

R. W. THOMAS, Editor. TERMS: \$2.00 IN ADVANCE. CLARKSVILLE, 11: JUNE 28, 1873.

THE ASSESSMENT LAW.

In casting about for objections to the assessment act, the Legislature is unjustly censured for the complication of the schedule, when in fact, that body contemplated nothing more than an accurate list of all articles subject to taxation, and beyond this, the responsibility rests upon the Comptroller. But since the schedule embraces nothing that was not taxed under the old law, the people have little to complain of, though the assessors may feel embarrassed by the complex machinery, until use makes it simple. Some complain that it is an outrage that the taxpayer shall be required to give in his list, as under oath, which is equivalent to saying he would rather see one else should do his assessing. There is plausibility in this objection, but it should be remembered that this confidence in a man's honor, is a stronger appeal to his sense of justice, than even positive law, and is far more delicate, than requiring the oath to be administered by a recognized officer, when an unintentional mistake may assume the grave semblance of perjury. The Legislature desired to get at all the property subject to taxation, at the same time, to do it in the manner least offensive to the taxpayer. The Lord have mercy upon any people who have to be sworn individually, and threatened with the punishment due to perjury, to enforce the discharge of their plain duty to the government under which they live.

The farmers least of all, should complain of the searching character of the assessment, since it can be demonstrated that fully half the personal property in the State escapes taxation, and all which is lost by this evasion, has to be paid by the real estate, upon which there seems to be a growing disposition to impose the whole burden of taxation. Equally groundless, in our opinion, is the objection to taxing evidence of indebtedness, or notes of hand, and this grows out of the want of a better understanding of the relations existing between government and citizen. Whilst all will admit the right and justice of equal taxation—exactness from capital, the representative of property, an equivalent to the rate borne by real estate, few seem to admit that government can approximate this point of exact justice only by the application of general rules which cannot be made to fit exceptional cases. If a A to B land worth \$10,000, and takes notes for the payment, it is argued by many, that the notes ought to be taxed, because they may never be collected. Upon the same principle of equity, B may be taxed, because the land ought to be taxed, because the legal title is not in him, until the land is paid for. Were this conceded, the State would be deprived not only of the tax on the land, but its representatives—the notes for \$10,000. If A were so impoverished by the sale of the land as to exempt him from taxes, the case would present no difficulty, but if he consider himself as rich after, as before the sale, then the mere transfer of values, should work no change in the obligation of the parties to contribute their pro rata to the support of the government. Capital is but the representative of as much property as it will purchase, and no matter by whom, or for what purpose held, unless excepted for reasons clearly stated and of high public interest, should be taxed at the same rate. The Broker, the Banker, the speculator must all be reached before equal taxation can be claimed as the theory or practice of the government. No system can be devised that will meet all the contingencies growing out of constant interchange of values in the ordinary transactions of business life, and the law can establish no safer or more equitable rule than that real estate and personal property—whether goods and chattels, notes, bonds, or currency—shall be subject to the same rate of taxation—just exemptions being not inconsistent with the general rule.

The conclusions to which these views bring us, are, that the assessment law is none too stringent, and that it is a political crime to permit a man, worth a million in money, to get off with a poll tax, whilst his hardworking neighbor, with fifty acres and a family, is taxed to pay both real estate and poll tax. The more capital that can be made to pay tax, the lighter will be the burden upon labor. Let us break down this sort of class legislation and give labor a fair showing with capital.

The squabble everywhere going on, as to whether there is cholera in the United States, is practically, of no sort of consequence. There is a very fatal disease in the country, bearing the marked features of its predecessors, and the difference—if any—is not visible to the eye of the sufferer. Asia has no patent right for cholera, and we see no reason why this country may not manufacture a similar article, and even more malignant, if the sickening corruption of the administration is a predisposing cause.

BEAST BUTLER is determined to be Governor of Massachusetts. If he can get the votes of all his own stripe, he has a better showing than any representative of the assumed refinement of the State. We wish him success, not because he deserves it, but because it will be a fitting infliction upon a people whose purity and refinement is only surface show.

The "Rural Sun" comes back at the Knoxville Chronicle, in a style so clear and suggestive that the latter is thrown upon the defensive, and must make good his charges, or take the consequences. We allude to the attack upon the Bureau of Agriculture and the editors of the "Sun." We are not in the fight, but wish to see justice done.

The New York World publishes a telegram, which says that Gen. Beauregard had nothing to do with the equality meeting in New Orleans, the Chairman of which is a Radical politician of the same name, but no relation.

The Shah of Persia, through Minister Schenck, sends compliments to U. S. Grant, and a puff of smoke and a significant hiocrog will be telegraphed in reply to the salutation.

A GREAT MISTAKE.

The political mismanagement, recently attempted in Louisiana, is unwise, humiliating and wholly inadequate to accomplish the desired object. It is a voluntary concession of all that Summer's social equality bill was intended to secure by law, but even a Radical Congress was unprepared to perpetrate so monstrous a wrong against natural law, as perfect social equality between the highest and lowest types of humanity, and to enforce it by laws enacted through the direct agency of force and fraud. Suffrage was not conferred upon the negro either as a natural, or social right. There are no natural political rights, and though legislative enactments may elevate, or degrade society, in proportion to their wisdom, or folly, its interior, or domestic relations can never be regulated by the most arbitrary laws. Sink the white man to the moral and intellectual level of the negro, and social equality will follow as an inevitable result; but to do this, the white man must be un-made—as God fashioned him—and re-made after a Radical, political model.

Suffrage was conferred upon the negro to make him the mid-evil of the Radical party, and all that has followed that monstrous, unconstitutional wrong, has been done to degrade and insult the southern white man and to sink him, not only to the level of the negro, but lower still, to the level of the yankee carpet-bagger and the southern secessionist. The negro understands all this, and bound, as they are to the Radical party, by looks of steel, they will laugh at the Louisiana deal, as their masters will teach them to view it, and leave the whites nothing to compensate them for their voluntary humiliation, but the recollection of having justly committed a very mischievous blunder.

The God of nature stamped upon the races of man, in indelible colors, their relative grades in the scale of good-like attributes, and the history of the whole world proclaims those marks to be indelible, even by the hand of conceited and profane Paritism which seeks to remodel and improve the works of the omnipotent Architect. And it is to be regretted that the whites, of Louisiana, thoughtlessly stepped from the high pedestal upon which nature placed them, in the vain effort to enlist inferiors as allies, in their struggle against "man's inhumanity to man." The despot is never mollified by concessions to his lawless will, and the tyrant is never softened by the crime in both States, it is desirable that Wintersmith, a Kentuckian, shall stand on the Tennessee side, and Lucas, a Tennesseean, on the Kentucky side, so that neither State can prosecute for violation of its laws, neither of the offenders, being a citizen of the State in which they are committed. Any difficulty in interpreting the code of honor, might have been obviated by referring to the code of law. Of course, the Decalogue is too old-foggy a code of morals to be consulted by the representatives of modern civility.

DR. STRIBBLING sternly refused, the other day, to sanction a proposed increase of his salary, as Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at Staunton, Virginia. His conduct has been proudly contrasted with that of the Congressional salary grabbers, yet without due consideration of the relative difference. It is just as impossible for the innate meanness of that Congress to rise to the level of a noble act, as for Dr. Stribbling's exalted nature to sink to the level of such sneak thives.

The war still being waged against the assessment law, and the more of partisanship, and advice to assessors to resign, and advising none to qualify in their stead, is an act of hostility to the best interests of the State, for which we can divine no adequate, or laudable motive. It is the duty of the patriot to seek a remedy for existing evils, not to aggravate them by heedless denunciation and fomenting popular discontent.

We have often expressed the belief that Radicals would burn the public buildings in Washington, rather than the record of their villanies should fall into the hands of an opposition administration. In confirmation of this opinion, it is stated that the secret history of the war has recently been stolen from the war department. They may do as will if fire to obliterate the evidences of every species of villany.

THE WINTERSMITH-LUCAS AFFAIR.—We see from late dispatches that the conference between the friends of Wintersmith and Lucas, at the State line, did not decide all the points brought before them. The points of disagreement are to be determined by an umpire, and Hon. Jeff. Davis, of Memphis, has been selected for that purpose. His decision will be made known soon.

MOSBY has gone over to the administration and hopes to carry the Virginia Conservatives with him. They followed him once when he led them to repulse Grant and his horde of invaders, but as a traitor to their cause, they repudiate the man and despise his mercenary treason.

If Spain succeeds in forming a republic like this, she will do well to obtain the services of some of Grant's Mobilizer pets to put the machinery in running order. We can spare them if she can bear them. Without such assistance, she cannot build up a government like this.

THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC.

The discussion of the relations of the press to the public, and the public to the press, it seems to us, can only develop—perhaps more clearly—the fact that the benefits and obligations are mutual. Newspapers are rarely, if ever, established for a patriotic desire to develop material resources, promote intellectual and moral elevation, or keep wisdom to government, or keep sleepless watch over the temple of public liberty. The primary motive to such enterprises, is to make a living, and more if possible. It matters not however, whether patriotism or money be the object, or the motive, the fact remains, that if a paper is conducted in the interests of the people—judiciously advocating measures that are promotive of the general welfare—the public owes more to such a paper than the price of subscription, and that something more, is confidence and respect. In a business sense, the paper has no claim upon the patron beyond the price paid for it. It is a moral sense, however, that entitles the publisher to an amount to the higher attributes of man's nature, to assume that he feels no other than pecuniary obligations to the press that labors faithfully for the increase of knowledge and virtue—for the development of every source of prosperity and happiness. The patron of the press holds towards it, the same business relation that subsists between any other association and its patrons, but, in the very nature of things, the mechanic or farmer, whilst working for his living, cannot impart the same amount of useful information or exert the same moral influence over the community in which he labors. The mechanic or farmer may be more honest, more intellectual than the editor or publisher, and, therefore, more respected individually, yet, from the very nature of his vocation, he cannot establish the same relation between himself and the public that ought to exist between the public and the press. By parity of reasoning, we infer that the press, the self-constituted educator and "censor morum," owes far more to the public than thanks for the prompt payment of the nominal price of the paper. What it is under no obligation to work for nothing, self-respect and a desire to be useful urge it to work for all within the sweep of its circulation, though, as some contend, its obligations are to its subscribers alone.

We understand the difficulty in the way of the Wintersmith-Lucas duel, consists in the trouble of finding the exact State line. If duelling be a crime in both States, it is desirable that Wintersmith, a Kentuckian, shall stand on the Tennessee side, and Lucas, a Tennesseean, on the Kentucky side, so that neither State can prosecute for violation of its laws, neither of the offenders, being a citizen of the State in which they are committed. Any difficulty in interpreting the code of honor, might have been obviated by referring to the code of law. Of course, the Decalogue is too old-foggy a code of morals to be consulted by the representatives of modern civility.

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A LETTER FROM RED BOLLING SPRINGS, TENN.

Editors CHRONICLE: Six happy years spent in your county gave me many acquaintances, and I trust some sincere friends. Here is a letter for you and them. It has fallen to my lot in life to make many pilgrimages, long and short, but the roughest buggy ride of all the past, was a trip from Sparta via Livingston and Gainsboro, to this somewhat celebrated watering place. The hills and rocks were not to blame for the pain they caused, but the Creator formed them, but your correspondent formed a want of judgment in the route selected. An open two seated buggy, carrying four persons and a trunk, was something of a load for one horse to draw even on good roads, but think of crossing the Alps or descending one of the Pyramids with such a turnout. Three of our party usually walked up and down hill, especially down as we dropped from rock to rock, but the fourth, our dumpy four year old, held his position, and was dubbed "Squatter Sovereignty." Now and then, a long winding branch taking its rise in the gorges of the high hills, had to be crossed. The factor partner on the other side of the mountain, said that a cork-screw was an apt illustration of them. Our vehicle took it well, and as for "Sally," there were two things she was never known to finch from—a tough pull and a good feed of oats. But our buggy succumbed at last. It was not in the nature of oak or hickory to endure it. And our faithful nag too, on nearly the last stretch, lost all footing and lay sprawling in utter helplessness, till the harness was loosed and she was disengaged from the craft. Well, variety is the spice of life; we got through it all and reached the Springs without loss of life or limb, and without material damage to our means of locomotion.

The Springs are located in Macon county, twenty-four miles from Carthage, and about sixty from Gallatin. There is a good turnpike all the way from Gallatin and a regular stage line. The waters are sought mostly by those suffering from *calcutt*, and all diseases affecting the kidneys. In this line, some marvelous cures have been effected. I told the proprietor he ought to advertise, for if the public only knew the efficacy of these waters, it would be hard for him to furnish accommodations for all that would come. He said his patients were advertisements enough, that when one was cured, he told others. In fact the property has been in litigation since the war, and in an unsettled state, but is now reaching a more permanent footing. Capt. Bennett keeps a good table and has ample accommodations for his patients. His rates are moderate, as compared with other similar watering places, being only eight dollars and a half per week. It is my purpose to remain here six or eight weeks. For purposes of economy, I have rented a room and live in my "own hired house."

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To answer the question which Anon has propounded, (hypothetically, which would be the only one we would attempt) would require more space than we wish to occupy in the columns of your paper. Still, for the gratification of Anon, and all others who may feel an interest in the matter, will say that the animal, as well as the mineral kingdom, is charged with electricity. In the latter, we have a great variety, all differing in their magnetic powers. Science having availed herself of this great law, has constructed the galvanic battery, by taking advantage of the positive and negative qualities of electric susceptibilities as exists between them. Zinc (zincum) and copper (cuprum) and through them as positive and negative agents, with iron (ferrum) as the conductor, the world has been converted into one family by the Morse Telegraph.

The animal kingdom has its own force of electricity, and is charged with it. The highest in the scale being that of birds, next man, together with many other animals. To the cold blooded, belong fishes, as well as snakes, toads and other reptiles.

Doubtless these animals all differ among themselves (as well as do the metals) as to the amount of electric force each possesses. When a man is placed in contact with a battery with the view of being magnetized, he is negative to the battery and receives the electric current—he is then said to be shocked or magnetized. When one individual possesses a superior quantity of this vital force, and causes one of inferior power, to be placed in contact with himself, he then occupies the position of the battery in the former case—he being the positive, the latter the negative; in this case, the negative becomes surcharged, so to speak, with electricity from the former. This is mesmerism, which has

been the occasion of much deception. These are facts pertaining to the laws of science. Now for the hypothesis as to the power of snakes to charm birds and other animals. Can they? If they can, by what agency is this power accomplished? The only solution we offer is through electro-magnetism. Then charming is simply magnetism. When we consider that all birds and other animals of prey, are furnished with ample means for capturing and securing animals on which they subsist, and that snakes have no visible means for their defence, and subsistence, there is no very great stretch of the power of reasoning to conclude, that snakes, which prey on small animals, possess a secret power of capturing animals intended as food, and we hazard the opinion, that this secret agency is animal magnetism. The moist air, the medium through which the serpent emits his subtle fluid, after having once fixed the eye of the object of his victim, he proceeds to charge the surrounding air, with this unknown agent, his victim the meanwhile inhaling it till his nervous system becoming surcharged, he falls as a prey to his charms. The factor partner on the other side of the mountain, said that a cork-screw was an apt illustration of them. Our vehicle took it well, and as for "Sally," there were two things she was never known to finch from—a tough pull and a good feed of oats. But our buggy succumbed at last. It was not in the nature of oak or hickory to endure it. And our faithful nag too, on nearly the last stretch, lost all footing and lay sprawling in utter helplessness, till the harness was loosed and she was disengaged from the craft. Well, variety is the spice of life; we got through it all and reached the Springs without loss of life or limb, and without material damage to our means of locomotion.

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been the occasion of much deception. These are facts pertaining to the laws of science. Now for the hypothesis as to the power of snakes to charm birds and other animals. Can they? If they can, by what agency is this power accomplished? The only solution we offer is through electro-magnetism. Then charming is simply magnetism. When we consider that all birds and other animals of prey, are furnished with ample means for capturing and securing animals on which they subsist, and that snakes have no visible means for their defence, and subsistence, there is no very great stretch of the power of reasoning to conclude, that snakes, which prey on small animals, possess a secret power of capturing animals intended as food, and we hazard the opinion, that this secret agency is animal magnetism. The moist air, the medium through which the serpent emits his subtle fluid, after having once fixed the eye of the object of his victim, he proceeds to charge the surrounding air, with this unknown agent, his victim the meanwhile inhaling it till his nervous system becoming surcharged, he falls as a prey to his charms. The factor partner on the other side of the mountain, said that a cork-screw was an apt illustration of them. Our vehicle took it well, and as for "Sally," there were two things she was never known to finch from—a tough pull and a good feed of oats. But our buggy succumbed at last. It was not in the nature of oak or hickory to endure it. And our faithful nag too, on nearly the last stretch, lost all footing and lay sprawling in utter helplessness, till the harness was loosed and she was disengaged from the craft. Well, variety is the spice of life; we got through it all and reached the Springs without loss of life or limb, and without material damage to our means of locomotion.

The Springs are located in Macon county, twenty-four miles from Carthage, and about sixty from Gallatin. There is a good turnpike all the way from Gallatin and a regular stage line. The waters are sought mostly by those suffering from *calcutt*, and all diseases affecting the kidneys. In this line, some marvelous cures have been effected. I told the proprietor he ought to advertise, for if the public only knew the efficacy of these waters, it would be hard for him to furnish accommodations for all that would come. He said his patients were advertisements enough, that when one was cured, he told others. In fact the property has been in litigation since the war, and in an unsettled state, but is now reaching a more permanent footing. Capt. Bennett keeps a good table and has ample accommodations for his patients. His rates are moderate, as compared with other similar watering places, being only eight dollars and a half per week. It is my purpose to remain here six or eight weeks. For purposes of economy, I have rented a room and live in my "own hired house."

There is in the building five hundred hogheads of leaf tobacco and about half a million pounds worth of water. It is a good friend of mine, and he is used to have command in a regiment of which it was my fortune to be chaplain. To persons suffering from lung diseases, we would say keep away from here, and in this advice, Capt. Bennett joins me. It is certain death to the water. To such the mountain air and chalybeate water at Bon Air, near Sparta, are far preferable.

A good many of my unanswered correspondents, in your county, who may read this, will please excuse my seeming want of promptness. Yours truly, J. W. CULLOM. June 17, 1873.

THE CHOLERA

Its Progress in Nashville—Total Number of Deaths. In order to keep our readers posted in regard to the cholera since it made its first appearance here, we give as an uncompiled list, the following reports from this disease, to-wit:

Table with columns: Date, Whites, Colored, Total. Rows include dates from June 7 to June 24, 1873, showing the progression of cholera deaths.

Disarding altogether the statement of Mr. Felts—however reliable it may be as a general one—and whose veracity we do not call in question—still if the question as to the power which snakes are said (by common belief) to possess is to be answered, it must be done according to fixed laws of the animal kingdom, and not by any one or more isolated declarations, however well they may be authenticated, or strongly believed by the narrator.

To answer the question which Anon has propounded, (hypothetically, which would be the only one we would attempt) would require more space than we wish to occupy in the columns of your paper. Still, for the gratification of Anon, and all others who may feel an interest in the matter, will say that the animal, as well as the mineral kingdom, is charged with electricity. In the latter, we have a great variety, all differing in their magnetic powers. Science having availed herself of this great law, has constructed the galvanic battery, by taking advantage of the positive and negative qualities of electric susceptibilities as exists between them. Zinc (zincum) and copper (cuprum) and through them as positive and negative agents, with iron (ferrum) as the conductor, the world has been converted into one family by the Morse Telegraph.

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