Mayors Office Balt° Janʸ. 12ᵗʰ 1831

Gentlemen of the First
& Second Branches of the City Council.

Considerable difficulty having occurred in collecting the License for Theatrical Performances, those engaged in the profession being generally transient persons, omit to take out a license until after the night of performance; they continue to perform night after night without complying with the ordinance on that subject: and cases have occurred where they have finally left the City without paying the full amount. This difficulty is owing to the fine being so high as to require a suit before Baltimore City Court, see section 6 Page 247 of ordinance of 1826: if the fine was reduced to a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, a warrant after the first nights performance, would compel them to take out a license on the day previous. The Proprietors or Trustees of the Theatres should be made liable for the amount of the license. It has been suggested that the proprietors of museums should also be required to take out a license in case they exhibit any performance, other than the usual exhibition of the natural curiosities which it contains. It is submitted whether it would not be advisable to apply to the General Assembly at their present session to authorise the Mayor and City Council to appoint a certain number of disinterested persons as Commissioners to extend the line of direct taxation as occasion may require.

The Ordinance relative to low pin alleys is evaded by the parties using eleven pins; the ordinance should express any game played with nine, or any other number of pins which would be more likely to meet the case.

Potatoes and other vegetable substances should not be allowed to be placed in bulk in the cellar of any inhabited dwelling house within the City; as a decomposition of vegetable matter is constantly progressing which is deleterious to Health.

The fine for erecting fire walls should be reduced to an amount not exceeding twenty dollars.

Some provision will be necessary to meet the amount levied on the City property in opening Monument street; a bill of which, is herewith transmitted.

The manner in which shavings and the combustible offals of trades are deposited in the vacant lots in various parts of the City should be prevented: mischievous boys set them on fire and thereby create a false alarm, whereby the firemen are harrassed and the engines and apparatus much injured: It is

submitted whether it would not be advisable to require all persons, the offal of whose trade or business is of a combustible nature, to deposite the same upon some suitable vacant ground out of direct taxation, there to be burned by the person depositing the same, before three o'clock P.M. of the day on which the same are so deposited.

Respectfully submitted

Jacob Small Mayor

City of Baltimore

To the Mayor & City Council of Balt° Dʳ

For amount of assessment for opening Monument Street 4 A724.27

Payable 25ᵗʰ January.

The resolution for the appointment of a Joint Committee for the purposes therein mentioned received from the Second Branch on yesterday was read a second time concurred in and returned to the Second Branch with a message informing them of the appointment of Messrs Mactier, Ridgely and Hubbard the committee on the part of this Branch.

The report of the Commissioners of finance was received from the Register, which was read and sent to the Second Branch with a message proposing to refer it to the Joint committee raised for that object.

On motion the Branch adjourned until ½ past 3 o'Clock to morrow evening

By order

Th Young clk

Thursday Janʸ 13ᵗʰ 1831

The Branch met pursuant to adjournment, present Mʳ D Morris Esq President and all the members except Mʳ Carroll.

A message from the Second Branch, assenting to a proposal from this Branch to refer the document from the Commissioners of Finance to the Committee raised for that object.

Mʳ Young from the committee delivered the following report and resolution, which was read a first and by special order the second time.

The Joint Committee to whom was referred the communication of the Mayor relative to theatres and other subjects, for the purpose of dividing them between the two Branches beg leave to submit the accompanying resolution. Janʸ 13. 1831 M'Clintock Young, Wᵐ Hubbard, Edward Brown 1ˢᵗ Branch
H Lucas Jr William Deany 2ᵈ Do

Resolved by both Branches of the City Council that so much of the Mayors communication of the 12ᵗʰ Inst as relates to Theatrical performances, be referred to a Select Joint Committee.