April 30th, 1852.

To the President and Members of the
First Branch of the City Council:

Gentlemen:

The Commissioners of Finance, to whom was referred the petition of James Stimpson, beg leave to report, that on a direct application made to the board, by Mr S., on the 13th inst., the subject was deliberately examined and the annexed resolutions were the unanimously adopted. From their conclusions then made, and after a re-examination of the whole question, the board find no good reason for a change of opinion, and they, therefore, present the result of their previous action as an appropriate answer to the reference of the petition made to them by your honorable body. Their proceedings at the time referred to, were recorded on their book of minutes in the following terms:

"Resolved, that it is inexpedient to grant the request of Mr Stimpson, because the original lease has not expired by nearly four years, and because in view of the demand for wharf property consequent upon the growth of the city, said property must greatly increase in value."

Resolved, that in giving the lease to the present occupants of the property, no promise was given by the commissioners of finance, either expressed or implied, that said lease should be renewed on any terms.

Resolved further, that in the judgement of the board, it is not expedient to lease at present the property referred to, either for an unlimited or limited period, but when the proper time shall arrive for leasing again the said property, the same should be put up at public auction to the highest bidder".

Respectfully Submitted,
Jno H T Jerome, Chairman.

Mr Lucas moved that a message be sent to the Second Branch, proposing with their concurrence, to refer the above communication and the memorial of James Stimpson, to a joint special committee.

Mr Young moved, as a substitute, that it be referred to the joint committee on ways and means, which was determined in the negative by the following vote, the ayes and nays being required by Mr Young.

Yeas.—Messrs. Blanford, Young—2.

Nays.—Messrs. President, Horney, Means, Bowie, Wilson, Lucas, Thomas, Whelan, Lewksbury, Davis, Miles, Dushane—12.

The question recurring on the motion of Mr Lucas, it was determined in the affirmative.

The Second Branch returned the resolution in favor of Joel A Blake; the resolution in favor of Susanna Deems; the resolution in favor of Edward Moon, severally endorsed "concurred in"; and the ordinance providing for the erection of fire plugs, endorsed "will pass".

Mr Whelan, chairman of the joint committee of conference, presented the following report and resolution, which were read and laid on the table:

The joint committee of conference, to whom was referred Bill No 17,—"A supplement to an ordinance, entitled "An ordinance to enforce police regulations",—upon which the two branches have disagreed,—have examined the subject, and not being able to agree upon any substitute, offer the following resolution:

Thos Whelan, Jr.,
Wm H Shelley, } First Branch.
J T Cohen Jr.,
Jas C Vinde,
Chas Towson, } Second Branch.

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

Bill No 47, entitled "An ordinance to decrease the width of Falls Street, between Buren Street and Jones' Falls," was taken up, on motion of Mr Dushane.

On motion of Mr Bowie, the ordinance was amended by inserting after the word "enacted", in the first line, the words "and ordained".

Mr Bowie moved further to amend the ordinance, by inserting after the word "city", in the 7th line, the words "provided said commissioners shall not assess any expenses for the closing of said street, on any property east of Buren Street", which was determined in the negative.

The ordinance, as amended, was passed by the following vote, the ayes and nays being required by Mr Davis:

Yeas.—Messrs. President, Means, Wilson, Thomas, Whelan, Lewksbury, Davis, Miles, Dushane—9.

Nays.—Messrs. Horney, Blanford, Young, Bowie, Lucas—5.