

On behalf of the citizens, the Committee acknowledge with gratitude, the exertions of Her Majesty's Soldiers and Sailors, at Fires, in times past ; but it is not to be denied, that the presence and active assistance, of so large a force of disciplined men, on such occasions, has led to a most culpable supineness, on the part of the inhabitants generally.

This state of affairs is not creditable, and has not unfrequently served to promote feelings of jealousy and irritation, which it is hoped, the formation of the proposed Company, will in future, have a tendency to prevent. At the same time, it is gratifying to perceive that the General Commanding has freely tendered the use of the Troops, in future, at Fires,—provided, the proper application be made for their services.

Upon the suggestion of the Firewards, the Committee recommend, that His Worship, the Mayor, or the Chairman of Firewards, may have power to make application to the General Commanding, for the use of the Troops at Fires ; and that, in the absence of His Worship the Mayor, any two Aldermen ; or in the absence of the Chairman of Firewards, any two Firewards, shall have the same power.

The question of Steam Fire Engines next engaged the attention of the Committee. These machines, it appears, are coming into extensive use in other places. They have been successfully introduced into the Fire Departments of Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, and other cities in the United States. In Boston, there are several, which are said to be working very satisfactorily. The Mayor of Boston states that, they are gradually taken the place of the common Hand-engines, and that, in consequence of their introduction, he hopes next year, to be able to reduce the expense of the Fire Department, some 20 or 30 thousand dollars.

The exertion necessary to work fire engines, by hand labour, is so exhausting, that it is very desirable steam power should be used, if possible. To be really useful, however,