

To the Editor of the Intelligencer.

### Disastrous Fire at Marchmont this Morning.

Marchmont having been burned this morning, has left a complete desolation of Miss Macpherson's Home for the London emigrant children; and sad to relate, the youngest boy, little Robert Gray, not quite seven years old, after being safely got out with the other children, wandered away and returned into the burning building—supposed by the front door—when missed from the rest too late to save him. His charred remains were recovered after the fire went down this morning.

As Miss Macpherson's work is a charitable one, and as she has located her distributing home amongst us, and as Miss Bilbrough, who has the charge, is now left houseless, and without clothing, food or furniture, or any of the articles required to commence house-keeping again, and being desirous of at once starting in a new home in order to carry on the work of labor and love for London's perishing poor, as well as to care for those already here—may I not call upon the public at large to give substantial aid to replace as far as practicable what has been lost in the way of clothing, bedding, furniture, cooking utensils, &c., at once, in order to enable Miss Bilbrough to get at work once more.

Let the Ladies take up the matter, and let the gentlemen aid them, that in a short time the home may be in active operation.

Donations sent to my store on Bridge street will be thankfully received, whether from Town or Country.

A House is wanted at once, if to be obtained.

BILLA FLINT.

Belleville, Jan. 30th 1872.

### The Marchmont Disaster.

Tues. Jan. 30, 1872

To supply the fullest details obtainable of the cause of the death of the little boy Gray, burned to death in the fire at Marchmont, and the circumstances attending the same, we publish to-day the evidence as taken by the Coroner.

The result of the inquiry is satisfactory as to the death of the unfortunate child—that he was taken safely out of the burning building and, in a frightened, half-sleeping condition, strayed back into it unobserved, and there met his fate, there cannot be

the shadow of a doubt from the testimony given. Considering the rapid spread of the flames and the confusion which prevailed at the time, no blame whatever can be attached to any one—the more particularly as the children were carefully looked after in the fire, instances and directed where to go.

Regarding the cause of the conflagration the evidence, as given, is not so full as we should like to have seen it. The testimony appears to touch fully upon only one point, that the fire first broke out in or about the pile of wood in the wood shed; but as to how it originated there—whether from the pot of ashes, or from any other cause is not stated or even guessed at. The statement of the witness Phillips, though important so far as it goes, yet leaves us in the dark as to whether the ashes placed in the "iron pot without a cover" were put there on the night preceding the fire; whether the pot contained hot ashes; where it was kept; whether the ash house had been lately used; and several other important facts. If these questions were answered satisfactorily and fully—as we have no doubt the witness was prepared to do, the result of the inquest would have been entirely satisfactory. In view of the many fires that have occurred lately, and the general feeling of insecurity that prevails, it is to be regretted that the investigation was not of a more searching character.

### The Marchmont Fire, INQUEST ON THE REMAINS OF THE BURNT CHILD.

On the afternoon of Monday, 29th inst., an inquest was held at the Western House, before Coroners R. M. Roy and John P. Macdonnell, upon the remains of Robert Gray, the child whose charred corpse was found in the ruins of Marchmont on that morning. The body was fearfully burned, the lower extremities being partially consumed and the upper portion of the trunk so disfigured as to be scarcely recognizable.

The testimony of Dr. Holden, which was first taken, was merely formal—that he had no doubt, from the appearance of the remains, that deceased was killed by fire.