A message was received from the first branch proposing to refer the Mayor's communication to the consideration of a joint Committee, and nominating on their part Messrs. Patterson, Wilson of Wm. & Mosher; to which this branch agreed and so informed that branch and appointed on its part Messrs. Herring and White.

Mr. Herring from the joint Committee, delivered the following report, accompanied by the following proposed reply, under the advice of John Purviance Esq.r Attorney at Law, to the application of William Stewart and others securities of Benjamin Fowler City Collr. for the year 1813; which were read and concurred in.

The joint Committee to whom was referred the application of William Stewart and others, beg leave to report that they found it necessary to consult John Purviance Esq.r on that business and beg leave to submit his opinion thereon as the substance of their report.

Ludwig Herring
John Campbell White } 2d. Branch

William Patterson
James Mosher
James Wilson } 1st. Branch.

We have received your communication relative to the demand which the corporation has against you as securities of Benjamin Fowler late collector of the City taxes during the year 1813. After having duly considered the same, we have determined to commit that a reference be made, under a rule of the Court, to two respectable persons with power to call in the aid of a third person, in case of disagreement, for the purpose of liquidating the amount of the deficiency that is due from Mr. Fowler for his collections during the year 1813. After this deficiency is thus ascertained, we are willing to receive from each of the securities his contributory share of the amount thereof; provided that it shall not have the effect to exonerate any other of the securities who may refuse this offer of adjustment. It is understood, that in making this ascertainment, that we do not intend to authorise the referees to make any application of the funds received by Mr. Fowler during the year 1813 to the payment of any debts that might be owing during former years.

The following Resolution was read the first and by special order a second time, ascended to and sent to the first branch for their concurrence, by that branch ascended to with the proposed amendment and returned to this branch; which amendment was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Resolved by both branches of the City Council that the Mayor be and he is hereby authorised to agree to a reference of the claim of the Corporation of Baltimore against the securities of Benjamin Fowler City Collector for the year eighteen hundred and thirteen, upon "the terms and conditions expressed in the opinion of John Purviance Esq.r given to a joint Committee of the two branches on this day."

Amendment proposed

Strike out from the word "upon" in the 8th line of the resolution to the end thereof and insert "upon such terms and conditions as shall be prescribed by John Purviance Esq.r".