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strain of the utmost absurdity. Supposing the word successor to be a misprint of predecessor, there is entirely too much here for the position attempted by this writer. How came it that "a bed of black and putrid mud, many inches thick," was allowed to accumulate? The impression that this writer would like to have made is, that Mr. OGDEN is responsible, but this will not answer, as the accumulation could not have taken place in the two or three months since he was elected. This point is not, however, at present important to our purpose. The basins, as Mr. OGDEN found them, wanted cleansing, and were accordingly cleansed, promptly and effectually, at the earliest possible moment after he assumed the performance of his duties. So it appears from this very record.

97-5

One more instance of falsehood and we have done. This writer finishes with "Let him (Mr. OGDEN) then return to the Reading Railroad, and in the humble office which he there filled of running a coal train, he may, perhaps, after a time find some respite from the pangs of a guilty conscience." During a period over which our knowledge of Mr. OGDEN extends, which is from five to eight years, he has been Chief Engineer of the Spring Garden and Northern Liberty Water Works, a post of responsibility which he filled, so far as we ever heard, with entire satisfaction to the citizens of those Districts, and with credit to himself. This implied falsehood reveals the true motives of this writer, and further demonstrates his maliciousness and personal vindictiveness. We believe that Mr. OGDEN is a Machinist and Engineer by profession, and during the long period that he was connected with the Spring Garden Works we have very frequently heard him spoken of as a highly competent and faithful officer. This is certainly his general character, and in his present position it will, we have no doubt, be fully confirmed. At any rate, neither he nor any other citizen can be materially injured by such writers as we have noticed, either as a man or in his official character. Such writers have much to learn on many points, but especially when they have not yet taken the important lessons of learning to speak the truth, and not to be in hot haste to gratify petty and insignificant spite and malice.

## THE DAILY NEWS.

PHILADELPHIA, 97-6

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 12, 1856.

### LOCO FOCO CONSISTENCY 97-6

At the recent election for Municipal Officers, in this City, there were a number of "Old Line Whigs," who gave their support to the spurious reform or Loco Foco ticket, and aided in the election of the present City Councils. These Councils have already, by their acts, entitled themselves to the condemnation, not only of the "Old Line Whigs," but every right thinking man in the community, and more recently, have given the lie direct to all their hollow-hearted professions of sympathy with the "Old Liners," by the decapitation of Mr. Frederick Graeff, the able and efficient late engineer and head of the Water Department.

We know nothing about the gentleman elected to succeed Mr. Graeff; he may be an able and competent person to fill that position; but if he be measured by many other selections made by the spurious reformers, our citizens will have more than ordinary cause for regretting the change. We have, however, to do with the duplicity of these people, who, but a short time since, were so loud in their expressions of regard for the Whigs, and who, even yet in the hope of catching votes for Mr. Buchanan, have the impudent hardihood to invoke the name of Harry Clay to their aid.

About a year ago, Mr. Graeff was elected to the position of Chief Engineer of the Water Department by the combination of American, Whig and Loco Foco votes, and on that occasion the *Pennsylvania*—then, as now, the organ of the Loco Foco party—held the following language:

#### A Proper Rebuke.

The re-election of Frederick Graeff as Chief Engineer of the City Water Works, was a becoming rebuke to the Secret Order, and proves that its members are not invincible even in Councils. The Democrats and Whigs in those bodies acted not only generously, but wisely, and deserve the encomiums of the public. Mr. Graeff had resisted the threats and importunities of the Secret Order, and in the most positive terms refused to surrender his constitutional privileges to an unauthorized body of selfish schemers. He was not of them, nor could he be made so, and it is a mark of manhood not often met with in these degenerate days, that he refused to yield his private convictions of

The Board of Health passed a Resolution expressing its "approbation of the promptitude and energy displayed by Mr. OGDEN, the Chief Engineer of the Water Department, in removing so far as possible for him to do, the very great nuisance complained of, in the condition of the water from the Kensington Works," and for "his courteous and prompt attention to the suggestions of the Committee" (of the Board of Health).

This Resolution is the text of this most preposterous homily. The writer says:

"In order that the public may understand how well merited were their thanks, it will be necessary to state briefly, what was actually done when the water became so filthy that the people could no longer drink it; when the increased sickness and mortality in the upper part of the city, consequent on its use, called loudly for something to be done, Mr. OGDEN proceeded to the field of action. The disgusting hell-broth (compared to which, the potion of Macbeth's witches was nectar,) was emptied from one basin through the main pipe into the Delaware. So far, well. When the water was all out, there lay exposed a bed of black and putrid mud many inches thick; this was being done, the catfish essence in the other basin lay in a state of rest for several days, festering under the fervid sun and becoming daily more intolerable in its stench, more firm, more loathsome. On it the spectator held his nose and gazed, until to his sickened vision the plague-fiend seemed to hover over its slime and dip its obscure wings into its putridity before it soared away to its work of death!"

97-3

We ask particular attention to this paragraph, especially to the "bed of black and putrid mud, many inches thick," and will have occasion to recur to it. The writer continues and makes a charge against Mr. OGDEN as intentionally malicious as the truth of it is impossible, as we will show.

"Now mark what happened in emptying this second basin: On Sabbath last, on the day of rest and peace, when the wearied denizens of this great metropolis seek relief from the cares of every day life, and exhausted nature strives to find repose, Mr. OGDEN turned the filthy waters of the old basin into the empty one, and then distributed them to the hydrants of all who depend upon the Kensington works. Why did he do this? Why in the name of suffering, plague-stricken humanity did he not pass it back into the river, as he did the contents of the first basin?"—and so on, ending with "Oh, shame! shame!! shame!! shame on Mr. OGDEN for his ignorance, his incapacity, and his heartlessness!! Threefold shame on the Board of Health, for thus trying to whitewash his misconduct in the very face of an indignant and suffering community." And tenfold shame on you and all such ignoramuses, who for the gratification of petty and snake-like malice, make charges not only readily to be ascertained to be false, if you choose to inquire, but in your stupid haste assert impossibilities. Tenfold shame on you for daring to appear in public print with such a glaring mark of villainy placed by yourself on your own brow.

Neither Mr. OGDEN, nor any other man on the face of the earth, could have emptied the "waters of the full basin into the empty one." There is no possible method by which this could have been done. If there is a communication between the two basins at their bottoms, the water would have run from one into the other, until it found its level, according to a principle known to every schoolboy. The basins would have each remained half full, as formerly, and as immutably as the laws of nature. And yet this is the whole charge: "In emptying this second basin," says this most foolish, but criminal writer, "Mr. OGDEN turned the filthy waters of the full basin in the empty one!" This is the most desperate attempt to trump up a charge intended to injure the character of another, that we have ever seen. The ignorance of this writer is only equalled by his

malice, and these qualities only he appears to possess.

97-4

The plain truth of the matter, so far as we can learn, is, that nothing of the kind above asserted was done or attempted. No part of the contents of one basin was transferred into the other; but both were emptied into the Delaware; and during the time that the cleaning was taking place, the District of Kensington was supplied with Schuylkill water from the Spring Garden works, connections in the pipes being made for the purpose. The Spring Garden works, it will be remembered, supply also the old District of the Northern Liberties; between them and Kensington the connection is easily made.

But the fooleries of the communication do not stop here. In his precipitancy, the writer not only strikes impotently at the Board of Health and Mr. OGDEN, but snaps at the very hand that possibly has fed him. After stating a case—"a wretch, who had poisoned a spring, was seized by an indignant populace and hung, as he deserved, to the nearest tree"—he proceeds, "per contra, a public servant of a great metropolis, elected to an office of great responsibility, (for which he is as unfit as his successor was able;)" and so on, about what ought to be done to such a wretch, in a

The resolution passed by Select Council dismissing the Committee appointed to investigate certain charges of misdemeanor in office preferred against Mr. Samuel OGDEN, Chief Engineer of Water Works, was next called up. 97-1

Mr. Miller moved to postpone the subject so that a minority report could be submitted. Mr. McMaekin called for the reading of the report.

Mr. O'Neill opposed the motion, as all the Committee, except one who was absent, had signed the report, and a minority report could only come from one person.

The Clerk read the report, which exonerates him from the allegations made against him by an anonymous writer.

Mr. Miller advocated the motion to postpone. Mr. King said if the last speaker had any new charges to make, or could throw any additional light upon the subject, he would vote for a postponement.

Mr. Mascher could not see why the gentleman from the Third Ward (Mr. Miller) was so pertinacious in his opposition to the adoption of this report. He considered this conduct on the part of this gentleman only an electioneering scheme to defeat Mr. OGDEN. He reflected very severely upon the member from the Third Ward. He hoped there would be no more encouragement to such a factious minority, but that they would adopt the report. He asked if Mr. Miller was not smuggled upon this Committee.

Mr. Casey desired some explanation from Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller replied to Mr. Mascher, and declared his remarks as mere slang. If he was smuggled on this Committee, the gentleman from the Eleventh Ward (Mr. Mascher) was smuggled on the Finance Committee, and on the Committee on Trusts and Fire Companies. He hoped before he (Mascher) addressed the Chamber again, he would learn good manners. The Speaker then referred to the charges against the Chief Engineer, and said that no matter what attempt was made to smother the truth, it would avail nothing, as the facts would be made public.

Mr. Stiles was equally pleased and chagrined. He was pleased that there was one honest man on this Committee of Investigation, and chagrined that the balance of the Committee, who had heretofore maintained an enviable reputation for honesty and integrity, had been proven to be dishonest. The speaker pitched into Mr. Miller with a sharp stick, declaring that he had not the brains to comprehend the subject.

Mr. O'Neill replied to the remarks of Mr. Miller, declaring some of his allegations to be false. He thought by the postponement of this subject they would be doing a wrong to a most estimable citizen. He thought no member had a right to bring his private pique into that chamber.

Mr. Parker thought, as this was a family squabble, which had been well discussed in caucus, he thought it best to take the question.

The motion to postpone was not agreed to. The report of the Committee was then adopted. Adjourned.

MONDAY MORNING, AUG. 25

### The Kensington Water Works.

It is not within the province of a journal to defend individuals in their private capacity, or as citizens only. For that purpose the laws of our country are amply sufficient, and though occasional instances of failure to obtain justice, or to redress grievances, may occur, yet with rare exceptions, the citizen is protected in the fullest and most complete manner, in his character, person and property. But when false charges are made, intended to involve the competency and official character of any person intrusted with important public duties, the case is very different. He has generally no other means of explanation nor of defence than of the public prints. Usually, however, such charges or attacks require no attention, and to them all officers are liable. But there are cases so strongly marked by falsehood and ignorance, that they should not be allowed to pass in silence. One of these we propose to notice.

Our attention has been called by several gentlemen in whose opinions and judgment we have the utmost confidence, to an article which appears in the form of a communication, in the *Daily News* of Saturday, August 9th, which we had not seen until within a few days. It is an attack, of the most gross and violent character, on Mr. OGDEN, the Chief Engineer of the City Water Works, and in it are made statements, alleged to be facts, which bear the most palpable falsehood on their face, and, rather oddly, and most unfortunately for the writer of that article, all that is necessary for complete refutation is to point out from the article itself the impossibility of the charges being true, so absurdly made. It has fallen to our lot to see many foolish articles in print, and some misrepresentations, intentional and otherwise; but of all such that we have ever seen, this communication in the *Daily News* is, without exception, the most stupidly false and brutally malicious. There is an ignorant recklessness in its whole tenor, very rarely to be met with in public journals, and we are astonished that the proprietors or editor of that paper should have allowed such a communication to disgrace its columns.