

ble and murderers were to make the law also he desired to know. They had declared they would rule us again. Did he live in a land of constitutional liberty or of mob law rulers? He had asked gentlemen to ignore party, but he had not found one in the Board to do it. He had been alone, and had ignored party during his whole career. A Democratic Mayor he had supported unflinchingly, and now was asked to forget party! He would inquire if the mob was composed of party men? Who did compose it? Every gentleman present knew, and he would not insult their intelligence by pressing such a question. (Voices—"Let us know," "Out with it.") There were no Republicans found in the mob, because they are a law-abiding party; yet he would not say Democrats were not law-abiding, for he saw some around him. He insisted, however, that there were no Republicans who originated or participated in the mob, nor did the rumors circulating about town originate in Republican brains. Therefore it is a mill-stone in either case. The Alderman of the 9th had said that he had been called on by his constituents respecting the matter. The same was his own case, and to such an extent that he had hardly been able to put pen to paper during the day. His constituents wished to know if he was going to vote a million dollars to-night, and so leave the Government unprovided for. In short, if he was to be ground anywhere, it should be by the law.

Ald. Whitney presumed the members would bear out his endeavor to economize money and prevent inordinate expenditures. But there were times when we must be liberal, and one of those occasions had arrived. No man condemned mob proceedings more than himself, proceedings which every Democrat disapproved. (Hear, hear.) There was, however, no denial of the fact that there existed a deep seated opposition to being drafted, and the case may as well be met intelligently as otherwise. The gentleman of the 15th said, there had been a violation of the law, and asked where it had begun? Had there been no violation of the law by the General Government? Was there not a superceding, in the fact, a non-observance of the law in the passage of the Emancipation act? Or what might be called the shutting up of men in Fort Lafayette, and the denial of the benefit of the *habeas corpus*? Were these acts observing the law? Republicans had violated the law as well as the Democrats, had in fact set the example. The people had committed violence and had done wrong, and among them were as many Republicans as Democrats. Indeed the assemblage was largely made up of the various classes of plunderers and robbers, who rushed in when only a slight disturbance had been committed. The opinion that the quota would not be filled was a mistake, for the Democrats would supply all the men asked for, as it would be found they had done when the quota was first filled. It was, then, presumption to say that Democrats would not stand by the flag of the country, something which they had always done. As regards the use of the money to be raised, he believed that if it were devoted to paying voluntary enlistments, men enough to fill the quota could be had in 30 days.

Ald. E. Murphy begged to say, that since the question had been put into a political aspect, that 1,100 volunteers had left his ward since the commencement of the war. Of this number 800 were Democrats. The question, however, was never asked whether they were Democrats or Republicans he well knew, for he was present on several occasions when the opportunity was given him to ascertain the facts. There were hundreds of men in his ward who could not raise \$300; indeed the families of men still at the war were suffering this day for mere necessities. Still he was of the opinion that the quota in the ward could be filled if the money was paid to the substitutes or to their families.

Ald. O'Keeffe did not suppose that at any time before in his life had he felt such a lack of power to direct the requisite attention to the matter under consideration. He did not rise in his place simply to give his views, for he felt as there was not language for their expression. He was surprised to see any opposition to the measure before the Board. Individually he did not stand there as a Democrat or as a Republican, but simply as an adopted citizen. The Ald. of the 15th had made charges, and it was surprising that he would not let the Board know who were meant under the title of rabble. Had he given the information he could have but echoed the words of the *Tribune* and the *Post*—Irish robbers and Irish democrats.

Ald. Taylor called the speaker to order, as he had not made use of these terms.

Ald. O'Keeffe was only giving his opinion of what the insinuations of the Ald. of the 15th meant.

But he could not make any one believe that the brave men who fought at Manassas, Centreville, Antietam, and during the seven days on the Peninsula, would inaugurate a disturbance for the sake of subsequent plunder. If robbers and thieves take advantage of honest men who were averse to unlawful measures, was it any reason that the latter should be branded in complicity with the former? Was it a reason for exhibiting around the street certain posters, with words "Sam, organize?" As for Sam, he loved him as he loved himself, for he never without his countenance would have been elevated to the honorable position of representing a portion of the city without his assistance. Not, then, to have a regard for him, would be to become a renegade, and not worthy to live. In God's name let the present state of feeling be waived, and the country restored to its wonted prosperity. Let the North and the South be united once more if possible. Let there be no quibble about the tone of the resolutions, but all try and bring about the best results. He wished the Federal Government would do this; that it would put men who were competent in charge of soldiers' lives, men, too, whom the soldiers love. Had this been done long ago there would have been no need of conscription now; but as it was upon us, it was our duty to raise the pecuniary relief. He did not mean to furnish men if he could help it. Why were there 30,000 soldiers in New York to-day? Why were they not where they were wanted? Why were they here to shoot down citizens? Where was General Lee? Would not these men be of any use to Gen. Meade? Would they not occupy the time of at least one Brigadier-General? They were 30,000 strong, and ready, and why should they not go back into the Army, where men were needed? The Alderman of the 15th had said that the draft reached all persons alike. Look at the poor grain shoveler! A man invariably with a large family, six or seven children. A man bountifully endowed by nature to perpetuate his race. It cost him at the very least ten shillings a day to support his children, not as any of the gentlemen present would like to have their's supported. Was he in a position to pay \$300, a sum he never had and never could expect to have at his control? The members were there not to represent the rich man the tax payer, but to represent every citizen of Brooklyn that was interested either directly or indirectly. The burden would fall in one way or another on those least able to bear it, if not directly, then in the way of rent or the advance of necessities. Plainly then it was but duty to take care of these men who were the first to go out and fight for us. He was not in favor of rebelling against the laws, but rather of perpetuating the institutions of the glorious country. He had taken an oath so to do, and after taking it felt that he was on an equality with those born on the soil. If, however, the government failed to observe the conditions of that oath, or abrogate any part of it, he did not consider himself bound by it, nor would he hold it a perjury if he acted antagonistic to it. And this he was willing to do. The Alderman of the 5th had also said that the riotous movements came from his party, the Democrats. To that political branch he belonged true enough, and he was sorry to say that it had been misrepresented in the leaders of the newspapers. Why should they not fight against this misrepresentation? They had a right to do so. The press in doing wrong incited rebellion and mob law, and when himself or another on reading a paper discovered that the whole fault was cast upon adopted citizens, was it not natural to feel indignant? When he knew that his countrymen and other foreigners had come here at the instigation of the Government, had they not a right to feel aggrieved when fired upon by some flash officer? Thus the stigma has fallen upon a particular race. If they did not want the streets to be flooded with blood, and when they might be would not be known until the moment it should be done, some proper provision must be made to avoid such a calamity. If men alone were wanted by the Government, the \$300 clause ought not to have been put in the Conscription Act. It seemed to him to be a raid on poor citizens and a cloak to screen the rich man, behind which he might stand, while others went out to be shot. The gentleman of the 15th had averred that he had supported a Democratic Mayor. Well, if so! For himself he had been charged with being an apostate by—well, it was no matter who, for there was no truth in the charge. When the Mayor was wrong he did not and would not sustain him; if on the contrary he was right, it was his bounden duty to give him countenance. In the hands of the Mayor and of the Committee, the money would be carefully disbursed and with the strictest inquiry. The citizens might rest assured that not a cent would be disbursed to any one not worthy and deserving.

Knigs.

Ald. Ternan asked permission to read his preamble and resolutions which, leave being granted, he read as follows :

Whereas, A strong feeling exists in this city that Brooklyn has been sufficiently credited for the troops she has sent to the field since the Rebellion broke out and great uncertainty appears to prevail about the actual number the General Government requires from her under the Conscription Law; and

Whereas, There appears to be a very general repugnance to the enforcement of a draft, and a very general opinion (in which this Common Council concurs) that Brooklyn can (with the sum of money just appropriated) now, as she has hitherto done, furnish her full quota of willing volunteers; be it therefore

Resolved That a Committee of five, to consist of His Honor the Mayor, the President of this Board, and three other members of this Board to be named by its President

be now appointed, whose duty shall be to confer in conjunction with other municipalities should they so deem fit, with State and General Governments, and particularly to urge upon the latter the wisdom and expediency of suspending the draft to allow the proper number of men required from each county to be raised by them as volunteers

Resolved, That the sum of \$250 be appropriated to defray the expenses of said Committee such sum to be expended solely under the direction of the Mayor.

If these resolutions were adopted with those in the report of the Committee, there would be ample authority to complete the quota.

Ald. Nodyne regretted that the subject had taken a political turn, for politics did not belong here, and their introduction caused words to be said that were out of place. He would stand by the Government in its need, and do as much for the aid of the poor and helpless families as his neighbor. Indeed, he had already done more than he could afford. He did not approve of the report in all its bearings, and for reasons he was about to present. It was the most important matter which had been before the Board, and if it was discussed in an impartial manner, and without bias, it would occupy more than this meeting. He had prepared his views on the subject, and would, by permission, read them:

The Mayor, in his message, says: "In the first place, let it be fully and distinctly understood that we cannot consent even to appear in the remotest degree to concede or yield to the demands or threats of a mob, or of persons inclined to riotous demonstrations."

There must be good reasons for this. If we concede or yield—

1st. It gives recognition to violators of law.

2d. It is an admission of weakness on the part of our civil government.

3d. It will encourage a mob spirit to set the laws at defiance in this city, when any future demand, just or unjust, be denied.

4th. If the third city in the Union falters or retreats before the mob, riot and bloodshed, or submission to the mob, will be the order of things in every city, town, or village, throughout the land.

It is proposed to tax the people of Brooklyn \$1,000,000, to pay the exemption of every person drafted from this city.

To understand this thing fairly, we should carefully con over the bloody record of the past ten days, and rember that it is by the light of the burning buildings of a neighboring city that we are to present to the men who made night and day fearful with their deeds, a portion, at least, of this sum. This, too, while we are threatened with a repetition of the same scenes.

Hence the Hon. Mayor observes justly: "We can not afford to appear, even in the remotest degree, to concede or yield."

Does the proposed action "appear, even in the remotest degree, to concede or yield"?

1st. Would the citizens consent that we should vote their money away thus, except that we would have riots else, and that this action would be a preventative?

2. Is not this consideration the *animus* of our action?

3. Will not the riotously-disposed portion of the people so understand it?

4. Hear the words of the Hon. Mayor:—"And there is the other consideration, which, however we may deprecate it, we are forced to take into account, and that is, should any omission to take some action on our part result in failing to prevent the enactment among us of the scenes that have recently transpired in New York, we may have a destruction of property, to say nothing of life, to reimburse which, would impose upon the taxpayers a burthen compared to which the appropriation suggested would be a mere trifle." If we act as proposed, remembering this "other consideration" presented by the Hon. Mayor, will not all the people,—riotous and law-abiding,—say 'we acted thus in fear of the mob'; and, however much we wish to avoid the appearance, 'we are conceding and yielding to the demands and threats of the mob'?

5. Is the civil arm so paralyzed that we must buy up riotors, as individuals in New York were recently coerced to buy off house-burners and as

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6. Nothing can be inferred from all this but an admission that the civil authorities are powerless before the mobocrats, and that, in our cowardice, we are willing to give them *one* million to keep quiet for a time longer.

But, before we make this humiliating admission, and before we send our commissioners to rioters, let us ask if this will stay the tide of riot?

If the draft was the only cause for riot, why were houses plundered in New York? Why did the mob cheer for Jeff. Davis?

Ald. Newman called the gentleman to order, as the cheering for Jeff. Davis had nothing to do with the matter.

Ald. Ternan—Let him give us the evidence that there were cheers for Jeff. Davis.

Ald. Nodyne proceeded:

Why was Fancher's Elevator burned? Why are the neighboring woods full of homeless, starving colored men, women and children forced to flee from the mob?

Apart from all question of your right to use money for such purpose, (and I believe the Courts will decide we have no such right) I am opposed to the measure as a humiliating one, and one too that clearly will not effect its object.

For the law-abiding men, we could not pay. If drafted, they will either furnish substitutes, pay \$300, or join the army.

Would it not be grossly unjust that any portion of the tax necessitated by the passage of this, should be borne by a man who, in obedience to the law, furnishes a substitute or pays his \$300, or goes bravely to the battle-field?

Would it not be foul injustice to our brave taxpayers now in the army, and who are calling loudly to us for reinforcements, to make them pay a portion of this sum which is to prevent them from being reinforced?

Why should our people who have been heavily taxed that men might be paid to join our armies, now be also heavily taxed, that men may be encouraged *not* to join our armies?

Ald. O'Keeffe called the gentleman to order.

The Chair—(Ald. Perry)—State the point of order.

Ald. O'Keeffe—The gentleman is reading extracts from a document published in a factious newspaper, something which is not pertinent to the question.

Ald. Nodyne—I do not wish to make any unpleasant remarks, but if the gentleman says that I am reading extracts, he says what is not true.

Ald. O'Keeffe—Is it the gentleman's own speech?

Ald. Nodyne—Yes.

Ald. O'Keeffe—(not hearing the reply distinctly)—I have asked a plain question, and expect as plain an answer.

Ald. Nodyne—I have said it was my own convictions on the subject before the Board. The Ald. of the 12th has no right to cast any reflections.

Ald. O'Keeffe—If it is his own speech, let him go on.

Ald. Nodyne—He has no right to cast reflections, and in any other place, he would be answered as he deserves.

Ald. O'Keeffe—What does the gentleman—

The Chair directed the Alderman of the 10th to proceed.

Ald. Nodyne continued:

Is the proposed action not unjust to all the tax payers?

Is it not especially unjust to three classes of the tax payers?

1st. A., who is drafted and pays his \$300 for exemption:

2d. B., who is drafted and furnishes his substitute:

3d. C., who is drafted and who shoulders his musket like a patriot.

It is urged that this money would only be used to procure substitutes for drafted men, and would not hinder the operation of the law of Congress.

This could not be;—the substitutes could not be procured.

How much could you afford to pay a substitute? Only the \$300, which you propose to vote for each.

How many men are there in the city that could be procured to go as substitutes, who have not already been in the army?

You might number them on the fingers of your two hands—especially after the draft.

If this is true, you must rely on men who have been in the service? Can you get them?

They are now offered, for *re-enlistment*, \$2 00
Congressional Bounty, 100 00
From the Exemption fund, 300 00

\$402 00

Will a man go as a substitute for \$300, when he can procure \$402 for the same service?

The "National Enrollment act" might undoubtedly be bettered by exempting husbands with helplessly infirm wives, and other cases that might be named of a kindred nature.

But that there are many heads of families in this condition, who now afford neither help or protection to such family, but are lazy, vagabond and thriftless, we cannot doubt.

Why should these have the benefits sought to be conferred on better men?

These men drafted, their families would be subjects of public justice and not of private charity, and in many cases that might be named would be better for the change.

Judging the present and future by the past, there can be no doubt in the mind of any man but that public-spirited individuals would step in and pay the exemption of every provident husband or other person who has helpless persons dependent on his exertions, and whose presence is at all necessary to the happiness or comfort of the helpless ones.

It is much to be preferred that this matter should be left in the hands of public-spirited individuals.

"It should be fully and distinctly understood that we cannot consent even to appear in the remotest degree" to oppose any constitutional law of the United States, either in letter or spirit. And while by our action here we admit the constitutionality of the "National Enrollment act" (for if the law is unconstitutional there is no necessity of

passing this), yet are we not "consenting to appear," to say the least of it, to oppose its spirit.

The law was framed to increase the army, and it must be obvious to all, if we pass this, it will tend to prevent that increase.

Such legislation, three months ago, was unknown to the history of the world, and it is to be hoped that Brooklyn will not join those cities or towns that are willing to let it be written "We were forced to surrender to the mob."

Far better is it that we should spend or lose millions in sustaining the Government, than give farthings to conciliate a mob.

Therefore let us be firm now, and all will be well.

I will vote one or five millions, if necessary, to support the wives and families of these men while they are gone, and will vote to pledge the city to pay a just pension to their families if they should die in the service of our country.

Let our motto be, "Millions for the comfort of the wives and families of our brave defenders, but not one cent as tribute to a mob."

Ald. Wallace was sorry that the debate had partaken of a political character, inasmuch as he had attended for the purpose of discussing the matter without reference to politics. Since he had seen and conversed with returned soldiers and learned how many adopted citizens were in the army, he felt more liberal towards them in their endeavor to sustain the flag of the country. He was for sustaining the general government, and for a vigorous prosecution of the war until the authority of the government is maintained on every foot of territory belonging to it. To that end the army must be kept full, and to achieve the purpose every man must bear his part of the burden. He held that the soldier who perils his life for his country, who interposes his own body between his family and his property (Ald. W's.) and danger should be well paid as well as taken care of. For this purpose he was willing to have his own property taxed or encumbered. If the draft was necessary, and he believed it to be, he was willing to alleviate its hardships in any manner in his power. If a man is drafted who has a family, and nothing but his own hands with which to support the family, he would be willing to have his property taxed to provide a substitute or furnish an exemption fee. Or if a man should be drafted a willing to go who has no means to provide himself with better or food, or if he returned home wounded, he would freely submit to a tax to pay the same bounty he would have received as a substitute. He desired to see some mention in the resolutions of the report, and he therefore prepared some which he would read. After the words "indebtedness therefore" in the first resolution, he would amend by adding the following:

That from the fund created by the resolutions a bounty of \$300 per man be paid for volunteers for three years, or for a year, payable when mustered into the U. S. service, and that such bounty be continued until the quota of Brooklyn is filled, or the draft be made.

Resolved, That when the draft is commenced the bounty named in the foregoing resolution be discontinued, and the balance of the fund, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be appropriated to relieve cases of hardship, under such regulations as this Common Council may hereafter adopt.

In place of the 2d resolution offered by the Committee, he would like to substitute the following:

Resolved, That the Committee be authorized to make such arrangements as will most facilitate the

...arrange with the General Government to have such volunteers accepted, so as to reduce to that extent the number sent to be drafted—and to report the progress of such volunteering to the Government, to the end that they may decide in the propriety of further postponement of the draft.

He did not assume to have any more wisdom than other members of the Board, and indeed he did not know but what his own amendments might be improved after further reflection. In this view of the case, he proposed that the matter be laid over until next Monday evening, and the resolutions be referred back to the Committee for further consideration and report.

Ald. Kimball had not had presented to him since he had been a member of the Board, any subject which imposed so grave a responsibility as did this one. He wished to act thoughtfully and candidly and without any partizan feeling. Sufficient time should be devoted to the question so that all might act with unanimity; and, therefore, the proposition to lay the subject over was judicious. In the meantime, opinions would be heard from the people, and various reasons expressed for and against, from which something might be learned. The people had a right of expression in the premises; and, therefore, he wished to show a proper regard, without haste, to the interests of all alike, the rich as well as the poor. He had settled upon one point, so far as he had been able to inform himself; and that was that the Rochester plan was the true one for adoption. In that city money had been raised for every man in the quota. If the drafted man went, he received \$300; or if not the amount was given to his substitute; or, if neither responded, then the money was paid to the Government. Thus the burden was just on all classes of citizens, because they would all pay a just proportion of tax. He was not prepared to vote even for this plan to-night, nor did he believe there was any disposition to urge the matter through. If there was, he should vote against it. He saw many hardships about the conscription bill; and, indeed, it seemed almost impossible to frame a bill without hardships. Some believed that under the Rochester plan the Government would obtain but few recruits; but he had no fears about such a result. If a drafted man sent a substitute he was clear for three years, while if he paid \$300 he was only exempt until another draft should be ordered. This, it was reported was the opinion of General Cushing. That being the case, there would be hardly a citizen who would not add a little more to the \$300 and procure a substitute, so as to exempt him for three years or for the war. Such, in his opinion, would be the course pursued by the rich men, who were comparatively out of the reach of the act. He did not believe the war men were all gone. It would be remembered that for a time recruiting was dull, but that after the seven days' battle, the people made up their minds that men must be had, and soon a sufficient number came forward for a small bounty. It was not to avoid any responsibility that he urged deferring final action until Monday night, but only for the purpose of acting judiciously and safely.

Ald. Ternan had listened to the remarks of the Ald. of the 3d with great pleasure. It was an agreeable calm after a tirade of words, and he had shown himself to be a prudent merchant and a sensible man. He thought, however, in the resolutions presented by the Alderman of the 3d, that a part of his thunder had been stolen and its effect not accomplished. He could not see the effect in laying over the matter; for it was hardly possible to make any provisions that would sway the Government. If the resolutions of the report were adopted with those offered by himself, all contingencies would be provided for, the money would be raised, and the Committee would have their instructions to act.

Ald. Taylor wished only to say that the Alderman of the 12th was usually courteous in his remarks, but this evening he had misconstrued what had been said by himself. While he had charged the mob as belonging to the same party as the Ald. of the 12th, he had made no reference to any nationality. He thought it was possible to concoct a scheme so that the Board would be unanimous on the question, if the views of the opposite party were consulted. It would be observed that of the Committee of ten there were but two Republicans, and this he submitted was evidence that the Republicans had not been sufficiently consulted.

Ald. Whitney—that is the fault of the people of Brooklyn in returning so many Democrats. (Laughter and applause in the lobby.)

Ald. Taylor suggested that as the Republicans would be called on to foot as much of the bill as others, it might be in good taste to have one or two more gentlemen of his complexion as members of the Committee.

Ald. O'Keeffe explained, that as President of the Board he had appointed the Committee in accordance with the custom generally observed, giving to the dominant party of the Board a majority of

Kings.

the members.
 Ald. Taylor moved that the report be laid over until next Monday evening, the resolutions to be referred to the Committee, and the whole subject to be the special order, immediately after the reading of the minutes.
 The motion was agreed to, on the following division: Ayes—Ald. Whitney, Wallace, Newman, Belknap, Nodyne, Kimball, O’Keeffe, Taylor, Perry, Kalbfleisch, and Fisher.—11. Nays—Ald. McLaughlin, Ennis, M. Murphy, Ternan, and E. Murphy.—5.
 Adjourned.

THE COMMON COUNCIL
NEW MEASURES FOR A LOAN.
\$500,000 Voted for Relief of Conscripts and Their Families.
THE BOARD UNANIMOUS FOR IT.
THE BELL-TOWER IN THE 13th WARD
MORE POLICEMEN PROPOSED

Sewerage Nuisance in the Eastern District

Pursuant to a recommendation of the Mayor, a special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held last evening. A quorum was present, and Ald. O’Keeffe, President, in the Chair. The following communications from the Mayor were received and read:

Hon. Martin Kalbfleisch, Mayor of the City of Brooklyn:

HONORED SIR:—The undersigned taxpayers and owners of property in the Eastern District of the city of Brooklyn, beg leave to respectfully call your attention to the present state of sewerage in our district. It is within your knowledge that they have been lately subjected to an excessive tax for the sewerage of the city; this they would willingly have borne, had the benefits derived been anything like what was anticipated, but in their judgment failure must be written against the work. For some days the water and filth from the sewers have discharged into their cellars, greatly to their annoyance, and decidedly prejudicial to the health of the entire section. Cellars wherein their family stores have been kept have been turned into privies and sinks, and fevers have been engendered, whereby they have been subjected to expense and anxiety. They are advised that they have a valid claim against the city for damages done by the incapacity of said sewers, but their desire is not for damages but for relief. And though it is not strictly within your province to grant the relief, yet they pray you to cause their complaint to be certified to the Common Council, to the end that some steps may be taken to remedy the evil, and thus save the city from damages for spoilation, &c.

And as in duty they will ever pray,
 CHARLES C. TALBOT, No. 12 Ainslie street.
 E. P. KETCHAM, No. 19 Ainslie street.
 JOHN REWL, No. 23 Ainslie street.
 WM. N. LITTLE, No. 408 Grand street.
 WM. CABBLE, Union avenue and Ainslie st.
 HARVEY BRUNDAGE, No. 40 Ainslie street.
 J. ROBINSON SMITH, North 1st, near 10th st.

The above was referred to the Committee on Sewerage.

RELIEF FOR CONSCRIPTS.
 The following from the Mayor was also read:
 MAYOR’S OFFICE,
 BROOKLYN, August 19, 1863.
 To the Hon. the Board of Aldermen:

GENTLEMEN:—In consequence of the inability of obtaining the proposed loan of “One Million” on the part of the Committee having in charge the subject matter of providing substitutes &c., to furnish the quota of Conscripts required under the Conscription Act from this city, and the necessity for speedy action in the matter, I have called your Honorable body together in order that some plan

may be devised which may meet the case so as to modify the severity of the draft and remove, if possible, the objections now urged by capitalists against subscribing for the loan.

I respectfully refer your Honorable body to my message of the 20th of July last as fully embracing my views in regard to this subject, entertaining no doubt that it made the basis of your action, a loan sufficient for the purpose can be negotiated at once. I shall be most happy, however, as I have been heretofore, to entertain any suggestions made on the part of your Honorable body differing from mine, if thereby the object sought to be obtained can be facilitated, or more satisfactorily and more readily accomplished.

I desire also to call your attention to the enclosed communication of Mr. C. C. Talbot, and others. If there is reason to apprehend that the facts stated therein are correct, it is a subject of the utmost moment, and an investigation should be had immediately, not only with a view to remedy the evil complained of at present, but to prevent its recurrence hereafter, if possible. Our system of Sewerage is a costly one, and if it should prove a failure or even prove to be faulty, it will cause great inconvenience as well as an expense, which will bear heavily upon many of our citizens; I, therefore, recommend that the matter be at once referred to a Committee for immediate investigation, and full report upon the subject.

Very respectfully,
MARTIN KALBFLEISCH, Mayor.

Ald. Strong offered the following resolutions in connection therewith:

Resolved, That pursuant to the power and authority of the Common Council, vested by chapter 514 of the laws of 1863, it is hereby determined and decided to raise a sum not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars, to be disbursed for the relief of families of persons who may be drafted into the military of the United States.

Resolved, That the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund be and hereby are authorized and directed to borrow money and raise upon the faith, credit, and property of the city of Brooklyn, the sum of \$500,000 or as much thereof as may be necessary for the purposes of the foregoing resolution—the same to be raised on such terms and conditions, and in such manner as may be most advantageous to this city.

Resolved, That a select committee of seven for the Eastern District be appointed, whose duty it shall be as soon as the drafting shall be commenced in this city, to meet daily in their respective districts at some convenient and proper place and time, and hear and inquire into all applications for relief of persons ordered into the military service of the United States, and report to this Common Council what relief, if any, ought to be extended; which, when approved of by a majority of all the members elected, shall take effect immediately; and for the purpose of acting on such reports, this Common Council will meet daily at 9 o'clock A. M. until all necessity therefore shall cease.

On motion, the Board went into Committee of the Whole for the consideration of the Mayor's message.

Ald. Strong believed that this matter was of the greatest moment to the city. The object of the resolutions which he had prepared and offered at a former meeting, had been fully explained. In preparing them he had consulted the law, and had endeavored to comply with its requirements, expressing the object of the enactment of the Legislature at its last session. If the act were strictly interpreted, it would give relief to persons upon whom the greatest distress might fall. The power to administer this relief was in the hands of the Common Council, and unless it was applied under the act named, any proceeding to the contrary would be powerless. The Common Council, under it, were constituted a Board of Relief, and the expense accruing from it became a city charge, to be collected the same as other indebtedness. It was clearly, then, within the power of the municipal authority to give entire validity to the proposed action for relieving conscripted men. By pursuing the course he had suggested, the monied institutions would not hesitate to receive propositions for loans, and an application therefor would meet with success. He was not disposed to be captious in the matter, nor did he feel at all annoyed by the adverse views pressed upon the Board. He desired to have the action of the Common Council such as to meet with success.

Ald. Ternan did not think it worth while to spend much time in discussing the matter, and in occupying the attention of the Board, when the subject was so generally understood. The second resolution certainly gave unqualified authority for the action of authorities, and was entirely fair in its spirit.

Ald. Strong explained the purport of the resolutions in detail, as he understood them, and as they must be construed by every person of intelligence. It was but a common duty to assist those on whom the hardships of the draft would inevitably fall, and from such as have the means it was very properly supposed that relief would be had. It would indeed, be a great mortification and a shame should the object sought for not be attained.

Ald. Fisher had prepared a series of resolutions almost identical with those offered by the Alderman of the 13th. He would, however, offer the following as an amendment:

Provided, that from every person or family who receives any sum of money in gross from the fund so to be provided, instead of a weekly allowance as relief, a receipt be taken which shall express that the sum so paid shall be instead and in lieu of all relief to be furnished by the city or county to such person or to his family during such service.

Ald. Strong accepted the amendment.

Ald. Taylor called for the reading of the resolutions, and after being read moved to lay them on the table until the following evening, when the Board might meet and take final action. To him they appeared crude, and a deliberation of twenty-four hours would no doubt be of essential benefit to all in considering a subject of so great importance.

The question was then taken on the resolutions, and they were adopted, ayes 13, nays 1; Ald Taylor voting in the negative.

On motion of Ald. Strong the Committee then rose, and the Chairman, Ald. Whitney, reported the adoption of the resolutions to the Chair and submitted them to the action of the Board.

Ald. Strong moved that the action of the Committee be concurred in and the resolution adopted.

Ald. Taylor moved to table the resolution until Friday evening.

Ald. Whitney urged that there should be unanimity in whatever action was had. There could be no doubt about obtaining the money if the proper action was taken by the Board, and as the question was understood by all persons, the concluding action should be taken this evening. De-

lay was not necessary, nor could any effectiveness be given to the matter by it.

Ald. Strong again urged the adoption of the resolutions, and hoped that no captious objections would be allowed to interfere with a subject of such vital moment to all. He desired it to be distinctly understood that for his own part he would wash his hands of anything of a political character connected, or attempted to be connected with the subject.

After some further discussion the question was taken on the resolutions, and they were adopted, Ald. Taylor voting in the negative and objecting to the unanimous consent asked. Subsequently, however, he withdrew his objection, and desired to be recorded as voting in the affirmative.

The Special Committee to whom was referred August 3, 1863, the communication of the Bell Ringers of the 13th Ward Bell Tower, asking that repairs might be made to said Tower so as to put it in a safe condition, would respectfully

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That they have, personally, visited and inspected said Bell Tower and find that it is in a very dilapidated condition, not a sound stick of timber being visible in the whole structure. Decay and ruin are apparent at every joint, and it seems almost a miracle of mercy that the whole structure has not, ere this, tumbled to the ground, with the loss of life of the bell-ringer or passer-by. Every wind shakes it to its foundation, and during the prevalence of a storm the ringers abandon the lofty elevation, considering it altogether too dangerous to remain.

Immediate action should be taken in the premises ere the city is called upon to respond in damages for the loss of life or the destruction of private property. Your Committee are of the decided opinion that repairs are out of the question—a perfect waste of money without the shadow of a benefit, nothing less than a complete new structure being necessary. In this opinion they are seconded by numerous builders, whom they have consulted, and who suggest with your Committee that immediate action should be taken on the subject.

In the early part of the present year a communication from the bell-ringers of this tower, on his subject, was presented to this Common Council and referred to the B. D. Fire Department Committee. The Committee reported on the 8th of June "that the tower is in a dilapidated and even dangerous condition, liable at any moment to fall and beyond economical repair," recommending at the same time that an appropriation of \$3,500 be made for building a new tower "in connection with the Armory about to be built in the Eastern District," and a resolution to that effect was attached to the report and adopted.

In consequence of this action on the part of the Common Council, your Committee have been somewhat embarrassed as to what action they should recommend, but from the representations made to your Committee by the Engineers, and numerous other prominent firemen, as well as from their own observation, they are satisfied that the tower ought to remain in its present location; for many reasons, some of which are that its location is the highest in the Eastern District from tide-water, and conse-

quently a better view can be obtained from the same height of building; it is, also, more central in its present position than it would be on the site of the proposed Armory, and less liable to engender strife and annoyance than if it were connected with a building devoted to another organization distinct in its character and purpose. And when it is, also, remembered that some time, perhaps a year or more, must elapse before the Armory and tower could be ready for occupancy, your Committee are of opinion that the interests of the public at large, as well as the wishes and desires of the Fire Department would be best promoted by rescinding the resolution adopted June 8th, and authorizing instead, the Board of Contracts to immediately rebuild the tower on its present site, your Committee would, therefore, recommend for adoption the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That the resolution, adopted June 8th, 1863, to wit: "That this Common Council hereby determines and decides to build a bell-tower in the Eastern District in place of the tower in the Thirteenth Ward, and that the same be built in connection with the Armory about to be built in said district at an expense not exceeding the amount on hand to the credit thereof, to wit: three thousand five hundred dollars" be, and the same is hereby rescinded.

Resolved, That this Common Council do hereby determine and decide to rebuild the bell-tower in the Thirteenth Ward, upon its present site, at an expense not exceeding three thousand five hundred dollars, which amount is already appropriated for that purpose, and that the Board of Contracts be directed to carry the provisions of the resolution into effect.

Respectfully submitted,
F. W. KALBFLEISCH,
JOHN A. SAIL,
SAMUEL TAYLOR,

Special Committee.

Ald. Strong hoped the resolutions of the Committee would not be adopted.

It was proposed to build a bell tower in connection with the new Armory, thereby saving expense, and at the same time giving a better site than that in present use. The bell tower in the 13th Ward, it was well known was considered a nuisance, and more than that, it was a great detriment to the property owned by the city adjacent to it. He believed that the general feeling was to connect the new tower with the Armory.

Ald. Kalbfleisch had been assured by the firemen and bell-ringers that the present location was in every respect the most preferable, and he had been guided somewhat in drawing the report by their experience.

Ald. Strong moved to table the resolutions.

Lost.

The question was then taken on the adoption of the report, and it was not agreed to, ayes 9, nays 3; there not being two-thirds of the members present voting in the affirmative.

The following, in relation to the draft, from the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, was submitted:

CITY HALL, BROOKLYN, Aug. 19, 1863.

To the Honorable the Common Council of the City of Brooklyn:

GENTLEMEN—The undersigned would respectfully invite your attention to the fact, in connection with the proceedings now in operation for a Conscription, that the Fire Department of this city has been maintained from almost time immemorial under the assurance that the onerous duties pertaining to their calling, would under the statute, exempt the several members from the various civil duties which are especially onerous to the workingman. Having, however, been informed that an entirely opposite construction has been placed on the act, and that your honorable body is about perfecting measures whereby any injustice may be obviated, I would respectfully ask your attention in behalf of the members of this Department, and the laborious services they have rendered, in the belief that they were at once compensating for civil requirements, while giving their own fortunes and the prospects of their families in behalf of public protection.

I am, gentlemen, respectfully yours,

JOHN CUNNINGHAM, Chief Engineer.

In connection with the above, the following resolution was offered by Ald. McLaughlin:

Resolved, That the members of the Fire Department of this city, in consideration of their unsolicited services in the saving of life and the preservation of property, be especially considered in the commutation to be raised by the City of Brooklyn, either in purchasing or procuring substitutes for said firemen who may be drawn in the Conscription, or for the relief of their families, as circumstances may suggest.

The resolution was adopted by unanimous consent.

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE, 300 Mulberry street,
New York, August 17, 1863.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Brooklyn.

In making an estimate for the amount required for the Police force of the City of Brooklyn last year, a balance of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars