exposure. This view would be ample to require your favor-able action, but when we contemplate it as an improve-ment, the value it will add to the property at the city Block, as well as the surrounding property and thereby the increase of assesment, sound policy urges its com-pletion. You will find in the report various sugges-tions which I conceive wise, and to which I most respectfully refer and ask your consideration. Amo-ng the most important, is the revision of the ordinance relating to paving and repaving of streets, - the necessity of a new bridge at Centre street, and also one over Harris creek at Canton, both of which are in a dilapidated state, and not worth repairing. I would recommend iron bridges You will observe that new roofing is required over a por-tion of the Centre and Lexington markets.

By referring to the report of the port wardens at the late extra session of the Council, you will find that from the indebtedness unpaid in 1848. there was only remaining on the 1st of April $6.623.54. in consequence of which the board were compelled to discontinue their operations in the harbor for the balance of the year, except what was done for private individuals, which amounted to $7.363.49. From this circumstance the city dock and many of the public wharves are by no means, in the con-dition they should be, but as the whole of the appropr-iation, which I would recommend to be liberal, will be applicable to the operations in the harbor, by the ex-piration of the year. I have no doubt, it will be found in a very improved condition.

I have for many years labored under the impression, that the duties of the city commissioners and port wardens should not be blended together, and attended to by the same officers. It seems to me there is no similarity between the duties of the two. I would therefore, resp-ectfully recommend the appointment of one port warden, whose duty it shall be to take charge of the entire operations of the harbor: and of two city com-missioners, to attend to all the duties belonging to that department. The city might be divided into two districts, the Eastern and Western, making the dividing line Calvert or Charles streets. Such a plan would in my opinion very nearly equalise the duties of these officers and seperate two modes of operations —



which never should have been united, without an in-crease of officers or salaries. I feel well assured, the alter-ation referred to would work well. I respectfully invite your attention to the subject.

I herewith transmit the intelligent report of the visit-ors of the jail. The testimony they bear to the capable and efficient services of the warden, his clerk, and deputies, is fully confirmed by public opinion. The report again in a very elaborate argument and statement of facts renews the appeal heretofore made to the Council, for an improvement of the present condition of the jail. I earn-estly pressed the subject in my former communication, but so fully have the visitors covered the whole ground, that I cannot now do better than earnestly refer you to their report and strongly recommend your prompt and favorable ac-tion. You will be surprised to find, that of the number of commitments, 2426, during the past year 590. or nearly one fourth, have been for debt. It would be a curious and interesting investigation, social and political to ascertain what amount of money was saved to the creditors by these various incarcerations, or what extent of heart rending misery and calamity they entailed. You have not the power to say whether this legal control of the liberty of the citizen, — from such a cause is inconsistent or not with our boasted progress of civilization whether it is absolutely necessary to the public good, or how acceptably this community could dispense with the law of imprisonment for debt, but you have the power to meliorate the condition of the victim during his confinement, and I recommend you to exer-cise that power. The report informs you, that the existing condition of the jail is unfit for the felon, how much mo-re so then for the man, whose only crime in nine cases out of ten, is misadventure or misfortune. I am in favor of the most rigid economy, it has been the practice of my life but there are reformations called for at times which to neglect, is public discredit and the present condition of the jail, as set forth in the report, is one of them.

The report of the city collector, which you will herewith receive affords reason for just pride and congratulation In my former message I took great pleasure in expressing satisfaction at the promptness with which our citizens and the late collector had mutually discharged their duty It is again my privilege and gratification to announce, that