In 2d Branch January 4th 1814.

Branch convened in consequence of a summons from the Mayor. Present Jas Calhoun Esqr Pres.t and all the Members except Mr Finlay.

A Message was received from the first branch, informing that they had formed a quorum and proposing the appointment of a joint Committee to wait upon the Mayor, and receive any communication he might have to make, and nominating on their part Messrs Fulton and Sheppard; to which this Branch agreed and appointed on its part Mr Herring.

Mr Herring from the joint Committee delivers the accompanying documents therein referred to, following Communication which were read:

Gentlemen of the City Council.

Several petitions materially affecting the interest of the City having been presented to the General Legislature of the State of Maryland at the present session by numbers of our fellow Citizens, I have procured copies of the same, and upon examination find them to involve such sacred principles, secured to the City by its charter of incorporation, as to render the advice and direction of the Council indispensable.

The accompanying documents will disclose the line of conduct pursued by me some years ago, to defeat a similar application and the arrangements made by the present petitioners render the cooperation of the Council necessary to obtain a similar result at the present time.

Jany 4. 1814. Edw.d Johnson

A Message was received from the first branch proposing to refer the Mayor's communication to the consideration of a joint Committee and appointing on their part Messrs Jamison Rose and Swikin; to which this Branch agreed and nominated on its part Messrs White, Biays and Payson.

This Branch then adjourned until tomorrow afternoon 3 o'clock.

By order, Henry Payson, Clk. pro. tem.

In 2d Branch Jany 5th 1814.

Branch met agreeably to adjournment. Present Jas Calhoun Esqr Pres.t, and all the members except Mr Finlay.

Mr White from the Joint Committee to whom was referred the Mayor's Communication, delivers the following report:

The Joint Committee to whom was referred the consideration of the Communication of the Mayor, beg leave to report, that upon reflection it appears to your Committee as decidedly the preferable mode of advocating or defending the rights of the corporation, that a Committee of three members of the council be appointed to repair to Annapolis to procure a hearing by counsel before the Legislature in opposition to the petitions complaining of the Ordinances of the Corporation. Your Committee are induced to recommend this course from the difficulty of bringing into a compact view in a memorial, the many objections to the demands of the petitioners, or the ground in support of the rights of the City and the necessity of prompt attention to the business renders a written remonstrance at this time impracticable. Under these