

Circular Letter

St. Augustine

6th November 1884

To
United States Consul for Antigua

Dear Sir

We the undersigned Committee, believing that you will be prepared to sympathize with misfortune anywhere, & more especially with one in the same Consular service with yourself, have ventured to bring to your notice the case of the American Consular Agent for this island, Mr. Geo. Doyle, who is now, with his family, in a state of destitution, under the following circumstances

Early on the morning of November 1st a fire broke out in the lower part of his dwelling, & was not discovered until it was impossible for himself & family to get down the staircase, it being on fire. The house is isolated, so that there was no one near to render assistance, & it was only by great promptitude, coolness, & daring that he was able to save his wife & family. He saved two of his children, - infants, & twins, - by sliding down the spouting with them one by one, two got down themselves, three other children were thrown to him, & he caught them, - the other one, after whom his brother, only about six years old,

climbed up, fell & was very much bruised. Mr. Doyle too, in trying to slip down the spouting, fell about half the distance, & was much bruised. Mr. Doyle himself had his face & beard burnt, so close had the fire got to them. They just managed to escape in the clothes they slept in.

Position

The fire could not be put out, as their isolated condition made it late before help could arrive, & moreover we have no fire-engine in this small island. It burnt till the place was completely gutted, & all his furniture, clothing, pictures &c burnt up. He has saved nothing; they are now in a destitute condition. ~~How was he insured against fire~~

In virtue of our esteem for Mr. Doyle, & because of our sympathy for him in his great calamity, we have constituted ourselves into a Committee to solicit & receive pecuniary aid on his behalf.

We shall be very glad to receive, & acknowledge any aid that you can give us, & would also be glad if you could lend us your co-operation in collecting funds by making an appeal through your local press, or by any other means you may deem good to employ.

Cheques, or Bills of Exchange may be made payable to Rev. Wm. W. Thackray at "The Colonial Bank", St. Kitts.

We are, Dear Sir

Yours most respectfully

J. J. Groves, Secy.

W. W. Thackray,
Wesleyan Meth. Minister.

over.

C. Messendorp
Landraad
Madagaskar
Landraad

J. Campbell Hill
Office of the Customs

D. J. H. de Seneste
Harbor Master