

No. 9.—Table showing trades and callings of persons arrested.

Artists	13	Merchants	407
Architects	2	Machinists	105
Apprentices	13	Musicians	25
Auctioneers	3	Millers	12
Actors	9	Messengers	33
Agents	54	Magistrates	1
Boatmen	134	Marines	48
Barbers	177	Moulders	48
Basket-makers	1	Newsboys	288
Barkeepers	241	Nurses	6
Bookkeepers	6	Occupation unknown	1,190
Blacksmiths	217	Oystermen	21
Bricklayers	95	Organists	1
Brick-makers	39	Peddlers	213
Butchers	182	Printers	151
Bakers	178	Physicians	36
Bookbinders	31	Plasterers	73
Brewers	28	Prostitutes	2,735
Brokers	7	Painters	182
Boiler-makers	10	Pavers	25
Bill-posters	3	Pawnbrokers	5
Block and pump makers	4	Police officers	7
Carpenters	383	Preachers	5
Chair-makers	2	Porters	17
Clerks	741	Policy dealers	2
Cigar-makers	34	Restaurant-keepers	375
Confectioners	53	Rag-pickers	18
Contractors	15	Rope-makers	10
Coach-makers	18	Riggers	11
Cabinet-makers	32	Reporters	7
Cartmen	177	Soldiers	3,082
County constables	10	Servants	1,792
Coopers	31	Shoemakers	173
Clock-makers	14	Sutlers	82
Coachmen	6	Stonecutters	72
Cooks	89	Schoolmasters	13
Conductors	25	Sailors	600
Dress-makers	7	Saddlers	53
Dentists	5	Students	168
Dairymen	48	Shoe-blacks	400
Drovers	11	Scavengers	20
Dyers	10	Sail-makers	13
Druggists	14	Seamstresses	42
Engineers	32	Stewards	2
Engravers	10	Ship-carpenters	1
Fishermen	53	Silversmiths	2
Farmers	239	Stage-drivers	1
Firemen	32	Tailors	115
Grocers	103	Teamsters	480
Gardeners	40	Tinners	54
Gamblers	25	Tobacconists	37
Groggery-keepers	454	Telegraphists	1
Gas-fitters	79	Tanners	9
Hackmen	642	Thieves	130
Hatters	14	Tavern-keepers	171
Hotel-keepers	64	Upholsterers	22
Hucksters	267	United States detectives	25
Housekeepers	1,598	Wood-cutters	1
Horse-farriers	3	Washerwomen	109
Hostlers	63	Watermen	4
Harness-makers	28	Wheelwrights	27
Jewellers	37	Watchmen	90
Junk shop-keepers	7	Wagon-masters	36
Laborers	5,501	Weavers	1
Lawyers	41		
Livery-stable keepers	36		
Mechanics	53		26,478

THE JAIL IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

NOVEMBER 1, 1865.

In accordance with an act of Congress requiring the warden of the jail to make an annual report to the Secretary of the Interior, I have the honor to submit the following:

On the 12th of August, 1865, I entered upon the discharge of my duties as warden of the jail. I found it to be in a very dilapidated condition, and very insecure for the class of desperate characters confined therein. With all the care and watchfulness exercised in guarding the prisoners, still it is of frequent occurrence that they are detected in cutting holes through the walls to make their escape. I have found it necessary to iron-clad three of the cells, and otherwise to improve the building, to make it more secure.

There are in the building 22 cells 8 feet by 10, and 10 rooms large enough to accommodate about six persons in each. The jail, when built, was intended to accommodate about 100 prisoners. At times the number has been as large as 300, and these had to be crowded into cells and rooms intended to accommodate but 100.

On account of the structure of the jail little or no ventilation is had, and in warm weather particularly the air is so obnoxious that sickness is frequently the result. The rooms being all occupied and frequently crowded, we have no place to which we can remove the sick and use as a hospital. It is very important that a hospital department should be connected with the prison, that the sick may have that attention and pure air which they need.

The provisions for the jail, I believe, are as good as are furnished in any other prison elsewhere. The rations consist of mackerel, with wheat bread and coffee, for breakfast; beef and corn bread for dinner. Salt fish, bacon, beans, potatoes and soup are also served them on different days, while the sick have rice, tea, molasses, and good wheat bread.

In regard to the discipline of the prison, it is as good as can be expected. I have been much aided in this respect by some of the officers of the jail, who have had much experience in prison matters. I am opposed to cruel punishment of prisoners, believing that kindness and firmness on the part of the officers will have the desired effect of maintaining good order. Instead of punishments which have heretofore been inflicted upon prisoners for a violation of the rules of the jail, I have had five new cells constructed out of recesses, and those who are refractory are placed in solitary confinement in these cells for a punishment. This plan works well.

An improvement within the past year is the construction of a sewer in the yard, which carries off all the offal and waste water. With a plentiful supply of Potomac water, we are able to keep the yards and building in a tolerably clean condition.

When I took charge of the jail the number of prisoners was 149. Since then the number has increased to nearly 300. At present, November 1, we have 227.

The following is the number of commitments, offences for which committed, character of the prisoners, number of sick, &c.:

Number of commitments from August 12 to November 1, 1865, 537.	
For Murder	5
Robbery	51
Larceny	275
Burglary	22
Assault with intent to kill	23
Assault and battery	33
Attempt at rape	4
Horse-stealing	62
Garroting	6
Keeping bawdy-house	6
Security for peace	20
Forgery	2
Passing counterfeit money	6
Pickpockets	5
Poisoning	4
Fraud	2
Bastardy	2
Selling liquor to soldiers	6
Riding over and killing	3
Total	537
Number of convictions for penitentiary since August 12, 1865..... 45	
Sent to jail (sentenced)	
Of all the prisoners committed to jail since August 12, 1865—	
White men	283
White women	25
White boys under 16 years of age	2
Colored men	179
Colored women	44
Colored boys under 16 years of age	4
Total	537
Number sent to Insane Asylum since August 12..... 2	
Number sent to House of Refuge, Baltimore, since August 12..... 1	
Average number of sick per day	
Number of prisoners escaped jail since August 12..... 8	
Number of prisoners recaptured since August 12..... 6	
In regard to the expenses of the jail, I would say, that as no books were kept at the jail by my predecessor, and as all the bills contracted under his administration have not been rendered, I am only able to give the expenses since I entered upon the discharge of my duties as warden, which are as follows:	
For repairs on jail from August 12 to November 1, 1865	\$1,548 97
Cost of subsisting prisoners	2,481 93
Fuel, medicines, bedding, clothing, &c.....	2,010 60
Transportation of prisoners to Albany, Asylum, and House of Refuge	1,063 98
Pay of officers and laborers at jail	2,710 80
Total	9,816 28

In regard to the boys and girls under 16 years of age, I am happy to state that arrangements are being perfected for a temporary house of refuge, to which these unfortunate children will be removed. The whole number of these cases now under my charge, including those who have not had a trial, is 5 white boys, 10 colored boys, and 3 colored girls—total, 18.

In conclusion, I would most respectfully call your attention to the importance of a new jail. As I have shown that from two to three hundred prisoners are confined in a building the capacity of which was never intended for more than one hundred; also, that the ventilation of the cells is so very insufficient that great danger of disease exists; also, that a hospital department is much needed for the comfort of the sick; also, the insecure and unsafe condition of the jail for the class of desperate characters confined therein, may we not hope that Congress will be pleased to make an appropriation for a new jail and house of refuge?

In connexion with this subject, I would state that I have recently examined a design for a new jail and house of refuge, by Charles F. Anderson, esq., which I would highly recommend. Some of the important features of his design are the complete ventilation of the cells, the excellent arrangement for watching the prisoners, the security of the buildings, the hospital department, and last, but not least, the chapel, where prisoners can have the benefit of religious instruction on the Sabbath. The location on government reservation 13, near the alms-house, will, I am satisfied, be the best location that can be selected. One of the greatest improvements for this city of magnificent distances would be the removal of the unsightly and dreary looking building called the jail, and a new prison constructed in the suburbs of the city which would be in harmony with our beautiful public edifices. Washington, the capital of the nation, should have such prisons as would be models for all our principal cities.

Respectfully submitted.

T. B. BROWN, *Warden.*

Hon. JAMES HARLAN, *Secretary of the Interior.*

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Washington City, D. C., November, 1865.

SIR: Presuming upon your well-known interest in whatever concerns this city, as well as your often-expressed wish to give your aid in making it worthy of being the metropolis of this great nation, and in the expectation that the several subjects herein alluded to, or such thereof as may meet your approval, may be by you communicated to Congress, I venture to suggest wherein I think its action is needed. In doing so I deem it proper that such of the several members who are not familiar with it should be informed first as to

THE RELATIONS OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

In the year 1789 the locality of the city of Washington was, through the influence of General Washington, and after much difficulty in Congress, selected as that of the national metropolis, and in the year 1800 the archives of the government were removed here from Philadelphia:

- 1st. Because of its geographical position between the north and the south.
- 2d. The access to it from the ocean.
- 3d. Its distance in the interior and towards the west.

The object of having a permanent seat of government is indicated in the Constitution, which provides that Congress shall "exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as

may, by cession of particular States and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of government of the United States."

To accomplish this object the District was ceded by the States of Maryland and Virginia, possession taken by Congress, and commissioners were appointed in 1790 by the then President, General Washington, under authority of Congress, and empowered to "survey and, by proper metes and bounds, define this territory, and to purchase or accept such quantity of land on the eastern side of the Potomac river, within such District, as the President shall deem proper for the use of the United States, and, according to such plans as the President shall approve, provide suitable buildings and accommodations for Congress, the President, and for the public officers of the government."

While a succession of hills and valleys, the site of this city was selected as the permanent seat of the government of the United States from that portion of the District of ten miles square ceded by the State of Maryland. It is the creature of Congress and the general government, for their own purposes and where they have unlimited control, can regulate and govern without the interference of the States, and is not dependent upon the will or resources of any particular portion of the Union, and can never be the subject of local interest. It is the nation's city, common to the whole country; and as a State capital is to its State, so the metropolis of the nation should be to all the States and every American a subject of pride and interest.

No policy can be more correct than that of making the metropolis of this vast republic worthy of the powerful and extended nation of which it is the focus. The economy or parsimony which would cripple its growth will be anti-national. Much has been done by previous Congresses and administrations for its improvement; much more remains to be done; and while this city has expended out of the taxes paid by its citizens large sums in opening, making, and repairing streets and sidewalks required by a sparse population scattered over a large area, and has opened and improved indiscriminately those leading to and around the public reservations and buildings belonging to the general government, enhancing the value of the nation's property, the government has spent upon streets and avenues laid out inordinately wide and to suit its own purposes and convenience, and over part of which they exercise exclusive control, comparatively little, and that little on Pennsylvania avenue and those streets and avenues around the Capitol, President's House, executive departments, and other of its own exclusive property, the improvement of which was indispensable to its convenience and promotive of its interest.

The obligation of the general government to do much towards the improvement of this city cannot be doubted. There was, if not expressed, certainly an implied contract to do so, and for which the general government received a valuable consideration.

When the city was laid out, the owners of the soil gave to the general government not only enough for the streets and avenues of such unparalleled width, but likewise every alternate building lot, and nominally sold to the government at the minimum price of £25 an acre, or \$36,099, all the large reservations on which its public buildings stand. Of the 7,134 acres of land comprising the whole area of this city, the government obtained as a free gift and without the cost of a dollar—

	Acres.
For streets and avenues.....	3,606
10,136 building lots.....	1,508
And nominally purchased.....	512
	<hr/>
	5,626
Leaving to the proprietor of the soil every alternate lot.....	1,508
	<hr/>
	7,134

The whole area of the city, exclusive of all east of Twenty-fifth street east, and of the basin at the west end of the canal, is 6,110.94 acres, or 266,192,564 square feet, divided as follows:

	Square feet.
Public reservations.....	25,189,402
Building lots.....	121,095,214
Alleys.....	7,141,105
Avenues, streets, and open spaces.....	112,767,225
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Total.....	226,192,546

	Feet.
The total length of the streets is.....	1,119,663
The total length of the avenues is.....	183,797
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Aggregate.....	1,303,460

or 227 $\frac{23}{100}$ miles.

Of the 227 $\frac{23}{100}$ miles of streets, nearly all have been opened and graded; and to pave them, with their unusual widths, especially the avenues, and keep them in repair, suggests the necessity of doing something to relieve this corporation and property owners from the very heavy tax on their resources that would be necessary.

The adoption of the plan of wide streets and avenues was by General Washington, for some practical utility, though it may not as yet have been developed, and if a way of obviating the difficulty could be found without ultimately and permanently destroying that plan, it would be a temporary relief, and, until the utility of wide streets should be developed, it would be well to avail ourselves of it. The streets running from north to south, designated by numbers, and from east to west, designated by letters, crossing each other at right angles, are cut diagonally by twenty-one avenues, bearing the names of that number of States, fifteen of which point towards the States after which they are respectively named. These avenues, leading to and from every particular place or building, connecting every part of the city, and serving as main arteries, form at their junction with the streets five circles, fourteen triangles, twelve reservations, and eleven thousand and seventy squares, the circles and triangles being intended for ornamentation with fountains and statuary, the reservations for the public buildings, and the squares for individual purposes of stores and residences. It was the conception of a grand plan of a model city, worthy of the name of its illustrious founder.

The general government and the proprietors of the soil were joint owners of all the property (land) on which the federal city is built, in the proportion of 5,626 to 1,508 acres, 5,114 acres of the government's portion having been obtained without cost, and 512 acres, though nominally purchased, were really paid for out of the moneys arising from the sale of the very alternate lots so generously given by the proprietors of the soil, with the understanding that they were given for the improvement of their joint property, and, as was the expectation of all persons, that the property so acquired by the government would, under its management, be immensely productive, enabling it to spend large sums in the improvement of the city. The government is, therefore, bound by every principle of justice to pay a portion of the expense of improving the federal city, equal to the extent of its interest, greatly more than one-half, and which was to be increased in value and be benefited by such improvements.

Of the 10,136 lots given by the proprietors for the purpose of improving the federal city, 6,411 were sold previously to the year 1802, at a time when not in

demand and there were but few bidders for them, and of the proceeds of the sale—\$642,682 62—\$330,508 08 was applied towards building the Capitol, and \$240,632 87 towards the erection of a mansion for its Chief Magistrate.

The remainder of these lots, a free gift to the general government, and, as was well understood at the time "that whatever moneys were realized therefrom would at least be expended for the benefit of that city," of the soil of which the donors and the general government were joint owners, were, with the exception of \$25,000 worth each given to Columbia and Georgetown colleges, \$10,000 each to the Washington and St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, from time to time sold and the money expended in improving the property reserved for the use of the general government, the salaries and office expenses of its own officers, the Commissioners and Superintendent of Public Buildings, and President's gardener and for manure and utensils for his garden.

Neither the donors, the original proprietors, nor the donees (the general government) at that time contemplated that the large sums of money arising therefrom should be spent otherwise than in the improvement of their joint property, and certainly no one supposed that the whole or even an equal portion of the burden of opening and keeping in repair streets, laying sidewalks, building bridges, and doing whatever might be necessary to a new and large city intended for the capital of a great nation, or indeed of subsequently maintaining and supporting it, should be borne by the citizens of Washington alone.

Upon the property reserved for the use and purposes of the nation the general government has expended in buildings and other improvements for its own exclusive use the sum of \$14,709,338 67, partly taken from the public treasury, and partly from the sale of the lots donated from private individuals, while the reservations themselves are valued at \$13,412,293 36, making the aggregate value of the nation's real property in this city at the time of the assessment, now some years since, to be \$28,121,631 45, nearly equal in value to all individual property, and which, if liable to the same burden, would yield by way of taxation a revenue to this city of \$210,912 23 annually.

This immense property of the government has at all times been free from taxation, while property of individuals has been subject to it.

Holding here more property than elsewhere in the Union, assessments upon which alike to private property have from time to time been made, the government has been subject to no imposition of the kind, and taxes collected only from individuals.

The avenues vary from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and sixty feet in width, and the streets from eighty to one hundred and forty feet, the average being ninety feet, costing more than double the amount of streets of the same length and more moderate dimensions, and as it has not grown in the usual manner, but has necessarily been created in a short time, the pressure for improvement has been burdensome to its citizens.

If, therefore, Congress would allow—and I see no reason why it should not—the property of the general government in this city to bear its equal proportion of the burden of maintaining and supporting the municipal government, of improving their own and the citizen's joint property, of supporting the great number of indigent persons attracted to the seat of government, and of educating the children of the thousands flocking here from all sections of the country, no more could or would be asked.

Charge the general government with the money realized from the sale of the lots, and which should have inured to the benefit of the city, the interest thereon, and with a rate of taxation on its vast property here as is paid by individuals, and credit it with every dollar spent and properly chargeable to the improvement of the city, it will be found that the general government is greatly debtor to the city.

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE CITY.

It was not, however, until the citizens of Washington had borne so unequal a burden for a long time, that Congress, admitting the propriety of at least spending in the improvement of the city what was realized from the sale of the lots given by the original proprietors of the soil, on the 15th day of May, 1820, by the 15th section of an act of that date, directed "that the Commissioner of Public Buildings, or other person appointed to superintend the United States disbursements in the city of Washington, shall reimburse to the corporation a just proportion of any expense which may hereafter be incurred in laying open, paving, or otherwise improving any of the streets or avenues in front of, or adjoining to, or which may pass through or between any of the public squares or reservations, which proportion shall be determined by the comparison of the length of the fronts of the said squares or reservations of the United States on any such street or avenue with the whole extent of the two sides thereof."

At this time, May 15, 1820, there remained of the lots so given by the original proprietors 3,725, all of which have been sold at greatly enhanced prices, and the money paid into the treasury, and this corporation has since then, from time to time, advanced sums of money to the general government which it is entitled under this act to have refunded, and which yet remain unpaid, as follows:

March 23, 1855. Sewer in Four-and-a-half street, in front of reservation between Missouri avenue and the canal.....	\$1,000 00
September 17, 1855. Grading and gravelling Seventeenth street, in front of President's grounds down to the canal.....	1,000 00
August 26, 1856. Paving carriage-way of Ninth street west, from B street to Pennsylvania avenue.....	2,582 16
May 27, 1857. Advanced by the corporation of Washington for the repair of the Long bridge.....	5,000 00
May 12, 1860. Trimming and gravelling I street north, from Sixth to Seventh street west.....	206 50
September 14, 1860. Enclosing Judiciary square, (under act of Congress approved March 3, 1857.).....	2,500 00
October 20, 1860. Repairing Missouri avenue, from Four-and-a-half to Sixth street west.....	200 00
April 27, 1861. Grading and gravelling G street north, from Fourth to Fifth street west.....	113 63
November 2, 1861. Sewer in Thirteenth street, in front of government space between Pennsylvania avenue and E street....	1,500 00
April 17, 1862. Improvement of Four-and-a-half street, from Missouri avenue to Maine avenue.....	244 00
May 20, 1862. Loaned to Commissioner of Public Buildings for cleaning Pennsylvania avenue.....	1,500 00
September 6, 1862. Sewer in Seventh street, in front of Northern market-house.....	1,750 00
January 1, 1863. Sewer in front of space on Tenth street, between I and New York avenue.....	800 00
March 23, 1863. Grading Twentieth street west, from Pennsylvania avenue to I street north.....	500 00
May 23, 1863. Sewer on Ninth, between I and K streets, public space.....	1,750 00
May 29, 1863. Sewer in Sixth street, in front of public space between I and K streets.....	1,500 00
July 27, 1863. Grading and gravelling I street north, from Eleventh to Twelfth street west.....	500 00

July 27, 1863. Grading and gravelling Eleventh street west, from I to K street north.....	\$500 00
August 1, 1863. Paving carriage-way of B street north, between Seventh and Ninth streets west.....	5, 135 94
September 7, 1863. Relaying gutters on Eighth street west, between I and K streets north.....	1, 211 50
October 31, 1863. Repairing F street north, from Seventh to Eighth street west.....	138 00
February 12, 1864. Improving reservation at Fifth and Sixth streets and I street and Massachusetts avenue.....	880 40
February 12, 1864. Enclosing public reservation between Eighth and Ninth, and K street and Massachusetts avenue.....	929 20
April 29, 1864. Relaying gutters in Fifth street west, between E and G street north, (Judiciary square).....	691 53
May 24, 1864. Improving and enclosing reservation at intersection of Massachusetts avenue and Tenth and Eleventh streets, July 29, 1864. Sewer in front of public space between Eighth and Ninth streets, on K street.....	1, 129 67
October 24, 1864. Grading and gravelling B street north, from Fifteenth to Seventeenth street west, in front of reservation south of President's House.....	750 00
October 24, 1864. Paving carriage-way of K street north, from Seventh to Eighth street west.....	2, 000 00
May 22, 1865. Cleaning Pennsylvania avenue May 22 and 23, 1865.....	888 08
	510 00
	<u>37, 410 61</u>

In addition to these, this corporation has spent thousands of dollars in improving from time to time the several avenues and laying flag footways across the same, which they would in equity be entitled to have again from the general government, though no special claim is made herein therefor.

Congress, by the third section of an act of May 5, 1864, entitled "An act to amend an act to incorporate the inhabitants of the city of Washington, passed May 15, 1820," directed that in all cases in which the streets, avenues, or alleys of the said city pass through or by any of the property of the United States, the Commissioner of Public Buildings shall pay to the duly authorized officer of the corporation the just proportion of the expense incurred in improving such avenue, street, or alley which said property bears to the whole cost thereof, to be ascertained in the same manner as the same is apportioned among the individual proprietors of the property improved thereby. Under this section of this act this corporation is entitled to have from the Commissioner of Public Buildings the following sums for the work done during the past summer and this fall, and for which an immediate appropriation is asked:

Fourteenth street sewer across Ohio avenue, across Pennsylvania avenue, and in front of the reservation south side of avenue in front of Franklin square, and across Vermont and Massachusetts avenues, 1,145 feet. . .	\$9, 918 00
E street north. Paving carriage-way in front of reservation south side of E street north, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets west, half of the street, 553 feet.....	2, 637 00
Seventh street sewer in front of Patent and Post Offices, also in front of government reservation and across Pennsylvania avenue and Louisiana avenue, 1,364 feet sewer.....	12, 712 00
Four-and-a-half street. Paving of Four-and-a-half street from the canal to Missouri avenue, also side footwalks, 400 feet.....	4, 910 00

Fifth street. Paving half of carriage-way in front of government reservation, also side footwalks between F and G streets, 1,330 feet.....	\$6, 926 00
F street north. Paving the carriage-way of F street north, in front of the Post and Patent Offices, 500 feet.....	3, 808 00
	<u>40, 911 00</u>

It is intended that much more shall be done during the approaching than was during the last season, and it is important that provision should be made in advance to have ready in the hands of the Commissioner of Public Buildings sufficient funds to pay the general government's proportionate part; unless this is done, delays and difficulties will arise which will necessarily impede us in improving the city.

It is impossible to approximate the sum that will be required, and I do not think I will be far wide of the mark in asking for one hundred thousand dollars.

SEWERAGE.

No subject in connexion with this city can better engage your own and the attention of Congress than the matter of its proper drainage, so essential to the health, comfort, and convenience of those, like yourself, connected with the general government, having a protracted residence among us, and of individual members of Congress, who are more or less here during their terms, as well as to the permanent resident.

Upon this subject I had the honor to transmit to you, a short time since, a very elaborate and able report of Messrs. Cluss and Kammerhueber, civil engineers, suggesting a proper mode of sewerage, involving, however, an expense which this city at present is unable to bear; and as it is just and proper that the general government should assist in accomplishing this much-desired and needed object, I would therefore ask the co-operation of the general government, and would suggest, if none better is offered, that the mode and means of efficient drainage proposed by those gentlemen be adopted, the cost to be borne equally by the general and municipal governments, and the work to be done under the supervision of a board of scientific and practical gentlemen of this city. This would effectually abate what for a long time past has been an insufferable nuisance, the filth in the canal. To this end the corporation should be empowered by Congress to levy a special tax to meet its share of the expense.

Permit me here to commend to you, and through you to the consideration of Congress, the work of draining the low grounds near the arsenal, now being done for the commandant of the post, under the supervision of Mr. William D. Wise, and suggest that, in addition to the great improvement of the property of the government in that neighborhood, it is all-important to the health of the community of Washington.

I would also suggest that the general government unite with that of the city in adopting a general system of sewerage, and particularly that the act of Congress of February 23, 1865, entitled "An act to amend an act to incorporate the inhabitants of the city of Washington, passed May 15, 1820," approved May 5, 1864, be amended so as to provide for laying the taxes therein provided for, for sewerage, upon the property benefited by the sewer, instead of, as now, limiting it to the property bordering on the sewer; as it now bears with unusual hardship upon the property bordering upon the improvement, while property equally benefited, though not bordering on it, escapes at comparatively small cost.

STREETS AND AVENUES.

I would direct your attention to the necessity of opening and otherwise improving the avenues of this city. These thoroughfares are the property of the general government, exclusively under its control and jurisdiction, and should be improved, at least that part of them already built upon, by paving the carriage-ways in the same way as that adopted by the city in paving the streets. This could be done by the corporation availing itself of the power granted by the act of Congress of February 25, 1865, and levying upon the property bordering thereon a tax, as provided in that act.

To exercise this power, however, would prove exceedingly onerous to the individual property owners, in consequence of the great width of those thoroughfares, as well as to this corporation, which has to bear the expense of so improving all the intersections. To obviate this difficulty, I would suggest for your consideration the lessening the width of such of the avenues as will admit of its being done without injury to private property, by laying outside of the pavement line, on each side, a sodded course, to be flanked with a line of curbing and planted with ornamental shade trees, as is common in the cities of Buffalo and Cleveland.

This would so lessen the width of the carriage-way of the avenues and contract the space necessary to be paved as to render paving them, if not less, certainly not more expensive to the property owners thereon than to those on the streets.

Again, if this be not done, I would suggest as an alternative that the general government undertake and cause to be paved the carriage-way of all the avenues, while the city undertakes and will pave the carriage-way of the streets, paying therefor not as at present, by a tax on the property, but out of its general fund. This, I think, would equalize the burden between the general and municipal governments, relieve the individual property owners from an extraordinarily heavy burden of taxation, and greatly facilitate the paving of the whole city.

In this connexion, I would ask that Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Virginia avenues be opened and improved; that the carriage-way of Pennsylvania avenue west of the Capitol be repaved with the Belgian pavement, and that portion of it east of the Capitol be reduced to its proper grade and the footwalks on both sides be laid down at least to Eleventh street east, and the carriage-way of Maryland avenue west of the Capitol be paved to the Potomac river.

MARKET-HOUSE.

Some two years since, this corporation, deeming its right to do so indisputable, attempted to abate the nuisance created by the dilapidated and unsightly buildings on Pennsylvania avenue known as the Centre market, by the erection on the same site of a new and ornamental building; when, at the instance of some persons, and with a view to prevent the occupancy of that reservation for such purpose, the House of Representatives passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the Committee for the District of Columbia be instructed to inquire into and report what legislation is necessary, and what further public officers are needed, to prevent or abate the obstructions of the streets of the city of Washington, as prescribed by the original plan; and particularly by what authority of law Eighth street west is obstructed so as to prevent sight of the Smithsonian grounds, and proper ventilation of that street; also, by what authority of law North B street is used for building purposes; also, by what law or regulation the streets leading toward the public mall are trencched upon by any structures whatever, preventing an uninterrupted view of the grounds and that ventilation which is a necessity to the health of the city; and also, whether the rental of the public reservation between Tenth and Twelfth streets west, near North B street, accrues to the government or to the corporation of Washington."

The object of this resolution was, plainly, to defeat the attempt of this corporation to replace by new, ornamental and sightly buildings the old and dilapidated ones occupying the reservation on Pennsylvania avenue and used as a market-house by this corporation.

The authority to occupy with a building of that character, and for the purpose for which it has so long been used, the public space or reservation on which the Centre Market now stands, is identical with and precisely the same as that to occupy with the buildings and for the purposes for which they are used the spaces or reservations on which now stand the Capitol, President's House, the State, Treasury, War, and Navy Departments, and Patent Office; and, further, while the Capitol obstructs Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey avenues, North, South and East Capitol streets; the President's House Pennsylvania and New York avenues, F and G streets; the City Hall Indiana and Louisiana avenues, E and F streets, and the Patent Office this same Eighth street, neither the old Centre market nor the contemplated new building obstructs any avenue or street whatever.

This city was laid out under the authority of Congress and in compliance with the orders and directions of General Washington, which are of record in your office, wherein Thomas Beall and John M. Gant, the trustees to whom the proprietors of the soil had conveyed their lands for the purpose of a federal city, were ordered and directed to convey to the commissioners appointed under the act of Congress of July 16, 1790, entitled "An act to establish a temporary and permanent seat of government of the United States and their successors, for the use of the United States forever," all the streets and such of the land, squares, parcels, or lots, as the President should deem proper for the use of the United States.

Certain squares, parcels, and lots, containing in the aggregate 541 acres, 1 rood, and 2 perches, and numbered from 1 to 17, and marked and laid down, and as clearly and precisely delineated on the original plan of the city as any private lot, were deemed proper for the use of the United States, and were set apart and dedicated to public uses by General Washington, as follows:

No. of appropriation.	Designations, &c.	Acres.	Roods.	Perches.
1	The President's square	83	1	22
2	The Capitol square and mall east of 15th street west	227	0	8
3	The park south of Tiber creek and west of 15th street west	29	3	9
4	The University square, south of squares Nos. 33 and 34, to Potomac river	19	1	2
5	The fort at Turkey Buzzard or Greenleaf's Point	23	2	31
6	The West market, on Potomac, (covered with water.)			
7	The Centre market	2	3	33
8	The National Church square	4	0	25
9	The Judiciary square	19	1	27
10	North of Pennsylvania avenue, between 3d and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ streets west	6	0	31
11	Between north B and C streets and 2d and 3d streets west	3	2	34
12	North of Pennsylvania avenue, between 2d and 3d streets west	1	1	4
13	The Hospital square	77	0	26
14	The Navy Yard square	12	3	15
15	Eastern Branch Market square	1	0	21
16	do do	1	0	23
17	The Town House square	23	1	18
	Total	541	1	29

This original plan, with its seventeen appropriations or reservations distinctly marked out, laid down, and delineated, and the purpose for which they were severally intended and set apart publicly declared, was laid before the proprietors before they agreed or did make to the general government grants of the soil on which this city stands, and the commissioners who sold, and the parties who bought, did so under the full persuasion that these appropriations were permanent and unalterable.

The clause of these orders and directions of General Washington, assigning appropriation (reservation) No. 7, ignores 8th street west, south of the north line of Louisiana avenue, and gives for Centre market square the whole of the area running west from 7th to 9th streets, and running north from Canal street to Pennsylvania and Louisiana avenues, in these words: "The public appropriation beginning at the north side of Canal street and the east side of 9th street west, thence north to the south side of an avenue (Louisiana) drawn in front of square numbered three hundred and eighty-two, (382,) thence north-easterly with the south side of said avenue (Louisiana) until it intersects Pennsylvania avenue, thence with the south side of said avenue (Pennsylvania) until it intersects the west side of 7th street west, thence with the west side of said street until it intersects Canal street, thence with the north side of Canal street to the beginning."

All these seventeen appropriations intended for public buildings and uses, with few exceptions, intersect and obstruct streets, and are as minutely described in the original plan of the city, indorsed by both Presidents Washington and Adams, as any private lot, the object being, I presume, to break the monotony of streets miles in length by imposing public edifices at the most important intersections.

Subsequently the House of Representatives, on the 25th day of June, 1864, passed another resolution in these words following, and which was commonly understood to be intended to put an end to and prevent the erection of the new market-house; and at the instance of your predecessor, who so understood it, the further prosecution of the work was stopped:

"JOINT RESOLUTION authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to reclaim and preserve certain property of the United States.

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is hereby, authorized and directed to prevent the improper appropriation or occupation of any of the public streets, avenues, squares, or reservations in the city of Washington belonging to the United States, and to reclaim the same if unlawfully appropriated, and particularly to prevent the erection of any permanent building upon any property reserved to or for the use of the United States, unless plainly authorized by act of Congress, and to report to the Congress, at the commencement of its next session, his proceedings in the premises, together with a full statement of all such property, and how and by what authority the same is occupied or claimed. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to interfere with the temporary and proper occupation of any portion of such property, by lawful authority, for the legitimate purposes of the United States."

Though it might have been the object and intention of the member who offered that "joint resolution" to prevent the erection, by this corporation, of a new building on the site of the present Centre market, no particular mention or allusion is made to it, and it is not reasonable to suppose that, if advised of such object and intention, Congress would, in so hurried a manner, without information on the subject, and without providing something in lieu thereof, have adopted a measure so materially affecting the comfort and convenience of the

community of Washington and the interests of this corporation, and so detrimental to private rights.

The resolution is general in its terms, authorizing and directing the Secretary of the Interior "to prevent the improper appropriation or occupation of any of the public streets, avenues, squares, or reservations, in the city of Washington, belonging to the United States, to reclaim the same if unlawfully appropriated, and particularly to prevent the erection of any permanent building upon any property reserved to or for the use of the United States, unless plainly authorized by act of Congress," with a proviso that "nothing therein contained shall be construed, however, to interfere with the temporary and proper occupation of any portion of such property, by lawful authority, for the legitimate purposes of the United States."

Taking this joint resolution as it is intended, the inquiry will be, by what authority this corporation occupies and uses that space for market purposes; and though the right so to occupy it might be readily presumed from the length of time it has been so used, the authority of this corporation will, I think, on examination, be found to have emanated from Congress itself.

The act of Congress establishing a temporary and permanent seat of government of the United States, (July 16, 1790,) and an act to amend the same, (March 3, 1791,) authorized the President of the United States to appoint three commissioners, any two of whom were empowered, under the direction of the President, to survey and by proper metes and bounds to define and limit a district of territory, and with power to purchase or accept such quantity of land on the eastern side of the Potomac as the President should deem proper, for the use of the United States and according to such plan as the President shall approve, to provide suitable buildings for the accommodation of Congress, for the President, and the public officers of the government of the United States."

By authority of these acts of Congress, and under the direction of the President and these commissioners, Major Charles Peter l'Enfant laid out a plan of the seat of the federal government, and the proprietors of the soil, on the 29th of June, 1791, executed a deed conveying all their lands to Thomas Beall, of George, and John M. Gant, upon the special trusts to convey all the said lands, or such part thereof as may be thought necessary and proper, to be laid out as a federal city, with such streets, squares, parcels, and lots as the President of the United States and the commissioners for the time being appointed by virtue of the act of Congress entitled "An act for establishing a temporary and permanent seat of government of the United States," and their successors for the use of the United States forever, all the said land, streets, and such of the said squares, parcels and lots, as the President shall deem proper, for the use of the United States; and that as to the residue of the said lots into which the said lands shall have been laid off and divided, a fair and equal division of them shall be made, one-half to the original proprietors, the other moiety "to be sold at such times and on such terms and conditions as the President of the United States shall direct, and the produce of the sales of said lots applied in the first place to the payment in money for so much of the land as might be appropriated to the use of the United States, at the rate of £25 per acre, not accounting streets as part thereof, this being so paid or in any other manner satisfied;" then the produce of the same sales, or what may remain thereof as aforesaid in money or securities of any kind, shall be paid, assigned, transferred, and delivered over to the President for the time being as a grant of money to be applied for the purposes and according to the act of Congress aforesaid, and in trust further that the proprietor of the soil, his heirs and assigns, shall and may continue his occupation of the land sold at his and their will and pleasure until the same shall be occupied under the said appropriations for the use of the United States as aforesaid or by purchasers.

On the 19th of December, 1791, the legislature of Maryland passed an act

"concerning the Territory of Columbia and the city of Washington," subjecting the lands of all other persons in the city to the same terms and conditions as those conveyed by Notley Young and others in trust to Beall and Gant.

These acts of Congress, the act of the legislature of Maryland, with the deeds of trusts from the proprietors of the soil, are the sources of authority under which the President and commissioners acted in laying out the city.

The plan of Major l'Enfant, with slight alterations made by Mr. Ellicott, was approved by General Washington, and the division of lots between the government and the proprietors of the soil as provided for in the deeds of trusts made in accordance therewith.

In the original plan were many spaces reserved to and for the use of the United States. The objects for which they were reserved and the purposes to which they were to be devoted, with the exception of those for the Capitol and President's House, were not at that time indicated by any official act, of either the President or the commissioners.

The designation of the others was held under advisement; and on the 30th of June, 1794, the commissioners directed their surveyor, Mr. Nicholas King, "to lay out the market squares;" and on the 18th of October, in the same year, in a letter addressed to Mr. David Burns, a proprietor of ground in that neighborhood, they say, "The ground taken for public use about the market square is not yet entirely ascertained. Mr. Johnson has directions to furnish you with the quantity of your ground appropriated by the commissioners for the market and about it."

Congress having authorized the commissioners to borrow a sum of money not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars to provide suitable buildings for its own, the accommodation of the President, and the public officers of the government of the United States, and all the lots vested in the commissioners or the trustees in any manner for the use of the United States then remaining unsold, except those appropriated to public use, being made chargeable with the repayment of this money, (act May 6, 1796,) rendered it necessary that such of the spaces as were intended and reserved for public use should be designated to except them from the terms of the act to prevent their sale.

It was not till then that General Washington gave a definite shape to his well-matured reflection on the destinations of the portions of ground in the city of Washington reserved to and for the use of the United States.

On the 2d of March, 1797, just two days before he vacated the presidential chair, by virtue of the authority vested in him and the commissioners by acts of Congress and the deed of trust, in order to except them from the terms of the act of May 6, 1796, and to prevent a sale of them under this act, adopting the language of that act and defining them severally by metes and bounds, he appropriated seventeen of those pieces or portions of ground so reserved to and for the use of the United States, as before particularly enumerated and mentioned, for the uses, purposes and interests before stated, among which was this appropriation for the Centre market.

These appropriations so made by General Washington, and the uses and purposes to which they were dedicated, were subsequently, in 1798, recognized by Congress when authorizing a loan of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to the commissioners from the public treasury, and charging with its repayment "all the lots vested in the commissioners or the trustees for the United States and then remaining unsold, excepting those set apart for public uses." (Act April 18, 1798.)

And again, in 1800, when, "for the greater convenience of the members of both houses of Congress in attending to their duty in the said city of Washington, and the greater facility of communication between the various offices and departments of the government," the commissioners were authorized to borrow money for the purpose of making footways in suitable places and directions,

and all the lots in the city of Washington vested in the commissioners or the trustees in the city of Washington, in any manner, for the use of the United States and then remaining unsold, *except those set apart for public purposes*, made chargeable with its repayment.

The city councils deeming the appropriation of that piece or portion of the property so reserved to and for the use of the United States by General Washington, and its recognition by President Adams and Congress, for the purpose of a market, sufficient, subsequently, on the 6th of October, 1802, passed an act establishing a market on the space south of Pennsylvania avenue, between Seventh and Ninth streets west, to be known by the name of the Centre market.

This act was approved by the then mayor, (Mr. Brent,) an appointee of the President, and the corporation has continued in possession of that space and used it as appropriated by General Washington, and with the consent and approbation of every successive President of the United States, for a market and market purposes from that time, a period of sixty-two years.

The official plat-book, showing the division of lots between the general government and the proprietors of the soil, in accordance with the deeds of trust and the appropriations of these several pieces or portions of the property so reserved to and for the use of the United States to specific purposes, begun under the direction of President Washington by Mr. Nicholas King, the city surveyor, furnished in 1803 and approved by President Adams, and now in the office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, is the only official record in existence, and transcripts from which, signed by the surveyor of the city of Washington, were made evidence by act of Congress, (act January 12, 1809.)

Just after the first act of incorporation of the city of Washington (May 3, 1802,) and the passage of the act by its councils to establish a market on this space, (October 6, 1802,) Mr. Nicholas King, who had been intrusted by General Washington with making the official plat-book, on the 25th September, 1803, in a letter to President Adams, in speaking of these appropriations and the uses to which they were to be applied, says: "In the sales that had been made, both by the commissioners and the original proprietors, the designations of these places have been spoken of as inducements to purchasers, many of whom have selected their property accordingly. The extensive appropriations for the public buildings of the United States and for the city for public walks, markets, and other important purposes, ought to be held agreeably to the intention of the donors, and the views with which they were selected, in order to acquire and secure the public confidence so necessary to our growth and prosperity."

These views were approved by President Adams and his successors in office to the present time, and Congress itself, in 1812, 1820, 1824, 1826, and 1848, sanctioned them when it provided "that the corporation shall have power and authority to occupy and improve for public purposes, by and with the consent of the President of the United States, any part of the public and open spaces and squares in said city not interfering with any private rights." And again, on the 31st of May, 1832, by section eleven of an act of that date was the right of this corporation to occupy the particular reservation in question in the way and for the purposes proposed expressly recognized by Congress. Likewise Congress (act May 9, 1860) recognized the claim of this corporation to use that space for the purpose of a market, and ceded to it that property for such purpose so long as the market-house should be continued thereon, and authorized the city of Washington to borrow a sum not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars, at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent., coupled, however, with a condition that a new market-house, according to a certain plan, should be built thereon within the period of two years.

Thus it appears very clearly that up to a very recent period the executive and legislative authority of the country has recognized the right of this city to

occupy this public space as a public market, and it has so occupied it under a claim of right for more than sixty years. Nor is there any act of the Executive or any proceeding in Congress to be found inconsistent with this lawful claim; for although at first the act of the 9th of May, 1860, may seem to be inconsistent with such a claim, on examination it will be found not to be so.

By the amended charter of 1848, section ten, the corporate authorities of this city are expressly prohibited from increasing its funded debt, except in the manner prescribed in that section. In the year 1860 they desired to erect a new market-house on the site of the old Centre market, and to enable them to do so applied to Congress for power to create a debt not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent. On this application Congress passed the act in question. The first sentence of the first section of this act recognizes the fact that this space has been heretofore and is still occupied for the Centre market, and ceded it to the corporation on condition that they should, within two years thereafter, erect thereon a market-house. The third sentence authorizes the corporation to create a debt not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars to erect said market-house. And the third section provides that in case it shall take effect it shall be construed to vest the title to the property in the corporation, so long as the said market-house shall be continued thereon and used for the purposes aforesaid, and no longer.

We are to look for the meaning of the legislature to the common-sense construction of the words employed, the remedy they intended to provide, and to the external facts, to aid us in discovering the mischief intended to be remedied. If, as has been shown, this plot of ground was originally set apart as a place for a market-house by General Washington, under the powers vested in him under the deeds of trust from the proprietors of the soil, the acts of Congress, and the Maryland legislature, and has been uninterruptedly, for the space of sixty years, used and occupied by the corporation of Washington, with full knowledge of the executive and legislative authorities, although the title to the land still remained in the United States, and this was no more than a permissive occupation at the will of the government, it cannot be doubted that until Congress legislated on the subject the city was justified in treating the property as rightfully devoted to their use.

They had not power under this charter to increase the funded debt, so as to enable them to build such a market-house as would satisfy the public demand and gratify the public taste, and claiming the right still to occupy the ground, but desiring to remove all possible doubt as to the permanency of that right, they applied for a cession of the ground, and for power to raise money for the contemplated improvement. In this there was no abandonment of a right, any more than a man who has an equitable estate, or an easement, abandons his claim when he applies for and receives a quit-claim of the legal title outstanding in another, nor does a just criticism of the words of the act lead to any other conclusion. The extent to which they go is that Congress secures to the corporation the use of the ground already occupied by the corporation, if the building contemplated in the act shall be constructed within the time limited therein, so long as the building shall be used as a market-house. The failure of the corporation to satisfy the condition, occasioned by the extraordinary condition of the country and the extraordinary state of things, leaves the matter precisely where it stood before, and the respective parties unaffected by it.

The resolution to which I have called your attention required your predecessor "to reclaim such public grounds as are unlawfully appropriated, and to prevent the erection of any permanent building upon any property reserved to the use of the United States unless plainly authorized by act of Congress." Unless the word plainly in this resolution is to be read "expressly," or by some equivalent term, I beg leave to say the resolution "plainly" did not prohibit or authorize your predecessor to prevent the erection of the contemplated

market-house. The covenant and agreement in the deeds of trusts from the proprietors of the soil "*that the grantor and his heirs and assigns should and might continue in his possession and occupation of their lands at their will and pleasure, until they shall be occupied, under the said appropriations, for the use of the United States, or by purchasers; and when any lots or parcels shall be occupied by purchase or appropriation as aforesaid, then and not till then should the grantor relinquish his occupation thereof,*" the early legislation on this subject, the distinct appropriation of this parcel of ground for a Centre market, and the uninterrupted occupation of it by this corporation for so many years, all show the understanding of the respective parties, that when General Washington set it apart for a Centre market, it was intended that the corporate authorities of the city, then in contemplation, when they should come into being, should have the use of it for a Centre market. It is not possible to conceive that either the President, or the trustees, or Congress, were to build and manage a market-house, and it was then, as now, emphatically a part of the powers held by municipal corporations.

That General Washington, under the express legislation of Congress already referred to, had power so to set apart, designate, and appropriate this specific reservation, can admit of no rational doubt. That he did so set it apart is equally certain. We have, then, the act of Congress which "plainly" authorized the President to set apart this reservation for the purposes of a market, the act of the President executing the power so vested in him, and the acts of this corporation from time to time improving the ground and erecting the buildings thereon, and it can scarcely be contended that under this resolution you are required to prevent them from pulling down those old, unsightly, and dilapidated buildings, thus abating a nuisance already borne too long by this community, and erecting new and fitting ones in their place.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The matter of public schools is one that reaches the whole community, and in which the municipal authorities have manifested the greatest care and interest.

With the greatest liberality on the part of the city councils, and a willingness on the part of the citizens to bear taxation for this purpose, it is impossible, as yet, to provide for the wants of the community in this respect. Hundreds in the employment of the general government who have no interest in the community further than connected with the general government and as temporary residents, and who do not contribute a cent to their support, avail themselves of the means of education afforded by the corporation for their children; many of this class would gladly contribute something towards the fostering of this institution, and those who would not should be compelled. The only way to reach them is for Congress to empower this corporation to levy a special capitation tax on all male residents over twenty-one years, for the purposes of public education. The grant of such power would, I am certain, be not abused by the corporation, and would not be objectionable.

In this connexion, I would point out, with a view of having it remedied, the injustice done, doubtless hurriedly and without being advised, by the action of Congress in altering the law in force in this District in relation to the education of colored children.

Under former provisions of law, (act of May 20, 1862, section 1,) the propriety of which is admitted by all, this corporation set apart from the taxes on real and personal property owned by colored persons in this city, for the purpose of educating colored children, the same proportionate part as was set apart from the taxes paid by white persons for the purpose of educating white children. Congress, however, at its last session (act of June 25, 1864, section 18) repealed this equitable provision, and directed that the corporate authorities

of the cities of Georgetown and Washington thereafter "set apart from the whole fund received by them from all sources applicable under existing provisions of law to purposes of public education, such a proportionate part thereof for the education of colored children as the number of colored children in the respective cities, between the ages of six and seventeen years, bears to the whole number of children thereof." Under my construction of this section of this last act of Congress, the trustees of colored schools of this city are entitled to receive from this corporation for the purpose of educating colored children an amount more than twice as much as the whole aggregate of taxes paid by all the colored persons of this city; while under the construction put upon it by the trustees of colored schools, which they claim, they would be entitled to receive an amount more than four times greater than the whole aggregate of taxes paid by colored persons. Whilst the corporate authorities of Washington have been ever ready and willing to do all that can, with propriety and justice, be required of them to meliorate and amend the condition of the colored population of this city, and provide for their intellectual culture and improvement, it is reluctant to do this at so inordinate a cost to the white taxpayer.

Whilst Congress has been liberal, and granted large sums and tracts of the public lands to several of the States and Territories, for the purposes of public education, it has not as yet given to this city, from which it obtained so much, a dollar, and has given away, without consideration, valuable franchises—the inherent right and property of this city—which would have yielded sufficient to support and maintain all its public schools.

In this connexion I would ask, that whenever, hereafter, any grant by way of a franchise is made of any privilege in this city, it be conditioned on obtaining the consent of the city authorities thereto.

In this way, would not only the city be protected, but a revenue legitimately derived which would materially assist in fostering our public schools.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The city has, at considerable expense, established a paid fire department with the use of steam fire-engines, as well as erected a fire-alarm telegraph; your predecessor, at my request, granting the corporation for this department the use of certain buildings, the property of the general government, erected as engine-houses.

These buildings are inadequate for the purposes of the fire department as at present organized, and this corporation would, if the possession was guaranteed for a length of time sufficient to warrant the expense, tear them down and erect on their sites structures better adapted to the purposes. I would therefore ask of Congress to grant to this city, so long as they may be used for the purposes of a fire department, the lots of ground on which stand the Columbia, Union and Franklin engine-houses.

I must, in conclusion, apologize for the length of this communication, necessary, however, on account of the importance to this community of obtaining the early action of Congress, in some way or another, on every matter and thing therein mentioned.

I am, very respectfully,

RICHARD WALLACH, *Mayor.*

Hon. JAMES HARLAN,

Secretary of the Interior.

REPORT
OF
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,
1865.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, November 22, 1865.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The military appropriations by the last Congress amounted to the sum of five hundred and sixteen millions two hundred and forty thousand one hundred and thirty-one dollars and seventy cents, (\$516,240,131 70.) The military estimates for the next fiscal year, after careful revision, amount to thirty-three millions eight hundred and fourteen thousand four hundred and sixty-one dollars and eighty-three cents, (\$33,814,461 83.) The national military force on the first of May, 1865, numbered one million five hundred and sixteen men. It is proposed to reduce the military establishment to fifty thousand troops, and over eight hundred thousand have already been mustered out of service. What has occasioned this reduction of force and expenditure in the War Department it is the purpose of this report to explain.

At the commencement of the last session of Congress much had been accomplished towards suppressing the rebellion and restoring federal authority over the insurgent States. But the rebels still held Richmond as the capital of their so-called confederate government, and the semblance of State government existed in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas, while a strong military force occupied a considerable portion of Arkansas and Louisiana. Their principal army, under its favorite commander, General Lee, defended with undaunted front impregnable positions around Petersburg and Richmond. Another army, under General Hood, was moving north, with purpose to invade Tennessee and Kentucky. West of the Mississippi, a large force, under General Kirby Smith, threatened Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri. The chief seaports of the rebel States—Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, and Mobile—were strongly garrisoned and fortified, and our blockading squadrons were unable to prevent trade and supplies reaching the enemy. Pirate steamers, built in foreign ports for rebel cruisers, armed, manned, equipped and supplied by foreign capital, roamed the high seas, burning our ships and destroying our commerce. Marauders, hired by the rebel government and harbored on our northern frontier, were setting on foot piratical expeditions against our commerce on the lakes, planning to burn and plunder