

the previous spring he had occasion to set up a press at his own house, and was tempted to print fourteen copies only as presents to his boon companions. Of one of these copies the Government obtained possession, through a subordinate agent, and by not very creditable means, and Lord Sandwich holding it forth in his hand with the air of injured innocence, denounced it as not only scandalous and impious, but also as a breach of Privilege against the Bishop as a Peer of Parliament. He likewise complained of another profane parody, written by the same hand, and printed on the same occasion; this last was entitled, 'The VENI GATOR paraphrased.' The most offensive passages of both were now by Lord Sandwich's order read aloud to the House, until Lord Lyttleton with a groan entreated that they might hear no more!

In the discussion which ensued, Bishop Warburton, forgetting that such ribaldries could not really tarnish his character, showed a heat which little became him. He exclaimed that the blackest fiends in Hell would disdain to keep company with Wilkes, —and then asked pardon of Satan for comparing them together! Both the earl and Bishop in their passion would have readily overleaped the common forms of justice. The former, after producing evidence at the Bar as to the authorship of Wilkes, wished the House to take measure for his prosecution, without the least delay. But the Peers, although readily agreeing to vote the two parodies blasphemous and breaches of Privilege, resolved on the motion of Lord Mansfield, to adjourn all further questions until the day after the next, so as to give Wilkes the opportunity, if he desired it, of alleging any matter in denial or defence.

## Communications.

TO JOSEPH OUTRAM, JUN., HALIFAX.

Sir,—In recognising my remarks and experiments upon the Albert coal, in the manner you have done, you do me considerable injustice in saying that the experiments were "simple." Whether my few experiments or your answer to them will be deemed by them the most simple I leave the public to judge. I wrote in a plain style to render information to persons who do not generally turn their attention to scientific subjects. Now, Sir, when the question as to whether it is coal or asphaltum can be settled by a few experiments, there can be no necessity for continuing the investigation further except one is desirous of pursuing it for curiosity or amusement. You say I should be too satisfied it was not asphaltum, because the substance "was not just as fusible or just as soluble as the other." I answer that the fusibility and solubility is just sufficient to identify it as coal.

There has not been, as yet, a description of asphalt but will dissolve in those fluids, and no description of coal but what is only triflingly so, and some not at all. Would not it be folly for me to say that bread was the same substance as dough, and in proof of my position say, why it has just had a little more caloric applied to it, or nitric acid and atmospheric air were the same thing, only the latter had just a little more oxygen. When you "ask Mr Forbes as a scientific man," use scientific questions. I should feel happy at perusing some of the one hundred experiments you have performed. You ask me "do I not know that I can not get two asphalts alike?" I reply do you not know that there is more difference existing in the known varieties of coal. For instance, caking coal contains 15.96 of nitrogen, while splint coal only 6.25 in 100 parts, and canel coal contains 21.56 of hydrogen, while caking coal contains 4.18 in 100. You speak of a report which Dr. Gesner obtained from you. I read it in the review of Professor Jackson's report, and it is certainly a chemical "multum in parvo"—a remarkable condensation of "one hundred minutely performed experiments."

In case the public should not have seen this specimen of scientific stenography I shall state it—

|                            |       |             |
|----------------------------|-------|-------------|
| Ash,                       | 0.4   | } Coke 34.8 |
| Carbon in coke, 31.4       |       |             |
| Volatile matter,           | 62.2  |             |
|                            | 100.0 |             |
| Caloric power,             | 25    |             |
| Total carbon,              | 72    |             |
| Carbon in volatile matter, | 37.6  |             |

I would ask you if that is a satisfactory way of ascertaining the properties of this body. The distinguishing difference between bodies so much in some respects like each other, ought to be pointed out; and when they do not resemble each other, their want of uniformity shown in so clear a light that all may understand it.

I would ask you whether you can deny the results of those experiments which I have detailed in the Gleaner. Probably the specimens you have received did not come from the Albert mine at all. I can say for a certainty that specimens I experimented upon came from the mine, for I

procured them myself; and if you should like to have a piece of the same kind I shall feel pleasure in sending it to you.

Again, you say, "after arguing very strenuously." Now I have not argued very so very strenuously about it. I have performed certain simple experiments which show the marked difference which does exist between the two substances, and until you will repeat those experiments and deny their results, and answer my remarks on them in a scientific manner, instead of saying they are discordant, I shall not continue to scribble further. At the same time I again repeat that some of the statements in the review of Jackson's Report are not only discordant but ridiculous; and I am astonished that a Fellow of the Geological Society of London should have so depraved a taste as to set aside all that logical disquisition which science demands, and put in its stead a heterogeneous collection of statements from men who comprehend as much of the substances as the darkened chambers of the mine itself.

I shall feel happy in reading a communication from you in answer to my experiments; and shall feel proud to court enquiry upon a subject that is not only known in the British Provinces, but has travelled further down on the continent of America and passed over the Atlantic.

Just now I do not feel a disposition to extend my chemical enquiries any further until I am persuaded that those experiments are proved to be incorrect. If they are correct the substance is not asphaltum; and then the only class of bodies to which it can properly belong must be coal.

Hoping you are enjoying that tranquility of mind and evenness of disposition which ought to accompany men engaged in philosophical pursuits, I bid you adieu.

WILLIAM FORBES.

Chatham, July 17, 1852.

## Editor's Department.

### MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, JULY 19, 1852.

### THE RAILWAY.

The Loyalist, the organ of the present Government, makes its appearance at very uncertain periods—the number which bears date on the first page July 3, and on the inside July 9, reached us on Friday last. It contains the following paragraph:

"The Gleaner, the organ of the North, now opposes the European Railway. Our Northern friends should send a Delegation to England, to press the Ministry to build the Northern line at the Imperial expense, for until that is done, they will never have a railway."

We agree with the Editor in thinking that the people of the North have but slight hopes of a railway being built, or any other public work undertaken, for their benefit, while the present Government remains in office.

We deny that the Gleaner, or the people of Northumberland are opposed to the building of the "European Railway." Previous to the General Election, at meetings held in different parishes, Resolutions were passed, and in many of them, unanimously, requesting the candidates should they be returned, to give their countenance to this road, and aid its erection by a reasonable grant from the Provincial Revenue. This they did, and no complaint was ever made from this quarter.

It now appears that the Government have determined to increase this amount, and have taken upon themselves the responsibility of pledging to parties in Britain, that they will increase the grant one hundred fold: that is—that the Province will take £500,000, instead of £250,000 in stock, to promote this enterprise. As the inhabitants of the Northern counties consider that the revenues of the Province have been taxed quite sufficient to build this line, the benefit of which will be confined to a small portion of the Province, they very naturally are opposed to the additional grant; and we shall be much surprised if members from other sections of the Province, will not also be found on our side.

This is the amount of opposition which the Gleaner and the people in the Northern Counties have raised to the European line, and no other.

The Morning News has a fling at Mr Kerr, for the answer he gave on the hustings to a question on this subject. The News in introducing this answer says:—"In reference to the new railway scheme Mr Kerr shows his local feeling in this way." Mr K. knew well the feelings entertained by the freeholders on this question, and that the fate of his election in a great measure depended on his answering the question in the decided manner he did. It is truly farcical to hear the Editor of the News reviling Mr Kerr and the people in

this section of the Province for their local feelings while his sole opposition, as well as the inhabitants of St. John to the scheme of the Great Trunk Railway, by the North-eastern route, can be traced to the same cause.

He is now in great hopes that the European line will be speedily built; but we are not so sanguine, for it has never been made apparent to us, even should the Government succeed in securing the additional Provincial Grant, (which we doubt) where the necessary funds are to be raised. We should not think we were running a very great hazard if we were to make an equal bet with him, that the North-eastern line will yet be built before his pet one.

### FIRE IN MONTREAL.

The Quebec papers by Friday's Mail furnished us with an account of the melancholy disaster which has befallen Montreal. On the night of the 9th instant, a fire occurred in that city, which spread with fearful rapidity, and before it was suppressed consumed *Eleven Hundred Houses*, and other property, valued at £201,000. The Fredericton mail put us in possession of our Montreal papers, which give a more detailed account of this sad disaster.

We give some extracts below. The following is from an extra published at the office of the Pilot at 5 o'clock, on Friday July 9, while the fire was raging:

"In our account of this calamity brought up to 11 o'clock last night, we left the fire burning in the Quebec Suburbs, with the almost certainty of destroying that part of the city, as it had already destroyed the portions to the West and North of it. In this our worst fears have been realised. From that period up to between seven and eight o'clock this morning, the conflagration continued to rage in the Suburbs, extending itself on both sides of St. Mary Street, and never abating its fury till it had engulfed everything North and South, as far as the jail, in its fiery jaws. From Dalhousie Square the whole area between the South side of Lagachetiere Street and the water's edge, as far down as the jail, is a mass of ruins. Here and there a house has escaped, as if by a miracle, but these are rare exceptions. The Jail itself, we hear, has been on fire several times. The flames did not extend to the North side of Lagachetiere Street, but the Methodist Church in that street had a very narrow escape. The whole of Papineau Square on the West side (including the Market) is destroyed, as also a portion next St. Mary's Street on the East side. Sims & Coleman's large lumbering yard and Steam saw mills were destroyed early in the day, but the fire was then checked. Molson's Brewery, but not the Distillery, is burnt to the ground.

St. Thomas' Church and the block of houses in the rear, known as Molson's Terrace, are swept away, as well as the houses in the numerous small streets running from the south down to the river. On a moderate computation, a fourth part of the city, and this the most populous, is desolated.

"Fortunately the loss of property does not extend to household effects, as every one had time to move, and did move, his furniture. We have endeavoured, but without avail, to get the amount of insurances; it must of course be enormous—and, added to previous losses, will be a severe blow for some of the offices.

"Attempts were made several times during the evening to stop the progress of the flames in the Suburbs by blowing up houses, but the mass of flame was too vast and intense to be checked. In St. Paul Street, however, a house was blown up in the rear of Madame de Montenach's residence, Notre Dame Street which probably prevented the flames from extending to the barracks.

"An extraordinary meeting of the City Council was held, during the day yesterday, and an appropriation of £1,200 was voted for the temporary relief of the sufferers. A Provisional Committee is now sitting in the City Hall. It has procured 500 3lb. loaves of bread from Mr. Tilton for the unfortunates, for to-day and to-night, and 1000 loaves of the same size to-morrow and Sunday. It has obtained a large number of tents, the property of the garrison, which are now being put up in the vacant lots; and which, together with the sheds referred to above, will afford ample accommodation."

The following is from the Herald of Saturday morning July 10.

In this list the houses destroyed in the St. Lewis Ward amount to 381, with an annual amount of rental of £6798, as assessed by the Corporation for the present year. The list comprises St. Lawrence, Mignonne, St. Catherine and Dorchester streets, in all, 216 houses, concerning which we were able to ascertain the particulars with accuracy. With regard to the other streets, viz.: Sanguinet, St. Elizabeth, and St. Constant, we have only given the houses lying between Mignonne and Dorchester streets. There were more burnt however at each end. Probably it would not be too much to allow fifty extra for Sanguinet Street, and twenty apiece for St. Elizabeth and St. Constant. These ninety added to the previous 391, would give 481 houses, and taking the average rental at £10, we have £4800, which, added to the annual value previously mentioned gives for the whole £7798, representing a capital at ten per cent on nearly £80,000 from which

however must be deducted the value of the ground.

We do not know what value to put upon the church and other ecclesiastical buildings. They were insured for £9000, but were worth at least £25,000. Mr. Coffin's house we estimate at £1,000, and the other houses burnt in St. Catharine and Hubert Streets, in number probably 25, at £1,000. This brings the whole account of what we may call the first fire, to over five hundred houses, worth £107,600 including the ground.

We now proceed to what may be called the second fire, in the Quebec suburbs. The street in the examination of which we could avail ourselves with some certainty of the Corporation books, were the Main Street of the Suburbs, Voltigeurs, Panet, Rousseau, St. Ignace, Barclay, Brock, and Grant streets, with Molson's Terrace and Place. We put these houses, including St. Thomas Church, at three hundred and twenty houses, of the yearly value of 6273l. We have been compelled to judge entirely by the eye and memory in the following streets: Gane, Market Square, Adolphe, Visitation, Montcalm, Wolfe, Amherst, Nicholas, Telentine, Campan, Perthuis and St. Louis. In most of these the fire has only passed through, leaving some houses unburnt. We estimate the whole loss at 170 houses, value 1800l per annum. There remains Dalhousie Square, which we believed we had copied from the assessment books till an hour too late to make any very accurate inquiries. We therefore are reduced to an estimate there, and place the loss at nine houses, yearly value, including the Hays House, 1300l. At this calculation, the whole loss by the second fire would be 631 houses, of the yearly value of 9373 which at 10 per cent, would represent a capital of 93,730l.—The whole loss by our figures in the two Suburbs will be 1,080 houses, worth 241,339l besides goods destroyed in St. Mary's street, and furniture, not in all amounting to much.

*Insurances.*—The following are supposed to be the amounts of Insurance effected on property destroyed by the fire of Thursday, viz:

|                                           |         |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|
| The Equitable                             | £18,000 |
| The Etna Protection and Hartford together | 8,000   |
| Mr Chapman                                | 3,500   |
| The Phoenix                               | 6,300   |
| North Western                             | 1,125   |
| Royal                                     | 300     |
| Liverpool                                 | 6,000   |
| Mutual not yet made up.                   |         |

\*9,000l. on Bishop's Church and buildings.

We elsewhere endeavour to lay before our readers a narrative of the dreadful details of the calamity, with which it has pleased Providence to afflict our city. It remains for us to record the steps which have been adopted by the authorities, to aid and relieve the crowds of homeless and impoverished sufferers, who, by it, have been thrown upon the humanity of their more fortunate fellow citizens. In another column will be found a report of the proceedings of the City Council, and we also publish a proclamation from the Mayor, calling a public meeting in the City Hall for this afternoon, at which the further necessary steps may be adopted for the relief of the sufferers. In the meantime we are happy to say that no exertion has been spared, to supply our poor and houseless fellow-citizens with temporary shelter, and the necessary supplies of bread, biscuit and water. With so vast a portion of our city laid in ashes, and at least ten thousand of our inhabitants burned out, we need not say that some difficulty has been experienced in providing them with mere temporary protection from the weather; fortunately, however, the emigrant sheds, at Point St. Charles are now unoccupied and have been promptly placed at their disposal by the Hon. John Young, the Commissioner of Public Works, who met the members of the City Council yesterday morning, and on the part of the government, most promptly and effectually aided them with their arrangements. Mr. Furnis, too, in the most liberal manner, has placed at the disposal of the authorities a large building belonging to him in Amherst Street, which will accommodate a number of families. Two hundred tents have also been obtained from the military authorities, and have been pitched in well chosen locations—50 on the Cote a Barron, 100 in the neighbourhood of the Papineau Road, &c.—and, considering the awful character of the calamity, we think we may safely say that, every exertion has been made to meet it. We trust the attendance in the City Hall this afternoon will be commensurate with the importance of the occasion and with the claims which our suffering fellow-citizens have upon the sympathies of the entire community.

The following extracts are from the Quebec Chronicle, of July 12:

The government, we are much pleased to observe, has appropriated 2,500l. for the immediate relief of the sufferers by the Montreal calamity. The Montreal Corporation has voted 1000l. for immediate aid to those who are in want, and a meeting of our citizens to take measures to assist Montreal in her difficulties, as she generously assisted us in ours, is to be held at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Our Corporation should vote a lump sum on behalf of the City, and leave the rest to private subscription. The people of this city are far from being uncharitable whatever else they may be.

Since the above was written, the Montreal papers of Saturday have come to hand. The Herald has a long and particular account of the fires, enumerating the sufferers stating the supposed amount of insurance to be about