

300 feet or more, as early as 1838. I am quite confident that I then saw the brackish water running to waste in the river." [This is probably a mistake as to time. Lucius Lyon's contract for the boring was made in 1839, and the overflow from the tubing was obtained August 21, 1841.—Editor.]

In 1838 not only some of the merchants of the village, but the village itself resorted to the expedient of issuing notes in the similitude of bank bills—promises to pay, or shinplasters, as they were called in popular speech. Several hundred dollars in one and two dollar bills, were thus put in circulation, and for some years were found a great convenience. Eventually they were all, or nearly all, redeemed, with little or no loss to those who used them.

Few streets in the village were worked enough to make passable road beds in bad weather. Those in springy and swampy ground had ditches at the sides, with here and there little plank bridges over the brooks. Canal street was a miry morass all the way from Pearl street to Coldbrook; and Division street in wet weather was a slough of mud south to the village line. Monroe street was at times a bed of heavy clay mortar.

The financial tightness was increased in 1841 by the failure of the Bank of Michigan. In August the first salt well, above Bridge street on the east bank of the river, was tubed and the water procured was of such strength as to inspire hope of great profits from the manufacture of salt. The first notable burglary in Grand Rapids occurred in the night of November 12, 1841, when the safe of Amos Roberts was robbed of \$500 in specie and about \$125 in bank bills. For wolf bounties \$96 were paid from the county treasury in that year. In December a mill was completed by Granger & Ball on Plaster Creek, and the manufacture of land plaster was begun. John Ball, in that year, wrote to a New England newspaper that in all his travels he had not found another country combining so many advantages as the Grand River Valley, "not even the celebrated Oregon."

January 2, 1842, was the dedication of the Congregational Church at the corner of Monroe and Division streets, which was originally built for the Roman Catholics. In March, 1842, a local writer took a view of the village and reported as follows:

"Within the short space of six years as many thousand in-