

WATER.

SOMETHING is the matter with the Croton. Everybody complains of the musty, sickish smell and taste it has acquired since the first of August, and Professors Torrey and Chilton have been employed to search out and report the cause. Several theories are abroad respecting it. One is, that the water is *riled* at the movement of the Common Council, in rejecting its old friend and honest purveyor, Theodore R. DeForest, and in halting on the confirmation of its president, the venerable and Hon. Myndert Van Schaick, who should be at its fountainhead for life if he would stay there so long. Another is, that the same Common Council have flavored it from the anti-Delavan establishments that have been removed from upper New York to somewhere near the Croton River, in order to cure the popular clamor for public hydrants, and keep the people faithful to corner groceries and lager. The City Hall is not indifferent to the publican's license, and there may be some show of reason in the latter theory, while if the former were true, it would not surprise us.

THE Croton Aqueduct Department have it in serious contemplation, we understand, to introduce hydrometers into the houses of their customers, to put a stop to the enormous waste of water that is now going on. This is the only way to check the wicked extravagance in this precious luxury, some notion of the extent of which can be formed when we state, that even at this season of the year, when so many private houses are closed, the water in the distributing reservoir has *fallen eight feet below the usual standard*, while the supply from the river is a full average.

It is useless to enact prohibitory laws or penal laws on this subject; the only effectual remedy is a direct tax upon the pocket, as in the consumption of gas; and we see no reason why the three main stays of life—light, water, and bread—should not be paid for in proportion to the quantity consumed.

The ingenuity of Yankeedom will now be taxed to invent a meter suitable to indicate the consumption of water in private and public buildings.

We shall be happy to notice, in the AMERICAN GAS-LIGHT JOURNAL, such as come before us; and we shall certainly advocate the adoption of so necessary a measure as that now proposed.