The importance and utility of open public squares in large and populous cities is now universally acknowledged; the salutary influences resulting from their institution is not less beneficial to the public health than it is pleasing and refreshing to the eye. The want of such squares in the populous parts of our city are already beginning to be felt, and as the woodlands by which our city is surrounded fall before the march of our rapidly extending improvements, it will be still more and perhaps hopelessly manifest. Our public city springs, which add so much to the ornament of the city and the convenience of our citizens, are inadequate, from their contracted premises and limited extent, to answer the purposes of public squares, although they afford to the passing citizen or stranger a refreshing relief from his thirst, the limited extent of shrubbery and trees scarcely afford sufficient shade to protect him from the searching rays of a Summer's sun. Public squares, to be either useful or ornamental, necessarily require considerable extension and scope.

A most favourable opportunity is now presented to secure one of this description to our city, by the purchase of this property, which, when added to the beautiful grounds now surrounding the Eastern Fountain, would afford the most ample scope for an ornamental public square. The location of this property is a most happy one for this purpose; situated between the city and Fells Point, it would form a most desirable place for the wearied and fatigued pedestrian, in his migrations from the extremes of our city, to rest and refresh his exhausted energies from its cooling fountain and its luxuriant shades.

The rapidly increasing value of property, within the populous districts of our city, admonish us of the importance of securing suitable sites for public squares, whilst the price of lands may be reconcilable with the finances of the city treasury. The time is fast approximating when the increased value of such property will forever place it out of our reach; the present favourable opportunity should not then be lost from any mistaken consideration of economy. Our citizens have ever manifested a becoming spirit of enterprise and encouragement for public works of ornament and utility, and our towering columns, reared in grateful commemoration of virtue and of valor, have justly gained for our city the proud distinction of the "monumental city."

It has been a subject of remark by strangers and travellers, that

that a people so distinguished as are the citizens of Baltimore for their devotion to public works of art, should have neglected, to so late a period, the institution of large public squares in the city. Our sister city, Philadelphia has set us a noble example, worthy of our imitation, with regard to this subject; her numerous spacious and magnificent public squares are at once the pride and boast of her citizens; and she may well be proud of them, for in point of capaciousness and taste in their arrangement they will compare favourably with any institutions of this kind in any city of the old or of the new world. They afford the most pleasing and delightful places of resort to her citizens as well as strangers, who from choice or necessity, are compelled to remain in the city during the warm months; it relieves the dusty metropolitan from the monotony always experienced in large and populous cities, of dwelling upon an interminable waste of paved streets and brick walls, and affords a most agreeable variety, at once pleasing to the eye and most grateful to the sense.

Your committee are not unmindful of the burdens already imposed on our citizens by taxation, and do not feel disposed, from light considerations, to increase them; but in this case there is necessity for prompt action on the part of the city authorities. This property must be secured now or lost forever, as the owner has directed the agent Mr Keener, to lease a portion of said lot, if the purchase is declined by the corporation. The terms offered the city for this purchase is certainly most favourable for the present condition of the city finances. She will only be required to pay the interest on the purchase until her finances enable her to pay the debt; the property in the meantime will be increasing in value, and the improvements which would naturally spring up on private property fronting the Square, would, in the opinion of your committee, fully re-imburse the city, by extending the amount of her assessable property, which would flow into the city treasury.

Fully impressed with these considerations, your committee most earnestly and respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolution.

Wm S. Browning
Wm V. Leonard
John W. Croney
First Branch

Henry R. Sanderman
Samuel S. Barnes
Michael Murphey
Second Branch.

Resolved