Thursday, March 23, 1854.

The branch met pursuant to adjournment.

Present – John S Brown, Esq, President, and all the members except Messrs. Peters and Boulden.

Mr Boyd presented the petition of Charles T Holloway, asking leave to place a sign in front of his store, which was read and referred to the joint committee on police and jail.

Mr Magraw presented the petition of George W Ferguson, asking the return of taxes paid in error, which was read and referred to the joint committee on claims.

Mr Rogers presented the petition of John H Barnes and others, asking permission to lay a railway through certain streets, which was read and referred to the joint committee on internal improvements.

Mr Simms presented the petition of C. Cottrell, asking leave to retain a platform on the south side of the Basin, which was read and referred to the joint committee on the harbor.

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

The joint committee on claims, to whom was referred the petition of William E Beale and Joseph E Ramsey, asking for an additional compensation for building of the new Bel-air market house, having examined the subject of the petition with considerable attention, beg leave to report favorable, on the ground that the said Beale and Ramsey's proposal for building of said market, was made in the month of August, to the City Commissioner and was accepted as the lowest responsible bidders; after receiving the contract they were detained by the removal of the old building and the paving of the street, until the seventh of October, by which detention they were thrown into the short days; and also, the large advance in all kinds of work and materials, making the house actually cost the contractors by their candid statement, and also by the vouchers filed in the City Commissioner's office (which was paid by him) amounting to the sum of ten thousand and two dollars. The amount of contract was eight-thousand nine hundred and forty-two dollars, making a deficiency of one thousand and sixty dollars, which includes one hundred dollars for extra work done on the said market house by the orders of the City Commissioner, and which does not give them any compensation for their services. We owned therefore

offer the following resolution:

Saml S Spicer,
Chas L Norwood, } First Branch. John Stewart, } Second Branch.
Ed Law Rogers,

Resolved by the Mayor and city council of Baltimore that the Register be, and he is hereby authorised and directed to pay to Wm E Beale and Joseph E Ramsey, (contractors and builders of Bel-air market house,) the sum of one thousand and sixty dollars, being the balance of actual cost of the said market house, including their bill for extra work done on said house.

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

The joint committee on education, to whom was referred the resolution to "enquire into the expediency of erecting a suitable building for the accommodation of Primary School No. 23, in the Ninth Ward", and the resolution authorising the commissioners of Public schools to lease a lot on Republican street, for the purpose of erecting thereon a public school, have had the measures proposed, under advisement, and respectfully beg leave to report in relation to the same. In consideration of the great difficulty, if not impossibility of procuring a suitable lot in the Ninth ward, for the erection of a building for Primary School No. 23 – the committee have concluded that the best plan to be pursued in the premises is to refer the subject to the Commissioners of Public Schools, with an appropriation and power to proceed in the improvement of the Eastern end of the Fish market, believing the same to be both practicable and economical.

The committee can perceive no difficulty in the way of a convenient arrangement of the Fish Market, not interfering at all with its present use and occupancy, for the purpose, nor can they imagine any reason why the situation may not be in every way suitable. The committee have not been at all surprised to learn that the representative of the Ninth ward in the board of Commissioners of Public Schools, has for three years past, used every possible exertion, and consumed much time in the effort to secure a suitable lot on which to erect the desired building, but was not able to secure a lot except at an enormous cost, owing to the scarcity of leaseable ground in the vicinity. He was obliged at last to propose to the board the renting of rooms in Centre Market Space, not at all convenient, and under many