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Letters addressed to the Randolph Sun will receive prompt attention.

[Written for the Randolph Sun.]
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND
THE HOMESTEAD.

BY *

The homestead provision of the Constitution of 1868 was the most beneficent act of legislation ever placed upon the statute book of any State. Although it has ultimately been decided to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States, it has operated as a stay of old debts for a period of exactly ten years from the day of its enactment. By means of it enterprising and prudent debtors have been enabled to compromise their liabilities upon terms which have permitted them to maintain themselves and families, and thousands of those who were unable to do this, even, have been able to keep a roof over their heads and make a comfortable livelihood during the same period. Such have, in effect, held their homesteads, rent free, for ten years. Probably one-half of the homesteaders of the State have compromised their old liabilities or might easily have done so. The object of the law was not to protect men who could pay their debts in full, but those who could not. It was for the honest debtor who would otherwise be impoverished, and not the sharper who sought to avoid his just liabilities, whom it was intended to protect. Those men who were so deeply involved that they could not even pay off their debts at the low rates for which they might have compromised at any time during this period, or at the rate of from five to twenty cents on the dollar, may not be able to save their homesteads.

If the whole tide of debt had been turned loose upon the country in 1868, a few sharpers in each county would have bought up the greater portion of the land in them. Even as it was every one knows that from 1868 to 1872 any amount of land was sold in this county under process at from ten cents to one dollar per acre. In one case a sale was twice set aside by the court when made by an administrator because it brought once only nine and the other time only thirteen cents per acre. While the prices of produce, &c., were good, and the harvests abundant, there had been no time to repair the disastrous results of war and the people had no money with which to protect their homesteads. Fully one half of the homesteads might have been bought with fifty per cent. of the liabilities of the owners and the creditors would still have held the balance of the judgments over the heads of the unfortunate creditors. There is now more ability to discharge them because they have had some time to gather sustenance.

It was never claimed that the homestead was an absolute and a certain relief. It was known by all to be an experiment in legislation—a new protective policy for an impoverished and prostrate people. The Republican Supreme Court of the State held it good and absolute upon appeal in about forty cases. The uncertainty as to the result, and the public feeling against the reversal of this decision was so great and the distress and suffering it would produce among the people was so evident that no one could be found to carry it to the Supreme Court of the United States until Col. L. C. Edwards, of Granville county, one of the Democratic State Executive Committee, brought suit against Archibald Kearsey, an old colored man, to take away his home! But for this the homestead law would have barred old debts to-day. So that the record of the two parties is this:

REPUBLICAN.

1. This party protected 100,000 homes from execution for ten years, thus saving the aged from suffering and the young from poverty, so as to prevent debt at the polls.

2. During this period fully two-thirds of the old claims thrown by the heirs have become stale, and only twice as long as any to defeat and break other schemes of relief ever devised, and though it protected

3. This party tried thousand dollars to protect the poor against a poor creditor's home and gave

devised a plan which

state, because recognized the that the nation's homes

DEMOCRATIC.

1. This party de- announced and opposed the homestead in 1868, and only ac- cepted it when it became stale.

2. It was over- come by the influence of one of its leading members in the bar of the order to secure a statute of limitations of less than a

3. This party gave its entire influence twice as long as any to defeat and break other schemes of relief ever devised, and though it protected

has absolutely saved twice as many Dem- fully one half the crats as it did Re-

homesteads o

state, because recognized the that the nation's homes

HOW JED MISSED IT.

Some folks are in the habit of talking in their sleep, and Miss Betty Wilson was one of the number.

This peculiarity she accidentally revealed to Jedediah Jenkins, in a careless, conversational way. Jedediah had just finished the recital of a matrimonial dream, in which the young lady and himself figured as hero and heroine—he having invented the same for the sake of saying, at the conclusion, it was "too good to be true," and by thus speaking parables, assuring the damsel of what he dared not to speak plainly. "I don't dream," said Betsey, "but I sometimes talk half the night, and tell everything I know in my sleep."

"You don't say so?" "Yes; I never can have a secret from mother.

If she wants to know anything, she pumps me after I've gone to bed and I answer her questions as honestly as if my life depended on it. That's the reason I wouldn't go to ride the other night. I knew she would find it out. It is awful provoking!"

Some days after this, Jed called at the house and entering the parlor announced, found Miss Betsey, probably overcome by the heat of the sofa,"

Now Jed, as the reader has surmised, had long felt an overwhelming partiality for the young lady, and yearned to know it was returned, but though possessed of sufficient courage, to mount "the imminent, deadly breach," or breeches, (coynish ones, we mean,) he could never muster spunk enough to inquire into the state of her heart. But he now bethought himself of her confessed somnambulic loquacity, and felt that the time to ascertain his fate had come. Approaching the sofa, he whispered:

"My dear Betsy, tell me, oh tell me the object of your fondest affections!"

The fair sleeper gave a faint sigh, and responded: "I love—let me think—(here you might have heard the beating of Jed's heart through a brick wall)—I love heaven, my country, and baked beans. But if I have one passion above all others, it is for roast onions!"

The indignant lover didn't wake her, but sloped at once a sadder, but not a wiser man.

—Victor Hugo says, "Some day, before long, the seven nations which contain all humanity will ally themselves and be blended and lost, like the seven colors of the prism, in a radiant celestial arch; the prodigy of peace will appear, and the world will contemplate the immense rainbow of the united peoples of Europe."

—Elizabeth Allen, in a poem, asks:

"Oh, wiflow, why forever weep?"

Elizabeth is a little mistaken as to

SUBMISSION.

There is one little word that it takes us all our life to learn. We begin the task when, as little children, we first hear the word 'must.'

It is hard, even then, for the childish hands to leave untouched the coveted object. Still, as the years pass on and on and we put aside our childhood, with its innocence and happiness, and take up the burden of life for ourselves, we find this first lesson of our youth yet unfinished. We have yet to learn the full meaning of that word, Obey. It was easier in childhood, because then we felt more the need of some higher power to direct our steps; while now we so often let go the hand that leads us through the darkness of today, that we may come out in the light and glory of to-morrow, choosing rather to 'Walk alone by night,' finding at the end only the 'outer darkness.'

Again and again do we refuse to obey and then when we find the folly of our own wisdom, we come back to the arms ever willing to receive us. When our lips have learned to frame the words and our hearts to feel, 'Thy will, O God, not mine, be done,' then is life's greatest lesson learned. But oh, how many times before we finish that lesson will lips quiver and eyes grow dim! We are of earth—earthy, and the heart will cry out when its cherished idols are broken; but

"The paths that have once been trod Are never so hard for the feet And the lessons we once have learned Are never so hard to repeat. Though sorrowful tears must fall And the heart to its depths be given, With storms and tempest we need them all To render us fit for heaven."

ALCOHOL AS MEDICINE.—Dr. Richardson has been delivering some interesting lectures before the Hunterian Society in the London Institution on the use of alcohol as medicine. He maintains that total abstinence is as sound a principle in disease as in health. The less physicians trust to alcohol, he says, the less reason they see to believe in it. Even in its position as a medicine, it is of all the more useful remedies the least necessary. He insists that the physician who willfully leaves its use to the indiscriminate choice of the sick, or to their ignorant attendants, commits a breach of trust which no professional protection, in this day of awakening knowledge, can, for any long time, excuse, justify, or guard him.

A lady said that this was the finest compliment which she ever received: She was on horseback, and as she rode past an Irishman who was standing by the roadside she heard him say: "I wisht I was in prison for the staling of ye."

Visitors to the Paris Exposition live at their disposal 7000 of small vehicles and 350