

City of Cambridge.
Sept. 8. 1873.

To the Honorable the Mayor and Aldermen.

Gentlemen,

I herewith return to your Board the proposed "ordinance in relation to sewers", referred to me for "an opinion as to the validity of the mode of assessment prescribed therein."

A more obscure and intricate question than the sewer law now in force in this city is seldom presented for investigation, and an opinion in favor of any one view should be given with a becoming deference to opposing or different views.

I have examined the matter as patiently and thoroughly as in one lay, and am prepared to say that in my judgment an assessment which will be valid can be made substantially in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance.

The stinks and quicksands however are so numerous and dangerous that the

attempt should not be made without
great care ^{at every step} and the assistance of those
who have well examined the law.

The above remark would apply, not only
to the method proposed by this ordinance,
but to any conceivable method open to
us in the present obscure state of the
law. and I think it my duty to submit
for your consideration whether (if possible
without losing the right to assess for the
expense of any such) it would not be
more prudent to wait until the Court
shall expound to us the law now in
force before proceeding to make any new
assessment.

I remain

Very respectfully
J. M. Hammond
City Solicitor

Opinion of
Solicitor
General.