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THE
DOLPHIN;
OR,
Grand Junction Quisance:
PROVING THAT
SEVEN THOUSAND FAMILIES
IN
WESTMINSTER AND ITS SUBURBS
ARE SUPPLIED WITH
WATER,
IN A STATE, OFFENSIVE TO THE SIGHT,
DISGUSTING TO THE IMAGINATION,
AND
DESTRUCTIVE TO HEALTH.

“ There is such a thing as Common Sense !”

Abernethy.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR T. BUTCHER, 108, REGENT STREET.

1827.

[*Three Shillings and Sixpence.*]

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**Printed by J. L. Cox, Great Queen Street,
Lincoln's-Inn Fields.**

TO
SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, BART.,

This Publication,

ON A SUBJECT WHICH DEEPLY INVOLVES THE

HEALTH AND COMFORT

OF

NEARLY ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND INHABITANTS

OF

WESTMINSTER AND ITS SUBURBS,

IS,

WITH THE GREATEST RESPECT,

DEDICATED.

March 15, 1827.

***** All Communications tending, in any way, to
throw further light upon this important sub-
ject, will be acceptable.**

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THE
D O L P H I N,

&c. &c.

INTRODUCTION.

“DOLPHIN,” in the usual acceptation of the word, is the name given to a certain fish, of the whale tribe, respecting which ancient historians, philosophers, and poets seem to have contended who should narrate the most marvelous tales. It was consecrated to the Gods; revered for its attachment to the human race; and honoured with the title of “the sacred fish.” In all cases of shipwreck, it was believed to be in waiting to rescue some unfortunate mariner; and we are told by Ovid, that the musician Arion, when flung overboard by pirates, was snatched from a watery grave, by one of these philanthropic animals.

In what these absurd stories originated, it would be difficult to conjecture; seeing that the

boundings and springings of this fish, on the surface of the water, so far from being, now a days, considered a favourable omen, are looked upon as sure prognostics of an approaching storm. Whenever one of them is seen following a vessel, it is solely with a view to plunder. It swallows greedily whatever scraps may be thrown to it ; and is caught by means of a hook baited with garbage. Its sides are of a dingy complexion ; and the hole from which it spouts up water is seated in the centre of its head. Formerly, this fish was esteemed a delicacy ; so much so, that Dr. Caius, the learned founder of the College of that name at Cambridge, informs us, that one which was taken in his time, was esteemed a present worthy the acceptance of the Duke of Norfolk ; who directed it to be dressed with savoury sauces, and distributed amongst his particular friends.

Of a widely different genus is "THE DOLPHIN" which gives birth to this little manual. Its virtues have been recorded neither by historian, philosopher, or poet. It has never distinguished itself by any extraordinary attachment to the human race. Instead of bounding and springing, its position on the surface of the water is stationary. Instead of being fleshy, its

head is ligneous. Like its namesake, it ingulphs immense portions of filth and garbage ; but, so far is it from being esteemed a delicacy, that not only the Duke of Norfolk, but more than seven thousand families, at the court end of the town, have it constantly served into their houses.

Allegory apart—"DOLPHIN," in the Joint-Stock vocabulary, is the word used by certain conscientious gentlemen who exclusively supply the metropolis with that pabulum of life—WATER—to designate the source or head, in the river, from whence they draw the supply of the article in which they deal. To this Dolphin—to this wooden-headed, dingy-coloured, ill-shapen, insidious engine of destruction, fraught with more mischief to the inhabitants of Westminster and its suburbs than wooden horse of Greeks to the unfortunate citizens of Troy—to this Box, more crammed with the seeds of all kinds of diseases—" *macies et nova cohors febrium*"—than that of Pandora, I entreat the earnest attention of every man who considers the Public Health an object of paramount regard.

That, at a moment like the present, when both the Legislature and the Government are en-

deavouring to unfetter the commerce of the country, by removing oppressive prohibitions and inconvenient restrictions, and thereby giving greater facility and encouragement to the skill, the capital, and the industry of the people of England—that, at such a moment, there should exist, in the very seat of that Government, a Monopoly of an element of nature, cannot but be matter of just astonishment.

The highest legal authorities have long ago denounced all such monopolies, as being not only contrary to the ancient and fundamental laws of the realm, but injurious to the public: in the first place, by invariably raising the price of the article monopolized; and, secondly, by deteriorating its quality. Numerous, too, have been the acts passed by the legislature, for the punishment of such as shall be guilty of creating a monopoly of any kind, but especially a monopoly of any of the necessaries of life. So early as the reign of Edward the Sixth, heavy penalties were imposed on those who combined for the purpose of raising the price of them; extending, upon a repetition of the offence, to pillory, loss of ear, and perpetual infamy.

Formidable punishments have also been apportioned to those who shall dare, in any way, to

tamper with the Health of the community. The sale of provisions in an unsound, corrupted, and unwholesome condition is, by the law of England, considered an offence against the public; and statute upon statute have been passed to prevent it. But, the insatiable thirst of gain has ever been proof against prohibitions and penalties; the possible and probable sacrifice of a fellow creature, being a secondary consideration with these sordid assailants of human life.

But, the evils of Monopoly do not end here. It has a tendency to subdue and break down the mind, and to render it as puny and as unhealthy as it does the body. In the ordinary course of things, if a suspicion be entertained, that the baker, the butcher, or the grocer, is supplying a family with unsound and unwholesome provisions, the head of that family refuses to pay for them, dismisses the culprit, and looks out for a more upright tradesman. Not so is it in the case of the hard-hearted Monopolist! He, good man! is not to be shaken off thus easily. Tell him, that the article he is sending in is bad, and he gives you to understand, that you must put up with it, or have none. Hint, that you cannot think of paying for what is destructive to the health of your family, and straightway he points

to the section of the Act, and threatens the rigours of the law. Thus, the person aggrieved is treated as if he were the aggressor; and the grievance is tamely submitted to, from the utter hopelessness of obtaining redress.

It is scarcely necessary for me to inform the inhabitants of Westminster, to whom, more immediately, I address this publication, that the metropolis of the kingdom is, at this moment, at the mercy of certain monopolists, for its daily supply of an article, as necessary to existence as light and air. The principle of the acts of parliament, under which the several WATER Companies were instituted, was to encourage competition; seeing that in this, as well as in other cases, it is only from competition, or the expectation of competition, that a perfect security can be had for a good, a cheap, and a plentiful supply.

By an arrangement, however, which took place, about the year 1817, between the several Joint-Stock dealers in the liquid element, all competition was put an end to—the supply of the town was partitioned between them—each Company withdrawing its services within a line agreed upon, and exchanging with the other the pipes beyond its boundary. To render the Monopoly com-

plete in all its parts—to make “assurance double sure,” a deed was actually entered into, by two out of the five Companies, binding themselves by penalties, to abstain from serving beyond the line drawn between them; the other three Companies not becoming parties to the engagement—from no innate dislike to the thing itself, but from a suspicion as to the legality of so monstrous a conspiracy against the comfort and lives of their customers. And thus were those customers counted out, and handed over, by these jobbers in one of God’s choicest blessings, from one set of monopolists to another, like so many negroes on a West Indian estate, or so many herd of cattle at a fair.

That the evils at all times arising out of Monopoly; namely, increased price and deteriorated quality, should have resulted from such an Unholy Alliance, was, of course, to be expected. But, that, in the space of nine short years, ONE of the members of that confederacy should have so far departed from every principle of fair dealing, as to send into the habitations of more than seven thousand families, a necessary of life, so loaded with all sorts of impurities, as to be offensive to the sight, disgusting to the imagination, and destructive to health, is what will not be credited, and what

ought not to be credited, but upon evidence, "strong as proof of holy writ."

Thinking, with an amiable writer, that to withhold from society **FACTS** relating to the Health of the Public is a sort of felony against the common rights of mankind;" believing that I have collected together a body of such facts; and feeling a positive conviction, that so scandalous a Nuisance needs only to be generally known to compel the abatement of it, I have determined to submit them to the common sense of my fellow citizens.

The health and the comfort of every family, are so immediately bound-up with the supply of pure and wholesome Water to their habitations, that a knowledge of the qualities of that which they use daily for culinary and domestic purposes, must at all times be an object of the greatest importance.

Self-evident as this proposition is, it is nevertheless true, that, during the twelve months attention which I have paid to the subject, I have not found six individuals—I am sorry to say, not one female—out of the many thousands interested in the present enquiry, who could point out to me the spot, from which the Water which comes into their houses is drawn.

That, in an age of inquiry like the present, when it has become a practice to read treatises on diet, morbid sensibility, indigestion, and the thousand other ills to which the inhabitants of this thickly populated metropolis are especial heirs to; and when there is hardly a house in that metropolis in which some work on Domestic Economy is not to be found—there should prevail, on the part of the heads of families, so total an ignorance, on a point which may be said to constitute the very A B C of the culinary art, is as disgraceful as it is incredible.

With praise-worthy zeal, and laudible exactitude, they follow the instructions of Mrs. Rundell,* and other eminent professors, for the making of puddings, pies, broths, soups, jellies and caudle; and the boiling of meats, poultry, fish, and vegetables. They calculate, to a grain, the proportion that one ingredient ought to bear to another ingredient: they know, to the fourth part of a minute, how long each article should remain

* Some idea of the demand for this lady's writings may be formed from the fact, that, first and last, *one hundred and twenty thousand* copies of her "New System of Domestic Cookery," have been printed; and of its companion, "The Family Receipt Book," about fifty thousand!

in the saucepan : but—*mirabile dictu* !—to the quality of the Water of which those puddings are made, and in which those meats are boiled, the fair house-keepers of Westminster are less attentive—as I shall presently show—than the inhabitants of rude and uncultivated countries. In the integrity of their hearts, it never enters into their imagination, that any set of men should be so mercenary, so desperately wicked, as to sell to their customers, a gift of Heaven, in a polluted and unwholesome state. They will now see, that their confidence has been abused, and that their indifference is culpable.

PART I.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PURE AND WHOLESOME WATER FOR ALL DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

1. Of the Importance of this inquiry to the Inhabitants of a thickly populated metropolis.
 2. Of the properties of Good Water, and the salutary Effects attributed to the use of it.
 3. Of Bad Water, and the fatal Consequences resulting from the use of it.
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1. *Of the Importance of this Inquiry to the Inhabitants of a thickly populated Metropolis.*

Volume upon volume has been written, in order to prove, that without pure Air, pure Water, pure Diet, and great Exercise, individuals living in large cities cannot enjoy a sound mind in a sound body. "Exercise," says Dr. Cheyne, "with due regulation, is almost as necessary to health and long life as food itself. The studious, the contemplative, the valetudinarian, and those of weak nerves, must make Exercise, in a good air, a part of their religion." Sydenham tells us, that "Exercise is not to be taken by the bye; but must be used constantly and daily, with the

greatest diligence." And Dr. William Smith warns us, that "health cannot possibly be preserved without it, by the best regimen and medicine in the world."

Sir William Temple, a man distinguished for his knowledge of human nature, and the soundness of his judgment, says, that "the common ingredients of health and long life are great temperance, open air, easy labour, simplicity of diet, and pure water. The vigour of the mind," he adds, "decays with that of the body, and not only humour and invention, but even judgment and resolution change and languish, with ill constitution of body and of health."

The physical effects of civilization and refinement on the corporeal fabric, in congregated masses of society, and the severe contributions levied by them on our health and happiness, have been strikingly pointed out by several eminent writers.

Dr. Trotter, in his "Practical Enquiry into the increasing Prevalence of Nervous Diseases," says, that, "in the present day this class of diseases forms by far the largest proportion of the whole, which come under the treatment of the physician. Sydenham, at the close of the seventeenth century, computed fevers to con-

stitute two-thirds of the diseases of mankind : but, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, I do not hesitate to affirm, that nervous disorders have taken the place of fevers, and may be justly reckoned two-thirds of the whole with which civilized society is afflicted. Nervous ailments are no longer confined to the better ranks of life, but are rapidly extending to the poorer classes."

The remote causes of nervous diseases, he goes on to say, "are chiefly to be sought in populous cities. A pure air is of the first importance to sustain animal life in full health and perfection. High buildings and houses, narrow lanes, small apartments, huge warehouses, kitchens under ground, consumption of fuel, and a dense population, are so many sources whence the air is contaminated. The ventilation of the upper parts of the building is imperfect; but the lower stories, particularly what is under ground, can receive no pure portion at all. The business of the whole inhabitants almost confines them within doors; so that a citizen is at once known by his countenance. It is familiar to people bred in great cities, to remark, how imperfectly all the trees and shrubs grow. Nothing but the foul atmosphere is to be blamed for this; for the richest soil cannot correct or prevent such rickety pro-

ductions. Animal growth labours under the same disadvantages as the vegetable tribe. Impure air saps the constitution by slow approaches ; but no miner more certainly carries his point at last."

" People come to me," said Mr. Abernethy, in a recent lecture, " and really think I can cure them by a few cabalistic words, in the form of a prescription ; but I say to them—' I cannot put ' your organs right, unless you will give me your ' aid and assistance, by attending to your diet, and ' taking air and exercise.' I know I affront them ; but I cannot help it. I say, if a person had the courage to do what Cornaro did, only to put as much into the stomach as he could fairly digest, the community would be very thin of doctors ; for there would be little want of them. Persons go to Cheltenham, to Harrowgate, to Buxton, and they come home and say how much benefit they have derived. While there, they take a good deal of exercise in the open air ; and so they attribute solely to a dose of water, what they ought to attribute to a dose of exercise."

" It is notorious," says Dr. Paris, in his popular Treatise on Diet, " that children, who may be regarded in the light of sensible instruments, become unhealthy, if constantly confined to the

air of large cities. The delicate and above all the dyspeptic invalid, is notoriously injured by it. Let him retire only for a few days into the country, and the effect which is produced by the change is too apparent to admit of any question. Plants wither and die in a short time after they are brought from the nursery grounds into the streets of the metropolis."

Dr. James Johnson, in his interesting essay on the "Influence of Civic Life on Human Health and Human Happiness," makes the following striking observations: "The air is the great agent in the production of disease, both by its vicissitudes of temperature and by its noxious impregnations. If we examine the streets, the houses, the manufactories, the dormitories &c. of great and crowded cities, we shall be astonished that the incalculable mass of exhalations of all kinds, which is constantly floating in the lower strata of a civic atmosphere, is not more detrimental to health than it is. Even the respiration of man and animals must, in some degree, deteriorate the air of large and populous cities. No man who has felt the exhilaration of the country air, and the depression of spirits which almost uniformly takes place on returning to town, can doubt, that a heavy tax is levied on the health

of man in civic society. Its most visible effects are depicted in the complexion, which is pale and exanguious; and this uniformly obtains whenever man is excluded from the pure breath of heaven. There is every reason to believe, that scrofula first originated, and still continues to be produced, by the confined air, sedentary habits, irregularity of clothing, and derangement of the digestive organs, so prevalent in civic life."

Again—"It is scarcely possible to form an idea of the debility and relaxation which must be induced throughout the muscular systems of people congregated in large cities, cooped up in confined apartments, and employed in sedentary occupations, without adequate air or exercise. The physical effects resulting from these causes are so glaring and conspicuous in every street through which we pass; in every house or manufactory which we enter; in almost every individual whom we contemplate, that the medical philosopher is struck with the enormity of the evil."

The same excellent writer, in his recently published "Essay on Morbid Sensibility," takes a review of the physical and moral causes of that disorder. "The physical causes," he observes,

“ are very numerous, the surface of application being that of the whole body, external and internal. The stomach may be considered, not even excepting the brain, as the greatest centre of sympathies. Every impression on the skin, whether of cold or of heat, of humidity or of drought, influences, more or less, the functions of the stomach. In a climate like ours, therefore, where atmospheric changes are so perpetually occurring, we need not wonder that the digestive functions should be so frequently disturbed.

“ The fact appears to me, that in civilized life, the host of moral and physical causes of disease that are always in operation, keep the powers of the digestive organs below the standard of health; while the quantity and quality of our usual food and drink, are calculated to impair these same organs, even if they were in a state of the most perfect integrity of function. What with ennui and dissipation in the higher ranks—*anxiety of mind, arising from business, in the middling classes—and bad food, bad air, bad drink, and bad occupations, among the lower classes,* there is scarcely an individual who does not experience a preternaturally irritable state of the nervous system, connected with, or depen-

dent on, Morbid Sensibility of the stomach and bowels."

2. *On the Properties of Good Water, and the salutary Effects attributed to the Use of it.*

If such, then, are the train of ills to which those persons are exposed, who have no leisure to take Exercise, and whose daily occupations compel them to live pent up in foul Air, what a duty devolves on the heads of families, to examine and see, that the other element of life, WATER, is not admitted into their cisterns, in an unsound state, to add to the sad catalogue! I will now shew the salutary properties ascribed to this element, by writers of great eminence, when obtained pure and uncontaminated.

"Water," says the amiable Isaac Walton, "is the eldest daughter of the creation, the element which God commanded to bring forth living creatures abundantly; and without which, those that inhabit the land, even all creatures that have breath in their nostrils, must suddenly return to putrefaction. It is the element upon which the spirit of God did first move, and is the chief ingredient in the creation: many philosophers have made it to comprehend all the other elements, and most allow it the chiefest in the mixtion of all living creatures."

Hippocrates, the father of medicine, declares; that "to distinguish that water which is wholesome, is of the first importance to health; and that a train of evils are the consequence of the use of bad water. The variations of the seasons are the most powerful causes of the different natures of man. Next to these is the quality of the soil, on which they subsist; and the water they use."

Dr Cheyne observes, that "Water was the original beverage, as it is the only simple fluid for diluting, moistening, and cooling; the ends of drink appointed by nature: and happy had it been for the race of mankind, if other mixed and artificial liquors had never been invented! It has," he adds, "been an agreeable appearance to me to observe, with what freshness and vigour those who, though eating freely of fresh meat, yet drank nothing but this element, have lived in health and cheerfulness to a great age."

"Water, whether used pure, or mixed with wine, or taken in under the form of beer or ale, is the great diluter, vehicle, and menstruum, both of our food, and of the saline, earthy, and excrementitious parts of the animal juices: and it is more or less adapted to the performance of these offices, in proportion to its purity."—*Encycl.*

"The old men of Brazil," according to Piso,

“are as nice in their choice of water, as people are with us in distinguishing the qualities of wine; and they accuse persons with imprudence, who use them without inquiry into their quality.”

Sir George Staunton, in his Embassy to China, informs us, that “persons of rank in China are so careful about the quality of the water for their own consumption, that they seldom drink any without its being distilled.”

Linnæus, in his Travels through Lapland, remarks, that the people there have few diseases; which he attributes to the water, which is particularly pure, and which is their constant drink; and to their abstinence from all fermented liquors, especially spirits.

“Water,” says Count Rumford, “is not the mere vehicle for our food, but has a wonderful power of assembling and applying the nutritious parts of animals and vegetables. The greatest care should therefore be taken by every parent, that none is used but such as is of pure quality.”

Dr. Griffiths says, that “with regard to the water we use, we cannot be too scrupulous; the purity of this element being almost of equal importance to us with the air we breathe.”

Dr. Frederick Hoffman has written an Essay expressly on the nature and properties of Water.

“If there is,” he says, “in nature, a medicine that deserves the name of universal, it is, in my opinion, common Water, of the best and purest kind. The use of this is so general, and so necessary to us all, that we can neither live, nor preserve our bodies sound and healthy, without it. For it guards against every disease, protects and defends the body from all kind of corruption that may prove fatal to life, and answers all possible intentions of cure; so that without it, no disorder, whether chronick or acute, can be happily and succesfully removed. For confirmation of this opinion, I do not insist on the medicinal springs, but confine myself to common Water—but, of the best and purest kind. If every physician would make it his practice carefully to examine into the quality of the Water used in the houses he visits, he might confidently hope to practise with more satisfaction to himself, and benefit to his patients.”

3. *Of Bad Water, and the fatal Consequences arising from the Use of it.*

“*Corruptio optimi, pessima.*” If such are the salutary qualities of this element when used in a state of purity, its insidious and deadly attributes,

when contaminated by the pollutions of man, are not less striking.

In Hindostan, people universally ascribe most of their disorders to the offensive quality of bad water. In Batavia, the injurious quality of the water is productive of fevers ; and in the parent state, Holland, it is so bad, that it is universally abandoned for beer. In some parts of Africa, the natives, though accustomed to attribute most of their disorders to the offensive quality of bad water, are generally of opinion, that the guinea-worm proceeds from that source.

Dr. Lind observes, that “the scurvy is to be seen chiefly among the poorer sort who inhabit low, damp parts of the provinces, and continue to live upon rancid pork, coarse bread, and who are obliged to drink unwholesome water. Bad water,” he says, “is, next to bad air, a frequent cause of sickness, in places situated under the Torrid Zone.”

Many writers have pointed out the deleterious effects of bad water on our domestic animals. The following passage, from the “*Encyclopédie Méthodique*,” is quoted in Sir John Sinclair’s *Code of Health*, vol. iii. “Vitruvius informs us, that the ancients inspected the livers of animals, in order to judge of the nature of the water of a

country, and the salubrity of its nutritive productions. From this source they derived instruction respecting the choice of the most advantageous situations for building cities. The size and condition of the liver, is a pretty sure indication of the deleterious quality of the water; which, especially when it is stagnant, produces in cows, and particularly in sheep, fatal diseases; for instance, the rot, which frequently destroys whole flocks."

Dr. Harrison, in his treatise on the rot in sheep, adduces evidence to prove, that the disease has its cause in the poisonous residuum of water. He says, that on a dry-limed lay, or fallow ground, in Derbyshire, a flock of sheep will rot in one day; and, on some water meadows in that neighbourhood, when the weather is sultry, in half an hour.

M. Cabanis, in his "Rapports du Physique et du Moral de l'Homme," observes, that "water loaded with putrid vegetable matters, or with earthy substances, acts in a very pernicious manner on the stomach, and the other organs of digestion. The use of them produces different kinds of disease, both acute and chronical; all of them accompanied by a remarkable state of atony, and a great debility of the nervous system.

They blunt the sensibility, enervate the muscular force, and dispose to all cold and slow diseases. It is well known, that in many countries, otherwise fertile and rich, the inhabitants are forced to use unwholesome water. The incommodities which they produce quickly extend their action to every point of the system."

Mr. Abernethy, in his "Surgical Observations," says, "it seems sufficiently ascertained, that diseases have been excited by water; and therefore it is necessary, that whatever is used should be as pure as possible."

Dr. William Lambe, in his "Reports on Regimen," says, that "it is the putrescent matter which is the most noxious principle of common water. It is a matter of common experience, that water, according to its different qualities, affects the stomach with a peculiar feeling which we call weight: that the purest water feels the lightest, and what is reckoned the worst feels the heaviest on the stomach. In healthy persons this sensation is little regarded; but in disease it becomes very distinct, and is often very tormenting. Sometimes the stomach feels as if it would burst; sometimes the sensation is, as if a cord were tied round the middle of the body."

"The peculiar noxious principle of bad waters

is nothing but the corrupted animal and vegetable matters, with which they are impregnated. These matters are therefore poisonous. In consequence, they ought to be suspected, wherever they are found. In inquiring, therefore, into the salubrity of waters in general, or into that of any particular example, it is this impregnation, which ought to be the chief object of research. Simple earthy matter (though much has been said against it) has never been shewn to be particularly unfriendly to the human system. Metallic matter, of all kinds, is a more just object of suspicion. But, the putrid or putrescent matter, the animal or vegetable substances in a state of decomposition, is that which is actively mischievous. It is immediately and directly deleterious ; and it is astonishing to consider how greatly the influence of this matter has been overlooked, even by writers, who were fully aware of the general importance of the subject."

P A R T II.

OF
THE SEVERAL COMPANIES MONOPOLIZING THE
SUPPLY OF WATER TO THE METROPOLIS.

Having endeavoured, and I hope successfully, to impress upon the minds of the seven thousand families immediately interested in this enquiry, the great importance of attending to the quality of the Water sent into their habitations, I shall now give a short history of the several Companies which have monopolized the supply of it to the Metropolis; that a just estimate may be formed of the conduct of each Company towards their customers. Those Companies are five in number: 1. The New River. 2. The Chelsea. 3. The East London. 4. The West Middlesex. And, 5. The Grand Junction.

1. *The New River Company.*

The New River Water-Works were projected by that public-spirited man, and great benefactor to the metropolis, Sir Hugh Middleton. Though London was at that time furnished with Water by means of sixteen common conduits, besides

the larger supply which it received from the nobleriver Thames ; yet, as they were found not to be sufficient, other methods were devised, to bring in fresh supplies. For that purpose, three acts of Parliament were obtained, granting the citizens of London power to bring a river from any part of Middlesex and Hertfordshire, to serve the City. But, after several attempts, the project was laid aside as impracticable. Until at length it was undertaken by the brave Hugh Middleton ; in consideration of which, the City conferred upon him and his heirs, in 1606, the full right and power of the act of Parliament, granted unto them in that behalf.

Having taken an exact survey of all springs and rivers in Middlesex and Hertfordshire, he made choice of two springs : one in the parish of Amwell near Hertford, and the other called Chadwell, near Ware, both about twenty miles distant from London ; and, having united their streams, conveyed them to that city, at an immense labour and expense. The work was begun in 1608, and carried on through various soils, for a course of forty miles, including all the windings. Near Enfield, it is conveyed, for the length of 660 feet, between two hills, in an open trough, supported by arches ; and at Highbury it is conveyed in

another trough, 462 feet in length. The bridges, of all sorts, which he was forced to erect over it, for convenient and necessary passes, were at one time nearly eight hundred, and are now two hundred and fifteen, with forty three sluices.

When he had brought the Water as far as Enfield, Sir Hugh's whole fortune was spent. Whereupon, he applied to the Lord Mayor and Commonalty of London, to interest themselves in so great and so useful an undertaking. But they refusing, he applied next for assistance to King James the First. His Majesty, willing to encourage that great and noble work, did, by indenture under the great seal, dated 2d May 1612, covenant to pay half the expense of the whole work, past and to come. In consideration whereof, Sir Hugh conveyed to the King one moiety of the whole undertaking. But, notwithstanding the immense expense, the spight and derision of the vulgar and envious, the many causeless hindrances and complaints of persons through whose grounds the channel was to be cut, and many other difficulties and discouragements, the design was happily effected, by the brave and indefatigable undertaker, and the water was brought to Islington.

“ Being brought to the intended cistern at

Islington," says Stowe, in his Survey of London, "but not as yet the water admitted entrance thereunto, on Michaelmas Day, 1613, being the day when Sir Thomas Middleton, brother to Sir Hugh, was elected Lord Mayor of London for the year ensuing : in the afternoon of the same day, Sir John Swinarton, Lord Mayor, accompanied with the said Sir Thomas, Sir Henry Montague, knight and recorder, and many of the worthy aldermen, rode to see the Cistern, and first issuing of the river thereto ; which was performed in this manner.

" A troop of labourers, to the number of sixty, or more, well appavelled, and wearing green caps, all alike, carried spades, shovels, pick-axes, and such like instruments of laborious employment, marching after drums twice or thrice about the Cistern, presented themselves before the Mount, where the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and a worthy company beside, stood to behold them ; and one man, in behalf of all the rest, delivered this Speech :

" Long have we labour'd, long desir'd and pray'd
For this great Work's perfection ; and by th' aid
Of heav'n, and good men's wishes, 'tis at length
Happily conquer'd by cost, art, and strength.
And, after five years' dear expence in days,
Travail and pains, beside the infinite ways,

Of malice, envy, false suggestions,
 Able to daunt the spirits of mighty ones
 In wealth and courage—this, a Work so rare,
 Only by ONE man's industry, cost, and care,
 Is brought to blest effect, so much withstood ;
 His only aim, the City's general good," &c.

The Speech goes on :—

“ Now for the fruits then,—Flow forth, precious spring,
 So long and dearly sought for ; and now bring
 Comfort to all that love thee : loudly sing,
 And with thy crystal murmurs struck together,
 Bid all thy true well-wishers welcome hither.”

“ At which word the flood-gates flew open, the stream ran gallantly into the Cistern, drums and trumpets giving it triumphant welcomes, and a brave peal of chambers gave full issue to the intended entertainment.”

What must have been Sir Hugh Middleton's sensation at that moment ! Like other projectors, he greatly impaired his fortune by this stupendous work ; which seems to have been better suited to the genius and means of a Roman emperor, than of a citizen of London. In 1619, his Majesty granted letters-patent to Sir Hugh and others, incorporating them into a Company, empowering them to grant leases for twenty-one years, or three lives, &c. At which time it was divided into seventy-two shares. The profit it brought in at first was inconsiderable.

Where, and when, Sir Hugh died, appears to be unknown. So bountiful was he, that he gave a share in his New River to the Goldsmiths' Company, for the benefit of the poor members. His name deserves to be transmitted with honour and gratitude to posterity, as much as those of the builders of the magnificent Aqueducts at Rome.

On the east side of the village of Amwell, at the foot of the steep bank on which the church is situated, rises a considerable spring, which, together with that of Chadwell, forms the New River. This spring has been enlarged into a spacious basin; in the centre of which is a small islet, where, beneath the mournful shade of weeping willows and other trees, a monumental pedestal was erected to Sir Hugh's memory, a few years since, by the celebrated architect, Robert Mylne, Esq. There are four inscriptions, both in Latin and English, upon this stone, and also the following verses :

“ Amwell ! perpetual be thy stream,
Nor e'er thy springs be less,
Which thousands drink who never dream
Whence flow the boon they bless.
Too often thus, ungrateful man
Blind and unconscious lives,
Enjoys kind Heaven's indulgent plan,
Nor thinks of HIM who gives.”

The New River Company have now served the metropolis with water for more than two centuries; and at rates, which have, at no time, yielded them above $6\frac{1}{4}$, and, for many years, not 5 per cent. on their capital; whether estimated by the original cost of their works, the actual value of those works, and of the company's stock in trade, or the prices which the present proprietors have paid for their shares.

The New River actually discharges above two hundred and fourteen thousand hogsheads of pure and wholesome water into the town, in every twenty-four hours. The price charged for this water, and the average rate of rents for its use, will shew the cheapness with which an abundant supply of one of the greatest conveniences of life, has been afforded by the Company to the public. The average rental upon the houses supplied is something less than thirty shillings a year, or little more than sixpence per week for each house; and the most numerous class of private houses is supplied at one-third of this rate. The number of houses served by this Company is between fifty and sixty thousand; and, fortunate may those families consider themselves, who live within the limit of their service! That the Directors should have so far joined hand in hand

with the speculators in new water-works, as to make themselves parties to an arrangement, by which competition has been put an end to, and the supply of the metropolis monopolized between them, must ever be a subject of regret with those who hold the name of Sir Hugh Middleton in perpetual veneration.

2. *The Chelsea Water-Works Company.*

The Chelsea Water-Works Company were established by charter in the year 1723. It empowered them to raise a joint stock, not exceeding £40,000; which was forthwith subscribed in shares of £20 each. In 1736, the whole of their capital having been expended, and a considerable debt incurred, in the construction of the Works, a power was obtained, by letters patent, to increase the capital joint-stock; which was effected among the proprietors, by the creation of 2,000 additional shares, on which £10 each were paid; thereby augmenting the real capital to £60,000.

During the four following years, they divided 8s. per share. From 1740 to 1753, their income barely paid their expenses, and the dividend was suspended. From 1753 to 1771, they divided annually 6s. per share. From that year to 1797,

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they realized 8s. per share. From 1797 to 1807, the yearly dividend was 10s. per share; and, from 1807, twelve shillings per share—until the New Companies succeeded in seducing away a great number of their customers.

Before this Company joined the Monopoly, they had a general scale of Rates, graduated with reference to the different classes of the buildings supplied. The average of those rates, per house, in the fashionable squares and streets, in St. James's, which had the option of being served by either of three Companies, was 53s. :—in other parts of the same parish, where there were two competitors and a greater proportion of inferior houses, 21s. :—in St. Martin's, St. Mary-le-bone, Paddington, and Knightsbridge, 28s. :—and, in Chelsea and Pimlico, only 22s. By comparing the above rates, with the prices now charged, the reader will be able to appreciate *one* of the blessings of Monopoly. The number of houses supplied by this Company is about 8,000.

3. *The East London Water-Works.*

This Company was incorporated in the year 1807, for the purpose of supplying the eastern districts of the metropolis. The Works were completed at Old Ford, in 1809; but it was not

until 1811 that they began to serve the district. The capital was £380,000, which was raised in shares of £100 each. Such was, at that time, the rage for concerns of this kind, that, previous to a dividend being made, the premium upon a £100 share was £60, and gradually increased, in 1810, until they reached the enormous price of £130 premium. The fever for speculation, however, subsiding, the price of shares gradually fell, until, in 1815, they were at a discount of no less than £40.

In this critical period of their affairs, a Deed was entered into between this and the New River Company, binding the two Companies, their successors and assigns, to abstain from serving beyond the line, laid down and agreed upon between them. In consequence of this agreement, by which a monopoly in the eastern part of the town was established, £100 shares, then worth only £60, soon looked upwards, and, in the last price-list, I see they are stated at £121.

The Water supplied by this Company is of a good quality, taken from the river Lea at high water, flowing up from the Thames, and raised into three reservoirs. The number of houses supplied by them, is about 32,000; the

average rate for each house, including large consumers, being only about 23s. a year.

2. *The West Middlesex Water-Works Company.*

The project for establishing this Company was brought forward at a period almost as remarkable for what are termed Joint Stock Bubbles, as the unfortunate year 1825. It originated in a set of city speculators, not from any regard to the public welfare, but solely to promote a traffic in shares, and to realize the premiums to be obtained upon a transfer of them.

Extensive schemes of building were, at that time, in contemplation, in the different parts of the neighbourhood of London; and the Company took their powers for supplying those places. The subscribed capital was soon expended; a large debt incurred; and the works not completed. The whole speculation was on the brink of ruin, when the New River and the Chelsea Companies unfortunately levied an increased rate on their customers, without any obvious reason, and without condescending to give any explanation of their motives. The amount of the increase was only about 8 per cent.; but the proceeding excited much popular irritation.

The West Middlesex Company profited by this

opportunity of obtaining the suffrages of many of the inhabitants of the metropolis, in favour of a scheme for the extension of their works into the north-western parishes; and, in the year 1810, procured an Act, authorizing them to raise additional funds, and to carry the new scheme into execution. They assured the public, that their great object was to promote open competition; but, no sooner had they secured a footing, than they confederated with the other Companies to establish a close Monopoly.

The Water supplied by this Company is derived from the bed of the river Thames, from off a fine gravelly bottom, near Hammersmith, and thirteen miles above London Bridge. It is of a good quality, and is received into a capacious reservoir, more than 120 feet above the level of the Thames, at Kensington. A new reservoir, upon an extensive, and even magnificent scale, is now erecting on Primrose Hill; and it is but justice to the Company to say, that they appear to be anxious to make amends for past errors, by exertions to promote the health of their customers by every means in their power. The number of houses supplied is between ten and eleven thousand.

5. *The Grand Junction Water-Works Company.*

I now come to "grand" matters. In the year 1810, when the rage for wild speculations of every description was nearly as rife as it was during the unfortunate year before the last, it so happened, that the *Manchester Water-Works Company*, then a new concern, had, oddly enough, a Board holding its sittings in *London*! By one of the gentlemen composing this Board was the *Grand Junction Water-Works Company* first projected. Unable to confine his philanthropy to the single town of Manchester, he solicited several of his brother members to embark their property in a Grand Scheme to obtain, for the inhabitants of Paddington and of St. Mary-le-bone, a cheaper and a purer supply of Water.

Previously, however, to so doing, they despatched—(doubtless, by one of the stages which run to and from the City)—a trusty missionary, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of the public mind, and obtaining correct information, as to the deficiency of the supply, in those remote regions. Alighting at the Yorkshire Stingo, the missionary commenced operations. "I employed myself," he says, in his Evidence before the

Committee of the House of Commons, in February, 1821, p. 45, "several days for that purpose; and I almost found, universally, that there was a deficiency in the supply of Water."

On receiving the report of their missionary, the "Manchester gentlemen" considered it so very satisfactory—to contain so much fact and so little fustian—that a Scheme for a new "Grand" Water Company was forthwith issued—"The Capital to be £225,000 : the number of Shares 4,500, of £50 each." At one time, these shares fell to a discount of £27; which occasioned a corresponding fall in the visages of the "Manchester gentlemen." But, no sooner was this Company admitted a branch of the Monopoly, than matters took a favourable turn; and I see, by the last quotation, that £50 shares are now up to £68.

Such was the origin, and such is the present state, of this Grand Company. That the speculation has worked well for the "Manchester gentlemen," and for their missionary, I can have little doubt. How it has worked for seven thousand families in Westminster and its suburbs, I will presently shew.

PART III.

OF THE DOLPHIN; OR GRAND JUNCTION NUISANCE.

The scheme of the five confederated Companies, for partitioning the town between them, and establishing a close monopoly of the supply of Water, was arranged towards the close of the year 1817, and carried into effect at Christmas, by the simultaneous retirement from each allotted district of all the Companies previously employed, except the individual Company which was thenceforward to be left in exclusive possession of the field.

The Companies gave no previous notice whatever of their intentions : and, in reply to the remonstrances of their customers, they were informed, that, for the future, they could only be supplied by the one continuing Company; and they were also given to understand, that an increased rate would be shortly exacted. The indecency of the proceeding produced a temporary burst of indignation ; but, so deadening are the effects of Monopoly, that the imposition was tamely

submitted to, and the nefarious scheme brought to completion.

That a combination bottomed in such a total disregard for the public welfare, should exist for any long period, without producing the train of evils ever attendant upon Monopoly, was not to be expected ; but that, in the space of less than nine years, it should have given birth to the frightful enormity which I am about to expose, could not have entered into the imagination.

The Grand Junction Water-Works Company, as I have already shewn, was not set on foot by any portion of the inhabitants of the metropolis, who felt themselves aggrieved by the conduct of the existing Companies, but originated in a set of "Manchester gentlemen," holding a board in some alley in the City, and looking for their profits solely to an increase in the market price of the shares, and by realizing the premiums which they could obtain upon a transfer of those shares.

That seven thousand families, in such a city as Westminster, should be bound hand and foot, and placed at the mercy of jobbers of this stamp, for a supply of an article, without the daily use of which they can have no life, is a state of things too frightful to contemplate. That

it will be endured, when those families shall see how their comforts and their lives have been sported with by those jobbers, is impossible.

Grand Junction Promises.

The Grand Junction Company enticed their customers to leave the old Companies, by a promise to give them a more abundant, a cheaper, and a purer supply of water. The *first* public proposal issued by the Company was an advertisement published in the newspapers, and otherwise circulated about the town. It is dated the 15th of November 1810, and is as follows :

“ Grand Junction Water-Works.

“ By act 38 Geo. 3. cap. 33, the Grand Junction Canal Company are empowered to make water-works to supply the parish of Paddington, and parishes and streets adjacent, with water. Pursuant to this act, works are now constructing, and reservoirs making, with powers to effect their purpose, far superior to any other in this kingdom, and calculated at once to give to the inhabitants of the parishes and streets to be supplied, an abundance of *pure* and *excellent* soft Water, even in the upper stories of their houses or other buildings.

“ This the proprietors will be enabled to do at a comparatively small expense, from the abundance of their sources, from the height of the ground whence the water will be taken being so much above the level of the Thames, and its being so contiguous to the parishes of Paddington, Mary-le-bone, St. George’s Hanover Square, &c., including all the new streets now making and intended to be made.

“ The *grand* main at present casting is thirty inches in diameter, and will extend down Oxford Street, conveying a body of water unequalled in the metropolis, and affording an immense advantage in the cases of fire, to all the districts through which the pipes will pass.

“ Great attention being necessary in the execution of an undertaking of such magnitude and public importance, the Grand Junction Canal Company have thought it for the *general good*, that it should be under a distinct and separate management from their other concerns: they have therefore entered into an agreement with certain gentlemen, for the purpose of carrying it into effect; in pursuance of which, and for the more effectual establishment of the undertaking, application will be made to parliament the ensuing session, praying to have the

agreement confirmed, and to have the proprietors formed into a distinct Company.

“ The water, in its present state, has been analysed, and found *excellent for all culinary and domestic purposes* ; it is also lighter, and contains less foreign matter than the Thames water : besides which, the Grand Junction Company are now engaged in making additional reservoirs, and introducing other streams of water, which are of the *finest quality*, and which will enable them not only to perform their engagement, of giving a supply for at least 40,000 houses, but also to meet the demand for water to any extent that may be required. Hence it is obvious, that the undertaking will be attended with great *public benefit*, and the proprietors trust they have reason to feel confident of the liberal support of the public.”

Such was their first engagement with the public. Their *second* is as follows :

“ Grand Junction Water-Works Office.

“ The proprietors have proved the absolute power of their works, the *excellence* of their water, and the certain success of their plan. On these grounds they solicit support to an under-

taking, combining the *welfare of the public* with the Company's advantage.

“ Their level is ten feet above the highest street in Mary-le-bone, and (what has never before been effected) they give a supply so copious and regular, that the water is always on. This abundant supply of water is always *pure* in the pipes: it is constantly *fresh*, because it is always coming in.

“ Their powers, from height of situation and largeness of main, raise water above the highest house in London, without any interruption of service to the tenants; and this economical accommodation is felt, not only in small houses, but in laundries, nurseries, &c., or upper stories, for which high service *no additional charge* is made.

“ Ravages of fire are increased by delay and scanty supply. No houses watered by this Company can suffer in these respects. Their water is never off; their pipes are always full. The water being perfectly *clear*, would not, in case of fire, *tarnish the furniture!*”

“ The annexed Analyses show the water to be peculiarly adapted to *all domestic purposes*. It is drawn from two large filtering reservoirs,

situated at Paddington; the main supply to which is derived from the rivers Colne and Brent, and from an immense reservoir of nearly a hundred acres, fed by the streams of the vale of Ruislip; and the water being taken at a considerable distance above the basin of the canal at Paddington, is consequently as *pure* as if it were drawn immediately from those permanent sources. It is laid on free of expense to the tenants."

Analysis of the Water.

"The Analysis I have made of the Grand Junction Water is highly favourable to the opinion of its salubrity and excellence, for the important public object which it is intended to fulfil."

(Signed) "C. R. AIKIN."

"4, *Broad-Street Buildings.*"

"I have analysed the Grand Junction Water, and find it to be excellent for all domestic purposes; to be also lighter, and to contain less foreign matter than the Thames water."

(Signed) "FREDERICK ACCUM."

"*Compton Street.*"

Their *third* engagement with the public will be found in the following card, which was distributed profusely all over the town :

“ *Upper Seymour Street, Portman Square.*

“ The Grand Junction Water-Works Company have the pleasure to inform the Public, that since the opening of their Works, they have given universal satisfaction to their customers.

“ Advantage of situation and great powers of machinery ensure a constant supply, at the tops and in every story of the houses, and prevent the inconvenience of force-pumps, and expense attending them.

“ The same powers ensure to the Grand Junction Customers a facility in extinguishing fires ; for, where a sufficient service is obtained, means will be established of playing upon the houses much more effectually than by the assistance of a fire-engine.

“ The Public are respectfully requested to observe, that a *daily* service is given ; and there is every reason to believe, that the different seasons of the year will not materially affect these Works.

“ The Water is collected from a *number of*

pure streams, into a reservoir of near one hundred acres, and is of a *fine, soft quality, perfectly clear*, which may be seen as it comes in from the pipes at the Company's Office, or a reference given to the inhabitants that are served with it.

“N.B. No *extra* charge is made for supplying the upper stories; and water will be furnished *gratis* for watering the streets.”

Here, then, we have, in black and in white, the engagements—the solemn engagements—entered into by the Grand Junctioners with their customers. “Public welfare!”—“daily supply of pure and excellent water!”—“perfectly clear!”—“so clear as not to tarnish the furniture in case of fire!”—“expense comparatively small!”—“increased security from the ravages of fire!”—“no additional charge for high service!”—“main supply drawn from the rivers Colne and Brent, and from an immense reservoir, of nearly a hundred acres, fed by the streams of the vale of Ruislip!”—and, *nota bene, nota bene*, “no extra charge for watering the streets,” during the dog-days! O, delightful!—

“ Not bubbling fountains to the thirsty swain—
 “ Not balmy sleep to labourers faint with pain—
 “ Not showers to larks, nor sunshine to the bee,
 “ Are half so charming as such sounds to me.”

That the advantages and temptations held out, in the foregoing proposals, should have been withstood by those to whom they were addressed, was nearly impossible. Accordingly, many of them quitted the old Companies, and came over to the new. The York Buildings Company were actually annihilated; and thus was a competitor taken out of the market: and, the Chelsea Company was left with so small a district, that it would undoubtedly have been, ere now, extinguished, but for the confederacy that was entered into.

Grand Junction Performances.

Such were Grand Junction promises. Now for performances. If the obligation of promises is to be measured, as Dr. Paley says it ought to be measured, "by the expectation which the promisers voluntarily excited," then are these Junctioners the most culpable of men. In price—in quantity—in quality, they will be found to have broken every engagement which they made with the public; and to have sported with the comforts and the health of their customers, in a way that has never been exceeded by any previous knot of monopolists.

No sooner was the confederacy completely es-

tablished, than the Grand Junction Company began to give proof of the mischief ever attendant upon the possession of exclusive powers. Instead of the promised "daily supply" of water, it was sent into the houses of their customers only three days out of the seven. Instead of "increased security against the ravages of fire," it is a singular fact, that after almost every fire that has happened in the division, since the combination of the companies, complaints have been made in the public journals, of the much greater delay which has taken place, than was formerly known. Instead of selling it at a "comparatively small charge," they exacted, in August 1819, an increased rate, equivalent, in no case, to less than 50 per cent., and extending, in most instances, to 90 and 100 per cent. Instead of making "no additional charge for high service," an advance, in some instances amounting to 100, 150, and even 200 per cent., was demanded.

As this extraordinary conduct naturally excited a considerable degree of irritation, the Company, in order to allay that irritation, circulated an immense number of copies of a pamphlet, entitled, "A Calm Address to the Housekeepers of the Parishes of St. James's and St. George's,

“ Westminster, and of St. Mary-le-bone ; calculated to settle their opinions on the subject of “ the Supply of Water, and the Conduct of the “ Water Companies ;” and they gave out, that the author was a leading Director of the Company, and a Doctor of Medicine. Let the Author be who he may, a more insipid draught was certainly never attempted to be forced down the throat of patient.

Never, perhaps, was there a mixture compounded of such heterogeneous ingredients. After descanting upon the “ tragical events ” which took place, during the last century, from the tardy manner in which water was furnished in cases of fire, the Author dilates on the increased taste for cleanliness, the luxury of a frequent change of washing apparel, the faith of parliament, the groundless outcry about monopoly which had been “ *fomented* by the ignorant and the designing,” the wickedness of “ thwarting operations carried on for the *vital* advantage of the community,” and the “ benefits which science has derived from the employment of the steam-engine and of iron pipes.” He then proceeds to the Cloacæ, or common Sewers, of ancient Rome ; pronouncing them, without hesitation, to be “ one of the wonders of the world.” “ The excavations,” he observes,

were so enormous, that Pliny says, that a waggon, loaded with hay, could pass through them, and that vessels" (what a luxury!) "could sail in them; and, further, that Tarquinius Superbus formed the *Cloaca Magna*, or grand Common Sewer." "Let it," he exclaims, "be the ambition of the British metropolis, to rival the ancient metropolis of the world, in the study of *cleanliness and health*, through the medium of the Common Sewers and the Water Companies." "Previous to the year 1810, a cup of clear, cold water was," he says, "a luxury! which many might have sought for in vain." He then reminds his readers of the debt of gratitude that they owe to the Grand Junction Company, for a cheap, a *pure*, and an abundant supply of an article so conducive to comfort, cleanliness, sweetness, and salubrity; and ends with a recommendation to "bury the past in oblivion and forgiveness," and to look only to the future; seeing that, in the execution of a new and GRAND Scheme of Public Utility, the proprietors and their agents may not in all cases have been as perfect as Angels."

It has been asserted, that the prescription of the "Calm Addresser" operated so powerfully on the great majority of the Inhabitants of St. James's and St. George's, and so "settled their

opinions" on the subject of the supply of water, that they were thereby induced to comply with the exorbitant demands made upon them; and that, encouraged by that success, the Company proceeded to extort payment from many others, less willing or less easy to be duped.

That such a mass of rigmarole should have had any such effect on the Householders of those enlightened parishes appears highly improbable. Their compliance with the exaction demanded arose, I am convinced, from the natural reluctance of individuals to contend against a confederacy, having a lawyer ever ready at their elbow, and a banker at their back.

Such, as far as regards *quantity* and *price*, are the blessings which have already arisen out of Monopoly! To what further length these "Angels," in their "new and Grand Scheme of Public Utility," may think proper to go, I cannot say: but this I can tell the Seven Thousand families supplied by the Grand Junction Company, that, by a clause in a *private* Bill—so *private*, that none of the Members for Westminster or Middlesex even knew of its existence—and which was brought into the House of Commons last session, and received the royal assent on the 31st of May, being the last day of the

existence of the last parliament, this Company obtained the sanction of the Legislature to a *New Table of Rates*, by which an addition, generally, of 50 per cent., and, in numerous instances, of 100, 150, and 200 per cent. is about to be levied upon them. That they may know precisely what they will be called upon to pay, I will copy the whole of this precious Clause.

Table of Rates according to which Water is to be supplied by the Company.

“ Provided always, and be it further enacted,
“ that the said Grand Junction Water-works
“ Company shall be obliged, by means of any
“ leaden or other pipe or pipes, to be provided
“ and laid at the costs of the persons requiring
“ the same, to furnish a sufficient supply of wa-
“ ter, at a height not exceeding six feet above the
“ flag pavement, to the house of every inhabitant
“ occupying a private dwelling-house in any
“ square, place, street, or lane where the pipes
“ of the said Company shall be laid, for the use
“ of his or her own family, at the following
“ rates per annum, that is to say :

“ Where the rent of such dwelling-house
“ shall not exceed £20 per annum, at a rate
“ not exceeding $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ;

“ And where such rent shall be above £20,
“ and not exceeding £40 per annum, at a rate
“ not exceeding 7 per cent. ;

“ And where such rent shall be above £40,
“ and not exceeding £60, per annum, at a rate
“ not exceeding $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ;

“ And where such rent shall be above £60,
“ and not exceeding £80 per annum, at a rate
“ not exceeding 6 per cent. ;

“ And where such rent shall be above £80
“ per annum, and not exceeding £100 per
“ annum, at a rate not exceeding $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ;

“ And where such rent shall be above £100
“ per annum, at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent.

“ And every such rate shall be payable ac-
“ cording to the actual amount of the rent,
“ where the same can be ascertained ; and
“ where the same cannot be ascertained, accord-
“ ing to the actual amount or annual value upon
“ which the assessment to the poor's rate is
“ computed in the parish or district where the
“ house is situate : provided nevertheless, that the
“ said Company shall not be entitled to receive
“ from any such inhabitant as aforesaid more
“ than the sum of £20 in any one year for such
“ supply ; nor shall the said Company be obliged
“ to furnish such supply to any such inhabitant

“ as aforesaid for less than twelve shillings in
 “ any one year unless they shall think fit so
 “ to do.

“ Provided also, that in case of manufacturers,
 “ dyers, printers, bleachers, brewers, inn-
 “ keepers, alehouse-keepers, vintners, or other
 “ persons requiring a supply of water for other
 “ purposes than those of his or her own family
 “ consumption, or in case of persons requiring
 “ a supply of water for hotels, public chambers,
 “ clubs, or subscription houses, baths, fountains,
 “ closets, water-closets (such closets or water-
 “ closets being supplied from any other cistern
 “ than a cistern for domestic purposes, situated
 “ within six-feet of the flag pavement) or stables,
 “ or for washing carriages, or for cows or horses,
 “ or for the purposes of any trade or business
 “ whatsoever; such supply shall be so furnished
 “ by the same Company in such cases, at such
 “ rate as shall be settled by and between the
 “ Directors and such persons respectively ”

The following Scale will make the intended
 increase still clearer :

Where the Rent of the House is

	£.	s.	d.
£20 the yearly charge will be	1	10	0
30	2	2	0
40	2	16	0

	£.	s.	d.
£50 the yearly charge will be	3	5	0
60	3	18	0
70	4	4	0
80	4	16	0
90	4	19	0
100	5	10	0
120	6	0	0
150	7	10	0
200	10	0	0
300	15	0	0
400	20	0	0

Surely it ought to be made a subject of inquiry, how a bill, levying a heavy and a partial tax on Seven Thousand families, without their knowledge or consent, could have been carried through the House of Commons in this snug manner! It went into that house as a *private* bill, and thereby escaped the vigilance of members, and of the public press: but, by a clause appended to it, it is, "further enacted, that this act shall be deemed and taken to be a *public* act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such, by all judges, justices, and others, without being especially pleaded."

What member it was, who nursed this bill into existence, I do not know: but, I have heard, that Westminster is indebted for it to an Alderman of the city of London, not in the pre-

sent parliament. Of its immense value to the Company, some notion may be formed from the fact, that, on the 8th day of June, that is to say, just one week after the bill had passed into a law, a General Assembly of the Company came to a resolution, “to raise the sum of fifty thousand pounds, by issuing *a thousand* new shares of £50 each!”

Quality of the Water supplied by the Grand Junction Company.

Having shewn what Monopoly has done for Westminster and its suburbs, as far as regards quantity and price, I come at last to the most important point of all; namely, the Quality of the article supplied by the Grand Junction Company.

And here I imagine I hear the reader exclaim—
 “ True! the Company have broken faith with
 “ their customers, by sending the water into their
 “ houses only three days out of the seven. True!
 “ the average price charged by them is more than
 “ double the average price charged by the
 “ New River Company. But, consider its pu-
 “ rity!—consider its clearness!—so clear that
 “ it will not tarnish the furniture in case of
 “ fire! And then, think of the rivers Colne and

“ Brent!—think of the immense reservoir of
“ nearly a hundred acres, fed by the ethereal
“ streams of the vale of Ruislip!—think of the
“ Analyses of Messrs. Aikin and Accum, esta-
“ blishing, beyond the shadow of a doubt, its salu-
“ brity and excellence, and its great superiority
“ over the water taken up at the Thames! Can
“ too large a price be exacted for nectar like
“ this!”

Alas! reader, bad as I have proved the conduct of the proprietors of this “ Grand Scheme of Public Utility” to have been thus far, that conduct becomes actually “angelic,” when put in comparison with the unfeeling manner in which they have sported with the comforts and the very lives of their customers.

This boasted supply of pure water from the Colne and the Brent, and from the streams of the vale of Ruislip, was, it seems, to be conveyed to Paddington, through the medium of the Grand Junction Canal. It happened, however, that the Regent’s Canal Company had, at this juncture, just completed their works; and a discovery was made, that it would be “a matter of accommodation”—not to the Seven Thousand families; they were never consulted!—but, to the three Companies, for the Grand Junction Water-

Works Company to discontinue the supply of the pure ethereal streams to their customers, and to give them, in lieu thereof, the water which the Regent's Canal Company had the power, by act of parliament, of drawing from the river Thames; water intended, not for the human stomach, but merely for the purpose of working their navigation. An Agreement to this effect was accordingly entered into between the parties, on the 26th of May 1819; and, in the beginning of September 1820, the proprietors of this "Grand Scheme of Public Utility" had a lasting adieu to the Colne and the Brent and the streams of the vale of Ruislip, and planted their standard on the banks of the Thames.*

"But, AT WHAT SPOT?"—I think I hear the reader exclaim—"AT WHAT SPOT in the Thames is the supply taken up?"

At what spot!—at the foot of Chelsea Hospital!—within a few short yards of our "Calm Addresser's" *Magna Cloaca*, or GRAND COMMON SEWER!

Directly opposite to the mouth of this modern Fleet Ditch—

* See Evidence taken before the Committee of the House of Commons in 1821, p. 45.

“ whose disemboguing streams
 “ Rolls the large tribute of dead dogs to Thames,
 “ This KING OF DYKES! than whom no sluice of mud
 “ With deeper sable blots the silver flood”—

have this Company, in their love of Junction,
 and their anxiety for the “public welfare,” planted
 their DOLPHIN—

“ Hic gelidi fontes! hinc mollia prata, Lycori,
 “ Hinc nemus!—

Hence they derive their “clear” supply—“so
 clear that it will not tarnish the furniture in case of
 fire”—here are their “Colne and their Brent”—
 and here their “pure streams of the vale of Ruis-
 lip!” Day and night is their fatal engine at work,
 pouring *down* vollies of smoke on the veteran
 inmates of the Royal Hospital, to annoy men
 who, in former days, sought danger “even in
 the cannon’s mouth”—and sending *up*, through
 iron tubes, into the habitations of Seven Thousand
 families, to be used daily at the breakfast table;
 in the composition of bread, pastry, soups,
 broths; and in the boiling of meats, poultry,
 pulses—a fluid, saturated with the impurities of
 fifty thousand houses—a dilute solution of
 animal and vegetable substances in a state of
 putrefaction—alike offensive to the sight, disgust-
 ing to the imagination, and destructive to health,

Let the reader feast his eyes on the accompanying faithful representation of this spot. But, let him not be satisfied with so doing. It is the duty of every head of a family, who values the comfort and health of his children, to pay a visit to this Tartarean gulph—

“ Hinc via, Tartarei quæ fert Acherontis ad undas :
 “ Turbidus hic coeno, vastâque voragine gurgis
 “ Æstuat, atque omnem Cocyto eructat arenam.”

The last time I saw it, the town had been washed with a two day's smart rain ; and, never shall I forget the sight—

“ Filth of all hues and odours seem'd to tell,
 “ What street they sail'd from, by their sight and smell,
 “ Sweepings from butcher's shops, dung, guts, and blood,
 “ Drown'd puppies, stinking sprats, all drench'd in mud,
 “ Dead cats, and turnip-tops came tumbling down the
 “ flood.”

If it should be said, that there is something savouring of indelicacy in all this, I cannot help it—

“ I must be cruel only to be kind.”

It is not my wish to stir up either the minds, or the stomachs, of the aggrieved families to “any sudden flood of mutiny ;” but, there are cases, in which not to speak out is affectation ; and this I conceive to be one of those cases. Neither is it for parents who can reconcile it to themselves

to accustom their children to the daily sight and use of water, varying in hue, from the clayey to the pease-soup, and from the pease-soup to the bottle-green, to talk of delicacy. It is my object to make them alive to the grievance which a submission to Monopoly has brought upon them, and to induce them to submit no longer: and I know of no way of obtaining that object, but by painting that grievance in its naked deformity.

The very fact of the eye being enured to the sight of such water, must induce filthy habits. Cleanliness, we are told, is next to Godliness. "Cleanliness," says Dr. Forsyth, "is a subject, the value of which must be obvious to every mind capable of the least reflection, whether estimated in a medical or a moral point of view. Cleanliness in person, and in all concerned with it, is a principal duty of man. An unclean or filthy person is never completely healthy; and at best, is always a loathsome and disgusting sight. It is better to wash twenty times a day, than to allow a dirty spot to remain on the skin."

"I recommend," says Dr. Adair, "as a habit conducive to general health, the washing of the whole head every morning, on first rising, with cold water. Children should be encouraged

to dip the face into a basin of cold water, keeping the mouth and eyes open, continuing the face under the water until they require drawing a fresh breath, and repeat this thrice every morning. It will require some resolution to make the first trials; but custom will soon reconcile them. This practice strengthens the eyes and gums, preserves the teeth, and will prevent that tormenting evil the tooth-ache, and colds and rheums of the head; and acts, in some measure, as a cold bath, by sympathy on the whole body."

But, bold indeed must be the man, and much more bold the child, who can find resolution enough to plunge his head, and to dip his face, "keeping his eyes and his mouth open," in a filthy fluid, saturated with decayed vegetable and other matters, and frequently, in the heat of summer, quite putrid.

The nobility and gentry, who reside in the large streets and squares, many of whom have the luxury of wells in their mansions, and who rarely examine the state of the water which runs into their cisterns, can form no conception of the condition in which it is sent into the houses of the middling classes, and by them used, instantler, for the tea-kettle and the boiler.

To persons in the lower stations of life, who live in close apartments, and who rarely possess conveniences for frequent ablutions—a whole family being often pent up in one room—it is of vital importance, that this element should be presented to their eyes, in a form as pure and as enticing as possible. The very sight of a jug of Grand Dolphin water serves as an excuse for a glass of spirits, to qualify the effects it may have on the stomach; in the same way as people who live in countries subject to the intermittent fever, take two or three glasses of bitters made with spirits every day, to fortify themselves against it.

Analysis of the Grand Dolphin Water.

When the Grand Junction Company were soliciting customers, and alluring them away from the old Companies, the better to effect their purpose, they caused, as the reader has already seen, the water to be analysed by Messrs. Aikin and Accum, two eminent chemists; thereby obtaining a testimony, or certificate, of its pure and salubrious qualities. When, however, they exchanged that water for the puddle at the foot of Chelsea Hospital, they did not deem it necessary to come forward with any such Analysis.

I, however, have had it analysed for them. As soon as I had made up my mind to call the attention of the inhabitants of Westminster to the subject, I caused a quantity of the water, just as it came into the cistern, to be sent to the successor of Mr. Accum, with the following letter.

“ SIR ; “ *January 4, 1827.*

“ I request you to analyse the water here-
 “ with sent, with a view to ascertain its specific
 “ nature and quality ; and that, when you have
 “ so done, you will have the goodness to say,
 “ whether you consider it to be ‘ clear ’—
 “ ‘ pure ’—‘ free from foreign matter ’—and ‘ ex-
 “ cellent for all domestic and culinary purposes.’

“ I am, &c.”

The Answer was as follows :

“ SIR :

“ The water sent for assay was found
 “ to be loaded with decomposed vegetable
 “ matter ; and in such quantity, as to be unfit
 “ for use, without tedious purifications.

I am, Sir, your’s, &c.

(*Signed*) “ F. JOYCE,
 “ *Compton Street.*”

Opinions of Professional Men, with regard to the Quality of the Water supplied by the Grand Junction Company, and the Consequences likely to result from the Use of it.

That water, which was so loaded with filth and decomposed vegetable matters as to be unfit for ablution, could not be fit for other domestic and culinary purposes, was evident to common sense; but, in order that the families who were using this water, might know the full measure of their danger, I thought it right to address a Letter to a few of our eminent professional men, and to wait upon them, as occasion offered, with a specimen of the said water.

I accordingly set out on my expedition on Monday, the 6th of February. My first visit was to Mr. Abernethy, of whom I had heard much, but whom I had never before had the pleasure of seeing. The following is a copy of the letter I addressed to him :

“ SIR :

“ For the last twelve months, I have been “ strongly impressed with a conviction, that “ more than seven thousand families at the

“ west end of the town are supplied, by one of
“ the Water Companies who have partitioned the
“ metropolis between them, with a necessary of
“ life, loaded with filth and all sorts of impu-
“ rities ; and I am about to make an effort to
“ awaken such of the inhabitants of Westmin-
“ ster and its suburbs as are served with it to a
“ sense of their danger.

“ The water which the said Company *engaged*
“ to supply to their customers was to be ‘ of the
“ ‘ purest quality, perfectly clear, fit for all
“ ‘ culinary and domestic purposes ;’ and it was
“ to be ‘ derived from the rivers Colne and
“ ‘ Brent, and from an immense reservoir of
“ ‘ nearly a hundred acres, fed by the streams of
“ ‘ the vale of Ruislip ;’ and, futhermore, it was
“ ‘ to be lighter, and to contain less foul matter,
“ ‘ than the Thames Water.’

“ The water which they *actually* supply, and
“ of which I herewith send you a specimen, is
“ drawn, at the rate of thirty-six thousand hogs-
“ heads per day, *from* the river Thames, at the
“ foot of Chelsea Hospital, and within a few
“ yards of the great Common Sewer !

“ Now, Sir, you would much oblige me, and,
“ I think, benefit the public, if you would inform
“ me, whether you consider this water to be ‘ of the

“ purest quality,’ and ‘ fit for all culinary and domestic purposes :’ in other words, whether you consider it fit for the breakfast table, and to be used in the making of bread, puddings, broths, soups, &c ; and in the boiling of meats and vegetables. Or whether, on the contrary, you do not consider, that the daily use of such water has a direct and positive tendency to engender those diseases, to which the inhabitants of so thickly a populated city as Westminster are especially liable.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir,

“ Your’s, &c.”

Scarcely had I put the above letter into Mr. Abernethy’s hand, when I unfortunately held-up the specimen bottle, and asked him, “ whether he thought such water could be wholesome.” Never shall I forget the countenance of this eminent man at that moment! The very sight of the turbid fluid seemed to occasion a turmoil in his stomach. He began pacing the room backward and forward, and the only words I could extract from him were, “ How can you ask me such a question? How can you ask me such a question? There is such a thing as Common Sense ! There is such a thing as Common Sense !”

Mr. Pope tells us, that

“ Great wits sometimes may gloriously offend,

“ And rise to faults true critics dare not mend—”

and so may great professional men. There was a sort of honest *brusquerie* in Mr. Abernethy's conduct, that pleased me beyond measure; and I left his house, satisfied that I had not only established my case, but supplied my intended publication with an excellent motto.

In a communication which I have since been favoured with from Mr. Abernethy, he has had the goodness to confirm my interpretation of his exclamation, and to express his sincere wishes for the success of, what he is kind enough to call, my “public-spirited exertions.”

A similar letter and specimen bottle I next took to Dr. William Lambe, the author of “Researches into the Properties of Spring Water; with Medical Cautions against the use of Lead in the Construction of Pumps, Water-pipes, Cisterns,” &c. His answer is as follows:

“ Having considered the foregoing statement,
 “ and observed the great impurity of the speci-
 “ men of water shewn to me, I cannot doubt,
 “ that this water is loaded with noxious matter;
 “ much of which is obvious to the eye, and
 “ much, no doubt, is contained in solution. I

“ have no hesitation in saying, that such water,
“ used as an article of diet, *must* be unwhole-
“ some.

(*Signed*) “ WILLIAM LAMBE, M.D.”

Upon reading my letter, and examining the specimen of the water, Dr. Wilson Philip, of Cavendish Square, the author of the “ Treatise on Indigestion,” declared, like Mr. Abernethy, that its impurities were so evident to the sight, that to certify that it was “ unfit for culinary and domestic purposes,” was altogether unnecessary. He, however, politely offered me his opinion, as to the necessity of using only pure and wholesome water, and wrote as follows at the foot of my letter :

“ *Cavendish Square.*

“ I have no hesitation in saying, that I con-
“ sider good Water as *essential* to Health.”

(*Signed*) “ A. P. W. PHILIP.”

From Mr. Thomas, the Surgeon, of Leicester Place, I received the following answer to my interrogatory :

“ *Leicester Place, Feb. 17, 1827.*

“ SIR :

“ I have examined, with great care, the
“ specimen of water you sent for my inspection.

“ On the first view, it presents a fluid loaded
 “ with impurities; and, upon a more minute
 “ analysis, is found saturated with decayed ve-
 “ getable matter, and other substances equally
 “ deleterious, which must be very prejudicial to
 “ the health of those who are obliged to employ
 “ it in the common purposes of domestic life.

“ That such is the fact may, I presume, be
 “ readily ascertained by inquiries amongst the
 “ inhabitants of the districts, who are supplied
 “ with water from the same source.

“ With my best wishes for the successful
 “ termination of your laudable undertaking, I
 “ remain, Sir, very truly your's,

(Signed) “ H. LEIGH THOMAS.”

The following is the reply of Dr. Hooper, of
 Savile Row, the author of “ The Medical Dic-
 tionary.”

“ *Savile Row, Feb. 12, 1827.*

“ SIR :

“ I lament I have not had it in my power
 “ to acknowledge the receipt of, and to answer,
 “ your letter before.

“ I beg to inform you, that I have been aware
 “ of the very impure nature of the water supplied
 “ by the Grand Junction Company, ever since
 “ it came to my house. At one time it was

“ not only filthy in appearance, but had an
 “ unwholesome smell.

“ Until my supply of water came from the
 “ Grand Junction Company, that which I had
 “ was excellent: but now scarcely a week pas-
 “ ses, that I am not presented with a leech; a
 “ shrimp-like skipping insect, near an inch in
 “ length; a small, red, delicate worm, which I
 “ believe is the *lumbricus fluviatilis*, or some
 “ other animalcula; and the water is mostly
 “ opaline, muddy, or otherwise impure.

“ That the daily use of impure water has a
 “ tendency to produce, or is a cause of, many
 “ diseases, there cannot be any doubt; and it
 “ is a question of much importance, whether
 “ such matters in the stomach do not greatly
 “ contribute to the production of that state of
 “ faulty digestion, and impurity of blood, of
 “ which the inhabitants of this and other large
 “ cities are constantly complaining.

“ I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
 (Signed) “ R. HOOPER.”

Mr. Brodie, the Surgeon, of Savile Row, whose house is also supplied with water from the polluted source, favoured me with the following answer :

“ 16, *Savile Row*, Feb. 24, 1827.

“ SIR :

“ The water which you have shewn me corresponds in appearance with that which is supplied to my own house by the Grand Junction Water Company.

“ It is manifestly very impure ; and, from the quantity of foreign matters which it contains, must, I conceive, be unwholesome, and altogether unfit for culinary purposes.

“ I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) “ B. C. BRODIE.”

From Dr. Paris, the author of the well-known “Treatise on Diet,” who also has this water sent into his house, I received the following answer :

“ *Dover Street*, Feb. 15, 1827.

“ SIR :

“ In reply to your letter, I feel no difficulty in stating, as a Housekeeper, that the water with which I am supplied is extremely impure and unwholesome.

“ As a Physician, who has devoted much attention to the subject, I cannot find terms sufficiently expressive of the awful effects it may be likely to produce upon the health,

“ and even lives, of the inhabitants of the me-
“ tropolis.

“ I am most anxious, that you should pur-
“ sue some plan to obtain redress from the
“ Legislature.

“ I remain, Sir, your humble servant,
(Signed) “ J. A. PARIS.”

From Mr. Keate, the Surgeon, of Albemarle Street, I was favoured with the following answer :

“ *Albemarle Street, March 1, 1827.*

“ SIR :

“ In reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo,
“ which I have this day received, I may observe,
“ in the first place, that I had no occasion of
“ the specimens which you sent me of the New
“ River and Grand Junction Waters, and that
“ I have never ceased to regret the effect of
“ that Combination, which deprived me of the
“ former, and compelled me to pay dearly for
“ the latter.

“ I can have no hesitation in avowing my
“ opinion, that the Water supplied by the
“ Grand Junction Company is so filthy and
“ impure, as to be unfit for the breakfast-table,
“ or for culinary purposes ; and that it adds so
“ much to the other impure and unwholesome

“ constituents of bread, as to render every
“ meal injurious to the health of thousands.

“ It is well known, that Thames Water is
“ unfit for domestic purposes, until it has under-
“ gone a process somewhat analogous to fer-
“ mentation ; after which, it is pure, and capable
“ of being preserved in a state of purity for a long
“ period : but, where the tanks, or reservoirs,
“ are disturbed every day, by the accession
“ of fresh supplies, this process cannot take
“ place : and I doubt whether the experiment
“ has ever been tried with the water pumped
“ up from the *débouche* of the Common Sewer.

“ I am myself obliged to send out for spring
“ water to a considerable distance from my
“ house, for most purposes ; and, by the aid of
“ philtering machines and a steam kitchen, I
“ endeavour to avert from my family the mis-
“ chiefs and dangers, which I should otherwise
“ apprehend from the use of the sad compound
“ which is laid into my house.

“ I cannot conclude without expressing to you
“ my thanks, for the attempt which you appear
“ to be making in the cause of humanity ; for
“ many must be the sufferers from this cause.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.

(Signed) “ ROBERT KEATE.”

By Mr. Brodie, I was favoured with an introductory note to Sir Henry Halford ; from whom I experienced, not merely a polite, but a kind reception. He expressed his satisfaction that the subject was likely to be brought to the notice of Parliament, and signified his readiness to assist, by every means in his power, in the abatement of so great an evil. He directed a servant to bring in a decanter of the water from his own cistern, and on holding it up, he said, " There, Sir ! is that water fit for the human stomach ? You have taken up a good cause, and I heartily wish you success." He recommended me to call on his neighbours, Dr. Turner and Dr. Hume and gave me the following answer to my letter :

" Curzon Street, March 1, 1827.

" SIR :

" I have been disgusted, for some time
" past, by the filthy fluid which has been served
" to my house by the Grand Junction Water
" Company ; and, although I am not prepared
" to prove that its influence on the health of
" the inhabitants of the west-end of the town
" *has* been deleterious, I conceive it likely to
" *become* so, if it continue to be supplied in
" the same foul and muddy condition, in which
" it comes into our houses at present.

“ I must add, Sir, that I think the Public is
 “ under great obligations to you for bringing
 “ this subject of the supply of Water to the
 “ Metropolis, to the notice of Parliament.

“ I am, Sir, your's truly,
 (*Signed*) “ HENRY HALFORD.”

I, accordingly, waited on Dr. Turner and Dr. Hume. They both of them directed a servant to bring some of the water out of their cisterns, and acknowledged that my specimen was a very favourable one. Here follows Dr. Turner's answer to my letter ;

“ *Curzon Street, March 3, 1827.*

“ SIR :

“ In reply to your letter respecting the
 “ water supplied by the Grand Junction Com-
 “ pany, I should say, that it is, at no season
 “ of the year, fit for culinary purposes, and
 “ that after rain it is generally mixed with so
 “ large a quantity of filth, as to render it unfit
 “ even for washing, or any other domestic use.
 “ During the hot weather of last summer, the
 “ water in my cisterns frequently became quite
 “ putrid ; though they were repeatedly cleaned
 “ out by my direction.

“ Whether this impure state of the water *has*

“ had any influence on the health of the inhabi-
“ tants of Westminster, is a question that
“ would admit of much controversy. I therefore
“ pass it over; but must express to you, Sir,
“ my sincere thanks for the trouble you are
“ taking for the public good.

“ I am, Sir, your faithful servant,

(Signed) “ THOMAS TURNER.”

The following is a copy of Dr. Hume's answer :

“ 9, Curzon Street, 5th March, 1827.

“ SIR :

“ In reply to your question, I have no
“ hesitation in stating, that the water supplied
“ to this house by the Grand Junction Water
“ Company, ever since I have resided in it,
“ which is now nearly five years, has been so
“ loaded with mud and all sorts of impurities,
“ that I have never been able to use it for any
“ purpose whatever, except that of ablution;
“ and, even for washing, it has been almost
“ always, in winter, so foul and dirty, and in the
“ dry hot weather of summer, so filled with
“ animalcula, that it has been necessary to filter
“ or boil it, before it could be used without
“ disgust.

“ I have been supplied with water from a

“ spring in the neighbourhood, for tea and all
 “ culinary purposes, in consequence of the
 “ dirtiness of the water served by the Grand
 “ Junction Water Company; but, I am not
 “ able to assert, that this water has been pre-
 “ judicial to the health of the Inhabitants in
 “ the west-end of the town; although I have
 “ no doubt of a continued use of such water,
 “ without filtering or depuration, being, in the
 “ end, capable of producing deleterious effects.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir,

“ Your very obedient servant,

(Signed) “ J. R. HUME.”

By the recommendation of Mr. Keate, I also wrote to Dr. Macmichael, from whom I received the following reply ;

“ *Half-Moon Street, March 10, 1827.*

“ SIR :

“ The specimen of Water you have shewn me,
 “ and some specimens which I have frequently
 “ seen in my own house (which is supplied by
 “ the Grand Junction Water Company), are cer-
 “ tainly very filthy ; and I should think no other
 “ argument could be required, than the conside-
 “ ration of the disgusting source from which this
 “ impure water is obtained, to prove how desi-

“ rable it would be to procure a wholesome
 “ supply from a more pure source.

“ The public is certainly obliged to you for
 “ taking the trouble of calling the attention of
 “ parliament to this very important subject.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) “ W. MACMICHAEL.”

Dr. Holland's answer was as follows :

“ *Lower Brook Street, March 10, 1827.*

“ Sir ;

“ In reply to your inquiry, respecting the
 “ water supplied to my house by the Grand
 “ Junction Company, I must say, that I have
 “ frequently observed, that it was turbid, and in
 “ a state not desirable for domestic uses.

“ I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) “ H. HOLLAND.”

From Dr. Robert Bree I received the following
 reply.

“ *17, Hanover Square, March 14, 1827.*

“ Sir ;

“ The statement you have done me the
 “ favour of sending for my opinion, carries the
 “ testimony of a strong and culpable breach of
 “ faith on the part of the Water Company
 “ which supplies my house with water.

“ I have been convinced, by experience, of

“ the impurity of their water, and have had
 “ water from a spring in Hanover Square for
 “ constant use as a drink and for particular uses.

“ I think it obvious, that the Company has
 “ deceived the public, and not less plain that an
 “ impure water must be deleterious to the
 “ health ; and that the necessity of filtering, or
 “ of subjecting water to the action of heat, for
 “ the purpose of rendering it innocuous, is a
 “ shameful imposition on the inhabitants, which
 “ in equity, should make the contract with the
 “ Company void ; or set up a charge of expense
 “ against their rates.

“ I wish you success in your endeavour to
 “ develope this public abuse, and am sensible of
 “ the debt which the inhabitants of West-
 “ minster must owe to your exertions.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Very truly yours,

(Signed) “ ROBERT BREE.”

As Dr. James Johnson had written an essay expressly on the Influence of Civic Life on Human Health and Happiness, and had recently published a treatise on Morbid Sensibility, which had excited considerable attention, I thought proper to address a letter to that gentleman, and was favoured with the following reply :

“ *Suffolk Place, Pall-Mall East,*

“ SIR :

Feb. 13, 1827.

“ I have always looked upon the water
 “ used in London, and taken up in or near
 “ the metropolis, as most disgusting to the
 “ imagination, and deleterious to health. But,
 “ as I have publicly stated my sentiments
 “ nearly twelve months ago, in the *Medico-*
 “ *Chirurgical Review* (which I herewith send
 “ you), on the subject of the water taken up
 “ at Chelsea, I need not now restate them
 “ here.

“ I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,
 (Signed) “ J. JOHNSON.”

The following is the Extract from the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, vol. iv. p. 207, to which Dr. James Johnson refers. It is brief; but it speaks volumes :

“ We sneer at the delicacy of the Hindoo,
 “ who slakes his thirst at the same tank where
 “ his neighbour is sacrificing to Cloacina ; but,
 “ what shall we say to the delicate citizens of
 “ Westminster, who fill their tanks, and sto-
 “ machs, with water from the Thames, at that
 “ very spot into which one hundred thousand
 “ cloacæ, containing every species of filth, and

“ all unutterable things, are daily disgorging
“ their hideous and abominable contents.

“ It is absolutely astonishing that, in these
“ days of refinement, and in a metropolis
“ whose inhabitants pride themselves on delica-
“ cy and cleanliness, a practice should obtain,
“ at which posterity will shudder, if they can
“ credit it. We do not believe that a parallel
“ instance of bestial dirtiness can be cited from
“ any part of the globe.

“ A time *must* come, when the people of West-
“ minster will open their eyes to this scene of
“ corruption, veiled and concealed as it is, by
“ iron tubes and stone pavements. We are not
“ among the idolators of the ancients; but, we
“ do admire the delicacy of their taste, in ex-
“ pending so much labour and wealth in com-
“ manding abundant supplies of pure and salu-
“ brious water for the everlasting city.

“ The New River and the Hampstead Waters
“ are ethereal streams, compared with those of
“ Chelsea. It is difficult to say, how far health
“ may be affected, by drinking from such a
“ polluted source; but, surely such deleterious
“ substances, however minutely divided, can-
“ not be salubrious. It is therefore probable,
“ that part of the insalubrity of the city, as

“ compared with the country, may be owing
“ to this cause.”

Such were the Answers which I received to my Letter. In general, the first question put to me was, as to the motives which had induced me to come forward ; and, on finding that I was totally unconnected with any of the Water Companies, and had taken up the matter solely upon public grounds, they entered into my views, with a liberality, and with a spirit of perfect independence, that do honour to the profession. As the reader may put a similar question to me, I will answer him in few words.

About this time twelve months, my attention was drawn to the quality of the water sent in, by the Grand Junction Company, to the house in which I reside. I observed it, from time to time, answering the description already given of it ; and I determined on tracing the evil to its source. Having so done, the enormity of it was always presenting itself to me. So much so, that I was not a little rallied by my acquaintances, at the interest I took in the subject. In December last, however, I came to a determination to expose the nuisance in a little pamphlet, expressing my intentions of so doing to a friend,

and requesting him to furnish me with any hints that might occur to him. His reply was certainly not very encouraging.

“ Why trouble your head,” said he, “ about a nuisance which you will never abate, but can, at any day, run away from? Why fish in ‘troubled waters,’ or get yourself into ‘hot water?’ Though, upon second thoughts, either is preferable to being poisoned by the superabundance of ‘Chelsea Hospital’-ity: and if, by stitching together a pamphlet on the subject, you can sew up the offenders in the Common Sewer; and stifle the Grand Junction Confederacy in their own filth, you will at once attain a great deliverance, and a great triumph. Indeed, you will far surpass the chief labour of Hercules! He cleansed the Augean stable, by causing a river to flow through it; but, to purify the stream after it was so befouled, he never, I believe, undertook. Your task, therefore, seems more than Herculean: but, I do not despair of your accomplishing it. As to my giving you any hints, or contributing in the slightest degree, to so stupendous a performance —(is not *pamphlet* a misnomer for so *great a work*?)—you must really excuse me; my assistance would be as a drop in the bucket, or as one bucket in the filthy bed of the river. What could

I do in arresting the course of the pestiferous torrent down the general throat? You might as well ask me to set the Thames on fire."

The subject, however, had got such complete hold of me, that I could not shake it off. Not a whit deterred by the pleasantry of my sarcastic friend, I determined on persevering; and, on the 30th of last December, I addressed a letter to Sir Francis Burdett, briefly pointing out the mischief which the Monopoly of a necessary of life had brought upon his constituents, and expressing a hope, that he would further the object I had in view, by calling the attention of Parliament to the grievance. Although the honourable Baronet was, at that time, confined to his room by illness, I received, in the course of two hours, an answer. "The subject," said Sir Francis, "is one of the greatest importance. How large a portion of Westminster is affected! The inhabitants should have a meeting, and prepare a petition. I will do every thing in my power. I am laid up; but, whenever you call, I will see you."—Thus encouraged, I hesitated no longer.

PART IV.

OF THE ABATEMENT OF THE NUISANCE; AND OF THE BEST MODE OF PROCURING A PURE AND WHOLESOME SUPPLY OF WATER FOR WESTMINSTER AND ITS SUBURBS.

The reader must, I think, by this time, be alive to the evils—the enormous evils—which submission to Monopoly has, in the space of nine years, brought upon Westminster and its Suburbs. Let us recapitulate them! QUANTITY, diminished by more than one half—PRICE, more than doubled, and a new rate about to be inflicted—QUALITY, unwholesome—so filthy as to be unfit for the breakfast table, and for culinary purposes—so impure as to add to the other unwholesome constituents of bread, and to render every meal injurious to the health of thousands—loaded with decayed vegetable and other substances equally deleterious to health—having sometimes an unwholesome smell—containing small delicate worms, and other animalcula—and, to crown the whole, being, in the sultry season, sometimes quite putrid!

What another nine years of tame submission may effect for Westminster—how much an unusually hot summer, or one of those great droughts with which countries are sometimes visited, may add to the unwholesomeness of this Grand Junction water—are points which it would be impertinent in me to attempt to solve. Enough for me to know, that instead of a wholesome stream, it is derived from a feculent flood. Enough for me to know, that it was promised to be “pure,” and that it is, at times, “quite putrid.”

Great droughts, we are assured, have always been found highly noxious in their ultimate, if not in their immediate, effects. Previously to the destructive epidemical distemper which raged in the year 1733, there had been a great drought in England, and in other parts of Europe; and, the contagion proved fatal to all the countries especially affected with the drought. Let the reader look once more at the engraved representation of the *spot* at the foot of Chelsea Hospital, and then fancy, in his mind's eye, the condition that spot must be in, if a visitation of this kind should unfortunately recur.

What has happened, may again happen. Though this great metropolis may, at the present moment, be, generally speaking, in a healthy

condition, it does not follow, that it will always remain so.

“ Principiis obsta ; sero medicina paratur,
“ Cum mala per longas convaluere moras.

If it be, at all times, prudent to look to the budding mischief, it is especially so in a case like the present. One eminent physician has assured me, that the drinking of this water has had a deleterious effect on the health of his daughter. Another has told me, that it constantly disagreed with him ; and that he had been principally induced to change his residence, in order to get out of the reach of the mischief. And a third has just had the goodness to enclose me the following interesting fact :

“ Several years ago,” says Dr. J. Cheyne,*
“ when the dysentery raged violently in the old barracks, the care of the sick was, in the absence of the regimental surgeon, entrusted to the late Mr. Bell, surgeon in Cork. At the period in question, the troops were supplied with water from the river Lee, which, in passing through the city of Cork, is rendered unfit for drinking, from the influx of the contents of sewers from the

* Medical Report on Dysentery, p. 11.

houses, and likewise is brackish, from the tide which ascends into their channels. Mr. Bell, suspecting that the water might have caused the dysentery, upon assuming the care of the sick, had a number of water-carts engaged to bring water for the troops, from a spring, called the Lady's Well; at the same time, they were no longer permitted to drink the water from the river. From this simple, but judicious arrangement, the dysentery very shortly disappeared among the troops."

The variety of ways in which this Monopoly may work to the injury of the families supplied with the filthy fluid are endless. It will affect the value of houses, and of lodgings. The example of the physician to whom I have just alluded will, if the nuisance continue to be endured, be followed. It will be matter for consideration, whether a man take a house in this street, or in that—his soup and dinner at this coffee-house or the other. It will extend to particular trades and callings. It will become a duty to buy bread of the baker who uses wholesome water in the composition of it. Nay, it will become an object for consideration, not merely where a gentleman lives himself, but in what part of the town he puts up his horse. Dr.

Paris* informs us, that "animals appear to be more sensible of the impurities of water than man." Now, if this be the fact, what, I ask, must be the sufferings of that noble creature, the horse, on being presented, after returning on a sultry day to his stable, with a pail of water "quite putrid?"

But, mischievous as the Grand Junction Nuisance has hitherto proved, that mischief must constantly be on the increase, from the mass of new buildings rearing their heads in that direction. Even at this very moment, the "Calm Addresser's" favourite *Magna Cloaca*, opposite the Dolphin, is deepening and widening, in order that its contents may flow into the Thames with greater velocity.

By a clause in the bill which passed the House of Commons in so private a manner, last session, the Company are confirmed a company in perpetuity, for supplying water from this spot. The sum which they are to pay to the corporation of London, for the liberty of so doing, is five pounds five shillings per annum, for about ten million hogsheads; being at the rate of about one farthing for every two hundred

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* Treatise on Diet, second edition, p. 161.

hogsheads—filth, decomposed vegetable matter, worms, and other animalcula included.

And, so firmly do the Company consider themselves rivetted to this spot, that I am informed they are about to build a reservoir upon it, which is to contain a constant supply of the precious fluid pumped up from their Dolphin. But, before they are suffered to do this, surely, if the "*salus populi*" be the "*suprema lex*," those who have the charge of the Public Health will institute an inquiry, whether it be safe to allow a body of stagnant filth, in the contiguity of the Royal Hospital and the surrounding buildings.

"Great exhalations," says Dr. Griffiths, "are unfriendly to the human race, when they proceed from pure water only, occasioning intermittent fevers, &c.: but, when the exhaled moisture is impregnated with noxious particles, communicated to it by putrid vegetable and animal matter, fevers of a more pernicious tendency may be looked for."

The powers granted to the Company, by the several acts of parliament, were entrusted to them for the public welfare. Those powers they have grossly abused. They promised the *best* water, and they supply the *worst* that can possibly be procured. Why should not the

vender of unwholesome and putrid water be punished, as well as the vender of unwholesome and putrid meat?

And—who are these Grand Junctioners? With all the attention I have bestowed on the subject, I do not now know the names of the Directors. The list, as it stands in the Court Kalendar, is an incorrect one. The gentleman who is there stated to be their Chairman, has ceased to be so for years. Why, then, continue his name? A more kind-hearted, or a more honourable man, does not, I believe, exist. His efforts, when in Parliament, had uniformly the public good in view. His humanity would not, I am sure, allow him to tread needlessly on a worm—much more, to send little red worms, and the other animalcula of which Dr. Hooper speaks, down the throats of his fellow-creatures. The supply of water to a metropolis ought not to be entrusted to a Company, of whom we know nothing, and whose shares are constantly shifting hands in the market. *Equo ne credite Teucris!* Put no faith in the Junctioners, and their wooden-headed Dolphin!

“ But—how is this Nuisance to be abated?”

By a determination, on the part of the people of Westminster, to break up the Monopoly.

“And—how is the Monopoly to be broken up?”

By inviting competitors into the market.

“If,” said Lord Chancellor Eldon, in the House of Peers, nine years ago, “the objects of the Legislature, in passing the different bills for the supply of water to the metropolis, which must be supposed to have been that of competition, have been defeated, by the different Companies joining together to establish a monopoly, I trust your Lordships will not separate, without its being distinctly understood, that it is perfectly within the competence of Parliament to set that matter right.”

The evils that have arisen out of this monopoly, were foreseen by the Earl of Lauderdale, in April, 1818.

“The object of Parliament,” said the noble Earl, “in passing different bills for supplying the metropolis with water, with a view to competition, has been, by these companies, completely defeated, and a monopoly substituted. They have combined to divide the town between them. They have effected, by their own private arrangement, that which Parliament refused to allow them to do. The consequence of this conduct is not merely increased price to the consumer, but bad water. While there were rival com-

panies, there was some security that the public would not be imposed upon; but, as the matter now stands, a monopoly has been established; and, I am sure your Lordships must feel, that it is impossible for you to see such a state of things, unless you mean to take the subject into your consideration, and fix the fair price at which that first necessary of life ought to be sold to the inhabitants. If ever there was a case proper for the deliberation of parliament, this is one. Your Lordships will not do your duty, if you separate, at the end of the session, without coming to some decision on this most important subject."

If such were the noble Earl's sentiments in 1818, what must they be in 1827, when the charge for this "first necessary of life," has, in many cases, been doubled, and is about to be further advanced; and when the quality is not merely "bad," but so foul, as to be pronounced, by professional men of the first eminence, loaded with filth, and all manner of indescribable impurities?"

The attention of the House of Peers was also, at that time, called to the subject by Earl Grosvenor; who observed, that "a coalition had taken place between the Water Companies in the metropolis, who had divided great part of the town between them; and the consequence was, that

some of his tenants were compelled to take the Grand Junction Water; which was of a bad quality, discoloured, and very disagreeable to the taste. He had thought it right to call the attention of their Lordships to the subject, which was one of very considerable importance.*

That the quality of the water supplied by the Grand Junction Company, which the noble Earl pronounced, in the year 1818, to be of "a bad quality, discoloured, and very disagreeable to the taste," can have improved since that period, is impossible; I therefore rely, with confidence, on the noble Earl's coming forward a second time, in behalf of his numerous tenants.

If "a time *must* come," as Dr. James Johnson assures us it must, "when the inhabitants of Westminster will open their eyes to this scene of corruption, veiled and concealed as it is, by iron tubes and stone pavements," why not let that time be the present? No man living is more interested in the removal of this nuisance, and in looking about for a supply of pure and wholesome water, than the noble Earl last mentioned.

"Tis Use alone that sanctifies Expense,

"And Splendour borrows all her rays from Sense.

We hear daily of the splendid mansions that

* See Parliamentary Debates, vol. 37, p. 1183.

are covering the noble Earl's princely property in the fields of Chelsea and of Pimlico ; but, if the impurities of the Thames in that direction are to be constantly conveyed into those mansions, they will become little better than "whited sepulchres, which appear beautiful outside, but are within full of all uncleanness."

We read, also, of the crescents and the colonades and the other handsome buildings, that are rising on the estate belonging to the See of the Bishop of London, in the parish of Paddington. Now, in return for the permission to erect certain buildings on the said estate, the Grand Junction Company have bound themselves to serve the tenants of the Bishop with water, at a rate 10 per cent below the average rate. But, that water, be it remembered, was promised to be the "pure and wholesome" water from the Colne and the Brent and the streams of the vale of Ruislip ; and not the filthy puddle taken up at the foot of Chelsea Hospital. The right reverend prelate must, therefore, I think, feel it his duty to step forward, in a matter so closely connected with the comfort and the health of so large a portion of his lessees.

In the consideration of this important subject, it should ever be borne in mind, that the river Thames, in the direction of the new buildings,

is in a very different condition to what it was, in the time of Isaac Walton. Chelsea was then spoken of as a town at the distance of two miles from London ; and we are told, that the citizens used to repair to it for a day's fishing. " The infinite number of beautiful swans," which Stowe informs us were daily to be seen upon the river ; the " store of barbels, smelts, breams, roaches, daces,"—

" The bright-ey'd perch, with fins of Tyrian dye,
The silver eel, in shining volumes rolled ;
The yellow carp, in scales bedropp'd with gold :
Swift trouts, diversify'd with crimson stains,
And pikes, the tyrants of the watery plains"—

all, all, have fled from the neighbourhood, leaving behind them the " leech, the *lumbricus fluvialis*, and other animalcula"—and a lesson to man, which it were madness not to profit by! That " common sense," of which Mr. Abernethy assured me, " there is such a thing," whispers to every sound mind, that *not a drop of water, intended for the domestic supply of such a city as Westminster, should be suffered, by the Legislature, to be taken from such a source.*

Every inhabitant of this vast metropolis ought to have a rooted confidence, that the water sent into his house is, at all times, of a pure and

wholesome quality—a confidence, not so much in the persons who sell the water, as in the Government of the country—that it will not permit any but such as is pure and wholesome to be pumped into their dwellings. Upon this point, I intreat the attention of the reader to the following extract from the evidence given before a Committee of the House of Commons, in 1821, by Mr. Weale, of the Office of Woods and Forests—a gentleman to whom the public are under the greatest obligations, for the stand made by him, at that time, against this Monopoly.

“The defects,” said that gentleman, “to which I allude are involved in the fact, that the supply is vested in the hands of trading Joint-Stock Companies. Now, the supply of a large city with water cannot be assimilated, I conceive, to a trade in grain or other commodities. Water must be considered as one of the elements necessary to existence, the same as light and air; and not merely as an article of subsistence like corn, nor of convenience like coal: and therefore, its artificial supply to a great city ought not to be the subject of free trade, nor of any kind of trade.

“The supply ought not to be limited to the ordinary wants of domestic consumption; nor ought that consumption to be kept down by the artificial checks which a high price to be paid

for it, or any price to be paid for it, by the poor and needy would produce; but, on the contrary, the supply ought to be profuse, rather than merely sufficient, and gratuitous to the poor.

“The costs of the works required to provide the supply, and the expenses attending the delivery of it, should be defrayed out of a local revenue, in the same manner as the expenses of the pavements, drains, police, &c. are, raised by an equitable assessment on the property of the district; and the management of such an establishment should be placed in the hands of local commissioners, under the like regulations as the commissioners of sewers, and other similar bodies.”

If, however, the supply of water to the city of Westminster must be entrusted to a Joint Stock Company—what is there in the features of the present times, when not only improvement but ornament is the order of the day, to prevent its inhabitants from providing this necessary of life for themselves?

If a knot of jobbers, holding their sittings in an obscure alley in London, and having no earthly object in view but profit, could, in 1810, give birth to a Junction powerful in mischief, what might not be effected, in the way of good, by a real grand junction of the nobility, gentry, and tradesmen of Westminster, for the purpose

of establishing the health and comfort of its inhabitants, as far as the liquid element is concerned, on a sure and lasting foundation? For the accomplishment of so noble an object, what expense could be too great! what exertions too arduous!

If aqueducts, constructed at an enormous charge, and carried through rocks and mountains, and over vallies, could convey, from a distance of sixty and even a hundred miles, five hundred thousand hogsheads of pure water to ancient Rome every twenty-four hours, what difficulties can present themselves to modern science, to bringing to the city of Westminster a tithe of that quantity, from a distance of eight or ten miles?

If poor Sir Hugh Middleton, with ruined fortune and nearly broken heart, could, two centuries ago, in spite of innumerable hindrances, and the refusal of the corporation of London to lend him one farthing to complete an undertaking, which has conferred such incalculable blessings on the City, could apply for assistance to James the First, and not apply in vain, what is there in the character and the disposition of his present Majesty, to warrant a supposition, that he would not gladly encourage and patronize so noble an undertaking?

That pure and wholesome water for the supply

of all Westminster, can be obtained in abundance, there is no doubt. A brief notice in "*The Times*" newspaper, that this publication was about to appear, and that Sir Francis Burdett had expressed a readiness to take up the subject in Parliament, immediately brought, through the medium of the honourable baronet, a communication of the most consolatory description. The writer intimates, that his Grace the Duke of Northumberland can lend a helping hand in the great work. Of this I know nothing. But, if this should happily be the case, the will of a Hugh Percy to effect for Westminster, what a Hugh Middleton accomplished for London, cannot be wanted. Another communication informs me, that the attention of Mr. Nash, the public architect, has recently been called to the subject.

Let, then, the people of Westminster, in the words of Sir Francis Burdett, "have a meeting, and prepare a petition." If a brief paragraph in a newspaper could instantly call forth the above information, what might not be effected by a Committee, which should invite men of science and knowledge to step forward ! Out of the deliberations of such a committee might spring a real Joint Stock Company, for supplying the whole of Westminster with pure and whole-

some water—a Company, looking to no other profits than a fair interest for the use of the money advanced; and actuated by no other motive, than an earnest desire to contribute to the health and the comfort of their fellow citizens.

With regard to the Nuisance at the foot of Chelsea Hospital, it may be immediately abated. No more of the “filthy fluid” should be allowed to run into the Company’s pipes. Fortunately, there still exists a communication between the mains of the confederated Companies. It is, therefore, in the power of those to whom the Public Safety is confided, to COMPEL the other branches of the Monopoly to serve the customers of the Grand Junction Company, until a new supply can be obtained.

In whatever way I view the subject, I see Hope—

“Spem bonam, certamque domum reporto.”

Let the inhabitants of Westminster come to the resolution to have good water, and good water they will assuredly obtain.

THE END



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