

the contractors having failed to comply with their engagements,—and the time having passed when the water ought to have been again in the canal,—and might have been in, had the usual course with such work been taken. Upon declaring B. F. Hellman's contract abandoned, the father Joseph Hellman was, on the same day, appointed superintendent of repairs of the 4th division,—and was thereby placed in charge of the completion of the abandoned work,—Mr. Stone being turned out to make way for him.

Mr. B. F. Hellman in a subsequent settlement was paid *in full* for the work done by him,—including the retained money which had become forfeited to the company,—and was paid in addition, an *extra allowance* of several hundred dollars, to which he was not entitled even had he completed his contract.

Upon the appointment of the father, it became his duty to make out as superintendent, subject to the revision of the chief engineer,—such estimates of work done as might be required under these contracts.

Twenty days after the abandonment of the work the board directed the chief engineer to have the measurements made, &c. Under that order an engineer was sent by me to the work, who with the aid of Mr. Stone the dismissed superintendent, made as correct measurements of the work done under the two contracts as circumstances admitted. A part of the information required for the making out of these final estimates, could of necessity be furnished by no one but the new superintendent;—but it is due to Mr. Stone to say, that without his assistance, which was readily given at my request, it would have been absolutely impossible to have made with any degree of accuracy, the final estimates in question; which at the best, owing to the course that had been taken by the board, were merely *approximate*, and that where many thousands of dollars were involved.

These improvements were completed under Mr. Hellman's superintendance, I think in August,—when coal boats that had been detained for a long time in Hancock were enabled to pass on to market. Soon after which, the navigation of the canal was again suspended for the want of gravelling the dams at the proper time, which caused a deficiency of water,—and of which more particular mention will be made when speaking of the next removal. The consequence of which last interruption added to the unnecessary loss of upwards of four months upon the improvements at the two points between dams No. 5