

counties were asked to exchange their bonds for the stock of the company, and this was done by a popular vote. Meantime the money was used up. The business was from the first kept rigidly under control; every contract was made terminable at the option of the Company; every hand employed was paid off monthly; and in reading over some old contracts I came upon a clause specially obliging the contractor to keep liquor out of the camps. When Huntington, after long and trying labors in New York, returned to Sacramento, he found the treasure chest so low that it was advisable to diminish the labouring force, or at once raise more means. "Huntington and Hopkins," said he, "can out of their own means, pay 500 men during a year; how many can each of you keep on the line?" The five men agreed in counsel at 54 K street that out of their own private fortunes they would maintain and pay 800 men during a year on the road.

This resolution ended their troubles. Before the year was over they had received their Government bonds. They still had the worst and most costly part of the line to build; they still had to transport all their material around Cape Horn; they had many trials, difficulties, and obstacles before them, for nearly four years were consumed in crossing the Sierra; they had to encounter law suits, opposition, ridicule, evil prophecies, losses; had to organize a vast laboring force, drill long tunnels, shovel away one spring over sixty feet of snow over seven miles of the line, merely to get at the road bed; had to set up saw mills by the dozen to saw ties; haul half a dozen locomotives and twenty tons of iron twenty-six miles over the mountains by ox teams; haul water forty and wood fifty miles for construction trains on the alkali plains; but it seems to me that this brave resolution was the turning point in their enterprise.

Surely there is something admirable in the courage of five country merchants, ignorant of railroad building, and unknown to the world, assuming such a load as the support of eight (8) hundred men for a year out of their own pockets, for an enterprise in the success of which, in their hands, very few of their own friends believed.

The secret of their success was that these five country merchants meant in good faith to build a railroad. They did not expect to get money out of an enterprise before they had put money of their own into it. They managed all the details as