

WATER WORKS.—Again the subject of water works for Rochester is agitated. It is talked in the streets that a Mr. Easton, of New Haven, has purchased of the "Rochester Water Works Co.," the right to construct water works for this city, on his own account pretty much. A private meeting was held last night, at which a few of the Aldermen and certain citizens were invited to attend. Precisely what transpired we are not permitted to know, and therefore cannot advise the public. Rumor has it that this eastern contractor is willing to bring the water here from Hemlock Lake and distribute it on his own capital, asking no stock subscriptions from citizens. He will, it is said, ask the Common Council to pledge the city to pay \$30,000 per year for public water, as the Board has once or twice done to the company having the charter. But this gentleman does not propose to lay fifty odd miles of iron pipe and put up four hundred hydrants under his contract. He proposes to lay but ten miles of iron pipe, and construct 150 hydrants. This pipe and these hydrants will of course be put in the centre streets of the city, leaving the other wards to be provided for in some way if at all. It is intimated that the other streets will be provided with wooden pipe, the durability of which is a matter of question, to say the least of it.

How far the Aldermen have been secured and pledged to go for this scheme we are not advised. That the meeting was called in a secret way, and that particular pains was taken that the press should not be advised of what was going on, is a suspicious circumstance. The Common Council ought not to act upon any proposition that so vitally concerns the people without having first submitted the proposition to the public scrutiny. We are told that a number of the Aldermen who were at the meeting last night expressed their dissent from the proposition. Others, who are probably in the ring, favored the scheme or said nothing.

Water is much wanted in this city, but when works are constructed to meet this want, they should be made in such a manner as to be permanent and meet the public want. It is better that we wait for a good thing than accept a poor substitute to meet a temporary want.