

## City Water Works.

The subject of bringing a bountiful supply of pure, soft water into the city of Columbus, has aroused the attention of many persons during the past week, and much discussion has been elicited upon the wisdom and practicability of carrying such a measure into successful operation. The report of Mr. BALL, in last week's GAZETTE, in which that gentleman proposes to bring water from the Whetstone at a cost \$275,000, and distribute it through the city, has been freely commented on; and, as far as we have heard, the statements therein contained have received the concurrence of our most practical business men. Willing to exercise our own judgment upon this matter, in company with Mr. FISHER, City Civil Engineer; Mr. KLIPPART, Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, and JOSEPH DOWDALL, City Clerk, on Monday last we rode to Hess's Mills, on the Whetstone, four miles north of the city, for the purpose of testing the quality of the water; and as no rain had fallen for twenty-three days previously, the opportunity was a favorable one for determining the quantity furnished by the stream at this the driest season of the year. Our companions, Messrs. Fisher and Klippart, both scientific gentlemen, well versed in all the mysteries of reckoning, computing and calculating, with instruments adapted to the purpose, measured the quantity of water running over the narrowest ripple, and then after carefully figuring the result, they estimated the quantity of furnished by the Whetstone at about ten millions of gallons in twenty four hours. Supposing this reckoning to be correct; and there is no reason to doubt it, this stream will furnish four times the amount necessary for double the population of Columbus. Allowing thirty gallons a day to each individual for cleansing, culinary, washing, scrubbing, house cleaning, sprinkling pavements, watering gardens and bathing purposes, and twenty gallons a day for horses and cows, would make in the aggregate fifty gallons a day, which, for fifty thousand persons, double our population, would require two and a half million of gallons daily, leaving seven and a half million gallons surplus. The city at this time has 45 cisterns, with a capacity (supposing all in good order and full of water) of 13,000 barrels, or 403,000 gallons. The excess over the daily consumption of families, 7,500,000 gallons, is more than eighteen times as much as all the cisterns combined.

The quality of the water is about one third as hard as the ordinary well water; or, as one bucket of well water in two buckets of rain water. It must be remembered, however, that no rain had fallen for more than three weeks, and consequently the stream was composed of spring water—springs abounding in its source. Mr. Klippart is of the opinion that when the water is exposed openly in the reservoir and subjected to the process of filtration, that it will lose much of its hardness, and become soft enough for all washing purposes.

The question of quantity and quality being settled to our satisfaction, we next turned our attention to an elevation for a reservoir. Mr. Fisher is a competent engineer, and from actual measurement he is satisfied that a basin can be built near North Columbus from which water can be brought to the city of sufficient head to fill the tanks on the roof of the State Capitol, or to carry it to the highest attic upon the highest ground in the corporation.

Alum Creek, by measurement at Heyl's Mills, four miles above the city, furnishes about two and a half million gallons in twenty four hours, but it is harder than ordinary well water, and the project of bringing it from this insufficient and undesirable stream was looked upon as entirely out of the question.

We are satisfied that water can be brought from the Whetstone so as to supply every family within the limits of the corporation, and that the expense will not exceed the estimate of Mr. Ball, \$275,000. We hope the City Council, the guardians of our interests, will take this matter in hand and push it ahead with all the zeal and energy commensurate with its importance. As a preliminary measure, let the Council at an early day appoint a committee of practical, good common sense business men, to give this important subject a thorough examination; let them investigate it in all its bearings, and report their views for the satisfaction of our citizens. If the plan is practicable, as we have been endeavoring to show it is, let the Council at once put the work under contract, so that we can have a hydrant in every yard and a fire plug upon every corner. Let our City Fathers do this, and they will place thousands of our fellow citizens under everlasting obligations.