

and recommending the adoption of regulations & improvements for the general benefit of the City, will, in consequence of the situation in which the City has been placed, be confined to narrow limits. With scanty means it will be idle to propose the undertaking important objects; and excepting the improvement of the Harbour & Basin every extra expense of the Funds of the City has been postponed. The Port Ward having contracted for the building of a second Machine for deepening and cleaning the Harbour & Basin (which was in great forwardness, and would have sustained no injury unless finished) and also for a considerable supply of Timber for the improvement of the Cove, have been under the necessity of drawing heavily upon the City Treasury for those objects; and it will best with to limit and direct their future progress in this important work. *See page over to * in next page & continue*

In the month of August last, having called together the different Presidents of the Fire Companies to consult & adopt efficient regulations for the extinguishment of fires that may be occasioned by the bombardment of our City by the enemy, which we, at the time, had serious cause to apprehend, I issued a Circular, addressed to a number of gentlemen of the City, who, by reason of their age, were exempt from Military duty, to meet the Presidents of the Fire Companies for the purpose of consultation, who were kind enough to attend to the call, and who were unanimous in advising me to recommend to the inhabitants of the City & Precincts to meet at their respective places of holding elections

and choose three persons from each Ward & Precinct, to compose a Committee of Vigilance & Safety, which was immediately done, and on the part of the inhabitants of the City & Precincts promptly complied with. As every story has been given, through the medium of the press, of the proceedings of this body, I deem it unnecessary to enter into a minute detail thereof. *See page over to **

The sum expended for watching & lighting the City is less than had been contemplated, and was occasioned by suspending the lighting of the lamps during the short summer nights, and reserving the supply of oil for the winter season, from which some inconvenience was felt, and much idle labour expended, which I thought it better to endure than subject the City to the deprivation of light during the long winter nights, as a sufficient supply of oil for both the summer and winter could not have been obtained at any price upon any terms.

By a resolve of the City Council passed the tenth day of May 1813 the Committee of supply was authorised to obtain a loan from any of the Banks of the City any sum not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars, on the credit of the Corporation and the Precincts to be expended in the defence of said City & Precincts, the repayment of which was guaranteed by said resolve, in pursuance whereof a loan of eighty thousand dollars was obtained from the mercantile institutions of Baltimore; and there existing at present a provision by law for the payment of the interest thereon, it is certainly due to the liberality displayed by the Banks that funds should be provided, at least equal