

Southern Vineyard.

ANGELES, JULY 31, 1858.

WATER.

Petitions have been presented to the Common Council by citizens, soliciting permission to take water from the public Zanja, by wheels and hydraulic rams for their domestic purposes. There seems to be a disinclination on the part of the Council to accede to the wishes of the petitioners. We judge so, only from the delay which has occurred. It may be, and we hope that this time has been devoted to preparing for adoption, some system by which the inhabitants may obtain a beneficial supply of water within their dwellings. We are not apprised of the mode by which the power of the water running in the Zanja is applied to the rams for the purpose of forcing the water conveyed away by the pipes to its desired destination. But if it can be done without seriously delaying the water, we think that no obstacles should be thrown in the way of obtaining by the people, all the water required for the use of their houses and yards. Nothing adds more to the health, beauty and cheerfulness of a city, than an abundant supply of water devoted to irrigation and ablution.

Our vineyard requires but little water to keep it clean, but were it otherwise, and did we desire any moderate quantity of water for domestic purposes, we should never have thought it necessary to get permission from the Common Council to go or send to the ditch and take a few log-heads of water daily, as we have seen every citizen enjoy that privilege for more than one fourth of a century, and we are witnessing and our pocket is feeling that the watermen as well as the livery stablemen daily abstract large quantities of water from the Zanja without let or hindrance.

When the first inhabitants of this city settled here, the river ran along where the house of Mrs. Macy is now located and down by the house of Mr. Woolfskill. Every person having access to its waters until 1825 when it changed its course. Since which time the inhabitants have been supplied by a Zanja.

We are not aware that the owner of a piece of land within the city limits is compelled to ask permission of the city Fathers to take water from the Zanja for the purpose of cultivating that land, but suppose that he has a right to his share of the water, and that the city government is under obligation to grant him permission to conduct the water from the main Zanja through both city and private property to his land. Neither can we discover why one man who plants a vineyard two or three miles from the Toma should be allowed as a right, a river of water for his purposes and for his particular profit, while the denizen of the city is debarred of a small quantity with which to perform his daily ablutions.

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If the citizens then of the town have a right to take water from the Zanja, have they not the same right to have water to irrigate an orange tree or a flower shrub in their yard, that the gardener has to irrigate his thousands? And if they have this right, is not the Common Council obliged to give them permission to conduct it to their houses or their yards as much as it is to the agriculturist? Does it make any difference whether the water is hauled away in carts, or taken out over the tops of the houses with a siphon or a ram; or beneath the roadway of the streets, so long as it does not interfere with the public or private use of the air or the road way? With all deference to the most illustrious Fathers of the city, and to those gentlemen who explain, expound, and enforce the law, we contend that the curate has as much right to take water from the Zanja as has any other individual, and that he has a right to conduct it to his premises as may be most advantageous to him, whether carried on the head of an Indian, or forced up by the head of a ram; and that the only prerogative which the city authorities have in this matter, is to attend to the proper distribution of the water, and that one citizen does not trespass upon, or injure another in carrying the water to his premises without just recompense.