

THE SPRINGFIELD WATER WORKS—LETTING OF THE CONTRACTS—THE WORK TO BE COMMENCED IMMEDIATELY.—Our citizens may now look forward with gratifying anticipations to the inauguration of a new era of prosperity and improvement in the history of Springfield. The time has at length arrived when there is really a prospect of the city being furnished with an abundant supply of water. The demands that have been made for this for manufacturing purposes, for public use in case of fires, and for private benefit throughout the community, at length prevailed with the authorities, and actual measures have been taken to institute the improvement so much needed. The water works commissioners yesterday awarded the following contracts :

For building the reservoir and engine house and digging and filling in the trenches, to Messrs. Dennis, Sutton & Co., of this city.

For construction of pumps and engine, to Joseph Earnshaw, of Cincinnati.

For pipes and castings, to Messrs. Gaylord & Co., of Cincinnati.

These contracts are now binding upon the parties, and the work is to be commenced at once. The reservoir, the site for which near the college building northeast of town, has already been purchased, and will be constructed of earth, with a basin of solid masonry, and will hold, when filled, about three million and seven hundred thousand gallons of water. The ground upon which the reservoir is to be built is of such a height above the city that the natural elevation above would cause a strong flow of water through the supply pipes in the direction of town, and when to this is added the elevation of the reservoir basin, it may readily be seen that the water will be forced into the upper stories of any building into which it is introduced. The engines and pumps for supplying the reservoir with water from the Sangamon river, are to be of the most approved make. Mr. Earnshaw, to whom the contract for furnishing these has been given, is a thorough, practical hydraulic engineer, and one who has conducted a number of similar operations, among which are the celebrated works at Camp Nelson, Kentucky. We might also add that Mr. Earnshaw guarantees the practical working of this apparatus. The main pipe between the reservoir and the river will be fifteen inches in diameter, and made of cast iron—this material being regarded as superior in point of durability to any other in those cities where it has received a thorough test. Much of the main water pipe of Cincinnati has, for instance, been in use for upward of twenty years, and is still doing excellent service.

We scarcely need add that these contracts have been awarded by the commissioners, in every instance, to the lowest responsible bidders. The probable cost of building the entire works, under these contracts, will not exceed \$350,000, while the benefits that must follow the introduction of water into the city, are almost incalculable. For the prompt and efficient discharge of their duty in the matter, the commissioners certainly merit the thanks of every citizen interested in the future of Springfield. It now remains but to urge forward the consummation of the enterprise with all possible rapidity, and we trust no obstacle whatever may be placed in the way of those who have the work in charge. Among the many important improvements inaugurated in Springfield during the past few years, none, we venture to say, will approximate in public benefit to this, which looks to the furnishing of an abundant supply of pure water to the entire community, both for public and private use.