish to preserve the distinction, and yet we may be permitted to say, that carelessness cannot be otherwise than censurable, which endangers the property, the habitations, the very lives of hundreds.—Watchfulness, regular and ceaseless watchfulness is loudly called for from the inhabitants of a town like this, constructed of wood, and in which a fire produces such terrible effects.—Old proverbs are sometimes mere commonplace expressions; but there is one which the inhabitants of St. John's ought never to forget, the recollection of which ought to produce extreme vigilance in every family—*that though fire is a good servant, it is a bad master.*

About ten o'clock this forenoon, we were again alarmed by the cry of Fire, which had nearly proved of as serious import as either of the others which have so recently occurred. It was however fortunately discovered in sufficient time to prevent those consequences which otherwise might have ensued. On investigation it appeared to proceed from a room in the lower part of a house situated between Duckworth and Water-streets, opposite the upper premises of Messrs. JOHN DUNSCOMB & Co.—A quantity of Shavings were in the room, apparently intended to answer the purpose of a bed. Part of the ceiling and a headstead in the room were on fire when first discovered; and as some small brands were found among the shavings, strong suspicions of design were excited. In consequence of which a woman who was making her way through one of the windows, was immediately apprehended, and with a man who appeared to be her companion, is now in custody. A close investigation will doubt be instituted, the result of which we shall take an early opportunity of laying before the public.

THE LATE FIRE!

It is perhaps needless to inform our readers, that various conjectures have been entertained relative to the cause of the late fire.—The public mind has certainly been full of anxiety on the subject.—The situation of the place in which the flames originated—the hour at which they were first discovered—the short interval of time which had elapsed since the conflagration of the 7th, with other circumstances, had combined to excite in the minds of many persons the most unpleasant suspicion that the dreadful cause of our late alarm, was the result of design.—In consequence, the Grand Jury was convened, and after a long and full investigation into the subject, came to the following resolution, which we lay before our readers with the most lively emotions of satisfaction, in hopes that it will remove every unfavourable impression, by which their minds may have been hitherto agitated.

Court-House, St. John's.  
24, Nov. 1817.

THE Grand Jury having duly considered the evidence laid before them respecting the late Fire, which happened on the morning of the 21st instant, have the satisfaction to state, that they are unanimously of opinion, that the Fire originated solely through accident, and therefore, they beg to recommend that publicity may be given to the result of this investigation, in order that every unfavorable impression on the subject, may be removed from the Public mind.

DAVID TASKER, Foreman.

LONDON, Oct. 13.

On Saturday at 2 o'clock, a Cabinet Council was held at the Foreign office, which was attended by the Earl of Liverpool, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lords Sidmouth, Castlereagh, and Bathurst, and Mr. Canning. The Council was summoned by Lord Castlereagh, and it was supposed to be for the purpose of taking into consideration the despatches brought by Mr. Mayers, the King's Messenger, from Lord Cathcart's Ambassador at St. Petersburg. The Council did not break up till past 4.

Further shipments were made in the course of last week of boots, shoes, and various other articles, for the use of the Patriotic Troops on the Spanish Main; and yesterday one of the agents of the Patriotic General M— left town for Birmingham, to procure another supply of muskets.

October 17.

The French papers announce the receipt of intelligence from the coast of Africa, sta-

ting that revolution had taken place at Algiers—if that event can be called a revolution which merely substitutes one tyrant for another, but leaves the tyranny unchanged. The Dey, it is said, has been strangled, and succeeded by one of his Ministers. The details are expected by the next arrivals from the Mediterranean.

A Cabinet Council assembled on Wednesday at half past two o'clock, and continued in deliberation until half-past 4. It was attended by Lord Castlereagh, the Earl of Liverpool, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Viscount Sidmouth, Earl Bathurst, and Mr. Canning. Another Cabinet Council was held yesterday at two o'clock, and continued sitting until five. The Earl of Liverpool, previously to attending this last Council, had an audience of the Prince Regent, which lasted nearly an hour. As these Councils were summoned by Lord Castlereagh, it is understood that the subject of deliberation must have originated in the business of the Department for Foreign Affairs.

THE NAVY.—The Glasgow, 50 gun ship, the Hon. Captain Maitland, is nearly completed at Deptford, and will proceed to the Mediterranean station. The Andromache, Captain Sherriffe, at Chatham, and the Favourite, Captain Robinson, at Deptford, are nearly ready for sea, and it is said will proceed to the Brazil station. The Sybille, frigate, Captain Malcolm, is nearly manned at Chatham, and is intended for the flag-ship of Sir Home Popham, at Jamaica.

THE HON. HENRY ERSKINE.—We have the melancholy duty to announce the death of the Hon. Henry Erskine, at the seat at Ammondell, on the 8th instant.

As a proof of the flourishing state of the country, we may mention, that the applications for Mediterranean Passes have lately been greater at the Admiralty than ever was known. Fifty per day have been the average receipts for the last month. Previous to that time, £50 for the same purpose had not been received in one month.

Letters received from France in the course of yesterday mention, that the French Funds had risen to 65 and 66, being from one to two per cent. above the late quotations. This improvement is ascribed to the general impressions that the new loan will not impose an additional burden upon the country of more than 12,000,000 of annuities (500,000), instead of 30,000,000, as previously conjectured. It is now affirmed with much confidence, that Spain and Portugal have fully agreed to refer the questions in dispute between them to the final arbitration of the Allied Powers, and to be peremptorily bound by their decree. The last accounts from Hamburgh are totally silent respecting the Russian squadron, alleged to be preparing for sea at Revel.

MADRID, SEPT. 23.

The corps d'armee in Estremadura has given rise to reports of a rupture with Portugal; but the removal of the troops from Andalusia is believed nearly to have arisen from the necessity of relieving the latter province from the charge of their subsistence.

SEPT. 25.

A circular of the Minister of Marine contains a variety of arrangements for the re-establishment of a naval force.

The insurgent privateers infest the Mediterranean. In the course of eight days they have captured between Cape Polis and Cape Cruces, eight Spanish vessels from Valencia, Barcelona, and other ports on that part of the coast.

Troops are assembling in Estremadura, consisting of those that were in Andalusia and in the neighbourhood of Cadiz, destined for America. The head-quarters of the Count de l'Abisbal, the commander in Chief, are established at Zaffra.

Our relations with Russia become every day more intimate.

HAGUE, Oct. 7.

There has been a reference made to the respective Governments regarding the negotiations at the Hague, between the Plenipotentiaries of the King of the Netherlands and the United States of America, for the conclusion of a treaty of commerce. The negotiations are in consequence for the present suspended.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 1.

A case of considerable interest has occupied the attention of the Circuit Court of the United States for several days.—A war-

rant had been issued to arrest a number of military gentlemen lately arrived at an eastern port from Europe, on a charge of having violated the laws for preserving the neutrality of the United States, in relation to the existing war between Spain and her American Colonies. The arrest having been effected, the Court awarded a Habeas Corpus on Wednesday morning, returnable the afternoon of the same day, for the purpose of inquiring into the cause of their commitment. After the examination of witnesses on each side, and the argument of counsel, the court yesterday afternoon, gave their opinion that there was sufficient cause to submit the case to a Grand Jury, and required the defendants to give bail for their appearance to answer, in 3000 dollars each. Mr. Ingersoll, the attorney for the district, appeared on the side of the prosecution. Messrs. Chauncey and Meredith for the accused.

NOVEMBER 3.

We have taken some pains to ascertain the precise state of the circumstances in the case of the ten British officers on Friday committed for trial, by the Judges of the Circuit Court now in session; and offer the following outline as one which we believe may be relied on as far as it goes:—Colonel John D. Needham, Captain John D. Perkins, Captain J. B. Holland, Capt. Ferrier, Lieutenants Richard Stacey, J. Stacey, and Charles Webster, Surgeon Rt. Fry, Sergeant-Major Benjamin Peakes, and Frederick Boix, said to be a Cossack Nobleman, are the persons implicated in the alleged misdemeanours. The substance of the charge was that they made arrangements last summer in Brussels to combine and create a Regiment of Cavalry, with which to join the Patriots in South America. With this design they embarked at Antwerp on board the American ship Parnasso, and arrived at New-London a few weeks ago. From there they came to Philadelphia, and took their passages on board the brig Ellen, of this port, which vessel cleared out last week for Surinam. They were accompanied by John Williams and Peter Hogan, who were to have served in the capacity of Serjeants or Commissaries, and by whose information to the Spanish Consul the intended expedition was discovered and interrupted. It appeared that each man was fully provided with cavalry equipments, and there was no doubt of their intention to take a part with the Patriots in carrying on hostilities. They were regularly drilled every morning at the Colonel's quarters, in Philadelphia, until arrested; and most, if not all of them, it was understood, had been in the British service. One of them wore the Waterloo badge in his button-hole. After a very full examination of many witnesses on both sides, the Court remanded them all to prison, where they are to remain till April (the time of their trial,) unless they can give bail, each one in the sum of 3000 dollars.

NOVEMBER 7.

Captain Arnold of the ship Lucy, from Bordeaux, has brought out despatches for Government from the American Minister at the Court of Spain. It is presumed that these despatches relate to the negotiations carrying on between the United States and Spain as to the purchase of the Floridas.—It is distinctly understood, on very good authority, that Great Britain has said to Spain, "If you choose to keep the Floridas it is well; but if you determine to sell them, we think we have a right to the preference and we shall expect the first offer." This language has offended and embarrassed the Court of Madrid, although we do not believe it will influence its determination; indeed we feel confident that that determination is made, and is now in the United States. We come to this conclusion from a knowledge of the fact that the Spanish Minister, Don Onis, has at this moment in his possession sealed despatches from his Court, which despatches he is directed not to open until the meeting of Congress!!!

NEW-YORK, NOV. 11.

From the National Intelligencer of Saturday.

The Editors have been favored with a translation of an important official document relating to the affairs of South America, which fell into their hands after the copy was prepared for this day's impression, and it is therefore necessarily deferred to the next. The paper is entitled "An Exposition of the proceedings of the Supreme