

The Water Works Imbroglia.

The Crescent City Water Works Company Make a Demand for the Transfer of the Water Works to Them.

They are Refused Possession.

On Wednesday, after office hours at the City Hall, several individuals entered the Mayor's parlor and handed Mr. Clarke, the Mayor's Secretary, a communication from the President of the Crescent City Water Works Company, containing a demand for the possession of the City Water Works, under the act promulgated by the late Secretary of State.

Mr. Clarke informed the parties that it was after office hours, and that he would hand the document to the Mayor this morning.

Shortly after the individuals making the demand left, Mayor Flanders returned to the office, and on being informed of the facts, took immediate steps to prevent any seizure of the Water Works office, books, etc. He wrote a letter to the Superintendent of Police, requesting him to detail a sufficient force to protect the property of the Water Works—a request that was at once complied with.

We give below a copy of the demand from the President of the Crescent City Water Works Company upon the Mayor and Administrators, and of the letter to the Chief of Police from the Mayor.

This is, perhaps, the most bold and outrageous attempt to rob the city that has ever been made at any time by any individuals.

In the first place the bill, even if it had been passed through the Legislature without fraud, and its promulgation had been entirely legal, is unconstitutional and will not stand for a moment in the courts.

It contemplates the seizure of one of the most valuable properties belonging to the city, and its transfer to a private corporation for its special and exclusive benefit. It overrides the rights of the city and of individual citizens, and if it were possible that such a measure could be consummated, it would justify such a demonstration on the part of the injured and outraged people as would forever deter any similar attempt by any set of public plunderers.

To the Hon. H. F. Flanders, Mayor, and Administrators of the city of New Orleans:

Gentlemen—As President of the Crescent City Water Works Company, I beg to enclose you copies of the German Gazette and State Register, the first published in New Orleans exclusively and the other both in New Orleans and Carrollton, and I also enclose you copies of the correspondence between the Secretary of State, the President of the company and the Attorney General of the State. I would call your attention to the first section of the act in which it is stated to enable it to execute and perform the duties imposed on it all the present Water Works of said city, including the engines, pumps, reservoirs and paraphernalia and property of all kind and description appertaining thereto, and all the rights, privileges and franchises thereunto belonging, are hereby transferred and conveyed to said company; and the same shall be held, used, owned, enjoyed, worked and managed by said company, under the restrictions, limitations and provisions specified and declared; and the board of corporators shall assume the existing obligations of the city of New Orleans, secured by mortgage against the present Water Works of the city of New Orleans, and obligate themselves to pay the same as their bond, or evidence of debt shall mature. In compliance with the requirements imposed on this company by the provisions of the act quoted, I beg to notify you in my official capacity, as president of said Water Works, that I demand hereby the surrender of the property designated in said act.

Please to consider this as a formal demand to that effect.

By order of President,
R. CONWAY, Secretary.

Col. A. Badger, Chief of Police:

I have just received (after office hours) a formal demand for the immediate surrender of the City Water Works to a company styled the Crescent City Water Works Company, claiming to act under a pretended law of the Legislature.

As it is too late to advise with the other members of the Council to-day, I take the responsibility of requesting that you will station police officers at the Water Works, and at the office of the Water Works on Dryades street, to prevent intrusion on the part of persons unauthorized by the City Council, and to defeat any attempt of the so called company to take forcible possession of the property thus until further orders.

Very Respectfully, HENRY FLANDERS,
Hon. John S. Walton, Acting Administrator of Water Works:

Sir—Will you be good enough to instruct the engineer in charge of the Water Works, as well as the clerk in charge of the Water Works office, and another who may be in charge of Water Works property, that should any person not authorized by the Council attempt to intrude upon or take possession of Water Works property, they are to call upon the police, who will be stationed at the doors, to eject the intruders.

By order of the Mayor:
H. CONQUEST CLARKE, Secretary.