

April 11, 1911.m

Dear Dr. Crofutt:

I am very glad to receive your letter, but it is my duty to say that you are very much astray. The Tenement House Department had nothing to do with the Asch building, as you call it. It has to do only with tenements in which people live. In the next place the city has no building department. Each borough has a separate building department. I am proposing in the new charter to have a city building department to supersede these five separate building departments. As it is the city government has no jurisdiction over the construction of buildings. The amount of misinformation on this subject is astonishing. Let me also say to you that there has been no cutting of expenses in the reduction of inspectors. Nevertheless you offhand condemn it as criminal. Did you visit the Asch building and go on the floors where the fire occurred? Do you know that the building was absolutely

fireproof and practically escaped damage? Do you know that the fire was confined to the combustible material on the floors? It does not matter that a building is fireproof when it is filled with combustible material.

Such material will burn up. What is your understanding of the difficulty or fault? Have you examined into the matter sufficiently to know? If so I should be very glad to have you inform me on the subject.

*the building. was it good & good  
did you?*

Very truly yours,

*W. Jayne*  
Mayor.

Dr. Edward F. Crofutt,  
1053, Southern Boulevard,  
N. Y. City.