

THE WATER SUPPLY OF OUR GREAT CITIES. IV.

As the Schuylkill river is growing more and more corrupt, and as either the Schuylkill or the Delaware water would have to be pumped by expensive machinery...

Now, Philadelphia is highly favored in being almost entirely surrounded by a well-watered, rolling country, rising in some directions into heights far above the level of its built up portions.

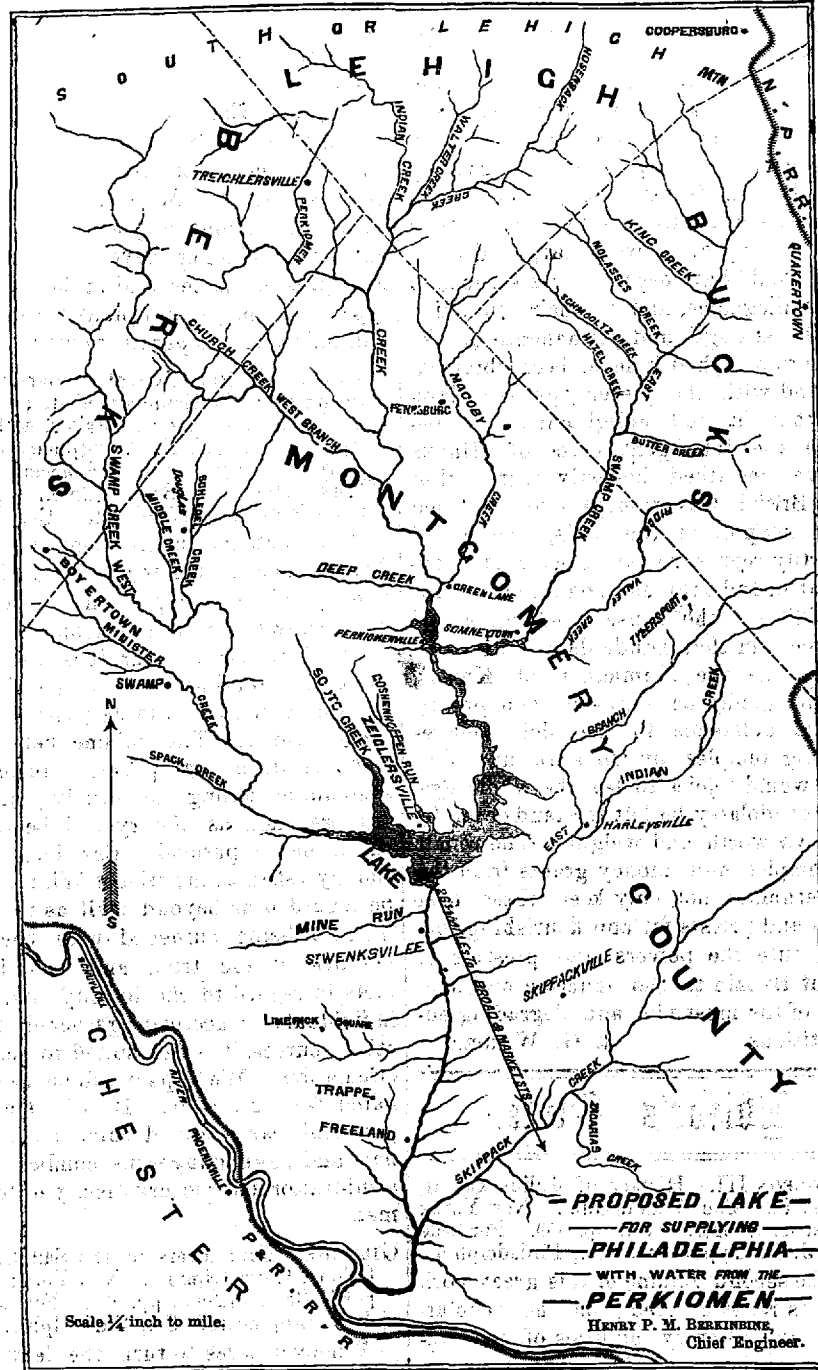
The chief engineer charges himself in his preliminary survey with the examination of all of these streams, which seemed to promise any important results.

It is a stream naturally of remarkable purity and sweetness, whose qualities are well known and esteemed among the people and the manufacturers of Wilmington.

It is, of course, above the mouth of this turbid tributary, to which we owe much of the discoloration of the Schuylkill during a freshet, that the works for the supply of the city are contemplated.

Passing now to the tributaries of the Schuylkill, and omitting the inconsiderable streams upon the western side, we come first to the romantic Wissahickon.

This is a stream of the most interesting character. Its course is mainly through a rough, unproductive country,



until within six or seven miles of its mouth. The rocky character of its banks protects it from the disturbing effects of freshets.

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Now let a line be drawn from the centre of our imaginary circle, out toward the ocean, it will be seen that it may be extended due east, with room for a northward sweep, until it reaches the coast, without meeting any elevated land.

passing successively over tracts of low and flat country, over which the winds from the rainiest quarters, northeast and southeast, can blow without interruption, and retain a large part of their stores of moisture, until they reach the hillsides and ravines of the South Mountain range, 900 feet above the tide.

The rain-fall of this comparatively uninhabited region is unascertained, but we have every reason to suppose it much larger than in the level regions to the east and the south.

How, now, shall we gather up and put into available form this body of water, which, at the depth of two feet, and covering over two hundred square miles of territory, is of no possible use to us?

There was a discovery made and considerably noised abroad, some years ago, that Philadelphia is built upon gold.

Through a gate or gap in these rugged hills, the Perkiomen has found its way into the more level country below. A survey of the region shows that these hills, stretching nearly due east and west, form the southern boundary of the available watershed of the stream; all the territory above them is of the geological character required for yielding pure water; below them an unfavorable change at once begins.

Now, when we remember that trap rock is one of the most impervious of all geological formations to water, we see that both in location and texture, this ridge of trap is a natural dike, behind which the waters of the Perkiomen may be gathered; it being necessary for us only to supplement nature's work, by building a dam of sufficient height across the gap, through which the stream now flows.

Running a dam across the gorge, say eleven hundred feet long, about the length of that at Fairmount, and sixty-five feet high from the lowest point, or bed of the stream, we should soon collect a body of water covering an area of fifteen hundred acres.

Herewith we give a map, prepared by the department, of the proposed lake and immediately surrounding country. In its largest dimensions, the lake will be nearly six miles long and over one mile broad.

And then, in years to come, when four or five times as great a population is comprised within our ample limits as at present; when Philadelphia has grown to the proportions which her favorable position, her manufacturing facilities, her healthfulness, good order and unyielding loyalty promise, to give her, and toward which she is moving with increasing energy and rapidity, Perkiomen Lake will be pouring through the proposed aqueduct a daily supply of pure, unadulterated mountain water at the rate of sixty gallons for every man, woman and child of the millions of inhabitants, every day of their lives; and the city will gather into the treasury, after interest and all expenses are met, and at rates not at all burdensome to the consumer, the enormous net revenue of over ten thousand dollars per day, or four million dollars per annum.

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in moral value, to the discovery of a real vein of gold running through the heart of the city; one which would contribute, if carried out, far more to the real prosperity of the city, and one, for the execution of which, posterity will be far more grateful to us of the present generation, than if we should transport a section of Montana territory to their doors,—a plan for furnishing an unfailing supply of pure water at a trifling cost to the people.

Greenville, Ohio.—The one Presbyterian Church in this place is a fusion of the two, Old and New School, not long since existing. The editor of the Presbyterian, who aided at their communion service, July 1, says that 52 persons were announced as added to the church since the last communion, most of them on examination.

Great Britain.—The proceedings of the spring meeting of the Presbytery of the two Irish Synods in England, (the English and the United,) are largely reported in the Weekly Review. Among the items of general interest, we notice arrangements for the ordination by the London Presbytery; (E. P.) of Mr. D. Masson, who is about to proceed to Swatara, as one of the missionaries of the E. P. Church. In the U. P. Presbytery of Lancashire, a favorable report was presented of the prospects for a church edifice in Derby. Subscriptions to the amount of £300 have been obtained, and for the encouragement of the enterprise, a friend has made a conditional offer of £25 toward congregational expenses.

In Scotland, a conference of Ministers and Elders of the U. P. Church in and around Glasgow has recently been held, to devise means toward raising the stipends of ministers of the churches of the Glasgow Presbytery to a minimum of £150 with a manse. The fact was revealed that the compensation of twenty-three ministers of its churches falls below that sum.

The General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church was much occupied with the subject of national education, which is at present the exciting topic, made such by the scheme of the Romanists to obtain from the Government exclusively Romish schools for their own children. The Church Extension Committee reported the formation of several new stations, and that others are in process of formation. There are prospects of new openings in the counties of Tipperary, Kilkenny and Wexford.

During the session Rev. Dr. Fish, of Paris, addressed the Assembly. In relation to Evangelical progress in France, he stated that Renan's new work on the Apostles was not selling, and that the publisher was in despair. Renan had demolished himself. There were now greater openings in France, for the spread of the Gospel than ever there were before.

The Welsh body known as the Calvinistic Methodist, is virtually a member of the Presbyterian family. Its General Assembly was held in May. Progress has been made in Home work and in Foreign missions, including some improvements in the working of the latter. The Assembly recognized its Presbyterian affinity, by appointing delegates to the English Presbyterian Synod.

Congregational.—Winnimmett Church, Chelsea, Mass., in the first Sabbath of the

month received 108 members, 91 by profession, 35 of whom were heads of families. In Massachusetts, during the past year, 30 Orthodox Congregationalist ministers have been dismissed, 15 have died, 21 have been ordained, and 26 installed as pastors. Returns from 300 churches show aggregate contributions amounting to \$330,000.

MARRIAGES. PIEROR HALL, in Auburn, N. Y., July 11, by Rev. Edwin Hall, D. D., Prof. JAMES K. PIEROR of the Theological Seminary, to Miss FRANCES HALL, daughter of the omitting clergyman.

DEATHS. VAUGHAN.—In Wilmington, Del., July 15, of inflammation of the brain, Dr. J. F. VAUGHAN.

Special Notices.

42 American Seamen's Friend Society.—The American Seamen's Friend Society provides for the temporal and spiritual wants of seamen throughout Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, and Sea Libraries. Funds are urgently solicited. Donations may be sent to: L. P. HUBBARD, Financial Agent, 80 Wall St., New York.

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