

Plank Roads.

The following letter from Mr. Winslow, of Fayetteville, to a committee of the citizens of Columbia, is worthy of perusal of our citizens, if from no other consideration, than that it will show how our neighbors are going ahead:

From the State Rights Republican.

FAYETTEVILLE, March 3, 1852.

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 27th ult., came to hand and I shall proceed to make such replies to your questions as I can, remarking that if anything I may do or say will aid in the beginning and prosecution of a system of plank roads in any section of the country, I shall be repaid for any labor I may have taken. They form exactly the mode of internal communication adapted to the wants of our part of the country, better calculated to be useful, more certainly profitable, than lines of railroad, except, it may be, on the main routes for the mail and travel. Railroads may be the back bones, plank roads the ligaments and ribs of any State system of communication.

Plank roads are the roads for the planters and farmers, because simple in their mode of construction, cheap, in our wooden country, and, if the routes are judiciously selected, and the lines well built, certainly profitable, and as far as my observation and experience go, very popular. The wonder to me has been, that, being in the habit of making roads by laying pine poles, no one had thought of trying planking a road, and that we introduced the system years ago. We are far behind, in our part of the world, in the race of internal improvement, and I fear we shall never overtake our new sisters of the confederacy.

I shall now proceed to answer the questions referred to.
The proposed length of the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road, for the present, is one hundred and twenty miles to Salem. Its terminus is on the Virginia line.

Ninety miles are completed and under toll. The means are ready to build thirty miles more, and the work is going on as rapidly as possible.

The first plank was laid November 1849, and the eighty-eight miles was put under toll about three or four weeks since.

The progress in building will depend on the facilities with which you obtain plank, mainly—127,000 feet of plank, and 30,000 of stringers being required for each mile, besides timber for culverts and bridges. We had to resort to the use of steam saw mills, without which, after the first twelve miles, we could not have built the road. Then the progress of construction will depend on the face of the country over which your line passes, and the force you employ. Lately, on an inspection of the work on our road, fourteen hands, over a good line, well cleared and ready, laid, in a day, 175 yards of plank—600 to 800 ft. being a very good day's work in long days.

The lumber on our road, for the eighty-eight miles, cost about six dollars per thousand feet. On forty-four miles, the cost of clearing, grubbing, grading, laying plank, putting in small bridges and culverts and finishing, was four hundred and twenty-five dollars per mile. On seven miles, now under contract, this work is done for four hundred and thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents per mile. On another road running out of this place eleven miles, the above work has been taken at \$440 per mile. Much, you may remark, will depend on the character of the country. From three hundred to four hundred dollars may be said to be a fair average cost per mile for the above work.

Plank, eight feet long, three inches thick, and not less than eight inches wide. See Specifications.

Stringers—for this see Specifications.

We have a single track, and as yet have not found a double track necessary.

Our road, when one hundred and twenty miles are completed, all charges, engineering, salaries, contingent expenses, toll houses, &c., &c., as far as I can now judge, will be about eighteen hundred and fifty dollars per mile.

We have eight toll houses in the eighty miles, which cost, with two to four acres of land to each, about three hundred to three hundred and twenty-five dollars on an average.

The amount of grading done on our road is perhaps less than some persons think ought to have been done. We set out to build the road with a grade of not more than one foot rise in twenty four feet horizontal, except a certain part when the exception was made, to one foot in sixteen.

The grade of one in twenty-four, it may be, has not been strictly observed. The road is such an one as that two horses will do the work of four easily, and is an excellent road; parts of it cannot be surpassed by any plank road in the country.

The amount of grading, therefore, will depend on the elevation and depression in the line, streams to cross and the grade you adopt.

Except the first twelve miles, the road has been built by contract. I have thought that if the Company did the work under the inspection of their own officers, the road would be better built, and cheaper. I differ with many in this opinion. I think the engineer of this Company agrees with mine.

This road will undoubtedly pay. What, I cannot say. I think eight to ten per cent., and lay up a fund to rebuild in ten years. Be this as it may, the improvement and rise in the land on the line of the first forty-two miles of road would more than pay the cost of the road.

The road has been, and is now steadily gaining on the public mind, and is vastly popular; more so than any work of improvement I have ever known. As an instance of this, we have four roads now building out of this place beside our road.

You have a copy of specifications, such as form a part of our contracts, and may be of use to you.

We always desire to give the preference to stockholders in making contracts, at the same price.

Our pitch pine plank and good oak, will, I think, last ten or twelve years. You can judge of these

matters better than I can. I see, in two year wear of some plank, very little indication of such damage.

You will pardon these crude remarks, thrown together under the pressure of matters of business on my attention, and make what use you please of them, with the promise, that if I can be of any service to you, it will afford me pleasure.

Very respectfully,
EDWARD LEE WINSLOW.

Cotton—How the Market is Controlled.

A late number of the New York National Democrat, contains an article upon the Cotton trade, setting forth views which strike us as sensible and true. The writer is evidently well acquainted with the whole machinery of the trade and we will endeavor to state his positions. The system of "advances on crops," so common, in nearly a similar form, in this country, in the means by which, in the end, British capitalists are enabled to wield the influence which elevates or depresses the price of the staple. The agents of English bankers make "advances" on bills of lading for cotton sent to their houses in Liverpool to be sold there on account of the American shippers; that these advances seldom exceed seventy-five per cent. of the American price, and that the sums to make those advances of British capital, but upon bills of exchange so drawn that the cotton will have reached Liverpool, and may be sold there before the bills mature, so that he funds to make the payment on these bills of exchange are derived from the sale of American cotton, instead of being advanced by the British bankers.

The writer has compiled a table from statistics of the cotton trade, giving the amount sold in the Liverpool market to the trade; the amount sold for exportation, and the average price during each quarter. It will be seen that instead of retaining the cotton crop here to be sold to the trade, at American prices, we send to Liverpool that which is consumed on the continent as well as that which is consumed in England, and giving us the use of British capital, these British bankers compel us to advance our capital, and to run all the risk of the British market. And what is most extraordinary, is that they have so arranged the machinery of commerce, that we are not only compelled to lend them our capital on their bills of exchange, by the use of which they send our cotton to their market, but they obtain an exclusive control over our cotton in that market, so as to enable them to regulate the price; and the table shows that they have so used that control that the price almost invariably rises at a lower rate during the months of April, May and June—the time at which the greater part of the bills of exchange fall due.

Let the planter examine these facts. Does he believe that the price of cotton would rule so low, or fluctuate so much, if it were sold in New York, Charleston, or Savannah, or Mobile, or New Orleans, instead of Liverpool? And does he not see that the British Bankers, by an adroit use of British credit, obtain the use of our capital to place in Liverpool the cotton consumed in England? And does he not see that this use of British credit gives large profits to the British Banker, at the expense of the Boston manufacturer as well as the cost of the Southern producer?

Who, that has noted the effect on our currency does not know that, it is the policy of these British Bankers so to regulate exchange, that they always make a profit by drawing upon London, and does the planter not know that the British Banker is directly interested in reducing the price of cotton in the British markets? When the price is low, it gives greater profit to the manufacturer and greater activity to British commerce, and enhances the value of British credit, by enabling these Bankers to sell their exchange at higher rate.

But why should we send our cotton to Liverpool in search of a market, and place it there under the hammer of a British auctioneer, subject to the control of British Bankers, when we know that if we would retain it in our own market the manufacturer would be compelled to come here and buy at American prices? Why should we pay toll at Liverpool in the shape of profits on exchange and commissions, and sundry other charges, for the cotton consumed on the continent of Europe? Why do we permit the British Banker by the use of his credit, to control our capital and regulate the price of our cotton? Upon what does the credit of these British Bankers rest, that they are enabled to lend it to us at such usurious rates of interest? It is made up chiefly of expenditures made by European nations in wars, and in the support of armies and navies, and privileged persons, which have accumulated in the shape of a funded debt, enables the holders of that debt to tax the European nations to pay the interest, which interest is a dead weight upon the productive industry of their laboring population.

The funded debt of nine of the principal European powers in 1842 (Belgium Denmark, Holland, France, Portugal, Prussia, Spain and Great Britain,) was \$5,950,070,450. By computing the interest it will be seen that the annual accruing interest is more than two hundred and twenty millions of dollars—the greater part of this is payable in London; and it will be seen that as the interest due by the continental powers must be remitted semi-annually to London, the control of that fund enables these bankers to regulate the continental exchanges, as to render money of greater value in London than elsewhere—and every one who has noted the operations of the Bank of England, knows that that Bank acts as the great regulator, compelling the precious metals to move to London, or permitting it to flow out as it may be for their interest.

These are startling facts and deserve the profoundest investigation. It is the part of wisdom to provide a remedy.—Nashville American.

The Pennsylvania Democratic Convention have adopted a resolution in favor of Buchanan for the Presidency. The Cass men subsequently refused to participate in the selection of Delegates to the National Convention.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.—A homestead exemption bill has passed both branches of the Tennessee legislature. It requires the person intending to take the benefit of it to file his intentions before the issuance of execution.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL.

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 12, 1852.

THO. J. WARREN, Editor.

Our Market.

The Cotton market since our last has been brisk, at a slight decline from last week's prices, extremes ranging from 6 to 7 3/4. Charleston quotations, 6 3/4 to 8 1/2.

Mr. Dempster

Has arrived, and will not fail, we are sure, to delight our citizens this evening, with his Ballad Entertainment at Temperance Hall.

Acknowledgment.

Hon. J. A. WOODWARD and Hon. J. L. ORR, will accept our thanks for their recent favors.

Concealed Weapons.

The inhuman practice of the present day—that of carrying concealed weapons—by which human life is endangered, and often sacrificed, should meet with the prompt and universal condemnation of every good citizen and friend of human kind.

This practice habitually indulged, shows, not only cowardice in the one who practices it, but a diabolical and depraved heart; such a character as would not hesitate whenever a pretext should offer, to commit any act of violence, against the laws and peace of society. Such a man should be shunned, loathed, abhorred. This practice is more in keeping with the customs which marked the dark and middle ages, than the boasted advancement and civilization of the nineteenth century. Not only should there be law against the carrying concealed weapons, but the penalty should be severe and all violations enforced.

Time and again has this disgraceful practice been presented as an outrage against society, by the Grand Inquests of the country—but what has been done to arrest the evil? Nothing! The first offender has yet to be punished, for his sin against the peace and dignity of the State in this regard. It would be far better, that men who go armed, should not conceal their weapons; an open honest foe may sometimes be admired for his daring, but concealed villainy is worthy only the level of the crawling worm.

Where is the necessity for this practice? Does an honest man fear man? He should fear only that Being who has power to destroy this, and the life that is to come. There is not the first shadow of a reasonable excuse to justify this unholy practice; on the contrary, there is every thing to condemn it, in law human and divine. Human life is too lightly esteemed. By this barbarous custom it is jeopardized, and often sacrificed, when the cause given was not sufficient to justify the act—from some slight misunderstanding, or trivial circumstance, frequently, men lose that which no power on earth can restore.

At this day the sacrifice of human life is immense, and the cause may be distinctly traced to the brutal and degrading custom of carrying concealed weapons, on any and every occasion.

The force of circumstances, it is argued, may compel a man sometimes to use this means of self-protection, against the lawless aggressor, who has sworn vengeance against him. There is a safer and better method than placing one's self upon the same degraded level; let the strong arm of law intervene. We can never justify this practice. Let a man come out honestly and show his weapons, if he must carry them—let it be known!

The Grand Jury of Richland District have recently presented this matter, in addition to other matters of importance. They say: "We also present the detestable practice, which we are sorry to learn prevails to a disgraceful extent even in our old and respectable State—we mean the carrying, concealed about the person, deadly weapons, which so often lead to shocking acts of savage brutality, as are daily stated in our newspapers and courts of justice; and which has induced the belief abroad that American's have become regardless of murder and homicide. Some severe remedy should be applied."

Charleston Harbor.

The Washington correspondent of the Courier says: "The Committee on Commerce yesterday agreed unanimously to the appropriation of fifty thousand dollars for the deepening of the channel of the Charleston Harbor. There is no doubt that it will pass, and provision has already been made for a survey of the channel in reference to the work. This will be the first appropriation by the government of money for the purpose of improving harbors or navigation in your State, and it is attained through the attention and influence of your respected representative, Ex Gov. AIKEN."

The Presidential Game.

We are indebted to our valuable exchange, the Charleston Courier, for the following items of news derived from their correspondent at Washington:

The Presidential controversy goes on briskly among the Democratic members—the speeches in the House for some days relating partly to that subject.

Some weeks ago, Mr. Cabell, of Florida, made a speech in vindication of Mr. Fillmore's position, and urging his claims for re-election. In the course of his remarks he stated that Gen. William O. Butler would be the man candidate of the Democratic party, and that the Democrats could not unite upon a candidate who was avowedly in favor of the compromise, while the Whigs would. This speech was considered as the first gun of the campaign. Soon after we heard that Gen. Butler had written a letter declaring his views in favor of the compromise measures, and that it was to be laid before Congress as a manifesto of his position. On Thursday, Mr. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, an able young Democratic member, brought this letter to the notice of the House, and vindicated Gen. Butler from Mr. Cabell's remarks.

He also commented on an article in the Democratic Review, a work, which as he showed, had passed into the hands of the friends of Senator Douglas, and was devoted to his interest. He showed that this review was directed by a certain clique, which had undertaken to represent Mr. Douglas as the candidate of the young democracy of the Union, and to disparage all other candidates as old fogies. The review is especially severe on Gen. Butler, but it sets aside Gen. Cass, Mr. Buchanan, and every other candidate of tried statesmanship and of long experience in public affairs. Mr. Breckenridge took the part of the old democratic leaders in opposition to Mr. Douglas and his clique.—But his friends replied that he was not at all answerable for the doctrines of the Review, and had no connection with those who controlled it.

Yesterday, Mr. Campbell of Ohio, and others, brought into their speeches on the land subject many views haviug reference to the presidential election. Thus the

presidential question will be the one most considered by members of Congress, and it will mix itself with every question that can come up.

Mr. Buchanan has, as was expected, received the nomination of the Democratic Convention of his State. The vote was finally unanimous.

The demand of the French, relative to the removal of the monuments from the Plains of Waterloo, had caused a general excitement in Belgium, and new recruits were being rapidly collected for the army.

A friend informs the editor of the Fayetteville, N. C. Observer that he was shown, a week or two ago, a poorly executed counterfeit \$5 note on the Bank of South Carolina, which had been passed by a man who said his name was Wood, and that he resided in Sumter District, S. C. The names of the President and Cashier were engraved, and badly executed. The same man had offered South Carolina notes to a number of other persons in Richmond county.

Charleston.

The Mercury of Tuesday says:—Among the arrivals at the Charleston Hotel we notice the names of Professor Bache, Superintendent of the Coast Survey, Lieut. C. H. Davis, U. S. N. and Lieut. M. F. Maury, Superintendent of the Washington Observatory.

We also notice the return to our city of the Chevalier Hulsemann, the Austrian Charge d'Affaires from a brief tour in Florida.

THE MAINE LAW DEFEATED IN NEW JERSEY.—A long debate on a law similar to the Maine Liquor Law was concluded in the New Jersey House of Representatives on Wednesday. Finally the question was put, and the bill was defeated—yeas 13, nays 46.

FORREST AND WILLIS.—The suit of Willis vs. Forrest, for assault and battery has terminated by the jury awarding Willis \$2,500.

From the South Carolinian.

Mr. Rhett.

A number of the papers, whilst denouncing the gross personal assault of Clemens on Mr. Rhett, and regretting the occurrence altogether, commend the course of the latter. The Washington Republic stands alone thus far in assailing the purity of Mr. Rhett's motives. The Philadelphia Bulletin has the following paragraph in relation to the matter:

"Mr. Rhett's Course.—It must gratify every friend of good morals and true honor, to see that a Senator in Congress had the courage to refrain from the silly practice of duelling, when a fair opening for it was made on Saturday. Hon. R. Barnwell Rhett, of South Carolina, is the gentleman who has earned this honorable distinction, and not all the taunts of his antagonist, Mr. Clemens, could induce him to resort to the powder and ball style of 'satisfaction.' We trust this example, coming from a Southerner, may have its proper influence, and help to convince the world that there is more manliness, courage, and honor, in refraining from a duel than in engaging in one."

The Washington correspondent of the Richmond Examiner says:

"Mr. Rhett stands vindicated before the country. A man who refuses to resort to arms from conscientious motives is always respectable—provided he has not placed himself previously in an insulting and bullying attitude. I do not think that Mr. Rhett has ever done so. He is long passed the meridian of life; he is a man of dignified and refined manners, a scholar, and a christian gentleman. He has had a difficult position to maintain here, and he has done it with talent, courage, and propriety."

Even the New York Tribune has more decency than has the pious organ at Washington. The Tribune says:

"The Senate at Washington saw, on Sunday, the conclusion, as we trust, of the affair between Messrs. Clemens and Rhett. Clemens finished his speech, and Rhett replied. In decency of demeanor and gentlemanly language the latter had decidedly the advantage, as, indeed, he has had throughout the controversy. He stated that he should not challenge Mr. Clemens, for the reason that his religious convictions are opposed to fighting duels. He has long been a member of a church, and, as such, fears to offend God more than to incur the disapprobation of man. Mr. Clemens admitted the validity of this excuse, and said that had he known Mr. Rhett was a church-member, he would not have used such provoking language towards him. The Senate Chamber was crowded with curious spectators, who evidently had counted on a very different conclusion to the dispute."

THE FIRE ON SUNDAY MORNING.—When we penned the account published in yesterday's Courier, of the fire that occurred in the cellar under Mr. Abbot's paint and oil store, early on Sunday morning, we were fully impressed with the idea that it had originated from spontaneous combustion, and accordingly stated that it was supposed that such had been the cause of it. Yesterday, however, we made a most careful examination of the premises, and the result of our investigations is that we have been compelled to come to the conclusion, that the fire was the act of an incendiary. A number of boxes were piled up to within about two feet from the ceiling of the cellar, which is of wood, and within a foot of which is a cistern containing some four hundred gallons of linseed oil, and in close proximity to some eight barrels of camphene. Fire had been lighted in the top box, which was burnt through, and some of the others were also ignited. The flames likewise extended upwards to the ceiling which was much charred, and in the store immediately over the spot where they had taken effect were two large tanks containing Alcohol and burning fluid. The plan was certainly well arranged as every precaution had been taken by the perpetrator of the deed to prevent any evidence of his attempt being discovered, for had not Mr. Cheney and several of his boarders, so opportunely arrived and quenched the flames before they had penetrated the ceiling, not only would no traces of the incendiary design have been left, but the whole of that locality would doubtless have been the scene of a conflagration—the very idea of which is frightful to contemplate.—Chas. Courier.

We learn that on sentence day of our Court, which was Saturday last, that fourteen persons were sent to jail, for terms of from one day to five months. In one case, the party was convicted 18 years ago, and his sentence sealed and

deposited with the Clerk, where it remained unopened up to this term of the Court, the party never appearing before to receive his sentence. Many of the convictions were for petty assaults and batteries, which should never cumber the terms of the Court.—Cherau Gazette.

Correspondence of the Charleston Courier.

BALTIMORE, March 6.

Our citizens were appalled this morning by the announcement of the perpetration of one of the most heinous and bloody outrages ever committed in this city,—all resulting from the excessive use of intoxicating liquor.

At about five o'clock this morning, the watchmen sounded an alarm of fire, which was found to proceed from a two-story brick house in Maiden-Lane, occupied by James White, a boot maker. The whole of the upper part of the house was in flames when the firemen reached the scene of the conflagration, and the lowest part of the house being fastened, no doubt was entertained that the inmates had all perished. The greatest exertions were consequently made to extinguish the flames, and in a few minutes an entrance was cleared to the chamber in the second story, where the bodies of White, his daughter, about 15 years of age, and his little boy about 3 years of age, were found scorched and blackened by the flames, the two latter on the bed, saturated with blood, and the father lying on the floor, with his throat cut from ear to ear, and a shoemaker's knife grasped in his hand and a pistol by his side. On examining the bodies of the children, that of the daughter was found to have the throat cut, and the skull fractured by a heavy blow on the back of the head, whilst there was a bullet hole in the temple of the child, and its throat was likewise cut.

An inquest was held by Coroner Essender, and the testimony adduced, rendered it certain that the father had murdered his children in their sleep and cut his own throat, previously setting fire to the house. The daughter had evidently struggled with her father for her life, but all to no avail.

The bodies were removed to an adjoining shed, and laid side by side, presenting a most shocking spectacle. The flames instead of concealing, had only rendered more hideous the murderer's ghastly work—the gashes in the throats of the children, with their brains protruding from the orifices in their skulls. The father's corpse appeared more badly burnt than the others, and disclosed on the neck a gaping wound that nearly severed the head from the shoulders.

It appears that the wife and mother was compelled, about a week since, on account of the continued ill treatment from her husband, and the fact that she was daily expecting her confinement, to leave the house and take up her residence with her grandmother in another section of the city, where she now lies not expected to live. She also took with her the little boy, leaving the daughter with the father to keep house for him. Yesterday afternoon, however, he visited his wife, being at the time perfectly sober, and on leaving prevailed on her to allow him to take his child home with him, promising to take good care of it. He reached home with the child early in the evening, and after taking supper went out, leaving it in charge of his sister. Nothing further was heard of him or the children until about 4 o'clock this morning, when he was heard by the neighbors knocking at the door, and showing all the evidences of the most brutal intoxication. The daughter finally awakens opened the door, and let him in. The usual noises were heard in the house, as when he came home in this condition, and about an hour afterwards the neighbors were aroused by the alarm of fire which subsequently disclosed the foregoing frightful facts.

The murdered daughter was named Elizabeth Jane, and was in her fifteenth year,—a bright, intelligent beautiful and promising child, greatly beloved by all who knew her, and a general favorite in the neighborhood. Amid the crowd which had gathered around the bodies was an old lady who resided in an adjoining house, and as she viewed the remains of the daughter, exclaimed,— "Poor, poor LIZZIE!—she was so good and kind, and so much beloved by us all—her life was one of suffering and sorrow—always endeavoring to conceal and hide from the world the conduct of a drunken and worthless father, who has returned her love and devotion by destroying her in her youth and innocence!"—tears now choked the poor woman's utterance, and she turned away with lamentations of sorrow which drew a sympathetic tear from the eyes of all present.

White, when under the effect of liquor, has always been regarded as a most dangerous man, and from the fact that he was fond of his children there is no doubt that he was laboring under an attack of *monia potu* at the time of enacting this bloody tragedy.

EUROPEAN WAR PREPARATIONS.—Items of intelligence from various parts of Europe, brought by the last steamers, make mention of warlike preparations of the different Powers. In the annexed summary the reader has a bird's-eye view of them:

Advices from Lisbon of the 11th February state that the Portuguese were preparing for all contingencies, and for the eventualities of a European war. Recruiting was going on over the country, and heavy guns were being mounted on all the fortresses from which artillery had been with drawn after the civil war of 1847.

The Paris correspondent of the London News states that a confidential order had been issued by the Minister of War to all the Generals to hold themselves ready, with all their personnel and materiel, for a movement which is fixed for the 22d February. The initiative was to be taken this time by the troops at Lyons under the command of Gen. Castellane. On the 22d it was supposed that the empire would be proclaimed. The impending "croup de main" is colored by reports in favor of a French Protectorate in Italy.—Louis Napoleon is represented to be in a state of complete exhaustion, both of mind and body, which is usual after periods of great energy and excitement.

Agents of France are said to be at work sedulously sapping the allegiance of the Belgian army, so that a military declaration in favor of annexation to France might easily be got up in any Belgian garrison.

The Belgian Government has ordered an augmentation of one hundred men in each of the battalions of the regiments of the line of the army of Belgium. As there are forty-nine battal-