The New Orleans Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

J. O. NIXON, Editor and Proprietor.

OFFICE, NO. 94 CAMP STREET.

Yearly Subscriptions, in advance, $15; half yearly, $8; quarterly, $4. Single copies, 10 cents.

The Weekly Crescent is published every Saturday. Subscription $5 per annum, invariably in advance.

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 24, 1868.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NEW OPERA HOUSE—French Opera Troupe—Gounod's grand opera "Faust."

ST. CHARLES THEATER—Engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Watkins—"Kathleen Mavourneen."

VARIETIES THEATER—"She Stoops to Conquer" and "Perdita."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—Dramatic and Variety Entertainment—Eliminated tableaux, songs, ballets, burlesques.

CRESCENT CITY MUSEUM—Nos. 40 and 42 St. Charles street—Wonderful living and natural curiosities.

Head says the reason his article wasn't in Sunday's paper, as usual, instead of this morning, is, 1st, because it wasn't published, and 2d, because it wasn't written.

We have received a copy of the "Constitution adopted by the State Constitutional Convention of the State of Louisiana," printed in pamphlet form, and sent to us by "William Vigers, secretary." As this document will be useful to us we are glad to receive it.

We are indebted to the publisher, Mr. Wm. Young, for the regular visits of Every Afternoon, a new evening daily from New York. It is a very handsome sheet, and chiefly literary in its character. Its frontispiece represents a drifting raft of logs over the following motto: "My free drift halts not particularly, but moves itself in a wide sea."

We are glad to publish such good news in regard to the prospects for a sugar crop as we print in to-day's paper, from "A Former Correspondent" at Bayou Goula, in the parish of Iberville.

The publication of the Southern Herald, Liberty, Miss., has been resumed. The proprietor makes a strong appeal for support, offering to furnish the Herald gratis to all who can show that they are unable to pay for it, until times become better.

Our Inside Pages.—On the second page, "Coming Sugar Crop," letter from St. Louis, correspondence regarding the Artemus Ward Monumental Association, and Sunday's telegraphic dispatches. On the third page, "Pour Eux, Mes Camarades," (poetry, original,) and another humorous article from A. Head. On the sixth page, Washington gossip and an account of a horrible murder committed in Mobile. On the seventh page, financial, commercial and river articles.

Life Insurance.—The subject of life insurance is one that has lately attracted much more of public attention than it did in former years. It is therefore with pleasure we announce that a life insurance company, entirely under the auspices of New Orleans merchants and citizens, has recently been organized, and will immediately begin operations.

The company is essentially a "Home" company, and the stockholders are among the best citizens and heaviest capitalists of New Orleans. They recognize the necessity of saving to our city all the capital that it is possible to save, and they have established a life insurance company which they are confident will keep in the city annually half a million of dollars which have been paid out to companies elsewhere. There is no reason why home companies should not be sustained here, when other companies reap good profits, and when the statistics of mortality show that New Orleans, for its population, is one of the healthiest cities of the country, except during an epidemic, which does not occur, on an average, one year in seven.

In a few days we shall have something further to say of this scheme, which is in the hands of men of capital and of business capacity.

The ladies of Memphis will again observe the 26th day of April by strewing flowers upon the graves of the Confederate dead. They propose to make the day one of unusual interest. Hon. Landon C. Haynes and Col. Moses White have been selected as the speakers for the occasion.

Of the "Can't Get-Away" Club, of Mobile, organized in 1839, and consisting originally of forty-seven members, nine yet survive.

A writer in the Tensas Parish Gazette, in regard to the new so-called Constitution, gets off the following: "The grand Constitution is framed, and is decidedly a grand humbug, disfranchises all gentlemen and franchises all d——d rascals (myself among the number).

Galveston is to enjoy a season of opera.

Gold in Texas.—The Dallas Herald announces much excitement in regard to the gold region of the Wichita mountains. Already some twenty citizens of Dallas had formed themselves into a company for exploration. As soon as the number reaches thirty, and weather admits, the company will start, piloted by Mr. Simpson, of Montague county, who has previously visited the El Dorado.

Judge Hunter Under an Avalanche.—A Memphis dispatch of the 20th says:

The notorious radical Judge Hunter, Brownlow's pimp, turns out to be a defaulter and jail bird. Official documents furnished the Avalanche from Mercer, Ohio, where Hunter resided in 1847, show him up in his true light. The court records prove him to be a defaulter to the county while acting as trustee, to the amount of six thousand and some hundred dollars. He was imprisoned in the Celina, Mercer county, Ohio, jail in 1856 for embezzlement. He served a term of one year in the penitentiary. He served out another term in the Mercer county jail for petit larceny. They are the kind of men Brownlow selects for political tools. Hunter undertook to suppress the Avalanche, but the Avalanche has suppressed him and his court.

The Erie Railroad Case.—A bill passed both houses of the New Jersey legislature, on the 20th, and is in the hands of the governor, to enable corporations more effectually to transact their business in the State of New Jersey. It covers the Erie Railroad case, and the establishment of their offices in Jersey City.

A memorial has been presented in the New York legislature, setting forth that Cornelius Vanderbilt is endeavoring to monopolize all the principal railroads in the State, and asking for the passage of a law which shall provide that no director of the Hudson River and Harlem Railroad Companies shall be eligible for director in the Erie or Central Railroad Company.

Arrival of Emigrants.—There arrived per steamer Frances from New Orleans yesterday, seven men and two women, imported from Europe by Messrs. Montgomery & McCarthy, as gardeners, laborers and cooks.

These emigrants came per steamer Hibernia to New York, thence by steamer Mercedita to New Orleans, and per Frances to this city.

They were imported on the application of the following well known gentlemen, who will, without doubt, be satisfied with their new servants: C. D. Broun, W. G. Clark, Harleston Broun, R. M. Quinn and J. T. Wiswall.

Others are looked for daily, sailing from Liverpool direct to Mobile. The above are all natives of Glasgow, and are fine, healthy looking persons. We conversed with some of them, and learned that the most strenuous efforts were made in New York to prevent their coming here. They were told that they would surely catch the yellow fever, as it raged here with fearful violence every year. Offers of $40 per month were made them, but they stated that having pledged themselves to come to Mobile they were determined to come. They express themselves highly pleased with New Orleans, and what they have seen of Mobile.

[Mobile Tribune, Sunday.

Frost was reported in Mobile last Saturday morning.

A LESSON FROM MEXICO.

We have already spoken of some of the considerations that ought to hasten General Grant's long contemplated, but indefinitely deferred, visit to Mexico. A recent political occurrence in that country is well calculated to recall and strengthen our previous remarks on this subject; the gist of which remarks was, that the general, as the chief of the party of "moral ideas," and of extra-moral, extra-constitutional, extra-rational, and extra-possible reforms, could not too soon avail himself of Mr. Romero's invitation to become the guest of the model republic beyond the Rio Grande, and make himself a disciple of its unapproachable statesmanship. The event referred to as described by a correspondent, writing from the Mexican capital, happened in the State of Puebla. There were four candidates at an election which took place not long since in that State, and one of them, who got more votes than all his competitors put together, was opposed to the party in power. This fact, as well it might in a country so far advanced in political progress, worked the invalidation of the vote in his favor. For the legislature, faithful to the cause of the partisans who composed its majority, straightway nullified the election so far as this obnoxious candidate was concerned, and gave the office in dispute to that one of the minority candidates who received the fewest votes, but was reputed to be the most "trooly loil" to the dominant party. We think that even Gen. Grant, or Thaddeus Stevens, or Horace Greeley would admit, in view of this incident, that the radicals in the United States have yet a considerable lesson to learn from the kindred party in Mexico.

Our own regard for the truth of history compels us so far to lower the pride which we feel in the general advancement of the people of the United States, as to confess, with hesitation and reluctance indeed, but with explicitness and candor, that, in respect to political progress, the American radical, though a clever imitation, is yet notably behind the Mexican original. There was, for example, in the proceeding adverted to on the part of the Puebla legislature, an off-hand and direct manner of reaching the objective point of party strategy, in comparison with which the hocus-pocus of reconstruction, of impeachment, of pretended election contests and investigations, and other favorite devices of the radical majority in Congress, looks antiquated, circumlocutionary, stale, flat and unprofitable.

Something surely can be done to relieve the United States from the injurious effects of this comparison. If Gen. Grant, too much preoccupied with attending to those incalculable drafts upon his mighty intellect and his Herculean energies, the fortification of Stanton in the war office building, the mythical terrors of the "Kuklux Klan" in Tennessee, and the devious loyalty and the duplex nationality of Street Commissioner Baker down here in Louisiana, is unable to proceed at once to Mexico, then Congress, let us hope, will take prompt measures for sending to that country a special committee, charged with the duty of reporting how they do things there in the way of vindicating "troo loilty" and maintaining party ascendency. Profiting by lessons thus obtained, the radical power in the United States would understand how to condense into spasms of a day usurpations and revolutions that now extend, with alternations of paroxysm and syncope, through tedious and vexatious months and even years.

CITY MONEY.

It seems to be almost impossible to restore a currency once vitiated by suspicion; and, indeed, after the crisis of suffering caused by depreciation has passed, it may not be desirable that the rejected medium should again enter into circulation. Nobody expected, and nobody desired that city money should again be taken up as a currency, after its sudden depreciation had expelled it from the position which it has occupied for the last five or six years. Most people—even those who could ill afford the loss—thought, that, after all, it was a happy riddance. But it was supposed, with apparently good reason, that the measures which, it was promised, would create a demand for it, would bring it up very nearly to par. The market ordinance and the compulsory collection of back taxes, ought, rationally, to have had a very sensible effect on the market, and for a few hours such an effect was manifested. But, for the last four or five days there has been no material rise. The price has hung around the twenties, and people who purchased at sixteen begin to think that ordinary causes fail in this case. But cause and effect exhibit themselves as to city money as in all other human affairs. The difficulty is to see the cause—even when the effect is palpable. Now if it were certain that all the city money would be absorbed within a reasonable period it would surely improve rapidly in price, unless some other cause should operate in a contrary direction. There seems to be such a certainty now, at least as to a large portion of the issue. What then is the counteracting cause? A little reflection will make it plain. The public have no confidence in the permanency of the anticipated absorption. A million dollars may be taken up—but if the same million be again put out, the results will be only transient. At present there is no guarantee against the continued re-issue of city money. It may be paid in at the treasury to-day, and paid out again to-morrow. If, in addition to the provision for absorption, there were a certainty of no further re-issue, the anticipated improvement would soon become manifest. It is desirable, therefore, if it is the intention to force upwards the value of city money, that some provision be made for the destruction of this species of currency as soon as it is paid into the treasury. We are not sure that it is at all necessary to bring city money up to par, since it has passed out of circulation, but if the object is to be accomplished, it can be achieved in no other way than this.

Death of Gen. P. H. Brittan.—A few days ago this gentleman was taken ill, and yesterday morning he breathed his last. Mr. Brittan was well known to the people of Alabama. From 1849 to 1856 he was a partner in the publication of the Montgomery Advertiser. He afterwards was connected with the Messenger and Confederation newspapers in this city. He was for several years secretary of state, holding that position at the close of the war. He was universally respected, and leaves a large family and hundreds of friends to mourn his loss. He was a native of Virginia.—[Montgomery Advertiser, 19th.

Charles Matthews is said to be the author of the following *jeu d'esprit*:

"If horseflesh won't suffice to feed the masses,
The next recourse will certainly be asses;
And heaven only knows where that will end!
Some people won't have left a single friend."

FRAUDULENT REGISTRATION.

We sincerely hope that the Democratic Central Committee will take immediate and energetic measures for accomplishing a thorough organization of the opposition to the infamous Dryades street Constitution. The task seems difficult; but it is not by any means impossible. In the first place the figures on the face of the registry do not show the actual numerical relations even of the registered voters. The proposition that there are 83,000 negroes over 21 years of age in the State of Louisiana is quite as absurd as the proposition that there are only 44,000 whites entitled to register under the reconstruction laws. At the outside there are not more than 70,000 negro voters in this State, and it is simply ridiculous to affirm that every one of those entitled to register availed himself of the privilege. Statistics collected during many years show that, even on occasions of the greatest political excitement, about 10 per cent. of the legal voters fail to go to the polls. But, supposing 95 per cent. of the negroes to have registered, there would still be left a surplus of nearly 20,000 names fraudulently placed on the lists. Under the "trooly loil" Sheridan régime the first duty of the registrars—a duty discharged with unequaled assiduity—was to register early and often, all the negroes that presented themselves. Everybody knows that the registration books were quite at the service of the "wards of the nation," and that many of these national pets spent a good deal of their time in going through the legal formalities in every district in the city. The importance of getting these names eliminated from the lists is quite as great as that of assuring the inscription of legal white voters. It may seem difficult for men to vote who are non-existent, but nothing is beyond the capacity of the "trooly loil" carpet-baggers who have taken the State of Louisiana into their prehensile keeping. The flying brigades of negroes to be imported from the country will, of course, be on hand to answer to the fraudulent entries, after having voted early and often in their parishes, just as it happened during the four days' election in Mobile; and by such means the "vagrant and mendicant loilists" expect to fasten their flagitious work on the people of Louisiana. These fictitious negro voters must be disposed of. Their names, as far as possible, must be removed from the registry; and it is the duty of the registrars, to the extent of their ability, to see that this is effected. The committee, too, should take the matter in hand, and lend such assistance as may be in their power. The vagrant and mendicant Constitution can be beaten, and it must be beaten.

Theatricals.

The Opera.—To-night "Faust" will be sung for the last time this season, with Picot as *Faust*, and for the first time M'me Seguin as *Margaret*. Van Hoffien will also appear in probably his best character, that of *Mephistopheles*. M'lle Fauschetti and Lechevalier will fill the other parts. To-night is subscription night. We may therefore expect to see a crowded house at the Opera House, in fact we learn that seats are already scarce for this performance.

Varieties.—Mr. Lawler played *Bob Brierly* in Tom Taylor's "Ticket of Leave Man" on the occasion of his benefit last evening, very handsomely, and greatly to the enjoyment of an audience which, for this season, may have been considered a numerous one. His acting and reading in some parts of the play were passionate and pathetic, and described to the life the gnawing grief and despair of one socially ostracized and persecuted. Mrs. Leighton appeared as *Emily St. Eremond*, and we were heartily glad to welcome her back to the stage where she has been so often applauded. The *May Edwards* of Mrs. Gomersal was a neat piece of acting. The entertainment concluded with a recitation of "Shamus O'Brien," by the beneficiary. This evening is set apart for legitimate comedy, "She Stoops to Conquer," being the piece selected for the occasion. "Perdita, or the Royal Milking Maid," will also be reproduced. "The Long Strike" is in preparation.

St. Charles.—It was with unmistakable enthusiasm that the audience at the St. Charles welcomed to the stage last evening that favorite actress, Mrs. Howard Watkins, who after an absence of two years appeared in that beautiful character, *Kathleen Mavourneen*, supported by Mr. Watkins as *Terence O'Moore*. Absence, we find, has only given a fresh piquancy to her acting. The same grace of manner, the same sweetness of voice, the same excellent taste in dress, mark her now as before, and we shall be surprised if this announcement of her presence does not bring together a large audience this evening. The play itself is a touchingly beautiful one, and to hear Mrs. Watkins sing the ballad "Kathleen Mavourneen" were in itself attraction enough, while the scene of the black crag is an intensely thrilling one.

Academy of Music.—The great event of last evening was the production of a series of magic illuminated tableaux, twenty-three in number, and embracing a great variety of subjects. By some unexplained process, these successively dissolve, the one into the other—the snow and ice of a winter scene, for instance, dreamily melting away into the soft, hazy glories of an autumn sunset, or the horrors of Dante's "Inferno" into the heads and humped backs of a row of camels in an Egyptian caravan. The "Virginia Mummy" burlesque, with Dick Parker as *Ginger Blue*, was another feature of the evening, and elicited roars of laughter. It will be repeated this evening, together with the tableaux and the usual variety programme.

The Filomeno Farewell Concert.—On Friday evening, Senorita Josefina Filomeno will give, at Lyceum Hall, her farewell concert, prior to her departure from the city. It needs, we presume, nothing more than this bare announcement to fill the hall with the admirers of this talented young lady. Tickets and reserved seats may be obtained at the music stores.

Crescent City Museum.—This place of resort retains its hold upon public popularity, daily receiving crowds of visitors. It is located on St. Charles street, between Common and Gravier, and is always open from 9 A. M. to 10 P. M.

The steamship Crescent City, Capt. Holmes, from New York, 14th inst., arrived at her wharf Sunday evening, the 22d inst., with a full cargo and the following named passengers: H. Keeler and wife, Miss Etta Scheeper; Messrs. Wm. Martin, James Parker and P. Dancone.

DIED.

On Monday, the 23d inst., at 5 minutes to 2 o'clock P. M., Mrs. Rebecca Brown, aged 75 years, a native of Nassau, N. P., but for the last fifty-three years a resident of this city.

Her friends and those of the Brown, Hyde, Tinker and Wossely families, are respectfully invited to attend her funeral THIS (Tuesday) AFTERNOON, at 5 o'clock, from the residence of her son, C. D. Brown, No. 276 Magazine street.

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15.....CHARTRES STREET.....15

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OF SUPERINTENDENT AND CHIEF ENGINEER,

WATER WORKS

DEPARTMENT COMMERCIAL BANK.

NEW ORLEANS, March 1, 1868.

To the President and Directors Water Works Department Commercial Bank:

Gentlemen—I beg leave to submit the following Annual Report on the condition and management of these Works:

1. River Work and Influent Pipes.—This part of the Works is of primary importance, regulating both the quantity and, to some extent, the quality of the water. During the very low stage of the river in the past season apprehensions were felt by the engineer of the pumping works that the pumps might fail to work. At the time of lowest water, however, the inlet pipe was some eighteen inches below the surface, and the effect, though observable, was not seriously felt.

The river work of piling and cribbing around the ends of the influent pipes is much decayed, and fails, in its present condition and plan to accomplish the object intended—the exclusion of foreign matter from the pipes. In low water, especially, when the current of the river is slack, and the opening of the inlet pipe is near the surface, floating substances are drawn to its mouth in large quantities. They were found during the past summer at all times, but especially in the early morning after the emptying of the slaughter houses above, and in every stage of decomposition. Much of this putrescent animal and vegetable matter doubtless enters the pumps, in solution if not in suspension, and must seriously affect the purity of the water.

This contamination takes place most extensively in low water, when there is but a comparatively small quantity of earthy matter in suspension, and when the water is apparently most pure. Being partly in solution, instead of mere mechanical suspension, it cannot be removed even by filtration.

An enlarged and improved crib work could be made to mitigate this nuisance in some degree; but nothing can effectually prevent it so long as the water is thus contaminated within so short a distance above.

The subject has been more than once before the city and State governments, but has never received the attention due to its importance.

To exclude solid matter, which sometimes enters the pumps and scourgers them and the engines, strainers should be placed over the openings of the inlet pipes.

2. Engines, Pumps, Engine Houses, Etc.—The engines and pumps are in good condition, and more than equal to any legitimate demand which can be made on them for the supply of the present pipe system.

The power of the old engine and the capacity of its pumps being in accord, they work successfully and economically and would be amply sufficient for the present consumption of water, were it not for the excessive and criminal waste, which is almost universal, and is as injurious to every consumer as it is to the Company.

The new engine is unfortunately furnished with pumps far below its relative power. The result is a higher first cost, a heavier expense to run it, and a constant liability to accidents unless extreme caution be used. It was originally calculated for a head of 150 feet of water, being at least double what could ever be necessary where the source of supply is within a few feet of every part of the city level. The power is, then, at least double the resistance to be overcome. Two accidents have occurred during the year for want of attention to the effect of this disparity. By opening the valves into the reservoirs while the water is also flowing direct into the pipe system of the city, the pressure is suddenly removed, and unless the head of steam is at the same time cut off this ponderous machinery moves at a speed far beyond what is prudent or safe. Instructions have been given which it is hoped will prevent future accidents of this kind. It would be economy, however, to give to this fine piece of machinery pumps at least fifty per cent. larger, which would remove this danger and greatly increase the working results at present cost.

3. Water Supply, Distribution and Waste.—The report of the Assistant Engineer shows the monthly and daily average quantity of water delivered for seven months commencing 1st July, 1867. It does not appear that any record has been previously kept, so that no comparison can be made.

The quantity is more than double the average furnished to the same number of subscribers in the cities of the United States supplied by steam, including in both what is used for extinguishing fires and cleaning the streets. Careful observation and investigation prove beyond question that the water was not used but was wantonly and, in many cases, willfully wasted. The unavoidable loss from this cause should not exceed 10 per cent. of the whole quantity, and in well regulated works it rarely reaches 15. But when it mounts as it does with us, to 50 per cent., it becomes of very serious moment.

The only correction is to be found in a rigid system of police, inspection and administration. At their meeting in July last, the Board of Directors adopted an organization and system of responsibility in the water purveying and inspecting departments which, it was believed, would accomplish the desired end. It answers that purpose in other institutions, and there can be little doubt will do the same here when put in operation. Without some such system the Works cannot be made efficient or remunerative.

It is estimated from the best data that half the waste has resulted from the reckless action of the late Street Commissioner and his subordinates they having long had the free and unrestrained use of the fire hydrants, in violation of the company's charter. The fact seems to have been lost sight of by these officials, that in tolerating and even encouraging this abuse they were consuming a large portion of the revenue of the city, more than one fourth of all the stock of the company belonging to that corporation. During the rainy season the past summer it was not unusual to see many fire hydrants discharging water into the streets at their full capacity, when the pavements were absolutely overflowed by floods of rain. Instead of good, much damage was done the pavements and private property by this wanton waste. The change recently made in that department of the city government has made a marked improvement in this respect. But the company should resume its legal control of these hydrants. It would be no greater abuse of power for the company to take control of the street lamps and allow a set of irresponsible persons to keep the gas burning by day as well as by night.

The next most important source of waste is to be found in leaking hydrants. One of these small outlets, viewed by itself, seems but a trifle, but when counted by the thousand, the aggregate is enormous. Inspections reveal the fact that more than one fourth of all the private hydrants in use are leaking. Accurate measurements were made of a number, which were repaired by the company, and the average loss per day in each was 500 gallons.

For this year this would be	182,500 gallons.
For 2000 hydrants	365,000,000 "
The loss from 1000 fire hydrants	135,000,000 "
Total annual loss by leaks	500,000,000

This calculation is confirmed by observations made upon the reservoirs between the hours of 12 and 3 o'clock at night, when the consumption is very small, if anything.

The cost of delivering water, including interest on the cost of the works, is about twelve and a half cents for one thousand gallons. This would give as the loss from leakage alone the very handsome sum of $62,500

And for street department 62,500

Total loss by waste 125,000

Another source of considerable loss is in the use of water by non-paying consumers from the open private hydrants in their vicinity, and from the fire hydrants, which are accessible to all. Many such cases have been reported, and they are known to exist in large numbers. A reduction of water rent, so as to place it within the reach of all, followed by close inspection and a rigid use of the stop cock, would soon check this abuse, but nothing else can do it.

Many hydrants not paid for and reported closed, are found on examination to be open and in use. Without inspections, frequent and rigid, this abuse cannot be corrected, especially with the many defects and deficiencies in our pipe connections, stop cocks and hydrants. Control over them, in many instances, is almost impossible, and in others the paying consumer can only be supplied by allowing his neighbor the free use of water.

If some action is not to be taken in regard to leaking hydrants, it would be economy to close them and refund the rent; the quantity of water lost is much greater than the quantity used or paid for.

These causes of loss cannot be entirely removed, but the amount may be so reduced by administration as to bring us to something like on an equality with other similar institutions.

From an examination of the reports of several other works in our country supplied by steam power, it appears their revenue per 1000 gallons of water delivered, varies from ten to fifteen cents. Ours reaches only seven cents and a half. Could we attain their success in management, and we have had much longer experience than most of them, it would add largely to our revenue, and probably change the low estimate now put on our works.

Delivering an average of 6,500,000 gallons of water daily at the lowest rate of other institutions, we should receive per annum $237,500 00

At the medium rate 295,562 50

At the highest (15c.), which is far below our average charge* 355,875 00

The past cannot be redeemed, but the future can be controlled, and the income of the company largely increased under a new reduction of charges.

4. Water Rents.—The water rates of the company require attention, and should be revised and improved by the experience we have gained and by the information derived from the experience of others. As now assessed, the large consumer, who uses the water as a matter of trade and profit, generally pays much less than the absolute cost; whilst the small consumer, who takes it as a matter of necessity, has not only to make good this loss, but to make up in addition the small dividends. Some of the large consumers, from calculations based on examination and their own statements, are believed to pay only from two to five cents per 1000 gallons, which is greatly below the cost of delivery. The small consumer, on the contrary, often pays as high as fifty cents. Many are thus driven to the use of cisterns, even after the expense of erecting hydrants, or to the fraudulent use of water from a neighbor's hydrant without paying. Many such instances have come under the notice of the present acting hydrant surveyor in his inspections.

To this cause must, in a great measure, be attributed the excessive number of hydrants reported closed. Water rates established on a uniform and reasonable basis would soon restore most of these closed hydrants to the active, paying list.

The following comparative statement of water rates in companies supplied by steam will prove instructive:

Cleveland, Ohio, the lowest, represented by	$1 00
Hartford, Conn. "	1 13
Cincinnati, Ohio "	1 20
Detroit, Mich. "	1 50
Chicago, Illinois "	1 50
Buffalo, New York "	1 52
Nassau Water Works, N. Y. "	1 60
Jersey City, N. J. "	1 75
St. Louis, Mo. "	2 00
New Orleans "	3 00

The rates in New Orleans are so irregular, for want of data in the assessment, that many of them, and especially those charged large consumers, are but arbitrary guesses.

A uniform rate of 20 cents per 1000 gallons of water, faithfully and intelligently assessed and collected, would cover the expense of gratuitous supply to the city, and soon double the revenue of the Company. This is a lower rate than the average now charged in New York and several other Northern cities.

5. Fire Hydrants.—The present fire hydrants in their location and construction, conform to the law chartering the company; but are totally unsuitable to the present changed condition of affairs. Having executed the law fully it can not be expected the Company shall gratuitously incur the expense of alteration which would be large. These hydrants formerly furnished a full supply of water for the old hand machine, but the new steam fire engine cannot be supplied by the same means. A gallon of water cannot be forced into a quart measure, nor can a four-inch stream be drawn through a two-inch pipe. It cannot be denied but the evil is serious; the only wonder is it should have continued so long. The water is close at hand in greatest abundance, and only requires an enlarged opening through which it may be discharged. Other cities have long since made this change, some by larger hydrants, but the most simple and economical arrangement is the fire well—a small iron reservoir. Into one of these wells the water is discharged by a branch pipe of sufficient size to supply as many engines as can be used in its vicinity. And it is only necessary to drop the end of the hose into the well. By the old system but one engine can draw from each hydrant and then receive but a half supply.

The loss which is often sustained at a single fire for want of a supply of water would cover the entire expense. The abolition of the present unsightly street hydrant, resulting from this arrangement, would benefit the Company to some extent in saving the current repairs and reducing waste.

6. Reservoirs.—The present basins, with a capacity of only 4,000,000 gallons, half a day's supply, are entirely too small for even the present extent of the Works. A series of large subsiding reservoirs, of capacity for at least 40,000,000 gallons, should be constructed for the storage and purification of the water before it is introduced into the city. This work could be done for a very reasonable sum, and would soon prove a profitable investment by the increased revenue it would bring.

The Mississippi water, thus deprived of the foreign matter held in mechanical suspension, is purer and more wholesome by far than that now collected in our cisterns. If supplied in sufficient quantities and of good quality at reasonable rates, it would soon come into general use, to the exclusion of all other. The expenditure necessary to accomplish this great improvement would doubtless be repaid in a few years by the work itself. The other advantages of health, comfort and purity, cannot be calculated in dollars.

The vacant batture lots in front of the present pumping works are well situated for this purpose, and the amount of earth now delivered with the water could be advantageously and economically used in building the necessary reservoirs.

7. Pipe System.—The distributing pipes, as now laid, possess a much larger capacity than the main supply pipes which convey the water to them from the pumps and basins. This deficiency, which has existed from the earlier stages of the Works, has gone on increasing annually, until it is now a very serious and costly evil. The stoppage of water is daily furnished, but is conducted with great difficulty to the points of consumption. Three connections are necessary to remedy this defect:

1. The one now being made from the pumping works along Market and Felicity streets to connect with all pipes leading down town, as far back as Rampart street.

2. A twenty-four inch main along the levee, from the end of the city thirty inch main on Canal, connecting with all cross pipes as far down as Elysian Fields.

3. A thirty inch main along the levee from the end of the city thirty inch main near Calliope street, to connect with the pump at works.

The first of these works will soon be finished and in operation, and by its results will doubtless confirm the opinion heretofore expressed of its importance. It will tend also to show what results would follow the completion of the other two.

For want of these connections the current of water in the net work of smaller pipe in the interior of the city, and especially in the lower part, has been so sluggish that there is a large deposit of earthy matter, and thus their capacity, usefulness and value are greatly reduced. In some cases it is apprehended the pipes are entirely filled. This opinion is not derived from conjecture or inference. The removal of pipe thus affected proves the fact, which is well known and now generally provided against in other works.

With these additions to the supply system, the Works would possess a great capacity for extension at small cost, and might soon be made to include the whole city. The pumping works having full capacity for a larger supply than the whole city could use in any legitimate way, no additions would be necessary.

It is essential to the efficiency of any system that prompt measures should be taken to prevent entirely and permanently the deposit of sediment in the pipes. The quantity of this dirt now pumped up daily would appear incredible were it not based upon reliable data and accurate calculations. It reaches an average of no less than sixty-five tons. Much of this flows out with the water, but enough remains to reduce the capacity of the pipes to a very serious extent.

Successful means have been discovered and applied in many works where this evil exists, and at a very moderate cost.

8. Flushing Pipes.—Where the flow of water is constant and the current rapid it is found no deposit is made, and the pipes are as clean after years as when first laid, except from the effect of chemical action, which is small; and even when a deposit is made, if not indurated or hardened, it is easily and rapidly removed by a temporary current, given through the pipe at increased speed. This is accomplished by attaching flushing pipes and valves in proper locations, especially at the terminations of the pipe. A strong current is easily directed through any one or more pipes by opening the valves at their end and cutting off the water from other directions. The sediment is thus readily removed, and the expense, after the attachments are made, is inconsiderable.

This process would not be so necessary after the use of subsiding reservoirs, but could not be dispensed with even then without a serious reduction in time of the capacity of all pipe remote from the pumping works.

9. Private Attachments to the Main Pipes.—In the year 1856 it was made the duty of the superintendent by resolution of the Board of Directors, "to make a record, in a book to be provided, and kept by him for that purpose, of all branch pipes, hydrants and other fixtures erected for the supply of private families and others, which record shall designate the point of junction of such branch pipe, and the course and distance it runs to the hydrant or hydrants thereto attached, so that no difficulty may at any time be found in ascertaining the position of such pipe."

A committee of the stockholders, appointed in the year 1849 to examine into the condition of the works, reported that no such record had been commenced up to that time. The same omission has continued up to this year, and is the source of very serious embarrassment. It is impossible to exercise control over the supply of water or the revenues of the Company without the information such a record can alone furnish. Without it the report must be had to tradition or to the memories of old, ignorant and inefficient employes, some of whom, I regret to report, have also proved unfaithful.

An efficient hydrant surveyor and draftsman have been employed to collect this essential information and make the necessary records. It is a work requiring industry, system and intelligence—qualifications possessed in an eminent degree by Col. H. Gardewal, who has in charge the work, and, as was to be expected, that all knowledge of many parts of the works was lost, stop-cocks had been paved over and forgotten the course, length and connection of pipes were in many instances unknown to the oldest servants of the Company, or when known were regarded and preserved as valuable personal information, not to be disclosed.

Much time and labor were necessary, under such circumstances, to unearth the buried information. The work is progressing, well under these adverse circumstances, and the surveys are about half completed, thus bringing the information into the office, where it can be used even before the entry on the permanent records.

10. Personal Organization and Regulations.—All the resolutions of the Board of Directors in 1856, before referred to, and which appear to be the only regulations ever adopted for the Company, might be revived and enforced with great advantage. They seem to have been gradually ignored, however, until time and disuse have virtually repealed them, and they are no longer even remembered. Without a knowledge of their existence I had the honor last summer, after only three months of experience, to report to the Board of Directors the utter inefficiency of the present system, and to suggest an organization and system of duty very similar to those of 1856. That report was unanimously adopted and ordered to be enforced. The suspension of its execution and the reasons therefor, will doubtless be made known to you.

No efficient or economical management of the works can be realized, and none should be expected until there is some established rule of gradation and responsibility for all officers and employes of the Company.

11. Extension of Pipe System.—The work of laying a large main on Market and Felicity streets to furnish an outlet for the large surplus of water now delivered by the pumps, by carrying it to the distributing pipes back of Magazine street, is to be greatly abridged. It has been greatly delayed by two unforseen causes—the low stage of water in the Ohio river, which continued up to the first of January, and the constant rains here (for some weeks) after the receipt of the pipe from Cincinnati.

The pipe is a new pattern, never before used in this city, and promises in its results to reduce the expense of laying very materially. The calculation of cost for laying the present pipe of the old pattern, by the former Superintendent, equals the original cost of the pipe. By this new process it will not exceed one fifth of that amount. From the specimens of the work already done, and the tests it has stood, there seems to be no doubt of its complete success, both as regard economy and efficiency.

In making the connections from this work to the lines of pipe leading down from Felicity street, much difficulty has been encountered, and considerable expense has been incurred from the existence of serious errors in the records of the office. Pipes laid down on those records are found to have no existence; others are found in the places designated, but differing in size; and some are found having no place on the records. These discrepancies are very serious, and would justify the expense of a complete revision. In any new work the same embarrassments must be again expected, unless some such revision is made.

12. Subordinate Reports.—The report of the Assistant Engineer, containing much valuable information in detail, is herewith submitted. Similar reports from the Water Purveyor and Inspector are essential, not only to the records of the office, but to a correct administration of the affairs of the Company.

Respectfully submitted.

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By order of the Board of Trustees.

F. D. DARLING, President.
JOHN M. GOULD, Treasurer.
J. Q. A. FELLOWS, Secretary.

New Orleans, December 13, 1867

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