



# City of Cambridge.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,

November 10th 1868

Gentlemen of the City Council

Your attention is respectfully called at this time, to the matter of the great detention of Public Barges by the draw on "West Boston Bridge". At the early part of the year, this subject was thoroughly investigated, by the "Committee on Roads and Bridges", who recommended that the present draw be repaired. After a public hearing before the "City Council", and much discussion, further action was deferred, with the general feeling, that a new "Iron Draw" would be required to be built during the succeeding winter months. The Superintendent was authorized to repair the iron track and running gear &c, at an expense not exceeding fifty dollars. This has been done, and the present condition of the draw is such, that it requires but 2 to 3 minutes to open the same, while the slow process of moving the vessel, causes much delay and inconvenience to the public. I am satisfied that more than three fourths of this delay, is caused from having no power to move the vessel, and not from the opening and shutting of the draw, and I would suggest the expediency, of a petition of the City Council to the Legislature, asking that a Law may be passed, obliging every vessel, passing through Craigie and West Boston Bridges, to employ a steam tug for this purpose. Our present laws forbid the obstructing of "Navigation", and were made before our present system of Railroads was adopted, and navigation was the main avenue of bringing our exchanges to market. But with our present immense Railroad facilities,

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It would seem proper, that this principle should be amended, so that  
navigation should not unnecessarily obstruct public travel, especially those  
throughfare, where at least 10,000 persons are interested, in passing and  
repassing daily. Should you deem it expedient to take this course, it  
will require a public notice to be given of your intention to do so,  
forthwith, if possible to obtain a draw of this description, our main  
cause of delay will have been obviated, and perhaps the outlay of  
25,000 dollars, (as estimated for a new draw) may not be immediately  
required. The importance of some action being taken to relieve this  
detention of the public at this time, is increased by the fact, that by  
the running of cars upon the "Grand Junction Railroad", an additional  
detention is likely to be made, while the above regulation of some "motor  
power", much to be desired, even if a new draw should be constructed  
the present season.

Yours Very Respectfully &c

Chas H. Saunders Mayor

In Council of Aldermen, Nov. 11, 1868.

Referred to the Committee on Roads & Bridges.

Sent down for concurrence.

Attest: Justin A. Jacobs. City Clerk.

Concurred In Council Nov 11/68  
Attest J. W. Cotton Clerk

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Communication

of the clergy -

to Wm. Brewster Bishop

Nov. 11. 1848.

Letter to Petition to  
Legislature & Congress  
Massachusetts.