

increase of population—but recent experience has shewn the average consumption in New York and Boston to have risen as high as fifty to sixty gallons per head. The above amount provides about 40 gallons per head for a population double that of the City at present, and considering the facilities for extending it under the proposed plan, is, I consider an ample provision. The dimensions of the Aqueduct are sufficient to conduct water enough for an effective power, on breast wheels, of three hundred horses—in summer when the flow is unimpeded by ice; and as this is the season when the greatest supply is required, the erection of an additional wheel and an increase in the speed of the pumps will enable you to extend the supply as required. With you, therefore, it may prove the wiser policy to provide for that *waste* of water so much complained of in New York and Boston—rather than to rely upon your future ability to check or prevent it.

#### THE ESTIMATE.

Since the great fire a natural anxiety has been manifested to obtain the results of this examination at the earliest possible period. The limited nature of the appropriation did not admit of the preparation of detailed plans and estimates of the different structures required. It was therefore understood that the object of the present survey was principally to ascertain the practicability of the proposed plan, and the approximate cost of the same, in order that it might be submitted—when if the scheme were rejected, no more time or money would be wasted upon an unsuitable project. The importance, however, of the subject, and the strong probability that the present plan would be recognized as the only efficient mode of supply—rendered it desirable that the whole available ground should be examined, and all the main features of the project weighed before an estimate, which is to be