The President resumed the chair, and called the branch to order.

Mr France called up the resolution from the joint committee on water, for the erection of a fire-plug at the Centre market, under the Maryland Institute, which was read.

On motion of Mr Byrd, the resolution was re-committed to the joint committee on water.

On motion of Mr Hunt, the branch adjourned until Monday afternoon, at 5 o'clock.

By Order,
Joseph M Peregoy, Clerk.

Appropriations:

To February 17th,	$9.748 00
" Paving East and West Falls avenues,	1,000 00
" Alarm bell for Eastern Station house,	425 00
	$11,173,97

Monday, February 27, 1854.

The branch met pursuant to adjournment.

Present – John S Brown, Esq. President; and all the members, except Mr Magraw.

Mr Roche presented the memorial of the United Fire Company, which was read and referred to the joint committee on fire companies.

Mr Weathers, chairman of the joint committee on the harbor, presented the following report and resolutions, which were read and laid on the table:

Whereas, the city of Baltimore is entitled from its population and commerce, to a larger share of expenditure of the Federal treasury than it has received hitherto; and whereas, we believe we reflect the popular will when we invoke the aid of the Senators and Representatives of this State in Congress, to advocate and use all honorable means to obtain a more liberal allowance hereafter, for an object which is national in its character, as well as being of vital importance to the State of Maryland and this community.

The committee believe, that if an appropriation of three hundred thousand dollars, on the part of the General Government, was granted and judiciously expended, it would effectually and permanently remove all obstructions and impediments from the ship channel of Patapsco river and Chesapeake Bay, so as to give an uninterrupted course of twenty-four feet depth, thus permitting free egress and ingress to first class merchant ships – such as are now employed in the carrying trade, and likewise affording sufficient water for ships of war to enter and depart.

It is presumed that no argument is necessary to indicate the importance of this measure, so far as the interests of this state and the city of Baltimore are concerned; but it would be well to remark that the General Government has a direct and very material interest, and that the Patapsco river has claims of no ordinary stamp, and of such a nature as to demand its fostering care. It is conceded, that in all future wars, steam will be the principal element of propulsion for ships of war. Bituminous coal is acknowledged the best coal in the world for generating steam. Baltimore is, and ever will be, the grand outlet of the country for Bituminous coal, – it therefore follows, that a free access to this supply of fuel for our largest steam frigates, without the intervention of lighters, and where at the same time, they can be protected, is just as absolutely necessary as any defensive post on our own coast. An examination into this subject will show the saving of freight alone, in two or three years, will more than pay the expense of deepening the Patapsco river; we believe it is only necessary to advert to the grounding of the steamers Mississippi and Princeton, on their recent visit to receive their machinery, in proof of what has been said, as regards the present deepening of water.

Your committee are deeply impressed with the importance of this subject, and the propriety of offering the following resolutions:

Joseph Weathers, Joseph Simms, Tom Peters, } First Branch. M N Falls, Hy Webster, Chas G Griffith, } Second Branch.

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, that our Senators and Representatives in Congress, be respectfully and urgently requested, to use their best