have been communicated by vessels from infected ports, visiting our harbor, admonish us that too much vigilence cannot be observed in the timely establishment of precautionary safeguards. The location of the present quarantine is objectionable. Instead of an appropriation to improve the present hospital, it is my decided opinion, that a new site should be provided at a more remote point. Five or six acres of land would be sufficient for this purpose, and a sale of the old site might furnish means for all the improvements required. In the event of the appearance of yellow fever, temporary preparations could be made, at the shortest notice, for the largest number of patients that might be thrown upon our hands. It is of the first importance that vessels infected with disease should be detained at a point sufficiently remote, to allay all apprehensions of danger to our citizens. I have directed the necessary inquiries to be made in regard to the practicability of procuring such a site, and will report to your honorable body at an early day.

The preliminary steps have been taken in reference to the construction of a new Alms House. So soon as the plans now in preparation shall have been submitted, it will be proper to ascertain what disposition can be made of the property which had fallen to the share of the city, in the division with the County. The bonds now in the hands of the Register could no doubt be made available, and it is much to be desired that the strictest economy should be observed in the construction of the buildings. What the city needs is substantial comforts and adequate accommodation. I respectfully refer to my former message in explanation of my views of the wants of such an institution.

The reorganization of the Water Board, under the ordinance of April 14. 1857, has been attended with the best results. Every effort has been made to supply the wants of our citizens at points where it had been deemed impracticable to extend the flow of water, and a corresponding advance has taken place in the receipts for rents, fully justifying the action of the Board. This increase during the year from this and other sources, amounts to over $20000.

The plan for an enlarged supply of water from Jones Falls has engaged the unremitting attention of the Board. The work now in progress, comprises—

1. A storage lake of a superficial area of 120 acres, to be formed by construction of a dam across Jones Falls, at the Relay House on the Northern Central Railroad.
2. An aqueduct along the slopes of Jones Falls valley, a distance of 4 miles, to an elevated point about two miles from the city.

3. Two distributing reservoirs, at different elevations (for high and low service) at the terminus of the aqueduct, and
4. A line of new pipes to connect the distributing reservoirs with the present system, as laid down in the city.

In April 1858, contracts were made for the graduation of the most difficult portions of the aqueduct line, comprising three long tunnels. In June following, contracts were made for the remainder of the graduation, and all the stone masonry of the aqueduct. In August 600000 bricks required for the construction of the conduit; and in September, the graduation and masonry of the dam and one distributing reservoir, with the necessary gate-houses, were placed in the hands of the contractors.

On the 3 inst. provision was made for the iron pipe, for connecting the reservoir with the city, leaving nothing outstanding but the contract for the clearing, grubbing and excavating, at the site of the lake.

The main distributing reservoir having an elevation of 220 feet above tide, will render it expedient, in order to perfect Mr Slade's plan, that an additional reservoir, at a lower elevation, should be provided during the progress of the work.

The work under these various contracts has progressed with more vigor than had been anticipated. Two of the three long tunnels (respectively 1000 to 1200 feet in length) were excavated in seven months after they were commenced. The remaining tunnel (3000 feet long) will be completed in ten months from the date of its commencement.

There have been excavated in the last eight months, one mile lineal of tunnel drifts, leaving at points, less than 1000 feet to complete the whole line.

The construction of the conduit was commenced in the latter part of September. Up to the 2nd inst. one third of a mile in length, or one twelfth of the conduit had been completed. As this work can go on in the tunnels during winter, it is expected that the whole line of the conduit will be brought to a close during the present year.

With no unforeseen accident the reservoir may be also urged to completion within the same period; but this calculation is based upon a state of facts which it would hardly safe to assume.

The masonry of the dams will be entered upon as soon as the opening of the spring will justify the commencement of the work, and the general operations upon the line may be terminated in the Spring or autumn of 1860.

The commissioners of Finance have placed in the hands of the Board during the year, applicable to the work, Water stock amounting to — — — — — — — — $425675.10