

SUPPLEMENT.

through the wide districts to be served, being to be incurred in addition to the great expenditure necessary for the formation of the culverts to intercept the drainage, and the compensation to millers for the diversion of the feeders, on which they must at least partially rely, and to other parties, whose grounds the culverts must traverse.

12. This outlay, as regards the districts south of the Thames alone, would certainly not fall short of, it would probably exceed, the £500,000 or £600,000 already expended by the three South Metropolitan Water Companies; and the result would be, only, to bring to these districts an inferior supply of water; the Thames water, when filtered, being, as well by reports of the most eminent chemists, as by common experience, ascertained to be softer and fitter for domestic use than the water of the Wandle.

13. But the entire waste of the capital expended would be but the commencement of the evil created by the execution of the proposed scheme. The competition recently terminated would be renewed with augmented fierceness, as added capital would have to find remuneration from the same amount of tenants. The existing Companies would, it might be thought, derive some advantage in the struggle from the superior fitness for domestic purposes of Thames water over the Wandle water; but experience has shown and especially in poor districts, such as the greater portion of the metropolis south of the Thames, that cheapness is the great element of successful warfare; and the old Companies, equally with the new Company, would be driven to compete with each other down to the point of general ruin. This struggle would last probably for some years,—attended, of course, by all its usual concomitants, treble and quadruple sets of mains and pipes in every street, treble and quadruple officers and servants, treble and quadruple parish rates, and thousands annually spent in plumbers' bills and paving.

14. The conflict would of course also have its usual termination. The Companies would either agree to divide the whole district among them, or they would agree to a scale of rates. But there would then be an additional half million on which interest must be paid, and an additional establishment to be supported,—burthens which an augmentation of from 50 to 100 per cent. of the present rates would scarcely suffice to support. That such would be the inevitable result of the establishment of the proposed Company, the Directors are quite sure that the Commissioners are prepared, from the information already in their possession, confidently to anticipate.

15. The Directors will conclude the observations, with which they have ventured to trouble the Commissioners by calling their attention to one consideration, which seems to them of no trifling importance with reference to the question to which the foregoing statement relates. It is highly probable, certain perhaps, that the result of the inquiries of the Commissioners will be a general conviction that more extended supplies of water than are at present distributed in great towns, are imperatively required for many purposes of public health, safety, and convenience. It is further probable, the Directors presume, that whatever might be the theoretical advantages of such a plan, neither the Legislature nor the public would be at once prepared to commit to the charge of the Executive Government the whole machinery of supply. It remains only that the existing establishments should continue to be the agents for the distribution of water, subject to such control as the Legislature may think fit to impose, intrusted with the various duties naturally connected with the supply of water, and remunerated to such extent and by such process as to Parliament may seem reasonable. The Directors are quite satisfied that in all the measures for an extended supply of water which might be thought desirable for the public welfare, the existing Companies would be found willing coadjutors, but they cannot perceive how the Water Companies are to be made efficient instruments in any such system unless the services of each Company be restricted to a given district. They do not see how an effectual responsibility for the discharge of the contemplated duties can be created when two, three, or more Companies are simultaneously serving in the same districts, nor how the remuneration for what may probably be in many cases a large preliminary outlay, can be secured to the Company by which it will have been incurred.

Signed by order of the Board of
Southwark Water Company.

JAMES ROSSITER, *Secretary.*

Signed by order of the Board of
Vauxhall Water Company.

WM. BUTTERWORTH, *Secretary.*

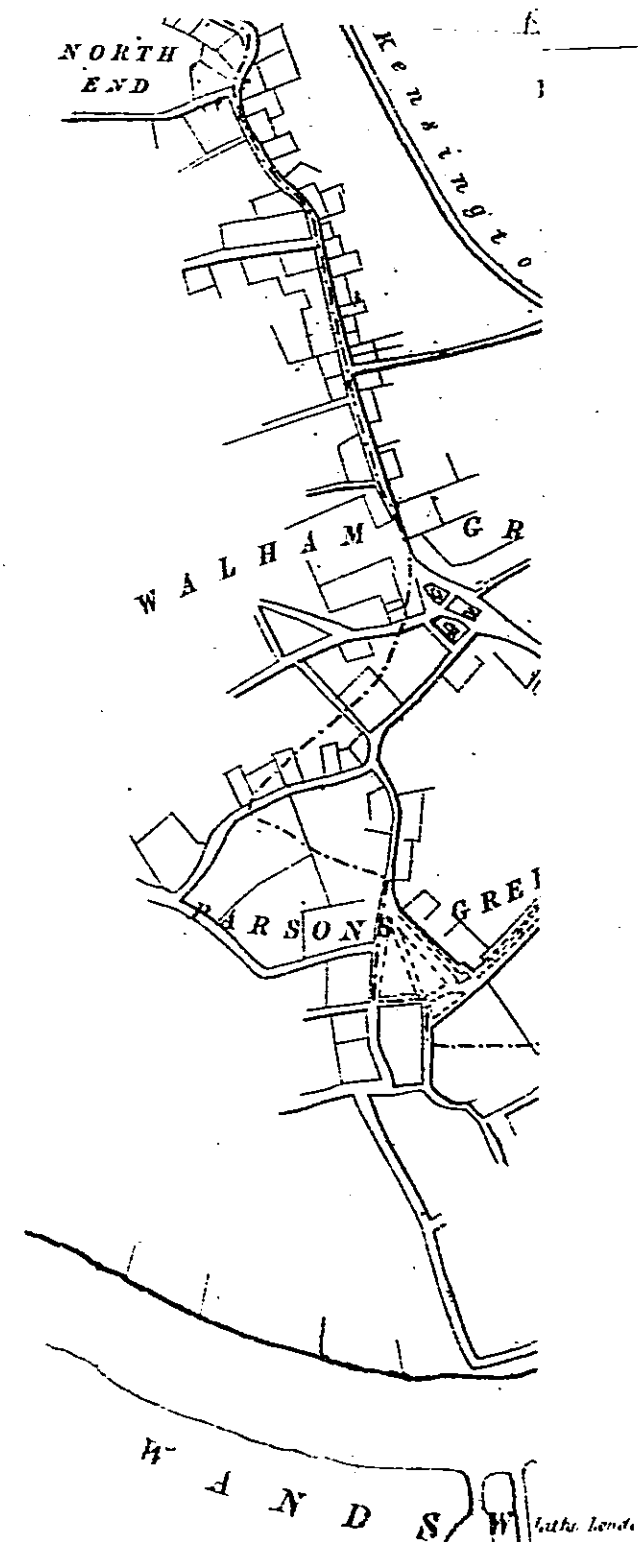
10 Jan. 1845.

REFERENCES.

North of the Thames;

GREEN WESTMINSTER & PART of MIDDLESEX.

RED THE REGENT'S PARK. The narrow line shows the *Sewers* passing through parts of the District under the Jurisdiction of the Westminster Commission.



REFERENCES.

North of the Thames.

GREEN WESTMINSTER & PART OF MIDDLESEX.

RED THE REGENT'S PARK. *The narrow line shows the Sewers passing through parts of the District under the Jurisdiction of the Westminster Commission.*

YELLOW HOLBORN & FINSBURY.

PINK THE CITY OF LONDON.

BLUE TOWER HAMLETS.

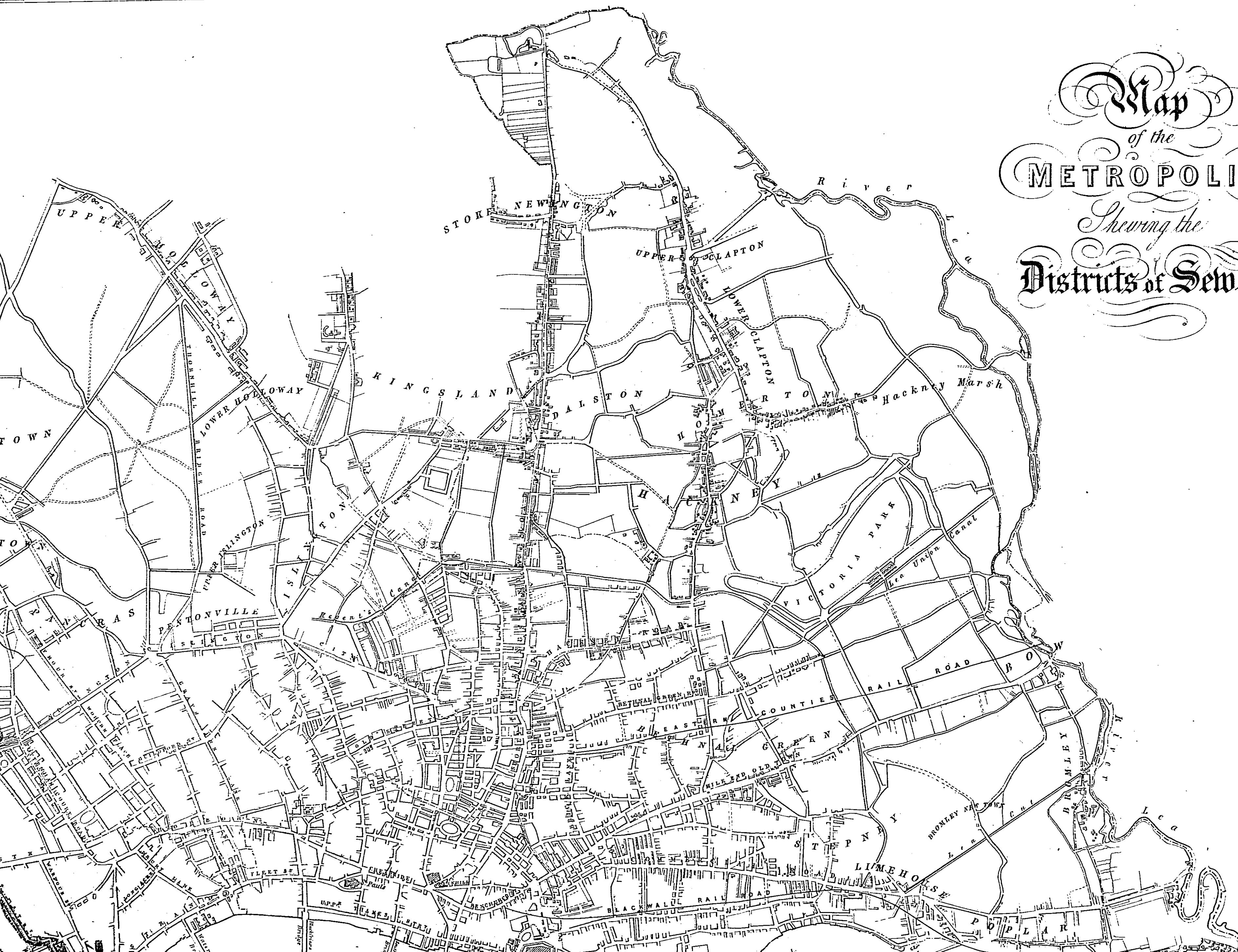
WHITE POPLAR MARSH OR BLACKWELL.

South of the Thames.

PURPLE SURREY & KENT.



Map
of the
METROPOLIS
Showing the
Districts of Sewers.







REFERENCES.

North of the Thames.

GREEN — CHELSEA COMPANY source of supply at C near THE RED HOUSE
 YELLOW — WEST MIDDLESEX CO. — HAMMERSMITH
 PURPLE — GRAND JUNCTION CO. — KEW BRIDGE
 BLUE — HAMPSTEAD COMPT. — SPRINGS ON THE HILL
 PINK — NEW RIVER COMPT. — RIVERS AMWELL & LEA
 BROWN — EAST LONDON COMPT. — RIVER LEA

South of the Thames.

BLUE — SOUTHWARK COMPT. — BATTERSEA
 YELLOW — LAMBETH COMPANY — (PEDLARS ACRE NEAR WATERLOO BRIDGE)
 PINK — VAUXHALL COMPANY — VAUXHALL BRIDGE

Note. Where the Blue & Pink are intermingled the pipes of the Southwark & Vauxhall Companies are in competition. Where the Pink & Yellow are intermingled the pipes of the Vauxhall & Lambeth Companies are in competition. In some parts, as in the New Kent Road, Dover Road, Newington Causeway, Kennington Road, Gravel Lane, and other places, the three Companies are in competition.





