

Baltimore forever second only in importance to New York amongst the seaports of this country. Our geographical position makes ours the natural harbor for the foreign trade of more than two-thirds of the States south and west of us. Within the past two years an enormous quantity of agricultural products from the west has been thrust upon us almost unbidden. Business men in the interior are seeking new connections, and they naturally look to us as their proper ally, for we are nearer than any other large market to them, and our facilities are in some respects superior. The owners of foreign steamship lines have sent their vessels here at regular intervals, and each one has been promptly furnished with freight. This, too, while some other cities are struggling hard to establish similar lines with their own money.

The day of small sailing vessels for ocean service seems to be past, and three thousand ton steamships are superseding them. In order to accommodate this new trade, the ship-channel in the Patapsco river must be materially improved, or all our late new business must be profitless to our city. We ask you to authorize the City Council of Baltimore to contribute five hundred thousand dollars to the furtherance of this object, in order that the largest class of vessels may find an easy passage to and from this port when laden to their full capacity. This done, it will require no wild fancy to predict that the population of Baltimore will have doubled itself fifteen years hence. If our merchants are now true to themselves and not faithless to their children, the wealth and importance of the Baltimore, *that is to be*, will far eclipse the present Baltimore. As merchants, appreciating the necessity of entering upon the march of improvement, and moving steadily onward with it, and knowing that much of this new pecuniary burden must fall upon the shoulders of members of this Association, we respectfully ask your favorable consideration of the following resolution, which was passed by our Board of Directors with only one dissenting voice:

*Resolved by the President and Directors of the Baltimore Corn and Flour Exchange, That the honorable members of the Legislature of Maryland, and especially the members from this city, be and are hereby requested earnestly to use their best efforts in having passed an enactment or law, authorizing the City Council of Baltimore to appropriate five hundred thousand dollars for repairing and otherwise improving the ship channel of Patapsco river.*

All of which is respectfully submitted,

[Signed,]

WM. S. YOUNG, Prest.

WM. F. WHEATLY, Sec.