

Southern Vineyard.

ANGELES, JUNE 26, 1858.

Water.

A communication will be found in this paper on the subject of an economical distribution and use of the river. That there is a sufficiency of water daily taken into the Zanja to cultivate double the quantity of land now under cultivation we have no doubt. The quantity of land cultivated by irrigation from 1832 to 1840 was as nothing compared to the present area, yet, we well remember that the losses from the insufficiency of water were a much greater per cent, than at this time. The reason was that a much greater quantity was allowed to run to waste. Even now, the water which is wasted, would make more corn, could it be concentrated and judiciously used, than the whole product of the county. We are ignorant of the views of the writer respecting the mode he would propose to secure the water, but we are of the opinion that the most feasible plan yet proposed is to bring the water into the *Canada* of the Reyes, near the Feliz rancho, and convert, by means of one or more dams, this basin into a great and unfailing reservoir.

Were this done, water enough could be collected to convert all the now useless land on this side of the Sausal Redondo and the Machado's ranchos, into fertile fields of vines and orchards.

If the present city government will take hold of this subject and perfect some plan by which the surplus water of the river during the winter season may be stored up for summer use they will confer a benefit upon this city, and erect a monument to their own memory which will be as continuous in the minds of the inhabitants, and as durable as time.

To the Editor of the Southern Vineyard:

DEAR SIR—As an old resident and devoted friend to the advancement and progress of Los Angeles, the "Queen City of the South," I am prompted to call the attention of our citizens to the proper distribution of the water privileges at our disposal. In doing so, I shall preface my remarks by stating that I do not wish to interfere, in the slightest degree, with the vested rights of those who now use the water, or those who have lands within the limits of irrigation, for I consider their right sacred; and, were we to attempt to interfere with it unduly, I think it questionable at least, if we have the legal power.

It is safe to say, that six months of the year the waters of Los Angeles river are not used for purposes of irrigation; and at a season when there is a most abundant supply. This added to the quantity that is allowed to waste during night times and Sundays, could, if properly husbanded, be made to irrigate an area as large again as that at present cultivated. See, then, what might be added to the positive wealth of the city and country at large, to say nothing of the means it would afford to all to beautify their residences by the planting of shade, ornamental and useful trees and plants. In a sanatory point of view, the benefits and comforts resulting from a pure and wholesome supply of water, would be incalculable. Nature has supplied us with her richest charms and treasures, and it remains with us to say whether we shall use them; or suffer them like the roses of the desert, to "waste their sweetness on the desert air;" or if you will suffer me to parodize the language of Goldsmith, it will better fill the picture—

Could nature's bounty satisfy the breast,
The sons of Angeles were surely blest.
Whatever fruits in different climes were found
That proudly rise, or humbly court the ground,
Whatever blooms, in torrid tracts appear,
Whose bright succession decks the varied year
Whatever sweets salute the Northern sky
With vernal lives that blossoms but to die—
These, here disporting, own the kindred soil,
Nor ask luxuriance, from the planter's toil,
While sea-born gales, their gelid wings expand,
To winnow fragrance round the smiling land.

Now if the City will issue bonds to the amount of fifty thousand dollars, payable in ten or twenty years, bearing 7 per cent. interest per annum, I think there are wealthy citizens who will take them at par. Let the City do the work, charge a moderate price for the water, supply the poor as well as the rich; and although I have not a foot of land that will be benefitted directly or indirectly, I am willing to be taxed for it, because I feel certain that this enterprise will add at least $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. to our population in one year,—thereby enhancing the value of our real estate, adding additional enterprise, intelligence and everything that will secure to us the blessings of a thrifty and prosperous community.

I am opposed to all special privileges, as they tend to oppress the poor, and always fail to fulfil the objects of republican and democratic form of government. The greatest good to the greatest number is my motto; and I think the present liberal and intelligent Council is just the very one to carry out this good and wholesome suggestion.

I fear that my ideas are rather confusedly expressed, but I trust that it will incite inquiry into the matter, for I am sure the project is feasible, without interfering in any degree with the rights that parties now possess.

DIEGO.