City of Cambridge,
in the year One thousand Eight hundred and fifty-four.

An Ordinance,
establishing a Fire Department and providing for preventing and extinguishing fires.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Cambridge, as follows:

Sect. 1. The Fire Department shall consist of a Chief Engineer, four Assistant Engineers, and of as many Enginemen, and Hook and Ladder men, to be divided into Companies, as the number of engines, and the number and quantity of other fire apparatus belonging to the city shall from time to time require.

Sect. 2. There shall be appointed annually by the Mayor and Aldermen, with the concurrence of the Common Council, during the month of January, a Chief Engineer, and four Assistant Engineers, who shall hold their offices for the term of one year, and until others are appointed in their places; provided, however, that the Mayor and Aldermen with the concurrence of the Common Council may, at any time, remove from office the Chief Engineer or any Assistant Engineers.

Sect. 3. The Chief and other Engineers, on their appointment, shall receive a warrant, in the words following, to wit: "This certifies that is appointed an Engineer (or Chief Engineer) of the Fire Department of the City of Cambridge, and is entitled to all the immunities and invested with all the powers belong-

-ing to said office. Given under my hand this
day of A.D. 18. Mayor. City Clerk."
And the respective rank of the Engineers shall
be determined by the Mayor and Aldermen
at the time of their appointment.

Sect. 4. The Engineers, so chosen, shall meet
and organize themselves into a Board of Engi-
-neers, a majority of whom shall form a quorum,
and of which, in the absence of the Chief Engi-
-neer, the senior Engineer present shall be presid
-ing officer; and they may appoint such Secre-
-tary or other officers, and make such rules and
regulations for their own government, as they
may see fit. They shall be responsible for the
discipline, good order and proper conduct of
the whole department, both officers and men,
and for the care of all houses, engines, hose car-
-riages, and other furniture and apparatus
thereto belonging. They shall have the super-
-intendence and control of all the engine
and other houses used for the purposes of
the Fire Department, and of all furniture
and apparatus thereto belonging, and of the
engines and all other fire apparatus be-
-longing to the city, and over the officers
and members of the several Companies at-
-tached to the Fire Department, and over
all persons present at fires; and they may
make such rules and regulations for the
better government, discipline, and good or-
-der of the department, and for the extin-
-guishment of fires, as they may, from time
to time, think expedient; the same not be-
-ing repugnant to the laws of this common-
-wealth, or to any ordinance of this city; and
being subject to the approbation of the Mayor and

Aldermen. The Assistant Engineers shall report their absences from fires to the Chief Engineer, with the reasons therefor, who shall keep a record of the same, and make report thereof, stating all the facts to the City Council, every year, prior to the election of Engineers. In the absence of the Chief Engineer, the Clerk shall make said record and report.

Sect. 5. It shall be the duty of said Engineers, whenever a fire shall break out in the city, immediately to repair to the place of such fire, and to carry with them a suitable staff or badge of their office; to take proper measures that the several engines and other apparatus be arranged in the most advantageous situations, and duly worked for the effectual extinguishment of the fire; to require and compel assistance from all persons, as well members of the Fire Department as others, in extinguishing the fire, removing furniture, goods, or other merchandise, from any building on fire, or in danger thereof, and to appoint guards to secure the same; and also in pulling down and demolishing any house or building, if occasion require, or further to suppress all tumults and disorders. It shall also be their duty to cause order to be preserved in going to, working at, or returning from fires, and at all other times when Companies attached to the department are on duty.

Sect. 6. The Chief Engineer shall have the sole command at fires over all the other Engineers, all members of the Fire Department, and all other persons who may be present at fires; and shall direct all proper measures for the extinguishment of fires, protection of property, preservation of order, and observance of the laws, ordinances and regulations respecting fires; and it shall be the duty

of said Chief Engineer to examine into the condition of the engines and all other fire apparatus, and of the engine and other houses belonging to the city and used for the purposes of the Fire Department and of the companies attached to the said department, as often as circumstances may render it expedient, or whenever directed so to do by the Mayor and Aldermen, or by the Committee of the Board of Aldermen, on the Fire Department, and annually, in the month of December, to report the same to the Mayor and Aldermen, and oftener if thereunto requested; also, to cause a full description of the same, together with the names of the officers and members of the Fire Department, to be published annually in such manner as the Mayor and Aldermen shall direct; and whenever the engines, or other fire apparatus, engine or other houses, used by the Fire Department, require alterations, additions, or repairs, the Chief Engineer, under the direction of the Board of Aldermen, or of the Committee on the Fire Department, shall cause the same to be made; and it shall be moreover the duty of the Chief Engineer to receive and transmit to the Board of Aldermen all returns of officers, members, and fire apparatus, made by the respective companies as hereinafter prescribed, and all other communications, relating to the affairs of the Fire Department; to keep fair and exact rolls of the respective companies, specifying the time of admission and discharge, and the age of each member; to report in writing to the City Clerk, who shall keep a record of the same, once in each year, or oftener if directed so to do by the Mayor and Aldermen, all accidents by fire which may happen within the City, with the causes thereof, as well as can be ascertained, and the number and description of the buildings destroyed or injured, together with the names of the owners

or occupants.

Sect. 7. In case of the absence of the Chief Engineer, the Engineer next in rank, who may be present, shall execute the duties of his office with full powers.

Sect. 8. No person under the age of twenty years, shall be employed as a member of the Fire Department, nor shall any person be so employed who is not a citizen of the United States.

Sect. 9. Each engine company, appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen, shall consist of thirty-five men, and shall have a foreman, first and second assistant foreman, clerk and steward; and these officers shall be chosen by ballot, subject to the approval of the Board of Engineers and of the Mayor and Aldermen; and any person rejected shall not be returned the second time for approval.

Sect. 10. Each Hook and Ladder Company, appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen, shall consist of twenty men, and shall have a foreman, first and second assistant foreman, clerk and steward; and these officers shall be chosen by ballot, subject to the approval of the Board of Engineers and of the Mayor and Aldermen; and any person rejected shall not be returned the second time for approval.

Sect. 11. The Mayor and Aldermen shall, in the month of January in each year, appoint the several Engine, and Hook and Ladder Companies, whose term of service shall continue one year. And every officer or member who shall not serve six months, except in cases of sickness, death, or removal from the city, or who shall be removed for cause, shall forfeit any and all compensation that would otherwise have been due to him, at the time when such service ceased, or such removal took place.

Sect. 12. Meetings of the several Engine and Hook and

Ladder Companies, for the choice of officers, shall be held within two weeks after their appointment; notice thereof to be given in such manner as the Mayor and Aldermen shall prescribe; provided, however, that if any office shall become vacant, by death, resignation, or otherwise, the same may be filled at any regular meeting of the company.

Sect. 13. The votes of a majority of all the members of the company, shall be required for the election of any officer.

Sect. 14. The officer presiding at any such meeting shall forthwith notify the persons chosen of their election, and he shall also make a true return of such election to the Chief Engineer, who shall submit the same to the Board of Engineers, and if approved by a majority of said Board, he shall forthwith transmit the same to the Mayor and Aldermen; but if not approved by such majority, the Chief Engineer shall notify the company of the fact, and another election shall be had. And if any Engine or Hook and Ladder Company shall unreasonably neglect or refuse to elect officers, which the Board of Engineers and the Mayor and Aldermen will approve, for the space of two weeks, the same may be appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen.

Sect. 15. The officers of the several companies, chosen in the manner before provided, or being appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen, shall receive a warrant, in form substantially like that prescribed for the Engineers, and shall be held to perform all the duties of the office to which they shall be respectively chosen and appointed, for one year, or until discharged by death, resignation, or by order of the Mayor and Aldermen.

Sect. 16. If any person, chosen by either of said companies to any office therein, shall not be appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen, the City Clerk shall

give immediate notice thereof to the Clerk or commanding officer of such company; and thereupon another election shall be had in the manner before provided.

Sect. 17. It shall be the duty of the Foremen to see that the several engines and apparatus committed to their care, and the several buildings in which the same are deposited, and all things in or belonging to the same, are kept neat, clean, and in order for immediate use; it shall also be their duty to preserve order and discipline at all times in their respective companies, and require and enforce a strict compliance with the city ordinances, the rules and regulations of the department and the orders of the Engineers. They shall also keep, or cause to be kept by the Clerk of their respective companies, fair and exact rolls, specifying the time of admission, discharge, and age, of each member, and accounts of all city property entrusted to the care of the several members, and of all absences and tardiness among the same, in a book provided for that purpose by the city, which rolls or record books are always to be subject to the order of the Board of Engineers and the Mayor and Aldermen. They shall also make or cause to be made to the Chief Engineer, true and accurate returns of all the members, with their ages, and the apparatus entrusted to their care, whenever called upon so to do.

Sect. 18. It shall be the duty of the officers and members of the several engine and hook and ladder companies, whenever a fire shall break out in the city, to repair forthwith to their respective engines, hose, hook and ladder carriages, and other apparatus, and to convey them, in as orderly manner as may be, to or near the place where the fire may be, in conformity with the directions of the Chief or other Engineers; to exert themselves in the most orderly manner possible, in working and managing the said engines, hose,

hook and ladders, and other apparatus; and in performing any duty that they may be called upon to do, by any Engineer; and upon permission of the Chief or other Engineer, shall in an orderly and quiet manner, without any outcries, return said engines, hose, hook and ladder carriages, and other apparatus, to their respective places of deposit. Provided, that in the absence of all the Engineers, such direction and permission may be given by their respective Foremen.

Sect. 19. Any officer or member may be removed from the Fire Department, by a vote of the Chief Engineer and two Assistant Engineers; and said vote shall be final, unless, in case of officers, the same shall be reversed by the Mayor and Aldermen within fourteen days after it shall have been passed.

Sect. 20. In all cases of removal from office, or from the department, by the Engineers, the name of the person removed with a statement of the reasons therefor, shall be entered on their records, and a copy of the same shall be transmitted to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, before their next regular meeting.

Sect. 21. No officer, who may have been dismissed or removed from the Fire Department, shall be reinstated therein, unless by a vote of the Chief Engineer and two of the Assistant Engineers; and, in such case, said vote shall not take effect until confirmed by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen; and no member shall be reinstated, except by a vote of three-fourths of the Mayor and Aldermen.

Sect. 22. The Foreman of each company, immediately on his arrival at any fire, will report himself to the Engineer in command, and shall remain by his company and the apparatus of which he has charge, during the fire, and preserve order, and direct their operations, and protect them

from being interrupted in the discharge of their duty.

Sect. 23. In the absence of the Foreman of any company, the Assistant Foreman next in rank, who is present, shall take the command, and be clothed with all the powers and responsi-bilities of Foreman.

Sect. 24. The Clerk of each company shall, when requested by the Foreman, notify the members thereof of all meetings of the company for the choice of officers and for drill. He shall, if so required, keep fair and true rolls of the members of the compa-ny, and in such form as the Foreman shall di-rect, and also records of its proceedings, choice of officers, and of the fire apparatus committed to its care, and perform such other service in his said office as the Foreman may direct.

Sect. 25. Every person, on being appointed a mem-ber of any company in the Fire Department, shall be held to perform all the duties required of him by law and the ordinances of the city, as such mem-ber, until discharged by death, resignation, or by order of the Mayor and Aldermen, or Board of Engi-neers. He shall receive a certificate of his appoint-ment, signed by the Mayor, which shall entitle him to all the immunities belonging to the office.

Sect. 26. It shall be the duty of the Steward to keep clean the house, the engine, hose, or other apparatus which may belong to the company, to clear the snow in winter from the sidewalk connected with the house, and generally to see that the engine and apparatus are ready for immediate use.

Sect. 27. The members of the respective compa-nies shall not assemble in the house in which the en-gine or other apparatus intrusted to such company is deposited, on the Sabbath day, or the evening thereof, or on

the evening of any other day of the week after ten o' clock at night, except it be in the performance of some duty required of them as members of the Fire Department.

Sect. 28. No company shall be allowed to impose fines upon its members; but it shall be the duty of the clerk of each company to enter in the roll book provided by the City, all absence and tardiness of each officer and member of said company; and to make a quarterly return of the same to the Board of Engineers. And for every absence or tardiness, except in case of sickness, there shall be deducted from the pay of such officer or member the sum of fifty cents, which amount so deducted shall be paid over at the end of each quarter to the treasurer of the company to which the member so fined shall belong, to meet the incidental expenses of the company. And if any officer or member shall have been absent or tardy at more than one third of the fires, or alarms of fires, except in case of sickness, during the quarter, such absence or tardiness shall be considered good cause for his discharge from the Department, if more than five.

Sect. 29. There shall be paid semi-annually to each member of the department such sum as the City Council may from time to time determine, which said sum shall be paid to each member personally, or to his order.

Sect. 30. Every member of the Fire Department shall wear, at all fires, such badge as the Engineers shall prescribe; and no person without such badge shall, except by permission of an Engineer, enter within the lines formed at any such fire.

Sect. 31. Any member of the City Council may enter the lines at any fire, by wearing such badge as the Mayor and Aldermen shall prescribe.

Sect. 32. No intoxicating liquors of any kind, shall be carried into any of the houses used by the Fire Department; nor shall any gambling be permitted therein, and any person, who shall be detected offending against this section, shall forfeit a sum not less than two dollars, nor more than ten dollars for each and every offence.

Sect. 33. No company shall leave the city, in case of fire in the neighboring towns, excepting by the consent of the Chief Engineer, or one of the Assistant Engineers; and no company shall leave the city on an excursion, unless by the express sanction and permission of the Mayor and Aldermen.

Sect. 34. The Board of Engineers shall, from time to time, make such rules and regulations as in their judgment shall, as far as possible, prevent refreshments being furnished to any persons except members of the Fire Department. And no bill or charge for intoxicating liquors furnished at fires shall be approved by the Mayor and Aldermen, or paid by the City.

Sect. 35. All members of the Fire Department, and all members of any Volunteer Fire Engine Company, shall be exempted from serving on a jury, unless they shall prefer otherwise.

Sect. 36. This Ordinance shall take effect on and after the first day of January next; and the "Rules and Regulations for the Engine and Hook and Ladder Companies, attached to the Cambridge Fire Department, established by the Mayor and Aldermen, June 30. 1846," and all orders, votes and ordinances heretofore passed inconsistent herewith, shall on said day expire, and be thereafter void and of no effect.

In Common Council Dec 21, 1857

Passed to be Ordained

John C. Dodge President.

In Common Council - Examined by Committee on
Enrolled Ordinances and found to be correctly enrolled
F. L. Batchelder } Committee -

Ordinance,
establishing a Fire Department,
and providing for preventing
and extinguishing fires.
Dec. 1854.

In Board of Aldermen Dec. 26. 1854
Passed to be ordained.
Abraham Edwards. Mayor.