

Heating Cities by Steam.

Some days ago we referred in these columns to a scheme devised by Mr. Holly, of Holly Water Works fame, for heating cities or sections of cities by means of steam pipes laid under ground and supplied by boilers placed at convenient distances. The Lockport Journal is in a disturbed state of mind because a little fun was poked at the project. It says:

The Rochester UNION makes itself merry over the proposition of Mr. Holly, of Lockport, to heat cities, &c., by steam. The UNION calls it impracticable, and substantially treats it as a visionary scheme. It is, of course, unfair, as usual, in its deductions, and inclined to deride what it cannot, or for the sake of abusing somebody will not, understand. The UNION folk may yet see the time when they will be glad to have the steam turned off either under Mr. Holly's plan—or somebody's else in the "sweet by-and-by."

We presume nobody doubted that they would treat such a proposition seriously in Lockport. A proposition to supply that city with lager beer or milk, through subterranean pipes would be received with like favor there. There is perhaps nothing impracticable about heating a limited amount of territory by such a method but when it comes to supplying "cities, &c.," as the Lockport Journal puts it, in that way, the heat will have to be procured from such source as that which the Journal so familiarly speaks of "in the sweet by-and-by." For limited sections the plan might work with the highest degree of acceptability. At all events it is to be tried in Lockport and subscriptions for stock to test the feasibility of it have been opened. A correspondent writing from there says the people "are pledging their dollars to see it through quite liberally. Officers of the company will be elected next week and everything put in order for commencing work at an early day. At least half a mile of main pipe will be laid during the present winter."