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By this operation, besides, securing the Falls in its bed, valuable wharves and warehouses might be erected on each side, and stoppage given to the immense quantity of mud and gravel, which daily fills up our basin and river. But on a subject so vital to the interest of the City, your Committee would take leave to recommend that no considerable expense should be incurred, but under the advice and direction of some of the most experienced and respectable Engineers of the United States. Your Committee are of opinion that the stone bridges on Harford Run, Dulany Street and Pitt Street, are ill constructed, and incapable of venting the water that occasionally take that course and they have all given way; so that their durability has not been greater than wooden bridges, or at least, has not been in any degree proportioned to the additional expense. The City Council would do their Committee injustice, if they supposed this report was given with a view that it should be much relied upon. They report to the best of their abilities, but with the humblest opinion of their intelligence upon a subject so consequential.

Jas. Biays
John Campbell White } on behalf of the 2d Branch.
Wm. Brownell Inv.

James Crosher
Wm. Ross
Peter Levering
Jos. Janicson } on behalf of the 1st Branch.
E. G. Woodyear

The following resolution was read the first and by special order a second time, agreed to and sent to the first branch for their concurrence, by that branch concurred in and returned to this

Resolved by both branches of the City Council, that a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars, be and the same is hereby appropriated, for the purpose of supplying any deficiency that may occur in the appropriation of the present year for incidental expenses.

The following communication was received from the Mayor accompanied by the documents therein referred to; which were read and referred to the consideration of the first branch.

Gentlemen of the Council

The Commissioners appointed to lay out the new addition to the City into election districts, and the Commissioners to lay out the same into wards, have both performed that duty; a return of their proceedings accompanies this, to which I refer you.

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A dispute exists between Mr. Isaac McKim and the Corporation. He claims the wharfage of part of Smith's wharf, and has forbid the Masters of Vessels from paying to the Harbour-Master any wharfage, at the same time requesting that a suit may be brought to decide the merits of the claim. What do you recommend to do in this case?

By the resignation and subsequent death of Mr. Larew, a superintendant of the streets in the first ward is wanting: you will please to select one out of the different applications accompanying this.

I would suggest the propriety of prohibiting wooden bridges being built over the Falls above the stone bridges within the limits of the City. Those lately carried away were doubtless the cause of much more damage than otherwise would have been sustained. The water rose ten feet higher above Pratt Street bridge in ten minutes after Pitts' Bridge went against it, than it was below the bridge.

As the walling of the Falls is now much injured and requires great expenditures, prior to that being done, it would be proper to have a survey made, and if no improvements as to its meanderings can be made, at least fix its boundaries which I am informed are at present much infringed in many places. I believe it ought to be piled for a foundation, and walled from end to end with stone and mortar.

The distress by the late disaster among a description of our Citizens, who have not the means to relieve their wants, cannot be otherwise than very great. Would it not come well from the Council to recommend a subscription for their relief?

I have the honour to be Gentlm
Your Hble Servt
Geo. Stiles

Mayor's Office 14th Augt 1817

P.S. The great charge that at present devolves on the City Commissioners and Commissioners of health, renders it impossible for them to examine minutely into the cellars that have been by the late freshet filled with water. I believe it would be advisable to appoint a committee, whose business it will be to cause all cellars to be drained, and all nuisances to be removed forthwith.

Geo. Stiles

I applied to the Office of Discount & Deposit for the loan of the $30.000. They declined

Stiles