

to escape the burthens of taxation takes flight, and thus an obstacle to success is created instead of the promised good.

The Legislature has for wise purposes ever been cautious in granting power to one Corporation to participate in the affairs of another or become responsible for debts not properly its own, and whenever this policy has been departed from, it has been by the most open and direct means and the authority so to act is couched in terms neither doubtful nor implied. The necessity for such a course is apparent in order to protect the public against the possibility of frauds, and hold in restraint the constant tendency of Municipal and other Corporations, to pervert and abuse their legitimate authority in doing by indirect means that which they could not obtain authority to accomplish by an open and direct appeal to the Legislature of the State. All such Acts are of evil tendency, and against the spirit of the Law; and to which no citizen can lend himself and claim an immunity from rebuke and a just public censure, even though he may escape punishment by the law.

In respect to the new City Hall now in progress, for full details the Committee visited the office of Mr. Frederick, architect, who exhibited and explained the details and designs of his plan for a new City Hall, which has been approved and adopted by the Commissioners charged with the erection of the building.

The designs contemplate a building of great beauty of style and proportions, and of imposing magnificence, combined with durability and ample accommodations for the present and growing wants of the city.

It is designed to cover the square bounded by Holliday, Fayette, North and Lexington streets, and is two hundred and thirty-one feet by one hundred and fifty feet from Holliday to North streets. The designs contemplate a building three stories high, with interior courts, a central and spacious Rotunda, with dome 234 feet high, with a large number of conveniently arranged apartments, adapted to every present and anticipated wants, with stairways and corridors appropriate and in full proportion to the interior arrangements.

The outer walls are designed to be faced with well selected and durable white marble, skillfully wrought, while iron trusses and groins of masonry support the floors, and will give great firmness and durability, as well as much security against fire.

The Committee are free to say that if the financial condition of the city justified the expenditure, the building contemplated is appropriate, and such as is required by the wants of a city of increasing numbers and wealth.