And at the end of the resolution, the words, "and that the testimonials of Messrs. N. Hall, and others, accompanying and referred to in the report of the committee, be printed on the Second Branch Journal."

On motion of Mr. Webster, the amendment was concurred in.

Boston, April 25, 1854

Henry Webster, Esq,

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 17th inst. was duly recieved, and I regret that my reply has been delayed, in part, by a short absence. I take great pleasure in answering your inquiry, in regard to Mr. T. E. Sickels, with whom I became acquainted by his being appointed, I think in 1844, a resident engineer on the Boston Water Works, with the charge of one of the divisions of the work, including the engineering on that part of the line and the superintendence of a large number of men. He gave entire satisfaction in all respects, and I considered him remarkably assiduous and prompt in the discharge of all his duties, and fully competent to all the duties which devolved upon him. I am not able to say how extensive his opportunities of observation and experience may have been before or since he was employed on our works. He remained with us until the completion of our work, and he must have made himself acquainted with the manner in which all the departments of the art were conducted. From the manner in which he discharged his duties here, and the impression I have of his general capacity, I should judge him well qualified for the service which you have in view, and should feel a confidence that he would discharge with ability and fidelity any duty which he would undertake. In giving this opinion I take it for granted that since he left here he has had opportunities of adding to his knowledge and experience then acquired. Very Respectfully,

Your Obt Servant

Nathan Hall.

Albany, May 11, 1854.

Gentlemen:-

I have been advised that you have engaged T. E. Sickels to undertake the examination for the supply of Baltimore with water. I have been acquainted with Mr. S. for upwards of twelve years, a portion of which time he has been engaged on works under my direction, and upon the Croton and Cochituate

Water Works, where I have frequently met him and had occasion to ascertain his merit as an engineer and his standing as a gentleman. With the opportunities I can say with confidence that you have made a judicious selection of an engineer for the object you desire.

Mr. Sickels stands very high in his profession, and especially as an hydraulic engineer, and has had experience on the best water works in the country, which will render his services of great value to you in designing and executing your works. There are few gentlemen in the profession whose qualifications would, in my opinion, be equal to those of Mr. Sickels for the appointment you have made.

Respectfully, Your Obt Servant

Wm. J. McAlpine.

Messrs. Henry Webster and others of the City Council, Baltimore, Md.

Office of the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana R. R. Companies.
No. 18. William Street,
New York, 19th April, 1854.

Henry Webster, Esq., Sir:-

I have been requested by T. E. Sickels, Esq., to write you in relation to his standing as an engineer - to which I would remark that Mr. S. was employed under my direction several years on the Croton aqueduct, and subsequently as one of the resident engineers on the Cochituate aqueduct, Boston. He has therefore had several years experience in that branch of engineering. I have always regarded him a man of good capacity, industrious and faithful. His engineering education has been good. I regard him as one of the few engineers well qualified to conduct works in hydraulic engineering, and think you have made a very good selection for your aqueduct works.

Respectfully, yours,

John B. Jervis.

City Engineer's Office,
Boston, April 21, 1854.

Dear Sir:- Your favor of the 17th is now before me. Mr. T. E. Sickels had charge of a very difficult portion of the Boston Water Works, on which he remained till it was completed, and displayed unusual talent and energy. His experience previous and subsequent to his employment on our works, together with what I had a personal opportunity of observing, satisfies me that he is fully competent