

The Water Supply—Doubts as to the Proposed Plan—Quality, not Quantity, the Great Desideratum.

EDITORS OF PRESS: I observe that the water question is being moved again, and that the Commissioners want more money. They have found that they cannot touch the business for the amount already granted. It would be well for them to tell the people how and by what means they propose getting an increase of supply, and how they intend supplying the people with it, because, if they intend bringing it into the present pond, and allow it to be supplied to the people by and through the same source as at present, which I am given to understand is their intention, I simply say that the whole affair will be as great a failure as the former.

Reviewing this water question, it appears that the great desideratum is quantity, not quality, or at least quality has not been discussed by the "powers that be," and seems to be secondary or subordinate to every other consideration. I am drawn to this conclusion by the fact of the state and condition of the present pond, which is so bad that no artifice could design much worse—the whole is a delusion from beginning to end. The simple fact of building a dam, the soundness of which seems questionable, to pond back or store up water to be supplied haphazard for domestic use, is futile. More anon. W.

Middletown, Aug. 24, 1872.

More about our Water Supply.

EDITORS PRESS:—Since your last issue, I have learned that the Water Commissioners have decided to purchase the Taylor or Otis pond, and have entered into a contract with Mr. Gabriel Wood, who agrees to sell the same, and that they intend laying a 12 inch pipe, and to force 1000 gallons per minute through it into the present reservoir, after the surveys having been made it is found that both ponds when full are on a level with each other, this is all very well, but to bring the water into the reservoir in its (the reservoirs) present state is the mistake that I complain of and not for the sake of opposition as some persons have imputed. I wish and hope that every one will discard such from their minds, and simply to let the argument rest upon its merits, I have nothing to gain by setting myself in opposition to any public body or corporation, in fact I do not oppose any one. I am only acting upon a conviction based upon many years practice and experience, and I take it for granted that it will be considered in no other light, and I have confidence enough in the Water Commissioners that they will grant me that which they claim for themselves—a right of opinion. Some have said that my plan would involve the people in an extravagant expenditure, in answer to such I am prepared to say that just the opposite would be the result, but I have not suggested any thing but the cleansing of the present reservoir and protecting the water-courses supplying it which I still maintain is essentially necessary in supplying the people with wholesome water suitable for domestic use. Should any one desire any further remarks I shall be glad to furnish them when called upon to do so and without incurring any expence to the people or the individuals themselves.

JAS. WILLIS, C. E.

Middletown, Aug. 27 1872.