

be that their object will be as well attained without it as with it. It appears to me one of the most barren questions that ever defiled a country; barren in useful results, but fertile in difficulties and dangers. I freely confess that I look with amazement upon the zeal and pertinacity displayed in urging this measure under these circumstances, and angrer from them the worst consequences.

These are my sentiments. They will give offence to many, and will expose me to much obloquy. But I do not hesitate thus openly to avow them; for every public man who is not prepared to take a decided part agreeably to his convictions, in times like these, is not prepared to discharge one of the first duties which belong to his position. To insure domestic tranquility, in the words of the constitution, was one of the great motives of the people of the United States in the organization of their present government. Measures which may endanger that tranquility should be scrutinized with great caution, and never adopted but in the last necessity, and then with great reluctance.

I am, dear sir, with great regard, truly yours,  
LEWIS CASS.

From the South Carolinian.

**NON-INTERVENTION.**

The signs are increasing every day of the determination of the Democratic party North to discard from their political creed the doctrine of the Wilmot Proviso, and to adopt the constitutional principle of strict non-interference upon the slavery question. Speaking of the letter of Gen. Cass, embracing this wholesome doctrine, the Goshen (New York) Republican says:

"This letter is the ablest and soundest political document we have seen from any quarter since the days of Gen. Jackson. We are not without hope that it will have an influence for good upon the Democratic Conciliation Convention about to be held in this State."

The Freeburg Post says:  
"To assume that Congress have the power to establish slavery where it does not exist, only makes the converse of the proposition true, that Congress have the power to abolish slavery where it does exist. The true policy for the Federal Government to pursue is to let the question of slavery alone, and permit the States where it exists to regulate it to suit themselves. To this doctrine no considerable portion of the South will object."

The Pennsylvania, the leading Democratic paper in the State, in the conclusion of a long article upon the subject says:

"For our own part we shall stand fast to the Constitution and to the Union; and we believe the first can only be saved from perversion, as the last from ultimate and total destruction, by clinging steadily to the great principle of non-interference on the slavery question, and by opposing the intrigues of those who are the hand of the evil, either openly or secretly, of both the Constitution and the Union."

The Bangor (Maine) Democrat, speaking of non-interference as a principle recognized by the Democrats of the Legislature, of that State, says:

"The last resolution passed by the Democrats of the Maine Legislature, touching the slavery question, is in favor of toleration, and against interpolating abolitionism into the Democratic creed."

But what strikes us as very singular is the following from the St. Louis Union, Col. Benton's leading organ, upon the subject of the Proviso. While feebly maintaining the right of Congress to legislate, it holds the following language:

"If a proviso should ever be passed, applying to territories, it would be in no way binding on the people in forming their State government—for if they choose to incorporate slavery into their State governments they would have a right to do so. As therefore no Democrat thinks a proviso of any kind, for or against slavery, passed by Congress in regard to territories, could have any binding force perpetually on the people, but would be subject to any alteration they saw proper to make when State Constitution should be adopted, it cannot be necessary for such an abstraction, as it is in the present case, to be insisted on, when the Union may be endangered by so doing. For our Mexican territories it is not only wholly unnecessary and inexpedient, but it is positively MISCHIEVOUS IN ITS EFFECTS UPON THE HARMONY OF THE UNION TO LEGISLATE ON SLAVERY."

The above are a few of the Democratic expressions with regard to the slavery question; and we are strongly induced to believe that the Proviso will be abandoned by the whole party. If so, it will scarcely pass Congress, provided Southern Whigs are true, as doubtless they will be, to the interests of their constituency. We will keep our eyes upon the Whig papers—the few which exchange with us—and will extract the views of the leading organs of that party at the North.

We regret thus far, that, with the exception of the New York Mirror, whose article we gave in our last, we find nothing in the Northern Whig press to justify any hope that the South will receive a single Whig vote from the North; and some even avow that Whig members and Senators from the slave States will vote for the Wilmot Proviso. The Boston Atlas has the following:

"Our readers will bear us evidence that we have endeavored to present the slavery extension question fairly and candidly. We have stated what every person knows to be true—that every Whig member of Congress from the free States would vote in favor of excluding slavery from the territories of the Union, and would exercise his talents and influence to effect such a result. We know of no Whig that does not. There are members from Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, who will go against freedom; while on the other hand, there are Whig members from slave States who will vote for Mr. Clay, we believe, will; and will the two Whig senators from Delaware; and Mr. Houston, the representative of that gallant State, has always voted for it. There is no doubt that General Taylor will affix his signature to a bill containing the proviso. WE LOOK UPON THE FURTHER EXTENSION OF SLAVERY UPON THIS CONTINENT AS A MORAL IMPOSSIBILITY!"

The members from Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, who the Atlas says, will vote against the Proviso, are of course Democrats. The Indiana State Journal, another leading Whig paper says:

"Every single Whig editor and Whig elector in this State occupied the ground always maintained by the Whigs of the North—an uncompromising opposition to slavery extension. They got up in the morning, and the northern Whigs have the power in the next Congress, they will engrave that doctrine upon the law organizing the new territories, or else they will remain unorganized. There can be nothing more certain than the happening of that event."

Another Whig paper has the following with

regard to the President's course. This is all testimony from his own political friends:

"The Washington Union puts the inquiry direct to the Republic.—In the event of the passage of a law containing the Wilmot Proviso, or any similar provision, will Gen. Taylor veto it, or will he approve it?"

"This query is unnecessary, if the Union has marked Gen. Taylor's position. If Congress should pass the Wilmot Proviso, or any similar provision, Gen. Taylor will sign it. If not, he violates the pledge given to the people."

Under the existing organization of parties, we have no hesitation in asserting, that if we have any friends in the North, they are to be found in the Democratic party.

From the Shreveport Caddo Gazette.

**COL. WIGFALL AND GEN. HOUSTON.**

We fully designed giving a synopsis of the speeches of Gen. Houston and Col. Wigfall, at Marshall, but for want of space we are obliged to make our notice of them brief. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the day, the concourse of hale, healthily-tinged, honest-faced people was immense. We must confess, that we ever entertained an opinion prejudicial to the beauty, honesty, gallantry, and hospitality of the good people of Texas, that opinion was forever banished from our mind during our temporary sojourn in Marshall. To use the expressive language of the Hero of San Jacinto, "the Texans are the cleverest people in the world." But, paulo majora canamus. Gen. Houston's speech was an able and ingenious, though, we think, unsuccessful, defence of his vote upon the Oregon bill. He evidently attempted, and doubtless expected, to honeyfuggle the good hearers, and get up a general hurrah for "Old Sam." The onset of his speech was a tirade of virulent abuse, indiscriminately heaped upon John C. Calhoun and the Southern Address.—He made no allusion to his derivation from the written instructions of his constituents, sent him at the same time that he received his appointment from the Texan Legislature. He made no excuse for publishing his free soil letter in the organ of the Whig party. He mentioned not a word that fell from his devout lips, but the abolitionists at the North ejaculated the *vo triumphant!* But he expatiated upon Cicero's peculiarity upon his identity with the early history of Texas. Batt'e, toils, hardships and sufferings were recounted; and the achievements of himself passed over to the no small admiration of the silent auditor. He dilated with sepulchral voice, and moving diction, upon the attempt of some to take from him his fair fame, and the waving plume of his bright destiny. His speech was interlarded with rich and racy anecdotes, which we relished; but for the life of us, we could not relish the doctrines they were intended to season, and render palatable. Gen. Houston is a calm, dignified, impressive, and self-possessed speaker. His address and manner are captivating beyond description; and his action, that which enters largely into the composition of the orator, is graceful and easy. His eagle eye, his engaging manner, his clear, deep toned voice, and his inimitable faculty of recitation, combined with good common sense, mother wit, and overpowering irony and sarcasm, entitles him to no mediocre position in the scale of oratorical merit.

When Gen. Houston finished his speech, the very welkin rang with a call for Col. Wigfall. This gentleman mounted the stand, armed with documentary weapons, ready alike for defence and attack. We saw at once that the "tug of war" was coming, as the bold, daring, and indomitable Colonel, with resolute mein, steady nerve and impassioned manner, brandished his rapier over the opposing Greek. He held him up to "public reprobation," and heaped Pelion upon Ossa with such dexterity, that we verily thought the old General's world wide fame no more than the "visual line which girt him round." The couplet occurred to us:

"I pity the man whom the public gaze Has made the object of censure or praise."

We cannot too highly estimate Col. Wigfall for his prompt, energetic and patriotic defence of Southern rights. While such a man raises his eloquent voice for the Star State, no ambitious and aspiring Senator can misrepresent her with impunity. Col. Wigfall's powers of analytical and logical argumentation, and his extensive political knowledge, designate him as no ordinary man. He is a sound democrat, an unwavering advocate of the institutions of the South, and a formidable foe upon the stump. In the progress, and future history of Texas, it requires no great divination to see, that the name of Colonel L. T. Wigfall will be prominently inscribed upon the page that survives the wreck of nations.

FROM FLORIDA.

REPORTS OF FURTHER DEPREDACTIONS.—From passengers by the Florida boat, we learn that another express arrived at Palatka, just as the boat was leaving, giving information of the murder, by the Indians, of six or seven negroes, the property of some of the settlers on the Manatee, between Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor. It is stated that the Indians first attempted to carry off the negroes, but they resisting, were killed upon the spot. It is further reported that the company of troops from Tampa, with a few volunteers, came upon the trail of the Indians and pursued it to the bank of a stream, (the name of which we did not learn,) where the bridge used for crossing had been destroyed, and the Indians, to the number of one hundred appeared on the opposite side, armed and painted, giving the war whoop, daring the troops to cross. Being so small a number in comparison to the Indians, the troops felt obliged to decline the invitation, and return to Tampa.

These reports, which are said to be well authenticated, evince a disposition to hostility we have heretofore suggested, and of another regular outbreak.

An editorial in the Jacksonville News of the 29th July, written before the receipt of the news by the last express, intimates that these depredations are not the consequence of a general rising of the Seminole nation, stating as reasons, that Billy Bow Legs, one of the principal chiefs, had been met by the United States troops from Tampa, who solemnly disclaimed all participation in the affair, and charged it upon a band of outlaws of the tribe.

All the plantations are deserted, and the frontier towns along the St. Johns, Lake Monroe, &c., are placed under military discipline.—Dwellings on plantation most exposed are being picketed in, as during the last war.

For a long time the Indians have had every opportunity of providing themselves with the means of defence. They have been laying up provisions, and have secured a full supply of powder and lead. They have increased in numbers, and feel themselves ready for another attempt to gain full possession of the country.

It is rumored, but we do not credit it, that reinforcements of other Indians have made their way into Florida, from Alabama and other quarters. There were a few Indians left in West Florida who might have joined the Semi-

noles, but their numbers were few, and unimportant.

Whether our details are strictly correct or not, one thing is certain, they are believed in Florida, and the authorities of the State are promptly acting in reference to this belief.

Gov. Moseley has issued a requisition for a large number of volunteers, and will prosecute a war of removal or extermination. We have heard of the requisition amounting to the number of five hundred, and that if necessary, it will be further increased. One company has left Tallahassee. One hundred men will be mustered into service at Jacksonville, by Col. Pons to-morrow, and double that number we learn are in readiness. Requisitions have likewise been made on the other counties in East Florida. There will be no lack of volunteers from the State. And from the well known character of Gov. Moseley, we are satisfied that the Indians will be removed, if not by the General Government, by the State authorities.—Savannah paper, Extra, Aug. 1.

**THE CAMDEN JOURNAL.**

Wednesday Morning, August 15, 1849.

W. THURLOW CASTON, EDITOR.

LETTER OF GEN. CASS.—We direct attention to this able document. Doubtless many Southern Whigs regret that their votes were not given in electing this friend of the South to the Presidency. How unlike the mad recklessness and unprincipled ambition of Benton, and other unscrupulous politicians in the region of fanaticism, does this bold and manly declaration of attachment to right and justice appear. We only regret that this full exposition of his views was not made before the Presidential election, for we believe it would have greatly strengthened the Southern vote in his favor. We trust it may have its proper effect upon the Northern advocates of the odious Proviso.

**COL BOSSARD'S NEW RICE-POUNDING MACHINE.**

The Scientific American publishes a description of this new invention, which was given in the Journal near two months since, and says "it conveys the exact idea of the old Stamping Mills." As there are no Mills known in this section of the country by that name, Col. B. requests information as to the character and object of Stamping Mills. The description as published in the Scientific American, is full of error, two of which are important, and in the language of Col. B., wholly fail to convey a correct idea of his machine. The two lifters are said to pass the "interior side of the pestle," whereas, the Journal describes them as passing up the "exterior sides." The Scientific American, in describing the office of the single lifter, makes an important omission. It says, "the single lifter entering a mortice in the centre of the pestle" while ascending, receives its weight at the instant the parallel lifters are at the elevation required, when the inventor describes it as "entering a mortice" in the centre of the pestle while it is ascending, "receives its weight at the instant the parallel lifters are extricated from the pinions, and finishes the "elevation required." The single or centre lifter raises the pestle to the elevation required, after the double or parallel lifters are forced to leave it by the revolutions of the shaft. An inaccurate description of the machine might prejudice the claim for a patent, it is nothing but justice to Col. B. to make all necessary corrections. We have seen the model machine intended to be exhibited to the Patent Office, and regard it as a correct representation of the invention.

FLORIDA INDIANS.—From the simultaneous attacks made upon the whites, in Florida, by the Indians, there is no doubt but a general outbreak is contemplated, Governor Moseley, of that State, has taken steps to raise companies of volunteers to protect the settlers. The General Government has sent from Sullivan's Island a portion of Company "F," United States troops, under 2nd Lieutenant Robinson, to aid in keeping the Indians down; and a steamer has been ordered to take troops from Pascagoula and Pensacola to Tampa Bay. It is hoped that the energetic measures of the Government will soon force them to cease their depredations.

**A STATE PENITENTIARY.**

We fully concur in the remarks of our neighbor of the Carolinian, relative to the establishment of a Penitentiary in this State. Other Southern States have adopted the system, and seem well pleased with it. The punishment of criminals in this State is attended with great expense—constituting a heavy item in the annual appropriation bill; not so much from the large number of offenders, but from the mode of inflicting penalties. Any change, therefore, that can be made, which would save money, or a system adopted which would support itself, without drawing upon the public Treasury, deserves the consideration of our Legislators. But the stronger argument in favor of a Penitentiary is, that no other mode of inflicting penalties so well regulates the degree of punishment, in accordance with the aggravation of the offence. It must be admitted, that to punish more than what is deserved, is unjust to the individual, and to punish less is equally unjust to the community. The one or the other is often done under our present system. A Penitentiary metes it out in due proportion to the crime.

The Editor of the Carolinian promises his readers additional argument in favor of the suggestion, and we join with him in the belief "that the Legislature would be conferring a benefit on the State by taking preliminary steps towards its establishment at its next session."

THE AUTHOR OF "BRUTUS."—The Spartan, of the 26th ult., in speaking of a letter received by Barrett, signed B. H. W., stated the belief that a Baptist Preacher, formerly of this State, by the name of W. H. Brisbane, was the author of "Brutus."

He lived in the lower part of the State, but was on a visit once to that section, as a Delegate to the Bethel Baptist Association at New Hope.

He left the State some 12 or 15 years ago. The next number of the Spartan contained the following letter, in which the writer states he has no doubt but that Brisbane is a prime mover in the dark plots against us:

MOUNT ZION, S. C., Aug. 1, 1849.  
Mr. Editor: You are no doubt right in supposing that William Henry Brisbane is the author of the dark and wicked Abolition schemes, which of late have so much disquieted the public mind.

W. H. Brisbane commenced the publication of a Baptist paper in Charleston in the year 1833 or 4, was considered by the Baptist denomination sound on the subject of slavery, a man of talents, and well calculated to edit the denominational paper of this State. His paper was generally patronised by the Baptists in South Carolina. However, it was not long before his Abolition sentiments began to be developed, and the paper was turned over, I believe, to Dr. Brantly, in whose hands it died. Brisbane, after selling some thirty slaves, made his escape to the State of Ohio, where he has been in some degree successful in his designs against the peace of his native State ever since. I will remember Mr. B.'s attendance at New Hope Association. This is the only time I ever saw him, though I am familiar with his history, and my deliberate opinion is, that a more infamous scoundrel scarcely lives on the earth.

Yours, &c., JOHN G. LANDRUM.

ELLWOOD FISHER, Esq.—The Washington Union states that a sumptuous and crowded supper came off

recently at the Warrenton Springs, Virginia, in honor of E. Fisher, Esq., the author of the celebrated letters on the South.

It was given by the members of the Legislature then in session at that place, and the assistants at the Springs and the citizens of the vicinity. Col. Hopkins, Speaker of the House, presided, who called out Mr. F. with a toast and a few remarks. He responded in an impressive speech, and was followed by General Foote, Senator from Mississippi, by Ex-Governor William Smith, and by other gentlemen.

PRESERVATION OF NEWSPAPERS.—The following excellent suggestions are from the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle, in which we fully concur. We recommend them to the attention of our Legislators, as worthy of consideration:

A recent law of the State of New York requires each county in the State to subscribe for and preserve two newspapers published in the county, if so many there be. This will secure the best material for the future historian. The plan is an excellent one, and should be adopted in other States. Every year increases the value of newspapers and the dignity of journalism. It should be the constant aim and pride of the conductors of the press to avoid writing or publishing anything that will offend the more correct taste and enlarged views of succeeding generations. Personal altercations, epigrammatic triumphs, and sectional antipathies, are in their nature short-lived. They will soon be buried among the things forgotten.

TO THE MEMORY OF EX-PRESIDENT POLK.—On Wednesday, 25th ult., the solemn exercises in Boston, commemorative of the many virtues of the late President, were performed before an immense audience. The Hon. Levi Woodbury, Judge of the United States Supreme Court, delivered the Eulogy, which has appeared in the Washington Union. It is an able production, a deserving tribute to departed merit, worthy the subject, the speaker, and the occasion. It is not an over-wrought pygmy, bestowing unmeaning and unmeasured praise, but it is just and truthful, awarding to the illustrious deceased many high virtues as a successful statesman, patriot and President.

In closing, the speaker paid the following just tribute to his memory:  
"He sleeps not where flattery, if indulged in, could not 'soothe the dull cold ear of death.'" But "it is only just to add, that a nation laments his premature departure—a nation is proud of his name and fame—a nation will embalm his worth—a nation unites in paying the sad honors to his memory."

CHOLERA.—Number of deaths by this disease, in Boston, during the week ending Aug. 4, was 52; in New York, for the same period, 678; in Philadelphia, 95; and at Washington 6. Many other deaths occurred. Cholera infantum, cholera morbus, diarrhoea, and by inflammation of the bowels, not classed in the above enumeration.

CAROLINIANS ABROAD.—J. D. B. Delow, Esq., (says the Charleston Courier,) has been elected Professor of Political Economy, Commercial Law, &c., for the summer term, with the commission of Lieut. Colonel. R. G. Barnwell, Esq., also of this State, Professor of Modern Languages and Belles Lettres, with the rank of Captain; and Hon. Thomas B. Moore, of the University of Louisiana, Professor of Constitutional, Military and International Law, in the Kentucky Military and Collegiate Institute, near Frankfort, Ky.

REMOVALS.—The Carolinian says: We notice that the Administration has made a clean sweep in the Custom House at Savannah, Ga.

**ELECTIONS.**

Have recently been held in Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana, full returns of which have not yet come to hand, except from North Carolina, in which State, the Whigs have elected six and the Democrats three members of Congress.

In Alabama, the election was for Governor and members of Congress. Collier, Democrat, is elected Governor without opposition. Hilliard, (Whig) is elected to Congress—the balance of the Delegation it is supposed will be Democratic.

In Tennessee, Trousdale, (Democrat) is elected Governor by a large majority, over the present Whig incumbent, and there is said to be a gain of three Democratic members of Congress.

In Kentucky, the Democrats, so far as heard from, have elected four members of Congress.

In Indiana, the Democratic candidates for Governor and Lieut. Governor, are elected by large majorities.

✶ We direct attention to the interesting communication of our correspondent "J."—Concurring in his views as to the importance of sustaining our periodical literature, we have written a notice of two Southern Reviews, and would have included DeBow's had we received it. To the enquiry whether "we have any muskets to spare," we answer, we have "nothing else" and if our friends on the coast are in need, we can supply them in quantities to suit purchasers. Let your orders be for the zee zee zee buzzing sort.

We rejoice to hear of the good health of the city, and trust it may long continue. The health of the up country was never better at this season of the year.

**CROPS.**

From all the surrounding country, in this as well as in other Districts, we learn that seldom or never have the Corn crops looked so promising at this season of the year. Rains have been abundant throughout the South, and the Corn appears generally to be good. On the red lands of the Waxhaw, in Lancaster District, and near the North Carolina line, where it is a rare circumstance for too much rain to fall, we understand that immense crops will be raised, and that unless something very unfavorable should occur, Corn cannot bring next winter more than 25 cents per bushel. And many of the sandhills, too, in this and other Districts, which ordinarily yielded about five bushels per acre, will this year produce from 10 to 15 bushels. It has been, however, wet for Cotton. The forms are beginning to drop off, and in some places, very extensively. It is impossible to say at this early stage of the season, whether the yield will be an average one or not. Some of our Alabama exchanges give the opinion that in that State not more than three-fourths of an average crop will be gathered, and in some parts of this State, if the fears of the planters are well grounded, the usual number of bales will not be made.

CONVICTION OF NEGROES.—Four more of the negroes who participated in the recent outbreak at the workshop in Charleston, have been tried and convicted.

They were sentenced to five years imprisonment, and to receive fifteen lashes on the first Friday month for six months, with the privilege allowed to their owners, of selling them out of the States at the end of twelve months.

**PLANK ROAD TO CHARLOTTE.**

We ask the attention of our readers to the following report of P. F. Holcomb, Esq., on Plank Roads in New York, which appeared in extracts in the Mason, (Ga.) Journal. A portion of it may have appeared in this paper some months since, but as it contains that kind of information so much needed at this time, and which we desire to keep before the people; that its second appearance requires no apology. It gives that upon which we need to be enlightened—the incipient steps of constructing such Roads—the ease, rapidity, and cheapness of which must be strikingly practicable. We direct attention to the remarks upon the sufficiency of one track, in which Hon. Thomas Spencer, member of the New York Legislature, by letter which has been placed in our possession, fully concurs.

As everything relating to the cost of such Roads is of interest, we give the following:  
2 sills (scantling) 4 in. 2X4X4X5780=14,050 ft.  
" 4 in. " 2X4X4X5780=14,050 ft.  
Plank 8 feet long by 3 in. 12  
" thick, 8X3X5280=125,720

Number of ft. plank and sills in 1 mile. 140,800  
At \$5 per thousand feet, \$704  
Laying and grading (per mile,) 320  
Add for engineering superintendence, 100  
Add for gate houses, 100

Cost per mile, \$1224  
The following is the cost of a Road running from Lake Michigan to Fox River, where hemlock timber is used at \$6 per M.

Cost of timber per mile—140,800 ft. at \$3, \$844  
Laying and grading road do, 320  
Sluicic, Bridging and contingencies, 100  
Engineering superintendence, &c., 100  
Gates and gate houses, say, 100

Cost per mile, \$1464  
The cost of a Road from here to Charlotte would not, probably, be more than \$1300 per mile, and the distance was decided to be, which a Rail Road was under consideration, about 76 miles. The country is generally level, and we learn that it is ascertained that the plank can be procured at \$5 per thousand feet. If so, the whole Road would not cost more than \$100,000—a sum scarcely sufficient to construct 8 miles of a Rail Road. Surely that amount might be easily raised. But to the Report:

"This Road (the Utica and Rome) is not yet complete—about one-third of its length remaining to be constructed. The estimated cost, including grading, superstructure, bridging, toll houses, and everything complete is estimated at \$2,000 per mile. As near as I could learn, the average cost is about \$1,500. The most expensive road which I have any knowledge, is that from Ilion to Cedarville, length 8 miles, cost \$2,200 per mile. This road is located along the valley, and occasionally precipitous slopes of a mountain stream, and sometimes it was found necessary to divert the stream from its bed into a new channel, and occasionally also, to cross and recross it. The descent in the 8 miles of road is 700 feet, the maximum however, being six inches and five-eighths in a rod, or sixteen and a half feet.

"This is a much lower maximum, than is common, or even desirable; as twelve inches in sixteen and a half feet makes a very good road; and I travelled upon Plank Roads with inclinations of one foot in ten—but it was the intention of the companies on whose roads these inclinations were found, to grade them to an easier rate. I would suggest one foot in sixteen and a half as a proper medium between too great utility for grading on the one hand, and too steep grades on the other. I discovered no tendency or liability of the horses to slip on steeper inclinations, as the plank being laid cross-wise, afford, perhaps, the very best foot hold of any road in use; but the counteracting effect of gravity will be seriously felt by adopting a much higher standard, or in other words, a much steeper grade than one foot in sixteen and a half.

"The preliminary steps having been taken as before described, the clearing, grubbing, and leveled 20 feet in width. Preparation for laying the superstructure is then made, by plowing or picking up (usually the former) the surface, and making it mellow and convenient to be brought into the precise shape required. On one side of the centre of the graded track, two channels are then dug, being guided by a line which is stretched where one end of the planks will come. These channels are dug such a distance apart that the stringers when laid in them, will be seven feet apart from outside to outside. At the first glance it might appear preferable to have them nearer together; but it is understood this would involve liability in the planks to tip up when a heavy loaded wagon drives upon the ends of the planks.

"The mud sills or stringers having been properly adjusted in the trenches, the earth having been previously made mellow, is filled in around and between the stringers, and also for the space of a few inches on the outside of them. This filling is raised about one inch above the stringers, and is now ready to receive the plank, which are uniformly eight feet long, and of any width from ten to fifteen inches, and frequently wider at one end than the other: which while it effects a saving of timber, is at the same an advantage from the facility it affords in turning curves; by putting several wide ends or butts together in succession. The thickness of the plank varies on different roads from three to four inches, though the former is much the most common. The stringers are pretty uniformly four inches square, and any convenient length from sixteen to twenty feet, and simply laid end to end without any splicing or fastening. In some instances planks three inches thick and twelve inches wide, have been recommended and adopted, but the four inch stringer is much more common, and appears to answer the purpose well, as little reliance is placed upon the stringers for the bearing.

"Two men place the plank in its place, and a third standing upon it, with a heavy wooden maul made of a sound piece of timber two and a half feet long, and eight inches thick, with a pin through one end for a handle, strikes the plank a blow upon its edge in the middle to drive it up to its fellow. Then three or four blows are given upon the surface of the plank at different points, when it becomes firmly and accurately settled down to the stringers, carrying with it the earth which had been filled above the stringers, and on which the plank now mainly depends for its support. One more blow on the edge of the plank finishes the operation, by which time another plank is in ready, and the process is rapidly repeated. It should remark, however, that each plank is alternately laid in and out, or jutting past each other about three inches, for the purpose of assisting the wheels to rise upon the road in the event of a rut being formed at the ends of the plank. The planks, however, are all cut the same length, and are either delivered upon the ground eight feet long, or sixteen feet. If the latter, they are piled up and sawed in two with a cross-cut saw.

"In order to facilitate the escape of the water that falls upon the road, the planks are laid with an inclination towards the ditch, on that side of the graded road on which the planks are laid of two inches in six feet, or say three inches in

six feet, or say three inches in the length of the plank; so that all the water that does not fall immediately at joints, is conducted off at the ends. To effect this, a straight-edge with a carpenter's level properly adjusted to it, is used in laying down the stringers, the ends of it resting upon either stringer, and their respective elevations arranged accordingly.

"Now follows the filling in of the earth on the ends of the planks necessary to keep them from moving laterally, as they are not attached to the stringers by any kind of fastening whatever, neither spikes, pins, or any thing of the kind, being necessary, and to facilitate driving upon and off the road. This filling is commonly raised about three inches at first above the planks, so that when it becomes thoroughly settled and compacted by use, it will be at least one inch as high as the ends of the planks. If it should settle below this, attention must immediately be given to restoring the proper elevation by the addition of more earth. A slope on the ditch side should be given of about three inches to the foot. The earth which is used in the filling in may be obtained from the ditch. The ditches are, of course, an essential part of the work, and all the care and expense bestowed in first opening them, and afterwards keeping them clear and in order, will be amply repaid, and on no account must this be neglected. They should be two feet wide on the bottom, and two feet below the top of the planks.

"On that side of the graded road not occupied by the plank, a good earth road must be made resembling in contour the side of the road laid with plank-ditch and all. This of course is intended to apply where a single plank track is used; and it will be a matter of surprise to the inventor to predict, on first travelling on a plank road, as it was with me, how completely and how conveniently a single track accommodated a large business. I could discover no more inconvenience in vehicles passing each other than in the streets of Macon. This had appeared to me a great difficulty and objection to a single track, and I was surprised to find how little foundation it had, in fact, and how well a single track answered all demands upon it. The great bulk of travel being upon the plank road, and the earth road being only used to turn out upon, it has little tendency to cut up and become rutted, as it will seldom happen that a heavy vehicle in turning out will take the exact track of a previous one.

"Some of the roads leading from the principal markets are laid with a double track for a distance of three or four miles; but even here the second track might apparently have been dispensed with without much inconvenience. When a double, or second track is laid down, it is simply a duplicate of the first, and has no direct connection with it; a space of four to ten feet is left between the two which is filled with earth raised a little above the surface of the road. This is obviously, as a general rule, preferable to doubling the length of the plank road, as laying the two tracks in connection. There might be cases, however, where this course might be expedient.

"It will be an easy task to estimate the cost of Plank Roads, so far as the wood in superstructure is concerned. The grading, superstructure, &c.; but ought not to exceed 4 to \$500 per mile. There are, of three-inch plank laid eight feet apart long, in a mile, 116,720 feet, board measure, or of scantling or stringers, four inches square, 15,080 feet—total 141,800 feet. This at an average cost per thousand, which perhaps will be the cost here, though in the State of New York, the price is, in some instances, as low as five dollars and a half per thousand; the average being six dollars; or \$292.60. Six men will lay one hundred and ten yards per day. One day in which I observed the operation, seven men laid twenty-eight rods. At one dollar per day per hand, including overseeing, tools, &c., this would be \$96 per mile for laying. If we estimate the filling in, &c., at half this sum, or \$48, we have \$118 as the cost of road, independent of grading; for which no accurate estimate can be submitted, without a knowledge of the circumstances and facts of the case.

"Little engineering is required further than to trace the line upon the ground, and at the most difficult points to indicate the cutting, and the filling necessary to bring the road to a proper grade."

Correspondence of The Camden Journal.

CHARLESTON, 4th Aug. 1849.  
Dear Sir: The season of accidents, murders, arsons, burglaries, trials, mobs and executions appears to have gone by, and left us in the midst of a dead calm in such matters. During the interval which has elapsed since my last letter, I have had ample material for filling up your columns with a "spicy" variety in each of these departments. But I suppose you have seen enough of all these things in the papers to render both you and your readers heartily sick of this description of entertainment.

"Of amusements we have scarcely any, except 'shark catching,' which is indulged in to some extent by some of our active young gentlemen, released for the summer holidays from the cares of more sedentary business occupations. Several 'pretty stout specimens' have been drawn out of their native element, to flounder for a brief period on this 'unaccustomed shore,' and then yield up their mortal part. One of these caught the other day was 15 feet long.

We have 'land sharks' too, not quite so long, but equally dangerous in their departments on shore. There is a place of considerable note down town, called 'Elliott Street,' where such 'geny' do congregate. They prey, like their brethren of the sea, upon the weak and unsuspecting. They are the bane and destruction of the poor tempest-tossed mariner, who in seeking a port in a storm, often falls into the open jaws of these insidious monsters. They are not to be caught with bait. The mighty barpoon of the Law is the only instrument which can reach them—even then, they are a lawless crew.