

Providence November 1. 1831.

Joseph L. Tillinghast Esq.

Dear Sir,

Feeling some better and ~~and~~ also feeling some solicitude about the City Charter, I thought I would take the liberty of explaining to you a little more fully than I did, the other day, the views of the Committee in relation to the mode of choosing the Aldermen - It was the object of the Committee to have the Board of Aldermen emphatically represent the whole City, as a City, without being biased by any local prejudice and without being supposed to represent any sectional interest, it is therefore important that, ^{the} Aldermen should be chosen by the whole people, and that they should feel that it is the whole people who elect them, and that they have the whole people for their constituents. By the old Charter the Aldermen were chosen from the whole City, without any reference to wards, and the only reasons why we concluded to locate our Aldermen in each ward were these, viz: it was thought that in case of disturbances it would be better on account of preserving order to have one Alderman in each ward, & again that by having one Alderman in each ward they would come together possessed of the local knowledge of the actual state of things in every part of the City, - and

and not because we intended that the Aldermen should
either feel or represent any local interest or attachments
The Aldermen are to be the Senate of the City, they are in
many cases the judges for the whole City, & Board of
Health &c. for the whole City, they ought therefore to be chosen
by the whole City, for if they have only one ward for
their constituents they will feel dependent upon that
ward & will act for the good of that ward instead
of the good of the whole City, and in fact will be-
come the same thing as common Council-men &
then all the balances & checks of power growing out of
two separate bodies will be lost & we might have
but one board - The Common Council is selected
& intended to represent the particular interest of the
individual wards & in this way the rights of the
people are as completely represented & protected by
this Charter as they ever have been or can be by any
form of the most liberal government - I hope therefore
if you should be of opinion with me, that you will
use your exertions to prevent any such alteration in
the ~~shape~~^{choice} of Aldermen & in fact any alterations, except
verbal ones, so that the charter may not be again sub-
mitted to the people. Remember that all these proposed
alterations come from the enemies of charter who would
be pleased to make it as odious to its friends & the
people as possible, & such enemies too as will vote
against the charter ~~let~~^{it} be amended as it may, I think
therefore if any alterations are to be made they ought
to be proposed by the friends, & not the enemies of the Charter.

I will state one other reason in addition to those I mentioned the other day why the State ought to be willing to pay the jury fees - which is, that they will undoubtedly be the gainers by it - the State have an interest in the good order of so large a portion of its citizens, and in a pecuniary point of view it will cost the State much less to pay the jury fees and have good order ~~that~~ ^{them} it will to pay all the expenses of Riots and disturbances, the expenses to the State of the late Riots in Providence (which no doubt would have been prevented if we had been a City) well, I will be bound to say, cost the State more than the jury fees will be in 40 years - only look, here are 4 or 5 persons now in jail at the expense of the State, they are to be tried & then perhaps kept in jail at the expense of the State for 2 or 3 years, what are a few jury fees in comparison with this - but for I am deterring you too long I have no doubt all the these things have passed through your mind before - I want very much to be with you, but I think it hardly probable I can come - If in the midst of all your arduous duties you can find a moment to write to me in the course of the week & tell me a little how things go on it will be a great treat to me here in my chamber -

With sentiments of esteem & regard, I am very
Respectfully Yours &c

Peter Hall