

are generally paid, was now necessarily empty, being flooded, I will not say with water, but with liquid manure, the disgusting emanations from which ascend through the stair case and between the boards, into the upper story. It was by wading on bricks through this mass of pollution that the tenant had to obtain her supply of water; this being the one only health-spot in the whole, where the pipe, rising through the foetid drainage of the court, discharges the pure water of the Ottawa for the pallid occupants. The upper tenants had been there for 15 months, and assured me that the yard had never been cleaned during the whole time. And yet the authorities, who confiscate unwholesome meat when offered in the shambles, allow the use of these unwholesome dens to be freely sold to those whose ignorance or poverty keeps them from remonstrance; and men are found willing to draw \$21.50 a month, as payment for the privilege of inhaling poison, in places where no right-thinking man would keep his horse, scarcely his pig; and where he would not live himself (or rather die) for any amount of money.

During the long months of winter, all-injurious emanations are happily frozen up, like the fabled tunes blown into Munchausen's horn. But when the spring thaw comes, the whole mass of corruption, which has been accumulating on the surface and among the snow, is set free; not only sinking into the unpaved back yards, and there laying by a deep store of pollution to rise up at the bidding of the summer sun, in the form of fever or cholera; but running into and around the dwellings, soaking into the floors, and sponged up by the timber walls, where the reeking colour, premonitory of disease, is hidden behind some tawdry paper; and the heedless victim of ignorance, generally also of intemperance, hires the poisoned coffin in which his wife and little ones are constrained to dwell.

In the more healthy parts of the city, the winter manure is dislodged by the melting snow and precipitated on the solid matter. As the streets rapidly dry, fine dust is formed in immense masses; and while the poor below are wading on bricks through the liquid stench-bowls,\* the gentry are inhaling similar pollutions in the form of impalpable and perceptible dust. It is evident that both

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\* The myriads of flies of which the inhabitants complain, are the necessary result of the putrid refuse. In the present state of the city, they act as nature's scavengers, and should be reckoned among the greatest blessings.