message forthwith.

V. H. Kalkman Esq. presented the following message from the Mayor, which was read:

Mayors Office
Baltimore January 21st 1850

To the members of the
First and Second Branches of the City Council:

Gentlemen:

Mayors Message

Perhaps the representatives of no people on earth who ever assembled together, had more real or just cause for gratitude and thankfulness to Almighty God, not only for blessings which have been received, but for calamities withheld, than have you, and the constituency whom you represent. In uniting with you in this reverential acknowledgement, I feel that it is not with the formality customary upon occasions like the present, but with the most solemn recognition and appreciation of the divine graciousness and mercy.

The year which has just passed will be remembered throughout many portions of the world, as one of pestilence and terror. The Asiatic Cholera, alike dreadful and mysterious did not exempt our country from the tribute of death, which it has so rigidly, and with fearful fatility, exacted from mankind. That our constituents, although surrounded by the epidemic, should have escaped a doom which almost seemed inevitable, and which convulsed whole communities, is cause of no ordinary thankfulness and reflection. How far, under Divine Providence, the preparations made by authority of the Council, to avert the calamity, had the effect of doing so, is of course beyond the reach of human knowledge. In carrying out the provisions of the Council with untiring promptness and energy, it should not be forgotten, that many of our citizens aided the public authorities with zeal, liberality, and efficiency. From whatever cause however, this mercy was vouchsafed to us as a people, it ought at least to admonish us for the future, that no investment pays a more enlarged interest than the judicious application of means for the sanatory protection of the city.

I respectfully invite your attention to the details of the various reports herewith submitted. Without exception, they all exhibit great care, attention, and watchful regard for the public interest. A close examination of them will not only repay for the time expended, but



give a critical knowledge of the condition and prospects of the city, which cannot be found elsewhere. Such investigation I am quite sure, you will make; and if united with a comparison of similar documents, submitted within the last quarter of a century, no stronger or more infallible evidence can be had, of the increasing responsibilities we mutually incur, in consideration of the immensely increasing interests we have to guard. From the number of houses annually built in Baltimore dating from the last year or two it is a fair inference, that there is added to our population yearly, double the number of souls that any inland town in the State contains at this time. Such extended interests are not more sacred than lesser ones, but their various ramifications demand a more cautious system of legislative action.

In submitting to your consideration the report of the board of health, I cannot withhold an expression of approbation it so eminently merits. At all times the duty of this board is one of great responsibility, but during the past year made more so, by the apprehension of impending peril. The gentlemen who compose the board met the crisis not only with promptness and ability, but with great economy. There is still remaining a considerable sum of the first appropriation of five thousand dollars, and the contingent for an equal amount, still remains in the treasury of the city.

During the past year there have been 4.576. deaths in the city, of which 3.248. were either still-born, under ten years of age, or over fifty the remarks of the board, in reference to the large number who die in parturition, deserve particular attention.

From the returns of the vaccine physicians to the board, you will observe that there have been 1.923 primary vaccinations. 206 who have been re-vaccinated, making a total of 2.159. and the very incredible number of 9.072 who have refused their services.

If this loathsome disease (the small pox) should ever get a fast hold in our city, the refusal to comply with the humane provisions of the authorities, would be most terribly and disastrously felt, by those who not only neglect but refuse to accept the protection which seeks them without price. Upon a subject so deeply important to all, this indifference is a public calamity.