

## Madison City Water Works.

The election in this city was conclusive as to the sentiments of the people on the subject of constructing water works. An overwhelming expression in favor of water works was given, and the city council have now no proper course left but to proceed with the works with all practicable speed. It matters not how strongly a few may insist that works are not wanted or that a majority of the people are opposed to them, it was demonstrated in the vote at the election that the opponents of the water system are largely in the minority. It was this question that was decided in the election of mayor, and not the standing of political parties. If there was a question of politics in the election it was on treasurer. This vote may indicate about the strength of parties in the city. In the matter of aldermen, a candidate suspected of being opposed to the construction of water works, was defeated—buried up. The republican candidate for mayor was placed in opposition by the inconsiderate action of the convention that nominated him, in adopting a resolution on the subject. It may be claimed that the resolution was not against water works, but it suggested a doubt as to the sentiments of the people on that subject and the effect was about the same as would have been the adoption of a resolution positively opposed to the construction of water works. Dr. Ward stood as the anti-water-works candidate, and suffered defeat in consequence. Had the water question been placed before the people on its own merits, our honest opinion is, that the majority in favor of the works would have been even greater than is the majority for Mayor Conklin. Dr. Ward did receive some votes from friends of water works, because he was the Republican nominee, but Mr. Conklin received very few votes, if any, from persons opposed to water works. His position was defined and positive on that question, and this was the real question that was settled in the election.

In this condition of affairs, the city council can proceed with the great improvement without hesitation, and construct water works as soon as is consistent with doing the work in a proper manner. It is backed by the people most emphatically; it is backed by common sense; and now, it is reasonable to look for immediate results. The times are favorable; money is plenty and can be obtained at reasonable rates. No excuse for delay can be successfully made; the time for action in the matter has arrived, and promptness in starting the grand improvement will alone satisfy the demands of the people.

It is not necessary now to recount the manifold advantages that will be derived from a good system of water works. Pure water, and plenty of it, will be supplied to the people, thus rendering it easy to keep the city fresh and clean. With plenty of water, perfect sewerage is easily obtained, while without it, such a thing is impossible. But we will not enumerate the benefits; they will suggest themselves to all minds. The work is now with the city authorities; with them rests the whole responsibility. The people have a right to demand rigid economy, strict integrity, and judicious management in the construction of water works and in their management when completed. Care in these respects is to be expected. With this, the people will be satisfied. If we cannot rejoice in a political triumph, we do rejoice that the question of water works, so prominently identified with the best interests of the city, has been so conclusively settled in the late election. Let the good work go on.