

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.	
The Sentinel is published every day, except Sunday, on the following terms:	\$1.00
Two months	1.90
Three months	2.70
One year	3.60
One-half year	2.40
One month	1.00
Weekly Number one year	2.00
Monthly Number one year	2.00
Two months	1.00

## THE SENTINEL



WIL H. FELL, SEATON GALE, EDITOR.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1868.

### STATE LAWS.

Gov. Holden, in his message, recommends the repeal of all the stay laws now on the statute-book. We believe it is generally conceded, that the stay laws, passed during the war, were of incalculable evil to the people. They were passed in obedience to the general clamor for relief; but we believed, at the time, that they were unnecessary and would prove injurious,—and such the result has proven. But while we are opposed, on principle, to stay laws, because generally constructed adversely to the just and proper claims of creditors, yet we are not prepared to say that the blunder, during the war, of passing stay laws did not really create the necessity for the passage of such a law as was adopted by the first State Convention held after the war. At least, the belief was almost universal, about that time and since, that some such measure of relief was absolutely imperious. This law did not ignore the just claims of creditors, but gave to debtors longer time for payment. We have doubted whether that law would really accomplish more good than harm, but we are not prepared to say what have been the practical results of it, to any extent. It served, for a time, the purpose of putting all classes of creditors on the same footing, and, perhaps, prevented the merciless creditor from forcing his debtor's property to sale and sacrifice, thus destroying the claims of other creditors equally meritorious, entirely.

To what extent the debtors of the State have availed themselves of the stay laws in operation, we are not prepared to say, but it strikes us it would be a palpable violation of good faith to those parties, who, relying on the pledges of the legislative authority, have proceeded upon the policy set forth in the stay laws in existence, of paying their debts by instalments, to have those laws repealed, *nunc est datus*.

It is the positive duty of the legislative authority to protect, as far as it can be done with fairness and justice to all, the people from violence and oppression. Former legislative bodies may have, for the lack of foresight, blundered, and, by so doing, may have marked out a course of policy which, if interrupted abruptly, would involve a general ruin. In such cases, true patriotism and simple justice to all would be rather to modify, palliate existing evils, rather than cut them off violently, if, by so doing, greater evils and ruin would follow.

For several years, we have anticipated the arrival of the period in this State, when, from the restiveness of anxious creditors, the stringency of partial rancor or indifference to the condition of the property holders in the State, an attempt would be made, by the repeal of the stay laws, to force them into bankruptcy, and hence, for some time, we urged strenuously upon the debtors in the State to seek a general compromise with their creditors. Failing to secure this, as a last resort, we urged them to go into bankruptcy. The expensiveness, however, of the bankrupt law, and the uncertainties connected with it, and the strong hope with many creditors that they might get out, have led them to defer the evil day. What is to be the effect of the entire repeal of the stay laws at once? Why, while many indulgent creditors have borne with their debtors, in the hope and with the assurance that they would not be the losers by kindly delaying to sue, the few creditors, who have obtained judgment, would at once seize upon the entire estates of their debtors, force them to sale and thus crush the debtor and the other creditors hopelessly! This strikes us as the certain result. Many sharpers stand ready to take advantage of these cash sales, to possess themselves of the hard earnings of the debtor, paying no fair consideration, and thus a large share of the property in the hands of the people would be concentrated into few hands, forcing emigration or migration upon many of our best people.—Is this the design of the Executive recommendation? Is this one of the methods, invented by a cold and diabolical malignity, by which the "cold Democracy" is to be wiped out root and branch,—to use the unenlightened and foolish language of the "Government's" organ?

Before action is taken upon this subject, we hope legislation will duly weigh its probable results, and possess themselves of the soundest and wisest views of those best qualified to advise in such an emergency.

The Ministerial Constitution DECLAR-  
ED. Narration!—Our readers may well be astonished at this result; but it is even the fact. The way in which the thing was managed was as follows:

The Constitutional Convention of Mississippi appointed a committee of five, who were charged with the duty of making a final return of the election for the ratification of the Constitution. Mr. W. H. Gibbs, the chairman of the committee, has reported, declaring the Constitution to have been duly ratified and adopted by a majority of the legal votes cast, and setting aside the decisions held in the counties of Copiah, Carroll, Chickasaw, De Soto, Lafayette, Rankin, and Yalobusha, on account of threats, intimidation and violence practised in said counties!

### WE BEG TO BE EXCUSED!

A Northern Democratic paper declares that it wants "to see Radicalism carry out its measures to the tallest extent—the object being to teach the country to hate by the Democratic party,"—but presents the following cheerful programme. It "wants to see" the Radicals—

"Go on with their reconstruction.  
Go on with their negro enfranchisement.  
Go on with their Freedmen's Bureau.  
Go on with their disbursements.  
Go on with their usurpations.  
Go on with their sectionalization."

"Go on with their violations of rights, their disregard of the Constitution, their hatred of white men, and all the devilish doctrines they have preached and practiced since the war was waged with the first of them."

We want the people to see just what they are, what wrongs they can, and what outrages they will perpetrate.

We want the masses to get a dose of their dirty doctrines that will do them for the next ten generations, and we don't want Grant to stand in the way of that dose being thrust down their throats. Let him go with Congress. The party that endorses Congress elected him. He belongs to it, and we pray God that he may stick to it.

Now such silly twaddle as the foregoing but serve to justify the impression, which we have entertained for some time, that the suffering and oppressed condition of the South is but a matter of secondary moment with our "Northern brethren," compared with their desire to get into power. The position is one of absolute selfishness. The South is the sufferer from these Radical excesses, —not the North,—and we "want to see" nothing of the kind to happen to us.

Since the commencement of this disastrous work of so-called reconstruction, we have been told that our speedy deliverance was to be effected at the hands of the "generous and magnanimous masses" of the Northern people. We have been pointed to the ballot box, in November, 1868, as the potent agent, which, like the wand of a magician, was to dispel our woes and rift the clouds above us. We have been assured that the Northern masses were disgusted with "Radical excesses," and that they would seize the first tangible opportunity of hurling their indignation at the heads of our oppressors. The bolts seem to have fallen on other heads.

It is all very well for Northern Democratic editors to be willing to assist, with philosophic patience, the return of the party to power, as soon as the masses shall become disgusted with the monstrous measures of Radicalism, and to urge them on, with a view to that result, to push these excesses to the verge. With us of the South, however, it requires endurance, as well as patience, and we are worried out, in body and mind, with these atrocious and unfeeling oppressions.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, the consideration of the matter was postponed until to-morrow.

CALENDAR.

The Bill to allow Attorneys, who have license to practice in Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, to practice in the Superior and Supreme Courts, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The Bill providing for the collection of taxes in the County of Carteret, for the year 1868, was referred to the Committee on Finance.

A message was received from the House transmitting the enabled resolution in favor of the Civil Service, which was ratified by the President of the Senate.

On motion of Mr. Moore, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, 11 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, NOV. 13, 1868.

House called to order at 10 o'clock.  
Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Smith of Martin of Tours.

Journal of yesterday read and approved.

The Chair, in accordance with the motion of Mr. French, adopted as yesterday, raising a Committee on Counties and Cities, to consist of Messrs. White, of the 1st Judicial District; James, of the 2d; Smith of Wayne, of the 3d; French, of the 4th; Williams, of Franklin, of the 5th; Hiram, of the 6th; Carey, colored, of the 7th; McCausland, of the 8th; Sibley, of the 9th; Barber, of the 10th; Carson, of the 11th; and Palter, of the 12th. Mr. French, moved to adjourn the session.

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, called for the report from the Committee appointed to locate the Penitentiary. He desired to know something about the purchase of a large amount of land, to secure homesteads for convicts.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, the consideration of the matter was postponed until to-morrow.

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