

of a man of Elisha Putnam's natural disposition, and in the other I was freed from it. On the subject of Mr. Putnam's removal, shall only observe, that after this deficiency of water in the city reservoir had long continued and the trustees could obtain no satisfactory information as to the cause: Mr. Putnam in place of searching for and repairing the leaks in the city conduits, which he had long complained of, conceived the idea of a stoppage in the iron conduits, by reason of some mischievous person having, at the time they were laying, thrown in a stone or a rail, or some other substance; and, without any consultation with the board, or receiving its concurrence, began to throw into the pipes balls of various substances and dimensions; though I repeatedly warned him against tampering with the iron pipes in any way, by introducing into them hard substances of any description, well knowing that if any such substance as he supposed, had been mischievously thrown into them, the effects must have been experienced in the first flow of water which was abundant; he however, thought proper to persevere, and finally threw into the pipes a pine ball of near five inches in diameter, which effectually closed them, and kept the city for near a week without water. This served to arouse the attention of the trustees: two of them for several days attended at the reservoir, near the fountain head, in order to extract Mr. Putnam's ball; which, after some days search, boring the pipes, &c. they found, together with other substances which they took out—one of them a pine stick of 8 or 9 inches by 2 inches square, which Mr. Putnam had let run in during one of his operations, without reporting it to the board; and such was the strange infatuation of that man, that he was determined to introduce his wooden ball into the pipes a second time, which the trustees present, to avoid another week or fortnight's search and stoppage of the water, determinedly forbid. At this time, an inspection of the reservoirs took place: those near the fountain head were found more than half filled with foul mud, slime and sand; the raising of which the trustees had to superintend. The reservoirs in this city were found in the same filthy state, though not in so great quantities. Thus passing over and skimming through this bed of filth in each of the reservoirs, has the water been furnished to the inhabitants of this city by the superintendent of the water works, for a twelve month or longer. Had it served to breed a contagion in the city, it would not have been surprising. Mr. Putnam's excuse, as I am informed is, that the trustees never expressly ordered him to cleanse the reservoirs.—I am willing to allow him all the benefit he may be justly entitled to from this excuse, which implies a censure on the board for placing an implicit confidence in him; but I must add, that any superintendent receiving a large salary, who shall permit the reservoirs to run in so foul a state, without at least reporting it to the trustees, justly deserves to be removed from their employ. The fault in this instance rests with Mr. Putnam: should it happen again, under any other superintendent, it will then rest with the trustees.

I forbear to add an expression of Mr. Putnam to one of the officers of the board of trustees, on being informed of the exposed state of the reservoirs in this city, to the reception of filthy substances, which serves conclusively to shew the estimation in which he holds the institution—it is an expression too indecent to be committed to paper.

After this, it became my duty, as president of the board of trustees, to call the attention of the members to the state of the works, and the conduct of the superintendent; on which, after a full and free investigation of the subject, they did unanimously resolve, "that from the manner in which the superintendent had for some time past executed his official trust, his being longer continued in that employ would operate injuriously to the institution." Mr. Gould, Mr. Brinckerhoff, Mr. Bleeker and myself were present. This was followed by a resolution for the removal of the said Elisha Putnam from the office of superintendent—This was unanimously agreed to, with the exception of Mr. Brinckerhoff, who expressed a wish that he might be continued in employ until the next spring; and in all these proceedings, the recorder of the city, who is ex-officio a trustee, but was not present, fully concurred.

The trustees, and the present superintendent, are now faithfully employed in endeavouring to find out the cause of the deficiency in the flow of water into the city reservoirs; whether owing to any portion of the sand washed from the mass collected in the reservoirs near the fountain head, having lodged in the pipes in the lower situations, which I confess is my opinion—whether it be owing to the machinery erected in the vicinity of the reservoirs in this city, for controlling the introduction of the water into those reservoirs—whether it be owing to any solid substances introduced experimentally into the iron pipes by the late superintendent, and still remaining there—or whether the deficiency may be attributable to the numerous leaks in the wooden pipes, which Mr. Putnam knew of, but could not detect at any rate, by the cleansing of the reservoirs, and the attention of the present superintendent, the water is evidently flowing with increased force, and accumulating in the city reservoirs: there is now a fair supply passing to accommodate ev-

ery subscriber, and in a pure and wholesome state, and the board of trustees feel confident that by a due attention, the water in the reservoirs in this city, will again be brought to its former state of overflowing.

D. HALE.

Messrs. WEBSTERS & SKINNERS,

Gentlemen,

I have noticed an advertisement in your paper, signed "Elisha Putnam," stating that he, the said Putnam, "was removed from the office of superintendent, as he verily believes, for having dared to oppose the President's tapping the main iron conduit pipe for his own private use, and so controlling and using the water, as habitually, for months, depriving many citizens of a regular supply of water; and also for having once been concerned in a sitting mill." Did this statement only concern Mr. Putnam and myself, personally, it would certainly meet with no attention from me; but as it contains so serious a charge against the integrity of my conduct, as president of the board of trustees, I am compelled, however reluctantly, to notice it.

In December, 1812, Elisha Putnam was appointed superintendent of the Albany water-works, on a salary of \$400, in the place of Abraham Benson, who had served in that station more than nine years, and then resigned. Mr. Putnam was appointed on my nomination, which I warmly supported and effected; though I must confess, I was then informed that he was a man of a strange, untoward mind. In the year 1813, the iron conduits were procured, and the laying commenced from the reservoirs, near the fountain head, to those in this city; in effecting which, my warm exertions were used, attended with a heavy debt and responsibility on the part of myself and the trustees; and Mr. Putnam's salary was then raised, on my motion, to \$800. On this being completed, the water was conducted into the city reservoirs in such abundance, as to cause a large overflow of waste water. During this time, and for some time previous, I received a constant supply of water at my distillery, for which I was rated at one hundred dollars annually. Some short time after this abundant supply to the reservoirs in this city, Mr. Putnam erected near this reservoir, and in different parts of the city, certain stop cocks, and other machinery, for the purpose as he expressed it, of having a complete control of the water, and from that time the water began to fail—it being stopped off from me, sometimes in part, frequently altogether, and no doubt from others in the same way, for more than a year, to my injury of many hundred dollars, though I continued to pay the yearly rate of \$100. No satisfactory information could be obtained from Mr. Putnam, either by the board of trustees or myself, except that the water was running to waste in large quantities, by leaks in the wooden pipes in different parts of the city, and from that cause the city reservoirs could not be kept full, though those near the fountain head were overflowing. Mr. Putnam was repeatedly called on by the board of trustees to repair those leaks, and save the enormous waste of water; his reply generally was, that he could not find them; at any rate, the leaks, if there were any material ones, were not stopped, except a few occasionally, of no great consequence.

Under this state of things, I was compelled to inform the board that I could no longer depend on their institution for a supply of water; that I was suffering very heavy loss, by the manner in which I was supplied, and must sink a well, whatever the expense might be, or stop my business. Mr. Gould then proposed to furnish my supply from the iron conduits. I replied, that I left the board to determine that motion, as I should give no vote on it; but would readily pay at the rate of \$150, provided they thought proper to allow it, and relinquish it whenever it was found to operate injuriously. This was agreed to. Mr. Putnam was present and made no objection. Mr. Gould asked him if it could operate any injury; and he replied, none. Mr. Putnam furnished it accordingly, with the necessary conducting pipes; and I would ask any reasonable minded man, what possible injury it can be to the institution, or any of its supporters, whether I obtained my supply in the first instance, from the iron pipes passing into the city reservoirs, or from pipes leading out of them. when, according to Mr. Putnam's representations to the board of trustees, the one half was running to waste through leaks which he could not stop; my supply from the iron pipes was an actual saving of what would otherwise run to waste.—The only effectual difference is, that in the one instance I was exposed to the painful con-