

# REPORT

On the methods employed for extinguishing and preventing the spread of fires, and on the different Fire Escapes adopted in several American cities.

CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE, HALIFAX,  
14th May, 1883.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

*Gentlemen:—*

While engaged in inspecting the different kinds of Graving Docks along the Atlantic coast of America, the following extract from the minutes of the City Council, dated 29th November, 1882, reached me in New York on the 5th December:

"*Resolved*, That His Worship the Mayor be requested to communicate forthwith with the City Engineer, requiring him to inform himself upon the various modes adopted—in the principal cities he may visit—for the prevention of accidents by fire and the most improved fire escapes adapted to public and other buildings for the perservation of life."

After receiving the above instructions, I called upon the heads of the fire departments at New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, and was in every instance received with courtesy by these gentlemen, who cheerfully answered all my questions and put me in the way of acquiring such further information as I desired.

NEW YORK.

The fire department employs in round numbers 1000 men and 230 horses, and costs annually about \$1,250,000, not including appropriations for new buildings, which would add about \$250,000 to the yearly cost. Of the 1000 men employed about 800 are effective firemen, who are divided into 66 companies of about 12 men to each company.

**Cost of Fire  
Department.**