power to appoint a clerk for a short time, report that they have examined the subject, and believe the request a reasonable one, and should be granted. The committee believe the duties and labors of that officer is daily increasing, and that he needs the help prayed for, and therefore offer the following resolution:

James S. Suter — Wm E. Bartlett, jr.
John S. Wright — Wm S. Crowley
Jno. A. Thompson — Edward C. Thomas
First Branch. — Second Branch.

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, that the City Register be and he is hereby authorized to employ a clerk in his office for not more than three months, and the salary of said clerk shall be proportionally for the time employed, at the rate of eight hundred dollars per annum.

On motion of Mr. Wright, the resolution was read a second time by special order and adopted.

The following communication was received from the Mayor and read:

Mayor's Office, Baltimore, April 3d, 1855.

To the Honorable the First and Second Branches of the City Council:

Gentlemen:—Having examined carefully the ordinance defining the duties and authority of the commissioners of finance, (see ordinance No. 6, of revised ordinances of 1850,) and also those passed since the above named was adopted; the first to acquaint myself with the reasons for the creation of the "sinking fund" and the specific purpose it was designed to serve—the latter to ascertain if there has been any law enacted by which said fund could be appropriated otherwise than as originally intended, I have found as follows, viz:

Ordinance 6—Section 7th declares—that the faith of the corporation and its corporate property be and they are hereby pledged for the redemption of the stock, and payment of the interest thereon quarterly, on the 1st days of January, April, July and October.

Sect. 8th says that the sum of six thousand dollars be annually appropriated in aid of the "sinking fund," to be paid to the commissioners of finance, one-half on the 1st day of July, and the other half on the 1st day of January, in each and every year.

Sect. 9th—That such sum as may be necessary for the payment of the interest on the public debt be included in the appropriation bill of this and every subsequent year.

Sec. 10th—That all such payments as may be necessary to enable the said commissioners to discharge or reimburse any demand against the City on account of the principal or interest of the debt which shall be actually due in conformity to the engagements of the city, shall be made at such times in each year as will enable the commissioners faithfully to comply with such engagements.

Sec. 13th—That the commissioners of finance shall be authorized to lend, on interest, any money in their hands applicable to the extinguishment of the debt of the city, upon the hypothecation, for a period not exceeding six months, of the stocks of the United States, State of Maryland, or city scrip.

Sec. 14th—That the Board of Commissioners of Finance may, whenever in their opinion it is consistent with the interest of the city, lease any part of the public property which is pledged for the redemption of the public debt, and apply the proceeds of such leases towards the object of the sinking fund.

It is, therefore, from the foregoing, clearly apparent, that those who contracted the city debt designed the establishment of the sinking fund as one mode of its payment—a very correct proceeding, and in strict accordance with the constitution of the State—which proclaims, at 3d, sect. 22d—that "No debt shall be contracted by the Legislature unless such debt shall be authorized by a law providing for the collection of an annual tax, or taxes sufficient to pay the interest on such debts as it falls due, and also to discharge the principal thereof, &c., &c." * * * * * * The latter clause of the same section says: "And they shall not use or appropriate the proceeds of the internal improvement companies, or the state tax now levied, or which may hereafter be levied, to pay off the public debt, for any other purpose, until the interest and debt are fully paid, or the sinking fund shall be equal to the amount of the outstanding debt," &c., &c.

Hence, it will be seen, that to appropriate the sinking fund, referred to in the resolution before me, would not only do violence to existing laws in regard thereto, but also to the principles of the constitution of the State under which the city of Baltimore holds her charter.