

The Fair Haven Water Company.

Saturday afternoon, a party of gentlemen, among whom were several representatives of the press, were invited by some of the leading men of the Fair Haven Water Company to take a ride to the grounds purchased by that Company, and view the extensive works now in progress for securing supplies of water for this city and Fair Haven. We accepted the invitation. The ride to the grounds is a very beautiful one of two and a half miles west from the State House, on the old Derby road. At this distance from the city, the Water Company have purchased about two hundred acres of wild rocky land which is permeated by veins of pure living water, which trickles from the rocks or gushes from the ravines, and at last unite their drops in a clear stream of considerable size.—The company have here built two dams, and a third and fourth are in progress of construction. The natural features of the place afford great facilities for the building of these works. The lower dam is but 200 feet in length, the two rocky cliffs between which it is built, aiding much in the damming of the waters. It is 130 feet above tide water, and is twenty-seven feet high, flowing the waters back over sixteen acres of land, and forming a lake which will contain about 75,000,000 of gallons. From this lake, an outlet is made by means of three iron pipes imbedded in the masonry, of the respective sizes of ten, sixteen and twenty inches. The second dam is fifteen hundred feet distant from the lower one, in a north-west direction. It is 600 feet long, and stands at an elevation of 166 feet above the sea, backing the water over 30 acres of land, and forming a reservoir of the capacity of 150 millions of gallons. The dam No. 3 will be 170 feet above tide water, covering 36 acres and forming a reservoir capable of holding 175 million gallons. Dam No. 4 will be at an elevation of 185 feet, the reservoir having a capacity of 175 million gallons. A study of the topography of the place shows the comparative ease with which these successive dams and lakes are formed. But though greatly aided by nature in the juttings out of solid walls of rock and the liberal scooping out of these great earthen bowls—aided, as compared with similar works in various parts of the world, still the engineer and those who execute his plans have many obstacles to surmount.

It is not doubted but that these reservoirs are capable of supplying the whole city with pure water for all the ordinary family purposes to which it can be applied, as well as for machinery and the use of the Fire Department, but in the altogether improbable event of failure, other reservoirs can be built in this region and the surplus waters gathered. To perfectly insure against a failure in the water supply, the company are constructing a dam a few hundred feet above Wintergreen Falls—about three miles from the city—which will be 700 feet long, 20 feet high, with 240 feet head of water, which will form a reservoir containing 400 million gallons. The water from this reservoir is intended to be united with the water from the first named lakes either at the corner of York and Chapel streets, or at the junction of West and Chapel streets—probably at the latter place. The Wintergreen Falls dam is advanced nearly half way to completion.

The engineer employed by the company to plan and supervise the construction of these immense works, is Mr. John Osborn, of Hamden. He is a young man of high scientific attainments, and is highly praised by the stockholders of the company for the taste and ability he has displayed while in their employ. The work already done is well done. The masonry is of a substantial character. By means of a very ingenious contrivance of the engineer, the supply of water can, from any one of the dams, easily be regulated by simply turning a water-cock at any point on the route of the mains, so that in case of fire any demand of water can in a few minutes be supplied, especially from the Wintergreen Falls reservoir. This remarkable result is reached by means of a small tube of water, which follows the mains and ends at the Falls in a small vessel of water, which acts upon a valve for the egress of the fluid.

By turning a faucet at any point from the dam, so that the water can flow freely, the column is acted upon for its entire length, a simple arrangement increasing or diminishing the supply of water at the will of the operator.

The estimated cost of the supplying of Fair Haven with water is \$75,000. It is estimated that both New and Fair Haven could have been supplied for \$150,000.

Even should some of the plans of this water company prove a failure, the work in which they are engaged will prove an inestimable blessing to this city, for they are studying the ornate as well as the practical. They intend to make a fine park of the extensive grounds in their possession. It is now a wildly beautiful spot. A gentleman from Europe recently said that in all his travels he had rarely seen a spot capable of such a magnificent development as this. The bright lakes sleeping, or tossed in wavelots by the wind, the piles of jagged, splintered rock, which command fine views of New Haven and Fair Haven and the bold precipices of East and West Rocks, a far-reaching panoramic view in all directions; seaward, looking to Long Island—the deep gorges where springs first lift their gems to the sunlight, the winding roads, leading across the dams and between hills covered with shrubbery and trees, the foaming cascade which froths the rocks below the second dam, and the many indescribable beauties which the eye can see and the soul appreciate, where Nature and Art shall strike hands in a perfect union, render and will render this park 'a thing of beauty and a joy for ever'—a boon welcome to the generations of the future, as to us are welcome the city's giant elms which our fathers planted.

Messrs. Caleb S. Maltby and Benjamin Noyes are the prime movers and conductors in this enterprise of the water works and park. We will not prophesy concerning the probable success or failure of the water works, but will say of the park that the public should feel deeply indebted to the gentlemen who have thus planned and are now working for our future happiness. The roads of the park, which now extend nearly two miles, have all been planned and advanced thus far toward completion by Mr. Maltby, whose taste and ability find exemplification here. The company began their work one year ago, and have employed about fifty men.

On the grounds owned by this company are the somewhat celebrated copper mines opened by a New Haven company quite a number of years since, in which the late Dr. Beers had such a lively faith and working interest. We visited the main shafts. They are sunk but a short distance from one of the highest points of rock. One or two of them have a depth of twenty or thirty feet, mostly through solid rock. Some rich specimens of copper pyrites were found in the working of the mines, as also some silver ore, but the quantity did not seem to warrant further mining operations, and the enterprise was abandoned, though the company still maintains a nominal organization. In one of

the shafts we found a bird's tiny nest, perched on a rocky shelf some ten or fifteen feet below the mouth of the excavation, and containing six fair white eggs. That nest of eggs clinging so closely to the rough ledge, with shrubbery overhanging and a watery floor beneath, was so pretty, so suggestive, that one of the party proposed a dedicatory poem. Poetic responses were given by some of the gentlemen present, which we regret not being able to record. The members of the party then walked from the mines—carrying with them mineral specimens and gathering the wild flowers which grow so plentifully there—and on a high rocky peak partook of 'the feast of reason and the flow of soul,' and of refreshments material, then voted that we had had a delightful time, and bade farewell to the spot as the sun sank rapidly to the green wavy horizon and gilded the rocks with a golden gilding.