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1<sup>st</sup> page 10. I was told, on what I supposed to be direct and unquestionable authority, that the fire "originated with a fire cracker thrown by a heedless boy upon a pile of scattered shavings outside of a boat builder's shop;" I was even assured that the boy had acknowledged it: But further enquiries, made after it was too late, have satisfied me that there was no truth in the story, and that the fire was undoubtedly caused by sparks from a local engine belonging to the Grand Trunk railway;. Other kindlings had happened before, and one in the same neighborhood, from the same cause, for which the corporation were held answerable. Since then I have petitioned for an ordinance obliging them to burn hard coal instead of pine wood. p. 10.

2<sup>nd</sup> page 5. On the authority of Mr. Beckett, the apothecary referred to, I stated that "even a mortar" of cast iron "used for a sign to an apothecary's shop, on being struck by the fiery blast, fell upon the pavement, like melted lead:" Incredible as the story seemed, for even a blow pipe would not have been likely to produce such a result, yet knowing the character of Mr. Beckett

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John Neal

Baltimore April 29/68

P.S. Not only, all that was foretold, but all and more than was hoped for by the most sanguine among us, has already been accomplished in the way of restoration and improvement & <sup>other</sup> newly blocks & dwelling houses are still going up all over the City. JN

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