

and consider it as a joke on his wife, to let her know that she must be up to time in all business transactions.

In early steamboating on our lakes there was sometimes great competition in cutting fares, and most travelers were willing to take advantage of it. To illustrate the disposition of men I will state what Captain Wilkeson related to me. He said that a gentleman once approached him here at Buffalo, on the dock, and asked what he would charge him, as cabin passenger, to Detroit. The Captain named an amount which was considerably less than half the regular fare, and he was invited to step aboard and take a drink with the Captain, at the bar. A little while after this the Captain met him again, and was told the other boat would carry him for nothing. "Well, I will carry you for nothing and board you. You will go with me, of course, won't you?" "Well, I don't know," was the answer, "I think his wine is a little preferable to yours!"

At another time the steamboat managers had agreed that the boats should have up to a certain time to get their passengers, etc., and that then they would leave the dock. On one occasion the time was up, and the captain of a certain boat (it was not Captain Wilkeson, for he scorned any subterfuge of this kind) was directed to cast off and go. Just then the rain was pouring down in torrents. The answer to the order given him was, "You should not expect me to go out in such rain." The fact was there was a railroad train from the east past due. The answer, however, was given more as a joke or a put-off than anything serious. They, the captains, were always honorable in their engagements.

Some of his friends at home "ran him" pretty hard, at one time, about his paying so much attention and giving so much care to his steamboat, and neglecting his homestead. They said that he kept his boat in good repair, all painted up nice and fine, but neglected his premises at home; that his house looked dusty and brown,—wanted painting and brushing up. So they offered to contribute and furnish the materials if he