

The Water Question.

MR. EDITOR: It is reported that "The Rochester Water Works Company" have adopted a tariff for water rates, claiming it to be lower than the rates of other cities, which I, for one, do not believe. Now I am not going to raise a cry against Water Works, nor would I knowingly say or do anything which would throw any obstacle in the way of procuring the construction of so desirable a work. I would say, let us have even the dirty, muddy, lime-impregnated water from the Genesee river rather than no water at all or that the works should be delayed another season.

As a citizen interested in seeing a work of this gigantic and important nature conducted in a manner most beneficial to our city, I desire to be informed how these works are going to be constructed. It may be answered—"Go to the parties interested and find out;" but I wish to place my question and seek the information in a way that the public may get the benefit and know what is going on. If the rates are low, why not let the public see them? I presume any newspaper in the city would gladly publish the information free of expense if they could get the list. I have heard it said that pipes will be only laid on those streets where all the residents will take the water, and conform to the arbitrary rules of this company, and for the purpose of ascertaining which will be the most profitable on which to lay pipes, contracts are now being made with water takers in advance. Now, Mr. Editor, I am not accustomed to consult my neighbors about matters of my own convenience. Suppose I want water, and should even be willing to pay this Company what they may choose to ask, must I be deprived of a necessary of life unless I can operate with my neighbors on the street to form a club to induce this monopoly to lay a pipe on my street? This is one of the evils of which I now complain. There are over sixty miles of built up streets in our city, and we hear it talked of that only 35 or 40 miles are to be occupied by this Company, thus giving them the choice to reject 30 miles of street, because, perhaps, these rejected streets will not pay usurious rents. But more of this hereafter.

Again, our city has judiciously expended an immense outlay for which we are all heavily taxed in paving. Are our streets constantly to be torn up and impeded for this company to make everlasting repairs to some Yankee invention of cement or wooden pipe? I would ask honestly, if there is anything to restrict this company from laying stove pipes, if they please, in our streets and distributing water to us from a pond which may be emptied by the consumption of one big fire? What interest have New York or Boston men in the prosperity of our city, and why can't we build water works for ourselves, and control them? Why don't this Water Company let the public have more light on their operations? By this means, if the works are to be built in a permanent manner, and we are to be supplied with a sufficiency of pure water, many of us would wish to be interested in the undertaking. A CITIZEN.

REMARKS.—We give place to the above from "A Citizen," and leave it to the Water Works Company to answer the queries if they desire. We understand that the water tariff has been printed, and that some of the pipe is at hand ready to be laid under the canal.