Thursday, February 7th. 1839.

The Branch met pursuant to adjournment – present, Joshua Dryden, Esq. President, and all the Members.

Mr. Randolph presented a petition from John King relative to the transfer of a pump and well in front of his house on the south-west corner of Wilk and Washington Streets, Fell's Point, which was read and referred to the Joint Committee on Wates.

Mr. Barnard from the Committee, submitted the following report, and two several Ordinances, one entitled "A Supplement to an Ordinance entitled an Ordinance to appoint Superintendents of Streets and pumps, and to enforce useful regulations", and the other "A Supplement to an Ordinance entitled an Ordinance for the appointment of a High Constable, City Bailiffs, and for other purposes," which were read a first time.

The Joint Committee on Police to whom was referred the message of the Mayor relating to an increase of Police, have had the same under consideration, and are of the opinion that the executive power of the Mayor to suppress crimes and to prevent violations of the peace, ought to be strengthened in the manner pointed out in the message of the Mayor, to which your Committee respectfully refer the attention of the Council.

Your Committee have therefore prepared two Ordinances, one entitled "An Ordinance" "A Supplement to an Ordinance entitled an Ordinance for the appointment of a High Constable, City Bailiffs, and for other purposes" – and the other entitled "A Supplement to an Ordinance entitled An Ordinance to appoint Superintendents of Streets and pumps, and to enforce useful regulations", which are herewith presented for the consideration of the Council.

Danl. P. Barnard, } Committee of the
George P. Knotts, } First Branch.
James Grieves, } Committee of the
Wm. Barnet, } Second Branch.

The following message from the Mayor, was received, and read.

Mayor's Office, Feb. 7th, 1839.

Gentlemen of the First Branch of the City Council:

I have approved and signed "a resolution authorising a certain sum of money to be paid to W. Freaner," which (originated)

originated in your Branch.

Yours respectfully,

S. G. Leakin, Mayor.

Communications were received from the City Commissioners, and City Counsellor, in reply to resolutions of the 31st. January, 5th. and 6th. February.

Mr. Randolph on leave, introduced a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to exempt Coloured persons from the payment of tax, for the support of the Public Schools," which was read a first time.

Mr. Yeates offered the following resolution, which was read and concurred in.

Resolved, That the Presidents and Directors of the Baltimore and Chesapeake Steam Towing Company be, and they are hereby requested to furnish the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore with a statement of the affairs of said Company, showing the amount of funds or property now in possession, or the value thereof, as also the amount of claims against said Company, together with the receipts and expenditures thereof for the year ending 1st. January, 1839.

The resolution on the subject embraced in the Mayor's Communication relative to the abolishment of imprisonment for debt, was read the second time. Mr. Watkins offered the following as a substitute therefor, which was read.

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, That as the Legislature of Maryland now have the subject fully before them, that our Representatives be, and they are hereby requested to procure a Law for the abolishment of Imprisonment for debt in the State of Maryland, and to punish fraudulent Debtors.

Mr. Wallis moved the following as a substitute, for the substitute of Mr. Watkins.

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland be requested to enquire into the expediency and wisdom of abolishing imprisonment for debt.

Which motion was negatived by the following vote.

Yeas – Messrs. Mathiot, Wallis – 2.

Nays – Messrs. President, Randolph, Atkinson, McIlvain, Knotts, Powell, Pindell, Leidenstricker, Sellers, Cross, G. Meyer, Yeates, Pinkney, J. Meyer, Barnard, Snyder, McDonald, Burns, Brown and Watkins — 20.

Mr. Yeates then moved an indefinite postponement of the whole subject. Mr. Watkins moved to lay the whole subject on the table, which latter motion prevailed.

Mr. Yeates from the Committee, submitted the following report, which (was)