

The Holly Steam Heating Project.

The scheme of Mr. B. Holly, of this city, for heating a city by steam, is being widely circulated by the publication of our compilation from Mr. Holly's book in the metropolitan papers. The idea is treated in various degrees of seriousness by different papers, with a noticeable approach towards endorsement since the actual formation of a company here to put it into operation. The Rochester *Union*, which made the idea a subject for facetious remark when it was first broached, yesterday copied the compilation referred to and proceeded to croak in two tones— one relating to the frauds there might be in the steam meter, and the other touching the possibility of a failure in the machine on some very cold day. It considers the present gas meter, with its inverse ratio style of measuring, as much as the people can bear in that direction ; and it shivers to think of placing a city at the mercy of the steam engineer in mid-winter. But of course the *Union* means nothing—only talks for fun. The steam heating companies will, of course, be formed of gentlemen who never belonged to a gas company, and consequently a steam meter will be a meter. As to the danger of failure of operation, we would ask, Is not every steam apparatus liable to the same mishap ? And who more likely to turn the wrong screw in the machine and throw an elegant household from the mildness of a tropical temperature into the vigors of a polar winter, than the wealthy, but unscientific, paterfamilias who knows no more about the apparatus “ than a cow does about a musket ?” And who is there more likely to know just what screw to turn and how to keep the furnaces in order than the engineer in charge ?