

Pictou th 19 April 1858

James Dawson Esq
Dear Sir.

I was duly favored with yours of the 20th & 24th ult. and have told Mrs Blackadar she must pay the rent regularly, and that she cannot expect the premises lower. I have advertised the shops but no offer yet and shall follow your advice of letting them by auction if I can. Mr Curran has paid his £100 note, and I have requested Mr Arnau to remit you £100 Canada currency, but do not know yet what the premium will be. I will remit Oliver & Boyd £12.4.5 s^{rs} as soon as I can get small Exchange.

I do not think there is much doing in Union Bank stock - they are using so little of the stock in their business, that I think it is not worth while to hold it. If I were you I would sell.

The fire burnt Arnison's (formerly Deacon Patterson's) big house and the old houses adjoining up to Crokin's new house - on the other side Christie's new house and all up to Mcintosh's wheel weight shop. Arnison had £1400 insured in the "Unity" on House and Stock. Griffiths had £100 on Stock. Christie had I believe £250 on his new house worth £450. McLaren had £200 on his stock. The fire although before bed time was so rapid that scarcely anything was saved. It originated in the top of Griffiths's shop under the hearth of the room above.