

ROCHESTER

A Story Historical

BY

JENNY MARSH PARKER

Behold! a change which proves e'en fiction true,—
More springing wonders than Aladdin knew. . . .
These cross-crowned spires and teeming streets confess
That man at last hath quelled the wilderness.
FREDERIC WHITTLESEY. 1826

All honor to the toil-worn pioneers,
A brave, a sturdy band, although to fame
Unknown, who, like the orb of day, untired
And still, have changed by labors ever new
The dark primeval wilderness to fields
Of smiling beauty. . . .
The noblest benefactors of their race.
HARVEY HUMPHREY

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
SCRANTOM, WETMORE AND COMPANY
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1884

ing for it. The Streets, Water Works, and Fire Department are under its care.

WATER WORKS.

Chief Engineer and Superintendent. Salary \$3,000.

Assistant Engineer. Salary \$2,000.

Draughtsman. Salary \$782.

Receiver. Salary \$1,200.

Six Clerks. Salaries ranging from \$600 to \$1,200.

Foreman of Repairs. Salary \$1,400.

Engineer, Holly Works. Salary \$1,500.

Assistant Engineer. Salary \$1,200.

The Water Works were begun July, 1873, and finished February, 1876.

Miles of iron pipe in Holly system in city, April, 1883, about $9\frac{3}{4}$; miles of iron pipe in Hemlock system in city, 121. Total miles of distribution pipe in city, about 131.

Miles from City Hall to Mount Hope Reservoir, about $1\frac{1}{2}$; to Rush Reservoir, about $10\frac{3}{4}$; to Hemlock Lake, about $29\frac{3}{4}$. Elevation of Mount Hope Reservoir above Aqueduct, about $125\frac{3}{4}$ feet. Capacity 24,278,101 gallons. Elevation of Rush Reservoir, $242\frac{3}{4}$ feet. Capacity 74,525,992 gallons.

Elevation of Hemlock Lake above Aqueduct, 388 feet; length of lake, 7 miles; average width, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile; depth, 40 to 100 feet.

Number of hydrants in city, 1883, 1,129; number of drinking fountains for animals, 35. For citizens and others, 1; a unique affair, but not quite up to the "Probasco Bronze Fountain," in Cincinnati, costing nearly \$200,000.

Original cost of the Water Works, for which 30 year-bonds were issued, \$3,182,000; additional cost in extending the works, and included in tax levies, \$312,749.

Number of takers of water, in 1877, 3,260; in 1878, 3,955; in 1879, 6,037; in 1880, 7,395; in 1881, 8,343; in 1882, 9,843; in 1883, 11,951.

Income for the year ending March, 1883, \$56,547.14.

The first steps taken to supply our city with water were in 1838, when Elisha Johnson was Mayor, who made a report to the Common Council on that subject, — the plan being to take the water of the river to the high ground, near the Rapids, where a head of about 20 feet could be secured.

The next movement for that purpose was in 1852, by the late C. A. Jones, who had secured a charter from the Legislature, and

formed a company for the purpose contemplated. The plan of this company proposed to take the water from the "Honeoye Outlet," at a place called Smithtown. The aggregate cost of this plan for two millions of gallons daily, with twelve miles of distributing pipe, was \$594,595, but obstacles arose that could not well be overcome and the works were never commenced.

In 1855, a new Water Works Company was organized under the charter surrendered by the former company. Charles J. Hayden, then Mayor, being president, and Alderman Winslow secretary, who, as chairman of a select committee on Water Works, had previously submitted a lengthy report on the subject, including plans, and estimates of cost, for an abundant supply of water.

The plan contemplated taking the water from Lake Ontario, a quarter of a mile northwest of the piers at the mouth of the river, where the water can nearly at all times be obtained in utmost purity. The water to be brought through cast iron pipes along the banks of the river to the foot of the Lower Falls, at Carthage, where it was proposed to raise it to the high ground, securing a head of at least seventy-five feet in the highest part of the city. The aggregate cost of this plan, with twenty miles of distributing pipe, being less than \$600,000.

In order to give the matter some character abroad, and so secure the ready sale of a part of the stock, the company sought to obtain from the city its bonds to the amount of \$200,000, to be secured by a first mortgage on the works, when from \$200,000 to \$400,000 had been expended. This proposition raised great clamor and opposition on the part of some who could not see the difference between a small loan on absolute security and public debt, and who were content to drink the unwholesome water of limy and sulphurous wells, or the turbid river water that runs through our city, and so the whole undertaking was finally given up, and the charter surrendered to still another company, which the late Gen. Swan was chiefly prominent in forming, the plan being to bring water from Hemlock Lake, through a conduit of wooden pipes, which proved an utter failure.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Office and Hose Depot, City Buildings, 61 Front Street.

Chief Engineer. Salary \$2,000.

Assistant Engineer. Salary \$1,200.