s importance our power is ough a comlarge River f Ice, which

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ressed, that ght become Such contamination has taken place at long intervals in the water contained in the Reservoirs at Boston, New York, Albany and some Western Cities. After patient investigation it has been ascertained, in all of these cases, that the defilement of the w 'er arose from the sudden generation of animalculæ vegetation, the germs of which were either in the water or carried to it by the winds. To produce this generation it is necessary that the water shall have been quiescent and at a high temperature for a long time.

This ephemeral life, following a law of nature, has an existence as short as its generation is rapid, and the defilement of the water takes place only during its decomposition, which continues but a few days, a brisk wind for a few hours being sufficient to carry off the gases of decomposition, and leave the water pure and wholesome.

As your works are arranged, if either the water from the River or from the Reservoir, should ever become contaminated from any cause, it is almost impossible that both would be simultaneously affected, and hence you can resort to the one which is most pure, until the other has also become so.

Except in the cases cited, the storage of water in suitable Reservoirs tends to purify it. Being quiescent, all foreign matter which is heavier than water settles to the bottom, and that which is lighter floats upon the surface. Professor Silliman says, that animal and vegetable decomposition does not take place in water below a depth of twelve feet, and hence such matter which falls to the bottom produces no effect, except b, the slow dissolving process. The foreign matter which floats upon the surface, is quickly dissolved in gases and carried off by the winds.

This process is illustrated in the great Lalas above the St. Lawrence, which are supplied from turbulent streams bringing down to them muddy water, and the filth from large populations, all of which however is