of the achievements.

Contrasted with either of the above plans, the superior advantages of the proposition of the Water Company, the adoption of which is now recommended, will be obvious upon the most superficial examination. It requires no money, but only the issue of a stock, the interest of which your committee believe will be met from the beginning by the revenue rising from the profits acquired, while the price proposed is probably not a third of the amount which must have been expended in carrying either of the plans with which it is compared into effect.

The committee are aware that it may be objected that some of the main pipes which have been laid down by the Water Company, are too small for the more enlarged uses for which the city would have occasion, and that the removal and replacing of such pipes would add considerable to the original price of the purchase: but we are confident that in the propositions of the company an adequate allowance is made for this defect, by which the city will be enabled when the works are completed to lay down pipes of sufficient calibre to afford our efficient and praiseworthy firemen an abundant supply of water.

There remains only the objection arising from the state of finances of the city, and the inconvenience to the citizens which would arise from any considerable augmentation of the city taxes. The committee however hope to show, by fair calculations, that the measure proposed will require no increase of the city taxes. This they believe the calculations presently to be given will make sufficiently clear. In the mean time it is evident that the necessity for action by the council becomes every day more urgent. The Water company are far from possessing by their charter, the same means of making their operations productive as they would be if possessed by the city, if the property and privileges were vested in the corporation, yet they might act more efficiently if they were not constantly restrained by the apprehension of a formidable and serious competition on the part of the City or other rivals at some future and perhaps not distant day. The operations of the company will therefore be far from meeting the constantly increasing wants of our population, and if the City authorities decline to meet the exigency, we must still look on in hopeless impotency and see our public buildings, the ornaments of our city, as well as the houses of our private citizens destroyed by the daily occurring conflagration, for the want of a sufficient supply of water to enable our active and vigilant fire companies to extinguish the flames, and this too while an adequate supply is within our reach and easily compassed without any additional embarrasment of our finances.

The following is the property stated in the Water Company's offer, viz:

The Salisbury Mills purchased of Keller & Forman, with all the water rights and the land attached, twenty two acres, less a small strip to be conveyed to Col.

Col. Howard for certain privileges.

The water rights of Pennington.

The Chase property purchased from Messrs McDonald & Pridgely, on which the intended reservoir is to be built, containing fourteen acres.

The stone mill with one half of the square of ground fronting on the East side of Stirk and Monument streets and extending to the falls, with the right to convey the water from the race across the ground West of Stirk street. These with the Salisbury property will put the City in possession of all the water rights, and a sufficient lot to erect any works that may be necessary.

The ground appropriated for the new reservoir, being two hundred and ten feet on Calvert street by one hundred and ninety feet deep on Madison street.

The Lot of ground at the corner of Saint Pauls street and Spring alley; fifty feet on Saint Paul street and running back to Grave alley. This property, is intended for the protection and use of the spring that supplies the fountain at the Marsh Market.

The reservoir on Cathedral and Franklin street sixty feet on Cathedral street and one hundred and forty on Franklin street.

The City to have the use of the pump on Calvert street and reservoir on centre street for five years, which will be sufficient to enable the City to finish the new works near the Salisbury Mills and the reservoir on the Chase property, after which the City will have no use for the above pump and reservoir.

It will be seen that the Water Company offers to convey to the City the whole of the above described property with all the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, for the sum of Five hundred thousand dollars, to be paid in Corporation Stock, bearing an interest of five per cent per annum, payable half yearly and redeemable in ten years.

The present income arising from this property to the company amounts to twenty eight thousand eight hundred dollars. The increase of water rent for the last two years has been four thousand five hundred dollars under its present management.

But your committee believe that under the management of the corporation acting by legal authority by which it is vested, this revenue may without any disadvantage to the community be greatly increased, as will appear by the following calculation.

The Water Company have now laid down between seventeen and eighteen miles of pipe, say seventeen miles. If the corporation should determine to place hydrants at suitable distances in the streets according to the plan adopted in Philadelphia with the necessary conveniences for the fire companies, and to lay an uniform tax of five dollars on every twenty five feet of improved ground, or an average of that amount