

for England now comes from that country. The whole world are building railroads but the United States is still ahead. We had on the first day of January, 1868, 39,244 miles in operation.

Railroads civilize and educate the people, unite and strengthen the government. We are indebted to our railway system for the preservation of the Union and suppression of the great rebellion. Without our railways we never could have filled up our depleted armies, and forwarded supplies sufficient to have kept them from starvation. No person during the four years of the war could travel by rail one hundred miles, in any part of the United States, without passing long trains loaded with soldiers going to the front or returning from a long campaign. It was by means of our railroads that we were able to collect such vast armies, and send them forward with such rapidity to the front, and that in four years we finally overcame the foe. With ten years more of railroad building in the United States, which will complete three main lines to the Pacific Ocean, the government of the Stars and Stripes can dictate terms to the world. She would not brook an insult from the combined powers, knowing she had millions of soldiers and railroad transportation to every country and city in the United States, by which she could garrison the two oceans, the lakes on the north and the Gulf of Mexico on the south in less than thirty days.

Will the people of Nebraska have the railroads? Will they allow themselves to be isolated from the steam whistle, when by a little expense and exertion they can bring the welcome sound to their doors? By individual and county subscriptions, and a judicious disposition of the state lands they can have these great improvements, that bring capital and all the comforts and luxuries of life. We have no hesitation in predicting that the people of this young state of Nebraska will follow the precedents of the older states, and thereby make Nebraska the garden of the Missouri Valley. The great conservative oracles sitting in the back ground, with contracted brows, trying to imitate wisdom with an ominous shake of the head, snuffing afar off unpopularity to railroads, will never live to see their darling demagogical theories adopted, but will soon go to their political graves in utter contempt. The railroads of Nebraska must be built no matter who builds them—who makes money or who loses it by building them. They will be built, notwithstanding the puling jealousy of some men at the sight of a great enterprise, not initiated and carried forward by themselves, and which prompts them in public and private, to continually snap and gnaw at the heels of the great railroad improvement.

R. M. ROLFE, Secretary. F. A. WHITE, President.

TO THE PUMPKIN.

Here's to the Pumpkin! The jolly old fellow
Who glows in the field with his coating of
yellow!

Who stays on the vine when the meadows are
browning
And cheerfully shines when the Heavens are
frowning!

The sensible fellow
Goes on getting mellow
Till sunlight of summer, stored in and re-
flected,
Shines out of his face at a time unexpected.

Minds that are gifted with keenest acumen
Must clearly perceive that to all who are
human

The Pumpkin presents a most notable sample
Of what may be done by a steady example,
He sticks to his duty!

When all the fair beauty
Of woodland and prairie is slowly declining,
Midst gloomy surroundings, he keeps up a
shining.

Like one who so kind that he's ne'er apathetic
Brings cheer to his friends with a love sympa-
thetic,

When troubles are mingled 'till joys seem
departed,

By showing a face that is all sunny-hearted.
So quietly willing

He's ever beguiling
The sorrowful mourner to think of the lining
That brightens the clouds where the sunlight
is shining.

O Pumpkin, so plump and so sensible looking!
Staid Puritans dried thee on rafters for
cooking;

Our forefathers prized thee for festal-day
dining

And laughed when thy lantern-lit faces were
shining.

The charm of old stories,
Of fairyland glories
When thou wert a coach, lends its gleam to thy
yellow—

May coming years bring thee, still golden and
mellow!

—MARY FRENCH MORTON.

YATES DEFENDS GAGE.

In a recent issue of the Omaha World-Herald, Henry W. Yates, Esq., the well-known and much respected president of the Nebraska National Bank, makes a cogent and righteous defence of the official integrity and personal rectitude of Secretary of the United States Treasury Department Lyman J. Gage. From the able and unanswerable argument of Mr. Yates THE CONSERVATIVE quotes:

The Custom House Affair.

All the charges brought against Mr. Gage in this transaction are covered in an editorial which appeared in the World-Herald's last Sunday's edition (January 28.)

Under the headlines of "Mr. Gage's Favoritism," you say:

"The bank paid in a certified check all but \$50,000 of the purchase price. The law says that the price should have been paid in cash.

"Gage violated the law by accepting the check and depositing it with the bank that drew it.

"The government holds the deed to the property for the unpaid \$50,000, and the bank thus escapes city, state and national taxes.

"It secures rent at the rate of 4 per cent of the purchase price. It is a great

thing to have a pull with Lyman J. Gage."

It is not surprising that the World-Herald should take this view of the matter when papers which are supposed to be supporters of the administration are making the same assertions. In fact, some periodicals which are not political express themselves in a like manner.

In the current number of a bankers' magazine, published in Mr. Gage's own city of Chicago, the case is stated in a manner not very different from that of the World-Herald, and it closes with the statement that "the facts being as they are * * * Secretary Gage will probably immediately take steps to correct his position."

There are so many different charges under this heading that each will require separate consideration.

First, as to the violation of law. The act under which the sale of the New York custom house was authorized requires the proceeds of the sale to be deposited into the United States treasury, and it is asserted that the deposit into a national bank was not a deposit into the treasury.

In support of this assertion the discoverers of this violation of law, published garbled extracts from United States supreme court decisions, which seem to sustain the charge.

These decisions are to the effect that a national bank depository is not a branch of the United States treasury.

They were rendered in cases where money had been deposited under orders of court and where, the bank having subsequently become insolvent, the parties interested sought to make the government responsible for the lost money. The deposits were not in any manner subject to the supervision and control of the treasury department and of course were not secured by a deposit of bonds. The decisions were properly to the effect that these deposits were not made into the treasury and therefore the government was not responsible.

These decisions instead of being adverse to Mr. Gage's action, were positively in his favor if full quotations had been given.

In one it is stated:

"The designated depositories are intended as places for the deposit of public moneys of the United States—that is to say, money belonging to the United States."

And in the other cases cited it is stated: "It is obvious from these provisions that it was only public money of the United States of which national banks could be made depositories."

The whole contention is a play upon the words "United States treasury."

But it is the money belonging to the United States and subject to the order or control of its treasurer which constitutes the "treasury," and a deposit therefore into a properly designated and authorized depository to the credit of