painted, washed and otherwise properly improved; giving a detail of what they may deem necessary to be done, and the probable expense of doing the same.

Mr. J. A. Ramsay, from the joint committee on education, submitted the following report and a bill, entitled "an additional supplement to an ordinance entitled an ordinance relating to Public Schools," which were read a first time and laid on the table:

The joint committee on education to whom was referred a resolution instructing enquiry into the expediency of repealing an Ordinance, approved April 9, 1842; also, a resolution directing investigation into the propriety of a graduation of charges in the Public School system, and other subjects relating thereto; also a memorial from Robert Gilmor, Esq., submitting certain facts concerning the Gay Street lot, respectfully offer the subjoined report, with the accompanying ordinance.

The committee feel it to be their duty to recommend a repeal of the ordinance referred to in the first resolution, so far as to work an essential change in the character of the power with which the school commissioners are intrusted; without, however, resolving that power back into the same form in which this supplementary ordinance found it. They believe every difficulty would be removed from the minds of the commissioners, so far as restraint upon their freedom to act is concerned, if instead of making it necessary to consult the Councils in their negotiations, the power were shifted to the Mayor of the city as a party to be consulted in cases of lease and purchase. The Mayor is an officer always on the spot, and who can at any time be advised with, whereas the City Council is a body whose official session, and consequent capacity to deliberate with those gentlemen, occupies but a very small portion of the current year. An ordinance embodying these views is herewith presented.

Respecting the instruction given the committee to inquire into the propriety of a graduation of charges in the educational system of the city, they think the most proper mode that could be pursued, would be to leave that

subject unmolested at the present time. They therefore suggest a final limitation to the present rates of tuition in both departments of the schools. The committee while they determine on this disposition of the matter, against the request of the School Commissioners to advance the price in view of the known condition of the city's means, are yet decidedly of opinion that it would be better to let the rates of tuition remain as they are for the present.

These schools were primordially established for the advantage of the poor, and hundreds of individuals amongst our most worthy citizens who are obliged, on account of their means, to be controlled by the powerful eloquence of the pocket, will see in this increased price a direct impediment in the way of the entrance of their sons, and the establishment of a precedent having a small beginning which may be hereafter taken advantage of as a plea for further augmentation of rates.

It has been thought best not to trouble the question of salaries. This subject has heretofore been controlled by the commissioners, and the compensation of teachers under their direction has always been a matter inherent in their particular jurisdiction.

The committee are aware that this notion of reduction obtains greatly among some; but the question assumes a high and exalted prominence, whether it would not be much better to afford a salary that will not be affected by the fluctuating nature of the times, and thereby ensure capable and permanent teachers; or whether by such reduction the schools shall be rendered liable to continual changes in their superintendents, who may embrace more advantageous situations, thus surrendering their place to quacks and incompetent pedagogues? The authority heretofore possessed by the School Commissioners over this subject, would render it a very delicate question for the councils to act upon it at the present time, inasmuch as great complaint has been made, and supposed indignity endured by the boards on account of an ordinance which this report recom