

THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

THE INVOLABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IS THE ONLY SECURITY TO PUBLIC LIBERTY.

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THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY

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SIGNAL OF LIBERTY: Ann Arbor, Mich., 1845.

A BILL

TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

JUSTICES' COURT.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, That justices of the peace, in addition to the jurisdiction which they now possess by law, shall have original jurisdiction in all civil cases, as well as at law as in equity, where the plaintiff seeks to recover a sum of money, if the sum demanded do not exceed one hundred dollars, except in real actions, and where the title of real estate shall come in question.

Sec. 2. All suits shall be commenced before a justice of the peace, either by an amicable appearance of the parties, or by a complaint, made orally by the plaintiff or his attorney.

Sec. 3. Such complaint shall be a brief statement of the plaintiff's claim, and the amount which he claims to be due, after allowing to the defendant all the credits to which he is entitled; and shall be accompanied by an offer of the amount for which, by way of compromise, a judgment would be taken; and shall be verified by the oath of the person making such complaint, to the effect, that he believes it to be true.

Sec. 4. After a complaint has been made before a justice, and he has briefly entered the same in his docket, he shall issue a summons for the defendant, in which shall be stated the amount claimed by the plaintiff, and the amount for which, by way of compromise, he offers to take a judgment.

Sec. 5. On the return day of such summons, personally served, if the defendant does not appear in person or by attorney, such non-appearance shall be construed into an admission, that the offer of the plaintiff is the sum due, and the justice shall, after waiting a reasonable time, enter judgment against such defendant, in favor of the plaintiff, for the amount of such offer, with costs.

Sec. 6. On the appearance of the defendant, in person, or by attorney, and on being first sworn, to the effect, that he will state his defence truly—he shall state orally to the justice his answer to the plaintiff's demand, and shall also state the sum for which, by way of compromise, he is willing to confess a judgment. All of which, the justice shall also briefly enter in his docket.

Sec. 7. At the joining of issue, either party may examine the opposite party under oath, touching the matter in controversy, and any material facts thus elicited, shall be noted by the justice, and either party may vary the offer made to the other any time before the trial commences, and not thereafter.

Sec. 8. If an issue of law be joined before a justice, it shall be tried before the justice. If the issue of fact be joined, either party may demand that the same be tried by a jury, and such jury shall proceed in the manner now provided by law.

Sec. 9. All persons, including the parties to a suit, shall be competent witnesses to testify in any cause; any objection may be urged, affecting their credibility, but none to affect their competency.

Sec. 10. If any party to a suit, on being regularly subpoenaed as a witness, shall refuse to appear, or on appearing shall refuse to testify, such absence or refusal shall be construed into an admission of such facts as the opposite party will state under oath, he expected to prove by him.

Sec. 11. If it shall appear by the complaint, answer, or examination of a party to a suit, that a paper, writing, or book of account in the possession, or under the control of the opposite party, is material or necessary to be used either on trial as evidence, or to enable such party to put in

his complaint or answer, more perfectly, the justice shall issue a subpoena duces tecum for such party, describing the paper or book required. And if such party shall, on being personally served therewith, refuse to appear, or on appearing shall refuse to answer such questions as may be put to him touching the same, such refusal shall be construed into an admission that the contents of such paper or books are, as stated by the party under oath, seeking their production.

Sec. 12. If it shall appear as above stated, that a paper, writing, or book of account, be in the possession, or under the control of a person, not a party to a suit, on being subpoenaed as above provided, and he shall refuse to appear, or on appearing shall refuse to deliver or produce such paper or book, or shall refuse to answer such questions as may be put to him touching the same, such person may be punished as for a contempt of court, and the contents of such paper or book may be proved by other testimony.

Sec. 13. If a judgment be rendered in favor of a plaintiff equal to the sum and interest for which he shall have offered to take judgment, as above provided, he shall recover full costs against the defendant. If he shall recover a less sum than his offer, but more than was offered by the defendant, he shall recover but one half of his taxable costs. If he shall recover any sum, but not greater than the offer of the defendant, and interest thereon, he shall not recover any costs, but the defendant shall be entitled to the costs of the trial, to be deducted from the judgment. If he shall fail to recover any sum, the defendant shall be entitled to a judgment for all his costs.

Sec. 14. No cause shall be taken up from a justice court to any other court by a writ of certiorari. But if either party feels aggrieved with the judgment entered before a justice of the peace, he may appeal therefrom to the county court, organized by this act. And on such appeal being perfectly agreed to the law now in force, the justice shall send up a certified transcript of all the papers and pleadings in said cause, together with all such other matters as by law he is now required to enter upon his docket.

Sec. 15. In all cases of appeal from a justice of the peace, the appellant shall cause the transcript of the justice to be filed in the county court, within ten days from the date of the appeal; and the judge of said court shall cause a notice to be issued by the clerk to the appellee or his attorney, informing him of the time and place for the trial of said appeal, which shall not exceed ninety days from the day said cause was entered with the clerk; and either party may, at any time before the trial commences, alter or renew his offer to the opposite party, stating the amounts for which he will give or take a judgment; and on the rendition of judgment the costs shall be taxed, including the costs of both courts; agreeably to the provisions of section thirteen of this act. Provided however, That it shall be competent for the parties to stipulate in writing, as to the time said appealed cause shall be tried.

Sec. 16. The judgment of the county court in an appealed cause, shall be final and conclusive between the parties, and no appeal shall be allowed to remove said cause to any other court.

Sec. 17. If an execution be returned unsatisfied in whole or in part, to justice who issued the same, the plaintiff, in such execution, his agent or attorney, if he shall by complaint made under oath, make it appear to the satisfaction of such justice, that the defendant has in his own possession, or in the possession of another, property, effects, or credits, liable to execution, the justice may issue a summons for any such defendant, or other person commanding him, on a day to be fixed upon in such summons, to appear before him to answer under oath touching his knowledge of such property, effects or credits.

Sec. 18. Any person refusing to obey such summons, on being personally served therewith, the justice, on demand of the plaintiff in execution, shall issue a warrant for the apprehension of such person, and on his being brought before him, may be examined under oath, as provided in the above section; and if such person shall refuse to answer any question which may be put to him in relation to such property, effects, or credits, the justice may commit him to prison for contempt of court, for a term not to exceed three months; and on such examination the answers of the persons examined shall be reduced to writing by the justice; and he shall preserve the same among the files of the case.

Sec. 19. If on examination the justice shall be satisfied that the defendant in execution has property, effects, or credits, liable to execution, he shall make and enter upon his docket an order requiring

the person holding such property, effects, or credits, to transfer or deliver to said justice so much thereof (describing it) as shall be necessary to satisfy the amount due the plaintiff in execution: and if such person shall neglect or refuse to comply with such order, or to secure the plaintiff in execution for the amount due to him by a judgment and bail thereon, such person shall be deemed to be guilty of a contempt of court and may be punished as in other cases of contempt.

Sec. 20. If on the examination of any person other than the defendant in execution, such person shall acknowledge himself indebted to the defendant in execution, and the evidence of such indebtedness cannot be obtained, or cannot be sold on execution, the justice shall enter judgment against such person for the amount so acknowledged to be due, without costs; and a stay of execution may be put in, as in other cases; and such judgment when paid shall be applied on the judgment of the plaintiff in execution; and the original creditor of such person shall be forever barred from the collection of the debt thus transferred for the benefit of his creditor.

Sec. 21. No party shall be prejudiced by any proceedings had before a justice of the peace for the want of form, or on account of any technical omission; but the justice may, and he is hereby required to exercise a liberal discretion in permitting amendments to complaints and answers in any stage of the proceedings; provided, that in so doing no surprise shall be occasioned or injustice done to the opposite party.

Sec. 22. No witness shall be rejected, or his testimony refused. The relevancy of testimony, and the credibility of witnesses shall be for the justice or jury to pass upon, in viewing the whole case, provided, however, that this section shall not be so construed as to admit experts affidavits, or depositions not legally taken to be read as evidence.

Sec. 23. No pleading shall be allowed in any case, except the complaint and answer. And any material facts which may be elicited from either party at the joining of issue, on their examination shall be considered as a part of such complaint, or answers, as the case may be.

Sec. 24. No suit shall abate, or plaintiff become non-suit; for, on account of any non-joinder or mis-joinder of parties, or for any cause, but he shall be entitled to have his cause submitted to the justice, or to the jury, as the case may be, on its merits; and such judgment shall be rendered in every case as justice and equity require.

COUNTY COURTS.

Sec. 25. There shall be established in each of the organized counties of this state, a county court which shall be held at the county seat, for the transaction of all business which may be brought before it, agreeably to the provisions of this act. And the qualified electors of such county shall on the first Tuesday of November next, and once in every four years thereafter, agreeably to fourth section of article six of the constitution of this state, elect a suitable person to the office of judge of such court, who shall hold his office for four years, and until his successor is elected and qualified in his place.

Sec. 26. Such county court shall have original jurisdiction in all civil cases, as well as at law as in equity, and appellate jurisdiction from justices of the peace; provided, that if a party commences a suit in this court for the recovery of any debt or damages, and shall recover any sum less than one hundred dollars, such party shall not be entitled in such case to recover costs.

Sec. 27. The judges of the county court shall each keep an office in the court house, or other convenient place for the transaction of business. And the act entitled an "act, to define the powers and duties of justices of the peace in civil cases;" the provisions of this act, including the first twenty-four sections thereof, together with all other acts and parts of acts, now in force in this State, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, shall be applicable, and shall govern the proceedings in such court.

Sec. 28. The county clerk of each of the organized counties of this State shall be the clerk of the county court hereby organized, whose duty it shall be to perform all the duties now required of him by law, in conformity with this act; he shall be present at all trials before said court, and shall take down, in writing, all the testimony of each witness examined, agreeably to the form now in use by Masters in Chancery; and any law questions which may arise, shall also, in like manner, be noted, and the decision of the judge thereon; which testimony, so taken, shall be signed by the clerk, and filed with the papers of the case.

Sec. 20. The county clerk shall keep a calendar, in the usual form, in which

shall be briefly entered the proceedings had in each case, with the different dates; and all process which said clerk may issue, shall be under his hand, and the seal of the court; and all summons shall be returnable within ten days from the day of their issue, and shall be served, at least five days previous to the day they are returnable.

Sec. 30. Each judge shall keep a record, to be denominated the judges' record, in which he shall enter briefly, all the proceedings in each case which shall come before him, and shall make and record such judgment, order or decree, as the nature of the case requires, in the form as near as may be, now practiced by justices of the peace, which record, being signed by the judge, shall be all the receipt or made in such court.

Sec. 31. A judge of the county court shall have power to entertain proceedings to perpetuate testimony—enforce the specific performance of contracts—grant relief in all cases of abuse, and to prevent wrongs by injunction or otherwise, in as full and ample a manner as a Court of Chancery might lawfully do; and in all cases to enter such order, or decree as justice and equity require.

Sec. 32. The sheriffs of the respective counties of this State shall serve all processes issued out of, and from the county court; and shall enforce all orders and decrees made by the judges in such courts, according to the requirements thereof, in conformity with the laws of this State.

Sec. 33. The party against whom a judgment may be rendered in a county court, may, at any time within ten days from the rendition thereof, enter bail for the stay of execution for one year, to be estimated from the commencement of the suit, provided the surety offered shall justify in double the amount of such judgment before the county clerk, unless the plaintiff waives his right, and consents to take such surety: And provided further, That this section shall not be so construed as to allow a stay, except where the judgment, order or decree is for the payment of money.

Sec. 34. Executions issued on judgments for the payment of money, shall, in all cases be returnable within three months from the date of their issue; and if not returned within that time with the proper endorsement thereon, made by the Sheriff, he shall be liable for the amount of such execution.

Sec. 35. No levy made by a Sheriff on any real estate shall take effect or be valid, unless such levy be entered in a book to be procured by the Register of the county, and be kept in his office for that purpose. And every such entry shall be numbered, and shall contain the title of the cause, the date of execution, date of the levy, description of the property levied upon, and shall be signed officially by the Sheriff. All other proceedings on execution shall be agreeably to the laws now in force, except in cases for the sale of mortgaged premises, as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 36. The circuit courts of the respective counties of this state, after the first day of January next, shall be, and they are hereby abolished; and all the business, papers and books in such courts shall be transferred and delivered by the respective clerks thereof, to the clerks of the county courts respectively. And the county court of each county shall have power, and they are hereby authorized to take cognizance of all such business as may be thus transferred, and examine in to, try, and determine the same as if it had originated in said court.

Sec. 37. Any party feeling himself aggrieved by the final judgment, order, or decree of the county court, may at any time within ten days of the entry thereof, appeal therefrom to the circuit judge of the proper judicial circuit, as organized by this act: Provided, That the appellant will execute to the opposite party a good and sufficient bond, with one or more sureties, to be approved of by the judge, in double the amount of such judgment, if a judgment, or if an order or decree, in such sum as the judge shall require, conditioned to prosecute such appeal to final judgment or determination, and abide the order of the said circuit judge thereon; and conditioned further, that the certified opinion of the judge to whom such appeal is taken, shall be filed in the county court, where the same was tried, within six months from the date of said appeal: Provided however, That no cause shall be appealed which was appealed to this court from a justice of the peace.

Sec. 38. The appellant shall, within ten days from the date of filing such bond, procure from the county clerk a certified transcript under the seal of the court, of all the proceedings in said cause, embracing all the entries made by the judge in his record, and all the testimony taken by the clerk, including the law questions

which may have arisen, and the decision of the judge thereon, as taken down by the clerk which transcript shall be delivered to the circuit judge by the appellant, for the purpose of hearing before him as hereinafter provided.

CIRCUIT COURT.

Sec. 39. From and after the first day of January next, the justices of the supreme court, now in office, in this state, shall each have power, and they are hereby required, to keep an office in some central and convenient place, in their respective judicial circuits, as now established by law, for the purpose of hearing, examining, and disposing of all causes which may be brought before them, agreeably to the provisions of this act.

Sec. 40. Said justices shall be denominated "circuit judges," and shall not have jurisdiction of any cause, except by appeal from courts respectively, of their circuits. And in all cases where their decision is in confirmation of the decision of the county court, such decision shall be final and conclusive between the parties.

Sec. 41. Each circuit judge shall be ready at his office at all reasonable hours, to take charge of any cause which may be brought before him. And when a transcript is delivered to him of any cause appealed from a county court, he shall enter such cause in a book to be kept by him for that purpose, and assign a day for hearing thereof, not to exceed thirty days from the day the same is thus entered.

Sec. 42. The appellant or his attorney shall, within ten days from the day said appeal is thus entered, cause a notice in writing to be served on the opposite party, or on his attorney, informing him of the day assigned by the circuit judge for the hearing of said cause; and if such notice is not served and satisfactory proof thereof made to the judge on the day of hearing, said appeal shall be dismissed without costs.

Sec. 43. All causes appealed from a county court to a circuit judge, shall be heard on the transcript of the cause made out by the clerk, and no affidavit or other testimony shall be heard, or motion allowed or argued, except a motion to dismiss, as provided in the last above section.

Sec. 44. No delay shall be permitted in the hearing of a cause before a circuit judge, for any purpose except on account of the absence or ill health of the judge; and if either party should be injured on such hearing, on account of the failure of the county clerks in not sending up the whole of said cause as it was recorded by the judge in his record, and by the clerk as taken down during the trial, such clerk shall be liable to pay to the injured party all the damages which such party sustained on account of such failure or omission to be recovered, on complaint, as in other cases.

Sec. 45. In all cases where the clerk is a party or is interested in the event of the suit, the judge shall appoint some master in chancery to officiate in his place.

Sec. 46. After a cause has been fully argued and submitted to a circuit judge, he shall within six months from the date of the appeal, certify his opinion in writing to the county court from which such cause was appealed, and deliver the same to the party in whose favor the same is made; or to the appellant whose duty it shall be to file such opinion with the county clerk.

Sec. 47. The circuit judge shall make a brief statement in his book, of each case before him with the points which may be raised on the argument, and the decision which he makes in such cause.

Sec. 48. In any case of an appeal from the county court to the circuit court, the party appealing shall cause the certified opinion of the circuit judge to be filed with the clerk of the county court within six months from the date of such appeal; and in case of failure the appellee shall proceed in such cause as if no appeal had been taken.

Sec. 49. A circuit judge shall not reverse the judgment, order, or decree of a county court, on account of any want of form, or on account of any alleged illegality or irregularity, had or made in the course of a trial in such court, not affecting the real merits of the matter in controversy: Provided, that on an examination of the whole cause, he shall be of opinion that substantial justice has been done between the parties.

Sec. 50. If a circuit judge shall confirm the judgment, order, or decree of the county court, such confirmation shall be final and conclusive between the parties. But if such judge shall reverse, alter or modify such judgment, order, or decree, the party aggrieved thereby may demand that such cause be taken before the supreme court in full bench, as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 51. On the return of a certified opinion of a circuit judge to the county court, from which an appeal had been taken, the judge of such county court shall enter in his record a judgment, order or decree in conformity therewith; and shall add thereto such reasonable account, by way of costs, as he shall be of opinion would be a fair compensation for the expenses of the party in prosecuting or defending such appeal; and no judgment shall be entered or costs taxed by the circuit judge in any case.

Sec. 52. On an appeal being taken from the circuit judge to the supreme court, the appellant shall, within twenty days from the day on which the certified opinion of the circuit judge was filed with the clerk as above provided, make and file with the clerk of the county court, in which such cause was tried, a bond to the opposite party, in such sum as the judge of such county court shall direct, with one or more sureties, to be approved by such judge, conditioned to prosecute such ap-

peal to a final hearing, and abide the final determination of the supreme court therein, and pay all costs and damages which may be awarded against him on such appeal.

Sec. 53. On an appeal bond being filed as above provided, the county clerk shall give to the appellant a certificate under seal of such fact; and on the delivery to the circuit judge of such certificate, he shall immediately endorse on the back of the transcript the word "appealed," together with the date of such appeal, and sign his name thereto; and as soon as may be convenient thereafter, he shall forward such transcript, thus endorsed, to the clerk of the supreme court, for their final action thereon.

SUPREME COURT.

Sec. 54. The supreme court of this state shall consist of the four justices now on the bench, and their successors in office under the constitution and law of this state, who shall hold a session of said court at the seat of government once in each year, commencing on the first Tuesday of January, and at no other time.

Sec. 55. The supreme court shall have appellate jurisdiction from the circuit judges in all cases, either in law or equity, agreeably to the provisions of this act, and the laws of this state not inconsistent therewith.

Sec. 56. All causes shall be brought before the supreme court by appeal from the circuit judges and shall be heard on the transcripts of such causes, sent up by a circuit judge, agreeably to this act.

Sec. 57. The circuit judge from whom a cause may have been appealed to the supreme court, shall not be permitted to give his opinion on the final decision of such cause, but may give to the other judges any information respecting such cause which he may deem proper and necessary to their fully understanding the same.

Sec. 58. The supreme court shall, at its annual session, have and dispose of all cases brought before it on appeal from the circuit judges, and shall, on its final disposition of such causes, dispose of the same in such manner as shall be promotive of justice—having reference to the merits of each case, and not regarding a want of form or technicality, which did not affect such merits.

Sec. 59. Whenever a cause is finally disposed of in the supreme court, the costs shall also be so awarded as that no injustice be done to either party; and the court may, in its discretion, in any case where the circumstances would seem to require it, award to either party, by way of costs, such specified sum as they may deem sufficient to remunerate such party for any expenses to which he may have been necessarily put, in the prosecution or defence of his cause.

Sec. 60. No cause shall be taken into the supreme court by a writ of error or certiorari; nor shall such court have power to stay or control the proceedings in any inferior court by injunction or otherwise.

Sec. 61. The court of chancery of this State, from and after the first day of February next, shall be abolished; and the business in said court shall, after such date, be transferred to the supreme court of this State.

Sec. 62. The registers of the respective circuits in such chancery courts, in this State, are hereby required, on the first day of January next, to deliver to the clerk of the supreme court, all the books and papers which may be in their offices respectively as well, cases disposed of, as those not disposed of, for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this act.

Sec. 63. The supreme court shall have power, and it is hereby made their duty, to take cognizance of all the unsettled business then transferred to such court, and hear, examine and dispose of the same, in the same manner as if such business had been brought before them on appeal from the circuit judge; and if the justices of such supreme court should deem it necessary and important for the interest of the parties interested in such transferred cases they may, in their discretion, associate with them at their first annual session, the chancellor, who shall have a voice in the final disposition of such cases, the same as one of the justices of such court.

MORTGAGES.

Sec. 64. No real estate shall be sold on any mortgage, executed after this act shall take effect, unless the mortgagee, his heirs or assigns, shall first obtain a judgment on complaint, or by confession before the county court, in which the mortgaged premises are situated; and if the party in whose favor such judgment is rendered shall demand an order for the sale of the premises described in the mortgage, the judge of the county court shall enter the same in brief form in his books, fixing on the time of sale, which shall not be less than one year from the date of said judgment.

Sec. 65. A mortgage executed previous to the time when this act shall take effect, shall, on being foreclosed agreeably to this act, have the same length of time to run previous to the day of sale, that such mortgage would have had if the same were foreclosed under the present law.

Sec. 66. A party against whom a judgment may be rendered for the amount due on a mortgage, may enter bail for the stay of execution, as in other cases: Provided however, That if the amount of the judgment is not paid at or before the expiration of the time for which such execution was stayed, the plaintiff may, at his election, have execution against the principal, and bail in such judgment, or may have an order for the sale of the mortgaged premises, as in other cases.

Sec. 67. In all cases where the sheriff shall make sale of the mortgaged premises under the provisions of this act, he shall execute

a deed to the purchaser within ten days of the day of sale, and said deed shall vest in the grantee all the title of the mortgage to said premises; and on being regularly recorded in the proper county, shall be prima facie evidence in all courts of this state of the regularity of the proceedings, in the foreclosure and sale.

CRIMINAL PROVISIONS.

Sec. 68. In each of the organized counties of this state, except in the counties of Wayne, Washtenaw, Oakland and Jackson, the grand jury, which by law, is now returnable to the circuit court, shall be summoned and returned to the county court, once in each and every year. The first meeting of such jury to be on the second Tuesday of November, A. D. 1845; and the judge of the county court is required to perform all the duties in relation to such jury, which are now required to be performed by the judge of the circuit court.

Sec. 69. The grand jury, in addition to the powers now vested in them by law, shall have power to send for, and examine witnesses, as well on behalf of those charged with offences, as in behalf of the people, but shall in no case permit more than one witness to be present at a time, nor shall they permit counsel to be present on behalf of the people, or of the accused.

Sec. 70. Any legal advice which the jury may require in the course of their investigations, shall be given to them by the judge of the county court, if such judge be a member of the legal profession, if not, then such jury shall elect some member of the bar, for that purpose, in whose ability and integrity they can confide; and a certificate of such jury as to the value of such services shall be evidence to the board of supervisors.

Sec. 71. A warrant may issue for the arrest of any person indicted before a grand jury, and on being brought before the county court, shall there be tried before the judge or before a jury, in all respects as in civil cases. The postponement of the trial on the application of either party to rest in the sound discretion of the judge.

Sec. 72. Where a person has been examined before a justice of the peace, and held to bail or committed to prison, such person shall, at his selection, go to jail, give bail for his appearance, (if the offence charged be bailable) or go to trial before the county court; and if such person shall demand to be tried for such offence immediately, the sheriff shall take such person before the county judge, where he shall be entitled to a speedy trial, on the complaint made before the justice alone; such trial to be in all respects as in other cases on indictment.

Sec. 73. The judge of each county court shall keep a separate record for criminal cases, in which he shall enter briefly the proceedings had before him in each case.

Sec. 74. The clerk of each county court shall be required to keep a criminal calendar, and shall take down in writing all the testimony given at the trial in behalf of the people, as well as in behalf of the defendant, and all law questions which may arise, and the judges' decisions thereon, and sign, file, and preserve the same as in civil cases.

Sec. 75. Appeals shall be allowed in criminal cases, as in civil cases, unless the offence charged be such that by law it is not bailable, in which case the party appealing shall remain in prison until such appeal is determined.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Sec. 76. In any cause where a new trial is granted, either party may read the testimony of any witness who may have testified on the former trial, provided such party shall produce satisfactory evidence to the judge that the witness whose testimony is thus sought, is unable to attend such trial, or is beyond the reach of process.

Sec. 77. A judge of the county court may in his discretion grant a new trial in any case, if the party applying therefor, shall within twenty-four hours of the entry of the judgment, order, or decree, demand the same, and state to the judge in writing, the reasons or grounds of such application; provided, however, that no new trial shall be granted, except on the payment of the costs of the former trial; and provided further, that such application shall be argued and disposed of within ten days from the time the same is made.

Sec. 78. All the different forms of actions, forms of pleadings heretofore used; all non-suits, judgments as in case of non suit; all demurrers to evidence, or to any pleading; all common motions and rules; all notices of trial, or notes of issue and affidavits of merits, and all other proceedings, or practice, for which a substitute is provided in this act are hereby abolished, and all acts or parts of acts, inconsistent with this act, are hereby repealed.

Sec. 79. The sheriff of each county shall procure juries in the county court in the same manner, in which they are now procured before a justice of the peace by a constable, and shall perform all the duties in the county court analogous to those performed by constable before justices of the peace.

FORMS.

Sec. 80. The following or other equivalent forms shall be used under the provisions of this act.

OATH OF COMPLAINANT OR DEFENDANT.

"You do solemnly swear that you will state your complaint or answer as the case may be truly, according to the best of your knowledge and belief, and that you will admit or credit to defendant or plaintiff all sums due within your knowledge, and true answers make to all questions put to you touching the same."

COMPLAINTS.

"A B complains of C D for the non-payment of fifty dollars balance due, (on note of hand, book account, work done, breach of contract, price of a horse, or for any other matter, as the case may be), after allowing all credits, for which, by way of compromise, he offers to take a judgment for the sum of forty dollars."

"A B complains of C D for the non-payment of seventy-five dollars due him for damages (done his crops by C D's cattle, or by cutting his timber or trees by C D, or by C D's taking or retaining the cattle of A B, or by C D calling A B a thief, or that he had been guilty of perjury, or any other crime, or any other matter, or they briefly describing it) A B by way of compromise offers to take a judgment for fifty dollars."

"A B complains of C D for wrongfully keeping him out of possession of (east half of south east quarter of section one township three south of range six east, or other description,) and asks the aid of the court therein, to obtain the possession thereof."

"A B complains of C D for refusing to fulfill an agreement, to convey to him, A B, (village lot number 180 in Ypsilanti, for which C D has received payment in full, and prays the aid of the court therein, to compel C D to make a deed of said premises."

"A B complains of C D for not marrying her, according to his agreement, and claims damages to the amount of five hundred dollars, offers to take judgment for two hundred, rather than litigate."

"A B complains of C D for not accounting for all the property which came into his hands, as guardian of A B, & prays that the same may be enquired into, and that justice may be done in the premises."

"A B complains of C D who is a tenant in common (or joint tenant) with him, of here describe the premises) and prays for the appointment of commissioners to divide the same between them, and put him A B in possession of his portion."

"A B complains of C D, who is a partner in trade with him; and who refused to settle, and divide the property (or refuse to give an account of the property sold by him), and prays that the same may be enquired into, and such remedy applied, as the nature of the case, and justice may require."

"A B complains of C D who, under a pretence of license (or title) is cutting down and destroying the timber of A B, who prays the aid of the court, by enjoining him, C D, until the right can be legally determined."

"A B complains of C D is an important witness for him, in a matter now litigated, in which E F has an interest, and that C D is old and infirm, (or in feeble health, or is about to leave the county,) and prays to have him examined for the purpose of perpetuating his testimony."

"A B complains of C D, a defendant in execution and says the same has been returned unsatisfied, and that he has reason to believe that the said C D, (or other person naming him), has property, (effects, or credits, as the case may be) sufficient to satisfy said execution, and prays that the said C D may be examined under oath touching the same."

SUMMONS.

"State of Michigan, County, ss.

By the people of this state, you are summoned to appear before E F, judge of the county court, at his office, on the first day of January, A. D. 1845, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to answer to the complaint of A B, who (here insert in few words the nature of the claim, and if such claim is accompanied by an offer to take judgment, let the summons conclude as follows:) and who claims dollars, and offers to take a judgment for dollars."

L. S.

G. H. Clerk.

ANSWERS.

C D answers the complaint of A B, and says that he is not indebted to him for more than fifty dollars, but to compromise, will confess a judgment for fifty-five dollars."

"C D answers the complaint of A B and says, that he never signed the note mentioned in the complaint."

Or "that he paid the note (or account) to one E F before it was transferred to A B."

Or "that he had a receipt given by A B in full of all demands."

Or "that A B did not fulfil the agreement mentioned in the complaint."

Or "that he never used the words as stated in the complaint."

Or "that his cattle did not, to his knowledge ever do the injury complained of."

Or "that the property which he detains from A B is his own property, and not A B's."

Or "that he, A B never paid for the village lot claimed in the complaint."

Or "that the title to the premises claimed by A B is not in him, but is in one E F."

Or "that he is not the partner in trade of A B, but does business on his own account."

Or "that he has expended all the property of A B, in raising and educating him, and is prepared to make it so appear."

Or "that he admits the truth of the facts, as stated, but says that A B has transferred all his right and title in the same to one E F, who has granted license to him to cut timber or wood."

Form of entering such further facts as may be elicited on the examination of the parties.

"A B admits the payment of ten dollars by C D at one time, and of twenty dollars at another time."

"A B admits that C D was in possession of the property at the time he purchased it, and claimed to be in possession under title from E F."

"A B admits that he struck C D first, and excuses it by the threatening position of C D."

C D admits that it is his signature to note, and that he had the money from A B, but insists that A B agreed that if he paid the interest punctually, he would not sue it."

"C D admits that his cattle were in the field

of A B, but says there is not such a fence around the lot as the law requires."

"C D admits that he is the partner of A B in trade, and that he sold one hundred dollars worth of goods to E F, and now holds a note for it, but insists that there is nothing due to A B."

"C D admits that he promised to marry A B, and that a day was agreed upon, but says that he had afterwards heard reports which, if true, he was not willing to fulfill the agreement, being fraudulently obtained."

INDICTMENTS.

"State of Michigan, County, ss.

In the name of the people of the State of Michigan, A B, of the County of ss., is accused, on the pretence of the grand jury, of the County of ss., of the crime of Murder, committed by taking the life of C D, with a deadly weapon, in the town of ss., in the said County, on the day of ss., in the year A. D. 1845, against the people of this state, and against the peace and dignity of the same. A similar form may be used in an indictment for any other crime. And when an offence comprises different degrees, the indictment may charge the same in the alternative."

Sec. 81. The fees of the judge of the county court, under the provisions of this act, shall be as follows, viz: For every cause entered before him in which a judgment shall be entered without a trial, the sum of two dollars.

For every cause tried before him, the sum of five dollars.

Such fees to be taxed in the bills of cost by the clerk, and to be paid by the party rightfully chargeable therewith.

Sec. 82. The clerk of each county court shall be allowed for taking the testimony in writing on a trial, the sum of ten cents for each folio for the first ten folios, and the sum of seven cents a folio for all over that number.

Sec. 83. All other fees shall be regulated by the laws now in force.

Sec. 84. No account shall be charged or allowed against any county in this state for services rendered in any cause.

Sec. 85. The office of associate judge of the circuit court, from and after the first day of January next, shall be abolished, and all laws in reference thereto are hereby repealed.

Sec. 86. No cause shall be appealed from the circuit judge to the supreme court, which was originally commenced before a justice of the peace, and the circuit judge in deciding such cause, may take into consideration the proceedings had before the justice as the same may appear from the transcript shall have been brought before him on the appeal.

Sec. 87. The judges of the courts, the circuit judges, and justices of the supreme court shall each on the first day of January in each year, make a full report of all the causes tried before them, to the attorney general of this state; and such reports shall contain the number of cases settled without trial, the number tried, the number of cases tried by the judges, the number of jury trials, the number of cases appealed, and the number reversed, on appeal, and in reports may suggest any amendments, which in their opinion, would improve the judicial system.

Sec. 88. The attorney general shall on receiving such reports, put them into a proper and convenient form, and cause the same to be printed for the use of the legislature, accompanied with such suggestions, by way of amendments, as he shall deem necessary to simplify and perfect the same, by the removal of all obstacles in the way of a speedy and economical investigation of all causes which may be litigated.

Sec. 89. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after the first day of May next.

Population of the United States fifty years hence.—Mr. Darby, a gentleman who has paid a good deal of attention to the statistics of this country, has published a table in the National Intelligencer, showing the probable increase of our population to the year 1901. He makes it 101,553,377, or about fifteen times the present number. Mr. Darby says of this prodigious number:

"Even well informed persons, but who have not paid particular attention to the subject, may be excusably startled when they read the future increase and enormous mass of population stated opposite the year 1901, at the foot of either column. The tables, however, contain internal evidence of accuracy as far as the nature of the case can admit, and especially by showing that, in the previous half century to 1840, the population had more than quadrupled. Further, that the so established increase was made under difficulties, some of which are altogether removed, and all lessened in their deteriorating effects, whilist on the other side facilities of transportation by land and water, by steam, roads, and other improved means, are multiplied and multiplying beyond all human anticipation. The once terrible danger of savage warfare is now only matter of history. In brief, the elements of civilized life are indefinitely increased in number and power."

The Peulding (Miss.) Aurora says that negroes, [slaves] were hired out at that place on the 1st Jan. at from \$95 to \$125 for men per year, and \$75 to \$100 for women.

Liberty.—The members of Congress, have within a few years, voted themselves books to the amount of \$687,000.—Beacon of Liberty.

Writ of Error.—The counsel for Governor Dorr have received official information from Washington, that the writ of error in his case has been granted by the Supreme Court.—N. B. Reg.

SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1845.

One Dollar a Year in Advance.

All persons who send us money will find the amount acknowledged in our paper in the list of weekly receipts, with the time to which it pays. This will be quite as satisfactory to the subscriber as a written receipt, and will supersede the necessity of sending any.

THE NEW TEST OF DEMOCRACY.

Last week we showed that a new criterion of Democracy was established at the Baltimore National Convention, which was to be enforced, if possible, upon all the members of the party. This test was the Annexation of Texas with Slavery—for without Slavery its admission to the Union would have been strenuously opposed by the Slave States, and would never have been proposed by the Free States. It will be remembered that a "two thirds rule" was established by that Convention, by which the control of the whole party passed into the hands of a minority, in violation of a leading article of faith with the party, which declares that a majority ought to govern.—The very first act of this minority was to throw Van Buren, who had doubted on this subject, from the high eminence he had hitherto occupied in the party with as little ceremony as Satan, according to the poet, was hurled from the battlements of heaven. The next move was to nominate national candidates who were orthodox on this subject, and "Texas" was made the party watchword, which was to pass undisputed from head quarters to the post of the remotest sentinel, and he who "could not frame to pronounce aright" this Shibboleth was to be watched as an enemy, or executed as a traitor. It may not be uninteresting or unprofitable to notice how this new watchword was received in the Democratic camp.

The northern portion of the party—a majority of the whole—cares little or nothing about Texas, but they did care about defeating Clay and the "federal Whigs." For this purpose, they would have supported almost any man or measure by which their adversaries could be overcome.

The Democratic press of the whole South, as far as we remember, were unanimous for the measure, because it was in accordance with the feeling of the Slaveholders. The northern press generally supported it, because the question was identified with the ascendancy of the party, by which the pecuniary interests of the publishers would be more or less affected. The only leading party paper that has refused its sanction to the measure is the New York Evening Post. That paper advocated the election of Polk, but protested at the same time against annexation, which was to be the prominent measure of his administration.

The southern Democratic politicians were fully agreed upon the measure; but a like unanimity was unattainable at the North. The greater part of them assented nominally to the measure, because it had been adopted by their party, and the party could not triumph without it. But some of them undoubtedly looked into the future far enough to see the folly of unnecessarily committing themselves in favor of a measure of slaveholding policy which might ultimately fail, and which would then become highly unpopular at the North.

Much aid was expected by the Southern Annexationists from the great State of New York, and when Silas Wright wrote an annual message to the Legislature of fourteen columns without saying a word about Texas, his mere silence was keenly felt by them, as an indication that his friends and those of Van Buren would keep aloof from the project. Accordingly, when the vote was taken in the House of Representatives, fourteen New York Democrats voted against it. Their reasons we have not seen but there is no doubt that they expected to be sustained by their constituents.

The following extract from a letter of Judge Hammond of this State, to John C. Calhoun, on this subject, will doubtless show in what light a portion of the New York Democracy regard this question.—Judge Hammond is known as the author of the political History of New York, and is represented as being in high standing as a lawyer and a member of the party. He says:

"Taking it then for granted, that when Texas becomes settled there will be five slaves to three freemen, the present offer of Texas amounts simply to this. 'If you, New Yorkers,' say the Texans, 'will pay our debts, defend us against our enemies, (as you have done in the case of Florida) and you will allow one citizen in Texas to possess and exercise as much political power as two citizens of the State of New York, we will consent to become partners and unite with you.' Without one word more of comment, I ask, what representatives from New York, or any other free State, will vote to accept such an offer, and after thus bartering away the political power of his constituents, dare to look them in the face? But before closing I will add, that the principle of property representation is in direct collision with the spirit of all the northern state governments, and utterly repugnant to our feelings. So much higher do we value the rights of persons than of property, that the vote of John Jacob Astor is balanced by the vote of the pauper in the same house; and yet the offer now gravely made, is to admit Texas on the condition that in conse-

quence of a species of property held by its citizens, the vote of one Texan gambler or freebooter shall be equal to the vote of John Jacob Astor and the Patroon of Albany."

In Maine, the Democracy had a clear majority over all other parties. But the four Democratic Representatives from that State voted against the Joint Resolution for Annexation, and by way of apology issued the following dough-faced manifesto to their constituents:

"We were all desirous and anxious to have Texas re-annexed to the Union.—The terms and conditions were what we could not assent to. We believed, upon 'just and honorable terms,' that the territory should have been divided into equal or nearly equal, portions of free and slave territory—or at least that that question should remain open, to be settled hereafter; while, in fact the terms were such as, in our opinion, to secure the institution of slavery in nearly all the territory. With a fair division of the territory, or with the question of slavery as an open question, to be settled and determined by Congress, we should have cheerfully given our votes for said resolution. Such terms are fully believed to be just and honorable, and what the free States had a right to expect; but without which we felt compelled, though with reluctance, to vote against the measure."

The sum of this complaint is, that the slaveholding taskmasters were a little too hard upon the northern serviles: they would have cheerfully given their votes to make half the territory into slave States, but when Slavery took "nearly all of it," they could not quite go it! Making several more slave States is represented by these Maine Democrats as a "just, fair and honorable" transaction for the party of "the largest liberty!"

But in the New Hampshire delegation a rebellion against the authority of the party took place, which was deemed too serious to be passed over without visiting the offender with condign punishment.—John P. Hale was Member of Congress from that State & had been nominated for re-election by his party. But having not only voted against the Joint Resolution of the House, but issued an appeal to the people of his State, containing clear and forcible reasons against Annexation with Slavery, his case was reviewed by a grand State convention of 150 members, which assembled at Concord, Feb. 12.—On this occasion, in which the services of New Hampshire were about to show to their southern masters how submissive they could be, all due formality was observed. Col. Pierce, Chairman of the State Committee, called the meeting to order, in a speech in which he admonished the members of the necessity of strict obedience to the party, and the awful consequences of disregarding its commands. On taking his seat, one gentleman, wishing to add to the solemnity of Mr. Hale's execution, proposed that a chaplain should be called, and Prayer should be offered. But this mockery of Heaven was voted down. The resolutions, setting forth the enormity of the offences perpetrated by the culprit, were then read. They charged that he had written an appeal to "the whole people" of his State, requiring them to waive the issues presented by the Democratic State Convention, and vote for or against him on a single, isolated issue—that he assumed to dictate that issue to his constituents—that he assumed to be a volunteer candidate, thus virtually discarding his Democratic nomination in June last, which he had accepted—all of which offences were declared to be contrary to the time honored usages and laws of the organization of the Democratic party of this State;—therefore, his previous nomination was declared "null and void." The resolutions passed with only a single negative, and another candidate, John Woodbury, was nominated in his place. Thus by this political execution, was northern Democracy made honorable in the eyes of the slaveholders. But the party were not unanimous in condemnation of Mr. Hale. In several places meetings have been held approving his course, and he has returned to his constituents to canvass the District, and present his defence to the electors in person.

In Massachusetts, the anti-slavery feeling is stronger than in the other States, and the course of Parmenter, the only Massachusetts Democrat in the House, who voted for the Joint Resolution, is very severely condemned by the Press of that State. A vote for Annexation might be passed over; but a vote to make a large number of Slave States from foreign territory was directly contrary to the feelings of the people generally, and we shall be much mistaken if it be not required by the political discredit and disgrace of the Representative. Many of the Democrats of this State would have no objections to Annexation, provided it should be unaccompanied by Slavery: but it is fair to presume that not a few of the party will coincide in the sentiments advanced recently by one of the number in a Boston paper, as follows:

"On my arrival at Boston, I learnt that the bill for annexation had passed the House, and the democrats of Boston had, in honor thereof, fired one hundred guns.—Sir, if a self-styled democrat can fire one hundred guns in honor of forging chains for millions of our human race yet unborn, I must say I must look somewhere else to exercise my democracy. My humble prayer is that any party or set of men who are found ready to perpetrate slavery, will sink as far below slavery as slavery is below liberty.—

Look into all the democratic papers, sir, and you may see the same spirit manifested throughout the whole press. I am in consequence of attending that convention, held up to public scorn and contempt, so far as the self-styled democracy can do it, and dubbed a federalist disunionist. I went there with no intentions to dissolve the Union with slaveholders, or any party that will fire one hundred guns in honor of the perpetration of slavery. I, sir, washed my hands clean from that detestable business before I left the city, and I know of many more honest democrats that will, if Texas is annexed through the means of democrats, leave the party."

In Michigan, the vote of the Democratic party is about equal to that of both the other parties, yet two out of three of her Representatives voted against the Joint Resolution. In so doing they complied with the wishes of at least one half of the people of their respective Districts. Of their motives we know nothing; but their course was wise. They are now in a position where they can advance or recede, as circumstances may require. Should the Annexation project fail, they can say, "We were always opposed to annexation with Slavery, and we voted against it!" Should it succeed, they can say, "We were always in favor of Annexation, and have supported it, and should have voted for the Joint Resolution by which it was annexed, had we not preferred one of the other bills." Thus they can be sure to stand well with the successful party.

From this brief notice of the manner which the New Test of Democracy—Annexation with Slavery—has been received in the different sections, we find that it is far from being unanimously approved by the party. A nominal assent to it was deemed requisite to ensure the defeat of the Whigs; yet by far the greater portion of the northern Democrats have no real, heartfelt interest in it. Should Annexation succeed, it will greatly hasten the organization of two great parties whose issues shall be Freedom and Slavery, by which we trust we shall finally overthrow the institution and its allies; and should the measure fail, in our judgment it will bring such a load of odium upon the Northern Democracy that they will regret that they ever suffered themselves to be made the mere instruments of the Slaveholders in attempting to uphold a project so abhorrent to the sentiments of the civilized world.

TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS.

We would again call attention to the importance of an effectual organization of the Liberty party in the several towns at the coming election. All the voters will wish to vote for candidates of some party; and most of them will do so. How much better, then, to have some of your own, whom you know to be good men and true! If you make no nominations in your town where they have been heretofore made, it will be regarded by your enemies as so far an abandonment of the party; and so it will be. In some towns propositions will be put afloat for an amalgamation with one of the other parties, and specious reasons will be urged upon Liberty men why they should unite with them. But do not listen to them. Your greatest danger lies in compromising with the other parties. All history proves that three great national parties cannot long coexist together. They will eventually merge into two. The time is fast approaching when there will be but two national parties in our country. The question will soon be, whether we shall go to our enemies, or whether they shall come to us. If we are inflexible in maintaining our present position, they must and will shortly come to our principles. But just as soon as we begin to compromise with either of the other parties, we commence the work of our own destruction. This compromise can begin with a single town, and the result may be thought of no consequence. But the principle on which you act may just as well be carried out in the nation as in the town. It is urged that you cannot alone elect any of your ticket; but by uniting with one of the other parties you can elect half of it at once; and you are asked, is not that better than to be defeated on all of it? No; for consider the price you must pay for it. After one or two such elections, the Liberty party in your towns will be extinct.—Are you prepared to sell out at half price, when by waiting a little longer your utmost wishes would be gratified? If you do so, the next town may do the same with equal propriety, and the county, and the State, and the national party. Would you be willing to compromise in 1845, with one of the other national parties who should agree to give us one half or one quarter of those objects for which we seek? If not, do not set examples in the towns now. BEWARE OF COMPROMISES!

The Albany Patriot is out against petitioning for the abolition of slavery, as useless and ineffectual. The Editor says:

"Whoever seeks a legislative body to do that which he knows it will refuse to do, places himself in a suspicious position and curtails his moral influence; for out of the legislature he claims against those who compose the body, and then appears before it and asks it to do what he knows it will not do. Such a course is childish, insulting, unmanly, and leads any sharp-sighted reader of human character to conclude that such a man is either in the market or that he is acting very silly.—For one, we call upon all Liberty men to stop dallying with these parties. They will do you and your glorious cause no good. THURSDAY AWAY AT THE BALLOT-BOX! There, your voice has power; but to our legislatures, State or National, your petitions for the abolition of American Slavery have the potency of an infant's scream, and bespeak any thing but the strength which, under God, it is yours to wield, till you win the day."

The good people of Boston have had several trials to elect a Mayor, but have not yet succeeded. Mr. Davis, the native candidate has the highest number, but lacks 480 of a choice.

JUDICIAL REFORM.

In the place of our usual miscellaneous articles on the first page, we have inserted to day the Senate Document No. 26, which purports to be "A Bill to improve the Administration of Justice." The need of a thorough reform in this department has long been felt; and knowing that a portion of our readers in every part of the State are interested in all the steps taken to secure such a reform, we have inserted the document entire. It seems the Legislature deemed it worthy of publication at the public charge; and from the perusal we have given it, we judge it to be deserving of attentive consideration. From what we have observed of the administration of justice, we think the present system is susceptible of improvement in the following important particulars:

1. By abolishing unnecessary technicalities in the proceedings. Courts are constituted to redress the wrongs inflicted upon individuals. To obtain this redress, all that ought to be required is a plain statement of the wrong as can possibly be made, and a request to the proper tribunal for the appropriate remedy. This will bring out a corresponding answer from the defendant, and thus the real point in controversy will come up at once for determination.

2. By securing a speedy decision. A postponement of justice is often equivalent to refusing it. "The law's delay" has been proverbial from the earliest ages. In our courts, this delay is often unnecessarily great. Delays usually operate for the advantage of the party in the wrong. Hence he who has a desperate cause gets it adjourned as frequently as possible. The dilatory nature of proceeding in Chancery is known to most business men. He who ventures his cause in that department of justice, does it without knowing when or where he will find an issue. Every adjournment of the decision increases the labor and cost of the parties, and tends to defeat an equitable adjustment of the case.

3. By diminishing the expenses of legal proceedings. The present process of the law is so expensive, and affords so many ways for legal cunning and knavery to take advantage of simple and straight-forward honesty, that individuals find it cheaper to suffer themselves to be defrauded of small sums, rather than lose as much in attempting to recover them, without any certainty of accomplishing it. Specially is this the case where the defendant is determined to contest the suit by every advantage the law will permit. The honest tradesman or farmer who has trusted a rascal to the amount of fifty dollars, in many cases may as well give him the debt, as sustain the expenses of repeated adjournments and an appeal to the higher courts, without any certainty of obtaining the amount at issue. It may be said that if the suit cost the plaintiff fifty dollars, it will cost the obstinate defendant who is in the wrong at least one hundred. Suppose this to be true, what does it prove? Why, that if one man wrongs another of fifty dollars, it will require the expenditure of one hundred and fifty to place it in the hands of the rightful owner. Is the public a gainer by such an administration of justice?

4. By securing a decision according to equity and justice. This, we suppose, should be the object of all legal proceedings. But the ultimate decisions in our courts, as well as the previous proceedings, are now based upon what legal gentlemen call law—that is, upon the decisions of American and English courts, and the opinions of distinguished lawyers, for several hundred years past. These decisions are often contradictory, sometimes absurd, often inapplicable to the case, and subversive of justice. It appears to us that every contested question should be determined by the courts and juries in such a manner as to do justice to the parties in that particular case then pending; and in ascertaining how justice could best be done, any requisite amount of authorities might be cited. We would not discard the opinions of eminent jurists; but we would give them their just influence, and no more. They should be received as advisers, not as directors. The object of trying a case at all, is to do justice. So far as they would aid this object, they might be introduced; but the decisions of former ages should not be introduced under the name of law to exert any influence adverse to the rendering of a righteous verdict.

Whether the bill here presented would secure a satisfactory reform in these particulars, must be determined by the judgment of the reader. It is obvious that a production of this kind cannot be properly approved or condemned merely as a whole. One section may be deserving of much commendation, when the next may be quite as exceptionable. Each should stand on its own merits. We have not had time to examine all its features; but we have no hesitation in saying that the proposed method of dispensing justice in Justices' Courts is far preferable to that now in use. We are satisfied that a general reform in the mode of administering justice is needed, and that it will ultimately be obtained; and if the publication of this bill should be the means of directing

LETTER FROM J. M. HOWARD.

DETROIT, FEB. 26, 1845.

To the Editors of the Signal of Liberty: GENTS—I notice in your paper of the 24th inst., the following article:

"The Ohio American of Feb. 13, publishes a letter from E. Roberts, dated Dec. 10th, 1844, in which there is this statement:

"At a Whig meeting held on the eve before the election, while Mr. Giddings was making a speech in this place, he introduced and read the Garland letter, and said he had no doubt as to its genuineness, for HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MR. HOWARD WHICH SUBSTANTIATED IT IN HIS MIND THAT IT COULD NOT BE A FORGERY."

The Mr. Howard here referred to we learn from the American is Hon. J. M. Howard of Detroit. We have no comments to make. We only mention this as another evidence of the industry manifested by that celebrated traveller, Major Roobarck, just before the election."

In reply to this new attack, I can only say that I have never written or uttered one word to Mr. Giddings or any other person, from which it could be inferred in the remotest degree that the "Garland letter" was genuine, or that it was not a forgery or fabrication by another hand; and that if Mr. Giddings made the declaration imputed to him, (which I by no means believe, as I think him incapable of so unfounded a statement,) it was without the least authority from me. As you have given currency to this story and in an indirect manner expressed your belief in the truth of Mr. Roberts's statement, or rather of the imputed declaration of Mr. Giddings, I trust you will do me the justice to insert this note in your paper.

J. M. HOWARD.

AN 'ONWARD CRY.'

The Jackson Gazette, (Whig) seems to have been quite taken in by the petition of the Detroit Whigs, and treats of it as a real Whig project, instead of a more ingenious argument against the Annexation of Texas. In referring to the speech of Mr. Porter in presenting it, the Gazette makes the following announcement of the Whig policy for the next campaign. We put it on record for future reference.

"This speech but adds to our already firm belief, that should Texas be annexed, and made a part and parcel of this Government, the annexation of the Canada, and all the British territory this side of the Atlantic, will form the exciting issue of the Presidential canvass of '45; and the man who shall be elected to that high station will go into it so instructed by a majority of the American People.

And, if Texas be annexed—be, then, that the issue! And if the lococofo party of the country act consistent, (which, by the way, very much doubt their doing, for they already begin to denounce a territory and waters far with as in acquiring a happiness and defence, than forty Texases, and aid in delivering an oppressed people from the iron rule of that nation whose brazen heel was once planted on our necks. There is no flabbiness about this—if we must have one, we will have both.—'Both or neither' is now our onward cry."

PROTESTANT POPEERY.

All Protestants condemn the withholding of the Bible from the common people by the Catholic priests as downright wickedness.—But what do they say when Protestant ministers shut out the written Word of Life from their church-members? Do these papers condemn it? Read the following artful and laborious apology for this devilish practice, by Rev. Robert Fuller, of South Carolina, the great Baptist champion of slaveholding, in his third letter to Dr. Wayland. Observe how skillfully he slips out of all personal responsibility, and yet argues for the infernal law of South Carolina as being "necessary, wise, and even kind," in the estimation of the "best and most benevolent individuals." Yet the Reverend slaveholder would doubtless be received into most Northern Baptist pulpits with distinguished honor!

"The most important law is that forbidding slaves being taught to read, yet how many are taught! And this act would long since, have been expunged, but for the infatuated intermeddling of fanaticism. It is but a year or two since, at the request of the President of the State Agricultural Society, I wrote a letter, to be read before that body, on the religious instruction of our negroes, and, in that communication, I urged the abrogation of this law. The President, however, a gentleman of age, experience, and exalted humanity, desired permission to strike out that clause. And when I had considered his reasons, and seen the character of the incendiary publications, with which the South had just before been deluged; works evidently appealing to the worst passions of the slave—I was not surprised that the best and most benevolent individuals should regard the provision as necessary, and wise, and even kind. I had, of course to yield, and this is only one of the instances in which those who are the true friends of the slave, and whose position enabled them to plead his cause, have found themselves defeated by the lamentable and cruel system of vituperation and agitation recklessly persisted in at the North."

There is now a Democratic majority of one in the U. S. Senate—24 Whigs, and 25 Democrats, and three vacancies, there having been no election of Senator in Virginia, Tennessee, and Indiana. The four Senators who are hereafter to take their seats from Iowa and Florida will doubtless be Democrats—professedly so, we mean.

We have received the second number of the "True American," published at Cortland village, N. Y., by Eeles & Goodwin, at \$1.00 a year, in advance. It is devoted to the Liberty principles.—[We wish it much success, and hail its appearance as another evidence of the growth of our cause.

From the Albany Patriot. LETTER FROM MR. BIRNEY. LOWER SAGINAW, Mich., Jan. 31, 1845.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ALBANY PATRIOT: Sir—My relation to the Liberty party, as its Presidential candidate, ceased with the late election. I wish now to be considered as merged in the mass, and as no other than one of the rank and file of that party.

Nothing ought to be done that would have even the appearance of forestalling the Presidential nomination for 1848. It might, and probably would, disturb that harmonious feeling that thus far has existed among us, in so remarkable a degree, and that is so essential for our success.

Very respectfully, Your obedient serv't. JAMES G. BIRNEY.

TRIAL AND CONVICTION OF FAIRBANK. On Thursday last, the case of Common-wealth vs. Calvin Fairbank, upon three several indictments for the abduction of slaves from their owners, was taken up in this county—his Honor, Judge Buckner, on the bench.

The jury, after retiring for about half an hour, returned into court with a verdict of Guilty, and fixed his punishment at five years upon each indictment, (fifteen years in all) in the Penitentiary.—Lexington Republican.

The Albany Citizen proposes that should Texas be annexed in the manner proposed by Mr. Milton Brown, the new State to be formed from the territory of Texas should be christened "BIRNEY," inasmuch as the praise of its admission will be due to the Abolition party.

The Cincinnati Herald contains lengthy statements concerning the apprehension and trial of a slave named Watson, who was brought into that city in a steambath. Wm. Birney and S. P. Chase argued his cause at length before Judge Reed.

ANN ARBOR, March 7, 1845. The weather is mild and pleasant for the season. The ground has become somewhat settled, and all things look favorable for early vegetation.

CONGRESSIONAL. The following particulars respecting the admission of Florida and Iowa are from the Baltimore American.

WHAT THE SLAVEHOLDERS SAY. The following is from a correspondent of the Charleston Mercury, Mr. Calhoun's organ, and is fully endorsed and commended by the Editor of that paper.

board any vessel in any of the ports of Florida. And nothing contained in the same, in substance or principle, shall be inserted in place thereof, or any other parts of said Constitution.

also, Mr. Morse's amendment by tellers by a vote of 37 to 76. The committee rose between 2 and 3 o'clock, when a score of members rose to move the previous question.

THE LICENSE LAW. Messrs. Editors:—Our legislative tables have groaned beneath the piles of petitions for a change in the license laws: every quarter of the State feeling was thus represented.

State Legislature. We have read through about a dozen columns of legislative proceedings in the Detroit papers, but can find little matter for our weekly synopsis that will interest our readers.

TEMPERANCE MEETING. A Meeting of the Washingtonian Temperance Society, will be held at the Court House, on Monday evening next, at half past 6 o'clock.

RECEIPTS FOR THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY FOR THE PRESENT WEEK. Opposite each subscriber's name will be found the amount received, with the number and date of the paper to which it pays.

General Intelligence. Camphor Cigars for Ladies.—Somebody in Paris has started a theory that all diseases are owing to the presence of parasitic animals infesting the human system.

Live Geese Feathers. Of a superior quality, for sale by BECKLEY & HICKS. March 3, 1845. 45-3w

ANN ARBOR OIL MILL. The subscribers would give notice that they are engaged in manufacturing LINSEED OIL, and are prepared to furnish oil of the best quality to merchants and painters.

WOOD! WOOD! We want some from subscribers immediately Oct. 12, 1844.

Mr. Davis of Ia. offered a Resolution to terminate all debate upon the Iowa and Florida Bill in twenty minutes after the House went into Committee.

Mr. Adams hoped, as the bill was an important one, and there was no occasion for so much haste, that the day would be given to the consideration of the bill.

Mr. Davis of Indiana was called to the Chair and the debate went upon the amendment proposed by Mr. Morse of Maine.

Mr. Bailey of Virginia took the floor, and at once commenced a personal assault upon the gentleman who had introduced the amendment.

Mr. Adams called the gentleman from Virginia to order. The gentleman was making a personal attack upon a member of the House, and he thought the Chair should preserve order.

Mr. Adams asked the gentleman from Ohio, if he would not regard the remarks of the gentleman from Virginia as insulting if they had been applied to himself.

Mr. Morse of Me. said he had intended to have said nothing upon the subject, but the remarks of the gentleman from Va. called for some reply.

Mr. Littlejohn, from the Judiciary Committee, reported back the House bill to modify the License law, which was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Morse said the difference was great, for in his State free colored persons were regarded as citizens, and enjoyed the rights of citizens.

Mr. Morse then defended his amendment, and was replied to by Mr. Clingman of N. C. who thought that a State had a right to adopt what form of Constitution it chose to, if it was Republican in its character.

Mr. Douglass did not like the articles in the Constitution of Florida, and thought some of them monstrous and some of them absurd; but if Florida was willing to take them we had no right to complain.

Mr. Adams wished to know if Florida had a right to incorporate in its own constitution a provision contrary to the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Morse's amendment by tellers by a vote of 37 to 76. The committee rose between 2 and 3 o'clock, when a score of members rose to move the previous question.

The honor was conferred upon Mr. Cave Johnson. There was a second, and the main question, when the amendments agreed to in committee on Tuesday were acted on.

A division and the yeas and nays were called upon the provisions for dividing Florida into two States. The House concurred with the committee in declaring that there should be but one State instead of two by a vote of 123 to 77.

At the latest dates from Washington, the Senate were still debating the Joint Resolution on Texas, at the rate of one or two speeches a day.

The friends of the bill being inflexible, Mr. Adams moved to lay the motion upon the table, and called for the yeas and nays.

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C. BRINCKERHOFF'S HEALTH RESTORATIVE. THIS Medicine is a sure, safe and certain Remedy in complaints of the Liver and Lungs.

SUGAR COATED PILLS, vs. Dis-ease—More Evidence. MR. HILL, of the firm of Gilex and Hill, 169 Broadway, says that he has used the Coated Indian Vegetable Pills.

BROWNVILLE JUNIATA IRON STORE. THE SUBSCRIBER, agent for the Manufacture, Pittsburg, Pa. has now on hand a large and well assorted stock of IRON, NAILS, GLASS, &c.

WINDOW GLASS. Merchants and others will find it to their advantage to call and examine the subscriber's stock, as well as the prices, before going elsewhere.

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ALLEBASIS MEDICINES. ARE effecting such astonishing cures in multitudes of all cases, which are abandoned by Physicians and Surgeons as utterly hopeless.

ALLEBASIS'S HEALTH PILLS, 25 CENTS. These Pills have acquired a popularity within the last year or two, which no other Pills possess.

ALLEBASIS'S TOOTH ACHIE DROPS, PRICE 25 CENTS. Will cure an ordinary case of Tooth Ache in from three to ten minutes.

ALLEBASIS'S POOR MAN'S PLASTER, PRICE 12 1/2 CENTS. Are warranted to be superior to any other Plaster in this or any other country.

GOOD NEWS FROM NEW ENGLAND. Dr. Smith's Sugar Coated Improved Indian Vegetable Pills, TRIUMPHANT FOR CONSUMPTIONS, COLDS, RHEUMATISM, DYSPEPSIA AND FEVERS.

HARTFORD Fire Insurance Company. Incorporated in 1810—Charter perpetual—Capital, \$150,000, with power to increase it to \$250,000.

WHOLESALE & RETAIL. J. FERRARY, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, SMART'S BLOCK, 137 JEFFERSON AVENUE, DETROIT.

BLANK BOOKS. Full and half bound, of every variety of Ruling MEMORANDUM BOOKS, &c.

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