

NORWICH NOTES AND SKETCHES,

FROM 1866 TO 1873.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO MISS CAULKINS' HISTORY.

Norwich City Water Works.

At the May session of the General Assembly of the State, 1866, the charter of the city was so amended as to give the city the power to supply itself with pure water. This amendment was accepted by the city, and in October of the following year a site was selected for a reservoir and the work commenced. The reservoir is in a natural basin between the Scotland Road and Canterbury Turnpike, one mile east of the Norwich Town Green, through which a small tributary stream ran to the Yantic River. On the south end of this basin a heavy embankment wall was built, 33 feet high and 400 feet long which formed a reservoir of about 350,000,000 gallons capacity. The length of the reservoir is one mile and an eighth, the average width 480 feet, the average depth $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the surface measure 66 acres. The level of the overflow is 250 feet above tide water, and $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the summit of Jail Hill—the highest point of land in the city. This gives a pressure on the water pipes of 108 pounds to the square inch at tide water, and of $95\frac{1}{2}$ pounds on Franklin Square. With this pressure water can be forced through an ordinary engine hose to a vertical height of 140 feet. Its efficiency for the purpose of extinguishing fires, as well as for domestic uses, is thus demonstrated. The present supply of water is equal to forty gallons a day to about 20,000 people, but by attaching other available streams to the reservoir, the supply can be indefinitely increased. The supply pipe is of iron, lined with cement and laid in a bedding of cement. The cost of the whole work up to January, 1873, including reservoir and piping, and all other necessary expenses, is not far from \$350,000.

New Laurel Hill Bridge.

For an account of the bridges built at different times on the site of the present Laurel Hill Bridge, see pp. 347 to 350. Since the publication of Miss Caulkins' History, a Norwich gentleman found in the Royal Library in Paris several volumes of letters, written by a French gentleman who