

entering and leaving the harbor. I have heard steamboat mates who sailed with Captain Wilkeson say that he frequently meddled with things and affairs that did not belong to him, but which it was the duty of the mate to see to. I know well that he always stood at the engine bell-rope to guide the course of the boat in entering or going out of port. I also noticed that the brass band would sometimes cease playing while entering or going out of port. He gave me the reason for this, saying that he did not dare trust himself, for fear lest in listening to the music his mind might be diverted too much from directing the course of the boat. I have no doubt that he thought it was necessary, sometimes, to be "boss and all hands," to make things go right aboard his boat, and have everything done up to time.

The Captain was prompt in his appointments and engagements. The *Commodore Perry's* time for leaving her dock at Perrysburg was a standing notice in the papers of the place. I asked him if he did not sometimes lose some passengers by being a little too exactly on time. He answered me in a slow, musing tone, casting his eyes up and scanning the bank and roads up and down the river (we were now lying at the dock at Perrysburg), saying, "If I see any persons hurrying to get aboard, I hold on a little to give them a chance; but if I see none of that class I order the boat to be let loose at the bow so as to swing off from the dock." While sailing the *Perry* his wife and sometimes some of the children would accompany him down and spend a few days at my father's house while the boat made a trip. The Captain's homestead was half a mile or so above the dock, and one time his wife informed him that she would accompany him down the next trip. The day came and the hour for starting. The time was up; Mrs. W. was seen coming, walking quite fast, because she knew his promptness, but was still some distance away when she saw the *Perry* swing into the stream, and she was left. The Captain related this to me on his arrival at Buffalo. He seemed to enjoy the transaction