Mr Barry presented the petition of James Gardner and others, asking that Penn Street maybe opened from Pratt Street to Carpenter's alley, which was read and referred to the joint committee on ways and means.

Mr Sepson presented the petition of Wm Rogers and others, asking that Franklin Square maybe improved, which was read and referred to the joint committee on highways.

Mr Sepson presented the petition of Hugh O'Connor and others, remonstrating against permission being granted for certain steps on Lombard, west of Fremont Street, to remain, which was read and referred to the joint committee on highways.

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

The joint committee on commerce, to whom was referred two communications from the Register, in answer to two resolutions of enquiry from the First Branch of the Council, relating to the public printing, respectfully report, that inasmuch as the printing of the approved ordinances and resolutions of the City Council, in the newspapers of this city, is left entirely to the judgment of the Register by ordinance No. 64 of 1851, as to the propriety or necessity therefor; your committee have concluded that further legislation on the subject at present, is unnecessary. The appended resolution is offered:

John A Roche, John France, John R Cox, } First Branch.
M N Falls, Henry Webster, Jno T Farlow, } Second Branch.

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

Mr Roche, from the joint committee on police and jail, presented the following report and resolution, which were read and laid on the table:

The joint committee on police and jail, respectfully report, that in the discharge of a portion of their duty, they visited the jail for the purpose of making a general inspection of the premises an examination of the books and a scrutiny of the condition of the prisoners confined therein. Your committee take pleasure in giving testimony favorable to the cleanliness of every part of the building. It is a wonder that such an old pile, occupied as it has been for fifty odd years, could be kept so little offensive as your committee found it; every

thing looked in perfect order, scrupulously clean, and almost entirely clear of that peculiar odor that seems to be evolved by every institution of the kind, that your committee have ever officially examined. The committee would not withhold from the warden and his deputies and assistants, the great credit that is due them for having the premises in such excellent condition notwithstanding what they have to contend against.

The books appear to be kept with great nicety, and as far as the committee were able to judge, entirely correct. The unfortunates confined there looked to be as comfortable as circumstances would admit, and as far as compatible with safety and duty, the keepers seem to have acted with humanity and benevolence toward them; but the undersigned must be permitted to remark that the good feeling and intentions of the officers of the jail are rendered almost nugatory by the construction and the present state of the building. Erected more than half a century ago, the action of the climate on some of the materials, together with their long and continuous service, have rendered the whole concern a very poor affair as a public building for such a city as Baltimore. In addition to the general consequences of time and wear, the jail bears no affinity to such an one as ought to be the prison of the third city of the Union, in appearance even, to say nothing of utility, humanity or efficiency. The rooms are too few, and these are badly lighted; the cells are damp, and in spite of all care foted and otherwise unwholsome. The small number of rooms and their arrangement, prevents there being made that discriminating seperation of the prisoners which would be the soundest policy — here must necessarily mingle in one corrupt and corrupting mass of vice and crime, without classification, old and young, witnesses and criminals, the indicted and the condemned. These are not all necessarily in the same room, but they are without supervision, without control, without instruction save punishment, without interdiction as to conversation or any other circumstance favorable to reform. Men and boys are rooned together — he who is imprisoned for want of friends, finds himself the inmate with, and the companion of those imprisoned for almost every shade of transgression. And persons young in years, perhaps for a first offence, are necessarily