The report and resolution of the joint committee on ways and means, on the petition of J. H. Carter and others, were received from the Second Branch, read a first and by special order the second time and concurred in.

The report and resolution of the joint committee on claims in favor of Bull & Tuttle, were received from the Second Branch, read a first, and by special order a second time, and concurred in.

On motion of Mr. Leloup, the branch proceeded to the consideration of the order of the day - the revised ordinances.

Bill No. 5. entitled, "An ordinance providing for the appointment of a Register, and Deputy Register for the city of Baltimore, and prescribing their duties," was read, together with the amendments proposed thereto by the committee.

On motion of Mr. Leloup, the amendments proposed to the 1st, 2nd, 9th, and 15th, sections, and a new section, the 17th, were adopted.

Mr. Dobler moved to amend the amendment proposed to the 7th. line of the 7th section, by inserting after the words "Mayor and City Council", the words "of Baltimore"; which was determined in the affirmative.

The amendment, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. Cooper moved to amend the amendment proposed to the 11th. line of the same section, by inserting after the words "Farmers and Planters Bank", the words "of Baltimore"; which was determined in the affirmative.

The amendment as amended, was adopted.

Mr. Davis moved to amend the amendment proposed as section 16th, by striking out all after the word "quarterly"; which was determined in the affirmative.

Mr. Leloup moved to amend the same section, by striking out the words "fifteen hundred", and inserting "two thousand" in lieu thereof, which was determined in the affirmative.

Mr. Dushane moved further to amend the same section, by inserting after the word "annually", in 2nd. line the words "and all perquisites allowable under existing acts of assembly and ordinances of the corporation of Baltimore shall be paid into the treasury of the city for the general purposes thereof"; which was determined in the affirmative.

The section as amended, was then adopted.

The bill, as amended, was passed.

The amendment to the title of the bill, as proposed by the committee was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Leloup, a message was sent to the Second Branch requesting the appointment of a joint committee of conference on bill No. 3, entitled "An ordinance relative to members and clerks of the City Council", - the committee on the part of this branch, consisting of Messrs. Leloup, Grafton and Dushane.

The following communication was received from the city counsellor, read, and laid on the table:

Baltimore, February 26th. 1850.

To the President of the First Branch
of the City Council of Baltimore:

Sir:

I have had under consideration the subject upon which my opinion is asked in the following resolution: "That the counsellor of the city be requested to communicate to this branch at his earliest convenience, his opinion of the legality of renting the city wharves to individuals or companies." The inquiry which I have been obliged to institute into the right of property which the city possesses in the several wharves, which are denominated city wharves, and which property, although styled by one common title is held by various tenures, is one of great importance, and attended with many difficult questions. It will be unnecessary for me to state to the Council the various considerations which have formed the grounds upon which my conclusions rest, and which alone I have to submit as an answer to their question.

The corporation is not possessed of that kind of property over the wharves at the ends or sides of streets, lanes or alleys which would confer the same privilege over them as the proprietors of private wharves enjoy, and who may exercise absolute control over them, and even forbid any vessel to make fast to them, without their consent. On the contrary the city possesses no right to claim wharfage on the ground of ownership in the wharves above mentioned. They are like in character, and are part of highways open for the public use, and no privilege granted to one can be withheld from all. The right to collect wharfage is a legislative grant in all such cases, and is not an incident of property - in