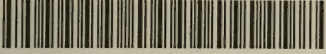


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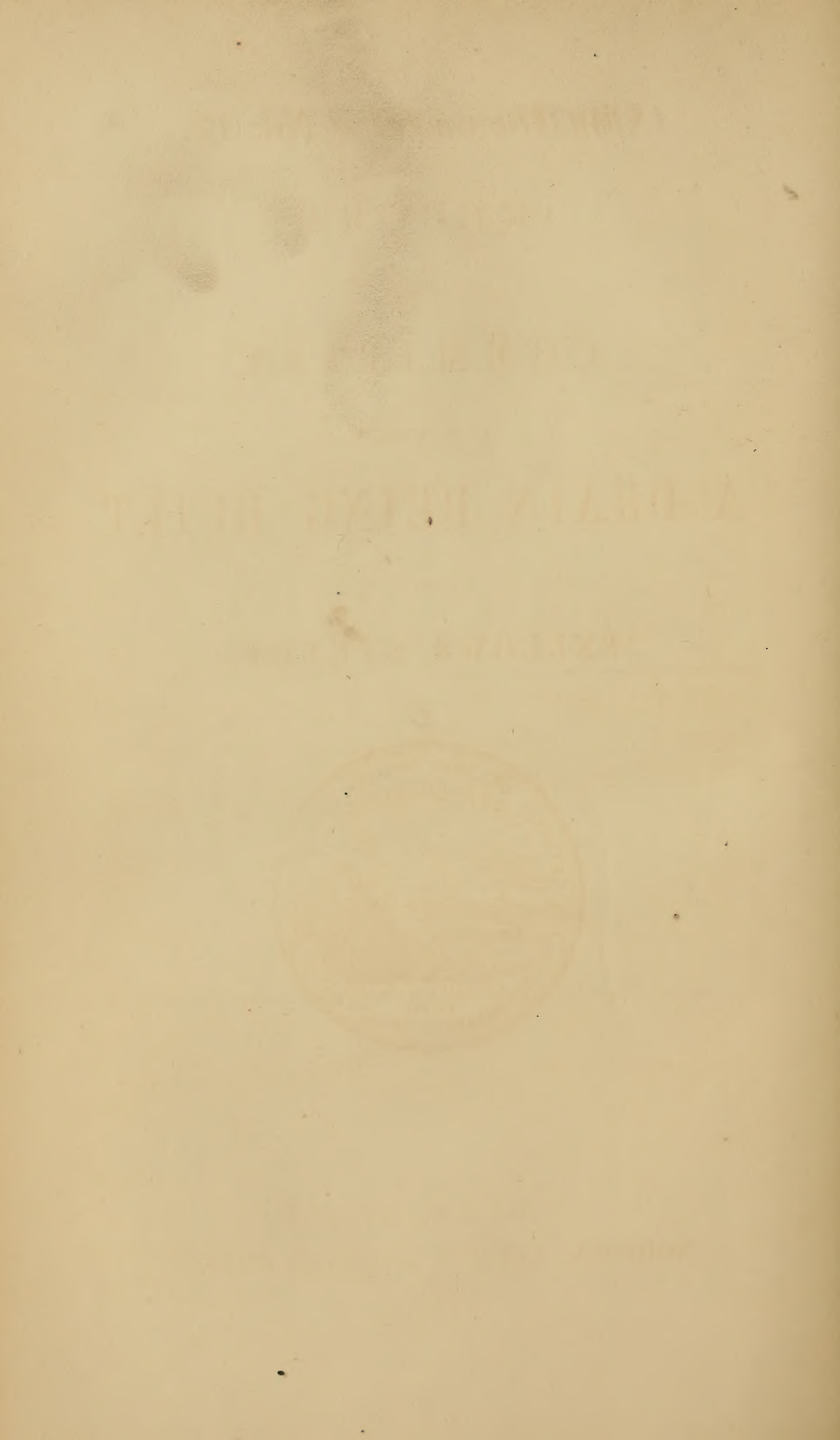
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*City Document—No. 17.*

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REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

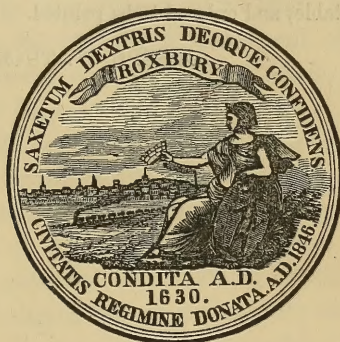
IN RELATION TO

A DRAIN BEING BUILT

ON

FELLOWS STREET.

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ROXBURY:  
NORFOLK COUNTY JOURNAL PRESS.

1855.

CITY OF ROXBURY.

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IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, Sept. 24th, 1855.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

JOSEPH W. TUCKER, *City Clerk.*



The Committee to whom was referred the petition of Sylvester Bowman and others, abutters on Fellows Street, praying the City to lay a Common Sewer on said street, and also requesting the City to establish the grade and build the street; the expense of building the street to be charged to the abutters, respectfully

## R E P O R T :

THE subject of under-drainage and sewerage is one which has long occupied the attention of the City Government. From the growing density of our population, and the increasing difficulty experienced on all sides, a loud and constant demand is heard that a movement should be commenced, on a liberal and permanent basis, for a thorough drainage of our City.

In the past it has been deemed a project of so much magnitude, and involving so much expense, that the heart of the stoutest friend of improvement has well nigh quailed in view of it. Many attempts have been made to induce the city government of Boston to allow our sewers to connect with theirs, but no satisfactory arrangement has been reached. Boston has amply provided for her public wants of water and drainage, at vast expense, and we cannot wonder at her unwillingness to yield to other hands the slightest control of her public works.

In the lower section of our City, especially in Ward 1, an intolerable nuisance is created every year by the accumulation of stagnant water, hemmed in on all sides, seeking in vain an escape to the sea. Its existence is a standing

reproach to our City, besides exercising a deleterious influence on the surrounding neighborhood. From its contiguity to Boston, the abatement of the nuisance would seem to rightfully belong to both governments, but from recent experience, we judge a satisfactory arrangement is as distant as ever.

With these considerations in mind, forcible as they certainly are, the Committee found themselves inclined to give a favorable hearing to the prayer of the petitioners, in the hope that their proposition might furnish a satisfactory solution of the whole matter.

The Committee accordingly made a careful survey of the premises. They find that Fellows Street, through to the water's edge, is within the limits of Roxbury. The street as it now is would have to be but slightly excavated to lay the bottom of the sewer.

A sewer to meet the present and future wants of the City, the Committee think should be at least four feet square in the clear. An estimate of the distance is as follows:

From Hunneman Street straight to water,	-	-	-	1210 ft.
“ “ “ to City Wharf,	-	-	-	1400 “

The probable expense of constructing a thorough plank sewer and cess pools, it was estimated would not exceed three thousand dollars to the City.

After the sewer is built, the City is requested to grade and build the street upon it, and charge the expense to the abutters.

It was urged upon the Committee that now was a very favorable time to move in the matter. The season is exceedingly dry; it could be built with far less inconvenience than when those low grounds were saturated with water; the consent and coöperation of the abutters were now obtained, and if it should be postponed another season they might not again be easily secured.

Another thing considered by the Committee, and worthy of statement, would be the fact, that, immediately upon the construction of the sewer, the whole condition of that neighborhood would be changed. Possessed of an opportunity to drain, the attention of owners would at once be turned toward improving their vacant lands; and, from ample assurance, the Committee are well convinced, that in a few years those lands would be covered with buildings, for dwellings and mechanical purposes, thus adding largely to the taxable property of the City.

The importance to the whole City, if this improvement should be granted, could hardly be estimated. It will constitute for the eastern section of the City the main outlet, to a Common Sewer (and at a reasonable expense), capable of being extended through all the ramifications of the City, and of bearing to the healthful embrace of "Old Ocean" the cast-off and polluted waters of our City.

In conclusion, the Committee are well aware of the great improvements making by the City, and of the expense incurred thereby; but from the pressing necessity every where felt, that a system of drainage be speedily commenced, they cannot allow considerations of an economical and pecuniary nature to weigh with sufficient force to prevent so desirable a result.

They accordingly recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and the work done the present season.

For the Committee,

SAM'L S. CHASE, *Chairman,*

*Roxbury, Sept, 24th, 1855.*















