

Speech of Mr Benjamin, White United States Senator from Louisiana, on the subject of railroads—delivered Feb. 7, 1854.

Mr Benjamin said: I certainly did not expect a discussion to arise upon the principles of the measures to-day; but I have been so much surprised at the principles advanced by the Senator from Georgia, [Mr Dawson], and the Senator from Delaware, [Mr Clayton], that, inasmuch as my constituents are deeply interested in this whole class of measures, I feel it necessary to say a few words. I conceive that the opposition to these bills proceeds altogether upon a false theory. I hear gentlemen speaking of appropriations of public lands, and comparing them to appropriations of public money. It strikes me that we ought, in order to arrive at a just idea of the principles upon which all these bills are founded, to make a distinction between the Government of the United States as a political body governing the country, and the Government of the United States as an owner of lands.

Now, sir, when an appropriation is asked for upon the Atlantic or upon the Gulf coast, and when it is proposed that the Government, as a Government, shall appropriate public moneys for purposes of public improvement, necessarily, that work being intended to be done by the Government alone, not being controlled in any measure whatever by private enterprise or private judgment, the individuals who take part in the railroads, not taking part in these works, not investing their capital in them, not having any of the *stimuli* to economy and prudence and judgment in expending the money, which, under other circumstances, are applied to these subjects—necessarily, I say, in appropriations of that character, it is right and is proper that when the appropriations are asked for, they should be granted only after close examination, and that the expenditure of these appropriations should be properly guarded by the officers of the Government of the United States.

But when the Government, as a land owner, and not as a Government, is called upon to contribute, with other land owners, to the improvement of its own property, then, sir, a different class of considerations necessarily arise, and one which cannot with any propriety be assimilated with those which gentlemen evoked before us, for the purpose of checking our action upon the subject of the public lands.

Suppose any one of us to be possessed of large tracts of wild land. Take the example of the Senator from Texas. Suppose any one of us to be possessed, in an individual right, of large tracts of wild land, land that we cannot sell, land that is intrinsically valuable because it is fertile, land which will produce much when cultivated by the labor of man, but land that, in its actual position, is valueless to us as a source of wealth or revenue; suppose, under these circumstances, the proposition were made to us by a capitalist to come upon our lands, and improve them by putting constructions upon them, or by building roads through them, and suppose the parties making the proposition could prove, not by mere estimates made in advance, but by the operation of a principle already tested by experience, that if we would allow them to expend their capital upon our property, and then divide the property with them, the half that would remain to us could be sold for more than as much as the whole would have brought before; what would be the answer of any man administering his own property with a just regard to his own interest to a proposition of that kind? Would he not accept it at once?

What, then, can be said when the whole extent of the proposition in favor of the new States is simply to devote a portion of your lands to make the rest sell for a larger price? You are a land proprietor in the new States, and you own more land than all the citizens together. Now join these citizens in a common public improvement, and your property will be improved as well as theirs. It is not just, it is not proper, no man will say that it is at all consistent with equity, to call upon the citizens of the new States to build railroads through lands belonging to the Government, and then that the Government should sell the lands at a greatly enhanced price—a price produced at the cost of the citizens of those States. In the old States, where the Government owns no lands, necessarily it cannot be called upon for these appropriations. Why? Because the direct benefit resulting from the expenditure of the appropriation does not inure to the benefit of the General Government. But in the new States, where the General Government owns the land, and where the principle goes to this extent and no further, where one half shall be appropriated for these purposes, and the remaining half more valuable than the whole was before. I am scarcely able to understand the difficulty of the Senator from Georgia, who thinks such a proposition would be a squandering away of the public lands. Why? The lands go for the benefit of all the States. The one half appropriated for these improvements goes, of course, to the benefit of the improvement itself; but the other half, enhanced in value, and selling for more than the whole would have been sold for before, comes into the market. The proceeds of the public lands are brought into the public Treasury, and they are expended for the benefit of the whole Union—for the old States as well as the new.

I for one, am not alarmed by this cry of there being one hundred and six railroad bills. I wish there were one thousand and six instead of one hundred and six. I wish they could be multiplied throughout the whole extent of the West, and through every part of the country where the Government possesses public lands. If the system of railroads could be scattered throughout the whole of our western country; if the lands could be brought into cultivation by being brought within the reach of market by this system of internal improvements; if the hardy and industrious population can be spread over these lands, I say that they would be a source of benefit, not only to the new States but to the whole Union, to the constituents represented by the Senators from Delaware and Georgia; far greater than can be obtained by any other system you can devise. One hundred and six railroads! One hundred and six bills, to my judgment, call for \$350,000,000. According to proposition would be the number and six railroads, providing for increasing the wealth of the country to the extent of \$700,000,000, if they appropriate that quantity for that purpose.

I believe this system of appropriation to be a source of public wealth, and not a squandering of the public funds. I believe, with the Senator from Texas, that no system has been devised in modern times, by which the wealth, the prosperity, and the increase of this country have been so well secured, as by the system of giving a portion of the public lands for purposes of internal improvements so as to add value to the rest.

I did not intend to say a word upon this subject, but I think the whole principle has been misunderstood; I was going to say had been misunderstood, but I cannot suppose that to be the case with Senators as experienced and distinguished as those who have spoken. But I really think that the true principle has not been stated; that it is not an appropriation of public money. It is not to be compared to the case

of the improvement of harbors and rivers, where the Government as a Government spends the money of the whole people. I think that a distinction is to be made between the Government as a political body, governing the country, and the Government as a land-holder and land-owner. The Government as a land-holder and land-owner joining with other land-holders and land-owners in making this vast public improvement.

The steamer Canada arrived at Boston on Saturday last, bringing Liverpool dates of February 4th. The news is very warlike. The Russian ambassador was about leaving London. The English Parliament met on the 31st, and the Queen's speech was delivered. She mentions the Turkish difficulty in moderate terms, and congratulates the country upon an alliance with France. She also recommends an increase in the army, as war threatens from hour to hour.

A reply had been given in writing to the Czar's inquiry respecting the fleets, and the departure of the Russian ministers from London and Paris was hourly expected. It is reported that the French and English ministers have been recalled from St. Petersburg. France will send 80,000 men to Turkey, England paying half the total expenses. It is reported that Austria and Prussia will co-operate with France and England; but this is doubted. Princes Napoleon had been sent to Belgium to impress the king with the necessity of acting firmly with the allies of Turkey, as Belgium cannot maintain neutrality without incurring the displeasure of France. The Prince also goes on a mission to the various German courts. The French cabinet held a council on the 30th ult., and resolved to send 80,000 troops to Turkey.

Count Orloff's mission to Vienna was for the purpose of asking permission for a Russian force to pass through Hungary. It is reported that if Count Orloff failed to obtain this, the Czar would visit Vienna in person. The Russian vice-commander at Sebastopol had been cashiered for allowing the Retribution to enter that port. The interview of Count Orloff with the Emperor of Austria was brief and unsatisfactory. Count Orloff was greatly dissatisfied with his reception, and it was further reported that the Emperor of Austria would consider the passage of the Danube by the Russians equivalent to a declaration of war.

Mr Bell, the English engineer captured in the battle of Sinope, on board of a Turkish steamer, had been released. The Russian Chambers have promptly granted the supplies necessary for a complete state of defence. There were rumors of a naval engagement in the Black sea, in which the Russian fleet was destroyed, but this lacks confirmation. SPAIN.—Revolutionary handbills were published throughout Spain, and the feeling against the Queen was intense. ITALY.—Uneasiness prevails throughout Northern Italy, and an outbreak was feared. A portion of the Turkish fleet had gone on to Egypt to ship 12,000 well-trained troops, including a regiment of heavy artillery and a regiment of riflemen. All the allied fleets had returned to Beico's bay, causing much astonishment.

Col. Deau, sent by the government of France to report on the condition of the Turkish army on the Danube, pronounces it capable of keeping the Russians in check for a long time. The Turks were deficient in cavalry. Two French officers had been sent on a similar errand to Asia. The hostility of the Swedes to Russia was increasing. The accounts from Persia state that the English influence preponderates. VERY LATEST.—The very latest advices telegraphed from London to Liverpool by the submarine telegraph, received just a few minutes previous to the Canada's sailing, are to the following effect: Intelligence received at Vienna states that Count Boul has drawn out a declaration of neutrality with a strong leaning towards the views of the northern powers, and that he has given this to Count Orloff as final. Orloff's mission has therefore failed.

The propositions made by the Czar were to form defensive leagues with all the German powers, so that if the western powers attacked any one thereof Russia would make a common cause with them and would not conclude any peace without consulting their interests. This cunning device, however, did not meet with approval, and the German powers, through Austria, definitely and peremptorily refused to accede. Russia is therefore left alone and isolated so far as the proposition is concerned. The western powers all now demand immediately the evacuation of the principalities by the Russians, and if refused have determined to compel it.

We are informed that at an election held at Carthage on the 16th February, 1854, for Mayor of the City of Carthage, N. C. Militin, Capt. S. W. Ritter received 90 votes, and John D. Dowd 55 votes—Ritter's maj. 45.—Argus. THE HOUSE MIT A BIG CHIMNEY.—A few years ago, the proceedings of the Washington Monument Society, at Washington, received a sudden impetus. Among other measures adopted to procure sufficient funds for the completion of the edifice, was that of appointing an agent in each congressional district throughout the United States, who were furnished with lithographs of the future monument, which were presented to such gentlemen as chose to subscribe. One of these gentlemen called one day at the house of a wealthy farmer, in the upper end of Dauphin county, Pa. The whole family were soon assembled to look at the beautiful pictures. In the meantime the agent exerted all his eloquence to induce the steady old German to "plank the tin." He portrayed the services of Washington to his country; he dwelt in glowing terms upon the gratitude we should feel for them.

Suddenly the farmer broke silence: "What is all this for?" "The agent began again: "You know who Washington was?" "Yes; he was the first President; he licked the British, didn't he?" "Yes, that's the man; and this monument is to be erected as a fitting testimonial of the eternal gratitude of his countrymen," &c. The anticipated subscriber studied the plate attentively. "Well," said he, "I won't pay anything towards it; I don't see no use to build a house with a big chimney." The agent immediately "ramosed." Somebody has anonymously sent \$25,000 to the London Society for propagating the Gospel in China. This is literally concealing from the left hand what the right hand doeth.

Democratic Meeting in Columbus.

On Monday evening, of the 13th inst., a meeting of the Democracy of Columbus county was held at the Court House in Whiteville.

On motion of F. George, Esq., the meeting was organized by calling Col. Marmaduke Powell to the chair, and requested N. L. Williamson to act as Secretary. The chairman, after having, in an appropriate manner, made known the object of the meeting, on motion, appointed F. George, Esq., Dr. F. Williamson and Thos. L. Vail, Esq., a committee to prepare resolutions for their consideration, who, after a short absence, returned and reported, through their chairman, F. George, Esq., as follows:

Resolved, That we approve of the time and place of holding the Democratic State Convention, as designated by the Democratic Executive Committee. Resolved, That the Democracy of Columbus having full confidence in the wisdom and patriotism in said Convention, will, without expressing a preference, cordially support their nominee, for the gubernatorial chair.

Resolved, That the Chairman appoint fifteen delegates to represent this county in said convention. Resolved, That the Democracy of Columbus adopt, as their rule and guide, the doctrines set forth in the series of resolutions passed at the Democratic State Convention of 1853, and with the platform of the late National Democratic Convention at Baltimore.

Resolved, That the Democratic party of North Carolina owe to no individual in their rank so large a share of gratitude as to David S. Reid, who, by the justness of his principles, and his gallant and successful advocacy of them, has placed us on a vantage ground, where we have, not only already achieved a signal triumph over the once victorious Federalist, but confidently expect to rout them again.

Resolved, That the firm and patriotic course pursued by President Pierce, fully justifies the confidence reposed in him by the almost unanimous suffrages of his countrymen, and as he knows "no North, no South," and holds up to just prominence, the doctrine of State Rights, he shows himself to be the Statesman suited to the exigencies of the times.

In accordance with the third resolution the Chairman appointed the following delegates:—F. George, Esq., J. C. Powell, Thos. L. Vail, J. G. Powell, Dr. F. Williamson, Wm. J. Stanly, John Mills, J. H. Gore, Jesse S. Cox, James Beach, Rev. G. W. Hill, J. C. Pierce, A. J. Baldwin, Calvin Hayes, J. B. Stanly, Col. John Gore, A. J. Burtner, Jos. W. Edwards and Lovel Peacock.

On motion, the Chairman and Secretary were added to the delegation. On motion, it was resolved, that in case no one of said delegation should attend said Convention, W. W. Holden of Raleigh, be hereby authorized to act as our proxy. On motion, it was ordered, that the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the Editors of the Wilmington Journal for publication, with the request, that the Fayetteville Carolinian and Raleigh Standard copy the same into their columns.

On motion, the meeting adjourned. M. POWELL, Chairman. N. L. WILLIAMSON, Secretary. FAILURE OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—We notice (says the New York Herald) that the stockholders of the Crystal Palace Company are out of pocket \$125,000 by the operation. It is somewhat singular, considering the favor shown to the enterprise, and the popularity it at one time enjoyed. No other cause can be assigned but the mismanagement of the directors; the first and most striking instance of which was the delay which occurred in the opening. Had the Palace been opened on the 1st of May, instead of the 4th of July, it is probable that the deficit would have been a surplus as large as the deficit now is. Country people lost faith in the scheme when it failed to open as announced; and thousands who would have visited it remained quietly at home. We hope it will prove a warning for the future. Public companies like private individuals must keep their word if they want to succeed in life.

THE CHIROPDIST AND THE TIGER.—The Eastern Counties Gazette states that for some time past the magnificent tiger in the Hull Zoological Gardens has experienced great torture by the growth of its claws into the fleshy part of its foot. On Saturday last it was determined to make an attempt to cut them, by stupefying the animal with chloroform. Mr Taylor, veterinary surgeon, was the operator, and several medical gentlemen were present to advise and assist in the operation. Spongers, well saturated with chloroform, were fastened to the end of long staves, and held to the tiger's nose. He bore several of these, and seemed disposed in this unceremonious way to dispense all expectations of success. For some time no opportunity was afforded of performing the operation, but when two pounds eight ounces of chloroform had been used the animal was so far stupefied as to induce Mr Taylor to commence. Still it was a task very far from pleasant to commence the operation. Ropes were got round the animal's neck, and his head was drawn close down to the bars of the den, and the animal kept close down, so as to prevent the struggles which he was expected to make. By Mr Taylor's exertions, also, smaller ropes were slipped over each of the tiger's paws, which not only rendered him helpless, but was of use in pulling each paw as wanted under the bars, to have the claws cut, which was speedily done by the aid of a pair of forceps. Since the operation he has continued hearty.

WHAT IS A FOP?—A Mr Stark, in a lecture before the Young Men's Association at Troy, New York, thus defines a fop: "The fop is a complete specimen of an one-sided philosopher. He is one-third collar, one-sixth patent leather, one fourth walking-stick, and the rest kid gloves and hair. As to his remote ancestry there is some doubt; but it is now pretty well settled that he is a son of a tailor's goose. He becomes ecstatic at the smell of new cloth. He is somewhat nervous, and to dream of tailors' bills gives him the nightmare. By his hair, one would judge he had dipped like Achilles, but it is evident that the goddess must have held him by the head instead of the heel. Nevertheless, such men are useful. If there were no tadpoles there would be no frogs. They are not so entirely to blame for being devoted to externals. Paste diamonds must have a splendid setting to make them sell. Only it seems to be a waste of materials, to put five dollars worth of beaver on five cents worth of brains."

A cabin boy on board a ship, the Captain of which was a religious man, was called up to be whipped for some misdemeanor. Little Jack went crying and trembling, and said to the Captain: "Pray, sir, will you wait until I say my prayers?" "Yes," was the stern reply. "Well, then," replied Jack, looking up and smiling triumphantly, "I'll never say them!" Omer Pacha. Omer Pacha, who commands the army of the Danube, is a native of Croatia, and was consequently by birth an Austrian subject. He was born in 1812 at Yuki, a village situated in the circle of Ogulin, 13 leagues from Fiume. His family name is Lattas. His father was a Lieutenant Administrator of the circle; his uncle was a priest of the United Greek Church. Admitted when very young into the School of Mathematics of Thurm, near Caristadt, in Transylvania, and after having completed his studies with distinction, the young Lattas entered into the corps of the Ponts et Chaussees, which in Austria is organized on a military footing. In 1830, in consequence of a misunderstanding with his superiors he left for Turkey, and embraced Islamism. Chosrew Pacha, who was then Seraskier, took him under his protection, procured him admission into the regular army, and attached him to his personal staff. He even gave him his ward in marriage, who was one of the richest heiresses of Constantinople, and the daughter of one of the Janissaries whose head he had caused to be cut off in 1827, when that corps revolted against the Sultan Mahmud. In 1833, Lattas, who had taken the name of Omer, was the chief of the battalion, and was appointed aide-de-camp and interpreter to General Chranowski, who had charge of the instruction of the Ottoman troops encamped near Constantinople. Omer was thereafter actively employed in the reorganization of the Turkish army, and still protected by Chosrew Pacha, obtained successively important missions and command in the army. The troubles of Syria and the Albanian insurrection of 1846, gave him occasion to distinguish himself, and attracted to him the attention of the Sultan. He was sent to Kurdistan, and succeeded in obtaining the submission of that province, which was nearly independent of the Porte. Named in 1848 to the command of the army sent to the Danubian provinces, he made the authority of the Sultan respected, while at the time he respected the susceptibilities and privileges of those provinces, placed as they were under the double protection of Turkey and Russia. The year of 1851 was the most brilliant period of the military career of Omer Pacha. Named Commander-in-chief of Bosnia, the principal chiefs of which had refused to recognize the Tanzimat, that is, the new organization of the empire, he combated successfully, though with an inferior force, the Beys of that country. At last he was sent to Montenegro, where he found himself for the first time commanding a regular army of 10,000 men. The intervention of Austria, as is known, put a term to that expedition before decisive operations could be commenced. At the present date Omer Pacha is at Schumla, at the head of an army of nearly 100,000 men. He is described as displaying great activity in his organization, and is occupied with fortifying the country which may become the theatre of war. Omer Pacha is about 52 years of age, below the middle height, but with a martial expression of countenance. He speaks with the same facility in the Serbian, the Italian, and the German tongues. After the insurrection of Hungary, he undertook the defence of the refugees whose extradition had been demanded by Austria and Russia. He proceeded to Schumla, where he made acquaintance with the principal refugees, and on his arrival at Constantinople he interfered zealously with the Sultan in their favor. He took several times to Bosnia and Montenegro, and confided to them important posts. Some of them have distinguished themselves greatly, and have remained in the service of Turkey.

Turnpike and Divorce.

One winter there came to Trenton two men, named Smith and Jones, who had both of them designs upon the Legislature. Jones had a bad wife, and was in love with another woman, who, by the way, was a widow, with black eyes, and such a bust! Therefore, Jones came to Trenton to get a divorce.

Smith had a good wife, plump as a turtle, good as an angel, and the mother of ten children, but he did not want to get a divorce, but he did want to get a turnpike or plank road from Pig's Run to Terrapin Hollow. Well, they, with these different errands, came to Trenton, and addressed the assembled wisdom with the usual arguments: Ist, suppers, mainly composed of oysters, with a rich back ground of venison; 2d, liquors in great plenty, from Jersey lightning, (a kind of locomotive at full speed reduced to liquid shape) to Newark champagne. To speak in plain terms, Jones, the divorce man, gave a champagne supper, and Smith, the turnpike man, followed on with a champagne breakfast.

Under the modifying influences of these appliances, the assembled wisdom passed the divorce and turnpike bills; and Jones and Smith went home rejoicing, over many miles of sand and through the tribulation of many stage coaches. Smith arrived home the next evening; and, as he sat down in the parlor, his loving wife beside him, how pretty she did look! and five of his children asleep overhead, and the other five studying their lessons in a corner of the room. Smith was induced to expatiate upon the good results of his mission to Trenton. "A turnpike, my dear—I am one of the directors, and will be president; it will set us up, love, you can send the children to boarding-school, and live in style out of the toll. Here is the charter, honey."

"Let me see it," said the pleased wife, who was one of the nicest of women, with plumpness and goodness dimpled all over her face; "let me see it," and leaned over Smith's shoulder, pressing her arm upon his own, as she looked at the parchment—but all at once Smith's face grew long. Smith's wife's visage grew dark. Smith was not profane, but now he ripped forth an awful oath, "D— wife, those infernal scoundrels at Trenton have divorced us!" It was too true. The parchment which he held was a bill of divorce, in which the name of Smith and Smith's wife appeared in frightfully legible letters. Mrs Smith wiped her eyes with the corner of her apron. "Here's the turnpike," said she sadly, and with the whole ten children staring her in the face, "I ain't your wife—here's a turnpike!"

"D— a, the turnpike and legislature, and the—!" Well the fact is, that Smith, reduced to single blessedness, "enacted" into a stranger to his own wife, swore awfully. Although the night was dark, and most of the denizens of Smith's village had gone to bed, Smith bade his late wife put on her bonnet, and arm in arm they proceeded to the house of the clergyman of their church. "Goodness, bless me!" exclaimed the mild good man, as he saw them enter. Smith looking like the very last June shad, and Mrs Smith wiped her eyes with the corner of her apron, "goodness bless me! what's the matter?" "The matter is, I want you to marry us two right off," said Smith.

"Marry you?" ejaculated the clergyman with expanded fingers, "are you drunk or crazy?" "I ain't crazy, and I wish I was drunk," said Smith despondingly. "The fact is, brother Goodwin, that some scoundrels at Trenton, unknown to me, and at the dead of night, have divorced me from my wife, the mother of nine children." "Ten," suggested Mrs Smith, who was crying. "Here's a turnpike!" Well, the good minister, seeing the state of the case, married them over again straightway, and would not take a fee. The fact is, grave as he was, he was dying to be alone, so that he could give vent to the suppressed laughter that was shaking him all over.

And Smith and Smith's wife went home and kissed every one of their ten children. The little Smiths never knew that their father and mother had been made strangers by legislative enactment. Meanwhile, and on the same night, Jones returned to his town—Burlington, I believe, and sought that fine pair of black eyes which he hoped shortly to call his own. The pretty widow sat by him on the sofa, a white handkerchief carelessly about her round white throat, her black hair laid in silky waves against each rosy cheek. "Divorce is the word," cried Jones, playfully patting her cheek. "The fact is, Eliza, I'm rid of the cursed woman, and you and I'll be married to night. I know how to manage these scoundrels at Trenton. A champagne supper, (or was it breakfast?) did the business with them. Put on your bonnet and things, and let us go to the preacher's at once dearest!" The widow, who was among widows as peaches are among apples, put on the bonnet and took Jones' arm, and, "Just look how handsome it is put on parchment," said Jones, pulling the document from his pocket with much rustling, spread it before her. "Here is the law that says that Jacob Jones and Anna Caroline Jones are two. Look at it! Putting her plump gloved hand upon his shoulder she did look at it. "Oh, deary!" she said with her rose-bud lips, and sank back half fainting on the sofa.

"Oh, bazoo!" cried Jones, and sank beside her, rustling the flat parchment in his hand. "Here's lots of happiness and champagne gone to ruin!" It was a hard case. Instead of being divorced, and at liberty to marry the widow, Jacob Jones was simply incorporated into a turnpike company, and which made it worse, authorized with his brother directors to construct a turnpike from Burlington to Bristol. When we reflect that Burlington and Bristol are located just a mile apart on the opposite side of the river, you will perceive the extreme hopelessness of Jones' case. "It's all the fault of the d— a turnpike man, who gave 'em the champagne supper; or was it breakfast?" "If they'd chartered me to build a turnpike from Pig's Run to Terrapin Hollow, I might have borne it; but the very idea of building a turnpike from Burlington to Bristol, bears an absurdity upon the face of it."

"So it did." "And you ain't divorced?" said Eliza, a tear rolling down each cheek. "No!" thundered Jones, crushing his hat between his knees, and pounding his head with his fists, "I ain't divorced, but I'm incorporated into a turnpike! and what is worse the Legislature is adjourned and gone home drunk, and won't be back to Trenton till next year." This mistake had occurred in the last day of the session, when legislators and transcribing clerks were laboring under the effects of a champagne supper, followed by a champagne breakfast. The name of Smith had been put where Jones ought to be, and "wicy wery," as the Latin poet has it.

WHAT ARE "CONSOLS"?—They are a three per cent. English stock, which had its origin in an act of the British Parliament, consolidating (hence the name) several separate Government stocks called in the act "consolidated Annuities," and commonly quoted for brevity, as "Consols." This stock from its amount and the immense number of its holders, is more sensitive to financial influence, than any other, and is therefore the favorite stock for the operation of speculators and jobbers. Its dividends are payable semi-annually.

"The Earth is Wearing Out."

How often are agricultural improvers told that mother earth is in her decline? "The earth is wearing out," says Farmer Standish, "there is no use of improving the soil—it will soon all be gone."—Gone where? We ask again, reflecting reader, if you? Are we asking in the cant? Some hills are bare, and other valleys are desolate in their sterility. Other valleys are impoverished, and refuse to put on nature's green livery with which rich spots so exuberantly array themselves. Trees and herbage have disappeared, but still the earth is young—young in the measure of years—young in her capacity for increased production on every acre of her wide domain. Every atom which the Creator cast from his plastic hands at the dawn of time, still has its visible existence somewhere on this globe, and is doing its part of the re-production which nature is so constantly employed in. Nothing is wasted in nature's vast laboratory. The dead leaves from the trees—the withered grass of the fields, all go to make up for the earth, which vegetation calls forth from the soil. What if the mould of our new lands is washed down the brooks and rivers, into the oceans which encircle continents? The sea, in return, gives back its rich treasures to the land which has been robbed, and though it comes from the islands of the far South, it nevertheless restores all the elements which are requisite to reconstitute the fields which have been exhausted by tillage. There is an inscrutable wisdom in Providence which is beyond mortal ken. Wherever nature has a want, there will be an agent of supply ready at hand. Whenever it becomes the practice of rural minds to apply the intellectual glow which they are gifted with to devising the proper remedies for natural defects of soil, or wasted fertility, then may we expect to see the earth bloom like a bride amongst youth, and we will hear no more the unwelcome voice which bids her sons despair, as they stand in the furrows of life. Yes, the earth is still young. Glad and joyous in coming years will be the march of time among her teeming valleys. Fields of golden grain and snowy fleece, from her increased production, will cause the countless millions yet to enter life, to bless those who have not stood idle upon the sod. Let us be up and doing. The bog, the marsh, and the fen, sending forth the sorrows of pestilence and death, can all be made to smile with the beauty of local preservation. It is a mandate written by Deity amongst the laws of nature, and he who disobeys, instead of plenteous harvests, reaps only disappointment and vexation of spirit.—Southern Agriculturist.

From the Northern Cultivator. Under-Draining. A correspondent (V. W. H., Trexlertown, Pa.) who has never seen any under-draining, wishes to try an experiment on a piece of meadow lying on both sides of a small creek—the ground gravelly, and generally too wet to bring good grass—and he desires practical directions how to perform the work.

We can only give, at present, very brief hints on the subject, as to treat it in full would require a volume. Cut the drains as narrow as the workman can stand in them, and at least three feet deep—let them run directly down the hill, so as to give rapid descent, which is especially necessary in gravelly soil; for if laid obliquely they will leak, and be comparatively of little use. As tile cannot probably be had by our correspondent, the drains may be filled with stone or with brush, as may be most convenient, the former being most durable, the latter more easily constructed. If much water flows in the ditch, and the descent is moderate, a fine channel must be made for the water by placing a row of stones on each side of the ditch's bottom, leaving a space of two or three inches between; across both of these rows flat stones are laid, forming a covered channel. If flat stones cannot be had, hard or durable slabs will answer, but they will ultimately decay. The ditch is then partly filled with small stones, none being admitted half the breadth of the ditch, on these straw or inverted turf is deposited, and the rest of the space filled with the removed earth. But there are several precautions to be observed, or the earth will soon fall in among the stones. If the soil is clayey much water will be needed, however, than with lighter soils, those approaching the character of quick sands being most of all difficult to manage and control. The precautions are, to place the smallest stones at the top, and flat ones, if to be had, to close all cavities; and if the soil has little clay in it, to cover these stones with a layer of slabs, before placing on the invested sods of straw. Also, if the soil is light or gravelly, a smaller portion of the ditch must be filled with stones, than if much clayey; because the water will find its way down through the former more readily, at the same time that the less tenacious soil will be more apt to fall in among the stones if they are near the surface.

In either case, an opening depth of soil must be allowed for plowing freely over the drain. When the stones are not copious we are inclined to prefer, decidedly, the construction of brush drains, in all places where plenty of brush can be obtained; and these are more especially suited for the use of such as may have had little experience in under-draining, as they require but little skill. The ditches are cut in the same way as for stone or tile, and are filled with brush by commencing with the upper end and placing the butts downwards and the tops upwards, and so proceeding down the ditch by depositing an even layer so as to fill it, the tops being thus left on the surface, and the butts resting on the earth. When pressed down, they will fill about one-third or one-half of the ditch; they are then covered with inverted turf, and the ditch completed by relling with earth. Brush drains will last many years, the brush being excluded from the air and decay; they are less liable to obstruction from the falling of the earth than stone drains; & the water will always find ready channels among the branches for flowing off.

A rapid mode of relling with earth consists in throwing it in with a common two-horse plow, a long white-tree being used, so that the horses may walk on either side of the ditch. This will be assisted by a tool made of two plank fastened together in the form of the letter V, and drawn open end forward, throwing the earth toward the centre and into the ditch. The digging may be facilitated by plowing a wide double furrow where each one is intended to be cut; and if this is done with the Double Michigan plow, about one-third of the depth will be excavated by the operation.

Where the whole surface of the field is too wet, the drains should be cut at regular intervals of about three rods apart—if the soil is heavy. If only portions of the field are wet, the drains should pass through those portions and be furnished with such side branches as may appear necessary—remembering always to give them as much descent as may be practicable. It should not be forgotten that a great deal of land that appears quite dry would be greatly benefited by thorough under-draining, as has been actually proved in repeated instances. Draining often proves one of the best securities against drowth, by preventing the soil from becoming packed together when wet, and baking hard by drying; it renders it porous and friable, and highly retentive of moisture in drowth.

It is a hard case. Instead of being divorced, and at liberty to marry the widow, Jacob Jones was simply incorporated into a turnpike company, and which made it worse, authorized with his brother directors to construct a turnpike from Burlington to Bristol. When we reflect that Burlington and Bristol are located just a mile apart on the opposite side of the river, you will perceive the extreme hopelessness of Jones' case. "It's all the fault of the d— a turnpike man, who gave 'em the champagne supper; or was it breakfast?" "If they'd chartered me to build a turnpike from Pig's Run to Terrapin Hollow, I might have borne it; but the very idea of building a turnpike from Burlington to Bristol, bears an absurdity upon the face of it."

"So it did." "And you ain't divorced?" said Eliza, a tear rolling down each cheek. "No!" thundered Jones, crushing his hat between his knees, and pounding his head with his fists, "I ain't divorced, but I'm incorporated into a turnpike! and what is worse the Legislature is adjourned and gone home drunk, and won't be back to Trenton till next year." This mistake had occurred in the last day of the session, when legislators and transcribing clerks were laboring under the effects of a champagne supper, followed by a champagne breakfast. The name of Smith had been put where Jones ought to be, and "wicy wery," as the Latin poet has it.

WHAT ARE "CONSOLS"?—They are a three per cent. English stock, which had its origin in an act of the British Parliament, consolidating (hence the name) several separate Government stocks called in the act "consolidated Annuities," and commonly quoted for brevity, as "Consols." This stock from its amount and the immense number of its holders, is more sensitive to financial influence, than any other, and is therefore the favorite stock for the operation of speculators and jobbers. Its dividends are payable semi-annually.

A cabin boy on board a ship, the Captain of which was a religious man, was called up to be whipped for some misdemeanor. Little Jack went crying and trembling, and said to the Captain: "Pray, sir, will you wait until I say my prayers?" "Yes," was the stern reply. "Well, then," replied Jack, looking up and smiling triumphantly, "I'll never say them!"