PROGRESS OF DISCOVERY.

THE WASHINGTON MARKET MONOPOLY DEFENDED BY THE CITY.

A Full Fledged Market Squatted Up Town in Defiance of the Washington Market Politicians—The Aldermen's Committee Commending Water to Run up Hill.

Washington Market is a monopoly in the hands of about four hundred forestallers, who transact an enormous business, and practically rule the markets of the country. They pay the city a merely nominal license and rent, and have sturdily refused to be moved from the lands which they have squatted on at the foot of Vesey street, and whenever any attempt has been made to establish markets across the centres of consumption, the Washington Market interest has interposed its veto. Washington Market's hand now appears in the report of the Aldermen's Committee on Markets, presented at the meeting yesterday. The Committee report that a large building has been erected on a plot of ground fronting on Broadway, Seventh avenue, and Forty-eighth street, in which are many stalls occupied by butchers for the sale of meats, both wholesale and retail; other stalls are used by hucksters, dealers in all kinds of produce, both of the farm and dairy, and, in fact, the entire building is used and recognized as a public market, owned exclusively by private individuals. The stalls and stands are rented by them, at a regular annual rental, which leures entirely to their own benefit. H. Saech, & Sons are the owners, managers, and directors, and the building covers an area of 150 feet on Broadway, 100 feet on Forty-eighth street, 100 feet on Seventh avenue, and 97 feet in depth on the northern or Forty-eighth street side, through from Broadway to Seventh avenue. There are 150 market stands, at a rental each averaging $5 per week.

THE CITY'S CHARTERED PRIVILEGES.

The corporation claim the same right to set up and establish this, or any similar building, or for any purpose as is claimed by individuals in regard to erecting any other kind of business. The city, in fact, claims the right to establish and operate what be such to refer to the indignant tenants in the rights claimed by them to dispose of such stalls or stands, in the manner of public markets used by the city, and the right of individuals to dispose of articles of food or other commodities in the public markets. The Committee, however, think that we see a vast difference between the two cases. The right to establish and maintain public markets in this city is one of the vested chartered franchises of the Corporation; in fact it is one of the most valued privileges. This right is as much an asset as the city wharves and has been held, used, and employed from time immemorial. That no issue of law, as may arise on this subject, the Committee quote the Dongan Charter of 1686, the Montgomery Charter of 1730, and Chancellor Kent's commentaries.

HOW MUCH REVENUE?

The revenue derived from the public markets forms one of the main items of the city revenue. The Comptroller's report shows that the city has received from the markets, during the last three years, the following sums, namely, $[illegible] in 1866, $[illegible] in 1867, and $[illegible] in 1868. The Committee report that the revenue from the markets for the year 1868 was $[illegible], and that the expenses of the markets for the same year were $[illegible], leaving a net revenue of $[illegible]. The Committee report that a large building has been erected on a plot of ground fronting on Broadway, Seventh avenue, and Forty-eighth street, in which are many stalls occupied by butchers for the sale of meats, both wholesale and retail; other stalls are used by hucksters, dealers in all kinds of produce, both of the farm and dairy, and, in fact, the entire building is used and recognized as a public market, owned exclusively by private individuals. The stalls and stands are rented by them, at a regular annual rental, which leures entirely to their own benefit. H. Saech, & Sons are the owners, managers, and directors, and the building covers an area of 150 feet on Broadway, 100 feet on Forty-eighth street, 100 feet on Seventh avenue, and 97 feet in depth on the northern or Forty-eighth street side, through from Broadway to Seventh avenue. There are 150 market stands, at a rental each averaging $5 per week.

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BUT THE CITY'S RIGHTS MUST NOT BE INVERTED.

Usurpations of the franchises of the city, and the diversion of the revenues arising therefrom to other than the uses of the corporation, without compensation being made therefor, or the same being, if possible, prevented, when such interferences have the authority of State law, and the revenues are applied to the public uses of the State, but inferences similar to the one under consideration, by private individuals, by which the revenues of the Corporation are diverted to the benefit of such private persons, must be prevented at all hazards, or the various other privileges and advantages secured to this Corporation will inevitably pass from its hands into the hands of private interests. In consequence, franchises worth millions of dollars to the city and our taxpayers will be usurped and turned to private account, without any equivalent therefor being received by or paid to the city.

It is, in the opinion of your Committee, the imperative duty of the City Government to preserve intact, so far as it yet possesses the power, each of the many valuable privileges, franchises, and immunities secured to the Corporation of the city of New York from the Dutch West India Company at the purchase, confirmed by the first State Constitution in 1777, after the revolution, and by every subsequent charter of the city or Constitution of the State up to the present time.

In the opinion of your Committee, there can be no question as to the right of the Common Council to assume control of the markets themselves, and that any interference by any power or person with the right so vested is a direct and positive encroachment upon the rights, liberties, and privileges of the Corporation. If the revenues and profits of the franchises are ever diverted from the uses of the Corporation, it can only be done legally by the State, and by first giving legal commendation to the city therefor. The element of individuals so to divert, without compensation being paid therefor, and without authority of State or municipal laws, or legislation, and steps should be taken at once to punish the present, with a view of preventing future, such encroachments upon the vested rights of the Corporation.

GETTING RID OF WASHINGTON MARKET'S COMPETITION.

The Committee close their report with the following resolution, which follows:

Resolved, That the Comptroller to the Corporation be and he is hereby authorized and directed to cause the land now occupied and used as the market located on the block bounded by Broadway and Seventh avenue, Fulton Company, Ninth and Forty-eighth streets, shall be leased for a term of years, not exceeding five years, to the highest responsible bidder, at the highest rent he may obtain therefor, and that the Comptroller be and he is hereby authorized and directed immediately to commence an action against the Corporation to have the Corporation enjoined and restrained from further use of the premises as a public market, and to have the Corporation declared entitled to the possession of the premises, free from the market franchise or the right to hold the same for public market purposes