during the past year the sum of $690.017.87 has been col-
-lected and paid to the register of the city, being an excess
of $61.452.80 over the past or any previous year.— When we take
into consideration the fact, that the levy of 1849 was seven c-
cents in the $100 less than in the year 1848. it speaks trumpet-
tongued in favor, not only of the patriotism of our citizens, but
the zeal, capacity and efficiency with which the present incum-
-bent and the gentlemen connected with this department
have discharged their onerous and important duties.

The existing laws regulating various fire companies have
exercised a most salutary influence. It is to be hoped, also
that a returning sense of propriety upon the part of those
refractory elements which more or less surround every com
-pany, may have, to some extent, influenced a more proper
and peaceful course. The ordinances relating to districting
the fire companies. I have and shall continue most rigidly
to enforce upon every necessary occasion. All other consider-
-ations must yeild to the security of public peace and quiet,
nor do I feel more gratified at any other result, than the
general good order which has prevailed throughout the
city, for the last six months, equal, all things considered, to any
period of our corporate history. Of the firemen proper of
Baltimore, no eulogium would be high praise. Their disin-
-terestedness, sacrifices and exposure at all times and in all
weather, for the protection of our citizens may have a paral-
-lel, but if so, is rarely found. The propriety of their conduct
and their enthusiasm, stimulate them to acts of devotion
and courage, which has never been surpassed in the defence
of home and fireside. A class of men who have thus, by their
conduct, illustrated and adorned the noblest deeds of chiv-
-alry and philanthropy, will, I am sure, always be cherished
and appreciated by the people and their representatives. But
these very men are equally embarrased with the public
authorities, by another class who seek the excitement and
exposure of an alarm of fire, to redress private greivances
or satisfy some revenge or local animosity. They identify
themselves with some particular company, hover around it, as
the outlaw does the camp of the patriot, and when the glory of
the battle is won, tarnish it by some outbreak of violence
discreditable to the city, and disgraceful to themselves.
The records of our tribunals show that these riotous scenes are
instigated, to a great extent by youths who have not yet rea-
-ched the age of manhood, a terrible prospect for the future of

their lives. Independent of the wrong to themselves and their trea-
-son to the public peace, they greatly restrict the incalculable benefit
of this most important and indispensable organization for the pub-
-lic good. By compelling the impartial enforcement of every power in-
-vested in me, with the potential administration of the law, these tran-
-sgressors may be induced to cultivate a better feeling by not inter-
-rupting the general harmony

The report of the physician of the Marine Hospital contains
the gratifying information, that this valuable institution has sup-
-ported itself without any expense to the citizens. Since it has
been under the charge of the present incumbent, the total number
of patients admitted to the institution were 263. of which 140.
were cases of ship fever. 83 of small pox and 2 of yellow fever. of the-
-se most malignant and other diseases 251 were cured, and only 12
died, an evidence of successful practice, which perhaps cannot
be found in any similar institution in the country. The reside-
-nt physician in the discharge of his quarantine duty, has boa-
-rded 520 schooners, 241 brigs, 195 barques and ships, making
the whole number 956. besides collecting and paying over to the
register $1.287 making the whole revenue $4.316. A simple enu-
-meration of the duties performed, is the best commentary
upon the faithfulness with which this officer has acquitted
himself of the obligation he owes to the public.

The annual report of the trustees of the almshouse exhibits fully
and satisfactorily the condition of that institution. Notwith-
-standing a fatal disease. Asiatic Cholera, prevailed at the
same, a portion of the summer of 1849, and as a consequence in-
-volving much extra expense, the cost of supporting the institu-
-tion appears to be less than the average sum required for that pur-
-pose.

The levy for the almshouse for the current year must be increas
-ed beyond the sum generally required, in consequence of the inope-
-ration of the act of Maryland in relation to the arrival of foreign
passengers at the port of Baltimore, for the better understanding
of which. I respectfully refer you to the annual report of the trustees.

The report of the trustees shows that the gentlemen who compose
the board are fully equal, in every respect, to the very high and
responsible duties with which they are entrusted. The institu-
-tion has never been under more successful management,
and the devotion of all connected with it, deserves public com-
-mendation.

The report of the appeal tax court shows a corrected assessment
for city purposes, for the years 1847. 1848. 1849 and 1850. the