

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Rotherhithe].

Contributors

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FOURTH

GENERAL REPORT

OF THE

VESTRY OF ROTHERHITHE,

SURREY.

PRESENTED TO THE

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

JUNE, 1860.

London :

PRINTED BY B. BATT, POST-OFFICE, ROTHERHITHE.

1860.

WE, Robert Stranack, Bartholomew Robson, William Matthew Marshall, and John Woodley Smith, the Auditors appointed by the Parishioners of the Parish of Rotherhithe in the County of Surrey, to examine and audit the accounts of the Vestry of the Parish of Rotherhithe in the County of Surrey, for the year ending 25th March, 1860, having carefully and diligently examined and investigated the accounts of the said Vestry for the period aforesaid, and the vouchers in support of the same; and the books, papers, instruments and writings in their custody or control relating thereto, do hereby certify and declare, that we have this day audited the said accounts of the said Vestry, at the Board Room at the Workhouse, Rotherhithe, in the County of Surrey, in the presence of the following, viz.:—Robert Stranack, Chairman, Bartholomew Robson, William Matthew Marshall, and John Woodley Smith, and that the said accounts are true and correct in all particulars; and we do allow the same accordingly, and sign the same in token of such our allowance thereof.

Given under our hands this 5th day of May, 1860.

(Signed)

R. STRANACK,

W. M. MARSHALL.

BARTHOLOMEW ROBSON,

J. W. SMITH.

} Auditors.

Under the "Metropolis Local Management Act," 18 and 19 Vic., cap. 120.

[illegible]

VESTRY OF THE PARISH OF ROTHERHITHE, SURREY.
CONTRACTS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF GENERAL WORKS AND THE SUPPLY OF MATERIALS.
Subsisting at the commencement of, or entered into, during the year ending 25th March, 1860.

Rate, &c.	Date of Contract.	Names of Party with whom Contract was made.	Nature of works to be performed, and materials to be supplied.	Observations.
Paving, Lighting, Cleansing, and General purposes.	10th October 1858.	The Surrey Consumers' Gas Company	For lighting public Lamps, at £4 15s, each per Annum.	Entered into for three years from 29th September, 1857.
	12th November 1859.	Samuel Wright.....	Scavenging and dusting, at £270 per annum.	Entered into for one year from 17th November, 1859.
	7th March 1860.	Benjamin Batt	Printing and Stationery, as per schedule of prices.	Entered into for one year from 25th March, 1860.
	13th March 1860.	Alfred Thomas Hobman.....	Team hire and cartage.	Ditto ditto
	13th March 1860.	A. and F. Manwelle	Supply of Guernsey granite, carriage, and York paving curb, &c., as per schedule of prices.	Ditto ditto
	13th March 1860.	W. and T. N. Gladdish	Supply of stone and ground lime as per schedule of prices.	Ditto ditto
Sewers	31st March 1860.	William Kent	General jobbing works as per schedule of prices.	Ditto ditto

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF WORKS.

Executed under Contracts, Agreements, &c., for Special and General Works. Year ending 25th March, 1860.

Sewers' Rate.		CONSTRUCTION.																																			
		BRICK SEWERS.										PIPE SEWERS.										Openings to Sewers.					Repairs and alterations to Sewers, Gulleys &c.	Cleansing, including Flushing, Casting, Lifting, Carriage and Repairs, caused thereby.	Incidental Works.	Improvement Works.	Total Cost.						
		SIZE.										COST.	IRON.				STONE-WARE.				COST.	SIZE.															
													SIZE.				SIZE.																				
feet.	feet.										£ s. d.						in. 12.	in. 9.	in. 6.	in. 4.		feet.	feet.	feet.	feet.							Side Entrances.	Air and Flushing Shafts.	Gulleys.	Drain Mouths.	Flaps.	£ s. d.
3 by 2	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48 9 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48 9 7
																	170	..	..	..	..	22	13	4													
																	361	..	..	..	..	36	2	0													
																			364	..	25	15	8														
																				14	0	16	4		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85 7 4		
																									1	..	..	..	..	..	4	12	0				
																									3	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	9				
																										11	..	..	..	..	49	9	0				
																										38	..	..	..	..	8	10	0				
																																</					

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF WORKS.

General Rate.		PAVING.		Lighting.	Watering.	Cleansing.	Improving.	Removing Dust.	Total.
		Footway.	Carriageway.						
Paviours and Masons employed by the Vestry ..	£ s. d. 223 2 3	£ s. d. <hr/>	£ s. d. 181 17 10 <hr/>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d. 223 2 3 <hr/>
Samuel Wright, Cartage .. ... . .	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	192 5 6	.. ..	.. ..	181 17 10
Wages of Day Labourers and Stone-Breaking..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	361 18 7	.. ..	.. ..	554 4 1
Removing Dust, &c. .. .. .	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	273 15 0 <hr/>	273 15 0
Surrey Consumers' Gas Company .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	793 0 3					
Contributions (Ackland) half-year to 29th September, 1859 .. .. . }	.. .. } }	.. ..	.. ..	2 7 6<hr/>	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	795 7 9 <hr/>
									£2028 6 11

Executed under Contracts, Agreements, &c., for Special and General Works. Half-year ending 25th March, 1860.

Executed under Contracts, Agreements, &c., for Special and General Works. Half-year ending 25th March, 1860.

[illegible]

Balance on 25th March, 1859	1021 13 14
Cash received from Paving Rates, viz:—	
No. 2, made July, 1856, at 8d. in the pound	0 11 4
No. 3, made January, 1857, at 8d. in the pound	3 1 0
No. 4, made July, 1857, at 1s. in the pound	11 10 8
No. 5, made February, 1858, at 1s. in the pound	61 3 4
No. 6, made October, 1858, at 8d. in the pound	288 2 2½
No. 7, made April, 1859, at 6d. in the pound	1789 18 5½
No. 8, made October, 1859, at 4d. in the pound	1032 0 3
	3236 7 3
Surrey Consumers' Gas Company, Repairs to Trenches	185 15 7
Southwark Water Company ditto	84 2 9
Kent Water Company ditto	1 1 8
Rent of House, Trinity Street	33 10 0
Sundry Contributions for Paving, &c.	11 8 0
Cost of Summonses under Nuisances, Removal Act, received of Defendants	3 14 0

£4577 12 4½

Lighting, half-year ending 25th March, 1860.

Cash received from Lighting Rate, viz:—	812 1 10½
No. 1, made 4th October, 1859, at 3d. in the pound	1 1 5½
Borrowed from Paving Account	
	£813 3 4

Sewers for one Year, ending 25th March, 1860.

Balance on 25th March, 1859.	23 14 2½
Cash received from Sewers' Rates, viz:—	
No. 2, made November, 1856, at 6d. in the pound	1 7 11
No. 3, made July, 1857, at 8d. in the pound	11 1 8
No. 4, made October, 1858, at 6d. in the pound	218 9 4½
No. 5, made April, 1859, at 8d. in the pound	2347 0 5
No. 6, made November, 1859, in the pound	2166 10 6
	4744 9 10½
Cash received from various persons for putting in drains, &c.	117 7 8
Trustees of Turnpike Roads, Contribution towards cost of 10 Gulleys...	30 0 0
Loan from London and Westminster Bank	2000 0 0
	£6915 11 9

Assets to 25th March, 1860.

Balance at Bank	2329 7 0
Net outstanding Rates, viz., Paving No. 8,	120 0 0
" " Lighting, No. 1,	90 0 0
" " Sewers, No. 6,	230 0 0
Account rendered Surrey Gas Company for making good Trenches	5 17 5
" " Southwark Water Company ditto	5 14 5
Messrs. Baker and Co. Paving at Surrey Dock entrances	108 11 3
Accounts for private drainage under agreements to repay by instalments	135 8 7
Rent due for House, Trinity Street, (Carpenter, tenant)	14 10 0
	£3039 8 8

Salaries—Medical Officer of Health, Clerk, Surveyor, Inspector of Nuisances, &c.	503 0 0
Street Keeper, one year	93 8 9
Commission ditto	795 7 9
Lighting, half-year to September, 1859	405 0 1
Paviours' Labour, one year	361 18 7
Day Labour ditto	192 5 6
Cartage ditto	448 9 7
Stone ditto	42 14 0
Asphalte Curb ditto	273 15 0
Scavenging and Dusting	22 0 8
Interest on Loan (Mrs. Arnold) one year	10 0 0
Rent ditto	45 0 0
Valuation Committee expenses, one year and a-half	36 10 1
Stationery, one year	5 19 10
Removal of Nuisances ditto	29 0 6
Lime ditto	14 16 4
Gravel ditto	15 5 6
Wharfage ditto	
Shed at Laystall	£68 10 0
Pump at ditto	4 15 0
Plans, Specifications, ditto	10 0 0
Fire Escapes	83 5 0
Moiety of cost of crossing at Millpond Bridge, and Iron gate, West Lane, right of way	11 11 3
Vaccination Boards	14 13 10
Perambulation Expenses	13 6 0
Sundry Tradesmen's Bills	20 0 0
	118 11 0
Balance at Bank	1020 11 8

Lent Lighting Account

4576 10 11
1 1 5½
£4577 12 4½

Lighting, half-year	792 4 9
Commission	20 18 7
	£813 3 4
Salaries, one year	400 0 0
Commission ditto	130 7 5
Loan (London and Westminster Bank)	2500 0 0
Interest	50 16 5
Kent General Drainage	221 8 9
Bulmer Contract for Private Drainage,	15 0 0
Stationery	31 3 8
Metropolitan Board of Works	1907 0 6
Labour	298 0 5
Cartage	13 2 0
Sundry Tradesmen's Bills	39 17 3
Balance at Bank	1308 15 4

£6915 11 9

Liabilities to 25th March, 1860.

Loan, London and Westminster Bank	1000 0 0
Mrs. Arnold on Loan	500 0 0
Precept Metropolitan Board of Works for Main Drainage Rate, payable, April, 1860	800 0 0

£2300 0 0

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FOURTH GENERAL REPORT

OF THE

VESTRY OF THE PARISH OF ROTHERHITHE, SURREY.

1860.

During the past year the Vestry have held twenty General Meetings, and thirty-nine Committee Meetings.

SEWERS' WORKS.

The lengths of drains and sewers laid by the Vestry to Lady-day are:—

	Feet.
4-inch pipe	14
6 do.	364
9 do.	361
12 do.	170
3 feet by 2 feet sewer, (rear of Dartmouth-terrace, Rother- hithe New-road	100
Total.....	<u>1009</u>

One entrance to sewer, three flushing-shafts, eleven roadgulleys, and thirty-eight drain-mouths and junctions to sewers have been formed.

Eighty-five applications have been made to drain houses into sewers, including notices of intended new buildings and plans checked and approved, comprising about one hundred and eighty-four houses, one hundred and fifty-seven of which have been drained and completed.

About eighty cesspools have been done away with.

The Vestry in July last again memorialized the Metropolitan Board of Works

to proceed with the erection of the Pumping Station at the outlet of the Earl Sewer, or to commence immediately the northern or Bermondsey branch of the main drainage, in order to relieve the waterlogged condition of the sewers in this Parish (see Appendix No. 1) and in August, the Metropolitan Board ordered the erection of Pumping Engines at the mouth of the Earl Sewer, near Saint George's Stairs, Deptford, for producing a continual discharge from the sewers in this district, which works are now being proceeded with.

The Metropolitan Board of Works having in their estimate of the amount required for the expenses of the Board for the year 1860, proposed to charge the cost of the erection of the before-mentioned Pumping Station at the mouth of the Earl Sewer to the Parishes within the Surrey and Kent Districts; the Vestry presented a Memorial against the proposed apportionment of the cost of such works (see Appendix No. 2). And on the 23rd March, 1860, the Metropolitan Board ordered that so much of the cost of the works at the Earl outlet, St. George's Wharf, as related to the construction of the brick and iron pipe sewers, should be charged to the main drainage account, and that the cost of the engines, engine-houses, pumps, and the annual charge for pumping during its continuance, should be paid by the several Parishes according to the actual benefit derived, which had the effect of reducing the amount to be paid by this Parish from £1844 9s. 5d., to £1397 11s. 5d.

PAVING WORKS.

The following works have been done with new and old stone :—

New dressed crossings and channels	256	yards.
New granite carriage-way	72	do.
Old carriage-way relaid	4,684	do.
Granite carriage-way rough dressed	105	do.
New York paving	6,670	feet super.
Old York paving relaid	11,352	do.
Old York new faced	504	do.
New granite curbing	2,678	feet run.
New asphalte curbing	1,688	do.
Old curb reset	2,618	do.
Curb reworked	1,190	do.
New granite circular curb	45	do.

The following materials have been used in the reparation of the roads, footpaths, &c.

Guernsey granite	74	yards.
Common do.	150	do.
Thames ballast	445	do.
Ground carted	1330	do.
Lime	46	do.
Sand	61	do.
Foundry clinkers	370	do.

The new Laystall at the back of the Workhouse is now complete, and the following is a statement of the cost thereof, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Labour (including carpenter)	55	15	0
Material	57	19	8
Cartage	47	7	0
Wall	89	16	0
Shed roofing and stalls for stone-breakers	68	10	0
Tiling old shed, &c.	10	17	0
Steining Cesspool for Watercloset	3	11	3
Do. Well	2	18	1
Pump	4	15	0
Specifications, Plans, &c.	10	0	0
Total.....	351	9	0

The following is a statement of the cost of making-up the road and footways in Chilton-street, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Asphalte curb	42	14	0
Labour	26	13	0
Cartage	5	12	6
Material	24	7	7
Total.....	£99	7	1

The Commercial Dock Company having applied to Parliament for an Act to extend the time for carrying out their new entrance from the River, the Vestry presented a petition opposing the Bill, in order to obtain, if possible, an alteration in the gradient of the approaches to the proposed Bridge across the new entrance, near Lavender-place, Rotherhithe-street, viz. :—That such gradient should be not less than one foot in thirty feet, instead of one in twenty. The opposition, however, was not successful and the Act passed.

The Vestry also presented Petitions to oppose the "South London Railway, No. 1," "South London Railway, No. 2," and "Thames Tunnel Railway" Bills, so far as the proposed works affected the traffic of the public streets and roads of this Parish, and a Committee of the Vestry was appointed to watch the progress of the several Bills through Parliament, the Committee attended before the Committees of the House of Commons upon these Bills being brought forward. These Bills were, ultimately, all withdrawn.

LIGHTING.

One new lamp has been placed in Thetford-place, making the total number of gas lamps in this Parish, lighted under contract with the Surrey Consumers' Gas Company, 333. (For particulars of contract, see page 4.)

An apparatus for testing gas has been erected in the vault under the Vestry Hall of St. John's, Horselydown, and experiments are being conducted to test the quantity and quality of gas supplied in this District, under the supervision of the Committee appointed by this Vestry in conjunction with St. Olaves' District Board, the proceedings of the joint Committee will be found in detail in the forty-ninth and fifty-first Reports of the Medical Officer of Health.

On the 13th March last, the Vestry resolved that a sum not exceeding £50, might be contributed towards the expense of passing the Metropolitan Gas Regulation Bill, and referred the matter to the members of the Gas Committee for them to determine upon the amount to be subscribed.

In consequence of the impurity of the gas supplied by the Surrey Consumers' Gas Company in January last, the Vestry presented a memorial to the Secretary of State (see Appendix No. 3), proceedings were also taken under the Nuisances' Removal Act against the Company, but the summons was dismissed by the Magistrate.

WATERING.

The Vestry having determined to provide means for watering the streets of the Parish, two wells have been sunk, and pumps erected, viz.:—one at the north end of Swan-lane, and one near Canada Wharf, Rotherhithe-street, and two water-carts have been hired for the season, at £7 10s. each cart—the watering is being carried out under the direction of the Surveyor of Sewers, assisted by the Clerk of the Works.

CLEANSING, &c.

The Vestry have entered into a contract with Mr. S. Wright for the removal of dust, &c., from the dwellings of the inhabitants, and for cleansing the paved streets (for particulars of Contract, see page 4).

REMOVAL OF NUISANCES' PROCEEDINGS, &c.

From the 25th of March, 1859, to the 25th of March, 1860, seventy-five notices have been served in duplicate under the Nuisances' Removal Act, upon complaints made by the Medical Officer and Inspector of Nuisances, thirty-seven of which have been effectually abated by proper drainage being made from the respective houses into covered sewers, and thirty-eight have been abated by removal.

Thirteen summonses have been issued, and Magistrates' orders obtained and carried out.

Twenty-four notices to make drains and provide water-closets, ash-pits, and water-supply have been served by order of the Vestry. In twenty cases, the owners have properly complied therewith, and four are still standing over.

Twelve notices of intention of butchers to apply to have slaughterhouses licensed in this Parish were received by the Vestry, which were severally inspected and reported upon by the Medical Officer of Health (see Medical Officer's forty-fifth Report, October, 1859), and ten slaughterhouses were licensed by the Magistrates in October, 1859.

FINANCIAL.

The loan, borrowed by the Vestry of the London and Westminster Bank, in 1857, originally £3000, has been reduced to £1000.

The loan of £500, borrowed by the late Commissioners of Pavements, of Mrs. Arnold at four and a-half per cent. still continues.

CHARITY ESTATES.

The following Gentlemen have been appointed Trustees of the Charity Estates of this Parish, viz.:—Messrs. Charles Erwin, William Jonathan Smith, Henry Ravenhill, William Henry Stevens, William James Blake, Edmond George Dannel, Edward Talbot, John Sanderson, Robert Newham, James Arnold, George Smith, Daniel Serle, Henry Booth, Gervase Footitt, John Bulmer, Robert Brakenberry, Benjamin Holman, John Woodward Barrett, John Hedgecock Jenkins, James Robert Goodhew, James Hare Matthews, William Caston, Jun., Thomas Faldo, Robert Allen, and William Garth.

The accounts of Messrs. Charles Erwin and William Jonathan Smith, the Churchwardens, for the year 1859-60, have been audited, and the following is a copy of the Charities' Account:—

	£	s.	d.
To Cash received from Stratford Estate	70	14	10
" " " Plaistow Estate	25	0	6
" " " Smith's Charity	38	7	6
" " " Ambrose Bennett's Gift	9	0	0
" " " Hill and Bell's Charity	6	0	0
" " " Coat and Cloak Charity	6	0	0
" " " Mrs. Embelton's Gift	5	0	10
Balance due to the Churchwardens	23	12	3
	<u>£183</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>

By Balance paid to late Churchwardens	-20	7	1
.. Cash paid for Bread	140	8	0
Hill and Bell's Charity, Treasurer of Charity School	3	0	0
Mrs. Embelton's Gift	5	0	10
Coat and Cloak Charity	6	0	0
Ambrose Bennett's Gift, distributed in Coals, &c.	9	0	0
	<u>£183</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>

MISCELLANEOUS.

In consequence of the closing of All Saints' Burial Ground by Order in Council, The Vestry in November, 1859, appointed a Committee to consider the best course to be adopted for obtaining a burial-ground for this Parish; which Committee instituted inquiries as to the several cemeteries round the Metropolis, the Committee also visited the new burial-ground at Brockley, belonging to the Parish of St. Paul, Deptford, and had a conference with the Burial Board, when that Board agreed to permit the burial of paupers from this Parish to take place at Brockley, upon the same terms and conditions as burials from the Parish of St. Nicholas, Deptford, and the Committee finding the general charge for interments at Brockley Cemetery to be moderate, and that it would from its proximity prove less expensive to the inhabitants of this Parish, they recommended to the Vestry that pauper funerals from this Parish should be taken to that cemetery, which recommendation the Guardians of the Poor adopted, and all burials at the charge of this Parish have since that time been satisfactorily performed there.

The Order in Council directing that the coffins in the public vaults beneath the Parish Church of St. Mary should be covered with fresh earth and concrete, and the existing entrance bricked up, has been carried out at a total cost of £177 18s. which was paid under the Act of Parliament, 20th and 21st Victoria, cap. 81, out of the Poor Rate (see forty-sixth Report of the Medical Officer of Health).

The boundaries of this Parish were perambulated on Holy Thursday, 1859, the Vestry appointed a Committee to assist the Churchwardens in carrying out the necessary arrangements, and contributed £20 towards the expenses of the perambulation.

The Vestry in July, 1859, presented a memorial to the Conservators of the River Thames urging the erection of a pier for steam-boats, at or near Cherry Garden Stairs, in the Parish of Bermondsey, and a Committee has been formed to act in conjunction with a Committee appointed by the Vestry of Bermondsey in endeavouring to obtain the object prayed for in the memorial.

The Vestry have had under consideration the proposed Bill, to amend the Metropolis Local Management Act, and caused several clauses to be drawn up for insertion therein, and amongst others, a clause empowering Vestries and District Boards to reform, pave, and drain new streets, upon default of the owners, and recover the expense thereof, from them; also, a clause requiring all cow-houses and marine store dealers' premises, to be annually licensed; they also urged the insertion of a clause providing for the representation of this Parish, at the Metropolitan Board of Works, by an independent Member.

In April 1859, the vestry entered a protest against the removal of the Offices of the Metropolitan Board of Works, from Greek-street, Soho, to Berkeley House, Spring-gardens; also in December 1859, another protest against the appointment by the Metropolitan Board of Works, of E. H. Woolrych, Esq., as Standing-Counsel and Legal Adviser of that Board, at an annual retaining fee.

The Vestry have had under consideration a proposal from the Committee of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to exchange a portion of the site of the houses belonging to the Hospital at the east end of Church-passage, for the present public way there, and the Vestry have agreed to the exchange, upon condition that the Committee of the Hospital give up to the public a road 20 feet in width throughout, on the site of the block of houses at the east end of Church-passage, and that they agree to pay one moiety of the expense of forming and paving such new road.

The Vestry have caused two new fire-escapes to be provided and kept at the following places, viz., one at Commercial Dock Offices, Commercial Dock Road, and the other at Mr. W. J. Smith's, Globe Dock, Rotherhithe-street, and the old fire-escapes kept respectively at the Police Station, the Workhouse, and Surrey Canal Dock entrance, have been examined and repaired.

Three notice boards with an inscription thereon, stating where the fire-escapes are kept, together with the residences of the Turncocks, have been made by order of the Vestry, and placed respectively at the end of Albion-street, next Deptford Lower Road, at the west end of Plough Road, and near Trinity Church,

APPENDIX (No. 1).

TO THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS, THE MEMORIAL OF THE VESTRY IN THE PARISH OF ROTHERHITHE IN THE COUNTY OF SURREY.

SHEWETH,—That a large portion of your Memorialists' Parish lies below the level of Trinity high-water mark, and in many instances, six or seven feet beneath the same.

That the Earl main sewer, which drains several large districts on the south side of the River Thames, passes through the said Parish, and its outlet is much below high-water mark.

That the Deptford-road Sewer being the main sewer of this Parish, discharges itself into the said Earl Sewer, its outlet being at a higher level than the sewer itself.

That in consequence of the low level of the said Earl Sewer, it is prevented from discharging its contents into the River for nearly sixteen out of the twenty-four hours.

That the said Deptford-road Sewer, from the peculiar construction of its outlet, can only discharge its contents into the said Earl Sewer for two hours in every twelve, under the most favourable circumstances.

That not only the sewage of your Memorialists' said Parish, but also the sewage of part of the neighbouring Parish of Bermondsey, recently turned in the said Deptford-road Sewer, is pent-up and retained in the sewers in the said Parish for nearly twenty hours daily, and sometimes for a longer period.

That on ordinary occasions the said Deptford-road Sewer, and also the branch sewers, are filled with sewage matter, and the foul air pent-up therein is forced into the streets and houses, and on the occurrence of storms, when large quantities of rain fall in a short time, the said Deptford-road Sewer is not only prevented from discharging its contents, but the water in the Earl Sewer rises above the outlet of the flap of the said Deptford-road Sewer, and backs up the latter, and overflows into the cellars and basement floors of the houses along its course, and also on to the low garden-grounds in this Parish, and most serious injury is inflicted on the inhabitants in consequence.

That your Memorialists fear most serious and fatal evils are likely to arise from the large volumes of foul gases that are constantly driven up through airshafts into the public streets, and through the private drains into the houses, in consequence of the overcharged state of the Deptford-road Sewer, which gases are the most deleterious of all gases, and calculated greatly to effect the health of the inhabitants of this Parish.

That your Memorialists beg to call the attention of your Board to the Report made by your engineer, bearing date the 3rd of April, 1856, which states, that the sewers in this locality are necessarily so low that they can only discharge their contents into the River, for about four hours each tide. The sewers being closed at their outlets for the remaining eight hours, become reservoirs of stagnant sewage for sixteen hours in every day, and unavoidably accumulate deposit, and that to maintain a continual and unremitting flow in the sewers of this low district, and to drain the cellars and subsoil effectually, so as to make them dry and healthy, demands the aid of pumping.

That the condition of this Parish has frequently been brought under the notice of your Board by your Memorialists, and on the 1st January, 1858, your Honourable Board resolved, after elaborate investigation, to erect a pumping station at the outlet of the Earl Sewer, for the purpose of relieving the Sewers in the District.

That the said pumping station has not been erected, whilst on the other hand, a vast increase of sewage matter has been driven into these Sewers.

Your Memorialists, therefore, urge upon your Board, that they are in justice entitled to have, without delay, the temporary benefit and relief suggested by your Engineer, in April, 1856, and resolved to be carried out in January, 1858: and beg that your Honourable Board will either

at once erect a pumping station at the outlet of Deptford-road Sewer, or the Earl Sewer, or else immediately proceed with the execution of the Northern or Bermondsey Branch Sewer, and carry out such other works in connection therewith, as may without further delay effectually relieve your Memorialists' said Parish.

The Corporation seal affixed by
order of the Vestry, at a
General Meeting, held the
5th day of July, 1859,

(L. S.)

(Signed)

R. SHAFTO HAWKS.
Clerk.

(APPENDIX No. 2.)

TO THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS,
THE MEMORIAL OF THE VESTRY OF ROTHERHITHE, SURREY.

SHEWETH,—That the Vestry of Rotherhithe, are informed that the Metropolitan Board of Works are about to charge the cost of carrying out the works for the erection of a pumping station at the outlet of the Earl Sewer at Deptford, exclusively upon certain Districts in Surrey and Kent, and that such estimated cost is to be included in the Precepts about to be issued for moneys required by your Board exclusive of main Drainage works.

That this Vestry considering that the erection of the pumping station is a work absolutely necessary to be carried out during the execution of the Main Drainage works, in order to prevent the District south of the Thames being flooded, and considering that the same work will hereafter be available as a provision against storm overflow, when the Main Drainage works are completed, is of opinion that the cost of such works should be charged to the Main Drainage Rates, and not on the District Rates, and therefore urge that your Board will charge the cost of the said works to the Main Drainage Rates.

Sealed by order of the
Vestry of Rotherhithe,

(L. S.)

(Signed)

CHARLES ERWIN,
Chairman.

(Signed)

R. SHAFTO HAWKS,
Clerk.

APPENDIX (No. 3).

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS, BARONET,
ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES OF STATE.

The Humble Memorial of the Vestry of Rotherhithe, in the County of Surrey.

SHEWETH,—That your Memorialists' Parish contains a population of twenty thousand inhabitants, and is supplied with gas by a Company, called "The Surrey Consumers' Gas Company."

That by combination with other Gas Companies, one of which formerly supplied the Parish of Rotherhithe with gas, the Surrey Consumers' Gas Company obtained the exclusive supply to this Parish, and the inhabitants of the Parish are unable in consequence to obtain a supply of gas from any other source.

That very numerous complaints have, during the last two years, been made to your Memorialists of the inefficient, irregular, and impure supply of gas provided by the said Company, as well to the inhabitants as private consumers, as to the public lamps, and representations on the subject have been repeatedly made to the said Company, but without effect.

That from the 4th to the 16th days of January, 1860, the impurity of the gas supplied by the said Company was so great as to render it not only unfit for burning in private houses, but also most injurious to the health of the inhabitants of this Parish, in consequence of its having been sent into the mains and pipes in a most improper state.

That in many of the houses in the Parish it was impossible to burn the gas without the production of noxious fumes rendering the houses quite uninhabitable.

That on the 15th of January last, the several churches in the Parish were filled with these noxious fumes, which were so bad as most materially to incommode the congregations who suffered greatly by the inhalation thereof.

That several of the inhabitants of this Parish suffered so severely in health by reason of inhaling these noxious fumes, that they have been compelled to place themselves under medical treatment, and it was found absolutely necessary, in many houses, to discontinue the burning of gas therein for several days.

That there is no provision in the Gas Works Clauses Act for preventing such a great evil, or for enforcing a penalty on a Company which supplies impure and unwholesome gas.

That your Memorialists have for some years past, and still are adopting energetic proceedings under the Nuisances' Removal Act for the suppression of nuisances arising from several manufactories in the Parish, and have succeeded in abating a large number of nuisances.

That in the opinion of your Memorialists, no nuisance has existed in this Parish so serious as that emanating from the Gas Company, and now complained of.

That the only remedy the parishioners have against the Company, is either to discontinue to burn gas, or for each parishioner to bring an action against the Company.

That the supply of unwholesome gas, above complained of, may, unless provided for by the Legislature, often recur to the serious danger of the health of a large population.

Your Memorialists, therefore, respectfully pray, that Her Majesty's Government will take effectual measures for preventing the supply of impure and unwholesome gas, by the introduction into Parliament of some Bill providing severe penalties or otherwise, for the punishment of any Company that may supply gas of an impure nature, and injurious to health.

Sealed by order of the Vestry of Rotherhithe,
at a General Meeting, held on the 10th day
of February, 1860.

L. S.

(Signed)

CHARLES ERWIN,
Chairman.

VESTRYMEN, AUDITORS, AND OFFICERS OF THE PARISH OF
ROTHERHITHE, SURREY.

Under the "Metropolis Management Act."

1860.

Vestrymen.

Rev. EDWARD BLICK, M.A., Rectory, Church-street.					
Mr. WILLIAM JONATHAN SMITH, Globe-street	}	Churchwardens.			
Mr. BENJAMIN SHIPLEY SLIPPER, Jamacia-level	}			To go out of Office in	
Mr. ROBERT NEWHAM, 381, Rotherhithe-wall	-	-	-	-	1861
Mr. GEORGE SMITH, Church-street	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. WILLIAM JAMES BLAKE, Sarah-place, Swan-lane	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. ROBERT ALLEN, Union-road	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. JAMES ROBERT GOODHEW, Lower York-street	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. AUGUSTUS FEDERICK TIMOTHY, Grice's Granary, Rotherhithe-street	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. JAMES HARE MATTHEWS, Paradise-street	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. JAMES ARNOLD, Church-passage	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. EDWARD TALBOT, Church-street	-	-	-	-	1862
Mr. JOHN SANDERSON, Church-street	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. WILLIAM HENRY STEVENS, Princess-street	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. EDMOND GEORGE DANNELL, Bedford-place, Deptford Lower-road	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. CHARLES HAY, Deptford Lower-road	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. WILLIAM CASTON, JUN., Lower York-street	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. BENJAMIN HOLMAN, Commercial Dock-road	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. WILLIAM HARRIS, Mary's Cottages, Plough-road	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. ROBERT BRAKENBERRY, 358, Rotherhithe-wall	-	-	-	-	1863
Mr. HENERY BOOTH, 1, Union-road	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. CHARLES ERWIN, Walker-place, Lower-road	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. DANIEL SERLE, James-place, Lower-road	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. JOHN WOODWARD BARRETT, Thames-street	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. JOHN COX, " Albion " Albion-street	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. JAMES FORD, 354, Rotherhithe-wall	-	-	-	-	"
Mr. SAMUEL TILLEY, 27, Paradise-row	-	-	-	-	"

Auditors of Accounts.

Mr. WILLIAM MATTHEW MARSHALL, Rotherhithè-wall.
Mr. JOHN WOODLEY SMITH, "Spread Eagle," Rotherhithe-street.
Mr. BARTHOLOMEW ROBSON, Lucas-street.
Mr. ROBERT STRANACK, Paradise-row.
Mr. RICHARD BURCHAM, Paradise-row.

Officers

ROBERT SHAPTO HAWKS, 61, Paradise-street, Clerk.
WILLIAM MURDOCH, M.D., Rotherhithe-street, Medical Officer of Health.
GEORGE LEGG, 61, King William-street, City, Surveyor of Sewers.
JOHN KELSEY, 72, Paradise-street, Surveyor of Pavements.
CHARLES RICHARD WESTLOTORN, 3, Goldsworthy-terrace, Lower-road, Collector of Paving and
Sewers' Rates.
JOSEPH BISHOP, Paradise-row, Clerk of the Works.
JOSEPH JOHN SANDERS, 49, Paradise-street, Sanitary Inspector and Street Keeper.

PARISH OF SAINT MARY, ROTHERHITHE, SURREY.

1860.

Churchwardens.

Mr. WILLIAM JONATHAN SMITH, Globe-street.
Mr. BENJAMIN SHIPLEY SLIPPER, Jamaica-level.

Overseers.

Mr. EDWARD TALBOT, Church-street.
Mr. JOHN SANDERSON, Church-street.
Mr. WILLIAM AVERY, Portland-terrace.
Mr. JOHN WOODWARD BARRETT, Thames-street.

Valuer.

Mr. BENJAMIN SHIPLEY SLIPPER.

Assistant Valuers.

Mr. GEORGE SMITH, Church-street.
Mr. CHARLES ERWIN, Walker-place, Lower-road.
Mr. JAMES ARNOLD, Church-passage.
Mr. EDMOND GEORGE DANNELL, Bedford-place, Lower-road.

Vestry Clerk.

R. SHAFTO HAWKS, 61, Paradise-street.

Parish Clerk.

EBENEZER BRADSHAW, Church-street.

Sextoness.

HARRIET NOWNE, Princes-street.

Beadle.

HENRY JOHN HAMBROOK, Portland-place, Lower-road.

Turncocks,

For the West Division of the Parish.

E. EASTON, 10, Riley-street, Great George-street, Bermondsey.
WILLIAM BROWN, 18, Little Cherry Garden-street, Bermondsey.

For the East Division.

GEORGE FRANCOMB, 8, Chilton-street, Rotherhithe.

PARISH OF SAINT MARY, ROTHERHITHE.

Guardians of the Poor, 1860.

Chairman.

WILLIAM JONATHAN SMITH, Esq.

Vice-Chairman.

CHARLES ERWIN, Esq.

Mr. EDWARD TALBOT, Church-street.
 Mr. HENRY BOOTH, Union-road.
 Mr. GERVASE FOTTIT, Rotherhithe-street.
 Mr. BENJAMIN SHIPLEY SLIPPER, Jamaica-level.
 Mr. JAMES ARNOLD, Church-passage.
 Mr. JAMES FORD, Rotherhithe-wall.
 Mr. ROBERT STRANACK, Paradise-row.
 Mr. EDMOND GEORGE DANNELL, Bedford-place.
 Mr. CHARLES HAY, Lower-road.
 Mr. ROBERT BRAKENBERRY, Rotherhithe-wall.
 Mr. WILLIAM JAMES BLAKE, Swan-lane.
 Mr. DANIEL SERLE, James-place.
 Mr. HENRY RAVENHILL, Rotherhithe-street.

ROBERT SHAPTO HAWKS, 61, Paradise-street, Clerk to the Board.

Medical Officers.

WILLIAM SOWERBY WALLEN, (East District) Portland-terrace, Lower-road.
 GEORGE WILLIAM NICHOLS, (West District and Workhouse) Almond Tree House,
 Lower-road.

Superintendent Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and Collector of Poor Rates.

GEORGE HOUSTOUN CLARK, 2, Goldsworthy-terrace, Lower-road.

Registrar of Marriages, and Relieving Officer.

JOHN GEORGE BAYLEY, 61, Paradise-street.

Registrar of Births and Deaths.

JOHN JAMES BAYLEY, 61, Paradise-street.

No. 18.



2264
Vestry of the Parish of Rotherhithe Surrey

STATEMENT AND ACCOUNT

OF THE

AMOUNT OF ALL CONTRACTS

ENTERED INTO,

AND OF

ALL MONIES RECEIVED AND EXPENDED

DURING THE YEAR,

AND ALSO OF

ALL ARREARS OF RATES, AND OTHER MONIES OWING TO, AND ALL MORTGAGES AND
OTHER DEBTS AND LIABILITIES OWING BY, THE *Vestry*

ON THE 25th MARCH, 1860 .

MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGISTS

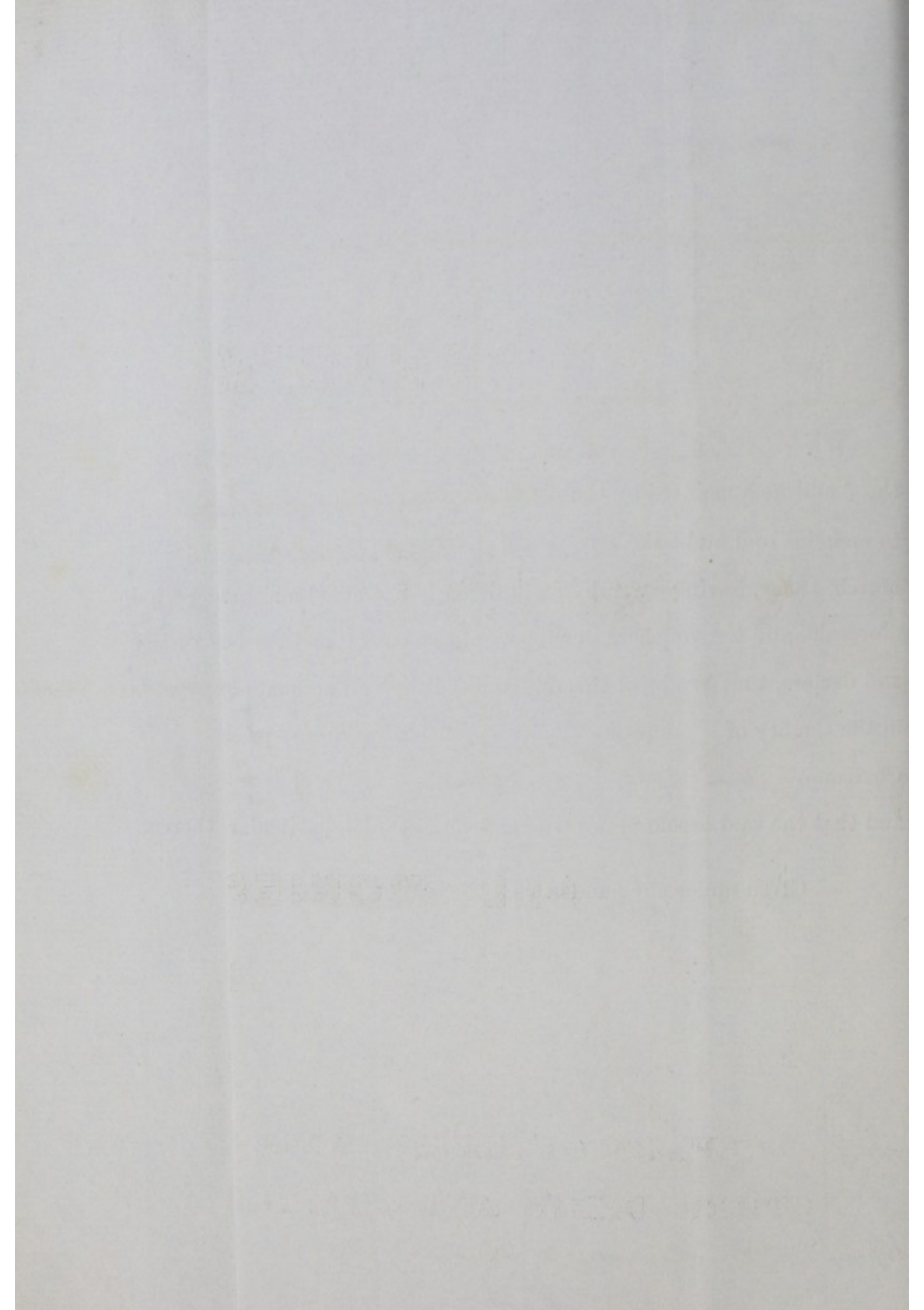
Given under our hands this *fifth day of May 1860.*

Plummer

W. M. Marshall
Bar Harbor
Maine

AUDITORS.

Office— 61 Paradise Street
Rotherhithe



STATEMENT AND ACCOUNT OF ALL CONTRACTS

Entered into by the

during the Year ending 25th March, 185 .

CONTRACTS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF SPECIAL WORKS

TABLE

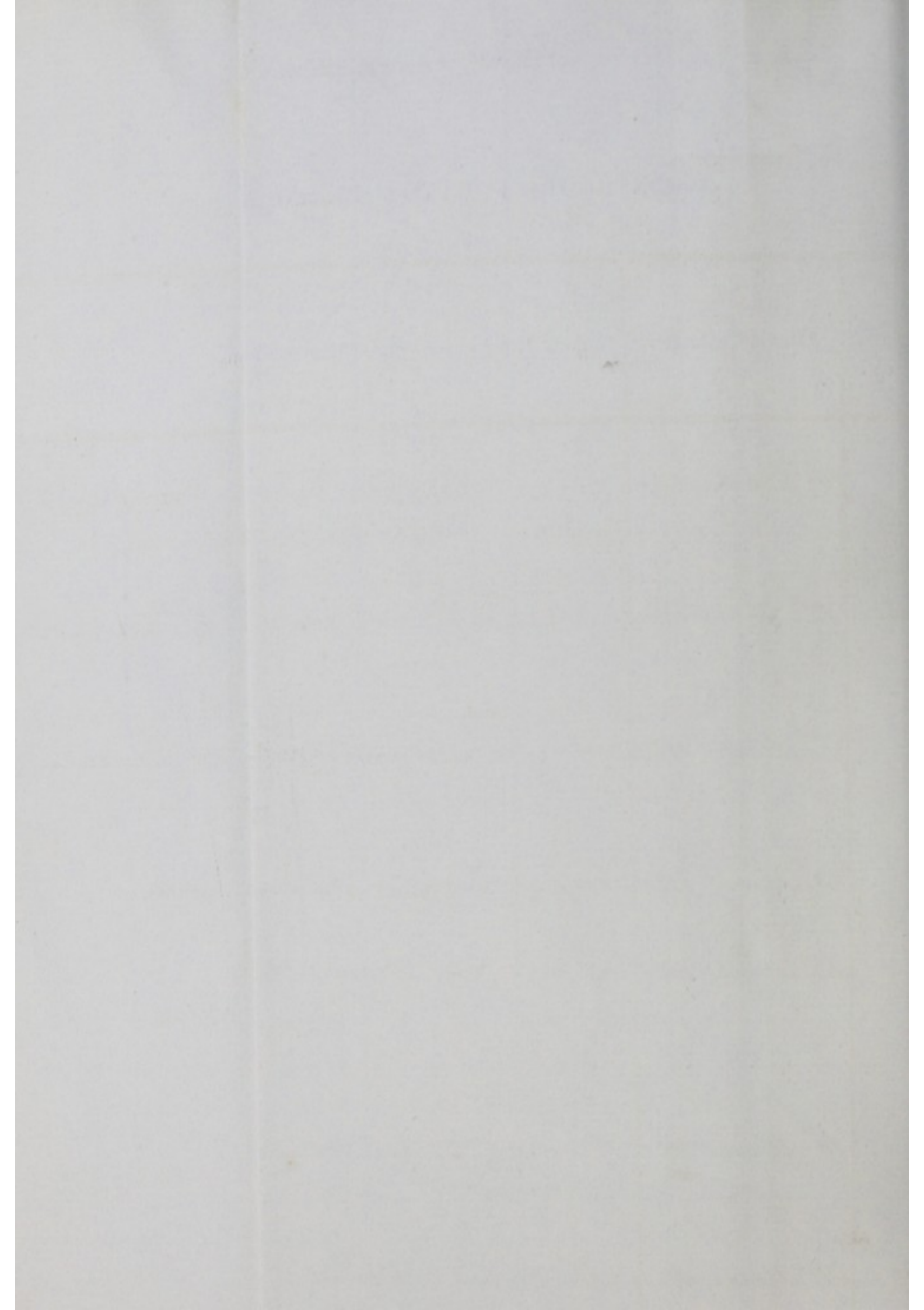
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TABLE

Vestry of the Parish of Rotherhithe Surrey

CONTRACTS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF GENERAL WORKS AND SUPPLY OF MATERIALS,

RATE, &c.	Date of Contract	Name of Party with whom Contract was made	Nature of Works to be Performed, and Materials to be Supplied	Observations
Lighting	10 th October 1855	The Surrey Consumers Gas Company	For lighting public Lamps at £4. 15. 0 each per annum	entered into for three years from 29 th September 1857.
Scavenging and General Purposes	12 th November 1859	Samuel Wright	Scavenging and Dusting at £270. per annum	" one year from 17 th November 1859
	7 th March 1860	Benjamin Batt	Printing and Stationery as per Schedule of prices	" one year from 25 th March 1860
	13 th March 1860	Alfred Thomas Hobman	Team Hire and Cartage	ditto ditto
	13 th March 1860	A and T. Manuelle	Supply of Guernsey Granite Carriage and York Paving Curbs &c. as per Schedule of prices	ditto ditto
	13 th March 1860	Wm & T. T. Gladdish	Supply of Stone and Ground Lime as per Schedule of prices	ditto ditto
Repairs	31 st March 1860	William Stent	General jobbing Works as per Schedule of prices	ditto ditto



STATEMENT AND ACCOUNT,
OF ALL MONIES RECEIVED AND EXPENDED,
During the Year ending 25th March, 1860,
Under the "Metropolis Local Management Act," 18 and 19 Victoria, Cap. 120.

RATE, &c.		CASH BALANCE at commencement of Year		RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR										PAYMENTS DURING THE YEAR										CASH BALANCE on the 25th March, 185								
				Rates, &c.		Contributions, &c.		Loans, &c.		Incidentals		TOTAL		Assessments by Metropolitan Board		Works		Establishment		Loans, &c.		Contingencies				Lighting		TOTAL				
In Credit		In Debt																								In Credit		In Debt				
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
145	7	4										1045	7	11				Payee's Salaries											2329	7	-	
												3236	7	3				105	1	503	Interest							22	0	8		
																		Day Labor														
																		361	18	7	Commission											
																		Carriage														
																		192	5	6	Rent											
																		Stone														
																		448	9	7	Accounts											
																		448	9	7	Valuers											
																		42	14	-												
																		273	15	-												
																		206	1	7												

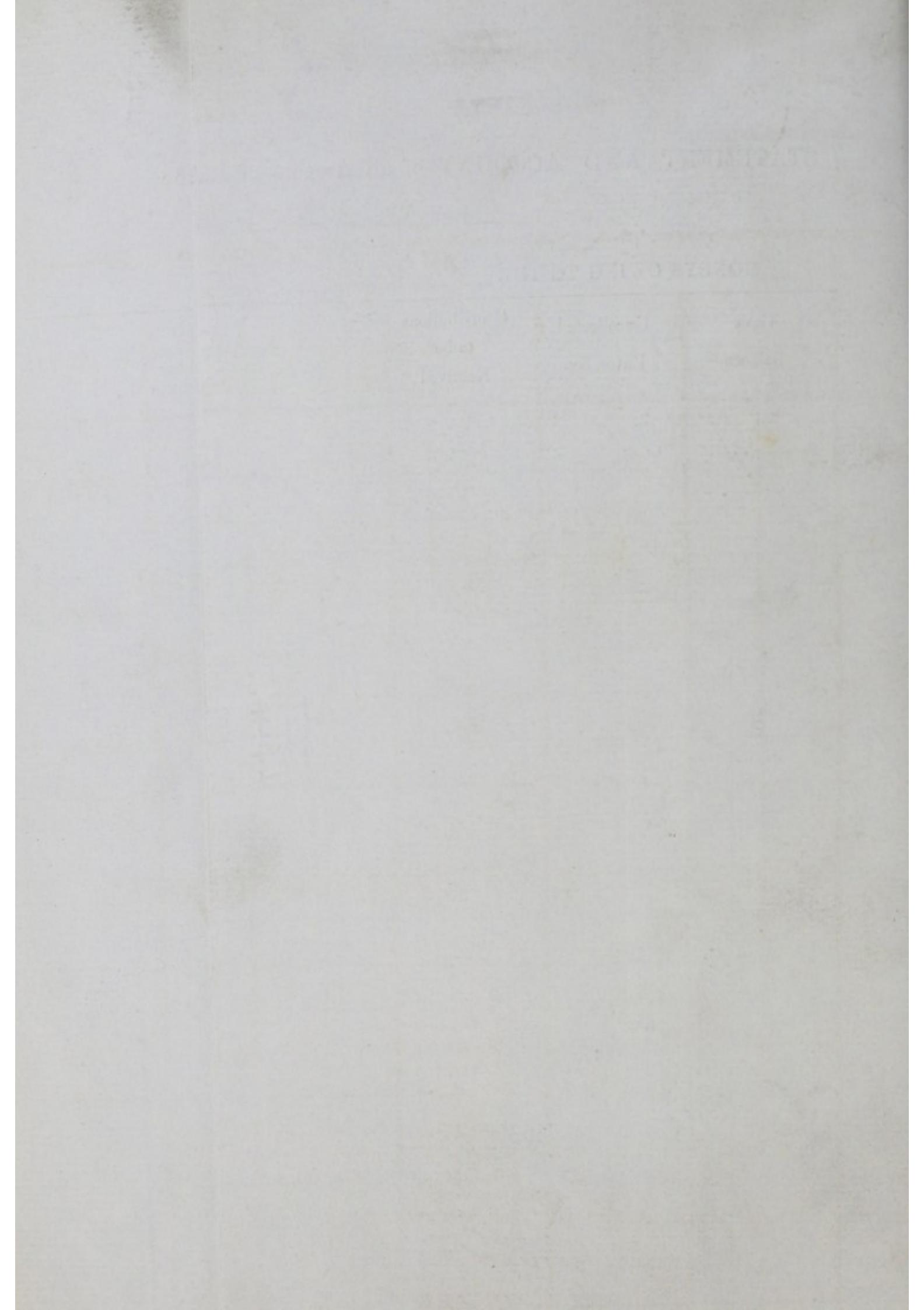


Vestry of the Parish of Rotherhithe Surrey

STATEMENT AND ACCOUNT of all Arrears of Rates and other Monies owing to, and of all Mortgages, Debts, and Liabilities owing by, the

The Vestry of Rotherhithe Surrey on the 25th March, 1860.

DATE, &c.	MONEYS OWING TO THE <i>Vestry</i>					DEBTS AND LIABILITIES OWING BY THE <i>Vestry</i>						
	Cash Balance	Uncollected Rates, &c.	Contributions to be Received		TOTAL	Cash Balance	Assessment by Metropolitan Board	Loans, Mortgages, &c.	Estimated value of Compensation Annuities Granted	Special Contracts outstanding	Tradesmen's Bills and other obligations not under Special Contracts	TOTAL
	<u>2329 7</u>	" "	" "	" "	2329 7	<u>800</u>	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	800
<i>Living and General Expenses</i>	120	" "	" "	" "	120	<i>Mr. Arnold</i> <u>500</u>	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	500
<i>Spending</i>	<u>90</u>	" "	" "	" "	90							
			<i>Surrey Insurance Co. Company</i> 5 17 5 <i>Southwark Water Company</i> 5 14 5 <i>Staker & Co. & Co.</i> 108 11 3	" "	120 3 1							
<i>Revers</i>	<u>230</u>	" "	" "	" "	230	<i>London and Westminster Bank</i> <u>1000</u>	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	1000
			<i>13 Cadogan</i> 18 15 <i>W. L. Green</i> 11 1 2 <i>London</i> 10 2 <i>St. Stephen</i> 16 4 11 <i>Glasgow</i> 8 11 10 <i>B. L. Green</i> 13 2 <i>W. L. Green</i> 10 19 6 <i>Oliver</i> 12 12 3 <i>Shelton</i> 19 6 <i>Boyle</i> 18 "	<i>Rent</i> <u>114 10</u>	114 10							
					<u>135 8 7</u>							
					<u>3039 8 8</u>							<u>2300</u>





32614
Vestry of the Parish of Rotherhithe Surrey.

ACCOUNT IN ABSTRACT
OF
RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE,

Year ending 25th March, 1860,

TOGETHER WITH A
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ALL CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO,

AND

WORKS COMMENCED AND COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR,

AND OF THE

MONEYS OWING TO, AND DEBTS OWING BY, THE *Vestry*

ON THE 25th MARCH, 1860.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

RECEIVED

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

WE, Robert Stranack, Bartholomew Robson, William Matthew Marshall, and John Woodley Smith
the Auditors appointed by the Parishioners of the Parish of Rotherhithe in the County of Surrey
to examine and audit the accounts of the Vestry of the Parish of Rotherhithe in the County of Surrey for the year ending 25th
March, 1860, having carefully and diligently examined and investigated the accounts of the said Vestry a u u for the period
aforesaid, and the vouchers in support of the same; and the books, papers, instruments, and writings, in their custody or control relating thereto, do hereby certify
and declare, that We have this day audited the said accounts of the said Vestry u at ~~their Office, situate No. 13 Board Room at the Workhouse Rotherhithe~~
in the County of Surrey u in the presence of the following viz.:- Robert Stranack,
Chairman Bartholomew Robson, William Matthew Marshall, and John Woodley Smith
and that the said accounts are true and correct in all particulars: and We do allow the same accordingly, and sign the same in token of such our allowance thereof.

Given under our hands this fifth day of May 1860.

Robert Stranack

W. M. Marshall
Bartholomew Robson
John Woodley Smith

AUDITORS.

Office— 61 Paradise Street
Rotherhithe

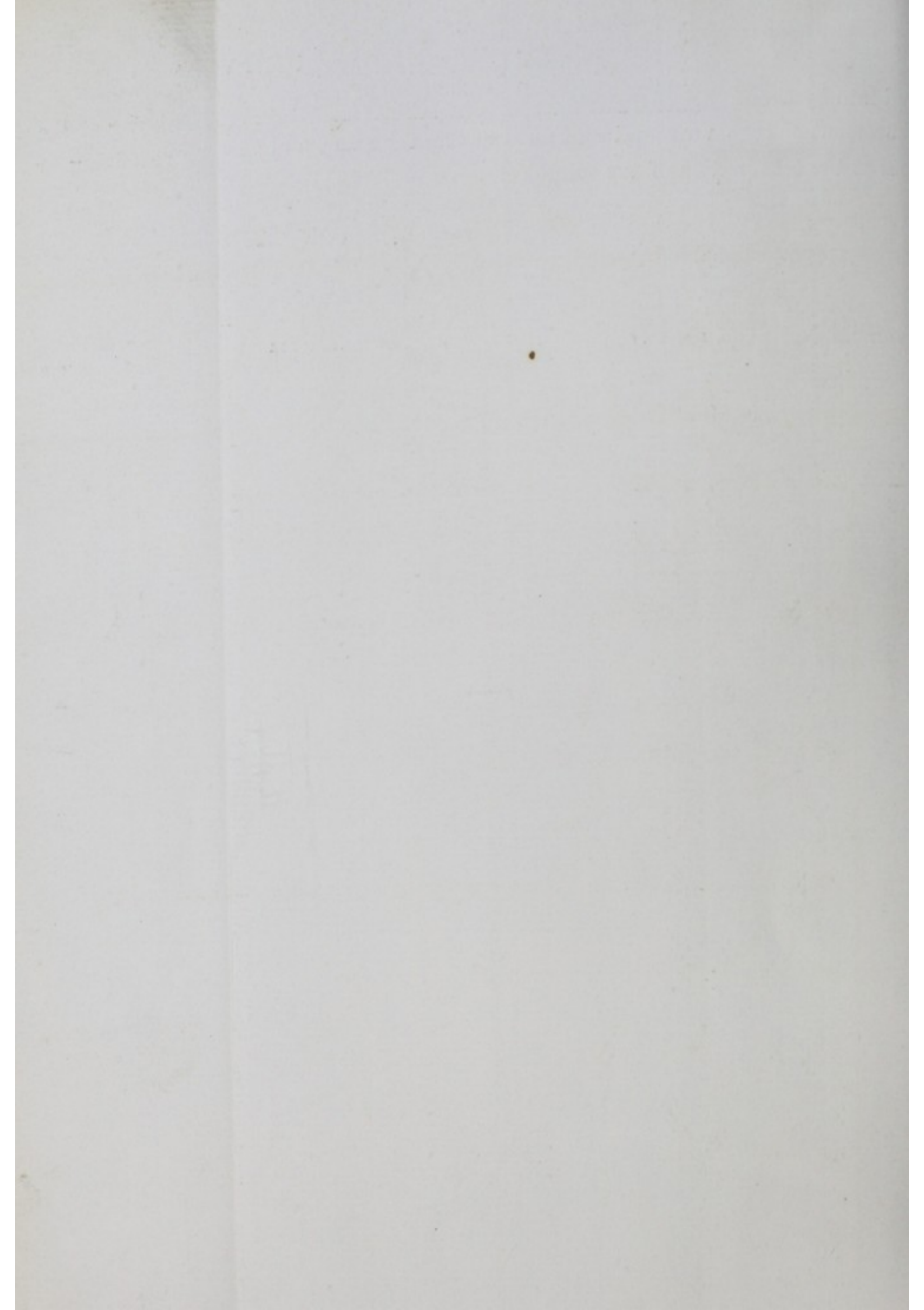


ACCOUNT IN ABSTRACT,
SHOWING THE RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE,
Year ending 25th March, 1860,
of the "Metropolis Local Management Act," 18 and 19 Victoria, Cap.

[illegible]



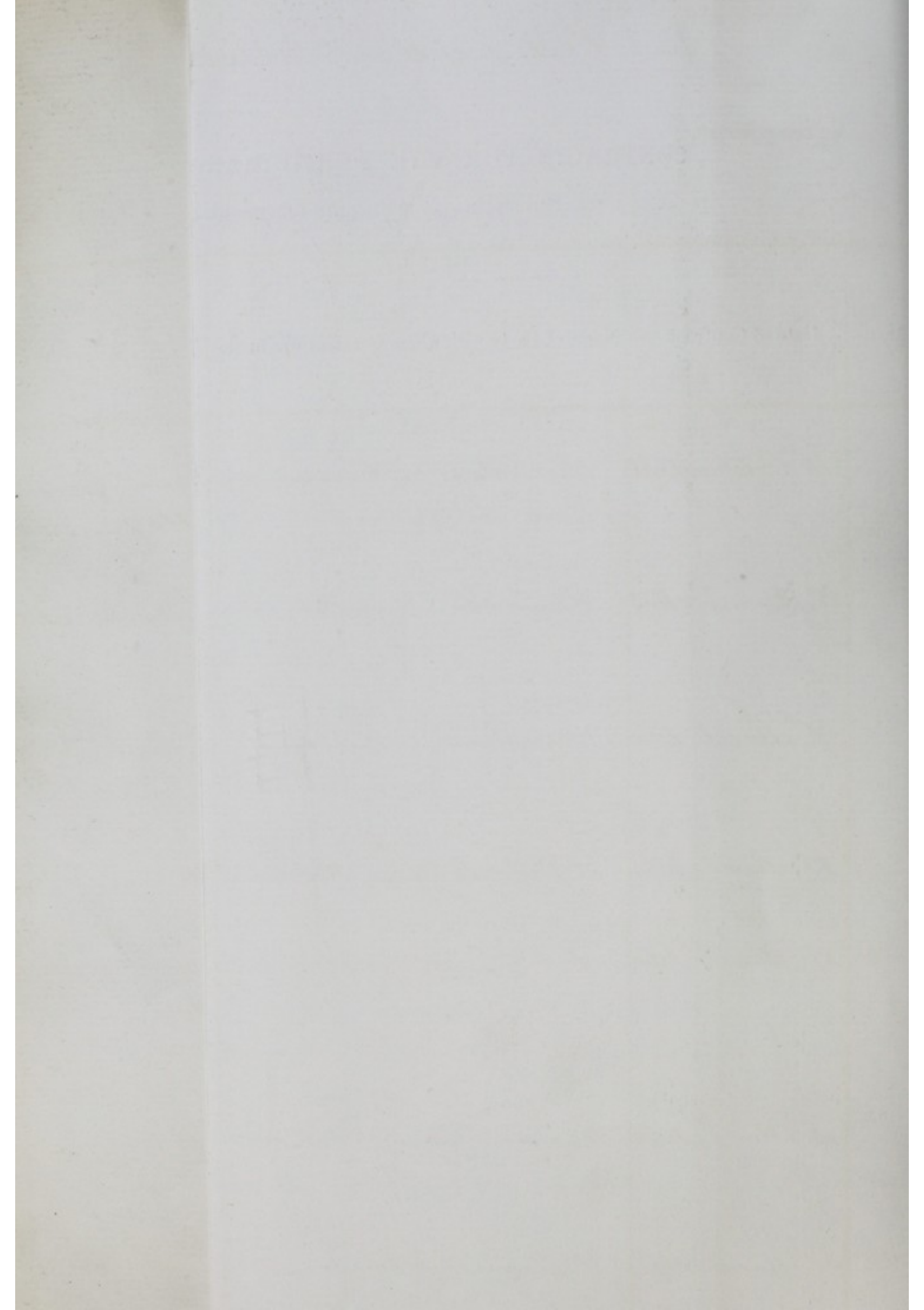
Entered into by the _____ in the Year ending 25th March, 185____, and of all Contracts subsisting at the commencement of that Year, and continued during the same, and of the Works Commenced and Completed in the Year ending 25th March, 185____, and the Works remaining in Progress at the termination of the same Year.



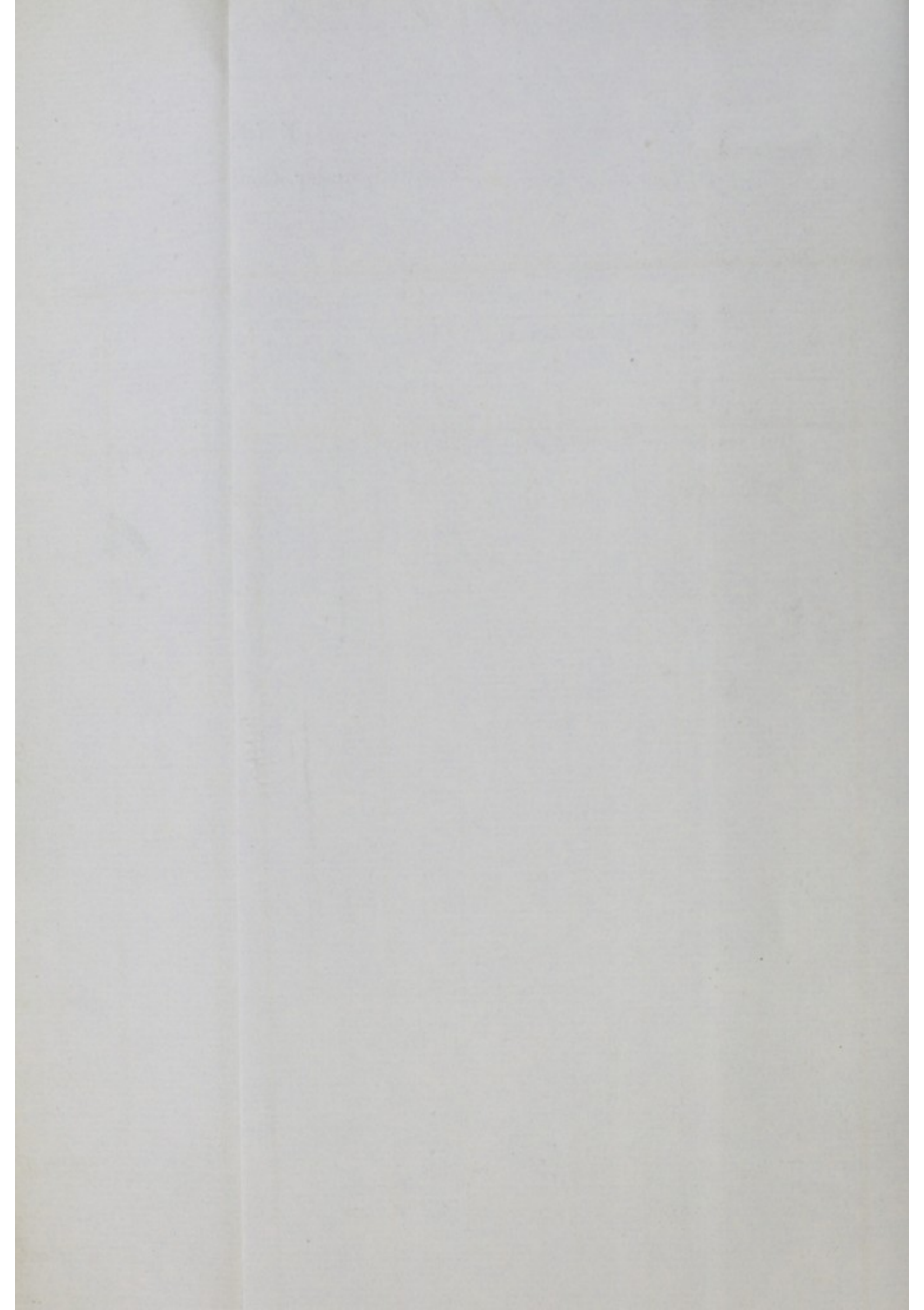
Vestry of the Parish of Rotherhithe Surrey

CONTRACTS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF GENERAL WORKS AND SUPPLY OF MATERIALS,
Subsisting at the Commencement of, or entered into, during the Year ending 25th March, 1860.

DATE, &c.	Date of Contract	Name of Party with whom Contract was made	Nature of Works to be Performed, and Materials to be Supplied	Observations
Savings lighting Household and General Purposes	10 th October 1858	The Surrey Consumers Gas Company	For lighting public Lamps at £4. 15. 0 each per annum	entered into for three years from 29 th September 1857.
	12 th November 1859	Samuel Wright	Scavenging and Dusting at £2 7/0. per annum	one year from 17 th November 1859
	7 th March 1860	Benjamin Batt	Printing and Stationery as per Schedule of prices	one year from 25 th March 1860
	13 th March 1860	Alfred Thomas Holman	Team Hire and Cartage	ditto ditto
	13 th March 1860	A. & F. Manuelle	Supply of Guernsey Granite Carriage and York paving Curb &c as per Schedule of prices	ditto ditto
	13 th March 1860	W. and T. S. Gladdish	Supply of Stone and ground Lime as per Schedule of prices	ditto ditto
Repairs	31 st March 1860	William Hunt	General jobbing Works as per Schedule of prices	ditto ditto



Year ending 25th March, 1860.



Vestry of the Parish of Rotherhithe Surrey

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF WORKS

Executed under Contracts, Agreements, &c., for Special and General Works,

Half Year ending 25th March, 1860.

LIGHTING RATE	Lighting Contribution Commission	TOTAL
The Surrey Commercial Gas Company	759 17 3	759 17 3
Mr B. Ashland	27 6	27 6
Mr C. R. Westdown Collector	20 18 7	20 18 7
		£ 813 3 4



GENERAL RATE	Paving		Lighting	Watering	Cleansing	Improving	Removing Dust	TOTAL
	Footway	Carriageway						
<i>Parsons and Mawson employed by the Vestry</i>	223	23						223 23
		<u>181</u>						<u>181</u>
<i>Samuel Wright Cartage Wages of day Labourers and Stonebreaking</i>					192	56		
					<u>361</u>	<u>187</u>		<u>554 41</u>
<i>Removing Dust &c.</i>							<u>273</u>	<u>15</u>
<i>Supply Consumers Gas Company Contribution (Auckland) half year to 29th Sept 1859</i>			793	3				795 79
			<u>276</u>					<u>2028 611</u>



Vestry of the Parish of Rotherhithe Surrey

ACCOUNT OF MONEYS owing to, and Debts owing by, the *The Vestry of Rotherhithe Surrey*
on the 25th March, 1860.

RATE, &c.	MONEYS OWING TO THE <i>Vestry</i>					DEBTS AND LIABILITIES OWING BY THE <i>Vestry</i>						
	Cash Balance	Uncollected Rates, &c.	Contributions to be Received		TOTAL	Cash Balance	Assessment by Metropolitan Board	Loans, &c.	Estimated value of Compensation Annuities Granted	Special Contracts outstanding	Tradesmen's Bills and other obligations not under Special Contracts	TOTAL
	2329 7	"	"	"	2329 7	800	"	"	"	"	"	800
<i>Saving and General purposes</i>	120	"	"	"	120			<i>Stockwell</i> 500	"	"	"	500
<i>Lighting</i>	90	"	"	"	90							
			<i>Surveyors Expenses for Compang</i> 5 17 5 <i>London Dock</i> <i>Water Compang</i> 5 14 5 <i>Water Compang</i> 10 8 11 3		120 3 1							
<i>Sewers</i>	230	"	"	"	230			<i>London Dock</i> <i>Water Compang</i> 1000	"	"	"	1000
			<i>Bradshaw</i> 18 15 <i>Wilson</i> 11 1 2 <i>London</i> 10 2 <i>Shepherd</i> 16 4 11 <i>Glasgow</i> 8 11 10 <i>Wilson</i> 13 2 <i>Handicraft</i> 10 19 6 <i>Obey</i> 12 12 3 <i>Milman</i> 19 6 <i>Boyle</i> 15	<i>Rent</i> 14 10	14 10							
					135 8 7							
					3039 8 8							2300

2266
METROPOLIS LOCAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1855.

REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO

The Vestry

OF

THE PARISH OF ROTHERHITHE,

SURREY.

From April, 1859, to April, 1860.

London:

PRINTED BY B. BATT, POST-OFFICE, ROTHERHITHE,

1860.

REPORT ON THE LOCAL SANITARY CONDITION OF THE

REPORT

NATIONAL OFFICE OF HEALTH

The City

THE PARISH OF ST. MARTIN

REPORT

1890-1891

London

PRINTED BY H. KAYE, ST. MARTIN'S LANE, W.C.

THIRTY-NINTH REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

ON the 4th of the elapsed month, a deputation from the Vestry of Rotherhithe waited on the Metropolitan Board.

On the 25th of February last, a letter was addressed by the Vestry Clerk of Rotherhithe to the Clerk of the Metropolitan Board, requesting the latter to appoint a day for the reception of a deputation, which letter was never answered. It was only by the accidental circumstance of one of the Clerks in the office at Rotherhithe looking over the Agenda Paper of the Metropolitan Board, in the afternoon of the 3rd of March, that it became known that the deputation was to be received by the Metropolitan Board at noon on the following day.

This unbusiness-like neglect, and want of courtesy on the part of the officials of the Metropolitan Board, was complained of by the member of the deputation who addressed that Board, and his statements were not satisfactorily answered by them.

The member then recapitulated in a few sentences all that had been stated by the Medical Officer of Health of Rotherhithe in his reports to the Vestry, relating to the foul effluvia and grievous nuisance produced by the opening of air-shafts into the sewer in Paradise-row. The Chairman of the Metropolitan Board answered him to the following effect, viz.:—"That the said sewer was formerly under the control of the Commission of Sewers for Surrey and Kent, who used to attend to it and regularly cleanse it; that it afterwards fell into the hands of the authorities in Rotherhithe, who had neglected it; and that the process of cleansing, which was, at the moment he was speaking, in active operation, under the direction of the engineers of the Metropolitan Board, would do away with the nuisance complained of."

Such assertions from such an authority quite astounded the deputation, for they were all incorrect, and quite contrary to the real facts of the case, and clearly showed that the Metropolitan Board were expending the public money and cleansing the sewer, with no knowledge whatever of what had previously been done to it. The allusions of the Chairman to the past were as unfortunate as his prognostication of the future.

The sewer was constructed in the year 1842, and remained under the supervision of the Commission of Sewers till January, 1856,

when it fell under the control of the newly-elected Vestry of Rotherhithe, and the Surveyor of Sewers for Rotherhithe, Mr. George Legg, caused it to be frequently and powerfully flushed from the neighbouring millstream, a penstock having been constructed, under his superintendence for that especial purpose (flushing), and the sewer by the process was much relieved. Previously to the control of the sewer by the Rotherhithe Vestry, and while it was under the Commission of Sewers, *nothing whatever was done to it, and it was never once cleansed by them.* In August, 1858, the management of the sewer was taken by the Metropolitan Board, and the air-shafts were then constructed, since which the whole line of street through which the sewer passes is often filled with poisonous and pestilential vapours. So much for the past. I am sorry to say that the Chairman's anticipations of the future have also proved themselves to be founded on imperfect data, as the gases evolved from the air-shafts of that part of the sewer which has been cleansed, are now as bad as they were before the sewer was cleansed at all by the Metropolitan Board, a fact which was foretold by me in one of my previous reports to this Vestry. The truth being, that the filthy stench is not evolved from the deposit at the bottom of the sewer, but from the surface of the liquid in the sewer, which, owing to the peculiar construction of its channel, and to the outlet being higher than the sewer itself, stagnates therein ten hours out of twelve every day. I consider that, as Medical Officer of Health to this Parish, I should not be doing my duty to my fellow-parishioners, were I to let this matter drop; and I will never let it drop, until some means be used to remedy the terrific nuisance arising from the above-mentioned air-shafts.

It appears to be a rule of the Metropolitan Board, that only one member of a deputation is allowed to address them. A member of the Rotherhithe deputation (not the original spokesman), ignorant of this rule, attempted to make a few observations, when, instead of quietly informing him that he was out of order, an effort was made by the gentlemen of the Metropolitan Board to cry him down, and a scene of indescribable uproar ensued. The Chairman hammered, and the gentlemen of the Board vociferated and clamoured, and certainly a bystander at that moment would not have been forcibly struck, either with the business-like habits, or dignified bearing of the elect of the various parishes of this great Metropolis.

On Saturday, 2nd April, the Vestry-Clerk and myself waited on John Locke, Esq., Q.C., and member of Parliament for the Borough of Southwark, with a petition to the House of Commons from this Vestry, concerning the air-shafts in the Deptford-road Sewer. He promised that it should be duly presented. Several complaints were made to me last month of the stench arising at Mr. Fisher's

premises in Rotherhithe-street, from the manufacture of patent manure. The manufacture was carried on during the night.

These premises are too small and too confined for the processes connected with patent manure making to be carried out without annoyance to the neighbourhood, a notice was served, and the nuisance has ceased for the present.

I have frequently visited the Burial Ground of All Saints, and have always found the graves of the depth recommended by the Trustees.

Thirty-four deaths were registered last month, showing a mortality considerably under the average. The Parish is at this moment healthy, and remarkably free from epidemic disease.

Yours respectfully,

W. MURDOCH.

April, 1859.

FORTIETH REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

At that part of Rotherhithe where the Brighton and Greenwich lines of Railway diverge from each other, eight or nine arches of the former (Brighton) have been let to a patent-manure maker. Passengers arriving from Greenwich or London at the Commercial Dock Station are continually complaining of the foul effluvia evolved from those arches. During the past month they have been frequently visited by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself. All sorts of filthy substances are accumulated under them, bones, horns, hoofs, pigeon's dung, fish and hair with the animal matter adhering to it, just as it is scraped off the hides by the tanners, and the heaps of these substances smell very disagreeably, and when in the process of manufacture of manure, sulphuric acid is poured upon them and powdered coprolite, an indescribably suffocative stench arises. Under the Railway Arches this is done in an open wooden vessel.

I have frequently expressed my opinion to this Board as to the manufacture of manure, viz.: that it can only be tolerated on large open premises, in closed vessels, with a proper apparatus to burn the exhaled gases and a high shaft to carry off the products of the combustion. None of these conditions exist under the Railway Arches. A notice was served, which was followed by a summons.

Under the arches Nos. 512, 513, and 514 of the Greenwich Railway, there is an accumulation of sugar scum, and greaves or refuse from the soap-boilers, which smells offensively. The arch No. 469 is peculiarly situated, half of it being in Deptford and half in

Rotherhithe. The boundary line of the two parishes passing right through the middle of the arch. Under it there is a heap of scutch or stinking offal from the glue makers. These arches will be attended to.

On the premises of Messrs. Miller and Johnson, in Rotherhithe-street, north side near the Noah's Ark, patent manure is manufactured, considerable expense has been incurred at this place to prevent any nuisance from arising; but owing to defects in the apparatus for consuming the exhaled gases, stench is often given off which is smelt along Rotherhithe-street, when the wind blows from any northern point. The defects are the following. The gases which tend naturally to rise from the mixer, have with the present construction of the apparatus, to descend before they reach the fire. The fire itself is not strong enough, and is often put out by the large quantity of gases generated, which therefore escapes unburnt into the shaft and causes a nuisance. The remedy would be to elevate the fire, and increase its power, and above all, to raise the shaft twenty or thirty feet, so that the vapours exhaled may be carried above the roofs of the neighbouring houses. Messrs. Miller and Johnson have promised that ere long they will effect these changes.

At No. 6, 7, and 8, Neptune-street, the drainage is imperfect.

Thirty-seven deaths were registered last month, among them were two from typhoid fever, one from whooping-cough, and one from diphtheria. This last complaint has hitherto been of comparatively rare occurrence in Rotherhithe. The Parish is at this moment healthier than it generally is at this time of the year.

Yours respectfully,

W. MURDOCH.

May, 1859.

FORTY-FIRST REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

DURING the last two months a constant and active surveillance has been exercised over the various businesses carried on under the Railway Arches in Rotherhithe. As fast as one nuisance is suppressed, another springs up, and unless your officers have the cordial co-operation of the Railway Companies it will be exceedingly difficult to eradicate these nuisances. The occupier of nine arches of the Brighton Railway, a manure manufacturer, was summoned to the Greenwich Police Court, and after two adjournments, fined five pounds. He has since lime-washed the inside of the arches, got rid of the stinking pig's hair, and erected a close apparatus for making the manure, causing the refuse gases to pass through a solution of

ulphate of iron. The apparatus was tried before me, and certainly very little smell arose during the operation, but I cannot commit myself so far as to say that none will arise therefrom. The place is indoubtedly much improved.

The occupier of the Arches 512, 513, 514, was also summoned, and on Friday, 3rd June, the magistrate issued an order that the whole accumulation of sugar-scum under the above-named arches should be removed in two months. This length of time was granted on account of the quantity of accumulated stuff being upwards of a thousand tons.

The occupier has promised to use deodorizers while removing it.

Under the arch 569, I found a person boiling linseed oil in two open pots. The stench was nauseating. A notice was served, and a promise obtained that this process shall not be renewed. Oil boiling is practised to a great extent in the fields round about the Railway Arches, but as it is done principally at night, the persons occasioning the nuisance have not yet been discovered.

In the Arch 480, a large accumulation of wet scutch or refuse from the glue-makers was detected by the smell and the swarms of flies hovering about the place. A notice has been served.

Considerable numbers of wet skins are brought over from Bermondsey into Rotherhithe Parish, and laid under the Railway Arches to dry. The smell from them in hot weather is extremely offensive. The Inspector has been instructed to make enquiries as to the owners of them, a fact not easily ascertained, as I suspect the arches are often occupied by these persons without any rental being paid for them.

The state of Garden-row, Debenham-road, has been often brought before this Vestry, the liquid sewage running in streams from the closets down the gardens. One man was growing radishes in the sewage from his own privy.

The practice of open mixing having occurred at Bull Head Wharf, and fetid vapours having been evolved into the street, I caused a notice to be served on the occupier of the premises. Since the last monthly meeting of this Board, the Committee of Gas supply inquiry has been twice called together. Star-corner, Bermondsey, has been chosen as the most appropriate locality for erecting a gas-testing apparatus, because, the mains of the three Companies, namely, the Phoenix, the Surrey Consumers', and the South Metropolitan, all converge towards that point. The proceedings of the Committee will be duly laid before you in my monthly reports.

Sickness and Mortality.

The small-pox, from which no death had taken place in Rotherhithe during eighteen months, has again made its appearance among

us. In my own practice no severe case has come under observation, but two children, each two years of age, have been registered as having died from confluent variola.

The small pox has certainly much decreased in Rotherhithe since public vaccinators have been appointed.

Notwithstanding the presence of this fearful malady, the Parish has been for some months past, and still continues, remarkably healthy.

The deaths in May were thirty-two—eight under the average, and in the four weeks ending 24th May, only forty-two medical orders were granted, being about half the average number usually given in four weeks.

It is a matter of public notoriety, that the sanitary condition of this Parish is gradually ameliorating. In the first three months of the year 1858, there were two hundred and sixteen births, and one hundred and sixty-six deaths in Rotherhithe, showing an increase of sixty. During the same period in 1859, namely, from January 1st to March 31st, there were registered two hundred and five births and one hundred and sixteen deaths, showing an increase of eighty-nine.

Now if we compare the deaths only of the two periods, we shall find that fifty more took place in the three first months of 1858 than in the same space of time in 1859, *and that too* among an increasing population.

No general conclusions can be drawn from such a comparison, the rise and fall of disease depending often upon causes unknown to man, and perhaps we might be accused of taking to ourselves presumptuously too much credit were I to say that the present desirable state of things may in some measure be attributed to the better drainage, better water supply, and to the slowly but steadily improvement in the education of the lower classes, and good habits therefrom resulting.

Yours respectfully,
W. MURDOCH.

June, 1859.

FORTY-SECOND REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

COMPLAINTS are repeatedly made to the officers of this Vestry of the noxious gases and vapours arising from the Union Chemical Works, near Union-road, Rotherhithe. Two products are fabricated at those works, namely, sulphuric acid, and hydrochloric acid, (popu-

arly oil of vitriol and spirits of salt). I shall speak here of the latter only, as it causes the greater nuisance, the former having been frequently alluded to in my previous reports.

The process of making hydrochloric acid is the following. An iron pot, about eighteen inches deep and three feet in diameter, is tted into brickwork over a furnace, the whole resembling much a common washhouse copper for boiling dirty linen. In this vessel, one hundred and sixty-eight lbs. of sulphuric acid, one hundred and sixty-eight lbs. of common salt are mixed. The vessel is then covered with a stone lid, into which is fixed a pipe of potters' ware, about two inches and a-half in diameter, and four feet long, and communicating, at its farther end, with four twenty-gallon cylindrical vessels, also of potters' ware, and about one-third filled with water. Heat is applied from the furnace, decomposition of the salt takes place, and the hydrochloric acid passes over in the state of vapour from the iron vessel into the receivers, where it mixes with and is dissolved in the water they contain. At the end of about nine hours the operation is finished. The whole is then allowed to cool for five hours, the receivers are afterwards emptied of their acid contents. Sulphate of soda being found in the iron vessel.

There are six such apparatus as that above-described, on the premises in the open air.

The nuisance arises from two causes, 1st.—*The leakage of the apparatus*, although the joints are carefully luted, the hydrochloric acid vapour attenuated by the heat escapes, and there is always a smell of it on and about, the premises.—2nd.—*The charging of the vessel*. When the lid of the iron pot is taken off to empty it and re-charge it, all the acid vapour contained in the apparatus is disengaged into the air, and the smell of it can be perceived at some distance from the factory, according to the direction of the wind. This vapour is highly injurious to vegetable life, withering and destroying the smaller shrubs, stripping the trees of their leaves, and often killing those parts of them which stand in the direction of the currents of air out of the factory.

It is hurtful to the health of animals and man. The untimely death of cats, ducks and canary birds, is attributed to it, by the lady inhabitants of the vicinity. I have not, however, been able to obtain direct proof of the truth of their assertions.

When breathed by persons not accustomed to it, it causes a spasmodic choking sensation in the throat, and an irritative distressing cough, which the inspector and myself have both experienced on entering the factory, and during our stay there.

To conclude, I consider the locality unfit for a chemical work of this nature, and if the whole were enclosed with brickwork with proper apparatus to carry off the acid vapour into a vessel contain-

ing milk of lime, it appears to me doubtful whether even then the offensive smell could be entirely got rid of.

The continuation of these works as they are at present, must certainly have the effect of diminishing the value of property in their immediate neighbourhood.

In the Arch 513 of the Greenwich Railway, the heap of sugar-scum is slowly getting less. The brickwork has been washed with chloride of lime, and the nuisance is much abated. There is under the boundary Arch 469, a heap of hair and horns, which evolves a very unpleasant stench. A notice has been served. There is also an accumulation of refuse from the soap-boilers under the Arch 480.

No further progress has been made by the Gas Enquiry Committee since the last sitting of this Board.

The filthy state of the millstream, Jamaica Level, and the smells therefrom arising at low-water, when the mud all reeking with organic matter, is exposed to the summer sun, are matters of daily observation.

Foul effluvia still often arise from the air-shafts in Paradise Row. On the morning of the 23rd June, the sickening stench was as bad as during the winter months.

The overflowing cesspools at Dunn's Cottages, have again necessitated the serving of a notice.

The water supply has been, during the last fortnight, exceedingly scanty in this Parish.

Thirty-five deaths from all causes, were registered last month. The Parish is in a very healthy state at this present time (30th June, 1859).

Yours respectfully,
W. MURDOCH.

July, 1859.

FORTY-THIRD REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

ON Friday, 29th July, a Committee of the whole Vestry met at the Union Chemical Works, Union Road, Rotherhithe. The object of the meeting was to examine the state of the premises, and also that the members of the Board might, by personal inspection, enquire into the causes of the noxious smells so often complained of by the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the factory. A resolution was passed by the meeting to the effect that a month should be given to the proprietor of the works to make certain alterations, and that on Monday, 29th August, the place should be re-visited by the Committee.

The occupier of the Railway Arch No. 469, and the occupier of the Arches 479, 480, and 481, were respectively summoned to the Greenwich Police Court, on account of accumulations of scutch under the above-named Arches. The hearing took place on the 26th July, and an order of removal in each case was obtained from the sitting Magistrate. Ten days after, on the 26th July, I again inspected the Arches and found that the heap in 469 had been covered with salt, and the heap under the Arch 480 had been only partially removed. The nuisance in both still existing. My attention shall be further devoted to this matter, as it appears to me that the Magistrate's order ought to be strictly carried out.

A notice has been served on the person who sends from Bermondsey putrid and wet skins to be dried under the Railway Arches in Rotherhithe. No. 2, Victoria Place, Deptford Road, is tenanted by a dealer in cats' meat, dogs' meat, rags, bones, &c., &c. The offal of this numerous callings had accumulated in the back-yard, and caused a nuisance; a notice was served and the evil has been remedied.

The water supply in Rotherhithe, during the early part of July, was very scanty. No place suffered more from the deficiency, than Clare Hall Cottages, and Clare Hall Place, Jamaica Level. The inhabitants having been without supply sometimes for three and four days consecutively.

On the 23rd July, the temperature being 83° in the shade, I descended into the vaults under St. Mary's Church. The vaults had not been opened for the admission of any person since they were visited in January last by the Government Inspector and myself. On entering the vault the sensation was rather pleasant than otherwise, the cool air of the place contrasting gratefully with the sultriness of the atmosphere outside. *There was no smell whatever.*

Mr. Nowne, who accompanied me, on my interrogating him whether he had ever observed any leakage from the coffins in the vault, replied, that he never saw any but once, and that it disappeared in twenty-four hours. The admirable ventilation would cause any fluid rapidly to evaporate, and the gaseous product to be carried up the air-shafts.

The first six months of the present year were remarkably healthy, the mortality in this Parish having been [twenty-five per cent. lower than during the corresponding months of the year 1858. The just elapsed month, however, has been unhealthy, diarrhoea having been exceedingly prevalent, and having occasioned thirteen deaths, out of forty-nine registered. This may, in some measure, be attributed to the high temperature which reigned during the whole month. On two occasions the thermometer rose to 90° , and the average temperature of the month was 78° , or eight degrees above that of July, 1858, when it only averaged 70° . The high temperature has undoubtedly

rendered the miasmata from the ponds and ditches in Rotherhithe, more subtle and injurious to health, for in this matter we are peculiarly situated, our southern boundary is the Thames which washes our shore to the extent of nearly two miles, on the east we have the stinking Surry Millstream, and on the west, the black ditch or Earle Sewer.

August, 1859.

Yours respectfully,
W. MURDOCH.

FORTY-FOURTH REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

IN my previous reports to this Board, I have frequently expressed the opinion that chemical and other factories, from which noxious gases and vapours may at times be exhaled, ought not to be established in a populous neighbourhood; and if by any chance they be established in such a locality, it is the duty of the proprietor of the works to use all the available means which science can suggest or devise for the mitigation and suppression of the nuisances originating from the processes carried on in the factories. The Union Chemical Works, for the fabrication of sulphuric and hydrochloric acids, stand in the midst of a crowded population, and I do not consider that sufficient care has been taken to prevent the stench arising on the premises from diffusing themselves around, and becoming a nuisance to the inhabitants. On the 29th July, these works were visited by a Committee of the whole Vestry, and as they, the Committee, found that the distillation of the hydrochloric acid, was done in a building without sides, and merely covered with tiles, it was recommended that it should be enclosed with brickwork, and the meeting adjourned for a month. On the 29th August, much to the surprise and annoyance of the gentlemen present at the adjourned meeting, they found the building in the same state as before, no alteration whatever having been made in its structure. Certain facts, however, transpired as to the future destination of these works, which caused the meeting again to adjourn for another month. Let me add here, that although the inhabitants still occasionally complain, sulphuric acid is no longer made on the premises, and consequently, the sulphurous smells have entirely disappeared. The vapour of muriatic acid escaping by leakage, or at the moment of uncharging the iron pots, is the nuisance existing at this present time.

The Railway Arches in Rotherhithe are now tolerably free from nuisance. Under the Arch 568, the Inspector detected on Saturday,

ad September, a person boiling a few gallons of linseed oil, the pour of which is exceedingly unpleasant. I contented myself with friendly remonstrance, which often has a better effect than an official notice. A large quantity of damaged grain, the salvage from fire, has been deposited in Debenham's ground, near the Railway, emits after rain an acid odour. As it is being gradually carted away, I thought interference unnecessary.

Among the houses mentioned in the Agenda Paper, three deserve special attention. At No. 395, Rotherhithe-street, a blacksmith's shop, the drainage has no outlet at all, the whole of it being discharged into a large cesspool, enclosed within the walls of the building. At 396, Rotherhithe-street, the Black Bull public-house, and at 1, West-lane, a cooperage, there are cesspools in the back yards, but the superficial drainage runs into the street. Notices have been served.

The elapsed month, August, has been one of the most unhealthy of the current year, fifty-two deaths having been registered; among them twelve from diarrhœa, three from scarlatina, two from fever, and one from diphtheria, at No. 3, Glebe-terrace, just where one might expect to find such a disease, on the bank of the pestilential ditch, called the Surrey Millstream.

Yours respectfully,

W. MURDOCH.

September, 1859.

FORTY-FIFTH REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

DURING the elapsed summer, I received several anonymous communications, all written evidently by one person, and of which the author was, that a smokehouse on the premises of Mr. Pearson, fishmonger, No. 363, Rotherhithe-wall, emitted foul smells and was a nuisance to the neighbourhood. No notice was taken of complaints made in this underhand manner. On the 13th September, a letter was addressed to the Vestry Clerk of this parish from the Local Government Act Office, to the effect that Mrs. Moody, of 365, Rotherhithe-wall, had declared her health to be suffering in consequence of the effluvia arising from the above-named smokehouse.

This letter led to an investigation.

The smokehouse is situated in the back-yard of No. 363, about twenty feet from the dwelling; it is composed of two chambers or compartments, each twelve feet high, four feet and a-half deep, and three feet and a-half wide, the lower part of the chambers being of

brick, and the upper of wood. Each chamber is surmounted by a chimney about four feet in height. These measures are all given approximately.

On the floor of each compartment a smouldering smoky fire fed with oak sawdust is kept burning, and the fish to be smoked (haddocks and herrings) are suspended in rows across the chamber. The place has been visited six times by me; and the process of fish smoking was each time in full operation. I never could perceive any smell on or about the premises (except the smell from the fish in stock), and complaint of nuisance has never been made by any other person but Mrs. Moody. However, it *may be*, that the smoke arising from the low chimneys may cause annoyance by drifting with certain winds against the windows of the adjacent houses. A smokehouse in every respect similar to the one above-described exists at Mr. R. Challoner's, fishmonger, No. 351, Rotherhithe-wall, and has never been complained of.

Twelve applications have been made for licenses for slaughter houses. Eleven of these had been already licensed. The slaughter house of Mr. Newham, butcher, Rotherhithe-street, is in the course of erection at the back of his house, and having seen the plans and examined the drainage, I should submit to the Board, that a license be granted to him, as well as to the eleven others.

The Government order with regard to the vaults under St. Mary's Church is now being carried out, under the surveillance of the Churchwardens and Medical Officer of Health. As this subject will be again brought under notice of the Vestry, I need only say at present, that hitherto the work has proceeded without accident, and has been conducted with decorum and propriety.

The owners of the piggeries near the Railway Arches were respectively summoned to Greenwich, and the magistrate's order was obtained for an abatement of the nuisance. No cleanliness can ever prevent places tenanted by thirty or forty hogs, and badly drained, from exhaling unpleasant smells during the summer months. I give this as my own opinion, and must leave to the Board to take what further steps they may think necessary.

Notices have been served in the other cases mentioned in the Agenda Paper.

Twenty-one persons died in Rotherhithe during September, about half the number usually registered in a month, and the smallest monthly mortality yet reported by me since the first formation of this Vestry. The Parish of Rotherhithe is at present remarkably healthy and free from epidemic disease. (30th of September, 1859.)

Yours respectfully,

W. MURDOCH.

October, 1859.

FORTY-SIXTH REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

DURING the month of May last, an Order in Council was received by the Parish authorities of Rotherhithe to the effect that, "1st. The coffins in the public vaults beneath the Parish Church of St. Mary, Rotherhithe, be covered with fresh earth and concrete, and that the existing entrance be bricked up. 2nd. That the works be effected under the superintendence of the Medical Officer of Health of the district, and that Mr. Dougal's powder, chlorine, or other disinfectants be used whenever necessary."

The Churchwardens very properly postponed the carrying out of this order till the hotter months of summer had passed away, and in the meanwhile caused advertisements to be inserted in the newspapers, warning the public, that any one wishing to have a coffin removed from the vaults, must make application before the 1st of September of the current year. One application was made, but no coffin was removed.

On the 12th of September, the work was commenced; and it was soon found that the number of coffins contained in the vaults had been much underrated, that instead of a thousand as stated in one of my previous reports, between sixteen and seventeen hundred had been deposited there. The first part of the process consisted in carefully placing the coffins on the floor, as close to each other as possible, a second tier was then laid above them, and in some places a third. Here was the difficult and dangerous part of the labour, for in lifting the old leaden coffins many of them cracked, and long pent-up fetid gases were exhaled, extinguishing the lights in the hands of the men, and making them hurriedly retreat from the spot. By the use of disinfectants these difficulties were surmounted, and no accident happened.

After the coffins had been thus arranged, gravel was thrown in to fill up the interstices between them, and form a first coating over them; eighteen inches of concrete was placed above the gravel, so that the upper surface in a very short space of time became as hard and as solid as a macadamized road. All apertures leading into the vaults were then bricked up, with the exception of the air-shafts, which open on the coping of the wall, thirty-four feet above the level of the churchyard.

The whole work was conducted with decorum and propriety, and the most fastidious person could not have found fault with anything that transpired. When any wooden coffins were found broken up, the remains of the dead were carefully gathered together and placed in shells.

The bodies in the wooden coffins were dry and mummified, consisting of withered skin and bones, the whole of the intermediate flesh being converted into a brown coffee-like powder. In the very few leaden coffins, of which we had an opportunity of inspecting the contents from accidental bursting, the organs of the body were moist and saponified, preserving their form and position, and easily recognizable in a coffin which had been deposited under the church for half a century. The teeth and hair were always perfect, and the tissues of linen and cotton, in which the corpses had been wrapped, were generally in good condition.

In a private vault, we found a coffin one hundred and twenty years old; in the public vault, one ninety-nine years old; and, against the wall of the northern vault, a tombstone clamped with iron, and bearing date July, 1712.

It was not without some emotion, that, when perusing the inscriptions on the coffin-lids, we read the names of families formerly flourishing in this parish, nearly all whose members had become extinct; and we recognized the last narrow resting-place of men known to us in our childhood, who, as inhabitants of this parish, walked honourably and uprightly in their day, with credit to themselves and benefit to their fellow-parishioners.

During the progress of the work, the vaults were frequently visited by strangers and parishioners, and they one and all expressed their satisfaction at the quiet and masterly manner in which the whole was executed. The Churchwardens were assisted in their duty by a committee of gentlemen, who were most assiduous in their attendance.

Many complaints have been made to me by the inhabitants of the Deptford Lower-road, of the crowded state of the cemetery attached to All Saints' Church. About four hundred bodies have been buried there since my last Report on the subject to this Board, in November, 1858.

As a measure of sanitary precaution, I should recommend that the cemetery be at once closed; and I must express, at the same time, the conviction, that to keep it open any longer would be an outrage upon public feeling.

A gully on the east side of Clarence-street exhaled noxious effluvia; trapping would effectually remedy the evil.

My attention has been called to the linseed oil boiling carried on under and near the Railway Arches. The locality is frequently visited by your officers, and in due time measures will be taken for the suppression of the nuisance.

Notices have been served in the other cases mentioned in the Agenda Paper.

Thirty-eight deaths were registered in Rotherhithe during last month.

One infant, unvaccinated, died from smallpox, in Upper Queen Street.

Yours respectfully,

November, 1859.

W. MURDOCH.

FORTY-SEVENTH REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

DURING the past month, two minor reports, in the form of letters, were addressed by me to the Vestry Clerk.

The first, which was read at a meeting of the Overseers, related to the premises of Mr. Kemp, varnish maker, Clare Hall-place, premises on which, a short time previously, a fire had occurred. After careful examination of the place, I submitted to the Overseers the propriety of not interfering with Mr. Kemp's business, as the shed where the varnishes are mixed is completely isolated from the surrounding dwellings, and no person in the neighbourhood had complained of any nuisance arising from the processes employed by the manufacturer.

At the same time, I remarked, that the most dangerous part of the premises appeared to be the spot where the fire actually did break out, namely, the stable, which was full of straw, and other such material, at the time of my visit.

The second report was read at the adjourned meeting of this Vestry, and concerned the fish-smoking carried on at No. 363, Rotherhithe-wall. It is, therefore, unnecessary to repeat the details; suffice it to say, that in the back-yard of the complainant, Mrs. Moody, a pig was found grunting. A pig-notice was, therefore, served, and the animal has since been removed. It ought, also, to be mentioned that fish-frying is carried on to a very considerable extent in the complainant's house; and although the smell of such cooking may not be injurious to health, it is certainly anything but pleasant to the nostrils of passengers along Rotherhithe-wall.

The complaints made against the smokehouse at No. 363 appear frivolous; and unless they proceed from some other quarter than hitherto, unworthy of the attention of the parish authorities.

The Railway Arches have been several times visited by your officers, and, as far as Rotherhithe is concerned, seem freer from nuisance than they have yet been.

One of the worst-smelling of the air-shafts, opening into the sewer in Paradise-row, viz., that one opposite the house No. 28, has been recently closed by order of the Metropolitan Board. This may be considered as an earnest of a better state of things, and

probably, ere long, some other method of ventilating the sewers will be discovered than that of letting out noxious gases wholesale into every thoroughfare, thereby infecting the atmosphere of the whole of London with the very vapours which the Metropolitan Board themselves admit to be the most subtle and dangerous to health of all poisons.

I believe that the closing of the air-shaft above-named, and the previous diminution of the size of the air-gratings in Paradise-row, are mainly attributable to the reiterated and energetic protests made to the Central Board by this Vestry.

Notices have been served in the other cases of imperfect drainage mentioned in the Agenda Paper.

Forty-three deaths were registered in Rotherhithe during November, nine of which were caused by scarlatina, which was, and is, still prevalent.

There have been, also, a few cases of mild smallpox; but no death has taken place from that malady.

Yours respectfully,

W. MURDOCH.

December, 1859.

FORTY-EIGHTH REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

DURING the spring and early part of the summer of last year numerous complaints were made of the stench arising from the premises of Messrs. Miller and Johnson, patent manure makers,—premises situated on the north side of Rotherhithe-street, near the Noah's Ark. Some expense had been incurred, and precautions had been taken, to prevent a nuisance, by causing the vapours generated in the mixing apparatus to pass through a coke fire previously to their arrival into the shaft; but the vapours proved to be incombustible, and, instead of the fire decomposing them, *they* put out the fire, and, escaping from the shaft, and cooling in the open atmosphere, fell often in large quantities in the immediate neighbourhood of the factory, and were carried by the wind to some distance, to the great annoyance of the inmates of the surrounding houses, and of the passengers along Rotherhithe-street. I suggested to the manufacturers to change altogether their *modus operandi*, and to make the tube from the mixer plunge into a tank of water, and, if the water did not effectually absorb the gases, to add sulphate of iron to the liquid. They entered at once into my views, and during the last three weeks have made experiments on the plan recommended.

me. As no complaints have reached my ear, I am naturally led to conclude that the nuisance is much abated. Proper surveillance, however, shall be exercised over this place, the spirit of this Board being, not to disturb wantonly any man in the exercise of his calling, but at the same time, they have a duty to perform towards the inhabitants, who have much suffered from these patent manure factories. The intense frost prevalent during part of last month (the thermometer having fallen, in the morning of the 19th December, at 11 A.M., in the Tunnel-yard, to 14° or 18° below the freezing point), would the good effect of suppressing foul effluvia. Four notices have been served, one on each of the owners respectively of the houses mentioned in the Agenda Paper.

The miserably scanty supply of water from the Southwark Water Company; and the time which elapses before water can be procured from them in cases of fire in Rotherhithe, have been frequently brought before the parish authorities. The latter circumstance, relating to accidental fires, I shall merely mention, as it is not immediately connected with my duties, and has been noticed in the local journal; but as an abundant supply of water conduces not only to the cleanliness and comfort, but also to the health of all classes, I shall never fail, while holding the responsible office of Medical Officer of Health, to bring it under your notice. In a letter addressed to me by Mr. Slipper on the 2nd current, that gentleman states that his tenants in Glebe-terrace; and also the inhabitants of Clare Hall Cottages, Jamaica-level, have been ten days without water supply.

The elapsed month, December, 1859, has been one of the most unhealthy of the year. The mortality has been augmented by the scarlet fever, which has steadily extended itself since the month of September. Thus, in October, three deaths were recorded as having been produced by that cause; in November, nine; and in December, fourteen—the focus of the complaint being Swan-lane and the adjacent streets. In the lower part of the parish, very few cases have hitherto appeared. The year 1859 was, upon the whole, a healthy one. Four hundred and eighty deaths were registered in Rotherhithe from January 1st to December 31st, 1859, which, taking the population at twenty-one thousand, would show a death-rate of about twenty-two in the thousand, or about the average mortality of this metropolis. During the same period, there were eight hundred and fifty-four births, showing an excess of three hundred and seventy-four births over the deaths.

Of the births, four hundred and twenty were males, and four hundred and thirty-four females. Of the deaths, two hundred and sixty-five were males, and two hundred and fifteen females.

Thus we see, that in Rotherhithe last year, fourteen more females were born than males, the contrary being the rate for the whole

population; but fifty more males died than females, which is according to the general law, the mortality being always greater among the stronger sex.

More males are born in the proportion of about five per cent nature seems, by this excess, to provide for the many dangerous and fatal contingencies that the male sex is exposed to.

The law is universal, more males than females being born in every nation, savage or civilised, and the excess is in the same proportion everywhere; but the greater mortality among the men causes that in every society the number of males and of females is nearly equal there being, however, a slight preponderance of the latter.

Yours respectfully,

W. MURDOCH.

January, 1860.

FORTY-NINTH REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

At a special meeting of this Vestry, held on the 22nd February 1859, the following resolution was made:—"That the Vestry join with St. Olave's District Board of Works and the Vestry of Bermondsey, in erecting an apparatus for testing the quality and quantity of gas supplied in this district, and that a sum not exceeding one hundred pounds be expended in carrying the same out."

In May, 1859, the gentlemen deputed by the Vestries of the three above-named localities met at the Board-room of the St. Olave's district, and formed themselves into a Committee. The intention of the St. Olave's District Board, with whom the idea of erecting a testing apparatus first originated, was to test the gas from the Surrey Consumers' Company *only*; and in that intention the members of the Committee from Rotherhithe entirely concurred, as the districts of St Olave's and the parish of Rotherhithe receive gas from no other company. The members of the joint Committee deputed from Bermondsey urged, however, that as that parish was supplied with gas from three different companies, it would be better to test the gas of each company, that the comparative merits of the gas supplied by each might be properly examined and appreciated.

In deference to the parish of Bermondsey, this proposal was acceded to by the Committee, who went at once to the place (Stable corner, Bermondsey) where the mains of the three companies converge, to choose a proper spot for the erection of the testing apparatus.

A house situated at the corner of Bermondsey Churchyard, and

occupied by the fire-escape keeper, was chosen by unanimous consent as the fittest place for the purpose. To obtain the use of that house, the Churchwardens of Bermondsey were first applied to, then the Vestry, then the Rector, and finally, it was found, that the right of granting it was vested in the Board of Governors and Directors. Application being made to them their answer was a refusal.

Six months were thus frittered away in useless efforts to procure a suitable place for carrying out the object of the joint Committee.

On the 30th January, 1860, a meeting of the members of that Committee took place, when the following motion was made and unanimously voted by the gentlemen from Rotherhithe and Saint Olave's, there being no member from Bermondsey present. "That all efforts having failed to meet the desire of the Parish of Bermondsey to provide a testing-house, to test the gas supplied by the various Companies, whose mains supply that Parish, the district of St. Olave, and the Parish of Rotherhithe, do unite and proceed to take measures for the erection of a place for testing the gas supplied by the Surrey Consumers' Company." Mr. Slee, clerk of the St. Olave District Board of Works, then mentioned that the vaults under the Vestry Hall of St. John's, would be a suitable place for gas-testing; those vaults were visited by all the members of the Committee present, and as they were found to be dry, dark, and not liable to vibration, it was resolved that application should be made to the upper quarters for the use of those vaults as a place for erecting a testing apparatus.

Now, the necessity for testing the gas, both chemically and as to its illuminating power, has become more necessary than ever from the nuisance to which the whole district burning the Surrey Consumers' Company's gas were subjected for some time.

The atmosphere of the home of every person who used that gas has become exceedingly offensive, from its having been sent out from the Company's works in an unpurified state, and I am only stating the truth when I say, that discontent has long prevailed throughout the district supplied by the Surrey Consumers' Company as to the quantity and quality of the article which they sell to the public.

A large accumulation of refuse from the purifiers of some gas works, has been unceremoniously landed and thrown into a heap at London Dock Wharf, exhaling a sulphury stench. The Inspector of Nuisances and myself, have visited the place, and proper measures are being adopted by the Officers of this Board for the suppression of the nuisance.

Heaps of rubbish and street-sweepings have been shot on the land adjoining Clarence-place. Such an accumulation is not only inconvenient to the inhabitants, whose passage to and from the main

streets is thus almost entirely blocked up, but also may, in warm weather, generate dangerous miasmata. A Committee of the Vestry who examined the spot, will, undoubtedly, report to the Board what they recommend to be done.

While passing along Rotherhithe-street, on Friday, 3rd current I was vociferously accosted by a person, who had suffered injury to his legs by the carelessness of the employés of Mr. Levy, Sack and Bag Merchant. A huge pair of scales was suspended by ropes from a piece of iron projecting from the upper part of the building. Several individuals of both sexes were employed in weighing large bundles of sacks. The edge of the scales projected at least a foot beyond the porch over the footway when the scales were at rest, but considerably more when they were loaded and swinging. That such a state of things is dangerous to the foot passengers is proved by the fact of the person who complained of having received an injury. I therefore thought it my duty to bring the circumstance before the Vestry.

Fifty-seven persons died last month in Rotherhithe, the deaths from scarlatina, which in December were fourteen, fell last month to five. Several cases of mild smallpox occurred in the Lower District but no death from that cause was registered.

Yours respectfully,
W. MURDOCH.

February, 1860.

FIFTIETH REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

A COMPLAINT having been made at the office, to the effect that the roasting of coffee and chicory, at Mr. Simpson's, grocer, 27, Rotherhithe-wall, is a nuisance. I proceeded thither on two occasions last month, to examine the premises and witness the whole process. The shop of Mr. Simpson is fifty feet in length, and extends from the north side of Rotherhithe-street to the river. At its further extremity, close to the Thames, a small compartment has been partitioned off, and in that compartment is fitted up the usual apparatus for roasting coffee and chicory, namely, an oven and a revolving hollow cylinder.

During the operation of roasting, which lasts from half to three quarters of an hour, the smell is rather pleasant than otherwise; the contents of the cylinder are then withdrawn from the fire, and if they be coffee, they are shaken about in a large sieve to cool, but if chicory, they are merely scattered on the floor. At the moment

drawal, and for some minutes after, a dense smoke arises, and a cloud of it *may*, when the wind blows from a northern point of the street, pass penetrate into the shop, but certainly never into the street, which is forty-five feet distant.

The process of roasting coffee and chicory has been performed by Simpson on his premises during the last ten years, and has never before been complained of. I consider the complaint frivolous. I have also visited several times the smokehouse at the fishmonger's, Rotherhithe-wall, and cannot see any reason for altering the opinion here expressed by me in my previous reports.

It is unpleasant to attribute bad motives to any person, but it is to be feared that complaints of the nature of those above-mentioned, do spring up from the bickerings of neighbours and personal animosities, and are quite unfit to take up the valuable time of the Vestry.

The privies at No. 1, Thetford-place, tenanted by Creamer, and of the Lower Neptune-street, standing next door to the above, have been built against the wall of No. 11, Thetford-place. These privies are in a very filthy state from want of proper drainage, and give a disgusting smell in the lower rooms at No. 11. Unless some measures be speedily taken for the abatement of the nuisance, the health of the inmates of No. 11 is likely to suffer.

At the Bell Tavern, from some imperfection in the drainage, gas penetrates into the cellar, and after stagnating there for a few days, becomes putrid and offensive. The neighbours complain of a stench which arises while it is pumped up and runs into the air in the back-yard. The same state of things existed once before, and was remedied by the Surveyor. It would be desirable that his attention be again called to it.

The summonses taken out by order of this Board were partly read before Mr. Secker, on Friday, the 17th of February. Both cases, however, were adjourned for three weeks.

During February, there died in Rotherhithe, forty-six persons. Among them, six from scarlatina, one from measles, and one from typhoid fever. There have been in the Parish several cases of mild smallpox, but no death has occurred from the malady.

Yours respectfully,

W. MURDOCH.

March, 1860.

FIFTY-FIRST REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

No nuisances in Rotherhithe have been more complained of than those existing under the Railway Arches, and none have received more attention from the Sanitary Officers. Notices have been served, summonses issued, and fines inflicted by the Magistrates, and nuisances for a time have appeared abated, always, however, to appear again; in a word, the results obtained have not been at all proportionate to the trouble taken. Nor will a total extinction of the nuisances ever be effected, unless the various Railway Companies cordially co-operate with the Parish authorities for their suppression, and let it be remarked, that it is the interest of the Companies, quite as much as that of the Parishioners, to do away with the evil, the greater part of the complainants about the stench at the Commercial Dock Station have not been inhabitants of this Parish, gentlemen in the habit of travelling to and fro on the different Railways, here united into one great trunk.

At the point where the Brighton Railway diverges from the other lines, a patent manure maker occupies ten arches of the former. The nuisance arising from his business are of two kinds. The first emanates from the mere accumulations of putrescent masses of animal matter, such as scutch, hair, fish, &c. The second proceeds from the process of mixing these divers ingredients and others, such as bones and coprolite, with sulphuric acid to make the manure. On the addition of the acid, a heavy, pungent, suffocative vapour is immediately given off, which may be smelt at a considerable distance from the place where the mixture is made. The occupier of the above-mentioned arches was summoned in April, 1859, and fined, he was again summoned last month, and the case having been heard on the 16th of March, the Magistrate gave him two days to abate the nuisance. I visited the arches on the 19th, at noon. The heaps of fish and scutch had been covered with sulphate of lime and animal charcoal, and the stench was somewhat mitigated. The mixing was then going on.

I re-visited the factory on the 26th March at seven in the morning. During the week, a rough apparatus had been erected, and the men were mixing on my arrival. The gases escaped freely from the sides of the apparatus, and the accumulations of putrefying animal matter smelt as foully as ever. I did not consider the nuisance abated.

On the premises of Messrs. Brown and Co., Globe-stairs, patent manure makers, mixing takes place in open vessels. On the 27th March, a filthy stench exhaled from this factory, pervaded Rotherhithe-street as far as Lavender-lane. A notice was served a few days after.

A summons against Messrs. Miller and Johnson has been again homed. At this factory a gas-scrubber has been constructed. How it will succeed in scrubbing the gases clean, is a question which no one can decide. Complaints are still occasionally made of miasms emanating from these premises. If the shaft were raised ten feet, it strikes me forcibly that the gases escaping from the scrubber would cease to be a nuisance to the neighbourhood. A large heap of gas refuse at Lavender Dock Wharf, has been entirely removed.

On my passage down Berkley-street, a few days ago, my attention was directed to the dirty state of the street generally, to pools of stagnant water covered with green slime, scattered here and there, and a large heap of dust and house refuse at the end of the street, which may become a nuisance during the summer months.

The united Gas Enquiry Committees of St. Olave's and Rotherhithe met at the St. Olave's Board on the 12th ultimo, when the clerk reported that the Churchwardens of St. John's Parish, consented to a vault under the Vestry Hall for the purpose required. It was thereupon ordered that Mr. Hughes be requested to direct the fitting of the gas-testing apparatus therein, and when complete, that a meeting of the Committee be convened.

A letter from the Surrey Consumers' Gas Company, dated the 14th February last, offering the use of a room and apparatus for the testing of gas, in the south-eastern Arcade, at convenient times, was received by the Committee having, previously to the date of that letter, made their own arrangements, the offer was declined.

The works in the vault under St. John's Vestry Hall are now being fitted up, and will be shortly completed.

The mortality in Rotherhithe, in common with many other metropolitan parishes, was large last month, sixty-one deaths having been registered, of which four were from smallpox. I examined a number of the three dwellings where these four deaths occurred. The first house, No. 1, Debenham's-row, where two children died, is a filthy place. The receptacles for water were shattered and filthy, the water-closet full to the brim, and the place had no drainage whatever, so that, in wet weather, the yard is literally a swamp. It was tenanted by an Irish family, consisting of a labourer, his wife, and four surviving children. All the latter, besides the two deceased, had been affected with the small pox, and one child at the breast was still suffering therefrom at the time of my visit.

Now, want of drainage, dirty water, accumulation of soil, and the absence of all the comforts and conveniences of life, will not engender smallpox, which is the result of specific contagion or infection; there can be no doubt, that in this, as in all other zymotic and epidemic diseases, the worst cases are found in such abodes of

wretchedness as the one which I have described, where all the circumstances by their debilitating effect on the body, tend to render the inmates ready recipients, and often victims of any malady that may have a chance to prevail.

Yours respectfully,

W. MURDOCH.

April, 1860.