

The answer to which Messrs the Second Branch were informed that the first Branch had appointed Messrs Buchanan and Lorman to join Mr. ^{Pringle} as a Committee to wait on the Mayor for the purpose in their message mentioned.

Messrs. Hill, Curry and Thrim were appointed a Committee of Elections.

On motion therefor Messrs. Hillen and Jessop were appointed a Committee to report rules and regulations for the government of the branch who thereupon made a report which was concurred with by the Branch.

The Committee appointed to wait on the Mayor having retired soon after returned and presented to the President the following Communication

Gentlemen of the City Council,

Although the repeated call of my fellow citizens, which has placed me in my present station, is highly grateful to my feelings yet when I reflect on the general satisfaction given by my predecessor during the long period of his service, I cannot but feel considerable diffidence in discharging the duties of the office with which I have been honored. But my zealous and conscientious endeavours to advance the interests and prosperity of the City, will, I trust, in some degree compensate for my deficiencies in other respects, and with divine assistance these endeavours shall not be wanting.

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With much satisfaction I meet you in the service of our constituents, a satisfaction heightened by the reflection, that our fellow citizens have seldom, perhaps never, had greater cause to be grateful to divine providence for its protection and support. The calamities peculiarly incident to large cities have been graciously averted from us. Disease which has been a dreadful scourge to other places, has been scarcely known among us during the last two years, and while fire has widely spread its destructive flames in other places of the Union we have been for several years almost without alarm from this dread enemy. Have we not then cause not only to be thankful to the Supreme disposer of events but to persevere in and improve upon those regulations which, under his blessing have been found so effectual in guarding us against these calamities.

The duties prescribed by the several ordinances for the removing of nuisances and for the general preservation of health have as far as I am able to judge been faithfully executed. But though much has been done yet farther exertions are necessary to render our health and Quarantine Laws more efficient. The returns of malignant diseases in our own country, their frequent existence in the West India Islands, their repeated appearances in some of the Ports of Spain and their recent spread to other places beyond the Atlantic, all concur to make it an object of the first importance and concern to us to prevent by every possible mean the introduction or generation of scourges so dreadful. Permit me under these impressions, to call your attention in a particular manner to a revision of the existing ordinances on this subject, in order that the duties