

or as soon as the articles are made; but there need be no apprehension in regard to obtaining a loan, as I will hold myself responsible for that part of the business. A loan is one thing, however, and the means of paying it off as well as the interest, is another; in fact, everything hinges upon the latter proposition. The usual method of doing public work is by general assessment, or sometimes by private subscription. I do not like either method (in the present case). First, because I consider our taxes are already high enough, although I do not hold to the idea that every good thing must be subordinated to a niggardly economy; or that the man who thinks of nothing else but the amount of taxes he has to pay, and what benefits he derives, is the wisest of men; secondly, because I do not believe that any public work should be undertaken by private subscription, for the reason that, as it is for the public good, all ought to be equal contributors, according to their abilities to pay; and we all know that the reverse of this is the case, for where some subscribe liberally, others turn a deaf ear to all invitations for doing good. A clock, therefore, reared upon such a fund, would, every time it struck, or gave forth the hours of the day, serve as a reminder to many persons of their short-comings, which painful sensation I wish to guard against.

What I propose is that you abolish the salary of the Mayor, amounting to \$200, and set that sum aside as a reserve—calling it, if you like, “the clock fund”—which would meet the interest on the debt and leave quite a surplus for paying off the principal, by which means, and from the proceeds of future Concerts, which I am sure our talented Amateurs would kindly favor the city with when called upon, the whole obligation may be liquidated in three or four years. After that you would have the \$200 a year for further improvements, such as providing a neat railing to be placed in front of this building, with a grass plat and shrubbery inside, instead of having, as at present, the whole front lumbered up with hay, cordwood and all sorts of litter, altogether destroying the harmony or fine effect of the front elevation. Of course a Hay Market would be required to be provided elsewhere.

Now, gentlemen, two questions naturally suggest themselves to me in connection with this proposition. First, have we the power to bind the action of our successors by doing away with the salary of the Mayor, and might not the next Council restore it, and thus undermine the foundation upon which we make our calculations for paying off the clock debt, if we now incur it? While I do not hold for a moment that we can decide for our successors, my belief is that if the debt is made in good faith, with the public feeling in favor of the object, the next Council will not disturb the arrangement; unless they have a better method of raising the money, or other source of income, to pay it off; for the debt and assessment cannot be repudiated or set aside. And in answer to the second question, viz: is it good taste in me to ask the