

Alexandria Water Company.

The President and Directors of the Alexandria Water Company, have the satisfaction to report to the Stockholders, at this, their second annual meeting, that the work confided to their charge is completed as far as its practical efficiency is concerned, and is in successful operation. There remain yet to do, some grading and improvement of the Reservoir Lot, and a little additional work in and around the Pump House, when the whole will be entirely finished.

In conformity with what was stated to be our expectation in the Report to the Stockholders of the 11th of May last, the water was let into the Pipes, and conveyed into town, on the 15th of June, just 15 months after the appointment of the Board, and after the first commencement of the undertaking. The inner surface of the pipes being rusty, some weeks elapsed before the water was suitable for use. It is now, however, very clear and pure, and we think will compare, favorably, with the water introduced into any City in our country. The number of those who take the water, is daily increasing, and the works are manifestly continually growing in public favour.

Referring to the two former Reports of the Board, for a detailed statement of our early operations, we will remark as an evidence of the faithfulness and efficiency of the Contractor, William McLane, who had that part of the work under his charge, that when the water was let into the pipes, although under so great a pressure, there were but two leaks in the whole 7 miles of pipe, and these were stopped in the course of a few hours. This is believed to be an unparalleled success in the laying of water pipe.

The Reservoir, too, constructed by the same individual, proved to be entirely firm. In fact, it is a source of great satisfaction to our Board, which satisfaction, we trust, will be, in a measure, partaken of by the Stockholders, that we have yet had none of our work to give way, and require reconstruction; but all has been securely, and substantially, executed at first.

The Reservoir is enclosed with a firm and neat fence, and the bank well sodded, and we think it presents, altogether, a tasteful and creditable appearance. From the top of the bank of the Reservoir, the view of the Potomac, and the surrounding scenery, is one not often surpassed in beauty, and which will well repay those who have leisure to make it a visit.

After the completion of the sodding of the banks around the Reservoir, the weather was, for some weeks, so dry, that strong apprehensions were felt lest the grass would perish; but by repeatedly watering it, it was kept alive, and we have now as good a set of grass, as is perhaps ever obtained in the first year's sodding. In the Spring, we hope to be able to grade the lot, plant it with a few evergreens, and ornamental shrubs and flowers, and enclose it with a suitable fence, which will complete our operations there.

The Pump House is 73 feet long and 37 feet wide, built 16 feet high of solid masonry, with 7 feet of frame work above, and covered with a tin roof. It is a large and very substantial building, affording ample room for another water wheel and pump, if the future growth of our town should require them, or for a steam engine, should one ever be needed in aid of the Water Power, with space for all necessary fuel, &c.

The Board would here take occasion to remark, that in view of the fact which observation and philosophy seem to unite in establishing, of the gradual diminution in the permanency and constancy of streams, as a country is improved and placed under a system of drainage, causing the water that falls to run off more immediately, we have looked forward to a possible time when the Cameron Stream may become so diminished by these causes, as to be inadequate to afford a supply of water for the town, and, at the same time, to furnish the power necessary to raise such supply to the Reservoir. The Board, therefore, in purchasing the property and water rights, took the precaution to secure the privilege of laying the pipes to the Cameron stream below the Pump House, so that, inasmuch as the level of that water, is maintained by the surface level of the Ocean, there will be the means of obtaining, at all times to come, an ample supply of water for the town, by a steam engine in the present Pump House, using the same Pump, Reservoir, Pipes, &c. This may be thought, by some, to be looking far into the future; but as it was attended by no additional expense, the Board deemed it a proper precaution.

The Pump and Wheel were built by J. P. Morris & Co., of Phila., and they work well. The wheel is an iron one, 20 feet in diameter, and supported by a mass of solid stone work. The Pump is double acting, with a capacious air vessel; it is 10 inches in diameter, and has a ten foot stroke, with a 30 foot connecting rod, and is very substantially bedded on mason work, with dressed granite capping. Were the season more clement, it would afford your Board much pleasure to have you to make a personal inspection of the whole work, from the Dam to the Reservoir, as we are persuaded you would partake with us, of the gratification afforded by its substantial character, and the perfection with which every part operates.—The Dam across Cameron stream, has been newly constructed by R. & R. F. Roberts, at their own expense, and the Board have widened the Race, and made several other improvements, calculated to secure a more free and abundant flow of water.

It is a subject of very pleasant reflection to your Board, that, during their whole operations, in procuring the different pieces of property, the rights of way, &c., &c., they have had no controversy with any individual. No one has felt himself aggrieved, by what they have done, but all has been amicable, and without the least disturbance of good feeling.

The efficiency of the Water Works in aid of the extinguishment of fires, was fully evinced in the only one that has occurred since the water was introduced into town,—that of the Cabinet Factory of Jas. Green. Although the firemen, from this being the first occasion of its use, were without experience in this mode of supplying their engines, yet they did not permit the flames to extend beyond the apartment in which the fire originated. A frame dwelling immediately contiguous, which but for this copious supply of water, must necessarily have been consumed, was wholly uninjured. The amount of property saved by the Cameron Water in that one conflagration, it is believed would be no inconsiderable part of the expense of introducing the water into the town. The additional security which all must feel, arising from the facility with which fires can hereafter be extinguished, and from the fact that the flames may be prevented from extending beyond the building where the fire commences, cannot fail to be a relief and gratification to many of our citizens.

At the fire referred to, the engines are said to have been at work about four hours, throwing a continual stream on the burning building, and yet the water in the Reservoir was lowered only 4 inches. In three hours the next morning, the pump raised the water 7 inches. A little calculation, therefore, shows that we had in the Reservoir, at the time the fire occurred, sufficient water to have kept the engines at work as they were, night and day, for six successive days, and then, in addition to this, by starting the Pump, we could have forced the water into the Reservoir more than twice as fast as it was used out.

The Board wish to bear emphatic testimony to the ability, as an Engineer, of Frederick Erdman, under whose direction our water works have been constructed. Having been for many years engaged on the Philadelphia Water Works, and having subsequently constructed those of Harrisburg, Pa., and Frederick Town, Md., and perhaps other similar works, he possesses an amount of practical information, united with a fund of scientific knowledge, and great mechanical skill, that render his services in such an undertaking of the greatest value. For much of the success that has attended our operations, we are greatly indebted to him, and if his other engagements had only permitted him to give our works his constant attention, it would have been all that the Board could have desired.

The Board think themselves fortunate, too, in securing the services of Daniel Lewis, as general Superintendent of the works. He has entered with energy and zeal upon the performance of his multiplied duties, all of which he has so far performed to our entire satisfaction. He has informed himself of the method of laying and tapping the pipes, so as to be an efficient operator, and an important aid to the Board.

The expenses incurred in the different parts of the structure, and the present state of the

finances of the Company, are clearly exhibited in the accompanying report of the Treasurer. It is gratifying to be able to state, that through your liberality in subscribing to the stock, and then promptly paying the amount of your subscriptions, the favorable terms in regard to payment on which John S. Iwick & Co. furnished the requisite pipes, and the readiness with which the "convertible loan" was taken by different individuals, as the Board had occasion for additional funds, we have been continually able to meet all the demands upon us, and have now the means of satisfying every claim for the expenses we have incurred.

The total cost of the Works to the stockholders when completed, will be about \$88,000. Of this sum \$28,000 are taken in 6 per cent. bonds of the Company, and \$20,000 in a convertible loan, at 6 per cent. Of the \$26,000 of bonds, 1000 dollars are redeemable in three years, 1000 dollars in six years, and 24,000 dollars, on the 1st of January, 1862. The twenty thousand dollars loan are convertible into stock of the Company at the option of the holder, any time within five years from the 1st of July, 1852, otherwise redeemable on the 1st of July, 1867. This places the finances of the Company in an easy condition. The interest due on the 1st of January next, will be met by the proceeds of water rents, now in the hands of the Treasurer.

The water is already introduced into about 180 dwellings, stores, and factories, yielding to the Company an annual rent of \$2,765.00, or more than 3 per cent. on the entire cost of construction. The number of those who take the water, is continually increasing, so that by the time of our next annual report, we have every reason to believe, we will be able to pay the stockholders nearly or quite 5 per cent., besides paying the interest on our debt, and each year afterwards divide 6 per cent. to the stockholders, and have a sinking fund, with which in part to redeem the bonds of the Company at maturity, or to be used in extending the pipes into portions of the town, not at present supplied with water.

Our success in introducing the water, and the amount of rents received, contrasts very favorably with the Water Works of Philadelphia. After the works had been in operation in that city for four years, and over three hundred thousand dollars had been expended in their construction, the annual income from water rents as shown by their published statistics was only 1500 dollars, while ours already amounts, as previously stated, to \$2,765.00.

The successful completion of so important a work, within so brief a period, and without the occurrence of a single accident or unpleasant circumstance, is deemed by your Board just cause of mutual congratulation. It is not yet two years since the first public meeting of our citizens was held, to consider the propriety and practicability of the measure of undertaking to furnish our town with an ample supply of good water; and it will not be two years till the 10th of March next, since your Board was appointed, to devise ways and means; and execute the work. Within the brief period that has since elapsed, the Water Power and Lot for the Reservoir have been purchased, the Pipe and Pump contracted for and procured, the Reservoir constructed, Pump House and Water House built, the Pump and Wheel put securely in their places, seven miles of Pipes laid in trenches five feet below the surface of the ground, the requisite fire plugs set, and all now in successful operation, with every account settled as far as demanded. Brief as has been this period, however, it is affecting and humbling to remember that of those whose hearts were then united with us in the laudable enterprise, and whose encouraging voices were heard in behalf of the undertaking, several have been removed by death—the places that have known them, shall know them no more. But they and their good deeds, will long be borne in grateful remembrance by their survivors.

The Board have thus endeavoured to present to the stockholders, a clear and brief account of their operations, and the state of the works under their charge, up to the present time.—They close their report under a consciousness of having earnestly endeavoured throughout, to perform a faithful part towards the stockholders, while they have, at the same time, duly regarded the interest and just rights of all those with whom they have had business transactions.

All of which is respectfully submitted.—Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors:—

BENJAMIN HALLOWELL, President.

ALEXANDRIA, 12 mo 17th, 1852.

The Board of Directors of the Alexandria Water Company, after considering the report of the President, now submitted to the stockholders, and having unanimously approved it, agreed among themselves that they would be derelict to their own feelings and the duty they owed to the Stockholders, should they withhold an expression of the opinion they all entertain, of the merits and services of the President.

To the sagacity of our friend, the citizens of Alexandria are indebted for the first idea of successfully supplying the town with water from the Cameron stream. Alone, and against the general opinion of its capacity for that purpose, he made the preliminary inquiries and investigation.

Having satisfied himself of the sufficiency of the stream, he made the first movement in a town meeting called for that purpose, and having, by the confidence reposed in him by all classes, organized the Company and secured the water power, he has, as President of the Company, without compensation, lent the whole energies of his mind with untiring zeal and industry to its final accomplishment.

To Benjamin Hallowell the present and future generations of Alexandria will be indebted for one of the greatest natural blessings, a supply of pure soft water, without which no city residence can be comfortable, and an ample supply of which must promote not only health and comfort, but will also aid in building up manufactures, by supplying the great element of steam power.

Whilst bestowing commendation in his report, upon the agents and officers of the company who aided him in the performance of his arduous duties, with a modesty accompanying true merit, he could not include himself, and whilst it has been the pleasure of each member of the board to yield him a hearty support, they all feel they are only entitled to the honor of having been faithful and sincere supporters of his measures.

WM. N. McVEIGH, }
ROBERT H. MILLER, }
J. B. DAINGERFIELD, } Directors.
STEPHEN SHINN, }
THOMAS MCCORMICK, }
GEORGE D. FOWLE. }