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The Petition of Aquilla Hallow & others was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The Petition of Christopher Hughes was read and referred to Messrs. Small, Stouffer and Simpson.

Messrs. Lerman & Gellender were appointed a Committee of Enrollment on the part of the first branch and the second branch informed thereof.

The Petition of Tobias Stansbury and others was read and referred to Messrs. Miller and Thim.

A Message was received from the second branch stating that they had formed a quorum and had appointed Messrs. Palgrave and Payson to join the Committee on the part of the first branch to wait on the Mayor to receive any communication he may have to make.

The Committee appointed to wait on the Mayor having withdrawn in a few minutes returned and presented to the branch the following communication:

Gentlemen of the City Council,

In addressing you on this occasion of your annual meeting, I feel great satisfaction in being able to offer my congratulations on the health, peace, order and prosperity with which the City of Baltimore continues to be favoured, which is doubtless a subject of grateful reflection with our fellow-citizens and without a failure in our official duty we cannot neglect to promote such measures as shall appear to us calculated to render these blessings permanent.

The ordinances to preserve the health of

the City, as far as I can form a judgment, have been attended with salutary effects. Should new or further regulations be thought advisable and detailed information be required it will be promptly furnished by the gentlemen composing the Board of Health whose diligence and fidelity in the execution of their trust, entitle them to my warmest approbation.

The attention which the City Council has heretofore manifested towards the fire-companies may have in some degree excited that laudable exertion which has been exhibited on their part - During the last year three additional companies have been formed among our citizens - These new instances of zeal, to provide the means by which fires may be quickly and with certainty extinguished are highly commendable, and whether or not it is necessary to foster this spirit by corresponding aids to these new companies must remain with you to determine. There is a point of moment connected with this subject, which it may not be improper to notice in this place every person who has attended at extinguishing fires must have seen and often with deep concern the fatal consequences resulting from the officers of fire-companies bringing without authority to direct or compel idle spectators to take their turn and relieve those fatigued at the pumps or in the water lines - It is submitted for consideration how far it will be expedient in conformity to the powers given to the Corporation "to enact by-laws for the prevention and extinguishment of fires" to invest officers of fire-companies with authority to call for and require during the existence of any fire the labour of their fellow-citizens more particularly in working the engines and breaking up by means of lines a constant and uninterrupted supply of water.

In pursuance of an ordinance