wise appropriated, for the completion of the same, and which work shall be done under the direction of the city commissioner.

Mr. Beale from the committee on highways, presented the following report, which was read a first and by special order a second time and adopted:

A joint committee on highways, to who whom was refered the communication of the city commissioner, in regard to the sewers at Broadway, where Harford run crosses, have had the same under consideration, and would offer the following resolution:

Wm. E. Beale,
Wm Houlton, } Second Branch
Wm. C. Welsh
Joseph. H. Boyd,
J. H. B. Boyd, } First Branch.
Daniel. Lefevre

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, that the city commissioner be and he is hereby directed to have the sewers at Broadway, where Harford run crosses, placed in such a manner as in his judgement may think best, and draw on the Register for the sum of eight hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Mr. Houlton offered the following preamble and resolution which were read and adopted:

Whereas the subject of deepening the harbor, has been and still is a matter of considerable interest, involving as it does, a large expenditure of money annually, and notwithstanding the efforts that have been made to keep the harbor from filling up, by the employment of all the machines that have been contracted for that purpose, the depth of water in the harbor, including Jone's falls and the Back basin, is less than it was several years ago. The condition of Jone's falls and the back basin being such as to require the employment of the whole of the machinery the greater part, if not the whole of this season, leaving the general harbor untouched, the necessary consequence will be a diminished depth of water in the channel by an accumulation of sediment therein;

And whereas, the city is bound by contract, to keep a least eight feet water at common low tide in the Back basin in all future time, to accomplish which, it will require a considerable portion of the machinery to be employed there every year, by reason of the great quantity of sediment deposited from Jone's falls and Harford run;

And Whereas, the steam dredging machine, is now in so dilapidated condition, as to be in all probability useless after the present season, it becomes necessary to inquire what arrangements ought to be made so as to secure the needed and proper means to meet the

wants of commerce, by having and keeping a channel of sufficient depth to allow the vessels usually visiting our harbor, free ingress and egress; the aforesaid inquiry to extend to private contract for raising, removing and depositing, the sediment from the harbor, as well as to the building by the city the necessary machine; therefore,

Be it resolved that the committee on the harbor make the necessary inquiry, touching the contracting for dredging, removing and depositing the sediment from the harbor by the cubic yard, as also the cost of building proper machines with their appurtenances, and report the result of their investigation as soon as practible.

The President laid before the branch, the following communication from the city counsellor, which was read and laid on the table:

Baltimore, April 11th, 1855.

To the Honorable
the Members of the Second Branch of the City Council.

Gentlemen:

Your resolution inquiring "whether there is sufficient law to enable the Mayor to close all taverns, beer 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;" was handed to me this morning.

I know of no law, nor can I find any which authorizes the Mayor to close on the Sabbath day, either taverns or shops referred to in the first part of your question, nor have I been able to discover any provision in the Charter, or in any Act of Assembly subsequent thereto, which empowers the city authorities to pass an ordinance prohibiting taverns, or such shops as are above mentioned, from being opened on Sundays. There is an old statute, passed in 1723, which in Chapter 16, section 10, forbids any work or bodily labor to be done by any person, or the suffering by him of any work or bodily labor to be performed by his children or servants on the Lord's day.

The drawing of beer or liquor, or serving customers, (excepting in the case of taverns,) would, I apprehend, even come within the meaning of the terms "work or bodily labor," as used in the aforesaid section.

Also, by the eleventh section of the above mentioned act, it is among other things, provided that no house keeper shall sell any strong liquor on Sundays, nor permit any drunkenness or unlawful sports in his house, under the penalty of two thousand pounds of tobacco, &c.

The Act of the General Assembly of 1847, chapter 183, in its first section prohibits the sale of or disposition in any spirituous or