Mr. Theyen presented the annual report of the Mechanicals Fire Company, which was read and referred to the Joint Committee on Fire Companies.

Mr. Theyen presented a petition from the New Market Fire Company, praying for a special appropriation to enable them to pay a balance due for the purchase and repairs of their apparatus and hose, — which was read and referred to the Committee on Fire Companies.

A message was received from the second branch proposing that when the councils adjourn this evening they will adjourn until Monday evening next at 7 o'clock. Mr. Snyder moved to dissent therefrom, which motion prevailed by the following vote, the yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Sellers.

Yeas — Messrs. Metzger, Knotts, Powell, Pindell, Sellers, Mathiot, Yeates, Wallis, Pinkney, Rufell, J. Meyer, Barnard, Snyder, M'Donald, Watkins — 15.

Nays — Messrs. President Croft, G. Meyer, Binns, Theyen — 5.

The second branch were informed by message of the dissent of the First branch.

Mr. Powel offered the following resolution, which was read a first time.

Resolved, That the City Commissioners be, and they are hereby directed to furnish to this branch the following information:

1st. If the lots fronting east and west of the Market space at the Belle-Air Market is private property.

2nd. And to inform this branch the reason that the footpaths are not paved according to Ordinance No. 47. page 124.

The report and resolution of the Select Joint Committee on the accounts of the Commissioners of Finance were read the second time, concurred in, and sent to the second branch.

The resolution relative to a pump and well at the intersection of Gay and Aisquith Streets, was read the second time, concurred in, and sent to the second branch.

Mr. Yeates from the Committee, submitted the following report and resolution, which were read a first time.

The report of the Joint Committee on Health, on so much

of the Mayor's message as relates to the abatement of nuisances on the Streets, &c., shews — That the subject has been examined with attention and deliberation. No new method of cleaning the Streets being judged expedient or practicable, except that by contract at fixed prices, a comparative examination of the benefits or disadvantages to be derived from this and the present plan for the purpose, practised by the Board of Health, was carefully instituted, and the Committee was enabled to conduct this comparison with some certainty, inasmuch as the Streets for the numbers of years were cleansed by contract, and the records of the Health Office furnish sufficient data upon which to predict correct conclusions. These records, it is true, do not shew when the system of cleaning the Streets by contract commenced, but it was continued until 1827; prior to which the average annual expense to the City during eleven years was seven thousand dollars, and there were no receipts to the City from the sale of manure, the Contractors using it for their own benefit. In addition, there was annually appropriated for the removal of nuisances, from $2500 to $5000, the principal part of which, it is presumed, was expended in the removal of snow and ice from flag stones, crossgutters, and bridges. This presumption is made from the fact, that the appropriation for removing nuisances at this time is but $1000, including the sum of $200 at the disposal of the Mayor for taking up swine, although in a season like the present, as we are informed by the Health Commissioners, the cost for removing snow and ice &c. &c, amounts to between two and three Thousand dollars, which sum is paid out of the general appropriation for cleaning Streets.

It must also be considered that unpaved Streets are never scraped, and that the number of unpaved Streets in the City at the present time, greatly exceeds the number some twelve or fifteen years ago. It will thus appear, that the nett annual expense to the City for cleansing of Streets during the eleven years above referred to, was from $9600 to $12,000, whilst during the year '38 there was an appropriation for this purpose of $15,000, of which has been expended $14,396 29, and returned to the Register for the sale of manure $3000 94, making a nett expense of $11,395 25 — from all which it appears, that in consideration of the great expense in the number of paved Streets, the actual cost to the City from the present plan, must be much less than if that of contract was substituted. It must also be taken into account, that the Board of Health have, in accordance with