

nopoly, which would enable it to oppress the community, the Gas Company has always to sustain a sharp competition with the various other modes of furnishing light, and can only hope to retain its present customers, or procure new ones, by supplying a safer, better or cheaper article. Nor can the company expect to collect any disputed account, without being subjected, as they have heretofore been, to the necessity of proving by disinterested testimony, before a competent tribunal, not merely the accuracy of the mode of measurement, but the correctness also of the particular meter, from which the account in question may have been formed.

The avowed object of the few, who desire the appointment of an inspector, is, to reduce the cost of gas, by diminishing the standard of measure. I have shown that the profits are small, smaller it is believed than other manufacturers would think sufficient. The attempt to reduce the cost of gas to the consumers, by the reduction of these slender profits, may therefore fairly be deemed unreasonable. Nor could the attempt succeed, for any diminution of the standard of measure would necessarily occasion a corresponding augmentation of price, and the public and the Gas Light Company would thus be saddled with the expense and trouble of an inspection, without producing any benefit whatsoever to either party.

For these and other reasons which might be adduced, it has not been thought expedient to establish an inspection of gas meters in any city in Europe or America, although in some of those cities a much larger quantity of gas is used than is consumed in this city. Nor is the omission to establish an Inspection attributable to a want of attention to the matter. The subject has been maturely considered, and the proposition to establish such an office deliberately rejected. Such I trust will be the result in this case, and the Gas Company, which was the first to introduce into this country the benefits of gas lights, and has never received, nor expected any thing more than a very moderate compensation for the capital invested and the risk incurred, will not be unnecessarily burthened by the creation of a useless office.

Very respectfully, yours,

JAMES MOWTON,
Secretary Gas Light Co. Baltimore.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS GALLAGHER, *Chairman.*