THE PLANS.

DETAIL OF THE PLANS FOR IMPROVING THE SACRAMENTO RIVER.

The Memorandum of State Engineer Hall Referred to in the Report of Capt. Eads, Consulting Engineer.

The improvement of the Sacramento river as a flood-carrying and navigable channel is to be effected mainly through the agency of the moving power of its currents, guided and controlled by engineering works to be designated and executed for this purpose.

These works will have for their ultimate objects—first, the production of a channel of good regimen—uniform capacity to transport the waters presented; second, the maintenance of a well-formed, self-sustaining low-water channel; and third, the production of a high-water channel of sufficient capacity to accommodate and transmit the waters of all ordinary floods.

Although material may be taken to advantage from the bed of the river for the purpose of constructing levees upon its banks, thereby enlarging its channel, yet the great work of removing its shoals, adjusting its widths and depths, and generally clearing its water-way, must be performed by the moving waters, for to talk of accomplishing this end by direct mechanical means artificially applied is to contemplate the expenditure of money beyond all hope of reasonable return. Hence we are to consider the character and moving power of the river currents.

The Sacramento river may be contemplated in three compartments as regards the power and action of its currents to produce and maintain the channel desired. These are, the tidal compartment, wherein the influence of tidal action predominates over that of the flow from land drainage in the aggregate and throughout the year, and regulates the dimensions of the channel; the land drainage compartment, wherein the channel is formed and alone maintained by the waters of land drainage, and the influence of tides is not felt; and the intermediate compartment, wherein the balance between the waters brought down from above and those periodically sent up by the tides, is most variable, and the channel is made and maintained in part by each influence—the one predominating at the time of floods and the other at times of low water.

The lower or tidal compartment of the Sacramento river may be with greater apparent propriety taken as extending up to the mouth of Cache slough, on the Steamboat slough channel, and to a somewhat greater distance above the foot of Grand Island on the old river channel; but for convenience of reference and to conform to the divisions of the river mentioned preliminarily in the report of the State Engineer made to the Legislature in January, 1880, I propose to regard only the channel below the foot of Grand Island to the bay as constituting this tidal compartment, this including within it the eighth and ninth divisions of the river preliminarily set out, as above mentioned.

The influence of the tides used to be felt at low-water stages of the stream as far up as the mouth of Feather river, but since the rising of the bed, occasioned by the flow of sands in the past few years, the tidal influence is not perceptible above the mouth of the American river, where formerly there was two feet of tidal action. A successful treatment of this river for the improvement of its channels would result in the lowering of the water plane and the restoration of tidal action as far up as of old. So that ultimately the intermediate compartment would extend to the mouth of Feather river; but for the purposes of preliminary work the limit of present tidal influence at low water is taken as the upper line of this compartment, so that it is considered as extending from the foot of Grand Island to the mouth of American river, including the sixth and seventh divisions of the river, as set out in the report heretofore referred to.

Above the mouth of the American river the channels of the Sacramento and Feather rivers are now maintained by the action of water moving forward to the bay continuously—the waters of land drainage; the action of the tides is not felt, and their conservative influence cannot be counted upon to any great extent for restoring the channel to its former depth and improving upon its condition generally. Here, then, is the upper or land drainage compartment of the river.

IMPROVED TIDAL COMPARTMENT.

In a general way the influence of the tides was discussed in the report to the Legislature, heretofore alluded to. (Part II., pp. 59-63.) This influence is to be availed of in the tidal compartment by the removal of channel bars, thus facilitating the propagation of the tidal wave. For the velocity of its transmission is in proportion to the square root of the mean depth of the channel.

These bars exist at points where the river is widest—too wide for the volume of water habitually presented to it—and are to be removed by bringing the banks to the distance apart which shall be indicated by a study of the hydrography of this compartment as that which affords the average well-shaped section.

At one notable point—in the turn known as "Horse Shoe Bend"—5,000 feet above Emmaton Landing, and at several other points also, the channel in this compartment is too narrow, as the result of an undue growth of a point bar, and the opposite bank is being destroyed. This is an action of another character requiring attention.

By reference to page 66 of Part II. of the report spoken of it will be seen under the head of *works advisable on the lower river*—second—that all of the foregoing lines of improvements have been officially recommended in the following words: "Removing the channel bars between Grand Island and Collinsville, and widening the channel in the Horse Shoe Bend."

It is to be remembered that in contracting the width of the channel above low-tide low-water mark the area of the spread of tidal waters is restricted, and the volume of tidal wave thereby diminished—a result which will tend, in a degree at least, to counteract the influence for good of adjusting the width of the channel. And yet to adjust those widths only up to the low-tide low-water mark would admit of too free an escape for the waters over the full width of the bars at higher stages to insure the maintenance of the desired channel through them.

Bearing these points in mind, we are to bring the channel to the required width up to an elevation which will insure the conservative action necessary, and plan for the spread of the tidal waters over as great an area as possible above that level. With this view my study of the subject leads me to adopt about the plane of half-tide at low-water stage for the crest elevation of all contracting works in the tidal compartment of the river.

For a similar reason, if for no other, Cache slough should be left open. It acts as an important basin into which the wave of tidal water is poured and withdrawn twice daily, thus affording the volume necessary to keep open the channel of the river below, by its passing up and down again.

The chief works considered necessary in this lower or tidal compartment of the river have been indicated on page 56 of the report heretofore alluded to, under the side heading: *Proposed Channel Corrections.* I here restate them in a more comprehensive form.

THE NEWTOWN SHOAL CORRECTION.

A new alignment for the south shore of the river, above Wood Island, to near the foot of Grand Island.

Designed to effect the removal of the Newtown shoal and the enlargement of the Rio Vista channel.

General plan: A permeable training wall of brush in the form of a mattress on edge supported by piles, near the alignment of the proposed new shore, connected with the present south shore by several cross-walls or spurs of similar construction.

The effect will be to narrow the river upon the shoal and close the channel south of Wood Island, with the permeable barriers, thus causing deposit upon the south half of the shoal and in the south or Wood Island channel, and scour through the north half of the shoal and the northern or Rio Vista channel.

CORRECTIONS FROM RIO VISTA TO COLLINSVILLE.

Effect the production of a channel through all the shoals from Wood Island to the bay, to the normal width and depth of the present channel as found at the localities of the same division of the river where it is in good form.

General plan: A treatment of the wide shoal reaches of the river somewhat similar to that proposed for the Newtown shoal correction; namely, the introduction of permeable barriers or spur-dykes, located upon such portions of the flats as will clear the best alignment for the permanent channel. These barriers may be constructed as floating walls, or curtains of brush anchored at their lower and buoyed at their upper edges, in a manner somewhat similar to those used on the Missouri, The effect will be to cause deposit between the successive dykes along the same shore and division in the channel between them and the opposite bank, thus affecting the production of a channel of the desired width and depth.

HORSESHOE BEND CORRECTION.

The general idea of this correction has been conversed in a former mention of it.

A point bar has grown rapidly and become covered with swamp-growth of vegetation. The high-water currents are thrown forcibly against the opposite bank, which is but the narrow rim of bank-land forming the northern border of Sherman Island. This rim is being rapidly eroded. It is proposed to divert the current from its present point of attack and cause it to cut away the opposite bar again.

The means of accomplishing this may be briefly designated as a series of spur dykes thrown out from the concave shore, commencing well above the present point of caving and extending down to and over it.

These spurs will be for the most part permeable, constructed of piles and brush-wood, and designed to check the force of the current all along the south or Sherman Island shore, and deflect it to the opposite bank.

It is believed that as the result of the execution of the foregoing works, the river throughout its lower or tidal compartment will be brought to a good regimen, the tidal flow will be facilitated, the volume of tidal water will be augmented and the whole channel will be rendered more efficient as a line of flood escape through this compartment. And, furthermore, it is maintained that the accomplishment of this object is essential to the successful treatment of the river above the enlargement of its capacity.

IMPROVEMENT—INTERMEDIATE COMPARTMENT.

In this compartment we have the tidal action in a diminished degree, and the flow of land drainage on sufficiently inclined slopes to induce great scouring power, as our agent for the improvement of the channel.

As already remarked, our first object is to secure a channel of good regimen. In this compartment of the river exists the most serious defect in the regimen of the river in any portion of its course—the division of its waters into two channels, which occurs at Grand Island.

CORRECTION AT GRAND ISLAND.

It is proposed to correct this defect by making Steamboat slough the channel of the river and closing Old River channel at its head. This proposition is discussed at page 56 to 59 of the report heretofore mentioned.

Steamboat slough is to be preferred to Old River as the main channel for the following reasons:

First—It is so much the shortest that a material lowering of the flood-line would be effected on this account at the head of Grand island and above, by its successful improvement.

Second—It is the most direct and can be developed so as to have less bend resistance than can Old River channel.

Third—It is equally as good a channel for the lower two-thirds of its length and a better channel at its lower end than Old River.

Fourth—It is only leveed on one side and the land is regarded as in a measure reclaimed only on that side, so there is room for widening it and setting the levee on the other side far enough back to afford the necessary water way. Whereas Old River is already leveed on both sides and the embankments not affording sufficient water-way between them for the floods, so that the improvement of this channel would necessitate a large outlay for property damage, and the destruction of at least one of the existing levees.

Fifth—The Old River is already a tolerably clear channel, with a connection through to the Mokelumne and San Joaquin rivers by way of Georgiana Slough, which would admit of tidal circulation, and hence if it were closed at its upper end, and the sands thus prevented from entering there, it would remain open as a navigable stream, affording boating facilities for the traffic from its bank lands to the bay; whereas the closure of Steamboat Slough at its head, in its present condition, and there not being a circulation of tidal water through it, would result in its complete destruction as a navigable channel, to the detriment of lands along its borders.

Sixth—Cache creek, which, as before pointed out, is an important tributary, as draining the Yolo basin, enters Steamboat Slough channel, and materially aids in clearing it at its lower end, while it has just the reverse effect upon the Old River channel, as our studies of the tides and soundings reveal.

It is proposed to close the head of Old river gradually by means of brush mattress sills laid in during successive seasons, one on top of the other, until a dam is formed, the whole to be held in position by piles and weighted down with stone.

In the mean time Steamboat slough must be improved by opening a new head to it, and dredging through a deep channel to start the scouring action, training its currents to cut off the points, straighten it and to wash out its bars.

The material obtained by the dredging operations to be used in raising and strengthening the existing levee and constructing one to correspond with it on the north bank.

As the forcing of Steamboat slough channel will cause a temporary super-elevation of the flood line of the river above, all levees must be raised and strengthened to meet this as far as Sacramento, at least before the work is commenced.

CLOSURE OF SUTTER SLOUGH.

For the same reasons as we have given in the case of closing Old river, Sutter slough should be closed at its upper end; and the process will be similar to that just described for the former channel, only the time required need not be more than one season, seeing that this a small opening.

IMPROVEMENT—MIDDLE COMPARTMENT ABOVE GRAND ISLAND, AND THE UPPER COMPARTMENT.

All works necessary above Grand Island, throughout that portion of the river affected by the tides, and that above it also, may be generally classified together, as follows:

1. Removal of channel bars.
2. Protection and alignment of banks.
3. Straightening the channel.
4. Closure of crevasses and other outlets.
5. Leveeing.
6. Provision of high-flood overflow channels.

REMOVAL OF CHANNEL BARS.

Between Grand Island and the mouth of Feather river there are two notable channel bars and one other shoal, but little less marked in its development. Haycock shoal and Six-mile shoal—the one about nine miles below Sacramento and the other about five miles above—being the first two of the three in importance, while the bar just above the old Russian crossing, known as Ten-mile shoal, is to be ranked next. Two other shallow reaches exist in this portion of the river, but it is to be hoped the works mentioned would result in the establishment and maintenance at those points of a channel even in width and depth with that above and below, which would admit free transit of the sands forward, and of the general deepening of the whole stream.

Above the junction of the Feather and the Sacramento, on the Sacramento particularly above Colusa, there are a number of points where this treatment must ultimately be applied, but none so necessary as those before mentioned, or so prominent as to deserve special mention above others at this time.

PROTECTION AND ALIGNMENT OF BANKS.

Where the river banks are being rapidly worn away locally, the action must be arrested, unless it be where a widening of the stream or a change of alignment is desirable in the direction towards which the change tends; and in cases where the trend of the banks is such as to cause notable eddies and point bars, the cause of these should be removed by effecting a change in the alignment of the banks.

Two notable places of some extent exist on the Sacramento, between the mouth of Feather river and the head of Grand Island, where the banks must be protected, namely, the west bank of the American river to near the Sacramento and Yolo bridge, and the west bank in the turn at the point known as the Chicory ranch, five miles below Sacramento.

At the first-mentioned point the shore-line has receded three or four hundred feet, for about a quarter of a mile in distance, during the past ten years, and this movement appears to be increasing ir rapidity.

At the last-mentioned place a similar action has commenced with alarming rapidity within the past few years, threatening the destruction of the bank of the river back into the low ground in the near future.

Spur dykes in series and of a more substantial character than those proposed for effecting the corrections at channel bars should be used for this work. Brush mattress, foundations, with piles driven through these for supports, and filled in with brush-work between, constitute the leading characteristics of the proposed spurs for this last-mentioned purpose.

Within the portion of the river now under consideration there are two points where the banks should be given a new alignment, for other causes than heretofore localized.

These points are: At and below the mouth of American river on the east side, and on both sides in the bend at Bryte's ranch.

The American river mouth correction will be planned to give its waters an entrance into those of the Sacramento more nearly parallel to the direction of the larger stream, the object to be effected by means of a pair of training walls and spur dykes connecting them with the banks. The effect will be to facilitate the flow of flood waters, lessen the bank-caving on the opposite shore of the Sacramento, heretofore alluded to, and prevent to a great extent the formation of the bar on the east shore of the Sacramento below the American mouth. The proposed works would be in style of construction somewhat similar to that projected for the heavier spurs to protect caving banks.

On the upper Sacramento river, particularly above Colusa, a number of places exist where the banks must be protected from abrasion, but none demand special mention now except that at the town of Colusa, where works similar to those spoken of for the west bank of the river at the two points below must soon be undertaken, to prevent a serious malformation of the river channel and consequent interruption of the escape of floods. On the Feather river a similar notable point exists, besides others of minor importance, in what is known as Shanghai bend, three miles below the mouth of the Yuba, and this trouble should also receive attention at an early day.

STRAIGHTENING THE RIVER.

Except in the Steamboat slough correction—that at Grand Island, already mentioned—the expedient of straightening the river is desirable only in the division between the head of Butte slough and the mouth of Feather river. (See pages 67 to 72 of Report to Legislature.)

It is proposed to make at least six cut-offs in the river in this region—three below Knight's Landing and three above—as shown by the accompanying drawings.

CLOSURE OF CREVASSES AND OTHER OUTLETS—LEVEE CONSTRUCTION.

Numerous deep cuts or crevasses in the natural banks, for the most part caused by the rupture of the levees and consequent rush of waters through narrow openings, exist on both the Sacramento and Feather rivers; long stretches of these streams are flanked by such poor levees, or none at all, that flood waters escape in thin sheets over the land for comparatively long distances, without destroying the banks to any considerable depth; and a number of old natural channels, generally termed sloughs, which have either never been closed, or have been swept open again by the floods, still permit the escape of the floods into the basins which flank the rivers.

These are all outlets, at times, and some of them serve as inlets for the return of waters at other times; but at all times of flood they disturb the regimen of the rivers, and their continued action will defeat any attempt to improve its channel; hence they must be closed.

The prevention of the escape of any large portion of the waters, suddenly effected, will result in a material temporary elevation of the flood line in the river, in the neighborhood of the closures particularly, until such time as the channel becomes readjusted to the duty it has to perform. Hence the entire closure of any considerable proportion of the existing outlets in any one locality in one season would be attended with disaster to existing levees in the neighborhood and along the river below also.

It is proposed, therefore, to effect the closure of these outlets by degrees. The smaller deep ones should be completely closed at once by extending the levees across them. The larger deep ones could at the same time be filled to the natural bank elevation with brush dams placed around behind them, and be made to serve as high flood easements for a few seasons, during which they could be gradually closed by raising the brush dams from time to time; and pending the closure of these larger crevasses and natural outlets, the levee system should be made complete and perfect.

In all cases, the outlets which permit the escape of water into the heads or upper ends of the basins should be closed before those at the lower ends, and the closing dams in those latter should be provided with flood gates proportioned to the probable duty to be performed by them as drainage outlets from the basins.

With this opinion, I am in favor of completely closing all minor openings where levees exist up to them, and partially closing all the larger openings as described up to bank level, as soon as the work can be accomplished, and at the same time constructing complete levees so as to prevent the escape of all waters except as follows:

For the first year, above Colusa, on the east side of the river provision should be made for the escape of 20,000 cubic feet of water per second at some points where it now escapes, when the Red Bluff gauge reads at high-water elevation of 1880.

Below Colusa on the east side, down to Butte slough, inclusive, provision should be made for the escape of 15,000 cubic feet of water per second when the Colusa gauge reads at flood elevation of 1880.

Below the mouth of Feather river on the west side, and above Sacramento, provision should be made for the escape of 30,000 cubic feet of water per second when the Fremont gauge reads at high-water elevation of 1880.

With these provisions for easement, the existing channels, leveed systematically and uniformly to a moderate and safe hight for levees, would carry away the ordinary floods of the valley, and the work of rectifying and enlarging them as heretofore recommended would be in continual progress, so that after the third or fourth season—including the present as one—the cut offs being effected in the middle river, and the Steamboat slough rectification being accomplished on the lower river, all outlets could be safely closed to high-flood mark of 1880 and the levee system could be perfected for all ordinary floods of the valley.

I am opposed to the radical, immediate closure of the principal outlets, such as the English break and two or three others on the same side of the river above it, and Butte slough and several others on the same side of the river above it, because I am certain that the river in its present condition will not carry the waters which would be sent down to it, within levees of reasonable hight, below these points, and the result would be disastrous.

FLOOD ESCAPE WEIRS.

For a similar reason I am in favor of providing points of escape for the surplus waters of extraordinarily high floods. Such vast volumes of water as would overtop any line of levee which will ever be constructed in this valley will assuredly be brought down occasionally.

No possible artificial embankments, no possible development of the channel of the Sacramento river, would provide water-way for, and prevent the spread of the waters of such floods as those of 1853, 1862, 1868, and perhaps others, of which we have record.

The Sacramento river now carries 80,000 to 90,000 cubic feet per second past Sacramento. We may make it carry 200,000 cubic feet, but we cannot make it carry 400,000 cubic feet; and I am of the opinion that the flood of 1862, or either of the others mentioned, perhaps, would have presented the last amount named, in the lower river.

For this reason I am in favor of providing on the west bank of the river, between Sacramento and Knight's Landing, large escapeways, at least 200 yards wide each. At these points the levee should not be raised to within, say two feet of that above and below, and an open way, of their full width or more, should be provided immediately behind them, leading back to the lowest part of the bank.

On each side of these open ways a dense growth of young timber, several hundred feet in width, should be continuously cultivated to prevent the lateral escape of strong currents which would tear up cultivated or improved lands, and the base of these outlets behind the levees, as in front, should be cultivated in young timber to prevent deep cutting when the floods make their escape through them.

By this means the total destruction of valuable property would be avoided. When the levees broke it would be in places where least damage would be done behind them; and, as in my opinion these levees will be overtopped periodically unless the waters find other escape than by the river, the measure proposed is certainly a wise one if the results of my investigations are to be relied upon.

Very respectfully yours,

WM. HAM. HALL.

Memorandum to Messrs. James B. Eads and George H. Mendell, Consulting Engineers. Sacramento, August, 1880.

HAMMER'S GLYCEROLE OF TAR has been before the public for the past six years, and its constantly increasing demand is the best testimonial of its success.

Robert Browning and his sister take long pedestrian excursions in the mountains.

HAMMER'S GLYCEROLE TAR.—The most perfect cough cure extant. Hundreds can testify to its good effects

THEATRE FRANCAIS.

CELEBRATING THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF A THEATER.

The Opening Day of the Fete—Moliere—The Bonapartist Party and Its Troubles—Etc.

PARIS, October 24, 1880.

The Theatre Francais has been *en fete;* it has been celebrating since last Thursday night the two hundredth anniversary of its existence, for it was then just two hundred years the 21st of October, 1680, that Louis XIV. signed and Colbert contre signed an ordinance for the union of the two troupes of comediens established at the Hotel de Bourgogne and in the Rue de Guenegand at Paris. It was from the moment of the coalition of the two troupes that they played every day, for until then they had played but three times a week—Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. That which may astonish those superstitious in regard to Friday is that Friday was the day of *porte-bonheur*, and the one which was chosen for the first representation of the pieces.

THE THEATRE FRANCAIS

Seems the embodiment of Moliere, since it was he who was actor and director of his theater and it was his pieces which were played. In more than one respect do we find a great analogy between the lives and talents of Moliere and Shakespeare. Although at the present time Corneille and Racine find each their place, yet is it the house of Moliere, and the entire talented troupe have done their utmost that the spirit of the great comedian may feel at home. Times have indeed changed; during his lifetime Moliere did not even have a foretaste of the honor and glory which awaited him in the future, for he was nothing more to his king, the *roi soleil*, than a sort of fool or buffoon created to amuse him and make him laugh. Aside from the "Fourberies de Scapin" and the "Medecin Malgre Cui," all his pieces of buffoonery were written for the court, whereas all his serious comedies were first offered to the public. Moliere, through his just and witty criticisms of the customs of his time, created many enemies, who attacked him on all sides, not only as a writer and comedian, but outraged him as a husband. At last he begged from the King the permission to defend himself, which the King deigned to accord. The defense of Moliere was the "Impromptu." When Louis XIV. deigned to permit Moliere to defend himself the royalists were in ecstacy and exclaimed, "What a grand King! Oh, monarchy, the protector of letters!" But one rather becomes indignant at the idea that Moliere, outraged and calumniated, should have needed that permission should be accorded to him to defend himself. Such was the protector of letters who allowed the old Corneille to remain poor and neglected. As to Moliere, so long as he lived and could amuse him, Louis XIV. took his part just as you would become angry at a kick given to your dog, but Moliere had no sooner died and was incapable of producing another ballet than Louis XIV. allowed the priests to throw him on the roadside like a carrion, and it was only by force of prayers that they could extract from him a little earth. Marquises were extended in front of the entrance of the Theatre Francais, composed of

OLD TAPESTRY AND FLOWERS,

And decorations extended far into the vestibule. The public seemed to comprehend the solemnity of this elevated literary manifestation and presented themselves in the *grande tenue* which such an occasion required, and it was almost religiously the *chef-d'œuvre* of Moliere was listened to. The "Misanthrope" was the first piece on the programme, when Mr. Delaunay took possession, as vainquer, of the almost inapproachable role of the misanthropic Alceste. Mr. Delaunay, they say, is long past 50, yet he continues to play the role of young man at the Theatre Francais, since no actor has yet come to light in France capable of appearing so young and of throwing into his actions the same ardor and charm of youth. On seeing him play it is impossible to realize that he is not a young man, just as it was almost impossible to realize years ago that Edwin Booth was not an old man when he played Richelieu. Mlle. Croizette took possession of her accustomed role of Celimene, more elegantly dressed than ordinary, when the footlights paled before the brilliancy of the diamonds she wore. She really appeared the adorable and perfidious Celimene, who, with a glance of her eye or a stroke of her fan, overthrew the misanthropic views of the gloomy Alceste.

THE "IMPROMPTU DE VERSAILLES"

Was played, as the title indicates, first at Versailles, but the exact date is not known. Thursday, the 11th of October, 1663, Moliere's troupe, which still belonged to Monsieur (it did not belong to the King until after August, 1665), was called to Versailles. They played from the 11th to the 23d, and the pieces represented were, "Le Prince Jaloux," "Sertorius," "l'Ecole des Maris," "Les Facheux," "l'Impromptu," "Le Depit Amoureux," and once more "Le Prince Jaloux." For all that the King had his first valet de chambre, Bontemps, give the troupe 3,300 livres. "L'Impromptu" was played at Paris for the first time on Sunday, the 4th of November, and the curiosity was so great to see it that it was played nineteen times in succession. There were, besides, two other representations, one at the house of the Marechal de Grammont, who gave 330 livres, another at the Hotel Conde, where the troupe were bidden on the occasion of the marriage of the Duke, and where they played "l'Impromptu," and the "Critique de l'Ecole des Femmes," for which they received 400 livres. On Thursday,

THE OPENING NIGHT,

The audience was composed of all that Paris contains of illustrious in literature and art, all political and scientific celebrities, and the ladies present had come as to a grand fete or ball, and had adorned themselves for the occasion in diamonds and flowers. The President of the Republic and all his Ministers were present and in a *baignoire* could be discerned Gambetta. In the back part of one of the front boxes Victor Hugo could be seen; he had received a special invitation from Mr. Perrin, the director of the Theater Francais, to be present on that evening, and the author of "Hernani" departed from his usual habit of retiring early to attend this grand occasion. The letter he wrote in answer to Mr. Perrin's invitation is so characteristic of the great poet that it may be pardonable in reproducing it here:

PARIS, 21st October.

Sir: I could not resist your noble letter, written in the name of all the artists, wherein I thought I heard the voice even of the Comedie Francaise. My eighty years have come to salute your two hundred. I thank you for this magnificent and cordial evening, wherein the hight of talent has been equaled only by the perfection of the whole, and wherein I felt the grand fraternity of art. I press your hand; I press all the hands of the gentlemen, and I place myself at the feet of the ladies.

VICTOR HUGO.

After the representation of the two comedies, Mr. Got, the *doyen* of the Comedie Francaise, advanced to the front of the stage, accompanied by the entire troupe, dressed in the characters of Moliere, Racine and Corneille, whose busts were erected before a portique of the grand style flooded with light. Mr. Got then recited admirable verses written for the occasion by the poet Coppee, and recited them in his usual superior manner. The entire verses are charming and mark in places most

HAPPY INSPIRATIONS,

But as a whole are inferior to the verses by the same poet written on the occasion of the inauguration of Corot's bust at Ville d'Auray. I wish I might transpose a portion of this poem, for it really posseses much merit. He draws a picture of Moliere wandering through the country with his troupe, sometimes obliged to ask for a night's lodging of some insolent valet of a chateau, who without doubt stowed them in the hay loft, and that he was looked on with suspicion as one who had deranged others; that only Hamlet, the divine son of the great Shakespeare, would have recognized on his brow the mark of genius, and with honor would have said to them, "Welcome, gentlemen, welcome to Elseneur." But times have changed, and Moliere at this moment, in his grand and noble dwelling, gives shelter to the old as well as new masters, and it is he who can say with pride, "Welcome all." You may be proud classical marble, for your work grows always as an old tree, which when April comes pushes in every direction the strong freshness of its powerful branches, always happy to shelter under its green umbrellas so many young birds and new songs." He finishes the poem by comparing literature to the sea, and said that after the little waves comes an immense billow, a longer silence follows its fall, and the water much farther off retires in foaming, but nothing can withstand the assault of the tide. "Oh century eternally proud, to see the work of Hugo mount like the sea." At the name of Victor Hugo all eyes turned toward the private box where he kept himself hidden from view; but when the entertainment was over, and the crowd was once in the street, the great poet received their loud acclamations of admiration as he entered his carriage. For this grand fete of the house of Moliere the costumes were all renewed, and have never been so rich, elegant and as historically correct. It was as though Mr. Perrin had dressed his children up for their grandfather's birthday.

It has been said that when poverty comes in at the door love goes flying out of the window.

THE BONAPARTIST PARTY

Have grown so poor in prospects and expectations that the feeling of fraternity which bound them so closely together has suddenly vanished, probably because there is no more booty to be divided between them. They held a meeting last Sunday at the Cirque Fernando, when there took place the most fearful scandal ever imputed to any political party. During a speech some one had the audacity to interrupt, when immediately some ten or twelve commissioners of the reunion rushed towards the interrupter, jumping over the benches and climbing the railings, and reaching the culprit fell upon him with fury, each one pulling him and kicking him, but without being able to make him let go his hold of the bannister. "Ten men against one," some one cried out; "It is shameful," and so on; those who witnessed the scene becoming indignant at its cruelty. Mr. Marius Martin, a well-known Bonapartist and member of the Municipal Council, sent a letter to the *Figaro* in which he said that he had been a witness of a scene of savagery such as he had never seen before; that one of the assistants, Mr. Pietri, on venturing some remark of blame, was seized by ten or twelve demoniac-appearing men who kicked him, pounded him with their fists and beat him with their canes, while another pinched him to make him let go of the railing. The unfortunate creature, precipitated from above, fell bleeding to the ground. A great number of those present cried out that it was a shame, an indignity. As to the committee they looked on the scene without being in the least moved and without making an effort to protect the victim against such brutality. Mr. Martin said that the scene disgusted him, and that he rushed to the tribune to beg Mr. Petit-Pierre, presiding at the reunion, to do his duty and put an end to

THAT REVOLTING SCENE.

These gentlemen had nothing better to do than to abuse him and call him names, and with the aid of their agents prevented him from speaking to the crowd, and the son of the President shook his fist in his face. At last, on seeing the impossibility of coming to an understanding, Mr. Martin informed those present that he was disgusted with what he had seen, and intended to withdraw, and invited all those who were of his opinion to follow him. He started to the door, followed by about fifty friends, but when he wished to pass, the Commissioners barred the passage and were ready to fall upon him with the same rage they had attacked the unfortunate creature in the hall. His friends surrounded him and endeavored to parry the blows levied at him, and he got off with two cane strokes on his head, whose strength was diminished by his hat. Although he escaped with slight harm, his friends did not fare so well, and among the number Mr. Malvesin, who was fearfully bitten on the arm, and whose neck and leg were torn. All this among Bonapartists. It must be confessed that

HAPPINESS, BLISS AND HARMONY

Are not to be found in their domestic circle. Those of their companions who were not expelled decided that three of their number should carry in the evening to the hotel of the Prince Jerome an address desiring a particular interview, but Jerome Bonaparte answered them in as cold and formal manner as possible, stating that he knew what they wanted, and they knew what he would answer them, and that it would be useless to receive them. He finished by saying that as to himself, in his name and in the name of his two sons, it sufficed him to state once more the diversity of their politics. It seems that not only the Bonapartists are Imperialists without an Empire, but they cannot obtain a would-be Emperor. It is to-day a fete is celebrated at Angers, in honor of the great sculptor, David D'Angers, when a statue of him, erected in the public square, is to be unveiled. Mr. Barthelemy Saint Hilaire, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Turquet, the *Sous Secretaire aux Beaux-Arts*, represent the Government on this occasion. A subscription has been opened by the different artists of Fontainebleau and Barbizon, for the purpose of erecting statues to Theodore Rousseau and Millet, the great paysagists of France, who, during their lifetime, made their home at Barbizon. The intention is to place the statues in the forest of Fontainebleau.

It is reported that on the 31st of this month there is to take place on the Esplanade des Invalides, a grand international balloon race, when numerous balloons are to be mounted by French aeronauts and those of other nations.

VAL.

CHALKING THE HAT.—This phrase was due to Admiral Reeside, in the days when Congressmen went lumbering over the distant States in stage-coaches. At the annual adjournment of Congress, Admiral Reeside would pass his friends of the two houses over his stage-lines after the following fashion: "Mr. C., I suppose you are going back to Lexington? I will pass you through on my coaches." "All right; but how will your agents along the road know this fact?" "Just give me your hat." Upon the tile being passed over, this Napoleon of the stage, taking a piece of chalk from his pocket, would dash off in brilliant white upon the black ground a peculiar hieroglyphic, impossible to counterfeit, and hand it back to the owner with the remark, "Just show that to my agents along the route."

BERTAUD'S INFALLIBLE INJECTION.—The famous French remedy for gonorrhœa, gleet, etc. M. S. Hammer, Sacramento, agent for Pacific coast. Sent C. O. D. to any address.

DR. UNGAR'S LIQUOR ANTIDOTE, carefully prepared of the best Quill Bark by M. S. Hammer, druggist, Sacramento. (The celebrated cure for drunkenness.

HAMMER'S GLYCEROLE OF TAR, for coughs and colds, contains no opiates or astringents. The best preparation out for children.

GOOD MR. SPRUE.

"Hurry up there, and get your tickets, gentlemen!" shouted a man in blue coat and brass buttons, with the company's badge on his coat.

There was a general scramble for the head of the line, and a hurried falling back to less eligible places by those who had failed to secure the first.

I never had any luck in gaining a good place in a crowd. A tall man, with a high hat, always would go in between me and whatever sight was to be seen. If it rained at the circus, the inevitable fat woman, with the green umbrella, always bounded my horizon. In the rush to hear a popular preacher, I have been fortunate enough to secure a camp-stool at the far end of the aisle, but, most commonly, have had to put up with "standing-room" in the third or fourth rank, catching here and there a word of the discourse, but not a glimmer of the sense.

This time I fared as usual. Elbowed out at every attempt to gain a better lodgment, I found myself at last at the extreme end of the *queue*.

"Hurry up, I say," kept shouting he in brass and blue.

But in spite of all, the line shortened slowly. I was getting nervous. The next day was Thanksgiving, which I had agreed to spend at Deacon Patchin's, between whose daughter Polly and myself certain tender negotiations were then in active progress. To miss the train involved the choice of either giving up my visit or waiting several hours and arriving just in time to find Polly in the pouts and taking a longing look at the cold remains of that especial turkey of whose growth in fatness Polly's postscripts had kept me from time to time advised.

"Hurry up!—less than a minute till the gate closes!" admonished the blue and brazen official, as at last I reached the ticket window.

"Ticket to Hugginsport," I said hurriedly.

"Two dollars," replied the ticket-man, slapping down his stamp on a piece of cardboard with the heel of his hand.

"I've lost my pocket book!" I exclaimed, quickly withdrawing the hand sent in search of it.

Here was a fix! I had started with a liberal supply of the one thing needful for Thanksgiving—at least so far as material pleasures go—and here I was without a penny to pay my fare, and not half a minute of spare time!

I looked around helplessly.

"I perceive your embarrassment, sir," said a grave-looking gentleman, whose white choker and long-skirted coat left no doubt of his calling—"I perceive your embarrassment, sir, and shall be happy to relieve you of it. Get your ticket out of this; you can hand me the change and remit the rest."

As he spoke he placed a twenty-dollar bill in my hand.

"But, my dear sir—" I began.

"Pray don't waste time in compliments. My name is Rev. Speedwell Sprue of Chapelton, to which address you can remit the trifling sum advanced. I ask no better guaranty than your countenance."

"I accept your favor," I replied, "with warmest thanks. My name is Hodiah Trimley, white goods clerk with Twist & Bobbin of this city."

"Come, sir, do you wish the ticket or not?" demanded the man at the window, with his thumb on the spring that held up the slide.

I threw down the bill. He hastily counted out the change, and handed me it and the ticket. The former I passed to the obliging stranger, whose hand I had barely time to press in parting, as I left him waiting for another train.

The gateman was in the act of closing the passage and the last bell was ringing as I hurried through and jumped aboard, with views of human nature considerably elevated by the trusting confidence shown by Rev. Mr. Speedwell Sprue—though I doubted whether it would do well to sell white goods on the same credit system.

From Mr. Sprue and his child-like faith my thoughts gradually turned to Polly Patchin, and I had already laid the ground plans of several fairy cottages, in which, with love and Polly to lend their charm, I could have laughed at the proudest prince in his palace.

"Dickerville!" sang out the conductor, as the whistle blew and the train slowed up at the first stopping-place.

Two men with lanterns—it was a night train—came bustling through the car, scanning the passengers closely.

"Ha! this looks like him!" said one of them, holding his lantern to my face.

"Fills the bill exactly!" cried the other, glancing from me at a paper in his hand.

"Come, sir," he continued, placing a hand roughly on my shoulder; "if I'm not mistaken it was you who bought the last ticket for this train."

"It was," I answered, looking up astonished.

"And paid for it with a twenty-dollar bill," he added, "receiving the change."

I acknowledged the fact, but with no abatement of surprise.

"That bill," he proceeded, "was counterfeit, and we've been telegraphed to arrest you."

I endeavored to expostulate, and explained as well as my confusion would permit, the circumstances under which I got the note.

"A likely story!" was the sneering comment; "there's so many good Mr. Sprues you see going around lending money to total strangers. What did you do with the change, now?"

"Handed it back to Mr. Sprue," I answered.

"A clever dodge," said one of the men, as the two exchanged winks.

"Come along!" they commanded, and without further ceremony I was hustled from the train, dragged to a neighboring calaboose, and locked up.

Next morning I was taken before a jolly-looking magistrate whose face was a guarantee that I should at least have a fair hearing.

"Well, young gentleman, what have you to say to this?" he began.

I was proceeding with my story earnestly, when, to my great joy, who should enter but my kind friend, Rev. Speedwell Sprue, in company with a stranger of very different appearance.

"Oh! Mr. Sprue, how glad I am to see you!" I exclaimed. "A word from you will clear up this unfortunate affair."

To my great chagrin Mr. Sprue, instead of promptly answering my appeal, turned aside and quite ignored my presence. But his companion promptly stepped forward.

"Do you recognize this?" he asked, placing in my hand an article taken from his pocket.

"I do!" I cried—"It's my own pocket-book."

"Of which you were robbed by that person," he replied, pointing to the Rev. Sprue, "whose real name is Ahab Dawks, a noted thief and forger, whom I've been for some time looking for. I witnessed his performance at the depot last night, and saw how, after stealing your pocket-book, he made you the instrument of putting off a bad note that he might pocket the change. Though I'm a detective, I didn't interfere, wishing to follow Dawks to the den in which he works and keeps his tools, and knowing the worst that could happen would be your temporary detention. This morning I hurried on, with the double purpose of securing your release and your identification of Mr. Dawks."

I was too late to see the turkey in his glory, but Polly, bless her!—had saved me up a nice piece; and the story of my adventure was the event of the Thanksgiving night. Everybody laughed but Polly, who—again bless her!—was quite indignant at the wrongs which I had suffered.

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