

(B259)

1887

Sturminster Newton,

Blandford 31st Dec 1887

Dear General Pitt Rivers,

I regret to say I have just had a report that 4 cottages under one roof at the Colborne have been much damaged by a fire to-day which was caused by an accident through a young child of about 5 years old playing with some matches in the bed-

room. I go to the Colborne early in the morning to ascertain full particulars -

I remain

Yours very truly

Alfred Hitchcock

(B259)

Chessbourne Rectory
Dec. 31. 1887

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I greatly regret to announce
the burning of the four Cottages
on the Nap. which took place
this morning. Two children
5 & 2, let a candle fall on
some Leasing Barley in a bed
room, about 7 o'clock: & as the
brook is nearly dry it was
impossible to do anything -
happily only one person dwelt
in two of the four, so that the
only family to be provided for
is our Thatcher's, & that has been
given a Cottage of yours that
is empty -

Of course much damage was
done to the furniture, which
was got out more or less broken,
but our poor Thatcher has lost
8 or 9 sacks of Potatoes, which
were under the stairs - & I fear
the widow Ally West has
also suffered a like loss - I
am going to order a sack to
be sent for the Thatcher who
has six children - but the
calamity will be seriously
felt all the winter. I hope
you will consider this unfor-
tunate event, & Believe me

Yours faithfully
Charles Barton