Annual Session
January 1854.

Monday January 16. 1854

The Board met at 3½ o'clock P.M. pursuant to law.

Present - John B. Seidenstricker Esqr President & all the members except Mr Vickers.

Mr Fuller presented a petition from John Dunn & others fishermen, praying that a wharf at the foot of Resident street be appropriated to the use of the fishermen, which was read & referred to the joint standing committee on the Harbor.

Mr Griffith presented a petition from Fred'k Gordschell & others policemen, praying an increase of compensation, which was read & referred to the joint committee on Ways & Means.

A message received from the First Board announcing its organization & proposing that a joint committee be appointed to wait upon the Mayor & inform him that the Council is prepared to receive any communication he may have to make, and naming as said committee on their part Messrs Prance, Rogers & Groome.

The proposition was concurred in & the President appointed on said committee on the part of this Board Messrs Griffith, Richardson & Hill.

Mr Griffith, Chairman of the joint committee appointed to wait upon the Mayor &c. reported that they had discharged the duty assigned them & that the Mayor would immediately communicate with the Council.

The following message was received from the Mayor at the hands of W. H. Kalkman Esq. Secretary of the Mayoralty, & was read & laid on the table:

Mayor's Office Baltimore January 16. 1854.

To the Honorable
The First & Second Branches of the City Council of Baltimore.

Gentlemen:

I beg leave to communicate to your Honorable Body, according to usual on this occasion of your annual session, the operations of the Corporation during the past year, and the present condition of its affairs. The financial condition of the city is highly prosperous, and the several departments are in a state of commendable efficiency. The reports of the several officers at the head of those departments, which are herewith submitted, will inform you in detail of their respective operations during the past year, which will be found to have been generally official & satisfactory. Suggestions are made on several subjects, in connection with different departments, which are considered specially important to the interests of the city, and will I hope & doubt not receive the favorable consideration of your Honorable Body.

The report of the City Commissioner will inform you of the various objects that have called for his attention during the year. The subject of repairing streets is recommended to your consideration. The City is responsible for nearly half the cost of all repairs, and it is deemed proper that it should be with some limited control in the matter.

The joint report of the City Physician, and Assistant Health Commissioner commends itself to that serious attention to which the importance of the subject entitles it. The very healthy condition of the city for the last