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City of Baltimore

19 April 1809.

Agreeably to a notification from the Mayor
the first Branch Commencement at their Chamber
in South Street

Present William Loman Resident

& all other Members except Messrs. Frey & Buchanan

A message was received from the Second branch
stating that they had formed a quorum &
appointed Mr. Payson a Committee to join such
Committee as should be appointed by this branch
to wait upon the Mayor & receive any Communi-
cation he might have to make whereupon
Messrs. Stenish & Munnery were appointed a Comm.
for said purpose & Second branch informed thereof

The following Communication was thereupon
received from the Mayor

Baltimore 19 April 1809.

Gentlemen of the City Council

Colonel Templeman having visited
Baltimore in consequence of the invitation sent him
and being very sanguine that his chain bridges
may be made to answer our purpose, I have
deemed it advisable to afford you an opportunity
of investigating his plan and proposals, an estimate
of the expense of which is submitted to your
consideration, and will not probably exceed
the one sixth part of the cost of stone bridges.
At the same time I must remark that the
opulent City of Baltimore can in a few years
calculate on funds fully adequate to the
building of permanent bridges that may be more
ornamental as well as useful and convenient.

From the views taken of this subject by the board¹⁸⁶
of Commissioners and myself we do not consider
ourselves prepared to express an opinion, but consider
the proposals of Col. Templeman well worthy the
attention of the Council. Edw. Johnson,

To Edw. Johnson Esq. Mayor of the City of Baltimore
Baltimore April 19. 1809.

Sir, At the first view of the four bridges over
Jones' falls I was inclined to believe that they
could exclusion of abutments be collectively built
for \$12,000. and I am still inclined to believe that
my conjecture was not far from the truth providing
the bridges were built of their present width
and of common materials, but to build one
bridge instead of four makes a considerable
add as to expense, I have taken pains to find
out as well as I could the prices of the best
iron, and also lumber, Carpenter work, and
labour, some of which are higher than expected.
I can however build a powerful and substantial
bridge of 40 feet in width and 80 in length
with one pier under it which will only show
14 inches obstruction to the water or ice for the
sum of 3840 dollars. The joists and string pieces
will be of the heart of yellow or pitch pine
perfectly freed from sap with their upper edges
a little rounded and well saturated with hot
Tar. The hand railings will be planed and
the uprights covered. As there are five of these
bridges in existence it would not be correct
to consider this as a new experiment, but
when one bridge is built it will afford the
/ Corporation /