temporary and limited leases, I conceive exceedingly dou-
-btful. The disposition I have suggested, would at once make
all the property available, besides under the controul of in-
-dividual enterprise would soon add considerably to the amou-
-nt of assesment, and thus far reduce taxation.

By the provisions of an ordinance No 22. passed and approved
May 15th 1847, certain property holders agreed to transfer to the
city the ground known as Union Square, in the western part
of the city, upon conditions therein specified, One of these
was the erection of an ornamental structure over the founta-
-in, from which the water from the spring shall be discharged
within three years from the date of said ordinance. The grant
expires in 1850, if this provision of the ordinance is not complied
with. It is such a subject of universal regret, that offers here-
-tofore made to the city of a similar discription were either
refused or neglected, that I earnestly hope this one will
receive your favorable action. As I have heretofore intima-
-ted, I conceive there is no better protection to the health of
our citizens than the ventilation of public squares, and in
that result alone, an adequate remuneration would be fou-
-nd for the expense. The cost of such a structure as would be
proper to be erected over the fountain. is estimated at $6000.

The gentlemen who were appointed at the last session of
the Council to revise the ordinances of the city, have performed
their duty. They placed them in my possession, and I herew-
-ith transmit them to you, for your consideration and action.

A subject to which I would particularly invite your
attention, is the intellectual and moral condition and
habits of a rapidly increasing class of persons of all ages
and sexes, who in the guise of pauperism, infest our
public thoroughfares, and by various nefarious prac-
-tices outrage honesty, decency and humanity, A more
deplorable evil or one better calculated to disseminate
the pernicious fruits of idleness and vice, cannot well
be conceived of. In European cities these evils have existed
for centuries, and are probably to be ascribed to ill government
or a density of population exceeding the nations capacity to em-
-ploy or support. In the United States no such cause exists, and
therefore effects, so painful and disgusting can only be attributed
to fraud and baseness. These evils, in their enormous depravity, are
of a very recent appearance, but have already grown to a very
frightful degree. A very few years ago, and scarcely a begger was
to be seen, the few soliciting alms were generally of an unmista-

-kable character, persons overtaken by misfortune, and to relieve wh-
-ose necessities it gave the heart pleasure. Now every steamboat
landing, every rail road depot, the doors of hotels, the post office,
places of amusement, and our most public streets are literally
crowded with filthy vagabonds, not unfrequently strong, healthy,
and able to work, but plainly too lazy even to keep their persons
clean, It cannot have escaped the notice of the most common ob-
-server, that many persons of this class, in addition to those who cro-
-wd the doors of public places, have recently located themselves
at particular public points throughout our city, under circumst-
-ances particularly disgusting. Women, thinly clad or wretchedly
in rags, are seen on cold days exposed to the rain or snow, seated on the
ground, or steps, or in corners, with one or two children, or a child at
the breast, imploring relief with features of apparent agony. If
suffering from disgusting disease, or distressing deformity the deficien
-cy is thrust upon the public view more effectually to create sympa-
-thy and win reward. These scenes ought not to be tolerated – they are
not the growth of the United States or legitimate offspring of our govem
-ment or institutions. A beneficient God has kindly blessed our land
with abundance. All who desire to work can easily find employm
-ent, if not in the cities most certainly in the country; and those
who from disease, age, or decrepitude, are unable to work, may find
a comfortable home at the institution which public beneficience has
provided for them. Another portion of this class, and who, if it be
possible, are in a more deplorable condition than the adults, are the
ragged, dirty children, boys and girls, ranging from five to fifteen
years of age, who roam about the city in all directions, openly beg-
-ging, or under pretext of selling matches or other trifles. From in-
-formation, upon which reliance may be safely placed, it is to
be feared that many of these children are daily driven forth by heart
-less parents, who regardless of the injury done the public and their
offspring, live in dissipation upon means thus basely acquired.
Shocking as it may be to contemplate, there is scarcely a doubt that
many of these girls are in daily habits of prostitution, acquiring the
-reby means which enable their abandoned parents to live idle and
dissolute lives – the boys under a similar influence constantly perpe-
-trate petty thefts, and both grow up a curse to society – the one a court-
-ezan, the other a felon. If every thing within the knowledge of
the police and various magistrates in relation to these children
were here stated, a fearful amount of startling depravity would
have to be detailed. I merely refer you to the subject, assuring you
that in no way can the peace, security and moral welfare of the
community be more effectually promoted than by the passage of an