

Health Department,  
of the City of New York,  
President's Office.

Charles G. Wilson,  
President & Commissioner.

New York,

July 3, 1896

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

Sir:-

As the death-rate of a city is an important indication of its sanitary condition, I am sure you will be pleased to know that the death-rate of New York during the first six months of the year 1896 is less than for the same period in any recent year. The deaths reported and the death-rate since 1890 are as follows:

YEAR	DEATHS REPORTED JAN. 1, to JUNE 30.	DEATH-RATE.
1891	22,495	27.11
1892	22,953	26.88
1893	23,734	27.00
1894	21,555	23.83
1895	22,355	23.79
1896	21,585	22.32

There has also been a decrease in the death-rate from contagious diseases for the first half of the year, the death-rate in 1892 being 3.23, in 1893, 2.61, in 1894, 3.17, in 1895, 2.23, and in 1896, 2.06.

Very respectfully,

Charles G. Wilson  
President.

17

HON. WILLIAM L. S...

MEMOR OF THE

2161

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, July 15, 1896

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

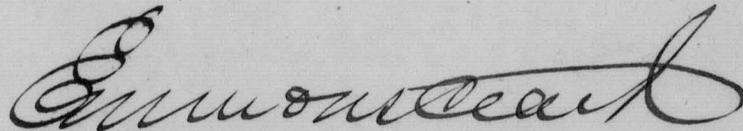
Sir:-

At a meeting of the Board of Health of the Health Department, held July 14, 1896, the following resolution was adopted:-

**RESOLVED,**

That upon the report of the Sanitary Superintendent that the application of Charles Fromann, of No. 644 East Twelfth Street, New York City, to conduct scavenger business meets the requirements of the Board of Health, the Board respectfully recommends to His Honor, the Mayor, that a license as Scavenger be granted.

A TRUE COPY,



Secretary.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK.

Complaint and Report of Inspection in reference to premises 609-613 West 55th Street

TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH:

I, John W. Phillips, holding the position of a Police Inspector in the HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, do report; That on the 1st day of June, 1896, I personally examined and carefully inspected the premises situated 609 - 613 West Fifty-fifth Street,

and found the facts as follows: Said premises consist of a lime-kiln, of which the James Brooks Estate of above premises are owners, and in violation of Section.....of the Sanitary Code, were found in a condition dangerous to life and detrimental to health, for the following reasons, viz.:

For some time previous to complaint, repairs and improvements have been under way and are now almost completed. I inspected on the following dates: May 23d, 25th, 26th, 27th, 29th, and June 1st, 3d, 4th, 6th, 9th, 10th 12th, 13th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 22d, 23d, 24th, 26th, 28th, and July 2d, 4th, 7th and 11th.

The premises have been kept under strict observation according to instructions. I have found odor in and around the works, but not in the neighborhood of complainants.

A blower is in operation which takes 90% of the gases and odors and discharges same under fire-box, where they are consumed.

Four(4)of the six(6) kilns are not in use, only leaving two(2) working, in which about five(5)loads of shells are burned daily. The business as now conducted is not a nuisance. No cause for complaint.

(Signed) John W. Phillips,

Sanitary Police Inspector.  
Off. Trades.

No. ....

# Complaint and Report

On .....

Filed ..... 189

## SANITARY BUREAU.

New York, ..... 189

Respectfully referred to Chief Sanitary  
Inspector for inspection and report.

CHAS. F. ROBERTS, M. D.,  
Sanitary Superintendent.

DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK

603-673 West 125th Street

PHILIPPS

18

603 - 673 West 125th Street

Time-File

James Brooks Estate of whom premises are owned

the time provisions for compliance, repairs and improvements

Received-Secretary 4<sup>th</sup> JUN 22 1896

Referred to

Health Dept

JUN 22 1896  
for examination and report.

W. L. Strong,  
MAYOR.

55<sup>th</sup> St  
June 21, 1896.

✓32  
Mayor Strong  
New York City  
Dear Sir:

Two years ago a petition from the residents of this block was sent in for asphalt paving of this street. The petition was received and that the petition came too late for that year. Is it impossible to have it this year? I desire also

to call your attention to a nuisance an abominable one - which is allowed within the City limits. Today at 4 o'clock the wind changed from S.W. to N.W. suddenly, when immediately the most horrible smell pervaded this part of the City and if you were at your home in 57<sup>th</sup> St you probably also noticed it. The most sickening & offensive stench that can be imagined, I have spent a year trying to find its source and succeeded in doing so two months ago and referred it to the Health Board but they seem to be unable to stop the nuisance. The stench comes from the burning of Clara Shells at a kiln on or near 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. bet. 55<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> St. It should be banished from the City immediately. I see no reason why we should be obliged to pay sur-charge taxes and yet com- pelled to breathe such foul odors at our very door. Will you kindly

see that the nuisance  
be at once done away  
with. The people who  
own the kiln pretend that  
the machinery is out of  
order at present which  
accounts for the bad smells  
but I purchased this house  
two years ago and the  
next day after moving here  
noticed the odors and we  
have had them ever since  
whenever the wind was N.

It is said that the man  
a Mrs Brooks is a millionaire  
and resides at 56<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>  
Ave. Very respectfully  
Annie Thomas

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, July 15, 1896

Annie Thomas,  
254 West Fifty-fifth Street,  
New York City.

Madam:-

Yours of June 21st to His Honor, the Mayor, was referred to this Department, so far as relates to your complaint against the establishment of the Estate of James Brooks, at Nos. 609-613 West Fifty-fifth Street. You will observe by the report of the Sanitary Police Officer that this establishment has been kept under constant observation from May 23d to July 11th and, in the opinion of the Inspector, has been so improved that at present there is no cause for complaint. Should you at any future time notice any odors from this establishment, you will greatly oblige this Department by making a note of the time of day and direction of the wind, and forwarding at once such memorandum to this Department.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Emmons Clark,

Secretary.

Enclosure.

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

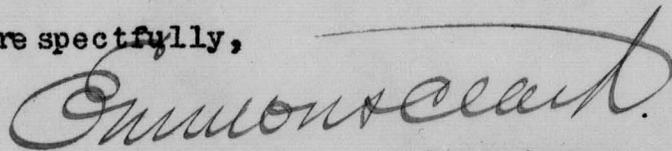
New York, July 15, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,  
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,  
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find the complaint of Annie Thomas, forwarded to this Department by His Honor, the Mayor, on the 22d of June, with a report of Sanitary Officer Phillips thereon. A copy of this report has been forwarded to the complainant, together with a letter, of which the enclosed is a copy.

Very respectfully,



Secretary.

Two enclosures.

July 10<sup>th</sup>/96

✓

To the Mayor of the City of New York.

Dear Sir:

544

The undersigned appeal to you for your aid, to have the nuisance, caused; by rotten garbage barrels: stopped, as it is a menace, to the public health of the neighborhood, and will certainly breed disease. We have made complaints several times to the Board of Health, but have never seen or heard from them. The place we complain of is Mr. John Hart's restaurant at 3<sup>d</sup> ave. and 84<sup>th</sup> Street, and we think he should be compelled to use iron garbage cans, that can be scolded and easily kept clean.

Hoping that this letter will bring better results

We Remain

Respectfully Yours.

204 East 84<sup>th</sup> Street

Charles Stout

206 East 84<sup>th</sup> St

Hay & Meyer

204 East 84 St.

August Lutz

204 East 84<sup>th</sup> St

Katherine Tucker

206 East 84<sup>th</sup> St

Mrs. W. Meagher

206 East 84 St.

Mrs. J. A. Kiehn.

206 East 84 St.

Mrs. C. W. Richards.

206 East 84 St

Mrs. L. O'Donnell

206 East 84 St

Mr. J. Mc. Kay

206 East 84<sup>th</sup> St

Mrs. W. D. Williams

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Mr. H. Moutterth 204 E. 84<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Mrs. D. D. 204 E. 84<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Mr. M. Hagner 204 East 84<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Mr. Adolf Schubert 204 E. 84<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Mrs. L. Reynolds 204 E. 84<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Mrs. A. B. Lockwood 204 E. 84<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Mr. George Stent 204 E. 84<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Mrs. E. Walsh 206 E. 84<sup>th</sup> St.

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# Health Department,

*Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building)*

*New York,* July 15, 1896

Charles Steul, Esq.,  
204 East Eighty-fourth Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

A complaint signed by yourself and others to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to garbage barrels at Third Avenue and eighty-fourth Street, was forwarded to this Department, and an inspection having been made of the premises, an order has been issued and served on John Hert, owner, to provide zinc lined receptacles for ashes and garbage at said premises, and such order will be duly enforced.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Emmons Clark,

Secretary.

20-1895.

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, July 15, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,  
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,  
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find the complaint of Charles Steul  
and others in respect to garbage receptacles at the corner of  
Third Avenue and Eighty-fourth Street, with a copy of letter  
this day forwarded to the complainant.

Very respectfully,

*Ermond*  
Secretary.

Two enclosures.

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, July 22, 1896

OFFICE OF THE  
REGISTER OF RECORDS

Hon. Chas. G. Wilson,

President of the Health Board, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to a letter from Mr. G. W. Wells to the Mayor, referred from him to you, in which the said Mr. Wells complains that I insulted himself and family on the evening of Sat. July 11th, I desire to state:

That the health of my family has suffered on many occasions owing to the loud talking and loud laughter which come from the apartment of Mr. Wells at unseasonable hours. On the night in question I returned from a friend's house at a little after 11 o'clock; I retired and tried to sleep, and found it impossible; at about 12 o'clock I requested that there be less noise; my answer from Mr. Wells was that I was a "damned fool", delivered to me, and "make all the noise you want," delivered to those in the room with him. My language has not been correctly reported, but I admit that my manner was irritated; the irritation being explained, if not justified, by the repeated demands made upon my family's patience by the same people. Mr. Wells assertion that I have called to others in the same way, is not consistent with the fact that no other family of the ten whose apartments open on the court ever make any noise which their neighbors can hear. Mr. Wells called upon me a few days ago and after telling me that I was "acowardly cur" threatened me with personal violence in case "the authorities" to whom he meant to bring the matter should

"refuse to act." And yet, there must have been some foundation for my protest, as Mr. Wells and family have been reasonably quiet ever since.

In the statement "whose insulting taunts to the members of my family are no longer bearable," Mr. Wells implicitly charges me with far more than a request for quiet, at midnight or after, would seem to warrant.

The janitor and the agent of the house where I live are aware of the facts in the case and would undoubtedly substantiate my statements; I believe that the former notified the janitor of Mr. Wells' apartment to remonstrate with him upon the subject; and the latter knows it as the chief reason why I expect to give up my flat at the expiration of my lease.

I have the honor to be

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Alfred E. Thayer, M.D.,

Deputy Register of Records.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, July 23, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

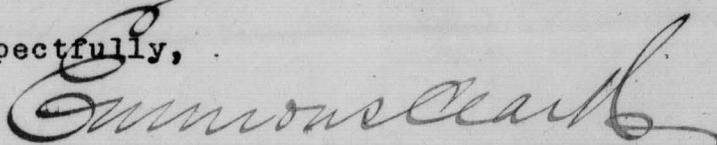
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,

Cith Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of July 21st to the President of this Department, enclosing letter from George W. Wells, of No. 21 East Sixty-fifth Street, complaining of the conduct of one of the officers of this Department, was duly received and, although you did not request a report of the result of the investigation made by the President in this case, I am requested to send you a copy of communication from Dr. Thayer, explaining his conduct in the matter referred to.

Very respectfully,



Secretary.

Enclosure.

New York July 22. 1896

Honorable Wm L. Strong <sup>548</sup>  
Mayor New York City.

Dear Sir:

You being the head of all departments I beg you to insist that one them on whose impartial dealings I cannot well depend do its duty.

I own a house at 428 E 86<sup>th</sup> St. - Chas M. Wallacke owns the two houses to my right and left sides viz: 426 and 430 E. 86<sup>th</sup> Sts.

We have both got orders from the health department to fix in new sewer pipes - The officers insisted on my having everything made within 5 days that they would otherwise have it done at my expense, and that I had everything made about 20 days ago

but my neighbor who is very rich - and whose pipes from both sides are being discharged into my basement contaminating my property is let alone.

After having applied 3 times to the health department personally for relief I was advised to send in a written notice to the department - and one to my unpleasant neighbor and to give him

thirty days time to relieve me of the nuisance. -

But as it stands I can furnish the whole city with typhus and smallpox if I wait 30 days.

Yours respectfully

Adolph Klein  
428 E. 86th St. City

HC-1896.

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, July 24, 1896

Adolph Klein, Esq.,

428 East Eighty-sixth Street,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of July 22d to His Honor, the Mayor, in which you complain of delay in work ordered on premises Nos. 426 and 430 East Eighty-sixth Street, has been referred to this Department to answer. It appears from the records of this Department that the work is in progress and is expected to be entirely completed and ready for inspection August 3d.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Emmons Clark,

Secretary.

50-1090

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

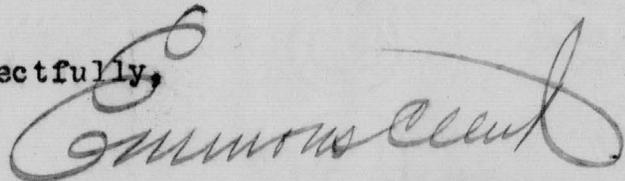
New York, July 24, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,  
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,  
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find complaint of Adolph Klein, of  
No. 428 East Eighty-sixth Street, which you forwarded on the  
23d instant to this Department for investigation and report.  
Enclosed please find copy of letter forwarded this day to Adolph  
Klein upon the subject.

Very respectfully,



Secretary.

Two enclosures.

OFFICE OF

GEO. F. VETTER'S SONS,

—\*— FINE \*—

FURNITURE, UPHOLSTERY & DECORATIONS,

Nos. 35 and 37 WEST 23rd STREET,

New York, July 13 1896

Hon. Wm L. Strong Mayor  
New York City

Dear Sir

545

We twice have written  
to the Board of Health about the contractor  
dumping dirt in the lots back of our  
residence, piling the dirt above  
the street line which we believe  
is not allowed.

We originally spoke to the Police  
but they referred us to the Health Board  
but they don't seem to take any  
notice what ever not even  
answering our complaints

by giving this your attention  
you will greatly oblige

Yours Very Respectfully

Geo. F. Vetter

19 West 9th St.

*Health Department,*

*Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building)*

*New York,* July 31, 1896

Copy.

Frederick Vetter, Esq.,

No. 19 West Ninety-seventh Street,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of July 13 to His Honor, the Mayor, complaining in respect to the condition of vacant lots in the rear of No. 97 West Ninety-seventh Street, has been referred to this Department to answer. It appears from its records that you forwarded to this Department a complaint on the same subject under date of June 22; that the premises were inspected June 24, and that an order was issued June 25, and served upon J. W. Cochrane, No. 378 Broadway, as owner, which was designed to remove all cause of complaint. These vacant lots have been kept under observation during the last month, as an order had previously been issued by the Board of Health requiring them to be filled with fresh earth for the purpose of improving the sanitary condition of the neighborhood. At the last inspection, made July 23, a fence was being erected around these vacant lots and work for their improvement is still progressing.

Very respectfully,

Emmons Clark,

Secretary.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, July 31, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,  
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,  
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find complaint of Frederick Vetter  
to His Honor, the Mayor, which was forwarded to this Depart-  
ment for investigation and report, together with a copy of  
letter addressed this day to Mr. Vetter.

Very respectfully,

*Samuel C. ...*

Secretary.

Two enclosures.

303 East 51<sup>st</sup> Street.  
New York, July 28, 1896.

The Hon. W. L. Strong, Mayor,

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City Hall

Sir:

A dead cat has been lying in front of these premises for the past ten days and, on account of an idiotic police regulation and the blindness of the force in this precinct, the outlook is far from encouraging.

It is a sad satire on good government when a citizen is obliged to request the Mayor to act, as it were, as scavenger. But it appears that no one in town is responsible for the present condition of things.

In the old régime a quarter to the ashman would have an electrical effect. But the golden era is upon us and he, who would gladly prove a friend in need, through the inscrutable wisdom of one in authority is prohibited from taking our alms.

Thus we are forced to gaze daily upon the dead, disembowled and decomposing before our parlor window. Is this right?

Kindly grant us some relief.

Very respectfully,

Fred J. Knaufl.

HC-1896

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, July 31, 1896

Frederick F. Knaufft, Esq.,  
303 East Fifty-first Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of July 28 to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to non-removal of dead cat, has been referred to this Department to answer. It appears from the record of the Contractor for the Removal of Dead Animals, that the dead cat referred to was reported by the police at eight-thirty o'clock A. M. July 28, and was sent for on that day and could not be found. It was again reported July 29, at eight-forty o'clock A. M. and sent for and was then removed. The Contractor claims that he has used all due diligence in this case, having acted promptly upon receiving notice.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Emmons Clark,

Secretary.

DC-1095.

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

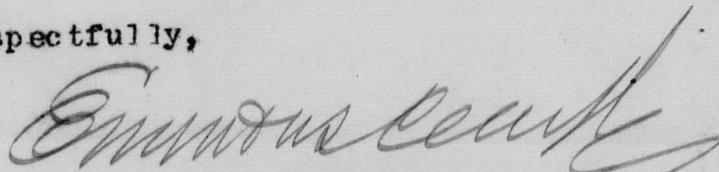
New York, July 31, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,  
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,  
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

The complaint of Frederick F. Knaufft to His Honor,  
the Mayor, dated July 28, is returned herewith, and a copy of  
letter of this date to complainant is also enclosed.

Very respectfully,



Secretary.

Two enclosures.

*Health Department,*  
*of the City of New York.*  
*President's Office.*

*Charles G. Wilson,*  
*President & Commissioner.*

*New York,*

August 6, 1896

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

Sir:-

I respectfully call your attention to the following table showing the number of deaths and the death-rate in July for the years 1892-1896, with the number of deaths and the death-rate from diarrheal diseases for the same period:-

Year	TOTAL DEATHS		DIARRHEAL DISEASES	
	Deaths	Death-rate	Deaths	Death-rate
1892	5,463	38.37	1,635	11.49
1893	4,704	32.09	1,383	9.44
1894	4,531	30.05	1,197	7.94
1895	4,481	28.61	1,178	7.52
1896	4,238	26.29	973	6.04

The remarkable decrease in the death-rate for July and in the death-rate from diarrheal diseases for the same period indicate improved sanitary conditions in this city. To such improved conditions the cleanliness of the streets, the asphalt pavements, the improved milk supply and the use of sterilized milk have no doubt contributed.

Very respectfully,

*Chas. G. Wilson,*

President.

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> 1896  
Hon. W. L. Strong Mayor

Dear Sir:

I respectfully call your attention to the condition of a Block of vacant Lots situated on East End Ave bet. 81<sup>st</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> St. they are a menace to the Neighborhood, they are full of rubbish & filth & are detrimental to Health. Can not the owners be compelled to put fences up so as to give the proper relief and make it look more respectable. Hoping you will receive attention I am

Very truly Yours  
Samuel Thomsen  
East End Ave 882 St

Goellet Ogden

922-17

50-1890.

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklen Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, August 19, 1896

Samuel Thomson, Esq.,

East End Avenue and Eighty-second Street,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Your complaint of August 14th to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to the filthy condition of vacant lots on East End Avenue, between Eighty-first and Eighty-second Streets, has been referred to this Department. It appears from the records that an inspection was made on the 17th day of August, and that the Inspector reports as follows:

"The vacant lots are dirty and offensive with garbage and other refuse deposited thereat by the people of the surrounding neighborhood. Said lots are not fenced.

"I would recommend that the vacant lots be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and all offensive matter removed therefrom, and that the said lots be properly fenced."

An order has been issued this day in accordance with the recommendation of the Inspector, and served upon Robert and Ogden Goelet, No. 9 West Seventeenth Street, as Trustees of the Goelet Estate, owners.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Emmons Clark,

Secretary.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, August 19, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,  
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,  
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

The complaint of Samuel Thomson, East End Avenue and Eighty-second Street, forwarded by you to this Department August 15th, is returned herewith, with a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Thomson, explaining the action of the Board in the premises.

Very respectfully,

*Emmons Clark*  
Secretary.

Enclosure.

774 East 175<sup>th</sup> St  
N.Y. City

Hon. Wm. L. Strong  
Mayor &c

Dear Sir:

As a matter of relief and also as my complaints to the Board of Health as to certain nuisances maintained by my neighbor, have not proved of any effect, I take the liberty of appealing to you with the hope that what I have tried

2

to accomplish my  
:be successful through  
this means. Keeping  
a number of chickens  
adjoining my property,  
that are offensive  
and kept in spite  
of my protests, and  
a howling noisy  
dog, both the  
property of Mr. Foley  
The Board of Health  
has apparently been  
unable or unwilling  
for some reason to  
abate these things  
I respectfully ask  
that you give

3

This matter due  
consideration as  
it has been of  
great annoyance  
to me as well as  
to others.

Respectfully  
Sarah E. Hunt

5C-1696.

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklon Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, August 20, 1896

COPY

Sarah E. Hunt,  
774 East 175th Street,  
New York City.

Madame:

Your letter to His Honor, the Mayor, complaining of chickens kept upon adjoining premises, and also of a noisy dog on same premises, was referred to this Department for the necessary action. An inspection was made of premises No. 768 East One Hundred and Seventy-sixth Street on the 19th instant, and the report states that the chickens (seven in number) were kept in a small wooden structure in the runway, which was clean and inoffensive. In consideration of the fact that you state that your "brother is sick and is not expected to recover, and that he is disturbed by the cackling of the chickens in the early hours of the morning," the Board has this day issued an order that "all chickens be removed from the premises and the keeping of the same thereat be discontinued."

The Inspector found that the dog complained of had already been removed.

Very respectfully, (Signed) Emmons Clark,  
Secretary.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

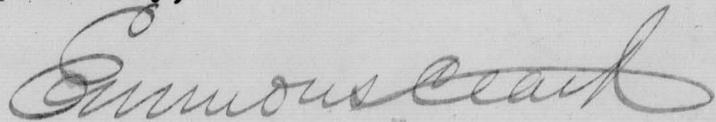
New York, August 20, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,  
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,  
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of August 17th, with complaint of Sarah E. Hunt, No. 774 East One Hundred and Seventy-fifth Street, has been received. Enclosed please find a copy of a letter addressed this day to this lady; also, the complaint above referred to.

Very respectfully,



Secretary.

Two enclosures.

Frank H. Edmunds,  
Counsellor at Law,  
(MUTUAL LIFE BUILDING.)  
32 Liberty St.,  
N. Y.

New York, ..... 189

City and County of New York, ss:

FRANK H. EDMUNDS, being duly sworn, says:

I have read a copy of the letter of Alfred E. Thayer, M. D., of July 22nd instant, addressed to Honorable Charles G. Wilson, President of the Board of Health. I was calling at the apartments of Mr. George W. Wells on the evening referred to, and was present when Dr. Thayer, in an ungentlemanly manner, complained of our alleged disturbance. The hour was prior to 11:15 P. M. I looked at my watch at the time. I left the apartment prior to 11:30 P. M.

Mr. Wells did not call Dr. Thayer "a damned fool." What he did say was "Mind your own business." In my judgment Mr. Wells and his family, entertaining friends, as they were, in their own apartments, had much reason to be thoroughly indignant at the manner and tone of the interruption. They very properly considered the interference an insult to themselves and their guests.

Sworn to before me this :  
28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1896 :



Chas. W. Mulland  
Notary Public  
New York County

21 West 65th Street  
New York City  
29 July 1896

Hon. William L Strong  
Mayor, New York City.

Dear Sir,

Referring to certain statements in the communication of Dr A. E. Thayer to Hon. Chas G Wilson, President Board of Health, dated the 22nd inst. in the matter of my complaint for ungentlemanly conduct, I have the honor to enclose herewith affidavit of one of my guests, which shows that the Deputy - Register of Records resorts to falsehood to cover his dishonorable action. The time of the last outcry from the Doctor, on the night in question, was 11 15 P.M. and not midnight, as alleged in his letter. My guests departed at 11 30 P.M. and all my family retired before 12 o'clock. I did not, nor did any one from my apartment call the Doctor a "damned fool" as stated in his communication, although I should have been justified in using forcible language for his continued insulting taunts. I did say to the Doctor, as charged, (several days after the event, when asking him if he was the individual calling out to my family from his apartment,) that he was a "cowardly cur" which appellation the Doctor agreed with me as fitting, for he did not at the time, deny or resent this title. Ordinarily, I should have let this matter drop, believing that Dr Thayer is somewhat wiser now, but to have remained silent would have been accepted as acquiescing in the erroneous statements in his letter. The Doctor evidently believes by this time that no man with one particle of pride or self-respect will permit his Mother, wife and guests to be insulted in the coarse and vulgar way employed by him, without making efforts to stop it. Whether he is a proper individual to occupy a prominent position under the City is for you to decide.

Thanking you for your courtesy and kind attention, I am,

Very truly yours

*Geo. W. Wells*  
(11)

State of New York  
City and County of New York S.S.

George W Wells deposes and says that the statements in the above communication as to time when Dr Thayer called out, and when the family retired, and as to the language used, are true.

Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 1896

*John H. Hays*  
NOTARY PUBLIC, KINGS COUNTY, N. Y.  
WITH CERTIFICATE FILED IN NEW YORK COUNTY.

*Geo. W. Wells*  
(11)

C-1096.

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, August 6, 1896

Office of the  
REGISTER OF RECORDS.

Hon. Chas. G. Wilson,

President Board of Health.

Dear Sir:-

For the second time a letter written by Mr. G. W. Wells to the Mayor and by him forwarded to you, has been submitted to me for answer. In replying, I shall not descend to particulars, but content myself with submitting a letter from my mother, which shows that in the whole affair my family was the aggrieved party; and extracts from two letters from the agent of my flat, showing that my standing in my own house is good. This is evident from the fact that on one occasion he does "not want to lose a good tenant," and that on another occasion he offers me a low rent, to begin at once, if I will stay. Furthermore, he is unwilling to have his tenants driven out by aggressive neighbors, and proposes to "see the agent of No. 21, or, if need be, the owner, and endeavor to have annoyance from that quarter stopped."

In other words, the matter is one of those ordinary disputes between neighbors, inseparable from tenement-house life, only it has been magnified out of all proportion by one party

2- Hon. Chas. G. Wilson, August 6, 1896.

thereto in his taking it to the Mayor. It is simply impossible that I should have insulted the ladies of his family, behind whom he hides in each letter, as I never saw or spoke to one of them. His animus is evident from his insults when he called on me, and which he is surprised that I did not resent, from the whole tone of his letter and from his insisting that I be discharged from my position; this would be an adequate punishment he appears to think, for being in the wrong in such a controversy.

I am very respectfully,

*A. C. Hayward*  
Deputy Register of Records.

3- Hon. Chas. G. Wilson, August 6, 1896.

Extracts from two letters from the agent of No. 23 West 65th Street to a tenant, Dr. A. E. Thayer:-

No. 1.

July 14, 1896.

"My Dear Doctor:-

Answering yours of yesterday, I beg to say that I am very sorry to hear that you contemplate moving October 1st. I should very much like to know your reason, as I do not want to lose a good tenant if it is possible to keep them.

(Signed) Stephen F. Hart,  
C."

No. 2.

July 30, 1896.

"If you will remain we will make your rent(mentioning a lower sum)per month from Aug. 1, and I will today see the agent of No. 21, or, if need be, the owner, and endeavor to have the annoyance from that quarter stopped."

(Signed) Stephen F. Hart,  
C."

Copy.

Hon. Chas. G. Wilson.

Dear Sir:-

It is with reluctance I address you, but I cannot withhold a few words which in justice ought to be written. I certainly have no ill will to the family next door, not one of whom I have ever seen, but it is true that from their Apartment have issued sounds of very loud talking and excessive laughter until a late hour evening after evening. It has been the more conspicuous from the orderly and quiet character of all the other families whose dining room and bedroom windows open on the same court.

In hot weather windows must be open, but the style of the merriment to which I allude offered not the slightest indication that this was borne in mind or that there was any thought or concern for the comfort of others. My son spoke with some irritation on the night referred to, which I regret - no one ought to be irritated - but indeed he had provocation, and the matter has been dragged into unnecessary importance.

As to time, I cannot be exact tho' I remember hearing the clock strike twelve soon after. On two other occasions I heard him call out "Please make less noise," but no insults at all. Some consideration is due to those who have often been disturbed without speaking. I am happy to add that since that memorable night disturbance from that quarter has wholly ceased. This is all we want. We should be unwilling to keep them awake too long by enjoying ourselves in a noisy way.

Very respectfully,

Elizabeth C. Thayer,

Dr. Thayer's mother.

Aug. 5, '95.

DC-1896.

# Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,  
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, August 20, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,  
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,  
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of August 6th, enclosing affidavits of July 28th and July 30th in the matter of the correspondence relative to Dr. A. E. Thayer, and asking that they be returned, was duly received. Enclosed please find the affidavits referred to and attached thereto statements of Dr. A. E. Thayer and Mrs Elizabeth E. Thayer, his mother, in respect to the subject matter of said affidavits.

Very respectfully,

*Cummins Clark*

Secretary.

Enclosures.