

proposed for direct payment—that is, ten dollars, a year, for each man. Three hundred men, at ten dollars each, will make £750; a sum which looks small, in comparison with the munificence of Boston; yet still, a very large sum for us. On the other hand, it has been urged, that any sum that we could afford to pay, would be really no consideration to any man above the condition of a pauper, and would fail to attract those whose co-operation it is most desirable to secure. If the respectable classes—the merchants, tradesmen, householders, and above all, the young men, natives or residents, of the city, would look at this matter in its proper light, there would be no necessity for the offering of any inducement, beyond what would be suggested by public duty, and mutual protection. In former times, there were Fire Companies in Halifax, and efficient ones too, based upon such principles; then why not reorganize such Companies? The Committee are convinced, it would be doing great injustice to the members of the Union Engine Company, to suppose, that they give their zealous and valuable services from no higher motive, than for the sake of the paltry privileges allowed them.

The time may come, when the population and wealth of the city may warrant other arrangements, but in the meantime, and for some time to come, the Committee believe we must trust largely to voluntary exertion. It is, therefore, recommended, that a Company, or Companies, of not less than 50 able-bodied men, be raised in each of the six wards of the city, to be organized into one or more brigades, for the purpose of assisting at Fires, by working the Engines; and that the duty of organizing said Companies, in all 300 men, be left in the hands of the Firewards. The Committee have much pleasure in adding, that the Chairman of Firewards, D. Murray, Esq., has entered warmly into the project, and has undertaken, with the aid of his fellow-citizens, to carry it out.

The Committee cannot dismiss this part of the subject without some reference to the Military and Naval Departments.