organization of the Council, and that he should communicate his annual message immediately, through his secretary.

The President presented the following communication from the Clerk, which was referred to the special committee on unfinished ordinances:

Baltimore, January 18, 1858.

Gentlemen of the Second Branch:
In accordance with the resolution providing for the revision of the ordinances of the corporation (requiring the report to be made at the commencement of the annual session of 1858.) I have called upon William A. Stewart, Esq., and procured the same and herewith present them to the Branch.
Very respectfully,
Allen E. Forester, Clerk.

Mr. Sullivan moved that a message be sent to the First Branch, proposing, with their concurrence that the hour of five o'clock P. M., be fixed as the time for the daily assembling of the two branches of the Council during the present session, which was determined in the affirmative.

The following message was received from the First Branch.
In First Branch,
Baltimore, January 18, 1858.

Gentlemen of the Second Branch:
We respectfully concur in your proposition to fix the daily hour for the meeting of the Council at five o'clock P. M.
By order
Richard R. Battee, Clerk.

William Thompson, Esq., secretary to the Mayoralty appeared and presented the following message from his Honor the Mayor, which was read

Mayor's Office, City Hall,
Baltimore, January 18, 1858.

To the Honorable the Members of the First and Second Branches of the City Council:
Gentlemen:
The day appointed by law for the meeting of the two branches of the City Council finds you again about to enter upon the important duties confided to your charge. In reviewing the events of the past year, we have just reason to be thankful to an all wise Providence for a continuation of his bounties, not only has this city enjoyed uninterrupted health; but the financial embarrassments which have resulted so disastrously in many of our sister cities have not been marked by the same serious effects upon our industrial and business classes. There is no city in the Union where trade and the pursuits of labor have been conducted upon a more substantial and healthy basis, and the necessity for contraction consequent upon the late monetary crisis, although attended with a temporary inconvenience, will find us prepared to react whenever a return of the public confidence shall justify a resumption of the active pursuits in which we have been heretofore engaged. While in all the cities North of us, manufacturing and mercantile operations have been in a great measure suspended, and large numbers of workingmen thrown out of employment, and in some of them the most serious disturbances have taken place, it has been our good fortune to pass through the crisis without material departure from our accustomed routine. If the profits of labor have been curtailed, as they undoubtedly have been, a course of prudence and economy has enabled our people to withstand the shock without serious or lasting detriment.

The re-organization of the city government, so strongly urged in a former occasion, has been completed since my last annual message. In all the departments a decided improvement has taken place. The office of Comptroller has fully realized the expectations which have been formed of its usefulness, and has already been attended with the most important results to the city.