nearly one half of the taxes and licenses collectively paid to the State, is derived from our community, it will readily appear that a burthen is imposed on the tax-payers of our city which the councils will be most anxious to relieve by every means with which it can be effected consistent with a due regard to the city's credit and its general welfare.

The balance of $20,000 due on account of a dividend of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, declared November 1840, has been received and paid to the Commissioners of Finance, as required by an ardinance, approved February 6, 1843. I have also received $70,000, being the city's proportion of a dividend of two per cent. declared by said company in November last.

It will be seen by reference to the annexed statement that I have estimated a dividend of two and a half per cent. from the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company for the present year, which from the best information I have been enabled to obtain, may reasonably be assumed.

In my last annual report it was stated that the sum of $12,609 54 had been received from the Treasurer of the State on account of an assignment from the Chesapeake Steam Towing Company. In November last the balance, amounting to the sum of $12,390 46 was received. This entire amount has been paid to the Commissioners of Finance in compliance with Resolution No. 16, approved February 13th, 1843. The interest on city stock debt for the past year has been paid to the Commissioners of Finance, leaving in their hands a sum sufficient to pay all unclaimed interest. It will be seen by reference to my report to the councils at the commencement of the last session, I stated that, instead of selling at an immense sacrifice a large amount of Rail Road Orders that had been received for city taxes and other dues, I had funded $82,945 19 of said orders in city six per cent stock, and in virtue of authority vested in me, borrowed for a brief period a sum sufficient to meet the most pressing wants of the city, reserving the stock as an additional means of sustaining its credit if rendered indispensable. At the period alluded to, city six per cent stock was at a discount of twenty seven per cent. Under a full conviction, that the stock would improve, it seemed an incumbent duty on my part to use every effort to prevent its sacrifice. This, I am happy to state, was effected by the prompt payment of taxes, receipts from other sources, and the careful application of all available means. For the purpose of paying all claims against the city that might be presented, I deemed it proper a few weeks since (in addition to the sales of $50,000 state stock previously made) to sell only $22,945 19 of said stock at 108⅞, thereby realizing the sum of $24,981 57, leaving in my possession a certificate of stock for $60,000. Not only has this advance been obtained for that portion of the stock sold, but the city of course, saved for the time being interest on the entire sum. The ability of the city to meet its obligations can no longer be questioned, therefore, the necessity of holding this stock as a dernier resort does not seem to be required. Agreeably to contract, city stock to the amount

of $15,000 will be required to pay Paul Beck, Esq., for a lot of ground purchased of him for the extension of Lexington market. As regards the remainder of the stock, I would respectfully suggest, that the Register be directed to hand it over to the Commissioners of Finance, to be applied to the redemption of outstanding balances of city stock, redeemable at the pleasure of the Mayor and City Council after the years 1838 and 1840, respectively. This would seem the more appropriate, as the interest on stock proposed to be redeemed is a charge upon the direct tax, and unless otherwise expressly directed, the proceeds of the stock, if sold, would only be applicable to such claims.

During the past year, the Court of Appeals decided a case favorably to the city, involving the liability of various chartered institutions to pay taxes on certain descriptions of property. By this decision, nearly $10,000 has been paid into the city treasury by the late and present Collectors. The decision of the question at issue was deemed so doubtful, that neither the report of the Committee of Ways and Means, or that emanating from this office estimated any receipts from the sources alluded to. Whilst the available means of the city has been increased from this and other sources, demands against the treasury have not equalled the estimates of several departments of the city government, as will be seen by reference to reports of the past year.

The following instances (and others might be given) will illustrate the correctness of this statement. It will appear from estimates of the Trustees of the Poor, Governors and Visitors of the Jail, and also that of the City Commissioners as compared with actual results, that the entire sums directed to be expended under their control respectively, has not been required, and thus a saving to the city of $10,000 in the aggregate has been effected.

I am assured that to a considerable extent this has been produced by making purchases for cash, thus showing the importance of placing the city treasury in a situation to meet promptly all appropriations.

The balance in the treasury on the 31st ultimo, was not only subject to the quarters interest on city stock debt due on the 1st instant, but also to the payment of $17,100 belonging to several objects as specified in the annexed statement, subject to payment on demand, to which might be added unclaimed balances at the close of the past year on account of several special appropriations.

It will, therefore, readily appear by connecting the above statement with the actual and estimated condition of the finances of the city at the time of making levies for 1843, that but for contingencies above stated, a deficiency would have existed at the close of the past year, thereby leaving claims against the treasury unpaid.

I have made the foregoing details for the purpose of shewing the advantage the city derives from a prompt compliance with its engagements, and also with a view of respectfully suggesting the great importance of making such provision for the present year as will fully preserve the high character the city has sustained.