are those who advocate the hired system by each company is supplied with a certain number of men to work the machines who are paid a rate per hour day month or year or so much for each fire they attend Others favour the introduction of Steam fire Engines with horses to draw them to & from a fire Others adhere to our volunteer System which with some improvements is the best and most efficient Is it not probable that we have too many companys for our necessities with a less number it is likely that more execution could be done with less water We find that at a large fire nearly all the companys are present whilst but a few pieces of apparatus can do much execution Generally those who have favourable positions near the fire have least water while those more remote have a full supply but are unable to apply it effectually to the flames This is a serious evil that can be remedied first by limiting the No of Cos, Second by requiring each Co to have a sufficient lenght of good hose a section and a Engine or two sections then let those arriving first at the fire the most favourable positions secure for themselves as much water as possible those arriving later should not be allowed to crowd in to the annoyance of those already stationed But required to occupy a near position and supply with water those who are near by this means the whole force could be kept at work and a vast ammount of water saved There would be necessity under this arrangement for a Chief Engineer to direct and manage the apparatus the fire department would Elect a proper man for that position there is no man in whose opinion the Firemen have a higher place than

self sacrificing and heroic devotion their indefatigable unflinching spirit their all conquering exertions against their natural enemy have oftimes been witnessed and demanded our most enthusiastic commendations

The superintendants of Chimney sweeps have presented their reports they exibit the No of Houses in each district some of the districts during the last few years have been so greatly extended that house holders have been subjected to inconvenience because their Chimneys have not been regularly swept, Permit me to suggest that application be made to our Legislature at its present session for the privilege of extending the improvement in long dock to the end thereof on the East side — When the work was in progress the state authorities interposed and would not permit us to go further South than the state property to make the work complete it would be necessary to obtain consent of the state government, I would also call your attention to the work done in that dock a short time since I directed the Port Warden to dig out the dock to sufficient depth to admit merchant vessells into it he commenced the work but had not progressed far when he discovered that the sheet piling was so short that the wharf gave way and he was compelled to desist It will also be necessary that some legislation be had relative to landing wood on those wharves if it be desireable that this dock be for Merchandize exclusively

The Powder House is represented to be in a delapidated condition so insecure from damage by water it will be necessary to provide for a through repair of that building or the erection of a new one

The Draw Bridge on Block street is also in a unsafe condition a general overhauling or rebuilding will be required to make it durable In accordance with the 7th Section of an act of the General Assembly of Maryland it will devolve upon your honourable body to