the bequest so liberally bestowed upon Baltimore, should be incorporated with any of the existing plans for the education of the poor. In fact we have conclusive evidence that Mr McDonough designed to establish an institution of his own peculiar in its characteristics, and distinct from any other, if the impracticability of his recommendations makes it impossible to execute this purpose, in the mode designed by him, the obligation still remains, to conform as strictly to his wishes as circumstances will permit.

There are various modes of educating the poor. In the city of Baltimore the most feasable have been anticipated in the system now in successful operation. The object to be accomplished in carrying out the intention of the testator, will be to dispense the greatest amount of good in view of the provisions and in aid of the system already established. The multiplicity of all grades of primary and high schools within our limits would seem to have met the wants of the community in this particular. What appears to me to be most needed to complete this system, is an institution properly endowed, for the maintenance as well as the education of the poor. As yet no such institution exists in this city, and its utility cannot for a moment be questioned.

In carrying out the will of Mr McDonough, it occurs to me to be an object of primary obligation to keep this legacy separate and distinct – and independent of all other charities devoted to purposes of education – in order that, while it accomplishes the leading object intended to be met, it may stand in all future time as a monument of the liberality and public spirit of the generous donor. With this view it should bear his name.

I throw out these hints in order that the subject may be brought prominently before your honorable body, and receive the consideration to which it is entitled.

The ordinance passed September 25. 1854 will require modification, and a reorganization of the board authorized by the council, upon such plan as will best conduce to an early and economical transfer of the interest represented by the city, to a board of agents to be appointed here, whose duty it shall be to act as trustees of this fund, and attend to its regular investment in such securities as you may direct. The loan of your own city would perhaps be the most advisable. I would

strongly urge that no part of the principal of this bequest be alienated.

In the event of the adoption of a plan looking to the establishment of an institution for the maintenance and education of poor boys, to be taken from all parts of the city, I would suggest, that the accruing interest only upon the fund be appropriated towards the purchase, at a proper time, of a convenient site and the erection of suitable buildings, without encroachment upon the principal, that when this preliminary work is accomplished, the institution may commence with an endowment of not less than half a million of dollars, should so much be realized.

I have deemed it my duty to make these recommendations to your honorable body, with the assurance at the same time, that I am ready to cooperate in any measure which may be found most in harmony with the provisions of the will and acceptable to the people of the city. A reference of the whole subject to a joint select committee from both branches, may aid in awakening the proper interest, and giving direction to a subject of more than ordinary importance to our people.

With great respect, Your obedient servant
Thos. Swann Mayor.

New Orleans March 12. 1858

To the Honorable Thomas Swann
Mayor of the City of Baltimore

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that the Supreme Court of this State has passed a decree of partition of the McDonough estate, in conformity with the report made by the experts, particulars of which, are in possession of the authorities of Baltimore.

The Counsel for the Orphan Boys Asylum of New Orleans, has asked for a rehearing of the case, but this I have not the slightest doubt will be refused, and the property will then go into the possession of the two cities.

With great respect, I remain, Sir
Your most obedient servant
Wm. J. Peterkin
One of the Baltimore Agents of the McDonough Estate