which I hold to put an effectual stop to so crying an evil.

The sad events to which I refer, proclaim a lesson to this community which ought not to be lost sight of. A warfare, much to be regretted, by all conservative and order loving citizens, has been kept up for two years past, by the partizan press, against the organized government of this City. Its authorities have been misrepresented and traduced: its police brought into contempt, and its efforts to reform abuses made the favorite theme of ridicule and reproach. The executive arm has found itself paralyzed at times when the moral support of the entire community was necessary to give it vigor. The good name of our city has felt the blighting influence of this unnatural condition of the public mind. The smallest outbreak has been magnified into startling enormities; shaking the very foundations of our social system; the stranger has been led to fear the terrible penalty of a passage through our streets, or a sojourn at our hotels even for a night; letters have appeared in distant journals, portraying a condition of society from which the stoutest heart might well shrink with alarm. These efforts have not been without their influence abroad and at home. They have gathered strength from the very confusion and violence which have marked their progress, and they have given excuse to lawlessness by the discredit in which, within the sphere of their influence, they have brought the power of the city, which alone is competent to control it.

An ordinance making provision for the families of deceased officers who have fallen in the faithful discharge of their duties, seems to be called for by the events of the past two years. It would add increased stimulus to the vigorous action of the department, if those who are exposing themselves, day and night, among the most depraved classes of our population, had some guaranty that their families would be saved from destitution in the event of violence to themselves.

I would ask, in this connection also, that the Mayor be authorized to present to officer Cooke, whose efficiency and bravery on a recent occasion has elicited the gratitude and admiration of the whole community, some appropriate testimonial in the name of the City, as an appreciation of his gallant conduct.

Some action on your part, I am sure, would not be without its return. The lives and property of our citizens depend upon the activity and vigilence of the police department, and it

is not less the duty of the city, than the community at large, to strengthen its arm whenever opportunity occurs.

1. The most prominent of the causes which have heretofore disturbed the successful working of our municipal system has been the presence of low drinking houses, where the young and inexperienced are tempted to resort. These schools of vice and immorality have been greatly multiplied within a few years past. It is here that crime begins, and that the list of outrages which men are driven to commit almost invariably originates. Of the higher grades of crime, it is believed that nineteenths are referable to to the use of intoxicating drinks. The city authorities have no adequate control over these places of public resort, and they are compelled to witness, without the power of correction, the deplorable results to which they invariably lead.

2. The wearing of concealed weapons which in the absence of law has become a habit with men of all parties, is a subject to which I would direct your serious attention. The opinion of the City Counsellor would be advisable in regard to your power to act in the premises. An ordinance restraining this most dangerous practice would be attended with decided and useful results.

3. The defective organization of our criminal system in the prompt application of suitable punishment in cases of arrest, coupled with the total absence of power in the executive arm to deal with notorious disturbers of the public peace, is, I regret to say, another cause of serious trouble.

A reference to my former messages will show that I have not been ignorant of the embarassments with which I was surrounded in the discharge of duties imposed upon me. During the last session of the Legislature I used my best efforts to bring about an early call of a constitutional convention, in order that prompt action might be taken in reference to a re-organization of the Criminal Court, looking to a provision investing the Mayor of this city with enlarged powers over offences of a flagrant character against the public peace. A Mayor's Court, or a Recorder's Court, with adequate authority, I did not doubt, would afford the desired relief. It was necessary that punishment would follow immediately upon the offence, and that the power of committal to a house of labor or correction, for a limited period, should be vested in the Court, proposed to be established. While its effects would have been instantaneous, I saw that such a system must be attended with the saving of a large anual expense to the city of Baltimore.