

320

from the Treasury except such sums as were requisite to fulfil contracts previously made, and for which services had been rendered.

By virtue of your resolve I borrowed of the Banks of our City for the use of the Committee of Supply, on the credit of the Corporation, eighty thousand dollars, a regular account of the disbursement of which, authenticated by proper documents, is prepared to be laid before you for investigation.

The Spring at the head of the Basin (usually called Cloppers,) has been examined by the board of City Commissioners in conjunction with Mr. John Davis, who are of opinion that it can be reclaimed, and made to afford a copious supply of pure and wholesome water. For further information on this interesting subject, I must beg leave to refer you to their report herewith transmitted.

From the manner after which the duties of the board of Portwardens lately established, have been discharged, we may reasonably calculate upon the most beneficial results to the future security and improvement of our Harbour and basin. Considerable progress has been made in devising a general plan; several plans and estimates accompanied by a detailed account of the acts and proceedings of the board will be laid before your advice and approbation.

As usual the Register has prepared and will lay before you his accounts for investigation, from which it will appear that our future resources are encumbered with an increased debt of Five thousand dollars to the Bank of Baltimore, making in the whole now to the Bank, the sum of Twenty five thousand

Dollars

321

and that there remained in the Treasury on the 31st day of January last, Nine hundred and fifty eight dollars and two cents.

4th February 1814.

Edward Johnson.

Which being read, as also the following report from Mr. John Davis to the City Commissioners relative to Cloppers Spring. Viz. "Baltimore November 25th 1813

The City Commissioners of the City of Baltimore

Gentlemen Agreeable to your instructions, I hereby transmit a memorandum of the results of the examination of Cloppers Spring, likewise the manner which at present presents itself, whereby the said Spring of water may again be reclaimed, and brought into general use for the benefit of the public.

The waters of this Spring appeared to have been preserved for some time after the ground between the Spring and the Basin had been filled up, beyond where the water formerly flowed into the Basin, as a well of brickwork about 5 feet deep was found, with an old pump standing therein.

The water of this Spring in the well was found to stand 9 feet 3 inches above the usual tide water mark, or high water mark, in the Basin. After the earth having been removed for a considerable space round the west side of the well and a pump prepared to evacuate the water, from repeated trials it was found that after the water was lowered by the pump 3 feet 6 inches the Springs produced a very copious supply of water, issuing from a fine sandy bottom. It was also found by measuring the quantity of water discharged from the pump, which was nearly the quantity flowing,