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**An historical account of sub-ways in the british metropolis, for the flow
of pure water and gas into the hoses of the inhabitants...**

Williams, John

London, 1828

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Severe winter.

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The second meeting of the Committee was held on January 6th, 1823—

Present—Messrs. Harrison, Reveley, Hill, and Williams.

The Annual Report of the Corporation of the City of London was read.

Mr. Williams was requested to obtain the amount of the expenditure of the London Bridge and New River Water Companies, and the City of London and Corporation Gas Companies; as well as an abstract of their expences, on the average of the seven years, for laying down and taking up Pipes; and the Parliamentary Reports containing the whole, from the London Institution.

Adjourned to the 27th instant.

On the 24th of January, 1823, a paragraph appeared in the Morning Chronicle, under the following head of

SEVERE WINTERS.

We understand that, among the advantages held out to be derived by the construction of public Sub-ways in the Metropolis, it is intended to give a constant supply of water to the inhabitants during the hardest frost, without plugs in the streets; and to remove the heaviest fall of snow, by thawing it as fast as it is received into the Sub-ways.

*Letter from the COMMITTEE, to the DIRECTORS OF THE
NEW RIVER COMPANY, dated February 3d, 1823.*

Gentlemen,

At a public meeting held at the City of London Tavern on the 4th of December last, for the purpose of establishing a City of London Sub-way Company, it was referred to us, as a Committee, to enquire, among other things, into the probable amount of income to be derived from the proposed undertaking.

As one of the sources will be the money paid by your Company, for laying down and taking up pipes, and the expences you have incurred thereon per annum, during the last seven years, within the City of London only; we very respectfully solicit the favour of your order to obtain an extract from your books for this purpose. In soliciting this information for a public undertaking of great magnitude, connecting itself very materially with your valuable works, we are not acting from any sinister motives, or idle curiosity, but for the public welfare: we shall therefore be most happy to explain any point you may wish us to elucidate, by a personal interview, or otherwise, in a most frank and honourable manner; and should it even be your wish that the information should, in the first instance, be of a confidential nature, it is fully our intention in that case not to disclose

any facts you may be kind enough to communicate, without your especial authority, or until required to do so in the Committee of the House of Commons, upon an application in the approaching Session for an Act of Incorporation.

We are, Gentlemen, with great respect,

Your obedient Servants,

Committee Room, 78, Cornhill,

February 3, 1823.

Letter to each Member of the Committee.

Dear Sir,

The above is the draft of a letter for your correction, previous to our next meeting. I have the pleasure to inform you that Mr. Harrison and myself have obtained some important information on the subject of income from the Parliamentary Reports; and we think our next meeting should be postponed until Monday, the 3d of February, 1823, at eleven precisely.

Yours,

JOHN WILLIAMS.

Jan. 21st, 1823.

The third meeting of the Committee of Subways was held the 3d of February, 1823—

Present—Mr. Harrison and Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams was requested to obtain the Chamberlain's Report for the last seven years,

from an Alderman, or one of the Members of the Common Council; and also the "Report of the Select Committee, on the supply of Water to the Metropolis," ordered to be printed by the House of Commons, 18th May, 1821—No. 537, Vol. 5.

Letters to the Directors of the Water and Gas Companies were determined upon; and, if approved by the Committee, ordered to be signed by them, and sent immediately.

Mr. Williams was requested to enquire about the Society of Civil Engineers; their place for meeting being in Buckingham Street, Strand.

At a meeting of the Committee held the 17th of February, 1823—

Present—Messrs. Harrison, Smith, Reveley, Hudson, and Williams.

The following letter was approved of, and signed by the Committee.

Letter from the COMMITTEE, to the Directors of the NEW RIVER COMPANY, dated February 17th, 1823.

Gentlemen,

The Committee, appointed at a public meeting held at the City of London Tavern, on the 4th of December last, for the purpose of establishing a City of London Sub-way Company, having proposed to recommend a Petition to Parliament for a Bill to form Sub-ways from Aldgate

to Temple Bar, beg to point out the many advantages accruing to your Company, by placing your pipes therein, *viz.*

The immediate access to them without opening the ground—the power of protecting their external decay, by covering them with tar or other materials—the convenience of stopping the joints whenever leakage occurs—and their removal or exchange when necessary—together with other economical arrangements the Sub-ways will afford, embracing the facility for a complete supply of cocks and plugs every ten years, and entire new iron pipes in forty-five years: for the necessity of which, see the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, on the supply of Water to the Metropolis, ordered to be printed the 28th of June, 1821.

Such being the advantages, considering you to be greatly interested in its success, the Committee have been induced to apply to your Company, to ascertain the rent you would be willing to pay for this convenience; which will prevent the removal of the pavements and carriage paths for any of your works in future.

We are, Gentlemen, with great respect,

Your obedient Servants,

J. R. HARRISON.

R. W. REVELEY.

L. SMITH.

Committee Room, Cornhill,

Feb. 17th, 1823.

Mr. Harrison and Mr. Williams reported that they had obtained the brief statement of the City Cash by the Chamberlain of London, containing the receipts and expenditure for opening and repairing the streets of the City of London; from which they had extracted as much as referred to the probable income, for the Sub-way Company: and also that they had obtained the Reports presented to Parliament from the Water Companies in 1821, containing their expences for the same purposes.

IN PARLIAMENT, *Session 1823—Feb. 25th.*

Mr. Peter Moore, the Member for Coventry, having moved for a Committee of the House of Commons, to enquire into the powers vested in, and exercised by, the Commissioners of Sewers in the Metropolis, &c., the following Gentlemen were appointed.

Lord Duncannon.	J. H. Calcraft, Esq.
Sir Francis Burdett,	Edward Ellice, Esq.
Sir James Graham.	Thomas Wilson, Esq.
Sir Robert Wilson.	Samuel Barrett, Esq.
Alderman Wood.	James Brogden, Esq.
W. Smith, Esq.	D. Ricardo, Esq.
T. B. Lennard, Esq.	W. Astell, Esq.
Honourable C. Hutchinson.	John Smith, Esq.
P. Grenfell, Esq.	John Fane, Esq.
W. Dickinson, Esq.	S. Marjoribanks, Esq.
J. C. Hobhouse. Esq.	R. Bernal, Esq.