

THE
CASE
OF THE
CANADIANS
AT
MONTREAL
distressed by fire.



THIRD EDITION.

MOTIVES

FOR A

SUBSCRIPTION

towards the relief of the sufferers at
MONTREAL IN CANADA,

*by a dreadful fire on the 18th of May 1765, in which 108 houses,
(containing 215 families, chiefly CANADIANS,) were
destroyed; and the greatest part of their inhabitants
exposed to all the miseries attending such misfor-
tunes. The whole loss in buildings, mer-
chandize, furniture, and apparel,
amounted to £.87580 8s. 10d.
sterling; no part of which
was, or could be insured.*



M O T I V E S

For a SUBSCRIPTION

towards the relief of the SUFFERERS *at*
MONTREAL *in* CANADA.

ALTHOUGH our several acts of kindness and munificence to FRENCH prisoners, during the late war, should be forgotten by that nation, they will mark out the generosity and humanity of BRITISH subjects to distant times. If it is true, that we fall short of the FRENCH in external civility, it is confessed, that sincerity and humanity constitute OUR characteristic.

racharacteristic. . We see this even in the most uncivilized part of our fellow-subjects : their compassion increases with their power of revenge ; and as it is the great property of FREEDOM to teach men a quick sense of human misery, we generally find that acts of benevolence to enemies keep pace with courage, as cruelty discovers the footsteps of fear.

The more thoughtful and intelligent a people are, the more naturally will a solicitude for the preservation of their fellow-creatures arise in their minds, upon every great occasion, whatever country, nation, or language they are of ; whilst the
celestial

celestial fire, which warms the breast of the true followers of CHRIST, will ever cherish the most judicious as well as tender regard to those social duties by which MAN is bound to MAN.

The sufferings of the inhabitants of MONTREAL is the present object. Whether we consider them as FELLOW-SUBJECTS, or only as MEN under affliction, their cause must be referred to the tribunal of humanity and religion. Such a dreadful fire, involving so many families in the most acute distress, cannot be deemed an ordinary or uninteresting event. It seems to be for our honor as well as advantage to give them

them some relief, such as they shall
 FEEL and REJOICE IN, though it
 cannot reach them till after their
 first sorrows are abated. They na-
 turally expect this of us : the GO-
 VERNOR of QUEBEC, and others his
 MAJESTY'S officers, have probably
 flattered them, that so very dreadful
 a calamity, which can hardly befall
 such a city in thrice the life of man,
 will not pass unheeded by so wise,
 humane, and politic a nation as this.
 Those people also know that in our
 private capacities we are compara-
 tively rich, and candidates for the
 reputation of the most extensive be-
 nevolence ; whilst the bare thought
 of the miseries created by fire, where
 no fault is imputed, pleads with an

ANGEL'S

ANGEL'S VOICE in behalf of the wretched. And we cannot but admit, that SUFFERERS such as these, are privileged, as it were, by a mandate from heaven, to BEG relief; and of whom CAN they consistently beg it, if not of us?

The DISTRESSES of our nation (if upon the comparison the expression is warrantable) do not IMMEDIATELY reach to individuals. The skill, industry, and pecuniary abilities of great numbers, during our late WARS, and in time of PEACE also, have been so well paid for, as to be converted into so much property due from the PUBLIC : and whilst the state is maintained in its genuine

genuine dignity, lustre, and power, it is so much real and substantial riches.—But to this end it is necessary to preserve every individual who constitutes a PART of the public, whose misfortunes are owing to accidents beyond his power to prevent. This is the truest policy of the wisest and freest nations, and operates equally in promoting the TEMPORAL and ETERNAL FELICITY of men.

The peculiar situation of our fellow-subjects, the NEIGHBORS of these CANADIANS, ought likewise to be taken into the account. Were we to hold back the hand of charity, the neglect might APPEAR as
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an effect of resentment, tho' there is no connexion between them. It is apparently the DUTY of every subject in general to exercise ALL his virtue, to co-operate with the true spirit of government, in subduing every difficulty that can obstruct the most perfect good-understanding. In the same proportion, as there is occasion for the exercise of candor, and the most just discernment, the natural benevolence of our hearts ought likewise to be exerted; and how CAN we exert it so properly as towards those who are by a fatal accident in real distress? The consideration of distance ought to make no difference in the minds of a people whose EMPIRE is extended to so
many

many places over the earth, and who are, upon proper testimony, as capable of judging of such an event as if it had happened within a few miles.

There are OTHER weighty considerations : much the greater part of these sufferers are STRANGERS, whom, to use the language of liberty, the fortune of war has put under OUR protection : and those who have not seen them may easily learn from report, that they are a STOUT, COMELY, and INTREPID people, of a vigilant, laborious and OBEDIENT disposition. They have given proof of their DISCERNMENT, as well as of the NECESSITY of their situation,

by

by the preference they have shewn to the BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY, when they were at their liberty to have gone to OLD FRANCE ; and though military government, which took place, is seldom the most favorable to a commercial people, they had reason to be sensible of the advantageous change. There is now a form of CIVIL OECONOMY : if it is duly administered, and not tinctured with military power, it will probably be the most grateful to a brave and intelligent people. It is our wisdom, and our duty, to shew them, in every instance, that we are as willing to be THEIR friends, as THEY CAN BE OURS. And let us endeavor to secure their fidelity to the crown

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of

of these realms, by engaging their HEARTS as well as their TONGUES. They profess allegiance to the KING, let us engage them by every tie to render that allegiance inviolable.

If we consider a fine tract of land, inhabited by EIGHTY or a HUNDRED THOUSAND of these CANADIANS (*a*), it is an object of such importance as can hardly be over-rated. They live in a country where plenty
abounds

(*a*) One may easily form an idea of their numbers by the men actually in arms at the battle of SILLERIE, and in other posts. If these amounted to 12 or 15,000, there must be in all at least 45,000 males; and it may be presumed nearly as many females.

abounds (*b*), and where there is a field for the enjoyment of health and strength, support and contentment, for numbers without limit.

Whilst we carry our thoughts into the contemplation of the TEMPORAL advantages of cultivating a perfect correspondency with these fellow-subjects of CANADA, we shall naturally indulge the pleasing prospect of the strength, felicity, and renown, which must result from the closest connection with our brethren of AMERICA in general.—And upon
every

(*b*) Wheat was last summer at a price equal to 2s. 9d. a bushel, which is cheaper than it could be bought any where upon the whole continent.

every such fair opportunity we should shew, how little the inhabitants of HIS MAJESTY'S dominions, in that quarter of the globe, have to fear from any false ambition on our part.

It is, in a peculiar manner, the glory of BRITISH subjects, wherever they reside, to promote UNIVERSAL happiness, by preventing real evils, and succoring the distressed in every form, whenever these happen; that by a free communication of liberty, and the bounties of providence, we may maintain a correspondence on principles devoid of every mixture but MUTUAL INTEREST, supported by MUTUAL AFFECTION. And nothing

thing surely will tend more to unite our hearts in EUROPE and AMERICA, than acts of real kindness and generosity, and a cordial solid regard for each other, as subjects of the best of PRINCES, under the happiest of governments, the felicity of the whole depending on concord.

Nor ought it to be deemed any diminution of the most substantial virtue, whilst we pay a RELIGIOUS regard to the LAWS of our country, that we hope, both in our national and private capacity, to reap the advantages of commerce with these very persons whose misfortunes now claim a portion of our attention.— Our fellow-subjects at home, whom

heaven has indulged with ZEAL in RELIGION, OR PRUDENCE in POLITICS, when they are duly informed, and maturely think of the subject now laid before them, they will see the resistless force and propriety of this application.

Every human Being is an object of the divine mercy. Charity WELL APPLIED is a sacrifice the most acceptable to the GREAT LORD and compassionate FATHER of mankind. Nor need we any proof of this, beyond the daily occurrences of life, when we behold the arm of benevolence, as the instrument of providence, extended to the POOR, to encourage VIRTUOUS INDUSTRY,
and

and prevent the SINFULNESS and calamitous effects of IDLENESS : whilst every one preserved from beggary, and restored to the exercise of a useful occupation, is an acquisition of RICHES and STRENGTH to a community.

Thus are we invoked by the wisdom of our FOREFATHERS, and the policy of the PRESENT TIME ; by our religion, our interest, and our liberty, to endeavor to preserve every individual with the tenderness of fraternal love.

We are now to inform our fellow-subjects what the loss in question was. This cannot yet have reached

reached the knowledge of many pious, humane, and judicious persons, who are desirous to contribute to such acts of charity; and they will see the beginning of a subscription. — Were we to suppose that because the loss amounts to upwards of £. 80,000 sterling, therefore nothing can arise from a private contribution worthy of notice, it would be A VERY ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION. The greater the loss has been, it must be presumed that so many more of the sufferers are reduced to extreme distress, though a considerable part of them should still remain in a situation above the acceptance of CHARITY; consequently every mite will be of moment.

ment. Instead of discouraging individuals from contributing, as if the object were beyond the bounds of relief, it is the more interesting to contribute, though in a small proportion.—Every degree of assistance in promoting so genuine a labor of love to our fellow-subjects WILL be accepted with the WARMEST GRATITUDE.

Who the sufferers were, with particulars what their loss consisted in, may be seen at the NEW-YORK coffee-house, in SWEETING'S-ALLEY, near the royal exchange, where any person, who requires it, may have a printed copy of the authentic certificate received from QUEBEC.

BEC. In the mean while the following ABSTRACT will furnish a general idea.

THE LOSS sustained by the dreadful fire on Saturday the 18th of May, 1765, at Montreal, attested by his Excellency the Hon. James Murray, his Majesty's Governor of the Province of Quebec, in which Montreal is situated; by J. Goldfrap, Deputy Secretary, and J. Potts, Deputy Clerk of the council of the said province; the account whereof distinguishes the names of each person, and in what the loss of each consisted.

In St. Francois street }
 (a) were burnt out } 54 families

(a) St. Francis's street constitutes a considerable part of the upper town, where the trading people reside.

In

In St. <i>Paul's</i> street (b)	-	87	dittos
In the market-place	-	26	dittos
Hospital street	- - -	1	
St. <i>Louis</i> street	- - -	15	
St. <i>Eloix</i> street	- - -	6	
St. <i>Sacrement</i> street	- - -	6	
St. <i>Nicholas</i> street	- - -	1	
St. <i>Ann</i> street	- - -	1	
St. <i>Ann</i> suburbs	- - -	10	
<i>Grey sisters</i> hospital, suburbs	} 8		
and houses nearest (c)			

In

(b) St. Paul's is a capital street that intersects the lower and upper town.

(c) This is called *Les Sœurs grises*, or general hospital. It is at some distance without the walls, separated by a rivulet, but found no protection from the devouring flames. This hospital receives foundlings, and the children of the poor, also sick and decrepid people. It had likewise apartments for widows; and upon paying a certain

In all 215 families (*d*), of whom much the greater part were Canadians, newly become subjects.

The whole value, according to the said authentic account, stands thus :

Value

tain sum at their entrance it received ladies, who retire from the world, not as nuns, for they have the liberty of visiting their friends within the limits of the hospital.

(*d*) Montreal contains about 7000 inhabitants. It is here the French Canadians were most desirous of retreating when they had acquired a subsistence ; the adjacent country, where they have many seats and farms on the banks of the river, being delightfully pleasant, and the climate more agreeable than at Quebec. It was computed that one fourth part of the city was consumed, and about one third part in value.

	£	s.	d.
Value in building, (e)	31980	0	0
In merchandize -	54718	5	9
In furniture and apparel	25261	12	6
In cash, plate, and bills,	4814	0	3
	<hr/>		
Their currency,	116773	18	6
	<hr/>		
(f) Equal to sterling,	87580	8	10

Thus in one fatal day, within the space of THREE hours, the greatest part of these families, then happy under a BRITISH government, were reduced

(e) An exact survey was made on oath by masons and carpenters.

(f) It is worthy of very honorable notice, that these people were so tender of what they evidenced on oath, that great numbers declared, some time after, that they found their loss to be considerably greater than the account they had sworn to. There were two persons of the council of QUEBEC appointed as commissioners to take the depositions.

reduced to the most grievous distress. The fire burnt with such resistless violence, occasioned by a very high wind, that the people were hardly able to rescue any thing from the devouring flames (g).

A small

(g) This account will hardly appear credible, till it is considered, that although their houses are made of limestone, they are either covered with SHINGLES, made of white cedar, in the manner of tiles, or with boards. It must also be considered on this occasion, that the houses are inclosed within the fortifications, and some so near that one of the city gates was burnt, as well as the general hospital without the gates.—The two capital streets being on fire on both sides, there was no security: the flames and flakes of fire were blown with such impetuous violence, that many of the goods which were carried to rafts or floats upon the river, and presumed to be in safety, were notwithstanding destroyed by the fire. Add to this, during the general confusion that reigned, there were numerous thefts committed,
of

A small number of them were laborers, more were mechanics, and many

of which the delinquents could not be easily discovered. This catastrophe was so dreadful, that though it happened in the summer, at two in the afternoon, several persons lost their lives, as the Canadians set forth in their petition to General Murray. This account is corroborated by a genuine letter, from a person of credit, written the 20th of May from the city, two days after the fire, of which the following is an extract :

“ The fire began in the garret of Mr. *Leving-*
 “ *ston,*” (a person of reputation) “ occasioned by
 “ hot ashes, carried thither to make soap. It
 “ broke out at the roof, and in an instant the
 “ whole was in a flame, which communicated to
 “ the neighboring houses on both sides of St.
 “ Francis’s street. The confusion and distress of
 “ the inhabitants is not to be expressed. Many of
 “ them were in the country, and those who were
 “ present had not time to save any part of their
 “ merchandize or household goods. Others lost
 “ ALL, even to their books, papers, plate, and
 “ money.

many let lodgings: being thus deprived of their only property, their habitations,

“ money. This misfortune has fallen on the
 “ richest and most trading part of the city, where
 “ the buildings were the best and most filled
 “ with merchandize. But the far greater part of
 “ the sufferers have now only the clothes on their
 “ backs. Many who had the fortune to save a
 “ few goods out of their houses, and lay them
 “ on rafts, or by the river side, lost them again
 “ either by the flames or by theft. The fire
 “ was stopped by uncovering *Monf. Landrieux’s*
 “ house, one end of the hospital*, and two
 “ small houses between *Monf. St. Germain’s* and
 “ the corner opposite *Monf. Reaume’s*. The
 “ wind, which when the fire began was at
 “ N.N.W. turned suddenly to N.E. which,
 “ with

* *The hospital of Les Sœurs de l’Hospital in St. Paul’s street. These sisters are as in a nunnery, but they devote themselves to attendance on the sick and wounded, and they accordingly attended the British, French, and Canadians.*

habitations, furniture, and apparel; they were reduced to so much the greater misery. The streets above mentioned constituting the chief part of the trading division of the town, many merchants and shopkeepers were involved in the misfortune, and some of those whom
the

“ with these precautions, and the united efforts
“ of the foldiers and the inhabitants, saved the
“ rest of the town. For had it gone up that
“ street which leads to the parish-church, or
“ fired the hospital *des Sœurs*, it would have
“ been very difficult, if not impossible, to have
“ saved any part of the town. There are 110
“ principal houses burnt.”

The accounts differ only in the number of houses; some call it 108, some 110, which seems to be a very immaterial circumstance, for two houses being hurt, not destroyed, may not be reckoned.

the FRENCH used to call VOIA-GEURS, or itinerant traders, who come to this city to buy commodities, which they carry into the country, and after two or three months bring back the returns in FURS.

There was some relief sent from QUEBEC (*b*), on this mournful occasion, and some assistance given, as may be easily conceived, by the other inhabitants of MONTREAL, to their relations and friends, but it was only a temporary support; and in the circumstances of the infant
state

(*b*) The sum sent from QUEBEC amounted to about £.380 sterling, which was laid out in provisions and clothes for the immediate relief of the sufferers.

state of these colonies, since the conquest of them, more could not be expected.

Of all the calamities incident to human life, none are more dreadful than FIRE, when it gets the command. Earthquakes, when they do not throw down houses, and bury the inhabitants in the ruins : Inundations that reach not the lives of men : Epidemical diseases which do not rage with violence, strike not the imagination with so much HORROR, nor call forth the compassion which the great author of nature hath implanted in the human breast, with so much ENERGY, as when we see our fellow-creatures distressed

ed by the merciless fury of this element.

To behold amidst the flames, the SICK OR MAIMED, the INFIRM OLD woman, or more DECREPID MAN, drooping under the resistless strokes of mortality, yet eagerly flying from the FIRY DARTS of death: the TENDER HUSBAND anxious to preserve his WIFE, and the MORE TENDER MOTHER seeking for her CHILDREN, dearer to her than the blood that animates her frame!—This is a scene TOO INTERESTING for description!—Yet this is but the BEGINNING OF THE SORROW that many experience on these occasions. We have too often seen, that many
escape

escape from fire who have no food to satisfy their hunger ; no raiment to cover their nakedness ; no house to guard them from the inclemency of the sky. Many were thus exposed on this sad occasion, and must have perished but for the mercy of their fellow-creatures.

Scarce was the sword well sheath'd,
and the widow's tears dried up, when
this conflagration happened. Under
their former governors, grown desperate by repeated defeats, these people had experienced the numerous calamities of war, not with us only, but also with the savage INDIANS. They had likewise felt the affliction of great scarcity of aliment,

ment, the interruption of their trade, and the suspension of their paper money. They dreaded the same hard fate from us, but they were agreeably surprized by a different rule of conduct. The remains of their substance was improving when this melancholy event suddenly fell upon them.—Shall we not take a SHARE in their misfortunes?—Shall not the various reasons which concern the situation of these brave CANADIANS, our NEW fellow-subjects, move our compassion? Let us not think they have no claim on us; but stretch forth our arms to that distant region, in hopes one day to RECEIVE the mercy which the great Parent of mankind will extend to
all

all his obedient children, in endless ages of felicity, when the WHOLE EARTH will be dissolved by FIRE !

Nor ought we, whilst we draw the vital air, to forget in what manner it pleased DIVINE PROVIDENCE to bless HIS MAJESTY'S arms, and to give him the possession of the country of which the CITY in question is in several respects the principal. Let us look back on the laborious marches and hidden dangers, the lofty mountains and rapid streams ; the skill of our leaders, the stratagems of war, the valor of our troops, and all the arduous efforts of the enemy ! Can we think of these circumstances without the
most

most AWFUL GRATITUDE! Or CAN we exprefs our acknowledgments fo well as by our munificence on fuch occasions, in the firm perfuafion that we fhall be instrumental in reftoring many of our fellow-fubjects to a condition of fupporting themfelves, fo much the fooner, and fo much the better ; and by rendering them happy, return fourfold advantage into our own bofoms, and the bofom of our common parent, OUR COUNTRY ?

In thefe feveral views we prefent the caufe of the fufferers at MONTREAL, intending that no motive which religion, humanity, or TRUE POLICY can fuggeft, fhall be omitted.

ted. It is thus we shall conciliate their minds to the BRITISH government, and render the oeconomy of it, in that quarter of the world, so much the SAFER. In proportion to the encouragement afforded for the promotion of useful INDUSTRY and LABOR, it is to be presumed their attachment to this country will increase.

By such means we shall also shew them what our OUR PROTESTANTISM inspires, in the most essential part of christianity : we shall shew them, that the BRITISH nation is not less worthy of being beloved for the exercise of the social virtues, than dreaded for their VALOR and

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IN-

INTREPIDITY : and these qualities, displayed on this occasion, will, in their natural tendency, promote that kind of HARMONY, on which the prosperity of the state depends.

Thus shall we behold commerce and navigation FIXED on the SECUREST BASIS; benevolence cherished; the hearts of all the subjects of the BRITISH EMPIRE united by a concordance of sentiment, a just discernment of what is RIGHT and FIT for the common good, and a resolution to adhere to such RIGHT. And being thus bound by a sincere and mutual affection, even the most adverse events may, in the issue, contribute to give permanency to the
state,

state, and uninterrupted happiness to the KING and his people.

Those who see the case in any point of view, to induce them to contribute, may be assured, that as all due attention has been employed in obtaining the most exact information of the true state of the case, the same care will be taken in the distribution of their munificence with the utmost propriety, even to the prevention of the like misfortune as far as prudence can suggest (a).

We

(a) The rooms of their houses at *Montreal* are floored with clay, and stones laid on them, in order to prevent fire : but as the *French* in *Europe* are much behind us in the mechanic arts, which contribute to the safety and con-

We who have accepted the charge
of this business, as a COMMITTEE
selected,

venience of life, they are still more so in their colonies; to which cause we may attribute these *Canadians* having been without fire engines on this occasion. This misfortune will be remedied hereafter, for they had two such engines sent over last summer; and it may be hoped every other convenience will be introduced among them, particularly the conveyance of water to reservoirs, which is much wanted there. This defect indeed is the more pardonable, when it is considered, that in so opulent a city as *London*, it is but the other day it was attended with fatal consequences.

Some persons now bound to *Canada* intend to try if slate coverings will stand the frost. The *Canadians* may also try tiles properly glazed instead of shingles, which will, as far as human prudence can go, prevent such misfortunes for the future. It may be presumed from the custom of the *Russians*, that such tiles will stand the melting of snow and the
severity

selected, at a general meeting of the subscribers, will do every thing
in

severity of frost, though the *Canadians* have received a vulgar notion to the contrary. Besides the tyles of their own making, the *Russians* at *St. Peterburgh* use pantyles glazed, which are imported from abroad. Ships which would otherwise come in ballast bring them at an easy rate. These are not always sufficient; the cement must be well digested, or it is apt to freeze and break out.—Iron plates, painted or tinned over on both sides, are used for the better kind of houses among the *Russians*: these stand the frost, and are more effectual against fire. These plates are generally made of an archeen, or 28 inches square, nearly as thick as a new-milled shilling. They cost two rubles and an half a pood, or 11 s. for 36 lb. *English*. The inconvenience of noise from rain is prevented by the board covering resting on cross pieces to break the sound.

The *Russians* as well as the *Swedes* turn the edges of the plates one within another for an

in our power to answer the end in view, in relieving the *SUFFERERS* in

inch and a half; but this method is subject to some inconveniences, as being apt to break them. There is another method, less costly as to the labor, and in some respects may answer better, viz. to cover the boards which compose the top of the house with two layers of brown paper, dipt in hot tar; then lay on two of the plates, every other one, so that the third may over-lap about an inch on each of the two: brown paper dipt in tar must be under the third, as well as the two first plates, and extended so far as to come between the fastenings of the plates: this will consolidate the work. It is apprehended these plates should be previously punched with a proper steel puncher, and fitted to each other. The plates being cut of equal lengths, the holes may be easily made to answer each other. The work should be fastened with *copper* nails, which will not rust like iron. A puncher may be used to prepare the way through the paper, and the

the best manner. And in due time
the SUBSCRIBERS shall be informed,
to

the gimblet for the boards, otherwise the copper nails may be easily resisted. The iron plates being painted, or tinned over, and then fastened as above, will stand snow and rain, and resist wind, better than in the method of turning the edges; and in the issue these plates may prove the cheapest coverings, especially in a country where the frost is severe.

There is a third method, perhaps more effectual than either of the other two; which is, plates of iron tinned and soldered together, which will have this advantage, that when a fire happens in a house, a small degree of heat will unsolder them; and the plates dropping, the flame will ascend, and not burst forth on the sides, and expanding themselves communicate to the neighboring houses. On the other hand, it must be remembered, where there is no security by nails, the adjacent house may, by the same means, be easily uncovered. The plates being tinned, in
preference

to whom, and in what proportions, the money has been distributed,

preference to their being painted, have considerably the advantage in point of duration. And whether soddered or nailed, tinned or painted, iron plates are the best security against lightening, as the ethereal fire travels along it: and if a rod of iron goes from it on the side of the wall down into the ground, upon the principles of the ingenious Dr. *Franklin's* discovery, and the experience of many years past, it will be an effectual safe-guard beyond tyles, and far beyond wood, whilst it defends against common fire.

This method might also create an article of commerce, the iron plates being made in *England* by means of our flatting-mills, and tinned with our tin. There is this also to be observed, that though *North America* in general, and *Canada* in particular, abounds in iron, there is very little, if any, of a quality fit for such plates. As to putting paper under the plates to make them lie the closer to the boards, whether these are tarred

or

buted, so as to be of the most service to the OBJECTS of their bounty.

It is presumed that nothing more need be added, as to information of real facts or substantial reasoning, but that the time is drawing near when
the

or not, can create no very material difference. As to fixing the plates, and securing the house against rain and melted snow, experience will be the best guide. — There are some capital houses in *England* now covered with copper-plates, which, from their thinness, the lightness of the timbers to support them, and their duration, may perhaps come out much cheaper than lead, and as cheap a covering as any that can be found. We might create a considerable traffic in this article. There are many copper-mines in *England* and *Wales*, and many more houses in *Europe*, which stand in need of good coverings, than there are in *America*.

the river of ST. LAWRENCE will be open, and the correspondence free ; and the better news we can communicate to our CANADIAN FELLOW-SUBJECTS, the more happy we shall esteem ourselves.

The

THE COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES,
meet at the NEW-YORK Coffee-
House every Thursday at 12
o'clock, and will be glad to be
favored with the assistance of any
subscriber.

JOHN THORNTON, *Esq.* Treasurer.

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EDWARD GREEN, Secretary.

SUB-

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<i>Sir Char. Asgill, Nightingale and Wickenden,</i>	} Lombard-street.
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<i>Messrs. Vere, Glyn, and Halifax,</i>	
<i>Sir George Amyand, Staples, and Mercer, Cornhill.</i>	
<i>Sir George Colebrooke, and Co. Threadneedle-street.</i>	
<i>Sir Joseph Hankey, and Partners, Fenchurch-street.</i>	
<i>Messrs. Henry, Richard, and Richard Hoare,</i>	
<i>Fleet-street.</i>	
<i>Sir Francis Gosling, Gosling and Clive, Ditto.</i>	
<i>Messrs. Robert Child, and Co.</i>	<i>Temple Bar.</i>
<i>Messrs. James and Thomas Coutts,</i>	<i>Strand.</i>
<i>Messrs. And. Drummond, and Co. Charing-crofs.</i>	
<i>Messrs. Backwell, Hart, Darell, and Croft,</i>	
<i>Pall-mall.</i>	

DONA-

DONATIONS in behalf of the sufferers by fire at Montreal.

A.

		£.	s.	d.
Isaac Adamson, Esq;	—	5	5	0
A.	—	1	1	0
R. A.	—	5	5	0
Robert Allen, Esq;	—	10	10	0
Mr. Latham Arnold	—	5	5	0
Mrs. Sarah Aynworth	—	1	1	0
Mr. Adderley	—	1	1	0
Henry Archer, Esq;	—	5	5	0
E. A. and A. B.	—	0	10	6

B.

Messrs. Beckman and Company		0	10	6
Messrs. Bland and Barnet	—	10	10	0
William Burke, Esq;	—	10	10	0
M. B.	—	15	0	0
M. B.	—	5	5	0
J. B.	—	1	1	0

E

The

C.

The Right Hon. Secretary Conway	50	0	0
Messrs. Clay and Augutter	—	10	10 0
John Carter, Esq;	—	2	2 0
C. C.	—	2	2 0
Mrs. Margaret Chitty	—	10	10 0
M. C.	—	1	1 0
Mr. Edward Clark	—	5	5 0
Edward Coke, Esq; <i>Canterbury</i>	30	0	0
Solomon da Costa, Esq;	—	20	0 0
Messrs. Coleman and Lucas	10	10	0
C.	—	2	2 0
Charles Crockat, Esq;	—	20	0 0
Pere. Cuft, Esq;	—	10	10 0

D.

C. D.	—	50	0 0
John Darker, Esq;	—	2	2 0
P. D.	—	0	5 3
John Dewes, Esq;	—	1	1 0
J. D.	—	1	1 0
A. D.	—	20	0 0

E.

Henry Ellis, Esq;	—	5	5 0
			Doctor

F.

		£.	s.	d.
Doctor Fothergill	—	5	5	0
J. F.	— —	5	5	0
Sir Samuel and Sir Thomas Fludyer		25	0	0

G.

Mrs. Sarah Gibbins	—	1	1	0
Mr. Edward Green	—	5	5	0
Messrs. Grant and Co.	—	10	10	0
Lowe Griffin, Esq;	—	10	10	0
Mr. John Goode, <i>of Kensington</i>		1	1	0
Lady Eliz. Germain, a lottery ticket, No. 39,896, Blank, produced		5	5	0

H.

Mr. William Higginfon	—	1	1	0
Messrs. Humphrys and Harris		5	5	0
Mr. Robert Hunter	—	10	10	0
Mr. Leonard Hammond	—	1	1	0
Jonas Hanway, Esq;	—	5	5	0
Thomas Hanway, Esq;	—	5	5	0
G. H.	— —	1	1	0

I.

		£.	s.	d.
Mr. John Irish	—	1	1	0
Mr. John Jones, <i>of Hackney</i>		2	2	0
Mrs. Deborah Jennings	—	1	1	0
By the Rev. Mr. Jacob Jefferson		2	2	0

L.

A Lady	—	—	4	4	0
L. M. B.	—		0	10	6
Mr. Lowe, <i>of St. Mary la Bonne</i>			7	9	0
Mr. Thomas Lever	—		5	0	0
Mr. Isidore Lynch	—		10	0	0

M.

Mr. James Mather	—		3	3	0
Mr. Moore	—	—	1	1	0
E. M.	—	—	1	0	0
John Marlar, Esq;	—		10	0	0
Robert Macky, Esq;	—		10	0	0
Francis Meseres, Esq;	—		5	5	0
Messrs. Maudit, Wright, and Co.			10	10	0

N.

T. N.	—	—	1	1	0
					H. N.

			£.	s.	d.
H. N.	—	—	0	10	6
R. Nettleton, Esq;	—		1	1	0
James Norman, Esq;	—		20	0	0
William Neate, Esq;	—		21	0	0
Richard Neave, Esq;	—		10	10	0

O.

Mr. Edward Ommanney	—		0	10	6
Z. O.	—	—	1	1	0

Overplus of the fire-collection for

Rotherhithe	—		51	7	2
Mrs. Okenden	—		0	2	6

P.

W. P.	—	—	2	2	0
W. P.	—		2	2	0
Mr. William Pocock	—		5	5	0
Messrs. Benjamin Price, and Son			10	10	0
Edward Paine, Esq;	—		10	10	0
A. P.	—	—	1	1	0
John Pownall, Esq;	—		5	5	0

R.

Messrs. Roffey, Neale, James, and

Fordyce	—		21	0	0
---------	---	--	----	---	---

E 3

Mr.

		<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Mr. Francis Rybot	—	21	0	0
Samuel Rickards, Esq;	—	10	10	0
Mr. John Rogers	—	1	1	0

S.

Samuel Smith, Esq;	—	5	5	0
S.	—	1	7	0
Mr. John Strettell	—	21	0	0
Sir William Stephenfon	—	10	10	0
W. S.	—	0	10	6
Mrs. Mary Sneyd	—	5	5	0
Mr. Spiller	—	1	1	0
W. S. by Messrs. Hoares	—	6	0	0
S. S. S.	—	5	5	0
Mr. Suckland	—	2	2	0
Sundry persons, by the hands of				
Mr. Strettell	—	157	10	0

T.

Mr. S. Towers	—	1	1	0
John Thornton, Esq;	—	50	0	0
The Hon. Dr. George Talbot		5	5	0
R. T.	—	5	5	0

A person

U. V.

		£.	s.	d.
A person unknown, by Mr. Blackman		5	5	0
A person unknown	—	0	5	3
Ditto	—	0	10	6
A gentleman unknown	—	0	10	6
A person unknown	—	0	10	6
A person unknown	—	0	2	6
A person unknown	—	2	2	0
A person unknown	—	0	5	3
A person unknown, by Mr. Geo. Box		3	3	0
A person unknown	—	0	10	6
A. B. a lady unknown	—	3	3	0
A gentleman unknown, by Mr. Lane		5	5	0
J. V.	—	50	0	0
Mr. Daniel Vialars	—	21	0	0

W.

Fowler Walker, Esq;	—	5	5	0
Sweet Wood, Esq;	—	10	10	0
Messrs. Watson and Olive		10	10	0
J. W.	—	5	5	0
A. W.	—	2	2	0
Mr. John Whiston	—	5	5	0
Robert Ward, Esq;	—	5	0	0

S. W.

			£.	s.	d.
S. W.	—	—	1	1	0

X, Y, Z.

Mr. Henry Young	—		2	2	0
X. Y. Z.	—	—	10	10	0
A. Z.	—	—	5	5	0
Z.	—	—	2	2	0

A D D I T I O N.

The R. H. Marq. of Rockingham	100	0	0
The R. H. Earl of Dartmouth	50	0	0
T. Askell	—	—	0 10 6
Rev. Mr. Birch	—		1 1 0
P. P.	—	—	1 1 0
T. S.	—	—	0 5 3
C. G.	—	—	1 1 0
Dr. Richard Ruffel	—		2 2 0
A. B.	—	—	20 0 0
George Aufrere, Esq;	—		5 5 0
Messrs. Smith and Gaskill	—		5 5 0
His Grace the Archbishop of Can-			
terbury	—	—	30 0 0
The Rt. Hon. Earl of Hardwicke	21	0	0
P. C.	—	—	0 10 6
			Mr.

			£.	s.	d.
Mr. Rosewell	—		0	10	6
Sir William Musgrave, Bart.			2	2	0
Nathaniel Mason, Esq;	—		5	5	0
Messrs. William and Hugh Minet			5	5	0
A person unknown, by the hands of					
Mess. Trueman and Neave			5	5	0
A. B.	—	—	2	2	0
E. D. S. N. F.	—		5	0	0
J. R. L. C.	—	—	0	10	6
Robert Ferguson, Esq;	—		5	5	0
Ynyr Burges, Esq;	—		1	1	0
A person unknown	—		0	10	6
N. P.	—	—	1	1	0
A.	—	—	1	1	0

POST-

P O S T S C R I P T.

March 20, 1766.

THE committee having thought it most advisable to suspend the application for the relief of the Canadian poor sufferers, for some weeks past, have now the pleasure to inform the public, that Mr. Thornton and Mr. Hanway, having been deputed to wait on the KING with this Case, his Majesty received them most graciously, and with his usual clemency and benignity was pleased to give, towards the relief of those who are in real distress, £. 500.

It is hoped, when our fellow subjects are fully informed of the real
state

state of this case, they will think it a very proper object for the exercise of their humanity as *men*; their charity as *christians*; and their policy as *members of the community*.

*New-York Coffee-House,
April 3, 1766.*

THE letter to the Gazetteer, signed a SUBSCRIBER, hath so well exprest the sense of our committee in behalf of the sufferers, that we have adopted the same, *viz.*

S I R,

I Have received a printed Case of the poor sufferers by a fire that happened at Montreal in May last, in which the gentlemen who have so generously undertaken to solicit a subscription for them, plead the cause upon the principles of good policy, as well as humanity

manity and religion, with a very becoming, and I dare say, a very disinterested zeal. The proverbial saying is, OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND; and this is so true, that even the great concerns of eternity are too often neglected.

Though inconstancy is imputed to us as a characteristical mark, yet in the issue of things we generally act a consistent part: it may be now hoped we shall do what is right and fit to be done, agreeably to the dictates of our own hearts, and the pecuniary abilities of individuals; remembering that he who gives EARLY gives TWICE; and that no man has a right to ask another (who gives any mark of his approbation either WITH his name or WITHOUT it) why he contributes so little, or so much, or if he does not give at all; neither is he obliged to declare his reasons.

I have not only contributed my mite, but I will tell you why I think others, who can afford it, should give theirs. In regard to distance of time since this accident, it must be
observed,

observed, that through the inadvertency of the Committee, in not having appointed a Treasurer, or not having sufficiently explained the facts, or, perhaps, from the prejudices prevailing in relation to fires in general, without distinction of circumstances, this business was not at first carried on in that rapid manner as seems to be, in some measure, essential to such kind of applications. Besides this, I understand it has been purposely left dormant for two or three months past, supposing that whilst our minds were agitated with the great North American affair, we should not show much attention to the poor Canadians, though they are as distinct an object, with the difference of becoming British subjects, in a conquered territory, as the inhabitants of the Cape of Good Hope.

Distance of place, as the *Case* very properly sets forth, ought not to create any difference in the minds of a people whose empire is extended to such remote regions over the earth. Indeed, there is no people that makes any figure, but has dominions very distant from the seat of

F

empire,

empire, and pays attention to them in proportion as they receive, or hope to receive, advantage from such foreign territories. As an intelligent and commercial nation, and a people whose minds are enlarged by a vast extent of knowledge, so as in some degree to make the whole earth their own, WE more particularly, whilst we entertain an amiable partiality for the spot we live on, ought to habituate ourselves to the consideration of being CITIZENS OF THE WORLD, but surely citizens of that part of the world which our fellow subjects inhabit.

As a warlike, brave and trading people, we owe a more peculiar humanity and politeness to men like ourselves. It has ever been deemed an essential property of bravery to shew kindness to those who have done their duty in arms, in the same manner as we would wish they should shew in our favor, in support of that allegiance, which they profess when subdued : and as bravery, integrity, and obedience to government, generally go hand in hand, there is nothing so good but may, upon
the

the same principle, be now expected of these Canadians.

As free subjects, we have a right to remonstrate ; and, in the changes and chances of all human affairs, remonstrances sometimes prevent those mischiefs which would otherwise befall a nation ; but still obedience to human, as well as divine laws, is better than thousands of cattle upon the hills. These Canadians, I am well assured by those who know them well, have the peculiar characteristic of a contented and obedient people. As to their bravery, let the bloody plains of Abraham and Sillerie, the monument of the much-lamented *Wolfe*, whose intrepid spirit led him to an early grave, let these, I say, declare ; whilst the brave, the prudent, and fortunate *Amherst* happily lives to tell us, over what lofty mountains and rapid streams, through what pathless woods and dreary wastes, he led our gallant countrymen to the long wished-for conquest of these people.

I hope our inconstancy will not predominate so far as to induce us to neglect what I

may be allowed to call a *decent* regard to the brave Canadians under this singular affliction. It was not their fault ; they brought not the misfortune on themselves, unless their ignorance of the most effectual means to prevent the communication of fire was a fault. If, as observed in the case, the French are far behind us in the knowledge of those mechanic arts which contribute so much to the safety and convenience of life, we must not be surprized their colonists should be ignorant. But it may be hoped we shall teach them how to preserve themselves hereafter, and that the very subscription in question may be a means of accomplishing this end : such is the zeal of the gentlemen who espouse their cause.

The Canadians are now become, to all intents and purposes, our fellow-subjects, and a very deserving people they are. The current of their trade will naturally turn this way, if there is not a bar to it : and it is probable we shall benefit by them very considerably. The better impressions they receive of us at setting out, it is not less probable

bable the more amicably permanent will the connection be.

The *case* explains, in the most authentic manner, that the accident must be ascribed to their misfortune, not their fault. That it was a misfortune, 215 families losing 87,580l. sterling, most fatally declare. And it should be remembered, there are no rich citizens to hasten with ample succour. There are no insurance-offices to *repay* the loss; nor, in fact, was any insurance made, under-writers not chusing to meddle with such remote objects; and it was in the house of a British, not a Canadian subject, where the fire began.

We ought also to reflect, that this event happened quick on the heels of the calamities of their war with us, and also with the savage Indians; their distress for provisions; the total interruption of their trade, and the suspension of their paper money; so that upon the whole, they seem entitled to invoke heaven and earth for some relief.

Let not the recent accident of the Committees supposing the event notorious;

the prudent suspension of the application, or any other circumstance, make us think the case has changed its nature in any respect : much less ought any difference in political opinions, foreign to the subject, affect our notions of commercial interest, our humanity, or our sentiments, with regard to religion. Happy it is when all these motives coincide and unite their force to plead the cause of the afflicted.

In or about the year 1740, there was a great fire at Charles Town, in South Carolina, in which the inhabitants suffered a loss of 60,000*l*. Parliament then thought it humane and politic to grant the sum of 20,000*l*. towards their relief : but things are now very differently circumstanced. If I mistake not, our national debt at that time did not exceed sixty millions ; a sum which, it is evident from fact, we could well bear. But it is also evident from facts, that we cannot WELL bear 140 odd millions ; and if we mean to preserve ourselves, we must lessen the burthen, not add to it, lest the nation should suffer under
the

the weight of debt, or the debt for the preservation of the nation.

Were not this the case, it is probable the fire in question might be deemed an object of legislative enquiry and national relief. All that can now be expected is doing. Application has been made to the Throne. The Father of his people has given a token of his clemency, his paternal regard and tenderness; let his children follow his example, it is for our brethren, our new fellow subjects, and I dare say our real friends, a laborious, vigilant and obedient people, comely in their persons, and intrepid in their minds. Let us take up the object under the present authentic information of the reality of the fact, and place it in the most advantageous light: let us, as we generally are in the issue of things, be humane and politic, and enable these gentlemen who have given their own money, and take the laboring oar, to do something for us, worthy of ourselves, and acceptable to God, and the Canadians.

It

It is not to be conceived but that several of the sufferers are above the acceptance of charity ; so that any decent remittance, worthy of this nation, certainly will be a great object to the poorer part of them. And, as the *Case* judiciously sets forth, we may repay amply into the breast of our common parent whatever favor we show these Canadians, by our commerce with the very people to whose re-establishment we contribute. I am,

Your's,

April 2, 1766.

A SUBSCRIBER.

New-York Coffee-House,

April 10, 1766.

WE cannot convey the sense of the poor Canadians, sufferers by fire, better than by the following letter, dated Montreal, Jan. 24, 1766, signed by a committee appointed in that city, to a gentleman

man of our committee in London. Though the misfortune happened seven or eight months before the date of their letter, their PRESENT circumstances are not the less pitiable: and it may therefore be hoped our fellow-subjects at home, will not feel the less for them, or think any reasonable assistance we can give them, the less politic.

S I R,

IF we have been remiss in making known our most miserable situation, we hope it will be attributed to the strong impressions of grief the misfortune of the 18th of May last has made on our minds, which has deprived us of almost every faculty but that of seeking shelter and subsistence.

Though some had the happiness to find themselves amongst their friends and relations, yet others, the greater number, are so unhappy

happy—as to be destitute of either ; and therefore depended for immediate relief on the generosity of a people almost worn out by a succession of misfortunes, particularly his Majesty’s subjects here, who, after the fatigues of war, were considerably reduced by the treatment of the court of France in regard to the paper money, which at present is of no certain value *, and the entire stagnation of trade, added to the great losses occasioned by the Indian war, *on which trade the inhabitants of this province depend entirely for their support*: so that our ruin is so much the greater, unless we meet with relief, which cannot be expected in a country that has undergone so many changes in so short a time.

We are unable to find expressions adequate
to

** The preliminaries of a settlement of the Canada bills with France being at length signed, those few Canadians, who have not disposed of them, will now make a small recovery ; but it is plain, from what they say above, as well as the reason of the thing, that the poorer part of them will not be the better, having no such property.*

to the gratitude we owe those generous and public-spirited gentlemen, who first set on foot and opened a subscription for the sufferers, and which we earnestly hope may be seconded by the generous contributions of those who feel for the distressed.

The indefatigable pains you have taken for the interest of this province in general, the effects of which we already begin to enjoy, encourages us to hope you will exert yourself in our behalf, on the particular occasion of this disaster by fire, by a proper representation to the public of the wretchedness of our case, uniting yourself with those benevolent gentlemen who have already interested themselves in our sufferings; and, should this be insufficient, by a proper application to parliament. In such case, no doubt, we shall partake of the bounty, which one of his Majesty's colonies, our neighbour, not many years since experienced from the benevolence of that august assembly.

We

We the subscribers, a committee chosen at
a general meeting of all the inhabitants of this
city, are, with all due respect, S I R,

Your most obedient and

Most humble servants,

MESIERE,	JOHN WELLES,
HERUIEUX,	BENJ. FROBISHER,
ADHEMARE,	JOSEPH HOWARD,
L'ANAYE.	JONAS DE SAULLES,

Addition to the Subscriptions.

			£.	s.	d.
Major Thomas Mills	—		10	10	0
S. S.	—	—	0	5	3
Mrs. Camper	—		1	1	0
— Gardner, Esq;	—		5	5	0
D. C.	—	—	3	3	0
John Roberts, Esq;	—		5	5	0
Z. Z.	—	—	3	3	0
M. P.	—	—	2	2	0

Part of an overplus of the subscrip-
tion for the Palatine emigrants,
(these being provided for) granted
by the committee for them

100 0 0

			£.	s.	d.
The KING's donation, as men-					
tioned p. 58.	—	—	500	0	0
R. M.	—	—	5	5	0
T. H.	—	—	5	5	0
Thomas Fowell, Esq;	—	—	10	10	0
Messrs. Adair and Jackson	—	—	5	5	0
Mr. Samuel Johnson	—	—	1	1	0
Mr. Monson	—	—	1	1	0
Messrs. Barnes and Harrison	—	—	2	2	0
W. S. R. P.	—	—	2	2	0
S. Y.	—	—	2	2	0
J. H.	—	—	2	2	0
Peter Delme, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
Messrs. Hafenclever, Seaton, and					
Crofts	—	—	20	0	0
Hon. Thomas Townshend	—	—	5	5	0
Frederick Franklin, Esq;	—	—	2	2	0
Col. Schutz	—	—	2	2	0
John Drummond, Esq;	—	—	2	2	0
A. B.	—	—	1	1	0
A person unknown	—	—	0	10	6
Charles Jennings, Esq;	—	—	21	0	0
A. N. S.	—	—	1	1	0
G			Sundries		

	£.	s.	d.
Sundries by Mr. Strettell —	52	10	0
His Grace the Duke of Grafton	50	0	0
Richard Stonehewer, Esq; —	5	5	0
Edward Montague, Esq; —	2	2	0
William Mellish, Esq; —	10	0	0
Dr. John Campbell —	1	1	0
Robert Nettleton, Esq; 2d —	4	4	0
Robert Salmon, Esq; —	5	5	0
A. B. — —	0	10	6
James Petit Andrews, Esq —	2	2	0
From the town of Sheffield, by			
Messrs. Wilsons —	73	15	9
Stephen Peter Godin, Esq; —	20	0	0
R. H. Geo. Nelson, Esq; Lord-			
Mayor — —	21	0	0
Thomas Hollis, Esq; —	5	5	0
P. D. — —	1	1	0
Mr. Sam. Robinson —	21	0	0
Four Tellers of the Exchequer, be-			
ing the remission of their fees on			
his Majesty's donation —	15	0	0
Messrs. Nash, Eddowes, and Petree	10	10	0
Z. O. — —	1	1	0
			Nat.

			£.	s.	d.
Nat. Paice, Esq;	—		5	5	0
Jos. Paice, Esq;	—		5	5	0
William White, Esq;	—		2	2	0
Mr. John Rogers	—		1	1	0
A Lady unknown	—	—	1	1	0
Michael Adolphus, Esq;	—		2	2	0
Francis Plummer, Esq;	—		5	5	0
John Freeman, Esq;	—		10	10	0
A public breakfast at Bath	—		24	8	0
Thomas Harris, Esq;	—		10	10	0
Messrs. Fullager and Todd	—		10	10	0
A. B. by Mr. Hanway	—		1	1	0
Donation of the City of London		400	0	0	
Sundry persons, by Mr. Strettel	—	52	10	0	
The Worshipful Company of Skin-					
ners	—	—	50	0	0
The Right Hon. Lord Berkely of					
Stretton	—	—	30	0	0
Sir George Saville, Bart.	—		50	0	0
The Worshipful Company of Sta-					
tioners	—	—	50	0	0
J. H. M.	—	—	5	5	0
J. S.	—	—	20	0	0
					Messrs.

	£.	s.	d.
Messrs. Walker and Dawson —	15	15	0
E. F. G. — —	2	2	0
Randle Wilbraham, Esq; —	2	2	0
Edward Hooper, Esq; —	2	2	0
Several Gentlemen and Ladies in and about Newcastle upon Tyne, by William Ord, Esq; —			
	10	12	6
The Worshipful Company of Gold- smiths — —	100	0	0
The Worshipful Company of Mer- chant-Taylors —	50	0	0
The Worshipful Company of Gro- cers — —	50	0	0
Zechariah Philip Fonnereau, Esq; —	10	10	0
P. Godfrey, Esq; — —	10	10	0
A person unknown, by the hands of P. Godfrey, Esq; — —			
	10	10	0

