recommend this improvement as a progressive one, and on investigation, I think would show the cost to be much less than generally supposed. Schroeders run is perhaps not so dangerous but a much greater nuisance, and by all means should be tunnelled. Its present condition greatly impairs the value of property and prevents improvement. I earnestly invite the attention of the Council to it. In reference to a House of Refuge, I doubt whether a single citizen can be found who will not cheerfully admit its great and increasing necessity. I believe most, if not all of our sister cities have been driven to it by necessity or influenced by more disinterested motives, have prepared an Asylum for the friendless, or those who have no protection against the temptations of early vice. The city jail, in its present condition, is but a school to the uninitiated in more matured crime; and while it and the almshouse are both necessary, yet I doubt not, but that a well regulated system of early training would lessen the expenses of both.

What the want of such an institution costs the community no one can tell. If the various fires, which occur from no accountable cause, could be traced to their true source, and which large rewards have failed to penetrate, then indeed might we properly appreciate its value. To erect an institution such as other cities have at this time perfected, would present a startling cost. Such is not my view, which only contemplates a commencement adequate to our means, and upon such principles of industry as would go far to defray the expenses. Experience would then show its importance and the public mind, as in our school system, would justify increased expenditure.

For many years past, the peace of the city has been disturbed, Ordinances have been passed, and the council anxiously concerned, to devise some means to stay the violence and outrage attendent upon actual fires, and false alarms, too often got up for such purpose. The police of the city have with great fidelity discharged their duty, yet the evil instead of abating seems to increase. Life itself have paid the penalty of these riots, an innocent victim has been slain at midday in the public streets, fire arms freely used, and the peace of various parts of the city entirely destroyed, by scenes of the most disgraceful kind; the only wonder is that more

extensive injury has not been done. All experience shows that these outbrakes have their origin outside of the firecompanies proper. No class of the community more deplores these excesses, than the generous and patrotic men, who freely risk their lives, and impair their health, to protect the property of their fellow citizens. To no class is a general debt of gratitude more eminently due, but there are various and dangerous combinations throughout the city of idle and evil disposed boys and persons, who stimulated by sectional hatred, watch every alarm of fire, and seize the opportunity of rallying under different names for a general fight. The arrests that are made and the convictions and punishment of those so arrested, prove this to be true.

It has struck me forcibly that some appropriate mark of public approbation, medals or otherwise, and classed as first, second, and third, presented to those three companies most distinguished for their good conduct and order, and for the preservation of both, would have a most beneficial effect— these awards to be based on monthly or quarterly reports to this office, by the president and directors of each company, and to be submitted to an annual investigating committee appointed by the council. Those who have no connexion with fire companies other than by mere preference and location, might thus be made sensible of the discredit which their misconduct brought upon their favorite company— or on the other hand, how much honor they had in their power to confer upon it. The lawless who are often reckless to penalties and consequences, may be stimulated to generous emulation and with certain punishment upon one side, and the high reward of public distinction on the other, both means would be applied which are known to influence human conduct, as well the bad as the good. It is scarcely necessary to add, that all the power and authority invested in me by the ordinances, shall be vigorously enforced to prevent those disgraceful outbreaks of violence; for the peace of the city must and shall be preserved, and that, too, without fear, favor, or affection.

The wharf on the south side of the city dock has entirely fallen in, and the earth is rapidly filling it up—