

CAPT J. B. O'CONNELL HONORED.

Firemen of Engine No 6 Give the Popular Commander a Handsome Ring— Collation Follows.

Capt J. B. O'Connell responded to a call to the Everett st engine house No. 6 last evening, sounded by all the members of that engine company, when, to his complete surprise, hoseman J. J. Hayes stepped out from a circle of firemen, and on behalf of his comrades presented their former captain with a beautifully inscribed gold ring, studded with a Knights of Columbus emblem.

The recipient was almost overcome with surprise, but with an effort responded in a fitting manner.

After the presentation the entire company sat down to a bountiful collation. The company had just returned from a fire, the alarm for which was sounded from box 11

Capt O'Connell strained the muscles of his heart while attempting to force an entrance in one of the doors of the Hayward building at the corner of Causeway and Portland sts when that building was on fire. He has since that time been in bad health, and last week Fire Commissioner Russell transferred him to Dorchester to try to build up his health.

Capt O'Connell began his duties in the fire department as a substitute Oct 17, 1882, and in January of the following year was promoted a permanent man in Co 8. He was promoted to lieutenant on ladder 4, after which he was transferred to engine 26 and 35 in December, '93. He was made a captain of Co 6 in June 1894, remaining in that company until last week.

Capt O'Connell is unquestionably one of the most popular men of the department. His good nature is in proportion to his giant stature, and he is ever affable and courteous.

The men of his command have always regarded him as a true friend, one whom they could go to for advice at all times, and one in whose judgment they placed every reliance.

While a strict disciplinarian, he has always been just and kind. He seems never to lose sight of the fact that he himself is a fireman, notwithstanding that he is a commanding officer in the department. His career as a fireman may be written in one sentence: He has been ever dutiful.

Whole chapters could be written upon the performances of Capt O'Connell, under most trying circumstances. He is considered by his brother fire fighters an utterly fearless man, cool in danger, quick witted and resourceful.

He has a thorough knowledge of methods of fire fighting and works with the deliberation of a general who knows every inch of the ground he is to fight over and just how to attack to bring about successful results.

He is modest and unassuming. Duty is his watchword and his chief inspiration is honesty.