Friday, April. 13th, 1855.

The Branch met pursuant to adjournment,

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

The Session was opened with prayer by Mr. Brooby.

On motion of Mr. Bartlett, the vote on the adoption of the report of the joint select committee on Register's office and accounts, was reconsidered

Mr. Bartlett moved to amend the resolution, by inserting after the word "office," in the third line the words "and also the city certificates redeemed during the past year;" which was adopted.

The resolution as amended, was then adopted.

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

Baltimore, April 12th, 1855.

To the Members of the Second Branch
of the City Council:

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the resolution of inquiry passed by your honorable body, calling on the collector for information as to the amount of taxes received in this office, applicable to the support of the public schools, I herewith submit the following tabular statement:

	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854
January,	2.54	4.95	6.84	29.05	72.84	320.62	2.450.80	10.166.21
February,	7.53	10.79	15.48	34.14	80.38	249.43	1.820.41	3.420.32
March,	6	5	30	6.16	20.74	28.60	148.50	3.530.49
	$10.13	$15.79	$22.62	$61.35	$173.96	$590.65	$4.419.71	$17.166.42

Recapitulation.

1847	10 13
1848	15 79
1849	22 69
1850	61.35
1851	173.96
1852	590.65
1853	4 419.71
1854	17.166.42
Total	$22.411.70

All of which is respectfully submitted,

B. W. Richardson.

City Collector.

Mr. Beale presented to the branch, the following communication from the city commissioner, which was read and laid on the table:

City Commissioner's Office,
Baltimore, April 13th 1855.

To the President and Members of the
Second Branch of the City Council.

Gentlemen:

I yesterday sent a communication to the First Branch City

Council, asking an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars, to enable me to repair the streets now in a bad condition, and contract for the payment of the work when completed.

I have every reason to believe that the work can be done to better advantage, and that considerable money can be saved to the city by adopting this system. In consideration of the certainty of extraordinary high rates of taxation staring us in the face, I should like very much to have the work done, without failing the necessity of making the above named application, but having conversed freely with the street contractor, I have every assurance that I can save (as I have already stated,) a considerable sum of money, and ultimately reduce the rates of taxation.

The city (as you are aware,) is at this time largely indebted to the contractors for the repairs of streets, the amount due for repairs, alone, being forty one thousand, six hundred and twenty dollars, thirty two cents, ($41.620.32,) the result of the old credit system, which I desire to change.

Had the system which I am anxious to create and pursue, been introduced a year or two ago, the appropriation of $41.620.32, for out standing bills and orders, in the hands of the contractors unpaid, would not not now be necessary. The work, however, would have been done and paid for, and I am satisfied, that less than $41.620.32, (and considerable less) would have paid for it, The contractors freely say that they will do the work much cheaper, with the assurance of prompt payment, that they can (or will agree to do) with the certainty of being compelled to wait year after year for their money. It is not simply, in my opinion, the best, the most advantageous, but the most profitable mode of doing business, whether individuals or communities adopt it. The experience of all men, whether privately discharging their own business, or publicly attending to that of the community, of which they may be members, bear strong testimony in behalf of this position.

I hope, gentlemen, you may see proper to endorse the action of the First Branch, otherwise I do not feel disposed to contract for repairs with an empty pocket, to interfere with my progress, and interrupt my operations.

It is alone the assurance of my being able to do the repairs necessary to the advantage of the city, that has induced me to make the application.

Very Respectfully,

J. P. Shannon. City Commissioner.