

CHARLES J. HARDY,

COUNSELLOR AT LAW.

TEMPLE COURT,

NO. 5 BECKMAN STREET.

TELEPHONE, NO. 2557 CORTLANDT.

NEW YORK, Sept. 2, 1896. 189

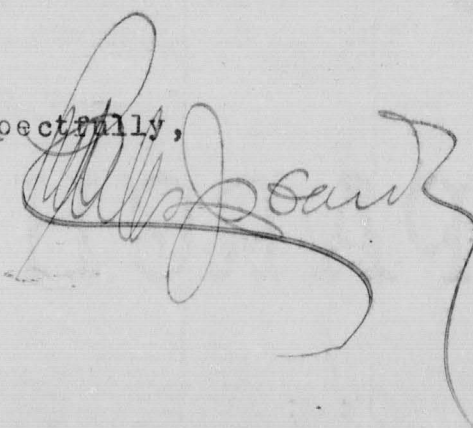
Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor, &c.

Dear Sir:-

I have been requested to submit to you the inclosed document for such action thereon as may seem to you to be necessary.

Very respectfully,



TO HIS HONOR, THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK:

The undersigned present this statement concerning the management of the Building Department of the City of New York, and the conduct thereof, by its present Superintendent, Mr. Stevenson Constable, upon which they request that the said Superintendent be by your Honor removed from his official position as Superintendent of said Department.

And in support of such request they present herewith the following

CHARGE:

That the said Department has been and is, under the management of its present Superintendent, inefficiently and incompetently conducted. That it has been and is now managed and controlled in such manner as to cause great and unreasonable loss and damage to the owners of property in this City, to architects, builders and others engaged in the erection and alteration of buildings in this City -- all of which it is hereby charged is due to the inefficiency and mismanagement of the present Superintendent.

And in support of the foregoing charge, your petitioners submit the following specifications:

I. That the said Department, through its Superintendent, has caused "violations" and "unsafes" to be filed against buildings both erected and in course of erection, without just or reasonable cause.

II. That said Department, through its said Superintendent, has neglected and refused to remove "violations" and "unsafes" arbitrarily and without just cause filed against

buildings both erected and in course of erection, within reasonable time after the unjustness of such filing has been shown.

III. That the said Department, through its said Superintendent, has arbitrarily and without sufficient cause refused to sanction or approve plans and specifications submitted and filed as required by law for the erection and alteration of buildings.

IV. That the said Department, through its said Superintendent, has unreasonably and unnecessarily delayed in passing upon, whether for approval or disapproval, plans and specifications for the erection and alteration of buildings submitted as required by law.

V. That the said Superintendent, in his dealings and business with architects, builders and others having business with the said Department, has been and is arbitrary, overbearing and unreasonable. That by such arbitrary, overbearing and unreasonable conduct the said Superintendent has caused loss and damage to owners, builders, architects and others interested in the erection and alteration of buildings in this City, and that the general management and conduct of the said Department by its present Superintendent has been and is of such a character as to be a decided detriment and hindrance to the beginning and prosecution of building operations in this City.

And the undersigned state that they stand ready to establish by competent proof the charge and specifications hereinabove made. And they respectfully pray that your Honor may cite the said Stevenson Constable, Superintendent of the Building Department of the City of New York, to answer the charge herein made, upon a day and hour to be by you named, and that they, the undersigned, may then and there have an opportunity to present their evidence in substantiation thereof.

Dated 1896.

W. Thompson 245 Columbus Ave
John D. Fouquet 35 Broadway
Henry Thompson Temple Court
W. F. Lyons 293 Grand Ave Bklyn
+ 59 Liberty St

W. H. Hock 1730 B'way
James A. Ellicott 1180 B'way

As to Specifications Nos. 1, 2, & 3, I have no personal knowledge of such cases. The charges in specifications 4 & 5 I endorse - *Isaac H. Hester* - No. 217 W. 125th St.
C. A. Millner IV and V 217 W 125th St.
Frank A. Roke 247 W. 125th St.
Isaac S. Wightman 215 W 125th St

Francis Dischler 191 B'way.
Chas. H. H. H. H. 191 Broadway
J. Reynolds 262 W. 135th St
C. H. H. H. H. 89.3 Ave
Hugh Lamb Cor. B'way & Liberty St.
John R. Thomas 160 Broadway
A. H. H. H. H. 107 E 125th St
J. H. H. H. H. 88 Broadway
Robert H. H. H. 149 Broadway

W. W. Hough

1730 B'way

James A. Ellicott

1180 B'way

As to Specifications Nos. 1, 2, & 3, I have no personal knowledge of such cases. The charges in specifications 4 & 5 I endorse - J. Averis Webster - No. 217 W. 125th St.

C. A. Millner IV and V 217 W 125th St.

Frank A. Rook 247 W. 125th St.

As. S. Wightman 215 W 125th St.

Francis Drischler 191 B'way.

Shattuck 191 Broadway

J. Reynolds 262 W. 135th St.

Crown Hecaly 89.3 Ave

Hugh Lamb Cor. B'way & Liberty St.

John R. Thomas - 160 Broadway

A. Spencer No. 7 E 125th St.

J. M. Burchell 88 Broadway

Robert Hentts 149 Broadway

J. W. McIntyre 149 Broadway

Edw. L. Tillou 57 Broadway

V. Palmer Day St.

James O'Hare 923 Brook Ave

Jas. C. Caldwell 120. Broadway.

North River Cor. 3rd Ave. & 7 St.

Walter & Hall 3272 3rd Ave

Small & Schuman 265 Broadway

J. H. Valentine Cor. 116th & 3rd Ave.

Mrs. Green 1235 E 44th St.

W. C. Dickerson 3d Ave. & 149th St.

J. H. R. (Rochester) Union Square

J. M. Burchell 88 Broadway
Alburt Heuts 149 Broadway
J. F. McIntyre 149 Broadway
Edward L. Tillou 57 Broadway
H. Palmer 5 Day St.
James D. Hays 423 Broadway
Jas. C. Caldwell 120 Broadway.

North River. av. 88 Ave. 7 St.

Walter & Hall 3272 3rd Ave.
Ornall & Schuman 265 Broadway
J. H. Valentine ca. 116th & 3rd Ave.
Mrs. Green 1235 E 4th St.
W. C. Dickerson 3d Ave. & 149th St.

J. H. R. R. R. Union Square.

Paul H. H. H. 36 Union Sq

John De Hart 1637 7th St.

Michael Bernstein 241 East B'dway
Guthrie Langer 276 Madison St.
David Wood 145 Broadway

W. A. D. D. D. Union Square
J. B. Franklin 121 W 111th St.

Elliot Lynch 156 7th Ave.
William D. D. 113 E. R.
Harry M. Kelly 287 Fourth Ave.
Alex. B. B. B.

John De Hart 1637 7th St.
Michael Bernstein 241 East B'dway
Nathan Langer 276 Madison St.
D. W. Wood 145 3rd St.

~~Dr. A. D. Kinsler~~ @ E. Square
J. B. Franklin 121 W 111 St.

Elliot Lynch 156 7th Ave.
William Dunsen 113 E. R.
Harry M. Kelly 287 Fourth Ave.

Ally Baring
J. & Walker 18 5th Ave.

W. B. Biglow 7 W 30th
J. E. Farquhar 874 23rd
Henry T. Willard 874 23rd

W. M. Burnett
115 Broadway

J. Hall & Co
Bremel & Co
509 West 28th

Geo. H. Gruber
249 W. 125th St.

Thomas W. Kiehl
101 Beckman St.

John A. Luther
50 St. Jones St.

J. J. Gager N.Y. City

4

5.
Petition of
Charges

*J. A. Henry Kemmer
V. Hugo Koehler*

*Kemmer & Koehler,
Architects,*

*Telephone Connection.
Office Hours 2 to 4 P. M.*

*Main Office 55 Broadway,
New York*

September 4, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Honorable Sir:-

On the 3rd ult. we addressed a letter to you stating that a Petition was being circulated by the architects of this City endorsing the present Superintendent of Buildings in this City, and recommending that his Department be granted a bigger appropriation to enable him to more effectively carry out the important affairs of his office.

We sent your Honor a copy of the Petition and stated that it would be properly presented when it had received the signatures of all the prominent architects of this City.

It is our pleasure to state that all the prominent architects of New York have now signed this Petition, and we herewith solicit an interview when some of us, either by your selection or by voluntary action on their part, can call to properly lay before your Honor the subject matter of our Petition. Enclosed therefore kindly find another copy of the Petition with the names of the architects arranged alphabetically. The original of the same with the signatures is at our office subject to your Honor's call.

*J. A. Henry Flemer
V. Hugo Koehler*

*Flemer & Koehler,
Architects,*

*Telephone Connection.
Office Hours 2 to 4 P. M.*

*Main Office 55 Broadway,
New York*

Hon. W. L. S. No 2

If it be that your important duties will allow, we ask for an interview next week, and it behoove you so to do, will your Honor kindly notify us what day and time suits your convenience.

We submit with great esteem,

Flemer & Koehler
by
V. Hugo Koehler

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:-

We, the architects of this City whose names are appended to this Petition, solicit and request that you respect the former Petition requiring a larger appropriation for the conduct of the affairs of the Building Department of this City, so that that Department may be enabled to still more effectively carry out its work.

We submit as an argument in favor of this request that during the incumbency in office of the present Superintendent and the able assistants that he has gathered around him, more satisfactory work has been done than ever was done before to properly carry out the great building enterprise of this City.

Under these circumstances, we feel it due to the Superintendent to thus show our appreciation in this tangible form, and we do so with the hope that our Petition will be considered, and a further interview granted us on this request.

W. & G. Audsley

Holland C. Anthony

Grosvenor Atterbury

Berg & Clarke

Oscar J. Bunce

Balb, Cook & Willard

Richard Berger

Brunner & Tryon

Bloodgood & Lund

Benson & Brockway

55 Broadway

S. W. Cor. Fulton & Nassau Sts.

111 5th Ave.

10 W. 23rd St.

15 E. 14th St.

874 Broadway

309 Broadway

36 Union Sq. E.

64 Cedar

55 Broadway

Brazin & Simonson	
William P. Bannister	46 Exchange Place
Brite & Bacon	111 Fifth Ave.
A. E. Barlow	149 Broadway
William A. Bates	149 Broadway
A. S. Bell	71 Broadway
Cady, Berg & See	31 East 17th St.
Clinton & Russell 32	32 Nassau St.
Cleverdon & Purtzel	13 Astor Place
J. B. Cashman	
F. T. Camp	114 Nassau St.
William Arthur Cable	1183 Broadway
Constable Bros.	22 East 16th St.
Carrere & Hastings	44 Broadway
S. S. Covert	19 Park Place
Co-operative Bld'g. P. Ass'n.	108 Fulton St.
^e Delmos & Cordes	S. W. Cor. Fulton & Nas.
C. M. Dissosway	52 Broadway
F. P. Dinkelberg	3 Union Sq. West
William J. Diething	3 Union Sq. West
E. G. W. Dietrich	18 Broadway
John Dufias	337 4th Ave.
John H. Duncan	21 West 24th St.
A. De Saldern	44 Broad St.
Cryus L. W. Eidlity	160 5th Ave.
F. L. Ellingwood	56 Pine St.
Ernest Flagg	54 Broad St.
Flemer & Koehler	55 Broadway
Fowler & Hough	280 Broadway

Robert W. Gibson	18 Wall St.
C. P. H. Gilbert	18 Broadway
Raleigh C. Gildersleeve	52 Broadway
E. W. Gries	36 Union Sq. East
Percy Griffin	46 Exchange Place
Harding & Gooch	Postal Tel. Building
William H. Hume & Son	1 Union Sq.
Heins & La Farge	587 Beekmann
H. J. Hardenberg	10 West 23rd St.
Howard & Cauldwell	10 East 23rd St.
J. E. Howe	55 Broadway
C. C. Haight	111 Broadway
Geo. E. Harnay	71 Broadway
L. C. Holden	1-3 Union Sq. West
Hoppin & Moen	160 5th Ave.
Francis Gilman Howard	111 5th Ave.
C. E. Hebbard	62 Broad St.
Ireland Jos.	203 Broadway
A. B. Jennings	145 Broadway
J. K. James	126 Liberty St.
Jardine, Kent & Jardine	1262 Broadway
Kimball & Thompson	66 Broadway
Julius Kastner	744 Broadway
Kafka & Mott	99 Nassau St.
Edward H. Kendall	150 5th Ave.
Le Brunn & Son	1 Madison Ave.
James Brown Lord	160 5th Ave.
Lord & Newlett	123 East 23rd St.
Little & O'Conner	28 West 23rd St.
A. C. Longyear	126 Liberty St.

Linean & Nash	64 Cedar St.
A. F. Leicht	99 Cedar St.
Woodruff Luning	94 Liberty St.
F. T. Lent	94 Liberty St.
A. J. Manning	160 5th Ave.
H. R. Marshall	874 Broadway
N. C. Mellen	1 Broadway
M. C. Merrett	1267 Broadway
F. A. Moore	123 East 23rd St.
J. W. Marshall	1056 Bible House
H. S. Ninen	217 4th Ave.
George B. Post	33 East 17th St.
Bruce Price	150 5th Ave.
Parish & Schroedr	1 Madison Ave.
W. A. Potter	160 5th Ave.
Wilson Potter	173 Union Sq. West
George Palliser	32 Park Place
Pollard & Steinam	22 Union Sq. West
Renwick, Aspenwall & Owen	367 5th Ave.
Rydel & Shepard	156 5th Ave.
Ross ⁵ & Wright	94 Liberty St.
T. Henry Randall	52 Broadway
C. W. Romeyn	46 Exchange Place
Chas. H. Richter Jr.	1 Madison Ave.
L. B. Reed	245 Broadway
P. W. Ross	32 Nassau St.
John B. Snook & Son	261 Broadway
W. Wheeler Smith	7 Wall St.
Schickel & Ditmars	111 5th Ave.
Benj. Silliman	39 Cortlandt St.

C. N. & A. A. Stroughton	96 5th Ave.
William Strom	44 Broad St.
Stephenson & Greene	587 Beekman
F. Rhys. Smith	145 Broadway
C. F. Terney	136 Liberty St.
Tubby William B.	81 Fulton St.
K. D. Tangen	156 5th Ave.
J. H. Taft	33 East 20th St.
R. M. Up John	111 Broadway
Downing Vaux	68 Bible House
T. Van Winkle	126 Liberty St.
<i>Stanford White</i> W. Stanford of Mc Kim Mead & White	160 5th Ave.
Withers & Dickson	Bible House
Frank C. Wallis	874 Broadway
Joseph Wolff	1 Madison Ave.
E. F. Young	1 Madison Ave.
Alfred Zucker	32 Union Sq.

Constable and the Architects.

the Editor:

I read in your valuable paper one account about charges being preferred against Superintendent of Buildings Constable, and another in which he is sustained by a number of well-known architects. I am one myself. Those who signed the charges are men who have business with the Department at all times, and are very much annoyed by Constable's methods. Those who signed the sustainer are men who do not know anything about Constable, and seldom, if ever, visit the office—men who plan cathedrals, churches, halls and public buildings of all kinds in all parts of the State; men who plan skyscraping office buildings, of which Constable and his deputies are ignorant as to construction;

men who never visit the office in person, but generally send an aid; in fact, men who never transacted much business with the Department. It is the men who build homes for the people that are imposed upon, annoyed, insulted. Now, the sustainers say give Constable more money, more room, better accommodation. The facts are, the Department never had so much room as it has now, and for many years not so little business.

AN OLD ARCHITECT.

WANT CONSTABLE REMOVED.

Petition with 100,000 Signatures Said to Be in Circulation.

A petition has been signed by 100,000 citizens, it is said, asking for the removal of Stephenson Constable, Superintendent of the Department of Buildings.

In order to prevent the use of any more defective building material, the Building Trades Section of the Central Labor Union at its meeting last night appointed a special committee of three to obtain information in regard to the use of defective material in buildings, and to lodge complaints at the Building Department.

Delegate Bausch, of the Wood-Carvers' Association, proposed the appointment of the committee, and he and James Miller, of the Elevator Constructors' Union, and James Fitzgerald, of the Marble Workers, were appointed on it.

WANT CONSTABLE OUSTED.

Architects Charge the Superintendent of Buildings with a Score of Failings.

WILL PETITION FOR HIS REMOVAL.

They Are Now Seeking Signatures to a Request that Mayor Strong Wield the Axe.

A petition embodying serious charges against Stephenson Constable, Superintendent of the Building Department, is circulating among architects in New York City. When a sufficient number of names have been attached to it, the promoters say, it will be laid before the Mayor with a demand for Mr. Constable's removal.

The charges range from incompetence to gross neglect of duty. It is asserted that Mr. Constable is not only unfit to maintain the obligations of his office but that he even seeks to delay the work of the department. It is expected that the petition will be presented to Mayor Strong next week. The petition follows:

The undersigned present this statement concerning the management of the Building Department of the city of New York and the conduct thereof by its present superintendent, Mr. Stephenson Constable, upon which they request that the present superintendent be by Your Honor removed from his official position as superintendent of said department, and in support of such request they present herewith the following charges:

That said department has been and is, under the management of its present superintendent, inefficiently and incompetently conducted. That it has been and is now managed and controlled in such manner as to cause great and unreasonable loss and damage to the owners of property in this city and to architects, builders and others engaged in the erection and alteration of buildings in this city; all of which it is hereby charged is due to the inefficiency and mismanagement of the present superintendent. In support of the foregoing charge your petitioners submit the following specifications:

1. That the said department, through its superintendent, has caused violations and unsafes to be filed against buildings without just or reasonable cause.
2. That said department, through its superintendent, has neglected and refused to remove violations and unsafes arbitrarily and without just cause filed against buildings within reasonable time after the unjustness of such filings has been shown.

Charges three and four allege that Mr. Constable has refused to pass, or has unreasonably delayed passing, upon plans and specifications.

The fifth charge says the Superintendent is arbitrary, overbearing and unreasonable, whereby, as charge six asserts, owners, builders and architects have been caused loss and damage.

Some of the names appended to the petition are J. A. Lunescatt, J. W. Smith, A. G. Draun, T. C. Vache, J. B. Delan, F. Drischler, C. S. Smith, T. Reynolds, A. Healy, Hugo Lamb, J. R. Thomas, Horace Keeley Knapp, J. Tilton, A. Palmer, J. A. C. C. and G. R.

SUPT. CONSTABLE.



Architects petition Mayor Strong to remove him, and charge that he is arbitrary and incompetent. He may be tried on the charges.

CALLS CONSTABLE DOWN.

PORTER. German, 26; store or wholesale house; 4.
 PORTER—Reliable, sober man wants work in whole.
 PORTER; in hotel; experienced; city or country. M.
 PORTER or bellman; colored boy wants position. K.
 PRESSMAN, first class; 10 years' experience; sober.
 PRINTER—All-around man in all departments; steady
 printing, advs., &c; will take small salary &
 PRINTERS—Young man wants job; understands print-
 All references. Address Wemles, box 224 Worl.
 PRINTER—All-around man wishes steady position;
 PROOFREADER—Competent & educated man. A.
 PROOFREADER—An experienced reader & practical
 SALESMAN, AI, located at Indianapolis, wants pos-
 Ind., box 309 World.
 MESMAN & window-dresser, young man, want
 MESMAN wants agency, article of merit
 ING CLERK, experienced, wants
 ERK; T. A.

Office of Wm. B. Bigelow, Architect,

Nos. 7 and 9 West 30th Street,

New-York,

Sept. 9th

1896

the Hon. W. L. Strong,
Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir

I see in the Record and Guide
of Sept. 5th that my name is attached
to a petition requesting the removal
of Mr. Stevenson, Constable, Superintendent
of Buildings.

I did not sign any such petition
or authorize any one to sign for me,
and I do not at all approve of the
petition. If, therefore, the Record Guide
is correct and my name appears on
the petition I beg you will have it
stricken out at once.

You will greatly oblige

yours respectfully Wm. B. Bigelow

H. J. H.

COPY.

Office of Wm. B. Bigelow, Architect,
Nos. 7 and 9 West 30th Street,

New York, Sept. 9th, 1896.

Stevenson Constable,

Superintendent of Buildings.

Dear Sir:-

In the Record and Guide of Sept. 5th, I was surprised to see my name as one of the signers of a petition asking for your removal. I never signed any such petition, nor has anyone authority to so use my name, and beg you will take note of the mistake or worse that has been committed.

As far as my influence goes, I have constantly upheld your administration of the Building Department, believing that you have greatly increased its efficiency in the face of very great difficulties and opposition.

I am,

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) WM. B. BIGELOW

6.

Charges
aght.
Sustained

Yours very respectfully,

(S) Fred W. S. S. S.

J. AVERIT WEBSTER, ARCHITECT,
CARL A. MILLNER, ASSOCIATE.
HAMILTON, BANK BUILDING,
217 WEST 125TH STREET,
NEW YORK.

TELEPHONE
125 HARLEM.

Sept. 9th, 96.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong.

Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir,

Some time since certain charges against Mr. Stephensons Constable, Superintendent of Buildings, were drawn up, and I understand have been presented to you, and his removal from office asked for. A portion of the said charges I signed.

This afternoon, one of the employees of the Building Department, (I think one of the Deputy Superintendents,) called at my office with the original copy of the charges,

J. AVERIT WEBSTER, ARCHITECT,
CARL A. MILLNER, ASSOCIATE.
HAMILTON BANK BUILDING,
217 WEST 125TH STREET,
NEW YORK.

TELEPHONE
125 HARLEM.

ostentively to verify my signature.

The possession of this paper by an employee of the accused is so opposed to all accepted rules of procedure in such cases, that I take it for granted that it must have been obtained without your knowledge, and so I deem it my simple duty to acquaint you with the fact.

I will be obliged for an acknowledgment of this communication at your earliest convenience.

Most respectfully yours-

J. Averit Webster.

OFFICE
CHARLES H. SMITH,
ARCHITECT,
No. 191 BROADWAY.

OFFICE HOURS, 2 TO 5 P. M.

NEW YORK,

Sept. 10th 1896

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,
Received SEP 10 1896
To His Honor the Mayor
City of New York.

In regard to certain
petition circulated against
Supt. of Buildings New York
City. I would like to withdraw
from said petition my name
as I am satisfied same was
obtained from me on false
representation.

Yours Respectfully
Charles H. Smith

H. Wm. Hoefler.

Frank Drischler.

FRANCIS DRISCHLER

Architects,

"THE ARISTON,"

191 BROADWAY, N. E. COR. B'WAY AND 55th ST.

Telephone Call, 1256-R.

New York, September 10, 1896

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,
Received SEP 10 1896

Hon. Mr. Strong

Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:

In regard to a certain
petition circulated against the
Supt of Buildings New York City.

I would like to withdraw
my name from said petition as
I am now satisfied that same
was obtained under false
representations.

Respectfully

Francis Drischler

JOHN HAUSER,
ARCHITECT,
1441 THIRD AVE.,
Picken & Lilly's Real Estate Office.
TELEPHONE CALL, 340 B-79TH STREET.

New York, September 10th, 1896⁸⁹

Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor Of City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have noticed in the Daily Press petition to have been reported to have been signed by a number of architects and builders and submitted to you September 4th against the management of Department of Buildings and particularly against Mr. Constable Superintendent. I have been in the business for the last ten years and I have made a specialty of drawing plans for tenement and private houses, from the first of January up to the present time, I have had filed and passed by the department plans for not less than eighty five tenement houses, besides number of private houses, also alterations, and I must admit that I had very little trouble whatever in having plans approved. The cause of the delay in a good many instances in having plans approved by the Department is caused by the fact that some of the architects and builders are not fully versed in the requirements of the present building law and not with the department.

This is my personal knowledge and I think it is only due justice to Mr. Constable that I state as far as I can see his management has been upright and honest and impartial since he has held his office.

Respectfully yours,

John Hauser