

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHARLESTON, Sept. 13th, 1886.

To the Officers and Members of the Fire Department :

I congratulate the Department on the success achieved by it in the extinguishment of the various fires, which occurred in the City on the night of the long-to-be-remembered Earthquake. From personal knowledge and from the reports of the Chief and Assistant Chiefs, I can say, that never has any organization worked better and more willingly than you did. Too much credit cannot be given to men, who, in the midst of the disasters caused by the Earthquake, with broken walls and wires falling all around, leave their families at their homes, not knowing what might happen to their loved ones during their absence. Not a man shirked his duty in this trying time, which was enough to test the courage of the bravest man; but, in the face of danger in the streets from walls and wires, and at one of the fires the far greater danger of an explosion from the gasometer in King Street, and the uneasiness of mind for their families' welfare and safety, every one of you fought the flames with all the means at your command, until you succeeded in controlling all the fires and relieving your fellow citizens from the fear of what looked like total destruction to the whole City. I feel proud of your organization, and tender to each and every one of you, the heart-felt thanks of the Board of Fire Masters and of the whole community for your valuable and effective services during this distressing time.

I also specially return my sincere thanks to the members of the Call force for the willingness with which they complied with the order to remain on duty, day and night, until the Fire Alarm Telegraph was completed.

It is a source of great pleasure to me to be at the head of such an organization, and one on which I can rely in time of trouble. You are an honor to the City, and your fellow citizens can always point with pride in the future to their perfect Fire Department. To the Chief, Assistant Chiefs, Clerk, and Superintendent of Horses, I tender my sincere thanks for their promptness and alacrity in carrying out all orders, and for the energy displayed by them in endeavoring to control the fire.

F. S. RODGERS,

Chairman.