

## THE CITY HALL MATTER

### A CLEAR VIEW OF THE CITY DEBT— ALLEGED CORRUPTIONS, ETC.

In respect to the new City Hall now in progress, for full details the committee visited the office of Mr. Frederick, architect, who exhibited and explained the details and designs of his plan for a new City Hall, which has been approved and adopted by the commissioners charged with the erection of the building. The report says:

The design contemplates a building of great beauty of style and proportions, and of imposing magnificence combined with durability and ample accommodations for the present and growing wants of the city. It is designed to cover the square bounded by Holliday, Fayette, North and Lexington streets, and is two hundred and thirty-one feet by one hundred and fifty feet from Holliday to North street. The design contemplates a building three stories high, with interior courts, a central and spacious rotunda, with dome two hundred and thirty-four feet high, with a large number of conveniently arranged apartments, adapted to every present and anticipated want, with stairways and corridors appropriate and in full proportion to the interior arrangements. The outer walls are designed to be faced with well selected and durable white marble, skillfully wrought, while iron trusses and groins of masonry support the floors, and will give great firmness and durability, as well as much security against fire.

The committee are free to say that if the financial condition of the city justified the expenditure, the building contemplated is appropriate, and such as is required by the wants of a city of increasing numbers and wealth. But when we consider the magnitude of the city debt, and the consequent burthens of taxation weighing down the industry of our people and paralyzing their energies, and that, too, when great financial troubles are impending, and the substance of our people is wasting away and values changing, however, gratifying it might be to our feelings and our city pride to have such a hall, we are admonished that this is not the time to embark in such expensive enterprise. The existing corporate debt of Baltimore city, gathered from information obtained from the city comptroller, appears to be as follows: