

### TO BEGIN THE CLEANING.

There is a promise that an earnest effort is to be inaugurated to-day to thoroughly clean the city. It is to be hoped that the authorities have not underestimated the task that is before them, and that the results which have been foretold will not fail for the want of money or by reason of the inattention or inefficiency of the officers to whose hands the work is to be entrusted. It cannot be too thoroughly impressed upon the minds of all who undertake the exposure of accumulations of filth that the safety of the entire city from a possible epidemic rests upon the intelligent and vigorous discharge of their duty. It is unnecessary to talk of the effect that a clean city will have on the minds of the great number of visitors the city will have during the coming spring and summer. That is a material benefit, to be sure, but it is nothing as compared with the lives of the people and the certain prostration of all business that must result from a filth-bred epidemic.

The refusal or neglect of property owners or tenants to remove accumulations of pestilential garbage should be promptly dealt with until people who thus show that they too lightly regard the welfare of their neighbors are awakened to a proper sense of their responsibility as citizens. To do this it is not necessary to oppress any, but all should be dealt with in firmness, regardless of temporizing excuses.

The JOURNAL has seen no occasion to advertise the city as an unprecedented example of filth, but for months it has persisted in the demand that vigorous sanitary measures should be adopted against the coming of spring. From every source where information on the subject could be obtained evidences have come that the country is threatened with an invasion of Asiatic cholera. How serious the spread of the disease may become, once it has passed quarantine on the coast, cannot be foreseen, but results rest almost wholly with the people. There is not a city of any importance in the land that is not giving more or less attention to the important subject. This can be made the cleanest of all cities of its size if the proper degree of vigilance is exercised, and the spirit with which the first work is undertaken gives promise that the responsibility for a failure to make it such will not rest upon the executive authorities.