CITY MATTERS.

Water Works in Rochester.

There is a gentleman in town to-day, representing a Philadelphia firm, who has been consulting the Mayor and others as to the construction of water works. Mr. Kennedy, the gentleman referred to, is familiar with the business of constructing water works, and is connected with a firm of capital and experience, we are informed. He comes here now simply to enquire as to the state of the public mind on the water question—not to make estimates or propositions. If, by conversing with those who are informed as to our own wants and facilities, he finds that there is a field for further and more minute investigation with a view to constructing water works, he will, after reporting to his associates, visit us again, make a survey, and make a proposition to be considered by the public.

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He intimates that his company may propose to construct water works for Rochester, without asking the loan of money on credit, or subscriptions to stock, but simply by the payment of water rates on streets where pipes are laid. That is: that all who use the water shall pay a stipulated price, according to quantity, while those who do not use it shall pay only a nominal rate per annum, as a tax for its general benefits. It is of course impossible to make an approximation to an estimate what these rates will be, now—it depends entirely on the cost and extent of the works.

The source of supply is as uncertain as all else connected with the matter—that will depend upon what a closer inspection of our natural facilities may reveal. Lake Ontario and Hemlock Lake are the two prominent sources named—the latter, perhaps, is generally regarded with most favor on the score of cost.

The water question is one of no little moment to this city, and those interested in the prosperity of Rochester, can well afford to consider it often until the grand object is accomplished. We are happy to hear that capitalists from abroad are looking to this city as a suitable point for investment in water works, and it is hoped that they will be met in a liberal spirit by our citizens.