

[From the Odd Fellows Companion.]

The Song of the Blue-Bird.

BY CHARLES WOLFORD.

I come, I come, the herald of spring,
The precursor of rosy hours;
I come, I come, and with me I bring
The promise of fruits and flowers.

The balmy breeze from a southern glade,
And the clouds with their tearful face,
Will awake the rills that long have laid
Asleep in Old Winter's embrace.

The violet will open its soft blue eye,
And its tribute of fragrance bring;
Primrose and daisy will lovingly vie
With each other in welcoming Spring.

The twittering sparrow will soon appear,
And build 'neath the cottage eaves;
Hedgerows and trees, now yellow and sere,
Will put on their vesture of leaves.

Then hail, all hail, the advent of Spring,
Its sunshine and gentle showers,
'Twill gladden the earth and surely bring
Rich fruitage of buds and flowers.

LOUISVILLE, KY

Voting Thanks to Officers.

GEO. FRANK GOULEY.

An irregularity, arising from the best of motives, sprung into existence some years ago in various Grand Lodges, and thence in subordinates, of voting thanks to Grand Masters and Masters, which irregular proceeding, we are pleased to see, is falling into disuse. In the first place, a question which has to be decided by a vote, implies that there must be two sides to it, out of which must of necessity spring a majority and a minority result. It is hardly fair, and certainly not strictly Masonic, to put any brother in the position of either conscientiously speaking or voting openly against his Master or Grand Master, or else submitting quietly to what he believes to be an error.

If the vote is expected to be unanimous then the motion is unnecessary, as an act of supererogation, and as such, the result bears with it none of the significance of a compliment, being merely looked upon as a matter of form. As a general thing the majority of the Masters and nearly all Grand Masters, deserve the heartfelt gratitude of the Craft for the faithful performance of their official duties, and the more faithful the officer, the keener will be his sense of appreciation, even though unexpressed. It is perfectly proper for the Master or Grand Master to extend his official thanks to those who may have well performed the duties they had assigned to them, and as such it is a great compliment. But it is a very different thing for the Craft to debate or vote upon the merits of their superior officers. It is a position in which he does not wish to be placed, and as it is a modern custom, he feels better satisfied when it is not observed. It is not an outgrowth of Masonry, but of other societies, and like such transplants, should soon wither and die, leaving the grand old Institution again standing in its stern and solid simplicity.—Voice of Masonry.

The Russian Minister's establishment is the wonder of all Washington. He and his wife go about on visits of ceremony, accompanied by a chasseur, who wears a sword and a cap with a long drooping white feather. This chasseur sits on the box of the carriage, alongside of the coachman and dismounts when the carriage stops and with drawn sword uplifted, assists his royal highness to alight, and stands in military fashion till they re appear.

The population of Ireland decreased 11,283 in 1875.

Cures for Fits.

For a Fit of Passion.—Walk out in the open air; you may speak your mind to the winds without hurting any one, or proclaiming yourself a simpleton.

For a Fit of Idleness.—Count the ticking of a clock; do this for one hour, and you will be glad to pull off your coat the next and work like a man.

For a Fit of Extravagance and Folly.—Go to the workhouse and speak with the inmate of a jail, and you will be convinced—

Who makes his bed of brier and thorn,
Must be content to lie forlorn.

For a Fit of Ambition.—Go into a churchyard and read the gravestones, they will tell you the end of ambition. The grave will soon be your bed-chamber, the earth your pillow, corruption your father, and the worm your mother and sister.

For a Fit of Despondency.—Look on the good things which God has given you in this world, and to those which he has promised His followers in the next. He who goes into his garden to look for cobwebs and spiders, no doubt will find them; while he who looks for a flower may return into his house with one blooming in his bosom.

For a Fit of Doubt, Perplexity and Fear.—Whether they respect the body or the mind; whether they are a load to the shoulders, the head or the heart, the following is a radical cure which may be relied on for I had it from the Great Physician: "Cast thy burden on the Lord, and he will sustain."

For a Fit of Repining.—Look about for the halt and the blind, and visit the bed-ridden, and the afflicted and deranged; and they will make you ashamed of complaining of your lighter afflictions.

A train was carrying a clergyman and five or six youths who kept scoffing at religion and telling disagreeable stories. The good man endured it all, simply remarking as he got out: "We shall meet again my children." "Why shall we meet again?" said the leader of the band. "Because I am a prison chaplain," was the reply.



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CONDENSED TIME TABLE.

In effect on and after Monday, Mch. 13, 1875.

GOING NORTH.

STATIONS.	MAIL.
Leave Charlotte,	5:45 a. m.
" Air-Line J'ct'n	6:25 "
" Salisbury,	8:20 "
" Greensboro,	10:58 "
" Danville,	1:34 p. m.
" Dundee,	1:49 "
" Burkville,	6:51 "
Arrive Richmond,	9:25 p. m.

GOING SOUTH.

STATIONS.	MAIL.
Leave Richmond	5:50 a. m.
" Burkville,	9:00 "
" Dundee,	1:39 p. m.
" Danville,	1:43 "
" Greensboro	4:28 "
" Salisbury	6:54 "
" Air-Line J'n	8:52 "
Arrive at Charlotte	9:15 "

GOING EAST.

STATIONS.	MAIL	MAIL
Leave Greensboro	10:55 a. m.	Ar. 4:20 p. m.
" Co. Shops	12:14 "	" 2:54 "
Arr. at Raleigh	3:22 p. m.	" 11:43 "
" Goldsboro	6:00 "	Ar. L'Ve 9:15 a. m.

GOING WEST.

STATIONS	Accommodation Train.
L'Ve Greensboro	7:00 p. m.
L'Ve Co. Shops	12:14 "
Arr at Raleigh	5:00 a. m.
Arr at Goldsboro	11:15 "

NORTH WESTERN N. C. R. R.

(SALEM BRANCH.)
Leave Greensboro - - - - - 4:45 p. m.
Arrive at Salem - - - - - 6:45 "
Leave Salem - - - - - 8:15 a. m.
Arrive at Greensboro - - - - - 10:33 "

Passenger train leaving Raleigh at 11:43 A. M. connects at Greensboro with the Southern bound train; making the quickest time to all Southern cities. Accommodation train leaving Raleigh at 8:00 P. M. connects with Northern bound Train at Greensboro for Richmond and all points East. Price of Tickets same as via other routes.

Accommodation Train leaving Greensboro at 6:30 P. M. connects at Goldsboro with Northern and Southern bound Trains on the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.

Lynchburg Accommodation leaves Richmond daily at 9:00 A. M., arrive at Burkeville 12:36 P. M., leave Burkeville at 1:20 P. M., arrive at Richmond at 4:34 P. M.

No Change of Cars between Charlotte and Richmond, 282 Miles.

For further information address
JOHN R. MACMURDO,
Gen'l Passenger Agent,
Richmond, Va

Carolina Central Railway Co.

OFFICE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT. }
Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 16, 1875. }

Change of Schedule.

On and after the 19th inst., trains will run over this Railway as follows:

Passenger & Mail Trains—Daily
(Sundays excepted.)

Leave Wilmington at	7:00 A. M.
Arrive in Charlotte at	7:36 P. M.
Leave Charlotte at	6:30 A. M.
Arrive at Wilmington at	7:00 P. M.
Fast Freight and Passenger Trains—Daily.	
Leave Wilmington at	5:00 P. M.
Arrive at Charlotte at	10:30 A. M.
Leave Charlotte at	5:30 P. M.
Arrive at Wilmington at	10:40 A. M.

Shelby Division.

Leave Charlotte at	7:00 A. M.
Arrive at Charlotte at	5:00 P. M.
Arrive at Shelby at	11:30 A. M.
Leave Shelby at	12:30 P. M.

S. L. FREMONT.

Chief Engineer and Superintendent.

SEABOARD & ROANOKE RAIL ROAD.

Office of the Superintendent of Transportation, of the Seaboard & Roanoke Railroad Company.

PORTSMOUTH, VA., Jan. 1 1875

On and after this date, trains of this Road will leave Weldon daily, Sundays excepted as follows:

Mail train	at 4 p. m.
No. 1 Freight train	at 4 a. m.
No. 2 Freight train	at 8 a. m.
Tuesdays and Fridays at	at 8:00 a. m.

ARRIVE AT PORTSMOUTH.

Mail train	at 7:15 p. m.
No. 1 Freight train	at 12, Noon
No. 2 Freight train	at 4 p. m.

Freight trains have a passenger car attached. Steamer for Edenton, Plymouth and landings on Black water and Chowan Rivers leave Franklin at 7:40 a. m., on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

E. G. GHIO.

Supt. of Transportation.