

Wm. H. Wheeler
LINCOLN COURIER.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD SHOULD EVER BE PREFERRED TO PRIVATE ADVANTAGE."

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Can Love Forget.

Forget thee! If to dream by night,
And muse on thee all day—
If all the worship, deep and wild,
A poet's heart can pay—
If prayers in absence, breathed for thee,
To Heaven's protecting power—
If winged thoughts that flit to thee
A thousand in an hour—
If busy fancy blending thee
With all my future lot—
If thou call'st those "forgetting," thou
Indeed shall be forgot.

Forget thee! Bid the forest birds
Forget their sweetest tune;
Forget thee! Bid the forest birds
To swell beneath the moon
Bid the faint evening flower forget
To drink refreshing dew.
Thyself forget thine dear own land—
Its mountains white and blue.
Forget each old and familiar face,
Each long remembered spot—
When these things are forgot by thee
Then shalt thou be forgot.

Keep, if thou wilt, thy maiden peace
Still calm and fancy free—
For God forbid thy gladsome heart
Should grow less glad for me;
Yet while that heart is still unwon,
Oh! bid not mine to rove—
But let it nurse its humble faith,
And uncomplaining love.
If these, preserved patient years,
At last avail me not—
Forget me then! but never believe,
That thou can'st be forgot.

AN ACT

To provide for a Turnpike Road from Salisbury, West, to the line of the State of Georgia.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That there shall be laid out and established a turnpike road from Salisbury, West, to the county of Cherokee and to the line of the State of Georgia.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the said road shall be made thirty feet wide, except where there shall be side cuttings, and in such places it shall be twenty feet wide; and in no part of the road shall it rise, in ascending any hill or mountain, more than one foot in sixteen feet, except that part of the road west of the Buncombe Turnpike Road; and in that part it shall be made twenty feet wide, except where there is side cuttings, and there it shall be fifteen feet wide; and in no part to be steeper than to rise one foot in ten feet; and to be well made, under the direction and superintendence of an agent of the State, to be appointed as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Governor to appoint a competent and experienced engineer and three commissioners, to survey and locate said road, who shall first take an oath before one of the Judges of the Superior or Supreme courts, faithfully to discharge said duty to the greatest advantage for the State.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That if the owner or owners of any land into which said road shall pass, shall conceive him, her, or themselves injured thereby, it shall be competent for such owner or owners, either by petition or motion to the county court of the county in which the damage is done, praying for a jury to view the premises and assess the damages sustained; and it shall be the duty of the court to order such jury to be summoned as in other cases of public roads; and it shall be the duty of the jury to take into consideration the advantage to the land, as well as the injury occasioned by the making of said road; and in the report of the jury made to and confirmed by such court, the damage shall be paid by the county in which the damage is sustained.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, That on the report of the engineer and commissioners herein directed to be appointed, being made to the Governor, shewing that they have performed the duty required of them by the third section of this act, it shall be the duty of the Governor to appoint one of such commissioner or other suitable person to act as agent of the State, to contract for and

superintend the making of said road; and it shall be his duty to let out and contract for the building of said road in lots of one mile each, to be let to the lowest bidder.

Sec. 6. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the commissioners or agent aforesaid, so to provide, in each contract, that no part of the price for making any lot shall be paid until the lot is completed and received; and the payment shall only then be made; the collections are made on the debts due the State for the sale of the Cherokee lands, and from the sales to be hereafter made of the unsold Cherokee lands, or in the bonds themselves, if the contractor shall prefer them, and to be collected only at such times as the other bonds are or shall by law be made collectible; and the contracts shall be made as far as the collections and receipts from said debts and lands will justify, and no farther.

Sec. 7. Be it further enacted, That all the bonds due the State for the sales of Cherokee lands, and all judgments rendered on such bonds, together with all the lands, sold and unsold, when the purchase money has not been paid, in the counties of Cherokee, Macon and Haywood, are hereby pledged for the making of said road, until the same is completed.

Sec. 8. Be it further enacted, That if any debtor or debtors of the State for the purchase of Cherokee lands, should become a contractor for building any part of said road, it shall be the duty of the State to give such contractor a certificate of the time of completing his contract and the amount due therefor, and such certificate shall be received in payment of so much on the debt or debts of such contractor, whether in bond or judgement; and it shall be competent for said agent to contract, to pay any contractor on said road in the bonds aforesaid, to be paid or collected according to the existing laws on the subject.

Sec. 9. Be it further enacted, That when said road is completed or any twenty miles thereof, it shall be the duty of the Governor to cause toll gates to be erected thereon, at convenient distances, and to collect from persons and property passing the same, a toll, to be by him (the Governor) and the agent of the State so adjusted and distributed, as not to collect in any year, more than six per cent, on the entire cost of the road; Provided, that no one shall be subject to pay toll at any gate in the county in which he resides, or within twenty miles of his residence.

Sec. 10. Be it further enacted, That all laborers subject to work on public roads, living within two miles of said road, shall be required to perform six days labor in each year on said road, under the same penalty as other hands are under for failing to work on public roads, and they shall be free from working on all other roads.

Sec. 11. Be it further enacted, That the commissioners and agent herein directed to be appointed, shall each receive for their services, two dollars per day to be paid out of said funds.

Sec. 12. Be it further enacted, That the portion of said road from the Georgia line to the East side of the Blue Ridge shall be first made, beginning at the West end.

[Ratified 27th day of January, 1849.]

AN ACT

To amend and consolidate the several Acts heretofore passed in favor of Poor Debtors.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That in all executions, the wearing apparel, working tools, arms for muster, one wheel and cards, one toom, one bible and testament, one hymn book, and all necessary school books, the property of the defendant, shall be deemed and held exempt from seizure.

Sec. 2. That in addition to the foregoing articles there shall hereafter, in favor of every house keeper, on his or her complying with the provisions of this act, be exempt from seizure under execution, on debt contracted since the first day of July, 1845, the following property, and none other, to wit: one cow and calf, ten bushels of corn or wheat, fifty pounds of bacon, beef or pork, or one barrel of fish, all necessary farming tools for one laborer, one bed, bedstead, and covering for every two members of the family, and such other property as the freeholders hereinafter directed to be appointed, for that purpose, may deem necessary for the comfort and support of such debtor's family; such other property not to exceed in value the sum of fifty dollars at cash valuation.

Sec. 3. Whenever any poor debtor, or, if a married man, in his absence, his

wife, may desire to apply for the benefit of the second section of this act, such application shall be made to some justice of the peace for the county in which the applicant resides, who shall appoint three respectable freeholders, disinterested and unconnected with the parties, to lay off and assign to such poor debtor the property to which he or she may be entitled under the second section of this act, and they shall immediately make out a full and fair list thereof, and return the same to the clerk of the court of pleas and quarter sessions for that county, who shall receive such a list, and file the same among the records of his office.

Sec. 4. Whenever any poor debtor shall die, leaving a widow surviving, who may not be entitled by law to her year's allowance out of the personal estate of her deceased husband by reason of any levy of any execution or otherwise, such widow shall be allowed the benefit of the second section of this act, in the same manner as her deceased husband would have been.

Sec. 5. All and every conveyance by sale, deed of trust, or otherwise, for the payment of any debt or demand whatsoever, of any of the property exempt from seizure under execution, shall be deemed and held as hereby declared to be null and void and of no effect.

Sec. 6. All laws or clauses of laws coming in conflict with the meaning and purview of this act, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC, AND INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTERS.

Relative to the Rating of Letters, the Return of dead Letters, Transient Newspapers, and the postmarking of Letters conveyed by the British and United States International Mails.

Hereafter, when a letter exceeds an ounce in weight, but does not exceed 2 ounces, it will be rated with 4 charges of single postage; when it exceeds 2 ounces, but does not exceed 3, it will be rated with 6 charges of single postage; and so on, there being a single charge for the first half ounce, a double charge for the first ounce, and an additional charge for each succeeding ounce, or fraction of an ounce, beyond the first ounce. This is ordered in virtue of the provisions of an act of Congress, approved March 3, 1849;

And, in pursuance of the same act, it is required that letters which are refused at the office of delivery, by the parties addressed, and letters which for any other cause, shall be immediately returned to the Dead Letter office in Washington, under address to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, without waiting the time for advertising, as heretofore required in relation to this class of dead letters—they must in every case be marked in red ink on the face, with an entry showing they are refused, or the cause that prevents their delivery; also stamped with the stamp of office, and with a view to the proper adjustment of the accounts, be placed under post bill to the Dead Letter Office.

Transient newspapers (that is, papers not sent from the office of publication) will hereafter be subject, in virtue of the act aforesaid, to the general newspaper postage rate only; that is, one cent for any distance in the same State, and 1 1-2 cent for a distance exceeding 100 miles, where the newspaper is sent from one State into another. But postage on such newspapers is in all cases to be prepaid, as heretofore.

In respect to British mails, where the official postage entries on the letters received are in red ink, the letter is to be considered as paid, and is to be delivered accordingly; where in black ink, as unpaid, and the postage is to be collected. Postage in such cases is either wholly paid or wholly unpaid.

The postage figures on such letters show, on the paid letters, the amount to be credited to the United States; on the unpaid letters, the amount charged to the U. S. The postage to be collected from unpaid British letters is in all cases to be, whatever may be their credit or debit figures, 24 cents for each additional rate, and, after the first ounce, each letter exceeding that weight is to be charged 48 cents, for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.

J. COLLAMER,

Postmaster General.

P. O. Department, March 15, 1849.

The Salisbury Watchman says that the people of that place have done nothing in the way of subscribing to the Plank road, and will not probably do anything until the fate of the Central Rail Road is decided.

THE PRIEST AND THE ROBBER.
A TRUE STORY.

Forty years ago, the scene here related, occurred in the heart of France. A Roman Catholic priest was called to prepare for his last change, a highway robber, about to perish on the scaffold. The good father used all his eloquence and all his efforts, to lead the prisoner to repent of his aggravated crimes, in vain. He observed that the mind of the latter was all-absorbed, that he seemed to heed him not. What could engage his thoughts in such an awful hour?

Do you not reflect, said the priest, that in two hours you are to appear before your Maker?

I do, said the criminal, but I wish just now to live and repent, not to repent and die, and the thought has come into my brain, and I can't for the soul of me drive it out, that you are the very man to save me from death, not to pave my way to it.

But, said the priest, even if I had the power—I cannot see that I have—should I not be doing a wrong to mankind, by setting you free, and be subjecting you to a further load of guilt?

If that's the only obstacle in the way, you may, my good father, be entirely easy on that score. I have seen the scaffold too near, ever to expose myself to its terrors again. Never will I rob or defraud more. I will be henceforth a changed man.

With eyes imploring and bathed in tears, he knelt before the holy man and begged his life. He appealed to a kind heart, and saw the impression he had made. The chapel in which they were, was lighted only by a window near the ceiling, and was more than fifteen feet from the floor.

You have but to put your chair upon the altar, said the prisoner, which we can place near the wall; you will then ascend on the chair and I will mount on your shoulders, from which I can gain the window.

In an instant the criminal was beyond the reach of the law. The priest remained tranquilly seated in the chair, having restored the altar to its place. Some hours after the flight, the hangman, impatient at the long prayers of the priest, who, he thought, might have put half a dozen souls on the road to heaven in less time, knocked at the door. Not seeing the prisoner he demanded what had become of him.

He must be an angel of light, said the father, for on the faith of a priest, he went out by that window. I saw it with my own eyes.

The hangman was amazed. Having closely questioned the priest, he demanded if he was in earnest. On replying in the affirmative, he ran to warn the judges. They hastened to the chapel, examined the chair, the window, the height from the floor, and saw no other means of escape than that stated by the priest. Their brains were perplexed. But they could not preserve their gravity at the sang froid of the good father while describing the flight of the angel, as he styled him, as he vanished, to take him along with him to the skies. Be this as it may, the church was too powerful in those days to question the word of a priest, who assumed to himself the merit of converting a sinner into an angel in an hour.

Twenty years afterwards the holy father was lost in the woods of Ardenne. The night came on—he was without food or place of rest. Wild beasts were prowling around. Step by step, weak and desponding, he still wandered farther in the mazes of the woods. His frame sank exhausted with hunger, fatigue and terror. He commended his soul to the care of heaven, and laid himself down to die. He had laid there some hours, when the light of a lantern shone on his face. It was held by a peasant who examined his features attentively. He aided him to rise. With his sinewy arm he bore the exhausted form of the priest to a neat farm house, delightfully situated in a fertile plain on the skirts of the woods. The father was nursed with care and restored to life, and warmly thanks his benefactor. On his recovery to eat, the table was spread for a new guest. A fine capon was cooked and neatly dressed, and every luxury the farm afforded set before him. A female neatly attired, with eight little ones, surrounded the table.

Father, exclaimed the peasant apart to him, after they had finished their repast, a wife, children, farm, all these blessings I owe to you. Wandering a medicant, chance brought me to this house, where by industry and honest dealing, I won the confidence of the father of my wife, who, on his death, left us this farm. I have prospered ever since in my affairs. My wife has been a real blessing to me, and my children with their ruddy faces and their

sweet smiles, remind me each day as I return from my daily toil, of what I owe heaven and to you.

The good father, whose conscience had often smote him for the fraud he had practised upon the magistrates, and the danger of letting loose a robber to depredate on the highway was set at ease. He embraced the now happy man, and devoutly thanked God that he had been the means of reclaiming a guilty criminal from death; and, thereafter, many were the pleasant hours which the priest and the robber passed together.

A Simple Question Answered.—“Papa,” said a young hopeful, “what’s an ‘In-ter rog-a-to-ry?’” “My dear, an interrogatory is a very explicit method, used principally in Chancery proceeding for obtaining a correct answer to a simple question. Thus: Whether John Jones, on such a day, and at such a place, did, should, could, would, might or ought; or whether he did n’t, should n’t, could n’t, would n’t, might n’t; or if he did n’t, should n’t, could n’t, might n’t or ought n’t, why did n’t he, should n’t he, could n’t he, would n’t he, might n’t he or ought n’t he; and if not on such a day, and at such a place, then whether at some other, and what day and place he did, should, could, would, might or ought; or whether he did n’t, should n’t, could n’t, would n’t, might n’t, or ought n’t; or under some other, and what peculiar, or if not peculiar, under some other and what circumstances; and if not, why not, or how otherwise, do it.”

Mr. Clay has addressed a letter from New Orleans, 17th February, to Mr. Pindell, recommending a plan of emancipation for Kentucky. It is published in the last Lexington Observer. The general points are stated in the following passage:

“After full and deliberate consideration of the subject, it appears to me that three principles should regulate the establishment of a system of gradual emancipation. The first is, that it should be slow in its operation, cautious and gradual, so as to occasion no convulsion; nor any rash or sudden disturbance in the existing habits of society. Second. That, as an indispensable condition, the emancipated slaves should be removed from the State to some colony. And, thirdly, that the expenses of their transportation to such colony, including an outfit for six months after their arrival at it, should be defrayed by a fund to be raised from the labor of each freed slave.”

He proposes “that a period should be fixed when all born after it should be free at a specified age, all born before it remaining slaves for life. That period, I would suggest, should be 1855, or even 1860.” &c. “Whatever may be the day fixed, whether 1855 or 1860, or any other day, all born after it, I suggest, should be free at the age of twenty-five, but be liable afterwards to be hired out, under the authority of the State, for a term not exceeding three years, in order to raise a sum sufficient to pay the expenses of their transportation to the colony, and to provide them an outfit for six months after their arrival there.”

Women and Matrimony in California.—A letter dated San Francisco, July 28, written by a lady to her friend in Massachusetts, says:

“Since my husband went to the gold region, houses have become vacant in all parts of the village, and the entire male population has left us. The women have been obliged, in the absence of the males, to congregate in large numbers, in the large houses, and live together and do their own cooking, &c. I am now living, as we call it, messing with a company of fourteen. The experience of the world, men have said, showed that women could not live together without quarrels and turmoil; but our sisterhood, at this time, gives a plain contradiction to this slander upon our sex. When not interfered with by men, and when permitted to drink our cup of tea “under our own vine and fig tree,” we are as quiet and peaceable as lambs.

The demand for marriageable women seems to be as great as for goods. This is the only country in the world where women are properly appreciated. The proportion of males in the territory is five to one of females, and the labor of females is as much needed in cooking, &c. at the gold region, as the males. There has been more marriages the last few months than in ten years previous, in this country. The squaws before they will go to the gold region, make efforts to get white husbands, which they soon obtain in the present state of affairs. Father Manga