

The following is a copy of the communication made to the Common Council by the chief engineer on Wednesday evening. It evinces a determination to put down the disorderly conduct of a portion of the fire department, and as a majority of that body is ready to second any measure to accomplish this object, we hope that the Common Council will act promptly. The meed of praise is justly due to Alderman Willis for the stand he has taken in regard to it:—

**To the Honorable Common Council of New York.**

The chief engineer begs leave respectfully to call the attention of your honorable body to the disgraceful and riotous conduct of certain fire companies on the occurrence of a fire, and more particularly in reference to those who were the most prominent actors in the scenes at the fire in Front street on the 29th instant.

The chief engineer would state, that while the above fire was still burning, and before the lines were entirely discharged, a disturbance took place between the members of engine companies 39 and 12; that he immediately proceeded to put a stop to it, and while in the act of so doing, he was assaulted and struck a number of times by persons having on fire-caps, with the number "39," and whom he fully and confidently believes to be members of fire engine company No. 39; that he succeeded in arresting a person *not a fireman*, and that every effort was made by some of the members of the above-named company to rescue the offender, but which were fortunately unsuccessful, and he was committed to prison.

The chief-engineer would farther state that on the following morning, he called on Ald. Willis, chairman of the fire and water committee, and represented to him the foregoing facts, when that gentleman (with a promptness and decision for which he feels much indebted to him) ordered the apparatus of fire company No. 39 to be sent to the public yard, and their house closed and secured. The chief, however, regrets to add, that the house has since that time been broken open, and entered by some person or persons, through the window; of which the sash was forced out, and the iron bars wrenched therefrom. The chief-engineer would wish that he could close his communication here, but a sense of duty and justice compels him to mention another disgraceful and infamous occurrence after the aforementioned fire, which has been communicated to him by various persons who were witnesses to it.

While engines No. 15 and 40 were on their way home through the Bowery, a fight and riot commenced between the companies attached to those engines, which lasted for some time, rendering it dangerous for citizens to pass by, and causing serious injury to some of the persons engaged therein. It has, as yet, been impossible to get at the causes of this riot; but whatever they may be, they have been the means of bringing upon the offenders, as well as all connected with the department, deep and indelible disgrace.

The chief engineer would therefore respectfully ask the serious attention of your honorable body to these facts; and also that you would adopt *prompt, energetic and decided measures* to punish in some way the offenders, as well as to prevent the recurrence of like scenes. The *great majority* of the fire department view them with shame and disgust, and are willing and disposed to second any measures that may be adopted to preserve order and sustain the laws. The want of an efficient police at fires is seriously felt, and he trusts that your attention will be directed to this subject.

In conclusion, the chief engineer deems it his duty as he feels it his pleasure, to bear testimony to the disposition manifested by the chairman of the fire and water committee to put a stop to these riotous proceedings, and he would take this occasion to again express his thanks to him for his promptness in the present instance; but he fears that unless his efforts are seconded by those of your honorable body, they will be of no avail.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. V. ANDERSON, Chief Engineer.