was received from the First Branch, read a first and by special order a second time and concurred in.

A report from the committee on ways and means, directing George Peters, H. W. S. Evans and James Murray, the board of commissioners for opening, under Mayor Jerome, to place in possession of the city counsellor all papers having reference to the opening of Aisquith, Chase and John streets, and directing the city counsellor to institute legal proceedings against all parties who have failed to pay for the opening of said streets, was received from the First Branch, read a first, and by special order a second time, and concurred in.

A report from the committee on water, with resolutions directing the water board to sell the machinery in the Lonaville cotton factory; instructing them to employ five assistants to make a survey of all the water pipes a present laid in the city, and to have plat made of all the property of the water department, was received from the First Branch, read a first and by special order a second time.

Mr. Crowley moved to amend the first resolution, by striking out in the third line, the words "all the daily newspapers;" and inserting "five daily papers having the largest circulation;" which was adopted.

The resolution as amended, was then concurred in.

The First Branch returned the resolution authorizing the city commissioner to advertise for proposals to build three iron bridges over Jones falls, at Preston, Baltimore and Gay streets, endorsed "concurred in."

The First Branch returned the resolution relative to widening the foot-way on Brady's wharf, endorsed "concurred in."

The First Branch returned the resolution relative to widening

The First Branch returned the resolution authorizing a gas lamp to be placed in front of the Mission Chapel on Eastern avenue endorsed "concurred in."

A report from the committee on the harbor, relative to establishing a port warden's line, on the south eastern side of the middle branch of the Patapsco river, was received from the First Branch, read a first and by special order a second time and concurred in.

A report from the committee on claims, authorizing the Register to pay Miss Sophia Campbell the sum of $11. was received from the First Branch, read a first and by special order a second time and concurred in.

A report from the committee on claims, authorizing the Register to pay Hannibal H. Chase the sum of $122.51, was



received from the First Branch, read a first, and by special order a second time and concurred in.

The President laid before the branch, the following communication from the commissioners of finance, which was read and referred to the committee on ways and means:

Office Commissioners of Finance
Baltimore April 8th 1856.

To the Honorable President
and Members of the Second Branch of the City Council:

Gentlemen:

The resolution passed by your honorable body, requesting to be informed by the Commissioners of Finance "by what authority the one hundred and thirty two thousand seven hundred and ninety nine dollars and twenty two cents, placed in their hands as a sinking fund has been diverted from its legitimate use; also what amount of said fund is now in their hands;" was laid before us on the evening of the 4 inst

In reply thereto, we would respectfully state:

First – that we are not aware of any such diversions of the sum of $132,799.22, having taken place.

In the year 1836, there was a resolution passed by the Mayor and City Council, (see resolution, No. 85, approved April 23. 1836,) which took from the commissioners of finance the amount accumulated as a sinking fund to that time, and appropriated it otherwise than as originally designed; but since that time the fund has not been interfered with; whatever amounts have been paid into the hands of the commissioners have been placed to its credit in bank; and so remain at the present time.

Secondly – In answer to your inquiry, as to the amount now in our hands we reply, it is exactly $132.761.44.

We beg leave to communicate some facts in regard to this sinking fund which, however, we can scarcely persuade ourselves, are not already known to your honorable body; and more particularly to the joint committee on ways and means, and on commissioners of finance accounts." They are as follows, and appear to constitute the only reason why it has not long since been applied – so far as it would reach – to the extinguishment of the funded debt, past due, namely: the city treasury has been completely drained – entirely exhausted. Indeed the demands upon it were considerably in excess of the revenue. In this emergency, the Register, unwilling to confess inability to pay, was compelled to over draw upon the bank where both he and the commissioners of finance keep their accounts, and he was permitted to do this by arrangement, whereby the amount of the sinking fund was to be regarded as the security for his own drafts. In other words, the "city account" in bank was allowed to be over drawn upon the faith of the credit to the account of the