

THE HEART OF THE
COMMONWEALTH:

OR,

WORCESTER AS IT IS;

BEING

A CORRECT GUIDE

TO

ALL THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS,

AND TO SOME OF

THE PRINCIPAL MANUFACTORIES AND SHOPS, AND WHOLESALE AND
RETAIL STORES, IN WORCESTER AND VICINITY.

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WITH MANY ENGRAVINGS,

AND

A NEW MAP OF THE CITY.  
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WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HENRY J. HOWLAND,
1856.

And many other branches of industry might have been mentioned, among which are 6 printing establishments, employing not less than sixty persons, and turning out some 30,000 papers per week, besides any amount of book and job printing of all kinds; four book binderies, employing 12 or more hands; four book publishers, issuing many thousand volumes annually, &c. &c.

The aggregate value of the manufactured articles as reported above is \$5,564,609.

FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND AQUEDUCT.

Few places are better provided with the means of extinguishing fires than Worcester. A well organized Fire Department exists here, amply supplied with good apparatus. Four powerful Engines are located in the Centre, and one at New Worcester, all well officered and manned. We have also two Hook and Ladder Companies, with full apparatus; and three Hose Companies, an efficient Fire Police, for the removal and preservation of property at fires, and two Social Fire Societies, for mutual aid in the same direction. A most valuable agent of the department, especially as affording a supply of water for extinguishing fires, is the BELL POND AQUEDUCT. This was "completed" in 1845, at a cost of about \$24,000. The pipes have since been extended in many of the principal streets, to several times the original length. The head of the Reservoir at the outlet is 183 feet above the Aqueduct in Thomas street, and 100 feet higher than the corner of Elm and Chestnut streets. The supply of water has been sufficient for the original use, but it has been much called for, for domestic and mechanical purposes, until the need of a new and greater source of supply has become urgent. Engineers have been employed to make surveys in Worcester and the neighboring towns, to ascertain from what source a full supply of water can be obtained for the present and prospective wants of the city. The waters from the various streams and ponds to which ad-measurements have been made, have been analyzed, and in most cases have been found to be very pure. The whole subject is engaging the earnest attention of the city government, and the people, and, intimately connected as it is with the comfort, health and beauty of the city, there can be no doubt but measures will be soon matured for securing a full supply of pure water for all purposes.