

tribute to the general happiness and progress of man, which otherwise would remain valueless.

The magnitude of such undertakings, however, not unfrequently exceeds individual means, and hence the necessity for Acts of incorporation, uniting and centralizing individual efforts and capital in order to secure the successful accomplishment of such enterprises. The aid of States and Cities have, at times, been invoked and properly given to secure prompt success, and benefits have resulted far in excess of the temporary inconveniences resulting from the non-ability of such undertakings in the beginning to be fully productive. While these things are true, still there is a great necessity for caution, and for legislative restraints, lest communities through the snares of the wiley and the designing, and by the recklessness of others should become dangerously involved in debts beyond their means to pay without great suffering and hardship, and thereby cause alarm, when capital 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 ap-