THE STOURBRIDGE LION.

Trial Trip of America's First Locomotive at Honesdale.

Guide-books, as a rule, possess no interest that is at all dependent on any inherent value in the facts that are presented in them, but Mr. J. W. Burdict, the general passenger agent of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's railroad, in a little pamphlet just issued, has been at some pains to present what he deems trustworthy facts about the first locomotive that ever ran upon an American railroad. According to him, the first of these engines was the Stourbridge Lion, so called because it bore a lion's head on the front of its boiler and was made by Foster, Boswick & Co. in Stourbridge, England. Horatio Allen, a young civil engineer, had been sent to England by the canal company to buy scrap-iron for the rails, chains for the inclined planes and three locomotives for the level of the projected railroad. He returned in 1828, and the first of the locomotives reached New York in May, 1829. It was set up at the West Point foundry at the foot of Beach street, in this city, and in the summer was shipped by boat to Honesdale, where it was put upon the iron-strapped wooden rails of the new road. It was of the pattern afterward known by the name of "grasshoppers," because of the walking-beams that elbowed up and down over the boiler, like the leg joints of those insects. It weighed seven tons, or less than one of our elevated railroad locomotives, but it had no such pulling power as they possess.

It was big and clumsy, with four wooden wheels, spoked and with iron tires. It had no cab and the cylinders were upright. The first trip was made on August 8, 1829, in the presence of a crowd collected from forty miles around.

An old Queen Anne cannon was brought up from New York to add its voice to those of the people. Predictions of failure were not wanting; the breaking down of the track, which was built largely on trestles or piles, was especially apprehended, and there was little inclination on the part of those present to trust themselves on the new vehicle. Mr. Allen, declaring that if there was any danger he was ready to meet it, took his position on the locomotive, and, after running slowly backward and forward a few times before the assembled multitude, pulled the throttle valve open, and, shouting a loud good-bye to the crowd, dashed swiftly away around the dangerous curve and over the swaying trestle, setting in motion the first locomotive that ever turned a wheel in the western hemisphere. The track was of strap-iron, spiked next the inner edge to large hemlock sleepers laid on cross-ties. At the time of the trial trip the timbers and ties, though securely connected, had become warped, and in some places raised from the ground, by exposure to the sun. The road crossed the Lackawaxen river over a frail hemlock trestle one hundred feet in height, and as the locomotive was found to weigh seven tons instead of four, as the contract had stipulated, it was feared by everybody that the trestle would not bear its weight.

As the Lion passed over the road the weight pressed every thing underneath firmly down to its place on the road bed, with no little creaking and groaning. The locomotive proved to be all that the engineer had expected. After running at a fair rate of speed as far as Seelyville, the Lion was reversed and returned to the dock at Honesdale amid the shouts of the people and the booming of the cannon, having met with no accident and encountered no difficulty. The trial trip was thus completed, and the locomotive was pronounced a success. Mr. Allen remained in Honesdale three weeks after this experimental trip, during which time he made some improvements in the locomotive. After his departure, however, the company not being rich enough to purchase iron rails, and the wooden ones proving too frail for the engine, it was housed in a shanty on the canal docks, where it lay for years, a prey to rust and decay. The boiler was afterward used in a foundry at Carbondale; the pump was used for several years by an employe of the company, and the rest of the old hulk was partly hacked to pieces by relic-hunters and partly sold for old iron.

On October 5, 1829, less than two months after the historic ride in the Stourbridge Lion, the famous competitive test of locomotives at Liverpool took place. The result of this was the firm establishment of the steam railroad at the head of all methods of land transportation. There were four engines in competition, and Stephenson's Rocket won the prize. Eleven months after this the Liverpool and Manchester railroad was established, and the Rocket ran fifteen miles at a speed of thirty-seven miles an hour. Then there were only twenty-three miles of railroads in this country, and now the number of miles of track exceed 100,000.—*N. Y. Sun.*

Moist Air and Fog.

It has recently been demonstrated that in a perfectly moist air no formation of fog is possible, however much the temperature is lowered, as long as the air is absolutely free from dust, and that the more air, sufficiently moist, is charged with such foreign particles, the more intense is the formation of fog. If filtered and completely moist air in a glass ball have its pressure diminished, soon a few particles of fog will reveal themselves by the most careful inspection. But if a few cubic millimeters of ordinary house air be now admitted into this filtered air, a very fine silvery, transparent fog at once forms itself, of such slight density that even in the case of a considerable area of it the transparency of the atmosphere would be but very slightly affected. At the first moment of its formation, if a reflected image of the sun or the reflected light of an electric lamp be viewed through it, the image will be seen surrounded by an intensely luminous blue or greenish light.—*N. Y. Sun.*

—An advertisement in a Birmingham (Ala.) paper calls for a "second-hand mocking-bird cage."

LIFE'S BATTLE.

Success or Failure Dependent Upon the Measure Used in Determining Them.

One of the most pathetic and distracting of life's puzzles is that of success or failure. The difference between men who succeed and fail is in many cases not perceptible. Between the extremes—as between the industrious and the indolent, the sober and the inebriate, the shrewd and the dull, the economic and the extravagant, the reason is plain enough. But inside of these limits there are large numbers of men who differ so little in their habits, temper and abilities, that it is next to impossible to say why one, or rather ten if not a hundred should fail and one succeed.

Many a man has had occasion to ask himself this question. His investments made with apparently as good judgment as his neighbor's go to pieces; his neighbor's grow like a rolling snow-ball. He writes a book. If he is so fortunate as to get it published, it brings back nothing and falls as unnoticed as a November leaf in an uninhabited forest. His neighbor, apparently no cleverer, no wiser, no more industrious than he, puts forth a book or a play and fortune and fame come to him at almost telegraphic speed. The shallowest catch-penny, the sneak, the loud-voiced and leathar-lunged are always at the front, the painstaking artist, the scientist, the truth-seeking and truth-speaking politician in the rear.

In spite of numerous books on the subject of "How to succeed in Life," and biographies of men who have succeeded, it is doubtful if the proportion of failures to successes has much diminished. Many are still called but few chosen. An association in Great Britain for procuring and disseminating useful information has recently sent out a large number of circulars to ascertain the causes of the failure of unsuccessful men. But the plan itself does not seem to be a success. Several to whom circulars were sent returned them in the shape they received them, as much as to say: "This is none of your business." Some who received the letters of inquiry about the cause of their failure in life thought they were sent to them by mistake and for that reason returned them. Not a few considered themselves insulted, and so informed the secretary. Several women took the matter up and sent letters to the officers of the association, indignantly asking by what right they called their fathers and husbands failures. On the other hand, several persons who were not regarded by the officers of the society as failures have sent for blanks to be filled out.

The whole question apparently depends upon what men call a success or a failure: and in each man's case that definition depends upon the individual's temperament. If he is of a sanguine, good-natured, contented disposition, interested in other people more than in himself, easily diverted and usually pleased with his own conduct, and especially if he be conceited and self-reliant, he will be inclined to believe himself successful in what he undertakes; or if not, that he will be before he dies. If he is the opposite of all this he will think himself more or less of a failure, no matter how successful the world may account him.

The question of success or failure depends, therefore, upon the measure or standard that is used to determine it. If one trusts what most so-called successful men have to say about their mother's influence, those humble, obscure, but good, strong women, achieved in their sons' greatness a splendid success and were not the apparent failures which, in the seclusion of their chimney corners, the world supposed them to be. Many a man happily married, the father of children who bring him comfort and do him honor, for whom by industry and good sense he is able to earn a livelihood, and to give them as fair a start as the large majority of their associates have, ought, as things go in this world, to set himself down as a success and not a failure.

But what is generally meant by success are the prizes in the lottery of life. Life is, in fact, a lottery which has comparately few blanks. To nearly all who share in it, it secures some return. But its great prizes are few, and they who lose them are pronounced failures. Besides all this, it may well happen that those who draw these prizes have failed to secure many a blessing that the lower shares confer upon those who draw *them*. For the high prizes often bring with them responsibility, anxiety, envy, distrust of one's fellowmen, a thousand cares, often a barrenness of domestic joys, if not domestic discord, the clamor of beggars, the fierce conflict with rivals, and, to end all, some blasting disappointment rendered all the more bitter by previous success. Any thoughtful, upright man of decent behavior might well hesitate to pronounce his life a failure even if it had not brought to him the higher prizes. "To do all the good we can, and no harm that we know," said a business man whose pecuniary success was undoubted, "is my idea of a successful life," and any life of which a man has made the most, as near as his vision let him see his opportunity and capacity, has achieved success. For we often determine our failures by our enlarged experience afterward instead of by our judgment and insight at the time, which was all we had to guide us.—*Detroit Free Press.*

Some Sort of Sad News.

"Thunder and lightning, Carter, is this you?"

"Yes."

"Why, I thought you were dead."

"No, I was never dead."

"Are you quite right sure of that?"

"Yes."

"Why, I'm pretty sure I saw something in a paper about you being dead."

"I guess you read about me getting married."

"Well, may be it was that. I know it was some kind of sad news."—*Kentucky State Journal.*

—The art of thinking, then, is well worthy of cultivation, whether the individual is naturally endowed with logical capacity or represents only indifferent ratiocinative capacity.—*N. Y. Medical Monthly.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

—A clam-opener in a Westchester (Pa.) restaurant found a live mouse among his clams the other morning, one clam holding it securely by the foot and another by the tail.—*Philadelphia Press.*

—"Astronomy as a whole has not been advancing much during the last ten years—at least in the way of discovery," says Richard Proctor. "The promise of the ten years before has not been fulfilled, either in Europe or America."

—"Trimmed with greens" is an obnoxious expression to use in describing the vines and shrubbery decorations of church weddings. It suggests a chancel filled with spinach, dandelions, water cresses and other vegetables.—*Hartford Times.*

—The body of a pet dog that had died abroad was on a recent English steamer that sailed into Boston. The owner, an American woman, of course, could not bear the thought of her beloved canine being buried in a foreign land, and accordingly brought the body home for burial.—*Boston Journal.*

—Was ever a comforting thought expressed more delicately than by a cheery girl, who said to one who was sad over the falling leaves: "Just think how much more room it gives you to see the beautiful blue sky beyond." True of other things besides leaves.—*Chicago Standard.*

—A few days ago while a party of Italian railroad laborers were passing through Winchester, Can., one of them undertook to rob a hen-roost. The owner ordered him off the premises, but the Italian drew a dirk and advanced. Whereupon the Canadian, who was carrying a gun, shot the Italian dead.

—A San Francisco citizen has a chicken that is backed like a camel, has two tails and three well-developed legs. When the fowl is in repose it rests on all three legs, after the manner of a milking-stool. When it walks it uses but two, the third, it is said, "sticking out behind like a ship's spankerboom."—*San Francisco Call.*

—A farmer, two horses and a lumber wagon tried to cross the Canada Pacific railway, near Pontypool, ahead of a fast train. The wagon was knocked fifteen feet into the air, the horses were unhurt, and the farmer was found clinging for dear life to the cow-catcher.

—"Will you have another piece of steak, Charlie?" said his aunt, somewhat deaf. "I have had sufficient," replied Young America. "Been a-fishin'?" "I have had a-plenty." "Caught twenty?" "You are an old fool." "Broke your pole?" The lad left the table in despair!—*Boston Journal.*

—At Yaquina Bay, Ore., the fishing is done by Indians from canoes. They fish in about one hundred and twenty-five feet of water a mile and a half or so from the shore. They use no bait, but have the shank of their hooks covered with block tin, the glitter of which attracts the fish, and the hook does not reach the bottom until it is seized by a fish. There are two Indians to each canoe.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

—A small New England negro named Johnson ran away several years ago, slept in the woods, and froze both feet so that one had to be amputated and the other was mutilated. Some charitable women of Pittsfield, Mass., collected a sum of money and put it in a savings bank, subject to his order when he came of age. Johnson, who now lives in Danbury, drew the money a few days ago. It amounted to $1,700.—*Boston Budget.*

—A few days since a gentleman in a smoking-car on the Central Hudson road took from his sachel an evening suit while searching for a magazine. A verdant-looking individual in the seat behind him, upon seeing the "claw-hammer, remarked: "Wa'l naow, I declare, if there ain't one o' them old-fashioned coats that they used to wear nigh onto forty years ago, and it looks just like new stuff, tew."—*Rochester Democrat.*

—Jeremiah Long, of Fairfax Court-House, Va., wrote recently to J. T. Hill, of Alexandria, calling his attention to the fact that in 1861, while Confederate troops were at Fairfax Court-House, he (Long) mended two canteens and a candlestick for him (Hill). The bill, sixty cents, had never been paid, hence Mr. Long's letter. He said that though interest was due on the amount he would be satisfied with the sixty cents. Mr. Hill sent Mr. Long the sixty cents.—*N. Y. Sun.*

—Paper is about to revolutionize another branch of industry, which is no less a one than the making of gentlemen's headgear. By a new process of manipulation, hats more serviceable and finer than any thing now on the market are made of wood pulp. They are impervious to water and not wanting in flexibility. It is believed that felt hats will have to take a back seat soon as these new hats can be placed in the market in sufficient numbers to supply the demand.—*Boston Bulletin.*

—At the battle of Shiloh, one of the fellows desiring to withdraw, gathered up a wounded man, slung him over his shoulder and started back. On his way back a cannon shot came along and took off his burden's head. Pretty soon he met a surgeon, who asked where he was going with the man. "Back to the hospital to get his wound dressed." "What's the use of taking him back?" He's got no head on him!" The fellow glanced over his shoulder and exclaimed: "The liar! He told me he was shot in the leg."—*N. Y. Mail.*

—It is said that it is not always safe to let one's troubles be known. Some years ago a panic swept over a certain city, and a well known merchant was at his wits' end for money. He kept his own counsel and walked leisurely into the bank. After talking about indifferent things the merchant said: "I know it is difficult for banks to get reliable paper in these panicky times. I thought I would show you some notes that I have. I think the paper is good. You may put the money to my credit or not, just as you please." With this cool method of asking a loan as a favor to the bank he walked away. He got the money, nevertheless, which would not have happened if the bank had known his condition.—*Dry Goods Chronicle.*

FARM AND FIRESIDE.

—Nothing adds to the value of a farm more than good roads in the country adjoining it.

—According to the Toronto *Globe* a hen set at evening instead of by daylight "will be more sure to stick to the nest."

—Among various and destructive insects perhaps none is better known or proves more troublesome than the tent caterpillar.

—Clean out all the rose bushes by taking away the old wood and then shortening the stronger shoots one-third. The growth and appearance will be greatly improved thereby.—*N. Y. Telegram.*

We have watched fields that have been fertilized almost wholly with commercial fertilizers, and on being seeded to grass no such results follow as come from a liberal use of manure.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

—Plain Cake: Break two eggs in a cup, fill it up with sour cream, add one cup of sugar, stir well, a salt-spoonful of soda, one and one-half cups of flour, salt and nutmeg. Bake three-quarters of an hour in a moderate oven.—*The Household.*

—A Dream Cake: Make a rich batter, and bake it in three layers. The layers should be frosted with confectioner's sugar and the white of eggs. The frosting for the first layer should be flavored with lemon, for the next layer with vanilla, and the top layer should be flavored with a few drops of rose water and thickly covered with cocoanut.—*Boston Globe.*

—Creamed Chipped Beef: Shave beef very thin, freshen by placing in cold water and bringing to a scalding heat; pour off water, add a piece of butter washed free from salt, a little pepper, let fry a few minutes, then add one-half teacup of sweet cream, in which you have stirred one teaspoon corn starch. Simmer five minutes and serve very hot.—*Exchange.*

—To take cinders from the eye, in most cases, a simple and effective cure may be found in one or two grains of flaxseed, which can be placed in the eye without pain or injury. As they dissolve a glutinous substance is formed, which envelops any foreign body that may be under the lid, and the whole is easily washed out. A dozen of these seeds in the porte-monnaie should be added to every traveler's outfit.—*Prairie Farmer.*

—The *Sanitary Engineer* gives the following as a method of getting rid of cockroaches: "Give the bug a kind of phosphorate paste. A few of the bugs eat some. Then those cockroaches who do not get any set to work and kill those who were fortunate enough to get some, and tear open their stomachs, so possessed are they to get some of the paste. These bugs in return are killed by others, until there are no cockroaches left. The paste kills the last set."

—An old horseman has this to say about the use of blinds on horses: "Usually the use of blinds causes the very evil it is intended to remedy—shying. The horse shies because he sees something imperfectly, or can not see at all an object which makes a noise, the nature of which he does not understand. If he has not blinds to interfere with his sight he will shy less often. If you have a horse addicted to shying, remove the blinds and be kind to him for a few days, until he has gained confidence in himself and in you. This will effect a radical cure.—*N. Y. Telegram.*

WILLOWS FOR FUEL.

The Promising Experiment Made by a Western Iowa Farmer.

A few weeks ago I put out 1,500 willow cuttings on the shoulder side or space between the ridge of a machine made ditch, 230 yards long, plowed out last spring, and it is expected that they will grow one-third faster, and as much larger, in six or seven years, than they would in high and dry soils.

In this State, and others of the Northwest, there are a large number of bogs or sloughs—narrow and awkwardly formed parcels of marsh land—which are most of them quite wet several weeks in spring, producing only a profusion of large weeds and coarse grasses that are not suitable for grazing or hay. Scores of miles of ditches were plowed through these scattered and numerous sloughs last spring, cutting many of them in two lengthwise.

In my own case, there are only two sloughs, varying from four to a dozen or sixteen rods in width, and the ditch and its excavated bank will make an earth basis for a good and necessary fence. As this willow grows so freely on moist land, both here and in England, I have decided—if I survive till next spring—to set out strong willow cuttings, 15 to 20 inches long, on enough of the moist, narrow strips of marsh land to raise wood lots for fuel for one or two small farms.

There was temporary doubt at first about preventing the newly set cuttings from being shaded and smothered by the rank growth of natural grass and weeds produced on this slough soil. But on consideration it is found that mulching with coarse manure, old straw, etc., will keep the grass and weeds down, and allow the willows to grow up and get a tall start in the first two seasons, without check.

The width apart of these wood-lot willow rows may be from 6 to 10 feet, and the distance between the set cuttings in the rows from 2 to 4 feet, according to size of cutting, depth of soil, etc., the greater width between the rows being to admit teams and wagons or sleighs in drawing wood for fuel six or seven years hence. If the rows average 8 feet between, this will be four rows to the rod; and as, when seven years grown, 2½ rods in length of a single row will supply a cord of willow wood for fuel, a single row of 40 rods each in length, will probably supply sixteen cords of home-raised willow wood fuel—enough to serve a large farm-house for six months with firewood; and only ten such rows, 40 rods each in length will supply fuel permanently for a century, if fire is kept out of the plantation and reasonable care is exercised in cutting the poles off smoothly.—*J. W. Clarke, in Country Gentleman.*

Riding Bad Foremost.

[Boston Record.]

How many people who have to make sleeping-car journeys ever try to have their berths made up with their feet to the engine? Nine out of ten who once try going feet first never will sleep any other way on a train. Nervous women especially find that they get up "better rested" and with less headache than if they lay with their head toward the engine, the blood constantly jerked and jarred to the head by the motion of the train. Children invariably sleep better if their berths are made "wrong end to," as the railway porters call the way which is now recommended.

Is It Really Consumption?

Many a case supposed to be radical lung disease is really one of liver complaint and indigestion, but, unless that diseased liver can be restored to healthy action, it will so clog the lungs with corrupting matter as to bring on their speedy decay, and then indeed we have consumption, which is scrofula of the lungs, in its worst form. Nothing can be more happily calculated to nip this danger in the bud than is Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery." By druggists.

THE Fall River *News* says a new yarn mill is to be started there. Wonder what they want another newspaper there for any how!—*Lowell Citizen.*

OLD pill boxes are spread over the land by the thousands after having been emptied by suffering humanity. What a mass of sickening, disgusting medicine the poor stomach has to contend with. Too much strong medicine. Prickly Ash Bitters is rapidly and surely taking the place of all this class of drugs, and is curing all the ills arising from a disordered condition of the liver, kidneys, stomach and bowels.

IF you have means, live within them; if you have not, live without them.—*Baltimore News.*

Five Hundred Dollars

is the sum Dr. Pierce offers for the detection of any calomel, or other mineral poison or injurious drug, in his justly celebrated "Pleasant Purgative Pellets." They are about the size of a mustard seed, therefore easily taken, while their operation is unattended by any griping pain. Biliousness, sick-headache, bad taste in the mouth, and jaundice, yield at once before these "little giants." Of your druggist.

IT is only on the biggest scales that you can learn the weigh of the world.—*Texas Siftings.*

THE "Favorite Prescription" of Dr. Pierce cures "female weakness" and kindred affections. By druggists.

"ALL the world's a stage," but the fare does not suit every body.

IF afflicted with Sore Eyes use Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye Water. Druggists sell it. 25c.

WHEN is an umbrella like perspiration? When it passes through the pores.

THE best cough medicine is Piso's Cure for Consumption. Sold everywhere. 25c.

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SHUN OINTMENTS AND LOTIONS for skin diseases, cuts, sprains, bruises, &c., and use GLENN'S SULPHUR SOAP. HILL'S HAIR AND WHISKER DYE, Black or Brown, 50c.

A MAN seeing on a dentist's sign: 'Teeth extracted without pain," remarked: "I never could get any teeth extracted without payin'."—*N. Y. Ledger.*

HALL'S Hair Renewer is cooling to the scalp and cures all itching eruptions.

For ague, bilious, intermittent, breakbone, and swamp fevers, use Ayer's Ague Cure.

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