

[DOCUMENT NO. XII.]

BOARD OF ALDERMEN,

DECEMBER 29, 1831.

The Joint Committees on Roads, Canals and Streets, to whom was referred the subject of Altering the Regulation for Stuyvesant Meadows, presented the following Report, which was read, laid on the table, and, together with the Remonstrance against the same, with the Names of the Remonstrants, directed to be printed for the use of the Members.

J. MORTON, CLERK.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE REGULATION
OF THE STUYVESANT MEADOWS.

The Joint Committee, consisting of the Committee on Roads and Canals, and the Street Committee, to whom was referred the Memorial of the Proprietors of Grounds in the eastern section of the city, upon and adjacent to the Stuyvesant Meadows,

RESPECTFULLY REPORT,

That they have had the subject referred to them under consideration, and have bestowed upon it all the care and attention which its importance demands, and having heard the statements of the proprietors interested, as well as other citizens of the Eleventh Ward, in relation to the same; and, having conferred with the officers of the Street Commissioner's Department, your Committee have come to the conclusion that the prayer of the Memorialists ought to be

granted, by an alteration of the present regulation ; and, accordingly, your Committee offer the following Resolution :—

Resolved, That the owners of the grounds called the Stuyvesant Meadows, and the proprietors of the lands adjacent thereto, ought to be relieved from the enormous expense attendant on the high filling, and that the Street Commissioner prepare and report to the Board a plan on the principle of Edward Doughty, City Surveyors' survey, with such alterations as he may recommend as necessary to apply thereto. That the expense attending such alteration comprehended within the limits of the proposed change of regulation, ought to be assessed exclusively upon the grounds to be benefitted, so that no lands or lots already filled on the previous regulation, on Avenue D, or eastward of it, or upon Second-street, or southward of it, or westward of the First Avenue, or upon it between Third and Sixth streets, or on the Third Avenue as far eastward as Sixth-street, ought not, in the opinion of the Common Council, to bear any portion of the expense of regulating said Meadows, or grounds adjacent thereto.

In addition to the foregoing Report, your Committee would refer the Board to the annexed Report made by the *late* Street Commissioner to a former Board of Aldermen, setting forth in detail the amount of filling, and an estimated cost of the same as applied to a former plan not essentially different in the amount of filling to the present one before the Board, by which report your Committee are fully confirmed in their opinion above set forth, in the justice, propriety, and indispensable necessity of granting relief to the aforesaid Petitioners.

CHARLES HENRY HALL,

SAMUEL STEVENS,

JOHN YATES CEBRA,

Road and Canal Committee.

FYLER DIBBLEE,

Street Committee.

*To the Honourable the Mayor, Aldermen and
Commonalty of the City and County
of New-York :*

The Remonstrance of the Subscribers, Freeholders on and in the vicinity of that part of the Eleventh Ward know as Stuyvesant Meadows,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That in conformity to several resolutions passed at a large and respectable Meeting of the Citizens of said Ward, held at the Eastern Hall, on the evening of the 18th July last, they respectfully remonstrate against the proposed alteration of the present regulation of the said Meadows, by having canals or sewers, &c. as required by the petitioners. They have *generally* viewed the plan, and are of opinion, that it will be highly injurious to the future prosperity of that part of the city. The proposed plan is to have Avenue C a low sunken street, with a rapid descent to it, and the waters of six streets running from the Bowery, to be thrown into it. This will cause a far greater flood of water than the present regulation, (complained of) at the junction of North and Second streets, as any one who will examine will readily perceive.

They also respectfully represent to your Honorable Body, that in their opinion, canals, or sewers, in any part of the city, are not only detrimental to the value of property for a considerable distance around them, but very prejudicial to the public health ; and that the interests of a large majority of the proprietors would be severely affected, the improvements they have made reduced in value, and, above all, the health of the city jeopardized, merely to gratify a few specu-

lators, who have invested comparatively little money in the property they wish thus to enhance. That the plausible statement of the petitioners as to the comparative cost of the different regulations, is fraught with error, (even were it obligatory on, or expedient for the proprietors to incur the expense of filling up the lots, before the surrounding improvements shall render it profitable to do so,) inasmuch as a hasty improvement, so far from being required, cannot under any presumable circumstances take place; consequently there cannot be any extraordinary expense in procuring earth; the gradual extension of the city always affording a supply as fast as it shall be needed by a prudent investment of capital in the part under consideration; as was the case with respect to the Collect, and some other sections of the city, which abundantly illustrate the advantages of a prudent prospective regulation being adopted at first. Considerations which, no doubt, influenced your predecessors in the adoption of the regulation which it is now attempted to change. That the depreciation of the property spoken of by the petitioners, is owing to the general depreciation of real estate, rather than to the expense of filling up, is sufficiently demonstrated by the fact, that many lots have been filled, whose proprietors have not considered it advantageous to build upon or further improve. Neither did this depreciation take place, nor were improvements suspended, for a considerable time after the regulation in question was adopted.

In conclusion, the undersigned would appeal to your own experience, of how much more our city has suffered heretofore from a deficient, rather than a redundant filling up; witness Canal-street, Centre-street, Roosevelt-street, and Maiden Lane; and to the disastrous effects upon the property in those places. They would urge it upon you, as you regard the regularity and beauty of that part of the city under consideration; as you would respect the rights of those who have already improved under the existing regulation; as you would consider the interest of the many

paramount to the sinister wishes of the few, to give the subject, ere you grant the prayer of the petitioners, your most deliberate consideration.

John Triglar,
 Henry Keyser,
 James Weeden,
 Lodowick Harpell,
 William Lee,
 John B. Smith,
 William Vonck,
 Daniel Bushnell,
 Walter Durbrow,
 Joseph Pell,
 Jacob Aims,
 Adam Hartell,
 John Andariese,
 Betsy Hartell,
 Robert Elder,
 John Perkins,
 Carlisle Weekes,
 Thomas H. White,
 Joseph Concklin,
 John M. Seaman,
 W. L. Limer,
 Samuel Martin,
 William Philips,
 Jacob Varian,
 Levi T. Dame,
 Nathaniel Smith,
 P. W. Spicer,
 Andrew White,
 John M. Smith,
 Matthias Smith,
 Charles Archer,
 William Butler,
 James Leakman,
 Charles Hawkins,
 John Farrington,
 William Schureman,
 Edward Revere,
 William Harding,
 John H. Townsend,
 Samuel Webster,
 Jesse Wells,
 Hezekiah Webb,
 Samuel Merritt,

Christopher Hampton,
 I. C. Ely,
 William Ward,
 William J. Spence,
 Seward P. Morse,
 James Webb,
 Adonijah Underhill,
 Thomas Bassford,
 Wm. J. G. Post,
 Robert Hooeland,
 Edward Wilbur,
 Abraham C. Underhill,
 Thomson Price,
 William T. Bertine,
 David Fowler,
 Mathew H. Chase,
 Andrew Allen,
 Elijah Brittingham,
 William Phillips,
 Ezra Healy,
 Thomas Hays,
 James Miller,
 Joseph Ogden,
 James Boscawen,
 Peter Wagener,
 David Underhill,
 George Clinch,
 Gilbert Graham,
 Jacob Boyce,
 Philip H. Underhill,
 Elias T. Deforest,
 Alfred Smith,
 John Andariese,
 William Bowen,
 Dennis Valentine, jun.
 Jacob Serley,
 John Keyser,
 C. Harriot,
 Bartholomew Granger,
 Jesse T. Spicer,
 E. Blakeley, (adminstrator
 for Charles Griffin),
 C. Stanley,

E. Underhill,
 Daniel Winship,
 Albert Fisher, (for T. Gib-
 bons,)
 George W. Gibbons,
 Isaac Rhoades, jun.
 Gilbert Underhill,
 Jonathan Wilt,
 John Brower,
 John Brodle,
 Joseph Alden,
 Wm. Appleby,
 Owen Monaghan,
 Mrs. P. Dominick,
 Robert Provost,
 Lewis Doty,
 Moses Bedel,
 James Reynolds,
 Philip Romaine,
 George Dominick,
 Wm. H. Smith,
 Erastus B. Fuller,
 James B. Dominick,
 Benjamin Field,
 Andrew L. Halsted,
 William Hendrick,
 Daniel Maston,
 Chester Childs,
 James Brower,
 John Boyce,
 William Bailey,

Oliver Hubbard,
 Abraham Whitbeck,
 David Kinney,
 Stephen Allen,
 Silas Balow,
 Simeon Brown,
 Lewis S. Dod,
 Adams Wakeman,
 E. Trussell,
 Noble G. Minor,
 Jonathan Remer,
 Peter Baillie,
 Stephen Samson,
 Joseph Mills,
 Thomas Eames,
 Samuel Andrews,
 Jacob G. Theall,
 Stephen Whitney,
 John A. Moore,
 Smith & Demon,
 Josiah Hull,
 John Brown, jun.
 William Wallace,
 William H. Burnton,
 Frederick Friend,
 George Sibell,
 John Culver,
 John Conway,
 George Taylor,
 William Wood.