Monday, March 11th 1850.

The branch met pursuant to adjournment.

Present, - Jacob J. Cohen Jr. Esq. President, and all the members.

Mr. Dobler presented a petition from P. M. Cronin, asking that the name of Half Moon alley may be changed to Comedy lane, which was read, and referred to the joint committee on highways and bridges.

Mr. Leloup presented a communication from Messrs. H. D. Evans and T. J. Spilman, asking that they may be compensated for revising the city ordinances, which was read, and referred to the joint committee on ways and means.

Mr. Shipley, chairman of the committee on claims, submitted the following report, which was read, and laid on the table:

The joint committee on claims, to whom was referred the petition of the vestry of Trinity Church in Bank street praying to be refunded eighty four dollars paid for the paving of Bank street, have given the subject mature deliberation, and respectfully report that they have been unable to see sufficient reason to induce them to recommend a return of the money claimed by the petitioners; they would therefore beg leave to offer the following resolution:

J. S. Shipley,	First Branch.	John W. Willson	Second Branch.
Wm. C. Carpenter		Jno. T. Farlow	
Edward Horney		John R. Kelso	

Resolved that the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

Mr. Grafton, chairman of the select committee on the subject, submitted the following report, which was read, and laid on the table:

The joint select committee to whom was referred the memorial of Christian Keener asking indemnity for damages alleged to have been sustained in consequence of the grading of that portion of the York avenue in front of his property, opposite Greenmount Cemetery, beg leave respectfully to report that they have examined carefully all the circumstances connected with the subject matter upon which Mr. Keener predicates his claim for indemnification by the Mayor

and City Council of Baltimore, and have failed to perceive in what respect the corporate authorities have directly or indirectly, committed any trespass upon his property, or that said property has been damaged at all, by any official action of the corporation through or by her accredited agents.

Your committee deem it unnecessary to enter into a prolix statement of the various matters attendant upon the origin of Mr. Keener's demand for indemnity; but will briefly state the leading facts connected with the grading of the York avenue.

Pursuant to an application of the property holders, York avenue, between French and Oliver streets was placed under contract for paving, under the direction of the city commissioners in October 1847, and in the ensuing year a warrant was issued to the city collector for the paving tax. While the work was progressing towards completion, the wall during a severe storm gave way, bringing in its fall a portion of the street or road in front of Mr. Keener's property. Although under the existing acts of assembly and ordinances of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, then and now in force, the city commissioners could have required Mr. Keener, in common with the property owners on the line of the street to grade the footways in front of their respective lots to the building line of said street, they omitted to do so, and the entire expense of filling up said street to within a very short distance of the building line was defrayed by the city. It will thus appear manifest, that had the corporate authorities proceeded in accordance with the power and authority vested in them to require the footways to be filled up, Mr. Keener would have been chargeable for his proportion of the expense of said filling, consequently to that extent he has been benefitted by the grading. In relation to the wall which fell during the progress of the work, your committee are of the opinion that said wall being in the bed of the street as ceded to the corporation became their property, and that no one can be entitled to any compensation arising out of its fall or destruction. Impressed by the considerations herein briefly adverted to, your committee, after mature deliberation, beg leave to offer