

The Sentinel.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1.

CREDITOR AND DEBTOR.

Whatever may be the conclusion arrived at with regard to the tendency of the times to refer nearly all questions relating to business to congress or to state legislation, it is nevertheless true that the people are demanding statutory limitations, prohibitions and directions in matters of business to an extent that must impress those who have given the subject thoughtful consideration that old things have passed away and that under the new business *reign* law is the chief reliance of business men for the adjustment of all matters between creditor and debtor. While hitherto the laws have been resorted to for the adjustment of business matters, connected with which were questions involving doubts as to rights and equities, the more modern idea is to descend to details, in which the law has special prominence throughout, and as a general thing bearing more heavily on the debtor than the creditor class. Elsewhere in the *Sentinel* will be found an article from the *Columbia City Post*, referring especially to the attorney fee law, against which complaint is made on account of the injustice practiced under its provisions. The probabilities are that when the legislature convenes an effort will be made to repeal the law. As the matter now stands the law is manifestly unjust in its operations, since it permits charges for attorneys' fees disproportionate to the services rendered, and in this fact lies the chief cause for complaint. There is no obscuring the fact that the tendency of public opinion is in the direction of legislation, especially designed to benefit the debtor class, and it is quite probable that results may be such as to justify the opposition of the creditor class. What is wanted is fair dealing between creditor and debtor, laws so manifestly wise and equitable, so in harmony with the common sense view of business transactions as to command the approval of all fair minded men. Such legislation applied to the attorney fee law, instead of repealing it, would subject it to such amendments as debtors could approve. By this proceeding an amount as an attorney fee might be named for the collection of a note. That no prudent objection could be made to it, for it requires no special effort to arrive at the conclusion that, if the borrower compels the lender to seek the courts for the collection of the debt, the lender should not be subjected to expenses more than equivalent to the interest, while on the other hand, it is as manifestly burdensome to subject the borrower to costs which bear upon their face unmistakable evidence of extortion—the result of professional estimation of services rendered.

We are not inclined to endorse the criticisms of the *Columbia City Post* in its estimate of the legal or medical professions, for, there may be men in those professions who would close their eyes to the equities of a case, but as a general thing we are inclined to the opinion that they are as sensitive in matters involving integrity and veracity as any other portion of their fellow citizens. Nevertheless the legislature will doubtless regard it prudent, if the law is not repealed, to fix the amount to be charged as attorneys' fees for the collection of notes within such limits as fair minded debtors will approve. In this way there need be no further conflict, so far as the law in question is concerned, between creditor and debtor. The law, however, is manifestly a departure from business principles, which should govern all questions of litigation—for if it be right to permit one set of creditors to charge attorneys' fees in case of litigation, there is no good reason, upon general principles, why all creditors should not enjoy the same privilege. It is questionable whether an obligation for borrowed money is a whit more sacred than a debt for dry goods or groceries, wheat or corn, or, in fact, for any other commodity which enters into business transactions. The law, however, seems to have made a distinction, and this fact will doubtless attract the attention of the legislature, and result in such an adjustment of the matter as a proper regard for all interests concerned demand.

CLIPPING.

OH, Jull-ah! Jull-ah!
It really is very peculiar!
I don't know why, but really I
Should like to be married to-day!

—Popular London Song.

A STRUCK-UP girl is maiden vain.
How much are you ahead in Christmas gifts?

REMARK OF THE GOLD DOLLAR: "While you fellows were talking about it, I resumed."

GAIL HAMILTON is doing some heavy blowing with her front name along the Atlantic coast.

BAYARD TAYLOR went to Berlin to finish his "Life of Goethe," but succeeded in finishing his own.

"Who did Lemon say?"—Yonkers Gazette. You deserve a punch for that!—New Orleans Picayune.

THOMAS EDISON says he will leave this country if he can not get his inventions patented. Oh, don't you go, Tommy, don't go.

LONG blacks his own boots.—Philadelphia Press. You didn't expect he would black anybody else's, did you?—St. Louis Post.

DIPED into a weak solution of accomplishments? The term is now applied to those of our girls professing to be highly educated.

EIGHT hundred thousand ounces of quinine consumed in the United States. By gracious! we did not know there were so many shakers here.—Boston Bulletin.

AMERICAN boron loses its flavor by an ocean voyage. This emphatically forbids General Grant's acceptance of the Bulgarian crown.—St. Louis Post.

CUSTOM compels an Icelander to kiss every woman he meets.—Jefferson City Tribune. If this isn't a nice stander, we'd like to be an Icelander ourselves!—St. Louis Post.

UNMARKED men can't appreciate the feelings of a fellow whose wife sends him to get something out of the pocket of the dress that's hanging up in the closet.—Lynn Reporter.

A LUMINOUS drink forty-five gallons a mile.—Ex. Yes, and makes all the time, too.—Lynn Reporter. And likewise chews. You remember the old pun about the locomotive shoo-shoo-shooing to go ahead, and choo-

choo-chewing to back her.—Norristown Herald.

AMONG all the causes of a candidate's defeat, that assigned by Congressman Waddell, of North Carolina, is the most unique—sweet potatoes. The voters sound on him in their zeal to harvest their sweet potato tubers.

A RUMOR comes from Paris that bonnets are to be worn on the head hereafter. It strikes the head would be a good place on which to wear a bonnet, but such a departure will look a little odd at first.—Norristown Herald.

INDEPENDENTS elected to legislatures are the most independent of all politicians when they hold the balance of power. They are independent of party and caucuses, and may reserve the privilege of selling out to either side.—N. O. Picayune.

A MAN in New York has discovered some new laws of motion which are said to explain the lateral and horizontal retrospective correlative tangential gravity of the gyroscope. And even now, no doubt, some people won't be happy.—N. Y. Express.

An exchange says: "Kind words are better than gold." Well, they may be for some purposes, but when you want to choke off a bill collector with a heavy underjaw gold's the best. Such men don't run to sentiment much.—Burlington Hawkeye.

"WHY should we celebrate Washington's birthday more than mine?" asked a teacher. "Because he never told a lie," shouted a little boy. And it is a curious fact that the teacher forgot all about that little boy in his distribution of his Christmas chromos.

NICODEMUS said: "Wake me up, wake me up, at the first break of day;" but don't be deceived, girls, the Nicodemus of old are dead, and the Nicodemus, Jr., will make no such request—he'll lie in bed and snore while you crawl out and start the fire, and let the day break all to pieces before he gets up to breakfast.—Elmira Gazette.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Butter exports are increasing daily.

Berlin has 10,000 "social" democrats.

Delaware cowhides prisoners "officially." Our silver plated ware finds an increasing sale in England.

A team was attacked by wolves a few days ago in Highway, Minn.

Five of a family are immured in De Kalb, Illinois, for stealing bees.

Four Hindoo women have been graduated from the Madras Medical College.

The trouble in Scotland is showing itself in a serious fall in real estate in Edinburgh.

There is a cry for game protection in Michigan, where deer are slaughtered by the wholesale.

The tide of immigration to Texas from Germany is said to be heavier this year than ever before.

Ten thousand dollars in bills was found sewed in the dress of a woman who died in Norton, Mass.

A broken legged Montana Indian, disliking the pain caused by the setting of the bone, shot and killed the physician.

Mr. Forbes' letters from India cost the London Daily News a pretty penny. They are telegraphed to England at the rate of \$1.12 a word.

A Silesian scribe has enriched the town hall of Konigsburg with a bust of the emperor chiseled out of common coal. It is an excellent likeness and well executed.

The Boston police officer who drew \$5,000 in a lottery has been dismissed from the force, the commissioners refusing to wink at his violation of the law in buying the ticket.

In a court at Bennington, Vt., the defendant asked permission to pray before opening his case. The judge said that it was not customary, but as the plaintiff did not object the prayer was made.

The home of Herr August Wilhelmj is at Biebrich on the Rhine, where his father owns a number of large vineyards. The elder Wilhelmj is said to be, after the emperor, the largest vineyard proprietor in Germany.

A telegram from Ceara, in North Brazil, reports that the deaths in the capital from small pox number six hundred daily. The distress in the interior of the province is appalling. The people are devouring carrion and corpses.

There are at Logansport, Ind., according to the Chronicle, 15 ex-preachers, of whom four are carpenters and two lawyers, one is a blacksmith and the other a dead-beat, while the others "live on the interest of what they owe."

The Galveston News says that lemons brought to its office, grown by Mr. Deats, of Dickson Bayou, lately, weighed 17½ ounces. It had lately been found that the "tide water" district of Texas is unsurpassed for raising oranges and lemons.

A seaman on the bark Pauline, while on the voyage to Tybee, fell from the topgallant mast yard arm to the deck, a distance of 90 feet, and beyond a severe gash on the forehead escaped unhurt, and was able to discharge his customary duties.

William McGuigan saw a great deal of Mr. Robert Bonner's great horse, Edwin Forrest, early this season, and thinks him the fastest trooper in the world. He predicts if Mr. Bonner will give him a trial over Fleetwood Park next year, that he will trot the first half mile of the track, which is very fast, in one minute.

One of the most astonished boys of the period lives in Rutherford, New York. He had seen the powder horn burn, and when to make the dire blaze he poured the contents of his father's powder horn upon the coals. He will not kindle any more fires this winter, for the flowers will come again before he recovers.

Satisfactory experiments have been made with the electric light in Paris, during a night snow storm, and additional ones will follow when the next thick fog occurs, in which as will be of little or no avail. Should the electric light render objects visible to the distance of even sixty or seventy feet, it will be used henceforth at all the most populous points of the streets.

The long tunnel through solid rock to carry water to Baltimore is being cut in nineteen sections, the plan adopted being to sink shafts to the proper level, and then work in both directions. The calculations must be very exact in order to make the headings meet precisely. Thus far the engineers have been remarkably successful, several sections being joined without a foot's deviation from straightness.

A veterinary surgeon in Virginia City, Missouri, has removed from the side of the jaw of a horse a hard and smooth stone about two inches long and one inch in diameter. The material of which the stone was formed appeared to be the same as is found in the incrustations on the tubes of boilers. It is thought that a grain of barley pierced the skin of the horse's mouth and imbedded itself in the flesh, and that the saliva then deposited upon it limy matter. The stone is as hard as marble, and the annular markings are very distinct.

MAINE's once prominent industry, ship building, gives employment to a constantly decreasing number of persons, not half the work having been done in the season just closing that was done in the previous year. Indeed, only 11 ships were built in the state, and of the 96 vessels reported the average tonnage was only 425, or, taking the ships, less than 300. The prospect is that less ship building will be done in 1879 than in any single year in the last 30.

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A DOOMED RACE.

The Swarming Millions of China Face to Face with Starvation.

A Human Hive Ready to Swarm—What John Bull is Doing for Us.

(Correspondence San Francisco Chronicle.) HANKOW, China, Oct. 1.—In a former letter I touched upon the fact of the influence of European commerce upon the question of Chinese emigration. I think this phase of the question has not hitherto been sufficiently noticed in the discussion of the press. China was organized socially and commercially as a complicated machine, with each part depending upon every other, so that whatever tends to disturb the equilibrium of this machine disorganized to a great extent its entire workings. By this influence large bodies of our skilled laborers have been superseded; and as the empire is so slow in developing her mineral resources, and the manufacturing interests which depend upon these, this has set an almost natural gravitate to the best labor market. England is winning the chief influence in China—commerce, and thus driving the mechanics from home, while the United States receives them. I have taken the time to investigate the commercial phase of the question, and I find the foreign goods in the market are nearly all of English production, and are introduced through English tea merchants in exchange for tea. Cotton shirtings, doekins, or cassimere cloths and flannels, are very common and very popular with the natives. Besides, piec goods, clocks, watches, miscellaneous notions, mirrors, glassware, including lamps, kerosene oil, etc., are gradually finding their way into the interior. Of all these articles, the United States furnishes a very small per cent. Of China's export trade, England also has the lion's share. The trade in tea, hemp and hides, the chief exports, is all under the control of English merchants, and the trade in opium is exclusively in English control. Of the

millions of dollars' worth of Indian tea was sold in English and European markets; and I notice the experiment of tea culture is being tried in the southern states of the Union—and there is no reason why the United States should not be within a few years to produce her own tea. Japan is also rising in importance as a tea producing country. Thus, it seems the last and chief source of revenue is threatened. Rice it is true, is largely raised, but as it is the staff of life, and is produced after they have fed the people they can not compete with other countries to any advantage in this trade.

The only machinery and methods of modern times that China has adopted have been arsenals and navy dock yards. I have visited one of their arsenals at Nan-

king, where they have a good building

and steam power machinery, and em-

ploy a large number of men in the manu-

facture of arms and the munitions of war.

But these articles are the last things that

China needs in her impoverished condition.

At all points along her navigable rivers and the sea board she is busy constructing and equipping them. The empire is preparing for war with somebody, they don't exactly

know who. The soldiers have had a little

drill in Western tactics, and they feel equal to any foreign country, and this

NOTION OF MILITARY SUPERIORITY is so general that China will be easily induced to engage in war with some European power. I have seen thousands of soldiers at work in the construction of these forts, and they reminded me of a village of ants building their houses. A continuous stream of men carrying their little baskets full of earth while others were with a pestle and pounder to pound them morning till night. And notwithstanding the great amount of labor expended and the immense cost of these forts, a foreign fleet could either pass or demolish them at pleasure. The guns are mounted in such a position as to be serviceable only in one direction. They evidently calculate the enemy to come and anchor with their "broad side" in range of these guns. They have taken no precaution against a land force, and the marines from any English or Russian man-of-war could take any battery I have seen by landing and attacking from the rear. The influence of steam navigation has also set vast numbers of native boatmen adrift. A native craft of five tons burden will carry a crew as large as a river or coast steamer, while the latter will carry as much freight as several hundred of the former. The government has long controlled the salt trade as a monopoly, and they employ in this an immense fleet of junks. They have persecuted the boatmen against the steamers by holding all salt shipped by steamer as contraband goods. And the custom house officers search every vessel at every port or landing for salt, and confiscate or throw overboard all salt found. Yet, in spite of

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