

THE NEW WATER WORKS OF
BINGHAMTON.

Our citizens have had of late very favorable opportunity of judging of the utility and value of the new water works. During all the winter, when water was scarce, the reservoir-wells yielded bountifully; the test of the snow and the frost was borne with entire success. This spring the floods came. These were the only remaining cause of doubt. The river rose to an unusual height; and the Susquehanna, only a few rods distant from the wells, was filled to within five feet of the tops of the wells with water almost as muddy and impure as that which ran in our gutters. But while the reservoirs also filled as rapidly as the river rose, (showing conclusively the main source of supply,) there was not otherwise even the slightest indication of the rushing, swelling, turbid tide at their very base. We regard this as far the best evidence yet furnished not only that the fountain is inexhaustible, but that the purity of the water will be maintained. The fact that the water in the reservoirs rises and falls with the river, which led us in the beginning, when so many doubted, to declare beforehand the complete success of the Commissioners' plan, in this particular, we now commend to the public as absolute proof that the water supply can never fail while the Susquehanna exists. The supply can be increased almost without limit by extension of the reservoirs.

The engines and machinery are working finely. Less than two thousand pounds of coal is used in each twenty-four hours; and at a pressure of thirty pounds, the water is forced to the fourth floor of the "Chango Block," the most elevated in the city. Thus the upper portions of our highest buildings, within reach of the main water pipes, are available for family use; and it is estimated that the value of such buildings is enhanced at least ten per cent. We think the figure should be greater.

We understand from the Superintendent that the number of water-takers has now reached nearly two hundred, while the whole number of permits is fast approaching two hundred and fifty. It will exceed that number, we believe, in the next fifteen days. One day last week twenty-six permits were issued. The Superintendent thinks the revenue from the buildings already supplied with water would now reach four thousand dollars.

The water works of our city must be admitted superior, when all their excellencies are considered, to any other on the continent.