

## Water Works.

I was much gratified with the article in your last number in relation to a supply of water, for our beautiful and growing city. This is now the great desideratum, and I may say, the only thing wanting to complete the city as a healthful, pleasant, and attractive place of residence. As the State has expended large sums of money in the erection of the various public buildings, and in maintaining the various benevolent institutions, which do honor to the people of Ohio, the citizens of Columbus should manifest an enlarged, I will not say *liberality*, but comprehension of their own interests and welfare, in securing this valuable improvement.

Having resided for a number of years in a town in Ohio, which has less than half the population of Columbus, and which has successfully demonstrated by an experience of over twenty years, a few important facts in regard to the policy of supplying towns with water, by the erection of Water Works, I beg leave to suggest some of their fruits, in order that public opinion may favor the right direction to secure success in such an undertaking.

The points which I consider demonstrated by the experience of others, and as to which there should be no difference of opinion, are these:

1st. A city with one-half the present population of Columbus, will secure a sufficient income on the cost of any ordinary expenditure of money to supply it with water, to pay the interest and all expenses, at a very small price for the use of water.

2d. Water Works should be erected solely by the city authorities, and should never be owned or controlled by private companies.

3d. The supply of water should be ample, not only for present use, but for any probable future demand.

4th. The quality must be such as to secure the use for all purposes. If water is too hard for washing, it will not be used with sufficient purpose to expel all other supplies, which is essential to complete success.

Sufficient elevation must be secured for the reservoir to permit the distribution of water over every part of our houses.

These three last requisites may be ascertained and demonstrated absolutely and conclusively before any money is expended. But they are indispensable, and any works which do not embrace them all, will prove a failure. They are, 1st, an abundant supply; 2d, soft water; 3d, sufficient elevation.

I hope our city authorities will see that these points may be secured, and that they bring down the question of *cost*, as the one of next consequence, which I propose to consider at another time.

CIRIS.

MR. EDITOR—Knowing that you are in favor of improvement, and that your excellent paper is among the first to advocate home advancement, I take the liberty to make a few remarks in favor of the proposed water works. This great and important work of furnishing the city with pure healthy water, cannot be too highly estimated.

It should not be lightly passed over, neither should the present waking up, to this important

subject, be lulled to rest, but its friends should take immediate steps to put it into progress, for the city most imperatively demands it. The great scarcity of water at times when most needed, not only for family uses, but for the safety of property, are arguments not easily gainsayed. Our cisterns and engines are useless, and but mockeries without a bountiful supply.

The health of the city depends vastly upon the water used. Let it be obtained from what source it may, it should be free from all foreign substances; pure and as free from carbonate of lime as possible.

That which we now obtain from our wells cannot be pure, healthy or fit to use, after filtering through all the filth common to the cleanest cities. Besides, there is an enormous expense of keeping them in repair and cleaning them twice a year, a precaution that every family should exercise.

Yet I might safely say, that not half the wells are cleaned once in two or five years, and many, probably, not until so much filth accumulates that the water is entirely expelled, which renders it absolutely necessary.

Is this so? Ask your neighbor when he last cleaned his well, or perhaps you may have seen the enormous pile of filth taken therefrom, the product of fifteen or twenty years.

Is this the pure healthy water we use from our wells? Is it any wonder then, that our physicians call frequently on our families, and at the end of every year present a bill of forty or fifty dollars? Is it surprising then, that we are subject to bilious attacks, and frequently complain of nauseous stomachs, which terminate in one of the multitude of diseases of a more fearful character? Is it not a wonder, rather, that we are as healthy as we are?

This is self-evident; it is a mathematical axiom. If our physician would prescribe more for the well, than for the patient, and first clean the well, then the stomach, we would be materially and permanently benefited by his calls. But I have digressed too far from the subject, perhaps.

You have but to travel through different portions of the country to satisfy yourself of the truthfulness of the assertion, and obtain a true answer to the questions. Remaining at home we are apt to become accustomed to the water we use, and consequently, not notice the unpleasantness of it. But as you travel through different portions of the country you will be forcibly struck with the difference of the water used, and the effect it produces. Where the water is pure and healthy the chill-fever and ague are foreigners, and vice versa.

Then, if we consult health, one of the greatest blessings, we will obtain pure water, or if we count dollars and cents, we will do the same; or if we consult the future increase of the city, we must see to supplying it with good water, for the wealthy changing localities, will look materially to the quality and quantity of the water they have to use, and the city of Columbus, with this improvement and the railroads, will be surpassed by none in inducements for a large and populous city.

The city certainly demands an immediate action upon this important subject. If this favorable opportunity is lost, and the present waking up be ever more lulled to rest, we may lose a golden opportunity for improving the city, and blessing the inhabitants with this important element for many years.

It is very important for the well-being of the place, that the City Council should act knowingly upon this important subject; consulting the health and safety of the people and place, as well as the purse. I do venture the assertion that if the proposed plan of bringing water from the Whetstone be fully and faithfully carried into operation, that all will soon abandon their wells as so many pits of disease, and freely use the Whetstone water, and feel better and healthier; and that it is only to be used to be appreciated. All are interested in this; their interests are identical, the rich, the poor, the man of leisure, and the manual laborer. Each have an interest that should be respected.

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