File No. 495.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MATOR'S OFFICE,
BALTIMORE.

Baltimore, December 5, 1903.

Hon. Wm. Cabell Bruce, City Solicitor.
My dear Sir:-

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His Honor requests your opinion as to legality, on the accompanying Resolution, requesting the next Legislature to pass an Act merging the ground rents on city property into the name of the Mayor and City Council, and providing that payment of the rentals shall cease.

Yours, very truly,

(Signed) Harry W. Redgers,
Mayor's Secretary.

File No. 495.

Dear Sir:-

OPINION.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

Baltimore, December 5, 1903.

Hon. Robert M. McLane,
Mayor of Baltimore.

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Referring to your favor of the 5th inst., relating to the resolution of the City Council, requesting the next legislature to pass an act, merging the ground rents on City property, which have been, from time to time, purchased with sinking fund monies, and kept alive for the benefit of the sinking fund, I beg leave to say that I cannot advise you to sign it. The proposed bill would, in my opinion, be effective to work the merger intended; but that part of it, which provides that the Finance Commissioners shall write off from the books of account of said sinking fund the yalue of such ground rents on City property would, in my opinion, in its tendency, so far as such ground rents had been purchased with the proceeds of special tax levies, provided for in ordinances creating special loans, be obnoxious to the clause of the