Mr Farlow from the joint committee on police, presented the following report and resolution, which was read and laid on the table.

The joint committee on police having been directed to enquire into the expediency of prohibiting the city watchmen from crying the hours while on duty, respectfully report that they can find no argument or rather excuse for the practice, except its antiquity; it owes the continuance of its life not to its utility but to the fondness with which men adhere to old customs, however inconvenient and improper. Its ill consequences are very manifest it notifies every malafactor or person harboring evil designs who may be lurking about, of the position or approach of the watchman, and in fact is in some cases a warning to such persons that they had better avoid an arrest, and in others an assurance that they can perpetrate their meditated crime with impunity, inasmuch as the officer is at a distance, The committee however thenk that the watchmen should be instructed to cry the hour at which they first go on their districts, and the hour in the morning when they are about to leave them. The watch is set early and while the streets are still crowded, and when there is no danger that burglary or other offences requiring secrecy can be committed, so that the above stated objections do not apply to crying the hour at that time; and it is an hour when, by a very general and proper rule, boys are expected to return home by their parents or others having control over them. The committee think this rule of considerable importance for the protection of the morals of the young, and would not willingly do ought to endanger it. It is also proper that the watchmen should cry the hour just before they leave their stations in the morning because a large part of the community are obliged by their employments to rise early, and the cry of the watchman at that time is their call to labor. They therefore offer the following resolution:

Frederick Pinkney
N J Dushane
R G Wells
First Branch

Jno T Farlow
Joseph J Stewart
Second Branch

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore that the city watchmen shall not hereafter cry the hours while they are on duty, except the hour when they first go on their stations and the hour in the morning when they are about to leave the same.

On motion of Mr Shaffer, the branch adjourned until half past three o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

By order
Jno A Thompson Clerk

Wednesday March 14th 1849

The branch met pursuant to adjournment.

Present. Wm A Hack Esq President, and all the members, except Mr Warner.

The following communication was received from the city commissioner, read and laid on the table:

Office of the City Commissioners
Baltimore March 14th 1849

To the President and Members of the
Second Branch of the City Council

Gentlemen:

The undersigned, in answer to the resolution adopted by your branch on the 13th inst; has the honor, respectfully to report the following estimate:

For the erection of fire proof safe, for the preservation of maps and papers in the city Registers office $100.

Respectfully submitted
Charles Reeder City Commissioner

On motion of Mr Farlow, the resolution attached to the report of the joint committee on police, on the propriety of prohibiting the night watch from crying the hour whilst on duty, was taken up read a second time, adopted and sent to the First Branch

Mr Shaffer called up an ordinance supplimentary to ordinance No 5. approved May 25th 1838, which was read a second time will pass and was sent to the First Branch.

Mr Dukehart offered the following resolution which was adopted

Resolved, that the Mayor be requested to furnish this branch, with a copy of the rules governing the city night watch when on duty

Bill No 10. entitled "an ordinance for the due performance of quarantine at the port of Baltimore, and to prevent the introduction of contageous or infectious diseases within the city of Baltimore was received from the First Branch "endorsed" will pass "with proposed amendments.

The amendments were read and laid on the table.

On motion of Mr Dukehart, the branch adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at half past three o'clock

By order
Jno A Thompson Clerk

Thursday March 15th 1849

The branch met pursuant to adjournment

Present. Wm A Hack Esq President and all the members except Messrs Warner and Farlow.

On motion of Mr Shaffer the amendments to bill No 10.