I cannot otherwise than press upon your consideration the suggestions of the board to make such provisions, as may be necessary to meet the pestilence, should we be threatened with its presence again. All experience shows how sudden and capricious are its assaults, passing harmlessly over one section of the country, only to revisit it again with increased violence and fatility.

In my former message. I respectfully called your attention to the land attached to the Marine Hospital. The subject is again alluded to by the board of health. Further reflection has confirmed my former opinion, that a very moderate outlay for agricultural purposes, would very considerably lessen the expenses of the institution, and leave the quarantine fund a revenue to the city.

A defect in the ordinance for cleaning the streets by contract appears to have given the board a great deal of annoyance and trouble. I would respectfully suggest an alteration in conformity with the recommendation of the board.

A circular from the board of health of Philadelphia, to the board of this city, is herewith presented. It relates to the policy of a joint committee, for the purpose of pressing upon Congress the passage of a law, imposing a tax upon foreigners. I submit the subject to your judgement and action. In taking leave of this report of the board of health. I cannot but feel that the corporation and the public, owe a deep obligation to the gentlemen composing the board, for the efficient and faithful manner with which they discharged their most responsible duties at a season of general alarm and fearful apprehension.

The accompanying report of the commissioners of public schools, is full of deep interest, and exhibits the continued prosperity of this noble institution. So much has been said, and so well said upon this subject, that to add more would almost seem a matter of supererogation but the success which has distinguished the advocates of a general and comprehensive system of education in our city, should not be concealed. Other portions of our state should know and feel the result of our experience and example. In our community this general system offering light to all, has triumphed over every opposition. It is now without an avowed enemy, and acknowledged as our proudest achievement, No mind can appreciate its blessings: conduct may be destiny, but how

much does education influence conduct; it is the vitality of our free institutions, and the unseen but deep felt power which will perpetuate this union forever: as it politically enlightens and strenghtens, so does it individually add to the happiness and usefulness of every member of society. Education exalts the humble, and dignifies the exalted. It stimulates the poor man to honorable ambition, protects the property of the rich and the rights of all; it promotes morals, purifies society and in the advancement of civilation, is only subordinate to religion. A brief time ago, this system was in its infancy, now it is strong in our midst, and gains strength with each days experience. To an institution bearing such fruit, I hardly deem it necessary to ask your continued fostering care and protection. The services of the gentlemen who compose the board, are entirely gratuitous, they have no reward but the conviction of doing great public good. Their charge is one of profound magnitude and labor, but to them it appears a labor of love. It is however the duty of the Council to carefully weigh their suggestions, but above all, to make ample provisions for the support of the schools, and thereby protect them against the pecuniary embarrassments, with which I regret to say, they have had at times to contend.

The accompanying report of the city commissioner gives detailed information of the action of that important branch of the public service. The various resolutions of the Council are specified, noted where carried into effect, and when prevented by uncontrollable impedements, the causes are stated. Among the latter is Resolution No 19. relating to the tunnelling of Harford run. It appears from the report that proposals were invited and received but none came within the limits of the appropriation made by the Council for that purpose. This is deeply to be regretted, and I hope will be corrected by ample provision at the present session. The necessity for deepening the bed of the run at certain points, set forth in the report, will add something to the cost. The tunnelling of this run, in my judgement is a case of public necessity. Our city is disgraced by no similar nuisance, and its completion, it would seem to me, is demanded as an act of public justice. It is equally as dangerous as offensive to our citizens, and the accidents which have occurred are trifling in number to the miraculous escapes which have been made, from its central and open