APPOINTMENTS

1886

To His Honor the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cambridge:

The undersigned has been notified by the City Clerk of his election as Fish Officer of the City of Cambridge.

The duties of the officers, as defined by special legislative enactments, are to protect the alewives when seeking their natural spawning ground, Fresh Pond, said protection consisting in preventing any person or persons placing any obstacle to their passage from the sea to the pond. Among said obstacles the following are especially mentioned and prohibited: Net, seine, fence, dam, weir, or the placing in the water of any substance which would tend to destroy them.

The Cambridge Water Board, of which the Mayor is, *ex officio*, a member, has placed an insurmountable obstacle in the way of alewives entering Fresh Pond, and I have reason to believe that they violated the law knowingly and wilfully, as the following extract from the report of Superintendent Nevons in the City Document for 1880, page 300, proves. It reads as follows:

"At the Alewife Brook gate-house an eighteen inch brick and cement wall has been built across the culvert to the brook, and the culvert has been filled for twenty feet of its length with clay and stone, to cut off all connection between Fresh Pond and the brook."

I am of the opinion that as a "Fish Officer" it would be my bounden duty to cause the above wall and filling to be removed, and that in the pursuance of said duty I could call upon the chief magistrate of this city and his police force to aid, abet, assist and protect me in the performance of said duty.

The destruction of the above dam would imperil the water supply of the city of Cambridge, an act for which I do not desire to assume the responsibility, neither shall I accept an office the spirit and letter of which I could not perform, nor shall I be a party to bringing the laws of this commonwealth into contempt.

For the above reasons I most positively but respectfully decline the office of "Fish Officer" of the city of Cambridge, and hereby resign the same.

DANIEL A. BUCKLEY.

D. A. Buckley

Fish Officer

Resigns

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Declination
of
D. A. Buckley to
serve as Fish Office
Feb. 24 1886