the report of 1849, your committee believe to be true to the letter at this time. What then are the remedies? and what the requirements of the city? The remedy your committee believe to be a city fire department, the the equipment of such a number of companies as will give prompt and efficient protection to all parts of the city — the number, the companies and the expenses of the companies to be under the control of the city. Two plans have been referred to your committee, a majority and a minority report. The majority report recommends seven steam engine companies, six hand engine companies, and four hook and ladder companies. The minority report recommends six steam engine companies and two hook and ladder companies. In submitting the accompanying ordinance, it is proper that your committee should give the reasons for so doing. Your committee suppose that in the organization of a city fire department, all other things being equal, prompt protection to all parts of the city should be afforded as far as practicable. The minority report recommends six steam engine companies with eleven men to each, all to be paid. Nothing is said in the report in respect to the location, and your committee in examining a plat of the city have been unable to locate them without leaving large sections of the city so distant that should a fire occur in one of the distant sections of the city it would have so long a time progress that great destruction of property would be caused, which would readily have been prevented had a company been convenient so as to have acted promptly. Five minutes' time less will frequently cause the loss of thousands of dollars worth of property. The department is to be strictly a paid department. Can eleven men operate a steam engine? In all that part of the city where a supply of water can be obtained from the docks or fire plugs, the number of men proposed, if always on duty, could possibly do so. It would take one man on the engine as steam engineer, one fireman, and one to take care of the horses, leaving eight to manage the pipe or pipes, to remove it and the hose from place to place, and to attend to the many duties devolving upon the firemen whilst in

the discharge of their active duties at fires. If the men employed were firemen, for the pay received, the onerous duties required of them would be great compared with the amount of pay — one hundred dollars per year. There are large sections of our city where a supply of water can only be had from pumps. In all that part of the city, one man being engaged on the engine as engineer, one as fireman, one in charge of the horses, and say three with the hose pipes, but five would be left who would have to pump the water for the use of the engine. Would it be possible for five men to do so? Your committee think not, and as this is to be exclusively a paid department, the services of others could not be called in without destroying the prestige of a paid department. The two hook and ladder companies are each to have eleven men. At fires one would have to take charge of the horses, leaving ten men to attend to the raising and securing the ladders, to entering the houses with their hooks and axes, as they necessarily have to do, and the numerous other duties which devolve upon that part of the fire department. Your committee are assured by those who have had years of experience as members of a hook and ladder company, that it would be impossible to place and replace the ladders, independent of the other duties they are expected to perform. The plan of the minority, proposing steam power exclusively, manual labor is dispensed with in working the machinery. This being the case, all who are employed to serve as firemen should be possessed of intelligence and judgment, for your committee are of opinion that both intelligence and judgment are required to make a good fireman, not to work the brakes of an engine (that steam can do) but to know how and when to apply the water. Would one hundred dollars per annum command the services of men of intelligence and judgment, as the pay of one hundred dollars a year would not make a gentleman of a disorderly character? Every member of the Council and every citizen who has served as an active fireman, is aware that to constitute a good fireman (and none others should be employed) intelligence, judgment and discretion are required. Your committee are