The joint standing committee on water, to whom was referred "all the reports of surveys and memorials which have from time to time been presented to the Council, having for their subject the plans for affording to the citizens of Baltimore a copious supply of pure water," and who were moreover instructed to convene from time to time henceforth for the purpose of investigating the subject, respectfully report, that they have given careful consideration to the reports referred to, and for the purpose of investigating the subject of a copious supply of pure water, that they have, from time to time, since the 3d of January last, met in committee to receive and consider such information on this subject as might be submitted. To avail themselves of distinguished professional ability in the construction and in the management of water works, they addressed a series of questions to engineers, superintendents of water works, they addressed a series of questions to engineers, superintendents of water works, and others, relative to the proposed supply to the city of Baltimore, which questions, together with the respective answers and other information, are herewith submitted in Appendix A.

In the earnest desire to procure such information, as in their judgment may prove useful in the construction of so great a work, the committee proceeded to make careful examination of the works which supply the cities of Albany, Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, and the unfinished conduit for the supply of Washington city, in which examinations they were accompanied by officers of the respective works, who cheerfully afforded all information solicited relative to their construction and management. The committee has also repeatedly visited the several streams near Baltimore, which have been recommended as sources of supply, to judge of their character, quality and quantity.

The information acquired by all these means, it is hoped, has enabled your committee to recommend a scheme for a copious supply of pure water, which will be found the most conducive

to the health, comfort and prosperity of our citizens. The committee do not think it necessary at this time to submit a history of the water question for the purpose of showing the long recognized necessity of a copious supply of pure water. They regard the action of the people in deciding by a nearly unanimous vote, that the next Council proceed to carry out a plan for a further supply of pure water, as imperative; and that in view of this fact, no time should be lost in first determining the best plan to effect this purpose and then prosecuting it to completion. They did not approach the consideration of this question without being fully impressed with the magnitude of the interests involved, nor without fully realizing the deplorable results which might follow the adoption of an injudicious system of supply. The experience of many cities of our Union in the failure of their works to afford water either in quantity or quality adequate to the requirements of the inhabitants is too prominent to divest the committee of the feeling of deep responsibility in their action on the subject of the introduction of water into the city of Baltimore.

The committee had early occasion to notice the extraordinary facilities which are presented for procuring a supply of pure water, and upon contrasting these with the corresponding facilities of other cities, they could not but form the opinion that Baltimore, in this respect, stands unrivalled. The high grounds which bound the city on the western side, contain four distinct streams, which find their outlet within or at a short distance from the city limits. All of these streams, which are of surpassing purity in their natural state, and which either yield by ordinary flow or by storage, could be made to yield a large supply daily, at an elevation within ten miles of the city adequate, without dams of extraordinary magnitude, or without pumping machinery, flow over nineteen-twentieths of the houses which have been and which may be built within the present limits of the city of Baltimore.

With such opportunities to obtain a copious supply it became essential to consider with great care the various plans which have been suggested, all of which may be embraced in one of three classes—