KODAK SAFETY FILM

Committee, and nominating on their part Messrs Mosher, Rose, Jamison, Woodyear and Levering; to which this branch agree and so informed that branch, and appointed on its part Messrs Biays, White and Bromwell.

The following resolution was received from the first branch for the concurrence of this, was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table

Resolved, that a joint Committee of both branches be appointed to enquire into the situation of those persons who have been driven from their homes by the late freshet, and that the said Committee be and they are hereby authorised to draw on the City Treasury for such sum as they find necessary to provide them with a temporary covering and relief, and that the committee on the part of this branch consist of Messrs Jamison, Woodyear and Rose.

A Message was received from the first branch proposing, that when the City Council adjourn today, it adjourn until Thursday next at 3 OClock in the afternoon, to which this branch agreed and so informed that branch, and adjourned accordingly &c.

By Order Tho. Rogers Clk

Thursday August 14th 1817

Present Henry Payson Esqr President, Messrs Hollins, White, Warner and Bromwell.

A Sufficient number of members to compose a branch not being present, the members present adjourned until tomorrow afternoon 3 OClock.

By Order Tho. Rogers Clk

Friday August 15th 1817

Branch met agreeably to adjournment: Present Henry Payson Esqr Pres. and all the Members except Mr Forney.

Mr Biays from the joint Committee delivers the following report; which was read and referred to the consideration of the first branch.

The Committee to whom was referred the examination of the bridges, beg leave to report, that they have performed that duty, and venture to give their opinion upon this subject with much diffidence. Considering the magnitude and importance of it to the well being and prosperity of the City, it is scarcely necessary to observe, that the central situation of Jones' Falls, its connexion with the navigation, its capacity of occasionally destroying property to an immense amount, its influence on the lives and health of our fellow citizens, deserve the utmost exertions of the City Council, to guard its banks, to facilitate the egress of its waters, and to confine them within the limits of its usual course. Your committee are of opinion that the bed of Jones' Falls is much too confined, in every part from Pratt Street bridge upwards: but even this confined bed is still materially lessened by the construction of the stone bridges; by the projection of the abutments, and by the breadth and solidity of the Piers, lessening the water way of the Falls, and stopping floating timber coming down, so that even the small arches of the bridges originally incapable of venting the current, are nearly choaked up. Your committee are of opinion, that the narrow limits of the Falls will not permit with safety, any obstruction to be placed in the beds of the river, such as stone piers, or abutments projecting beyond its banks. Obstructions of this kind by preventing the free flow of the river, produce much back water and drive it over its banks, to the great danger and injury of the inhabitants.

If the finances of the City, or the interest of individuals, would enable the City Council to erect iron bridges of one arch, which are much in use in England, and procurable at a relatively a moderate expense, in that country, they would be the most suitable: if they are unattainable, your committee are inclined to believe that wooden bridges are preferable to stone, if stone cannot be erected without piers and abutments, that lessen the width of the river. Your committee are disposed to believe that much advantage would accrue from straightening the bed of the river, and from rendering it navigable for craft as far as centre Street or Solon Street,