

MAYOR'S OFFICE, CITY HALL,

Baltimore, March 17th, 1874.

*To the Honorable,**The General Assembly of Maryland:*

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to inclose herewith the following copy of a Preamble and Resolutions of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, in reference to the bill pending in your Honorable Body in connection with the City Passenger Railway Corporations and the City of Baltimore, approved March 17, 1874.

With high regard,

Your ob't. servant,

JOSHUA VANSANT,

Mayor. .

Resolutions of Protest against the passage of any Act by the General Assembly of Maryland, assuming to absolve the Railway Corporations from the performance of the provisions of their charters :

WHEREAS, The Railway Companies of Baltimore City are now before the General Assembly, asking an abatement of a large portion of the Park tax, we deem it proper to enter the protest of the people of Baltimore ;

And Whereas, The City Passenger Railway Company has had its counsellor before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, advocating the legality of an Act to absolve the Railway Companies from the provisions of their charter, and it being well known that the President of the City Passenger Railway Company has been attending the session of the General Assembly, advocating the passage of an Act to reduce the Park tax, and believing further that this matter of the Park tax upon the Railway Companies is one that should of right be left to the city and Railway Companies to settle, as the charter of said Companies can only be regarded in the light of a solemn contract with the city, the city according unusual privileges in consideration of the payment by said Companies of a Park tax, which tax, however, was at the time of the granting of their charter, a voluntary offer upon the part of said Companies ;

And Whereas, The bill now before the General Assembly treats of a matter of vital importance to the City of Baltimore, and can by no possible means be tortured into a matter of concern to the State, and the city being best qualified to know what is to her best interest in the regulation of her internal affairs ; therefore,