assessed on his house or lot. I can, therefore, perceive no reason why he should escape because he lives beyond the limits of the City.

The Appeal Tax Court report, herewith shows the assessed value of property in the city liable to taxes for city purposes for the year 1845 to be $59.377.397.- After abatements that may be made during the year, the levy might safely be put down at $57.500.000

By reference to the report of the Committee of Finance it will be seen that $14.000 of the Court House stock has been purchased out of the sinking fund, applicable to that purpose. The Commissioners also recommend that provision be made to take up the six per cent stock, redeemable at pleasure.

By resolution, No 54. of last session of the Council the Mayor was authorised to receive a deed from Messrs Robert Howard, John Boggs, Alex. S. Boggs and Thomas Hunter, of a piece of ground, laid off by them for a public square, on the centre of Fairmount. The deed has been made and accepted, agreeably to the resolution. Since then the property holders have called on the city to grade and pave her part of said property; and, as I understand from the City Commissioners that the expense would be large, I would particularly invite the attention of the Council to this subject.

I am pleased to find by the report of the Health Department, that the city has enjoyed her full proportion of health. For a more detailed statement I respectfully refer you to their report. The present mode of cleaning the streets by contract I think objectionable. Much complaint has been made of the dirty condition of the lanes and alleys; whether it arises from the mode of contracting or contractors, I cannot determine, as the contractors contend that they are only bound to remove a particular kind of dirt. If this mode is continued, the contractor should be obliged to remove all dirt of any and every description, that of building materials excepted.

From the report of the "Trustees for the Poor," herewith submitted, you will be pleased to perceive the flourishing condition of the institution under their direction. Allow me, however to call your attention to the too frequent emigration of paupers for the past years from other counties and cities, to take up their winter quarters in our Alms House. I am sure money would be saved to the city were an appropriation made to send them back

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to their last proper place of settlement. This being known might prevent their coming.

I am gratified in being able to say, that the efficiency of the Fire Department continues as heretofore, and I here must beg most respectfully to recommend the adoption of my predecessor's suggestion, viz: "That a general central Alarm Bell be erected, to which all the other alarm bells shall be subordinate — this bell to be attended by a watchman day and night."

There is a very important matter to which I would most respectfully and earnestly call your attention. It is, the fortification and defence of our beloved city. While the general government is expending large amounts in the construction of forts for the defence of our neighbouring cities, we, from some unaccountable cause, have been neglected. I am inclined to think it has proceeded more from a want of attention on our own part to this matter than any intentional neglect on the part of the general government. Upon reference to the public documents, you will see that the Chief Engineer of the United States Army, in 1843, in his report upon Military Defences, says, in speaking of the works recommended to be erected on Sollers' Point Flats: "With Fort McHenry as the only defensive work between Baltimore and the Chesapeake Bay, that city is wholly without defences against any attack by land; such, for instance, as was undertaken by the English during the last war, and is at the same time not adequately protected from an attack by the river. The first step to be taken in the creation of a better system of defence for this harbour is the erection of a strong casemated battery on the outer extremity of Sollers' Point Flats."

Again, allow me to call your attention to the report of the Secretary of War, Nov. 10. 1846. made to the present Congress, in which he says: "Whilst Fort McHenry (a work of inferior force) is available to resist a particular kind of hostile attack upon Baltimore, it forms the only defence by fortification to that important city. The true defence and safety of Baltimore will, it is believed be found in the erection of permanent works on Sollers Point Flats, about ten miles below the city. Let the proposed Fort upon these flats be completed, and the inhabitants of that city will no longer have occasion to appre-

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