

# EVENING UNION.

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## CITY MATTERS.

FRIDAY EVENING, October 19.

### The Water Works Meeting.

The meeting of citizens to consider the proposition for the erection of Water Works, was held at City Hall last evening. The attendance was not large, only two or three hundred persons being present.

E. Griffin, Esq., was called to the Chair, and I. S. Hobbie, H. Bumphrey and C. Perry were appointed Secretaries.

J. W. Bissell was called upon and presented a statement of what the Water Works Company proposed. The statement made by Mr. B., we have not been able to obtain, and we are compelled to omit its publication, important though it be.

After reading the statement a number of gentlemen put questions to Mr. B., in relation to the situation of the Company, amount of stock subscribed, &c. Mr. B. said all the Directors were *bona fide* stockholders. And that the amount of stock subscribed did not exceed \$16,000.

Jas. Abrams said he had heard that it would cost \$150,000 or \$200,000 to connect the sewers to enable the water to flow through and cleanse them, and that this must be raised by local tax. The statement was denied by J. M. Hatch and the proof demanded.

Major Packard expressed the belief that the necessary sewerage to follow the erection of Water Works, would not cost less than \$200,000. He was opposed to the increase of taxation. We had had enough of that already—the Genesee Valley Railroad was an example of this system of robbery.

J. M. Hatch said the question interested all citizens, whether large or small tax payers. He said the last speaker had made a fortune and retired, and was now opposed to all improvements that would benefit those who remained in business.—The speaker then went on to allude to the filthy condition of the streets and the necessity of having an abundant supply of pure water. He was willing to be taxed for this purpose. He called upon those who had accumulated fortunes and retired, to be liberal in this matter, and assist to perfect necessary improvements. The company chartered four years since, wasted their time in foolish experiments, and accomplished nothing toward the end desired. A new company has succeeded to the privileges of the old, but he did know how much it would accomplish. He was anxious that something practical should result from this new effort. If not, let others take hold of it. Water Works stock in this city would be good, as such stocks were everywhere. The present proposition to the city to take stock, was no new thing—it did not originate with the present company—such a clause was in the old charter taken from the Legislature by some of our most respectable citizens.

W. C. Bloss wanted the meeting to have some-

this water project was to affect the city. Water was desirable, but is it policy for the city to have anything to do with it? he thought not. It made the city liable to taxation, and to this liability he was opposed. Our population had been liberal and had submitted to taxation—the sun shines upon none more so. They had built up a beautiful city in forty years, and adorned it with temples, churches, school houses and palaces by their liberality. They had not only submitted to legal taxation annually, but had contributed privately to objects of charity and local improvement. Our taxes are about two per cent while those of New York are only one per cent. Heavy taxation deterred people from coming here to invest their means and take up residences. We are too young a people to engage in a project of building water works—we had better wait a little while until we are stronger—say five or ten years—perhaps twenty. He thought the resolution of Mr. Bloss democratic and proper.

N. F. Bradstreet said when a proposition for an improvement came up there was generally some response to it, but it did not appear to be so in this case. The contractor had confessed that he got up this plan secretly and came to the city with his engineers to force upon the people a set of water works for which they had not asked and which they proposed to force upon them. We had water enough now—our Father above sends us all we need. He denied that the streets of the city were dirty. They could not be kept clean by water and were not kept so in New York by water, but by scraping and removing the dirt.

Mr. Hatch attempted to reply to Mr. Bradstreet, but the audience did not appear inclined to hear him. He was interrupted by stamping and other noises.

W. A. Reynolds begged a hearing for Mr. H. and he was allowed to proceed briefly in reply.

John Haywood stated that the taxes of the city for five years had been as follows:

	City tax.	Local tax.
1851.....	\$70,000.	
1852.....	79,752,	\$24,878.
1853.....	84,500,	29,978.
1854.....	113,254,	80,921.
1855.....	150,000.	

Mr. Porter again addressed the meeting asserting that it was impertinent and audacious for a citizen to get up such a scheme as that water works charter, without consulting the citizens and then resign it to a stranger.

J. M. Hatch rose to a point of order. Here a dog barked and confusion followed. The chair decided Mr. P. in order, the dog was called off and he went on to advocate the water works scheme.

The question was taken on Mr. Bloss's resolution, and it was adopted with a few dissenting voices, after which the meeting adjourned.

### Honesty Handsonely Rewarded—Meanness Rebuked—A proud act of the City of Janesville.

The readers of the Union will remember that we published a few days since an account of the leaving of a package of money by a Mr. Howland of Janesville, Wis., at Ayer's Hotel, the finding of the same by the chambermaid, its restoration to the owner, and his illiberal conduct in the case.