I have invited your memories to return to these familiar facts, that a proper appreciation of the loyalty of the citizens of Baltimore may be impressed upon every mind. They have been subjected to the most severe trial, and still present to their fellow-citizens of the Union the highest standard of patriotism and moral restraint.

In my recent visit to Boston I found that the 19th of April was obliterated from their memories, and that we were again established in their esteem. The evidences of kindness were so numerous that I was perplexed to know how we should ever return them.

The wonderful and rapid changes that public sentiment is undergoing throughout the land, all tending toward a more liberal and enlightened form of government, astound the most discerning minds.

The blessings of peace, prosperity and plenty, that have been guaranteed to this community, are to be attributed to the interposition of the Divine hand, and must cause every grateful heart to return thanks to Almighty God for his kind Providence in most graciously preserving us from the dreadful calamities with which we have been threatened.

The families of soldiers, who peril their lives in defence of our Union ought to be subjects of the deepest solicitude. We cannot overestimate the value of the services these brave men are rendering the human race in their efforts to preserve this glorious Union. It is but a small return for them to be satisfied that their dear ones at home will be abundantly cared for while they are risking their lives upon the battle-field. I sincerely hope that the legislature of our State will make a liberal provision for them and their families, as it is the first opportunity they have had of showing how highly they appreciate their services.

You are all aware that very few of the reports from the different departments have been handed to me, which fact must excuse many defects in this communication.

COMMISSIONERS OF FINANCE.

The gentlemen composing this Commisson are F. Littig Shaffer, Evan T. Ellicott and the Mayor. They are selected by the Council in joint convention. The position is a post of honor, and I am sure a more judicious selection could not have been made, for finance ability, and an ardent desire to promote the best interests of the City. The responsibilities of this Commission are very great, it being their duty to order investments, issue stock, to lease and sell all city property, with a general supervision over the financial operations of the city. This Board entertains the opinion that their powers under the ordinance are not equal to these responsibilites, and that the language of the ordinance is not sufficiently explicit. I would advise that the Commission have an interview with such committee of the Council as you may please to designate. All City securities command a steady and uniform price, having been far above par value the entire year. This is certainly a very gratifying result, and one of which we ought to be proud.

CITY REGISTER.

This position is filled by John A. Thompson, Esq. The ability, integrity and experience of this gentleman renders him one of the most able officers in the employ of the City.

This position is one of immense responsibility, the Register being the custodian of all moneys received by the City from every source. I consider it my duty to call your attention to the bond of