Baltimore County for so much of the ground attached to the Alms House as he might deem necessary for the use of said institution. Before proceeding to exercise the authority by the ordinance above referred to, I was induced to seek information relative to the cost of similar institutions elsewhere, which resulted in the ascertainment of the fact that from $50.000 to $60.000. would be a moderate estimate of the probable cost of a house of refuge for this city. I therefore deemed it my duty to delay the consummation of an arrangement for the purchase of the interest of the County in so much of the Alms House property as would be required for the purpose of a refuge, that an opportunity might be afforded to place the information obtained before the Council, and from which it will be perceived how inadequate will be the sum appropriated for the purpose designed.

The increase of new buildings erected in the city during the past year were 1.508, of which only 17 were frame.

I should esteem myself wanting in a proper acknowledgement of the services of the city police and night watch, did I not publicly express the entire satisfaction with which they have discharged their onerous and responsible duties. To the vigilance of the city police and night watch may be, in no small degree, ascribed the almost entire freedom from rioting which has marked the history of the past year in our city. It is true that slight disturbances of the peace have occurred, and are almost unavoidable; but the spirit of violence has been checked by the appearance of the police. To that prompt and efficient officer, the high constable, much credit is due. Sustained by the good sense and love of order which belong to the character of our constituency, and placing the utmost reliance for support in their readiness to sustain those to whom they have delegated the protection of the good name and peace of the city, I have never for a moment, since my installation in my present office as Mayor of the city, felt the slightest apprehension that riot could usurp the place of order, or that the good citizen could be disturbed in person or property with impunity by the vicious and depraved.

The policy of securing lots or squares of ground for public promenades will, in all probability, be deemed a subject worthy of your consideration. I understand a lot of ground adjoining the south side of Calvert Street spring, upon which are now erected, two old wooden frame houses, and which are calculated to disfigure the appearance of the public improvements adjacent, may be bought for a reasonable compensation. I would recommend its purchase.

In

In my last annual message, the attention of the Council was called to the comparatively unprotected state of our city, for the want of proper military defences. This suggestion led to the immediate and zealous effort, on the part of your predecessors, that nothing should be left undone, on their part, to obtain an appropriation by the Congress of the United States, for the purpose of erecting permanent fortifications on "Fodler's Point Flats".

I am truly gratified in saying, that the reasonable expectations of our people for a long time indulged in, without realizing their hopes, are about to be answered. The military committee of the House of Representatives of the United States have, by a report, advised an appropriation to be made, for that purpose, of $30.000, and I believe, from all the information I can gather on the subject, this recommendation only requires the action of Congress to become a law.

All of which is respectfully submitted

Jacob G. Davies, Mayor.

The following documents were received with the Mayor's communication.

Reports of the Commissioners of Public Schools; Appeal Tax Court; Commissioners of Finance; Health Officer; City Collector; Visitors of the Jail; Trustees for the Poor; Commissioners on Run Alley; Board of Health; City Commissioners and Port Wardens; Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company; and Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road Company.

On motion of Mr Brown, a message was sent to the Second Branch, proposing to refer the Mayor's communication and accompanying documents to a joint select committee, and naming Messrs Brown, Walsh and McCurley, as the committee on the part of this Branch.

The Second Branch assented thereto by message, and appointed Messrs Landeuman, Barker and Denson, as the committee on their part.

The following communication was received from the City Register and read:

City Register's Office
Baltimore January 13, 1846.

Gentlemen of the First and Second Branches of the City Council:

In compliance with an ordinance, prescribing the duties of the Register, approved May 28th 1838. I herewith submit a statement of receipts and disbursements on account

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