Mr. Kirk moved to amend the thirty-fifth section by striking out the words "and to make entries for the grading thereof", in the sixth and seventh lines, which was determined in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. Kirk, the ordinance was laid on the table.

The President laid before the Branch the following communication from the City Counsellor, which was laid on the table.

Baltimore, March 15, 1858.

To the Honorable the Members of the
Second Branch of the City Council.

Gentlemen,

I have this day received a resolution from your Branch requesting me to state whether the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore have power and authority to change the names of streets, lanes and alleys of the city, and if so by what act of the Legislature it was so given.

I have examined the various acts of Assembly, constituting together the charter of the corporation of Baltimore, and have been unable to find in any of them the grant of a distinct independant power to the municipal authorities to alter the names of lanes, streets or alleys within the limits of the City of Baltimore.

Should the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, in the exercise of the powers which they possess, determine to open a street, lane or alley, I have no doubt that as incident to these powers, and in performance of their duties under them, they would would have a right to give a name to such street, lane or alley provided it has not already been designated, laid down and named upon Poppleton's plat. This plat was made under the act of 1817, chapter 87. By the fourteenth section of this law the commissioners (under whose directions and supervision the surveyor, Mr. Poppleton, executed his work) were authorized expressly and by implication to name all the streets laid out by them, and also in the cases specified in the section to change the names of streets already existing; and it is expressly provided "that the names so given of all the other streets shall be written on the plats thereof, to be returned to the said commissioners, by which name they shall thereafter be called and known.

An ordinance, therefore, which should change the names of streets as called and designated upon Poppleton's Plat would be in direct conflict with this provision of the act of Assembly.

The names of streets, lanes or alleys are almost always referred to in the transfers and conveyances of lots and lands bounding upon them, and also sometimes in ordinances and acts of Assembly. The change of their names, therefore, must always occasion inconvenience — to such an extent, in some instances as to be of serious import. It has also a tendency to obscure embarass and render more expensive searches into the titles of property which will be increased, rather than diminished by the lapse of time. But, whatever may have been the reasons which influenced the Legislature in withholding from the corporation the power to change the names of streets, &c., I have not been able to find any law which confers it upon them, and without which, in my opinion, it cannot be exercised.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
G. L. Dulaney, City Counsellor.

On motion of Mr. Horney, the Branch adjourned until to-morrow afternoon at five o'clock.

By order,
Allen C. Forester, Clerk.

Tuesday, March 16th 1858.

The Branch met pursuant to adjournment.

Present - John B. Seidenstricker, Esq. President, and all the members.

Mr. Birkner called up the resolution relative to directing the City Commissioner to repair that portion of south Charles street lying between Hill and Lee street, which was read.

On motion of Mr. Birkner, the resolution was laid on the table.

The following message was received from the First Branch:

In First Branch,
Baltimore, March 15, 1858.

Gentlemen of the Second Branch:

We respectfully propose, with your concurrence, the appointment of a joint committee of conference on the ordinance entitled "An ordinance to provide for the erection of an iron bridge over