

## Rochester and Her Lords.

HOW THE CITY DEBT WAS INCREASED SIX-FOLD.

Rochester is a burdened city. The Lords have captured it and are consuming its substance. Since the canal exposes Rochester with its mite, which is not by any means small, to expose the Lords. A Rochester correspondent of the *New York Times* says:—

"Business men say that on the advent of Jarvis Lord to the State Senate from this District, the debt of the city of Rochester was less than \$1,000,000, and being gradually paid. Within the past three years by means of Lord's canal-union bills, and certain railroad schemes in which he was interested, and legislation procured by him, the debt of the city has been increased to between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000, on a total assessed valuation of about \$14,000,000. At a recent meeting of the common council it was publicly stated by an alderman that if the city put into its tax levy for this year a sum sufficient to pay the interest maturing now and that already due, it would increase last year's levy by seventy per cent., making the rate instead of five nearly nine per cent. of the entire valuation of the city property, exclusive of the county and State tax. The water works scheme is the most exasperating of the Lord rascallities to the people."

"It seems that George Lord got the water works contract, the estimates for the works being entirely erroneous. The Lords knew where the errors were and bid accordingly. The engineer's plans were then changed and the Lords are now reaping the advantage. Here is an instance. A man named McDonald was the agent of George Lord and arranged matters:

"The specifications called for 4,000,000 of hard-burned brick laid for conduit. McDonald bid \$1 per thousand; Randolph, Wood & Co., not canal contractors, \$23 a thousand. This discrepancy is understood when it is known that Lord's man offered \$1 for material he knew the engineer had resolved not to use, while Wood & Co. thought they would have to furnish the very expensive brick. This one item made a difference in the bid of \$84,000 in favor of McDonald, and enabled him to set a high price on material for which the specifications did not call largely, but which was afterwards used. For instance:—Pipe made of boiler iron, for which there was no specification at all, and which pipe costs, it is estimated, at least \$100,000 or \$200,000 more than the brick conduit at Lord's prices, was substituted for it after the award was made on the bid for brick."