Monday, April 9th, 1855.

The Branch met pursuant to adjournment.

Present - James Armitage, Esq., President, and all the members.

The Session was opened with prayer by Mr. Crowley.

Mr. Shoemaker, presented a petition from the clerks employed in the collector's office, asking an increase of compensation, which was read and referred to the committee on ways and means.

Mr. Beale presented a petition from the watchmen of the Middle district, asking an increase of compensation, which was read and referred to the committee on ways and means.

Mr. Bartlett presented a petition from John Shoncare and others, remonstrating against the passage of an ordinance to prohibit the keeping of cows within the limits of the corporation, which was read and referred to the committee on health.

Mr. Beale offered the following resolutions, which were read and referred to the committee on ways and means:

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council, that the commissioners for opening streets and their clerk, be empowered to draw on the Register for their pay in each and every case in which they may act in their official capacity; as soon as such work is done and the books and papers deposited with the Register for the collection of assessments to be in as heretofore, as they are now limited to a specified amount as a salary, and all over and above said amount ($750) goes into the city treasury.

Resolved by the Second Branch of the City Council of Baltimore that the committee on ways and means be requested to frame an ordinance compelling the commissioners for opening streets, to give bond in such penal sums as may hereafter be specified.

Mr. Crowley offered the following resolution, which was read and adopted:

Resolved by the Second Branch of the City Council of Baltimore that the city counsellor be requested to inform this Branch whether there is sufficient law to enable the Mayor to close all taverns, bar shops, barber shops, tobacconists and confectioners, or candy shops on the Sabbath; and if not, whether the corporation has power to pass such laws as are necessary for closing the same on the Sabbath.

Mr. Bartlett from the committee of conference on the ordinance to abolish the office of city physician, presented the following report which was read and laid on the table:

The joint standing committee, to whom the ordinance abolishing the office of city physician, was referred, respectfully report, that after due consideration and mature reflection, they are convinced that the existence of such an office, is wholly unnecessary. Under the ordinance for annual appropriations, the considerable sum $4.000 has been appropriated for salaries of officers

connected with the health department; add to this $600 for city physician, and $200 contemplated by ordinance No. , now on the table, would together, make $4.810.

The duty of the city physician being, in reality, merely to preside at the meeting of the board of health, and decide upon the existence of malignant, infectious or contagious diseases, and the existence and nature of nuisance, as stated in the report of the joint committee on health, this office was created at a time when there were no medical men in the board of health. Unless it be conceded, that the health commissioner is incompetent to decide upon the nature of nuisance or the character of disease it will be obvious, that the visit of city physician, to any locality suspected of engendering a nuisance, or to any case of disease, suspected to be contagious or malignant, will be wholly superfluous.

Again under sec. 12, ordinance 18, the vaccine physicians are constituted health wardens; for which duty, an additional sum of $150 per annum, in quarterly payments, after having faithfully performed the service required. In the opinion of your committee, this service has, as yet, never been exacted from said wardens, although they regularly receive the additional compensation. By sec. 6, of the same ordinance, it is made the duty of police officers to make daily inspections (of their wards) and report every morning to the health commissioner &c. &c. It would be much more expeditious, if these officers made their report to the health wardens of the respective wards; and if these deemed it necessary, make a report to the health commissioner. This course would relieve the commissioner and his assistant, of much annoyance, and give them leisure to enforce efficient vaccination, and thereby obviate the too frequent occurrence of small-pox, to the alarming extent it has, at this time, attained.

Deeming the appointment of city physician entirely useless, and the office an unnecessary tax upon an already exhausted treasury, they would respectfully recommend the passage of ordinance No. 41.

Wm. E. Bartlett, Jr.
H. E. B. Hinkle,
W. S. Shoemaker, } Second Branch.

Orlando G. White,
Wm. Pyle,
Robert H. Crawford } First Branch.

A resolution was received from the First Branch, calling on the Mayor to return the resolution directing the port warden to have the bed of Jones falls, north of Pratt street cleansed, which was read and concurred in.

A report from the committee on claims, authorizing the Register to pay Dr. Wm D. Dalrymple the sum of $25;