

THE WEEKLY CLARION.

A Western justice of the peace lately horrified a bridal couple, whom he was to unite, by coming to the house on a horse.

The Protestant Episcopal Church of America, has had eighty-two Bishops, of whom forty-three survive.

An exchange says that it is just as sensible a move to undertake to get married without courting as to attempt any business without advertising; both often prove abortive.

There have been 1,000 divorces in Massachusetts during the last six years.

The duty upon the new steam plow which has just been received in New Orleans from Europe amounts to \$3,324 in gold.

An Excellent Relief Measure.

We are pleased to see that a bill has been introduced in the House by Mr. Merrill, of Carroll, which grants to heads of families the right to sell, and convey perfect title to, the homestead, and reinvest the proceeds in another; and that neither the one sold nor the one bought shall be liable to execution or attachment.

In our opinion, this right should always have existed, but more especially in the present exigency of the times.

Many reasons might be given why this should be so. One is sufficient. The homestead in many cases is so worn and dilapidated that a large family cannot be subsisted upon it.

But no one will purchase at any price because, as the law now stands, it would be immediately liable to be sold for debt, and hence the only alternative is that the owner must remain upon it.

But let him sell and seek another location, and you give a new impetus to his energies and industry, and inflict no injury upon the creditor.

We trust this important bill will become a law.

A Law that Should be Repealed.

There is upon the statute book of Mississippi, one law of serious bearing, to repeal which, an attempt will, we understand, be made at the present meeting of the Legislature.

The enactment may be found on page 302 of the Revised Code of 1857. The peculiarity of the law which makes it odious everywhere, is that it appears to fix a stigma upon religion by depriving religious bodies corporate of important privileges conceded to all similar associations.

No church or denomination or society of Christians, and no Board of Trustees acting for them, or Institution under their care and control can, according to this law,

any lands, tenements or hereditaments whatever, either to be held by them as such, or sold, or leased for their benefit.

Any such donation in the form of a bequest becomes the property of the heir-at-law upon the decease of the grantor, while it is forfeited to the State in case it has been given by any instrument that is to take effect in the life time of the donor.

This is stringent to say the least, and seems to trench upon private rights as well as to clash with religious prejudices.

Since the law was passed, some ten or twelve years ago, several attempts have been made to repeal it; and once an act to that effect was passed by both Houses and went into the pocket of Gov. Clark.

It is in many ways obnoxious, however, to the people, and they seem determined upon its repeal or alteration at some time or other.

The motive with the framers of the law was, no doubt, to prevent the rise among us of great ecclesiastical establishments, dangerous to the liberties of the people from the amount of their property and patronage.

This, however, if we may judge, is at present among the least of our dangers.

Besides any such result would seem to be sufficiently guarded against in the charters granted to all corporate bodies which, of course, limit the amount of property to be held by them.

Another consideration urged in favor of the repeal is that it does not check benevolence but only turns it away from our State; for it is only societies and institutions within our own limits that come under the bar of the act.

In this way it is said many thousands of dollars are annually lost to the cause of education and religion in Mississippi, being contributed by her own citizens to institutions of other States.

It is well to be neighborly but this does really seem like carrying a good thing too far. Really, if our Legislature cannot devise some method of checking benevolence entirely, it does seem to us they might let our own State have the benefit of it.

The point we do not propose to argue, however. All we wish is to call attention to this grave subject and the action upon it of our present Legislature, which, we doubt not, will be wise, conservative and patriotic.

Proceedings of the Legislature.

SENATE JOURNAL.

MONDAY, Jan. 21, 1867. Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The President, Mr. Martin, presiding, Mr. Martin, Mr. Seal, President pro tem., was called to the chair.

Hon. Jesse Ellis, Senator elect from the district composed of the counties of Rankin and Madison, on notice of resignation, resigned, and Mr. Seal, President pro tem., called to the chair.

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On a call of the roll, a quorum being present, on motion of Mr. Martin, leave of absence was granted, D. F. Porter, Secretary of the Senate, for four days.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, the reading of the journal of the last day preceding adjournment was dispensed with.

On motion of Mr. Martin, the Secretary was instructed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate is now organized and ready to proceed to business.

Mr. King introduced the following joint resolution: Resolved, (the House concurring) That a committee of three on the part of the Senate, and one on the part of the House be appointed, who shall correspond with the several Railroad Companies of this State, and urge them, in view of the great scarcity of corn and money, to reduce the freight on coal to the rate of transportation.

Mr. Jackson moved to amend by inserting the word "meat" after the word "corn, which was lost.

On the further motion of Mr. Jackson, it was ordered, that the word "meat" be inserted after the word "corn."

The resolution as amended was then adopted.

The President appointed as said committee, Messrs. King, Brown and Wilson.

Mr. Taylor, by leave, introduced a bill to secure a lien upon cotton crops for money advanced or supplies furnished to raise the same.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, the bill was laid on the table, 300 copies ordered to be printed, and made the special order for Thursday next, at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Seal, by leave, introduced a bill to establish and regulate the lien of laborers, merchants and others and for other purposes.

Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Seal, by leave, introduced a bill to give a lien to merchants on growing crops for supplies, &c. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, the following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That Gen. E. C. Wallhall be and is hereby invited to a privileged seat on the floor of the Senate during its session or his stay in this city.

Mr. Wilson, the Senate adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

HOUSE JOURNAL.

MONDAY, Jan. 21, 1867. Pursuant to adjournment on 30th October 1866, the House of Representatives reassembled this day at 12 o'clock.

Hon. Saml J. Ghoson in the Chair. Hon. D. H. Hays called to order, on motion of Mr. Labaree, Mr. J. L. Power, of Hinds, was requested to act as Clerk pro tem.

On a call of the roll the following members answered to their names: Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Barry, Beauchamp, Brown, of Yalobusha, Bridges, of Tallahatche, Deason, of Choctaw, Durrance, of Harrison, Gilestray, of Harrison, Hamilton, Hearn, Henley, Hillyer, Hunter, Hudson, Irby, Jones, Kennedy, Labaree, Lewers, Liddell, Lusk, Mabry, Marable, Moss, of Madison, Montgomery, Morris, McLaurin, McMurray, Owen, Pennack, Phillips, Phipps, POUND, Reid, Robert, Seal, Shannon, Steele, Thompson, Wall, Webb, of Amite, Webb, of Franklin, and Williams.

The following new members having been introduced, presented their credentials and took the oath of office: Hon. J. M. Adams county, vice Hon. Jas H. Blanchard, resigned.

Hon. J. J. Dunbar, resigned. Hon. J. J. Dunbar, resigned.

Hon. A. Slover, of Tippah county, vice Hon. W. H. Holcombe, resigned.

Hon. F. R. Turkey, Sumner county, vice Hon. Y. McHenry, resigned.

A quorum being present, the Speaker announced the first business in order to be the election of a Clerk to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Robert C. Miller, Esq.

Whereupon Mr. Webb, of Amite, placed in nomination the name of Mr. J. L. Power, of Hinds.

Mr. Seal, of Hancock, placed in nomination the name of Mr. J. L. McCaskill, of Rankin.

Mr. Ghoson placed in nomination the name of Mr. J. M. Adams county, of Marshall, whose name was, however, withdrawn before the ballot was taken.

No other nominations being made, the Speaker appointed as tellers Messrs. Lyles, of Adams, and Seal, of Hancock.

The ballot was then taken with the following result: Mr. Power received 44 votes. Mr. McCaskill, 14. Necessary to a choice, 50.

Mr. Power having received a constitutional majority was declared duly elected Clerk of the House of Representatives and was duly qualified as such.

On motion of Mr. Labaree the Clerk of the House was directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives was now organized and ready to proceed to business.

A message was received from the Senate, announcing that body as now organized and ready to proceed to business.

Mr. Barry, by leave, introduced a bill for the encouragement of Agriculture, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Beauchamp, by leave, called up a memorial from the citizens of Noxubee county upon the same subject which was referred to the same committee.

Mr. Hillyer presented a petition from a large number of the business men of the City of Natchez, in reference to taxation in certain cases, which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Lyles, of Adams, introduced a bill relative to the assessment and collection of taxes in Adams county, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Seal, by leave, presented a memorial, with accompanying bill, to provide for the relief of the Southern Railroad Company, which was referred to the Committee on Corporations.

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House bill in relation to the education of orphans, &c., was laid on the table.

House bill providing for a new granting a charter to the town of Water Valley, in Yalobusha county, and for other purposes, was passed.

House bill to change the name of the Southern Railroad Company, was passed.

House bill to provide artificial limbs for the maimed State and Confederate soldiers and sailors, was referred to the Committee on the Militia.

House bill for the relief of James S. Davis, of Itawamba county, was laid on the table.

Mr. Taylor moved that House bill to amend the statute in regard to interest, be put upon its passage, pending the consideration of which, on motion of Mr. Cain, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE JOURNAL. TUESDAY, Jan. 22, 1867. Senate met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Rev. John Hunter.

House met pursuant to adjournment. Journal of yesterday read and approved. On motion of Mr. Napier, leave of absence was granted Mr. Brooks for an indefinite time.

Mr. Cain presented the memorial of D. J. Q. Travis, of Pike county, which was referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Lyles, of Noxubee, offered a resolution (the House concurring) That a joint committee of three on the part of the Senate, and one on the part of the House, be appointed to be called the Common School Committee, to whom shall be referred all bills and resolutions on the subject of common schools, and who are directed to consider the propriety of providing by law for the consolidation of the several educational funds of the State, and providing for a uniform county school system in this State, and to report by bill or otherwise, which was adopted.

Mr. Milton offered a resolution, That Gen. E. C. Wallhall be invited to a privileged seat within the bar of this House during his stay in the city. Adopted.

Mr. Hunter introduced a bill to remove the disabilities of minors from Hayden Dallas Tillman, a minor of Copiah county, referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Seal, by leave, introduced a bill to regulate the carriage of passengers and baggage by Railroad companies and to prescribe the duties and obligations of carriers and passengers in relation thereto. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Shannon asked leave of absence for Mr. Brown, of Issaquena, until first prox. Granted.

Mr. Shannon, in the absence of Mr. Hillyer, introduced a bill to incorporate the Rayona Manufacturing Company. Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. Jarden—a bill to regulate the payment of money on the part of the State, referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Hunter—a bill to incorporate the town of Crystal Springs. Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. Seal, by leave, introduced a bill to incorporate the Vicksburg Insurance and Trust Company. Referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. Webb, of Amite, offered the following resolution, to wit: Resolved, by the House, (the Senate concurring) That a committee of three on the part of the House, and one on the part of the Senate, be appointed to wait on His Excellency, B. G. Humphreys, Governor of the State of Mississippi, and inform him that both Houses of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, are now ready to receive any communication he may desire to make to them.

Mr. Lewis presented a petition to change the terms of the Circuit Court of the First Judicial District. Referred.

Mr. Seal, by leave, introduced a bill to amend the charter of the State of Mississippi, and to amend the charter of Aberdeen Female College, located in the town of Aberdeen, Monroe county, in this State.

Referred to the committee on Corporations.

Mr. Acker offered a resolution that the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reducing to one the number of Judicial Districts of this State. Adopted.

Mr. Jones introduced a bill to remove the civil disabilities of Chas. B. Dease, a minor of Jasper county, Mississippi. Referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

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