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[PAYABLE IN ADVANCE]

BY W. A. LEE AND HUGH WILSON.

ABBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 22, 1859.

VOLUME VI.—NO. 51.

FOR THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.] Impromptu Lines.

BY WILLIE LIGHTHEART.

Without thee, the sunlight never
Seems so beautifully bright,
Without thee, the breath of flower
Yieldeth little of delight;
Without thee, there cometh ever,
Clouds upon the azure sky,
Without thee, the world is nothing
But a scene of misery!

Severed from thyself a moment,
Nondaily blackens into night—
Moonless night, without a glimmer
From the rolling orbs of light;
Heart within my bosom moaneth,
Like a dove whose mate is gone;
Like a mother, from whose bosom
Death has watched the petted one.

Ah! while sitting here so lonely,
In my cozy little room,
Yearning thoughts come ever welling
From the heart so full of gloom!
Music cannot yield me pleasure,
Poetry cannot avail;
Every effort to forget thee
Doth continually fail!

Five long hours without thee, Mary,
Seems to me as many years—
Tears made up of sad complainings,
Languishing sighs and bitter tears,
Ah! 'tis fearful thus to love thee,
Thus to life alone in thee;
And to feel that thou hast power
Thus to shape my destiny!

Oh! to sit beside thee always,
Always press thy dainty hand,
And to have thee guide me ever
To the far off "happy land,"—
Were a blessing, sweeter, purer
Than the gold of earth can give;
For 'twere better to die with thee
Than without thy love to live!

Charleston, S. C.

FOR THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.] INCIDENTS OF THE MEXICAN CAMPAIGN, BY A MEMBER OF THE PALMETTO REGIMENT.

The Camp at Puebla.

Very soon after our arrival at Puebla, sickness mostly diarrhoea prevailed to an alarming extent in our army, and on the 30th of May 2215 men were reported sick in the hospitals. The diarrhoea was confined principally to the volunteer Regiments. In our Regiment alone a hundred men died here of that disease. The malady in its primary stage presented the following symptoms: a dry scanty appearance of the skin followed by a simple discharge from the bowels, which was sometimes attended with light fevers. The treatment pursued by our physicians was low diet, broken doses of Dover's Powders and opium. Their prescriptions failed to produce a proper reaction in the system and a majority of their patients after weeks and even months of intense suffering were carried off by dysentery in its most aggravated form.

Very few of our Regiment escaped this distressing sickness in its first stages. It was produced solely by the dryness of the atmosphere and a consequent want of regularity in the secretions. Natives of Southern climates are more subject to it, or even those whose habits of body induce them to more copious perspiration. In this dry atmosphere neither men nor animals perspire freely, and it is a well known fact that a smaller amount of food is consumed by all classes of animals. Animal matter does not putrify here if exposed to a current of air, and a carcass suspended in a cool draft, will cure like an Egyptian mummy. Our physicians were kind to the sick, they had good quarters, clean and comfortable beds and all the tentatives of nursing. Still they died; and if all the inhabitants of our Southern States, had been here under the same medical treatment, they would have died in the same proportion. And whoever goes there now and neglects to wear warm clothing and use a stimulating diet will die likewise. Our poor patients had the most inordinate thirst for water, no quantity of which could for a moment allay their desire for it. It acted as an emetic in most cases still they were allowed free access to it.

Some of our men, who were sick in our quarters with this disease, were cured by the most simple remedies suggested by experience and the advice of the natives, some of whom were kind enough to explain to us the nature and origin of our sickness. The writer of this narrative was attacked with it as bad as any one, and in the meantime was cured by a small dose of oil followed up by pepper tea. The natives eat a large quantity of red pepper or chile as it is called, served up in their daily food. The climate absolutely requires it and nature suggests it. Our men were amused at the Mexicans, because of their fondness for the article. And happily would it have been for our men generally had our medical professional aids laid aside their books and sought the advice of the peasant poor, or else paid more attention to the rules and maxims relating to this singular climate. I have stated my earnest convictions about the matter as substantiated by incontrovertible facts, and experience in my own camp. My heart yearned over our poor sufferers, and I longed to relieve them but my situation compelled me to silence.

Every day and almost hourly, the low mournful and solemn notes of the muffled drum, announced the departure of another one of my companions in arms. I could view with partial indifference a comrade who had fallen upon a glorious and triumphant field. But to stand a silent and mournful spectator over those who had been stricken down as it were by an unseen hand, brought with it reflections of a most sorrowful nature. Our officers visited the hospital daily and none of them oftener than our Colonel. Colonel Butler did all that lay in his power to contribute to the comforts and pleasures of the

sick. Those who seemed convalescent, were by his order allowed to visit a beautiful public garden in the environs of the city.

Our time for the first few weeks passed away gloomy and unheeded. We occupied as quarters the old convent of St. Maria. It was a very remarkable building; old and gloomy, the greater part of it had fallen into ruins. Still there was space sufficient to contain all of Gen. Worth's army, besides some forty monks and friars whom we sometimes termed our boarders. The front of the building was a large Cathedral all enclosed by massive walls and iron gates. There were great passages intersecting spacious areas and lofty domes, where on men often met to frolic and dance with violin accompaniment. "Old Boots" as the boys called Col. Butler, rebelled the sport, but our Monastic friends said it was sacrilegious and as well as disgraceful to their home. The passages, chapels and large rooms were adorned with magnificent paintings in oil, representing Bible scenes, and some of them covered upwards of a hundred feet of canvas. They too bore the marks of age and out of five or six hundred of them, few seemed interesting to me.

We remained in quarters here nearly three months. It was a long period for volunteers to be shut up in garrison. Some of our fellows relished the open air much better, and all would have preferred more active campaigning, but Gen. Scott was deficient in the means of prosecuting the war more vigorously. By and by troops began to arrive almost daily, which had the effect of diffusing more life and activity in all departments, and better than all they lightened us of our military and guard duties which were very severe. When at leisure we strolled out to meet them, and their travel worn appearance and dusty visages enlisted our sympathies. The companies of our Regiment heretofore had worn as many different colored uniforms, the donation of patriotic citizens from the vicinity where the companies were organized. That of the light had volunteers of grey cloth, strong and durable. They were made by Mr. Antwerp, merchant tailor of Columbia, S. C., and I will state for the credit of that gentleman, that in some cases those uniforms out lasted the Mexican War, and far more, I never knew an instance where the materials had parted company except from unavoidable accident. About this time Col. Butler and the rest of our officers presented blue uniforms for the Regiment similar to that worn by the troops of the line; with the exception of a beautiful Palmetto tree, conspicuous on the front of our caps, we were indistinguishable from others in the regular army.

The first arrival of troops after our occupation of Puebla was the splendid division of Gen. Twiggs, justly styled "The Cerro Gordo Division." The mounted riflemen seemed greatly attached to him. At first sight I would have thought the reverse from his gruff appearance, but behind a rough exterior he hides an open heart. This Regiment has never been mounted since the landing at Vera Cruz, though the wore the uniforms and equipments they had previously, and were dismounted by the loss of their steeds on board the transports. The whole of this war the American army was deficient in cavalry, while the enemy boasted of overwhelming numbers of this powerful arm of the service. On the 5th of June, Gen. Scott arrived in Puebla escorted by four companies of Dragoons. Soon afterwards he caused the records of the prisons of Puebla to be examined into, and many unfortunate beings who were immolated in their gloomy recesses without any specific charges prepared against them were set at liberty. Some of them had not seen the light of day for many years. Not a few had been incarcerated for religious and political offences, and a larger number for no offence at all. The prisoners were of both sexes, when the interpreter informed them of the humanity of the American general, they gave vent to their joy and gratitude in copious tears.

REMARKS OF HON. M. L. BONHAM.

On Monday last quite a number of our most intelligent citizens were in attendance at this place notwithstanding the heavy rains of the night previous and the swollen condition of the creeks and branches. At the hour of 12 M. it was announced that our immediate Congressman, General Bonham, was ready to address his constituents on the political matters of the day; and in a short time the Court House was thronged. General Bonham said that he found pleasure in being able thus early to comply with a call that had been made upon him to address the people. He responded readily and cheerfully. The events of the past Session of Congress were of great moment to the country, and he deeply regretted that the indications were of that inauspicious character which prevented his replying with hopefulness to the inquiry addressed to him as one of their sentinels—"Watchman, what of the night?" He could not say, with the sentry on his lonely round, "All's well!" Duty compelled him to declare that it was not a time of security with us, but that, to the reverse, the rights and interests of the South have never been in more peril or in greater danger. Nine years ago Mr. Calhoun predicted with his accustomed forecast, that if this slavery agitation were not arrested in its mad progress, it would end in a dissolution of the Union. Were he now alive, he would find but too much cause to realize the force of his prediction,—to be convinced, in fact, that the events he foresaw in the distance were almost immediately at hand.

There were many matters of interest before Congress at its recent Session, but that which towered in magnitude above the rest was still this ceaseless question of slavery. References to the later debates of the Session will indicate with sufficient clearness

what we are to expect in this connection from the Federal Congress.

General Bonham then reviewed the progress of the anti-slavery agitation and its repeated encroachments upon the South. He spoke of the legislation of Congress begun as far back as 1784; of the famous ordinance of 1787, by which Slave States ceded to the anti-slavery demand extensive and invaluable territory; of the compromise of 1820 and its adverse effects upon the power and well-being of the Slave States; of the California swindle, by which territory purchased largely by Southern treasure and Southern blood was yielded to the craving appetite of a rapacious anti-slavery majority. It had been said that, to compensate for these frauds, a repeal of the odious Missouri Compromise had been effected. But what will be the value of that repeal, if the dangerous positions of Senator Douglas are to exercise a controlling influence in the direction of affairs? It will prove to be but a phantom to allay Southern indignation; and instead of resulting in her benefit, its advantages will rather accrue to the North, opening to her citizens yet more available means of occupying even the Southern territories and of banishing slavery from her borders.

The speaker next proceeded to combat the dangerous views of the Illinois Senator. The mischief began with a real or affected misunderstanding of the Kansas Nebraska Act.

By the non-intervention of Congress, no more nor less was ever meant than that Congress should not legislate slavery into or out of a Territory. Abolitionists said Congress had that right. Both wings of the Democratic party denied this. The Southern wing maintained that the question of slavery or no slavery, is to be decided by the Convention called (whenever the number of the inhabitants justified it) to form the Constitution of the new State, preparatory to admission into the Confederacy of States, and not before. Squatter Sovereignty, whilst it admits the right of the slaveholder to go with his slaves into the Territories, says that the power to determine whether slavery shall or shall not exist in the Territories, is in the Territorial Legislature; and if the Legislature, as has been done in Kansas, say slavery shall not exist in the Territory, although it admits the action of that Legislature must be subordinate to the Constitution and the Supreme Court, still it further says, Congress can not interfere to enforce the rights of the slave holder in the Territory. If this doctrine be true, it is as bad as the Wilcox Provision, and renders the repeal of the Missouri Compromise a dead letter. It is the filiest mockery to tell the slaveholder, you have as much right to take your slaves into the Territories, as the northern man his horse, but if the Territorial Legislature, backed by a handful of Squatters, say slavery shall not exist, that there is no remedy.

Wherever there is a right, there is a remedy. The Kansas Territorial Legislature has undertaken to prohibit slavery. This sets at naught the Constitution and the decision of the supreme Court of the United States, and whenever a case arises of a slave holder being deprived of the enjoyment of his property by such Legislation, it will be the duty of Congress to pass such laws as will carry into effect the true intent and meaning of the Constitution. Any other doctrine will prove destructive of the rights of the Southern people in the common Territories. The creature can not be greater than the creator. Congress has no right to legislate slavery into or out of a Territory. Can its mere creatures do it? But Congress has passed a fugitive slave law, to carry out the provisions of the Constitution even in Sovereign States. How much more then is it competent for Congress—ay, its duty, to pass necessary laws to protect the rights of the citizen in the Territories when the mere creatures of Congress not only refuse that protection, but legislate adversely.

No other view than this was entertained anywhere, or at least not declared, until Mr. Douglas, finding it necessary to secure his seat in the United States Senate, promulgated his erroneous views of Squatter Sovereignty,—views at once antagonistic to the Kansas Nebraska Act and at variance with the Democratic platform announced by the Cincinnati Convention, which Mr. Douglas is understood to have cordially approved. But he has gone against us, as the declarations of his Freeport speech unmistakably prove. His new-fledged principle is dangerous to our republican system, and especially detrimental to the interests of the Southern people. It prepares in our territories an inviting resort for the flocks of emigrants daily arriving at Northern ports, and for the surplus population of the Northern States, many of them drawn from the vilest purities of their cities. In its operation, it presents the startling spectacle of a few thousand such settlers gifted with the extraordinary power of excluding eight millions of freemen from the common property of the people of these States. In

the late Congressional debate, Senators, Mason, Davis, Brown, and others, met this view of the Illinois Senator with the declaration that his doctrine is not, was not, and cannot be the doctrine of the South. But for this dangerous development by one who has occupied so prominent a position in the democratic ranks, there was ground for hope that our territorial organizations might have proceeded peacefully in the future; but now that Kansas has undertaken to abolish slavery in her borders, now that this doctrine of squatter sovereignty is being embraced openly by the North, and at least by the Douglas faction of the democracy, the question is upon us and we are obliged to meet it.

The speaker then followed Mr. Calhoun in tracing the gradual severance that had been long going on between the North and the South, the rending asunder of the links of the churches standing prominent in this manifestation. He would follow up that train of thought. The political parties of the country are also going by the board. The Whig party is already gone; and the Democratic party, he feared, was also about to lose the prestige of its greatness and success. No man had more to do with bringing this about than Senator Douglas, by his combination with the Black Republicans against the Lecompton Constitution. If he was then suspected of unsoundness, what can we say of him now, that he has palpably gone over to the enemy.

General Bonham then proceeded to touch briefly upon the tariff, declaring his belief that we would bespeditly called on to look this question in the face. He entered into a critical analysis of the present tariff, showing its unequal bearing on the South. He feared no division on this point in South Carolina. Even in 1833, when differences existed among us as to the mode of redress, her people were in hostility to the protective system. To this day, their hostility is the same as when it was first fully embodied by the matchless eloquence of our own Mr. Duffie. Happy for us, that it is so; for that battle is again to be fought. During the past winter, we of the South had cause to realize the coming of the storm. Upon the very first day of the session, a Democrat succeeded in suspending the rules of the House, and presented a resolution to revive this abomination. The object had in view was sufficiently clear; indeed it was not sought to be disguised. The aim and purpose was protection, by increasing the duties on articles at present taxed, without reference to any abridgment of the present free list, as was hinted. By great exertion the measure was smothered for the session; but it will in all probability come upon us next winter. With the falling off of the Democracy, to be expected in Pennsylvania and elsewhere upon this subject, we cannot well hope to avert the measure longer. It will be forced upon us, if we are prepared to submit.

The speaker next alluded to the Homestead Bill, spoke of it as a pet scheme of the abolitionists, well calculated to assist the emigration societies of the North in filling up the territories with free votes. With the allotment of a homestead in the distance, free of cost, the operations of these societies would be increased tenfold. Bring them, in successful play, the infamous doctrine of squatter sovereignty; and we of the South, and ours, are forever excluded from all participation in the benefits of the public domain. In this connection he would tender a deserved tribute to the manliness and virtue of President Buchanan, who had boldly vetoed this insidious bill. The present administration, he thought, had come into power under rather unfavorable auspices; and up to the time of Walker's dismissal from Kansas, it could not be said that the President was altogether acceptable to the South. Some of his principles were not so new. His recommendation of specific duties in lieu of *ad valorem*, stood prominent among these. (Here our representative drew a lucid distinction between these kinds of duties.) His Pacific Railroad project and his suggestion of a Mexican Protectorate were likewise objectionable. But Mr. Buchanan has yet stood the friend of the South on many questions, and he deserves the gratitude of our people. His veto of the Homestead Bill, his ardent support of the Lecompton Constitution and his present unflinching advocacy of the restrictive clause of the English Bill, form a part of his course which calls for our unstinted approval. He (General B.) whilst ever opposing the administration where he thought its policy incompatible with the interests of his section, had ever given it his most cordial support when right.

In regard to the Public Expenditures, there was ample cause for dissatisfaction in knowing that sixty millions of dollars were now called for to defray the expenses of administering the government, whereas thirty millions were sufficient for that purpose only sixteen years ago. This rapid increase is a mistake in our report. It was the Agricultural College Bill which the President vetoed.

increase of expenditures could be rationally accounted for, in part, by the necessities of our growing country. The increase still was enormous, and presented a fit subject of reform. The Democracy was not altogether responsible for this state of things. The Republicans must bear their share of the blame. The form had already commenced the work of re-attachment.

"Thus," said the speaker, "have I briefly adverted to some of the dangers that beset our pathway in this Government. You will now naturally ask me,—what is the remedy? The question is one of momentous interest, and neither to be asked nor answered lightly. In replying to it, I can only speak for myself; and I utter what I would say if my voice were potent in the South. Since the time when you honored me with a seat in the State Convention of 1852, I have ever been a secessionist, and a separate secessionist; but the events of that period showed too clearly that no Southern State is likely to make a great movement, like this, alone. My suggestion is, that the South stand up as one man in defence of her rights in the Union, having for her first great object the control of the Democratic party. But if that party shall refuse to stand with us, then will it become necessary that we take our own position as a nation. If our whole people, Democrats, Whigs and Know-Nothings, will lay aside their differences and unite for this work; if we shall resolve together to avoid all distracting issues new or old; we can then make the Democratic party of the country feel that we intend to have our rights in the Union or out of it;—and then there may be hope. But, failing in this, what should we do? Stand still and have the chains of slaves forged upon us! Every true Southern heart will answer, "never." Some movement must then be begun, if not by all, by some portion of the slave States at every hazard. We have the example of the *Old Thirteen* to cheer us, in the history of their movement towards the war of the Revolution. That movement was not a simultaneous one; and so may ours not be. Like them, some two or more of the slave States may be compelled to take the lead; and like them, all the rest will follow and consummate the great achievement. But in the initiation of such a movement, there are two or three steps it will be right in us to take. First, let us drop the existing Compact. Secondly, let us form a new Compact with new guards for our safety and equality in the Union. If this be not accepted, then what is left us but to fling to the breeze the banner of a Southern Republic!"

The speaker here closed amid the applause of his gratified auditory. We regret that, owing to his indisposition, we have been dependent for our report upon a few meagre notes taken during the delivery of the speech. We have nevertheless endeavored, as far as we have reported, to adhere to the substance of what was spoken, and spoken so forcibly and eloquently.

Hidden Things.

What a glad world this looks like, as one drives or rides along the valleys and over the hills! I have often thought so when in foreign countries, where the fields and woods have looked to me like our English Loushires—the rich land tilled with just as much care, the green meadows, I have come on something by the roadside which has reminded me that I am not in Loushires; an image of a great agony—the agony of the Cross. It has stood perhaps by the clustering apple blossoms, or in the broad sunshine by the cornfield, or at a turning by the wood where a clear brook was gurgling below; and surely, if there came a traveller to this world who knew nothing of the story of man's life upon it, this image of agony would seem to him strangely out of place in the midst of this joyous nature. He would not know that hidden behind the apple blossoms, or under the shrouding boughs of the wood, there might be a human heart beating heavily with anguish; perhaps a young blooming girl, not knowing where to turn for refuge from swift-advancing shame; understanding no more of this life of ours than a foolish lamb wandering farther and farther in the nightfall on the lonely heath; yet tasting the bitterness of life's bitterness. Such things are sometimes hidden among the sunny field and behind the blossoming orchards; and the sound of the gurgling brook, if you came close to one spot behind a small bush, would be mingled for your ear with a despairing human sigh. No wonder man's religion has such sorrows in it; no wonder he needs a Suffering God.

LEGAL TENDER.

The law regulating the payment of debts with coin provides that the following be legal tender.

1. All gold coins at their respective values for debts of any amount.
2. The half-dollar, quarter-dollar, dime and half dime, for their respective values for debts of any amount under five dollars.
3. Three-cent pieces for debts of any amount under thirty cents.
4. By the laws passed at the last session of Congress, we may add one-cent pieces for any amount under ten cents.

By the law of Congress passed some four or five years ago, gold was made the legal tender for large amounts. Those who, to get rid of large quantities of cents and small coin, sometimes pay their bills with it to the annoyance of the creditor, will perceive that there is a stop put to that antic, by the law

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the President and Directors of the Greenville and Columbia R. R. Co., to the Stockholders.

The President and Directors submit the following Report, embracing the operations of the Company for the year 1858, and the condition thereof on the 1st January of the present year:

The reports of the General Superintendent, Auditor and Treasurer, and Master of Machinery, are full and particular as to the business in their different departments.

The Talula Statements of J. P. Southern exhibit the fiscal affairs.

Table No. 1 is an exhibit of the Capital Stock and liabilities, and the property and assets. From this it will be seen that the capital stock and assessment amounts to,	\$1,429,007 92
Bonds issued,	1,145,000 00
Other liquidated Debts,	214,002 58
Surplus Income,	131,544 14

Amounting in the whole to \$2,919,554 62. This sum is balanced by the Road, its equipment and assets. This falls short of the true value of the Road, or wealth of the Company. It is believed that the Road could not now be built and furnished as it is for less than four millions of dollars. There have been added to the cost of the Road, during the year, \$99,892 77. The entire cost of the Road and its outfit, including all that has been added for its reconstruction, amounts to \$4,769,930 33, or \$16,827 per mile. Under all the circumstances, we think that you must be satisfied that it has not cost too much money.

Table No. 2 is a statement of the annual receipts and disbursements of the Treasurer, whose accounts are well kept, being both neat and accurate.

Table No. 3 is an exhibit of the expenses of working the Road.

The expenses as shown by it amount to,	\$215,320 94
The expenses of the previous year were,	210,405 14

Excess of expenses of the last over the previous year, \$4,915 80. In this amount of expenses is included the sum of \$6,900 37, which was paid for cotton burnt on the joint platform in Columbia in 1855. If this sum is deducted from the expenses, which should be done, as it forms no part of the expenses of the year, will be less than for the previous year, by \$2,074 57.

Table No. 4 is an exhibit of the business done amounting to,

To which may be added amount received from minor sources,	\$340,150 46
	1,040 10
	\$341,190 56
The business of the previous year amounted to,	294,627 71

Showing an increase of, 46,562 85. To which add expenses diminished, 2,074 57.

And we have a business of, \$48,637 42 better than that for the previous year.

When we consider that this increase of business has been done at less expense than heretofore, we are led to believe that as soon as the Road shall have been built, that a much larger business may be done without increasing the expenses. When it was said in the last Annual Report that the falling off in the business of that year was believed to be caused by the withholding by the planters of the crop of cotton of 1857, and that it might be expected that it would be brought forward in the year 1858, and that \$13,000 would be made up, it was not expected that the business would increase to the handsome sum of forty-six thousand dollars. This increase, under the circumstances, is encouraging, and leads us to hope that you may yet realize a profit from your investment.

Table No. 5 is an exhibit of the business at the different stations. The debt of the company is not yet all funded, a small amount still remains as a floating debt. The Bonds ordered to be issued, if sold at a fair price, are sufficient to cover the debt, so that in the judgment of the Board it would be unwise and unnecessary to make a further issue of Bonds. We are also of opinion that, if from any casualty or press of circumstances it should become necessary to issue an additional amount of Bonds, good faith requires that the Bonds already ordered to be issued should have a preference and prior lien upon the Road to any subsequently to be issued, except it be to discharge those already having a lien.

It is also the deliberate judgment of the Board that, as soon as the first Bonds fall due, the mortgage, which is the only lien upon the Road, should be discharged by the payment of the debt secured by it, and that then all the Bond creditors should be equally secured in their debt. In order to meet objections to the Bonds which had gone effect upon them in reducing the price, we felt it to be our duty, in the form of resolutions, to publish our opinions as expressed above, which we trust will meet your approval.

It is with pleasure that we can say that throughout the pressure in money matters, the credit of the Company has remained good, and that it is now fair. In maintaining this sound state of credit we have been greatly indebted to John S. Kyan, of the city of Charleston, whom we selected as our broker. We have upon all occasions, when we needed aid, found him willing, active and efficient.

From the report of E. F. Raworth, General Superintendent, it will be seen that the work of construction and repairs has been carried on without relaxation. All the works of construction that were commenced at the time of the last Report, except the Broad River Bridge, have been finished. This Bridge will be finished in the month of May next. The work of filling trestles at Rocky River, Bush River, and at Robertson's

Brauch, is now under contract, and will be completed in the course of the present year. When these fills are made, we will have but a few more long trestles to fill. The trestles at Frost's Mill, Long Cane, and Grims Creek, should be filled as soon as possible. All who have the interests of the Company at heart, or who are concerned in working the Road, will rejoice when these works are done. We will then have a Road that will compare favorably with any Road in the country. In the way of repairs, a large amount of work has been done. Nearly 100,000 cross-ties and stringers have been used at a cost of \$25,378 60. In the course of two years, nearly eighty miles of the Road have been re-laid with timber. The payment for maintenance of ways were \$4,277 15 less the last than the previous year. The Road is in good repair. We take pleasure in bearing testimony to the statement of the General Superintendent, that the Road is in better condition than it has ever been heretofore.

The report of J. B. Brown, Master of Machinery, gives an account of the Machinery and the working of the engines. The business of the shops at Helena is well regulated, and the motive power and cars in good condition. The shops are kept up at heavy expense, but they are necessary. We have endeavored to keep the expenses within proper bounds, and in proportion to the work done.

The officers and men in the employment of the Company are skillful and prompt in the discharge of duty. They are all commended to your favorable consideration.

All of which is respectfully submitted, By order of the Board, THOMAS C. PERLIN, President.

30th March, 1859.

From the Life Beckford.

A Real Magician.

Mr. Beckford, of Fonthill, once related that in Paris he casually fell in with a real magician, or, at least, a very old man, with whose appearance and manner he became much struck. The man appeared a mysterious character, and advanced in years. They used to talk together upon the subjects of magic and incantations, until the stranger, seeing the interest Mr. Beckford took in such topics, in which he himself seemed to take no less, he told him: that if he would call upon him, he would exhibit to him one of the most extraordinary things his imagination could conceive. The address gave was in an obscure part of Paris. Curiosity and fancy for such things overpowered every other consideration, though the man was only a chance acquaintance. Mr. Beckford determined to go, and went accordingly. The approach to the dwelling indicated was through an old timber-yard, which appeared to have remained long in the same state, the timber in many instances appearing to have lain long enough to fall into a state of decay. Passing through the yard, the visitor entered a sort of hall, of considerable size, in which he met the owner, who had to sustain the character, and support his avowments, of being a believer and an adept in magic. He had dressed himself in a mode to sustain, in some degree, that character. The apartment had tapestry hangings, and many ornaments, in good taste were dispersed about. A flight of steps at the top of the room or hall, led into a garden at the back of the house, and at the top of the stairs stood a large marble vase, almost as large as the Warwick vase, filled with the purest water. Some unimportant conversation ensued, when the Frenchman bade his visitor look into the vase, and say if he saw anything whatever but pure water. He replied that he could see nothing else. The man then uttered some mysterious or cabalistic words, and all at once the vase appeared to be filled with an innumerable quantity of living creatures of the most extraordinary shapes and forms, as odd as those small, strange insects, discoverable in impure liquids. The apartment, too, seemed filled with various living and strange forms. He became all at once in a state of surprise and astonishment, from which, when he recovered and looked around, he could see nothing more of what had just attracted his wonder, and even the man himself had withdrawn. He never met the magician again, which might easily have been the result of accident, considering the convulsed state of Paris; but he always thought the trick, however performed, was one of the most mysterious and unaccountable that he had ever met with. He had no doubt of its being a trick; but it was admirably played off, and for what object but to startle him, and remove his incredulity on similar subjects, he could not conjecture. He paid nothing for the exhibition.

For the other half of a courting match, there is nothing like an interesting widow. There's as much difference between courting a damsel and an attractive widow, as there is between exploring in addition and the double rule of three. Courting a girl is like eating fruit,—all very nice so far as it extends, but doing the amiable to a blue-eyed beavered one in black crape, comes under the head of preserve—rich, pungent, syrup. For delicious courting, we repeat, give us a live "widder."

"Mary my love," said a not-very-attentive husband to his wife, at the dinner table, "shall I help you to a piece of the heart?" "Believe," said she, "that a piece of the heart was all that I ever got." There was a commotion among the dishes.

Fellow citizens, said a candidate for Congress, recently, somewhere out West, "I know low citizens; you are all well aware I never went to school in my life, but three times and that was to a night school. Two nights the teacher didn't come, and the other night I hadn't any candle."

Susan was desirous of purchasing a watch. The maker showed her, among others, a beautiful one, remarking that it went thirty-six hours. "In one day?" asked Susan.