

Extracts only..

THE

**DOLPHIN;**

OR,

**Grand Junction Nuisance:**

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.

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“ There is such a thing as Common Sense !”

*Abernethy.*

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1827.

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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## P A R T II.

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OF

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

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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 noble river 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 apparelled, 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,

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.

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### OF THE DOLPHIN; OR GRAND JUNCTION NUISANCE.

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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