

The undersigned is aware of but few instances since 1837, in which any reduction in the number of persons employed in the working of the road, or in the amount of compensation allowed, has been directed, or suggested, unless upon the recommendation or intimation of the president, or some one of the other officers, while in several instances during the same period the compensation has been increased without any recommendation from the president. It is hardly necessary to remind the board, that although in the autumn of 1839, a committee of retrenchment and reform was appointed, no specific object was pointed out, and as the committee never made any report, it may fairly be presumed, that they found no room to retrench, or were willing to trust to the vigilance of the executive officer.

The present, therefore, may be said to be the first occasion with the exceptions already adverted to, of an attempt, by any class or number of directors, in an official form to insinuate the existence of unnecessary expenditure, or to recommend specific reductions; and the present proceeding, but for the manner in which it has been instituted, would require no particular observation. Originating, however, as it apparently does, with the authorities of the city, it may, by the public, at least, be supposed to imply the existence, if not of abuses, at least, of needless expenditure, which, without the interference of those authorities, the executive officers, and the twenty-two directors representing more than eight millions of stock, were unwilling or too negligent to rectify. Of their own knowledge, the city authorities could know little, if any thing, of the details of the service, of the number and duties of those daily engaged in conducting it,—of the just measure of compensation adequate to the several duties, or of the terms and contracts by which it had been fixed. Their instruction is nevertheless absolute that the city directors shall submit a resolution “dispensing with a portion of the officers of the company.” If from information derived from extraneous sources, the city authorities proceeded upon the supposition, that there are useless officers in the service of the company, or that the operations of the road are conducted with less economy than others universally conceded to be cheaply managed, or that in any other class of the direction, or in the officers charged with the several branches of the service, there is an indisposition to effect reform, or inattention in correcting abuses, the sequel of this investigation will satisfactorily shew, that on all these points the city councils have been misled and deceived. Even upon the supposition that any ground existed for the interference of the city authorities, it is respectfully suggested that their supervision might have been exerted with more propriety and advantage, and with a much greater prospect of harmonious action, if the resolution had been immediately addressed to the board of directors, thereby not only announcing the wishes of the city authorities, but conceding no more than a just confidence in the whole number of directors at once to consult those wishes and the interests of the other stockholders.