

# LOCAL ITEMS.

**ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY.**—The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Alexandria Water Company, was held by adjournment from the 5th Nov. last, at the Lyceum Hall on the evening of the 7th January, 1856.

On motion, W. H. Fowle was called to the chair, and Edward S. Hough appointed Secretary.

Six hundred and ninety-five shares were found to be represented.

The Report of the Board of Directors was presented by Benj. Hallowell, President, which was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be printed in the usual pamphlet form.

## Report of the President and Directors :

The President and Directors of the Alexandria Water Company herein present to the Stockholders their Annual Report for the year 1855. It is gratifying to be able to state, that the Works continue in good condition, in all their parts, and this without any repairs, excepting some incidental ones, such as the cleaning out of the race, &c.

According to the returns of Daniel W. Lewis, the attentive and efficient Superintendent of the Works, the pump was in operation during the different months of the past year, the number of hours exhibited in the following table, which also shows the number of fires in each month, in the extinguishment of which the Cameron Water was used :

Month.	No. of hours worked by the Pump.	No. of fires in which the Pump was used.
January,	91:30	4
February,	72	3
March,	98	3
April,	92	4
May,	110:30	2
June,	92	3
July,	134	3
August,	119:30	0
September,	113:30	0
October,	138:30	1
November,	102	3
December,	110	0
Total,	1274:53½	24

It will thus be seen, that the Cameron water was used in putting out twenty-four different fires during the year, averaging two each month, and its efficiency and importance in some of them, afforded additional evidence of the great value of this auxiliary to the aid of the firemen.

The preceding table shows, also, that the pump was at work only fifty-three days, or about one-seventh of the whole time. In 1853 it worked 35 days, in 1854, 47 days, and, as just stated, in 1855, 53 days, showing a gradual increase in the quantity of water required. As mentioned in our former reports, the pump raises 25,740 gallons per hour, and the Reservoir holds two and a half millions of gallons, requiring one hundred hours working of the pump to fill it. There were raised and supplied to the town in

1853, twenty-one and a half millions galls.

1854, twenty-millions of gallons.

1855, thirty-three millions of gallons.

As the pump was in operation the past year only about one-seventh of the whole time, we may safely conclude, that, could it be kept continually at work, it would raise water sufficient to supply a population fully six times that which our city at present contains. We are convinced, however, that, although the water power of the Cameron stream, has been thus far entirely adequate to our purposes, it could not be relied upon with a much greater population than we now have, nor, indeed, depended on at present, through the dry season, without great anxiety, considering the consequences that would attend a failure to supply water, even for a single day, to our citizens, and to the steam engines dependent upon it. In conformity, therefore, with the decision of the company at the last general meeting, your Board of Directors have erected, during the past summer and fall, a steam engine of twenty horse power, to be used in aid of the water power, whenever the latter shall prove insufficient, from either an increase of population, or an extremely dry season. Although the Cameron stream may not contain water sufficient to raise a supply for the town, owing to the fact that it requires about eight gallons on the wheel to raise one to the reservoir, yet, if all the water of the stream were raised by steam power, it is believed there would be ample, even when the stream was lowest, for a population of one hundred thousand.

We may, therefore, feel assured, since the erection of the Steam Engine, that, without some contingency which it is impossible to foresee, the Company possess the means of keeping the City well supplied with water, at all seasons, without further outlay, for a number of years, and, indeed, until our population shall be many fold what it at present is.

The work being all constructed in a very substantial manner, may now be regarded as completed, a circumstance very gratifying to the Board of Directors, as we have no doubt it must be to the Stockholders also.

The accompanying Report of the Treasurer will exhibit the state of the finances of the Company, and the cost of the erection of the Steam Engine, &c. The Steam Engine was built by our enterprising fellow-citizen, Thomas S. Jamieson, and it is a very creditable piece of workmanship. There has happily been no occasion to use it for any thing further than to test its capacity for performing the service required of it. On its trial, it worked four successive hours, making thirteen strokes to the minute, and raised the water in the Reservoir ten inches, which the Superintendent says was more than is done by the Water Power in the same time. The Superintendent says further that the Engine could have been kept in operation for any length of time, and that he stopped it only because it was unnecessary to continue it longer at work.

Daniel W. Lewis, our Superintendent, gave close and careful attention to the Engine, during its erection and subsequent operation, so as fully to understand its different parts, as he had done in regard to the Pump, laying of the Pipes &c., and he feels confident, that he can now manage the Engine well, when it is at work, and take all proper care of it, when there is no occasion to use it.

Owing to the soft nature of the Sub-Soil at the Pump-House, a difficulty attended the securing of a firm foundation for the Chimney, Engine, and Boiler. But knowing the importance of having a solid base on which to erect the different structures, we dug down till we obtained firm earth on which to build. This increased the amount of mason work very materially, and that being a costly item, where the stone have to be transported so far, the whole cost of the work was greater than the estimate which had been furnished by our Engineer. Every care, however, was taken in the erection of the works, to observe the strictest economy compatible with that durability and firmness so essential in such works.

During the past year there have been introduced into the distributing mains, fifty-one ferrules, so as to supply water to this additional number of families, or places of business. And here we would take occasion to remark, although we regret the necessity for doing so, that, notwithstanding the liberal terms upon which the Cameron Water is supplied to consumers, the Board have positive grounds to believe that many persons in

our City obtain water for their use, surreptitiously, greatly to the injury of the Company's rights, and of the moral integrity of those who permit themselves thus to violate those rights. The Board would earnestly ask the attention of all persons who rent the Cameron Water of the Company, to the manifest fact, that they pay only for what their own families use, and of course, they possess none to give away. If, therefore, they permit others to have water from their hydrants, they act dishonestly, by giving away that which belongs to others. Also, if they are cognizant of the fact that their hydrants are used by those who have not the privilege from the company for doing so, or even permit their hydrants to be exposed and unprotected where they are liable to be improperly used, they are guilty of a culpable breach of faith toward the Company, who, when they placed the hydrants under their charge, relied in full confidence, on their use being restricted to their families alone.

We would be glad, through the individuals representing the interests of the Corporation in the stock of this company, to call the attention of the Common Council and the Corporate authorities to the condition of the fire plugs. Although these were erected under direction of the company, they belong to the Corporation, and their importance to our citizens in case of fire is known and appreciated. They should, therefore, be protected from injury and preserved, at all times, in a condition ready for immediate use. To do this efficiently, the Board would suggest that they should be placed under the special charge of some officer or officers of the Corporation, and that some penalty be attached to their abuse, or to their being unauthorizedly used.

When we consider that it is not yet quite five years since the first public meeting was held to consider the propriety and practicability of introducing a supply of water into our town, and that the works are now entirely completed; the water found to be so great a protection, convenience and luxury; that the company have already paid one semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent. in scrip, and two in money, and are prepared to pay the third; we think there is cause of mutual congratulation on the success of our undertaking.

The Works being thus completed, the President takes the present occasion to state, that having served the company to the best of his ability, from its first organization, he respectfully declines being a candidate for re-election as a member of the Board of Directors; and he trusts the stockholders will release him with a cheerfulness equal to that with which he has served them as long as he thought his services could be particularly useful. He feels less reluctant in announcing this determination, which is a fixed one, from his knowledge of the capacity and efficiency of the other members of the Board with whom he has so long and so pleasantly acted, and to whose unremitting exertions, together with those of the Secretary, are mainly due the timely completion and successful operations of the Works.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

BENJ'N HALLOWELL, Pres't.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., 1 mo. 7th, 1856.

The statements of the Treasurer were also presented and read, and ordered to be printed with the report.

On motion, it was

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer be authorized to pay annually, on such day as the January dividend on stock may be made payable, the interest which may accrue on the Scrip issued by authority of the stockholders on the 5th February, 1855.

The meeting then proceeded to an election of a Board of Directors for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were duly elected, viz:

R. H. Miller, Stephen Shinn, Thos. Mc Cormick, J. B. Daingerfield, Wm. N. Mc Veigh, Geo. D. Fowle, and E. S. Hough.

On motion of D. B. Smith, it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Stockholders of the Alexandria Water Company are due, and are hereby heartily tendered, to Benjamin Hallowell, for his highly efficient services as President thereof, from its organization; and, further, that the free use of the Mount Cameron Water, for his private dwelling, is hereby extended to him so long as he may require it.

The meeting then adjourned.

**TRAVEL AND THE MAILS.**—The train on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, due here on Sunday at 2 o'clock, P. M., arrived yesterday morning, about 4 o'clock, after much difficulty. The train on the Manassas Gap Railroad did not arrive on Monday until 7 o'clock, P. M. Yesterday it came in at the usual hour. The river is completely blocked up with ice, and the steamer Powhatan, alone, is able to make irregular trips.—The train on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad was several hours behind time again, yesterday, but it is thought that it will be able to make the regular time from and after to-day. We are still one or two mails behind from the north; but all will be regular again in a day or two, should we not be visited with another snow storm.

**RESIGNATION AND ELECTION.**—Benjamin Hallowell has resigned the presidency of the Alexandria Water Company, which he has filled so efficiently and faithfully since its organization. He retires with the good will and sincere regrets of all the stockholders.—

The Board of Directors yesterday, unanimously elected Robert H. Miller, President of the Company, to succeed Mr. Hallowell.

**BANK DIRECTORS.**—The annual election for nine directors to serve for the ensuing year in the Bank of the old Dominion, was held at the Banking House yesterday, when the following gentlemen were re-elected, viz: W. H. Fowle, R. H. Miller, D. F. Hooe, W. N. McVeigh, Lewis McKenzie, Benj. Waters, W. G. Cazenove, J. J. Wheat and Stephen Shinn.

**FOUND DEAD.**—An Irishman was found, frozen to death, on the Washington and Alexandria Turnpike, yesterday morning.—It is supposed that he was under the effects of liquor, and fell in the snow, from which he was unable to rise, and thus perished.

**ELECTION.**—Capt George H. Duffey, was elected a member of the Board of Aldermen, from the Second Ward, at a special election held on Monday last, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. A. W. Eastlack.

**FOR HAVRE.**—Messrs. Fowle and Co. finished loading, on Monday, the fine ship Onward for Havre in France. The ship takes out 1000 barrels of flour and 40,000 bushels of wheat.

**DIVIDEND.**—At a meeting of the President and Directors of the Alexandria Water Company on Monday evening, a semi annual dividend of three per cent was declared.

**IMPORTATION OF SALT.**—There was imported into this port, during the past year 145,604 tons of salt.