or manufacturing, all rest upon the fundamental ground work of popular education. The authorities of a State or city may well afford to bestow patronage when it is repaid in the improved moral and intellectual power of the people.

The report of the commissioners for removing obstructions from the channel of the Patapsco river contains the important announcement that by the termination of another year the channel will be available for all commercial purpose. The excavations during this year have amounted to 300.620 cubic yards being more by 129.575 than the work of last year. I would direct your attention again to the remarks presented in my last annual message, and the importance in a national point of view, of securing a sufficient depth of water for the largest class of war steamers. This could be done at an expenditure of less than $200.000 by the general government. The value of a great naval depot in this city — accessible as this would be to the coal region of western Maryland cannot be too highly estimated by the government, and our representatives in Congress should lose no opportunity to urge the requisite appropriations.

The work in our immediate harbour has been conducted with praise-worthy vigor, and the Port Warden's report will show with what diligence that officer has devoted himself to the Public service: The channel is reported of a uniform depth of twenty-four feet from Locust Point to Chase's wharf, being about one-half its length. An appropriation is asked to complete the whole.

The ordinance approved July 11. 1857. entitled an ordinance to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to provide for an increased supply of water to the city of Baltimore from Jones Falls, agreeably to a plan heretofore reported to the Council by Mr. Jas. Slade, Civil Engineer, has been fully entered upon according to the intention of the Council. A board was appointed, and the preparation of the line entered upon on the first of August last.

The sins of the property-holders not according with those

of the commissioners, it was found necessary to resort to condemnations in order to obtain the right of way, and the result has only, within a short time past, been reported to the board for final action.

The amount of property condemned is $224.975, which is expected to be reduced when the actual locations are decided upon to about $200.000. This does not much exceed the estimate heretofore made by those to whom this subject has been entrusted.

The commissioners, in view of the great depression of our city securities, did not feel authorized to throw so large an amount of bonds into the market for sale, and an offer was made to pay in bonds at their par value, provided the property-holders would agree in a body. The majority of the land-holders have so agreed, and it is expected that the residue may be induced to come in, so as to enable the board to proceed with the work at an early day.

The line is now ready for contract, and will be commenced as soon as a final agreement is entered into with the owners of property on the line of the survey.

The fire department requires re-organization and I doubt not that the appointment of a committee of your body, to confer with a representation from this important interest would be attended with much practical benefit to all. I regret to say that I have been compelled in some instances during the past year to exercise the power which the Council have placed in my hands, in preventing outbreaks and collisions in our streets. The disturbances which have taken place are mostly referable to persons running with the engines, and for whose acts the companies do not hold themselves responsible. It is highly important that some measure should be adopted to guard against the recurrence of these proceedings. The firemen of this city have too high an appreciation of what is due to themselves and the patriotic fraternity to which they belong, to feel indifference in any measure of reform which may protect them against acts of lawlessness and violence.