WATER FOR THE CITY.

A Plan for giving an abundant Water Supply to our City, and dispensing with Fire Engines.

We have at different times called the attention of our citizens to the urgent need for a supply of water; and the Common Council have frequently investigated the subject, with a view of projecting and adopting some plan by which the wants of the city could be met, and water furnished sufficient for the Fire Department, if not for general uses.

The obstacle which has always stared our people in the face, has been the lack of streams or springs within practicable distance, lying so high that their waters could be brought into our city, and distributed over the elevated portions by a system or net-work of pipes. But this week our city will be visited by Mr. W. C. Weir, Agent of the Holly Manufacturing Company, of Lockport, N. Y., who will present to the Common Council and other citizens, a plan by which they claim the obstacle named may be obviated or overcome, and waterworks constructed without this high fountain to draw upon, dispensing with with receiving and distributing reservoirs, and with fire engines and the cost of keeping in order and operating the same.

This company, by the use of Rotary Force Pumps, and other machinery, the invention of Birdsill Holly, construct "Stationary Water Works," the same power—either steam or water—pumping the water from the river or lake by the side of which the works are built, and distributing it through all the streets of a city, though miles of pipe are required, and with such force, when force is wanted, that it is only necessary to attach hose to the street or fire hydrants, to outdo the modern steam fire engines.

Works on this plan are now in operation in Lockport and Auburn, N. Y., and in Minneapolis, Minn. The Mayor of Lockport certifies that at a trial of the works erected in that city by Mr. Holly, before accepting them, two streams of water were thrown from hydrants set 50 feet above the pump, 175 feet high, bursting the hose; and that nine streams were thrown at once, from nine hydrants, through nozzles from ⅞ to 2 inches in diameter, over the highest buildings; and adds that insurance has been reduced over 50 per cent., and that they have "never failed to drown out within the building where it originated, every fire that has broken out within the hydrant limits."

The works at Auburn are located about two miles from the city, with pumps of a capacity to discharge a million gallons daily. They feed eight miles of 12, 10, 8, 6 and 4-inch pipe, furnishing water for general uses, and for eighty fire hydrants. February 9th, 1867, a fire broke out in the Engine and Retort House of an extension Oil Refinery, which was extinguished with little loss the machinery, about three miles distant, forcing the water through that length of street pipe and 1,500 feet—or 91 rods—of hose. No fire engines could have saved the building.

By an invention of Mr. Holly, the opening of a fire hydrant rings a bell in the room of the Superintendent at the Works calling him to duty; and the discharge also regulates the pressure at the Works.

These facts are attested by the Mayors and Chief Engineers of Lockport and Auburn, and by the President of the Auburn Water Works Company, and certainly they are such as will warrant us in investigating the claims of the system. Mr. Weir, after looking over the ground, estimates that $60,000 will erect works of sufficient capacity to meet the wants of our city, including ten miles of street pipe.

We are not prepared to say that this will be a good investment for us, but it is an important desideratum to have a sufficient water supply, and the matter deserves thorough investigation.

We learn that Detroit is canvassing the claims of the system, with a view to throwing up their reservoirs and adopting it; and also that East Saginaw is about entering upon the construction of works of the kind.