

**A New Experiment--Mr. Holly Proposes to Heat Whole Cities by Steam--
Some of the Benefits of This
New Invention Explained
--Likewise the Draw-
backs.**

A very novel and at the same time interesting experiment, according to the Lockport papers, is soon to be attempted in that city by Mr. Holly, the successful water works pump inventor. This experiment is no less a one than to heat the whole city with steam, after the same manner as it is lighted with gas. Unfortunately the entire programme is not published as it would no doubt be interesting reading. It is not thought feasible to have one boiler do the job, but the city is to be divided in districts and each district is to have its separate boiler. Mains from each boiler are to run to the different houses and all the occupant has to do is to turn on a faucet and obtain all the heat he wants. A French architect once drew up a plan to cover a city with plate glass so that no matter what the weather was the citizens could always walk about in comfort. — On being submitted to the authorities they thought the idea a magnificent one, but were afraid the expense of broken glass occasioned by boys throwing stones would be too great, so the scheme was abandoned. Although of course this little episode has no analogy to Mr. Holly's proposed system the idea is just about as sensible, especially as but few householders would reap any material benefit from it. If the inventor of this brilliant device had extended his idea still further, and made it of benefit to pedestrians, there might have been some sense in it. Suppose, for instance, he proposed to petition the Common Council to allow him to perforate all the sidewalks, and lay his mains under them, so that those who walk the streets in winter might always have warm feet. A fair sized steam reservoir might also be erected on each street corner for policemen to warm their toes on cold winter evenings. It would likewise be convenient for the corner loafers, who could then congregate on each corner without disturbing their personal comfort. The blessing of this steam apparatus could be made available in other ways, and by a winding hose under each street car, have the steam let in at the bottom of the vehicle, and so do away with the present uncomfortable load of damp straw that is dumped into each car. In view of the approaching necessities of the winter the city could erect bakeshops on each corner where victuals could be cooked and the hungry fed. The scheme might be indefinitely extended, and steam pipes laid under the canal, which would prevent the water from freezing, supply the captain's better half with hot water to do her cooking and to wash

hungry fed. The scheme might be indefinitely extended, and steam pipes laid under the canal, which would prevent the water from freezing, supply the captain's better half with hot water to do her cooking and to wash the children. By a series of concentric circles of pipes laid at the bottom of the different lakes ice could also be prevented from accumulating, and navigation kept open the entire year. In fact, the more you examine into the wonderful experiment the more magnificent the scheme becomes, until the imagination is wrought up into such a state of excitement as to be unable to set any bounds to its possibilities. But with all these grand benefits in view, the system would never work for warming houses, and for one simple reason—the occupant would be at the mercy of the man whose duty it was to keep the pot boiling; or, in other words, attend to the boilers. Suppose some cold night, with the thermometer down below zero, the fireman of the district in which the reader resides should take into his head to get drunk. A cold shiver runs over the frame at the very idea of trusting to one man's sobriety for steam. For this reason it could never be a success. If gas gave out life could be supported; but for the steam to be shut off—the very notion is too horrible to be contemplated. Then again, the boilers in a district might burst (such a thing as boilers bursting has been heard of), and the unhappy resident of that district in which the accident occurred would be compelled either to emigrate to the next district to get warm, or freeze to death in his own house. The invention would no doubt be a splendid one when applied to canals or lakes; but for private houses it is not to be thought of.
