evidence that the department has been well administered.

The Commissioner of Health also presents the accompanying report, which will, I hope receive from you that attentive notice which its merit deserves. During the past year he has given such undeniable evidence of his ability & to execute the sanitary laws, to which his special attention is required, that I do not hesitate to ask of you the most favorable consideration of the subject he may present for your action.

The report of the Physician at the Marine Hospital presents the fact, that for the first time since its establishment, the expenses of the year have been met by its own revenue. To Dr Griffith, the physician at present in charge, is equally due the credit of this result. His views in relation to the health of the City demand your attention.

The City Collector's report gives satisfactory evidence of the commendable promptitude with which the demand for taxes has been met from citizens. It appears that there has been collected during the year 1853, for ordinary & sinking funds & taxes, the sum of $136,302.46, the expenses attending proceedings connected therewith. So much of the time, labor & the collector and his assistants, is required in attention to this business, that I believe it will be advantageous if some provision should be made for relieving the Collector's office entirely or in part, from this duty. At the time of that office and the duties pertaining to the collection of the taxes, I am of opinion that the revenue would be more regularly collected, and the amount much increased, by the collection of taxes specially assessed, to which his attention could then be more particularly given. The subject is earnestly recommended to your consideration.

The monthly reports of the Auditor have been regularly made, and he earnestly commends the assiduous attention of the Collector to the duties of his office, and the condition of the business thereof.

The report of the Port Warden will full & painful profession of what has been done, and likewise what will be required, in his department. A place of deposite for the sediment taken from the Harbor, is indispensable. The Ordinance requiring a fire bulkhead in the back basin has not been complied with, for the reason that the sum appropriated for that purpose was insufficient for the construction of a substantial work.

The report of the Keeper of the Jail is one of much interest & importance. The House of Refuge will be soon completed before the expiration of another year, that the youth now confined in the Jail can be removed from the baneful influence of the hardened offenders in which they are unfortunately obliged to be associated.

The Trustees of the Almshouse give satisfactory evidence of increase of pauperism in our community, and there is cause for apprehension that the present accomodations will very soon be found inadequate. The Judges of the Orphans Court, by their report, give a flattering and



gratifying evidence of the increasing prosperity of our City.

The City Commissioner, Commissioners of Public Schools, and of the House of Refuge, will present their respective communications.

The enlarged and constantly increasing duties of the Commissioner of Finance make it necessary in my opinion, that a clerk should be appointed for their service; and as the additional duties about to devolve on them will be such as to increase greatly the responsibility of the office, and demand much more time, and close attention, I recommend that compensation be provided adequate to the important services to be rendered.

The reports of the Baltimore Water and Baltimore & Susquehanna Rail Road Companies are submitted. The ordinance passed at the late extraordinary session of the Council, in favor of the first named Company, will require your immediate attention & action.

I take pleasure in stating that the great harmony of action and official services of the Police & Watch Departments, have caused the City to exist in a state of order & quiet not surpassed by any other City of the same extent of population; which affords no satisfactory evidence that a change in the system was not necessary for the safety of our citizens, or their property.

The Commissioners for the removal of obstructions in the Patapsco River, submit a report of their operations, which affords no pleasure to learn that the work can be accomplished in less time, and with much less difficulty than was anticipated, when it was commenced. The result of the work during the past summer, affords positive evidence that the desired object will be obtained within a reasonable period.

I avail myself of this opportunity to record my acknowledgements to the heads of all the departments of the City government, for the ability & promptness, which have at all times and under all circumstances, characterized their in the performance of their respective duties.

Samuel Hollins Mayor

A message received from the First Branch proposing the appointment of a joint Special committee to distribute the matters of the Mayors message & accompanying documents to proper committees, and nominating as such committee with the joint Messrs Seffer, Barry, & Hintze.

On motion of Mr Richardson the message was concurred in, & the President appointed said committee Messrs Richardson, Fuller & Stewart.

Mr Parlett offered a resolution instructing the City Commissioner to have the old market house on Broadway whitewashed & painted and drawn with Repairs for the offense of the same, which was referred to the joint committee on Markets.

On motion of Mr Parlett a message was sent to the First Branch proposing that when the Annual adjournment of this meeting, it do and adjourn till Monday afternoon next at 5 o'clock.

The First Branch by message concurred.

A message was sent from the First Branch proposing to change the first