

EXEMPTIONS ON OLD DEBTS.

In our last issue we promised, for the information of our readers, to publish every week one or more of the Acts passed by the late Legislature, and so, in another column will be found an Act in relation to personal property exemptions. We begin with this Act, because there is nothing that so much concerns our people or gives them so much uneasiness as the subject of "old debts," as they are called.

By a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, rendered a year ago in the case of Edwards vs. Kearney, the Homestead and Personal Property Exemption allowed by our State Constitution does not apply to debts contracted before April 1868. Our State Supreme Court at January Term 1875 in the case of Wilson vs. Sparks had decided that "our present homestead law repeals all other and prior exemptions, so that the debtor must take under the present law, or else have no exemption at all." That is, the exemptions allowed in the old Revised Code were repealed by the exemptions allowed in the Constitution of 1868. So that, the United States Supreme Court having decided that all previous exemptions were repealed, there was absolutely nothing exempted to the unfortunate debtor on executions issued on debts contracted before April 1868. The creditor could seize on and sell any and every thing belonging to the poor debtor, even to the coat on his back or the hat on his head. Such being the pitiable condition of the debtor class, it was absolutely necessary for the General Assembly to afford them some relief. Already had many executions been issued, hundreds of poor men were in daily dread of having everything sold, and indeed many cases of peculiar hardship and suffering had occurred. The debtor was completely at the mercy of the creditor, and something must be done and that speedily for his relief. Any large exemption that would seriously impair the obligation of the contract would be pronounced unconstitutional, and therefore the Legislature had to be very careful in enacting a law that would afford some relief to the debtor and at the same time not be in conflict with the Constitution of the United States. Many years ago, Judge Taney, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court had decided that "A State may, if it thinks proper, direct that the necessary implements of agriculture, or the tools of the mechanic, or articles of necessity in household furniture, shall, like wearing apparel, not be liable to execution on judgments. Regulations of this description have always been considered in every civilized community as properly belonging to the remedy, to be executed or not by every sovereignty, according to its own views of policy and humanity." The Courts will, therefore, doubtless uphold the constitutionality of the Act just passed, and all debtors may feel assured, in having exempted to them the articles mentioned therein, and should feel grateful to the Legislature for doing all they could to relieve them from these annoying old debts.

SLANDER OF WOMEN.

All good citizens must approve the Act published in another column making the slander of women an indictable offense. The respect shown to woman, is the marked characteristic of civilized nations, and the purity and virtue of woman (next to Christianity itself) is the chief bulwark of civilization. Heretofore the only remedy that the law gave a slandered woman was a civil action for damages (see Battle's Revised chap. 107), and as the defendant could claim his homestead exemptions, there was absolutely no protection in nine cases out of ten for the women of North Carolina against the vile slanders of any and every rascal who might wish to insult them. Now, however, any such scamp may be arrested, indicted, and punished as a criminal. For this act, let us give due credit to the late Legislature.

Speaker Randall.

The New York Herald, in speaking of the reelection of Hon. S. J. Randall as Speaker by Congress, says: "We congratulate Mr. Randall on his brilliant success. It is alike creditable to him and to the democratic party. It is an endorsement by the party not merely of his personal character but of the policy of moderation, retrenchment and economy of which he has been so conspicuous and determined a champion. Mr. Randall is the best choice for Speaker which the new House could have made, and the democratic party has reason to congratulate itself. We wish we could feel assured that Mr. Randall's election as Speaker is a guarantee that wise and moderate measures will prevail in the extra session."

Acts of the Legislature.

An Act providing for the exemption of certain personal property from side under execution. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA DO ENACT: Sec. 1. That the personal property herein after named belonging to any resident of this State, shall be exempted from any execution or other final process issued for the collection of any debt, when the owner or any agent or attorney in his behalf, shall demand, that the same, or any part thereof, shall be exempted from sale, viz: the wearing apparel, arms for hunter, one Bible and Testament, one hymn book, one prayer book, 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 and bedstead and covering, one cart or wagon, one work horse, the libraries of licensed attorneys at law, practicing Physicians and ministers of the Gospel, the instruments of surgeons and dentists used in their professions, and the tools of mechanics, and in addition to the above articles, there shall be exempted in favor of every head of a family, or house keeper, when the owner or any agent or attorney in his behalf, or in his absence his wife shall demand that the same or any part thereof, shall be exempted from sale, the following, viz: one sewing machine, one loom, all necessary school books, one bed, bedstead and covering, for every two members of the family, and all necessary farming and mechanical tools, one yoke of oxen, one milk cow and calf, fifteen head of hogs, five hundred pounds of bacon or pork, fifty bushels of wheat or rice, and all necessary household and kitchen furniture, including one cook stove and utensils for cooking thereof, and such other as may be necessary for the comfort and support of the family, not to exceed fifty dollars in value. Provided, however, that the entire exemption of personal property of the debtor, under article ten of the Constitution of the State, and all acts of the General Assembly, shall not exceed five hundred dollars in value. And provided, further, that the value of said personal property exempted, shall be ascertained as provided for in chapter fifty five of Battle's Revised. Sec. 2. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification. Ratified the 28th day of February A. D. 1879.

An Act to make the slander of women indictable. Whereas, The very existence of society of innocent women depends upon the unsullied purity of their character; Now, therefore, to protect them against persons who may attempt in a wanton and malicious manner to destroy their reputation, and to punish such persons, we enact, that any person who shall publish or utter in any public place, or in any private place, or in any place where the same may be heard, any words or spoken, which amount to a charge of incontinency shall be guilty of a crime, and on conviction thereof shall be fined or imprisoned at the discretion of the court. Sec. 2. This Act shall be in force from and after its ratification. Ratified the 8th day of March, A. D. 1879.

A Safe Investment.

On the first of next month an opportunity will be given to try experimentally a kind of Government Savings Fund. The "certificates of deposits" of the denomination of ten dollars, to be issued then and thereafter, bear interest at the rate of four per cent, per annum, but they do not fully answer the purpose of a savings fund, because they are not directly redeemable, but may be converted into four per cent, bonds. Ten dollars having been invested in a certificate, the holder to realize upon it, must sell it at its market value, or having five of them, convert it into a bond, and sell that at its market value. The certificate will, however, be very useful to those who desire to buy bonds out of small savings for a permanent investment. They can by means of the certificates gain four per cent, interest on each ten dollars saved, instead of hoarding the money without profit to themselves until they obtained fifty dollars. There is besides a real advantage to the poor man in having his small savings put where, with perfect security he can recover, there is still a little obstruction in the way of his doing so. This prevents him from wasting his savings.—Raleigh News.

Correspondence.

"WE WILL BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS ON ANY SUBJECTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST, BUT WE MUST INSIST ON A RESPONSIBLE NAME ACCOMPANYING EVERY ARTICLE, AND ALSO THAT IT BE WRITTEN PLAINLY AND ONLY ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER. THE EDITOR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF CORRESPONDENTS."

FOR THE RECORD.

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP. DEAR READER:—Thinking perhaps you would like to hear something from us, I have concluded to write a few lines for you, to let your readers know our views upon some of the leading questions of the day. And the one which seems to be the most prominent in the minds of most people is the "no-fence" law. Now, we are opposed to the "no-fence" law, for many reasons:

1st. We think it premature; we are not prepared for it—our lands are poor, and we have to keep a good many stock in order to raise money through the winter season, for our farms in Spring, and we have a good range for them during Summer and Fall; whereas, if we had to keep them up, we could not keep them at all, for we have no meadows, or other fields to feed on, consequently we would have to dispose of them, and of course we should have to give them away or kill them, for there would be no buyers. Again, ours is a dry portion of the country, not one man in four or five that has lasting water in a dry season, then the stock has to resort to the creeks and rivers to get water. If we had no other reason, that is sufficient for us to oppose such a law at this time. But that is not the most of our people keep a good many sheep, and of course they would have to dispose of them, for when you pasture them any length of time, they will take what we call rot, and they are sure to die. We should then have to dispose of our most profitable stock altogether.

Some who are in favor of the law, say that it will be a great saving of labor and expense to the farmer; that he will save his timber and the expense of keeping up his fence. It seems that the fencing is the main object, if they can get rid of that, it is all they care for. Now, if you keep your stock at all, you are compelled to make fences to keep them under, and I much rather make a little more fence to inclose my farm and let my stock take the range—cattle and sheep the grass and hogs the acorns which we are blessed with more or less every fall. I find some of the advocates of this law talk of economy and such a law would greatly improve the stock, and the farmer could farm to more advantage with less labor and expense, and all such stuff as that. I have been trying to farm several years, and I have heard many propositions by those that were not farmers, and particular public men to improve the farming interest, and I have as yet got to see the first thing that has been done for the benefit of the farmer. If you want to economize so as to prove a blessing and benefit to the farmer, commence at the fountainhead. Talk about curtailing his expenses by abolishing some of our State Institutions. We have a full negro paradise created at Raleigh, in order to punish crime, the expense of which to Christian County alone, is not less than \$2500 annually, so I have been credibly informed by some of the officers of the county. Now if you want to advance the interest of the farmer, abolish this thing and erect the whipping post and gallows, which is a punishment for crime, and you will benefit the farmer a great deal more than to pass the "no fence" law, and a great deal less crime committed. Now if a man commits a crime sufficient to send him to the Penitentiary, he lies in Jail from one to six months, then Court has to sit every two weeks to try him, he is then sent to the fatening pen for two, four, or ten years, as the case may be, there he is fed clothed, etc., and not only that, but a servant must be hired to look after him and see that he is not molested, either by day or by night, he is to be fed, also have large wages at the expense of the farmer. Now if you have such a tender feeling for the farmer and his interest, talk of abolishing some unnecessary institutions which we now have under the pretext of punishing crime. Then we will have peace and plenty and the interest of every branch of industry will be enhanced and he paying a great deal more.

Since writing the above the "no-fence" law has passed the Legislature, but we intend to lay it to the shade next August. Keep up our fences and keep our stock and in stead of selling your beef at fifteen or twenty cents per lb, which the buyer would have to pay under the "no-fence" law, we will sell it at 4 and 5 cts., and mutton and lamb as much as you please, whereas, under that law, you could not get it at all. A man and the other day who has had some experience under the "no-fence" law, that if a man would make him a pasture just when he would say and build him a barn on it, and fill it with hay, he would not go to it three times a day through the year to feed his stock for them. Now if this is the experience of those who have tried it, we do not want to try it at all. Another intelligent gentleman said he traveled through a State, or a portion of it where they had this law, and saw cows with a rope around their horns and they tied to a post because they had no where else to put them, and it would be the case here with those who have no land.

The old adage is "let well enough alone," and a good one. We were doing well enough before we had a Penitentiary; now how is it? Let every thinking man speak out.—M. G. anon.

FOR THE RECORD.

OUR HILL, March 18th, 1879. Mr. Editor:—There is a great deal said about the "no-fence" law. The western part of the county is not ready for the "no-fence" law, and I have my doubts whether any of the county is near as ready as they make out they are. I must agree there is need of a change, but we need more fences and better ones than we have. Talk about turning out crops up here; why, there are old men about here that would whip all the skin off their boys, if they were to hint such a thing as turning out a crop of corn. I saw in the letter of Col. J. F. Rives that he had been to Cabarrus, and saw poor old milk cows tied to stakes, and they looked like they hated it. I knew one of my neighbors to try the "stake law" with a jack, and when he went at night to take his jack home, he was found choked to death. The loss was estimated at three hundred dollars. There is a heap of fuss about the public roads, but when you have to keep the public gates shut by the public you will have a fuss sure enough. We can't keep our private gates shut as we should. Perhaps the time will come when we can't do any better, but we can now, and let us put it off as long as we can, for many will curse the day when it does come.

TOM.

From the North Carolina Presbyterian. Supplemental Health Bill.

We are not disposed to decry the North Carolina Legislature which has just adjourned. It has certainly done some things which entitle it to high commendation. One of these is the passage of the bill supplemental to the bill establishing a Board of Health for the State. By this new bill the State Board of Health is composed of six members of the State Medical Society and three appointees of the Governor. Its duties are to collect and tabulate vital statistics as reported by the county boards, to issue bulletins on sanitary matters of a public character, and to visit localities and investigate threatened outbreaks of disease which may prove dangerous to the public health. To enable a full performance of the last named service ample powers are conferred on the members of the Board as advisers of the State in matters appertaining to the location of all public institutions, Public vaccination is also provided for and the Secretary of the Board is the agent of the State for providing the vaccine supply. The chairman of the Board, has charge also of legal analyses in cases of suspected poisoning throughout the State. County boards of health are provided for to be composed of all physicians eligible to membership in the respective county medical societies, the mayor of the county town, Chairman of the Board of County Officers, and the city or county surgeon. A Superintendent of Health for each county in the State is to be elected by the county Board of health, to receive pay for his services and be held strictly accountable for non-performance of duties. He is to register of vital statistics and physicians to the county institutions, and is empowered to abate all nuisances prejudicial to public health. The appropriation by the Legislature is \$200 and the necessary stationery and printing. We feel that this is a vast stride in the right direction, and anticipate that the beneficent results will be so manifest that North Carolinians will point with special pride to the health system of their State, and our law-makers regard it as an institution to be specially cherished.

Religious. The Southern Baptist Convention, representing upward of 1,000,000 communicants, will hold its next annual meeting at Atlanta, Ga., beginning May 8th. The convention conducts home and foreign missions and other benevolent schemes. The Methodist Episcopal Church, according to official reports, had a net gain in 1878 of 497 members and 212 local preachers, 33,800 professions, 447 churches, 155 parsonages, and 47,379 scholars in Sunday-schools. There was a decrease, however, of 7,126 probationers. The Church has now 1,698,282 communicants, 11,676 churches, and 12,749 local preachers, 16,614 churches, 19,931 Sunday-schools, and 1,531,997 scholars. As an evidence of the remarkable growth of the Presbyterian Church in the south of England, and it is interesting to note that whereas but a few years ago there were only twenty congregations in the Presbytery of London, with not a single ministerial stipend exceeding \$2,000, there are now no less than seventy-two churches in the same Presbytery, in twenty eight of which the salary given reaches \$2,000, while in eight instances it ranges from \$1,000 to \$8,000.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. CHRISTOPHERS & SORRELL, Wholesale and Retail Grocers & Commission Merchants, No. 15 Hargett Street, RALEIGH, N. C.

Disastrous Storm. MEMPHIS, March 22.—A storm of the severest nature swept over Memphis just after midnight. It came from the south-west and continued for three hours. During its progress lightning struck the Memphis cotton and woolen mills, situated in the southern portion of the city, which were nearly consumed. These mills were valued at \$90,000 and employed a force of one hundred and twenty-five persons, who are thus thrown out of employment. Insurance amounts to \$60,000.

An Old Couple. Seventy-Five years of married life is rare experience; yet an old couple in Fairfield county, Conn., lay claim to this unusual honor. They were man and wife long before the War of 1812, and have lived happily and peacefully together through three wars on this continent.—New York Herald.

An Innocent Man Punished. William Harbison, the young man who was under sentence of penal servitude for the murder in 1876 of a policeman at Whalley Range, near Manchester, in England, has received a free pardon. Before his execution the notorious Peace confessed that he (Peace) was guilty of the crime. The Home Secretary promises to do all that is possible for Harbison's future welfare. John Bright wrote some time ago, declaring his belief in Harbison's innocence.

A Famine. A famine next year in Russia is predicted by Russian journals. Last year about one third of the crop was destroyed by beetles and marmots, so that the seed has been deficient, and the cattle plague took off nearly ninety per cent, of the cattle in many places. To these things must be added the extraordinary drought of the past half year.—Observer.

A Threatened Indian Raid.

The probability of serious Indian trouble during the coming summer has for some time engaged the attention of the authorities. The attitude of Sitting Bull has for a long time been very unsatisfactory, and it has been known that he was endeavoring to excite the Indians south of him to hostilities. Col. Walsh reports that the old chief with his warriors are showing a very ugly and insubordinate disposition. As soon as spring opens serious trouble is apprehended. Colonel Walsh estimates the strength of Sitting Bull's band 7,000 all told, of whom 5,000 are warriors, well armed and equipped. It has been decided by Gen. Sherman to transport the Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Regiments, now at Atlanta, to Bismarck, Dak., as speedily as possible.—Washington National Republican, 24th.

Judges Indicted.

LYNNHURST, Va., March 20, 1879.—In the United States District Court the Grand Jury to-day, in obedience to the instructions of Judge Rives, found true bills of indictment against nine county Judges. These Judges are indicted under the fourth clause of the Civil Rights bill for failing to place negroes on juries in their several counties. It is understood one or more of the Judges will surrender themselves prisoners when their case shall be reached on the docket, without waiting for process to issue, and at once go to Chief Justice Waite on writs of habeas corpus, so that these cases may be adjudicated in the United States Supreme Court at the same time with the cases of the judges who were indicted at Danville and arrested a few days ago.

The Cultivation of Chafas.

The Lexington, S. C. Dispatch says: "The experience of several farmers in the county proves this to be one of the easiest cultivated and most profitable crops for hogs which can be raised. A prejudice against it has existed with many of our farmers simply because they believed that to be nothing else but that pest 'mud grass.' Such, however, is not the fact, for instead of being a pest, and impossible to exterminate, they die out if not planted yearly. Judge Wingard has tested its merits and says that one acre will furnish food and fat for as many hogs as eight acres of the same land in corn. Major Meade has also given them a fair trial and is highly satisfied with the result. Several of our small farmers who planted them last year, pronounce the crop to be the most profitable one which they can raise, and say that where planted with intervening rows of corn, the hogs trample them so much that they will not touch the corn. Chafas also are very fond of them and thrive upon them. One advantage which the crop possesses is, that after gathering as much as you wish for seed, the remainder is left in the ground for the hogs to gather, which is a great saving of labor."

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. W. C. & A. J. Stronach, GROCERS and COMMISSION MERCHANTS, No. 1 Fayetteville St., No. 4 Martin St., and No. 6 Market Square.

As Grocers. We offer to the trade and consumers, a large and varied stock of HEAVY and FANCY Groceries. Without attempting to enumerate, we have every article usually found in a first-class grocery store. For our own convenience, and for the comfort of our customers, we have recently purchased a Hydro Patent Reamer and one of the Enterprise Company's large tubs. We are thus enabled to sell prices reduced off our figures within the reach of every one.

As Commission Merchants. We have unusual facilities for handling Cotton and all manner of Country Produce—one of our Stores being immediately on Market Square. Our W. C. Stronach, who has been engaged in the Cotton business for twelve years, gives his personal attention to consignments of Cotton, and any one shipping to us may feel well assured that their cotton will be properly weighed and highest market price obtained. Liberal advances made on Consignments.

AS AGENTS. —FOR THE— Bradley Fertilizer Company. We control two of the best Guano manufactured in the United States, both unsurpassed in the cultivation of cotton, wheat, corn and tobacco. We recommend for stiff clay soil, Sea Fowl Guano; for light sandy soil, Bradley's Patent Super-Phosphate of Lime. These Guanos have been used by thousands in this section, and we number among our customers some of the best farmers in the State. Circulars and certificates furnished on application. Seed Irish Potatoes of the Best Variety! Raleigh, N. C. feb12 ju

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W. C. & A. J. Stronach, GROCERS and COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

No. 1 Fayetteville St., No. 4 Martin St., and No. 6 Market Square. As Grocers. We offer to the trade and consumers, a large and varied stock of HEAVY and FANCY Groceries. Without attempting to enumerate, we have every article usually found in a first-class grocery store. For our own convenience, and for the comfort of our customers, we have recently purchased a Hydro Patent Reamer and one of the Enterprise Company's large tubs. We are thus enabled to sell prices reduced off our figures within the reach of every one.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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