year, that the city was greatly indebted to this gentleman for his valuable services in the management of this and other city interests, and that he justly deserved a marked compliment from the city authorities. I asked permission of the Councils that he might be sent to New Orleans to look after the city's interest in this estate. On the 16th of March, 1863, I was authorized to employ him, and an appropriation of \$1,500 was made to pay him and to defray his travelling expenses to New Orleans and home again. The result was a very large increase in the collections of 1863 and an invested fund of \$200,000 secured to the city. There is over \$300,000 in promissory notes to look after; \$200,000 worth of property to sell, also the cash in bank. One of the agents died recently in New Orleans, one is absent in Europe, and no interest has been taken by either of them since 1860. It is not proper that this estate should be left in this condition. I would, therefore, most respectfully ask for the repeal of the original ordinance appointing three agents and the passage of an ordinance appointing John W. Randolph, Esq., the city's agent of the McDonogh estate, with full powers, and at such pay, and requiring such bond, as you in your judgment may think proper. I have not consulted ' Mr. Randolph as to whether he would act as agent, and am influenced by no other motive than the city's interest, being convinced that he is more intimately acquainted with the McDonogh estate, and can realize more from it than any other person.

CITY HALL.

It has been conceded by every one, for the last ten years, that a City Hall is very much needed for the better accommodation of the officers of the city, and the safe keeping of the public records. The Legislature in 1854 were convinced of this fact, and gave the city authority to borrow \$400,000 at five per cent. per annum.

At the time this act was passed this amount was considered ample for constructing this edifice. The fabulous amount expected to be realized from the McDonogh estate induced the parties then in power to be willing to increase the cost of this building to an extravagant extent; experience has taught us that the return from this estate will be much less than at first anticipated, and we should determine that this improvement shall be made at once.

The property for building the City Hall was purchased by authority given by Ordinance approved May 11, 1854. It forms an oblong square, bounded by Holliday, Fayette, North, and Lexington street or Orange alley. The original intention was to close Orange alley and extend Lexington street through to Holliday street; the distance from Fayette street to Orange alley is 175 feet. If Orange alley is closed, and Lexington street extended through to Holliday, it will add 59 feet to this square, which will make 234 feet on Holliday street and the same on North street, 151 feet on Fayette and the same on Lexington streets. The closing of this alley would add greatly to the appearance and value of this improvement. It would be a matter of serious regret if after this Hall was completed, that Lexington street should be straightened and a building of a different character placed next to the Hall. It was suggested by one of the Committee appointed last year by the Council to examine into this subject, that a building of the best Baltimore pressed brick, with marble ornaments similar to the dwelling of Henry Garrett, Esq., on the corner of Monument and Centre streets, would give a splendid building at a