

MR. EDITOR: The article in your paper of the 11th Aug., making some strictures upon the course of Major Wood in reference to the disposal of the public funds in his hands, may have the effect intended—to prevent a wrong. The press is looked to for public information, and when wrongs are about to be committed by a public officer a warning to the people through it may enable them to protect themselves in time. The Major has replied to that article and treats me as the writer. That is all right.

In the outset, I will say that I extremely regret the necessity of a controversy with him. He says that I am actuated by personal ill will towards him, and am aiming at political effect. He is entirely mistaken in that view. My sole object is to have him do right with the funds in his hands. If he is disposed to turn the controversy I have with him as county commissioner into a personal matter, I do not know that I can help it. Whenever and as often as he attempts to do acts as county commissioner that are illegal and unjust, and prejudicial to my rights, I shall resist him or any other man who attempts them, let personal relations be what they may. In my strictures on his conduct, I have called things by their right names, and have intended nothing more. I have paid but little attention to the cultivation of the art of saying one thing and meaning another, and therefore hope the Major will not draw on his imagination that I mean any more or worse than I say.

In his attempt at reply he pronounces my article a "whole tissue of misrepresentations," and then apparently forgets himself and attempts to avoid it by several special pleas, and then starts off upon a run, crying stop thief, and "if you please, between Esq. Way's farm and town," and the like. I admit I wrote that article, and I hold myself ready to prove to the tax payers on the McCutchensville road, whenever it becomes necessary, the truth of what is there stated, and also the truth of the facts that I may state in this communication. I will begin by asserting that every cent of the McCutchensville road fund now in the treasury, in law and justice should be expended in Perrysburg township. But Major Wood, in our private conversations, has told me that he must spend most of it near the Ten Mile House; that the people of Perrysburg are able to repair the road in their township without it. Being desirous to bring the Major to anchor and have an investigation of the matter before it would be too late, was the inducement to write the article in question. His own reply is sufficient proof of the necessity of the public understanding the true state of the case. If the people of Perrysburg consider it any object to have \$731 expended for the benefit of this road in their township, now is the time to pitch in while the Major rides at anchor. If we neglect to protect ourselves, who will do it for us?

The Major, in his reply, seems to reason that because the McCutchensville road was once a state road, no part of it can ever be anything else. If he will take the trouble to acquaint himself with the history of this road, he will find that it was originally established as a state road from Perrysburg to McCutchensville. That subsequently, in 1815, in order to provide means to construct that portion of it between Indiana Avenue, in Perrysburg, and the south line of Freedom township, the citizens of Perrysburg procured the passage of an act providing for a special tax on a contiguous district of country, including the town of Perrysburg. After the passage of that act, and I think in the same year, a general free turnpike law was passed. The county commissioners then in office, having charge of the construction of this road, and the auditor, were governed by this free turnpike act, so far as the same was applicable. The act providing for the construction of the Findlay road, was passed the same year, and that road was also subjected to the same government. All which will

appear from records in the auditor's office. In 1850 there was an amendment to the free turnpike act, (and a very wise one too) requiring all the moneys collected on free turnpike roads to be expended in the townships where collected. These laws and proceedings under them made that portion of the state road between Indiana Avenue and the south line of Freedom township a free turnpike road in the sense in which they are understood, and subject to the amended clause of the free turnpike act. Major Wood is the first man, to my knowledge, who has ever disputed it.

If he should attempt to expend the money on hand in Montgomery or Perry townships, would there not be a dust kicked up at once? Yet it would be no more illegal and unjust to do that than to do as he now proposes—to expend it in Webster township. It is unlawful and wrong to do either. I believe, on the verbal statement of the county auditor, it is admitted on all hands that a great deal more money has been collected in the township of Perrysburg than has been expended therein. I think it safe to say that in the town of Perrysburg alone, nearly as much has been collected as has been expended in the town and township together. If any one doubts these statements, the proof is in the books at the auditor's office.

In personal interviews that I have had with Major Wood in reference to that fund, I have presented to him facts something like the following: That by the construction of the McCutchensville road, water is brought from a great distance south to and emptied into Crane Creek by the construction of a side drain. From this side of that point, the water is taken into the main branch of Grassy Creek, cutting across the south branch near South Boundary street, and carrying its water along. That in high water, the road near South Boundary street and adjoining land are overflowed. That Crane Creek sometimes rises so high as to empty its waters by the way of the road ditches into Grassy Creek, and that the waters in Grassy Creek at the same time overflow the road and adjoining lands, and even run in the road ditches into Third street in Perrysburg. That near the school house the road has very much settled and the ditches become partly filled up, so that stagnant water remains there some time after a rain, to the detriment of the health of the near inhabitants. I have solicited him to repair the road near the school house and at Grassy Creek; to make a side drain near South Boundary street, (probably along the south side of the street is the proper place,) sufficient to carry off the proper share of water that should be discharged down the south branch. I have also called his attention to the necessity of extending the outlet down Crane Creek. I have done this to show him the necessity of using the money on hand in Perrysburg township, and acquaint him with our wants. To all of which he replied as I have above stated.

One of the Major's special pleas why he should not make a side drain at South Boundary street is, that it will cost three or five hundred dollars to do it. If he is in earnest in that assertion, he is either not familiar with the cost of that kind of work, or is entirely unacquainted with the ground. One hundred dollars will accomplish all that is required for that place.

By way of special plea, he again says, that no loss has accrued by his delay in not letting out jobs before this time, because the summer has been so wet that no work could have been done. This plea is like the Texian's for never having a roof on his house. I have been credibly informed and believe, that one or both the supervisors in Perrysburg have been kept back for a long time in their work, waiting to know what Major Wood will do on the road near the school house, so that they can apportion their work according to what they have to do. They know that that piece of road should be repaired by them if he does not do it. The

road there and at Grassy Creek and the ground at South Boundary street, have been in good condition to work for some time.

There is one more special plea that I must notice, as he introduces it with a flourish of trumpets as though it would triumphantly sustain him and knock me into Black Swamp. He says that he has made a proposition to the owners of lands on Grassy Creek, that if they will do so and so, he will do so and so, and with his trumpeters at their posts, asks that if he living ten miles from Perrysburg can do so much for Grassy Creek, what will Esq. Way as director in the plank road do? Gracious Heavens! Is he about to kill the good people on Grassy Creek with his liberality, provided they furnish him the means to do it? Major, I will accept your challenge on the following conditions. And as we both profess to be governed by that code of honor known to militia officers, I trust there will be no backing out. The conditions are these: If the directors in the plank road company think proper to divide the funds on hand between themselves for expenditure, I will put my share to deepening the outlet drain on the Skinner farm, and extend it far enough into Crane Creek to clear the water from the plank road at that point. I will also deepen and extend the Devil's Hole outlet far enough to clear the water from the road at that point, so that the water in the road ditches shall be discharged as near as practicable into the natural streams where the water by nature is wont to flow. By doing so, I can help the people on Grassy Creek in the most effectual way. Now you make the side drain at South Boundary street, and extend sufficiently the outlet ditch into Crane Creek, and we shall obviate the necessity of doing anything on our part in our respective official capacities towards clearing out the main Grassy Creek. These improvements would be what "Black Swamp" calls running water down hill according to law, wetting the creeks and drying the roads and lands. If you please, "just stick a pin there."

As to the bridge fund, I have never claimed but what the commissioners can spend it anywhere in the county they please. But I do claim that the interests of those who pay the taxes ought to be consulted in the expenditure. If one township pays more taxes than another, its interests and wants are probably greater and therefore should be considered. There may however be cases, and they frequently occur, where it is right and proper to expend all the bridge fund collected in several townships to build a large bridge in one township. In such cases, it is supposed that all the townships have an interest in that bridge. But where the bridges to be constructed are small and on local roads, the case is different. There is a rule for these expenditures founded in reason and justice. The law creating the bridge fund and placing it at the disposal of the county commissioners, contemplates they will be governed by reason and justice. Perhaps Major Wood is influenced by these considerations in expending the amount in his hands. If so, as he has appropriated but \$75 in Perrysburg, he ought to be able to account for the balance satisfactorily. As Perrysburg township has been assessed \$291.94 on the bridge fund for expenditure in 1855, if she can have but \$75 out of it, some account ought to be given to her tax payers for the balance, whether expended on local or public objects. Unless some better explanation is given of the use of this money than is contained in the Major's statement of last week, he ought not to complain of publications like the one headed "What will become of it?" W. V. WAY.

NO ROT THERE.—At Newburg, on the Hudson River, 2,000 bushels of fine potatoes were sold by a single dealer, on last Saturday, for 28 to 31 cents per bushel. There are tens of thousands of bushels in the river counties ready to be contracted at very low prices. So in various parts of New Jersey this important crop has matured in perfect order.