fix or settle the salery of the Mayor for the two years succeeding the term now elapsing and as I have had some expenence in the duties of the chief Magistracy it may not be amiss that I should say something in reffference to this matter Baltimore is no longer a place of small importance either as regards extent of wealth or population it ranks third among the cities of the union The duties of the Mayoralty are exceeding ly Onerous the compensation attached to the office should be commensurate with the dignity of the corporation on the one hand and the responsibilities & labour of the Mayor on the other. The salery such as to secure for the position one thourily qualified and to fully compensate him so far as pecuniary emoluments may for the sacrifice he must necessarily make of private interest and affairs the mayor should be relieved too of many of the details of office business which are now laid on him Why for instance should he be required to countersign orders drawn by the various departments on the treasury or checks drawn by the treasurer or Register. The heads of departments should alone be responsible. The chief Executive officer should have nothing to do with the finances it is only consumming time which might be far more profitably employed

Indeed in view of the enhanced value of all the necessaries of life I would respectfully ask wether it would not be expedient to increase the pay of all the officers in the corporation service It will devolve upon your honourable body at this session to elect eight Directors to the B & O Rail Road Co. This great work during the past year prospered beyond precedent and our merchants have realized the benefit of direct communication with the productive country west of the Ohio River to a degree I might almost say exceeding expectation The interest of Balto as as a corporation in the B R & O R R Whilst in a measure identical with that of the stock holders is still somewhat and more important it can never be supposed that she looked to a dividend of 6 per cent as a remuneration for her investment, more especially as she was compelled to become a borrower at the same rate Balto has a interest in the B & O R R Co in value compared with which the dividend of 6 per cent dwindles into the merest insignificance It is to her a main artery of commercial vitality and she has contributed to build it in consideration to the augmentation of her commerce trade and general prosperity which it promised to ensure

An interest or dividend upon our large investment in this vast enterprize is surely a desiderata return but if it is to be accomplished at the expense of the trade of our corporation and by the adoption of a policy which will make the rail road built by our enterprize and capital a mere link in the chain of improvement which has one terminus in the west and the other in New York we should set our faces steenly against it We can have no objections to low rates of transportation if it be proper to adopt them so as to allow of competition with other routes but let Baltimore be placed on an equal footing with any and all other points It is emphatically her own work and she has a right to demand the most favourable position as a terminus

For this most responsible post you will of course select gentlemen who are distinguished for moral worth sterling integrity undoubted ability and uncompromising attachment to the interests of our city and business community I beg leave to refer you the annual report of the commissioners for deepning the channell of the patapsco river You will find it a valuable document shewing the ammount of work