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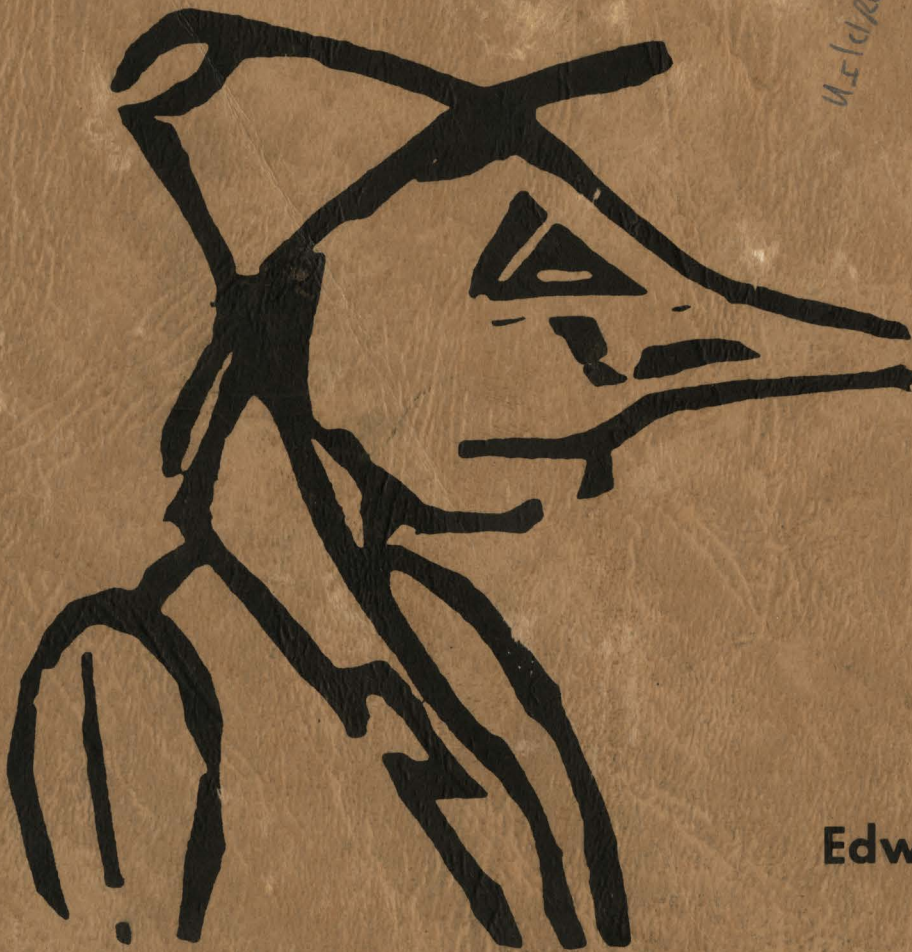
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E. Percy Howe's Dollar Democrat

A Frontier Mississippi Newspaper, 1842-1846



By
Edwin E. Meek

"How thin and melancholy the credit system has made us . . . our portrait . . . alas! doesn't half graphically enough express how much we are in want of money."—E. Percy Howe, January 7, 1841.

E. Percy Howe's Dollar Democrat

A Frontier Mississippi Newspaper, 1842-1846

By Edwin E. Meek

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CHAPTER I

E. PERCY HOWE AND HIS NEWSPAPERS

The journalistic life of E. Percy Howe began amidst a stormy controversy and ended in disaster.

He was an editor, printer, publisher, politician, judge and "parson." Despite apparent continuous financial difficulty during his 18 restless years, he either published or edited eight newspapers and two pamphlet-like magazines.¹

He was only 20 in 1834² when he published his first newspaper, the Yalobusha Pioneer at Plummersville in Yalobusha, County, Mississippi.³

Yalobusha county was organized in 1833 and Plummersville was temporarily the site of the county courthouse. Howe began the Pioneer early the following year. He was not a native Mississippian--possibly he had come to Mississippi only the year before from South Carolina.⁴

¹A map of Howe's travels in Mississippi is contained in Appendix I.

²Dollar Democrat (Oxford), January 21, 1841.

³G. M. Moreland, "A History of Coffeerville" (Type-written research notes in the Chancery Clerk's Office, Coffeerville, Mississippi).

⁴From various fragmentary statements published by Howe, it is believed he came to Mississippi from South Carolina.

His choice of towns was unfortunate. Just across the road was Hendersonville, with 14 stores, and twice the size of its rival.

Both towns sought to be Yalobusha's permanent county seat. However, nearby Coffeerville captured the courthouse by a majority vote despite the efforts of some angry defenders of Plummersville.

One such defender was E. Percy Howe. "He expressed his ire in a poem published in the Pioneer, one stanza of which reads as follows: 'Upon a hill near Durden Mill, stands the town of Coffeerville: The ----est town I ever saw, save Plummersville Okchickama.' He then removed, having poured forth his ire, to another locality."¹

No record of Howe's life from 1834 to 1838 can be found. However, in August of 1838 he was editor of the Marshall County Republican and Free Trade Advocate.² Publishers of the Advocate were Robert L. Pegues and George P. Howe.³ The Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi, has no record of this newspaper after October 12, 1838.

¹Frank Bridges Herron, Jr. (Typewritten research notes in the Chancery Clerk's Office, Coffeerville, Mississippi.) "Okchickama" is the name of a farm owned by Franklin E. Plummer who established and named Plummersville.

²Moreland, op. cit.

³Mississippi Newspapers: 1805-1940 (Jackson, Mississippi: Mississippi Historical Records Survey, 1942), pp. 106-107.

In a Holly Springs centennial address by A. M. Clayton in 1880, Howe's "strongly democratic" newspaper is described as the first in the county. Clayton recalls Howe as a "sensitive, shy, retiring man, seldom seen on the streets and known only by a few. He was a strong, original, discriminating writer, but of limited cultivation."¹

Apparently Howe left Holly Springs and Marshall County because of financial difficulty. He wrote of his Holly Springs venture in the January 21, 1842, Dollar Democrat at Oxford:

We recollect, when we arrived at Holly Springs and commenced editing a paper . . . we had lots of wearables, \$300 Brandon (good as wheat, then), a fine horse, which cost us \$170, and fine hopes of our undertaking. At the end of six months, all were gone and, after 3 years editorial labors, we left the empire county, with half-a-shirt and just money enough to pay our stage-fare to Oxford.²

The first issue on file of the Oxford Dollar Democrat is dated January 7, 1841. However, other material in this issue is dated 1842. Evidently Howe made a mistake in his dateline which was corrected only after several months of publication.³

¹A. M. Clayton, History of Marshall County (Washington, D. C.: R. O. Polkinhorn, 1880), p. 12.

²Dollar Democrat (Oxford), January 21, 1841.

³All references to 1841 issues of the Oxford Dollar Democrat actually refer to 1842.

There are indications in the first few issues of the Democrat that Howe published another newspaper in Oxford. In the January 7, 1841, issue of the Oxford newspaper appears this notice: "JOB PRINTING -- Neatly and expeditiously executed at the Office of the Lafayette Republican, Oxford. Office, on the public square."

In the same issue in a notice to advertisers he again refers to the Republican. No other record of this publication has been found.

Also contained in the first issue of the Oxford Democrat was a notice to the public of Howe's intention to publish another newspaper in Carroll County in the central part of the state. "We engaged to commence, this month, the publication of a paper at Middleton, Carroll Co., but have failed to collect from debtors the means necessary."¹

The Middleton venture was halted for a while, but on November 18, 1842, Howe did begin a newspaper in Carroll County.² His announced title for the paper was the Middleton Republican. No issues have been located. However, a newspaper titled the Family Organ was published at Middleton in 1842. Middleton, termed the "Athens of Mississippi," was a thriving little town and boasted two educational institutions.³

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), January 7, 1841.

²Ibid., November 19, 1842.

³History of Middleton (Winona, Mississippi: Lowery Printing Co., 1961), pp. 3-14.

No longer in existence, it was located two miles west of present day Winona.

Howe frequently reminded readers to pay the "printer his dues." He noted financial difficulty in his first issue of the Oxford Democrat and almost weekly complained of mounting bad debts.

Probably as a trick to get subscribers and advertisers to pay their bills, Howe announced in December of 1842 that he would stop publishing the Democrat and would instead publish a newspaper to be titled the Oxford Independent Republican.

The Republican was to begin on the "completion of the present volume of the Democrat." The reason Howe said he would stop printing the Democrat and begin the Republican at this particular time was that few subscriptions, renewal or new, had been received for the Democrat.

The next issue of the Democrat began a new volume or year. Howe wrote in this issue, almost a month after the first mention of the Republican: "So many advance payments have poured in upon us for the Dollar Democrat, that we have declined publishing the Independent Republican."¹

He apparently received enough money to continue his weekly newspaper in 1843 even though advertising diminished

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), January 7, 1843.

in the later part of 1842. However in 1843, during the last six months of the Oxford Democrat's existence, there was almost no advertising at all. During these months, the Democrat was probably sustained by subscriptions and "public printing."¹ It was evident from the lack of advertising that the Democrat would not exist long. In the final issue of the Oxford newspaper, Howe wrote:

When we commenced the present volume [sic] of the Dollar Democrat, we had no reason to anticipate that the printing materials with which it is printed, and which have been hired by us during nearly three years, would pass through the hands of the sheriff, to another owner. It has so happened, however, and the purchaser, the Tax Collector, takes the press & c. next week for the publication of a new paper here.

We are making every effort, however to recommence our business as soon as possible; and have to beg the indulgence of our subscribers for the non-appearance of our paper in the meantime . . . the Dolly is not dead.²

Apparently he intended to continue the Democrat at Oxford at a later date; however, no evidence can be found of further publication. Two weeks after the publication of the above notice, a paper called the Oxford Observer began publication.³ Possibly it was printed on Howe's press

¹Howe is believed to have acted as agent for several other publications. Almost half of each issue of the Oxford newspaper was devoted to prospectus articles. These probably were printed by Howe as advertising for his benefit as an agent.

²Dollar Democrat (Oxford), July 21, 1843.

³American Newspapers 1821-1936 (New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1937), p. 348.

and with his type.

Almost a year later, on June 3, 1844, the first issue of the Coffeerville Dollar Democrat appeared. Howe is listed as printer on the front page of the first issue. However, in what might be called a "policy statement," he is listed as co-editor along with Franklin E. Plummer. Part of the statement, which outlined the purposes of the publication, read:

. . . The Democrat will be edited by Hon. Franklin E. Plummer and the Rev. E. Percy Howe.¹ Parson Howe will be stationed in the exalted capitol of Yalobusha, and will keep one eye on Bustles, the other on priests, and politicians and take items of what ever particularly edifying, spicy, salty, or ticklish, religious, political and fashionable in the region of Christendom. He will be Stationed Editor.

Judge Plummer will confine himself to no part of the Universe, but will take editorial cognizance of men, matters, and things, throughout the state in particular, and the globe generally.²

The statement, which ran almost a column and a half, was signed "E. Percy Howe, D. D., Publisher."

Judging from the writing style of the newspaper it

¹Howe was referred to in the August 27, 1845 Coffeerville Dollar Democrat as parson of the "democratic church." He often signed articles and policy statements Parson Howe, or Rev. Howe, and embellished the signature with "D. D." It is not known whether Howe actually held the Doctor of Divinity degree. The use probably represents a play on the newspaper title, Dollar Democrat and claimed leadership of the church of democracy.

²Dollar Democrat (Coffeerville), June 3, 1844.

would appear that Judge Plummer contributed very little, if any, material to the Coffeerville Democrat. Probably his association with Howe was for financial and political reasons.

As will be recalled, Howe published his first newspaper at Plummersville which was located near Coffeerville. Plummer "named and sponsored" Plummersville, and probably left the town, which was destined for doom, soon after Howe in 1834. He was "a notorious politician, congressman and known as the stormy Petrel of Mississippi Politics."¹

Only one article in the Coffeerville newspaper is known to have been written by Plummer. It is a speech commending a local candidate for office.

Even though Plummer wrote little for the Democrat, he probably did have great influence on Howe. The Coffeerville newspaper, unlike the Oxford version, contained much political matter. Plummer, it would seem, put Howe in business just to have a political weapon.

In Coffeerville, as in Oxford, Howe soon was in economic trouble. He pleaded with his subscribers to pay the printer, and even resorted in later months to barter.²

As an added means of revenue he published two

¹Herron, op. cit.

²Howe offered a plan to subscribers and advertisers whereby goods could be exchanged for a subscription or for advertising space.

magazines. The first was a humorous publication of short stories, poems and satires. The second was a magazine for young ladies. It was edited by Howe's wife, Ann, and published by Howe.¹

Both magazines were advertised in the Democrat in advance of their publication dates. No record other than the notices in the Democrat has been found of either of them.

Finally, after 18 months of struggle to publish the Coffeenville paper, Howe despaired. Financial difficulty was indicated in the last issue of the Coffeenville Democrat and Howe suggested that the plight he found himself in might force him to move to Texas.²

On January 2, 1846, one month after the final issue of the Coffeenville Democrat, Howe published the first issue of the Dollar Democrat "Grenada Series."

The Grenada newspaper was published for only a month, and Howe edited only the first issue. The remaining three issues were edited by Andrew Jackson Lowell in Howe's absence.³

The Grenada Democrat may have been printed in either Grenada or Coffeenville. It contained more material from

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeenville), March 7, 1845.

²Ibid., November 28, 1845.

³Dollar Democrat (Grenada), January 2, 1846.

Coffeeville than from Grenada, however, and only one advertisement from Grenada was published in the entire month's issues.

Howe announced to his readers that he would not be in town but failed to tell where he was going. Lowell as editor published at least one and sometimes two or three unsigned reports from Jackson weekly. Judging from the writing style, and in particular the added editorial comments, Howe probably wrote these articles.

The January 1, 1846, issue of the Mississippian, published at Jackson, contained a story about the state legislature in which Howe was mentioned. The report related an attempt by one senator to have Howe appointed "Reading Clerk" of the Senate. The movement failed, however, after the senator withdrew his motion.

A second story in the Mississippian, on January 14, related the events of a Democratic caucus. The Mississippian listed Howe as secretary for the meeting.

After January 14 of 1846, Howe disappeared. No mention of him is found in the Mississippi press or in state records. However, in February of 1962, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times, in nearly a full page feature, told the story of a recently unearthed ship's hull. In the ship's remains were found a printing press and type forms that were amazingly well preserved. The words "E. Percy Howe, Editor, Gainesville,

Hancock County, Mississippi" stood out. Staff writer Bill Walraven wrote in the Caller-Times:

. . . The date was early 1852. Howe had printed a departure newspaper before sailing for parts unknown. The type was left locked in forms, both to preserve it and probably to serve as a basis for another newspaper when he arrived at his destination.

. . . One story in the old paper may hold the clue to where he was going and why he was leaving. The fragment of type is incomplete and raises more questions than it answers. Written in large 24-point body type under the heading "Departing for Texas," the story was apparently the top news piece in the issue.¹

Most of the story of Howe's departure is unreadable; however these words can easily be seen: "If we remain, we are likely to gain no c . . . justify departure . . ."²

Howe had again met financial trouble and finally made good his threat to move to Texas.³ He probably left Jackson for Gainesville in February or March of 1846.⁴ Gainesville was made the county seat of Hancock County on February 13, 1846.⁵

¹Caller-Times (Corpus Christi, Texas), February 25, 1962, p. 1B.

²Ibid.

³Dollar Democrat (Coffeetown), November 28, 1845.

⁴The Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi, could find no record of Howe's newspaper at Gainesville. A check of the census of Hancock County for 1850 was fruitless, as was an investigation of the county tax rolls.

⁵Laws of the State of Mississippi: 1843-1846 (Jackson, Mississippi: C. M. Price and G. R. Falls, 1847), p. 415.

Some of the type from the ship is now in the possession of Sam Lanham of Waco, Texas. Mr. Lanham, who pieced together some of the fragments, wrote:

. . . In trying to put the jigsaw puzzle together I find that Howe wrote two farewell articles, captioned by a two-line, three-column head reading: 'FAREWELL GAINESVILLE AND, HO FOR TEXAS!' One of the articles is set in a 24 point size of the same face, mostly in italic. The latter article is approximately two columns wide. Unfortunately, a substantial portion of these articles is missing, but from the latter mentioned article I find that he was the Probate Judge in Hancock County during his residency there.

He begins his article by saying that he took the Probate Judgeship under the impression that the receipts from the judicial office would, together with receipts from the printing office, be sufficient to support his family. . . . I have not completely connected the fragments together. However, I think he will go on to say that \$1.60 was the whole sum of cash received by him as Probate Judge.¹

Miss Nancy Head, history instructor at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, and other Texas historians are presently searching for records which might indicate whether or not Howe survived the ship wreck. "I don't think he was headed for Corpus Christi," Miss Head wrote. "Not many people were coming here then. I believe he was probably going to Indiana, Galveston or another port up the coast."²

¹Letter from Mr. Sam Lanham, Waco, Texas. See Appendix XI.

²Caller-Times (Corpus Christi, Texas), February 25, 1962.

The ship containing Howe's press was unearthed by a storm 100 years after it had been buried by a storm. The press found in the wreck was a Washington hand press of the type manufactured in 1845-47.¹

Howe printed his last paper in December of 1852, Mr. Walraven continues, and probably sailed in that month or in January of 1853. "It seems inconceivable to me that he could have survived the ship's wreck and not have left his mark in Texas later, salty character that he seems to have been."

Mr. Walraven further suggested that shipping in the Gulf in winter months was particularly rough. "I suspect a sailing schooner (Howe's ship was a 65 foot schooner) would have had a great deal of difficulty in riding out a gale at this time."²

Mr. J. H. Bradford of Taft, Texas, saw the story in the Texas newspaper and recognized the sailing vessel as one built around 1850 by Pierre Traucett. Mr. Bradford wrote:

Pierre did most of his boat building from 1850 to 1861, and his boats were from 50 to 75 feet long, two masted schooners. They roamed from the mouth of the Rio Grande River to St. Andrews, Florida. Their cargoes were mostly lumber and other building materials. . . .

¹Ibid.

²Letter from Mr. Bill Walraven, Corpus Christi, Texas. See Appendix X.



Howe's Washington hand press is shown as it was when uncovered on Padre Island off the Texas coast. In the September 6, 1962, issue of the Corpus Christi Caller-Times (page 10B), staff writer Bill Walraven reported Howe's press was stolen from a maintenance building at Padre Island Park. "The press, which had been destined for the park museum, probably was sold for scrap," he wrote. See Appendixes VI and VII for additional photographs.

When I saw that picture in the paper, it brought back memories . . . especially the ends of the ribs, timbers, and the more I looked, the more I was convinced that [it was] a boat built by Pierre Traucett.

I may be mistaken. Those boats got cargoes from Biloxi, Pascagoula, Mississippi, and from Slidell, Louisiana. It could be that E. Percy Howe came down the Pearl River to Slidell and loaded from there on a schooner bound for somewhere in Texas.¹

It is also possible that Howe was not on board the ship which carried his press. The press could have been sold to another printer in Mississippi who was headed for the Texas frontier. But the silencing of Howe's busy pen as of the date of the shipwreck indicates that he did die at that time. No further record of the itinerant editor has been found. And surely, had Edward Percy Howe survived, he would have left his mark in Texas.

¹Letter from Mr. J. H. Bradford, Taft, Texas. See Appendix IX.

CHAPTER II

TYPOGRAPHY AND FORMAT OF THE DOLLAR DEMOCRAT

The Dollar Democrat was one of several somewhat unconventional weekly newspapers published in Mississippi from 1840 to 1846. A bound volume containing several years' issues of six different newspapers during this period is part of the old newspaper collection in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.¹ All of these "miscellaneous weeklies" are noticeably different from other state newspapers.

They were probably bound together in a single volume for two reasons: their unique page sizes and their short periods of publication. The Democrat, listed as a miscellaneous weekly, is even more of a nonconformist than the other five.

A single page from these newspapers generally measures 17 by 11 inches. The Democrat, however, is even smaller; it measures approximately 16 by 10 1/2 inches.²

¹Six weekly newspapers are bound together in a volume titled Mississippi Miscellaneous 1840-46 at the Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi. The volume contains the issues of the Macon Herald, the Ripley Transcript, the Spirit of the Times, the Independent Journal, the Attala Register, and the Dollar Democrat.

²This estimate makes no allowance for binding, since the Democrat probably was not trimmed because of its smaller size.

Four pages from the Oxford and Coffeeville Democrats are contained in the Appendix.

In those days of the "blanket sheets," Mississippi weeklies measured almost as large as modern day newspapers and carried almost as many columns.¹

The miscellaneous weeklies other than the Democrat generally made use of four columns. Depending on the page and format size of various issues, the Democrat used two to five columns.²

When the Democrat first appeared at Oxford, its pages measured 16 by 10 1/2 inches overall, with a printed area of 14 1/2 inches by 9 1/2 inches. Howe used three columns which measured 17 picas each. Body type was a modern Roman, slightly larger than eight points in size.

Five months later, the Democrat's page size jumped to 17 3/4 inches by 10 1/2 inches. Howe still made use of three columns, but added 12 points on each side of his column rule, thus making the page neater. Possibly the availability of paper determined the overall page size of the Democrat.³

¹Frank Luther Mott, American Journalism (New York: Macmillan Co., 1950), pp. 294-295.

²Howe was inconsistent in respect to page size and number of columns. In some issues, each page was different. Page one usually was in a three-column form, while inside pages were three, four or even five columns.

³On several occasions Howe noted the scarcity of paper and ink. These comments were usually made with an added note to subscribers and advertisers to pay their bills.

Seven months later he returned to his original page size, cut his column width to 13 picas, and used four columns.

When the Dollar Democrat was first seen in Coffeeville it measured 17 3/4 inches by 10 1/2 inches, and again made use of three columns, each 15 1/2 picas wide. A much better printed and neater newspaper than the Oxford Democrat, the Coffeeville newspaper was nevertheless much harder to read. Howe's body type dropped in size from larger than eight points to six points. Three picas of space was placed on either side of the column rule.

The second issue of the Coffeeville newspaper changed even more. Pages one and two were made up of two columns which measured 24 1/2 picas wide, while pages three and four remained in a three-column style. The reason for this change is not clear; it may have been the result of his publishing a large woodcut on both pages one and two.¹

The following week he changed back to his original form of using three columns but enlarged some of his body type to almost 10 points. Page two, which would probably be called his editorial page, was almost entirely set in 10-point type while the other three pages remained in six-point type.

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeeville), June 10, 1844. Both of these cuts were small enough to run in one column width, but Howe used them centered in two columns.

In later issues it would appear that Howe used his larger type as both a typographical brightening device and as a means of emphasizing certain stories.¹

The Coffeerville Democrat's format changed almost weekly. One week it might appear with two columns on one page and three or four columns on other pages. The following week it might be different.

On March 28, 1845, the greatest change was made in the Democrat. Page size jumped to 21 by 15 inches, both six point and 10-point body types were used, while pages one and two were made up in four columns and pages three and four in five columns.

Perhaps the hectic nature of the Democrat's format and make-up reflected the restlessness of its editor.

Use of Headlines in the Dollar Democrat

Few headlines were used in the first month's issues of the Oxford Dollar Democrat. News stories were introduced by an indented paragraph preceded by a cut-off rule except when they began at the top of a page. Some stories were introduced by a small printed figure of a pointing hand.

The nearest thing to what might be called a headline

¹Howe's editorial comments on politics in the Coffeerville Dollar Democrat were usually set in 10-point type.

was Howe's use of tag-lines or label heads to title his poetry, essays and news stories. These tags were generally set in the same type as the body copy, all capitals and centered. Often they were enclosed in quotes and ended in periods. Other tags indicated sources of stories or simply said "Communicated."

A few of these heads were: WINTER IS COMING; NO! Means Yes.; "Human Nature Is Human Nature."; THE MAMMOTH NOSE.; From the Alexandria Index; ENGLAND; MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING; SONG; POEM; and SCANDAL.

Later, Howe began to introduce headlines as such in the Oxford Democrat. They ranged from a single word to several words; sometimes quoted phrases ending with ellipses were used. These heads were set in either a 10 or 12 point bold face type and were centered above the story. No space separated the story from the head. A few of these heads were set flush left.

Even though a noticeable increase in the use of heads can be seen in later months of the Oxford paper, still most of the items were not headed. Stories or editorial comments were most often separated only by a cut-off rule.

A few examples of these heads are: To The Public; Tax Collector's Advertisements; The Quakeress Bride; Luck's A Misfortune.; Crackers and Cheese.; Hard Cider Eloquence.; Villager's Winter Evening Song.; No Call.; Legal Humbug; Horse of another color.; Don't be Humbug'd Boys!.

Only one head of a descriptive nature was published in the Oxford newspaper. The head--"John C. Colt--Preparations for his Execution -- His Suicide -- Burning of the cupola of the Prison."--was probably clipped from the New York Tattler as was the story that followed.¹

Heads were used often in the Coffeerville Democrat, and were generally printed in larger type than the body of the story. Issues on which heads appeared were much more attractive than those without.

Heads in the Coffeerville newspaper were set in 10-, 12-, and 18-point type and in varying faces. An 18-point modern Roman face was the most frequently used, followed by a 12-point open gothic sans-serif. A condensed transitional face was also used. Larger heads were frequently used to introduce letters from readers and political candidates, while the gothic faces were used primarily for editorials. On occasion italics were used in combination with other types.

One head that precedes a story of an election is particularly interesting. At the top of the column on page one appear the words, in 18-point extrabold modern Roman italic, "FIRE UP FOR YALOBUSHA!!!" Directly under this head is a woodcut of a spry cock standing over a coon

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), December 10, 1842.

whose feet are reaching skyward.¹ These words are printed under the cut: "We have met the varmint, and he is skewed up, pizened, polk-ed over, paws up, and perfectly docile:."

A few lines of verse follow the "second deck," and this head appears: "THE HANDSOME MAJORITY OF 176!!!" Further down in the story is a fourth head: "A Gain of 100 ! ! ! ." ²

Italics were frequently used by Howe to emphasize a point, both in heads and in body copy. At other times it would appear italics were used when he ran out of regular body type. Punctuation marks were used frequently, and with regard to modern usage, in improper places.

As a typographical device to break up the long columns of gray matter, the editor frequently indented portions of stories. He sometimes indented quoted material as much as half an inch on each side.

The flag of the Democrat changed frequently. It originally appeared as The Dollar Democrat, and was set in a 48-point black letter or text type. An Oxford rule followed which extended all the way across the printed page. The second line under the flag, set in 18 point bold Roman

¹ Howe was a Democrat and carried on bitter editorial battles with opposing Whig editors. His symbol for the Whig party was a racoon; for the Democrats, a rooster.

² Dollar Democrat (Coffeeville), November 6, 1844.

transitional, was: "PRICE ---ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR ---HALF IN ADVANCE." The editor's name, the date, city, county, state, volume and number followed on two additional lines in eight-point type.

On February 7, 1843, the Democrat's flag changed. A period was added after Democrat. The same basic material was printed under the flag, and changed slightly in size and placement with the addition of a slogan: "The World is my Country -- And to do good my Religion. -- Paine." Later the credit to "Paine," probably Thomas Paine, was dropped even though Howe frequently complained of not receiving "proper credit" from others.

When the Democrat began publication in Coffeeville, "THE" was dropped from the flag, and only the words "DOLLAR DEMOCRAT." appeared in a bold 72-point open gothic sans-serif.¹ As the format increased in size, the "THE" portion of the flag reappeared. When the size decreased, "THE" was again dropped.

At times Howe used cuts as part of his flag. One cut depicted a group of carpenter's tools; another depicted two women sprinkling seeds on a field with the sun in the background. They appear to be professional engravings and not "home-made." The cut of the carpenter's tools was used

¹This type resembles the American Type Founders' Comstock style.

in another newspaper as part of a classified advertisement for the "Grand Lodge of Mississippi." It was probably a symbol of the Masonic Lodge during this period. However, there is no other indication Howe was a Mason.

Generally, datelines on pages other than the front page were not used by Howe. Sometimes he inserted a small version of the page one flag on page two.

Use of Woodcuts in the Dollar Democrat

The Democrat was unique in its use of original or "home-made" cuts. No other newspaper of this period in Mississippi was found to use original art work.

Howe used about a dozen cuts during his two years at Oxford and Coffeenville. These cuts probably were carved from wood by Howe. Though some were rather crude, others were apparently made only after a great deal of work and time had been spent. Some were silhouetted characters, and others were detailed carvings depicting people.

In the first issue of the Oxford Democrat Howe favored his readers with a picture of himself. He depicted himself as a man with a long nose, wearing a tall hat, and looking like a scarecrow.¹ The cut was used to emphasize to readers his need of money.

Howe wrote above the cut: "To you at a distance,

¹Howe's self portrait appears on the cover.

particularly, we would appeal -- and as you may not be aware how thin and melancholy the credit system has made us -- we subjoin our portrait, which -- alas! -- doesn't half graphically enough express how much we are in want of money."¹

A cut in the second Oxford Democrat depicted Howe and the editor of the Holly Springs Guard engaged in a debate. The Guard editor was pictured as a good-looking young man, and Howe again was depicted with his long nose. Part of the copy above the picture read:

We beg it to be distinctly understood that we don't claim to be more fascinating, viewed superficially, than he is; but we do contend that a close and critical examination will discover a feature in the center of our physiognomy which completely throws in the shade the most charming feature of our friend's countenance.²

Cuts were generally used in connection with a poem by Howe or to make sure a point would be well taken by his readers.

In one story he reported to his readers the statements of a political candidate which he apparently considered absurd. To illustrate his disbelief in the candidate he pictured the politician sitting at a table with a bottle of cider in his hand and a big smile on his face. Howe wrote above the picture: "We kan't konceive how any intelligent

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), January 7, 1841.

²Ibid., January 21, 1841.

koon kould utter such a grossly laughably ridiculous sentiment, unless over pleasant in the noodle from having emptied more than one bottle of choice old hard cider."¹

Perhaps the most interesting cut published by Howe was in his last issue of the Coffeeville Democrat. This picture shows a tall slim figure walking down the road with a sack attached to a pole over his back. Under the picture was a sign which read: "TO TEXAS."² As already stated, Howe is believed to have set out for Texas in later years.

Distribution of Space in the Democrat

The distribution of space in the Democrat is discussed in the chapters on Advertising, Editorials and Magazine-Like Features, Local and Non-Local News.

In summary, however, it should be said that it is most difficult to determine the amount of space devoted to news, advertising, and so forth in the Democrat. In the case of advertising, Howe states that he will charge for his services in supporting a candidate for office. It is doubtful, however, that he did charge since so much political matter was printed in the Democrat. Too, it is difficult to draw a line between the political matter and news matter or between non-local items and humor and editorial comments.

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeeville), June 3, 1844.

²Ibid., November 28, 1845.

The distribution of space might be estimated as follows:

News: (local and non-local)	15%
Advertising: (excluding prospectus articles) . .	10%
Political matter: (speeches, letters and additional editorial comments)	20%
Literary material: (songs, poems, satires, short stories)	30%
Editorials: (including debates, etc.)	15%
Other: (lists of letters in post office, etc.)	10%

These estimates are based on an analysis of two months' issues of the Oxford Dollar Democrat.

A similar table for the Coffeeville Democrat would change only slightly. The Coffeeville paper contained more political and less literary material than did the Oxford newspaper. In addition, it featured fewer prospectus articles and showed a slight increase in advertising.

CHAPTER III

LOCAL AND NON-LOCAL NEWS IN THE DOLLAR DEMOCRAT

Little can be learned about Oxford or Lafayette County from the pages of the Dollar Democrat because the Democrat contained very little local news. Only a few notices of weddings and births were published by Howe. Obituaries numbered even fewer: only two deaths were reported in a year's issues. A few public meetings received published notices, but usually local news did not have its fair share of space.

The shortage of local news in the Democrat may be attributed to the fact that Howe charged for publishing accounts of local happenings which he considered "of only private interest."

In a notice to the public in the December 17, 1842, Democrat, Howe announced he would publish a new newspaper in the city to be called the Oxford Independent Republican. The public notice consumed almost a column and a half.

We are opposed to setting types gratuitously; therefore we shall charge the usual advertising rates for inserting marriages and obituary notices and all other articles of only private interest. For publishing speeches, proceedings of public meetings, notices of school examinations, and all communications not strictly literary,

political, or of palpable utility, Five Dollars each will invariably be charged. . . .

When our editorial services are required, or our presence, at barbecues, political snaps, protracted meetings, public exhibitions, etc., for the purpose of reporting proceedings, immortalizing the actors, & c. in the Republican, -- if in town, a fee of \$10 will be required; -- if in the county, \$8 per day and mileage.¹

Many articles of a "literary nature" were published in the Democrat. Local contributions received prime space in the paper. Patriotic songs and poems were most frequently seen. Essays and written debates on religious and political subjects by local authors were also published. Harry Quillen and Zephania Shucks, Esq., were frequent contributors. Material written locally usually carried a tag line "For The Dollar Democrat."

A sample follows:

COMMUNICATED.

Song.

By Zephania Shucks, Esq.

Kiss me again before you go,
Then all our ties may sever --
I little thought she'd sarve me so! --
"May all the saints in heaven forgive her!"

The kiss I felt whole weeks and days,
And yet it makes my bosom shiver;
She fled and left me in a maze --
May all the saints in heaven forgive her!

Oft have I braved the winter snow,
Oft have I errossed [sic] the dreadful river,

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), December 17, 1842.

To kiss her cheek have friss [sic] my toes --
 May all the saints in heaven forgive her!

And yet, per-haps she may relent,
 And cheer my ago-nis-ed liver;
 But if the jade will not repent --
 May all the saints in heaven forgive her!¹

Speeches made by county legislators were published by Howe. It appears, since they were clipped from other publications and probably were not paid for by the speaker, that he considered these of public interest.

Most of the local news that did find its way into the pages of the Democrat was of a "private interest," probably of interest mainly to Howe himself. In one issue of the Democrat he devoted nearly three full columns to a debate by the "Polemics" on the topic "when Adam was placed in the Garden, where [sic] principles implanted in him which would have led to the transgression, had it not been for the influence of Eve!" Howe wrote in his report of the debate:

The boys, very ungallantly, and in our humble opinion very unjustly, decided that "the woman's" influence caused him to transgress and fall. We, for our-life cannot see why the old lady should be charged with causing the first sin. She was, like the serpent, but an instrument used by the Devil -- a simple, credulous being, who had no knowledge of "good or evil," and entirely unconscious that there was any such varmint as the devil in existence; much less that the pesky crittur was permitted

¹Ibid., March 12, 1841.

to take the shape of the serpent to impose upon a poor lone woman and ruin her and her husband forever. . . .¹

The obituary of Charles Bowden, published on page one, was written in great detail. A part of the half column obituary follows:

For several weeks before his death, his disease had assumed a very aggravated nature, producing the most excruciating and tormenting pains, which may be truly said he bore "with Christian fortitude." He had been conscious, for some time, and his approaching dissolution, and conversed with his family and friends, concerning death and its consequences, with calmness and fortitude that disarmed it and its sting, and the grave of its dreaded horrors. His only regret seemed to be, that he was retained so long in this probationary existence to suffer his bodily afflictions; and his last and dying exclamations, breathed in accents scarcely audible, were these words from that beautiful hymn: --

"Jesus can make a dying bed
Feel soft as downy pillows are."

His immortal spirit then took its flight from this sublunary abode to that more blissful one on high with a happy assurance that it would find a resting place in "Abraham's bosom" where we are told the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.²

Howe published several accounts of court proceedings in the county -- all with a touch of humor. One story related a "will case" in which two women were in court over a dead man's fortune. Howe's last paragraph in the account read: "We hate to see the daughters of Columbia get into

¹Ibid., April 22, 1841.

²Ibid., May 7, 1841.

the hands of lawyers, unless it be in the high Court of Hymen; and as the lovely litigants are, both, pretty well off, we suggest that they drop the suit, divide the property between them, kiss and be like loving sisters -- and give us a thousand dollars for our suggestion."¹

In one article, Howe told his readers about the county courthouse.

What a dungeon-like place it is! cold [sic] and damp as a Russian cellar -- without stove or fireplace. In the name of humanity, we suggest to the proper quarter the propriety of selling those big pillars on the outside of the edifice, and buying a stove or two for the inside. . . . Not only was our valuable life endangered by the cold, but our valuable eyesight by the cursed cheap and nasty smoky alms-house tallow candles.²

In the May 18, 1842, issue of the Oxford newspaper appeared the head "OYES OYES!" The story follows:

It is Court Term! Heaven weeps! Hell rejoices. It is the Devil's Carnival! Man's folly or inhumanity, or injustice to man, furnishes the feast. Hundreds are in town, here will remain, for another week, earning nothing, many contracting loafing habits and a distaste for labor, and all incurring expenses. A whole fortnight will have been consumed this term, in settling the questions in dispute, between civilized man and civilized man. And thus it is every six months! Civilized! Fah! And what is Civilization? -- Paying priests, lawyers; legislators; bondholders; judges, clerks, juries, sheriff,

¹Ibid., December 10, 1842.

²Ibid.

mayors, justices, thief-catchers, road taxes, militia taxes, patrol taxes, tariff taxes and other taxes, too numerous to mention. And what do we gain by this expensive system called Civil? Wherein is it superior to the state of nature? You may search the barbarian world over, and you will fail to find a third part the vile, cowardly, cruel, barbarous and bloody, murders, duels, rapes, seductions, knavery, and hypocrisy, that abound in this civilized country. Where will you find savage tribe of eight hundred men, in which so much injustice is perpetrated in six months, that a Courthouse, costing \$34,000 is kept, and a Judge, a Clerk, Sheriff, Jury, and fifty Lawyers are employed for an entire fortnight, to right the wronged, and punish the guilty! Civilized! Oyes! We're D---d civilized people; and the Choctaws are infernal barbarians.¹

The mail service was a constant subject of complaint in the pages of the Democrat. Howe wrote in one issue:

". . . A letter from Washington, D. C., dated January 28, and announcing the failure in the Senate to repeal the Bankrupt Bill was delivered to us on March 10."² Frequently Howe published pleading notices to postmasters, "holding up our exchanges for a reading," to pass the mail on to Oxford.

One of the most interesting items published in Howe's Democrat at Oxford was a story about a meeting of the "Republican Citizens."³ The article consisted of fifteen resolutions passed by the group at an "adjourned meeting" and signed by sixteen local residents. E. Percy Howe's was the

¹Ibid., May 18, 1843.

²Ibid., March 12, 1841.

³The word "Republican" as used here by Howe did not refer to a political group. In his usage it referred to citizens of the Republic.

final signature listed. The purpose of the group's meeting or the resolutions passed is not clear. It would appear from the context of the article that Howe and some of his friends had been banished from certain social circles by the "Aristocratical Upper Classes."

Strongly worded, the resolutions seem to be public notice to the aristocrats of Oxford that the "common man" was no longer willing to be considered inferior. The article read, in part, as follows:

First -- That it appears to this meeting, that there are persons among us, whose conduct and bearing towards their less favored fellow citizens point them out, as fit to be haughty subjects of an aristocratical Government than humble citizens of a republic of Freemen.

Second -- That neither birth, wisdom, nor wealth, confers on its possessors a right to slight, neglect, or treat with marked indifference or contumely, those who can only claim to possess honesty, industrious habits, and a good name.

Third -- That it is becoming to common for those who are DEPENDENT . . . on the Working Classes for shelter, food, raiment, furniture, and in short -- ALL THE ACTUAL NECESSARIES AND CONFORTS OF LIFE -- to fail not only to respect, for those on whom they are burdens and drones, but to consider themselves not a DEPENDENT, but a SUPERIOR order of being.

Fourth -- That the producing and toiling masses of mankind, "have too long been humbugged with the ASSUMED SUPERIORITY of the learned profession" and wealth-accumulating-without-labor avocations, over agricultural, mechanical and other laborious pursuits -- and that "it is high time the humbug be exploded."

Fifth -- That the learned, the gifted and the rich, are only EQUAL, in respect to SOCIAL RIGHTS, to their fellow citizens, "less abundantly endowed."

. . . Eighth -- That we have observed with regret, shame and indignation, the introduction, within a year or two past, of a DIVIDING LINE, into this community, -- which has on more than one occasion been drawn to the disparagement and mortification of many of our citizens, unfortunately not rich, learned, nor gifted, but merely honest, respectable, and industrious.

Ninth -- That although the wives, sisters, and daughters of REPUBLICANS can derive no honor from associating with aristocrats of either sex -- yet we cannot but feel indignant, that those we hold near and dear to us, as our hearts' blood, should be excluded from all participation in the social meetings, gatherings, festivities, and recreations, gotten up to enliven the dull routine of village life.

Tenth -- That we will not partonize, when we can avoid doing so, any citizen or body of citizens, who shall hereafter treat with neglect, indifference, or contempt, the industrial classes -- nor any citizen or body, whose too refined tastes and morbidly delicate sensibilities, would be shocked, of plain, honest, industrious, Republican Citizens. . . .¹

The preceding article was published in each following issue of the Democrat until July 21 of 1843. In this, the final issue of the Democrat at Oxford, Howe announced that his press would soon be sold by the Tax Collector. Possibly the publication by Howe of the stern resolutions of the "Republicans" had something to do with his leaving Oxford.

Howe did a better job of local coverage in the Coffeeville Democrat than he did at Oxford. Events such as political meetings, police actions and social gatherings were reported. Local candidates for state office frequently received

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), July 7, 1843.

space in the county paper. Death, marriage and birth notices were printed from both Coffeetown and Grenada.¹

Generally the content of the Coffeetown newspaper was more diversified. Literary material was still published by Howe, but political matter was more often printed.

Non-Local News in the Dollar Democrat

The Oxford Dollar Democrat contained little news from other parts of Mississippi or the nation. Exchange newspapers were used by Howe as a source of news material for the Oxford newspaper, but generally, clipped material was of a literary nature.

The Coffeetown Democrat, however, contained a great deal of non-local news. Most of this "out-of-town news" was of a political nature and clipped from favorite journals in the state or sent to the editor in the form of letters.

Neither the Oxford nor the Coffeetown newspaper contained much national news. Eastern exchanges supplied the little news of national interest which was published by Howe. The election of 1844 was reported only slightly, even though Howe announced in almost every issue the name of his candidate for the presidency.² The question of the annexation of Texas,

¹The Harry Of The West, located at Grenada in the southern part of Yalobusha County, frequently was clipped by Howe. The Harry supplied most of the obituaries published in the Coffeetown Democrat.

²Howe supported James K. Polk for president in 1844.

discussed at great length by other newspapers in the state, was mentioned by Howe only in published speeches made by candidates for state and national offices.

Happenings at the state legislature were better covered. A regular feature of the Oxford Democrat was a weekly report from Jackson on legislative proceedings. The report, "sent us by our able correspondent," was datelined at the capital but carried no by-line. It usually filled a column and was almost two weeks old when published. Occasionally the Jackson reporter would fail to send his weekly report to Howe, in which case Howe would simply clip a recent story from an exchange newspaper.

The legislative report usually contained the day's happenings with comments either by the reporter or by Howe. One report told of a move to establish a printing school at the state penitentiary. Howe, apparently upset even by the thought of such a suggestion, wrote:

. . . This learning convicts trades is the most rascally feature in American legislation. As soon as the convicts' terms expire they are turned forth . . . to disgrace respectable artists, whose occupation he has acquired in a Penitentiary, as a punishment for villany [sic]! We wonder if the lawyers of the Penitentiary Committee would like to have a law school in the Penitentiary? . . . O Crickey! Wouldn't it read well in print "Goslin Green Boyd, Esq., has associated himself with pegleg Pick-Pocket, a graduate of the Penitentiary Law College."¹

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), March 5, 1841.

Few reports of the growing hostilities between the United States and Mexico were published in the Oxford Democrat. One story which hinted that a war was in the making was published by Howe. It appears to be a summary of several articles with some of his own comments added.

The impression at Washington, at the last account was that we shall have a fight with Mexico. . . . The British invade our soil, burn an American steamboat, murder an American, and our government lets the outrage upon our nationality, our soil and American property and life, sleep unavenged. The Mexicans capture a band of armed foreigners on their soil, and our Government blusters up to the pusillanimous yellow dogs "with a most honorable action." First come, first served! The lion is entitled to our respect first -- if our government can be kicked into a war with Mexico is problematical.¹

Another story written by Howe concerning a national issue was one telling his readers of a group of northern manufacturers who were trying to get a protective tariff passed in Congress. Howe seldom published such news, but in this case he was making note of the fact that he was strongly against such a tariff.

Clipped from the New York Tattler was a story about the death of John C. Colt. This was a well-written story. The head for the Colt story was also clipped by Howe.

One non-local news story was written by Howe after he had attended the State Democratic Convention. Nearly two pages

¹Ibid., April 22, 1841.

of the March 14, 1843, issue of the Oxford Democrat were filled with the report. Howe reported the convention proceedings fully, including the candidates nominated and resolutions passed. One story headed "Schims [sic] in the Wigwam" listed all the political factions in the state.

A sidelight of his convention coverage was a feature which listed in detail the changes made at Jackson since his last visit. Another short feature from the convention repudiated a rumor circulating in the state in regard to the State Treasurer's mishandling of funds.

The Coffeeville Democrat featured reports from Jackson, too, but not in the serious manner of the Oxford newspaper. The reports, called "Letters From Yankee Peter," were satirical and were supposed to have been written by a Negro stationed at the capital -- "Up Stairs, Guviner's Manshun."¹

One story that seemed to have held a great deal of interest for Howe was the death of Dr. James Hagan. Dr. Hagan was publisher of the tri-weekly Sentinel at Vicksburg, and it seems he editorially offended a young man named Daniel Adams. Howe reported in his Oxford newspaper in 1843 that young Adams had killed Dr. Hagan after traveling all the way from Jackson to the Sentinel office. Editorials were frequently published by Howe charging that Hagan was murdered by Adams. Adams was

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeeville), July 20, 1844.

pleading self-defense in court.

A year later in the Coffeeville Democrat, Howe published several other stories about the Hagan incident, including a report of the trial of young Adams. The story quoted Adams as saying he would "hold to account" any person who maintained that his killing of Dr. Hagan was murder. Howe boldly defied Adams' challenge and printed a long article which concluded, in bold type, that Hagan was "in fact murdered by Adams."¹

Apparently Adams was acquitted at the trial in early 1844, much to Howe's dismay. Howe wrote in a story which was partly clipped from the Athens Alabama Chronicle: "How the jury arrived at this verdict [acquittal] is to us, taking evidence as reported, exceedingly strange. [Adams] was armed with three pistols and a hickory stick . . . struck the first blow, and yet was acquitted on the grounds of self defense!"²

In contrast to his practice in Oxford, Howe gave some attention to national news in his Coffeeville newspaper. A few stories about Texas annexation and the Mexican War were clipped from New York newspapers, but generally he relied on the Mississippian and the Vicksburg Sentinel for such national news.

One report from the Mississippian related the movement

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), July 14, 1843.

²Dollar Democrat (Coffeeville), July 27, 1844.

of General Taylor with 1000 troops to positions on the Mexican frontier.¹

A firm believer in expansion, Howe printed a number of articles that favored his view.²

A report from the Vicksburg Sentinel in the August 20, 1845, Coffeerville Democrat noted the arrival of New Orleans newspapers with headlines reading "Declaration of War By Mexico." The Sentinel report read: "We have carefully looked over all they contain of tangible material; and our conviction is that we are no whit nearer to war than we have been for the past six months. . . . We think we are justified in seizing a sufficient Mexican territory or other property to indemnify fully all expenses of the war thus threatened. Ho, for California!"³ Nine months after the preceding story was published, Congress declared war.

Clement Eaton in Freedom of Thought in the Old South indicates the South pursued a policy of silence in regard to the slavery question from 1835 to the late fifties. Howe

¹Ibid., August 20, 1845.

²Howe wrote in his statement of policy in the Coffeerville paper: "We are in favor of the annexation to the United States, not only Texas and Oregon, but Europe, Asia and all the rest of the globe. We hold it to be the duty of the United States, as early as convenient, to break up the rotten tyrannies of the Old World, free their down-trodden subjects, and admit them into the Union."

³Dollar Democrat (Coffeerville), August 20, 1845.

seldom mentioned slavery as such but did print reports of slaves committing crimes, including one story of a slave insurrection.

In Howe's "declaration of policy," which was printed at least once a month in the Coffeeville Democrat, he wrote:

We are in favor of repealing the Laws against the African Slave Trade. The Price of Negroes is altogether too high. Every freeman ought to have a nig to wait on him. By removing the restrictions from the trade, hundreds of thousands of wooly heads would be imported into the country, prices would fall, and every gentleman loafer have a darky to clean his old clothes and send after his bitters. You wouldn't see so many ruffle-shirted paupers then as you do now, marrying deformed, useless, puny, piano-strumming misses, for their filthy Ethiopians.

Instead of our national vessels being employed in time of peace in suppressing the African Slave Trade, they should be employed in transporting slaves, to be distributed to our poor folks.¹

In a more serious article which appeared on the same page as the above notice, Howe discussed the slave question:

. . . Whatever may be the proper construction put upon existing laws on this subject [slavery], one thing appears to us viz: That their introduction should be prohibited, not only by this State but all others whose soil and climate are most adapted to the cultivation of cotton, sugar, & c -- for various reasons:

1st To prevent the abolishment of Slavery; in Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee -- which must take place sooner or later in those states, if they are permitted to empty their slaves into states better adapted than they are, for profitable cultivation of our richest Southern staples. Force them to keep their negroes and their own pecuniary interest will compel them to keep up that institution among them,

¹Ibid., March 21, 1845.

which is indispensably necessary to the prosperity of the South. Let them sell out and free themselves of their slave property, and ere many years the non-slaveholders in those states will be the most numerous and extinguish slavery among them, at the ballot boxes.

2nd, Self-preservation is the first law of nature -- and this law, cries aloud to our planters to stop the floodgates of immigration and put a stop to the flood of over production, which else must overwhelm them in poverty to the very lips. There are more than enough negroes now employed in the culture of cotton -- and those interested should put a stopper on the further increase of toilers in the already unprofitable vineyard. If it be necessary to alter the Constitution, to enable their Representatives to act in the premises, let it be altered. We are opposed to the introduction of any more slaves into the state! [sic] and also to the increase of cotton lands within its borders by leveeing -- as measures of deadly fatality to the best interest of the Southern planters.¹

The two statements do not conflict as they might appear at first glance since the first one was satire. The second article, serious and anti-slavery, probably expressed Howe's real feelings.

On March 21, 1845, Howe made a change in his policy statement column. He continued to advocate repealing the laws against the "African Slave Trade," but added the following paragraph:

We believe that the earth BELONGS TO ALL; and that no man has a right to hold any more Land than is necessary for the maintenance of himself and family, or sufficient to supply him with all dependents on him, a full and ample share of the comforts of life; and therefore, we are in favor

¹Ibid., March 7, 1845.

of allowing to actual settlers, native and ADOPTED Citizens, heads of families without cost, as much as the public soil as they can cultivate.¹

This statement reads much like the platform of the Free Soil Party which nominated Martin Van Buren for president in 1848. The Free Soilers were former members of the Liberty Party, Northern Whigs, and Eastern Democrats, who deserted their parties when Van Buren failed to get the Democratic nomination. They were "antislavery men . . . and formed the party on a platform favoring the Wilmot Proviso and free land for actual settlers."²

Probably, judging from the above statements, Howe was in reality antislavery. This could possibly account for his being barred from certain social circles in Oxford and his joining the "Republicans." The Free Soil Party was not organized when he made these statements; however, Howe may have joined the party when it later came into being.

On the subject of free soil, Howe published a letter from the New York People's Rights "To Gerrit Smith." Smith apparently owned some 50,000 acres of land, which the writer of the letter felt could support 50,000 citizens. The unsigned letter filled over two columns and suggested that Smith was the nation's largest owner of "white slaves." It pointed

¹Ibid., March 21, 1845.

²Ray Allen Billington, American History Before 1877 (Patterson, N. J.: Littlefield, Adams & Co., Inc., 1962), p. 192.

out that Smith was a slave owner because he was using 50,000 acres for his own benefit which would make land owners out of a like number of city dwellers and free them from "bondage."

Some of Howe's best writing was done when he returned from trips to other parts of the country. One detailed account of his trip up the Mississippi River to Memphis was especially well written. The story told of a man who jumped from the boat and committed suicide in the swollen waters of the river. Howe apparently did some investigative work on the story since he traced part of the dead man's life before he boarded the Manhattan. The account covered the events up to the man's death step by step in the style of a mystery. But typically, Howe seemed unable to leave his readers without one editorial comment:

We trust that this melancholy event, will have the effect to induce steamboat Captains hereafter, when a passenger is first discovered to be insane, either to confine him or set him ashore. . . . Our contemporaries on the river, will aid the cause of humanity by making the above facts public, their papers being read by steamboat captains generally.¹

A trip of several weeks on the Mississippi coast was reported by Howe. The descriptive story ran over two columns in the Democrat and praised the beauty of South Mississippi. He was apparently impressed with Mississippi City:

The location of this great future sea port of Mississippi, and the southwest at large, is so commanding that it will ever be a matter of surprise

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeerville), September 3, 1845.

that it was not sooner appropriated to the uses for which it was designed by the munificent hand of nature. Neither New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola or Charleston can hold competition to the vast natural advantages of Mississippi City as a sea port of the first magnitude.¹

The Dollar Democrat and Exchange Papers

Judging from the number of complaints of poor mail service and late exchanges registered in the pages of the Democrat, it would appear at first that Howe relied heavily on the material published by other editors. However, on the contrary, he published a much smaller amount of clipped material in his Oxford newspaper than might be expected.

The Democrat at Oxford was spiced with material from both the Holly Springs Gazette and the Guard. A heated debate ensued between these newspapers and the Democrat during the year 1842. The "feud" developed because the Holly Springs newspapers were in favor of the issuance by the state of bonds to support a bank. Howe, a determined "anti-bondsman," took issue with the Marshall County editors at every turn.

Material from the Washington Huntress, the Magnolia and the Southern Literary Messenger found its way into the pages of the Oxford newspaper. In addition, Howe plucked material from the New York Herald and the Baltimore Sun. Almost all of his "Pickings and Stealings" in the Oxford Democrat

¹Ibid., September 10, 1845.

were jokes.¹

The Coffeerville Democrat made greater use of exchange newspapers than did the Oxford newspaper. The Mississippian, the Free Trader, the Reformer, and the Sentinel, were the frequent suppliers of news from over the state, while news from the southern part of Yalobusha County was obtained from the Harry Of The West at Grenada.

Out-of-state newspapers clipped for the Coffeerville Democrat included the Tennessee Democrat, the Helena Journal, the Memphis Appeal, the New York Working Man's Advocate, the New York Sun, the New York Enquirer, the New York Herald and the Ohio People's Paper.

Stories clipped from out-of-state newspapers were mostly of a literary nature, usually jokes. Some issues of the Democrat at Coffeerville carried as much as two full columns of jokes clipped from exchanges. Though he published little clipped material in the Oxford paper, he did have quite an extensive exchange list from which to select.²

In addition to his American exchanges, Howe either

¹"Pickings and Stealings" was a head Howe used for a column of jokes. As the name implies, all of the material in the column was clipped from exchange papers. No credit was given.

²On a number of occasions Howe referred to his wealth of exchanges. At other times he would write: "The Boston papers 'or' New York papers report. . . ." This would seem to indicate he received several papers from both cities.

exchanged with or subscribed to at least one English paper.¹ Several issues of the Oxford Democrat contained stories, generally satires, about the English "Royal House." He took delight in making fun of the Queen while writing as if she were a close friend.

Postmasters were frequently the subjects of articles in the Democrat. Howe lashed them for not delivering his mail when there was the "slightest sprinkle of rain." On one occasion he claimed postmasters were holding his mail for a "good reading before delivery." He wrote: "That they are kept back, by postmasters, and not through the heavy rains of late is evidenced by the fact that letters from all quarters arrive; and it is to be presumed that when letters can cross water courses, newspapers can."²

At times Howe wrote of his mail being delivered "soaking wet and completely undecipherable." He noted on the arrival of one dripping parcel that the only reason it was delivered to the Democrat office was that "our name appeared in a libelous editorial" on its front page.

Apparently the publicity given the problem by Howe drew some attention from the Post Office Department.³ After

¹Several stories about England were credited to the English Morning Chronicle.

²Dollar Democrat (Oxford), February 18, 1841.

³Ibid., March 5, 1841. Howe indicated he had received a letter from the Post Office Department.

listing nearly half a column of complaints directed at the "Head Puff-Master," he made the suggestion in an editorial that a state postal inspector be appointed to "follow our mails and catch the villains."

When the mail did arrive, Howe promptly reported the news to his readers by listing the latest exchanges received. An additional story usually appeared in the form of a review of some of the recent publications with comments about the various editors. Howe apparently read many of his exchanges even though he did not use much material from them.

The Oxford newspaper contained a good many articles from the Southern Literary Messenger, including a special story on the contents of each new issue. Poetry and such articles as "Letters From Ben Franklin" were usually furnished from the pages of the Messenger.

The Washington Huntress was usually the source of choice essays and short stories. Howe favored the Huntress over the Messenger as a literary source and he was a frequent correspondent with its editor, Mrs. Ann Royall. Mention of the Democrat in the Huntress was always noted by Howe.

Proper notice of credit to the Democrat was not given by Mrs. Royall in one issue of the Huntress. "Our fair contemporary, Madame Royall of the Washington Huntress, is evidently opposed to the 'Credit System. . . .' She has cabaged our good 'un about Bass and the Tailor, without giving

us credit. No matter; we've charged her with it; and here 'set up' our claim. We don't care for being 'Dis-Credited' by the men, but hate to be 'out of the books' of the ladies."¹

One "exchange debate" between Howe and the editors of the Holly Springs Gazette and the Holly Springs Guard ran for several months in the Oxford Democrat. The feud began over a legislative question, later evolved into a discussion of editorial policy and ended in "cut-throat" libel competition among the three.²

When Howe moved to Coffeeville he used, besides the usual literary material, news items taken from exchanges. Occasionally he wrote summary stories compiled from several exchanges. The Texas question was covered in this manner.

The New York Working Man's Advocate was one of the most frequently clipped of Howe's exchanges at Coffeeville. Devoted to labor interests, the Advocate was the source of such discussions as "Which is the best, the life of the Indian savage, or the white operative?"³

Indicating a further interest in the labor movement,

¹Ibid., June 25, 1842.

²The chapter on "Editorials and Features" contains a full discussion of the debate.

³The Advocate, according to Frank Luther Mott, American Journalism (New York: Macmillan Co., 1950), was published by George H. Evans. It was the most important of the early journals dedicated to labor.

Howe also published material from the Ohio People's Paper and the New York People's Rights. One article from the People's Rights protested the selling of public lands. The New York newspaper contended, and Howe agreed, that public lands belonged to the people and should be free to any non-land holder.¹

As did many other newspapers during the period, the Democrat contained a story noting the beginning of each new journal in the state. Apparently feeling there was no real competition between the Democrat and other newspapers, Howe frequently complimented his new peers, even when they were Whigs. Howe wrote, when the Hernando Phenix began re-publishing after a "short rest":

. . . Br. John Lavins, long favorably known to the Democracy of the state, as an able and fearless laborer in the good cause, has resuscitated the Hernando Phenix. It is unnecessary for us to say; but for the hearty good will we bear Br. John, we will say: that he is a card: a perfect "trump"; and "honor" to the typographical "pack," and now they have turned up "Jack," if the democracy of De Soto don't have the "game" all their own way, it won't be because they hav'nt a first rate "hand" on their side.²

During the latter part of 1845 the Coffeerville Dollar Democrat was almost entirely filled with political matter. Election time was near and Howe declared his journal a

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeerville)- March 28, 1845.

²Ibid., February 12, 1845.

"candidatorial train."¹ Speeches and letters of recommendation for, as well as against, candidates filled the Democrat's pages. Much of the material was republished from other newspapers, and some was published in the Democrat second or third hand.

In a story published in the February 19, 1845, issue of the Coffeeville Dollar Democrat, Howe called on his readers to support newspapers within the state:

Our state now furnishes four ably conducted democratic journals of the largest class, which are offered to the reading public on terms so low as to put them within the reach of almost every citizen. They are devoted to the interest of the state, local and national; and are fountains of information to which every one exercising the prerogative of a voter, should have access. Every one who wishes to be familiar with the affairs of the state in which he lives, should patronize -- one certainly -- all if he can, of those papers: The Mississippian; The Reformer; The Sentinel; and The Free Trader. By all means, every patriotic citizen should take one, more, or all of these, in preference to sending his money out of the state, to build up or sustain journals which have no stake or interest in the fortunes of Mississippi. . . .²

It should be noted the Dollar Democrat was not listed as one of the "state's leading democratic journals" in the above story written by Howe.

¹Howe published a column of candidates' names each week under a woodcut of a steaming train engine and called it "Howe's Democratic Line." A further discussion of this feature is contained in the chapter on "Editorials and Features."

²Dollar Democrat (Coffeeville), February 19, 1845.

CHAPTER IV

EDITORIALS AND FEATURES IN THE DOLLAR DEMOCRAT

When read between the lines the Dollar Democrat presents a rare insight into the nature of E. Percy Howe. His subtle humor, his ingenious editorial additives and crafty compositions reveal the true picture of this community editor and his newspaper.

E. Percy Howe was a strong believer in the press as a means of expressing opinions. He realized its power, said what he pleased, and "be d--n everybody else."

A hint as to the kind of editor Howe was may be found in a column-and-a-half editorial in the first issue of the Oxford Democrat. The editorial centered on a debate between Howe and T. A. Falconer¹ of the Holly Springs Gazette. Falconer wrote: "Now we have no opinion to express as to the respective rights of the claimants [two local men were involved in a dispute as to which had the right to a certain district judicial office], for the matter is now before the High Court of Errors and Appeals for final decision."

Howe wrote in reply to Falconer's editorial:

¹Howe spelled Falconer's name as both Falkner and Falconer. The correct spelling is Falconer.

That's no reason why we should "have no opinion to express." And we perceive no impropriety in expressing an opinion in a case of public interest, that happens to be before a court for decision. Judges alone are bound to keep their opinions to themselves, upon matters of litigation yet undecided. Editors have the same right to express their opinions affecting the privileges they hold in common with their fellow freemen. Our fellow citizens express their opinions orally -- we typographically. What's the difference! The judges, we presume, have souls they dare call their own -- and heed no more a printed than a spoken opinion!

"We [Falconer] think the agitation of the question by the press can be productive of no benefit, but, on the contrary, that it will serve to keep alive the excitement which has already prevailed to long."

And we [Howe] think there should be no hushing questions of vital interest to the people. . . . We have full confidence that they will do nothing more than think and speak what they think on this public question -- and it is their prerogative to ponder boldly and express their thoughts free and fearlessly. . . .

"We [Falconer] conceive that editorial remarks on either side cannot be made with propriety, inasmuch as they can only be designed to influence or impeach the decision of the tribunal whose province it is to decide upon the rights of parties."

And "we [Howe] conceive that editorial remarks" can be made with as much 'propriety' on this subject as any other "remarks." We can see no more impropriety in a man's printing his opinions than there is in speaking them.

. . . If it [the court] decides contrary to right, justice, or the constitution, its decision should be "impeached" and it will be the duty of the press, if evidence of such unrighteous decision is before it, to hold up the wolf that muddied the current of justice, to the scorn and execration of a free people.¹

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), January 7, 1841. In this column and a half editorial Howe presented Falconer's comments as well as his own.

Howe took delight in argument with his peers of Holly Springs. On one occasion the Guard's editor made the statement that the opinions expressed in his newspaper "represent nine tenths of the county."¹ Howe's rebuttal was: "Bob knows no more about public opinion in his county than a Berkshire pig."

The Guard's editor continued in his editorial, "The people will ultimately regulate the press." Howe replied:

. . . Your sort of people may, and doubtless do "regulate" such presses as yours; but they have no control over ours. Ours is a self-regulator -- always in order and keeps exact time with the Sun of Democracy.

. . . The opinions put forth in this press are our own, and not represented by us to be the "Peoples' Opinions." We scorn to be the mere mouther of this and that man's opinion, having a mind of our own, thank God! and the moral independence to promulgate such doctrines as seem to us sound and of beneficial tendency; entirely regardless of the frowns or approval of [your] sort of people.

. . . Indeed you are the mere organ of what in you supposes to be "public opinion" -- a mere trumpet.²

In an earlier issue of the Oxford Democrat, Howe told his readers that an editor should be honest. He defined an "honest editor" in the following editorial.

An "honest" editor we conceive to be one who speaks his opinions candidly and boldly through his press, on all subjects of a public nature regardless of the everlasting dollar, fearless of

¹According to Howe the Holly Springs Guard was edited by Robert Josselyn.

²Dollar Democrat (Oxford), April 18, 1843.

consequences. He is not "toady" and don't care a d--n whether "the Governor and our Members of Congress" approve of his course or not. He edits his paper as he thinks proper, without caring whether . . . deviling anonymous pedants like or dislike his course. He calls things by their right names: a toady, a toady; a bustle, a bustle; and does not affect to be holy, sanctified, and pure, when he is not. He does not fawn like a dog on every man in the street to gain his good will or subscription.¹

It is hard to believe that the man who wrote the preceding paragraph on how free and independent the Democrat's pages were, could later sell the same pages to office seekers. But Howe did just that when he moved to Coffeenville. He announced he would charge an extra ten dollars in addition to the cost of regular advertising, to support a candidate in the Democrat. Apparently any candidate who could muster a "ten" was entitled to the support of the Dollar Democrat.

In the first issue of the Coffeenville newspaper Howe stated his principles for the public. Excerpts follow from the column, which ran in almost every issue of the Coffeenville newspaper.

The Democrat will go for the welfare and best interest of ALL NATIONS -- Our Motto continuing to be as heretofore --

"The World is my Country -- and to do good my religion."

. . . Believing that all creatures ought to have the privilege and (pay for in advance) the luxury of reading the news, and it being our benevolent desire to minister to the edification of

¹Ibid., June 4, 1841.

sinners, and the gratification of saints, everywhere, we shall aim to extend the circulation of our remarkable paper through Europe, Asia, America, Marshall County, New Hollandale, and the rest important, growing and flourishing parishes which dot, adorn and beautify the suburbs of the great County of Yalobusha.

. . . It is customary with editors to promise lavishly, at the outset. In accordance with this time-honored custom we here engage to make our paper worth its weight in comic almanacs.

. . . We believe it is natural and right and proper for us all to do as we please, what we please, and use and enjoy all the good things of this life, in abundance: when we can do so without morally or physically injuring another.

We are opposed to there being any poor people; we are sternly, honestly, independently democratic; and are therefore opposed to there being any rich people in society:

We are in favor of the Veto-power, advance-payments, and the constitutional currency:

We are in favor of repealing the Laws against the African Slave Trade. The price of Negroes is altogether too high. Every freeman ought to have a nig to wait on him. By removing the restrictions from that trade, hundreds of thousands of wooly heads would be imported into the country, prices would fall, and every gentleman loafer have a darky to clean his old cloths [sic], and send after his bitters.

Instead of our national vessels being employed in time of peace in suppressing the African Slave Trade, they should be employed in transporting slaves here, to be distributed to our poor folks.

We are in favor of old maids, old bachelors, ole rye, and opposed to early marriages.

We believe in animal magnetism in giving the cussed British gooss [sic], should they touch Oregon; and in the divinity of all men -- except lawyers and politicians.

We are opposed to Banks and Bustles:

As all mankind are brethren, they should all be governed by the same laws -- all be free and equal. We are therefore, in favor of the annexation to the United States, not only Texas, but Europe, Asia, and all the rest of the globe.

Believing all men our brethren, and all

entitled to the enjoyment of liberty, equality, and the blessings of our republican form of government, we hold it to be the duty of the United States, as early as convenient, to break up the rotten tyrannies of the Old World, free their down-trodden subjects, and then admit them into the Union.

It's the duty and the destiny of Americans to give freedom to the Old World. Sooner or later, both must be fulfilled. We are a great people¹

The Dollar Democrat's Summer Wars

During the summer months unique changes took place in the contents of the Dollar Democrat. Business activity probably slowed down during these planting months, as did community activity. Judging from the lack of actual news contained in the Democrat during the summer, one surmises that Howe met some difficulty in filling his four small pages.

Issues of the Oxford newspaper were filled with reports of editorial battles between Howe and other editors. During the summer at Coffeeville the Democrat was primarily composed of letters to the editor. He had seldom published letters at other times.

Among the issues debated during the summer at Oxford was the subject of a metallic currency versus banking currency. The editor of the Holly Springs Guard began on the offense in this debate but soon found himself on the defense. The Guard writer was in favor of a banking currency while Howe styled himself a "blue-blood anti-banker,

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeeville), June 3, 1844.

hard metal man."

The Guard apparently had published an article which showed how banks created money. In reply, Howe took more than a column and attempted to prove his editor friend wrong. Howe argued that banks did not create money but rather cost "farmers and merchants \$41 million for this operation a year." Just how he arrived at this figure is not known. However, it seems he based his argument on the fact that someone must pay the salaries and expenses of the directors of the "promise-to-pay-operation."¹

Another attack on the Guard appeared in the same issue:

The Guard of this week, has a rich article in which the arrogance and vanity of its editor, again stick out to excite the disgust and derision of the reader. "The great body of the Democracy is with us!" is one assumption of this self-constituted organ of Democracy. "The Guard has spoken and will continue to speak not its own merely, but that almost united voice of North Mississippi upon the subject!" is another. O ye angelic nymphs of Holly Springs! On what sort of soft gasses, have ye our hossy fed, that he hath grown so great? Do stick a bodkin in this huge colossal bag of windy greatness, lest like the frog in the fable he burst with self and vain conceit, and you lose him forever. Do give his maw vent, or he will explode, perhaps in church, and cause a great report, and no little effluvis. It is impossible that "almost the united voice of North Mississippi" can be contained long in one man, without danger of an eruption! Has the young man no friends? If he has they should have him hooped, and a safety valve made for him, without delay.²

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), May 14, 1841.

²Ibid.

The Guard editor was not the only target of Howe's crafty editorials. On one occasion he published a clipped article from the Southern Journal which related the story of a great phenomenon in the waters near Monticello. The exchange newspaper's story told of a recent Sunday when all the rivers and lakes changed from placid waters to "resemble the boisterous deep . . . as waves dashed from side to side, without any apparent cause." The Journal writer, in an attempt to explain the event, wrote: "It is well known that the world is round, and is continually revolving; and it is very probable that from some cause it was made to veer a little from its common track and doubtless struck against a stump, which shock caused the agitation of the waters."¹

Howe added his thoughts on the subject:

Br. Smith's view is a very "plausible" one; but can hardly be correct. For had our earth run against a snag, the shock would have been felt all over it, and our ball battery would certainly have kicked over. Our opinion is that all the little fishes in the waters about Monticello had a fit of ague shake, at the same time . . . and their struggles in the agonies of death caused the shake of the waters.²

In the same issue in which the Monticello story was published, Howe devoted almost a page to extracts from and comments about the Guard. The large amount of space was used to attack the Holly Springs newspaper for a column written by Miss Nancy

¹Ibid., June 4, 1841.

²Ibid.

Josselyn.

Miss Nancy Josselyn, you had better take your own advice, "be honest and quit lying." You know very well, Miss Nancy, that "your best friend" never did make the "boast" you charge him with having made! We are authorized by that "friend" to declare the charge a foul lie!

Miss Nancy! In your last chapter of "Advice," you say to us editors "never write what you would hesitate to speak in the company of ladies!" In another place you commend a communication signed "Phocion" the whole of which is base, vulgar, scurrilous libel on the papers of this day, and in which the foulest epithets are used -- such for instance as "black hearted scoundrel," "cowardly puppy." etc. Pray Miss Nancy, do you speak tho in the company of intelligent females! Do take your own advice, Nan; and don't allow blackguards to use in your sheet "coarse expressions fit only for the most depraved taste."

"Avoid the use of so many 'can't phases'" --
Guard.

How many! Do Jossy, Dear, take more of "a fool's advice." Be grammatical at least, if you cannot be sensible!

"Be courteous and forbearing one toward another"
-- Guard.

This advice is addressed to editors, by the imbecile, in the same paper in which the thing sneakingly assails a brother editor in manner the very reverse of 'courteous, and forbearing.' Follow thy own prescription, sister Nance! "Be courteous, forbearing, honest"; and above all, quit lying -- in ambush!¹

Apparently aware of the amount of space he had devoted to comments about the Guard in past issues, Howe wrote:

If in our paper we have devoted too much attention to the smooth faced hypocrite, outside saint, who exhibits his malignity, stupidity and overweening vanity, once a week in the Guard, our excuse is that in his last namby pamby sheet he assailed us with

¹Ibid.

"sly inuendoes, and obscure insinuations" which, interpreted, as this apology for a gentleman intended them to be, contains the vilest imputations upon us as an editor.¹

Finally, Howe promised his readers he would end the attack on the Guard. He wrote, in an undated page, as follows:

Today we close the war of words with the Deacon, and shall not resume it, unless he says something very "smart" to us. We are aware we have devoted too much space to him and his dogs: and promise our readers that we will waste as little time and material on such trifling opponents, as possible hereafter.

The preceding notice was probably published about the last of August because Howe continued his "war of words" through the month of July.² One page was devoted entirely to the Guard. A play entitled "The Plotting Trio" filled most of the page. It depicted Nancy Josselyn drinking strong cider and thinking she was talking with the devil. In a debate with the devil, Nancy was condemned for her actions against Howe -- the "Davy Crockett Of The Press."

The pages of the Democrat during the summer of 1843 were a little more sober than those of 1842. Howe's debates with other editors generally dealt with subjects such as the high payment of legislators, the great number of lawyers in the legislature, and marriage.

One debate in the June 29, 1843, issue of the Democrat

¹Ibid.

²This page of the Oxford Dollar Democrat was not dated.

centered on the fact that a church had denounced a man who married his deceased wife's sister. Howe, in nearly a full-column editorial, expressed his opinion: "We decide that a man is a d--n fool, if he don't marry his deceased wife's sister, if he likes her, she's pretty and will stand it."

Further evidence of Howe's shortage of news for his columns during the summer months can be seen by the fact that he ran the same front and back pages for several months. These pages were made up entirely of prospectus articles about northern publications. After a few issues, the type was noticeably dirty from use and did not print well.

Issues of the Coffeeville newspaper were filled with letters to the editor. Most of them dealt with political matters, though some seem to have been written just to get the writers' names in the Democrat. Howe had previously published a few letters but had not filled whole pages with them. Many of the letters were in the form of satires and signed by such writers as "Scribo" and "A Democrat." Judging from the style of writing, Howe probably wrote some of these as fillers.

Also, there was an increase in the number of short stories, satires, poems, and songs. Some issues were almost exclusively made up of articles clipped from exchange newspapers.

Lengthy articles dealing with the state political

situation were frequently published in the summer. Some of these articles were signed "Types." "Types" is believed to have been the pen name under which Mrs. Howe wrote in her husband's absence.¹

On at least two occasions Howe left the Democrat in his wife's hands and traveled around the state. One trip lasted three weeks and another two weeks. Both were reported to the Democrat's readers in great detail.

A Campaign Against Banks and Bustles

Howe constantly carried on in his columns some kind of discussion that was undoubtedly of interest to his reading public. At times his writing was in the form of a satire or song or joke, while at other times he was serious and bent on proving a point.

Two pronounced campaigns of the editor were against banks and ladies' bustles. One is satirical and the other sober and earnest. Both kept a spark of interest glowing in the Democrat.

In early 1837 a panic began to grip the nation as the result of "English Bankers calling in their loans to American

¹On one occasion Mrs. Howe told the Democrat's readers that "Parson Howe is absent, and we, the types of this office, set ourselves up in our own way until he returns. The Parson is not therefore to be read out of the church for anything we do, without his approbation, although we fancy we have been in the democratic church long enough to know how to behave ourselves and to distinguish true democracy from its counterfeit."

firms."¹ A few years earlier Mississippi's first bank had failed. However, in a desperate effort to curb the panic in Mississippi two banks were organized. The newly-organized banks -- the Planters' Bank and the Union Bank -- began to make generous loans which later proved uncollectible.

A great deal of space in the press of the state was devoted to the question of whether or not Mississippi should pay off the bonds sold to support the Union Bank. Howe was decidedly against the state's making the payment. He contended that the state had no right to contract liability without the means to liquidate it.

The cheapest mode of conducting the operations of the government should be devised, and its expenses defrayed by the current revenues of the state. . . . In short the state should sustain its government by taxation -- not by banking and borrowing money.²

As the question of the bonds continued in the press, Howe changed his attitude toward the matter by contending that "no legislature's act is binding upon the people of a state longer than their term of office." Apparently he did not realize the implications of his statement. Were he right, it would be necessary for each new legislative group to pass a completely new set of laws upon taking office.

In reporting the opinions of other editors on the bond

¹Billington, op. cit., p. 157.

²Dollar Democrat (Oxford), February 4, 1841.

question, Howe quoted the editor of the Holly Springs Guard as saying that the state had no right to make the issue in the first place, but since the bonds had been issued, it was obligated to make the payment. An opposing editor contended that the state was acting legally in entering the "bond business" and was obligated to pay. Howe, not a man to turn tail in the face of debate, boldly informed both his contemporaries that they were "ill advised." "The state did not have the right to issue the bonds, and therefore has no right to make any payment," he wrote.

In following issues of the Oxford Democrat Howe devoted more and more space to the bond debates. In 1843, the bond question had apparently become a political ball which the Democrats and Whigs were batting back and forth. Howe, a Democrat, termed his Whig opponents as "Coon Bond Payers."

According to Howe, the Whigs favored payment of the bonds, while the Democrats opposed payment. In a column-and-a-half editorial titled "Planters' Bank Bonds," Howe accused some of his fellow party members of "keeping dark" on the subject to avoid being put on the spot with the possibility of losing votes. In a portion of the article he called on candidates in the upcoming election to speak out:

Now is the proper time (on the eve of the state conventions) to commence the agitation of the question-- now is the time to show our colors, and draw out the few hybrid, contemptible, Janus-faced demagogues in our party, who are of heart Bond-Payers.

. . . We want these last-at-the-fight and first-at-the-feast-warriors, to draw their swords at the outset of the struggle. By an early agitation of the question, we hope to see some of them caught with their beeches [sic] down, and spanked out of the party.

. . . There are a few such in our ranks -- political chance-calculators -- who are as fearful of a discussion of the bond question, as a thief is of a trial; and with as much reason. Why? -- Because without having first examined the question, in all its hearings, they committed themselves with the Bond Thieves; and a trial of the question at the tribunal of public opinion, would place them in a "bad Box," and damn them politically in the estimation of the people.

. . . Discussion is the life and soul of Democracy; and he who fears discussion, fears the light. . . .¹

Howe attended the convention of which he wrote in the preceding story and reported that the "Democracy of Mississippi has defeated its foes and since they can not quarrel about principles, they are arrying [sic] themselves into Cliques." He listed the cliques as follows:

1st, the Calhoun clique -- in favor of a Southern man with Southern principles for the presidency. (We are an 'or 'nary 'member of this clique, which is composed of the most talented, accomplished, eloquent and erudite Republicans in the State.)

2nd, the Van Buren Clique -- in favor of a Northern Man with Southern Principles.

3rd, the Holly Springs clique -- in favor of ruling North Mississippi, politically, and of paying the Planters' Bank Bonds.

4th, the Jackson-Lowndes clique -- also in favor of paying the Planters' Bank Bonds and particularly anxious to elevate Ole Tilgham H. Tucker to the U. S. Senate.

5th, the People's clique, alias the Vicksburg

¹Ibid., February 7, 1843.

Junta, alias the Subterranean Democracy, consisting of the hardfisted farmers, mechanics of the State -- in favor of radical, open, honest loco focoism, the election of A. G. McNutt to the U. S. Senate, and opposed to all bonds save the bonds of Matrimony. (We are an active member of this Clique.)

6th, the Hinds and Monroe and Pontotoc County clique -- in favor of paying the Union Bank Bonds, the Planters' Bank Bonds, the speedy population of Texas and the elevation of either of our distinguished friends . . . to the Senate.¹

For about a month Howe dropped the bond question. However, in May it was revived when he told his readers that the legislature had "sold the farmers' land."

Is it not admitting that the ownership of the State is in the Legislature, when we concede that the Legislature can pawn the State for \$10,000,000 and invest the sum borrowed in a Bank? If it isn't ownership, it is devilishly like it.²

Howe contended that the public owned the state as well as the legislators themselves and not the reverse. "We insist it is a right reserved to every citizen to abstain from bank gambling, even though all the rest of his fellow citizens are taking a hand in the game--and no legislature has the slightest right to involve him . . . in any way in the game of hazard."³

The bond question continued in the Democrat in the year 1844 when Howe moved to Coffeeville. In his second issue at Coffeeville, he again struck up the anti-bond campaign. A

¹Ibid., March 14, 1843.

²Ibid., May 18, 1843.

³Ibid.

song from the front page of the June 3, 1844, issue of the Coffeerville newspaper read:

THE BANKERS TO THE BONDERS

A New Song To An Old Tune -- By Parson Howe

We offer all -- we can no more--
 Though poor the off'ring be:
 These Assets, now, are all the store
 That we can give to ye;
 A Bank, whose emptiness reveals
 We gamblers drain'd it well;
 An Iron Safe, which naught conceals,
 But Bonds we could not sell: --
We offer all, & c.

A Rail Road, that doth fail, alas!
 To more than pay its way:
 And Stock, which any man's an ass,
 A dime per share to pay;
 Six fancy Chairs, two sof-Settees,
 On which we snooz'd when drunk;
 A half box of prime Principe's,
 And one small leather Trunk;
We offer all, & c.

An ink stand, sand box, patient stove;
 Some cologne, hair dye, too:
 A cellar full of bottles -- Jove!
 How once, the Champaign [sic], flow:
 If ever "fancy Stocks" should rise,
 And Banks the power obtain,
 These "Assets" may go up, likewise
 And be "at par" again.
We offer all, & c.

Howe's campaign against banks and bonds never stopped.

It consumed a great deal of space in both the Oxford and Coffeerville newspapers.

Though banks were much discussed in the Democrat, they did not command as much space as Howe's campaign against ladies' bustles. At times his spicy writing on the subject seemed

serious. However, he probably attacked bustles just for the humor of it.

He was well known for his prose and verse written during the anti-bustle campaign. On several occasions he told readers of the Democrat's being quoted by other journals. He was frequently quoted by Ann Royall, editor of the Huntress, and was mentioned in the Cincinnati Daily Times in a poem titled "Lay Of The Times." Under the pen name "Peter Porcupine" it read:

E. PERCY HOWE! -- the good the great,
 Th' illustrious man, ordained by fate
 The ANTI-BUSTLE candidate,
 To represent
 Our rising party in the State,
 For President!¹

When a reader wrote the Democrat for information as to how the bustle came into being, Howe replied in a typically witty style, explaining that the "rear extensions" were styled by either of two groups of women in north Mississippi. One group of women was deformed and the bustle was devised by them "to hide their deformity -- as indeed, were all the articles of covering which have been worn since the simple apron invented by Adam was cast aside." The second group began wearing them as "substitutes for pillows which churches, taverns, and courthouses didn't furnish with hard bottom chairs."²

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeeville), June 3, 1844.

²Dollar Democrat (Oxford), April 22, 1842.

Howe eagerly took issue with anyone who mentioned the bustle in a favorable light. When the editor of the Mobile Herald wrote that women alone should be the judge of what they should or should not wear, Howe accused him of "evidently coaxing round some gal that wears a darned big barn bag."¹

Another writer, "Ole Times" of the Holly Springs Gazette, accused Howe of talking "entirely too much about a vulgar subject." Reporting to his readers that the battle was under way between himself and the Holly Springs writer, Howe defended his writings on the bustle with nearly a column and a half of spicy copy. After informing his accuser that bustles were not as vulgar as many passages contained in the Bible or in Shakespeare's² works, Howe wrote:

But we (as mortal, just, and continent man as any parson in the State) must be stigmatized as vulgar, because we write about bustles, forsooth! Is meal vulgar? -- refined folks eat it. Are feathers vulgar? -- the most refined sleep on them. Is the fabric which encloses the meal or feathers vulgar? -- most assuredly not. Where then is the vulgarity? We'll tell you reader --³ in the mind of those who charge vulgarity upon us.

After nearly two years of campaigning for the anti-bustle "movement," Howe announced he was in favor of placing a tax on bustles or requiring a license for women who wore them.

¹Ibid., August 6, 1842.

²Howe's spelling of Shakespeare was "Shakspeare."

³Dollar Democrat (Oxford), September 3, 1842.

It has occurred to us that no lady should be allowed to indulge in the luxury of wearing a Bussel [sic], without a License. We suggest that \$5 would be a suitable fee for such a license, to be paid into the County Treasury; and that the fair, on applying for such license, should show to the satisfaction of the board that she is deformed by nature, from a deficiency of the spine, or has the hollow back and can't get married without making up artificially for the deficiency of nature.¹

In an effort to banish the bustle on medical grounds, Howe reported to his female readers that "doctors have shown that the attachment causes disease of the spine."² And as a further evil of the bustle, he quoted from the Yazoo Democrat: "Women were intended by Nature to be the mother of from sixty to seventy children each; thin shoes in winter, tight lacing, and BUSTLES have prevented and interrupted the course of nature."³ Howe agreed with the Yazoo writer's theory and even carried it one step further. "If the bustle was banished -- since it curtails female life and our population -- we could secure an increase of some 20 children a generation, and we should be able to overrun Oregon, and carry the star-spangled banner triumphantly all over the two American continents. . . ."⁴

One story Howe printed did show at least one advantage

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeenville), June 3, 1844.

²Dollar Democrat (Oxford), December 10, 1842.

³Dollar Democrat (Coffeenville), February 5, 1845.

⁴Ibid., March 7, 1845.

of not wearing a bustle. Under the head "Reduction Of Fair," the story read:

The proprietor of a New York line of coaches, has reduced the fare by his line one half, to ladies who don't wear Bustles. If the fair will not reduce themselves, there will be a fair reduced all round and meal will fall to a fair price.¹

A story in his July 21, 1843, newspaper told of a duel which was caused by a bustle. "It seems that [one] unfortunate lad had called his antagonist's wife 'a Great Tail Bearer' by which he declared, in the agonies of death that he meant nothing more than she wore or toted a great fashionable rear excessiveness."²

A few other samples of Howe's humor in his bustle over bustles follow:

A most alarming incident occurred on Sunday, at one of the churches in Holly Springs. All at once, in the middle of the sermon, a fashionable young married lady, in the congregation, was seized with a violent commotion of the frame, accompanied with a low shriek or groan, and at the same moment, a heavy body was heard to fall to the floor -- and then the lady sunk to her seat. The parson stopped his discourse -- a buzz of alarm arose -- the congregation was dismissed -- and in a dismay, some of the sufferer's friends ran for a doctor and a granny -- supposing something awful had happened. But before they could return, with small linen, & c., the lady recovered, and the cause of all the commotion -otion-otion, was discovered. She had been suddenly seized with a fit of the ague, so violent as to shake off her-- BUSTLE! We are glad it was no worse.³

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), May 11, 1843.

²Ibid., July 21, 1843.

³Ibid.

A sad casualty has just occurred on Alligator Lake. A lover and his sweetheart were taking a sail together on a log, by moonlight, when a large alligator rushed against the log, upset it, and bore the unfortunate young man under the dark rolling tide. Luckily the young lady had on an air filled indian rubber bustle, which buoyed her up, until her shrieks brought a fisherman in a canoe to her assistance. He had just got her half way in the canoe, when another alligator seized her behind, but the vallant young man seeing the monster hadn't his teeth in the real thing itself, held on to his fair charge with his left hand, while with the paddle in his right he beat the water brute lustily over the snout. But all his exertions would not have saved her had he not thought to unhook her bustle, which the alligator seized in an instant and disappeared with.¹

SONNET -- BY PARSON HOWE

I love thy dark and flashing eyes;
 I love thy neck of ivory;
 I love thy cheek, where blooms the rose;
 Thy forehead, white as Alpine snow;
 Thy teeth, as alabaster fair;
 Thy ruby lips, and raven hair;
 Thy taper waist -- thy foot, so small;
 Thy graceful shape -- I love them all!
 But naught but loathing fills my mind,
 For the Big Bag You Bear Behind!²

As if all the space given the anti-bustle campaign in the Democrat were not enough, on February 5, 1845, Howe announced he would publish a "grand Rhymance, of several hundred lines, all about the great evil of the times." Titled The End, the pamphlet was to sell for 20 cents each or six for a dollar to be delivered by mail. In urging his readers to order copies

¹This page was not dated.

²Dollar Democrat (Coffeeville), June 3, 1844.

in advance, Howe wrote:

. . . Be in a hurry! Female Dandies are not to be allowed to blur the grace and blush of modesty, and scape reproof. If it be made of penetrable [sic] stuff, and is not proof of bulwark against shame, I mean to probe the fatness of these pury times, and hold up to the public that monstrous custom that libelled nature.¹

It cannot be determined whether or not "The End" was actually ever published. It was later listed as an article in his magazine, Puck's Port-Folio. No copies of the Port-Folio or The End have been located. The Department of Archives and History at Jackson, Mississippi, has no record of either the pamphlet or the magazine.²

One undated page from the Coffeerville Democrat (believed to have been printed around the first of April, 1845) tells of Puck's Port-folio. The entire page is devoted to the advertisement of the forthcoming magazine. Set in type ranging in size from 30 point to 60 point, the advertisement read:

GET OUT YOUR DIMES, BOYS! THE END IS NEAR!!!

The lovers of fun, tragedy, nonsense, and morality, are informed that on Saturday next, the celebrated Puck, from the region of moonshine will by permission of their ethereal [sic] Majesties, Oberon and Titania, present the 1st No. of periodical, bearing the title of

PUCK'S PORT-FOLIO:

which he designs to issue Semi-occasionally, as he can

¹Ibid., March 7, 1845.

²Letter from Mrs. Lindsey Grimes, Archivist, Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi. See Appendix VIII.

get leave of absence from Fairy Land, at TWO DIMES a number -- CASH -- as the printer informs him promises-to-pay or moonshine, is no longer the Currency in this dark region of reality, and won't pay for ink, paper, printing.

The first, which will appear on Saturday, and be mailed without fail, to distant subscribers on that day, will contain:

THE END: Part 1st -- A Rhymance of 470 lines;
 THE CITY OF GO-ON-CRUTCHES -- a curious affair;
 FABLE OF THE BEES -- a strange story;
 PRUSSIAN SHEPPARD -- short but horrible;
 THE USED UP MAN -- Short but rich;
 FEARFUL PROSPECTS OF A SECOND FLOOD!!! --

showing how the earth has been drowned; and how it will be again; no Miller Humbug; and no laughing matter. (EXTRACT-- "The Atlantic ocean will roll over the European continent, and the great Indian ocean will move towards the mountains in the East Indies, and lay them level with their bases!"

THE DAMNABLE HARRISES (Heresies)!

The whole to conclude with THE SNAKE STORY! -- a thrilling version in verse of the Yazoo Tragedy -- on finishing a perusal of which her Majesty, Queen Victoria was observed by Puck to shed tears. She then called for Melbourne, and ordered all her bustles to be cut open by the royal surgeon, and their contents to be distributed among the royal pigs. Poor Lady Flora Hastings! Well would it have been for her, had she followed the illustrious example. . . . (My friend Puck, went off in such a pucker, that he forgot to say all orders for Moonshine Magazine must be addressed postage paid to Howe, D.D., Coffeeville, Mississippi.

No doubt Howe was "Puck." Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "Puck" as "one of a class of evil spirits; a mischievous spirit . . . Robin Goodfellow." In later issues of the Democrat a few articles were signed "Puck," a fitting name for Howe as well as his witty magazine.

It appears that several hundred copies of the periodical

were published. It probably was profitable for the editor since he related in a later issue that he would "like to put more time on the second issue of 'Puck.'" "

Several of the stories listed in the full-page advertisement were published as regular copy in the Democrat. All of the material in the magazine was not written by Howe. At least one story listed as part of the magazine was published in the Democrat and credited to another publication.

The Magazine-Like Features of the Dollar Democrat

At least half of the material printed in the Oxford Dollar Democrat was of a literary nature. Howe was a poet, a satirist, a playwright, and the author of several short stories. Even stories in the Oxford newspaper that would basically be classified as news stories contained humor.

The press was not held in high esteem in the early part of the 19th century. "It was scarcely regarded as a literary occupation."¹

The main problem literary publications of this period faced was that of reaching a public that could read, as well as one with a literary interest.² E. Percy Howe did read and did have a great literary interest.

¹Lucy Maynard Salmon, The Newspaper and the Historian (New York: Oxford University Press, 1923), pp. 254-5.

²Algernan Tassin, The Magazine in America (New York: Dodd Mead Co., 1916), pp. 184-6.

Few issues of the Democrat could be found that did not feature several prospectus articles about magazines available to the public. Possibly this material was published as advertising, but it probably was contributed by Howe to get the advertised publication free. However, he may have been acting as an agent for these publications, and may have inserted the articles for his own benefit as an agent.

Preceded by attractive headlines, prospectus articles generally appeared on the front and back pages of the Oxford Dollar Democrat. Headlines from a typical front page follow:

"From The New York New World"
Important To Readers

* * *

ANOTHER NEW NOVEL!!!!

* * *

EVERY YOUTH'S GAZETTE
Illustrated By Elegant Engravings!

* * *

ANNOUNCEMENT
"The Lottery Of Life"
A NOVEL:

* * *

Summer And Winter In The Pyreness [sic]
With Spendid Engravings

* * *

READ? READ?
A Most Valuable And Interesting
Work

THE UNITED IRISHMEN
THEIR LIVES AND TIMES

Howe frequently devoted as much as an entire column to announcing the arrival of a late number of the Magnolia or Southern Literary Messenger. On one occasion he wrote of the Savannah, Georgia, magazine: "To our intellectual readers we

once more recommend the Magnolia, as a literary flower which deserves to be cherished, by every one who regards with interest our Southern literature. From a wreath of poetic flowers woven by that sweet poet and prince of a Southern novelist W. G. Simms, we pluck this pretty bloom:

FORGIVE ME LOVE IF I DARE ENTWINE

Forgive me love, if I dare entwine
 Thy snow-white arms-in the folds of mine;
 Or wove a tress of thy silken hair
 Round the hands that would wander forever there
 Or dared, when the swell of thy heart was high-
 And thy lips breathed forth their loveliest sigh-
 And thine eye was dim with its loveliest tear, --
 And thy cheek grew pale with the feeling there,
 to link thy form in my mad caress,
 and look boldly to thee for the word that can bless.

Ah! soon was the boldness gone from my heart,
 When I saw thee blush, when I felt thee start;
 And saw, by the sad moon's tearful beam,
 Awake, in thine eyes, a flushing gleam!
 Methought 'twas lost, that hope so dear,
 That the first sweet moment had kindled there;
 I little knew that boyish hour,
 That such was the token of love's own power;
 Together we learn by the holy truth,
 That the birth of love is a pang in youth.¹

It was common practice during this period for newspapers in Mississippi to publish poems, songs, essays and sometimes a few short stories. Both the Woodville Republican and the Mississippian published a few poems. The Republican also published a number of long, eloquent orations. However, neither of these publications matched the literary content of

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), March 12, 1841.

the Democrat. The Republican published a great deal of national and foreign news, kept the people up to date on the state political situation, and spiced its pages with a little literary material. Howe, however, published very little national news, almost no foreign news, and spiced almost every story with verse, with puns or with quotations from Shakespeare.

About the only material published in the Oxford newspaper that was not frivolous were the editorials on banking and politics.

Short pieces like the following "Letter From Yankee Peter" were found in the Coffeerville Democrat.

. . . I seen a man tother day dressed up all fired smart, drivin' a right fast horse on a real jam wagin, and a man that was a blacksmith went up to him and axed him to pay his little bill of ten dollars or so -- and the blacksmith he telled him that he wanted the money rite bad; but this man in the wagin said how he couldn't pay and the blacksmith said he would level on the horse and wagin, and then sais the man in the wagin, sais he, level and be d---d -- this here horse and wagin and harness all belongs to my wife, and I haïnt got no property that you can level on. . . .¹

Another interesting column in the Coffeerville Democrat was headed "Annexations." It contained recent wedding announcements and was signed "Jobe."²

Samples of some of the titles of Howe's short stories

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeerville), July 20, 1844.

²Ibid., August 7, 1844.

follow: "The City Of Go-On-Crutches," a story of a man who finds himself in a city where everyone walks on crutches; "Beating Down," a satire on merchants; "Retrograde Of Society," taken from the Huntress; "A Good Scholar," a short story with a moral from the New York Christian Messenger; "Death Of A Philosopher"; "The Quaker's Daughter"; and "The Man Who Lost His Pants."

Humor from the pages of the Democrat follows:

WHEN THESE OLD CLOTHES WERE NEW
A Song To An Old Tune -- By Parson Howe

When these old clothes were new, then the Coonies used to say,
The times were very, very bad, and pitiful our pay;
That if we working men would vote, for "Tip and Tyler too,
They'd cause a glorious change, they did, when these old clothes were new.

When these old clothes were new, then we took them at their word,
Drank cider hard, sang songs, and joined in mummeries absurd.
Of coons, log cabins, balls and gourds, we made disgusting show,
And otherwise disgraced ourselves, when these old clothes were new.

When these old clothes were new, then they promised us "relief,"
"Two Dollars," sure, per day we'd get, and gobs of good "roast beef,"
"Without a why, or wherefore," then, in air our hats we threw;
And went the world, for "Tip and Ty," when these old clothes were new.

When these old clothes were new, then we put in power the Feds,
And such a "change" they wrought us, boys, witness these rags and shreds!

Look on these sharpened features and these bony
fingers view,
This shatter'd hat, so glossy bright, when these
old clothes were new.

When these old clothes were new, then they fooled
us to their bent,
And now they'd humbug us again, to make Clay
President;
But all their songs and blarney, boys, will this
time fail to do;
We're not, by half, so venal, now as when these
old clothes were new.¹

* * *

Meet! O Meet me, I implore you,
Meet, where most I may adore you.
'Neath the shadow of the bower,
Meet me there at any hour;
Meet me there, or where you will,
Meet, and -- pay that little bill!²

* * *

The editor of the Memphis Appeal, a ripe bachelor of 60, is desirous of being plucked and par-taken of, by some widdur wot's fond of sweet (help) meats. He is a mighty particular young man, however, and says "nothing under forty will do," and she must be "fat" at that -- fat mark ye, very fat -- "the fatter the better." We have several "spare ribs" here in Lafayette; but as they are spare, we suppose they kan't kome it -- tho' they are lovely as the rainbow and passing rich and amiable and accomplished -- we are told. We conjecture our able Memphis contemporary to be one of those "fat Sleek men" mentioned by old Shak, who love to "sleep o' nights," or he wouldn't be so grossly ungallant as to exclude from his bed and board' young vidders [sic] of lively bustle-ing disposition.³

* * *

¹Ibid., June 10, 1844.

²Dollar Democrat (Oxford), July 30, 1842.

³Ibid., May 7, 1841.

A young girl, aged 14, residing in Raisin, New York, recently became the mother of four boys at a birth! The paper published at Adrian, recommends some of the old bachelors, who can get nobody else, to make a wife of her, as the above affair was merely an accident!¹

* * *

Spell Red Rum backwards.²

Apparently Howe was not the only journalistic member of the family. In March of 1845, a front page story announced the forthcoming publication of a magazine to be edited by Mrs. Ann Howe.³ Its title was to be "Young Ladies' Miscellany," and the first issue was to appear on the first of April. "Puck's Port-Folio" was issued on or around April first, at which time Howe announced that the "Miscellany" would appear "as soon as a sufficient number of subscribers have been obtained."⁴

The "Miscellany" was to be "devoted to the moral improvement, instruction and amusement of the youthful fair of Mississippi." A prospectus on the publication which was published in the Democrat follows:

The design of this contemplated periodical is indicated by its title. It is the intention of its conductor, that the articles which appear in its pages, while they shall possess at least sufficient

¹Ibid., August 6, 1842.

²Ibid.

³Dollar Democrat (Coffeerville)- March 7, 1845.

⁴Ibid., April 11, 1845.

attraction to fix the attention, interest and gratify the youthful reader, shall also be of so chaste, moral and instructive a character and tendency as to leave impressions incentive to virtue upon her plastic mind, and tend to her intellectual advancement -- to "quicken her perception, strengthen her judgement, correct her taste," and induce her to "fall in love" -- not with some ideal hero, or gay cavalier; but with what is morally lovely, noble and useful -- with wisdom and virtue and utility. It is intended that the Miscellany shall be to her, a pleasing, an instructive and monitorial companion. . . .

Let us glance for one moment from the strict purpose of this prospectus. There are within our State several ladies, who hold enviable stations in the Republic of Letters -- whose minds, "richly endowed by nature and improved by study, are competent to instruct and polish and entertain." May we not hope that they will frequently unlock their coffers of intellectual wealth, and contribute to the columns of the Miscellany, "full many a gem of purest serene!"¹

The "Miscellany" was to sell for one dollar for six months, "payable in every case at the time of subscribing."²

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has no record of the magazine ever being published.³ Howe never again mentioned it after the April announcement.

¹Ibid., March 7, 1845.

²Ibid.

³Letter from Mrs. Lindsey Grimes. See Appendix VIII.

CHAPTER V

ADVERTISING IN THE DOLLAR DEMOCRAT

The period 1840 to 1850 was somewhat revolutionary in regard to advertising in the American press. James Gordon Bennett's New York Herald set the pace with the two-column ads which later became popular. His agate rule was widely adopted by many eastern daily newspapers, but had little effect on the weekly field.¹

"Front pages were more or less filled with advertising until the fifties."² Single-column ads were the rule, and advertisers were humble in requesting the patronage of the public.³

The subscription price of a weekly newspaper of that period probably meant more in terms of revenue than it does to newspapers today. Advertising and "public printing" accounted for the remainder of the amount required to operate the Dollar Democrat.

¹Mott, op. cit., pp. 298-299.

²Ibid.

³Lucy Maynard Salmon, The Newspaper and the Historian (New York: Oxford University Press, 1932), p. 333.

E. Percy Howe constantly battled with the credit system. He apparently moved from Marshall County without collecting from his advertisers, as is evidenced by his threat to expose them in the first issue of the Oxford newspaper. "Certain gents in Marshall and elsewhere who have owed us a long time for advertising are informed that if they don't want to figure in our forthcoming 'PICTORIAL GALLERY' conspicuously, they had better do the clean thing without waiting to be sued."¹

Howe's persistence in seeing that the printer's dues were paid can be seen in a notice to advertisers.

TO ADVERTISERS -- Clerks of courts, attornies [sic], commissioners, and all such as may be instructed, or see fit, to advertise for others in the Republican,² are respectfully informed that from this day forth, no legal or other notices sent to us for publication, will be inserted unless accompanied by a Five Dollar Alabama or Tennessee note, and also accompanied with a responsible name, and promise to pay whatever ballance [sic] may be due on the advertisement according to our rules of advertising [to] wiv [sic]:

No person need expect his advertisement to appear unless our rule is complied with -- for we swear by the immaculate goddess of Truth that we will not deviate from it in any instance whatever -- So Help Us God! There, that's sworn to.³

It is difficult to determine just what was or was not advertising in the Democrat. An estimated 30 per cent of each

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), January 7, 1841.

²Howe apparently used the same type that he had used in the Lafayette Republican for this notice to advertisers, but forgot to change the newspaper name to Dollar Democrat.

³Dollar Democrat (Oxford), January 7, 1841.

issue of the Oxford Democrat was filled with long prospectus articles concerning publications such as the Southern Literary Messenger. By comparison, the Woodville Republican published only one such article in a year's issues. Probably these articles were inserted in the Democrat in order to obtain the advertised publication free.¹

Almost all of the bona fide advertising in the Democrat was of the legal and classified types. Each issue contained a number of tax sale notices, notices of trustees' sales and sheriff's notices. A few of these advertisements made use of small woodcuts. An example of the classified advertising follows:

BERKSHIRE STOCK FOR SALE

The subscriber has a few pairs of half breed Berkshire Pigs for sale (out of favorite sows), if early application is made at twenty dollars per pair or ten for a single pig. A. GILLIS.

Also for sale, a Durham Bull, 4 years old.
Marshall County, Miss. Aug. 27

--TF²

Only two merchants in Oxford advertised in the Democrat. Cook & Allen's store advertised medicines at various times. These ads usually ran on page one and were introduced by a headline set in small type. A typical head of this type read: "DR. SPENCER'S VEGETABLE ANTI-BILIOUS AND ANTI-DYSPEPTIC

¹Ibid., August 6, 1842.

²Ibid., January 7, 1841.

PILLS."¹

Articles which were considered advertising by the author comprised about 10 per cent of the Oxford newspaper and about 12 per cent of the Coffeerville newspaper. These estimates exclude prospectus articles and political material which the author feels were not paid for as advertising.

Practically no display advertising was published in the Democrat.

Howe seemed content to publish material in a classified form. Only one advertisement in the Coffeerville Democrat could rightfully be called a display advertisement. It consumed a little more than one column on page one and made use of several styles and sizes of type. A portion of the advertisement follows:

We are authorized in this day's
paper to

ANNOUNCE
where goods can be had
CHEAPER THAN EVER!

Roggenburger & Brothers
respectfully announce to the
sovereigns of Coffeerville and
vicinity that they are in the
field, as

CANDIDATES

for a liberal share of the
patronage of the Public. In

¹Ibid., May 7, 1841.

consequence of being obliged to remain at their posts, and attend to the calls of the public, they will be unable to visit the different precincts; but may be found at all times behind the counter, prepared to

ELECTIONEER

with the ladies and gentlemen who may desire their views upon all the prominent or the minor articles in their line from a

THIMBLE

for the dainty finger of a fair miss or madam to a splendid New Fashioned

BONNET,

Perhaps other candidates now before you may be able to aid in reducing the monstrous and unnecessary

TAXATION

to which the State is now subjected: but the Roggenburgers' certainly deserve your support because by selling cheap they cause

A REDUCTION

of your expenses, and thus by curtailing your expenditures, do as much or more to promote Domestic

ECONOMY,

than others will be able to perform who are canvassing for your support on the ground that they will save the State thousands in the way of

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

But it is not their intention, however

FASHIONABLE

it may be, in the days of newspaper puffery and

MONSTROUS

and extravagant praise of candidates to make a noise and

BUSTLE,

as some do about their patriotism. They merely desire to call your attention to the fact that one of the firm has just returned from the North. . . .¹

Apparently Howe was so jubilant over getting this large advertisement that he attached to the end of the single column advertisement a song written for the occasion. Its title was "O Jim Along Everybody." The lyrics encouraged citizens to visit the store. The song, probably published free, was almost as large as the Roggenburger advertisement.

Readers were frequently reminded of the advertising terms of the Democrat. Charges for space were made on a per-square basis. Each square contained eight lines. A fee of one dollar a square was charged for the first publication, and fifty cents for each subsequent insertion. All political addresses were to be paid for as advertisements. Ten dollars was charged for the announcement of a candidate for office. "Notices of deaths, of marriages, of religious meetings,

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeerville), November 6, 1845. The text of this advertisement is typical of the originality found in much of Howe's writing.

political meetings -- will be charged as advertisements,"
Howe wrote.¹

Almost every issue of the Democrat carried one or more all-capital lines demanding "CASH IN ADVANCE." But despite Howe's attempt to enforce the cash system, he nevertheless deviated from his intentions. In the final issue of the Democrat at Oxford, editor Howe told readers of his plight.

When we commenced the present Volume of the Dollar Democrat we had no reason to anticipate that the printing materials with which it is printed, and which have been hired by us during nearly three years, would pass through the hands of the sheriff, to another owner. It has so happened, however, and the purchaser, the Tax Collector, takes the press next week for the publication of a new paper here.²

Almost a year after this notice was published in the last issue of the Oxford newspaper, Howe began the Democrat at Coffeenville. A new system of advertising rates was announced in the first Coffeenville issue. Advertisements per square were still a dollar, but Howe appeared to be making an attempt at stabilizing his income by encouraging yearly advertising.

Merchants and other business men will have their advertisements published at the rate of fifty dollars a year, thirty dollars for six months, and twenty dollars for three months, for a space of thirty lines -- payable in advance. Professional

¹Dollar Democrat (Oxford), February 7, 1843.

²Ibid., July 21, 1843.

cards inserted at the rate of twenty four dollars per annum, payable quarterly in advance.¹

Most newspapers of this period charged \$40 a year for standing advertisements which were sometimes as long as half a column.² This rate was a large saving for merchants. Thirty lines published weekly at a dollar a square amounted to \$194 a year. A yearly contract for the same amount of space cost merchants only \$50 in the Democrat. However, this bargain apparently did not interest Coffeeville merchants, for no great amount of additional advertising was published in following weeks.

As an added means of obtaining revenue and to keep from being accused of bribery and corruption, Howe charged for his services in supporting a candidate for office.³ He explained this assessment as follows:

Candidates for state office announced for Ten Dollars -- for county offices Five Dollars . . . always in advance.

We shall not support any man for office short of Ten Dollars besides his annunciation [sic] fee. That's what the lawyers charge for attending to an assault and battery case; which is a light and lovely occupation compared with that of editorially attending to a candidate's case to say nothing of the awful wear and tear of conscience in this peculiar branch of our business.⁴

¹Dollar Democrat (Coffeeville), July 1, 1844.

²Mott, op. cit., p. 300.

³Dollar Democrat (Coffeeville), April 11, 1843.

⁴Ibid.

In an attempt to make his offer to support candidates a little more attractive, Howe published the following notice in the March 7, 1845, issue of the Coffeeville Democrat.

. . . We shall be most happy to announce our political friends, who comply with this rule [cash in advance], and to aid all such men in their laudable aspirations, both with our pen, and by publishing from other papers such articles, of reasonable length, as favor their [intentions]. The press is a powerful aid [to] candidates, and therefore should be substantially aided by candidates. As soon as the State Convention has made its nominations, we mean to make the Democrat a wheel horse in the canvass; and all who pay the usual fare, may depend on going . . . pay your passage, have your names entered without delay . . . steam is getting up and the car is [ready to roll].

HOWE'S
DEMOCRATIC
NATIONAL,
STATE,
DISTRICT,
&
COUNTY
LINE!

FARE.

Through to Washington only Ten Dollars.
To any place in the State, or in the District \$10.
To any place in this or in any adjoining county \$5.
N. B. Newspaper to read on the route,
Dollar Democrat. Selah.
P. S. No connection with the Salt River line below.¹

The preceding announcement was set in several styles and sizes of type and made use of a wood cut (half column, about two inches long) which depicted a moving locomotive with

¹Ibid., March 7, 1845.

smoke pouring from its stack.

In the issue following the one in which the locomotive advertisement appeared, Howe published a letter from "General Coke," a candidate for state chancellor. "Sir, I discover in the Dollar Democrat . . . that you have, 'Your Cars In Waiting' with steam up to transport the various candidates to success. . . . Herewith enclosed find the (money) for a seat in your locomotive. I speak for passage on its foremost car!"¹

Howe's shrewdness apparently paid off. In one issue which followed he listed 18 candidates for office.

After several months of publication at Coffeerville, and as it would appear, several months of unsuccessful operation of the cash system, Howe offered the public a system of payment that amounted to simple barter. A notice from the April 11, 1845, issue read:

PREMIUMS

For 2 bushels of sweet potatoes we give the Dollar Democrat for 6 months.

For 2 bushels of corn we give the Dollar Democrat for six months.

For 8 pounds of good butter we do ditto, ditto: and we are ready to advertise for merchandise here and at Grenada, at the usual rates and take our pay in articles in their stock.

WANTED -- Yearly advertisers, who will pay in flour, sugar, dry goods & c. in advance, or as soon

¹Ibid., March 21, 1845.

as the advertisement shall have appeared in our columns.

The Corn, Potatoes, Butter, must be delivered at our door: the store goods we will send for. Here's a chance for speculation.

The last issue of the Coffeenville newspaper was published seven months after his offer to barter with subscribers and advertisers.

It is evident from the last months' issues that Howe was having financial difficulty. Pleas that all bills be paid dotted the pages of the Democrat. He further suggested that other editors in the state join him in publishing a "black list" of bad debts.

In the last issue of the Coffeenville Democrat, Howe printed the following article. It was set in approximately 36 point type in order to command attention.

. . . the cash system worked well, when adhered to: we never lost a dollar when we got the cash in advance, but alas, we have bowels, and have of late deviated from our rule to considerable extent, particularly for the candidates. This is to jog the memory of gentlemen; as we are compelled to issue but a mere half-sheet, until those indebted pay up -- being on short allowance of paper, ink, and etc. Our prospects here in Coffeenville are so gloomy, that the means only are wanting, for our departure.¹

Directly under the notice was placed a drawing of a tall shabby man walking down a road. Under the drawing were the words "TO TEXAS."

¹Ibid., November 28, 1845.

A month later the first issue of the Grenada Dollar Democrat appeared. It was published for only a month.

Seven years later, in 1853, Howe is believed to have boarded a ship for Texas. He never arrived.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY

E. Percy Howe was a strong-principled man whose life was a continuous struggle for survival. A self-styled "Davy Crocket" of the Mississippi press, he sold his newspapers where he could, and when he could not sell them he moved to another locality with high hopes and new promises of success.

He did not find success and, in fact, probably died a penniless man. Perhaps he was too trusting a man in a society that held little respect for him or his efforts. He moved his printing operation at least three times because he could not collect the money owed him. He offered to barter with debtors in an effort to continue his newspaper's existence. When those who owed him failed to reply, he threatened to publish their names on a black list. Both offer and threat were fruitless, and again he was forced to move.

His was a hard life. Possibly his financial troubles stemmed from the fact that his thinking was not in unison with that of the people in his community. He opposed slavery and attacked the land-holding wealthy upper class.

Though well educated through reading the better

literature and the best magazines and books of the day, he was not respected as an educated man because he lacked formal education. At times he seemed to over-compensate. Long words, words seldom used, and quotations from the Bible and Shakespeare characterized his articles.

As editor of the Oxford Dollar Democrat, Howe was a strong believer in the duties of an editor. He bitterly attacked the editor of the Holly Springs Guard for trying to "speak for all the people in the county." Howe contended that the press was not an organ of the people, but rather one that should lead the people. He wrote: "The opinions put forth in the Democrat are our own. . . . We scorn to be the mere mouther of this and that man's opinion having a mind of our own . . . to promulgate such doctrines as seem to us sound and beneficial . . . regardless of frowns or approval."

Some Evaluations. Perhaps the value of this work lies in the fact that it shows clearly the difficulties an editor in frontier Mississippi faced. Despite the pressure of financial problems throughout his newspaper career, E. Percy Howe almost always wrote of his plight humorously. His courage never faltered--even when he knew his press would be taken and sold to satisfy taxes. Typically, he concluded, ". . . the Dolly is not dead!"

Howe was a writer of originality and distinction. Some of his poems and songs seem the equal of those of William

Gilmore Simms, whom Howe quoted and admired. As a satirist he may have lacked the literary buzz-saw quality of a William Cowper Brann, but he used his talent with such deftness that he kept fellow editors and the "aristocratical classes" fumbling for replies. These replies, the Democrat's editor printed gladly, only to serve up another smoking salvo in appended comment.

Perhaps Howe would be better known in history today had he chosen a career with a publication like the Southern Literary Messenger. As it was he chose the simple, little-respected life of a country editor in frontier Mississippi where a demand for talents such as his had yet to develop. But even this might have been success had he been apt at business and finance. However, bookkeeping was not his talent.

The Democrat was a mirror which reflected the restlessness and westward yearning of its time. Originally inhabited by the Choctaws and Chickasaws, Mississippi fell under the dominion of the Spanish, the French, the English and again the Spanish before being organized as a territory in 1798. As statehood came in 1817, Mississippi was a mixing bowl of cultures. The movement westward was destiny.

Aspiring to independence, Howe was an editor who should have been at home in a period characterized by partisanship. At Oxford the price of independence came high --

it cost him his type and press. At Coffeenville he was desperate and fell victim to Judge Plummer for financial support. Plummer was an active politician, and this tie cost Howe his independence.

Howe seemed to have envied politicians, who were respected. He often suggested humorously that he run for various state and local offices. Possibly these light suggestions reflected a very real desire for support as a candidate, eventual election, and hence respect.

However, since Howe seemed to be at extreme political variance with the existing power structure of that day, there probably never was any possibility of his becoming an effective politician. Many of his ideas, which were basically socialistic materialism, would be considered radical in the United States today.

He never ran for public office in Oxford, Coffeenville or Grenada. His first step toward active political life was taken in Jackson when a senator friend made a motion in the state legislature that he be made "Reading Clerk of the Senate." This, too, was another defeat for Howe when the senator withdrew his motion at a later session.

The Oxford Dollar Democrat was a lively little news sheet. It was a light and humorous publication and in it Howe was at his best. Unlike the Democrat at Oxford, the Coffeenville newspaper was more of a political publication.

It lacked the sparkle of the Oxford newspaper.

Howe published two magazine-like publications at Coffeenville in addition to the regular issues of the Democrat. He was delighted with their success and expressed an interest in spending more time on second issues. Possibly he aspired to the role of magazine editor and publisher.

Suggestions for Further Research. Many questions about the life of E. Percy Howe remain unanswered by this work. It is hoped that issues of the Lafayette Republican, the Yalobusha Pioneer, the Middleton Republican, and the Gainesville newspaper (the name of which is yet unknown) can be found and made the source of similar studies. Of even greater value would be a study of Howe's magazine-like publications, should they be located. Perhaps one of these lost publications will yield the answer to Howe's whereabouts during the period 1846-1852, and clarify the events surrounding his disappearance off the Texas coast.

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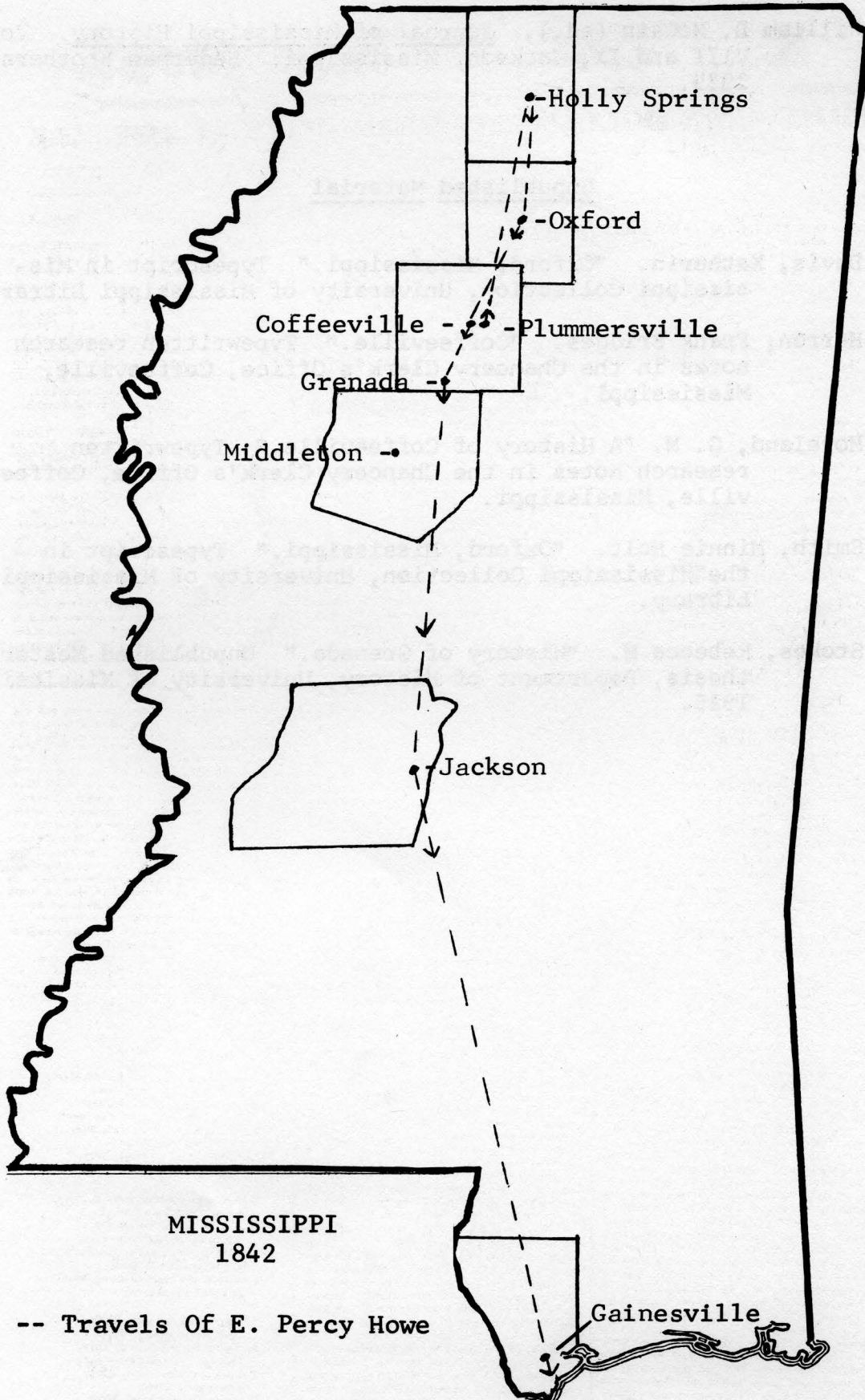
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APPENDIX I



PRICE—ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR—HALF IN ADVANCE

E. PERCY HOWE, EDITOR AND PRINTER.

VOL. L | CINCINNATI, MISSOURI, FEBRUARY 10, 1902. NO. 2.

(For the Dollar Magazine.) "Our Bromeliads" BY MARY SWAIN.

Hail! eagle of the ocean air! Whose talons embrace these harp-strings...

Our country ground in thraldom's chains, For Tyrants waded the meagre land...

THAT NAME was once a magic spell, To bind the truly brave in awe...

Yes! March Victor of the deep! In these our country's glory lines...

Again unless they poison wade, Unfurl to the wanton breeze; And who once more thy yielding blade...

From the N. Y. Christian Messenger. A GOOD SCHOLAR. BY MRS. F. H. BAKER.

A child who could readily commit to memory long sentences, who could give prompt and correct answers to every question...

The great object of study should be to prepare while young for the different occasions and circumstances which attend more mature years.

Books, as aids to this all important study, are good, and no further should they be relied upon.

teacher of chemistry, while one who had studied was considered easier learner than a blacksmith...

In the next, every village of A—, not many years ago, being open to the winds as Elvira Brooks and Mrs. Swain.

But his chief delight, his greatest pride was an only child, Marion, then ten years of age; and what was exceedingly gratifying to him, her teachers, almost without exception, pronounced her "the best scholar in school."

Mrs. Swain was a poor widow, tenant to her rich but in possession a prominent livelihood, by living and learning.

Malvina and Marion were nearly of an age. In a village like A—, ambitiousness in schools would be altogether impracticable; therefore the widow Swain's and Mrs. Brooks' daughters were found with the same teachers and often in the same class.

At the close of a term of the school, an examination was decided upon, and prizes were to be bestowed upon the most deserving.

"Oh! mother, we are to have an examination next week, what shall I do?" said Malvina sorrowfully, and she shuddered when she thought she might be again commended, and perhaps publicly too.

Mrs. Swain: "But I suppose it is all up for you, my dear, and besides, I have an extra supply of work, which I shall want you to help me accomplish to-morrow; so it is needless to think of the examination, or the prize."

"Never fear that," was the reply. "I have every question that will be asked, and can give answers in a few minutes, and I don't think Malvina could ever learn up; and I don't think I'll rest."

All this was done, however, but she found her young readers, although they had not just-impetuous often not open a single line of questions for examination, and which she studied, more especially to acquaint themselves. All this is real deception.

A committee of gentlemen was appointed to witness the proceedings, and decide who was the meritorious individual. The devoted yet troubled day arrived. The scholars assembled, were called in classes and examined.

A gentleman of pleasing appearance, and winning manners, who had been to head a few moments, before the examination. The scholar's attention was attracted by the manner in which he gave answers very correctly from memory, especially one; (looking at Malvina) who to us it seems that the judgment should be more exercised, even that must give in the future a position and one of this knowledge; therefore I beg leave to propose to this class a few questions as to the nature of the subject may suggest to me.

To her the prize was unanimously awarded. "I thought there was more to me than met every eye," said the gentleman, as he laid his hand kindly upon her head, and smoothed her glossy ringlets, while presenting her the prize.

Song.

When spring arrayed in flowers, Mary, Danced with the leafy trees; When lark's song to the sun, Mary...

Now autumn winds blow cold, Mary, Among the withered boughs; And a' the homing flowers, Mary...

The early lark see me, Mary, Trill on his singing way; Hushed in the lark's song, Mary...

THE DOLLAR DEMOCRAT

"The World is my Country, and to do Good my Religion."

VOL. 3.

BY F. PERCY HOWE, COFFEYVILLE, MISSISSIPPI, NOVEMBER 4, 1891.

NO. 21

Fire up for Y? busha!!!



We have met the Varmint, and he is skewed up, pizened, polk-ed over, paws up, and perfectly docile:

He bangs his head—his mouth wide open,
Looks like the gourd you keep soft a-top in;
O'tis a sight without any jokin,
To see a Kion with a dose of Poke in!

No "Changes" in Yalobusha! O no! Only a trifling
amity among the Kions, and a small increase of the
incoming form of Chapones! The returns are all in,
and we have:

THE HANDSOME MAJORITY OF 178!!!
In November we carried our Governor by only 76
men. Thus we have in:

A Gain of 700!!!!

This is pretty fair, considerin' we had "A LITTLE
BODDY" for our Candidate, and NO PRINCIPLES
at the Kions had before the People "THE GREATEST"
as that ever lived," and "ALL THE PRINCIPLES,"
Nag, Democratic, Abolition, Native American, &c., &c.,
back them! Good Lords! if we had only had BOME-
BODY for a candidate, and A FEW PRINCIPLES, how
we would have laid 'em out!! Can ANYBODY tell
us was BOMEBOY'S Grand Pappy?

DEMOCRATIC	798!	KOOKORATIC	150
Colton's,	84		20
Cady Husk,	24		10
Robson,	135		248
Conrad,	74		87
Clifford,	61		24
Sumner's,	10		9
Tray-Ed,	84		41
Chapman,	58		26
Quinnell,	50		44
Robinson's,	0		24

Of the Military Election, we have only the result at
Coffeyville, which is as follows:
MAJOR GENERAL, BRIGADIER GENERAL,
Hawkeye, Hawkins, Hale, Saunders,
88, 104, 880, 92.

The Southern Reformer contradicts the statement
of the Northern Courier that an outrageous personal
indignity had been perpetrated upon Judge Plummer, at
Jackson. The Judge has written volitionally and ably for
the Reformer, and the Reformer says, "It is due the
demeanor of the character of Mr. Plummer, as well as
the cause of truth, that the disgraceful statement in
circulation to his disparagement, should be corrected."

During Friday, and part of Saturday, our town was a scene of private social relations. When His Reverence
perfect habit of nose. There were several cases of
drunkenness, and some fighting. We believe the
sensible and well-bred of both parties were disgusted at
the noisy and turbulent spirit manifested, and
that the Democracy have, at least, as much right to
condemn the decay, as their opponents. The yelling
of the night previous, before the house of C. A. Davis, Esq.
was a most unbecoming, unmitigated audacity, to any
the least of it.

MARRIED.

They are wed—the word is spoken,
Hand to hand and heart to heart;
Though all other ties be broken,
Time these Bonds shall never part.

In this County, on the evening of Wednesday the 6th,
by B. B. Langham, Esq., WILLIAM COOK, Esq., to
Miss SARAH C. SLICKER, all of Yalobusha.

We acknowledge the reception (through the polite
attention of Messrs. Ryburn and Martin) of the Cash
and Wine. Both were delicious—praise—O, K.—and we
therefore, in view of the pleasing event which has just
inspired, beg leave to tender, to the fortunate couple,
our most heartfelt congratulations, and best wishes for
their health and happiness in that blessed state "which
makes a Paradise on earth—where hands and hearts com-
bine."

May every earthly good and joy
The happy pair possess—
Misfortune come not to distress,
Or mar their happiness.

Be life all summer-time to them,
Without a shade of winter;
And in all married bliss—Amen!
Who don't forget the Printer!

The above we consider pretty fair, for so; but it's
nothing to what we could do, if we was wot else.
Our better half, we do sincerely think, wears some of our
sublimest productions. But we are determined for ever
to depend on the Vote power to the People, for their
dear good. The following, which was voted without
error, we consider a perfect gem:

All gods propitious shine,
Upon his new commission—
In his single firm index:
Be join in blessed Union!

Be thine all wedlock's blissful joys—
With none of its vicissitudes;
And lots of little girls and boys,
For future Associations!

But as for those who married get,
And quite forget the Type—
We hope their life they'll toil and sweat,
And die at last of Hypo!

We consider that the above proves the assertion of
Sam Patch—that "some things can be done, as well as
others"—and that Gones, if left to pursue its own bent,
will upward

Rich dew drops shaking from its plumes of light!"

As the eternal procession of Thursday passed our
doubtful, a voice from its ranks proposed "three groans"
for the Dollar Democrat; but this outrageous call was
promptly negatived, and the train passed on in an orderly
and decorous manner. This must have made the Kion
who proposed the insult feel as contemptible as was his
conduct; and we felt grateful to the highly respectable
body of which he showed himself an unworthy member,
for teaching him it—no—that gentlemen, however
much they may differ, politics—, are above offering per-
sonal insult to each other, simply because they do so dis-
credit Party politics are already a curse to the country;
in every respect; but what would they be, if the fact op-
erated they regarded in some unwise parties, were to per-
vade the whole party, and be permitted to vent itself in
public animosity towards an opponent, in the presence of
his family—at the very threshold of "home—sweet-
home"—a place which should be held sacred, even by
enemies. Whigs and Democrats should strive upon ev-
ery attempt to roll the weary of partisan madness over the

As the whig program moved by us on Friday, some
half-dozen (some burn'd the "Zetel"—Mr. Polk's grand
father). We don't like to be called in politicians—
if there is any one thing we pride ourselves on more than
our title of parson, it is that gentility which has charac-
terized the House from the time when Adam was a little
boy, down to their illustrious descent of 1844. It was
therefore a matter of solemn regret to us, that from a
well known name in the pedigree of the Clay family,
we could not recognize the compliment paid our an-
cestor's memory, by harrowing for them—not having wish
to burrah for. But if anybody will be so kind, as con-
sidering, as obliging, as to inform us who was Mr. Clay's
grandpa, we promise to burrah for him lastly, should a
like name be present staff—provided, so good an end-
er can be found as Old Hickory, that he was a true Whig
of '76!!

ROFFAT'S VEGETABLE LIFE PILLS, AND THE PHENIX BITTERS. (Sold by D. S. Farrington.)

The high and varied celebrity which these pre-eminent
Medicines have acquired for their invariable efficacy in
all the diseases they profess to cure, has rendered the usual
practice of puffing not only unnecessary, but unworthy
of them. They are known by their fruits; their good
works testify for them, and they thrive not by the faith of
the credulous.

In all cases of Acute, Acute and Chronic Rheuma-
tism; affections of the Bladder and Kidneys.
Bilious Fever and Liver Complaints.—In the south and
west, where these diseases prevail, they will be found in-
valuable. Pleurisy, Bronchitis, and others, will never after-
wards be without them. Bilious Cholera and Hoarseness;
Looseness; Bites; Gastroenteritis; Colds and Coughs; Cholera;
Consumption.—Gent with the greatest success in this
disease. Corrupt Humors; Dropsy.

Dyspepsia.—No person with this distressing disease
should delay using these medicines immediately. Eruption
of the Skin; Erysipelas; Pharyngitis.

Fever and Ague.—For this scourge of the western
country these medicines will be a safe, speedy, and cer-
tain remedy. Other medicines leave the system subject to
a return of the disease—a cure by these medicines is
permanent. Try them, be satisfied, and be cured. Fea-
ture of the complexion.

General debility; Gout; Giddiness; Gravel Headache,
of every kind; Inward Fever; Inflammatory Rheumatism;
Impure Blood; Jaundice; Loss of Appetite.

Liver Complaints.—Lepra; Lues venerea.

Mercurial diseases.—Never fails to eradicate entirely
all the effects of Mercury infinitely sooner than the most
powerful preparation of Iodo-potassium. Night Sweats;
Nervous debility; Nervous complaints, of all kinds; Or-
ganic affections; Palpitation of the Heart; Painter's Che-
sis.

Piles.—The original proprietor of these medicines was
cured of the piles of 25 years standing by the use of the
Life Medicines alone.

Pain.—In the head, side, back, limbs, joints and organs.

Rheumatism.—Those afflicted with this disease will be
cured of relief by the Life Medicines. Rush of blood to
the head; Scurvy; Salt Rheum; Swellings.

Scurvy or King's Evil, in its worst forms; Ulcers of
every description.

Worms, of all kinds, are effectually expelled by these
medicines. Parents will do well to administer them
whenever their existence is suspected. Relief will be
certain.

The Life Pills and Phoenix Bitters purify the blood, and
thus remove all diseases from the system.

A single trial will prove the Life Pills and Phoenix Bit-
ters beyond the reach of competition, in the estimation of
every patient.

The genuine of these medicines are now put up in white
wrappers and labels, together with a pamphlet, entitled "Med-
ical Samaritan," containing the directions for use, which
is a drawing of Broadway from Wall Street to our Office,
by which strangers visiting the city can very easily find
us. The wrappers and directions are copyrighted, there-
fore those who possess them with the white wrappers can
be assured that they are genuine. Be careful, and do not
buy those with printed wrappers; but if you do, be satisfied
that they come direct from us, or don't touch them.

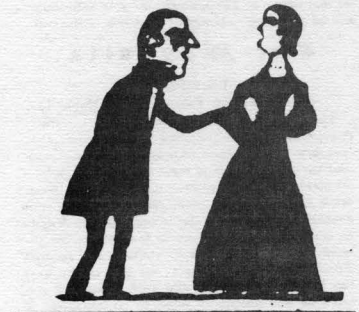
water-blotted characters on the packages. Again we would suggest the appointment of a head postmaster to each State, to whom complaints might be preferred; and whose duty it should be to see that postmasters and contractors do their duty. The Postmaster General is too far distant to investigate abuses, and redress grievances promptly.

☞ We are indebted to the Bachelor's "Guard," for the intelligence that our legislature has repealed the Valuation Law, modified the Gallon Law, and refused to repeal the Woman's Law. God bless them! they can now come home and kiss their wives, daughters, mothers, and sweethearts, without blushing. Those who have't the latter, have only to say they voted for Adams' shorts and to keep the Gallon Jug from under the bed, to "come in" for a share of the sweet milk and peaches of wedlock at once. If any of them wear their portraits "spread" before the ladies; they have only only to let us know the fact, to be immortalized.

☞ What is the reason we have received only the 1st No. of that dear little sheet, "Every Youth's Gazette?"—which so "pleased our youthful fancy." We hope the venerable old pedagogue who edits it, has 'st barned us out of his "Reading Class."

☞ Among our missing exchanges is No. 10 of that excellent paper, the New York Christmas Messenger. Can the editors spare us another of that No.?

A Solicitor in the Court of Love pleading eloquently for a reversal of judgment! The Court refuses to listen to his plea, dismisses the suit, and bars all future proceedings in the premises!



There is a good anecdote told of a young man who talking glibly on the legitimate sphere of woman, and blaming the interference of the sex in those pursuits eminently appropriated to men, was suddenly asked by a high spirited lady, "Pray what is the legitimate sphere of woman?" and his reply did tend it to his quickness of retort—"A celestial sphere, madam."

Some of the Boston papers have recommended the practice of fencing with small words as a general, salutary and beneficial exercise, well adapted to develop the physical power. The Kennebec Journal recommends spinning and sewing, used as a equally salutary and much more profitable.

TRUSTEE'S Sale of Negroes.
FURNANT To a deed of trust executed to me, as trustee, on the 29th day of April, 1841, by Cyrus McEwen, to secure the payment of a certain debt therein specified, I will, at the Court House door, in the town of Oxford, on Monday the 19th day of June, 1842, proceed to sell in the highest bid, for cash, the following likely NEGROES (to wit): One Woman, named Anna, aged about 25 years; her child Randall, aged about 3 years; one Man, Lewis, aged about 35 years; his wife, Hannah, aged about 37 years; and a Boy, Martin, aged about 15 years. I will convey to the purchaser or purchasers such title as is vested in me, and no other. **JAMES STOCKARD, Trustee.**
 December 15th, 1841. 720

Tax Collector's SALE OF LANDS FOR TAXES.

I will expose at Public Sale, at the door of the Court House in the Town of Oxford, in the County of Lafayette, for Cash, on Monday the 19th day of April, 1842, the following lands (to wit)

Section 21, Township 6, Range 2, in the County of Lafayette, owned by N. A. Bryant. Amount of Taxes and County taxes due, 10 dollars and 30 cents. [Printer's Fee \$7]

Section 25, Township 6, Range 2, West, Lafayette County, owned by Erasmus V. Post. Amount of Taxes due 7 dollars and 30 cents. [P fee 5 dis.]

Section 25, Township 6, Range 2 West, Lafayette County, owned by John W. Hilliard. Amount of taxes due 7 dollars and 30 cents. [P fee 7 dis.]

Section 23, Township 14, Range 5, West, Lafayette County, owned by Charles Carville. Amount of taxes due 7 dollars and 30 cents. [Pr's fee 5 dis.]

Section 25, Township 7, Range 5, West, Lafayette County, owned by Anderson & Orne. Amount of taxes due 9 dollars and 30 cents. [Pr's fee 7 dis.]

Section 24, Township 7, Range 5, West, Lafayette County; James Scott owner. Amount of taxes due 8 dollars and 40 cents. P f 5 dis.

Section 24, Township 7, Range 5, West, Lafayette County, owned by Felix Lewis. Amount of taxes due 3 dollars and 60 cents. P f 5 dis.

Section 24, Township 6, Range 2, West, Lafayette County, owned by Geo. W. Whitfield; Amount of taxes due 3 dollars and 80 cents. Printer's fee 5 dollars.

Section 24, Township 8, Range 2, West, Lafayette County, owned by the New York Land Company; amount of taxes due 7 dollars and 30 cents. P f 5 dis.

Section 26, Township 6, Range 2, West, Lafayette County, owned by the New York Land Company; amount of taxes due 7 dollars and 30 cents. P f 5 dis.

Section 26, Township 6, Range 4, West, Lafayette County, owned by the New York Land Company; amount of taxes due 4 dollars and 80 cents. P f 5 dis.

Section 25, Township 7, Range 5, West, Lafayette County, owned by the New York Land Company; amount of taxes due 9 dollars and 60 cents. P f 5 dis.

Section 24, Township 7, Range 1, West, Lafayette County, owned by Edward Orne, amount of taxes due 5 dollars and 40 cents. P f 5 dis.

Section 26, Township 22, Range 6, West, Lafayette County, owned by Edward Orne; amount of taxes due 1 dollar and 80 cents. P f 5 dis.

Section 20, Township 7, Range 2, West, Lafayette County, owned by Edward Orne; amount of taxes due 9 dollars and 30 cents. Printer's fee 5 dollars.

Section 21, Township 7, Range 4, West, Lafayette County, owned by Edward Orne; amount of taxes due 7 dollars and 30 cents. Pr's fee 5 dis.

Section 11, Township 7, Range 1, West, Lafayette County, owned by Edward Pennington; amount of taxes due 7 dollars and 30 cents. [Printer's fee 5 dis.]

Section 26, Township 7, Range 4, West, Lafayette County, owned by Edward Cox; amount of taxes due 12 dollars. [Printer's fee 5 dollars]

West half of Section 20, Township 7, Range 5, West, Lafayette County, owned by Heirs of G. B. Nelson; amount of taxes due 6 dollars. [P fee 5 dis.]

Section 23, Township 7, Range 4, West, Lafayette County, owned by Union Bank of Tennessee; amount of taxes due 14 dollars and 30 cents. [P f 7 dis.]

Section 26, Township 6, Range 2, West, Lafayette County, owned by Joseph Crothers; amount of taxes due 9 dollars and 30 cents. [Printer's fee 7 dis.]

Section 24, Township 6, Range 5, West, Lafayette County, owned by Tobias Henderson; amount of taxes due 7 dollars and 30 cents. [Printer's fee \$5]

Section 10, Township 10, Range 1, West, Lafayette County, owner unknown; amount of taxes due 4 dollars and 30 cents. [Printer's fee 5 dollars]

Section 25, Township 6, Range 2, West, Lafayette County, owner unknown; amount of taxes due 7 dollars and 30 cents. [Printer's fee 5 dollars]

Section 21, Township 9, Range 2, West, Lafayette County, owner unknown; amount of taxes due 4 dollars and 30 cents. [Printer's fee 5 dollars]

owners of said lands for the year 1841. Notice to take place within the hours prescribed by law February 12, 1842. **JAS T. STOCKARD,** Tax Collector of Lafayette County.

Commissioner's NOTICE.

THE Estate of SAMUEL MITCHELL, deceased, having been declared insolvent, the undersigned have been appointed by the Probate Court of Lafayette County, Commissioners to receive and examine claims against said estate, for the purpose of charging the administrator with the pro rata in his hands to be distributed according to law. We will attend for the purpose aforesaid, at the office of the Probate Clerk, in Oxford, on the 2d Monday of November next, being the first day of the next term of the Circuit Court of Lafayette County, and on the 3d Monday of each succeeding month, for four months thereafter. All persons having claims against said estate, will present them at the times above designated for the attendance of the Commissioners, or they will be forever barred.

ROBERT H. BUFORD,
J. THOMPSON.
 Oxford, August 14, 1841. [at 10.6mo. ples \$30]

Administrator's NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the undersigned qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Sherwood House, deceased, at the December Term 1841 of the Probate Court of Lafayette County. All persons indebted to said Estate will please settle up, and all persons having claims against said Estate must present them within the time prescribed by law or they will be forever barred.

C. G. BUTLER, Administrator.
 January 6th, 1842. [6 w p f \$7]

10 COPIES A YEAR FOR \$10!
 THE HANDSOMEST AND CHEAPEST PERIODICAL FOR THE YOUNG!

EVERY YOUTH'S GAZETTE
 ILLUSTRATED BY ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS!

TO BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

ON SATURDAY, the 22d day of January, will be commenced the editing and publishing of a new weekly paper, which will be called "EVERY YOUTH'S GAZETTE." It will be of the quarto form, containing eight pages similar to the New-York Mirror. Every number will be embellished with BEAUTIFUL PICTURES, of an instructive and pleasing character. The contents will be, for the most part, original, and adapted to the wants and capacities of youthful readers. Not only will the exclusive services of an accomplished Editor be given to the work, but the talents of many popular writers will be enlisted in its support.

All the new popular works for children which appear in England will be obtained, and from those the best articles will be chosen and published entire in the columns of the Gazette, together with the engravings by which they may be illustrated. Thus, in our catalogue of contributors, there will be many names, dear and familiar to the young—Miss Edgeworth, Mrs. Holland, Mary Howitt, Miss Martineau, Mrs. Barwell, Miss Milford, Mrs. B. C. Hall, Joanna Baillie, Mrs. Southey, Miss Coleridge, and others. Thus, at a price far less than that for which such works could be reprinted in the shape of books in this country, will the most excellent treatises and stories for the young be presented. Arrangements will also be made to obtain original articles by favorite American authors.

A pure moral tone will pervade every sentence of the new periodical. Every thing like sectional, sectarian, or political bias will be sedulously avoided. In fine, the journal will be adapted to the tastes and capacities of all children, and thus merit its name.

EVERY YOUTH'S GAZETTE will, on and after the 22d of January, be issued on Saturday mornings AT THE OFFICE OF THE NEW WORLD, No. 20 Ann street, New-York.

TERMS.

To place EVERY YOUTH'S GAZETTE within the means of all the girls and boys in the country, it will be sold to subscribers at the following low rates: For one copy, sent to any part of North America, \$2 a year; for two copies \$3; for four copies \$5; for ten copies, \$10—ALWAYS TO BE PAID IN ADVANCE. When 4 copies for \$5, or 10 copies for \$10, are ordered, the remittance must be made in CURRENT MONEY, of New-York or New-England.

Letters on business, and all communications to be addressed to "THE EDITOR OF THE YOUTH'S GAZETTE, 20 Ann street, New-York," stamped or post-paid.

JOB PRINTING—Neatly and expeditiously executed at the Office of the Lafayette Republicans, Oxford, Office, on the public square.

Quarto New World.

Prospectus for the Fourth Volume, commencing January 1, 1842.

EDITED BY PARR BURMAN.

During the two years which have elapsed since "The New World" was begun, it has been the object of the Editor to render it the most readable newspaper of the day. To this end the proprietors have liberally contributed. Neither trouble nor expense has been spared. The most popular books and periodicals have been purchased. The best contributors have been engaged. A correspondence with the most interesting parts of the world has been established. In short, the best arrangements have been made to publish an independent literary journal, acceptable to all classes of readers. The editor can think of nothing which has been left undone to enhance the value and to elevate the character of the New World.

It will commence the new year with a circulation of **TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND COPIES**, a larger number, it is believed, than is issued of any other weekly paper, in Great Britain or the United States. This success is imputed chiefly to two reasons: first, to its having contained an unprecedented number of excellent articles by the most popular authors; second, to its having assumed and observed an elevated moral tone. Its columns are uncontaminated by party politics, and its ample pages unsmothered by profane and improper jests, vulgar allusions, or irreverent sentiments; and therefore it finds its warmest friends by the domestic hearth, and receives its highest approval from that sex, whose rights it has maintained, whose delicacy it has never offended, and whose mental and moral superiority it has labored to vindicate.

About to enter upon a new year, and to commence another volume, we proceed to make a few inducements for old friends to continue to us, and for new friends to join their company. No change whatever will be made in the manner of editing and conducting the New World; but it will receive in all its departments fresh accessions of ability. Many able writers will grace our columns. Permanent arrangements have been made to secure the exclusive services of

JOSEPH MACLEOD, FRANCIS J. GRUND, AND BEAUTE MATIER, ESQUIRES.

Mr. MacLeod, resident in London, will keep our readers informed of all events of interest that transpire in England, Scotland, and Ireland. Being in constant personal intercourse with the best known authors, he will obtain from them manuscripts, proof-sheets, and early copies of the latest publications. Thus shall we be enabled, as we have hitherto done, to give in the New World their latest works in advance of any other newspaper in America.

Mr. Grund, resident in Bremen, will by a regular and copious correspondence, advise our readers of the social, literary and religious condition of continental Europe.

BEAUTE MATIER, (whose name we introduce with great pleasure, as that of one of the most accomplished young men of our country,) resident in Mexico, will send us letters, descriptive of that unexplored portion of the Western Hemisphere, of its inhabitants, their manners, laws, and customs, and of all objects of curiosity, whether ancient or modern. His letters will be accompanied by illustrative drawings, which will be engraved and presented in our columns.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

by the best American writers will enrich our pages in the coming volume. Among the attractive features of this description, we have the pleasure to announce that early in January will be commenced **A NEW NOVEL**, by an American, written expressly for the New World, and entitled

ANAL PARSONS, A STORY OF THE GREAT FIRE. It possesses a deep local interest, and will be read with great pleasure, as it is replete with incident, and beautifully written.

Original discourses by ministers of the Gospel will occasionally be given; among them we intend to present, during the next year, practical sermons from every Bishop in the United States, as well as from eminent clergymen of all denominations.

To add to the attractiveness of the New World, it will continue to be decorated by

ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD, from the most spirited designs. Two or three of these will often be given in a single paper. It is also intended to appropriate a column for the especial entertainment of juvenile readers, so that the New World shall be, in every respect, THE BEST FAMILY NEWSPAPER IN AMERICA.

CHARLES O'MALLEY.

All subscribers who order from the commencement of the Third Volume (July 3, 1841) will obtain the whole of this splendid and popular story, which is alone worth the price of a year's subscription.

TERMS.

The New World (edito or quarto) is forwarded by mail for \$5 a year, payable invariably in advance. For \$5 it is sent to our persons two years, but not in any future instance to two subscribers one year. Notes of solvent chartered banks only should be remitted, and those which are nearest par in New York.

No article now in progress of publication in the New World will be continued into the Fourth Quarto Volume; but it will be commenced with entirely fresh and original works.

Postmasters are legally authorized to remit money for subscriptions, under their frank.

Any individual preparing five new subscribers, and remitting \$15 on New York or Eastern funds, free of postage, shall receive a sixth copy gratis one year. Address J. WINCHESTER, Publisher, 30 Ann-street, New-York.

PROSPECTUS

OF THE Southern Literary Messenger.

THOMAS WHITE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

This is a monthly Magazine, devoted chiefly to LITERATURE, but occasionally finding room also for articles that fall within the scope of SCIENCE; and professing no didactic or tasteless selections, though its matter has been, as it will continue to be, in the main, original.

Party Politics and controversial theology, as far as possible, are jealously excluded. They are sometimes so blended with discussions in literature or in moral science, otherwise unobjectionable, as to gain admittance for the sake of the more valuable matter to which they adhere; but whenever that happens, they are incidental only; not primary. They are dropped, or tolerated only because it cannot well be severed from the subject where with it is incorporated.

REVIEWS, and **Original Notices**, occupy their due space in the work; and it is the Editor's aim that they should have a freehold tendency—to convey, in a condensed form, such valuable truths or interesting incidents as are embodied in the works reviewed;—to direct the reader's attention to books that deserve to be read,—and to warn him against wasting time and money upon that large number, which merit only to be burned. In this age of publications, that by their variety and multitude distract and overwhelm every undiscriminating student, impartial criticism, governed by the views just mentioned, is one of the most inestimable and indispensable auxiliaries, to him who does wish to discriminate.

ESSAYS, and TALKS, having in view utility or a movement, or both—HISTORICAL SKETCHES—and REVIEWS, of events too minute for History, yet elucidating it, and heightening its interest,—may be regarded as forming the staple of the work. And of **INDIGENOUS POETRY**, enough is published—sometimes of no mean strain—in manifest aid to cultivate the growing poetical taste and talents of our country.

The times appear, for several reasons, to demand such a work—and not one alone, but many. The public mind is feverish and irritated still, from recent political strifes.—The soft, assuasive influence of Literature is needed, to allay that fever, and soothe that irritation. Vice and folly are rioting abroad.

They should be driven by indignant rebuke, or lashed by ridicule, into their fitting haunts. Ignorance lords it over an immense proportion of our people.—Every spring should be set in motion, to arouse the enlightened, and to increase their number; so that the great enemy of popular government may no longer brood, like a portentous cloud, over the destinies of our country. And to accomplish all these ends, what more powerful agent can be employed, than a periodical, on the plan of the Messenger; if that plan be but carried out in practice?

The South peculiarly requires such an agent. In all the Union, south of Washington, there are but two Literary periodicals! Northward of that city, there are probably at least twenty-five or thirty! Is there contrast justified by the wealth, the leisure, the native talent, or the actual literary taste, of the Southern people, compared with those of the North? No: for in wealth, talents, and taste, we may justly claim at least an equality with our brethren; and a domestic institution exclusively our own, beyond all doubt affords us, if we choose, twice the leisure for reading and writing, which they enjoy.

It was from a deep sense of this local want, that the word **SOUTHERN** was engraven on the name of this periodical; and not with any design to nourish local prejudices, or to advocate supposed local interests. Far from any such thought, it is the Editor's fervent wish, to see the North and South bound cordially together forever, in the silken bands of mutual kindness and affection. Far from meditating hostility to the North, he has already drawn, and he hopes hereafter to draw, much of his choi-

cest matter thence; and happy under will he deem himself, should his pages, by emitting such flames, know the other better, ultimately in any essential degree to dispel the lowering clouds that so lately threatened the peace of both, and to brighten and strengthen the sacred ties of fraternal love.

The **SOUTHERN LITERARY MESSANGER** has now nearly completed its SEVENTH VOLUME, and seventh year. How far it has acted out the ideas here uttered, is not for the Editor to say. He believes, however, that it falls not further short of them, than human weakness usually makes Practice fall short of Theory.

CONDITIONS OF THE SOUTHERN LITERARY MESSANGER.

1. The **SOUTHERN LITERARY MESSANGER** is published in monthly numbers. Each number contains not less than 64 large super-royal pages, printed on good type, and in the best manner, and on paper of the most beautiful and expensive quality.

2. The "Messenger" hereafter will be mailed on or about the first day of every month in the year. Twelve numbers make a volume,—and the price of subscription is \$5 per volume, payable in advance;—and will be sent to any one, unless the order for it is accompanied with the cash. The year commences with the January number. No subscription received for less than the year, unless the individual subscribing chooses to pay the full price of a year's subscription for a long period; nor will a single number be sold, in any case, for less than five dollars—the price of a whole Volume of the MESSANGER.—C3

3. The risk of transmitting subscriptions by mail will be assumed by the proprietor. But every subscriber thus transmitting payment, is requested to send taking proper evidence of the fact and date of mailing) to retain a memorandum of the number and particular marks of the note sent.

4. If a subscription is not directed to be discontinued before the first number of a volume has been published, it will be taken as a continuance for another year.

5. Any one enclosing a \$20 current bill, at one time, with the names of five new subscribers, shall receive five copies of the Messenger for one year.

6. The mutual obligations of the publisher and subscriber, for the year, are fully incurred, as soon as the first number of the volume is issued. After that time, no discontinuance of a subscription will be permitted, unless at the option of the editor.

The Magnolia.

PROSPECTUS

For the Fourth Volume of the Magnolia.

The December number closes the 3d volume of this periodical, and in calling the attention of our friends to a new volume, it is our happiness to state that having overcome, in some measure, the difficulties incident to the transfer of our work from this city, and other changes, we are now enabled to assure our subscribers that the Magnolia is placed upon a permanent foundation—its circulation is established, and its continuance secured. To effect this more certainly, one half of the work has been disposed of, under such terms and contracts as will essentially subserve its interests. It will, henceforth, be issued in an enlarged form, having a monthly addition of 16 pages, handsomely printed on superior paper, making, at the close of the year, a volume of nearly 400 double-columned pages. It will be punctually issued, positive arrangements to that effect having been made with the publisher, and the many hindrances which have hitherto impeded its progress having been overcome. In addition to the usual contributions from eminent writers, the Editor has pleasure in saying, that he will be assisted in the literary department by some gentlemen whose aid will greatly enhance the value of the periodical, and impart additional interest to its pages. It is the desire of the Editor to make the Magnolia a standard popular Magazine, and to accomplish this, he is determined to devote to it every energy, in order to make it worthy of the patronage of the friends of Southern literature. To such he presents his claims, confident that the growing reputation of the work, and the peculiar advantages under which it will hereafter be issued, will lead them to sustain, by liberal subscriptions, a periodical whose intrinsic value is now so much increased.

Terms, for the enlarged volume, the same as for the former, \$5 a year, in advance. Address F. C. FOSTER, Savannah, Georgia.

North Mississippi College.

THIS INSTITUTION is situated in Lafayette County, Mississippi, near the road leading from Oxford, by Wray, to Holly Springs, five or six miles from the former and about twenty-five from the latter place. The site is high and healthy, and in a religious neighborhood of substantial families, remote from any town or temptation to vice or extravagance.

APPENDIX VI



This is the picture published in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times which Mr. J. H. Bradford, Sr., saw and recognized as the ship built by Pierre Traucett.

APPENDIX VII



This scene shows Howe's press (right, foreground) and the remains of the schooner which were uncovered on an island off the Texas coast.

APPENDIX VIII

State of Mississippi
 DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
 P. O. Box 571
 Jackson, Mississippi
 August 16, 1962

Mr. Ed Meek
 Box 1063
 University, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Meek:

Miss Capers asked me to reply to your letter of August 10.

First, we will dispense with the items we do not have. We have no issues of Puck's Port-Folio or the Young Ladies' Miscellany. We have no issues and no record of the Middleton Republican or the Yalobusha Pioneer.

Our earliest issue of the Dollar Democrat is dated January 7, 1841 but is actually for 1842 and it was published in Oxford. Mississippi Newspapers, 1805-1940, prepared by the Mississippi Historical Records Survey, page 89 shows that the Dollar Democrat was "established in 1841 (Jan. 7, 1841, vol. 1, no. 1) at Grenada with E. Pery Howe as editor."

Rag paper was used and most of the issues are in excellent condition. Some pages are yellow, but the majority are snow white.

The format changes are as follows:
 Jan. 7, 1841 (1842): 44 1/2 x 27cm
 May 14, 1841: 44 1/2 x 27cm
 Feb. 7, 1843: 41 x 27cm
 June 3, 1844: 45 x 27cm
 July 1, 1844: 40 x 27cm
 July 27, 1844: 45 x 26 1/2cm
 Nov. 6, 1844: 40 1/2 x 26 1/2cm
 Feb. 5, 1845: 45 x 26 1/2cm
 Feb. 19, 1845: 42 1/2 x 26 1/2cm

Mar. 28, 1845: 52 x 37 1/2cm
 Apr. 11, 1845: 45 x 26 1/2cm
 Aug. 1, 1845: 43 1/2 x 26 1/2cm
 Sept. 21, 1845: 46 x 34 1/2cm
 Nov. 6, 1845: 45 x 26 1/2cm

We have not been able to find any information on Howe,
 but I am sure that someone who can spend more time than we can
 will be able to track him down.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Lindsay Grimes
 Archivist

Dear Mr. West,
 This report asked me to reply to your letter of
 August 10.
 First, we will dispense with the items we do not
 have. We have no issues of Park's Fort-Ratio or the Fort
Ratio Miscellany. We have no issues and no record of the
Madison Miscellany or the Yalobusha Miscellany.
 Our earliest issue of the Dollar Miscellany is dated
 January 7, 1841 but is actually for 1842 and it was published
 in Oxford, Mississippi Newspapers, 1807-1910, prepared by
 the Mississippi Historical Records Survey, page 73 shows that
 the Dollar Miscellany was "reprinted in 1841 (Vol. 1, No. 1)."
 Vol. 1, No. 1) of issues with R. Perry Howe as editor.
 Bad paper was used and most of the issues are in ex-
 cellent condition. Some pages are yellow, but the majority
 are now white.
 The format changes are as follows:
 Jan. 7, 1841 (1842): 44 1/2 x 27cm
 May 11, 1841: 44 1/2 x 27cm
 Feb. 17, 1842: 41 x 27cm
 June 3, 1842: 43 x 27cm
 July 1, 1844: 40 x 27cm
 July 27, 1844: 45 x 26 1/2cm
 Nov. 6, 1844: 40 1/2 x 26 1/2cm
 Feb. 9, 1845: 45 x 36 1/2cm
 Feb. 19, 1845: 45 1/2 x 28 1/2cm

APPENDIX IX

Feb. 27, 1962
J. H. Bradford Sr.
205 Hospital Road
Taft, Texas

Miss Nancy Head
Del Mar College
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Miss Head:

I do not know how to make plain what I am trying to say. I was born in Nolan County, Texas, June 17, 1886 and went to Biloxi in 1888 and lived with my grandfather for a good while. My father was born in Biloxi in 1835. My grandfather shipped naval stores to Belize, Honduras (British) and had a 3-masted schooner built for the trade by Pierre Traucett at Biloxi.

She was 125 feet on the Keel. During the war, she was a blockade runner and smuggled arms & what else they could get from the British. She was fast and was never caught by the Yankee Fleet. They looked for her even though the war was over. In 1868 they found her in Bayou Pottau where they burned her.

I heard all the tales about the Burissa, named for my grandmother, and as a kid I went up the Bayou every chance I got. My father told me how old Pierre put those knees, braces on the timber to strengthen them and I could see the parts left and I saw enough to leave a picture in my mind of how the frame was put together.

Pierre did most of his boat building from 1850 to 1861 and his boats were from 50 to 75 feet long, 2 masted schooners. They roamed from the mouth of the Rio Grande River to the St. Andrews, Fla. Their cargoes were mostly lumber and other building materials.

Many of these boats never came home and were never heard of again. When I saw the picture in the paper, it brought back memories of the wreck of the Burissa, especially the ends of the ribs, timbers, and the more I looked, the more I was convinced that one of the boats built by Pierre Traucett.

I may be mistaken. Those boats got cargoes from Biloxi, Pascagoula, Miss., and from Slidell, La. It could

be that E. Percy Howe came down the Pearl River to Slidell and loaded from there on a Schooner bound for somewhere in Texas.

I never heard of Gainesville, although I thought I knew all the towns that were on the Pearl River up to Columbia. Handsborro was the Head of the Biloxi Bay and did some shipping of cotton, wool and lumber.

Gulfport is the one place I never heard of until about 1900 when the Gulf & Ship Island Railroad was built there. I was graduated from the Biloxi High School in 1902 and had to find work. I did not get back as I roamed all over the Western Hemisphere.

This may not be of any help, but again may. At least I have this off my chest if not my mind. I could tell you lots of tales about the Mississippi Coast, but it would take to much of your time and would not help in this case.

If what I have written will help you in any way, I will feel happy.

J. H. Bradford, Sr.

APPENDIX X

August 15, 1962

Mr. Ed Meek
Box 1063
University, Miss.

Dear Ed:

We still seem to have a considerable gap in old Percy's life. I'm going to recheck the type, but I believe the last paper he printed was in December 1852 in Gainesville, leading me to believe he probably sailed in that month or in January or thereabouts of 1853.

It seems inconceivable to me that he could have survived the shipwreck and not have left his mark in Texas later, salty character that he seems to have been.

I would suggest a check of old New Orleans papers of this period, (the first two or three months of 1853 and the last month of 1852), to determine if any sinkings may have been listed. On a rare chance, a passenger list could appear. I shall ask my friend on the Times-Picayune to do this for me, and let you know on this point.

At this time of the year northers are particularly rough on shipping in the Gulf. Many shrimp trawlers pile up on the beach in winter storms, and I suspect a sailing schooner would have even more difficulty in riding out such a gale.

Corpus Christi at this point was little more than a trading post, and the greater probability is that Howe was headed for Indianola (later destroyed by a hurricane) or Galveston. Corpus Christi Pass was extremely difficult to navigate, even in good weather in the early days.

As you will note from the pictures the wreck lies a few hundred yards south of Packery Channel, one of three old cuts across Padre Island opened by Carla. I doubt very much that any of the wreckage remains, what with the shifting sands, treasure hunters and picknickers looking for firewood.

I haven't been out to the Island to get a recent pic or the press. The press is rather heavy, and the first ones out there couldn't get it out. A county truck on the island . . . snatched it out. It isn't being exhibited publicly yet. Anyway, I'll scratch around some more and see if Percy Howe crops up again anywhere. . . .

A couple years ago I was doing some research for a

historical edition and did one bit on the history of the press here. Howe did not show up in any of the bits I found, but it is possible he could have settled elsewhere.

I would hate to write the old boy off as just "missing at sea." Let me know if you find out anything else, particularly of his career at Gainesville.

Anything I can help you with, give a whistle.

Sincerely,

Bill Walraven
The Caller-Times
Corpus Christi, Texas

RICHEY, SHEEHY, TEELING & CURETON

Attorneys at Law

Waco, Texas

November 14, 1962

AIR MAIL

Chairman, Department of Journalism
University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi

Dear Sir:

. . . You are probably acquainted with the fact that [E. Percy] Howe operated newspapers at various localities in Mississippi during the 1840s and 50s, his last location being the now non-extant town of Gainesville, Hancock County, Mississippi.¹ There, in November, 1852, he pulled the bar on his old Washington hand press for the last time and set sail for Texas. His ship, however, went down in the vicinity of Corpus Christi, Texas, and its wreck was uncovered last year by Hurricane Carla. In the wreckage Howe's press and a substantial quantity of his type was found by a fishing party. I believe Mr. Meek has had some correspondence with the History Department of Del Mar College in Corpus Christi relative to the find.

As a sideline, I study the history of printing and have reconstructed a 19th Century print shop equipped with two antique presses, one of which is the same type used by Howe. Because of my interest in this sort of thing, all of the Howe type that had been turned over to Del Mar College is now in my possession, and it is my intention to make an effort to clean the type and print from it just as it was set by Howe 110 years ago. While in all probability too much of the type is missing to permit me to reconstruct his entire form, (he did not distribute his type after printing his last newspaper but merely packed it still set) I am having some success at piecing together many of his articles. The type is in chunks varying from one or two words to as many

¹Gainesville is now the site of National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Mississippi Test Facility.

as ten or fifteen lines stuck together with corrosion and sediment. Ultimately I hope to print a little book containing a brief sketch of Howe's life, along with an account of the discovery and restoration of the type. If I print such a book, it will contain a full set of proofs of as much of the type as can be used. I am hoping that Mr. Meek might be interested in working with us on this project. Dan E. Kilgore, a leading South Texas historian, will supply the portion of the book dealing with the discovery of the type, and since I have worked with the type itself, I will probably have a note about the cleaning methods, etc.

In any event, I thought Mr. Meek might be interested in having a set of proofs to include in his thesis if the same has not yet been completed, and I wanted to pass on to him a possibly unknown fact about Howe that could lead to some additional information. In trying to put the jigsaw puzzle together I find that Howe wrote two farewell articles, captioned by a two-line, three-column head reading: "FAREWELL GAINESVILLE / / AND, HO FOR TEXAS!" One of the articles is set in a 24 pt. fat face, caps and lower case, and the other is set in a 20 pt. size of the same face, mostly in italic. The latter article is approximately two columns wide. Unfortunately, a substantial portion of these articles is missing, but from the latter mentioned article I find that he was the Probate Judge in Hancock County during his residency there. He begins his article by saying that he took the Probate Judgeship under the impression that the receipts from the judicial office would, together with the receipts from the printing office, be sufficient to support his family. He speaks of holding court for one term and issuing certain orders and, though I have not completely connected the fragments together, I think he will go on to say that \$1.60 was the whole sum of cash received by him as Probate Judge. A Louisiana lawyer recently told me that he believes the courthouse at Bay St. Louis burned in the late 19th Century and if this is the case, perhaps the record of Howe's official capacity might be missing. Otherwise, we might be able to get a more definite idea as to when he left Gainesville. Perhaps from this we could find some maritime records, passenger lists or manifests that might identify the ship on which he sailed, or indeed might disclose that he did not accompany his type. However, with respect to the latter, I feel like I know the man well enough to be sure that had he survived the shipwreck we would have heard from him in some quarter.

Yours very truly,

Sam Lanham

**"... Our prospects are so gloomy ... the
means only are wanting, for our departure"**

