

Editorials.

THE CHICAGO DRAINAGE CHANNEL.

From a lengthy Associated Press despatch we make the following clipping which announces the completion of one of the greatest sanitary works of our day, and one which has taken ten years to arrive at its consummation: "Water was turned into the \$33,000,000 drainage canal at 9 o'clock this morning and began to flow toward Lockport, where it will fall into the Desplaines River, and thence through the Illinois and the Mississippi Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico. . . . For some time a fifteen-foot wall of earth, with two sluice gates behind it, has been all that has kept the Chicago River and Lake Michigan out of the canal. At 10 o'clock on Monday night a steam dredge began to cut away this wall of earth, and a few minutes before 9 o'clock to-day the water in the collateral channel was against the sluice gates, and only a few inches of lumber remained to be removed before Chicago was to realize her dream of years and see the great canal in actual operation. When the water began to back up against the sluice gates, the timbers were knocked away and the first water from the Chicago River ran into the canal."—*Globe*, Toronto, 3rd inst.

Through the courtesy of the officials one of the members of our staff has had the privilege of seeing this gigantic sanitary work at various points of interest along its whole extent.

Chicago is in the phenomenal position of having, during the life-time of persons still with us, grown from a frontier fort and trading post to a city with a population close upon two millions.

The primitive settlement was located on the banks of a sluggish, branching river on flat and swampy ground, little raised above the surface of Lake Michigan, into the south-western curve of which the Chicago River empties. An idea of the flatness and want of fall may be obtained from the fact that the surface of the ground between Lake Michigan and Lockport, about thirty-seven miles to the south-west, does not rise higher at any point than about sixteen feet above what is called the "datum" or low level of the lake in 1847, and by