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The following Communication -
Gentlemen of the City Council

It is with great satisfaction I am able to state to you, in the Communication which my official duty imposes that notwithstanding the very unpromising aspect of our Affairs at the Commencement of the last year and the Considerable reduction of revenue that was reasonably anticipated from the restricted state of our Commercial operations, yet such have been the resources of our City, that our funds have proved ample, and enabled us to accomplish the several objects contemplated by you -

The very great difficulties which presented themselves to the board of City Commissioners when preparing the foundations of the Stone bridge over Jones' Falls early induced them to have recourse to Mr John Davis from whose experience and talents they expected great assistance in the accomplishment of the work. The Coffin dam and other necessary preparatory works were constructed under his immediate direction, and certainly with such ability and good judgment as to have insured success, had it been practicable to have prepared the foundations, without incurring the expense of piling, the Mud machine was employed to clear away the obstructions and rubbish of the former arches Stone bridge which fell in, which at considerable expense and labor was effected. a Coffin dam was sunk and fuddled in the usual manner and a number of pumps prepared to clear the water therefrom, in order if possible to build the Centre pier on the natural bottom, on the first attempt it was found impracticable to reduce the water within the Coffin dam more than from four to five feet, this being taking place immediately after a high fresh, the water of

the falls being muddy and that within the dam almost clear denoted the leakage to proceed by filtration of the water through a hollow and porous gravel below the sheet piling of the Coffin dam, all of which had been shog and driven four feet deep into the bed of gravel. After the failure of the first experiment it was deemed advisable to increase the number of pumps and to fill in around the Coffin dam and clearly to ascertain whether the inability to reduce the water proceeded from a defect in the construction of the works or from the nature of the bed of the falls, On the second trial it being found impracticable as the water within the dam was only reduced as much lower than in the first attempt as the increased number of pumps on hydraulics principally would produce, no doubt existed as to the cause and recourse would have been immediately had to the mode which has been since successfully adapted of piling had not one of our fellow Citizens who was very sanguine in being able to reduce the water, volunteered, and proposed for a fixed stipulated sum to free the dam in the space of two weeks, and keep it so for a certain time until the masonry was out of danger, agreeing at the same time in case of failure it should be at his own private expense. As considerable censure was in circulation respecting this business which would have been only increased by a refusal to accede to the proposal it was thought proper to accept, and four weeks were consumed before it was finally abandoned as impracticable. The unforeseen and unfortunate difficulties arising from the nature of the bottom of the falls have prevented the work from being finished last fall, as was expected, as well as increased the expense, but being now overcome
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