

A Project to Heat a City by Steam.

Mr. Birdsall Holly, the successful water-works inventor and manufacturer of this city, has come to the conclusion that the system of steam heating for buildings, thus far only applied to the extent of one building, may be practically and advantageously used for the heating of a whole city, after the manner of lighting a city with gas. He has made plans for the carrying out of this scheme, by which he has no doubt the expense of warming houses may be materially reduced. He believes that the expense on this large scale of steam heating will not be more than a quarter of that of the private apparatus. As the question of comparative expense is the only one which presents itself in the consideration of this scheme,—its doing away with the trouble, annoyance and danger of the fire-place, stove and furnace being encouragingly apparent—this estimate must excite no little interest wherever it is presented.

It is not proposed to attempt the making of steam for a whole city in one boiler, or in a combination of boilers at one point, but to divide the city into districts, each district to be as large as may practicably be heated by one boiler. From these, mains will be laid to receive the steam, which can be used anywhere and in any degree, through lateral pipes, the user thus having complete control of the quantity of heat used in his house, as he now has control of the light used—when his meter is perfect.

Several of the capitalists of this city have had the matter in consideration, and some of their number have been appointed a committee to further investigate it, with a view to the feasibility of forming a Lockport Steam Heating Company.

It is probable that the project will be experimented on in this city before long.