

# THE EVENING STAR.

WEDNESDAY....February 23, 1881.

## LOCAL NEWS.

### Our Deficient Water Supply.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE HOLLY SYSTEM.

In the desperation of the situation in Washington, with a water famine impending, every suggestion of relief is eagerly heard. The latest remedy proposed is the adoption of the "Holly System," and a STAR reporter to-day hunted up the Hon. James Jackson, vice president of the Holly manufacturing company, who is now residing in Washington, and put a variety of questions to him as follows:

Q. How long has the Holly system of supplying cities with water been in operation?

A. About fifteen years, and in that time it has been introduced into over eighty (80) cities and towns, among them being Sacramento, in California; Denver, in Colorado; Atlanta, in Georgia; Decatur and Rock Island, in Illinois; Columbus and Fort Wayne, in Indiana; Burlington and Keokuk, in Iowa; Emporia, in Kansas; Covington, in Kentucky; Bangor, in Maine; Taunton, in Massachusetts; Kalamazoo and Port Huron, in Michigan; Minneapolis, in Minnesota; Lockport, Buffalo, Rochester and Troy, in New York; Columbus and Dayton, in Ohio; Titusville, in Pennsylvania; Memphis, in Tennessee; Vergennes, in Vermont; Norfolk, in Virginia; Martinsburg, in West Virginia, and Cumberland, in Maryland.

Q. Has it always proved successful?

A. In every case. Troy, N. Y., is one of the largest places supplied, and you will see by reading the *Troy Times*, of August 15th, 1880, how pleased the citizens are with the result of the system, which at first met with some opposition by those wedded to the old gravity plan.

Q. Do engineers, as a class, approve of the pumping system?

A. Many at first, and before looking carefully into the working of our plan, oppose any innovation upon the gravity system; but I never knew one who did not give up his opposition when fully informed and had seen one of our pumps at work.

Q. Do you consider the system a good one for Washington?

A. After a thorough examination, in company with Mr. Holly, the inventor of our water works, I am satisfied that it is the best if not the only way to supply the great want of your city. So well satisfied am I with it, that I will undertake, on behalf of our company, to construct, at our own cost and risk, the machinery, with building and land, necessary to supply to the high service of your city 10,000,000 gallons every twenty-four hours, and with a force sufficient to furnish water to the highest houses on Capitol Hill or even on College Hill.

Q. What would this cost?

A. About \$100,000; and, as I have said, we would show our faith in our ability to give satisfaction by incurring this expenditure and making its return contingent upon our success in accomplishing what we undertake to do.

Q. Is not this taking a great risk for your company?

A. Not at all. We know by experience what our machinery will do.

Q. Could you not assist the supply to the lower section of the city as well?

A. Certainly, by putting in an additional pump or pumps, for which there will be room in the brick building we should erect.

Q. What is the cost of running the machinery requisite to supply the 10,000,000 gallons per day?

A. No more than that now paid to run the present pump, (with the unsightly stand-pipe), which does not pretend to furnish but 1,500,000 gallons per day.

Q. Would the Holly system add much to our facilities in extinguishing fires, especially in the higher portions of our city?

A. Yes, greatly so. In some of the cities named they have actually reduced the number of their fire engines, as in Rochester, N. Y., attaching the hose direct to the fire plugs.

Q. How long would it take to put up this machinery and have it in working order?

A. About four months, and in the meantime there would be no interference with the present system.

Q. Is there a sufficient supply of water here for this system?

A. I think there is an abundance to Rock Creek, and from that point, where it rises, we would force it into the mains.

### The Holly System Would Rupture the Mains.

*Editor Star:*—In your issue of to-day you state that one of the plans which has been proposed to increase the water supply in the District is the introduction of the Holly system, by which an additional supply is forced into the street mains by steam power. You then state that it is now used in eighty-three cities and towns in this country; that in Rochester, N. Y., the pressure is so great at the fire-plugs as to not require fire engines, and that Representatives in Congress from twenty-two states where it is used ought to be able to judge of its efficiency in their respective districts, and to decide, therefore, whether it is the proper measure of relief for Washington. The Holly system pumps directly into the mains and would rupture those now in use. The system would have to be independent of our gravity supply, and would meet the necessity at this time, but Congressmen are not caring about the water supply of Washington.

C. L. FREEMAN,

February 22.

Ex-Water Inspector.