

phatic than elegant. Still, he was always willing to help those in his employ in their troubles, and endeared himself to them by his many and constant acts of kindness.

During our first cholera season, in 1832, when this dread disease raged through our country, following the water courses, Captain Wilkeson was taken with a severe attack of it upon one of his down trips with the *Eagle*. His mate, Frank Bushaw, who looked upon his commander as of "the salt of the earth," was ordered to take the vessel into the nearest port to get medical assistance, which order he obeyed with the greatest possible speed. After procuring a physician for the Captain, yet even then believing he would surely die, he himself went ashore, and in his intense grief, sought, not spiritual but spirituous assistance, to drown his sorrows, and got as drunk as a lord in the endeavor. This was a singular way of showing his love and respect for the Captain, but it was, perhaps, the most expressive way of which he was capable.

The deck load of sail vessels in the summer season, many years ago, consisted mostly of white oak staves and heading for flour barrels. The term commonly used to designate this kind of freight was "Ohio fur." On one of my passages with Captain Wilkeson, the deck being covered with this "fur," he told me that he did not like to see this material going away from the Maumee Valley in this shape. I asked in what shape he would choose to have it go. He quickly replied, "Make the barrels and send them filled with flour,—that is the way this deck load should be sent. We should try to encourage our own people, and encourage others to come among us and help to develop the resources of the Maumee Valley." That was his theme in conversation and what he was always trying to do. And he knew that encouraging those on shore would also help those who were doing business upon the water.

Before steamboats ran up the Maumee river, two of my sisters came down one summer from Perrysburg with the Captain, aboard the *Eagle*, spending much of the time on deck chatting