Mr Dryden from the committe submitted the following report &c.

While the reading of the same was in progress Mr Myers moved to dispense with the further reading of the documents accompanying the same, which motion was negatived, and on motion of Mr Ridgely it was ordered that 100 copies of the same be published in pamphlet form.

The joint committe on Water, to whom was referred the resolution requiring them to make certain enquiries of the Baltimore Water Company, beg leave to report:

That immediately after the passage of the resolution they proceed to perform the duty asigned them, and deligently endeavored to obtain the information required. This information was promptly afforded by the President of the Water Company, and upon a careful consideration of the whole subject, your committe are of opinion that the Corporation ought to embrace the opportunity now offered to take under its own care and management, the supply of the city with Water.

The subject has always been considered by the Citizens of Baltimore, as one of primary importance; thirty five years ago the Council obtained an act of the Legislature, to authorize the Corporation to procure a supply of water for the city, but from causes not now distinctly known (but among those causes probably the want of funds was the chief,) the city authorities declined the project, and a private company was permitted to undertake this great work, experience however has shown what indeed might have been foreseen, that great inconvenience has arisen; it could not be expected that a private corporation would consult the public good when the benefit of the community could only be had by the sacrifice of corporate interest, it could not therefore be expected that the Company would extend their water pipes to parts of the city which offered no hopes of remuneration, and as the supply of water from pumps has from some cause sensibly diminished, such portions of the City are necessarily deprived, not only of a sufficient quantity of wholesome water for family purposes, but also of that equally necessary supply required for cleansing the City, and the extinguishment of fire.

But this is not all; the city has no authority to compel the water Company to continue the present supply, much less a right to require them to increase it, and as it would be unreasonable to suppose that any private corporation will augment its expenditures beyond the reasonable prospect of remuneration, it cannot be expected that the necessities of the City will be met by the Company.

Under this view of the subject, your committe believe that nine tenths of our Citizens are of opinion that the important trust of supplying our large

and constantly augmenting population with water, ought never to have been committed to a private Corporation, but as that has unfortunately been done, the question now to be decided is, shall it so continue, and if it be determined that it ought not, then arises the enquiry how the evil is to be remedied. To procure a revocation of the Charter of the present water company is impracticable, and would be unjust if it were practicable, and perhaps it would be little less unfair for the City Corporation to enter into direct competition with the Company so as to deprive them of a just return for the expenditure to which they have been led by the encouragement of the corporation itself, it is fortunate, therefore, that an opportunity is offered to effect the object proposed without any violation of private rights or injury to corporate interests. The Company are willing to transfer their rights to the City for a reasonable compensation, and your committe are of opinion that the purchase can be made without augmenting the taxes. For these reasons the committe propose, and recommend that the offer made by the Baltimore Water Company for the sale of their Water Works, be accepted by the City Council, (on the terms proposed by the said Company)

In support of this proposition, they beg leave further to observe, that if they have assigned sufficient reasons, why the Corporation ought to possess the entire control of water by which the City is to supplied, it will be easily shown that no plan heretofore proposed to effect that object offers the same or equal advantages.

The only other plans or schemes to which the committe deems it necessary to advert for the purpose of comparison, are those which were proposed by a very able committe, appointed by the Council of 1829, who during the following recess prepared a most elaborate report, suggesting a choice of two sources from which the necessary supply of water could be obtained. To say nothing in reference to the compensation, which a sense of justice might have awarded to the present Water Company, for the loss they must have sustained by either of these propositions, had they been carried into effect, it will only be necessary to observe in regard to them that either would have cost from One million to a million and a half of dollars. The greater part of this sum would have been required in money at the outset, and hence the interest must have been provided for, before the sale of the water could have afforded any revenue to the City, and this would have been probably for a period of 9 or 10 years; fearful as such an augmentation to our city debt would have been, and grievous as would have been the additional taxation to meet the interest on an enormous amount so long unproductive, it will be recollected, that it was seriously contemplated, and perhaps if no less expensive scheme could be devised, it might yet be considered necessary to encounter the difficulty for the advantages

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