

## QUERY.

(To the Editor of the *Fredericton*).  
Sir.—"Given the intention to deceive," saith the preacher, "and all deceivers are liars." John Nichols deceived the liquor sellers. Is Mr. the liar? Or is our philosopher a knave?

Fredericton, Feb. 27, 1880.

## RAILWAY HORROR.

Collision and Loss of Life on the Maine Central.

Three Men meet an Awful Death.

A Frederictonian's Story of the Tragedy.

Hartrending Scenes at the Wreck.

A Well Known St. John Man among the Victims.

Who were Burned to Ashes.

The most disastrous railway accident of recent years, this year, occurred to the express from Boston to St. John Saturday morning about 10 o'clock, at a point known as Boy's Mills on the line of the Maine Central railway and just one and a half miles from Kingman, Me. The destruction of property was large, but the most serious feature was the loss of life, under circumstances of a particularly revolting character.

John Campbell, a highly popular well-known resident of St. John, was the only New Brunswicker who lost his life, although C. H. Haworth of this city had a narrow escape. The news of the accident reached the city about noon over the C. P. R. wires, but the particulars could be learned only from the express agent who came to the train, the suspense was intense.

Among the passengers, on board the train from this city were John Palmer of Bow and Palmer, tanners, Dugald McCaffery and Mrs. Capt. Wood and her son of Boston, formerly of this city, and express messenger Haworth. Mr. Palmer's

STORY OF THE ACCIDENT

is as follows:—

"There was about 40 passengers on the train. There were Bostonians, people of the party for Fredericton. I only know Fred Jones, son of Hon. Thomas H. Jones, of St. John, and a Mr. Hamm of Bangor. The accident occurred about 10.15 Saturday morning, we were in the first of the two first class cars. Some of us in the second class car, a smoker, a Pullman, the mail car, the baggage and express car, the tender and the locomotive. Our car seemed to tremble for a quarter of a minute. I said, 'She's off the track.' McCaffery said 'No'; she's struck a switch; we were stopped then. I jumped out and saw the switch on the floor of the smoker still on the track. The front end of the engine was telescoped upon the rear of the passenger car. The passenger car was off the track and the forward end 10 or 12 feet on the track and resting on the debris of the mail car, the locomotive and express car, and this latter had broken from the mail car and was off it, about the length of a car in front of the locomotive."

The accident had occurred through

A MISPLACED SWITCH

and the train being thus shunted, ran into the freight cars that were on the siding. Mr. Hamm said that he saw the switch unlocked but when I looked a little later it was locked. C. H. Haworth, the express agent, had been in the window of the express. He called to me and I went in to investigate to get out some tubs of oysters, but I insisted upon his leaving the car which was then on fire. Despite reports to the contrary Haworth was not injured. After Haworth and I left the express car, I was passing the debris of the locomotive, tender, mail car and Pullman, when a voice came from the debris saying,

"FOR GOD'S SAKE ME!"

I tried to get at where the voice came from, but the pile was now a mass of fire. I could do nothing and only succeeded in getting my eyes burned. I heard the voice no more and I have no doubt that about that moment the man who had appealed so touchingly for assistance was buried to death.

He was buried by Campbell, the St. John mail clerk. In this same event one who could be of any use was doing his best to rescue him, a Pullman, the mail car, the baggage and express car, the tender and the locomotive.

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Palmer's answer to Palmer's enquiry, Campbell said:

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Campbell never spoke afterwards, and there is little doubt but that he was dead before the fire reached him.

After the accident, Palmer says he heard John Campbell call out: "You, Caleb, and where are you?"

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