

separate independent Corporation, entirely beyond the control of the Council; and therefore a mockery and unjust in them thus to refer my Petition, in the face of the Statute creating a special Officer for them, for the performance of the very duty in question, and of my very clear and unmistakable request therefor.

OUR MAYOR, H. MCKINSTRY, Esq.,

AND

OUR RECORDER, JOHN START, Esq.,
AS POLICE COMMISSIONER

Notwithstanding such highly improper conduct of the Council, I being very desirous that these matters should be enquired into, wrote to the Mayor as Chairman of the Police Commissioners, on 14th June, asking him to inform me what "course of procedure they had fixed upon?"

On the 15th of June I received from the Mayor a letter signed by him, *but in the handwriting of the Recorder*, informing me, in answer to my said letter, "that the same will be gone into in the usual way, by the examination of all parties who are aware of the circumstances of which you complain."

My question being thus avoided by them, I determined to make another effort, ill as I was, and I wrote to the Mayor on 17th June as follows:

"As you (namely the Police Commissioners) will meet to-day, I will feel obliged if you will inform me of the *course of procedure* which you intend taking; whether you will take evidence *under oath*, or not; as if not to be taken under oath, I see no possible good which can arise by any examination you can make, as persons who could behave in the brutal manner in which I was treated, will at least *say* anything, if they should be somewhat restrained by the fear of the Penitentiary from *swearing* to anything.

On same day, the Mayor replied thereto, informing me that the Police Commissioners were in session, and concluded as follows, namely:—

"As Chairman of the Board, I am *advised that I have not the power to administer oaths*, or examine witnesses in that way, *as in the opinion of the Board such investigation has not been asked for under the 382 section of chapter 54, of the Consolidated Statutes*, it being doubtful in the opinion of the Recorder whether such section is applicable to the present case."

That answer somewhat astonished me. My repeated question, as to their course of procedure, *could no longer be avoided*, and out came the answer, that they could not administer an oath to a witness, hence any examination which they could make would be a mockery. But mark their audacious false assertion, that I had