for the benefit of the thousands of our most useful citizens, who-
-se means and employments do not allow them those recreations
in the country, which may be indulged in by those blessed
with better circumstances. It was one of the greatest errors of
those, who in the earlier age of our city preceded you in the
municipal legislation, that provision was not then made
for open public grounds, which then might have been pro-
-cured at moderate rates, and which now would have been
not only among the highest ornaments of our city, but also
among the most useful means conducive to the health of its
population.

It is not my intention, gentlemen, to do more than press the
subject upon your attention. If it only lead to the appoint-
-ment of a committee, to examine the subject and to make such
a report as shall provoke the consideration of the matter by
our citizens generally, it will perhaps be as much as may
be asked at the present time. Under the present auspicious
circumstances, which seems to indicate an early completion
of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, I may, in common with
my fellow-citizens, look foward with hopes, that hitherto none
scarcely dared to indulge in, but which now seem well author-
-ised, that within five or six years at the furthest, we shall be
relieved of a large portion of our taxes by the certain income
from that noble work. Looking foward to so desirable an event
may we not be casting about for those improvements in our city
which our over-burdened condition as to taxes has heretofore re-
-pressed: I think we may do so safely, and it is under this feeling
that your attention is asked to the subject.

If I mistake not the Council passed several resolutions at the
last session, relative to paving fort avenue leading to Fort
Mc Henry.- This avenue was retained by the government in
its sale of the confiscated lands through which it passes, and
now at times is almost impassable. It is in constant use by
the military stationed at the Fort; and it would not only be
equitable but sound policy for the government, to unite with
the city and property holders, in the expense of making so
judicious an improvement. I would respectfully suggest the
propriety of memorializing Congress in which I have no-
doubt the officers stationed at the Fort would unite for an
appropriation to complete an improvement so important
if not necessary, to the interest of the government itself.

By resolution No 88. passed at your last session provision was
made for the sale of certain vacant grounds known as "Bowers

lot" as also for an appropriation of ten thousand dollars for the benefit
of the "House of Refuge" This act of your body has been most li-
-berally sustained by the citizens, who, to the number of about
two hundred and fifty have subscribed as I am informed over
twenty thousand dollars. This speaks in most unequivocal terms
in behalf of the benevolent object of the institution, as well as of
the confidence placed in the managers, that they will press on in
the good work in which they have engaged, until another
monument shall be raised by the public spirit and beneficience
of our city that will place her in proud equality with her larger
and wealthier neighbors. I have great pleasure in giving
the assurance, that the work will be commenced in the spring
provided the General Assembly shall second the recommendation
of his Excellency, the Governor, who, in the warmest terms, has pre-
-ssed the subject upon the special attention of that body, and
who, in return there can be but little doubt, will do justice to
the claims of so philanthropic an institution.

By the resolution referred to, it is provided that the proceeds
of the sale of the lot shall be applied to the purchase of a suita-
-ble site for the proposed buildings, and the balance, if any, after
such application, shall pass into the treasury of the city. It has been
suggested to me, that as this balance can only be a comparative sm-
-all one, it can hardly be felt in defraying the ordinary expendi-
-tures of the city, while on the other hand, it will add materially
to the amount required for the support of the institution. Judging
by the cost of similar institutions in New York, Philadelphia,
Boston and Rochester, it will require for the walling in of the
premises, and the completion of the buildings, something near
fifty thousand dollars. When it is considered that the amount
contributed by our citizens on the first appeal in behalf of a sim-
-ilar institution some years since, upon the failure of the attempt
became in fact, as I am informed the foundation almost of
our present public schools, it would certainly seem of no great
or unjust draft upon the treasury, if the whole amount of the
proceeds of the sale be appropriated to the use of the "house of refuge"

The income of the past year from ground rents belonging
to the city, was $7.448.52. I respectfully suggest an inquiry
into the policy of disposing of all the property owned by the city
by sale or permanent lease, as the several leases expire, except such
as may be thought necessary for the public use, I am inclined to
to the opinion that it would be good policy, Property has ad-
-vanced in value and will no doubt continue to do so, but whet-
-her to an extent that will reimburse for the loss sustained by