

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 9999 06660 790 2

1847-49

Roxbury Mass  
City documents.

x 6351.2

(3-42)





tion

s. Phila.

5.51

gru

ca





*To Cyrus H. Fay Esq. with the  
wishes of his abt. St. P  
H. Dearborn*

**City Document—No. 1.**

---

**ADDRESS**

OF THE

**HON. H. A. S. DEARBORN, MAYOR,**

TO THE

**CITY COUNCIL OF ROXBURY:**

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

**TWO BRANCHES IN CONVENTION,**

**APRIL 2, 1849.**

---



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

---

**ROXBURY:**

**JOSEPH G. TORREY, CITY PRINTER.**

.....  
1849.





*City Document—No. 1.*

---

ADDRESS

OF THE

HON. H. A. S. DEARBORN, MAYOR,

TO THE

CITY COUNCIL OF ROXBURY:

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

TWO BRANCHES IN CONVENTION,

APRIL 2, 1849.

---



---

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

---

ROXBURY:  
JOSEPH G. TORREY, CITY PRINTER.

.....  
1849.

CITY OF ROXBURY.

---

IN COMMON COUNCIL, April 2, 1849.

*Ordered*, That the address of His Honor the Mayor, delivered before the two branches of the City Council in convention, be printed for the use of the City Council.

Passed, and sent up for concurrence.

JOSHUA SEAVER, *Clerk.*

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, April 2, 1849.

Concurred.

JOSEPH W. TUCKER, *City Clerk.*

# ADDRESS.

---

GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND  
COMMON COUNCIL:

It is with great satisfaction, that I can congratulate you, upon the favorable results, which have been realized, from the efficient measures, which have been adopted by the Council, since the establishment of the existing municipal government,—for extending the means of education to the children of all admissible ages, in every portion of the City,—improving the condition of the highways,—organizing a more perfect Police for the better security of persons and property during the day and night,—providing appropriate accommodations for those unfortunate and deeply to be commiserated men, women and children, who are compelled to seek a shelter from the storms of adversity, and the calamities of sickness and wounds, in an institution which has been specially founded for that purpose,—and for rendering the Fire Department as capable of performing the important and highly responsible duties



which have been devolved upon its officers and members, as was consistent with the limited means which could be rightfully appropriated to that object.

During the past and preceding year, several objects, which were deemed worthy of being accomplished, have been submitted to the Aldermen and Common Council for their consideration, and many of them have been sanctioned and achieved, in a manner which appears to have been generally satisfactory to the people; while others have been referred to a more favorable condition of the finances, or rejected as inexpedient, under existing circumstances. Among the latter classes was that of purchasing tracts of land in various parts of the City for public squares and promenades, and especially the area of an eminence near Highland street, which includes one of the numerous forts that were constructed by the patriots of the Revolution, in the environs of the capitol, while it was invested by the army of Washington; and so important is it that measures should be adopted for securing to ourselves and our posterity, such an interesting site, for the purposes of health and comfort, and the embellishment of the City, as well as a precious memorial of the brave, determined and successful contest for the **FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE** which we enjoy, that I am urged, from motives of gratitude to those ever honored champions of **LIBERTY**, who perilled fortune and life for the **RIGHTS OF MAN**, on that height, to again call your attention to the subject,



for it has been ascertained that the land can be obtained on very favorable terms, as appears by the report of a Committee to whom the subject was referred.

As materials for repairing the highways are chiefly purchased, and at high prices, does not a prudential regard to the interests of the City dictate the expediency of instituting inquiries for ascertaining whether gravel hills and ledges of rocks cannot be obtained, in many of the wards, on such acceptable terms, as ultimately to greatly diminish the amount, which must otherwise be annually expended, in maintaining the streets and roads in such a safe condition, as the laws of the Commonwealth and the convenience of the citizens so imperiously require.

During the two past years measures have been projected for the establishment of a RURAL CEMETERY, in a central part of the City, and they have, thus far, been carried into effect, in such a successful manner, as to render it certain, that the whole plan can and will be executed, without the necessity of imposing any additional taxes to defray the expense, as appears by the Report of the Commissioners, to whom the management of the establishment has been confided; and the grounds having been enclosed and so far prepared for the purposes of their consecration, by the construction of avenues and paths and the location of burial lots, as to admit of interments and the erection of sepulchres, it is respectfully recommended that several, if not all of

the other cemeteries in the City should be closed, as soon as it can be done in a manner that will be satisfactory to the community, for the reasons which induced the foundation of the FOREST HILLS GARDEN for the DEAD.

The expenditures for the support of the Schools and in the erection of edifices for the reception of the augmented and increasing number of pupils has been unusually large; but when the great object for which this expense has been incurred, is gravely considered, it is not possible that any parent, who regards the moral character, piety and future condition of his children, can object to the liberal provision which has been made for accomplishing those momentous objects, by affording ample means for intellectual acquirements, the inculcation of virtuous principles and the inducement of rectitude of deportment, at a period of life, when, if it is not then done, their destinies may be as sad and deplorable, as an unrestrained career of idleness, ignorance, vice and crime can render them. For it is in childhood that the character of the future man and woman is to be formed. Better, therefore, is it for the child and parents, as well as for society, that the mind and heart should be cultivated, than an inheritance of millions, not only for the insurance of happiness in this world, but for a station of eminence in the realms of immortal beatitude.

The heart is the sacred altar of all the most admirable qualities of our race; for while the mind is the citadel of thought, reason, truth, justice, and



judgment, in the heart are enthroned those most adorable attributes of Omnipotence—**MERCY** and **CHARITY**. So pre-eminent above all the intellectual endowments were those of the heart considered by the inspired messenger of God, for the development and consummation of human excellence, that all his most eloquent entreaties and impressive conjurements, for the reformation of man, and his restoration to a primitive state of innocence and perfection, were made to the heart. All his miracles, all his lessons of duty, all his acts on earth were dictates of the heart; and his last most memorable words were addressed to that of the Almighty, when suffering the inflictions of insult, contumely and outrage, he benignly exclaimed—"Father forgive them; for they know not what they do." Still the culture of the heart is too commonly utterly neglected by parents and instructors, while the mind is often so over wrought, as to enfeeble its powers, and prostrate the physical energies in such a deplorable manner, as to suddenly blast those fondly cherished anticipations of distinction, which precocious development had encouraged, by an appalling intellectual decrepitude, or a premature death.

By the generous consent of the government of Boston, the Commissioners of the Cochituate Water Works were authorized to place hydrants in the main pipe, which passes through Roxbury, for supplying the engines with water whenever fires occurred within the districts where the fixtures are located; and so abundant is the quantity which can

be furnished, that this favor cannot be too highly appreciated; for the whole expense of attaching the hydrants and furnishing the requisite apparatus for using them has been defrayed by Boston, upon the sole condition that the water should not be employed for any other purpose than the extinguishment of fires.

As a secure place for the reception and safe keeping of the implements and the hose for connecting the hydrants with the engines was required, a small edifice has been erected on land belonging to the City, near the bridge, where the railroad crosses Washington street,—that position being nearly central between the hydrants.

For this most acceptable illustration of the courteous and liberal disposition of the government of Boston, the grateful acknowledgements of the Council were tendered, with an assurance that Roxbury would cheerfully reciprocate the favor which had been bestowed, whenever an occasion occurred for enabling it to do so.

These additional sources for the supply of water will greatly facilitate the operations of the Fire Department, and it will thus be enabled to attain a still higher position in public estimation. The Chief Engineer and his Assistants, as well as the officers and members of the several Engine Companies, eminently merit the highest commendation for the very complete and efficient organization which they have established, and the faithful manner in which they have discharged their very laborious duties.



To render an enforcement of the laws and ordinances less difficult and vexations, it has been ascertained, after an experience of three years, that a more uniform, acceptable and perfect system of jurisprudence should be introduced, by the establishment of a Police Court ; and this, it is confidently believed can be done, in a manner that will not be as obnoxious to complaint as that which now exists, and will besides greatly diminish the number of suits, as well as the expense of prosecutions, both to the City and the opposite parties.

The Report of the Committee on Accounts, which has been printed and distributed throughout the City, contains such a detailed and lucid statement of the receipts and expenditures, during the past fiscal year, that it is only necessary so far to allude to the subject, as to state, that the appropriations which have been made, were limited to objects of primary consequence, while several others, which it was very desirable to accomplish, were deferred, from a determined disposition to confine the expenditures within the narrowest compass possible, consistent with a proper attention to the requirements of the various departments of the government, and the expectations of the inhabitants in each of the wards, who had a right to claim a just and equitable participation, in whatever might be done for promoting the general weal.

As it is a duty enjoined by the Charter, I shall, on all proper occasions, “communicate such information and recommend such measures,” as may be

deemed worthy of your consideration ; and with assurances of an anxious desire for a cordial co-operation in the performance of the respective duties which have been imposed upon the legislative and executive branches of the government, in such a prompt and faithful manner as will most effectually tend to an impartial execution of the laws, the preservation of tranquility, the advancement of the interests of the City and the prosperity and happiness of the whole people, it is my ardent aspiration that we may be guided in our course by that holy power, on which all human efforts are dependent for success.

H. A. S. DEARBORN.

*Roxbury, April 2, 1849.*











