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145

CASES ARGUED AND DETERMINED

IN THE

Massachusetts

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

OF

MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 1887 — JANUARY 1888

JOHN LATHROP

REPORTER

BOSTON

LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY

1888

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JUDGES

OF THE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

DURING THE TIME OF THESE REPORTS.

HON. MARCUS MORTON, CHIEF JUSTICE.

HON. WALBRIDGE A. FIELD.

HON. CHARLES DEVENS.

HON. WILLIAM ALLEN.

HON. CHARLES ALLEN.

HON. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, JR.

HON. WILLIAM S. GARDNER.
(Resigned, September 7, 1887.)

HON. MARCUS P. KNOWLTON.
(Appointed, September 14, 1887.)

ATTORNEYS GENERAL.

HON. EDGAR J. SHERMAN.

HON. ANDREW J. WATERMAN.

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TABLE

OF THE CASES REPORTED.

Abbott *v.* New York & New England Railroad 450
——— *v.* North Andover . . 484
Adams (Eddy *v.*) 489
Amherst (Squires *v.*) . . . 192
Apthorp (Wellington *v.*) . . 69
Arms (Seward *v.*) 195
Ashley (McKenzie *v.*) . . . 577
Atlas National Bank (Cotton *v.*) 43

Barber *v.* Crocker 203
——— *v.* Parsons 203
——— *v.* Welch 203
Barker (Briggs *v.*) 287
Bartlett (Commonwealth *v.*) . 242
Bassett *v.* Connecticut River Railroad 129
Bath *v.* Metcalf 274
Berkley (Carr *v.*) 539
Beverly (Liffin *v.*) 549
Bigelow *v.* Capen 270
Bisch (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 375
Blaisdell *v.* Connecticut River Railroad 132
Blake (Goldenberg *v.*) . . . 354
——— *v.* Traders' Bank . . 13
Bliss *v.* South Hadley . . . 91
Boston & Albany Railroad (Doyle *v.*) 386
——— (Marshall *v.*) . . . 164
Boyd (Wood *v.*) 176
Boyle (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 373
Brackenridge *v.* Fitchburg . . 160
Bradford *v.* Brinley 81
——— (Nealley *v.*) 561
Braslin *v.* Somerville Horse Railroad 64
Briggs *v.* Barker 287
Brigham *v.* Elwell 520
Brinley (Bradford *v.*) . . . 81
Brooks *v.* Brooks 574
Brooks (United Society *v.*) . 410
Brownell (Commonwealth *v.*) . 319
Brusie (Commonwealth *v.*) . 117
Bryan *v.* Traders' Insurance Co. 389
Buckley (Commonwealth *v.*) . 181
Burroughs (Commonwealth *v.*) 242
Bury (Tomlinson *v.*) . . . 346

Callaghan *v.* Whitmarsh . . 340
Capen (Bigelow *v.*) 270
Carey (Warren *v.*) 78
Carr *v.* Berkley 539
——— (Swift *v.*) 552
Carroll (Commonwealth *v.*) . 403
——— (Taylor *v.*) 95
Chamberlain (Comstock *v.*) . 450
Christie (Commonwealth *v.*) . 232
Clark (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 251
Clary (Whitney *v.*) 156
Cleaves *v.* Pigeon Hill Granite Co. 541
Clifford (Commonwealth *v.*) . 97
Clinton (O'Donnell *v.*) . . . 461
Coburn *v.* Travelers' Insurance Co. 226
Commonwealth *v.* Bartlett . . 242
——— *v.* Bisch 375
——— *v.* Boyle 373
——— *v.* Brownell 319
——— *v.* Brusie 117
——— *v.* Buckley 181
——— *v.* Burroughs . . . 242
——— *v.* Carroll 403
——— *v.* Christie 232
——— *v.* Clark 251
——— *v.* Clifford 97
——— *v.* Crowley 430
——— *v.* Downey 377
——— *v.* Dunster 101
——— *v.* Ewig 119
——— *v.* Fowler 398

Digitized by Google

Commonwealth v. Gallagher . 104
——— v. Harper . . . 100
——— v. Hayes 289
——— v. Hill 305
——— v. Hinds 182
——— v. Ingersoll 231
——— v. ——— 381
——— v. Kennedy 242
——— v. Locke 401
——— v. McCafferty . . . 384
——— v. McCarthy 575
——— v. McGurty 257
——— v. McNeff 406
——— v. McParland . . . 378
——— v. Maloney 205
——— v. Moore 244
——— v. Murphy 250
——— v. Pratt 248
——— v. Savery 212
——— v. Shannihan . . . 99
——— v. Shaw 349
——— v. Shurn 150
——— v. Snee 351
——— v. Turner 296
——— v. Wall 216
——— v. Wentworth . . . 50
——— v. White 392
Comstock v. Chamberlain . . 450
——— v. Edwards 450
Connecticut River Lumber Co. (French v.) 261
Connecticut River Railroad (Bassett v.) 129
——— (Blaisdell v.) . . . 132
Cotton v. Atlas National Bank 43
Counsell v. Hall 468
County Commissioners (Northampton v.) 108
Cowen v. Sunderland . . . 363
Crafts (Northampton Bank v.) 444
Crocker (Barber v.) 203
Crooker (Wilson v.) 571
Crowley (Commonwealth v.) . 430

Daggett (Donnelly v.) . . . 314
Dalay v. Savage 38
Dauray (Langley v.) . . . 325
Dennett (Reeve v.) 23
Donnelly v. Daggett 314
Downey (Commonwealth v.) . 377
Doyle v. Boston & Albany Railroad 386
Dunster (Commonwealth v.) . 101

Easthampton (Fortin v.) . . 196
Eaton v. Tuson 218
Eddy v. Adams 489
Edwards (Comstock v.) . . . 450
——— v. New York & New England Railroad 450
Elwell (Brigham v.) 520
Equitable Assurance Society (Pierce v.) 56
Essex (Vose v.) 500
Ewig (Commonwealth v.) . . 119

Fairbanks v. Snow 153
Fitch (Granite Bank v.) . . 567
Fitchburg (Brackenridge v.) . 160
Fitchburg Insurance Co. (Putnam Tool Co. v.) 265
Fitchburg Railroad (Turner v.) 433
Fogg v. Price 513
Fortin v. Easthampton . . . 196
Foss (Freeman v.) 361
Fowler (Commonwealth v.) . 398
Freeman v. Foss 361
French v. Connecticut River Lumber Co. 261

Gallagher (Commonwealth v.) 104
Gauffret (Richards v.) . . . 486
Gilbert Manufacturing Co. (Tuttle v.) 169
Gill (Mount Hermon Boys' School v.) 139
Giroux v. Stedman 489
Goldenberg v. Blake 354
Granite Bank v. Fitch . . . 567
Graves (Stone v.) 353
Greenwich (Orthodox Congregational Society v.) . . . 112

Hager (Spring v.) 186
Hale v. Spaulding 482
Hall (Counsell v.) 468
Hamilton v. McLaughlin . . 20
Hampshire County Bank (Northampton Bank v.) 444
Handy (Tibbetts v.) 537
Handyside v. Powers . . . 123
Harper (Commonwealth v.) . 100
Hayes (Commonwealth v.) . 289
Hill (Commonwealth v.) . . 305

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Digitized by Google

Hill (Tompkins v.) 379
Hinckley v. Somerset 326
Hinds (Commonwealth v.) . . . 182
Holman (Lane v.) 221
Howe v. Salisbury 279

Ingersoll (Commonwealth v.) . 231
——— (———) 381

Jenkins v. Wood 494

Keith v. McCaffrey 18
Kennedy (Commonwealth v.) . 242
Kimball (McKenna v.) 555

Lambie (McCallum v.) 234
——— (Pierce v.) 234
Lane v. Holman 221
Langley v. Dauray 325
Leland (Sears v.) 277
Liffin v. Beverly 549
Lincoln (Tracy v.) 357
Litchfield (McPhee v.) 565
Locke (Commonwealth v.) . . . 401
Lowell v. Strahan 1

McCafferty (Commonwealth v.) 384
McCaffrey (Keith v.) 18
McCallum v. Lambie 234
McCarthy (Commonwealth v.) 575
——— v. Swan 471
McGurty (Commonwealth v.) . 257
McKenna v. Kimball 555
McKenzie v. Ashley 577
McLaughlin (Hamilton v.) . . 20
McNeff (Commonwealth v.) . 406
McNulty (Murphy v.) 464
McParland (Commonwealth v.) 378
McPhee v. Litchfield 565
Maloney (Commonwealth v.) . 205
Manufacturers' Insurance Co. v. Western Assurance Co. . . 419
Marble v. Mellen 342
Marblehead Water Co. (Woodbury v.) 509
Marshall v. Boston & Albany Railroad 164
Mellen (Marble v.) 342
Metcalf (Bath v.) 274
Milford (Shea v.) 525
——— (———) 528
Miller v. Shay 162
Moore (Commonwealth v.) . . 244
Mount Hermon Boys' School v. Gill 139
Mulchahey v. Washburn Car Wheel Co. 281
Murphy (Commonwealth v.) . 250
——— v. McNulty 464
——— v. Murphy 224

Nash v. South Hadley . . . 105
——— (Steele v.) 198
Nealley v. Bradford 561
New York & New England Railroad (Abbott v.) . . 450
——— (Edwards v.) . . . 450
Northampton v. County Commissioners 108
——— (O'Keefe v.) . . . 115
Northampton Bank v. Crafts . 444
——— v. Hampshire County Bank 444
North Andover (Abbott v.) . 484

O'Connell v. O'Leary . . . 311
Odd Fellows' Relief Association (Tyler v.) 134
O'Donnell v. Clinton 461
O'Keefe v. Northampton . . 115
O'Leary (O'Connell v.) . . . 311
Opinion of Justices 587
Orthodox Congregational Society v. Greenwich . . . 112
O'Shaughnessy v. Suffolk Brewing Co. 569

Parsons (Barber v.) 203
Peabody (Pickman v.) . . . 480
Pecord v. Stedman 439
Phelps v. Phelps 416
Phœnix Assurance Co. (Ring v.) 426
Pickman v. Peabody 480
Pierce v. Equitable Assurance Society 56
——— v. Lambie 234
Pigeon Hill Granite Co. (Cleaves v.) 541
Powers (Handyside v.) . . . 123
Pratt (Commonwealth v.) . . 248
Price (Fogg v.) 513
Putnam Tool Co. v. Fitchburg Insurance Co. 265
Pyne v. Wood 558

Reeve v. Dennett 23

Digitized by Google

Richards *v.* Gauffret 486
Richardson (Shepard *v.*) . . . 32
Riley (Slocum *v.*) 370
Ring *v.* Phœnix Assurance Co. 426

Salem (Stanton *v.*) 476
Salisbury (Howe *v.*) 279
Sanford (Winn *v.*) 302
Savage (Dalay *v.*) 38
Savery (Commonwealth *v.*) . 212
Sears *v.* Leland 277
Seward *v.* Arms 195
Shannihan (Commonwealth *v.*) 99
Shaw (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 349
——— *v.* Silloway 503
Shay (Miller *v.*) 162
Shea *v.* Milford 525
——— *v.* ——— 528
Shepard *v.* Richardson . . . 32
Shurn (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 150
Silloway (Shaw *v.*) 503
Simanovich *v.* Wood . . . 180
Simpson *v.* Story 497
Slocum *v.* Riley 370
Snee (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 351
Snow (Fairbanks *v.*) . . . 153
Somerset (Hinckley *v.*) . . . 326
Somerville Horse Railroad (Braslin *v.*) 64
South Hadley (Bliss *v.*) . . 91
——— (Nash *v.*) 105
South Scituate *v.* Stoughton . 535
Spaulding (Hale *v.*) 482
Spring *v.* Hager 186
Springfield Insurance Co. (Towne *v.*) 582
Squires *v.* Amherst 192
Stanton *v.* Salem 476
Stedman (Giroux *v.*) . . . 439
——— (Pecord *v.*) 439
Steele *v.* Nash 198
Stetson (Taunton Bank *v.*) . 366
Stockbridge, petitioner . . . 517
Stone *v.* Graves 353
Story (Simpson *v.*) 497
Stoughton (South Scituate *v.*) 535
Strahan (Lowell *v.*) 1
Suffolk Brewing Co. (O'Shaughnessy *v.*) 569
Sunderland (Cowen *v.*) . . . 363
Swan (McCarthy *v.*) . . . 471
Swift *v.* Carr 552

Taunton Bank *v.* Stetson . . 366
Taylor *v.* Carroll 95
——— *v.* Taylor 239
Tibbetts *v.* Handy 537
Tomlinson *v.* Bury 346
Tompkins *v.* Hill 379
Towne *v.* Springfield Insurance Co. 582
Tracy *v.* Lincoln 357
Traders' Insurance Co. (Bryan *v.*) 389
Traders' Bank (Blake *v.*) . . 13
Travelers' Insurance Co. (Coburn *v.*) 226
Trimble (Wheaton *v.*) . . . 345
Turner (Commonwealth *v.*) . 296
——— *v.* Fitchburg Railroad . 433
Tuson (Eaton *v.*) 218
Tuttle *v.* Gilbert Manufacturing Co. 169
Tyler *v.* Odd Fellows' Relief Association 134

United Society *v.* Brooks . . 410

Vose *v.* Essex 500

Wall (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 216
Warren *v.* Carey 78
Washburn Car Wheel Co. (Mulchahey *v.*) 281
Welch (Barber *v.*) 203
Wellington *v.* Apthorp . . . 69
Wentworth (Commonwealth *v.*) 50
Western Assurance Co. (Manufacturers' Insurance Co. *v.*) 419
Wheaton *v.* Trimble 345
White (Commonwealth *v.*) . 392
Whitmarsh (Callaghan *v.*) . . 340
Whitney *v.* Clary 156
Wilson *v.* Crooker 571
——— *v.* Wilson 490
——— *v.* Winslow 339
Winn *v.* Sanford 302
Winslow (Wilson *v.*) . . . 339
Wood *v.* Boyd 176
——— (Jenkins *v.*) 494
——— (Pyne *v.*) 558
——— (Simanovich *v.*) . . 180
Woodbury *v.* Marblehead Water Co. 509

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TABLE OF CASES

CITED BY THE COURT.

Aaron *v.* Alexander, 3 Camp. 35 276
Abbott *v.* N. Y. & N. E. Railroad, 145 Mass. 450 511
Abeel *v.* Radcliff, 13 Johns. 297 515
Adams *v.* Palmer, 6 Gray, 338 496, 522
——— *v.* Stone, 131 Mass. 433 237
Agawam Bank *v.* South Hadley, 128 Mass. 503 486
Almy *v.* Crapo, 100 Mass. 218 522
Amidon *v.* Benjamin, 128 Mass. 534 566
Andrews *v.* Lyons, 11 Allen, 349 188
Appleton *v.* Parker, 15 Gray, 173 45
Arnold *v.* Spurr, 130 Mass. 347 346
Ashcroft *v.* Eastern Railroad, 126 Mass. 196 179
Ashley *v.* Root, 4 Allen, 504 175
Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fé Railroad *v.* Burlingame, 36 Kans. 628 507
Atkinson *v.* Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad, 15 Ohio St. 21 454
Atlas Bank *v.* Nahant Bank, 3 Met. 581 312
Atwood *v.* Chichester, 3 Q. B. D. 722 19

Babson *v.* Rockport, 101 Mass. 93 336
Bacon *v.* Abbott, 137 Mass. 397 339
——— *v.* Gassett, 13 Allen, 334 241
Bahia & San Francisco Railway, In re, L. R. 3 Q. B. 584 360
Baldwin *v.* Hildreth, 14 Gray, 221 237
——— *v.* Morgan, 48 Hun, 355 11
Bales *v.* Weddle, 14 Ind. 349 31
Balfe *v.* Lord, 2 Dr. & W. 480 35
Ballou *v.* Billings, 136 Mass. 307 325
Bancroft *v.* Boston & Worcester Railroad, 11 Allen, 34 285
Barrows *v.* Turner, 50 Maine, 127 273
Barry *v.* Equitable Life Assurance Society, 59 N. Y. 587 154
Bassett *v.* Connecticut River Railroad, 145 Mass. 129 132
Batterson *v.* Vogel, 10 Mo. App. 235 191
Baxter *v.* McIntire, 13 Gray, 168 273
Bayley *v.* Bailey, 5 Gray, 505 391
——— *v.* Eastern Railroad, 125 Mass. 62 389
Bazemore *v.* Freeman, 58 Ga. 276 155
Beckwith *v.* Cheshire Railroad, 143 Mass. 68 168
Beeman *v.* Lawton, 37 Maine, 543 506
Bell *v.* Hewitt, 24 Ind. 280 73
——— *v.* Morrison, 1 Pet. 351 486
Bemis *v.* Leonard, 118 Mass. 502 222
Benjamin *v.* Wheeler, 15 Gray, 486 563
Bennett *v.* Clemence, 8 Allen, 431 286
Berkshire Woollen Co. *v.* Day, 12 Cush. 128 476
——— *v.* Proctor, 7 Cush. 417 189
Bernier *v.* Cabot Manuf. Co. 71 Maine, 506 363
Bewley *v.* Equitable Assurance Society, 61 How. Pr. 344 59
Bickford *v.* Grand Junction Railway, 1 Sup. Ct. of Canada, 696 454
Bicknell *v.* Cleverly, 125 Mass. 164 573
Black *v.* Delaware & Raritan Canal, 7 C. E. Green, 130 454
Blackburn *v.* Walpole, 9 Pick. 97 52
Blackwell *v.* Old Colony Railroad, 122 Mass. 1 265
Blake *v.* National Banks, 23 Wall. 307 498
Bliss *v.* American Bible Society, 2 Allen, 334 91
——— *v.* South Hadley, 145 Mass. 91 571
Bloss *v.* Tobey, 2 Pick. 320 237
Bobsin *v.* Kingsbury, 138 Mass. 538 318
Bonham *v.* Newcomb, 1 Vern. 232 36
——— *v.* ——— 2 Vent. 364 36
Borden *v.* Jenks, 140 Mass. 562 348
Bornstein *v.* Lans, 104 Mass. 214 73
Boston & Providence Railroad *v.* Midland Railroad, 1 Gray, 340 452
Boston Gas Light Co. *v.* Old Colony & Newport Railway, 14 Allen, 444 435
Bowditch *v.* Jordan, 131 Mass. 321 519
Bowe *v.* Hunking, 135 Mass. 380 174, 364
Bowen *v.* Dorrance, 12 R. I. 269 91
Bower *v.* Burlington & Southwestern Railroad, 42 Iowa, 546 68
Boyden *v.* Partridge, 2 Gray, 190 447
Boys *v.* Williams, 2 Russ. & Myl. 689 91
Braslin *v.* Somerville Horse Railroad, 145 Mass. 64 454
Brayton *v.* Fall River, 113 Mass. 218 265
Brettun *v.* Anthony, 103 Mass. 37 237
Brickett *v.* Haverhill Aqueduct Co. 142 Mass. 394 511

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Bridgewater v. Dartmouth, 4 Mass. 273 536
Brinckerhoff v. Lansing, 4 Johns. Ch. 65 45
Britton v. Cummington, 107 Mass. 347 336
Brock v. Stimson, 108 Mass. 520 275
Bromley v. Jefferies, 2 Vern. 415 515
Brooke v. Garrod, 3 K. & J. 608 516
Brookline v. Mackintosh, 133 Mass. 215 436
Brooks v. Hoyt, 6 Pick. 468 371
——— v. Jackson, 125 Mass. 307 522
——— v. Somerville, 106 Mass. 271 337
Broomhead, In re, 16 L. J. (Q. B.) 855 507
Brown v. Cambridge, 8 Allen, 474 194, 463
——— v. Rutherford, 42 Law T. (N. S.) 659 507
——— v. Wood, 121 Mass. 137 293
Brummel v. Prothero, 3 Ves. 111 348
Bumstead v. Dividend Ins. Co. 2 Kern. 81 585
Burnby v. Bollett, 16 M. & W. 644 442
Burr v. Leicester, 121 Mass. 241 562
Burt v. Merchants' Ins. Co. 106 Mass. 356 458
Butler v. Fessenden, 12 Cush. 78 222
Byam v. Bickford, 140 Mass. 31 496

Caffrey v. Drugan, 144 Mass. 294 276
Callender v. Marsh, 1 Pick. 418 562
Calnan v. Toomey, 129 Mass. 451 341
Campbell v. New England Ins. Co. 98 Mass. 381 429
Canada v. Canada, 6 Cush. 15 73
Cannan v. Reynolds, 5 El. & Bl. 301 19
Canterbury v. Boston, 141 Mass. 215 551
Capen v. Stoughton, 16 Gray, 364 19
Capital & Counties Bank v. Henty, 7 App. Cas. 741 237
Carleton v. Akron Sewer Pipe Co. 129 Mass. 40 223
Carr v. Dooley, 119 Mass. 294 180
Carroll v. Manchester & Lawrence Railroad, 111 Mass. 1 138
Carter v. Andrews, 16 Pick. 1 237
Cashill v. Wright, 6 El. & Bl. 890 190
Catlin v. Springfield Ins. Co. 1 Sumner, 434 585
Cave v. Mountain, 1 Man. & Gr. 257 208
Caviness v. Rushton, 101 Ind. 500 73
Central National Bank v. Worcester Horse Railroad, 13 Allen, 105 67
Chapel of the Good Shepherd v. Boston, 120 Mass. 212 148
Chapman v. Rose, 56 N. Y. 137 463
Charlestown Branch Railroad v. County Commissioners, 7 Met. 78 451
Chase v. Keyes, 2 Gray, 214 371
Cheeseborough v. Green, 10 Conn. 319 12
Chenery v. Goodrich, 98 Mass. 224 237
Cheshire v. County Commissioners, 118 Mass. 386 110
Chicago & Western Indiana Railroad v. Dunbar, 95 Ill. 571 454
Choate v. Arrington, 116 Mass. 552 522
——— v. Jacobs, 136 Mass. 297 522
City Insurance Co. v. Olmsted, 33 Conn. 476 506
Claflin v. Carpenter, 4 Met. 583 415
Clark v. Barnard, 108 U. S. 436 453
——— v. Dearborn, 103 Mass. 335 274
——— v. Pease, 41 N. H. 414 155
——— v. Swift, 3 Met. 390 516
——— v. Wilson, 103 Mass. 219 15
Clement v. British American Assurance Co. 141 Mass. 298 584
Clinton National Bank v. Bright, 126 Mass. 535 196
Cobb v. Fisher, 121 Mass. 169 80
Codman v. Rogers, 10 Pick. 112 507
Coe v. Columbus, Piqua, & Indiana Railroad, 10 Ohio St. 372 454
Cohen v. New York Ins. Co. 50 N. Y. 610 59
Collester v. Hailey, 6 Gray, 517 371
Collins v. South Boston Railroad, 142 Mass. 301 571
Comes v. Lamson, 16 Conn. 246 363
Commonwealth v. Adams, 6 Gray, 359 382
——— v. Austin, 7 Gray, 51 309
——— v. Ayer, 3 Cush. 150 395
——— v. Bakeman, 105 Mass. 53 406
——— v. Ballou, 124 Mass. 26 255
——— v. Bank of Mutual Redemption, 4 Allen 1 498
——— v. Barry, 115 Mass. 146 308
——— v. Bennett, 108 Mass. 27 117
——— v. Blood, 4 Gray, 31 410
——— v. Boston & Lowell Railroad, 134 Mass. 211 387
——— v. Boynton, 2 Allen, 160 214
——— v. Briant, 142 Mass. 463 98, 294, 388, 402
——— v. Briggs, 7 Pick. 177 102
——— v. Brigham, 108 Mass. 457 302
——— v. Brooks, 109 Mass. 355 385
——— v. Butterick, 100 Mass. 1 350
——— v. Cain, 102 Mass. 487 102
——— v. Carney, 108 Mass. 417 410
——— v. Carroll, 124 Mass. 30 308
——— v. Cheney, 114 Mass. 281 308
——— v. Churchill, 136 Mass. 148 251
——— v. Coe, 115 Mass. 481 395
——— v. Connecticut River Railroad, 15 Gray, 447 312
——— v. Coolidge, 188 Mass. 198 409
——— v. Costello, 120 Mass. 358 397
——— v. Cunningham, 104 Mass. 545 257
——— v. Davis, 140 Mass. 485 385
——— v. Dillane, 11 Gray, 67 207
——— v. Doherty, 137 Mass. 245 387
——— v. Dowdican's Bail, 115 Mass. 133 210
——— v. Dunbar, 15 Gray, 209 207
——— v. Eastman, 1 Cush. 189 395
——— v. Edds, 14 Gray, 406 402
——— v. Fahey, 5 Cush. 408 312
——— v. Fitchburg Railroad, 10 Allen, 189 389

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Commonwealth v. Galligan, 144 Mass. 171 251
——— v. Giles, 1 Gray, 466 255
——— v. Glover, 111 Mass. 395 249
——— v. Goldstein, 114 Mass. 272 152
——— v. Goodman, 97 Mass. 117 214
——— v. Gormley, 133 Mass. 580 182, 400
——— v. Hagan, 140 Mass. 289 247
——— v. Haher, 113 Mass. 207 256
——— v. Hall, 3 Pick. 262 182
——— v. ——— 4 Allen, 305 395
——— v. Hallett, 103 Mass. 452 214
——— v. Hamer, 128 Mass. 76 217
——— v. Hart, 11 Cush. 130 230
——— v. ——— 123 Mass. 416 118
——— v. Hartwell, 128 Mass. 415 576
——— v. Henry, 118 Mass. 460 397
——— v. Hinds, 101 Mass. 209 395
——— v. Holmes, 119 Mass. 195 102, 207, 402
——— v. Horton, 9 Pick. 206 382
——— v. Intoxicating Liquors, 107 Mass. 386 100
——— v. ——— 116 Mass. 27 402
——— v. Jackson, 132 Mass. 16 395
——— v. Jenks, 1 Gray, 490 102
——— v. Jennings, 121 Mass. 47 99
——— v. Kahlmeyer, 124 Mass. 322 402
——— v. Kelley, 116 Mass. 341 256, 410
——— v. Kennedy, 119 Mass. 211 308
——— v. Kenney, 115 Mass. 149 100
——— v. Ladd, 15 Mass. 526 397
——— v. Latinville, 120 Mass. 385 313
——— v. Locke, 114 Mass. 288 100
——— v. Luscomb, 130 Mass. 42 576
——— v. McAvoy, 16 Gray, 235 182
——— v. McCluskey, 123 Mass. 401 378
——— v. McLaughlin, 108 Mass. 477 100
——— v. M'Monagle, 1 Mass. 517 102
——— v. Mahoney, 115 Mass. 151 382
——— v. Mason, 135 Mass. 555 232
——— v. Mead, 10 Allen, 396 102
——— v. Mehan, 11 Gray, 321 182
——— v. Merriam, 14 Pick. 518 575
——— v. Moore, 130 Mass. 45 576
——— v. Morihan, 4 Allen, 585 207
——— v. Moylan, 119 Mass. 109 217
——— v. Murray, 138 Mass. 508 409
——— v. Nichols, 10 Met. 259 294, 402
——— v. ——— 114 Mass. 285 575
——— v. O'Hearn, 132 Mass. 553 182
——— v. O'Leary, 143 Mass. 95 313, 400
——— v. Patterson, 138 Mass. 498 409
——— v. Pejepscut Proprietors, 7 Mass. 399 476
——— v. Perkins, 1 Pick. 388 182
——— v. Porter, 10 Met. 263 309
——— v. Pratt, 126 Mass. 462 308
——— v. Price, 10 Gray, 472 395
——— v. Putnam, 4 Gray, 16 308
——— v. Rafferty, 133 Mass. 574 117
——— v. Raymond, 97 Mass. 567 214
——— v. Robinson, 126 Mass. 259 103
——— v. Ronan, 126 Mass. 59 409
——— v. Rourke, 141 Mass. 321 248
Commonwealth v. Ryan, 136 Mass. 436 117
——— v. Shearman, 11 Cush. 546 182
——— v. Sherman, 13 Allen, 248 249
——— v. Smith, 10 Allen, 448 67, 454
——— v. Snell, 3 Mass. 82 259
——— v. Stearns, 10 Met. 256 398
——— v. Stevenson, 142 Mass. 466 294
——— v. Tabor, 138 Mass. 496 409
——— v. Talbot, 2 Allen, 161 397
——— v. Tilton, 8 Met. 232 300
——— v. Tobias, 141 Mass. 129 576
——— v. Trainor, 123 Mass. 414 232
——— v. Tryon, 99 Mass. 442 308
——— v. Tuck, 20 Pick. 356 102
——— v. Wachendorf, 141 Mass. 270 293
——— v. Welch, 97 Mass. 593 308
——— v. Wellington, 7 Allen, 299 576
——— v. Weymouth, 2 Allen, 144 19
——— v. Wood, 97 Mass. 225 308
——— v. Worcester, 141 Mass. 58 248
Conlin v. Aldrich, 98 Mass. 557 55
Connecticut River Railroad v. County Commissioners, 127 Mass. 50 511
Consolidated Ins. Co. v. Cashow, 41 Md. 59 426
Copley v. New Haven & Northampton Co. 136 Mass. 6 389
Corcoran v. Boston & Albany Railroad, 133 Mass. 507 286
Corliss Steam Engine Co. v. Schumacher, 109 Mass. 416 371
Cory v. Bristow, 2 App. Cas. 262 12
Costelo v. Crowell, 139 Mass. 588 395
Cottage Street Church v. Kendall, 121 Mass. 528 73
Cotton v. Atlas Bank, 145 Mass. 43 569
Cowley v. Train, 124 Mass. 226 236
Craig v. Lewis, 110 Mass. 377 80
Creely v. Bay State Brick Co. 103 Mass. 514 512
Crompton v. Pratt, 105 Mass. 255 278
Cumberland v. North Yarmouth, 4 Greenl. 459 586
Cumberland & Oxford Canal v. Hitchings, 57 Maine, 146 312
Cummings v. Bramhall, 120 Mass. 552 241
Cunliffe v. Cunliffe, 23 W. R. 724 91
Cunningham v. Kimball, 7 Mass. 65 32
Curley v. Harris, 11 Allen, 112 194
Curran v. Rummell, 118 Mass. 482 137
Curtis v. Aspinwall, 114 Mass. 187 325
Cushing v. Field, 9 Met. 180 490

Daniels v. Lebanon, 58 N. H. 284 161
Darlington v. United States, 82 Penn. St. 382 453
Dartmouth v. Lakeville, 7 Allen, 284 536
——— v. ——— 9 Allen, 211, n. 536
Davis v. Capper, 10 B. & C. 28 208
——— v. Old Colony Railroad, 131 Mass. 258 67
——— v. Russell, 5 Bing. 354 275
——— v. Statts, 48 Ind. 103 304

Digitized by Google

Day v. Bassett, 102 Mass. 445 278
——— v. Berkshire Woollen Co. 1 Gray, 420 204
——— v. Frank, 127 Mass. 497 312
Deerfield v. Connecticut River Railroad, 144 Mass. 825 436
Delano v. Smith Charities, 138 Mass. 63 169
Dennis v. Sayles, 11 Met. 283 368
Derby v. Sanford, 9 Cush. 268 475
Dering v. Winchelsea, 1 White & Tudor's Lead. Cas. in Eq. (6th ed.) 114 15
Dexter v. Booth, 2 Allen, 559 293
Dickinson v. Metacomet Bank, 130 Mass. 132 360
Dietrich v. Murdock, 42 Mo. 279 451
Dirks v. Richards, 4 Man. & Gr. 574 23
Dodge v. Emerson, 131 Mass. 467 45, 360
Doggett v. Cook, 11 Cush. 262 210
Donaldson v. Boston, 16 Gray, 508 337
Donohue v. Woodbury, 6 Cush. 148 380
Dorgan v. Boston, 12 Allen, 228 109
Dow v. Sanborn, 3 Allen, 181 31
Dows v. Swett, 127 Mass. 364 32
Drake v. Wells, 11 Allen, 141 415
Drew v. Tarbell, 117 Mass. 90 293
Drury v. Midland Railroad, 127 Mass. 571 457
Duncan v. Scott, 1 Camp. 100 155
Durant v. Palmer, 5 Dutch. 544 42

Eads v. Williams, 4 DeG. M. & G. 674 516
East Boston Freight Railroad v. Eastern Railroad, 13 Allen, 422 454
Eastern Railroad v. Relief Ins. Co. 98 Mass. 420 423, 429
——— v. ——— 105 Mass. 570 269
Eaton v. Miner, 5 N. H. 542 342
Edgartown v. Tisbury, 10 Cush. 408 536
Edson v. Edson, 108 Mass. 590 19
Edwards v. Ela, 5 Allen, 87 522
Elcox v. Hill, 98 U. S. 218 190
Elder v. Bemis, 2 Met. 599 563
Eldridge v. Hawley, 115 Mass. 410 98
Electric Telegraph Co. v. Overseers of Salford, 11 Exch. 181 12
Elmer v. Locke, 135 Mass. 575 387
Elsey v. Odd Fellows' Relief Association, 142 Mass. 224 136
Emmons v. Hayward, 6 Cush. 501 507

Fairbanks v. Snow, 145 Mass. 153 463
Fall River Bank v. Buffinton, 97 Mass. 498 360
Farnsworth v. Lowery, 134 Mass. 512 527
Farnum v. Bascom, 122 Mass. 282 347
Fay v. Sears, 111 Mass. 154 196
——— v. Salem & Danvers Aqueduct, 9 Allen, 577 481
——— v. ——— 111 Mass. 27 481
Fenton v. Emblers, 3 Burr. 1278 73
Field v. Gooding, 106 Mass. 310 498
Fisher v. Mellen, 103 Mass. 503 462
Fisher v. New York & New England Railroad, 135 Mass. 107 435
——— v. Shattuck, 17 Pick. 252 154
Fitch v. Seymour, 9 Met. 462 80
Fitchburg Railroad v. Page, 131 Mass. 391 436
Flagg v. Worcester, 13 Gray, 601 563
Flynn v. Bourneuf, 143 Mass. 277 180
——— v. Coffee, 12 Allen, 133 519
Folsom v. Clemence, 111 Mass. 273 573
Fonda v. Van Horne, 15 Wend. 631 155
Foote v. Hartford Ins. Co. 119 Mass. 259 390
Ford v. Ford, 143 Mass. 577 463
Forrest v. Overseers of Greenwich, 8 E. & B. 890 12
Forster v. Davies, 4 DeG. F. & J. 133 494
Fortin v. Easthampton, 142 Mass. 486 551
Foss v. Hildreth, 10 Allen, 76 154
Foster v. Boston, 133 Mass. 143 33
——— v. Durant, 2 Cush. 544 476
——— v. Mackinnon, L. R. 4 C. P. 704 462
Fouldes v. Willoughby, 8 M. & W. 540 527
Fowle v. Springfield Ins. Co. 122 Mass. 191 584
Fowler v. Butterly, 78 N. Y. 68 155
——— v. Parsons, 143 Mass. 401 360
Freeman v. Cooke, 2 Exch. 654 360
——— v. Travelers' Ins. Co. 144 Mass. 572 229
French v. Merrill, 132 Mass. 525 508
——— v. Vining, 102 Mass. 132 448

Galveston Railroad v. Cowdrey, 11 Wall. 459 454
Gandy v. Jubber, 5 B. & S. 78 40
——— v. ——— 5 B. & S. 485 40
Gardner v. Lane, 9 Allen, 492 429
——— v. ——— 12 Allen, 39 429
——— v. ——— 98 Mass. 517 429
——— v. Webber, 17 Pick. 407 73
Gay v. Boston & Albany Railroad, 141 Mass. 407 429
Gelston v. Sigmund, 27 Md. 384 515
Gilbert v. Stone, Aleyn, 35 155
——— v. ——— Style, 72 155
Giles v. Simonds, 15 Gray, 441 415
Gill v. Middleton, 105 Mass. 477 175
Gilmer v. Lime Point, 18 Cal. 229 453
Girard Bank v. Bank of Penn, 39 Penn. St. 92 507
Glidden v. Reading, 38 Vt. 52 161
Goddard v. Monitor Ins. Co. 108 Mass. 56 428
Godley v. Hagerty, 20 Penn. St. 387 365
Goldstein v. Foss, 6 B. & C. 154 287
Good, Ex parte, 5 Ch. D. 46 483
Good v. French, 115 Mass. 201 275
Goodnow v. Hill, 125 Mass. 587 98
——— v. Smith, 18 Pick. 414 483
Goodrich v. Davis, 11 Met. 473 287
Goodridge v. Rogers, 22 Pick. 495 496

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Digitized by Google

Goss v. Ellison, 136 Mass. 503 194
Gould v. Mansfield, 103 Mass. 408 73
Goward v. Waters, 98 Mass. 596 73
Grace v. Denison, 114 Mass. 16 515
Grand Junction Railroad & Depot Co. v. County Commissioners, 14 Gray, 553 512
Green v. Russell, 132 Mass. 536 45
——— v. Scranage, 19 Iowa, 461 155
Griffin v. Coleman, 4 H. & N. 265 276
Gulline v. Lowell, 144 Mass. 491 94
Gwinnell v. Eamer, L. R. 10 C. P. 658 41

Hadden v. The Collector, 5 Wall. 107 498
Hall v. Holden, 116 Mass. 172 462
——— v. Lanning, 91 U. S. 160 486
——— v. Sullivan Railroad, 21 Law Reporter, 138 35, 454
——— v. ——— 2 Redf. Am. Ry. Cas. 621 35
——— v. Tufts, 18 Pick. 455 278
Hallett v. Cumston, 110 Mass. 32 60
Hancock v. Austin, 14 C. B. (N. S.) 634 12
——— v. Franklin Ins. Co. 114 Mass. 155 507
Hanscom v. Boston, 141 Mass. 242 337, 479
Harding v. Coburn, 12 Met. 333 274
Harkins v. Quincy Ins. Co. 16 Gray, 591 584
Harrigan v. Connecticut River Lumber Co. 129 Mass. 580 264
Harriman v. Harriman, 12 Gray, 341 137
Hart v. Western Railroad, 13 Met. 99 15, 180
Harvard College v. Stearns, 15 Gray, 1 264
Harwood v. Mulry, 8 Gray, 250 163
Haskell v. New Bedford, 108 Mass. 208 264
——— v. Whitney, 12 Mass. 47 476
Haven v. Lowell, 5 Met. 35 52, 528
Hays v. Jackson, 6 Mass. 149 348
Hazen v. Boston & Maine Railroad, 2 Gray, 574 456
Heald v. Carey, 11 C. B. 977 527
Hencken v. United States Ins. Co. 11 Daly, 282 59
——— v. ——— 98 N. Y. 627 59
Henderson v. Benson, 141 Mass. 218 588
Herbert v. Markwell, 45 L. T. (N. S.) 649 190
Higgins v. Scott, 2 B. & Ad. 413 507
Hill v. Beebe, 3 Kern. 556 45
——— v. Boston, 122 Mass. 344 557
——— v. Yates, 8 Taunt. 182 275
Hills v. Farrington, 6 Allen, 80 573
Hinckley v. Germania Ins. Co. 140 Mass. 38 427
Hodgson v. Shaw, 3 Myl. & K. 183 14
Holbrook v. Holbrook, 1 Pick. 248 498
Hollenbeck v. Berkshire Railroad, 9 Cush. 478 286
Hollenbeck v. Rowley, 8 Allen, 473 80
Holmes v. Kerrison, 2 Taunt. 323 507
Hoover v. Peters, 18 Mich. 51 442
Howard v. Chase, 104 Mass. 249 221
——— v. Emerson, 110 Mass. 320 442
Howe v. Dartmouth, 7 Ves. 137 348
——— v. Walker, 4 Gray, 318 180
Hubbard v. Coolidge, 1 Met. 84 73

India Wharf v. Central Wharf, 117 Mass. 504 113
Irvine v. Wood, 51 N. Y. 224 42

Jackman v. Arlington Mills, 137 Mass. 277 42
Jackson v. St. Paul Ins. Co. 99 N. Y. 124 426
Jacobs v. Hesler, 113 Mass. 157 293
James v. Brock, 9 Q. B. 7 239
——— v. Bligh, 11 Allen, 4 463
Jameson v. Jameson, 72 Mo. 640 507
Jenkin v. Row, 5 DeG. & Sm. 107 35
Jenkins v. Stetson, 9 Allen, 128 72
Jennings v. Commonwealth, 105 Mass. 586 102
Jewett v. Tucker, 139 Mass. 566 447
Joannes v. Bennett, 5 Allen, 169 259
Jochumsen v. Suffolk Savings Bank, 3 Allen, 87 519
Jones v. Broadhurst, 9 C. B. 173 569
——— v. Crosthwaite, 17 Iowa, 393 304
——— v. Tarleton, 9 M. & W. 675 23
Jordan v. Osgood, 109 Mass. 457 395
Judge v. Conecticut Ins. Co. 132 Mass. 521 392

Keene v. White, 136 Mass. 28 539
Keithler v. Foster, 22 Ohio St. 27 507
Kelly v. Laws, 109 Mass. 395 566
Kenison v. Arlington, 144 Mass. 456 480
Kennebec & Portland Railroad v. Portland & Kennebec Railroad, 59 Maine, 9 454
Kennedy v. Saunders, 142 Mass. 9 96
——— v. Standard Sugar Refinery, 125 Mass. 90 286
Kent v. Garvin, 1 Gray, 148 168
——— v. Kent, 62 N. Y. 560 73
Kenworthy v. Sawyer, 125 Mass. 28 483
Kerford v. Mondel, 5 H. & N. 931 23
Kimball v. Ætna Ins. Co. 9 Allen, 540 429
——— v. Newell, 7 Hill, 116 304
King, The, v. Pedly, 1 A. & E. 822 41
——— v. Welcome, 5 Gray, 41 363
Kingsbury v. Quincy School District, 12 Met. 99 53
Kirkwood v. Thompson, 2 Hen. & M. 392 37
Knox v. Flack, 22 Penn. St. 337 155
Koch v. Briggs, 14 Cal. 256 36
Kohl v. United States, 91 U. S. 367 453
Krulevitz v. Eastern Railroad, 140 Mass. 573 318
Kyte v. Commercial Assur. Co. 144 Mass. 43 269

Digitized by Google

Lamson v. Newburyport, 14 Allen, 30 115
Lancaster v. Choate, 5 Allen, 530 367
Lancaster Telephone Co. v. Overseers of Manchester, 14 Q. B. D. 267 12
Langdon v. Doud, 6 Allen, 423 371
Learoyd v. Godfrey, 138 Mass. 315 161
Leary v. Duff, 137 Mass. 147 113
Leddy v. Barney, 139 Mass. 394 194
Leonard v. Storer, 115 Mass. 86 41
——— v. Stott, 108 Mass. 46 560
Lewes' trusts, In re, L. R. 6 Ch. 356 519
Lewis v. Bannister, 16 Gray, 500 154
Litchfield v. Hutchinson, 117 Mass. 195 462
Little v. Phœnix Ins. Co. 128 Mass. 380 583
Locking v. Parker, L. R. 8 Ch. 30 85
Loomis v. Ruck, 56 N. Y. 462 155
Looney v. McLean, 129 Mass. 33 174
Loring v. Bacon, 4 Mass. 575 12
——— v. Brodie, 134 Mass. 453 14
——— v. Steineman, 1 Met. 204 519
Lowell Five Cents Savings Bank v. Winchester, 8 Allen, 109 486
Luce v. Dorchester Ins. Co. 105 Mass. 297 428
Lumberman's Bank v. Pratt, 51 Maine, 563 486
Lyman v. Boston & Worcester Railroad, 4 Cush. 288 130
Lynch v. Smith, 104 Mass. 52 571
Lynde v. McGregor, 13 Allen, 172 395
Lyon v. Fishmongers' Co. 1 App. Cas. 662 265

McCarthy v. Henderson, 138 Mass. 310 560
M'Cloughan v. Clayton, Holt N. P. 478 275
McGregory v. McGregory, 107 Mass. 543 569
McLaughlin v. Washington County Ins. Co. 28 Wend. 525 585
McPherson v. Cox, 96 U. S. 404 493
Maddison v. Alderson, 8 App. Cas. 467 77
——— v. ——— 5 Ex. D. 293 77
——— v. ——— 7 Q. B. D. 174 77
Maggs v. Ames, 4 Bing. 470 303
Mahoney v. Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad, 63 Maine, 68 68
Marshall v. Merritt, 103 Mass. 45 19
Mason v. Pearson, 118 Mass. 61 19
——— v. Thompson, 9 Pick. 280 190
——— v. ——— 18 Pick. 305 416
Massachusetts General Hospital v. State Assurance Co. 4 Gray, 227 60
Master v. Miller, 4 T. R. 320 154
Masters v. Ibberson, 8 C. B. 100 154
Mattey v. Whittier Machine Co. 140 Mass. 337 571
Mercantile Ins. Co. v. Clark, 118 Mass. 288 15
Merriam v. Cunningham, 11 Cush. 40 560
Messenger v. Dennie, 137 Mass. 197 571
——— v. ——— 141 Mass. 335 571
Michigan Central Railroad v. Dunham, 30 Mich. 128 464
Middlesex Railroad v. Boston & Chelsea Railroad, 115 Mass. 347 67
Milkman v. Ordway, 106 Mass. 232 512
Miller v. Lyon, 6 Allen, 514 204
——— v. McKenzie, 95 N. Y. 575 73
——— v. Rutland & Washington Railroad, 36 Vt. 452 454
Milward v. Thanet, 5 Ves. 720, n. 516
Minor v. Sharon, 112 Mass. 477 364
Mitchell v. Wall, 111 Mass. 492 318
——— v. Worcester, 129 Mass. 525 106
Moens v. Heyworth, 10 M. & W. 147 429
Moley v. Brine, 120 Mass. 324 156
Monies v. Lynn, 119 Mass. 273 337
Monticello Female Seminary v. People, 106 Ill. 398. 148
Montreal Bank v. Sweeny, 12 App. Cas. 617 14
Moore v. American Transportation Co. 24 How. 1 799
——— v. Fitz Randolph, 6 Leigh, 175 516
——— v. Weaver, 16 Gray, 305 520
Morgan v. Rarey, 2 F. & F. 283 191
——— v. Ravey, 6 H. & N. 265 190
Morrison v. Mullin, 34 Penn. St. 12 507
Morse v. Copeland, 2 Gray, 302 80
——— v. Wheeler, 4 Allen, 570 158
Mortland v. Little, 137 Mass. 339 196
Moyle v. Drake, 141 Mass. 288 318
Mullaly v. Austin, 97 Mass. 30 32
Mullen v. Old Colony Railsoad, 127 Mass. 86 463
Mulligan v. Curtis, 100 Mass. 512 571
Mulry v. Mohawk Valley Ins. Co. 5 Gray, 541 228
Murch v. Concord Railroad, 9 Foster, 1 68
Murchison v. Sergent, 69 Ga. 206 190
Mure v. Kaye, 4 Taunt. 34 275
Murley v. Roche, 130 Mass. 330 571
Murphy v. Calley, 1 Allen, 107 390
——— v. Countiss, 1 Harring. 143 275
——— v. Lee, 144 Mass. 371 179
Myer v. Car Co. 102 U. S. 1 498
Myers v. Meinrath, 101 Mass. 366 314
Mytton v. Mytton, 44 L. J. Ch. 18 91

Nabb v. Koontz, 17 Md. 283 304
New Bedford v. Taunton, 9 Allen, 207 586
Newcomb v. Stebbins, 9 Met. 540 522
New Haven Horse Nail Co. v. Linden Spring Co. 142 Mass. 349 63
Nelson v. Liverpool Brewery Co. 2 C. P. D. 311 41
New York & Erie Railroad v. Young, 33 Penn. St. 175 453
Nickels v. Philips, 18 Fla. 732 494
Norcross v. Norcross, 53 Maine, 163 190
Norris v. Crocker, 13 How. 429 312
North v. Wakefield, 13 Q. B. 536 483

Digitized by Google

Norton v. Eastern Railroad, 113 Mass. 366 387
——— v. Palmer, 142 Mass. 433 507
——— v. Rensselaer Ins. Co. 7 Cowen, 645 585
Norway, The, Br. & Lush. 404 23
Norway Plains Co. v. Boston & Maine Railroad, 1 Gray, 263 131
Norwich Co. v. Wright, 13 Wall. 104 499
Nourse v. Packard, 188 Mass. 307 287
Nowell v. Wright, 3 Allen, 166 557

Oakham v. Sutton, 13 Met. 192 536
O'Connor v. Boston & Lowell Railroad, 135 Mass. 352 571
——— v. Hartford Ins. Co. 31 Wis. 160 585
Odiorne v. Bacon, 6 Cush. 185 239
Old Colony Railroad v. Miller, 125 Mass. 1 460
——— v. Wilder, 137 Mass. 536 419
Oliver v. Washington Mills, 11 Allen, 268 109
Olmstead v. Partridge, 16 Gray, 381 318
Oppenheim v. White Lion Hotel Co. L. R. 6 C. P. 515 190
Orrell v. Hampden Ins. Co. 13 Gray, 431 228
Osborn v. Martha's Vineyard Railroad, 140 Mass. 549 194
Owings v. Jones, 9 Md. 108 42

Pacific Bank v. Mitchell, 9 Met. 297 569
Packard v. Pratt, 115 Mass. 405 82
Paige v. Parker, 8 Gray, 211 78
Paine v. Woods, 108 Mass. 160 488
Palmer v. Palmer, 36 Mich. 487 507
——— v. ——— 13 Gray, 326 522
Parker v. Coburn, 10 Allen, 82 73
——— v. Lowell, 11 Gray, 353 564
——— v. Snow, 143 Mass. 423 538
Parsell v. Stryker, 41 N. Y. 480 73
Pecker v. Silsby, 123 Mass. 108 221
Peirce v. Cohasset Ins. Co. 123 Mass. 572 228
People v. Security Ins. Co. 78 N. Y. 114 59
Peoria v. Simpson, 110 Ill. 294 42
Perkins v. Lockwood, 100 Mass. 249 137
Peters v. Westborough, 19 Pick. 364 78
Pevey v. Skinner, 116 Mass. 129 11
Phelps v. Phelps, 143 Mass. 570 418
Phené's trusts, In re, L. R. 5 Ch. 139 519
Phillips v. Fadden, 125 Mass. 198 275
Pierce v. Emery, 32 N. H. 484 454
——— v. Parker, 4 Met. 80 273
Pigot's case, 11 Rep. 26 b 463
Pinney v. McGregory, 102 Mass. 186 569
Pittsburgh Railroad v. Byers, 82 Penn. St. 22 507
Plumer v. Lord, 9 Allen, 455 188
Plymouth v. Russell Mills, 7 Allen, 438 516
Polhill v. Walter, 3 B. & Ad. 114 462
Pomroy v. Rice, 16 Pick. 22 45
Pond v. Gibson, 5 Allen, 19 371
——— v. Williams, 1 Gray, 630 483
Pope v. Devereux, 5 Gray, 409 80
Porter v. Dickerman, 11 Gray, 482 475
——— v. Stevens, 9 Cush. 580 195
Potter v. Baldwin, 133 Mass. 427 310
——— v. Kingsbury, 4 Day, 98 208
Powell v. Hodgetts, 2 C. & P. 432 275
Pratt v. Harlow, 16 Gray, 379 391
——— v. Wheeler, 6 Gray, 520 368
——— v. White, 132 Mass. 477 163
Pray v. Clark, 113 Mass. 283 515
Pretty v. Bickmore, L. R. 8 C. P. 401 41
Prudential Assur. Co. v. Edmonds, 2 App. Cas. 487 519
Pulsford v. Richards, 17 Beav. 87 154

Quested v. Newburyport Horse Railroad, 127 Mass. 204 68
Quick v. Milligan, 108 Ind. 419 462
Quigley v. Stockbridge & Pittsfield Railroad, 8 Allen, 438 130

Railroad v. Brown, 17 Wall. 445 68
Ranelagh v. Melton, 2 Dr & Sm. 278 516
Rau v. Von Zedlitz, 132 Mass. 164 153
Rebecca, The, 1 Ware, 188 499
Reed v. Davis, 8 Pick. 514 496
Regina v. Forster, Dearsly C. C. 456 395
Reichenbacher v. Pahmeyer, 8 Bradw. 217 365
Rhind v. Hyndman, 54 Md. 527 507
Rhines v. Evans, 66 Penn. St. 195 507
Rich v. Basterfield, 4 C. B. 783 41
Richardson v. Hall, 124 Mass. 228 347
——— v. Sibley, 11 Allen, 65 67
Riddle v. Littlefield, 53 N. H. 503 11
Ridley v. Ridley, 34 Beav. 478 73
Riley v. Connecticut River Railroad, 135 Mass. 292 286
Roberge v. Burnham, 124 Mass. 277 312
Robinson v. Sprague, 125 Mass. 582 573
Rodliff v. Dallinger, 141 Mass. 1 154, 314
Rogers v. Newbury, 105 Mass. 533 115
Rohan v. Sawin, 5 Cush. 281 275
Rose v. Groves, 5 Man. & Gr. 613 265
Ross v. Boston & Worcester Railroad, 6 Allen, 87 130
Roswell v. Prior, 12 Mod. 635 275
Rowe v. Granite Bridge Corporation, 21 Pick. 344 564
Rowley v. Rice, 10 Met. 7 573
Russell v. Lynnfield, 116 Mass. 365 557
Rutherford, In re, 14 Ch. D. 687 507

Sabins v. Jones, 119 Mass. 167 118
St. Albans Bank v. Dillon, 30 Vt. 122 304
St. Goddard v. Burnham, 124 Mass. 578 313
St. John v. American Ins. Co. 3 Kern. 31 59
Saltonstall v. Banker, 8 Gray, 195 41
Sampson v. Pattison, 1 Hare, 533 36
Sartwell v. Parker, 141 Mass. 405 318
Saunderson v. Marr, 1 H. Bl. 75 156
Sawyer v. Boston, 144 Mass. 470 516

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Scarfe v. Morgan, 4 M. & W. 270 23
Schuylkill v. Copley, 67 Penn. St. 386 468
Schweitzer v. Mayhew, 81 Beav. 37 35
Scotland, The, 105 U. S. 24 499
Scott v. Rand, 118 Mass. 215 493
——— v. Shepherd, 2 Wm. Bl. 892 155
——— v. Simons, 54 N. H. 426 365
Sears v. Hardy, 120 Mass. 524 447
Selby v. Greaves, L. R. 3 C. P. 594 12
Shaw v. Norfolk County Railroad, 5 Gray, 162 35, 454
——— v. ——— 16 Gray, 407 454
——— v. Spencer, 100 Mass. 382 14
Shawmut Bank v. Boston, 118 Mass. 125 9
Sheehan v. Marston, 132 Mass. 161 196
Shepley v. Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad, 55 Maine, 395 454
Sherman v. Torrey, 99 Mass. 472 53
Sisson v. New Bedford, 137 Mass. 255 562
Slaughter-House Cases, 16 Wall. 36 111
Smith v. Cudworth, 24 Pick. 196 419
——— v. Holyoke, 112 Mass. 517 464
——— v. Look, 108 Mass. 139 312
——— v. Mutual Ins. Co. 14 Allen, 336 62
——— v. New York & New England Railroad, 142 Mass. 21 460
——— v. Sanford, 12 Pick. 139 163
——— v. Wildes, 143 Mass. 556 161
Smyley v. Head, 2 Rich. (S. Car.) 590 304
Sohier v. Norwich Ins. Co. 11 Allen, 336 229
Somes v. Brewer, 2 Pick. 184 463
Southwestern Railroad v. Southern & Atlantic Telegraph Co. 46 Ga. 43 453
Sparrow v. Josselyn, 16 Beav. 135 91
Spears v. Hartly, 3 Esp. 81 507
Spellman v. Chicopee, 131 Mass. 443 551
Spice v. Bacon, 36 L. T. (N. S.) 896 190
Springfield Savings Bank v. Springfield Congregational Society, 127 Mass. 516 391
Spurr v. Andrew, 6 Allen, 420 180
Stamps v. Birmingham & Stour Railway, 2 Phillips, 673 512
Stanton v. Stanton, 37 Vt. 411 507
Stapilton v. Stapilton, 1 Atk. 2 516
State v. Sherman, 22 Ohio St. 411 453, 454
Stearns v. Stearns, 1 Pick. 157 522
Stephenson v. Dowson, 8 Beav. 342 348
Stetson v. Faxon, 19 Pick. 147 264
——— v. O'Sullivan, 8 Allen, 321 339
Stevens v. Stevens, 11 Met. 251 80
Stewart v. Emerson, 52 N. H. 301 81
——— v. Griswold, 134 Mass. 391 223
Stickney v. Davis, 17 Pick. 179 19
Stiff v. Keith, 143 Mass. 224 154
Stillwell v. Bertrand, 22 Ark. 375 304
Stockwell v. Hunter, 11 Met. 448 9
Stone v. Denny, 4 Met. 151 462
——— v. Hubbardston, 100 Mass. 49 336
Strong, petitioner, 20 Pick. 484 55
Sturge v. Starr, 2 Myl. & K. 195 154
Sudbury Meadows v. Middlesex Canal, 23 Pick. 36 512
Sullivan v. Fall River, 144 Mass. 579 563
Swallow, The, 1 Ware, 21 499
Swazey v. Allen, 115 Mass. 594 159
Sweetser v. Bates, 117 Mass. 466 101

Taber v. United States, 1 Story, C. C. 1 499
Taft v. Boyd, 13 Allen, 84 45, 360
Talley v. Robinson, 22 Grat. 888 155
Tate v. Donovan, 143 Mass. 590 96
Taylor v. Charter Oak Ins. Co. 9 Daly, 489 59
——— v. Jaques, 106 Mass. 291 155
——— v. Mixter, 11 Pick. 341 367
——— v. Witman, 3 Grant, (Penn.) 138 507
——— v. Woburn, 130 Mass. 494 106
Terry v. Sisson, 125 Mass. 560 182
Teulon v. Curtis, Younge, 610 36
Thayer v. Thayer, 101 Mass. 111 575
Thompson v. Bridgewater, 7 Pick. 188 161
——— v. Dolliver, 132 Mass. 103 506
——— v. Stevens, 71 Penn. St. 161 78
Thornton v. Maynard, L. R. 10 C. P. 695 569
Thoroughgood's case, 2 Rep. 9 155, 462
Thorpe v. Coombe, 8 Dowl. & Ry. 347 507
Thrall v. Mead, 40 Vt. 540 507
Three Brothers, The, 1 Gall. 142 499
Thruston v. Thornton, 1 Cush. 89 74
Tobey v. Ellis, 114 Mass. 120 369
Todd v. Flight, 9 C. B. (N. S.) 377 42
——— v. Weber, 95 N. Y. 181 73
Tompkins v. Wyman, 116 Mass. 558 113
Torrey v. Millbury, 21 Pick. 64 53
Towle v. Swasey, 106 Mass. 100 522
Townsend, In re, 39 N. Y. 171 453
Train v. Gold, 5 Pick. 380 73
Trambly v. Ricard, 130 Mass. 259 462
Trask v. Hartford & New Haven Railroad, 16 Gray, 71 130
Tuckerman v. Newhall, 17 Mass. 580 483
Tuite v. Stevens, 98 Mass. 305 221
Tully v. Fitchburg Railroad, 134 Mass. 499 286
Turner v. Coffin, 12 Allen, 401 188
Tuttle v. Gilbert Manuf. Co. 145 Mass. 169 364
——— v. Tuttle, 12 Met. 551 380
Tyler v. New York & New England Railroad, 137 Mass. 238 548

Uhlmann v. New York Ins. Co. 13 Daly, 47 59
United States v. Union Pacific Railroad, 91 U. S. 72 498
Updike v. Ten Broeck, 3 Vroom, 105 73

Van Bracklin v. Fonda, 12 Johns. 468 442
Van Brocklin v. Tennessee, 117 U. S. 151 453

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Van Epps *v.* Van Epps, 6 Barb. 320 575
Verplanck *v.* Mercantile Ins. Co. 1 Edw. Ch. 84 59
Vickers *v.* Pound, 6 H. L. Cas. 885 91
Vinton *v.* King, 4 Allen, 562 154

Wait *v.* Gibbs, 4 Pick. 298 499
Walker's estate, 3 Rawle, 229 348
Walker *v.* Southbridge, 4 Cush. 199 116
——— *v.* Staples, 5 Allen, 34 506
——— *v.* Transportation Co. 3 Wall. 150 499
Wallace *v.* Long, 105 Ind. 522 73
Walsh *v.* Philadelphia Fire Association, 127 Mass. 383 390
Waltermire *v.* Westover, 4 Kern. 16 507
Walton *v.* Coulson, 1 McLean, 120 516
Ward *v.* Bartlett, 12 Allen, 419 80
Warren *v.* Spencer Water Co. 148 Mass. 9 511
Watkins *v.* Overseers of Milton-next-Gravesend, L. R. 3 Q. B. 350 12
Weatherley *v.* Weatherley, 1 Spinks, 193 575
Weed Sewing Machine Co. *v.* Maxwell, 63 Mo. 486 804
Welch *v.* Welch, 103 Mass. 562 156
Weld *v.* Bartlett, 10 Mass. 470 371
Wesleyan Academy *v.* Wilbraham, 99 Mass. 599 148
West *v.* Platt, 127 Mass. 367 857
Western Union Telegraph Co. *v.* Caldwell, 141 Mass. 489 507
Weston *v.* Collins, 13 W. R. 510 516
Whelpdale's case, 5 Rep. 119 *a* 154
Whitaker *v.* Sumner, 20 Pick. 399 506
White *v.* Duggan, 140 Mass. 18 463
——— *v.* Foster, 102 Mass. 375 415
——— *v.* Graves, 107 Mass. 325 154, 463

Whitney *v.* Dutch, 14 Mass. 457 156
Wiggin *v.* Tudor, 23 Pick. 434 483
Wilbur *v.* Ripley, 124 Mass. 468 341
Wilkes *v.* Hungerford Market, 2 Bing. N. C. 281 265
Williams *v.* Braintree, 6 Cush. 399 115
——— *v.* Hart, 116 Mass. 513 516
——— *v.* James, 15 Q. B. 498 569
——— *v.* Kimball, 132 Mass. 214 357
——— *v.* ——— 135 Mass. 411 357
——— *v.* Lunenburg School District, 21 Pick 75 53
——— *v.* Stoll, 79 Ind. 80 463
Willis *v.* De Castro, 4 C. B. (N. S.) 216 483
Wilson *v.* Lynn, 119 Mass. 174 511
——— *v.* McLaughlin, 107 Mass. 587 312
Wilton *v.* Eaton, 127 Mass. 174 159
Winchester *v.* Thayer, 129 Mass. 129 369
Winslow *v.* Nayson, 113 Mass. 411 512
Woods *v.* Varnum, 21 Pick. 165 371
Woodward *v.* Sartwell, 129 Mass. 210 368
Woodworth's estate, 31 Cal. 595 348
Worcester *v.* Eaton, 13 Mass. 371 154
Wright *v.* Boston & Albany Railroad, 142 Mass. 296 486
——— *v.* Boston & Maine Railroad, 129 Mass. 440 387
——— *v.* Court, 6 Dowl. & Ry. 623 276
——— *v.* ——— 4 B. & C. 596 276
——— *v.* Templeton, 132 Mass. 49 161, 386
Wyman *v.* People's Ins. Co. 1 Allen, 301 584

Yale *v.* Wheelock, 109 Mass. 502 304
Yates *v.* Hambly, 2 Atk. 360 86
York *v.* Johnson, 116 Mass. 482 237
Young *v.* Capen, 7 Met. 287 340

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CASES

ARGUED AND DETERMINED

IN THE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

JOHN LOWELL & others *vs.* THOMAS STRAHAN.
AUGUSTUS LOWELL *vs.* SAME.

Suffolk. March 3. — June 30, 1887. GARDNER, J., absent.

A lease of "the first floor" in a building includes the outside of the front wall of that part of the building, if there is nothing in the lease to control such construction.

An agreement by the lessee of a building to allow a third person, in consideration of an annual payment by him, to place a sign upon the outside wall of the building, for a stated time, is not a breach of a covenant in the lease not to underlet any part of the premises.

THE FIRST CASE was an action for money had and received, brought by the owners of a building in Boston against a lessee of a part of the building, to recover a sum of money which the lessee had received from a person whom he had allowed to place a sign on the outer wall of the part of the building leased to the defendant; and the case proceeded on the ground that the outer wall did not pass by the lease, but remained in the possession of the owners.

THE SECOND CASE was an action by the lessor (one of the plaintiffs in the first action) against the lessee, for breach of a covenant against underletting, and proceeded upon the ground

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that the outer wall was included in the lease, and that the act of the defendant in allowing the placing of the sign of the third person thereon was an underletting of the wall.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., without a jury, it was agreed that the plaintiffs in the first case were the owners of the building, and that the second case should be treated as if the lease had been executed by all of the plaintiffs in the first case.

By the lease there was demised to the defendant, for the term of four years and eleven months from February 1, 1882, "the first floor and front part of basement in building situate on the northeasterly corner of Washington and Franklin streets in Boston." The lease contained a covenant on the part of the lessee to "keep all and singular the said premises in such repair as the same are in at the commencement of said term, or may be put in by the said lessor or his representatives during the continuance thereof; reasonable use and wear, and damage by accidental fire or other inevitable accidents, only excepted."

The lessee also covenanted to save the lessor harmless "from any claim or damage arising from neglect in not removing snow and ice from the roof of the building, or from the sidewalks bordering upon the premises so leased."

The lessee further covenanted that he would not "assign this lease, nor underlet the whole or any part of the said premises, nor make nor allow any unlawful, improper, or offensive use thereof, nor any alterations or additions during the term aforesaid, without the consent of the said lessor." And the lessor reserved the right "at seasonable times to enter into and upon the" premises "to examine the condition thereof."

It appeared in evidence, that, when the defendant took possession under the lease, there was a sign on the outside of one of the walls of the building, between the level of the floor and that of the ceiling of the first floor, which had been placed there by the firm of Jones, McDuffee, and Stratton, with the consent of the former tenant of the building; that the defendant made a contract with said firm, by which he agreed to allow their sign to remain upon said wall until February 1, 1886, in consideration of $150, payable in advance; that the defendant placed two signs, for his own use, upon the same part of the building, and

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agreed with certain other persons that they might paint over one of these with an inscription of their own, in consideration of $12.50 a month, payable in advance, so long as they should leave the same upon the building; and that, in pursuance of the first of these agreements, the defendant received $600, and in pursuance of the second, $75.

Upon these facts, the plaintiffs requested the following rulings: "1. The lease put in evidence in this case, covering only certain rooms in a building, gave the tenant no rights in the outside of the outer walls of the building, except a right to place upon them such a sign as was customary and reasonable for the advertisement of his own business. 2. The placing of other signs upon the outside of these walls was a trespass upon the property of the plaintiffs. 3. The defendant having leased the right to place signs upon these walls and received rent therefor, he is liable to the plaintiffs for the sums so received, and the plaintiffs may recover such sums in this action. 4. The agreements between the defendant and the persons who placed signs upon the walls were leases; and, if the lease to the defendant covered the outside walls, they were violations of his covenant not to underlet, for which he is liable to the landlord. 5. Under the circumstances of this case, the measure of damages is the amount of money the defendant received from the persons to whom he leased the right to place signs upon the walls."

The judge refused to give the rulings requested by the plaintiffs; ruled, as matter of law, that the outside of the walls in question was included in the lease, and that the agreements of the defendant with the persons whom he allowed to place or retain signs upon the building did not amount to an underletting; ordered judgment for the defendant in both actions; and, at the request of the plaintiffs, reported the case for the determination of this court.

A. L. Lowell, (*F. C. Lowell* with him,) for the plaintiffs. 1. Where the several rooms or stories of a building are let by separate leases, those parts of the building which are used in common by the tenants (such as the stairs, entries, and approaches) are not covered by the leases, but remain in the possession and control of the landlord. *Larue* v. *Farren Hotel Co.* 116 Mass. 67. *Readman* v. *Conway*, 126 Mass. 374. *Looney* v. *McLean*, 129 Mass.

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33. The same principle applies to the outer walls of the building, with their fixtures; for it is clearly settled that the occupant of a building, and not its owner, is liable for injuries arising from a lack of due care to keep it in a safe and proper condition, and that a tenant who has hired a whole building is the occupant of its outside walls, to the exclusion of the landlord. *Leonard* v. *Storer*, 115 Mass. 86. Yet it is equally clear that the owner of a building, who has let it in separate parts to different tenants, still retains the control of the exterior portions of the building, and remains the occupant of it, and is liable to any one injured through his neglect to keep these portions in a safe condition. *Kirby* v. *Boylston Market Association*, 14 Gray, 249. *Milford* v. *Holbrook*, 9 Allen, 17. *Shipley* v. *Fifty Associates*, 101 Mass. 251, and 106 Mass. 194. *Leonard* v. *Storer*, *ubi supra*. *Watkins* v. *Goodall*, 138 Mass. 533. *Donohue* v. *Kendall*, 18 Jones & Sp. 386. *Henkel* v. *Murr*, 31 Hun, 28. *M'Martin* v. *Hannay*, 10 Ct. of Sess. Cas. (3d ser.) 411.

No sound distinction can be drawn between the roof and the outer walls of a building. Every part of each is adjacent to some one story or room, and the remaining tenements do not need the shelter of one more than the support of the other.

In *Riddle* v. *Littlefield*, 53 N. H. 503, it does not appear that the court had under consideration the fact that the lease covered but a part of the building. This was not clearly stated in the lease, nor was it argued to the court or alluded to in the opinion. It does not seem to have occurred to any one that the rights and duties of landlords and tenants in a building let as a whole, are in any respect changed when the building is let piecemeal.

2. There is another class of cases which sustains the distinction just taken; namely, that, while the lessee of a whole building hires it, both inside and outside, together with the land upon which it stands, the lessee of a particular room hires only the inside of that room.

When a building is destroyed by fire, it is held that the lease of the whole of the building is not terminated by such destruction, on the ground that the land, as well as the building, is covered by the lease, and, though the building is destroyed, the lease still attaches to the land. *Rogers* v. *Snow*, 118 Mass. 118. On

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the other hand, it has been held that the destruction of a building terminates the lease of a room therein, because, as the subject of the lease has been destroyed, there is nothing to which the lease can attach. *Shawmut Bank* v. *Boston*, 118 Mass. 125.

If the outer walls are covered by a lease, and are not destroyed, it would seem that the lease should attach to them, and therefore it would not be terminated. These walls bear much the same relation to the room that the land does to the building. They are not, it is true, the principal thing leased, but neither is the land beneath a building in a city. It has been held, however, that the destruction of a building terminates a lease of the cellar and basement, although the brick walls are left standing around the demised premises. *Stockwell* v. *Hunter*, 11 Met. 448, 454. See also *Kerr* v. *Merchant's Exchange Co.* 3 Edw. Ch. 315; *Winton* v. *Cornish*, 5 Ohio, 477; *McMillan* v. *Solomon*, 42 Ala. 356; *Harrington* v. *Watson*, 11 Oregon, 143.

In several of the cases cited above, inasmuch as the leased premises included the ground floor of the building, the land also would have passed to the lessee under the decision in *Riddle* v. *Littlefield*, yet the lease was held to be terminated.

3. The only case in this Commonwealth in which the right of a tenant to place a sign upon the outside of a building was called in question, although not directly in point, sustains the contention of the plaintiffs in the case at bar. In *Pevey* v. *Skinner*, 116 Mass. 129, the lease to the plaintiff of rooms in the second story provided that "the lessee may have the right to place signs upon the outer wall of said rooms." The defendant had hired the lower floor of the same building, and it was held that, if the plaintiff could fully enjoy the privilege above granted without interference or obstruction from a sign which the defendant had placed upon this wall by a license from the landlord, then the grant of the privilege to the plaintiff could not be construed as a revocation of this license to the defendant. This decision could not have been made if the court had considered that outer walls are ordinarily covered by a lease of the rooms behind them. In such case the words of the lease would, at most, have limited the plaintiff's use of these walls to the placing of his own signs upon them, while the lease to him would have been in itself a revocation of the license to the defendant. Yet the court said in that

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case, that the defendants had a right to maintain the sign, even if this right arose from "a revocable license only." If the defendants had received from the landlord a mere license to put their sign upon the inside of the room, instead of upon the outside wall, it is inconceivable that a lease of the room to the plaintiff would not have revoked that license, no matter what restrictions had been placed upon the plaintiff's use of the room.

4. A tenant has, no doubt, the right to place on the outside of the building, for the advertisement of his own business, such sign or signs as are customary and reasonable; but this customary privilege is not a lease of the walls, and it gives the tenant no right therein, except that of displaying reasonable signs for his own use. If, therefore, the outside walls of a building are not covered by ordinary separate leases of the rooms or stories behind them, and if the defendant in this case cannot prove that the outside walls passed to him under some special provision of this particular lease, it is clear that his acts were a trespass upon the plaintiff's property.

The defendant relies on the provision in the lease which obliges him to keep the sidewalk and roof clear of ice and snow. But the purpose of this provision is obvious, and it cannot be supposed that the parties intended to include the roof and outer walls in the leased premises; for, if the roof and walls were covered by the lease, the covenants therein would apply to them, and the tenant would be bound to keep them in repair, as the lease provides. He would, moreover, be liable to a stranger injured by a fall of the outside wall from want of repair. It is obvious, however, that the tenant did not intend to assume any such responsibility for these parts of the building, and intended to confine his duties to the removal of ice and snow.

5. If the outer wall is a part of the premises leased, the defendant has violated his covenant not to underlet.

The distinction between a license and a lease consists in the fact, that the former gives no estate in the premises, but only a right of action in case of breach of the contract, while the latter confers a positive right to occupy the premises, irrevocable by the lessor, and available against strangers. The former, moreover, is terminated by the death of either of the parties, while the latter, giving an estate in the land, survives. But the question

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of lease or license is a question of intention, and there is no doubt that a definite part of the surface of a wall may be the subject of a lease if that is the intention of the parties. *Francis* v. *Hayward*, 22 Ch. D. 177. *Snyder* v. *Hersberg*, 11 Phila. 200.

In the case at bar, all the elements which constitute a lease were present. A fixed rent was reserved by the agreement. The premises covered by the contract were certain and definite, for it was agreed that the signs should remain upon the wall, and remain, of course, in their actual situation. It would clearly have been a breach of his agreement, if the defendant had moved the signs to less advantageous places upon the wall. These premises were to be in the exclusive occupation of the lessee, for it was not only clearly the intention of the parties, but, in the nature of things, inevitable, that the part of the surface of this wall covered by a sign should be used, enjoyed, and occupied only by the person whose advertisement was painted on that sign. Although the question whether a contract of this sort is a lease or a license has never arisen in the case of a sign, it has arisen under the laws for the assessment of poor-rates in England, in cases which bear a close resemblance to the case at bar. Thus, a contract by which the conservators of the Thames allowed a person to fix moorings in the river, to be removed on a week's notice, was held to be a lease, and not a license, and the lessee was held liable to be rated as an exclusive occupant of real estate. *Cory* v. *Bristow*, 2 App. Cas. 262. A decision to the same effect was given in a case where a telegraph company was permitted to erect posts and run wires along the track of a railroad, subject to removal upon notice. *Electric Telegraph Co.* v. *Overseers of Salford*, 11 Exch. 181. So, in a case still more nearly resembling the case at bar, where a telephone company ran wires overhead, and, by virtue of contracts with the owners of buildings, attached them to chimneys, roofs, walls, &c., by means of bolts, brackets, spikes, &c., the company paying rent and agreeing to remove upon a given notice. *Lancashire Telephone Co.* v. *Overseers of Manchester*, 14 Q. B. D. 267.

A. Hemenway & D. F. Kimball, for the defendant.

W. ALLEN, J. We think that the outside of the front wall was part of the premises demised in the lease of the first floor in

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the building. If the language had been used in a conveyance in fee simple, no question could have been made that the walls of the building were included. Undoubtedly, the owner of a building might, in conveying the lower and upper portions of it to different grantees, except the outside of the walls, as he might do in conveying the whole building to one grantee. In every case, it is a question of intention, found in the language used, as applied to the subject matter, and construed in connection with the whole instrument. A lease for years by indenture differs from a deed in fee simple, not only in the nature of the estate created, but also in the fact that the instrument of demise is an agreement between the parties containing mutual covenants affecting their rights in the premises. The words of description used should be construed in view of these considerations, which might require a different meaning to be given to them from what would be given to similar words in a conveyance in fee.

The words "first floor" in the building, are equivalent to "first story" of the building, and naturally include the walls. The apparent intention is to separate a section of the building as a distinct tenement. The words "first floor" define the lower and upper boundaries of this, but there is nothing to fix the lateral boundaries except the boundaries of the building. In this respect the words differ somewhat from the word "room." "Floor" means a section of the building between horizontal planes. The words "in building" show that the section is of the whole building, and not of a part of it. The word "room" includes a description of the perpendicular as well as of the horizontal planes which bound the parcel of the house described by it, and excludes the outside of lateral walls, at least when they constitute the walls of another room, as clearly as the words "first floor" exclude the flooring of the story above it. Under what circumstances a lease of a story of a building would include a space beyond the building over land belonging to it, need not be considered. In this case, the building adjoins the sidewalk, and the words "first floor in building" must be held to include the entire front wall of that part of the building, unless there is something to control the natural meaning of the language.

That the outside of the front wall would be valuable to the lessee as part of the premises, and that the lease gives him the

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right to use it for some purposes, such as putting out signs and displaying goods, is not disputed; but it is contended that the right is a privilege or easement appurtenant to the leased premises in a part of the building, not parcel of them. The defendant contends, on the other hand, that the outside of the front wall is parcel of the leased premises. It often occurs in leases of part of a building that rights in other parts, or in land not parcel of the premises, as in entries, passageways, and yards, pass as appurtenant to them. The question in such cases generally is, not what is parcel of the demised premises, but what is incident to them. In general, a deed or lease of a house or store will include the land under it.

In *Stockwell* v. *Hunter*, 11 Met. 448, and in *Shawmut Bank* v. *Boston*, 118 Mass. 125, it was held that the land under a building would not pass as parcel of the premises in a lease of the basement of a building, the upper stories of which were let to other tenants. In the first case, Mr. Justice Dewey said: "The proper construction of such a lease as the present, as it seems to us, is, that the lessee's right of occupation of the land is an interest, for the time being, defeasible by the destruction of the building by fire." 11 Met. 456. In the latter case, Mr. Justice Morton said: "The real question is whether the intention of the parties, to be collected from the whole lease, was to grant to the lessees any estate in the land itself. As we have seen, the lease does not in terms grant any estate in the land. . . . . In cases where different rooms in the same building are leased to separate tenants, the situation of the property and the nature of the tenures exclude the idea that each tenant takes an estate for years in the land. Such estates existing at the same time in different tenants are inconsistent and impossible. . . . . The bank and Lawrence cannot both take an estate for years of the same land." 118 Mass. 129, 130.

In the case at bar, the words of description naturally include the premises in question, the outer walls. It is plain that the lease grants not merely an interest in the walls, like the incidental right of support or shelter which it grants in the land and other parts of the house, but the right to use and enjoy, as leased premises, for the purposes of business. That right is exclusive. The landlord has no right to use or to let it for such

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purposes. From the mere demise, without regard to special provisions of the lease, there is no reason that the landlord should be regarded as having rights in the outside different from what he has in the inside of the wall. As owner of the upper tenement, he has a right in the whole wall for support, but that right would not operate to except the walls by implication from a deed in fee of the lower tenement, or from a grant of it for years. The occasions that the reversioner would have to enter upon the wall of the demised tenement must be few and extraordinary, and it could not be inferred, from the fact that the right was not expressly reserved in the lease, that the wall was excepted from it. We can see nothing in the nature of the estate granted, therefore, that should prevent the outer wall from being included as parcel of the demised premises. On the contrary, the fact that it is of value to the tenant for the use for which the premises may be occupied, and of no value for use to the landlord, would indicate that it was part of the premises, if the description was doubtful. If it did not pass by the lease in this case, it would seem that the right which the plaintiff claims could be maintained. The only right of the tenant would be to make such use of it as would be incident to his grant of the adjoining premises, and the right of the landlord would be to enter upon it, and make any use of it not inconsistent with the incidental rights of the tenant to use it. He might not have a right to take down the tenant's sign, but he would have the possession of the wall, and the right to enter upon it, and to use any of it not actually used by the tenant, for any purpose not inconsistent with the use by the tenant of the leased premises. It is not reasonable to suppose that this was the intention of either party. The actual possession and use of the wall by the tenant which the parties obviously intended are substantially that of leased premises, and it would be very difficult to define or fix the respective rights of the parties in it, except on the assumption that it is a part of the demised premises.

There is nothing in the particular provisions of the lease that bears with much force upon the question. The covenant of the lessee to repair is what would be expected, whether the outside of the wall were included or not, unless the suggestion is entitled to some weight, that, if the outer surface of the wall was not

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included, the lessor would probably have insisted upon a special covenant by the lessee to keep it in repair. Perhaps the covenant by the lessee to save the lessor harmless from all damages arising from neglect in not removing snow and ice from the roof of the building, or "from the sidewalks bordering on the premises so leased," may afford a slight inference that the wall, including the outer surface of it, was part of the premises. The covenants by the lessee not to underlet, and not to make any unlawful, improper, or offensive use of the premises, nor any alterations or additions, and that the lessor may enter upon the premises to examine the condition thereof, while proper to protect the interest of the reversioner in the surface of the wall do not appear to have particular reference to that. We can find nothing in the lease which militates against the idea that the whole outer wall is included in the premises; and the description of the premises as applied to the subject matter, and the right in the outer surface of the wall, which it is reasonable to suppose the parties intended that the lessee should have, and the entire reasonableness that the whole of the front wall of that part of the building should be included in the lease of a floor or story of it, in connection with the particular provisions of the lease, lead us to the conclusion that the outer surface of the wall was part of the demised premises.

We find no authority against the conclusion we have reached. *Pevey* v. *Skinner*, 116 Mass. 129, decided that, where different rooms in a building were let to different tenants, a license by the owner of the building to the tenant of a lower room to place his sign on the outer wall of the building extending fifteen inches higher than the floor of the room above, was not revoked by a lease of the room above, which contained the provision that "the lessee may have the right to place signs upon the outer wall of said rooms." The general right in the outer wall of the lessee of a single room was not considered. The court said, "His right to use the outer surface of the wall was defined, and thereby limited, by the terms of the lease." The decision can have very little bearing upon the lease of a "floor," which does not define and limit the right to use the outer wall.

Riddle v. *Littlefield*, 53 N. H. 503, and *Baldwin* v. *Morgan*, 43 Hun, 355, are directly in favor of our conclusion.

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Loring v. *Bacon*, 4 Mass. 575, and *Cheeseborough* v. *Green*, 10 Conn. 319, are cases where the respective rights of owners of lower and upper tenements in the same building are considered, but have no particular bearing upon the case at bar.

It is contended that the agreement of the defendant to allow the sign of a stranger, in consideration of an annual payment by him, to remain upon the outside wall demised, was a breach of the covenant in the lease not to underlet any part of the premises. But this was a license, and not a lease. It was permission to do a particular act, namely, to affix a sign to the wall, and gave no authority to do any other act upon the premises. The fact that the permission was paid for, and that the act permitted was a continuing one, are ordinary elements of a license. Every license to do an act upon land involves the exclusive occupation of the land by the licensee, so far as is necessary to do the act, and no further. A lease gives the right of possession of the land, and the exclusive occupation of it for all purposes not prohibited by its terms. It is clear in this case that the intention was that the licensee should have no other right in the premises than to affix his sign to them, and that every other right should remain in the defendant. An agreement of this nature cannot be construed as a lease; it must create either a license or an easement.

In *Pevey* v. *Skinner*, *ubi supra*, it was said that permitting a sign to be kept upon the wall for a long time would imply a license, but it was not intimated that it would imply a lease of the outer surface. We have not been referred to any case in which the question here presented, or any closely resembling it, has arisen. Numerous cases have arisen in England where the question was whether persons occupying land under particular agreements were liable to be rated as occupiers. See *Cory* v. *Bristow*, 2 App. Cas. 262; *Electric Telegraph Co.* v. *Overseers of Salford*, 11 Exch. 181; *Lancaster Telephone Co.* v. *Overseers of Manchester*, 14 Q. B. D. 267; *Watkins* v. *Overseers of Milton-next-Gravesend*, L. R. 3 Q. B. 350; *Forrest* v. *Overseers of Greenwich*, 8 E. & B. 890.

In *Selby* v. *Greaves*, L. R. 3 C. P. 594, the letting of a defined portion of a room in a factory with steam-power for working lace machines was held to be a demise; and in *Hancock* v. *Austin*, 14 C. B. (N. S.) 634, permission to place lace machines in a room

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in a factory, and to work them with steam-power furnished by the owner of the factory, was held to be a license, and to create no demise. The case last cited approaches nearest to the case at bar of any that we have seen, and in that the reasons for regarding the transaction as a lease are obviously stronger than in this case. That was permission to occupy with fixed machines a portion of the floor and space above it; this is permission to insert fastenings in the outer wall from which to suspend a sign in proximity to, but outside of, the building.

Judgments affirmed.

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ARTHUR W. BLAKE & another, executors, *vs.* TRADERS' NATIONAL BANK.

Suffolk. March 14, 15. — June 30, 1887. FIELD, C. ALLEN, & GARDNER, JJ., absent.

A trustee pledged to a bank certain shares of stock belonging to a trust estate as security for the payment of a debt due from him to the bank, the certificate and the assignment of the shares showing that it was held in trust. The bank was subsequently organized as a national bank, received the shares, and, at the request of the trustee, sold the shares and applied the proceeds on the debt, the trust estate receiving no benefit therefrom. The trustee was removed and a new trustee appointed in his place. A surety on the original trustee's bond was compelled, in an action upon the bond, brought in the name of the judge of probate, to pay to the trust estate the value of the stock. *Held*, that the surety was subrogated to the rights of the new trustee and of the *cestuis que trust*, and could maintain a bill in equity against the national bank to recover the amount so paid by him.

A. became a surety on a trustee's bond in 1855. The only account rendered by the trustee in the Probate Court was allowed in 1856, but he from time to time rendered accounts to the *cestuis que trust*, and paid to them the balances appearing to be due. In 1858, A. received from the trustee certain security, which was believed by all parties to be ample, and which A. surrendered upon being discharged from the probate bond in 1869. In 1864, the trustee pledged to a bank certain stock belonging to the trust estate as security for the payment of a debt due from him to the bank. The certificate and assignment of the stock showed that it was held in trust. In 1867, the bank, at the request of the trustee, sold the stock and applied the proceeds on the debt, the trust estate receiving no benefit therefrom. The trustee was afterwards removed, and a new trustee appointed in his place. It appeared by the accounts rendered by the original trustee that the stock was held by him, and the *cestuis que trust* did not know of the breach of trust until August, 1877. In November, 1877, before the removal

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of the original trustee, an action was commenced upon his bond by order of the Probate Court for the benefit of the *cestuis que trust*, which was prosecuted by the new trustee. A. defended the action, on the ground that he had been released as surety, but judgment was rendered against him, in 1882, for the penal sum of the bond; and execution issued for the value of the stock, which was paid by A. In 1884, after such payment, A. brought a bill in equity against the bank to recover the amount so paid by him. *Held*, that the statute of limitations was not a bar to the suit; and that there was not such laches as would prevent A. from recovering.

W. ALLEN, J. In 1855, the plaintiffs' testator became a surety upon the probate bond of a trustee. In 1864, the trustee pledged certain stocks, a part of the trust estate, to the Traders' Bank, to secure a debt due from the firm of which he was a member. In 1865, the Traders' Bank was organized as the Traders' National Bank, the defendant, and received the stock in question, the debt not being paid. In 1867, the defendant, at the request of the trustee, sold the stock and applied the proceeds on the debt. The certificate and the assignment showed that the stock was held in trust. The trust estate received no benefit from the pledge or the sale of the stock. The trustee was afterwards removed, and new trustees were appointed in his place. Before the removal of the trustee, suit was commenced against the plaintiffs on the bond, which was prosecuted after the appointment of the new trustees, and judgment recovered, upon which execution issued for the value of the stocks, among other things, and the judgment was paid by the plaintiffs. These facts show that the defendant received and sold the stocks, with notice of the trust, and was liable to the new trustees, and to the *cestuis que trust* for the avails. *Shaw* v. *Spencer*, 100 Mass. 382. *Loring* v. *Brodie*, 134 Mass. 453. *Montreal Bank* v. *Sweeny*, 12 App. Cas. 617.

The general rule, as stated by Lord Brougham in *Hodgson* v. *Shaw*, 3 Myl. & K. 183, 190, is, "that the surety paying off a debt shall stand in the place of the creditor, and have all the rights which he has, for the purpose of obtaining his reimbursement." In this case, the judge of probate was the obligee in the bond which constituted the debt, but it was for the benefit of the trust estate, and the legal and beneficial owners of that estate were the real creditors, to whose rights the surety would be subrogated on paying the debt. It is true that the trustees elected to pursue their remedy upon the bond against the surety,

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and neither the trustees nor the *cestuis que trust* would have a right of action against the defendant, after full indemnity had been obtained in the action on the bond; but there was no other election of remedy, or discharge or satisfaction of a cause of action, than is always the case when a creditor who holds collateral security for a debt gets satisfaction from a surety of the debtor. The surety takes the place of the creditor as to the debt, and as to the security. See cases cited in notes to *Dering* v. *Winchelsea*, 1 White & Tudor's Lead. Cas. in Eq. (6th ed.) 114. If, as is argued, the original trustee had no right of action against the defendant, and the stock was not his property, and was not pledged by him as security for the debt which the plaintiffs paid, and if the defendant was only liable to the new trustees as holding, or for having converted, the trust fund, and if the fund was made good by the payment to the trustees by the surety, it would make no difference. The payment was to the trustees, and was a substitute for the fund which was in the hands of the defendant, and which it was bound to account for to the trustees, and would give to the surety all the rights which the trustees had to recover the fund; it would operate as an assignment to the surety of the fund, and of the right of action of the trustees to recover it. In this case, the defendant and the surety were both liable to the trustees for the amount of the trust property; the former, in consequence of participating in the wrongful act of the first trustee; and the latter, by his contract to indemnify the estate against such act. The cases are analogous where one owner of property has claims for a loss against an insurer and a tortfeasor. The insurer is in the nature of a surety, and, upon paying the loss, he is subrogated to the rights of the owner to recover for the tort. *Hart* v. *Western Railroad*, 13 Met. 99. *Clark* v. *Wilson*, 103 Mass. 219. *Mercantile Ins. Co.* v. *Clark*, 118 Mass. 288. The cases cited in Sheldon on Subrogation, § 89, sustain the proposition in the text, that, "where the sureties of a trustee have been compelled to answer for his breach of trust, they are subrogated to the rights of both the trustee and the *cestui que trust* against those who have participated in his wrongful acts."

The defendant bank contends that the right of action to which the surety was subrogated was barred by the statute of

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limitations. The bank took the stock charged with the trust, and it held the specific property, and the proceeds of the sale of it, as a trust fund, under a trust to return it to the trustees. The trustees and *cestuis que trust* both had an equitable remedy against it as such trustee. This remedy would not be affected by the statute of limitations. 1 Perry on Trusts, § 217. 2 Ib. § 828.

Whether an action of tort for the conversion of the stock would be barred, we need not consider. If the trustees could have elected to sue the defendant for damages for the sale and conversion of the stock, they did not do so, and no question arises as to the effect of such election upon the right of the trustees or of the *cestuis que trust* to treat the proceeds of the sale as trust money to which they were entitled. Their right of action against the defendant to compel it to account for and restore trust property which it knowingly received and withheld, is a right to which a surety on the bond, who was compelled to make good the amount to the fund, would be subrogated.

It is contended that there was such delay and laches on the part of the plaintiffs, and of those under whom they claim, as to prevent a recovery. The surety was released from the bond by order of the Probate Court, on May 9, 1869. The only account rendered by the trustee in the Probate Court was allowed on December 8, 1856, but he from time to time rendered accounts to the *cestuis que trust*, and paid to them the balances appearing to be due. It appeared by these accounts that the stock in question was held by the trustee, and the *cestuis que trust* did not know of the breach of trust until August, 1877. In November, 1877, a suit on the bond was commenced against the plaintiffs, by order of the Probate Court, for the benefit of the *cestuis que trust*. The plaintiffs defended this action, on the ground that the surety had been released, but judgment was rendered for the plaintiff for the penal sum of the bond, in March, 1882. The amount for which execution should issue was not fixed until after this bill was brought. Before then, namely, on June 27, 1884, the plaintiffs had paid to the trustees the amount claimed from the defendant, and they have since paid the whole amount found due upon the bond. This bill in equity was filed on June 27, 1884.

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There was not such laches on the part of the *cestuis que trust* in failing to have the trustee summoned to render an account in the Probate Court, as would prevent them from following the fund in the hands of the bank. They had no reason to suppose that everything was not right until August, 1877. Soon after that, the action on the bond was commenced. Neither they nor the trustees lost one remedy by not pursuing both at the same time. The plaintiffs were justified in the delay necessary to defend that suit, and, within a reasonable time after their liability was declared, they brought this bill. The delinquent trustee was removed, and new trustees were appointed, on July 1, 1878. The new trustees found the suit on the bond pending, and there was no occasion for them to take any further steps. It does not appear that the delay has been unreasonable, or that it has been any detriment to the defendant bank; and it would be inequitable to deprive the plaintiffs of their remedy on account of it.

In 1858, the surety received from the trustee security in the form of the bond of one Bacon for $50,000, which he surrendered when he was discharged from the probate bond in 1869. There is no doubt that this surrender was made in the belief that there had been no breach of the bond, and that the surety was not liable upon it. There is nothing in the evidence to show the value of the bond when it was surrendered, except the statement, referring to the time when the security was received, that it was believed by all parties to be ample. The surety did not stand in the relation of a co-surety with the defendant, and there was no misconduct or negligence by him in regard to it shown.

On the whole, the plaintiffs are entitled to recover from the defendant bank the amount for which the stock was sold by it, with interest from the time of the sale.

Decree for the plaintiffs.

M. Storey, for the plaintiffs.

E. R. Hoar & H. G. Parker, for the defendant.

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HELEN M. KEITH *vs.* CHARLES H. MCCAFFREY.

Suffolk. March 7. — July 1, 1887. FIELD, C. ALLEN, & GARDNER, JJ., absent.

It seems, that the Pub. Sts. *c.* 171, § 1, providing that "the court may enter up judgment upon default at any time after four days from the day of default," do not apply to proceedings upon a complaint under the bastardy act, Pub. Sts. *c.* 85; and that a judgment in such proceedings is not irregular because entered on the day of a default.

If the respondent in a bastardy complaint appears and answers, and is defaulted because not present when the case is called for trial, and judgment is entered on the default, and he did not intend to make default, and his absence is reasonably explained, and if, at a hearing upon his motion that the judgment be vacated, made at the same term of the court at which the judgment was entered, he shows circumstances from which the judge finds that the judgment ought to be vacated and a trial allowed, it is within the authority of the judge to find that the judgment was rendered by mistake, and to bring forward the case and vacate the judgment.

W. ALLEN, J. The respondent in a complaint under the bastardy act, Pub. Sts. *c.* 85, was defaulted for failing to appear when the case was called for trial, and, on the same day, a judgment was entered against him. Subsequently, at the same term, he made a motion that the judgment be vacated, for the reason that it was entered by mistake. After a hearing upon the motion, the judge filed a ruling, which recited that he was not satisfied that the judgment was entered by mistake, or was irregular, and stated certain facts or findings in regard to the default, and concluded in these words: "I deny the motion for the reason that I doubt the authority of the court to grant in this manner the relief sought for." We understand the question intended to be presented by the ruling, which is in the nature of a report of the case, to be, whether, upon the record and the statements in the ruling, the court had authority to grant the motion. The court did not find as a fact that the judgment was, or that it was not, entered by mistake. The principal mistake relied on by the respondent was in irregularly and inadvertently entering the judgment within four days after the default, in disregard of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 171, § 1. This would be a mistake of the court in irregularly rendering the judgment. The other mistake suggested was, not of the court in entering the judgment, but of the

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respondent in suffering the default upon which the judgment was founded. We understand the ruling of the judge, that he was not satisfied that the judgment was entered by mistake or was irregular, to have more particular reference to the former of the alleged mistakes, and to have been intended as a ruling that there was no irregularity found, and not a finding of fact that the judgment was not entered by mistake; and the whole ruling to present the questions whether, by reason of the supposed irregularity, or of the facts and findings relative to the default, the court had authority to find that the judgment was rendered by mistake, and to vacate it for that reason.

Upon the first question, we are inclined to think that the Pub. Sts. *c.* 171, § 1, do not apply to these proceedings, and that the judgment was not irregular because entered on the day of the default.

In regard to the other question, we think that the facts stated are sufficient to authorize a finding that the judgment was entered by mistake.

The authority of a court over a judgment which it has rendered, to bring the cause forward and vacate the judgment for the reason that it was entered by fraud, or by the mistake of the court or of the party, is well settled. *Edson* v. *Edson*, 108 Mass. 590. *Marshall* v. *Merritt*, 103 Mass. 45. *Stickney* v. *Davis*, 17 Pick. 169. *Capen* v. *Stoughton*, 16 Gray, 364. *Commonwealth* v. *Weymouth*, 2 Allen, 144. *Mason* v. *Pearson*, 118 Mass. 61. *Cannan* v. *Reynolds*, 5 El. & Bl. 301. *Atwood* v. *Chichester*, 3 Q. B. D. 722.

It is not necessary that the mistake should be of the court, or in the mere rendering or entry of the judgment. A judgment regularly entered upon a default suffered by mistake, may be said to be rendered by mistake. When, as in this case, a party appears and answers, and is defaulted because he is not present when the case is called for trial, and judgment is entered on the default, when he did not intend to make default, and his absence is reasonably explained, and he shows circumstances from which the court finds that the judgment ought to be vacated and a trial allowed, we think that the court might and ought to find that the judgment was rendered by mistake. It would be within the authority and in the discretion of the court to bring forward the

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case and vacate the judgment for that reason. One consideration, among many others, in determining that discretion would be the lapse of time after the judgment was entered; another would be the sufficiency of other remedies. Without regard to the question whether the Pub. Sts. *c.* 187, § 17, include the judgment in this case, and provide another remedy, and having regard to the fact that the motion to vacate the judgment was made at the same term or sitting of the court at which the judgment was entered, we have no doubt that the court had authority to bring forward the case and vacate the judgment, either on petition or on motion. *Exceptions sustained.*

G. B. Upham & F. W. Proctor, for the respondent.

T. E. Barry, for the complainant.

JAMES P. HAMILTON & another *vs.* MICHAEL J. McLAUGHLIN.

Suffolk. March 8. — July 1, 1887. FIELD, C. ALLEN, & GARDNER, JJ., absent.

If the keeper of a livery stable, who, upon learning that a horse in his stable belongs to another person, notifies the owner that the horse is there, and states the amount due for its board, refuses, upon the demand of the owner a few weeks later, to deliver the horse to him unless the whole bill for its board is paid, he waives whatever lien he may have for the board of the horse after the notice to the owner.

In an action for the conversion of personal property, a mortgage of the property to the plaintiff, purporting to be executed in the name of a corporation by its president and under its corporate seal, is sufficient *prima facie* evidence of the incorporation, and of the authority of the president to execute the mortgage.

TORT, for the conversion of a horse. Writ dated August 30, 1884. Answer, a general denial, and a claim of a lien upon the horse for its board and keeping.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., the plaintiffs put in evidence a mortgage to them, purporting to be executed by "the Worcester Herdic Phaeton Company, a corporation duly established by law," and to be signed, in the name

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of the company by its president, and sealed with the corporate seal of the company. This mortgage was dated April 15, 1882, and covered one hundred horses and other personal property. It was admitted that the condition of the mortgage was broken.

There was also evidence that the horse in question had been placed in the defendant's livery stable by a man who had hired it from a person who represented the Worcester Herdic Phaeton Company; that the defendant wrote to an agent of the company stating that he had the horse, and naming the amount due for board; and that two or three weeks after that the agent called and demanded the horse, and the defendant refused to give it up, unless the entire bill for board, about $40, was paid.

The plaintiffs contended that the horse was taken to the defendant's stable without the knowledge or consent of the plaintiffs, and that therefore no lien would run against them. Upon this branch of the case, the judge instructed the jury that, if the horse was taken to the defendant's stable with the express or implied consent of the plaintiffs, they could not recover; and instructed them what would constitute implied consent, in terms not excepted to.

The defendant contended that, even though there was no lien prior to the notice to the plaintiffs' agent, there would be a lien for the term subsequent to the notice; and requested the following instructions: "1. It is incumbent upon the plaintiffs to prove that the mortgage was, at the time of the bringing of this suit or the refusal to deliver the horse, a valid existing mortgage; and incident thereto it is their duty to prove that the Worcester Herdic Phaeton Company was a corporation duly established by law, and that the person signing the name of said company to this mortgage had authority by vote of that corporation so to do. A failure of such proof is fatal to the plaintiffs' case. 2. If the jury find that the duly authorized agent of the plaintiffs was notified by the defendant that their horse was at his stable, and they saw fit to permit the horse to remain with the defendant for one or two weeks after such notice, the law implies a promise to pay for the keep of the horse for that period at least, and would entitle the defendant to a lien for that period against the plaintiffs. 3. If, at the time of the demand upon the defendant by the plaintiffs for the horse, there was any

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sum due for board after notice to them that their horse was in his possession, he has a lien on the horse, and was entitled to hold the horse until his claim was satisfied."

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The judge gave the first ruling requested, but added: "I also instruct you that the introduction of the mortgage in evidence is sufficient to allow you to find those facts. The signature and seal appear to be regular and proper, and are sufficient *prima facie* evidence to establish their claim unless attacked." The judge declined to give the other instructions requested, and gave no equivalent instructions.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

P. A. Collins & J. H. Burke, (*G. A. Griffin* with them,) for the defendant.

W. B. Orcutt, for the plaintiffs.

W. ALLEN, J. The only lien which the defendant claims is for keeping the horse after notice to the plaintiffs, and a request to take it away. Whether the evidence was sufficient to prove that he had such a lien, and whether the instructions asked in regard to it were sound, we do not find it necessary to consider. It is immaterial that the defendant had a lien, if he waived it at the time of the demand. A claim to hold the possession of the property, and a refusal to deliver it on demand under and in assertion of a right other than that given by the lien, would be evidence of a conversion. There is no dispute about the facts. When the defendant notified the plaintiffs that the horse was at livery with him, he stated the amount of board due. When the demand was made by the plaintiffs' agent a few weeks later, the defendant refused to deliver the horse unless the whole bill for its board, amounting to about $40, was paid. He made no distinction between what occurred before and what occurred after the notice to the plaintiffs, but demanded the whole in one sum and as one debt. Had he claimed distinct liens for distinct debts, for what occurred before and what occurred after the notice to the plaintiffs, it may be that he would not thereby have waived a valid lien for one of the debts only, without the refusal of a tender of that alone; but the demand for the whole as one debt, and the refusal to deliver the property unless the whole was paid, was a refusal to deliver the

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property upon the payment of the amount which had accrued after the notice, or to accept a tender of that, and rendered a tender of it unnecessary. *Jones* v. *Tarleton*, 9 M. & W. 675. *The Norway*, Br. & Lush. 404. *Kerford* v. *Mondel*, 5 H. & N. 931. *Dirks* v. *Richards*, 4 Man. & Gr. 574. *Scarfe* v. *Morgan*, 4 M. & W. 270.

The evidence of the plaintiffs' title was sufficient, and there was no error in the instructions in regard to it.

Exceptions overruled.

ADDISON A. REEVE *vs.* HERBERT E. DENNETT.

Suffolk. March 18, 21. — July 1, 1887. FIELD, C. ALLEN, & GARDNER, JJ., absent.

In an action for fraudulent representations as to the value of shares of stock in a corporation formed to promote the use in dentistry of a compound invented by the defendant, a dentist, the plaintiff's evidence tended to show that the compound was worthless for the purpose of allaying pain, for which it was intended to be used. The defendant was allowed to introduce the evidence of a number of his patients, who testified that the defendant's operations upon their teeth, using his invention, were practically painless, whereas similar operations before had been very painful. *Held*, that the plaintiff had no ground of exception.

At the trial of an action, if evidence is admitted subject to another witness being called to prove a certain fact, and the case is closed without the witness being called, and the adverse party makes no request to have the evidence stricken out or the jury instructed to disregard it, he has no ground of exception.

In an action for fraudulent representations as to the value of shares of stock in a corporation, if there is evidence tending to show that the defendant made such false representations at a certain time for the purpose of inducing the plaintiff to buy some of the stock, it cannot be said, as matter of law, that such representations may not have continued to operate in the plaintiff's mind eleven months afterwards, and may not have induced him to accept more stock, even if he had become a director in the corporation and had acquired independent means of knowledge in the mean time, if in fact he continued to rely upon the defendant's statements in dealing with him.

In an action for fraudulent representations, if there is evidence tending to show that the defendant made false representations to the plaintiff as to the defendant's ownership of certain land in order to induce the plaintiff to advance money to the defendant, it cannot be said, as matter of law, that the representations were made good by a purchase of the land by the defendant before the plaintiff had acted upon the representations, if in the purchase the greater part of the price was secured by a mortgage on the land.

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At the trial of an action for fraudulent representations as to the value of shares of stock in a corporation formed to promote the use in dentistry of a compound invented by the defendant, for which letters patent had been obtained, the plaintiff's evidence tended to show that the defendant's invention was merely a mixture of ingredients, all of which had been used long before in dentistry; and that the compound was worthless for the purpose for which it was intended to be used. The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury that there was no evidence of a want of novelty in his invention; but the judge refused so to do. *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception.

In an action for fraudulent representations, alleged to have induced the plaintiff to take certain shares of stock and to borrow a sum of money, with a pledge of the stock as collateral security, which he paid to the defendant, the plaintiff's failure to prove that he pledged stock to secure the loan to him is not material, if he proves the defendant's fraud and his own advance of money on the faith of it.

If the declaration in an action contains counts in contract and counts in tort, and the plaintiff, by order of the judge, elects to proceed to trial on the counts in tort, the refusal of the judge to order the counts in contract stricken from the record is no ground for a new trial.

CONTRACT, with counts in tort.

The fourth and fifth counts, upon which alone the trial proceeded, were as follows:

Fourth count. "The plaintiff says that early in the year 1880 the defendant promoted, organized, and set up a bubble company, called the Dennett Dental Naboli Company; that said company was pretended to be organized under the laws of Connecticut, and was pretended by the defendant to have a capital of $1,000,000, fully paid up; that the defendant having offered to sell to the plaintiff six hundred shares of the capital stock of said corporation of the par value of $25 a share, did, with intent to deceive and defraud the plaintiff, falsely and fraudulently represent to him that the capital stock of said company was $1,000,000; that it was all paid in; that said stock was of the market value of $15 a share; that it was in great demand at that price; that all the treasury stock of said company could be sold at that time for $15 a share; that it had sold at that price until the company had funds enough on hand in its treasury, and it had now refused to sell any more at $15 a share, and had advanced the price to $20 a share; that he had paid all charges, calls, and assessments laid or to be laid upon said shares by said company or the directors thereof; that said company was in a sound financial condition, and that it had property which made the stock then worth $15 a share, and had made such business

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contracts and engagements as would insure a rapid advance beyond said price; that the defendant was the president of said company, and knew that said company was solvent and responsible, with large business, and that it was a safe and profitable investment at $15 a share. And to further induce the plaintiff to purchase said stocks, the defendant offered and proposed to borrow from the plaintiff the sum of $3000 as a loan, and deliver to the plaintiff six hundred shares of said stock, as security for said loan, and gave the plaintiff the right to purchase said six hundred shares at $15 a share, or to return said stock to the defendant at the plaintiff's election; and the defendant agreed, if the plaintiff elected to return said stock, to repay the said $3000 and interest on the same, during the continuance of the loan, until the plaintiff should make his election.

"And the plaintiff says that, relying upon said representations of the defendant, and believing them to be true, on or about the first day of June, 1880, he loaned the defendant the sum of $3000, upon the terms so proposed by the defendant; but that the defendant wholly neglected to deliver the plaintiff the six hundred shares of said stock, or any shares, and that the plaintiff received none of said stock until October, 1880; that in truth, and as the defendant then well knew, all the representations made by the defendant to the plaintiff were false, and were made solely with intent to deceive and defraud the plaintiff, and to get possession of the plaintiff's money. And the said Dennett Dental Naboli Company was a bubble company, and organized fraudulently, without any capital whatever; that no capital was ever paid in; that it never had so much as $1000 in its treasury at any time; that its stock was worthless, and never had any market value, or any value whatever; that it never sold for $15 a share, unless by fraud and deceit, and not at a fair sale in the open market; that it never had any business; that it was never upon a sound financial basis, but, on the contrary, the said company was then insolvent and the stock worthless; all of which the defendant then well knew.

"And the plaintiff says that in October, 1880, the defendant delivered him 1000 shares of said stock, instead of six hundred shares, as he had agreed, but wholly neglected and refused to give the plaintiff an agreement in writing, setting forth the terms

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upon which the plaintiff held said stock, though often requested so to do. And plaintiff says that said stock was worthless, and no security; and that he was misled and defrauded by the defendant; that he has tendered back said 1000 shares of stock to the defendant, and demanded a return of his said $3000 and interest, but the defendant wholly neglects and refuses to return the same."

Fifth count. "And the plaintiff says that about the twenty-fifth day of April, 1881, at Boston, the defendant having done all the acts, matters, and things mentioned in the fourth count, and made the representations therein set forth, and being then indebted to the plaintiff in the sum of $3000 and interest, obtained solely in consequence of said representations, took the plaintiff to a certain parcel of real estate in the Dorchester district, and then and there falsely represented to the plaintiff that he was the owner of said parcel of real estate; that he had made arrangements to dispose of part of it, at a large profit, which would enable him to repay the plaintiff said $3000 and interest; that a payment was due on said land in a few days which must be made before he could carry out the trade and get the money to repay the plaintiff; and then and there proposed to the plaintiff that the plaintiff should take 1000 shares of stock in said Dennett Dental Naboli Company, and raise $2000 for the defendant to make said payment, so the defendant could carry out the trade and repay the plaintiff.

"And the plaintiff says that, at the defendant's request, and relying on all said representations, he was thereby induced to take said 1000 shares of stock and borrow $1400 on four months' credit, with a pledge of said stock as collateral, which was all the money he could raise on said 1000 shares, and so notified the defendant. That the defendant received said $1400 from the plaintiff on or about May 2, 1881, and agreed to pay the notes at maturity, on which said sum was raised by the plaintiff for the defendant at the defendant's request; that the defendant failed to pay said notes at maturity, and the plaintiff was thereupon compelled to pay them, and did pay them, and redeemed said stock pledged as collateral; that he has tendered said stock to the defendant and demanded said $1400 and interest, but the defendant neglects and refuses to repay the same.

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"And the plaintiff says that all the representations made by the defendant were false, and were known by the defendant to be false when they were made, and that they were made solely for the purpose of defrauding the plaintiff and getting possession of the plaintiff's money; that the Dennett Dental Naboli Company was a bubble company, gotten up by the defendant without any capital, credit, property, or business; that the defendant used the stock for his own purposes to raise money for himself; that none of the proceeds came to the company; that this expedition to the Dorchester district was part of a scheme to further defraud the plaintiff and get possession of more of his money, and not with any intention of repaying the previous indebtedness; and the defendant had not made any arrangement to dispose of any part of said land with intent to repay the plaintiff, but then designed and intended to cheat and defraud the plaintiff out of such sum as he might be able to raise by a pledge of said worthless stock, holding out to him the illusive hope that, by raising more money for the defendant, he would thereby enable the defendant to repay the indebtedness theretofore contracted."

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After the former decision, reported 141 Mass. 207, the case was tried in the Superior Court, before *Dewey*, J. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant on the fourth count, and for the plaintiff on the fifth count in the sum of $1866; and each party alleged exceptions, which appear in the opinion.

R. M. Morse, Jr., (*W. H. Towne* with him,) for the plaintiff.

D. E. Ware & J. G. Thorp, Jr., for the defendant.

HOLMES, J. The plaintiff's evidence tended to show that the defendant's invention was merely a mixture of ingredients, all of which had been used long before to allay the pain caused by filling teeth. But it did not stop at that point; it tended to show that the compound was worthless for the purpose for which it was intended to be used; for the testimony was, that the ingredients separately were of no use, and that the mixture was as bad or worse. To meet this last proposition, the defendant put on a number of his patients, who testified that the defendant's operations upon their teeth, using his invention, were practically painless, whereas similar operations before had been very painful.

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Plainly this was not testimony of a kind which the witnesses needed to be experts to give. The objections made to it are, that it introduces the trial of collateral issues, and that the fact may admit of being explained by other causes than the conclusion sought to be established. In some cases, at least, it would seem that the painful fillings were performed by other dentists, so that it might be argued that the evidence was only a testimony to the skilfulness of the defendant's hand. But no special objection of this sort was taken or argued, and, so far as the introduction of collateral issues goes, that objection is a purely practical one, a concession to the shortness of life. When the fact sought to be proved is very unlikely to have any other explanation than the fact in issue, and may be proved or disproved without unreasonably protracting the trial, there is no objection to going into it. If a dozen patients should testify that, when the defendant used his naboli, he filled their teeth without hurting them, and that he hurt them a good deal when he did not use it, supposing the testimony to be believed, and not to be explained by fancy and a general disposition on the part of the witnesses to think well of new nostrums, it would go far towards proving that naboli had some tendency to deaden pain. Indeed, the same thing is true in a less degree, if the painful operations were by another hand. Filling teeth, however skilfully done, is generally unpleasant. If it is found to be wholly painless when a certain compound is used, as the witnesses testified, probably the compound is at least in part the cause.

The evidence of Mrs. Thaxter as to the painlessness of Dr. Emerson's operations was admitted subject to the doctor's being called to prove that he used naboli. This was equivalent to a statement that it was not admissible unless the doctor was called. If the plaintiff had wished the evidence stricken out, or to have the jury instructed to disregard it, when the case was closed without calling the doctor, he should have asked for an instruction. The admission was proper at the time, and subject to the condition which was imposed.

It follows from what we have said, that the plaintiff's exceptions must be overruled.

At the present trial of this case, the plaintiff elected to proceed on the fourth and fifth counts. The main questions raised by the

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defendant's exceptions, and argued by his counsel, are whether there was any evidence that the fraudulent representations specially alleged in the fourth count, and referred to in the fifth, helped to induce the plaintiff to enter into the transaction set forth in the fifth count, or so much of it as consisted in the acceptance of more stock; and whether there was any actionable representation concerning the real estate, as specially alleged in the fifth count. There is no question of pleading before us.

It is not denied that there was evidence tending to show that the defendant made false representations as to the stock, &c., in May, 1880, for the purpose of inducing the plaintiff to buy some of it. We cannot say, as matter of law, that such representations may not have continued to operate on the plaintiff's mind in April, 1881, and may not have induced him to accept more stock. We cannot say so, as matter of law, even if the plaintiff had become a director and had acquired independent means of knowledge in the mean time, if in fact he continued to rely upon the defendant's statements in dealing with him. Whatever may be the presumption, as between a director of a corporation and stockholders or others to whom he owes a duty, there is no such conclusive presumption that he knows the affairs of the company as will prevent his recovering against a person who in fact has defrauded him.

The plaintiff seems to have admitted that the alleged fraud as to the stock had no influence upon the transaction referred to in the fifth count. He put in evidence that he found out about the true condition of the company in July, 1880; and testified himself that he said, just before the transaction alleged took place, that the stock was not worth anything, that the defendant said naboli had failed them, and that he, the plaintiff, was induced to make the advances by his expectations as to the land which was the subject of the representations alleged in the fifth count. Coupling these facts with the verdict for the defendant on the fourth count, it is hard to believe that the alleged representations as to the stock had any practical weight or bearing upon the verdict for the plaintiff on the fifth count. We cannot say, however, that the plaintiff's admission appears, on the bill of exceptions, to have been so distinct as to have taken away his right to argue, if so minded, that the representations

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of 1880 were an operating influence in 1881, or that the judge was wrong in telling the jury that it was for them to consider how far the evidence connected the representations in the fourth count with any effective influence. It does not appear that the plaintiff's counsel did in fact present any argument inconsistent with the plaintiff's testimony. Nor was any ruling asked on the ground that the plaintiff was concluded by his own testimony.

A more important question is raised by the evidence given in support of the allegations of the fifth count. This was to the effect that the defendant said that he wanted to show the plaintiff where his $3000 was coming from (referring to the sum mentioned in the fourth count); that he had got $25,000 in a certain tract of land which he showed the plaintiff; that the plaintiff asked if the defendant owned it, and the defendant said that he had bought it, and that there was where the plaintiff's $3000 were; that he had bought it for seven cents a foot, &c. The defendant admitted that he did not own the land at the time of this conversation with the plaintiff, although he gave a different account of what was said, so that, if the evidence had stopped there, the jury would have been warranted in finding that the defendant made false statements for the purpose of inducing the plaintiff to advance more money in the hope of getting back that which he had parted with before.

But the defendant further testified that he bought the land in question on April 26, 1881, and paid about $15,000 for it, about $6000 in money and the rest in a mortgage for $9000; and we understand that this date was not disputed, and that the purchase took place before the plaintiff made his advance on the faith of the defendant's statement.

The defendant argues that the plaintiff has suffered nothing, because the statement was made good before it was acted upon. We are not prepared to say that the fact that one party to a transaction, A., has been guilty of a material fraud, is purged of its effect if the representation is made good before it is acted upon by the other party, B. There would be much force in the argument that, if B. had known of A.'s fraud before the bargain was complete, he would not have been likely to complete it, whatever the existing state of facts. People generally break off their dealings with those whom they find trying to cheat them.

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The fact that A. has tried to cheat B. is material, it may be said, because it offers what, according to common experience, would be a strong motive for not proceeding further. See *Bales* v. *Weddle*, 14 Ind. 349. A partial analogy may be found in the case of purchases of goods with the fraudulent intention not to pay for them; the buyer gives the seller all the legal rights which he purports to give him, yet the seller may avoid the sale. *Dow* v. *Sanborn*, 3 Allen, 181. *Stewart* v. *Emerson*, 52 N. H. 301. It is true, however, that in that case the implied representation of an intent to pay for the goods without putting the seller to his legal remedies is still false at the moment when the sale is made.

But, whatever the law may be in the extreme case supposed, we think that the representations must at least be made good in the most complete and indisputable way, before the defendant can escape on that ground. We cannot say, as matter of law, that they were made good by a purchase in which, by the defendant's own statement, the greater part of the price was secured by mortgage on the land. Considering the purpose of the whole conversation, which was to induce the plaintiff to advance more money, we cannot say that there was no evidence to warrant a finding that the defendant represented the land to be his own in such a sense as to secure the plaintiff a return of past and future advances, and that his subsequent purchase did not make that representation good.

The other exceptions may be disposed of in a few words. The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury that there was no evidence of a want of novelty in his invention; but the judge refused so to do. The jury might have found that the defendant's so-called invention was only an empirical mixture of known sedatives; that it gained no new quality from the compounding, but even neutralized in some degree the qualities of the several ingredients. If they believed this, they might have found that to mix the ingredients was an expedient obvious to any person knowing their respective effects, and was not patentable. If the patent was worthless, the stock was worthless.

The plaintiff's failure to prove that he pledged stock to secure the loan to him which he procured as the first step towards advancing money to the defendant, was not material, if he proved

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the substantive elements of his case, — the defendant's fraud, and his own advance on the faith of it. See *Cunningham* v. *Kimball*, 7 Mass. 65; *Packard* v. *Pratt*, 115 Mass. 405.

The court put the plaintiff to an election between the fourth and fifth counts and the other counts. Supposing that the defendant was entitled to require that the election when made should be final, which it would not be unless made to appear of record by striking out the other counts, *Dows* v. *Swett*, 127 Mass. 364, *Mullaly* v. *Austin*, 97 Mass. 30, the refusal of the court to order the other counts stricken out is no ground for a new trial. It did not affect the trial, it can be remedied now, and, in the event which has happened, it is immaterial to the defendant whether it is remedied or not. *Exceptions overruled.*

JOHN SHEPARD & others *vs.* GEORGE F. RICHARDSON & others.

Suffolk. March 11, 14. — July 5, 1887. FIELD, C. ALLEN, & GARDNER, JJ., absent.

A corporation, having large tracts of unimproved lands, for the purpose of borrowing money to discharge existing liens upon the lands and to make them available for sale, issued bonds, the interest on which was payable semiannually, and, as security for the payment of principal and interest, conveyed its lands to trustees on the following trusts: 1. To permit the corporation to remain in possession, improve and sell the lands, until default should be made in the payment of the bonds, or the interest thereon. 2. To release from time to time from the lien created by the conveyance such portions as, in the opinion of the trustees and of the president of the corporation, might be safely released without impairing the security for the payment of the bonds. 3. To receive and invest the moneys received from the proceeds of sales of said lands, and to pay therefrom interest due on the bonds and the expenses of the trust, and to apply the residue to the purchase and cancellation of the bonds. The deed further provided that, in case default should be made in the payment of the bonds or of the interest thereof, and for six months thereafter, all the bonds should become payable; that the trustees then might, and upon the request of a certain number of the holders of the bonds should, enter and take possession of the granted premises, and should thereafter, as attorneys and agents of the corporation, "so long as said default shall continue," so manage and dispose of the same as to carry out the purposes of the trust, either by sales of the lands in their then existing condition, or by improving the same and thereafter selling them, with the largest discretion as to quantity, time, notice, and mode of sale, as they

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might deem reasonable and "for the best interests of all parties concerned in the trust;" and that the trustees, after applying any surplus proceeds of sales to the payment of the bonds, "shall restore the residue thereof, and all lands, securities, and other property remaining in their possession after such payment is completed," to the corporation, "and thereupon this trust shall terminate." The corporation covenanted that, in case of default continuing for six months, it would, on the request of the trustees, deliver up possession of the granted premises, and make any further conveyance required; and it was "further mutually agreed that, upon payment of the principal and interest of said bonds, the conveyance herein made, and the estate and interests hereby granted" to the trustees, "shall be void," and the right to the lands conveyed should revert to the corporation. *Held*, on a bill in equity by the bondholders, that the provisions of the deed were inconsistent with a right on the part of the trustees to treat the instrument merely as a mortgage, and to foreclose by entry and lapse of time.

HOLMES, J. This is a bill in equity, brought by some of the bondholders secured by an indenture, which was before the court in *Foster* v. *Boston*, 133 Mass. 143,* against the grantor and

* The indenture, which was entered into by the Boston Water Power Company, a corporation, as party of the first part, and certain persons, as parties of the second part, recited that the corporation, being possessed of large tracts of unimproved lands, for the purpose of borrowing money to discharge existing liens upon the lands and to make them available for sale, proposed to issue bonds, the interest on which was to be payable semiannually, and, as security for the payment of principal and interest, conveyed its lands to the parties of the second part on the following trusts:

"1st. To permit said party of the first part to remain in the possession and enjoyment of the granted premises, and to improve the same by filling said land and flats, and by laying out streets and avenues thereon, and otherwise making the same available for sale, and to sell and convey the same, and to dispose of the current net revenues and avails thereof in such manner as it shall elect, until and unless default shall be made in the payment of said bonds, or the interest thereon, or any part thereof.

"2d. To release from time to time from the lien created by this instrument, so that the same may be sold and conveyed free from incumbrance, such portions of said lands as in the unanimous opinion of said trustees, and of the president of said Boston Water Power Company for the time being, may be safely released without impairing the security for the payment of said bonds, either by reason of the receipt of the proceeds of sales by said trustees, or by reason of the increased value of the lands of said corporation by reason of the advance in value, or by reason of the increased value given to the remaining lands by the improvements made thereon by said corporation. And the deed of the said corporation, and the release of the said trustees, both duly executed, shall be conclusive evidence of the unanimous opinion of said trustees and of said president. And in case said trustees and said president shall not agree, then, upon the application of either, the question

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trustees, treating the instrument as a mortgage, and praying that it may be declared to have been foreclosed by an entry of the trustees made more than three years before the filing of the bill, and that the trustees may be ordered to distribute the property among the bondholders; or, if the mortgage is not foreclosed, that a short day of foreclosure may be fixed. The defendant company, among other things, denies that the indenture contemplates or permits a strict foreclosure, and, as we are of opinion with it upon this point, it will not be necessary to discuss the other questions which have been raised.

We readily admit that neither the giving of a power of sale nor the intervention of trustees, nor both together, in a mortgage, necessarily take from the court the power to decree a

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of the lands so to be released shall be submitted to and determined by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the time being, whose written decision shall be final, and shall direct the action of the trustees thereon.

"3d. To receive and invest all sums of money that may be paid them by said party of the first part from the proceeds of sales of said land, and to pay therefrom from time to time all interest due or that may become due on said bonds, and the expenses of the trust created by this instrument, including the reasonable compensation of the trustees; and to apply the residue to the purchase and cancellation of the bonds secured by this instrument; said purchase to be made at the market value of said bonds, but in no case at a price exceeding the par value thereof and accrued interest.

"4th. In case default shall be made in the payment of the bonds issued under this instrument, or any of them, or of any of the interest coupons attached thereto, at any time when and where the same may become due and payable according to the tenor and effect thereof, and for six months thereafter, then and in that case all of said bonds shall thereupon immediately become due and payable, and the said trustees, and the survivor or survivors of them, and their successors or successor in said trust, and the survivor or survivors of them, may, and upon the written request of the holders of at least one third part of the bonds then outstanding and unpaid shall, enter upon and take possession of all and singular the granted premises, or so much thereof as shall then remain unsold, and all rights of the party of the first part therein, and all obligations and securities which may have been received for any lands conveyed by this instrument that may have been sold, and as the attorneys in fact or agents of the party of the first part, shall thereafter, and so long as said default shall continue, so manage and dispose of the same as shall best enable them to carry out and fulfil the purposes of their trust, either by sale or sales thereof in its then existing condition, or by completing the filling of said lands and flats, or of such portions thereof as they shall deem expedient, and otherwise improving the same, and thereafter selling

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strict foreclosure; *Shaw* v. *Norfolk County Railroad*, 5 Gray, 162; *Hall* v. *Sullivan Railroad*, 21 Law Reporter, 138; *S. C.* 2 Redf. Am. Ry. Cas. 621; and that the security will be presumed to give the usual remedies, unless the terms of the instrument exclude them. *Balfe* v. *Lord*, 2 Dr. & W. 480, 489. But those remedies may be excluded or qualified by express words, or by fair implication, as when it appears that sale alone is contemplated. *Locking* v. *Parker*, L. R. 8 Ch. 30, 39. *Jenkin* v. *Row*, 5 De G. & Sm. 107. *Schweitzer* v. *Mayhew*, 31 Beav. 37. There is no danger that mortgagees will be oppressed by mortgagors, and there is no reason for courts undertaking to force rights upon them, or to do more than to construe the security which they have been content to accept.

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the same by public or private sale, upon such notice, in such parcels, at such prices, and upon such terms of payment and security, at such time or times, and in such manner, as they shall deem just and reasonable, and for the best interests of all parties concerned in the trust hereby created, with full power to give good and sufficient deeds of conveyance in fee simple for any lands so sold; and after paying all expenses connected with and incident to the management and care of said property, including the compensation of the trustees, and the cost of any improvements that may have been made thereon by them or their agents, shall apply any remaining surplus of the proceeds of any sale or sales made by them, and all other moneys that may have come into their hands as such trustees, or so much thereof as may be needed, to the payment *pro rata* of the principal and interest of all of said bonds then remaining unpaid, and shall restore the residue thereof, and all lands, securities, and other property remaining in their possession after such payment is completed, to the party of the first part; and thereupon this trust shall terminate. And it is further declared that no purchaser under any or either of the foregoing trusts shall be under any obligation to inquire into the necessity or regularity of any sale thereunder, nor see to the application of any of the purchase moneys thereof, but that the receipt of the trustees or trustee for the time being to such purchaser or purchasers for such purchase moneys shall be his or their full and effectual acquittance and discharge therefor."

The corporation covenanted that, in case of default continued for six months, it would, upon the written request of the parties of the second part, deliver up to said trustees possession of the premises and all securities held by the corporation for lands sold; and that it would, upon like written request, execute and deliver any further necessary conveyance.

The indenture also recited that "it is further mutually agreed that, upon payment of the principal and interest of said bonds, the conveyance herein made, and the estate and interests hereby granted to said party of the second part, shall be void," and that the right to the lands conveyed should revert to the corporation.

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Properly speaking, the right to foreclose means the right to cut off a right to redeem given by equity, when, by the condition of the mortgage, the mortgagee's estate has become absolute at law. *Sampson* v. *Pattison*, 1 Hare, 533, 536. *Koch* v. *Briggs*, 14 Cal. 256, 262. When by the letter of the deed the mortgagor still has the right to redeem, the mortgagee cannot maintain a bill to foreclose. *Bonham* v. *Newcomb*, 1 Vern. 232; 2 Vent. 364. If, as in Welsh mortgages, the mortgagee's estate never becomes absolute, there never can be a foreclosure. *Yates* v. *Hambly*, 2 Atk. 360. Adams Eq. 125, 126. And although the failure expressly to fix a limit to the time for redemption does not necessarily take away the usual remedies, *Balfe* v. *Lord*, *ubi supra;* yet in some cases, where no time was fixed by the deed beyond which the mortgagor could not defeat the mortgagee's estate by payment, the foundation for foreclosure has been thought to be wanting. *Teulon* v. *Curtis*, Younge, 610.

The indenture before us fixes no limit to the mortgagor's right to redeem while the land remains unsold. It is not a carelessly drawn or imperfect instrument, as in *Balfe* v. *Lord*, and the fact, therefore, is important. The language is, "It is further mutually agreed that, upon payment of the principal and interest of said bonds, the conveyance herein made, and the estate and interests hereby granted to the party of the second part, shall be void," &c.; not, upon payment of the principal and interest of the bonds "according to their tenor," as in 5 Gray, 164. The words used, taken by themselves, import a right to avoid the conveyance by payment at any time, and this interpretation is confirmed by the provision in the fourth article of the trusts for the trustees managing the property, "so long as said default shall continue." These words contemplate the trustees' management as lasting for whatever time may be necessary, however long, until the bonds are paid; not that it shall come to an end in three years, by mere lapse of time, if the default continues for that time.

This is the first step; and the whole of the fourth article just mentioned tends the same way. The trust is very like the trusts for sale in the English cases which we have cited, where a foreclosure was held to be excluded. In the next place, the trustees upon entry are to manage and dispose of the property

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as agents of the party of the first part, that is, of the company giving the security. This provision, again, of itself, hardly can be made consistent with an entry to foreclose by lapse of time; for such an entry, as well as the entry provided for in common mortgages, is adverse to the mortgagor. The next thing to be noticed is the peculiar character of the trustees' duties after they have entered, — a peculiarity which was made necessary by the peculiar nature of the property. This was a great tract of land in Boston, mostly covered by water, which was to be filled and made suitable for building purposes and for the extension of the city in that direction. If the trustees entered, the scheme was not to be defeated, but simply the management was to be changed. They were to go on and fill as the company had been doing, and to sell, with the largest discretion as to quantity, time, notice, and mode of sale, as they might deem reasonable and "for the best interests of all parties concerned in the trust."

It is true that the trustees were not bound to complete the filling, and that their power possibly extended to selling the whole property at once; and it may be asked how, when such a power as that was given, any implication can be found against the less stringent power to foreclose by lapse of time. But it will be seen, upon reading the fourth article, that their powers to sell are not the common mortgage powers, but stand alongside of, and upon the same footing with, their power to complete the filling, as one of the ways in which, as attorneys and agents of the grantor, so long as the default shall continue, they are to manage and dispose of the property for the best interests of all parties. The exercise of a common power of sale may be determined upon without regard to the interest of the mortgagor. A mortgagee's decision to sell or to foreclose is governed by his own interest alone, although, in the conduct of it when decided upon, the mortgagor's interest must be considered also. See *Kirkwood* v. *Thompson*, 2 Hem. & M. 392, 400.

The effect of the words "so long as said default shall continue" has been considered already. Finally, it is provided that the trustees, after applying surplus proceeds of sales, &c. to payment of the bonds, "shall restore the residue thereof, and all lands, securities, and other properties remaining in their possession after such payment is completed, to the party of the first

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part, and thereupon this trust shall terminate." So that the whole plan, from beginning to end, was the possible gradual satisfaction of the debt, as the new-made land should be gradually sold off for building lots; and the plan was to remain the same, whether the company or the trustees carried it out. See *Foster* v. *Boston*, *ubi supra*.

Without saying that any one of the considerations which we have mentioned would be conclusive if it stood alone, we are of opinion that the whole tenor of the deed is inconsistent with a right on the part of the trustees to foreclose by entry and lapse of time. *Bill dismissed.*

S. Bartlett & R. D. Smith, (*N. Matthews, Jr.*, with them,) for the plaintiffs.

J. Lowell & H. D. Hyde, for the Boston Water Power Co.

G. F. Richardson, (*H. G. Nichols & G. D. Braman* with him,) for the trustees.

Winifred Dalay *vs.* Henry W. Savage.

Suffolk. Nov. 9, 1886. — Sept. 6, 1887. Gardner, J., absent.

Land abutting on a public street in a city was sold under a power contained in a mortgage, and the owner of the equity of redemption released any title he might have to the purchaser, and was allowed by the purchaser to remain in possession under an agreement that he should pay rent at a certain rate monthly. At the time of the sale there was an open and visible defect in the cover of a coal-hole in the sidewalk in front of a house on the land, which hole led to the cellar of the house. In consequence of this defect, during the tenancy, a person walking on the sidewalk fell into the hole. *Held*, that he could maintain an action against the purchaser of the land for the injury thereby sustained.

Tort for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff, on December 17, 1883, by falling into a coal-hole in the sidewalk in front of a house on Wall Street, in Boston. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Mason*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

There was evidence tending to show that the plaintiff, while in the exercise of due care, fell into the coal-hole in question. It was admitted that Wall Street then was, and for many years had been, a public street of the city of Boston; that said

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premises were conveyed to the defendant on November 3, 1883, by virtue of a power of sale contained in a mortgage of said premises, for the purpose of foreclosing said mortgage; that said premises had been conveyed, subject to said mortgage, to Daniel Breslin, on April 20, 1875, and he occupied the same from that date till after this accident; that he quitclaimed said premises to the defendant on November 9, 1883; and that the defendant was the owner of the premises at the time of the accident.

Breslin testified that he remained at a rent of $41.67 per month; that the defendant was to give him $25; that the defendant permitted him to remain and pay the rent because the defendant had not paid the $25. It appeared in evidence that Breslin remained in occupancy of said premises, under said oral agreement, from November 3, 1883, till some months after the injuries complained of.

One Durnan, a witness for the plaintiff, testified that, after assisting the plaintiff to her home, a few rods distant, he went back and examined the coal-hole, and that there was no chain on the cover, only a three-strand rope about three quarters of an inch thick; that the bed on which the cover lay had filled up with snow and dirt; and that it was liable to slip from the way it was fastened. He also testified, on cross-examination, that the bed-piece, or stone surrounding the coal-hole on which the plate or cover rested, was well worn, chipped off, and broken at the edges; and that it appeared to him this had been so a long time, so that, whether tied or untied from the inside, the cover, on being stepped on, would tip up. It also appeared in evidence that the bed had not changed in this respect during the tenancy.

The evidence tended to show that, on the day immediately following the injury, the coal-hole was repaired by some one other than the tenant, by cutting away the broken edges of the bed-piece and setting the cover deeper in the stone.

On the whole evidence, the judge ruled that the action could not be maintained; and ordered the jury to return a verdict for the defendant. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

P. O'Loughlin, for the plaintiff.

T. S. Dame, for the defendant.

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FIELD, J. The defendant received a conveyance of the premises on November 3, 1883, having purchased them at a sale under a power contained in a mortgage. Breslin, on April 20, 1875, had become the owner of the equity of redemption, subject to this mortgage, and he occupied the premises from this date until after the accident, which, it was admitted at the argument, occurred on December 17, 1883.

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On November 9, 1883, Breslin quitclaimed whatever title he had in the premises to the defendant, for which the defendant agreed to pay him $25, and Breslin remained in occupation, as the tenant at will of the defendant, under an agreement to pay rent at the rate of $41.67 a month. There was evidence from which the jury might have found that the stone surrounding the cover of the coal-hole was permanently defective at the time the defendant became owner; that it continued in this defective condition until after the accident, and was of such a character that "the cover, on being stepped on, would tip up," whether it was tied or not on the inside; and that the accident happened, not through the negligent manner in which Breslin used the premises, but through the defective condition of the stone surrounding the cover of the coal-hole.

The defendant as landlord was under no obligation to Breslin to keep the coal-hole in repair, and Breslin was under no obligation to the defendant to repair it. It does not appear in the exceptions that the defendant at any time knew that the coal-hole was in a defective and dangerous condition.

It seems to be settled, that, if a landlord lets premises abutting upon a way, which are from their condition or construction dangerous to persons lawfully using the way, he is liable to such persons for injuries suffered thereupon, although the premises are occupied by a tenant, unless the tenant has agreed with his landlord to put the premises in proper repair. That the tenant may also be liable is not a defence for the landlord.

The case which perhaps most nearly resembles this is *Gandy* v. *Jubber*, 5 B. & S. 78; *S. C.*, in the Exchequer Chamber, 5 B. & S. 485. The reasons why the Court of Exchequer Chamber recommended that the plaintiffs, who had recovered judgment in the Queen's Bench, should consent that the proceedings be stayed, do not appear in the report; but in 9 B. & S. 15, there

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is what purports to be the undelivered judgment of that court in the case. One question was whether a landlord who has the power to determine a tenancy from year to year by giving notice, and who does not exercise it, is to be held as thereby reletting the premises. In the course of the argument in the Exchequer Chamber, Chief Justice Erle said of the landlord's liability, "If he lets the premises with a nuisance, all parties agree that he is responsible." In the opinion published in 9 B. & S. 15, the grounds on which the Court of Exchequer Chamber differed from that of the Queen's Bench distinctly appear as follows: "We agree that to bring liability home to the owner, the premises being let, the nuisance must be one which was in its very essence and nature a nuisance at the time of letting, and not something which was capable of being thereafter rendered a nuisance by the tenant, and that it is a sound principle of law that the owner of property receiving rent should be liable for a nuisance existing on his premises, at the date of the demise; but that wherein we differ is that a landlord from year to year having the power of giving the ordinary notice to quit and not giving it is thereby to be held as reletting the premises, and that such forbearing to give notice is equivalent to a reletting."

The reason of the rule, that if a landlord lets premises in a condition which is dangerous to the public, or with a nuisance upon them, he is liable to strangers for injuries suffered therefrom, is that by the letting he has authorized the continuance of the nuisance.

Pretty v. *Bickmore*, L. R. 8 C. P. 401, was decided on the ground that the tenant had covenanted to keep the premises in repair, and therefore the landlord could not be said to have given authority that the premises should be kept in a dangerous state. *Gwinnell* v. *Eamer*, L. R. 10 C. P. 658, follows *Pretty* v. *Bickmore*. See also *Leonard* v. *Storer*, 115 Mass. 86.

In *Nelson* v. *Liverpool Brewery Co.* 2 C. P. D. 311, it is expressly said that, if the landlord lets premises in a ruinous condition, he is liable to strangers.

In *Saltonstall* v. *Banker*, 8 Gray, 195, 197, the decisions in *Rich* v. *Basterfield*, 4 C. B. 783, and in *The King* v. *Pedly*, 1 A. & E. 822, are approved, and it is said that, if the nuisance

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existed at the time of the demise, the landlord is liable. See also *Todd* v. *Flight*, 9 C. B. (N. S.) 377.

In *Jackman* v. *Arlington Mills*, 137 Mass. 277, the landlord was held liable for the acts of his tenants in polluting the water of a brook by discharging into it the sink-water from the houses let, and the reason given was, that the houses let were intended to be used by the tenants in the manner in which they were used, and that, if the landlord did not retain the control of the water used by the tenants, he had by the letting authorized the use which the tenants made of the water. See also *Owings* v. *Jones*, 9 Md. 108; *Peoria* v. *Simpson*, 110 Ill. 294, 300; *Irvine* v. *Wood*, 51 N. Y. 224; *Durant* v. *Palmer*, 5 Dutch. 544.

An attempt has been made to bring the present case within the rule, that if the nuisance is created by a tenant, or by a former owner who has let the premises to a tenant, a grantee is not liable for any injury that may result from the condition of the premises while the occupation of the tenant continues. If the defendant had bought the premises subject to a lease to Breslin, who had continued in occupation under it, a different case would have been presented. But when the defendant purchased the premises, and a deed was delivered to him by the mortgagee, pursuant to the power of sale contained in the mortgage, he became the owner, and Breslin had no longer the right of occupation. The defendant could then have immediately taken possession. After this the defendant voluntarily let the premises to Breslin as a tenant at will, and, at the time of the accident, Breslin held possession by agreement with the defendant. It is strictly a case where the defendant let premises with a nuisance upon them, and took no agreement from the tenant to abate the nuisance, or to repair the premises. So far as appears, the plaintiff was lawfully travelling upon the highway, and if the coal-hole was in a permanently dangerous condition, and this condition existed when the defendant let the premises, the landlord is not excused from liability by the fact that the premises were in the occupation of a tenant at the time when the plaintiff was injured.

It is not necessary to determine whether the owner or occupant in his relations to the public is bound at all events to keep the covering of a coal-hole in a public street safe, or is only

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bound to use reasonable care. There was evidence that the defect in the covering of the coal-hole had existed for a long time, and was open and visible, and such that the person whose duty it was to repair it ought to have known its condition.

In the opinion of a majority of the court, the exceptions must be sustained. *Exceptions sustained.*

WILLIAM C. COTTON, executor, *vs.* ATLAS NATIONAL BANK & another.

Suffolk. Jan. 24. — Sept. 7, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

If A. transfers shares of stock owned by him to a bank, as collateral security for the promissory note of B., and, on the note becoming due, a new note is given by B. to the bank in renewal, the parties to the note not intending that the debt represented by the original note shall be thereby paid or discharged, the bank is entitled to hold the shares of stock as security for the payment of the new note, even though the renewal is made after the death of A.

A., at the request of B., transferred shares of stock to a bank as collateral security, knowing that the bank was to lend money to C., and leaving the details of the transaction to B., who was her son and her general agent. B. procured his promissory note to be discounted at the bank, and the money thus obtained was given to C. The note stated that the shares of stock were held as collateral security. New notes were given from time to time in renewal of the old note, and one of these stated that the shares were held as collateral security for any liability of B. due or to become due to the bank, and that might be afterwards contracted. This was done inadvertently, and without any intention to pledge the shares for any liability other than that for which they were originally pledged. After the death of A., B. being indebted to the bank on one of the notes given in renewal and on another note for which certain shares of stock were pledged as collateral security, and both notes being then overdue, B. gave a new note for the amount due on both of the overdue notes, and this note stated that certain shares of stock were pledged as collateral security for its payment. These shares were the same as those before pledged as security for both notes. Partial payments were made on the new note from dividends and sales of the shares pledged by A. *Held*, on a bill in equity by the executor of A.'s will against the bank, that the defendant was entitled to hold the shares of stock for the original debt contracted by B., after deducting the payments that had been made.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed January 1, 1886, by one of two executors of the will of Arria Cotton, against the Atlas National Bank and Frank B. Cotton, co-executor of said will, to compel the

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defendant bank to account for and pay over to Frank B. Cotton and the plaintiff, as co-executors of said will, all moneys received by the bank from the sale of certain stocks and from dividends thereon, and from checks drawn by Frank B. Cotton as executor of said will upon the funds of the estate of Arria Cotton deposited with said bank, and to transfer to Frank B. Cotton and the plaintiff, as co-executors of said will, the stocks pledged by her to secure the note of Frank B. Cotton; and to restrain the bank and Frank B. Cotton from transferring and paying over said moneys and stocks to any person except Frank B. Cotton and the plaintiff jointly, as co-executors of said will, and from meddling with the same or exercising any power or authority over the same; and for further relief. Hearing before *W. Allen*, J., who reserved the case for the consideration of the full court. The facts appear in the opinion.

E. R. Hoar & G. W. Estabrook, for the plaintiff.

A. L. Soule & G. M. Stearns, for the defendant bank.

W. ALLEN, J. This case was heard by a single justice, and reserved for the full court. After the evidence was printed, the defendant moved, before the justice who heard and reserved the case, that the reservation be discharged and the case reopened for the purpose of taking further testimony. The court, after hearing, discharged the reservation, and, after hearing further evidence, reserved the case upon the bill, answer, replication, and evidence, including all the evidence taken at both hearings, subject to the objection of the plaintiff.

The question thus presented of the authority of a single justice to discharge a reservation and hear further evidence is rendered immaterial by the agreement at the argument before the full court, that, if the court should be of opinion that the additional evidence was such that it should be received by the full court, or that the reservation should be discharged and the case sent back for further hearing, the court might consider all the evidence reported as if included in the first reservation. As we think that the reservation should be discharged for the purpose of receiving the evidence, we have considered the whole evidence reported as before us under the agreement, and have no occasion to consider whether the authority to discharge the reservation is exclusively in the full court.

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On December 27, 1877, Mrs. Arria Cotton transferred certain shares of stock to the Atlas Bank as collateral security for the promissory note of Frank B. Cotton to the bank for $50,000. Mrs. Cotton died on March 17, 1880, and William C. Cotton, the plaintiff, and said Frank B. Cotton were her executors. The note was on four months' time, and, when it became due, it was renewed, by discounting a new note on the same time, and the renewals were continued as each note became due, the interest being paid at each renewal, until September 27, 1881. The note of that date was not taken up at maturity, but was kept along until January 29, 1883, during which period payments were made upon it from dividends and sales of some of the stocks. At that time the bank held another overdue note of said Frank B. for $19,000, and a new note was given by him to the bank for the amount due upon both notes. The plaintiff, as the executor of Mrs. Cotton, contends that these transactions constitute payment of the debt for which her stock was pledged; and that, if the debt was not extinguished, the conduct of the pledgee, the defendant bank, was such as to release the security.

Mrs. Cotton was not a party to the original debt, and the question whether it has been paid or discharged, or satisfied by the giving and acceptance of a new note, must depend upon the acts of the parties to it. This court has held that taking a negotiable note for a preëxisting account or note is *prima facie* a discharge of the old debt, and a substitution for it of the new note. It is a question of intention, and the intention to discharge the old note is presumed when a different intention is not shown by evidence or inferred from circumstances. When it appears that it will be for the benefit of the creditor that the old debt should be kept alive, the presumption does not arise, and the debt is not discharged. Accepting a negotiable note for a secured debt will not discharge the debt, because it will not be presumed that the creditor intended to give up his security. *Pomroy* v. *Rice*, 16 Pick. 22. *Appleton* v. *Parker*, 15 Gray, 173. *Dodge* v. *Emerson*, 131 Mass. 467. *Green* v. *Russell*, 132 Mass. 536. And the rule is the same even though the new note includes a new debt. *Taft* v. *Boyd*, 13 Allen, 84. *Hill* v. *Beebe*, 3 Kern. 556. *Brinckerhoff* v. *Lansing*, 4 Johns. Ch. 65.

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In the case at bar, the evidence shows plainly that the parties to the original debt did not intend that anything that they did should be a payment or discharge of it. The debts and the notes were as distinct in their minds as they were in reality. It was not intended or expected that the debt should be paid when the first note should mature, but that the note should be renewed and the debt kept along, the bank at all times holding for it a note not overdue. This was in fact done until the maker failed to renew the note, and allowed it to be dishonored. As soon as practicable after that, the bank procured the renewal of the note in connection with the other dishonored note of the maker. The bank clearly intended to retain its hold upon its securities, and it took the new note, not in payment or satisfaction of the debt, but only in renewal of the overdue note. It is unnecessary to consider in detail the evidence of this; no other inference can be drawn from it.

The consideration of the other question requires a more particular reference to the evidence. The plaintiff contends that Mrs. Cotton, as the general owner of the pledged stock, stood to the defendant bank in the relation of a surety upon the note; that any conduct of the bank in regard to the note which would discharge a surety upon it would release the security pledged by her; and that the renewals of the note, — which, while they did not discharge the debt, gave time to the debtor, — the change in the terms of the memorandum of the pledge written on the renewed notes, and the mingling of the debt and security with another debt and other security when the "consolidated" note was given, operated to release the security. Before considering these in detail, it is necessary to look at the relation of Mrs. Cotton to the debt, and the authority given by her in regard to the security. Mrs. Cotton was a woman of large wealth, principally invested in business corporations in her neighborhood. Frank B. Cotton was her son, and her general agent, acting under her direction, advising and representing her in many business matters. William P. Hunt was the president of the defendant bank when the first note was given. He was also the president and treasurer of, and largely interested in, the South Boston Iron Company. Frank B. Cotton was interested in that company, and in other concerns with Hunt, and had close personal and

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business relations with him. Mrs. Cotton had lent money to Hunt at different times for which there was due to her about $70,000, which was secured, and for which Hunt personally was considered amply responsible. Hunt wanted to borrow $50,000, and Frank B. applied to his mother to lend stock as collateral security for it at the bank, representing to her that Hunt wanted the money to use in his business, to enlarge it and make it more prosperous. Other considerations were mentioned, as that the business had been very prosperous, that it was likely to become much more so by taking certain contracts and extending its business, and that Hunt might have an opportunity to secure an interest in it at a low rate for Mrs. Cotton, and the fact that Hunt already owed Mrs. Cotton $70,000, secured by collateral, some of which was the stock of the South Boston Iron Company. These and other considerations were urged by the defendant as showing that Mrs. Cotton, and not Frank B., was the real debtor who borrowed the money of the bank on the note of Frank B.

But we do not find it necessary to decide that question. In the view which we take of the evidence, the material fact on this point is that Mrs. Cotton furnished the stocks on the representation and expectation that they were to be used as security for money to be lent by the bank for Hunt to use in his business. She left the details of the transaction to be arranged by Frank B. He told her that he was to give his note to the bank, but it does not appear that she knew when it was to be payable. If it is to be inferred that she understood that it was to be a short-time note, to be discounted by the bank, it is also to be inferred that she understood that the loan was to be kept along by renewed discounts. Waiving the question which was the principal debtor as between her and Frank B., as between her and the bank she lent the stocks to Frank B. to use as security for a loan for an indefinite time from the bank to him upon his note, in such form and manner as he saw fit. The right to limit the time of payment of the debt by the first note discounted, and to extend it by renewal notes to be discounted, which was given, was not a mere authority or license which determined upon the death of Mrs. Cotton; it was a right so to use the stocks, under which the arrangement with the bank was made, and the money was

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paid by it, and the liability of Frank B. upon his note was incurred. The fact that the stock was transferred directly from Mrs. Cotton to the bank did not limit the authority of Frank B. in pledging the stock; he procured and delivered to the bank the assignment from Mrs. Cotton to it, and the bank had no other communication with her in regard to it.

The original note, and the first renewal note, dated April 30, 1878, had indorsed upon them a list of the stocks, which were referred to in the body of each note as deposited "as collateral security." A subsequent note contained the words, referring to the list of stocks in the note of April 30, 1878, "as collateral security for payment of this or any other direct or indirect liability of ours to said bank, due or to become due, and that may be hereafter contracted." There was no authority to pledge the stock for other liabilities of Frank B. It does not appear that at that time there was any other liability of Frank B. to the bank, and it does appear that there was no intention to pledge the stocks for any other debt than the $50,000 for which it was already pledged. The change from the memorandum on the former notes seems to have been made inadvertently, by using a common form; no right was acquired against the plaintiff which did not exist before, and none has ever been claimed by the bank, or was intended by it. This cannot have the effect of releasing the security.

On January 29, 1883, the $50,000 note had been about a year overdue, and there was then due upon it $25,375.12, and some interest. The $19,000 note of Frank B. to the bank was more than a year overdue, and there was due upon it $18,300, and some interest. This note was secured by one hundred shares of the Manchester Mills. The whole amount of interest then due on both notes was $895.66. The amount of interest then due upon each note was then computed, and can now be ascertained by computation, but is not stated in the evidence. The bank had been endeavoring to procure a settlement of both of the overdue notes. At that time an arrangement was made; the whole amounts due upon both notes were added together, making $44,570.78. The sum of $2942.03 was paid from the estate of Mrs. Cotton, in two checks drawn by Frank B. Cotton, executor, and a new note on four months' time was given by Frank B.

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for $42,500, being the balance due, with the discount on the new note. This note was stated to be secured by certain stocks, which were in fact the same as those before pledged as security for both debts. Payments amounting to about $10,000 have been made on the consolidated note, from dividends and sales of the stocks pledged by Mrs. Cotton.

As has been before said, this transaction was not a payment of the $50,000 debt, and we do not think that its effect was to discharge the security. It did not affect the title to the stock, or give to the bank any new right to it. The bank held under the transfer to it from Mrs. Cotton, and not under the memorandum on the note. The writing on the note gave no right or title to the stock, and was not intended to give any. It was a statement in the note of a fact existing outside of it. The stock was, in fact, held as security for a debt represented in the note; and so far the statement was true. If the statement can be construed only as meaning that the stock was held as security for the full amount of the note, it was not true in fact; but how was Mrs. Cotton's estate prejudiced by the false statement? The recital did not alter the fact, or give any additional right in the stock to the bank, nor in any way affect the action of the bank in respect to it. The respective stocks stood pledged for the respective debts, as they did before, and Mrs. Cotton's stock, at least, did not become pledged for anything more. In regard to giving time upon the $50,000 debt, the effect upon that debt and its security by renewing the note as part of a larger note was the same as if it had been renewed alone. The right of action was suspended until the maturity of the new note; but upon non-payment of that, it revived as it was before, and payment of the original debt would release the security as fully as if the new note had not been given. The defendant at no time claimed to hold the stock pledged by Mrs. Cotton for anything but the debt for which it was pledged. The two notes appear to have been consolidated at the request of the bank and only for convenience, and without any intention of affecting the rights of Mrs. Cotton's estate in the stock, and nothing has occurred by which the estate has received any detriment in consequence. The amount of the debt can be ascertained, and the payments made properly applied, with as much certainty, and by the same

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computations, as if the new note had not been given. The right to redeem the stock was not impaired or hindered by the form in which the renewal of the note was made. The renewal was with the concurrence of the executors, was a waiver by the bank of its right to an immediate sale of the stock, and in that respect was apparently beneficial to the estate; and we do not think that the right of the bank was forfeited by it.

The payments upon the consolidated note have all been from the estate of Mrs. Cotton, and must be regarded as applied to the debt secured by her stock.

Most of the payments that have been made upon the debt were from the avails of the pledged stock, but several payments were made by Frank B., as executor, from the funds of the estate. It does not appear that these payments were not for the benefit of the estate. If the value of the property pledged exceeded the amount of the debt, it might be clearly for the benefit of the estate to pay the debt and release the property.

On the whole evidence, we do not see any ground upon which the bill can be maintained. *Bill dismissed.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* ALONZO B. WENTWORTH & others.

Norfolk. June 28. — Sept. 7, 1887. GARDNER, J., absent.

A warrant for a town meeting contained an article "to see if the town will choose the selectmen surveyors of highways," and an article "to choose all necessary town officers," naming those who were to be chosen by ballot, including selectmen, assessors, and overseers of the poor, and adding "all of said votes to be on one ballot." *Held*, that the town might vote to "choose the selectmen surveyors of highways," and "to proceed to ballot for five selectmen who shall also be assessors, overseers of the poor, and highway surveyors." *Held, also*, that ballots subsequently cast for separate boards of selectmen, assessors, overseers, and surveyors could be rejected except so far as they contained the names of persons voted for as selectmen; and that they were to be counted for such persons.

INFORMATION, in the nature of a *quo warranto*, filed March 12, 1887, by the Attorney General, at the request and upon the

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relation of certain residents, voters, and taxpayers of Dedham, alleging that the defendants were usurping the offices of selectmen, assessors, overseers of the poor, and surveyors of highways in said Dedham, which offices they assumed to hold by virtue of an election at the annual town meeting on March 7, 1887. The case was submitted to the judgment of this court upon an agreed statement of facts, the material parts of which appear in the opinion.

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W. Gaston & C. L. B. Whitney, for the Commonwealth.

A. B. Wentworth, for the defendants.

DEVENS, J. The contention of the relators is, that it was not within the power of the town to vote that there should be elected only selectmen who should be, or should act, as assessors, overseers of the poor, and surveyors of highways; and further, if the town might do so under a proper warrant for the meeting, it could not do so under the warrant as framed.

There was a distinct article in the warrant "to see if the town will choose the selectmen surveyors of highways," under which the town voted to "choose the selectmen surveyors of highways." There is nothing incompatible in these offices; surveyors of highways are not required by law to be chosen by ballot; the duties of such officers may properly be performed by the selectmen; and the warrant fully brought to the attention of the town the question whether such duties should be imposed on the selectmen. We do not understand the relators to insist that this might not properly have been done, but they especially urge that it was not in the power of the town by vote to prevent the inhabitants from voting for distinct boards as assessors of taxes and overseers of the poor. Assuming for the moment the sufficiency of the warrant in this respect, it was, we think, competent for the town to determine that the selectmen should be assessors and overseers. The town officers who shall be chosen, their number, and the duties they shall perform, are left to a certain extent to the vote of the town. Before any ballot could be proceeded with, it was necessary to determine by vote how many selectmen (whether three, five, seven, or nine) should be chosen; and, if the town intended to choose distinct boards as assessors or overseers, the number who should constitute these boards was to be first determined. These preliminary questions

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were necessarily to be decided by those who were present when the meeting was organized, and ready to proceed with the business of the town. Those voters who subsequently arrived had necessarily to conform to every lawful vote thus taken as to the order or manner of the election, or the officers or number of them to be chosen. The vote of the town was "to proceed to ballot for five selectmen, who shall also be assessors, overseers of the poor, and highway surveyors," an amendment which was proposed to ballot for distinct boards being first rejected. The contention of the relators, that it was the right of such voters as so desired thereafter to vote for distinct boards, cannot be maintained. There is no statutory requirement that distinct boards of assessors and overseers shall be chosen, and the language of the vote passed followed closely the language of the statute, which provides that "the selectmen shall be assessors of taxes and overseers of the poor in towns where other persons are not specially chosen to those offices." Pub. Sts. *c.* 27, § 101.

The relators, however, contend that, if this vote could properly have been passed under a sufficient article in the warrant, the terms of the article did not authorize any such vote. While a town is limited in the transaction of business by the articles in the warrant, yet a liberal construction has always been given to their language, so as to include all that is properly, even if incidentally, embraced in the subject to which they relate. "The articles inserted in warrants for calling town meetings," says Mr. Justice Hubbard, "presenting the various subjects for the consideration of the inhabitants, are from the very nature of the case general in their description, and are oftentimes inartificial in their construction. They are the mere abstracts or heads of the propositions which are to be laid before the inhabitants for their action; and matters incidental to and connected with such propositions are alike proper for their consideration and action." *Haven* v. *Lowell*, 5 Met. 35, 40. It is not necessary that the warrant for a town meeting shall specifically state that the inhabitants will be called to act on the question of granting money for a particular purpose, in order to render a grant valid, if the subject to be acted on is distinctly stated, and is one which will be likely to require a grant of money. *Blackburn* v. *Walpole*, 9 Pick. 97. An article in a warrant to see if

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a town will appropriate money to a particular object, authorizes a vote to raise, as well as to appropriate it. *Torrey* v. *Millbury*, 21 Pick. 64.

The article in the case at bar was "to choose all necessary town officers." It then names those which are to be chosen by ballot, including selectmen, assessors, and overseers of the poor, states the length of the respective terms, and adds, "all of said votes to be on one ballot." This was sufficient to authorize the town to determine the number of officers to be chosen, and the duties to be imposed on them, so far as it might lawfully do so, and to deal with the whole subject of their election in any appropriate manner. Where a warrant for the annual town meeting, held by law for the purpose of choosing officers, contained articles "to choose all necessary town officers" and "to choose all necessary committees," and the statute allowed of two modes of choosing committees, it was held that under these articles the town was authorized to determine which mode should be pursued, and to pass a vote that each school district choose its own committee, this being one of the modes provided by statute. *Williams* v. *Lunenburg School District*, 21 Pick. 75. *Kingsbury* v. *Quincy School District*, 12 Met. 99. An article in a warrant for an annual town meeting "to elect all necessary town officers for the ensuing year," and an article "to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray town charges for the coming year, and pay any indebtedness of the town," are sufficient, under the Gen. Sts. *c.* 18, § 22, to authorize the town to vote at the meeting, in conformity with the Gen. Sts. *c.* 18, § 73, to invest the collector of taxes thus duly chosen with all the powers which a town treasurer has when appointed collector of taxes. "The subject of choosing officers includes," says Chief Justice Chapman, "as an incident, any special authority that the town is authorized by statute to confer upon them in the exercise of their official duties." *Sherman* v. *Torrey*, 99 Mass. 472.

Indirectly the town could determine that the persons chosen selectmen should also be assessors and overseers, by choosing selectmen only, and leaving them to become assessors and overseers by the operation of the statute. There is no apparent reason why this might not also be done by a direct vote, which,

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in determining the number of the selectmen, also provided that they should be assessors and overseers.

The article in the warrant was sufficient, and, when we examine the facts, appears to have been fully understood by the voters of the town. Whether there should be a single board of selectmen only, or whether the other boards also should be chosen, was discussed at the caucuses held previously to the election; "an unusually large number were present" when the vote on this matter was taken at the beginning of the town meeting, and before the balloting; and there was no objection to or protest against the vote, until just before the closing of the polls.

There remains the question whether, in counting the votes, all those ballots should have been rejected which, in addition to those persons named as voted for as selectmen, contained also the names of the same, or some of the same persons, or other persons, as assessors, overseers, and surveyors. The declaration of the moderator that any ballots which contained more than five names should be rejected, could not enlarge the vote of the town, the meaning of which was, that selectmen only should be voted for, who should be *ex officio* assessors, etc. Ballots containing the names of certain persons as selectmen, and certain as assessors, etc., were irregular under this vote, but there was no difficulty in ascertaining for whom the voter intended to vote as selectmen. The same difficulty is not presented as that which would be found if a voter should vote for seven selectmen, when only five were to be elected. The ballots in the case at bar, cast by these voters for selectmen, were readily distinguishable from the other portion of the ballot; the voters had a right to give them for the selectmen, upon whom the town had imposed the duties of the other offices; and there does not appear to have been any fraudulent purpose in placing names for the other offices on the ballot, nor by so doing was any serious embarrassment occasioned. There is no difficulty in rejecting as surplusage all that portion of these ballots which relates to the boards of assessors, &c., as selectmen only were to be voted for.

It may be said that those votes for selectmen should be rejected where other names were on the ballot, because, by voting

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for different persons to constitute distinct boards of assessors, &c., the voter depositing it indicated clearly an intention not to vote for selectmen who should have the powers of the other boards of officers. But the ballot must be construed in conformity with the vote of the town. While the voter sought by such a ballot to assert his right to vote for distinct boards, it must be held, if he could not rightfully do this, that, in voting for selectmen, he had voted for them with such powers as the town had by vote conferred upon them.

It will not be necessary to consider the various classes of these ballots. It is not in dispute that, if all the votes for selectmen are counted, including those upon ballots where there are also votes for assessors, &c., the relator Murray would be elected, and not the defendant Wentworth. The result, therefore, is, that Murray was duly elected to the office of selectman, and, on taking the necessary qualifying oaths, should be admitted to exercise it in connection with the other lawfully chosen selectmen; and that there should be a judgment of ouster against Wentworth. *Strong, petitioner*, 20 Pick. 484. *Conlin* v. *Aldrich*, 98 Mass. 557. *Judgment of ouster accordingly.*

MEMORANDUM.

ON the seventh day of September, 1887, the Honorable WILLIAM SEWALL GARDNER resigned the office of justice of this court, which he had held since the thirteenth day of October, 1885.

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SYLVESTER P. PIERCE *vs.* EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Suffolk. November 17, 18, 1886.—September 17, 1887.

An insurance company, incorporated in another State, issued there to A., who was a resident of that State, a policy of insurance upon his life for a certain sum payable on his death to him, his executors, administrators, or assigns. The policy was known as a tontine policy on the savings fund insurance plan, and was to continue as such for the term of ten years, if A. should live so long. If a person insured under such a policy should die during the tontine period, his estate would receive only the amount of his policy; and if he should fail, during the tontine term, to pay the premiums on his policy, it would be forfeited. Policies of this character were kept in classes according to their tontine periods, and, while the funds of each class were not kept separate, distinct accounts were kept with each class, showing the amount due upon each policy at the expiration of the tontine term. At the expiration of such term, it was provided that "all the surplus or profits derived from such policies on the tontine savings fund insurance plan as shall cease to be in force before the completion of their respective tontine dividend periods shall be apportioned equitably among such policies as shall complete their tontine dividend periods." The holder of the policy then had the option "to withdraw in cash the policy's entire share of the assets, whether in the reserve fund proper or in the accumulated surplus," or to use this share in various modes prescribed by the policy for the procurement of additional insurance, or by the purchase of an annuity for the payment of the premiums thereafter becoming due on his policy. The "reserve fund proper" and "accumulated surplus" were made up of the dividends withheld on the premiums of the class during the tontine term, by reason of forfeiture by death or non-payment of premiums within the term. The corporation had a place of business in this Commonwealth, and an agent to receive service of process, but its books and papers were kept in the other State. A. brought a bill in equity in this Commonwealth against the corporation, after the expiration of the tontine period of his policy, for an account. The corporation put in a general appearance, and an answer to the merits, and objected to the jurisdiction of the court for the first time at a hearing on the merits. *Held*, that the defendant had waived any objection to the jurisdiction of the court; that A. was a creditor, and not a member, of the corporation; and that the bill could be maintained without joining the other policy holders of the plaintiff's class.

By the law of the State of New York, as shown by its judicial decisions, an insurance company which by a policy agrees that the surplus or profits derived from policies on the tontine savings fund assurance plan that shall cease to be in force before the completion of their tontine dividend periods shall be apportioned equitably among such policies as shall complete their tontine dividend periods, does not hold such surplus or profits as a trust.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed October 13, 1884, by the holder of a policy of life insurance issued by the defendant corporation,

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alleging that by the terms of the policy the defendant had constituted itself his trustee for his share of all accumulations of a certain fund, and praying for an account. Hearing before *Holmes*, J., who reported the case for the consideration of the full court. The facts appear in the opinion.

E. P. Usher, for the plaintiff.

J. Lowell & R. M. Morse, Jr., for the defendant.

DEVENS, J. The policy of life insurance in regard to which the plaintiff seeks that the defendant shall render an account, complaining that the defendant has not apportioned to him the share of reserve and profits to which he is entitled, was made in New York; and the plaintiff is, and was at the time of bringing this bill, a resident of that State, under the laws of which the defendant is incorporated. Had the defendant, instead of appearing generally, objected originally that, even if an account should be taken, it ought not to be held to answer here to the plaintiff, in view of these facts and the great inconvenience involved in taking such an account at a distance from the State in which its voluminous books and papers are properly kept, such objection would have been worthy of serious consideration. Even if the plaintiff is entitled to an account, he might, under such circumstances, be compelled to seek it where it can most appropriately, as well as most conveniently, be rendered. The objection which the defendant makes to the jurisdiction of the court appears to have been taken for the first time when the case came on to be heard on its merits before a single justice. In the opinion of a majority of the court, any objection to the exercise of the jurisdiction of this court founded on the facts above set forth must be deemed to have been waived by the general appearance, pleading to the merits, and the delay in taking the objection.

The principal characteristics of the policy on which the controversy arises are these. It was for the sum of $10,000, payable, on the decease of the plaintiff, to him, his executors, administrators, or assigns, and was for the term of his life. It was known as a tontine policy on the savings insurance plan, and was to continue as such for the term of ten years, if the plaintiff should live so long. If the holder of the policy died during the tontine period, which expired on March 18, 1883, his estate would not receive

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any benefit from the dividends which ordinarily are made on life assurance policies annually or at stated periods, which dividends consist of the surplus of premiums after deducting the cost of insurance and the computed reserve, these being then held by the company for the benefit of the other policy holders, and forfeited by him. His estate would receive only the amount of his policy. If the holder of the policy also should fail during this tontine term to keep up his policy by payment of the premiums, it would be forfeited. Policies of this character are kept in classes of ten, fifteen, or twenty years, according to their tontine periods, and, while the funds of each class are not kept separate, distinct accounts are kept with each class, so as to show the amount to which it is entitled, and by this means the amount due upon each policy at the expiration of its tontine term. At the expiration of ten years, if such be the term, or at the completion of the tontine dividend period, it is provided that "all surplus or profits derived from such policies on the tontine savings fund assurance plan as shall cease to be in force before the completion of their respective tontine dividend periods shall be apportioned equitably among such policies as shall complete their tontine dividend periods." On March 18, 1883, the policy not having terminated, the plaintiff had the option "first to withdraw in cash this policy's entire share of the assets, whether in the reserve fund proper or in the accumulated surplus; secondly, to convert the same into a paid-up policy for an equivalent amount; . . . . or, thirdly, to continue the assurance for the original amount, and apply the entire tontine dividend to the purchase of an annuity to reduce the subsequent premiums falling due upon this policy."

The "reserve fund proper" and "accumulated surplus" are made up of the dividends which have been withheld on the premiums of the class during ten years, the dividends thus withheld from those who have died within the ten years being forfeited for the benefit of the class to which their policy belonged, and also all payments made by and dividends withheld from those who have forfeited their policies by non-payment of premiums.

It is the contention of the defendant that the plaintiff is bound by the apportionment made by its officers in the discharge

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of their duties, unless it shall be shown at least that they did not act in the exercise of an honest discretion and in good faith. We find no words in the policy indicating that the decision of the defendant is to be conclusive; and the words by which the defendant agrees "equitably" to apportion to the plaintiff's policy its share of the profits bind the defendant to make the apportionment, and imply that, in any proper proceeding, it may be inquired whether it has fulfilled this part of its contract.

That the bill brought by the plaintiff cannot be maintained on the ground that he is the beneficiary of a trust fund held by the defendant, which is one of the grounds upon which an account is often ordered, and upon which theory the bill is based, is, we think, reasonably clear. By the New York law, which must govern the construction of a contract made between New York parties to be performed in that State, it has been found as a fact by the judge who presided that the policy issued to the plaintiff did not create a trust. This finding is fully sustained by the evidence from the decisions of the tribunals of that State. *Taylor* v. *Charter Oak Ins. Co.* 9 Daly, 489. *Hencken* v. *United States Ins. Co.* 11 Daly, 282; *S. C.* 98 N. Y. 627. *Verplanck* v. *Mercantile Ins. Co.* 1 Edw. Ch. 84. *People* v. *Security Ins. Co.* 78 N. Y. 114. *Bewley* v. *Equitable Assurance Society*, 61 How. Pr. 344. *Cohen* v. *New York Ins. Co.* 50 N. Y. 610. *St. John* v. *American Ins. Co.* 3 Kern. 31. *Uhlmann* v. *New York Ins. Co.* 13 Daly, 47. While the prayers in the plaintiff's bill have been made upon the theory that there was a trust fund held by the defendant for the benefit of the plaintiff, with others, as a holder of a ten years' tontine policy, no objection is pressed by reason of the form of the bill. We proceed to consider, therefore, whether, upon any other ground than that strictly of trust, the bill may be maintained for an account.

Our statute gives jurisdiction in equity upon accounts "when the nature of the account is such that it cannot be conveniently and properly adjusted and settled in an action at law." Pub. Sts. *c.* 151, § 2, *cl.* 10. Even if the amounts kept back from the plaintiff and those of his class of policy holders, by the retention of those dividends which would otherwise have been received,

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or of those sums accruing from the forfeiture of policies either in whole or in part, do not constitute a trust fund, or place the defendant in a strictly fiduciary capacity, the defendant was bound to keep accurate accounts of them, and of all interest and profit thereon, if any. All the facts were entirely within its own knowledge, and it is only thus that it can be determined what equitably should be apportioned to the plaintiff.

It is said that the plaintiff has a sufficient remedy at common law; that he can bring his action at law; and that, upon proper interrogatories addressed to the defendant, all the information necessary for the proper adjustment of the account may be obtained. But even if an action at law could be maintained, where an account is complicated so that a full examination and settlement of previous accounts, transactions, or methods of business are necessary, and where the whole matter is entirely within the knowledge of the defendant, it cannot so conveniently or accurately be investigated at common law as in equity. Even if a trial by jury be claimed and allowed, the court might, in a suit in equity, so mould the issues and direct the course of the trial as to avoid many of the difficulties attending a trial at common law. *Hallett* v. *Cumston*, 110 Mass. 32. It was thus held, in the case cited, that one who was not a partner, but was entitled to share in the net profits of a business, might maintain a bill for an account against a partnership which necessarily involved an examination of its transactions, and of its whole course and methods of conducting business. In *Massachusetts General Hospital* v. *State Assurance Co.* 4 Gray, 227, it was said that the plaintiff might properly maintain a bill for an account of the net profits arising from the insurance of lives made by it, one third of which the defendant was by law bound to pay the plaintiff.

That the accounts are singularly complicated, and that the method by which the value of the share of the plaintiff which he has obtained by full payment of his premiums and completion of his tontine period is ascertained is one of much complexity and difficulty in its application, appear from the evidence reported. A court of equity is the appropriate tribunal for dealing with such an account, and the defendant is fairly bound to produce an account from the data in its

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possession which shall show that it has complied with its promise equitably to apportion to the plaintiff his share in the accumulations made through the operation of the tontine provisions in his policy.

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Nor do we perceive that it is necessary to join any more of this class of policy holders in the bill, or that the bill should be brought on their behalf. It appears by the answer of the defendant, and also by the evidence, that all the policy holders of the class to which the plaintiff belonged have been settled with, and that they have received the amount apportioned to them by the defendant corporation. But even if it did not so appear, the plaintiff made his individual contract with the defendant; if others have similar contracts depending on similar states of fact, they in no way affect his contract; he has no demand upon any one other than the defendant; and nothing that he will receive from the defendant will in any way affect the claims of others.

It is contended that the apportionment of the reserve or accumulated profits to be made at the conclusion of the tontine dividend period is but the declaration of a dividend; that the court will not interfere with the declaration of a dividend, even by a domestic corporation, it being a question solely for its directors, or other proper officers, whether any dividend shall be made, and if so, of what amount; and that, until this is made, no stockholder has any rights in any profits that have been made, or assets that might be divided. Conceding this to be the general law, the amount to be apportioned, or which the plaintiff is entitled to have apportioned, is not a dividend, in the limited sense in which the word is used in its application to dividends to stockholders. Between stockholders and the corporation of which they are members no relation of debtor or creditor ordinarily exists, nor does any arise until a dividend has been declared. The affairs of the corporation are managed by those whom the stockholders elect as officers, and by this administration of affairs they are bound. The plaintiff is not a member of the corporation, but its creditor, who has contracted with it. At the end of a fixed period, having complied with the contract on his own behalf and made the payments required, he is entitled to have apportioned to him his share of a certain

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fund, to be computed. The defendant has no right to withhold it, as a corporation may withhold profits from a stockholder. This share, or its equivalent in value, is the plaintiff's own property, and not that of the defendant corporation.

Nor is it important that the sum to be computed as belonging to the class, and from which the apportionment to the plaintiff's policy is to be made, is constituted partially of dividends which but for the tontine contract would have been previously paid upon the policy. It may be that the amount of the dividends annually, or at other stated intervals, distributed to policy holders could be absolutely determined by the officers of the corporation. If this is so, the plaintiff would still have a right to an account, and to ascertain whether the dividends reserved under his contract were proportionally the same as those declared on other life insurance policies, having relation to their different circumstances; or at least to ascertain what were the amounts reserved as dividends to be passed to the credit of the fund when it should be computed, if it had no actual existence. In our view of the case, if the defendant were a domestic corporation, there would be a right on the part of the plaintiff to have an account taken, and to ascertain thereby whether a fair apportionment had been made. If the defendant had kept no account, if it had no means of furnishing one, or showing whether it had dealt justly or unjustly with the plaintiff, it should be answerable for the injury which it had occasioned by its neglect to do what the contract implies it would do.

The defendant is, however, a foreign corporation; and it is urged that this court ought not to take jurisdiction of the case, if it were possible so to do, and that practically it is impossible for it to effect justice between the parties.

That it is a matter of grave inconvenience to the defendant to be held to account here, may be conceded. That, if the objection had been promptly taken that the plaintiff was a resident of New York as well as the defendant, it would have received serious consideration, we have heretofore suggested. *Smith* v. *Mutual Ins. Co.* 14 Allen, 336. But we find no inconvenience that is insuperable; the defendant has an established place of business in this Commonwealth, and an agent to receive service of lawful process. It may be presumed that it anticipates that the profits

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of the business will compensate for the inconvenience of being held to answer, and in a proper case to account, in a State other than that to which it owes its corporate existence. It is true that we cannot bring the officers, or the books, or the assets, of this corporation within our jurisdiction, but the corporation is itself lawfully before us. We shall not assume that it will neglect any order that we may pass, nor indicate how such order may be enforced, or, if it cannot be enforced, how such proceedings may be had that the plaintiff may be indemnified for the violation of the contract made with him.

It is further objected that the case requires us to exercise a jurisdiction over the corporation in its corporate functions, in the matter of its internal economy, and in the relations existing between it and its policy holders. The statute under which this corporation is subjected to the service of process does not, it is true, necessarily bring the subject matter of the suit, or the remedy sought, within the jurisdiction of this court; nor do the rights and liabilities of parties under local laws necessarily follow them into other jurisdictions. *Smith* v. *Mutual Ins. Co., ubi supra.* Did the inquiry before us concern the relation between the defendant corporation and its stockholders, we could not undertake to pass upon or determine it. *New Haven Horse Nail Co.* v. *Linden Spring Co.* 142 Mass. 349. Such an inquiry is to be determined by the local tribunal. Were the case such that we were called upon to pass any order directing or controlling the corporation in the exercise of its corporate duties, we have no such jurisdiction as would enable us to do it. The subject matter would not be within our province.

But, in the case at bar, the plaintiff is a creditor, and not a member, of the corporation. He has a contract with it which he contends the corporation has not fairly performed. There is no question of its internal economy involved, as where the relations between its members and the corporation are concerned. If it has adopted any method of conducting its business inconsistent with the due performance of its contract, such a method of administration will not deprive the plaintiff of any rights. It can no more refuse to account than could an individual to whom the plaintiff entrusted his moneys on any similar contract. In dealing with the plaintiff the corporation dealt with

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an outside person, and only the relation which it bears to such person, claiming to be its creditor, is here involved.

The question whether, if the defendant is to account, on what principles it shall do so, or whether, if the case is submitted to a master, it shall be so submitted by an order which shall direct him how the account shall be taken, have not been discussed, and are not considered. It may be that fuller evidence may be required than has yet been taken before they can be disposed of. *Decree for an account.*

MICHAEL C. BRASLIN *vs.* SOMERVILLE HORSE RAILROAD COMPANY.

Middlesex. January 17. — September 19, 1887.

A street railway corporation was made liable by its charter for any injury that any person might sustain by reason of any carelessness, negligence, or misconduct of its agents and servants, in the management, construction, or use of its tracks. Subsequently, the corporation leased to another street railway corporation a certain portion of its track for the unexpired term of its charter, subject to all duties and liabilities imposed upon the lessor by its charter, and the lessee covenanted to assume and perform them, and to defend any suits brought against the lessor arising out of the operation and use of the road, and to pay any judgment recovered against the lessor. The lessee further agreed to deliver the property to the lessor at the end of the term, and there was a provision for reentry for breach of covenant. The lease was afterwards ratified by an act of the Legislature. After this, a passenger on a car of the lessee while on the leased road was injured by the negligence of a servant of the lessee. *Held*, that an action could be maintained against the lessor for such injury.

TORT for personal injuries. At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Blodgett*, J., it appeared that the defendant owned a horse railroad on Elm Street, in Somerville, which connected with the horse railroad of the Cambridge Railroad Company; that on November 30, 1882, the same was used and operated by the Union Railway Company under certain leases and contracts; and that on said day the plaintiff was a passenger upon a car of the Union Railway Company, and received the injuries complained of by being thrown from the car upon Elm Street.

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There was evidence tending to show that the injuries complained of were occasioned by the negligence of a servant of the Union Railway Company, who was then driving the car in which the plaintiff was a passenger.

The leases and contract under which the railroad was run at the time of the accident were put in evidence, and appear in the opinion.

The judge ruled that the plaintiff could not maintain his action, directed a verdict for the defendant, and reported the case for the determination of this court. If the ruling was right, judgment was to be entered on the verdict; otherwise, the case was to stand for trial.

G. A. Bruce, (*M. F. Farrell* with him,) for the plaintiff.

Samuel Hoar, (*W. H. Martin* with him,) for the defendant.

C. ALLEN, J. The question presented by the report is, whether the plaintiff's right of action, if any, is against the defendant, or exclusively against the Union Railway Company, another street railway company, which was operating the defendant's road under the assignment of a lease. The presiding justice in the Superior Court ruled that the plaintiff could not maintain his action against the present defendant, and reported the case for the determination of this court, upon facts which were not in dispute. Those facts, so far as material, are as follows:

The Middlesex Railroad Company was incorporated by the St. of 1854, *c.* 434, with power to construct a street railway; and by § 5 was made liable "for any loss or injury that any person may sustain by reason of any carelessness, neglect, or misconduct of its agents and servants, in the management, construction, or use of said tracks, roads, or bridges." The Somerville Horse Railroad Company, the defendant in this action, was incorporated by the St. of 1857, *c.* 250, to receive a transfer of the franchise and property of the Middlesex Railroad Company in the town of Somerville; and, upon such transfer being made, the Somerville Horse Railroad Company was to stand in the place of the Middlesex Railroad Company, so far as the road in Somerville was concerned; and the duties, liabilities, and burdens imposed on the Middlesex Railroad Company were transferred from said company and imposed upon the Somerville

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Horse Railroad Company. This transfer appears to have been carried into effect; and the defendant was in possession accordingly.

In April, 1871, a tripartite agreement was entered into between these two companies and the Union Railway Company, whereby, among other things, the Somerville Horse Railroad Company agreed to lay a new street railway track on Milk Street and Elm Street in Somerville, and, on the completion thereof, to lease the same to the Middlesex Railroad Company; and on January 5, 1876, in order to carry into effect the above agreement, a lease thereof was executed accordingly, for and during the unexpired term of the lessor's charter, "upon the like terms and conditions, and with all the rights and privileges, contained in a certain written instrument, bearing date the 1st day of June, A. D. 1869, and duly executed by the said Middlesex Railroad Company and the said Union Railway Company." This lease did not include the whole of the railroad of the lessor, and no mention was made therein of the lessor's franchise.

Referring now to the instrument of June 1, 1869, in order to ascertain the terms and conditions of the above lease, it appears that it was a lease from the Middlesex Railroad Company to the Union Railway Company of a certain piece of street railroad in Somerville, theretofore built by the Somerville Horse Railroad Company, and by it leased to the Middlesex Railroad Company; and the lease of June 1, 1869, was made "subject, however, to all the conditions, restrictions, duties, and liabilities imposed upon the said Somerville Horse Railroad Company by its charter, and its contracts and agreements." The lessee was to pay a certain rent and all taxes; and it agreed to "assume and perform all duties imposed upon the Somerville Horse Railroad Company, by its charter, save those incident to its organization and continuance," and further to "keep said railroad in good repair during said term, and to run and operate the same in such proper and careful manner as the public safety and convenience may require, and that it, the party of the second part [i. e. the lessee], at its own cost will defend any and all suits of any kind brought against said Somerville Horse Railroad Company and the party of the first part, severally, on account of injuries to person or property, and any loss of property happening, or which

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may arise out of the operation and use of said railroad during said term, and any acts and neglects of said party of the second part and any persons in its employ, and will pay and discharge all judgments recorded against them or either of them in such suits." The lessee further agreed to deliver to the lessor, at the expiration of the term, the said property; and there were provisions for re-entry for breach of covenant.

The lease of January 5, 1876, from the Somerville Horse Railroad Company to the Middlesex Railroad Company, was assigned by the lessee to the Union Railway Company, on February 1, 1876, subject to all the liabilities, duties, and conditions contained in said lease; and the assignee covenanted to do and perform all the duties and services, and assume all the risks and liabilities, and perform all the covenants and agreements, imposed by said lease upon the lessee named therein.

At the time when the plaintiff received the injuries complained of, the railroad, at the place of the accident, was used and operated by the Union Railway Company under the above-mentioned lease and assignment, which, by the St. of 1876, *c.* 58, were ratified, confirmed, and declared valid; and all acts and proceedings theretofore done under and in accordance therewith were declared valid and legal.

The question presented for determination is, whether, by means of the above-mentioned instruments and statutes, the Somerville Horse Railroad Company is exonerated from responsibility to a person injured upon that part of its railroad which it leased to the Middlesex Railroad Company on January 5, 1876. There is perhaps no reason to doubt that the Union Railway Company would be responsible; but we are to determine whether the Somerville Company is also responsible.

The general rule is familiar, that neither a steam nor a street railway corporation can make a valid transfer, either by way of absolute deed, mortgage, or lease, of its franchise, or of its railroad and the bulk of its property, or relieve itself of the burdens imposed upon it by law, or by its charter, without the consent of the State. *Commonwealth* v. *Smith*, 10 Allen, 448. *Richardson* v. *Sibley*, 11 Allen, 65. *Central National Bank* v. *Worcester Horse Railroad*, 13 Allen, 105. *Middlesex Railroad* v. *Boston & Chelsea Railroad*, 115 Mass. 347. *Davis* v. *Old Colony Railroad*,

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131 Mass. 258, 271. *Railroad* v. *Brown*, 17 Wall. 445, 450. *Bower* v. *Burlington & Southwestern Railroad*, 42 Iowa, 546.

In *Quested* v. *Newburyport Horse Railroad*, 127 Mass. 204, a street railway company had leased its railroad and franchise, under legislative authority to do so, it being expressly provided by statute, however, that such lease should not exempt said company from any duties or liabilities to which it would otherwise be subject. There is no similar express provision in any statute affecting the present case, but on the other hand, we find nothing indicating an intent that the defendant, by means of a lease, should be able to escape from its liabilities and responsibilities to the public.

The provisions of the lease, including those which are incorporated by reference, define the duties and obligations of the contracting parties as between themselves, and appear to be sufficient effectually to bind the lessee to indemnify the lessor against loss. But it is nowhere stated that the lessor should be exonerated from responsibility, nor was it possible for the parties to make a contract which should have that effect. The sanction of the Legislature was given to the contract as made by the parties, but added nothing by way of exemption from the primary responsibility of the lessor. The lease did not purport to transfer the lessor's franchise, or the whole of its property. The lessor was not going out of business entirely, but only leased a portion of its road, with provisions for restoration of the leased property at the end of the term, and for re-entry. It was under a positive duty and obligation to the public, and the consent of the Legislature to the making of the lease did not imply a discharge from the duty and obligation. Indeed, there is a certain implication that the parties did not contemplate any such discharge, arising from the stipulation for indemnity "during said term," that is, during the whole term of the lease. Where a corporation seeks to escape from the burdens imposed upon it by the Legislature, clear evidence of a legislative assent to such exoneration should be found.

We do not overlook the decisions in *Mahoney* v. *Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad*, 63 Maine, 68, and in *Murch* v. *Concord Railroad*, 9 Foster, 1, 35, which certainly are rather to the effect that the lessees alone are responsible, under circumstances not

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much unlike those in the present case. But we do not find that the lessee was substituted for the defendant in any such sense as to relieve the latter from liability; and the result is, that there must be a new trial. *New trial granted.*

DARIUS WELLINGTON *vs.* JOHN V. APTHORP, administrator.

Suffolk. January 20. — September 19, 1887.

In an action against the administrator with the will annexed of the estate of A., on an alleged agreement by A. to bequeath to the plaintiff $5000, an auditor, to whom the case was referred, found that the plaintiff was the brother-in-law of A., an unmarried woman, and lived in the same house with her, and advised with her as to her investments; that she said if she made a profit on one investment managed by the plaintiff she would give him one half, and on this she made a profit of $10,000; that, soon after, she told the plaintiff that if he would go on and act as her adviser she would make a will giving the plaintiff's wife a legacy of $5000, and if his wife died before the plaintiff she would, by a new will, leave this sum to him; that such a will was made; that, afterwards, the plaintiff assisted A. in making many profitable investments; that subsequently, when the plaintiff's wife was fatally ill, A. said to the plaintiff, that, if he would accompany her on a visit to California, she in consideration thereof, and in consideration of the services he had rendered and might thereafter render to her, would make a will leaving him $5000; that the plaintiff assented, and the will was made, the old will being destroyed; that the plaintiff accompanied A. on the journey proposed, and in all respects complied with the agreement; and that, subsequently, A. made a new will which revoked the former will and left nothing to the plaintiff. *Held*, that, these facts not being controverted, the judge who tried the case without a jury was not warranted in finding that the facts did not show that A. entered into a binding agreement with the plaintiff, or in finding that the agreement declared on was not proved as alleged; and that he should have found that the plaintiff was entitled to maintain the action.

CONTRACT against the administrator with the will annexed of the estate of Mary Chism, deceased, upon an agreement alleged to have been made by her with the plaintiff, on or about May 23, 1878, to bequeath to him by her last will the sum of $5000, and pay his expenses of a journey to California and Nevada in accompanying her there in the fall of 1878; and also upon an account annexed for services in managing her property, in accompanying her to California and Nevada, and for cash paid by him as expenses on said visit.

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The case was referred to an auditor, who made the following report: www.libtool.com.cn

"The defendant is administrator with the will annexed of Mary Chism, deceased. Prior to 1853, Mary Chism, with two sisters, Charlotte and Octavia, kept a boarding-house in Boston. The plaintiff had boarded with them, and in 1853 he married Charlotte Chism. After their marriage the plaintiff and his wife continued to board with Mary Chism during the greater part of the time until the death of said Charlotte.

"About 1862, the two sisters, Mary and Octavia, had acquired by inheritance and their savings about $4000, which sum, by advice of the plaintiff, was withdrawn from savings banks and invested in United States bonds.

"Octavia Chism died in August, 1863, and her share in said bonds came into the possession of Mary Chism. In July, 1866, by advice of the plaintiff, Mary Chism invested the proceeds of said United States bonds in the equity of real estate on Rowe Street, afterwards Chauncy Street.

"While Mary Chism was owner of the equity of the Chauncy Street estate, and when there was a prospect of making a profit upon it of about $10,000, she told the plaintiff that if such profit was made by him he should have one half, or a part of it.

"In April, 1868, the equity of the Chauncy Street estate was sold at a profit of $10,000; this sale was negotiated and advised by the plaintiff. Shortly after this sale had been made, Mary Chism told the plaintiff, if he would go on and act as her agent and adviser respecting her investments, she would make a will, giving the plaintiff's wife a legacy of $5000; and, in the event of the plaintiff's wife dying before the plaintiff, she would then by a new will or codicil bequeath the legacy of $5000 to the plaintiff. The plaintiff assented to said arrangement, and, a day or two after this conversation, Mary Chism executed a will containing a legacy of $5000 to Charlotte, wife of the plaintiff.

"After the execution of said will, and while it was unrevoked, in June, 1868, Mary Chism purchased an equity in real estate in Washington Street, and sold it at a profit in January, 1869. In January, 1869, the plaintiff intended to purchase on his own account the equity of an estate in Bedford Street, and applied to

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Mary Chism to borrow $2000, to be used in such investment; she expressed the wish to join in the transaction, and the plaintiff assented. They agreed that she should advance all the money, and, after receiving seven per cent interest thereon, the profits should be equally divided. She did furnish the money, and the title was taken, and mortgage given, in her name. After paying her the seven per cent interest, the profits of this investment were between $4000 and $5000, and were equally divided. The estate was sold, part in 1873, and the balance in 1874. In 1876 she purchased the equity of an estate in Mt. Vernon Street, which she retained at her death. All the above-mentioned purchases and sales of real estate were negotiated and advised by the plaintiff, and made solely upon his judgment.

"In June, 1878, the plaintiff's wife, Charlotte, died. A few weeks before her death, and when it was apparent that she was fatally ill, Mary Chism, with the knowledge of said Charlotte told the plaintiff that she desired to visit California, and a brother who resided in Nevada, and that, if the plaintiff would accompany her there in the fall of that year, she, in consideration of his so accompanying her, and of the services he had rendered, and might thereafter render her, respecting the management of her property, would make a will giving him $5000, and pay his expenses of the journey. The plaintiff assented thereto; and, thereupon, in May or June, 1878, Mary Chism destroyed the will before mentioned, and executed a new one, wherein she gave the plaintiff a legacy of $5000. At this time Mary Chism's property was about $23,000, and it had been acquired largely by the advice and management of the plaintiff; and I find that the plaintiff's advice was valuable and his management judicious, and were given and rendered whenever requested or required, and he has received no compensation therefor, except as stated respecting the Bedford Street property.

"In the fall of 1878, and the winter following, the plaintiff accompanied Mary Chism to Nevada and California, and then and thereafter in all respects complied with and fulfilled the aforesaid agreement. And I find that the items of cash paid by him for expenses of the journey, alleged in the account annexed to the declaration, and amounting to $473.24, were incurred by him, and are reasonable, and should be allowed.

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"Mary Chism died, October 18, 1883, without issue and unmarried, leaving a will, revoking all former wills, dated December 20, 1880, which was admitted to probate on November 12, 1883, and contains no legacy to the plaintiff.

"Whether or not, upon the facts stated in this report, the plaintiff is entitled to recover any greater sum than said $473.24, is reserved for the ruling of the court."

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., the plaintiff put in evidence the report of the auditor, and rested.

The defendant thereupon called the plaintiff, who testified that he was married again in November, 1879; that he did not inform Mary Chism, beforehand, of his intended marriage; that there was no occasion of his doing so; that he did inform her thereof, by a messenger, on the day of the marriage; and that she was not present at the ceremony; nor was any one else, except the necessary parties.

There was no other evidence in the case; and, upon the evidence, the judge found for the plaintiff in the sum of $473.24, with interest from the date of the writ, for the expenses of the plaintiff on his journey to California and Nevada. To this finding the defendant alleged exceptions.

The judge further found, that the facts stated in the auditor's report did not sufficiently show that a binding agreement was entered into by Mary Chism with the plaintiff to make a will in his favor; and that the agreement declared upon, whereby she was to bequeath to him by her last will the sum of $5000, was not proved, as alleged; and upon these issues found for the defendant. The judge also found for the defendant upon the items of the account annexed for services rendered in the management of said Mary Chism's property, and in accompanying her on a visit to California and Nevada. To these findings the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

The judge reported the case for the determination of this court.

J. S. Patton, for the plaintiff.

A. M. Howe, (*T. J. Homer* with him,) for the defendant.

C. ALLEN, J. It is not contended, on behalf of the defendant, that a contract, founded on a sufficient consideration, to make a certain provision by will for a particular person is invalid in law. The contrary is well settled. *Jenkins* v. *Stetson*,

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9 Allen, 128, 132. *Parker* v. *Coburn*, 10 Allen, 82. *Canada* v. *Canada*, 6 Cush. 15. *Parsell* v. *Stryker*, 41 N. Y. 480. *Thompson* v. *Stevens*, 71 Penn. St. 161. *Updike* v. *Ten Broeck*, 3 Vroom, 105. *Caviness* v. *Rushton*, 101 Ind. 500.

Nor is it contended that a contract to leave a certain amount of money by will to a particular person, though oral, is open to objection under the statute of frauds. It is not a contract for the sale of lands or of goods; and it may be performed within a year. *Peters* v. *Westborough*, 19 Pick. 364. *Fenton* v. *Emblers*, 3 Burr. 1278. *Ridley* v. *Ridley*, 34 Beav. 478. *Kent* v. *Kent*, 62 N. Y. 560. *Bell* v. *Hewitt*, 24 Ind. 280. *Wallace* v. *Long*, 105 Ind. 522. Such a contract differs essentially from a contract to devise all one's property, real and personal, which comes within the statute of frauds. *Gould* v. *Mansfield*, 103 Mass. 408.

The obligation of such a contract is not impaired, though the consideration is to arise wholly or in part in the future, and though the person to whom the promise is made is under no mutual binding obligation on his part.

In *Train* v. *Gold*, 5 Pick. 380, 385, it was said by Mr. Justice Wilde, that, "if A. promises to B. to pay him a sum of money if he will do a particular act, and B. does the act, the promise thereupon becomes binding, although B., at the time of the promise, does not engage to do the act." This doctrine was quoted with approval in *Gardner* v. *Webber*, 17 Pick. 407, 413, and in *Bornstein* v. *Lans*, 104 Mass. 214, 216; and it is also affirmed in *Goward* v. *Waters*, 98 Mass. 596.

In *Cottage Street Church* v. *Kendall*, 121 Mass. 528, 530, it was held that, "where one promises to pay another a certain sum of money for doing a particular thing, which is to be done before the money is paid, and the promisee does the thing, upon the faith of the promise, the promise, which was before but a mere revocable offer, thereby becomes a complete contract, upon a consideration moving from the promisee to the promisor; as in the ordinary case of an offer of reward." See also *Paige* v. *Parker*, 8 Gray, 211, 213; *Hubbard* v. *Coolidge*, 1 Met. 84; *Todd* v. *Weber*, 95 N. Y. 181, 192; *Miller* v. *McKenzie*, 95 N. Y. 575, 579.

It is therefore in law competent for a valid oral contract to be made to leave a certain sum of money by will to a particular person, in consideration of services thereafter to be rendered by

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the promisee to the promisor, provided such services are in fact thereafter rendered and accepted in pursuance of such contract, although the promisee did not bind himself in advance to render them. The performance of the consideration renders the contract binding, and gives a right of action upon it.

The objection mostly relied on by the defendant in the present case is, that the auditor's report does not conclusively show such a contract, upon such a consideration. The auditor does not in terms, as he might properly have done, make any specific finding upon the question whether there was such a contract; but he states the facts in detail, upon which he considered that question to rest, and leaves the determination of it to the court. The detailed facts stated by the auditor are not controverted, and the evidence upon which they were found is not before us. These facts are therefore to be taken as they stand, with no further explanation than is afforded by the circumstances. Looking at them in this manner, it is to be determined whether on the whole there is enough clearly and decisively to show that there was a contract, so that the judge who heard the case could not properly find the contrary; in other words, whether it appears that there was a promise by the defendant's testatrix sufficiently definite to be enforced, and made with the understanding and intention that she would be legally bound thereby. A promise made with an understood intention that it is not to be legally binding, but only expressive of a present intention, is not a contract. *Thruston* v. *Thornton*, 1 Cush. 89. Chit. Con. (11th Am. ed.) 12, 13.

Ordinarily, when there is a distinct promise, for a sufficient consideration, to do a particular thing, such promise is to be considered as a contract, unless there is something in the subject of the promise, or in the circumstances, to repel that assumption. But each case must be examined in the light of its own circumstances.

In the present case, it appears that the plaintiff was the brother-in-law of the defendant's testatrix, who was an unmarried woman; that he was early in the habit of advising with her about her business affairs, and not at the outset, if ever, in the expectation of being paid directly for his services. Nevertheless there soon came to be a recognition on her part that the plaintiff's services

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were valuable in a money sense, and an intention to pay him for them in some form. By his advice, in 1866, she bought real estate in Chauncy Street, and sold it again in 1868 at a profit of $10,000, the sale being advised and negotiated by him. Prior to the sale, she told him that, if such profit should be made, he should have one half, or a part of it. In fact, nothing was paid to him at this time, but it appears that she already contemplated putting the relation between them on a business basis; and shortly afterwards she told him, that, if he would go on and act as her agent and adviser respecting her investments, she would make a will giving his wife $5000; and, in the event of his wife's dying before him, that she would then by a new will or codicil bequeath the legacy of $5000 to him. He assented to this, and she made her will accordingly, bequeathing $5000 to his wife. All this savored of a business arrangement. The sum mentioned was not greater than she had talked of paying to him as a part of the profits on the sale of the Chauncy Street real estate; indeed, not so great, for that was to be payable in 1868, while the bequest would not be payable till after her death.

In 1868, another purchase was made of real estate, which was sold at a profit in 1869. In 1869, he admitted her to share in a purchase of real estate in Bedford Street, which he had intended to make on his own account; the whole of the money was furnished by her; and in 1873 and 1874 the estate was sold at a profit of between $4000 and $5000 over and above the allowance to her of seven per cent interest on the purchase money, and this profit was equally divided between them. In 1876, a purchase was made of real estate on Mt. Vernon Street. All of these purchases and sales were negotiated and advised by the plaintiff, and were made solely upon his judgment.

Such were the relations of the parties up to 1878. She had paid him nothing for his services; but her will, bequeathing $5000 to his wife, had stood during all this time, according to the understanding between them in 1868. Nothing had been said or done to vary the effect of her promise to bequeath the legacy of $5000 to him, in the event of his wife's dying before him.

In 1878, a new arrangement was made. The plaintiff's wife was fatally ill, and died in June of that year. A few weeks before her death, and when it had become apparent that she was

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fatally ill, the defendant's testatrix told the plaintiff that she desired to visit California, and a brother who resided in Nevada, and, if he would accompany her there in the fall of that year, she, in consideration of his so accompanying her, and of the services he had rendered and might thereafter render her respecting the management of her property, would make a will giving him $5000, and pay the expenses of the journey. The plaintiff assented thereto; and in May or June of that year she destroyed the will then existing, and executed a new one, wherein she gave to him a legacy of $5000. According to the terms of what she had proposed in 1868, she was by a new will or codicil to bequeath to him the legacy of $5000, in the event which was now at hand, if he would go on and act as her agent and adviser respecting her investments. This he had done up to that time. She now proposed to him that she would make a will giving him $5000 in consideration of his accompanying her to California and Nevada, and of the services he had rendered and might thereafter render to her. There was no stipulation binding him to render such services for any particular length of time in the future. The most that could fairly be implied is, that he should render them as requested, and as long as he should be able to do so. Her proposition appears to have been intended as in the nature of business. The relations between the parties in the past had not been merely those of kindness and voluntary aid. The services which he had already rendered were substantial, and of a business character. They did not consist merely of advice, but he appears to have taken, to a large extent, the responsible charge of her business matters, and to have conducted them successfully. In addition to continuing such services he was now asked to accompany her to California, which he did, in the fall of 1878, and the winter following, a trip of several months. She proceeded at once to act upon his acceptance of her proposition, and made a new will accordingly. This new will remained unrevoked for two and a half years.

In view of all these circumstances, it seems to us that, upon a just construction of the auditor's report, there is not enough to repel the ordinary assumption, that the promise of the defendant's testatrix was a contract, which, when made, was intended and understood by both parties to be binding upon her.

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The present case materially differs in its facts from *Maddison* v. *Alderson*, 8 App. Cas. 467; *S. C.* 5 Ex. D. 293, and 7 Q. B. D. 174. In that case doubt was expressed whether there was a contract, but the question was not finally determined. It depended in part upon a review of testimony, which is not fully reported. The terms of the alleged promise and consideration differed from those in the case before us in certain respects which might be found to be material. But the decision in that case turned finally upon the question whether, assuming a contract, it had been shown that there had been a part performance, sufficient to take it out of the statute of frauds; and it was held in the negative.

Upon the auditor's report, in the present case, we must now assume that the whole consideration stipulated for was performed by the plaintiff, and that it was sufficient. It is expressly found that his advice was valuable, and his management judicious, being given and rendered whenever requested or required; that he has received no compensation therefor, except as stated respecting the division of the profits arising on the sale of the Bedford Street real estate; that in the fall of 1878 and the winter following he accompanied her to Nevada and California, "and then and thereafter in all respects complied with and fulfilled the aforesaid agreement."

It is also suggested in behalf of the defendant, that, even assuming a contract, it was not proved to be a contract to make a will which should not be revoked. But looking at the language used, in the light of the circumstances existing and preceding, so narrow a construction of the contract is not permissible. The substance of it was, that she would bequeath to him the sum mentioned. An instrument effectual as a will was clearly contemplated. Otherwise, the promise was but illusory.

The result is, that, in the opinion of a majority of the court, the plaintiff was entitled to judgment for the sum of $5000 and interest, in addition to the amount found at the trial. The defendant's exceptions are overruled, and the plaintiff's exceptions are sustained. *Ordered accordingly.*

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Memorandum.

On the fourteenth day of September, 1887, the Honorable Marcus Perrin Knowlton, one of the Justices of the Superior Court, was appointed a Justice of this Court, in place of Mr. Justice Gardner, resigned, and took his seat upon the bench on the twentieth day of the same month at the sitting of the court then held at Greenfield in the county of Franklin.

Samuel D. Warren & another, trustees, *vs.* Daniel Carey.

Middlesex. March 4; September 20. — 22, 1887.

In an action, the answer to which is a general denial only, for the obstruction of an ancient watercourse, caused by placing a pipe in the defendant's land while the adjoining land was owned by C., the plaintiff's grantor, evidence that C., after his deed to the plaintiff, told a third person that the pipe was an improvement on the old drain, and that he assented to the putting in of the pipe, is inadmissible, although the plaintiff holds the land in trust, and C. is one of the *cestuis que trust*; and evidence that C., when informed by the defendant that he contemplated putting in the pipe, told him to do so and he would bear part of the expense, and that he subsequently paid a part of such expense, is also inadmissible.

Tort for the obstruction of an ancient watercourse, described in the declaration as an "ancient rivulet or stream," which had existed beyond the memory of man. Answer, a general denial. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Thompson*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The evidence showed that the plaintiffs held the land which was alleged to be damaged by the obstruction of the watercourse under a quitclaim deed of trust from one Henry M. Clarke, in trust for himself and others, and that they brought this action as such trustees; that said land lay west of and adjacent to land of the defendant, and that a ditch, with defined banks and bed, and of varying width, had for more than twenty years before the doing of the act complained of run across the land now owned by the plaintiffs, in an easterly direction across land of the defendant; that in 1879, while the title to said land of the plaintiffs

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was in Clarke, the defendant put a pipe through and under his land, substantially within the walls of the old ditch, which pipe took the water from the ditch on the plaintiffs' land and emptied it into the old ditch, at the easterly side of the defendant's land.

The plaintiffs contended that this pipe carried the water less freely than in the open ditch in which the pipe was laid, and obstructed the free flow of the surface water from their land; but upon this point the evidence was conflicting.

The defendant asked a witness whether Clarke ever told him that the pipe was an improvement on the old drain; but, upon the plaintiffs' objection, the judge excluded the question. The defendant then asked the witness whether Clarke had ever told him that he, Clarke, assented to the putting in of the pipe; and this question was also excluded.

The defendant then offered to show that, previously to his putting in the pipe in question, he went to see Clarke and told him what he contemplated doing, and that he thought a pipe would improve the drainage, and asked Clarke to bear part of the expense; that Clarke told him to go ahead and put in the pipe, and he would pay a fair part of the expense; that the defendant, relying upon the assent and promise of Clarke, put in the pipe, and subsequently Clarke paid a part of the expense thereof. The judge excluded this evidence.

The plaintiffs took the objection, among others, to all the above evidence and offers of evidence, that, even if otherwise competent, it was not open to the defendant under his answer.

It appeared in evidence that Clarke was on the ground, and knew of the putting in of the pipe, and made no complaint.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

The case was argued at the bar in March, 1887, and was afterwards considered on the briefs by all the justices.

H. N. Allin & G. L. Mayberry, for the defendant.

S. D. Warren, Jr., for the plaintiffs.

W. ALLEN, J. It must be taken from the terms of the exceptions, that the plaintiffs' land was injured by water set back upon it in consequence of the obstruction by the defendant upon his land of an ancient watercourse, which flowed from the

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plaintiffs' land through the defendant's land. The declaration describes the watercourse as an ancient rivulet or stream, which had existed beyond the memory of man.

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The exceptions state that the action was for damages for the obstruction of an ancient watercourse, and that the evidence showed that "a ditch, with defined banks and bed, and of varying width, had for more than twenty years run across the land" of the parties. No question is suggested in the exceptions as to the nature of the plaintiffs' right, and it must be taken that it was not a mere easement derived by grant from the owner of the defendant's land, but the right to have the water flow from his land in a natural watercourse.

The obstruction complained of was the filling up of the ditch, or watercourse, except so much of it as was occupied by a pipe for conducting water. The obstruction was made when Clarke was the owner of the plaintiffs' land, and has been continued since. The plaintiffs' title is from Clarke, in trust for himself and others. The declarations and admissions of Clarke made after his deed to the plaintiffs are not made competent by the fact that he is one of several *cestuis que trust*. *Pope* v. *Devereux*, 5 Gray, 409. Besides, the acts of Clarke which they were offered to prove were not competent; and the remaining exception, which is to the rejection of evidence offered to prove such acts, cannot be sustained.

So far as such acts tend to prove a license, whether by Clarke or by the plaintiffs, they are not competent, because a license is not set up in the answer. Pub. Sts. *c.* 167, § 20. *Hollenbeck* v. *Rowley*, 8 Allen, 473. *Ward* v. *Bartlett*, 12 Allen, 419.

If the defence of a right by grant or prescription to flow the plaintiffs' land is open under an answer of general denial, the evidence offered was not competent to prove it. It is a right to an easement in the plaintiffs' land which can be shown only by grant or prescription. The evidence was not competent to prove either. *Cobb* v. *Fisher*, 121 Mass. 169. *Craig* v. *Lewis*, 110 Mass. 377. *Fitch* v. *Seymour*, 9 Met. 462. *Morse* v. *Copeland*, 2 Gray, 302. *Stevens* v. *Stevens*. 11 Met. 251.

Exceptions overruled.

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JOHN H. BRADFORD & another, trustees, *vs.* REBECCA M. BRINLEY & others.

Suffolk. March 15. — Sept. 22, 1887. KNOWLTON, J., absent.

A testator by his will gave his homestead at W., after the death of his wife, to his two sons, A. and B., in fee; the sum of $300,000 to trustees, in trust to pay the income to his wife during her life, and at her death to pay to such person as she should by her will direct $50,000 of the principal of said sum, and to pay the residue of said principal sum into the residuary fund of the estate; and gave the residue of his estate to trustees, in trust to divide the same into two equal parts for the benefit of his two sons, to subdivide each of such parts into two equal parts, to pay one of the parts, after the subdivision, to each of the sons absolutely, and to hold the other part and pay the income of the same to each son, or his wife or family, during his life, and at his death to such persons as he should by his will direct. A. died before his mother, leaving a will, by the first clause of which he gave to his wife, "except as otherwise provided in the subsequent articles" of the will, the use during life of all the property of which he should die possessed or entitled to, or which he could dispose of, and also the income of all property devised by his father's will of which he could direct the disposition, "not included in the foregoing gift to her of a life estate therein;" and in case any subsequent gift or direction in the will should fail, he gave the use or income of all the property in respect to which the gift or direction should so fail to his wife for life. The third article of A.'s will, after reciting that, whereas by his father's will certain property, including his homestead at W., was devised to be held in trust for the benefit of his mother during her life, and that one half of the same or the proceeds thereof might be disposed of by A. subject to his mother's interest therein, directed that his wife, if living at the time of his mother's death, should have the use and enjoyment of that part of said property "which is thus liable to be disposed of by me, or of the income thereof, if my power extends no further than to dispose of the income," until the eldest of his children who survived him attained his majority, at which time, if his wife was still living, his executors were directed "to set apart, out of the said property, a fund for the benefit of said child, consisting of money or securities, or partly of money and partly of securities," to the amount or value of $100,000; and when his second child who survived him attained his majority, his executors were directed "to set apart" for his benefit a "similar" fund of $100,000; and so on in succession as each child attained his majority, until a fund of $100,000 had been set apart for each of his children who should attain majority; and further provided that his wife should continue to have the use and enjoyment during life of the remainder of the property, or its income, after such funds were successively set apart; and that, at any time after his mother's death, his wife might give to any of his children, or their issue, absolutely and indefeasibly, any part of the capital mentioned in this article or in the first article, "except such portion thereof as may have been set apart to constitute any of the funds mentioned in this article, or which it is necessary to retain in order to constitute all of said funds," and that every division subsequently provided for in the will should be made without reference to such gift. By subsequent

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clauses of the will the testator indicated his intention that his children should share his property equally. A.'s children, of whom there were three, all survived him, and their mother was also living. A.'s mother died after A. The real estate in W., mentioned in the will, was conveyed by A. in fee to his mother before the date of his will. The trustees of A.'s will received from his father's estate the sum of $889,000, of which $125,000 was from the fund of $300,000. *Held*, that the reference in the third article of A.'s will to the fund for the benefit of his mother was so definite as to exclude the construction that he meant to refer to his power over his part of the entire residuary estate of his father. *Held, also*, that the legacies given by the third clause of A.'s will to his children were demonstrative, and not specific; and that a legacy of $100,000 to each of the children must be paid in full, on each child coming of age.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed February 1, 1887, by the trustees under the will of Samuel Dexter Bradford, late of Newport, in the State of Rhode Island, deceased, against Rebecca M. Brinley, formerly Rebecca M. Bradford, widow of the testator, and the three children of the testator, to obtain the instructions of the court as to the construction of the will.

The case was heard by *Holmes*, J., and reserved for the consideration of the full court, on the bill, the answers of the several defendants, and certain agreed facts; and was as follows:

Samuel D. Bradford, formerly of West Roxbury, the father of the testator, died in 1865, leaving an estate inventoried at $1,595,334. By his will, which was duly admitted to probate, he devised his homestead estate in West Roxbury to his widow for life, with remainder in fee to his two sons, Samuel Dexter Bradford and John H. Bradford. He also bequeathed the sum of $300,000 to trustees, in trust to pay the income to his widow during her natural life, giving her the power to dispose by will of $50,000 of the principal fund, and directing that at her death the residue of the fund should be paid into the "residuary fund" of his estate.

The residuary clauses of this will were as follows:

"All the rest and residue of my property and estate, of whatsoever kind and wheresoever situated, real, personal, or mixed, of which I shall die seised or possessed, or to which I shall be entitled at the time of my decease, or which may, by any means or cause whatsoever, be added to my estate, or come to my heirs or legatees through me, in my right, I give and bequeath to the trustees hereinafter appointed, to be held by them in trust for the following uses, purposes, trusts, and limitations, and no other,

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viz.: to pay such sums as they shall deem fit and proper for the support and education of my second son, John Henry Bradford, during his legal infancy, and when said son shall attain the age of twenty-one years then to divide the said property and estate mentioned in this item of my will into two equal parts or portions, in such way and manner as they shall deem just and equitable; one of such parts to be for the benefit of each of my sons, Samuel Dexter Bradford, Junior, and John Henry Bradford, and their heirs, and to be paid to them by the said trustees in the following manner, to wit, the part or portion of each of my said sons shall be divided into two equal parts, and one part or moiety be paid to him by the said trustees to be held by him, his heirs and assigns forever, and the other part or moiety shall be held by the said trustees, and the income and interest thereof, as it may accrue, be paid over to him, or his wife or family, if he have any, as the said trustees shall deem proper and expedient, during his natural life, and at his decease the last-mentioned part or moiety to be paid over to such person or persons, and under such limitations, regulations, and conditions, as he shall by his last will and testament direct and appoint, if he shall leave such an instrument; and if he shall not leave a last will and testament, then to be paid to his children if he leaves any, in equal proportions, share and share alike.

"In case either of my sons shall decease leaving no issue, and having made no testamentary disposition as aforesaid, then I direct the said trustees to transfer all the funds in their hands belonging to the deceased son to the surviving son, to be paid over to him, his wife, family, legatees, or heirs, in the same way and under the same conditions as are heretofore provided for in regard to his own share of my estate."

On January 12, 1873, Samuel Dexter Bradford, the son, died in the city of New York, leaving a will, duly executed at Newport on October 26, 1872, which was admitted to probate on February 2, 1876, in the county of Norfolk in this Commonwealth; and the plaintiffs were appointed trustees thereunder on July 14, 1886. The testator left a widow and three children, all of whom are now living and are over twenty-one years of age. His will contained the following clauses:

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"Article 1. Except as otherwise provided in the subsequent articles of this will, I give, bequeath, and devise to my wife Rebecca the use, benefit, and enjoyment, during her natural life, of all the estate and property, real, personal, or mixed, whereof I may die seised or possessed, or to which I may in any manner be entitled, either at law or in equity, of which I am authorized by my father's will, or by any instrument, to dispose, or to direct or appoint the uses, ownership, payment over, distribution, or other disposition, by my last will or otherwise; and I direct and appoint the said Rebecca to receive, have, and enjoy, for her own use and benefit, during her natural life, the income of the estate and property devised and bequeathed by my father's last will for the benefit of myself and my family, or of any other person, whereof I am authorized by my father's will or by any instrument to dispose of the income, or to direct or appoint the uses, ownership, payment over, or other disposition of such income, and which is not included in the foregoing devise and bequest to her of a life estate or life interest therein. And if, for any reason, any of the devises, bequests, appointments, or directions contained in any of the subsequent articles of this will are wholly or partly prohibited by the law governing the same, or are insufficiently made to take effect as therein intended, then I give, devise, and bequeath to the said Rebecca the use, benefit, and enjoyment, during her natural life, of all the property with respect to which such devise, bequest, appointment, or direction is thus prohibited or insufficiently made, or I appoint the income thereof to be paid to her during her life, according as my power to dispose of or with respect to the same extends.

"Article 2. I give and devise to my said wife Rebecca, to be held and enjoyed by her, her heirs and assigns forever, as her own absolute property, the dwelling-house and all the adjacent land at Newport, Rhode Island, constituting my residence and homestead, and all my interest, right, or title therein or thereto, either at law or in equity. And I give and bequeath to her, as her absolute property, all ready money on hand at the time of my decease; all debts, claims, and demands, due to me; all securities owned by me personally, as distinguished from those held in trust for me; together with all horses, with their

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harnesses and equipments, all carriages and other vehicles, all wearing apparel, watches, jewelry, and other ornaments, all paintings and other works of art, all books, all silver ware, plated ware, china, glass, carpets, linen, and household furniture of every description which I own, or am entitled to dispose of.

"Article 3. Whereas, by the terms of my father's will, certain property, real and personal, including his homestead at West Roxbury, Massachusetts, is bequeathed and devised to be held in trust or otherwise, for the benefit of my mother, during her lifetime, and one half of the same or of the proceeds thereof may be disposed of by me, subject to her interest therein or the trusts for her benefit; I do therefore order, direct, and appoint that if my said wife is living at the time of my mother's death she shall have the use, benefit, and enjoyment of that part of said property which is thus liable to be disposed of by me, or of the income thereof, if my power extends no further than to dispose of the income, till the eldest of my children who survives me attains his or her majority. When that event happens, if she is still living, my executors are hereby directed to set apart, out of the said property, a fund for the benefit of said child, consisting of money or securities, or partly of money and partly of securities, to the amount or value of one hundred thousand ($100,000) dollars. When my second child who survives me attains his or her majority, my said executors are directed to set apart for his or her benefit a similar fund of one hundred thousand dollars; and so on in succession, as each child attains his or her majority, until a fund of the amount or value of one hundred thousand dollars has been set apart for each of my children who attains majority. My said wife shall continue to have the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the remainder of the property, or of the income of such remainder as the case may be, as each successive fund is set apart, (and of the remainder, after all the funds are set apart,) during her lifetime as aforesaid. And I order, direct, and appoint that at any time after my mother's death my said wife may give to any of my children, or to any issue of such child, absolutely and indefeasibly, any part of the capital of the property mentioned in this or in the first article of this will, except such portion thereof as may

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have been set apart to constitute any of the funds mentioned in this article, or which it is necessary to retain in order to constitute all of said funds. And every division to be afterwards made, as hereinafter provided, shall be made without reference to such gift, the residue only being divided.

"Article 4. Immediately after the death of my said wife, my surviving executors are directed to divide all the estate and property mentioned in any part of this will, except that mentioned in the second article thereof, into as many shares as I shall leave children me surviving, who have also survived till their mother's death, or who have died and left issue surviving at that time. If my mother dies before my wife, any of the funds which have been set apart as provided in the third article of this will shall be accounted part of the share to which the child or the issue of the child for whom it was so set apart would be entitled at my wife's death; but it shall not again be divided as part of the estate mentioned in this article. If, on the other hand, my wife dies before my mother, the division provided for in this article shall be made without reference to the property bequeathed and devised by my father for my mother's benefit, as stated in the foregoing third article; and after my mother's death that portion of said property which is subject to my disposition, as therein stated, shall be divided into as many shares as I shall leave children me surviving, who have also survived till their grandmother's death, or who have died and left issue surviving at that time. And in order to enable them the better to make the division or divisions herein provided for, and to discharge their powers and duties under this will, I hereby bequeath and devise to said executors and the survivor or survivors of them, in trust for the purposes herein mentioned, all the property mentioned in this will, except in the second article thereof, subject to the life estates and interests of my said wife and mother respectively.

"Article 5. Every fund or share to be created or set apart as hereinbefore provided for shall be equal in value or amount, in my executors' judgment, to every other fund or share to be created or set apart at the same time. Every fund or share created or set apart for the benefit of the issue of a deceased child shall be immediately paid, delivered, or transferred to such

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issue. Every fund or share created or set apart for the benefit of a child who is then living shall be held and managed by my executors, during the lifetime of that child, in trust to invest and reinvest the same, and to pay over the clear income thereof, deducting expenses, to that child, as the same accrues, and not otherwise, the anticipation of any such income being hereby expressly prohibited. At his or her death, leaving surviving issue, such issue shall take absolutely the capital and unexpended income of such fund or share. But if such child leaves no surviving issue, he or she may dispose of the capital and unexpended income by a last will and testament, but not otherwise. In default of any such disposition, such capital and unexpended income, or the part thereof not disposed of, shall be equally divided between my other children then surviving and the surviving issue of those who may be dead. Such issue to take the share to which the parent would have been entitled if living.

"Article 6. Whenever the issue or surviving issue of any deceased child is mentioned in this will, descendants of all degrees are included; and the issue of any deceased descendant shall take by representation and in severalty the share which the parent would have taken if living.

"Article 7. If my said wife shall marry again, no property or income to which she is entitled by any portion of this will, except the second article thereof, shall be received by her husband, or liable for her debts or the debts of her husband.

"Article 8. I appoint my said wife to be the guardian of my children, and I desire that my said children make my mother's house their home during their minority, and my daughters afterwards, except in the event of their marriage. But I wish my eldest daughter, Julia Emma, to continue to live with my mother until the death of the latter."

The real estate in West Roxbury, mentioned in article 3 of the will, was conveyed by the testator in fee to his mother, Julia E. Bradford, long prior to the date of said will, and the real estate mentioned in article 2 of the will, situate at Newport, was conveyed by the testator, long prior to the date of the will, to Arthur W. Austin, in trust for the creditors of said testator and for other purposes.

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Julia E. Bradford, the mother of the testator, died on August 15, 1886, leaving a will, which was duly admitted to probate, and by which she exercised the power given her by the will of her husband, and disposed of the sum of $50,000.

The plaintiffs have received, as trustees, from the residuary estate of Samuel D. Bradford of West Roxbury, the sum of $389,101.43. This sum includes $125,000 which the trustees received from the trust fund of $300,000 created by the will of said Samuel D. Bradford. Rebecca M. Brinley has received no property absolutely under the will of her husband, except some household property; but she has received since January 1, 1876, the income of one quarter of the residuary estate of Samuel D. Bradford of West Roxbury, amounting since the death of her husband to the sum of $156,278.89.

H. G. Parker, for the testator's widow, and *E. L. Rand*, as guardian *ad litem* for persons not known and not in being, contended that the legacies to the three children of the testator, given by article 3 of his will, were specific, and not demonstrative, and were confined to the fund of $125,000.

F. J. Stimson, for the children of the testator, contended that the legacies were demonstrative, and were to be paid out of the whole fund derived from the residuary estate of the testator's father.

HOLMES, J. It may be conjectured with some plausibility that what the testator really had in mind in the third article of his will was the whole trust of one quarter of the residue under his father's will, — a fund which would be sufficient to give all the children their legacies, even on the view that the legacies to them were specific. But, in the opinion of the majority of the court, the description of the fund is so definite as to exclude this construction, which could be reached only by a somewhat violent transposition of language which is plain as it stands.

The case between the widow and children, therefore, must depend upon the question whether the legacies to the children are specific or demonstrative.

We must assume that the testator remembered that, before the date of the will, he had conveyed away the West Roxbury homestead mentioned in article 3, as the will does not necessarily imply the contrary. The homestead is only mentioned

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as part of the property left by the testator's father to be disposed of by the testator, subject to his mother's life interest, and serves to identify the fund referred to. But the testator only affects to dispose of the property which "is" liable to be disposed of by him, or of the income if his power "extends" no further than to dispose of the income, — using the present tense and words which are satisfied without attributing to him an attempt to devise the homestead which he no longer owned.

The fund in question, therefore, could not be more than $150,000, or possibly $175,000, because that was the largest sum which could come to him under the clauses of his father's will referred to. And as he directed that his wife should receive the whole income of the fund until the time for setting apart the first $100,000, and the income of what remained after each sum of $100,000 was set apart, the testator could not have expected the fund to be increased by accumulations. It follows that he could not have expected the three funds of $100,000 each to be raised from property by no possibility amounting to more than $175,000. We may add a further consideration. The testator contemplates in terms the possibility that his power may extend no further than to dispose of the income of the specific property mentioned. This makes it still harder to suppose that he relied on this property alone. The reason for the testator's doubt points the same way. The property which he deals with in the third article did not come to him as a separate fund, but was left to him along with that which he disposes of in article 1, as part of the residue under his father's will. For, although his father's will created a separate fund of $300,000, at least $250,000 of it was to be paid into the residuary fund upon his father's widow's decease, and his own title was only under the residuary clause, making the present testator and his brother residuary legatees, and giving one half of his half to the present testator outright, and the other half in trust for him or his family, &c. Hence the testator actually received his share of the $300,000 as part of a larger fund, and the separation of a part of the residue from the rest with reference to its remote origin is purely imaginary.

The testator does not say that the sums for the other children after the first shall be raised from the property mentioned in

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article 3, but simply that they shall be set apart. He then goes on to empower his wife to give his children any part of the capital mentioned in this or in the first article, "except such portion thereof" as may have been set apart, or may be needed to constitute the funds of $100,000. "Thereof" refers grammatically to the capital mentioned in the first article, as well as to that mentioned in the third; and on its face the clause imports that a portion of the capital mentioned in the first article may be needed to constitute the funds. In view of the arbitrary character of the separation between the capitals mentioned in the two articles, and the certainty that the fund mentioned in the third article would be insufficient, this interpretation seems not only grammatical, but reasonable.

The whole difficulty is raised by the direction, when the first child reaches majority, "to set apart out of the said property," i. e. out of the $150,000, "a fund for the benefit of said child, consisting of money or securities, or partly of money and partly of securities, to the amount or value of one hundred thousand dollars." It is argued that this legacy is specific; and that the direction to "set apart" "similar" funds for the other children must be taken to mean legacies of the same character, and is further shown to have this meaning by the provision that the testator's wife shall continue to have the use, &c. of the remainder of the property.

Whether the legacy to the first child is specific or not, it cannot be allowed to cut down or to limit the legacies of like amounts to the other children, which are not made specific in terms. The testator shows by articles 4 and 5 that he means his children to share his property equally, while the result of holding all the legacies specific would be to give the first child $100,000, if the fund was sufficient, the second not more than $75,000, and the third nothing, and the facts leading to this result were known to the testator.

The gift of the use of the remainder of the property to the testator's wife is made sensible by taking "the property" to include that mentioned in the first article, of which also she is given the use for life. When the specific property of $150,000 is referred to earlier in the article, it is referred to as "the said property." In this connection, again, the arbitrary character

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of the separation of the property mentioned in article 3 should be kept in mind.

There is enough to pay the legacy to the first child, upon any construction of the will. The result will be the same, whether we suppose that the testator began by specifically disposing of the fund described, and then, for the sake of equality, gave to the other children general legacies of the same amount as the specific legacy to the eldest, or say that all the legacies are demonstrative. Many cases of weight, although not binding upon us as authority, go far towards deciding that the legacy to the first child, if it stood alone, even, should be regarded as demonstrative. It is unnecessary to consider how far they are reconcilable with *Bliss* v. *American Bible Society*, 2 Allen, 334, and other Massachusetts cases. See *Boys* v. *Williams*, 2 Russ. & Myl. 689; *Cunliffe* v. *Cunliffe*, 23 W. R. 724; *Sparrow* v. *Josselyn*, 16 Beav. 135; *Vickers* v. *Pound*, 6 H. L. Cas. 885; *Mytton* v. *Mytton*, 44 L. J. Ch. 18; *Bowen* v. *Dorrance*, 12 R. I. 269.

For these reasons, a majority of the court are of opinion that, as article 1 is in the nature of a residuary clause, and the gift to the testator's widow is subject to the provisions of the other articles, the legacies of $100,000 to each of the children must be paid in full. *Decree accordingly.*

Willard M. Bliss, administrator, *vs.* Inhabitants of South Hadley.

Hampshire. Sept. 20. — Oct. 19, 1887. C. Allen & Holmes, JJ., absent.

A child one year and ten months old was sent by his mother into the street in a country village for air and exercise, in the charge of a brother eight years old, who had been accustomed to take charge of him. They went across the street and stood for a time watching some other boys at play, the elder child not having hold of the younger's hand. The younger child, without being noticed by the elder, left his side and started to cross the street alone, and, upon being seen and called by the elder, who ran after him, he ran, fell down, and rolled into a gutter at the side of the street, which had been filled with water for a long time by reason of an obstructed culvert, and received injuries which caused his death. Both of the child's parents and the elder brother knew of the existence

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of this water. *Held*, in an action against the town, under the Pub. Sts. c. 52, § 17, that it could not be ruled as matter of law that the child's parents or his brother were not in the exercise of due care; and that it was competent for the jury to find that the children were travellers on the highway.

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TORT, by the administrator of the estate of Frank E. Bliss, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 17, for the loss of the life of his intestate on April 22, 1885, occasioned by an alleged defect in Grant Street and Bridge Street, in South Hadley. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Barker*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The intestate was, at the time of his death, April 22, 1885, one year and ten months old, and the alleged injury occurred two weeks before. The plaintiff resided, with his wife and four children, of whom the intestate was one, in Grant Street, and about five rods from its intersection with Bridge Street. On the opposite side of Grant Street, and extending to Bridge Street, the gutter between the worked roadway and the sidewalk was filled with water by reason of an obstructed culvert, and had remained so for many days. The intestate fell into this water; and there was evidence tending to show that that was the cause of his sickness and death.

The plaintiff testified that, at the time of the accident, he had lived in the same house about three and a half years; that his family at that time consisted of his wife, a boy named Warren, ten years old, Leon, eight years old, a child next younger named Jesse, and the one who died, Frank, who was one year and ten months old; that he was away from home at the time of the accident; that his child was strong and healthy, and accustomed to be out on the street and about there; that Leon was always very good to take care of him, and had been out with him many times; that he had noticed the place at the corner of Grant Street and Bridge Street; that there was water on Grant Street at the corner of Bridge Street, across the road from where the witness lived, and it extended back from Bridge Street fifteen or twenty rods on Grant Street; that it might have been eight feet across and three feet deep; that it was in very nearly the same condition on the morning of the accident as it had been before; that he knew the water had been there for three or four years, more or less; that he saw it that morning

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as he went to work; and that he knew it was a bad place for children.

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Ellen Bliss, the mother of the intestate, testified that her husband went away that morning a little before seven o'clock; that she was at work washing; that it was a nice day, and she kept Leon at home from school to take Frank out for air and exercise; that they went out about nine o'clock in the morning; that she did not notice which way they went; that the next she knew about it, some one called that her baby was drowning; that she ran out and met some one bringing him; that she carried him home and took proper care of him until he died; that Leon had taken him out before, every time it was pleasant; that she had noticed this water on the opposite side of Grant Street and towards Bridge Street, and saw it that morning about half-past eight o'clock; that Frank was accustomed to play with Leon; that she thought somebody would fall in the water some time, and that there was danger for school children, but did not think of her own; and that she knew it was a dangerous place.

Leon Bliss testified that he remembered going out with his brother; that they went over the sidewalk, across Bridge Street, where there were two boys about as large as himself playing a game; that they stayed there a good while; that Leon was not playing; that Frank was standing there with him, but he did not have hold of his hand; that Frank, without saying anything, and without Leon's noticing it, went across the road towards the house; that Frank was half-way across the road when he saw him, and he then ran after him and called to him, and Frank ran, fell down, and rolled into the water, which covered him all over; and that he knew that this water was on the street in the ditch near the sidewalk, but had not known of any one's falling into it before his brother fell in.

Hannah Cummings testified that she lived at the corner of Grant Street and Bridge Street; that she saw the children as they went out, and saw them go across Bridge Street, and stand there with other boys; that they were over there a few minutes, she did not know exactly how long; that she looked up and saw Frank coming across the street, and hallooed, but Leon did not hear her; that she hallooed again, and Leon ran; that

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she saw Frank fall into the water; that she had seen the children about together a great many times; and that Leon always took good care of his brother, but did not keep hold of his hand always.

There was no other evidence on the question of due care, or whether the intestate was a traveller on the highway.

The defendant asked the judge to rule that there was no evidence that the plaintiff's intestate was in the exercise of due care; that there was no evidence that he was a traveller on the highway; and that, on all the evidence on these points, the plaintiff could not recover.

The judge refused so to rule, and submitted the case to the jury, with full instructions, not otherwise excepted to.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. C. Hammond, for the defendant.

D. W. Bond, for the plaintiff.

MORTON, C. J. It cannot be said, as matter of law, that it was negligence on the part of the parents of the intestate to send him into the street for air and exercise in the charge of his brother Leon, who was eight years old. It was a question of fact, depending upon how much the street was used, and upon the intelligence, capacity, and experience of Leon, and was properly submitted to the jury. The evidence does not disclose any decisive act of negligence on the part of Leon, and it was for the jury to determine whether he was exercising reasonable diligence in the care of his infant brother.

It was competent for the jury to find that the boys were travellers. They were using the street for air and exercise. The fact that they stopped for a few minutes to watch other boys at play was one of the natural and ordinary incidents of travel, and did not divest them of their rights as travellers. *Gulline* v. *Lowell*, 144 Mass. 491. *Exceptions overruled.*

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ISAAC N. TAYLOR, JR., *vs.* MATTHEW CARROLL.

Hampshire. Sept. 20. — Oct. 19, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

A notice in writing, signed by I. T., Jr., the son of a person having the habit of drinking intoxicating liquors to excess, to a seller of such liquors, as follows: "I forbid you selling or delivering liquor to I. T.," is a sufficient compliance with the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 25.

An adult son, although not dependent for support on his father, is a "child," within the meaning of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 25, and may maintain an action against a person selling the father spirituous or intoxicating liquors, after a notice in writing by the son, under the statute, forbidding him so to sell.

TORT, to recover the penalty provided by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 25,* for selling intoxicating liquors to Isaac N. Taylor, the father of the plaintiff.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., without a jury, the evidence tended to show that the father of the plaintiff had the habit of drinking intoxicating liquors to excess; and that on or about June 2, 1886, the plaintiff gave the defendant a notice in writing, as follows: "I forbid you selling or delivering liquor to I. N. Taylor," and signed "I. N. Taylor, Jr."

It appeared in evidence that the plaintiff was more than twenty-four years old; that since he was twenty-one years old he had been able and competent to take care of and support himself; that during that time he did support himself without the aid or assistance of his father; and that his father did nothing towards his support.

The judge found as a fact, that, at the time the defendant received the written notice, he knew that the plaintiff's father,

* This section is as follows: "The husband, wife, parent, child, guardian, or employer of a person who has or may hereafter have the habit of drinking spirituous or intoxicating liquor to excess, may give notice in writing, signed by him or her, to any person, requesting him not to sell or deliver such liquor to the person having such habit. If the person so notified at any time within twelve months thereafter sells or delivers any such liquor to the person having such habit, or permits such person to loiter on his premises, the person giving the notice may, in an action of tort, recover of the person notified such sum, not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars, as may be assessed as damages: provided, that an employer giving such notice shall not recover unless he is injured in his person or property."

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the person named in it, had the habit of drinking intoxicating liquors to excess; and that the defendant understood the purpose for which the notice was given.

The defendant asked the judge to rule as follows: "1. The written notice claimed to have been given by the plaintiff to the defendant was not a sufficient compliance with the provisions of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 25, and for that reason the plaintiff cannot recover. 2. The plaintiff being more than twenty-one years old on September 1, 1885, and since he came of age not having been dependent upon his father for support, he cannot maintain this action."

The judge refused so to rule; ruled that the notice was sufficient; and found for the plaintiff in the sum of $150. The defendant alleged exceptions.

J. B. O'Donnell, for the defendant.

J. B. Bottum, for the plaintiff.

MORTON, C. J. We are of opinion that the notice in this case was a sufficient compliance with the statute. The meaning of the notice is clear. It is a notice by a son to the defendant, requesting him not to sell intoxicating liquor to his father. The signature imports that the signer is the son of the I. N. Taylor named in the body of the notice. The defendant, upon receiving the notice, would naturally understand its meaning and purpose, and it is found that he did in fact so understand it. If he sold intoxicating liquor to the father after receiving the notice, he did so at his peril. *Kennedy* v. *Saunders*, 142 Mass. 9. *Tate* v. *Donovan*, 143 Mass. 590.

The ground taken by the defendant, that the action cannot be maintained because the plaintiff was of age and was not dependent upon his father for support, cannot be sustained. The statute provides that "the husband, wife, parent, child, guardian, or employer of a person who has or may hereafter have the habit of drinking spirituous or intoxicating liquor to excess," may give the notice and maintain the action provided by the statute. This does not limit the right to bring the action to a minor child. The statute contemplates that the habitual drunkenness of a husband or wife, parent or child, is a substantial injury to those bound together in domestic relations, and gives such a right to recover damages in the nature of a penalty, not only for any

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injury to the person or property, but for the shame and disgrace brought upon them. Unless this is the construction of the statute, the proviso that an employer "shall not recover unless he is injured in his person or property" is senseless.

The right of a son to recover does not depend upon the question whether he is dependent upon and looks to the father for support; it depends solely upon the relation of father and son. An adult son may maintain the action after giving the notice required by the statute. *Exceptions overruled.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* CHARLES S. CLIFFORD.

Worcester. October 3. — 19, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

At the trial of an indictment for adultery, the evidence was conflicting upon the question whether the parties named in the indictment had occupied the same room; and the judge instructed the jury as follows: "If they occupied together the room known as the parlor, that is evidence enough to warrant you in finding adultery. That is as strong evidence as is usually found in adultery cases." This being excepted to, the judge said, "I withdraw those instructions and instruct the jury as follows: If a married man is found with a woman not his wife in a room with a bed in it, and stays through the night with her there, that is sufficient to warrant a finding of adultery against him." *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception.

Under the Pub. Sts. c. 153, § 12, the judge presiding at the trial of a criminal case may, before exceptions taken to his rulings are reduced to writing and filed, pronounce them frivolous and intended for delay, and proceed to sentence the defendant.

HOLMES, J. 1. This is an indictment for adultery. It is not denied that there was evidence for the consideration of the jury, but the principal exception taken is that the court charged the jury with respect to matters of fact. The instruction first given related to disputed evidence that the parties had occupied the same room, and was as follows: "If they occupied together the room known as the parlor, that is evidence enough to warrant you in finding adultery. That is as strong evidence as is usually found in adultery cases." This being excepted to, the court said, "I withdraw those instructions and instruct the jury as follows: If a married man is found with a woman not his wife

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in a room with a bed in it, and stays through the night with her there, that is sufficient to warrant a finding of adultery against him." This also was excepted to.

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The first instruction did not express any opinion as to whether the facts testified to were proved, but went to the inferences to be drawn from those facts by way of presumption in case they were proved. Such inferences, however, are for the jury as a general rule, as well as the truth of the testimony. *Commonwealth* v. *Briant*, 142 Mass. 463. But if the language first used went too far, the judge at once expressly withdrew and corrected it upon his attention being called to it, and limited his statement to the proposition that the supposed facts, if proved, would be sufficient to warrant a finding of guilty. Even the latter form of expression might be used in such a way as to prejudice the jury; but, on its face, it only means that there is evidence to be considered by the jury, and that they have a right to infer guilt if that inference seems to them the true one. Such a ruling is unexceptionable, and the correction left the defendant without ground of complaint. *Eldridge* v. *Hawley*, 115 Mass. 410. *Goodnow* v. *Hill*, 125 Mass. 587.

2. Before the foregoing exceptions were reduced to writing and filed, the court adjudged them frivolous and intended for delay, and proceeded to sentence the defendant. This also is excepted to. We have no doubt of the power of the court to pass upon the exceptions before they are filed or allowed. The scope of an exception is fixed by the ruling. The court knows what it rules, and in many cases can have no difficulty in pronouncing an exception frivolous at the moment when it is taken. If the language of the statute leads to any conclusion, it is to that which we have adopted. It is to the effect that, if the exceptions appear frivolous, &c., sentence may be passed, "notwithstanding the allowance of the exceptions," that is, even if the exceptions are allowed. Pub. Sts. *c.* 153, § 12.

Exceptions overruled.

J. Hopkins & C. R. Johnson, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* MICHAEL SHANNIHAN.

Worcester. October 3. — 19, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A complaint on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 98, § 2, for unlawfully keeping open a shop on the Lord's day, need not negative the exceptions contained in the St. of 1887, *c.* 391, § 2.

COMPLAINT on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 98, § 2, alleging that the defendant, on July 24, 1887, the same being the Lord's day, at Worcester, "did unlawfully keep open his shop there situate, for the purpose of doing business therein, to wit, selling goods, wares, and merchandise therein on said Lord's day, as aforesaid, the same not being works of necessity or charity."

In the Superior Court, on appeal, before the jury were empanelled, the defendant moved to quash the complaint, "because nowhere in the complaint is it alleged that the defendant does not come within the exceptions mentioned in" the St. of 1887, *c.* 391, § 2. *Pitman*, J., overruled the motion.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. E. Sullivan, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

BY THE COURT. This is a complaint under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 98, § 2, which prohibits the keeping open of a shop, warehouse, or workhouse on the Lord's day. Section 2 of the St. of 1887, *c.* 391, makes certain exceptions to this general provision; but, according to the rule established in this Commonwealth, such exceptions need not be negatived in a complaint or indictment. *Commonwealth* v. *Jennings*, 121 Mass. 47. The complaint in this case sets forth a complete offence; if the defendant is within any of the exceptions, it is matter of defence.

Exceptions overruled.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JOHN HARPER.

Worcester. October 3. — 19, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 17, alleging that the defendant brought into a certain city spirituous and intoxicating liquors, he having reasonable cause to believe that such liquors were intended to be sold in violation of law, the evidence showed that the defendant brought into the city from a certain town various packages of liquors, some of which were consigned to one D. *Held*, that evidence of a police officer of the city, as to his search of D.'s place three days before the date of the defendant's alleged offence, as to what he found there, and as to D.'s acts and conduct, was competent. *Held, also*, that it was competent for the government to show, on the issue whether the defendant had reasonable cause to believe that D. intended to sell such liquors in violation of law, that, on the day of the alleged offence, D. was generally known and reputed to be a dealer in intoxicating liquors at his place.

MORTON, C. J. This complaint, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 17, charges that the defendant, on June 12, 1886, brought into Worcester spirituous and intoxicating liquors, he having reasonable cause to believe that such liquors were intended to be sold in violation of law. The evidence showed that the defendant brought into Worcester from Millbury various packages of liquors, some of which were consigned to one Dolan. It was necessary for the government to show that the consignee intended to sell the liquors in violation of law. For this purpose the evidence of the assistant marshal, as to his search of Dolan's place on June 9, 1886, three days before the day on which the offence was alleged to have been committed by the defendant, as to what he found there, and as to Dolan's acts and conduct, was competent. It tended to prove that Dolan kept a place for the sale of liquor, and that he intended to sell the liquor which the defendant was carrying to him. *Commonwealth* v. *Locke*, 114 Mass. 288. *Commonwealth* v. *Intoxicating Liquors*, 107 Mass. 386. *Commonwealth* v. *McLaughlin*, 108 Mass. 477. *Commonwealth* v. *Kenney*, 115 Mass. 149.

It was competent for the government to show that, on June 12, 1886, Dolan was generally known and reputed to be a dealer in intoxicating liquors at his place. It had some tendency to prove that the defendant, whose employment was carrying and

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delivering liquor from a wholesale establishment in Millbury to various persons in Worcester, had reasonable cause to believe that the liquors he was carrying to Dolan were intended for sale in violation of law. It was not used to show that Dolan intended to sell in violation of law, but the court carefully confined it to the issue whether the defendant had reasonable cause of belief that it was intended for illegal sale. Upon this issue it was admissible. *Sweetser* v. *Bates*, 117 Mass. 466, and cases cited. *Exceptions overruled.*

J. Hopkins, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* MICHAEL W. DUNSTER.

Worcester. October 3. — 19, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A conviction on a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors from August 1 to October 4, is a bar to a complaint for keeping the same tenement for the same purpose from May 1 to November 17 of the same year; and the government has no authority to enter a *nolle prosequi* as to so much of the offence as is charged in the second complaint to have been committed prior to October 5.

MORTON, C. J. This is a complaint to the Central District Court of Worcester, which charges that the defendant, "on the first day of May in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-six, at Worcester in said county, and on divers other days and times between that day and the seventeenth day of November in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-six, did keep and maintain a certain tenement there situate, then and there used for the illegal sale and for the illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors."

The defendant was convicted in the district court, and appealed to the Superior Court. In the latter court, before empanelling the jury, the district attorney indorsed on the back of the complaint the following: "Now before the empanelling

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of the jury I 'noll. pros.' so much of the within complaint as alleges any offence or unlawful act prior to October 5, 1886." The defendant objected to the district attorney's right to do this, and afterwards filed a plea in bar, setting up a former conviction under a complaint charging him with keeping and maintaining the same tenement from the first day of August, 1886, to the fourth day of October, 1886.

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It is too clear to admit of any doubt, that the defendant's former conviction was a bar to the present complaint as it stood in the district court, as the complaint in this case embraced a portion of the time covered by the former complaint, and both complaints might be proved by the same evidence.

The question is whether the district attorney, after the case was entered in the Superior Court, could avoid the effect of the former conviction as a bar by entering a *nolle prosequi* in the manner attempted in this case.

Where a complaint or indictment contains several counts, each charging an offence, it is within the power of the prosecuting officer, before the jury are empanelled, to enter a *nolle prosequi* as to either count. So, where two offences are improperly charged in one count, he may enter a *nolle prosequi* as to one of them, and where, as in the exceptional case of burglary, both breaking and entering with intent to steal and larceny are properly charged in one count, he may enter a *nolle prosequi* as to either of the charges. And, generally, where an offence is set out with aggravating circumstances, which enlarge the offence, he may enter a *nolle prosequi* as to the aggravation, and obtain a conviction for the lesser offence which is well charged. *Commonwealth* v. *M'Monagle*, 1 Mass. 517. *Commonwealth* v. *Briggs*, 7 Pick. 177. *Commonwealth* v. *Tuck*, 20 Pick. 356. *Commonwealth* v. *Jenks*, 1 Gray, 490. *Commonwealth* v. *Mead*, 10 Allen, 396. *Commonwealth* v. *Cain*, 102 Mass. 487. *Jennings* v. *Commonwealth*, 105 Mass. 586. *Commonwealth* v. *Holmes*, 119 Mass. 195.

But, in all these cases, the matter upon which the *nolle prosequi* operates is a distinct and independent charge, and, when entered, the *nolle prosequi* leaves an offence formally as well as substantially charged, being the same offence which is formally charged in the original complaint or indictment. The

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prosecuting officer cannot, by means of a *nolle prosequi*, put the defendant upon trial for an offence differing from any offence with which he is formally charged in the complaint or indictment.

The difficulty in this case is, that there is no distinct offence alleged upon which the *nolle prosequi* can operate, and yet leave an offence sufficiently charged in the complaint upon which the defendant can be convicted. The offence charged in the complaint, of maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and the illegal keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors from the first day of May, 1886, to the seventeenth day of November, 1886, is a single and indivisible offence, of which the time alleged is an essential element. This is the offence, and the only offence, for which the defendant was tried in the district court.

As we have said, the allegation of time is material; it operates not only to limit the testimony to acts within the time named, but also to protect the defendant from any future prosecution for his acts within the time alleged. It is not competent for the prosecuting officer, by entering a *nolle prosequi* as to a part, to amend a complaint in the material allegation of time; by so doing, he puts the defendant to trial upon an offence differing legally from that for which he was tried in the district court, and from the offence which is "fully and plainly, substantially and formally," described in the complaint which is before the Superior Court upon appeal.

In *Commonwealth* v. *Robinson*, 126 Mass. 259, the defendant was complained of for keeping a tenement used for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors from January 1, 1878, to August 20 of the same year. He filed a plea of an acquittal upon a complaint for keeping the same tenement for the same purpose from January 1 to May 28 of the same year. This court held that such acquittal was a bar, although the Superior Court confined the government to proof of acts subsequent to May 28, and prior to August 20. The prosecuting officer did not in that case enter a *nolle prosequi*, and in this respect the case differs from the case before us; but the principles upon which it proceeds are applicable, and seem to us to be conclusive of this case. The former conviction is a bar to the whole of the offence set out in the complaint; the prosecuting officer cannot defeat this

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defence by entering a *nolle prosequi* as to a part of the offence, any more than he can do so by confining his proofs to facts not included in the former complaint.

Exceptions sustained.

J. E. Sullivan, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* THOMAS GALLAGHER.

Plymouth. October 18. — 19, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A complaint on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 101, §§ 6, 7, alleging that the defendant, at a place and on a day named, and on divers other days and times between that day and the day of making the complaint, "is guilty of keeping and maintaining a certain tenement, then and there used for the illegal keeping and illegal sale of intoxicating liquors," is sufficient.

COMPLAINT to the Third District Court of Plymouth, on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 101, §§ 6, 7, dated November 17, 1886, alleging that the defendant, at Plymouth, on September 17, 1886, and on divers other days and times between that day and the day of making the complaint, "is guilty of keeping and maintaining a certain tenement, then and there used for the illegal keeping and illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, to the great damage and common nuisance of all the peaceable citizens of the Commonwealth there residing and passing, against the peace of said Commonwealth, and contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided."

At the trial in the district court, the defendant moved to quash the complaint, which motion was overruled, and the defendant found guilty.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Thompson*, J., the jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant moved in arrest of judgment, on the ground that the complaint set forth no offence under the statutes of this Commonwealth. This motion was overruled, and the defendant alleged exceptions.

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J. F. Simmons, for the defendant, cited *Commonwealth* v. *Miller*, 8 Gray, 484, 486; *Commonwealth* v. *McNamara*, 116 Mass. 340; Whart. Cr. Pl. (8th ed.) §§ 132, 133.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

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BY THE COURT. The allegation in the complaint, that the defendant "is guilty of keeping and maintaining a certain tenement," is equivalent to an allegation that he "did keep and maintain a certain tenement." It means the same thing, and the defendant could not have misunderstood it. Taken with its context, it is susceptible of no other meaning. Though this form of allegation is not to be commended, it is not uncertain, and does not furnish reason for quashing the complaint.

Exceptions overruled.

HARLAN E. NASH, executor, *vs.* INHABITANTS OF SOUTH HADLEY.

Hampshire. Sept. 20. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

If a person, who has been injured by a defect in a highway in a town, lives more than ten days in a condition in which it is possible for him to give to the town the notice required by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 19, and fails to do so, the person named as executor in his will is not entitled, under § 21, to give such notice within thirty days after the death of the testator, but before his appointment as executor.

TORT, by the executor of the will of Erastus Nash, for personal injuries occasioned to the testator by a defect in a highway in the defendant town. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Mason*, J., who ruled that the action could not be maintained, and ordered a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions. The facts appear in the opinion.

D. W. Bond, for the plaintiff.

R. O. Dwight, for the defendant.

DEVENS, J. In the case at bar, the person injured lived more than ten days in a condition in which it was possible for him to have given the notice required by statute, as preliminary

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to an action against the town for the injury sustained by him. *Mitchell* v. *Worcester*, 129 Mass. 525. Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, §§ 19, 21. The notice, which is claimed to be sufficient under the statute, was in fact given by his son within thirty days after the decease of the injured person, the son being the executor named in his will, and having been, subsequently to the giving of such notice, appointed executor, upon the probate of the will. Without passing upon the question whether a notice given by one who is subsequently appointed executor of an injured person is now sufficient, although given previously to his appointment as such, if it is in other respects in compliance with the statute, we proceed to consider the contention of the plaintiff, that a sufficient notice may be given by an executor, even when the person injured has survived ten days or more, not exceeding thirty days, and during that time was himself of sufficient capacity to give a notice.

The Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 19, have provided that a notice in writing shall be given by the person injured, or by some one on his behalf, within thirty days after the injury, to the town alleged to be responsible therefor; "but if from physical or mental incapacity it is impossible for the person injured to give the notice within the time provided in said section, he may give the same within ten days after such incapacity is removed, and in case of his death without having given the notice, and without having been for ten days at any time after his injury of sufficient capacity to give the notice, his executor or administrator may give such notice within thirty days after his appointment." Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 21.

It was held in *Taylor* v. *Woburn*, 130 Mass. 494, that a notice might be given by one who was the father of the person injured, who was entitled to administer on his estate, and who was afterwards appointed administrator, as a person giving it on his behalf. That case was decided under the St. of 1877, *c.* 234, which statute contained in terms no provision for any notice which might be given by an executor or administrator. Such provision is first found in the St. of 1881, *c.* 236, and is embodied in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 21, above recited. The plaintiff urges that this case is governed by precisely the same rules of law, in respect to the death of the person injured without giving notice,

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as in the case of *Taylor* v. *Woburn*. But this argument loses sight of the fact, that, since that case was decided, provision has been made for the circumstances under which an executor or administrator may give notice, and that the case at bar is not within them. It is true, that, if the law had remained as it was when *Taylor* v. *Woburn* was decided, the notice in the case at bar would, under that decision, have been held sufficient. But when the Legislature has provided for the circumstances under which a notice may be given by an executor or administrator, it must be understood that it has dealt with the whole subject, and has provided for all the cases in which a notice by either of them will be sufficient. If the effect of this is to deprive a person, or one who represents him, of a right which he might otherwise have had, such effect must be held to have been contemplated by the Legislature. The liability to which towns are subjected for injuries caused by defective ways is entirely statutory, and the provisions of the statute in regard to notice must be followed in order to subject them to it. The construction by which it was held in *Taylor* v. *Woburn* that "the statute authority for another to act for the person interested, and the clear purpose manifested thus to act in behalf of his deceased son," on the part of the father, authorized the decision that a notice given after the decease of the son, by the father, within thirty days after the injury, was sufficient, is not permissible after the Legislature has provided by whom and under what circumstances a notice shall be given when the party injured has died. The rule thus prescribed is the only one to be followed. *Exceptions overruled.*

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CITY OF NORTHAMPTON *vs.* COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HAMPSHIRE.

Hampshire. Sept. 20. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

Section 4 of the St. of 1849, *c.* 96, (which statute incorporated the Trustees of the Smith Charities,) providing that the funds of the corporation shall, for the purpose of taxation, "be equally apportioned among the eight towns named in said will, ... or such of them as shall not have forfeited their rights therein; and said apportionment shall be made, and the assessors of each of said towns shall be notified of the same by the trustees provided for in said will, on or before the first day of May annually; and the portions of said funds thus assigned to the said towns respectively may be assessed therein, in all the taxes legally voted and assessed by said towns," is constitutional.

PETITION for a writ of certiorari, to quash the proceedings of the respondents in abating part of a tax assessed by the petitioner upon personal property in the hands of the Trustees of the Smith Charities, a corporation incorporated by the St. of 1849, *c.* 96. Hearing before *Holmes*, J., who reserved the case for the consideration of the full court. The facts appear in the opinion.

A. T. Crossley, for the petitioner.

D. W. Bond & J. C. Hammond, for the respondents.

DEVENS, J. The Trustees of the Smith Charities were incorporated by the St. of 1849, *c.* 96. The fourth section of this act provides that no part of the funds of the corporation shall, by the operation of the act, be exempted from taxation; and enacts that, "for the purpose of taxation, said funds shall be equally apportioned among the eight towns named in said will, to wit: Northampton, Hadley, Amherst, Hatfield, Williamsburg, Whately, Deerfield, and Greenfield, or such of them as shall not have forfeited their rights therein; and said apportionment shall be made, and the assessors of each of said towns shall be notified of the same by the trustees provided for in said will, on or before the first day of May annually; and the portions of said funds thus assigned to the said towns respectively may be assessed therein, in all the taxes legally voted and assessed by said towns."

The corporation made a correct apportionment (as appears by the answer of the respondents) of their taxable funds among the

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eight towns according to this section. The county commissioners have allowed an abatement of seven eighths of the tax assessed by Northampton, which was upon the whole of these funds, and have in effect decided that Northampton was entitled to tax only one eighth of them. This decision is in accordance with the statute, but the petitioner contends that the act is in this respect unconstitutional; and, further, that it has therefore the right to tax the whole of the funds held by the corporation which are personal property. The ground on which the petitioner relies is, that the tax provided for by the statute is not reasonable, and proportional under that Article of the Constitution (*c.* 1, § 1, art. 4) which authorizes the General Court "to make, ordain, and establish, all manner of wholesome and reasonable orders, laws, statutes, and ordinances," &c., "and to impose and levy proportional and reasonable assessments, rates and taxes, upon all the inhabitants of, and persons resident, and estates lying, within the said Commonwealth."

It is a familiar principle, that a party assailing the constitutionality of an act must show, beyond reasonable doubt, that it is in violation of the fundamental principles of our government. Every presumption is in favor of the validity of a legislative act. It is for the petitioner to show that its rights are invaded by this legislative act; that the act does not come within the legitimate exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution; and that it has (this act being pronounced unconstitutional) under some other act an authority to lay the tax in question. It is obvious that the principal, perhaps the only, object of the constitutional provision that taxes shall be "proportional and reasonable," is the protection of the tax-payer against any arbitrary, unjust, or oppressive exercise of the power of taxation. If, for instance, the Legislature should arbitrarily designate a certain class of persons on whom, or a certain class of property on which, a tax was to be imposed, without reference to any rule of proportion, or without regard to the share of the public charge which either should bear relatively to that borne by other persons or property, or without regard to any special benefit which might accrue to the property subjected to the tax, such imposition would be unlawful. *Oliver* v. *Washington Mills*, 11 Allen, 268. *Dorgan* v. *Boston*, 12 Allen, 223.

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In the case at bar, the party upon whom the tax is imposed makes no complaint of the statute under which it is imposed, and the clause of the Constitution would seem to have no reference to the town or other corporation ordinarily invested with the taxing power, or to the mode in which the tax imposed is to be divided or distributed. But, if this is otherwise, we can find no ground for pronouncing the tax unreasonable or not proportional. The principal beneficiaries under the Smith will are inhabitants of the eight towns in the Commonwealth, described in the petition. If the fund intended mainly for their use is to be diminished by taxation, it would seem reasonable that the towns whose indigent persons are the immediate objects of the testator's bounty should have the benefit of it. Exact equality or proportion in the imposition of public taxes, or distribution of public burdens requiring taxation, it is practically impossible to secure. *Cheshire* v. *County Commissioners*, 118 Mass. 386.

The petitioner argues that, as the place where the business of the corporation is to be done is Northampton, this city is entitled as of right to tax the whole of its personal property. It is a general rule under our statutes that real estate is to be taxed where it is situate, and personal property where the owner resides, but to this there are many exceptions. The Legislature may treat as realty, for the purposes of taxation, that which is not so by the common law, and may provide for taxation of personal property in places other than that where the owner resides. Thus, shares of stock in banks are assessed to the owners thereof where the bank is located. Pub. Sts. *c.* 13, § 8. Live stock, when kept throughout the year in a town other than that where the owner resides, is assessed to the owner in that place. Pub. Sts. *c.* 11, § 20, *cl.* 3. Goods, merchandise, and other stock in trade, in cities or towns within the Commonwealth other than where the owner resides, are taxed where the owners occupy manufactories, stores, &c. Pub. Sts. *c.* 11, § 20, *cl.* 1. The personal property of individuals is thus taxed at a different rate from that which prevails where they reside. The legislation which exists as to the taxation of trust property, or property of that nature, closely resembles that adopted by the Legislature as to the taxation of these funds, and it has certainly always been treated as constitutional. Thus personal property held by a guardian is taxed to the

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guardian, but in the place where the ward is an inhabitant, if in this State. Pub. Sts. *c.* 11, § 20, *cl.* 4. Personal property held in trust by executors, administrators, or trustees, is assessed to them where the beneficiary resides, if in this State. Pub. Sts. *c.* 11, § 20, *cl.* 5. Personal property held by a corporation or individual to accumulate, is assessed where the beneficiaries reside, if in this Commonwealth. Pub. Sts. *c.* 11, § 21.

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The objections which the petitioner in the case at bar makes, that the fund is taxed where the securities, &c., are not kept, and that the fractions of it permitted to be taxed are taxed at different rates, according to the exigencies of the different towns entitled to tax, all exist in the general laws relating to the taxation of trust property. It is not necessary, in order that taxes should be proportional, that the rate should be identical in all the municipal corporations of the State. However widely rates may differ, it cannot be held that they are not proportional on account of differences of that nature.

The petitioner also contends that the act is unconstitutional within § 1, art. 14, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, in that it denies to it the equal protection of the laws. We see no ground for this contention, nor has the petitioner suggested any argument in support of it. *Slaughter-House Cases*, 16 Wall. 36.

If we were able to hold § 4 of the St. of 1849, *c.* 96, to be unconstitutional, such a decision would not aid the petitioner, but the contrary. By the Pub. Sts. *c.* 11, § 5, *cl.* 8, the personal property of literary, benevolent, charitable, and scientific institutions is exempt from taxation. This corporation comes within the class of benevolent and charitable institutions. If so much of the act of incorporation as takes it out of the general law and renders its personal property taxable is unconstitutional, it would come under the general law, and its personal property would not be subject to taxation. *Petition dismissed.*

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Orthodox Congregational Society *vs.* Inhabitants of Greenwich.

Hampshire. Sept. 20. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. Allen & Holmes, JJ., absent.

At the hearing upon a petition, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 176, to compel the respondent to bring an action to try his alleged title to a parcel of land, the question of title to the land cannot be adjudicated, but only the question whether the petitioner has shown that he is in possession of the land, claiming an estate of freehold therein.

At the hearing upon a petition, brought in 1885, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 176, by a religious society, to compel the town in which it was located to try its alleged title to the land on which the meeting-house stood, it appeared that the meeting-house was built in 1828 by the town upon a portion of the common belonging to the town; that, by a vote of the town, it was "to be used as a town-house and place for public worship," and the town held its meetings in it up to 1855, when a new town-house was built; that, during this period, several religious societies occupied the building on Sundays by permission of the town; that, since 1855, the building had not been used for the general purposes of a town-house; that the audience-room had been used for religious services solely, except that since 1880 it had been used on seven or eight occasions for public entertainments; that the town had from time to time expended money for repairs of the meeting-house, both inside and outside; that after 1855, as before, the petitioner, since its incorporation in 1865, and the religious society which preceded it, occupied the audience-room by the permission of the town; that the town kept up the old customs of ringing the bell at noon and of tolling it when deaths occurred; and that it had always had access to the vestibule of the meeting-house for these purposes. There was no evidence that this was by the permission of the petitioner, and no evidence of any ouster of the town by the petitioner; and no claim of title adverse to the town was made by the petitioner until 1885, when it voted to contest any claim made to the meeting-house adverse to the petitioner. *Held*, that the petitioner had not shown such an exclusive possession as entitled it to maintain the petition.

Petition, dated October 17, 1885, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 176, to compel the respondent to bring an action to try its alleged title to a parcel of land in Greenwich. Hearing before *Holmes*, J., who reserved the case for the consideration of the full court. The facts appear in the opinion.

F. P. Goulding & E. H. Vaughan, (*W. G. Bassett* with them,) for the petitioner.

D. W. Bond, for the respondent.

Morton, C. J. Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 176, "any person in possession of real property, claiming an estate of freehold therein

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or an unexpired term of not less than ten years, may file a petition in the Supreme Judicial Court" against any person making an adverse claim, praying that such person may be summoned to show cause why he should not bring an action to try his alleged title.

The object of the proceeding is not to try the title to the real property; the court cannot make any decree, unless the respondent makes default, which will operate as a conclusive adjudication of the title of either party. If the petitioner prevails, the question of title must be tried in an action at law, brought and prosecuted under such conditions as this court may deem equitable and just.

We cannot in this case, therefore, express any opinion upon the question of the title to the real property in controversy. The only question properly before us is whether the petitioner has shown that it is in possession of the land, claiming an estate of freehold, so as to be within the statute.

It has always been held that, in the provision that "any person in possession of real property claiming an estate of freehold" may bring his petition, the statute contemplates an exclusive and adverse possession which works a disseisin of the respondent; and that, in cases where there is a joint or mixed possession, the petition cannot be maintained. *Tompkins* v. *Wyman*, 116 Mass. 558. *India Wharf* v. *Central Wharf*, 117 Mass. 504. *Leary* v. *Duff*, 137 Mass. 147.

In the case before us, most of the facts stated in the elaborate and interesting report of the master bear only upon the question of title. These we need not consider. But upon such of the facts as touch the question of possession, we are of opinion that the petitioner has not shown a case which entitles it to maintain this petition.

The meeting-house in question was built in 1828, by the town, upon a portion of the common belonging to the town. By the vote of the town, it was "to be used as a town-house and place for public worship," and the town held its meetings in it up to 1855, when a new town-house was built. During this period, several religious societies occupied the building on Sundays by permission of the town. Since 1855, the building has not been used for the general purposes of a town-house; the audience-

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room has been used for religious services solely, except that since 1880 it has been used for "a juvenile concert, one or two public readings, Decoration-day services on two occasions, and two public lectures." The town has from time to time expended money for repairs of the meeting-house, both inside and outside; and the evidence shows that after 1855, as before, the petitioner, since its incorporation in 1865, and the religious society which preceded it, occupied the audience-room by the permission and license of the town. No claim of title adverse to the town appears to have been made by the petitioner until October, 1885, when it voted to contest any claim made to the meeting-house adverse to the petitioner. It further appears, that the town keeps up the old customs of ringing the bell at noon, and of tolling it when deaths occur, and that it has always had access to the vestibule of the meeting-house for these purposes. There is no evidence that this was by the permission of the petitioner. On the contrary, it was an adverse possession and a daily use of a part of the premises by the town, claiming to be the owner. There is no evidence of any ouster of the town by the petitioner.

Upon these facts, we are of opinion that there was a mixed possession; and that the petitioner has not such an exclusive possession as entitles it to maintain this petition. There is no reason why the respondent, rather than the petitioner, should be ousted and compelled to bring an action at law to try the title. *Petition dismissed.*

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MARY O'KEEFE *vs.* CITY OF NORTHAMPTON.

Hampshire. Sept. 20. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

An action against a town for relief furnished a pauper cannot be maintained under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 84, § 27, except upon evidence of an express and formal notice to the overseers of the poor of the town, and a distinct request to them that the pauper be provided for.

An action founded upon an implied contract will not lie against a town for relief furnished a pauper.

In an action against a town for relief furnished a pauper, there was evidence that one of the overseers of the poor, in the absence of his associates, agreed to pay the plaintiff (a married woman then living with her husband, and with whom the husband's father, a pauper, was then living) to take care of the father as long as he lived; that the father lived there until his death; and that the town paid the husband by the month for his support. *Held*, that the evidence was not sufficient to maintain the action.

KNOWLTON, J. The plaintiff seeks to recover for the support of a pauper having a settlement in the town of Northampton before its incorporation as a city. The liability of towns for the support of paupers is purely statutory, and a plaintiff, to recover in an action of this kind, must bring his case within the provisions of the statute. Under our legislation there are only two ways in which a debt can be created in favor of an individual against a town for relieving a pauper: one by supplying his wants after "notice and request to the overseers thereof" to provide for him, and their neglect so to do; the other by furnishing him necessaries under an express contract with its overseers of the poor, or its other duly authorized officers or agents. Pub. Sts. *c.* 84, §§ 2, 27. *Williams* v. *Braintree*, 6 Cush. 399. *Lamson* v. *Newburyport*, 14 Allen, 30. *Rogers* v. *Newbury*, 105 Mass. 533.

The first count of the plaintiff's declaration sets out a claim under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 84, § 27, and alleges "that she applied to the overseers of the poor of the said Northampton, and requested them to make provision for the maintenance and support of the said Michael O'Keefe, which they refused and neglected to do." The notice contemplated by the statute and alleged in the declaration is an express and formal notice, and the request intended

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is a distinct request that the town provide for the pauper; and the right to recover for support furnished, after neglect or refusal in such a case, is founded on the failure of the town to do its duty, and the consequent necessity, in the interest of humanity, that aid be rendered by an individual. *Walker* v. *Southbridge*, 4 Cush. 199. No evidence that the plaintiff gave such a notice or made such a request was introduced at the trial.

The second count is in *indebitatus assumpsit*. The statute gives no right to recover under an implied contract in a case of this kind, and the inquiry comes whether there is evidence of performance of an express contract under which the plaintiff is entitled to compensation. The only evidence of any contract tends to show that one of the overseers of the poor, in the absence of his associates, agreed with the plaintiff to pay her "to take the old man and take care of him as long as he lived." The pauper lived, after that, ten years. The town had a poor-house in which to support its paupers. It does not appear that the overseer had authority to bind the town by this peculiar contract; and, if he had, the plaintiff, to recover under it, must show that she took the pauper and took care of him in accordance with its terms. This she has failed to do. The uncontradicted evidence shows that the old man was then living with his son, the plaintiff's husband, and that he continued to live with him for ten years afterward, the town all the time, with the knowledge and consent of the plaintiff, paying said son by the month for said support. Upon a proper interpretation of the evidence it appears that what the plaintiff did in caring for the pauper, she did on account of her husband, and as his wife, and the jury would not have been warranted in finding that she did anything in performance of the contract testified to by her husband. *Plaintiff's exceptions overruled.*

C. G. Delano, for the plaintiff.

A. T. Crossley, for the defendant.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* LUTHER B. BRUSIE.

Berkshire. Sept. 27. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

A complaint on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 101, § 6, alleging the keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, need contain no other allegation negativing an authority to keep or sell intoxicating liquors.

If a complaint is received by the justice of a district court, and is sworn to before him, and he issues a warrant, it is to be presumed that he acted under his authority as justice, and that the court was not in session at the time, although the complaint is stated to have been sworn to before the court.

If a complaint is received by the justice of a district court, and is sworn to before him, and he issues a warrant, it is not necessary that the clerk should sign the jurat or the warrant, or that the warrant should bear the teste of the justice.

An objection to the form of a warrant, issued for the arrest of an accused person by a justice of a district court, for an offence within the jurisdiction of that court, cannot be taken, for the first time, in the Superior Court on appeal.

COMPLAINT to the District Court of Southern Berkshire, on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 101, § 6, for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a certain tenement in Great Barrington, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, on May 1, 1886, and on divers other days and times between that day and October 12, 1886. At the trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, the defendant pleaded guilty; and alleged exceptions, which appear in the opinion.

H. C. Joyner, for the defendant.

E. J. Sherman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

DEVENS, J. The motion to dismiss the complaint filed in the district court was there properly overruled. The complaint charged the keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, by keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors. No other allegation negativing an authority to keep or sell intoxicating liquors was essential; and if the defendant relied upon any appointment or authority to sell intoxicating liquors, it was for him to prove it. *Commonwealth* v. *Bennett*, 108 Mass. 27. *Commonwealth* v. *Ryan*, 136 Mass. 436. *Commonwealth* v. *Rafferty*, 133 Mass. 574.

In the Superior Court, the defendant filed a motion to quash the complaint for the following reasons: 1. Because the person

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receiving the complaint had no authority to do so. 2. Because said complaint purports to have been made to the District Court of Southern Berkshire, while the fact is not certified to by the clerk of said court. 3. Because the warrant does not bear the teste of the first justice of said court, and is not signed by the clerk of said court.

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Assuming that some of these objections are not merely formal, and that, if well founded, they would go to the jurisdiction of the court, the case at bar is covered by the decision in *Sabins* v. *Jones*, 119 Mass. 167. The Pub. Sts. *c.* 154, § 22, reënacting the Gen. Sts. *c.* 116, § 16, provide that a justice or special justice of a police or district court "may receive complaints and issue warrants, when the court is not in session." The defendant contends that the complaint was made to the court, and that the warrant was issued while the court was in session; but there is no evidence of this. It sufficiently appears by the record that the complaint was received by the justice, and sworn to before him, and that he issued the warrant. Having authority to do this, it is to be presumed that he acted under that authority, and that the court was not in session at the time, although in form the complaint is stated to have been sworn to before the court. Where the complaint is received and sworn to before the justice, and the warrant is issued by him, it is not necessary that the clerk should sign the jurat or the warrant, or that the warrant should bear the teste of the justice of the district court. These requirements (*c.* 154, § 30) apply to proceedings before the court, and not to those before the justice acting by the authority given him to be exercised when the court is not in session.

An objection to the form of the warrant on account of any irregularity therein, where the court below has jurisdiction, must appear to have been taken there. *Commonwealth* v. *Hart*, 123 Mass. 416. *Exceptions overruled.*

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* VALENTINE EWIG.

Hampden. Sept. 27. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

On a complaint for selling intoxicating liquors, there was evidence that there was a delivery of liquor by the steward of a club to one of the members of the club, who paid for it, in a city which had voted to grant licenses to sell intoxicating liquors; and books purporting to be the records of the club were put in evidence. The government contended that the club was organized to defraud the city of a license fee; and that the books and records were not genuine, were founded in fraud, and were gotten up to cover the illegal acts of the defendant. The judge instructed the jury, as requested by the defendant, that if the club was a *bona fide* club and the liquors owned in common by the members, and the members on receiving liquors gave money in return, it would not be a sale within the meaning of the statute; and that, "if two or more persons unite in buying intoxicating liquor, and then distribute it among themselves, they do not violate the statute, and the intent with which they do this is immaterial. If they intend in this manner to obtain intoxicating liquor to drink without thereby subjecting any person to the penalties of the statute, they still act with impunity." The judge further instructed the jury, against the objection of the defendant, as follows: "It is not a violation of law if they unite in good faith in dividing it. If two persons buy a gallon of liquor, and divide it among themselves, they act with impunity; but if this is a mere device to cheat the government out of its license fee, and prevent the due execution of law, it is not a protection, and the defendant does not act with impunity." *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception.

COMPLAINT to the Police Court of Springfield, alleging that the defendant, on September 12, 1886, at Springfield, sold intoxicating liquor to a person to the complainant unknown.

At the trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Bacon*, J., it appeared in evidence, that, on the evening of the day named in the complaint, the defendant, in the club-room of the club hereinafter described, delivered lager beer to a man whose name was to the complainant unknown. Two police officers, witnesses for the government, testified that they were by a window on the outside of the building, looking through an aperture between the sash of the window and the curtain, and that they could see a part of the room, and heard the man call for lager beer, and that a man delivered what they supposed was lager beer; that they could not distinguish the faces of those present; and that money was passed by the unknown man in payment of the beer, namely, a quarter of a dollar, and that change to the amount of

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fifteen cents, namely, a ten-cent piece and a five-cent piece, was returned to him.

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The defendant introduced evidence tending to show that he was the steward of a club of about four hundred members, organized on May 1, 1886, and acting under its organization ever since; that he received a salary as such steward from the club; that the club had, as officers, a president, treasurer, secretary, and steward, and an executive committee of three; that each member, upon joining the club, paid to the treasurer the sum of one dollar, and received a card certifying his membership; that the money so obtained was used in buying liquors in the name and as the property of the club; that a quantity of checks made of zinc, some of the size of a quarter of a dollar silver piece, representing the value of ten cents, and others about the size of a ten-cent silver piece, of the value of five cents, were furnished to the members of the club asking for them, by the treasurer, or, in his absence, by the steward of the club, in any number required, upon the member paying in money the price of said checks.

The defendant and four other witnesses testified that none but members were admitted to the rooms of the club, and none but members were permitted to partake of the liquors of the club, and this was so on the night in question; and that neither on this night, nor at any time, was money passed in return for liquor or beer, but that the checks above described were given in return for the beer or liquor delivered to the members. The defendant also introduced evidence tending to show that it was the duty of the steward to furnish liquor or beer to the members in return for these checks.

The defendant also introduced evidence tending to show that no one became a member unless his name was proposed and voted on; that an applicant for admission was rejected if three nay ballots were cast against him; that upon joining he signed the constitution and paid a membership fee; and that applicants for membership had been rejected.

Books, purporting to be the records of the club, and containing the constitution, by-laws, minutes of the meetings, signatures of all the members, and the treasurer's accounts, were put in evidence, as were also the above-described checks.

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It was admitted that, at the preceding municipal election in Springfield, it was voted to grant licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor.

The government contended that the club was organized to defraud the city of Springfield, the county of Hampden, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, of the revenue received from licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor, and that said books and records were not genuine, and were not the evidence of a genuine organization, and were founded in fraud and deceit, and were gotten up to cover up the illegal acts and transactions of the defendant.

The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury as follows: "1. If this was a *bona fide* club, and the liquors owned in common by the members, and the members on receiving liquor gave in return money instead of checks, it would not constitute a sale within the meaning of the statute. 2. If two or more persons unite in buying intoxicating liquor, and then distribute it among themselves, they do not violate the statute, and the intent with which they do this is immaterial. If they intend in this manner to obtain intoxicating liquor to drink without thereby subjecting any person to the penalties of the statute, they still act with impunity."

The judge gave the first instruction requested, and also gave the second, but added this qualification: "It is not a violation of law if they unite in good faith in dividing it. If two persons buy a gallon of liquor, and divide it among themselves, they act with impunity; but if this is a mere device to cheat the government out of its license fee, and prevent the due execution of law, it is not a protection, and the defendant does not act with impunity."

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. E. Dunleavy, for the defendant.

E. J. Sherman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

KNOWLTON, J. The contention between the parties upon these exceptions relates solely to the interpretation of the judge's charge. The defendant excepted to the qualification of the last instruction which he had requested. He contends that the jury must have understood the judge as saying, that, if several persons

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buy liquor and divide it among themselves, even though the transaction is real and genuine, and do it with a purpose thereby to obtain their liquor more economically than to buy it of some one who is obliged to pay the government a license fee, and with an additional purpose to deprive in that way the government of a license fee which it would otherwise get, the transaction is unlawful. If that were the meaning of the instruction, it would be clearly wrong. To ascertain its true interpretation, let us revert to the circumstances under which it was given. The defendant had introduced evidence that he was one of a club organized for the distribution of liquor among its members. The Commonwealth contended that the club was organized to defraud the government "of the revenue received from licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor," and that the books and records put in evidence "were not genuine, and were not the evidence of a genuine organization, and were founded in fraud and deceit, and were gotten up to cover up the illegal acts and transactions of the defendant."

An important, if not the principal, question of the case was whether this was a real and genuine arrangement for the division of liquor among the owners of it, or was a mere pretence and device to cover up unlicensed sales. Very likely this question had been fully discussed by counsel. The presiding judge gave both instructions requested by the defendant. In the first, he told the jury unqualifiedly that the distribution of liquor of a club among its members would not constitute a sale, even though they gave money in return for it. In the second, he told them that the distribution of liquor among themselves by the owners of it was not unlawful, whatever their intention might be. Having stated in their baldest form the propositions relied on by the defendant, upon the theory that the liquor was really distributed among the owners of it, he apparently thought it proper to bring to the attention of the jury the rule applicable to the claim of the Commonwealth, that the division testified to was not real, but a mere sham and pretence, and he gave the qualification objected to, saying, "It is not a violation of law for them if they unite in good faith in dividing it. If two persons buy a gallon of liquor and divide it among themselves, they act with impunity;" — which was equivalent to saying, If it is a real and

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genuine division, and not a mere pretence to cover something else, it is lawful. And then, to state the other alternative, he added, "But if this is a mere device to cheat the government out of its license fee, and prevent the due execution of law, it is not a protection, and the defendant does not act with impunity;" — meaning to say, If the transaction is not real, but is a mere form and device under cover of which to sell intoxicating liquor without a license, and so violate the law, it will not avail the defendant in this prosecution. The words "to cheat the government out of its license fee" can hardly mean anything else than "to sell intoxicating liquor without a license;" for the only license fee to which the government is entitled in connection with the delivery of liquors is for sales, and one cannot be cheated out of that which does not belong to him. In view of the attendant circumstances, we think the language of the instructions, taken together, was intended by the judge to be used, and was understood by the jury, in a sense which correctly represents the law.

*Exceptions overruled.**

ALEXANDER HANDYSIDE *vs.* LEWIS J. POWERS.

Hampden. Sept. 27. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

In an action against the owner of a building for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by a fall down an elevator well in the building, it appeared that the plaintiff, who was a plumber, was employed by A., a tenant of a portion of the building, to do some work therein; that, in the prosecution of his work, he opened a door leading into the well, it being unlighted and without a barrier, and fell, receiving the injuries complained of; that the door to the well had been provided with a lock, had been locked, and the key deposited in the defendant's office; and that this was the only key known by the defendant or his agent to exist, and it was found in its place in the defendant's office after the accident. There was evidence that a key had been procured by A. and used, but without the consent or knowledge of the defendant or his agent; and that the neglect of A. in unlocking the door and in leaving it unlocked caused the accident. The lease to A. gave him a right to the use of the elevator in common with the other tenants. *Held*, that the action could not be maintained.

The Pub. Sts. c. 104, § 14, as amended by the St. of 1882, c. 208, requiring safeguards to elevator openings, do not make the owner of a building who does not

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* See St. 1887, c. 206.

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comply with their provisions liable to a person injured by falling down an elevator well, in the absence of evidence that the act has been accepted by the city in which the building is located.

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TORT, against the owner of a building in Springfield, for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by a fall down the elevator well in said building. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., who reported the case for the determination of this court, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff testified as follows: "I am a plumber. On May 12, 1885, I was hired by M. J. King, a tenant of a portion of the building, to do some work therein. I was taken to the top or fourth floor, and was shown the sink and water-closet, and was told that the waste water to the sink and the aqueduct water failed to run. I went to my shop for some tools, and returned in half or three quarters of an hour with my tools. I went up to the third story. I understood that the tenement up stairs (meaning the fourth floor) had been vacant for a long time, and that the water had not run since the people came there. I thought the water must be shut off on the flight below, to keep the water from freezing, and I went there to see if the water was not shut off. This was the third floor. I tried the first door at the head of the stairs and found it locked. I then went to the next door, which was the door of the elevator well. Had my tools on my shoulder done up in a carpet bag; this door was not locked; went in; the room was all dark. I thought this was the water-closet; there was no gas in it; had no idea there was an elevator there. I stepped on the threshold, and the next step I fell. There was no light; I thought there must be a light in some place. It was totally dark; could not see anything. I had never been in this building above the basement before this day. I had no knowledge that there was an elevator in the building."

On cross-examination, the plaintiff testified as follows: "When I came back with my tools, I did not go to the fourth story. I went to find where the stop-cock was. I had not been told anything about the premises on that floor. I did not locate the water-closet on the fourth story to compare it with the water-closet on the third story. Had no light or match with me. I was going to set down my tools and go and get one. I put my foot down, and I thought I was going on to a floor, but I was down too far

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before I could pull it back. I stepped off into total darkness. I felt for a floor with my foot. Some buildings are so constructed that they can shut off the water on the floor below, and it was my opinion that they had shut the water off to keep the pipes from freezing. It was between two and three o'clock in the afternoon when I fell."

The defendant testified as follows: "I am the owner of the building where the accident happened. The basement, the fourth story, and the two front rooms on the third story, were leased to M. J. King."

By the terms of the lease, which was put in evidence, the leased premises were "the basement, the upper story, together with the two front rooms in the third story, of the granite block owned by said Powers, and known as 231 Main Street, in said Springfield." The lease gave "the use, in common with other tenants, of the stairways in said building, and the elevator. Provided, however, said King agrees to take care of and clean said stairways." The lease also contained the following clause: "that he [the lessee] will allow the lessor, his heirs and assigns, and their agents, at seasonable times, to enter upon said premises, and examine the condition thereof and make necessary repairs."

The defendant then testified as follows: "No other tenant than King used the elevator or had authority to use it. I had never given the elevator key on the third story to any one; supposed it was at my office. Had no knowledge that there were two keys to the elevator door on this story. The elevator had never been used on that story, to my knowledge, since the building was built. On this floor, Mr. Hall occupied the two back rooms for sleeping rooms. Mr. King occupied one room, and Mr. Gates the other; they were sleeping rooms. The second story was occupied by R. G. Dun and Company's mercantile agency, and an insurance office in the rear, occupied by Mr. Clarke. The first floor was occupied by J. G. Mackintosh and Company's banking office; the basement was occupied by Mr. King as a saloon. There was no water-piping, or gas-piping, or stop-cock of any kind in the elevator well."

In answer to a question put to him by the court, he said: "Nobody on the first or second floors had anything in their

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leases about the elevator. My cashier, Dwight Holland, had charge of this building. It was his duty to attend to the keys and tenants, and to do all necessary work. The fourth story was used by King for no other purpose than as a tenement to live in. Mr. Hall, who occupied the two back rooms on the third floor, has his residence in Brooklyn; he had charge of the Steam Power Company in the rear of my building, and came up once or twice a month, and when he was here he had the use of those rooms."

The defendant testified, on cross-examination, as follows: "I constructed the elevator at the time the building was built; and, after I left the building, a dummy elevator was put in the large elevator, and to run up through it, by some man who rented the saloon in the basement, before King became my tenant. I do not think I gave any permission. I never objected to it. I frequently went on the premises. The building was entirely occupied by tenants."

Dwight Holland, called by the defendant, testified as follows: "I am the cashier of the defendant; have charge of this building. I knew where the key to the elevator door was at the time of the accident; it was at our office. I have possession of the keys to that building. After King moved out of the upper tenement, I examined all the doors, and found they were all locked. This must have been a year before the accident. I examined the elevator door in question, and found it locked; I never let any person have the key and never had any knowledge of any person having the key to this elevator door, on third floor. Nobody ever went to me for a key to it. There is a water-closet at the top of the stairs; the door of the elevator is around the corner, ten feet from it. The elevator on that story has never been used, so far as I know, since I have been with the defendant; I have been with him eighteen years."

On cross-examination, he testified that, so far as he knew, the elevator had not been in use on the third story since the defendant left the building, and that it was in use on that story at the time the defendant occupied the building. "I knew the key was at the office, because the keys have not been disturbed since. I have since looked for the key to this door, and found it in the box; it was after King told me of the accident; it might have been two weeks after. I took it and went up and locked the

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door. I then put the key back in the box, and left it till a few days ago."

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M. J. King, called by the defendant, testified as follows: "I am the person named in the lease. The defendant never gave me any key or anything for the use of the elevator in the third story. I got a key to it from Mr. Hall; cannot tell where he got it. I wanted to use it, and borrowed the key. I used the elevator regularly the winter previous to the accident. I used it the morning of the accident, I think. The defendant had no knowledge of the use of the elevator on the third floor while I was there. I did not know the plaintiff was going on the third floor."

On cross-examination, he testified as follows: "Hall used the elevator occasionally; when he wanted to use it he used to ring the bell, pull the knob on the side of the elevator, and that connected with a bell in my saloon. I got the key of Hall about February. When I got through with it, I gave it back to Hall, and up to February, 1885, one of the rooms on the third story was occupied by the Edison Electric Light Company as an office, and as my tenant."

The defendant, being recalled, testified as follows: "I never gave a key to this elevator door to Hall; I had no knowledge that he had a key to it; never gave him the use of the elevator in any form, and never knew of his using it."

Dwight Holland, recalled, testified as follows: "I never let Hall have the key of the elevator door on this story; never knew of his using it; never knew of but one key to that elevator, and that was in the box in my possession."

The lease to King was made on November 3, 1882, and was in force at the time of the accident. The door to the elevator opened from the hallway and swung on perpendicular hinges, and had no trap-door or self-closing hatch or safety-catch. The only entrance to the fourth story was through the hallway on the third story. On the third story there was a bell knob on the inside of the elevator connecting with a gong in the basement. The elevator was closed in with doors opening into it from each story, and could not be seen from the hallway.

At the close of the evidence, the judge ruled that, upon the evidence, the plaintiff was not entitled to maintain his action, and ordered a verdict for the defendant.

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If the ruling was right, the verdict was to stand; if wrong, the verdict to be set aside, and a new trial granted.

J. B. Carroll, for the plaintiff.

T. M. Brown, for the defendant.

DEVENS, J. Without considering whether the plaintiff was an intruder or a licensee in entering on the premises, we do not find that there was evidence in the case of neglect on the part of the defendant. The door to the elevator had been provided with a lock, had been locked, and the key deposited in the defendant's office. This was the only key known by the defendant or his agent to exist, and it was found in its place in the defendant's office after the accident. There was evidence that a key had been procured by King and used, but without the consent or knowledge of the defendant or his agent, and that the neglect of King in unlocking the door and in leaving it unlocked had been the cause of the injury. But the act of King in obtaining a key without the knowledge of the defendant, and his subsequent carelessness, cannot be attributed to the defendant.

It is the contention of the plaintiff, that the Pub. Sts. *c.* 104, § 14, amended by the St. of 1882, *c.* 208, which requires that hoistways, hatchways, elevators, and well-holes upon every floor of a factory or mercantile or public building shall be protected by good and sufficient trap-doors or self-closing hatches and safety-catches, or such other safeguards as the inspectors of buildings shall direct, rendered it obligatory on the defendant to supply the safety appliances there described, and made him responsible if any injury occurred by a failure so to do. It will not be necessary here to consider what is the construction of this section. It is a part of an act for the inspection of buildings, and for the appointment of building inspectors in such towns or cities as shall accept the act, or certain sections of previous acts. Whether it was ever accepted by the city of Springfield does not appear, nor does it appear that any directions were ever given by building inspectors. The section cited does not have any connection with the question in the case at bar, as presented to us by the report. *Judgment on the verdict.*

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HENRY L. BASSETT vs. CONNECTICUT RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY.

Hampden. Sept. 27, 28. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

The Pub. Sts. c. 112, § 214, providing that a railroad corporation shall be responsible in damages to a person whose buildings or other property may be injured by fire communicated by its locomotive engines, do not apply to goods delivered to a railroad corporation as a carrier, and in its custody as a warehouseman, at the time of such a fire.

TORT, under the Pub. Sts. c. 112, § 214,* for loss of the plaintiff's goods by fire communicated by a locomotive engine of the defendant. The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and, after judgment for the defendant, to this court, on appeal, upon agreed facts, in substance as follows:

The defendant owns and operates a railroad in this Commonwealth. On March 30, 1887, the freight depot of the defendant at Chicopee was destroyed by fire. The fire was caused by sparks from the defendant's locomotive engine, which set fire to bales of cotton standing on the platform of said depot.

The fire thus kindled was communicated directly to said building, which was destroyed, with its contents, including the goods of the plaintiff, which consisted of numerous articles of household furniture and clothing for himself and family. The property of the plaintiff had been placed on board the cars at Providence, Rhode Island, where he had formerly lived, for transportation to Chicopee, where he had gone to live. The goods were all properly packed in seventy-seven different packages, and carefully covered, so as to protect them against the ordinary hazards to which such goods are liable. The goods arrived at Chicopee on the defendant's railroad, in due course and time, on Saturday, March 26, and were taken from the

* This section is as follows: "Every railroad corporation and street railway company shall be responsible in damages to a person or corporation whose buildings or other property may be injured by fire communicated by its locomotive engines, and shall have an insurable interest in the property upon its route for which it may be so held responsible, and may procure insurance thereon in its own behalf."

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cars on the afternoon of that day by the servants of the defendant, and by them placed in said freight depot, where they remained until the building and the goods were destroyed by the fire, as above stated.

Some time during the day on which the goods arrived at Chicopee, a teamster, not in the employ of the defendant corporation, nor under the direction or control of its agent at Chicopee, nor at the request or suggestion of such agent, told the plaintiff that some goods had arrived at said depot, which were directed to the plaintiff, and solicited the job of carrying the goods whenever the plaintiff was ready to have them removed. The plaintiff had no other information of the arrival of the goods, and was not asked or notified to remove the same.

All these goods were shipped and arrived at one time, and the plaintiff had no other goods in course of transportation for Chicopee.

L. White, for the plaintiff.

G. Wells, (*G. M. Stearns* with him,) for the defendant.

KNOWLTON, J. The plaintiff lost his goods by fire in the defendant's freight-house, and he seeks to recover their value under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 214. The statute invoked is remedial, and has been liberally construed in favor of those for whose benefit it was enacted. The decisions indicate that it applies to property of every kind, and in any place where fire may be communicated by a locomotive engine. *Hart* v. *Western Railroad*, 13 Met. 99. *Lyman* v. *Boston & Worcester Railroad*, 4 Cush. 288. *Trask* v. *Hartford & New Haven Railroad*, 16 Gray, 71. *Ross* v. *Boston & Worcester Railroad*, 6 Allen, 87. *Quigley* v. *Stockbridge & Pittsfield Railroad*, 8 Allen, 438. But it has never been held that it includes within its provisions articles placed in the possession of a railroad corporation by their owner under a contract which fully covers the rights and liabilities of both parties regarding them. When parties see fit to stipulate what their relations shall be touching any matter, their stipulations fix their rights and liabilities, and exclude what is not fairly included in them. The statute referred to gives protection to owners of property who have made no arrangement with the railroad corporation about it. It was not intended to prevent the making of contracts by property owners with railroad

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corporations, determining their respective rights and duties in relation to particular property, or to apply to cases where such contracts have been made. Nor is there any difference in this regard between express and implied contracts. If a railroad corporation and an owner of land or personal property make an arrangement about it from which the law implies a contract broad enough to cover the subject of liability for loss or injury, this contract, implied from their voluntary act, fixes their rights, and excludes the provisions of a statute intended for cases not covered by a contract.

The plaintiff had employed the defendant as a common carrier to transport his goods to Chicopee. He voluntarily entered into an arrangement which involved the subject of the defendant's liability for loss of the property, or injury to it from any cause, and which determined his rights as definitely, under the contract implied by law, as if the parties had written out and signed stipulations in detail. The defendant was bound to carry the goods, and was an insurer of them until the transit ended, and was then liable as a warehouseman for any want of ordinary care during such reasonable time as they should remain in its custody awaiting the call of the consignee. This was the extent of its liability. In the language of Chief Justice Shaw, such an arrangement "we consider to be one entire contract for hire; and although there is no separate charge for storage, yet the freight to be paid, fixed by the company, as a compensation for the whole service, is paid as well for the temporary storage, as for the carriage." *Norway Plains Co.* v. *Boston & Maine Railroad*, 1 Gray, 263, 272. The goods having been destroyed while in the possession of the defendant under this contract, the plaintiff must seek his remedy under it, and the statute referred to does not apply. *Judgment affirmed.*

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SAMUEL BLAISDELL, JR. & others *vs.* CONNECTICUT RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY.

Hampden. Sept. 28. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

If goods, which have been transported over a railroad, and have been received by the owner and placed in a storehouse, occupied exclusively by him and owned by the corporation, adjoining its freight depot at a station, and other goods therein intended for transportation, but not having been delivered to the corporation, are destroyed by fire communicated by its locomotive engine, the owner may maintain an action against the corporation, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 214, for the loss of the goods.

TORT, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 214, for loss of the plaintiffs' goods by fire communicated by a locomotive engine of the defendant. The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and, after judgment for the plaintiffs, to this court, on appeal, upon agreed facts, the material parts of which appear in the opinion.

G. D. Robinson, for the plaintiffs.

G. Wells, (*G. M. Stearns* with him,) for the defendant.

KNOWLTON, J. For the reasons set forth in *Bassett* v. *Connecticut River Railroad*, *ante*, 129, a railroad corporation is not liable under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 214, for goods destroyed by fire while in its possession under a contract for carriage. The question in this case is whether the plaintiffs' property, at the time of the fire, was in the defendant's possession under such a contract.

The plaintiffs were large shippers of merchandise over the defendant's road, and the defendant built for their use, as an addition to its depot, a storehouse separated from the general freight-house by a brick wall. This the plaintiffs had occupied for two years in connection with their business, and, up to October 1, 1886, they had paid an agreed price per month for it. It can hardly be contended that, during this period, they were not the defendant's tenants, and in exclusive possession and control of all that the storehouse contained.

On September 21, 1886, they notified the defendant that, by reason of the completion of a new building elsewhere, they should not need the storehouse after October 1. On November 1 following, the station agent at Chicopee presented them a bill

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for the rent of the premises for the month of October, which had been sent him for collection by the defendant's auditor, in accordance with a usual practice, and without special directions from the president or superintendent regarding it. The plaintiffs declined to pay it, referring to their previous notification, and no bill was afterwards sent. The station agent informed the superintendent by letter of their refusal, and of their saying that "they would pay no more rent for the storehouse, thinking they should have it free now and would keep the cars cleaned out." He also inquired if there was any error in sending the bill, and asked the superintendent to advise the plaintiffs of the company's position. No reply was sent to the agent, nor communication to the plaintiffs, and they continued until the time of the fire, in March, 1887, "to use and occupy the storehouse in the same manner and for the same purposes as before, which use was known by the station agent, but the agent did not know whether or not any arrangement had been made with the president or superintendent for such use, but such use was without any objection on the defendant's part, and no other persons used the storehouse." The property destroyed "had been received by the plaintiffs in the course of their said business by or for transportation."

Upon these facts, the plaintiffs were in possession and control of the property in the storehouse, as well after as before October 1, 1886. The goods which had come over the defendant's road had been "received" by the plaintiffs and kept in the storehouse, some of them a day or two at the time of the fire, and some of them for months. There is nothing to indicate that the contract under which the defendant carried them had not been fully performed, and, so far as appears, the defendant did not seek to retain a lien upon them, but allowed the plaintiffs to take them into their absolute control; and the facts do not find that the goods in the storehouse "received by the plaintiffs" for transportation had ever been delivered to the defendant so that the parties had come into relations of contract regarding them. The defendant did not use the storehouse, nor have the custody of anything in it. It is quite immaterial whether the relation of landlord and tenant continued to exist between the parties, or whether the plaintiffs, after receiving

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freight which had been transported over the defendant's railroad, left it in one of the defendant's buildings by sufferance. The test question is, as to the goods which had been transported over the railroad, whether they had been given up to the owner so that the contract for carriage, and incidentally for storage for a reasonable time or until delivery, no longer applied to them, and, as to those which were intended for transportation, whether they had been delivered to the corporation so that the contemplated contract had taken effect.

If, as contended by the defendant, contributory negligence of the plaintiffs would bar their recovery, which we do not decide, we find in their conduct no want of due care.

The property having been destroyed by fire communicated by a locomotive engine of the defendant, and not having been at the time in the possession of the defendant under a contract fixing the rights and liabilities of the parties regarding it, the plaintiffs may recover the value of it, and the entry must be,

Judgment affirmed.

Eckford W. Tyler *vs.* Odd Fellows' Mutual Relief Association & another.

Hampden. Sept. 28. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. Allen & Holmes, JJ., absent.

A beneficiary association was organized under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 115, §§ 2, 8, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the sickness and burial of its members, and rendering pecuniary aid to the families of deceased members or to their heirs. The by-laws of the association provided, that, after payment of the expenses of the funeral and of the last sickness, the balance should be paid to the person designated by the member in his application for membership, or last legal assignment, provided such person was an heir or member of the decedent's family, and, if either of the persons designated should die, the sum which would have been payable to him if he had lived should be paid to the widow of the designator for the use of herself and her minor children. A member of the association designated his wife as his beneficiary. She afterwards obtained a divorce from him, and he, after this, changed the designation to his son and to his married sister, the latter not being a member of his family and not dependent on him for support. *Held*, that the wife, by obtaining a divorce, lost her rights under the designation; that the attempted designation to the sister was invalid; and that the son was entitled to the fund.

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A member of a beneficiary association organized under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 115, §§ 2, 8, had certificates in two classes, each for $1000. Before his death he designated his minor son as his beneficiary to the amount of $500, and his sister as his beneficiary to the amount of $1500. The latter designation was in fact invalid. On his death, the guardian of the son told the president of the association that he thought the son was entitled to $2000. The president did not dispute that the son was entitled to $500, but claimed the balance as belonging to the sister. The guardian yielded to this claim, believing it to be well founded, and received $500, understanding that the association was about to pay $1500 to the sister, and signed a receipt, acknowledging that the $500 was received in full of all demands or claims against the association. The association then paid the $1500 to the sister. *Held*, on a bill in equity brought by the son against the association to recover the $1500, that, if the receipt could be construed as an agreement not to claim the $1500, there was no consideration for it. *Held, also*, that the son was not estopped to maintain the bill by the conduct of his guardian.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed March 25, 1887, by Eckford W. Tyler, a minor, who appeared by his guardian, Reuben Waterman, against the Odd Fellows' Mutual Relief Association and Ruetta A. Massure, to compel the defendant association to pay to the plaintiff the sum of $1500. The case was heard in the Superior Court, by *Dewey*, J., and reserved for the consideration of this court. The facts appear in the opinion.

A. M. Copeland, for the plaintiff.

E. H. Lathrop, for the Odd Fellows' Relief Association.

D. E. Webster, for Massure.

KNOWLTON, J. Before July 16, 1880, L. E. Tyler, the plaintiff's father, had become a member of classes A and C of the defendant association, and had designated his wife, Etta A. Tyler, now Ruetta A. Massure, one of the defendants, as his beneficiary in class A, and his son, the plaintiff, as his beneficiary in class C, and thereby each of said beneficiaries became entitled, under the association's incorporation and its by-laws, to receive, after his death, the sum of $1000.

On February 4, 1885, his wife obtained a divorce from him for his fault, and the first question in the case is whether she thereby lost her rights as his beneficiary. The defendant corporation was organized under an agreement of association "for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the sickness and burial of its deceased members, and rendering pecuniary aid to the families of deceased members, or their heirs." The by-laws of the association provide that, after payment of the expenses of the funeral and of the last sickness, "the balance shall be paid to the

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person or persons designated by the member in his application for membership, or last legal assignment, provided such person or persons are heirs or members of the decedent's family;" also that, "if either of the persons so designated have died, the sum which would have been paid to said decedent's assignee, had he been living at the time of the member's death, shall be payable to the widow of the designator, for the use of herself and his minor children, if any, or, if he leave no widow, it shall be payable to a guardian or trustee appointed for said children;" and that "if the designator leave no widow, or children, or assignee, then it shall be payable to his heirs."

The principal object of the association manifestly is, as its members die from time to time, to provide for those nearest to them whom they leave behind. Each of the several expressions touching the persons to whom the moneys are to be finally paid, has reference to the relation of such persons to the member at the time of his death. The language in the agreement of association, "to the families of deceased members, or their heirs," the proviso limiting payments upon designations to "heirs or members of the decedent's family," and the word "widow" in the next clause, are inconsistent with any other interpretation. Assuming then, but not deciding, that the validity of a designation is to be determined at the outset, with reference to the relation then existing between the member and his beneficiary, we think, to make it available after his death, there must then be a relation to the deceased such as is contemplated by the agreement of association and the by-laws relating to payment; and this view is strengthened by a consideration of the statute under which the association was organized. Pub. Sts. *c.* 115, §§ 2, 8. *Elsey* v. *Odd Fellows' Relief Association*, 142 Mass. 224.

At the time of the death of L. E. Tyler, his former wife, Etta A. Tyler, was not a member of his family nor one of his heirs, but her connection with him had been severed by the divorce. We therefore think she had lost her rights under the designation of her former husband, and was not entitled to anything from the defendant association after his death.

On June 10, 1885, L. E. Tyler attempted to change the designation in class A from Etta A. Tyler to Emily J. Cook, his sister, and in class C from his son to his son and his said sister, each

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one half. The attempted designations to his sister, who was neither a member of his family nor dependent upon him, were invalid for the reasons set forth in *Elsey* v. *Odd Fellows' Relief Association*, *ubi supra*.

The plaintiff, being his only son and heir at law, was entitled, either in that relation or as his designated beneficiary, to the entire fund in each class, and it becomes unnecessary to consider whether any of the attempted changes in designation were sufficiently approved by the defendant corporation.

But the defendant contends that the plaintiff's right to recover the balance has been barred by the acts of his guardian. This claim suggests two questions: Is the plaintiff concluded by a written contract? Is he barred by an estoppel *in pais?* His guardian, Reuben Waterman, acting under an appointment in Connecticut, had an interview with the president of the defendant corporation, in which he informed him that he thought the plaintiff was entitled to $2000. The president did not dispute that he was entitled to $500, but claimed the balance as belonging to Emily Jane Cook. It is fairly to be inferred from the report, that Waterman yielded readily to said claim, believing it to be well founded. There is nothing to indicate that he made any further assertion of his right, or that there was any controversy between the parties. Thereupon he was paid $500, and he signed, as guardian, a receipt for said sum containing these words: "which I hereby acknowledge to be in full of all demands or claims against said association which I now hold or to which I may be entitled as the assignee of L. E. Tyler, now deceased, and who was a member in class C in said association at the time of his death." Without considering whether a Connecticut guardian could bind his ward by a contract relating to property here, and assuming this to be in form a contract, and not a mere admission, we are of opinion that there was no consideration for an agreement not to claim the balance of the $2000 to which the plaintiff was entitled. It is well settled that the payment of a part for the whole of an ascertained and liquidated debt is not a sufficient consideration to support a promise to accept it as a full payment and satisfaction. *Harriman* v. *Harriman*, 12 Gray, 341. *Perkins* v. *Lockwood*, 100 Mass. 249. *Curran* v. *Rummell*, 118 Mass. 482. Where a controversy is compromised,

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or where the claim is for unliquidated damages, and the parties fix a sum which one agrees to pay and the other to receive as a final settlement of what was before undetermined, the rule is different. In such a case, the agreement of each is a good consideration for that of the other.

The writing in this case was apparently made under a mistake. The parties evidently supposed that the attempted designations of said Cook were valid, and that the plaintiff had no right to anything from class A. The word "assignee" relates to his connection by designation, and the description of the claim refers to class C. alone. In any event, therefore, the writing can only apply to the claim under the certificate in class C, and for the reasons above stated we think it cannot prevent the plaintiff's recovering the unpaid balance under that.

It remains to inquire whether the plaintiff is estopped by the conduct of his guardian from maintaining this bill. It appears that, when Waterman received the $500, he understood that the defendant association would pay the remaining $1500 to Mrs. Cook, and he made no objection thereto. An estoppel results from conduct which was intended to induce, and has induced, another to act to his disadvantage. It can only come from a successful effort to get one to change his situation. *Plumer* v. *Lord*, 9 Allen, 455. *Andrews* v. *Lyons*, 11 Allen, 349. *Turner* v. *Coffin*, 12 Allen, 401. *Carroll* v. *Manchester & Lawrence Railroad*, 111 Mass. 1. The act of the association by which its situation was changed to its detriment, and which is relied on as a foundation for an estoppel, was the payment of $1500 to Emily Jane Cook. It does not appear that Waterman had a wilful design to induce this act. On the other hand, the corporation seems to have proposed, and Waterman to have merely accepted, the payment to himself. It prepared a writing and sent it to him for his signature. He signed and returned it, and the draft was then sent him by mail. He passively assented to the arrangement which the corporation suggested. There is nothing to indicate that he received the plaintiff's money, and signed the receipt, with a view thereby to induce the making of a payment to said Cook. He seems rather to have understood that the corporation had decided for itself its action with reference to her, as well as to himself, and to have had no purpose

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beyond getting what he supposed belonged to his ward. If the plaintiff could have been estopped by conduct of his guardian in a transaction of this kind outside of the State of his appointment, which we do not intimate, an essential element of estoppel was wanting, and this defence cannot prevail.

The divorce having deprived the defendant Massure of her interest in the fund, and the designations to the defendant Cook being invalid, and nothing having occurred to bar a recovery by the plaintiff of the balance of the money belonging to him, there must be a decree in his favor against the defendant corporation for the sum of $1500, and interest; and as to the defendant Massure the bill may be dismissed. *Decree accordingly.*

MOUNT HERMON BOYS' SCHOOL *vs.* INHABITANTS OF GILL.

Franklin. Sept. 29. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

An institution organized under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 115, for the education of boys, owned a large farm, on which were the school buildings, two farm-houses, barns, and other buildings adapted for farm purposes, and live stock. The scholars, in addition to attending school, were required to work on the farm two or three hours a day, and were taught agriculture. The price of board and tuition was $100 a year for each scholar. The products of the farm and the live stock were for the most part consumed in furnishing food for the scholars, but others were sold or bartered and the proceeds applied to the maintenance of the school. *Held*, that, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 11, § 5, *cl.* 3, the whole of the property of the institution was exempt from taxation.

CONTRACT, in two counts. The first count was to recover $175.26, the amount of a tax assessed upon the real estate and personal property of the plaintiff on May 1, 1884, and paid under protest. The second count was to recover $179.79, the amount of a similar tax assessed on May 1, 1885, and also paid under protest. Answer, a general denial.

Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Brigham*, C. J., who found the following facts:

The plaintiff is an institution organized, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 115, on May 19, 1882, for the "education of boys," and its

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property consists of a farm of about four hundred acres, situate in the town of Gill, upon which are two farm-houses, barns, and other buildings adapted to farming purposes, cottages for lodgings, a building styled a recitation-hall, containing a chapel, school-rooms, library, and museum, and a building styled Crosby Hall, containing rooms for about two hundred students, and a dining-hall for the whole school. Of live stock, the property of the plaintiff, there were on the said farm oxen, horses, and swine, bred, reared, kept, and used on said farm; and all of said farm, excepting about ten acres, upon which are said school buildings and their near surroundings, and woodland, is used for tillage, pasture, and other agricultural purposes. Said corporation has no capital stock or stockholders, and has obtained its property by means of gifts of money from persons interested in the objects of the school, and such property is held and managed by fifteen persons, styled trustees, one of whom is president. There are also a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. A superintendent of said farm and school, and from ten to fifteen teachers, reside on the farm.

The purpose of the school is to provide a place where young men whose early education has been neglected can be instructed, their physical welfare cared for, and a practical knowledge of work, especially in agriculture, given, by requiring of each member of the school a certain amount, usually two or three hours per day, of manual labor on said farm. The aim of the industrial arrangements is not so much to secure pecuniary benefit as to provide for physical culture, teach how to do various kinds of farm work, form habits of industry, and inculcate right views of manual labor, and especially of agriculture. No person under the age of sixteen years, or not having health, mental ability, and moral character, can be admitted into said school. Boys admitted into the school are required to pay for board and tuition, each $100 per year, payable semiannually in advance. During vacations, the scholars may have occasional employment on said farm for wages, and during terms may also do extra work, for which they are paid. The maintenance of the school depends upon the moneys received from the board and tuition of its scholars, and the products of the farm. The farm is carried on substantially by the labor of the scholars of the

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school; and the products of the farm, excepting as hereinafter stated, are consumed in the school, for food of its scholars, fuel, &c. The products of the farm have been hay, corn, rye, potatoes and other vegetables, and butter and milk. The school went into operation in 1881, and has been maintained and carried on since in accordance with the purposes of its organization, as the same are herein stated.

Between May 1, 1884, and March 12, 1885, inclusive, there were sold for cash, or exchanged in barter, at current market prices, for other farm products and provisions, products and live stock of the farm to the amount and value of $1047.57, as follows: pork and live hogs, partly for cash and partly in exchange for beef, $180.47; five fat cows, not yielding milk, for cash, $160; two cows and their two calves, of imported Angus stock, on credit, of the value of $400; apples, for cash, $124.55; cucumbers, for cash, $26.30; butter, for cash, $11.75; calves, for cash, $9; calf-skins, for cash, $3.50; in barter with a girls' school at Northfield, for various farm products, $150. Cows and calves thus sold were part of the live stock kept and bred on the plaintiff's farm, and fed on its products. Of the hogs and pork thus sold on the farm, the hogs were bred, kept, and fed there upon its products, and upon swill derived from the boarding-house of the plaintiff, and were tended by the scholars. The butter and milk thus sold were the products of the cows kept on the farm and the labor of the scholars. The cucumbers and apples thus sold were also the product of the farm and the labor thereon of the scholars.

There is at Northfield, four miles from the plaintiff's school, a girls' school, to which is attached a farm, the products of which during the years 1884 and 1885 were interchanged with the products of the plaintiff's farm, at current market prices, for the mutual convenience of the two schools; and in this interchange the plaintiff furnished to the girls' school its farm products of the value of $150, and received from said girls' school its farm products of much larger amount and value, so that the balance of accounts arising out of such interchange of products was, in settlement of such accounts, always largely in favor of said girls' school. In the summer of 1885, there was a convocation of clergymen and religious persons, for religious objects,

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which continued during two weeks, on the premises of said girls' school; and for milk from the plaintiff's cows on its farm, furnished to said convocation, the plaintiff received in cash the sum of $72.80.

All the products and live stock of the plaintiff's farm disposed of by sale and barter were cultivated, gathered, and tended by the labor of the plaintiff's scholars; and all moneys received from their sale came to the hands of the plaintiff's treasurer, and were applied to the maintenance of the plaintiff's school. All farm products and provisions obtained by the barter of the plaintiff's farm products were consumed in the plaintiff's school, for the subsistence of its scholars or of the live stock on the plaintiff's farm. From the time when the plaintiff's school went into operation, the products of its farm have largely increased from year to year, but have never been sufficient for the needs of the school, or of the stock on the farm.

The assessors of the defendant town, in 1884, assessed taxes upon the plaintiff's personal property, consisting of the horses, oxen, cows, and swine on said farm, valued at $2934, in the sum of $34.62, and upon the plaintiff's real estate, consisting of three hundred and twenty-three acres of the land of the said farm, and the two farm-houses, wood-house, two barns, two sheds, two tobacco barns, and milk-house, valued at $11,755, in the sum of $138.70. The defendant's bill for these taxes, amounting to $175.26, was paid to the defendant's tax collector by the plaintiff's treasurer, on February 27, 1885, after due demand, but under protest, in writing, that said taxes had been illegally assessed.

The assessors of the defendant town, in 1885, assessed taxes upon the same personal property on the plaintiff's farm, valued at $2517, in the sum of $31.69, and upon the same real estate and buildings, valued at $11,755, in the sum of $148.10, and these taxes of 1885, amounting in all to $179.79, were duly demanded by the defendant's tax collector of the plaintiff's treasurer, who paid the same, with a written protest that the same were illegally assessed. No question was made as to the sufficiency of said demands and protests.

In 1884 and in 1885, the defendant assessed no taxes on any of plaintiff's buildings on its said farm having in them rooms

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used for school purposes, or for dormitories for scholars, or for eating-rooms, or for recitation-rooms, or for lodging of teachers, or on the superintendent's house, the chapel, or the library.

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In 1884, the defendant owed a debt of $10,000, contracted prior to 1882 in contributing to the cost of erecting a bridge over the Connecticut River, and duly raised money by taxation in 1884, including the taxes in suit, to pay interest on said debt. The defendant at the town meeting in March, 1885, duly voted to pay and to appropriate money raised by taxation, and to pay $1000 of said debt of $10,000, and duly raised money by such taxation in 1885, including the taxes in suit.

Upon these facts the judge ruled that the action could not be maintained, and ordered judgment for the defendant. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

C. C. Conant, for the plaintiff.

J. A. Aiken, for the defendant. 1. If any portion of the plaintiff's real estate or personal property was liable to taxation, this action cannot be maintained. The proper remedy is an application for an abatement. Pub. Sts. *c.* 11, § 69. *Bourne* v. *Boston*, 2 Gray, 494, 496. *Chapel of the Good Shepherd* v. *Boston*, 120 Mass. 212.

It certainly requires a very liberal interpretation of the statute to hold that the two tobacco barns, a part of the property for which the plaintiff claims exemption, are property appropriate for a literary, educational, charitable, scientific, or religious institution. No taxes were assessed in 1884 or 1885 upon buildings having in them rooms used for school purposes, or for dormitories for scholars, or for eating-rooms, or for lodging of teachers, or on the superintendent's house, the chapel, or the library. The defendant seeks to hold subject to taxation only the farm and farming stock.

2. It appears in the exceptions that the defendant town, prior to the incorporation of the plaintiff, had contracted a debt in contributing to the cost of erecting a bridge over the Connecticut River; that this debt was still outstanding in 1884 and 1885; and that a portion of the taxes assessed upon the plaintiff's property, and in suit in this action, was to raise money to pay the interest upon the debt in 1884, and a part of the principal in 1885. The real estate of every inhabitant of Gill was security

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for the payment of the debt, and might have been taken upon an execution on a judgment against the town on account of this debt. *Hill* v. *Boston*, 122 Mass. 344, 349. Until this debt is paid, the real estate of the plaintiff is a part of the security holden for the town's liability, and it should bear its proportion of the money raised by taxation on account of that debt.

3. The plaintiff claims exemption from taxation under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 11, § 5, *cl.* 3. It is not entitled to avail itself of that exemption, because its property has not been occupied for the purposes for which it was organized, and because a portion of its estate has been used for other than literary, educational, benevolent, charitable, scientific, or religious purposes.

The plaintiff, during a period extending from May 1, 1884, into the summer of 1885, disposed of various products of the farm and of the farming stock, by way of sale and barter, at current market prices, to the amount of more than $1100. It is immaterial whether these products were sold, bartered, or exchanged. At law the nature and effect of the transaction are the same. *Commonwealth* v. *Clark*, 14 Gray, 367, 372. Neither can it make any difference that the other parties to the transfer were in some of the instances a girls' school of similar objects and systems, and clergymen and religious persons.

A statute which exempts property from taxation is to be strictly construed. Taxation is the rule, exemption the exception. Such special privileges are in conflict with the universal obligation of all to contribute a just proportion toward the public burden. The burden of proof is upon every person who claims exemption, to show that his case comes clearly within the exception. If any doubt arises as to the exemption, it must operate most strongly against the party claiming the exception. *Redemptorist Fathers* v. *Boston*, 129 Mass. 178.

The plaintiff, besides being a literary, benevolent, charitable, scientific, or religious institution, has been a seller of farm produce for gain. That the sales have been small is no defence; the question is not one of degree. If the plaintiff may dispose of farm produce, at current market rates, to the amount of more than $1000 during the years in question, why may it not, when the farm's productiveness is increased, dispose of $10,000 worth, or of $100,000 worth, in the same way, provided the proceeds are

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used for the benefit of the school? Why, also, may it not, in furtherance of its project of furnishing an industrial education, establish, in addition to its farm, a woollen mill to clothe its pupils with wool grown upon the farm, and a shoe shop to shoe them with hides there produced, and sell the surplus products of such manufactories, and, using the proceeds for the maintenance of its school, contend that such appropriation is for literary, educational, benevolent, charitable, scientific, or religious purposes, and so the plaintiff is exempt? The statute never intended such proceedings, yet such will be the inevitable result, if the plaintiff is allowed to prevail in this action.

. The plaintiff will urge that many of the products of its farm are of a perishable nature, like butter, milk, eggs, and apples, and some of them of a nature unavailable for school purposes, as the hides of animals, and that the only way for the school to utilize such products is to sell them or trade them off. The answer to this position is, that, if the plaintiff chooses in the management of its school to have an annex, like a farm, which obliges it to enter the market as a seller of goods, the plaintiff must bear the same burdens that other sellers bear, namely, pay taxes. The plaintiff is not obliged to maintain its farm.

In *Wesleyan Academy* v. *Wilbraham*, 99 Mass. 599, Chief Justice Chapman recognizes distinctly that the plaintiff's property would not have been exempt "if the plaintiffs carried on their farm and sold the produce at its market price for the use of the students, in order to make a profit as farmers or dealers in milk and vegetables."

The plaintiff must take the position, that, because the things or the money received in exchange for the plaintiff's produce were ultimately applied to the maintenance of the plaintiff's school, there is a compliance with the spirit of the statute. Such a view cannot be maintained. *Lowell Meeting-House* v. *Lowell*, 1 Met. 538. *Pierce* v. *Cambridge*, 2 Cush. 611. *Chapel of the Good Shepherd* v. *Boston*, *ubi supra*. *Lynn Workingmen's Association* v. *Lynn*, 136 Mass. 283.

The plaintiff, being a corporation organized for the "education of boys," is authorized to make such purchases as are necessary, but it cannot be a seller or trader of farm produce. If it chooses to put produce upon the market, it should pay taxes. To hold

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otherwise is to give a bounty or subsidy to the plaintiff, enabling it to undersell neighboring producers among the inhabitants of the defendant town, whose burdens are thereby augmented by having to bear the increased taxation and competition.

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KNOWLTON, J. The defendant very properly conceded, at the argument, that the plaintiff was one of the institutions to which certain exemptions from taxation were granted by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 11, § 5, *cl.* 3. The first question under this clause is whether the plaintiff's real estate which was taxed was occupied for the purpose for which the plaintiff was incorporated; and, inasmuch as the incorporation was under the general law, the second question is, under the last part of said clause, whether any portion of the taxed property, real or personal, was "used or appropriated" at the time of taxation "for other than literary, educational, benevolent, charitable, or religious purposes."

The purpose of the plaintiff's incorporation was the "education of boys." Education is a broad and comprehensive term. It has been defined as "the process of developing and training the powers and capabilities of human beings." To educate, according to one of Webster's definitions, is "to prepare and fit for any calling or business, or for activity and usefulness in life." Education may be particularly directed to either the mental, moral, or physical powers and faculties, but in its broadest and best sense it relates to them all. The plaintiff's trustees did not exceed their authority under their certificate of incorporation when they established an institution one of whose purposes was, according to the facts found, "to provide a place where young men, whose early education has been neglected, can be instructed, their physical welfare cared for, and a practical knowledge of work, especially in agriculture, given, by requiring of each member of the school a certain amount, usually two or three hours per day, of manual labor on said farm." It appears further in the facts, that "the aim of the industrial arrangements is not so much to secure pecuniary benefit as to provide for physical culture, teach how to do various kinds of farm work, form habits of industry, and inculcate right views of manual labor, and especially of agriculture."

The plaintiff's farm consists of about four hundred acres of land, upon which, besides the buildings containing the chapel,

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school-rooms, library, museum, cottages for lodging, general dormitory for two hundred pupils, and dining-hall, there are two farm-houses, barns, and other buildings adapted to farm purposes. The farm was used for tillage, pasture, and other agricultural purposes, and "oxen, horses, and swine were bred, reared, kept, and used on it." "No person under the age of sixteen years, or not having health, mental ability, and moral character, can be admitted into the school." The farm was mainly carried on by the labor of the scholars of the school, and the products of the farm were for the most part consumed in said school. The animals kept on the farm were tended by the plaintiff's scholars. During the year following May 1, 1884, products and live stock of the farm were sold for cash, or exchanged in barter at current market rates, amounting in value to $1047.57. These appear to have been articles not desired for consumption. Of this amount $400 was received for two cows of imported stock and their two calves. Pork and hogs were exchanged in part for beef, and there were other products incidental to the management of the farm, some of them perishable, which apparently were not needed for use in the school.

The use of the farm and of the personal property upon it resulted beneficially to the plaintiff in three different ways. First, it furnished for the scholars the field, objects, and materials necessary for their physical training and practical study of agriculture, in connection with manual labor and the general development referred to in the above-quoted statement of the purposes and aims of the school. Secondly, it provided food for the pupils and teachers who were in attendance, and contributed directly to the economical support of the scholars, which was an important object of the institution. Thirdly, so far as the products of the farm were sold, the plaintiff presumably obtained profit, and to that extent replenished its treasury. The use of the property to accomplish either of the first two results would be for the purpose for which the corporation was formed, within the meaning of the statute we are considering, and would leave the whole exempt from taxation; the use of it to accomplish the last would not.

To an institution of learning attempting to furnish practical education in agriculture, and to give boys physical development

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by manual labor, a farm is as necessary as are chemicals and chemical apparatus to a teacher of chemistry. And a farm cannot be managed without the personal property properly appertaining to it. So, too, in connection with a boarding-school situated as this was, the corporation's use of the farm to raise provisions for its scholars is to be distinguished from the use of it to increase the funds in its treasury, and thereby enable it to do its charitable work. This distinction is well marked in *Wesleyan Academy* v. *Wilbraham*, 99 Mass. 599, and in *Chapel of the Good Shepherd* v. *Boston*, 120 Mass. 212. See also *Monticello Female Seminary* v. *People*, 106 Ill. 398.

The purpose referred to in the statute contemplates the direct and immediate result of the use of the property, and not the consequential benefit to be derived from the improvement of it. Where one of the objects of an institution of learning is charitable, and boys are required to pay only a part of the cost of their education, — as, in this case, only $100 a year for board and tuition, — the corporation may own its property, and use it directly in the education of its pupils, as well when the property is land upon which provisions are raised for their sustenance, as when it is real estate occupied by the houses in which they dwell. But if it seeks to promote its educational and charitable objects by obtaining profit from its property and filling its treasury for future use, that purpose is not within the exempting clause. The practical difficulty in cases of this kind is to ascertain the purpose for which the real estate is occupied; when that is determined, the result is reached.

In this case, the plaintiff's purpose in the use of its farm must be ascertained from its conduct, — its acts and the declarations accompanying them. Its general purposes in establishing the institution under the authority of its certificate of incorporation are very fully set forth in the facts reported. One was to teach the boys, among other things, agriculture. Another was to furnish them board and instruction at a small charge. Getting money and supplying the treasury was not one of the purposes for which the institution was founded. It was merely a means by which those purposes were to be accomplished.

Was this farm practically used to teach the boys agriculture, and give them physical training, and furnish them manual labor

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as a part of their education? Was it used to furnish supplies directly to this boarding-school, and so lessen the cost of education there? Or was it, on the other hand, used to produce revenue, and earn income which might afterward be expended for the school? It seems to us that the farm and the property upon it were used in the legitimate management of the school, directly to accomplish its purposes, and not to obtain money for subsequent use in accomplishing them. The fact that products were sold is a circumstance important only so far as it characterizes the use. We think that the sales were merely incidental to a use for the purposes of the institution. If certain valuable chemicals are produced in a school by practical instruction in chemistry, and are subsequently sold instead of being wasted, that does not change the character of the use of the apparatus and of the original ingredients employed. And if a farm is set apart and cultivated to supply food for a family or community, it does not cease to be used for that purpose because, in the economical management of it, there are certain products which cannot be utilized otherwise than by sale.

The same considerations apply to the last question under the statute, whether any portion of the property was "used or appropriated for other than literary, educational, benevolent, charitable, or religious purposes." So long as the personal property was held by the plaintiff, it was not used otherwise than incidentally to the use of the farm, and so was not liable to taxation. The subsequent sale of it had no retroactive effect to subject it to assessment. Unless restrained by special provisions of law, any institution may sell its property which is exempt from taxation, and properly dispose of the proceeds.

The sale of farm products is ordinarily evidence that a farm is used for profit, and in most cases it would deprive a party of the exemption here claimed; but under the peculiar facts of this case we deem it unimportant, and hold that the ruling that the action could not be maintained was erroneous.

Exceptions sustained.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* DENNIS SHURN.

Worcester. October 3. — 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A copy of a material paper is admissible in evidence against one who, having the original in his possession, fails to produce it on notice.

At the trial of a complaint against A. for the sale of intoxicating liquor to B. at W., there was evidence that B. asked C. to get him some liquor when he went to M.; that the quantity ordered was delivered to B. at W.; and that he then paid for it and took a receipt for the money, which receipt purported to be a bill from A., signed in his name by D. There was also evidence that, at the trial in the district court, when A. was present, his counsel took possession of the receipt, and claimed the right to retain it, and refused to produce it, on notice, at the trial in the Superior Court. *Held*, that there was sufficient evidence to sustain the complaint.

COMPLAINT to the Central District Court of Worcester, for the sale at Worcester, on June 5, 1886, of intoxicating liquor to one John Buckley.

At the trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Staples*, J., it was admitted that the defendant had a fourth class license, authorizing the sale of spirituous and intoxicating liquors in the town of Millbury at the time alleged in the complaint, and that no licenses were granted in Worcester for the year beginning May 1, 1886.

John Buckley, mentioned in the complaint, testified as follows: "I live in Worcester. I do not know the defendant. On June 5, 1886, I gave a verbal order to Mr. Reardon for some porter; told him if he went to Millbury to send it. I received a half-barrel of porter and receipted for it. It was brought in the evening to me in Worcester. I paid the person who brought it four or five dollars for it. I do not know that I ever saw him before or since. I took a receipt, which I put in a little room. The officers made a raid subsequently, and took it. The officers took the porter at the same time. The porter was delivered to me in the cellar of No. 85, corner of Market and Summer streets."

There was also evidence that a receipt was found at the house of John Buckley when the officers made a search, which read as follows: "Millbury, Mass., June 5, 1886. T. McGillicuddy to Dennis Shurn, Jr., Dr. To ½ bbl. porter $4.50. Received payment, D. Shurn, Jr., by J. Harper;" that this receipt was

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produced at the trial in the district court, and the defendant's counsel asked for it in the presence of the defendant, and, on its being handed to him, said he would retain it; that there was no T. McGillicuddy on Market Street in Worcester; and that the defendant in another case had pleaded to the name of Dennis Shurn, Jr.

The district attorney called upon the defendant and his counsel to produce the original receipt. The receipt was not produced, the defendant's counsel saying, "I do not know as I have it." The government was allowed to put in evidence a copy of said receipt, against the objection of the defendant, and subject to his exception.

The defendant asked the judge to rule that the foregoing evidence was insufficient in law to sustain the complaint. The judge refused so to rule, and the defendant excepted.

Among other requests for rulings the defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury as follows: "1. If the defendant received an order at his place of business in Millbury, with directions to forward the order to the consignee by his teamster, and he did so forward it, that would be a sale in Millbury. 2. If the defendant received an order at his place of business in Millbury, and filled the order, and, without any special directions, sent the goods to the person giving the order by his servant, that is not a sale in Worcester, but a sale in Millbury. 3. If the defendant received an order from a customer in Worcester, at his place of business in Millbury, either from the customer or from another person for him, or by mail, or in any way, and for cash or upon credit put up the order for his customer, and then by his servant sent it to his customer, that would not be a sale in Worcester."

The judge declined to give the rulings requested, stating that the third request was not based on the actual state of the evidence.

The judge instructed the jury, that, if the parties understood and intended that the title to the porter should not pass till it was delivered to and paid for by John Buckley, and it was so delivered to and paid for by him in Worcester, then the jury was warranted in finding that the sale was in Worcester.

The judge further instructed the jury, that it was for them to say whether the receipt was identified as the one given Buckley

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when the porter was delivered to him; that the receipt, if identified, did not of itself prove or tend to prove that Harper delivered the porter, or that he was the agent of the defendant in so doing, or that the porter came from the defendant; and that the evidence as to what took place in the court below, when the original receipt was produced, was to be considered by the jury, upon the question whether the defendant, by his acts or conduct, then and there admitted the receipt to be his receipt, given by his authority, and as a voucher for the payment set forth therein, or else admitted the same to be a paper in the suppression of which, as evidence in this case, he had an interest.

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The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. Hopkins, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

DEVENS, J. The defendant excepted to the admission in evidence of a copy of a certain receipt, purporting to be from Shurn, by one Harper, of the price of a certain half-barrel of porter. If the receipt itself would have been admissible as material upon the issue of the guilt of the defendant, it having been shown to have been taken into the possession of the defendant and his counsel, and they having refused to produce it, a copy was admissible. *Commonwealth* v. *Goldstein*, 114 Mass. 272.

The defendant further excepted to the refusal of the court to rule that there was no evidence sufficient in law to sustain the complaint. There was evidence that Buckley ordered, by one Reardon, porter from Millbury; that the quantity ordered was delivered to him in Worcester; that it was there paid for by him; and that he took a receipt for the amount paid from the man who delivered it to him. This was sufficient evidence of a sale in Worcester, although not of a sale by the defendant. While the receipt, if identified as the one delivered to Buckley, which purported to be signed by one Harper for the defendant, did not of itself prove that Harper was entitled to act for the defendant, or that the porter came from the defendant, it was for the jury to say whether the original receipt was thus identified, and whether, when produced at the trial in the district court, the defendant had by his acts and conduct admitted it to be his, or as given by his authority as a voucher for the payment set forth

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therein, or that he then endeavored to suppress a paper which would have afforded one step in the evidence against him. If so, evidence was afforded that the sale was made by him through his agent Harper. At the trial in the district court, Buckley made no claim to the original receipt. When it was produced, the defendant was present with his counsel; and the latter in the defendant's presence asked for it, then insisted on his right to retain it, did so, and at the subsequent trial in the Superior Court, although the receipt was demanded by the prosecuting attorney, it was not produced. This was an assertion of a claim, made in the defendant's presence by his counsel, of his right to this paper as his own property as against the government, and, when connected with the contents of the paper, affords some evidence that the transaction with Buckley was a sale made by the defendant through his agent.

To the other rulings and refusals to rule no exception was taken. *Exceptions overruled.*

JACOB H. FAIRBANKS *vs.* MARGARET P. SNOW.

Worcester. October 3. — 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action by the payee against the maker of a promissory note, it is no defence, that the defendant, a married woman, was induced to sign the note by threats made to her by her husband, if the payee took the note in ignorance thereof.

HOLMES, J. This is an action upon a promissory note made by the defendant and her husband to the order of the plaintiff. The defendant alleges that her signature was obtained by duress and threats on the part of her husband. The judge below found for the plaintiff, on the ground, it would rather seem, that, whether there was duress or not, the defendant had ratified the note, which there seems to have been evidence tending to prove. See *Morse* v. *Wheeler*, 4 Allen, 570; *Rau* v. *Von Zedlitz*, 132 Mass. 164. But as this may not be quite clear, we proceed to consider the only exception taken by the defendant. The judge refused to rule that, if the defendant signed the note

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under duress, it was immaterial whether the plaintiff knew, when he received the note, that it was so signed. The exception is to this refusal.

No doubt, if the defendant's hand had been forcibly taken and compelled to hold the pen and write her name, and the note had been carried off and delivered, the signature and delivery would not have been her acts; and if the signature and delivery had not been her acts, for whatever reason, no contract would have been made, whether the plaintiff knew the facts or not. There sometimes still is shown an inclination to put all cases of duress upon this ground. *Barry* v. *Equitable Life Assurance Society*, 59 N. Y. 587, 591. But duress, like fraud, rarely, if ever, becomes material as such, except on the footing that a contract or conveyance has been made which the party wishes to avoid. It is well settled that where, as usual, the so-called duress consists only of threats, the contract is only voidable. *Foss* v. *Hildreth*, 10 Allen, 76, 80. *Vinton* v. *King*, 4 Allen, 562, 565. *Lewis* v. *Bannister*, 16 Gray, 500. *Fisher* v. *Shattuck*, 17 Pick. 252. *Worcester* v. *Eaton*, 13 Mass. 371, 375. *Whelpdale's case*, 5 Rep. 119 a. 1 Bl. Com. 130.

This rule necessarily excludes from the common law the often recurring notion just referred to, and much debated by the civilians, that an act done under compulsion is not an act in a legal sense. *Tamen coactus volui.* D. 4. 2. 21, § 5. See 1 Windscheid, Pandekten, § 80.

Again, the ground upon which a contract is voidable for duress is the same as in the case of fraud; and is, that, whether it springs from a fear or from a belief, the party has been subjected to an improper motive for action. See *Rodliff* v. *Dallinger*, 141 Mass. 1, 6; *Stiff* v. *Keith*, 143 Mass. 224. But if duress and fraud are so far alike, there seems to be no sufficient reason why the limits of their operation should be different. A party to a contract has no concern with the motives of the other party for making it, if he neither knows them nor is responsible for their existence. It is plain that the unknown fraud of a stranger would not prevent the plaintiff from holding the defendant. *Master* v. *Miller*, 4 T. R. 320, 338. *Masters* v. *Ibberson*, 8 C. B. 100. *Sturge* v. *Starr*, 2 Myl. & K. 195. *Pulsford* v. *Richards*, 17 Beav. 87, 95. *White* v. *Graves*, 107 Mass. 325.

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The authorities with regard to duress, however, are not quite so clear. It is said in *Thoroughgood's case*, 2 Rep. 9, that "if a stranger menace A. to make a deed to B., A. shall avoid the deed which he made by such threats, as well as if B. himself had threatened him, as it is adjudged 45 E. 3. 6." Sheppard, Touchstone, 61, is to like effect. See also *Fowler* v. *Butterly*, 78 N. Y. 68. But in Y. B. 43 E. III. 6, pl. 15, which we suppose to be the case referred to, it was alleged that the defendant was imprisoned by the procurement of the plaintiff. And we know of no distinct adjudication of binding authority that mere threats by a stranger, made without knowledge or privity of the party, are good ground for avoiding a contract induced by them.

In Keilwey, 154 a, pl. 3, "the defendant in debt pleaded that he made the obligation to the plaintiff by duress of imprisonment [on the part] of a stranger, and the opinion of Rede and others was that this is not a plea without making the obligee party to this duress."

In *Taylor* v. *Jaques*, 106 Mass. 291, 294, it was said that the defendant had to prove that he signed the note "under a reasonable and well-grounded belief, derived from the conduct and declarations of the plaintiffs, that if he did not sign it he would be arrested," &c. See *Green* v. *Scranage*, 19 Iowa, 461, 466; *Talley* v. *Robinson*, 22 Grat. 888; *Bazemore* v. *Freeman*, 58 Ga. 276; and the cases as to purchasers for value; *Clark* v. *Pease*, 41 N. H. 414; *Duncan* v. *Scott*, 1 Camp. 100. See also *Gilbert* v. *Stone*, Aleyn, 35; *S. C.* Style, 72; *Scott* v. *Shepherd*, 2 W. Bl. 892, 896.

Loomis v. *Ruck*, 56 N. Y. 462, was decided on the ground that, if the non-negotiable note in suit was in the first instance a contract between the plaintiff and the defendant, it was obtained through the agency of the defendant's husband in such a way as to make the plaintiff answerable for his conduct. Moreover, the older writers likened duress to infancy, and took a distinction between feoffments, &c. by the party's own hand, and acts done by letter of attorney, regarding the latter as wholly void. 2 Inst. 483. Finch, Law, 102. It has been held in New York and some other States, as well as in England, that a power of attorney given by an infant is void. *Fonda* v. *Van Horne*, 15 Wend. 631. *Knox* v. *Flack*, 22 Penn. St. 337. *Saunderson* v. *Marr*,

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1 H. Bl. 75. And if this supposed analogy were followed, the contracts in all the New York cases which we have cited would be void by the law of that State for want of a personal delivery by the defendant to the plaintiff. There may be still other explanations of the decisions.

In the present case it does not appear who delivered the note, and does not clearly appear that the defendant did not deliver it herself. The distinction as to powers of attorney has been limited, if not wholly done away with, in Massachusetts, in regard to infants. *Whitney* v. *Dutch*, 14 Mass. 457, 463. *Welch* v. *Welch*, 103 Mass. 562. *Moley* v. *Brine*, 120 Mass. 324. But we express no opinion as to the effect of duress upon such powers, oral or written.

On the case as it is presented to us, we are of opinion that the ruling requested was wrong upon principle and authority.

Exceptions overruled.

A. Norcross & H. C. Hartwell, (*C. F. Baker* with them,) for the defendant.

W. S. B. Hopkins & S. Haynes, for the plaintiff.

CHARLES W. WHITNEY, administrator, *vs.* JAMES CLARY.

Worcester. October 3.—20, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action on a promissory note, payable to A. and purporting to be signed by B. by his mark and to be witnessed, on the issue of the genuineness of the defendant's signature, the attesting witness testified that A. and B. were in the room adjoining the one he was in, the door being ajar; that A. wrote the note and read it to B.; that he was then called in to witness the note; that A. said, "This is B. who is giving his note, and I want you to witness it;" and that the witness then took the pen out of B.'s hand, read the note, and then witnessed it. *Held*, that the testimony was sufficient to warrant the jury in finding that B. duly signed the note.

When the signature to a promissory note is proved, the note itself is *prima facie* evidence of consideration.

In an action on a promissory note, to which the defence was want of consideration, it appeared that the payee held a note of a son of the maker, and that the maker was the administrator of his son's estate and his only heir, and gave the note in suit in renewal of the old note. *Held*, that, even if the old note could not have been enforced at law at the time the new note was given, there was sufficient evidence of consideration for the new note.

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CONTRACT, by the administrator of the estate of John H. Davis, upon a promissory note for $378, dated at Sterling on March 16, 1883, payable to the order of said Davis, purporting to be signed by the defendant by his mark, and to be witnessed by Susan P. Goodell, and containing the words "for value received." The note bore the following indorsement: "March 16, 1883, received $7." Writ dated August 5, 1886. Answer: 1. A general denial. 2. A denial of the genuineness of the signature. 3. Want of consideration.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff proved his appointment as administrator of the estate of John H. Davis, and testified that he found the note in suit among the papers of the intestate.

Susan P. Goodell testified as follows: "I kept house for John H. Davis, at Sterling, from 1881 to 1885. James Clary came to the farm at Sterling where Davis lived. They were in the dining-room adjoining the kitchen. I was in the kitchen, and the door was ajar between the rooms. Davis wrote the note. I heard him read it to Clary, then he stepped to the door and wanted me to put my name on the note to witness it. I went in there. I remember I took the pen out of Clary's hand and wrote with the same pen. I did not see Clary do anything with the pen. Davis said, 'This is Mr. Clary, William's father, who is taking up William's note, giving his, and I want you to witness it.' I signed the note. I read the note before I witnessed it. It was in the same condition then as now."

On cross-examination, the witness testified as follows: "Davis told me it was a renewal of William Clary's note. Davis said he wanted a renewal because William had died. I do not remember that James Clary said anything. After I signed the note I immediately left the room. I was in the room only a short time. I do not know of any money being paid that day. I knew the amount of the note at the time, but have forgotten it. I cannot testify to anything upon the note other than my handwriting. The rest of the note other than my name is in Davis's handwriting."

This was all the material testimony offered by the plaintiff to prove the signature to the note. The plaintiff then offered the

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note in evidence. The judge allowed the note to be put in evidence against the defendant's objection. The plaintiff then rested his case.

The defendant then testified as follows: "I did not know Davis till my boy William went to work for him eleven or twelve years ago. All the dealing I ever had with Davis was when I went to see my boy, and bought a cow, and gave my note for $50. I could not pay this note all at once, so I paid it in two payments. I think I paid $40 the first time, and gave him a new note for the balance, and he kept it till I paid the balance; it was for the cow. I never signed a note for the renewal of William's note. Saw Davis when I paid the balance for cow. I did not see Mrs. Goodell, and saw no one in the room. I did not stay long. I never got any money from Davis. I never saw Susan P. Goodell at Davis's house, and never knew of her witnessing any note or other instrument signed by me. My son's name was William Henry Clary. He died ten years ago last April. William borrowed $400 from Davis, and gave his note, and used the money in building a house upon real estate owned by him. I do not know if Davis held this note when he died. I do not know what became of it. I have not received it from Davis since my son died. I never had any talk with Davis about this note before or since William died. The only transaction I ever had with him was when I bought the cow and gave a note for it. I did not go there any time when Davis wrote a note and read it to me. Nothing was said to me about taking up William's note. I was the administrator of William Clary's estate. The date of administration was April 18, 1876.

The defendant then put in evidence the letter of administration on William H. Clary's estate, but there was no evidence of any further probate proceedings after the issuing of the letter of administration. It appeared that the defendant was the only heir of his son William, who, at the time of his decease, owned the real estate upon which he had used the money lent him by Davis. There was evidence that shortly before this action was brought, and since the death of Davis, the defendant had conveyed certain real estate to one of his sons for a nominal consideration.

This was all the material evidence offered to prove consideration of said note.

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The defendant asked the judge to rule that the plaintiff had not offered any evidence which would warrant the jury in finding that there was any consideration for said note, or that would warrant a verdict for the plaintiff. The judge declined so to rule, and submitted the case to the jury, with instructions as to the *prima facie* proof supplied by the note itself if its execution was proved, as to the burden of proof, and as to the right of the jury to determine upon the whole case the evidential value of this *prima facie* proof; which instructions were not excepted to.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount of said note and interest; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. W. Corcoran & T. F. Gallagher, for the defendant.

A. Norcross & H. C. Hartwell, (*C. F. Baker* with them,) for the plaintiff.

MORTON, C. J. The testimony of the witness Goodell, if believed, was sufficient to justify the jury in finding that the note in suit was duly signed by the defendant, and that it was attested by the witness, with the knowledge of the defendant, and as a part of the same transaction with the making of the note. *Swazey* v. *Allen*, 115 Mass. 594, and cases cited. The defendant contradicted this witness, but it was for the jury to decide which was entitled to credit.

The signature of the defendant and the delivery of the note having been proved, the note itself was *prima facie* evidence of consideration.

But in this case there was evidence which would justify the jury in finding that the note in suit was given to take up and cancel an old note signed by the defendant's son and held by the plaintiff's intestate. The surrender of this note, even if it could not be enforced at law, was a sufficient consideration for the new note. *Wilton* v. *Eaton*, 127 Mass. 174. The case before us is much stronger in favor of the plaintiff than was the case of *Wilton* v. *Eaton*. In the case at bar, the defendant was the administrator and only heir of his son. He filed no bond as administrator, and nothing appears to show that his son's note, at the time of its surrender, could not be enforced against his estate.

Exceptions overruled.

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CHARLES H. BRACKENRIDGE *vs.* CITY OF FITCHBURG.
NELLIE M. BRACKENRIDGE *vs.* SAME.

Worcester. October 4. — 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

It cannot be ruled, as matter of law, that a person who is driving a blind horse on a dark and rainy night cannot maintain an action against a town for an injury occasioned by a defect in a highway while so driving.

TWO ACTIONS OF TORT for injuries occasioned to the plaintiffs by reason of an alleged defect in North Street in Fitchburg. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in substance as follows:

North Street is a side street leading from Main Street, and substantially level, and at the place of the accident the land upon each side of the location of the highway is low and wet. It appeared that the plaintiffs, who are husband and wife, on March 31, 1885, left their house in the evening, intending to go to a concert at the Opera House; that they were riding in an open buggy, the husband being the driver of the horse; that their house is on the outskirts of the city, about a mile from the Opera House on Main Street; and that in going to the Opera House they were driving along North Street when the horse suddenly went into a hole in the street, the left side of the wagon went down, the wagon was soon thrown over, and the plaintiffs were thrown out, and suffered the injuries complained of. It was raining a little, and "quite dark," at the time of the accident.

The evidence showed that there had been rains and a thaw a few days before the accident, which melted the snow, and that the frost was coming out of the ground; that the defect complained of consisted of a channel or ditch about three feet wide and two feet deep, and from forty to sixty feet long, about in the line of the left wheel ruts of the street, which had been caused by the water undermining the street and causing the street to cave in.

It appeared that the plaintiff Charles H. Brackenridge had owned the horse for about five years, and that for two years prior to the accident the horse had been totally blind, but was otherwise safe, and had been in constant use by himself and

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family. The plaintiff testified that he was at the time driving at the rate of about five miles an hour, and there was some evidence that he was driving faster than this.

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The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury, that, under the circumstances stated, a blind horse was not a safe and suitable horse to drive on the highway, and that the plaintiffs could not recover. The judge declined so to rule, but instructed the jury upon this point as follows: "If the blindness of the horse rendered him unsafe or unsuitable to drive on the highway at this time and in this manner, the plaintiffs cannot recover; nor can they if their negligence or the unsafety of the horse in any way contributed to the injury.

The jury returned a verdict for each of the plaintiffs; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

E. P. Pierce, for the defendant.

G. A. Torrey, for the plaintiffs.

HOLMES, J. It is too plain for extended argument, that the court was right in refusing to rule, as matter of law, that the plaintiffs could not recover for a defect in the highway because they were driving a blind horse on a dark night. See *Smith* v. *Wildes*, 143 Mass. 556; *Wright* v. *Templeton*, 132 Mass. 49; *Daniels* v. *Lebanon*, 58 N. H. 284. It was for the jury to consider how dark the night was. They might have found that the plaintiffs could see the road. They might have found that a horse with sound eyes could not have done so. Whatever the degree of darkness, it was for the jury to say whether the horse's possession of sight would have diminished appreciably the chances of the accident, and it was at least open to them to find that the plaintiffs had a right to assume that the city had done its duty, and therefore that they were not bound to provide against its possible neglect. See *Thompson* v. *Bridgewater*, 7 Pick. 188; *Learoyd* v. *Godfrey*, 138 Mass. 315, 324; *Smith* v. *Wildes*, *ubi supra*; *Glidden* v. *Reading*, 38 Vt. 52, 57.

Exceptions overruled.

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JOHN MILLER *vs.* TIMOTHY SHAY.

Worcester. October 4. — 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A book of original entries kept by a man who is unable to write, and in which the only entries are straight marks, is admissible in evidence, when supported by his suppletory oath.

If goods are delivered by a servant, and his entries or marks are transferred to the master's account-book, the servant is a competent and necessary witness to support the charges and to prove the delivery.

CONTRACT, upon an account annexed, for two hundred and fifty-three loads of sand, at forty cents a load. After the former decision, reported 142 Mass. 598, the case was tried in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff testified that he made a contract with the defendant to supply sand to be used in building, at forty cents a load; that he delivered some of the loads himself, and employed his son, and one McCann and Joseph Pratt to draw and deliver other loads; that, when he himself delivered any, he put a straight mark in a small account-book for each load; that when McCann or Pratt worked, each of them marked daily the number of loads each drew on the side of the cart, and reported the number to the plaintiff, who made corresponding marks in his book, and the marks on the cart were then rubbed out; that the number of loads drawn by Pratt, McCann, and himself amounted to two hundred and fourteen; that he could not write, and could read but little; and that he had received from the defendant on account the sum of $65.

Joseph Pratt testified that he drew some of the sand in question for the plaintiff; that he always gave in the account every day to the plaintiff; and that he kept it by a chalk mark on his wagon for every load he drew. Against the objection and exception of the defendant, the witness was allowed to testify that every day he drew sand he counted the marks for the sand drawn that day, and reported to the plaintiff the number; that he reported to him correctly the number of loads drawn each day; and that this continued all the time he drew sand there, some three months.

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Edward McCann testified that he drew some of the sand, under the plaintiff's direction; that when he drew a load of sand he always marked it down on the side-board of the cart, and at night reported to the plaintiff how many he had drawn; that he reported correctly each day; and that after the report Miller rubbed out the marks.

William Miller, son of the plaintiff, testified that he drew some of the sand, thirty-five loads, and kept an account of it himself (the account was produced and identified); that the handwriting was his; and that he kept the account with book and pencil of the number of loads he drew.

The plaintiff offered in evidence the book first mentioned, being the one kept by him. The book showed no debit or credit side, and did not mention the name of the defendant. On different pages appeared a series of straight marks, which aggregated two hundred and fourteen. It was not contended that the book itself exhibited any appearance of fraud or falsehood.

Against the objection of the defendant, the judge held, that the book was competent evidence, in connection with the evidence adduced by the plaintiff, if believed, and was part of the *res gestæ*, and admitted the same.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

W. A. Gile, for the defendant.

G. T. Dewey, for the plaintiff.

MORTON, C. J. The small account-book kept by the plaintiff, showing the number of loads of sand delivered, was properly admitted in evidence. It was a rough and imperfect book of accounts, but it was honestly kept, and was the record of the daily business of the plaintiff, made for the purpose of establishing a charge against another. *Pratt* v. *White*, 132 Mass. 477. Such a book, supported by the oath of the plaintiff, is competent, though the account was kept only by marks, the plaintiff being unable to write. These entries are intelligible, and no more liable to fabrication than other entries. It is a book of original entries, though the marks were transferred from marks made on the cart by the servants of the plaintiff who delivered the sand. *Smith* v. *Sanford*, 12 Pick. 139. *Kent* v. *Garvin*, 1 Gray, 148. *Harwood* v. *Mulry*, 8 Gray, 250.

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Where goods are delivered by a servant, and his entries or marks are transferred to the master's account-book, it has been held that the servant must be a witness to support the charges and to prove the delivery. *Kent* v. *Garvin*, *ubi supra*. In the case before us, therefore, the testimony of Joseph Pratt was competent and necessary.

If there was doubt whether the plaintiff's book ought to have gone to the jury, there is another ground upon which the defendant's exceptions should be overruled. In a transaction like that involved in this case, it is not to be expected that any memory unaided could retain accurately the number of loads of sand delivered. The plaintiff had clearly the right to use his account-book as a memorandum to refresh and aid his memory. The fact that the book went to the jury could not prejudice the defendant. The only possible use the jury could make of it would be to count the marks, and see if the plaintiff had stated their number correctly. The exceptions show that the plaintiff's count was correct, and it is of no consequence to the defendant whether the jury took this number from the plaintiff's testimony or from a count of the marks. A new trial would not be granted because of the admission of incompetent testimony which is entirely immaterial. *Exceptions overruled.*

WILLIAM I. MARSHALL *vs.* BOSTON AND ALBANY RAILROAD COMPANY.

Worcester. October 4. — 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action against a railroad corporation for an assault and false imprisonment, it appeared that the plaintiff, who was the holder of a mileage coupon ticket, tendered, while a passenger on a train on the defendant's railroad, some of the coupons in payment of his fare, in violation of the conditions of the contract under which he held them; and that the conductor of the train refused to receive them, and arrested him. The plaintiff at the trial asked the judge to rule that the evasion or attempt to evade the payment of fare, for which a passenger may be lawfully ejected or removed from a railroad car must be a fraudulent evasion, with an intention to defraud the railroad company." The judge refused so to rule, but did rule that the coupons offered by the plaintiff to the conductor were not a legal tender of his fare, and that, upon the plaintiff's

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refusal to make any other payment, the conductor, who was a railroad police officer, might arrest him without a warrant. The plaintiff excepted to the refusal to rule as requested, but not to the ruling given. *Held*, that the words "ejected or removed" in the ruling requested were not to be construed as meaning "removed by arrest."

If a party to an action seeks to justify an act on the ground that he believed that he had a right to do as he did, and his belief is a material issue, he cannot, as of right, strengthen his direct testimony as to what his belief was, by testifying to other facts which would make it likely that he believed as he said.

TORT. The declaration contained three counts: the first, for an assault; the second, for an assault and for false imprisonment; and the third, for malicious prosecution. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Aldrich*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff was a public lecturer, and, having delivered a lecture at Poughkeepsie in the State of New York, on the night of April 4, 1885, he sent his assistant by night train to Palmer, in this Commonwealth, intending himself to go to Palmer on April 6. The plaintiff was the owner of a thousand-mile coupon mileage ticket, good to bearer over the defendant's railroad, which he had bought some two months before. This coupon-book was in the usual form, and contained on the first page the following printed clause: "To be used upon the conditions named in the contract attached to and made a part hereof." And on the back page was printed the following: "Contract. The conditions upon which this mileage coupon ticket is sold by the Boston & Albany R. R. Co., and purchased and used by the bearer of this ticket, are as follows: 1st. That conductors shall detach in consecutive order coupons, representing the distance travelled, except when presented for any distance less than three miles, then three coupons shall be detached. 2d. That all mileage coupons will be void if detached by any person but the conductor."

The plaintiff tore out seven pages, containing one hundred and forty coupons, from this book, and gave the balance of the book to his assistant for his use in going to Palmer, instructing him to meet the plaintiff at the depot in Palmer, on April 6, upon the arrival of the train, with this book. Upon April 6 the plaintiff took the train on the defendant's road at Greenbush (near Albany) intending to go to Palmer, and, when the

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conductor asked him for his ticket, he offered him these coupons, which he had torn from the mileage book, which in amount were more than sufficient to pay his fare to Palmer at coupon rates. These coupons entitled the holder to ride one mile upon each coupon, and were sold at the rate of two cents per coupon, being at a less rate than the cash fare for travel. The conductor asked the plaintiff if he had the book from which these coupons had been detached, and the plaintiff explained to him the circumstances of his sending the book to Palmer by his assistant, and told him that he could see the book when the train arrived at Palmer, as his assistant would be at the depot with it. The conductor declined to accept these coupons for the plaintiff's fare, and demanded the amount of the cash fare to Springfield, which was as far as that conductor was to go on that train, as he then informed the plaintiff. The plaintiff stated his belief that the coupons were good, and gave to the conductor his card, showing his name, business, and residence. The conductor told the plaintiff that he had no doubt that the plaintiff owned the book, but stated that the coupons were not good without the book, and declined to accept them. At several other times and places, before the arrival of the train at Pittsfield, conversations similar to the above took place between the plaintiff and the conductor, the plaintiff offering these coupons for his fare, and the conductor declining to accept them.

There was evidence tending to show that, upon the arrival of the train at Pittsfield, the conductor called a policeman of the town of Pittsfield into the car, and again, in the presence of the police officer, demanded of the plaintiff the payment of his fare, and that the plaintiff again tendered said coupons, and refused to pay otherwise; and that thereupon the conductor, who was a railroad police officer, arrested the plaintiff and placed him in charge of the police officer, who took the plaintiff to the police station in Pittsfield, and afterwards to the district court, where he made a complaint against the plaintiff, which complaint was signed and sworn to by the said police officer, for "fraudulently evading the payment of the fare by refusing to pay the fare lawfully established by the Boston and Albany Railroad Corporation," and the plaintiff was placed under recognizance for his appearance before said court on April 15.

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The plaintiff testified that the conductor was insulting in his language to him at Pittsfield, in that he said to him in a loud tone, as he came into the car with the policeman, "What are you going to do about that fare of yours to Pittsfield, or Springfield, or wherever you are going?" and that this was said in the presence of a large number of passengers who had entered the train at Pittsfield. The conductor denied using this language.

It appeared from the evidence for the defendant, that the following, among other rules for the government of conductors, had been established by the defendant corporation, and was in force at the time: "Coupons detached by passengers will be refused and fare collected, unless passengers can show the book from which coupons were detached, which must agree in number and form." This rule was not known to the plaintiff.

At the trial of the plaintiff upon said complaint, on said April 15, he was acquitted, and ordered by the court to be discharged. The defendant corporation employed counsel, who appeared in the prosecution of the plaintiff before said district court at this trial.

The defendant put in evidence that they had consulted learned counsel on the day preceding said trial, relative to said prosecution, and, having fairly informed him of all the facts, were advised by him that the plaintiff was liable under said complaint.

The plaintiff, for the purpose of showing his intent and belief that the said coupons were a proper tender of his fare, offered to prove that he had frequently seen the conductors on the defendant railroad accept, without objection, in payment of fare, similar coupons, which had been detached from similar mileage books by passengers or others than such conductors; but the judge excluded the evidence in this form, and for the specific purpose for which it was offered, but stated, if the plaintiff proposed to prove a custom of the defendant to accept coupons so tendered, that the evidence would be admissible.

The plaintiff asked the judge to rule that "the evasion or attempt to evade the payment of fare, for which a passenger may be lawfully ejected or removed from a railroad car, must be a fraudulent evasion, with an intent to defraud the railroad company;" but the judge declined so to rule, and did rule that the coupons offered by the plaintiff to the conductor were not

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a legal tender of his fare, and that, upon the plaintiff's refusal to make any other payment, the conductor, who was a railroad police officer, might arrest him without a warrant.

Upon the count for malicious prosecution, the judge gave full instructions, to which no exception was taken, as to what would constitute probable cause on the part of the defendant and the conductor, and that the defendant would not be authorized to prosecute the plaintiff, in the manner in which the complaint was made in this case, for a mere evasion to pay fare, unless it was a fraudulent evasion.

The jury found, upon a special issue submitted to them, that the arrest of the plaintiff was made by the conductor as a railroad police officer; and, after the return of their verdict, the foreman of the jury, in reply to a question of the judge, said that they found that the defendant in the prosecution of the plaintiff was acting under the advice of counsel, to whom a full statement of the facts had been made by the defendant.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions to the refusal to rule as requested, and to the exclusion of the evidence offered.

H. C. Hartwell, for the plaintiff.

F. P. Goulding, for the defendant.

HOLMES, J. 1. The ruling requested by the plaintiff was, that "the evasion or attempt to evade the payment of fare, for which a passenger may be lawfully ejected or removed from a railroad car, must be a fraudulent evasion, with an intent to defraud the railroad company." There is no question, and the plaintiff does not dispute, that this request for a ruling, if taken literally, was rightly refused. *Beckwith* v. *Cheshire Railroad*, 143 Mass. 68. We are asked to construe the words "ejected or removed," in connection with the facts and with instructions given, and not excepted to, as meaning "removed by arrest," or, in other words, "arrested." We think, however, that the suggestion does too great violence to the language used, and that we should not be warranted in assuming that the judge to whom the request was addressed understood it as the plaintiff would have us understand it.

2. "The plaintiff, for the purpose of showing his intent and belief that the said coupons were a proper tender of his fare,

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offered to prove that he had frequently seen the conductors on the defendant railroad accept, without objection, in payment of fare, similar coupons, which had been detached from similar mileage books by passengers or others than such conductors; but the judge excluded the evidence in this form, and for the specific purpose for which it was offered, but stated, if the plaintiff proposed to prove a custom of the defendant to accept coupons so tendered, that the evidence would be admissible."

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It would seem that the plaintiff could not have been injured by the exclusion of the evidence as stated. For, upon the rulings of the court under which this case was tried without objection by the plaintiff, his belief or intent was only material to the count for malicious prosecution, and the verdict for the defendant on that count was based on the finding that it acted under the advice of counsel. But the evidence was properly excluded. If the plaintiff's actual belief was material, and was really controverted, he could not, as of right, strengthen his direct testimony as to what his belief was by testifying to other facts which would make it likely that he believed as he said. *Delano* v. *Smith Charities*, 138 Mass. 63. This seems to have been the purpose for which the evidence was offered. If it had been offered to show that the defendant company had justified the plaintiff's conduct by its own, the court was ready to admit it, subject to proper limitations. *Exceptions overruled.*

HENRY N. TUTTLE *vs.* GEORGE H. GILBERT MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

Worcester. October 4. — 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A lessee of a building, who sustains personal injuries occasioned by the defective condition of the building, cannot maintain an action of tort against the lessor, founded upon a breach by the lessor of an agreement to repair the building within a reasonable time.

TORT. The declaration was as follows: "And the plaintiff says that, in the early part of the year 1884, he together with

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his brother hired of the defendant a farm, with a house, barn, and other buildings thereon, the property of the defendant, situated in Ware, in the county of Hampshire, for the term of one year from April 1, 1884. At the time said premises were hired as aforesaid, the boards and planks making the floor in the barn were old, worn out, and defective, and in need of repair. As a part of the contract of hiring, and in consideration of the promise of the plaintiff and his brother, that they would hire said premises and pay rent therefor for said term, the defendant promised and agreed that it would immediately repair the said floor in a proper manner, and also further promised and agreed that if, in making the repairs upon said floor, it should be found that the timbers or joists upon which the boards and planks making the floor were laid, and by which said floor was supported, were poor, insufficient, unsuitable, decayed, or defective, it would replace all such timbers and joists with new and suitable ones. The plaintiff entered into possession and occupancy of said premises under said contract, and so continued until and after the injuries hereinafter complained of. The defendant, though often properly notified and requested to make said repairs, and after promising that it would do so, failed and neglected to make said repairs, or any part thereof, until after the date of the injury hereinafter complained of. On May 26, 1884, while the plaintiff was at work in said barn, in the exercise of due care, the timbers and joists supporting said floor being insufficient, unsuitable, decayed, and defective, gave way, and fell, with the floor and the plaintiff standing thereon, a great distance, to the ground or floor below, thereby greatly injuring the plaintiff in his person, causing him great pain and suffering, and much expense for care, nursing, medicine, and medical attendance, and rendering him unfit and incapable of performing manual labor during the remainder of his life. Said injuries were in no way caused by any fault or neglect on the part of the plaintiff, but wholly from the neglect and failure of the defendant to make said repairs, as it was its duty and obligation to the plaintiff to do." Answer, a general denial.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Aldrich*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, which, after stating that the pleadings were made a part thereof, was in substance as follows:

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The evidence showed that the plaintiff, in 1883, was living on a farm belonging to the defendant in Ware, recently purchased by the defendant, (the plaintiff being the first and only tenant since the purchase and not having lived there before,) under a lease expiring on April 1, 1884; and that in the month of March, 1884, it was decided that his brother Herbert should come to the farm and occupy it with him the following year, if satisfactory arrangements could be made with the defendant. Accordingly, application was made to one Dexter, the agent of the defendant, whose full authority was admitted, who said he would see the company and report.

The plaintiff called as a witness Herbert N. Tuttle, his brother, who testified as follows: "I first saw Dexter about March 1, when he drove up right opposite the barn, and stopped. I asked him if the place was going to be rented another year? He said he did not know, but would let us know in a few days. I told him I wanted to lease the farm with my brother. My brother was present at that time. Eight, or ten, or twelve days after, he drove down to the house and came into the sitting-room, where my brother and I were, and sat down. He said he had spoken to the company about renting the farm, and they had made up their mind to let us young men have it. I asked what the rent would be, and he said $400. Then I turned to my brother and asked him what he thought, and he said we would take it. I said, 'Now, Mr. Dexter, I will tell you what we want, if we take the farm and give you $400, we want you to put the buildings in repair,' and he said he would. He said, 'What repairs do you want?' and we told him we wanted some repairs in the house, and, still further, that the barn wanted the doors fixed up, and the inside battened up, and the stable floor fixed. He said he would make the repairs. He sat a few moments, and said, 'Let us walk out to the barn and see what is wanted.' So we walked out, and I pointed to him the barn doors, and the side of the barn, all open, for him to batten up inside, and the stable floor; there were three or four places where the floor was broken through, and planks or boards nailed over them. I asked if he would put in new planks there, and he said he would, and said, 'When we take these old planks up, and put in new ones, if any other repairs are needed in the timbers underneath, we will fix

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them, but I consider it safe.' I told him I wanted it fixed up because I had some cows that were very large, and I wanted it fixed safe. He said he would fix it. I moved over on April 1st or 2d, and put my cows into another barn on the place for a few days to feed out some hay, and kept the cattle in that barn for about two weeks. During these two weeks, Dexter drove around one morning, and said he thought he would call and see how the stock looked, and I spoke to Dexter and told him I should want to move the cattle up to the other barn as quick as I got the hay fed out, if he would have the floors fixed, and he said he would do it right off.

"Between April 21 and 26 the company sent down some men with sheathing and boards and shingles for the house, and the rest for the barn. They were about to shingle the house, and I told the carpenter that we could not have the house fixed then, because my wife, who had just been confined, was sick down stairs, and they went off.

"My brother was injured on May 26, 1884. About five o'clock that morning, we drove our cows into the barn and stanchioned them up, and he sat down and milked one cow before I got done, and then stepped into the barn floor to strain it out, and then sat down and was milking the second cow, and I stepped out into the floor to strain my milk, and just as I was going to bend over to strain it, I heard a noise, and I turned and looked, and he and the cattle were all gone. That was all the warning we had about it. Nothing more than two or three planks remained on the outside of the floor. This floor was large enough to tie up eight cows, and the fall was eight or nine feet to the ground below. I saw my brother down there, and I called to him, but he did not answer. I went down and found a cow lying across him, and a stick of timber right under his back. I got hold and lifted on the timber and got him out.

"I did not know of the dangerous condition of the barn. I drew the joists out afterward and cut them up. They were not sound. They were rotten where they went into the sill, and were all rotten at the end; some of the ends were broken off. When the men came to repair, after the injury, they took out the old sill and put in a new one. The timbers were all stained, and when I cut them up I found them in a rotten condition."

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The plaintiff testified, in his own behalf, as to the extent of his injuries, and to the manner in which they were received; and as to the conversations with Dexter said: "I asked Dexter about renting the farm, and if they were going to rent the farm another year; he said he could not fully decide until he saw the company, and would let us know in a few days. He afterwards came to my house. My brother was present. He, Dexter, came down and said the company had concluded to let the young men have the place another year; he said that he would rent it for $400 a year; then my brother spoke up and said he would take the farm at $400 and he wanted them to repair the buildings. The house leaked, and in the floor in the hall there were places that were rotted out, and also a room used for a kitchen. He said he would put them in repair, and my brother then spoke about the barn, and Dexter said, 'We will go out to the barn and see what is wanted.' My brother said he wanted the stable floor fixed, and the barn battened up, and also planked in the stable. He showed him the door, then the battening of the side, then the putting in new planks, and he said he would take out what poor planks there were and put in new ones, and if there were any timbers needed underneath these that he would replace them, but to all appearances he considered it safe. He said he would put in new planks, and if it needed any new timbers underneath these — but to all appearances he considered it safe — he would put them in, but could not tell until he took up the floor; he could tell better after they took up the floor, — could tell how the timbers were underneath. We were then in the stable. There were in the stable floor one or two short planks, and then one which was back from the short plank; then there was one right in front of the door that was broken; they were decayed, and then the places where they were broken, boards were nailed over except right by the door, and planks were nailed over that. There were two or three of these."

The defendant offered as a witness William Dexter, who testified as follows: "I did not have any knowledge of any imperfection about the floor; I was there in the winter, when Henry occupied the place by himself, and looked under the barn. I could not get under there on account of the manure. I stepped under the corner, and looked through to see if everything was

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all right, and pronounced it to be in good condition. That was in the winter, when Henry occupied the place by himself, in the winter before that spring."

Upon this evidence, the judge ruled that the plaintiff could not recover for his personal injuries; and ordered a verdict for the defendant. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

H. W. King & C. M. Rice, for the plaintiff.

W. S. B. Hopkins, for the defendant.

MORTON, C. J. It is the general rule that there is no warranty implied in the letting of premises that they are reasonably fit for use. The lessee takes an estate in the premises hired, and he takes the risk of the quality of the premises, in the absence of an express or implied warranty by the lessor, or of deceit. A lessee, therefore, if he is injured by reason of the unsafe condition of the premises hired, cannot maintain an action against the lessor, in the absence of warranty or of misrepresentation. In cases where lessors have been held liable for such injuries to the lessees, the liability is founded in negligence. *Looney* v. *McLean*, 129 Mass. 33. *Bowe* v. *Hunking*, 135 Mass. 380, and cases cited.

The plaintiff admits the general rule, but contends that this case is taken out of it because, at the time of the letting, the defendant agreed to repair and put in a safe condition the stable floor, the unsafe condition of which caused the injury. The contract relied on is a loose one; it fixed no time within which the repairs were to be made, and it is doubtful whether the evidence proved any breach of contract on the part of the defendant. But if we assume that the contract was to make the repairs within a reasonable time, and that the jury would be justified in finding that the defendant had not performed it within a reasonable time, the question is whether, for such a breach, the plaintiff can maintain an action of tort to recover for personal injuries sustained by reason of the defective condition of the stable floor.

The cases are numerous and confusing as to the dividing line between actions of contract and of tort, and there are many cases where a man may have his election to bring either action. Where the cause of action arises merely from a breach of promise, the action is in contract.

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The action of tort has for its foundation the negligence of the defendant, and this means more than a mere breach of a promise. Otherwise, the failure to meet a note, or any other promise to pay money, would sustain an action in tort for negligence, and thus the promisor be made liable for all the consequential damages arising from such failure.

As a general rule, there must be some active negligence or misfeasance to support tort. There must be some breach of duty distinct from breach of contract. In the case at bar, the utmost shown against the defendant is that there was unreasonable delay on its part in performing an executory contract. As we have seen, it is not liable by reason of the relation of lessor and lessee, but its liability, if any, must rest solely upon a breach of this contract.

We do not see how the cases would differ in principle if an action were brought against a third person who had contracted to repair the stable floor and had unreasonably delayed in performing his contract. We are not aware of any authority for maintaining such an action. If the defendant had performed the work contemplated by its contract unskilfully and negligently, it would be liable to an action of tort, because in such case there would be a misfeasance, which is a sufficient foundation for an action of tort. Such was the case of *Gill* v. *Middleton*, 105 Mass. 477.

The case of *Ashley* v. *Root*, 4 Allen, 504, does not conflict with our view, but recognizes the rule that to sustain an action of tort there must be more than a mere breach of contract.

The plaintiff now argues that he had the right to go to the jury upon the questions of warranty and deceit. It does not appear that this claim was made in the Superior Court; but it is clear that there is no sufficient evidence of any warranty that the stable was safe, or of any deceit or misrepresentation on the part of the defendant or its agent. *Exceptions overruled.*

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CHARLES W. WOOD *vs.* WILLIAM T. BOYD & others.

Worcester. October 5. — 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A., the owner of a tract of land, having a house on the southerly side, and bounding on the north on a turnpike, conveyed the northerly portion of it to B., reserving to himself, his heirs and assigns, a right of passageway from his house to the turnpike. A. subsequently sold the remainder of the estate to C., and conveyed to him, his heirs and assigns, the right of a passageway from the dwelling-house on the estate to the turnpike. C. divided the land into two lots, and sold the southerly lot to D. and conveyed to him, his heirs and assigns, a right of passage to the turnpike. Subsequently, B. sold the lot on the turnpike to E., "reserving to the owner and his assigns of the adjoining estate, formerly of A., the right of a passageway to the turnpike." The heirs of E. afterwards sold the lot on the turnpike to F. "reserving to the owner of the estate and others adjoining on the south a right of passageway over the within granted premises as specified in deed of B. to E." *Held*, that the language of the two deeds last named as to the passageway constituted an exception, and not a reservation, and that the exception was not confined to the right which the owner of the lot immediately adjoining on the south might have to a passageway, but applied also to the right of the owner of the most southerly lot owned by D. *Held, also*, that there was no breach of a covenant against incumbrances contained in the deed to F.

CONTRACT, for breach of a covenant against incumbrances, in a deed from the defendants to the plaintiff. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Aldrich*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

On August 19, 1836, Nathan Heard, who then owned a farm bounded northerly on a turnpike, and having a house upon it on the southerly side, conveyed to James Estabrook the northerly portion lying between the house and the turnpike. This deed contained the following clause: "reserving to said Heard, his heirs and assigns, the right of passageway from his dwelling-house to the turnpike aforesaid, and through the premises, as the same is now enjoyed."

The turnpike referred to is now Belmont Street, and the right to use the passageway has been conveyed, in substantially the same language, by several mesne conveyances, from Heard to Ann B. Earle, who now resides on the same premises and in the same house which Heard occupied at the time of his deed to Estabrook.

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On August 19, 1836, Nathan Heard conveyed to John F. Clark all of his homestead estate, and on October 22, 1839, he made, upon the back of that deed, a conveyance to Clark, his heirs and assigns, of "the right of a passageway from the dwelling-house on the estate to the turnpike," over the estate conveyed to Estabrook, "meaning to convey the passageway the same as it is now enjoyed." The conveyance of the right of passage was recorded on November 22, 1839.

On October 3, 1839, Clark conveyed to Edward Earle the estate conveyed to him by Heard, "excepting the part of said homestead sold by Heard to James Estabrook," and also reserving a strip of land lying south and east of the house sold to Estabrook. This strip of land, thus reserved, lies between the land sold to Estabrook and the southerly part of the Heard farm.

On November 22, 1839, Estabrook conveyed to Rodney A. Miller the lot bordering on the turnpike, "reserving to the owner and his assigns of the adjoining estate, formerly of said Heard, the right of a passageway from the dwelling-house on said estate to the turnpike aforesaid, and through the premises as the same is now enjoyed, being the same estate conveyed to me by deed from Nathan Heard, bearing date August 19, 1836."

On July 18, 1884, the defendants, who had acquired by inheritance the estate of Rodney A. Miller, conveyed the lot bordering upon the turnpike to the plaintiff. The deed, after describing the premises by metes and bounds, contained this clause: "Reserving to the owner of the estate, and others adjoining on the south, a right of passageway over the within granted premises as specified in deed of James Estabrook to Rodney Miller, dated November 22, 1839." The deed also contained the usual covenant that the premises "are free from all incumbrances."

At the time of the deed to the plaintiff, the lot immediately south of it was owned by Josephine H. Cutter, who derived her title from Clark. South of this lot was the lot of Ann B. Earle.

The plaintiff contended that the right of way possessed by Ann B. Earle by virtue of the clause in the deed from Heard to James Estabrook was an incumbrance on his land; and that the passageway mentioned in the defendant's deed to him terminated at the death of John F. Clark or of Edward Earle, both of whom died before the date of the deed to the plaintiff.

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The defendants contended that the language relating to a passageway in their deed to the plaintiff constituted an exception and not a reservation, and that the same was true of the language in the deed from Estabrook to Miller.

The judge ruled in accordance with the defendants' contention. The jury returned a verdict for the defendants; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

B. W. Potter, for the plaintiff.

F. P. Goulding, for the defendants.

MORTON, C. J. The plaintiff's lot was formerly a part of a larger lot owned by one Heard. In 1836, Heard conveyed the plaintiff's lot to one Estabrook by a deed containing the following clause: "reserving to said Heard, his heirs and assigns, the right of passageway from his dwelling-house to the turnpike aforesaid, and through the premises, as the same is now enjoyed." This right of way was conveyed by deed of Heard, and by several mesne conveyances, to Ann B. Earle, who now owns and occupies the house formerly owned by Heard. It is this right of way, in favor of said Earle, which the plaintiff contends is an incumbrance on his estate, and within the covenant of his deed from the defendants. His deed contains a covenant that the granted premises are free from all incumbrances, and the question in this case is, What are the granted premises? The deed, after the description of the land by metes and bounds, contains this clause: "reserving to the owner of the estate, and others adjoining on the south, a right of passageway over the within granted premises, as specified in deed of James Estabrook to Rodney Miller, dated November 22, 1839."

We think the purpose and effect of this clause was to except out of the grant to the plaintiff any rights to use the passageway specified in the deed of Estabrook belonging to any of the owners of the estate formerly of Heard. The deed of Estabrook to Miller contains this clause: "reserving to the owner and his assigns of the adjoining estate, formerly of said Heard, the right of a passageway from the dwelling-house on said estate to the turnpike aforesaid, and through the premises, as the same is now enjoyed." Prior to this deed Heard had conveyed to one Clark, his heirs and assigns, all his estate south of the plaintiff's lot, together with "the right of a passageway

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from the dwelling-house on the estate to the turnpike" over the estate conveyed to Estabrook, "meaning to convey the passage-way as it is now enjoyed," and there was a defined existing passageway, the same as is now used.

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We are of opinion that both the above-cited clauses, in the deed of Estabrook to Miller and in the deed of the defendants to the plaintiff, operated as exceptions, and not as reservations. A reservation in a deed vests in the grantor some new right or interest not before existing in him. It cannot vest any right in a stranger to the deed. *Murphy* v. *Lee*, 144 Mass. 371. It operates by way of an implied grant; and, if it does not contain words of inheritance, it will give only an estate for the life of the grantor. The operation of an exception is to retain in the grantor some portion of his former estate, which by the exception is taken out of, or excluded from, the grant; and whatever is thus excepted remains in him as of his former title because it is not granted. *Ashcroft* v. *Eastern Railroad*, 126 Mass. 196. In both clauses the word "reserving" is used, but this is of little importance. The plain purpose of the parties was not to reserve any new right which should vest in the grantor, but to recognize, and except from the grant, rights of way existing by prior grants in third persons who were not parties to the deed. Nothing is reserved to the grantor in either deed; the terms used in both are "reserved to the owner of" the adjoining estate, and others. Both clauses are of no effect, unless they are held to be exceptions.

Construing the clause in the plaintiff's deed as an exception, it qualifies and limits the estate granted. "The granted premises" which are covenanted to be free from incumbrances is not the land in fee, but the fee diminished by existing easements, which are excepted out of the grant. Such easements are not incumbrances upon "the granted premises." They are excepted as they existed, that is as perpetual easements, and there is no ground for contending that they terminated at the death of Earle or Clark. *Exceptions overruled.*

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SAMUEL E. SIMANOVICH *vs.* MINARD WOOD.

Worcester. October 6. — 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action for breach of a covenant against incumbrances in a deed of land from the defendant to the plaintiff, oral evidence is inadmissible to prove that, at the time the deed was given, and as a part of the consideration, the plaintiff promised to pay an assessment then existing upon the land.

MORTON, C. J. This is an action of contract on a covenant against incumbrances in a deed from the defendant to the plaintiff. It is admitted that an unpaid assessment upon the land was an incumbrance within the covenant. *Carr* v. *Dooley*, 119 Mass. 294. The defendant offered to prove, by parol testimony, that, at the time the deed was given, and as a part of the consideration, the plaintiff promised to pay said assessment.

This evidence was rightly rejected. It directly varied and contradicted the written contract of the defendant. The covenant is against all incumbrances. The evidence offered was for the purpose of showing an oral agreement that the incumbrance created by the assessment was not within the covenant.

While for some purposes it is competent to show what the real consideration of a deed is, a party cannot, under the guise of showing what the consideration is, prove an oral agreement, either antecedent to or contemporaneous with the deed, which will cut down or vary the stipulations of his written covenant. This would violate the well-settled rule of law, which will not permit a written contract to be varied or controlled by such testimony. *Howe* v. *Walker*, 4 Gray, 318. *Spurr* v. *Andrew*, 6 Allen, 420. *Flynn* v. *Bourneuf*, 143 Mass. 277.

Exceptions overruled.

J. Mason, for the defendant.

R. Hoar, for the plaintiff.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JOHN BUCKLEY & another.

Plymouth. October 18. — 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

An indictment on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 202, § 29, for threatening to accuse Frank E. White of having committed a crime, is not sustained by proof that the person so threatened was Frank A. White, there being no evidence that he was ever called Frank E. White.

INDICTMENT, against John Buckley and John Clune, on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 202, § 29, alleging that the defendants, on May 14, 1887, at Brockton, verbally threatened to accuse one Frank E. White of having committed the crime of burning a building not his own, with intent to extort money, namely, the sum of $100, from the said Frank E. White.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Thompson*, J., it was proved, but the attention of the judge was not called to the fact until after the commencement of the charge, that the name of the person referred to in the indictment as Frank E. White was Frank A. White, and not Frank E. White, and there was no evidence tending to show that said Frank A. White had ever been known or called Frank E. White, until so designated in this indictment. The defendants asked the judge to rule that there was a variance between the allegations in the indictment and the proof, and that, by reason of said variance, the jury should return a verdict of not guilty.

The judge stated that the point was too important to be left in doubt, and allowed said White to be recalled and to testify that his name was Frank A. White.

The judge refused to rule as requested; but ruled that, if the jury were satisfied that Frank A. White was the person called Frank E. White in the indictment, there was no variance, as contended by the defendants.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty against both defendants; and they alleged exceptions.

J. M. Day & T. C. Day, for the defendants.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

HOLMES, J. The name of the person threatened is necessary to the identity of the offence charged in the indictment, and

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therefore must be proved as set forth. *Commonwealth* v. *Mehan*, 11 Gray, 321. It is settled in this Commonwealth that a middle name or initial is part of the name, and a variance in regard to it is fatal. *Commonwealth* v. *Perkins*, 1 Pick. 388. *Commonwealth* v. *Hall*, 3 Pick. 262. *Commonwealth* v. *Shearman*, 11 Cush. 546. *Commonwealth* v. *McAvoy*, 16 Gray, 235. *Terry* v. *Sisson*, 125 Mass. 560, 561. The ruling that there was no variance if Frank A. White was the person called Frank E. White in the indictment, probably went upon the ground that the E. might be rejected as surplusage, as is held in some States. It cannot be said, as matter of law, that A. and E. are the same. There was no evidence that the party was ever called Frank E. White, as in *Commonwealth* v. *O'Hearn*, 132 Mass. 553. See also *Commonwealth* v. *Gormley*, 133 Mass. 580. *Exceptions sustained.*

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* CHESTER A. HINDS.

Franklin. Sept. 20. — Oct. 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

A warrant to search for and seize intoxicating liquors, issued under the Pub. Sts. c. 100, § 30, in the form prescribed by § 46, may be executed in the night-time.

INDICTMENT for an assault upon one Jillson, a constable of Orange.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Brigham*, C. J., there was evidence that Jillson, a constable of Orange, with a search-warrant, issued under Pub. Sts. c. 100, § 30, and in the form prescribed by § 46, entered the building described in the warrant, occupied by the defendant as a dwelling-house and a saloon, and there, at about nine o'clock in the evening of January 18, 1887, made search for intoxicating liquors alleged in the warrant to be kept for sale in violation of law; that in a closet in said building Jillson found a bottle partially filled with rum, which he seized and put into his pocket; that the defendant, while Jillson was continuing his search in the building, laid his hand upon said Jillson's person, snatched from Jillson's pocket

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this bottle, containing rum, and after a struggle carried away the same.

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The defendant asked the judge to rule as follows: "1. The evidence will not warrant a verdict of guilty. 2. The search of the premises occupied by the defendant, in the night-time, was unauthorized by the warrant, and Jillson became a trespasser in so doing, and the defendant could rightfully retake from him his property, if in so doing he used no greater force than was reasonably necessary. 3. The warrant in this case did not authorize Jillson to search the premises of the defendant in the night-time; and Jillson, in so doing, was a trespasser, and the defendant could rightfully retake his property, if in so doing he used no more force than was reasonably necessary."

The judge refused to rule as requested. The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. A. Aiken, for the defendant.

E. J. Sherman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

W. ALLEN, J. The only question presented by these exceptions is, whether a warrant to search for and seize intoxicating liquors, issued under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 30, in the form prescribed by that statute, can be executed in the night-time. The argument for the defendant is, that there is no express authority in the statute to execute the warrant in the night-time; and that by the common law and by the statute, when no express provision is otherwise made, a search-warrant can be executed only in the day-time.

The only search-warrant known to the common law was to search for stolen goods. The usual direction of it was to search in the day-time. Whether, at common law, a warrant which directed a search not limited to the day-time would be valid, and whether such a warrant could be executed in the night-time, it is not necessary to consider. See Dane Ab. *c.* 217, art. 2; D. Davis's Justice, (2d ed.) 30, 51, 147; 2 Hale P. C. 113; Burn's Justice, Search-Warrant; 3 Williams's Justice, 861. The warrant in question was not a common law search-warrant, and its validity and effect must be determined by the statute.

The Revised Statutes first made provisions in regard to the form of search-warrants. Before that, there was no statute

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relating to the common law search-warrant; but there were statutes authorizing warrants to search for counterfeit money, &c. (St. 1823, *c.* 40); for gunpowder in certain cases (St. 1828, *c.* 62); and to enter a gaming-house (St. 1834, *c.* 172). The Rev. Sts. *c.* 142, made general provisions in regard to search-warrants. Section 1 authorized warrants to search for property stolen, embezzled, or obtained by false pretences. Section 2 authorized search-warrants in four other specified cases. Section 3 provided for the form of the warrant, among other things, that it should command a search in the day-time. Section 4 provided for the manner in which a warrant might be issued authorizing a search in the night-time. The Commissioners, in their note, give as the reason for recommending this section, that, "By the common law, and the established practice in this State, a search-warrant was always required to be executed in the day-time. And this requirement has, in many cases, rendered it almost useless, as an instrument for the detection of offenders." This is the origin of the provisions which have ever since been in force, and which appear in the Gen. Sts. *c.* 170, §§ 1–4, and in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 212, §§ 1–4. Section 1 of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 212, provides that a warrant may issue to search for property stolen, embezzled, or obtained by false pretences. Section 2 authorizes search-warrants in seven different cases. Section 3 provides that "All search-warrants shall be directed to the sheriff of the county or his deputy, or to a constable, commanding such officer to search, in the day-time, the house or place," &c. Section 4 provides that, if there is satisfactory evidence that anything "for which a search-warrant may be issued by the provisions of this chapter" is concealed, &c., in a particular house or place, a warrant may be issued by two trial justices, or by a police, district, or municipal court, to authorize a public officer to search such house or place in the night-time.

The Revised Statutes, and various statutes enacted since, authorize the issuing of search-warrants, or of warrants in the nature of search-warrants, in cases which were not included in the chapter on search-warrants. Whether in a case of that kind the general rule that warrants can be served in the night-time, or the rule applied by the general statute to search-warrants, that they shall authorize a search only in the day-time, shall

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apply, must depend upon the terms and construction of each statute. It is a question as to the intention of the Legislature in each case. It will be observed that § 4 of the chapter on search-warrants is limited to warrants issued under that chapter, and cannot apply to a warrant issued under any other statute. The authority to execute a warrant in the night-time, and to issue a warrant in which the authority to execute it is not limited to the day-time, must be found in the statute which authorizes the warrant. Such authority will be inferred, unless the statute expressly or impliedly limits it to the day-time.

We think such authority is found in the statute under which the warrant in the case at bar was issued. Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 30. It does not, like *c.* 58, § 4, provide that the warrant shall be directed and executed as provided in *c.* 212, § 3; nor, like *c.* 207, § 57, that no search shall be made after sunset unless specially authorized; nor, like *c.* 207, § 60, require that a warrant shall be issued to search at any hour of the day or night; but it contains full and explicit provisions, even prescribing a form of the warrant, excluding the inference that it is governed by § 3 of *c.* 212, and that the execution of the warrant under it is limited to the day-time. Its provisions differ in every particular from those of *c.* 212, § 3. The direction of the warrant, instead of to the sheriff or his deputy, or constable, is to be to the sheriff, deputy sheriff, city marshal, chief of police, deputy chief of police, deputy marshal, police officer, or constable. There are particular provisions, not contained in § 3, as to the description in the warrant of the place to be searched, and special provisions as to authorizing the search of dwelling-houses. The warrant is to command the officer to search the premises, and to keep the property found until final action, and to return his warrant to the court, instead of to search in the day-time, and to bring the property and the person in whose possession it is found before the court; and the warrant itself, in the form prescribed by the statute, is to "forthwith enter the herein described, and make diligent and careful search," instead of to search in the day-time. The general rule is, that process, civil or criminal, can be as well served in the night-time as in the day-time; and a direction in a warrant to serve it, without limitation as to the hour of the day, is a direction to serve it in the night-time as

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much as in the day-time. The intention of the Legislature to authorize the execution of the warrant in the night-time is shown by providing for and by prescribing a direction in the warrant which includes that, instead of the direction to search in the day-time, which it required in the ordinary search-warrant.

Since the St. of 1852, *c.* 322, these provisions have been the subject of careful scrutiny, and have been enacted no less than five times. St. 1855, *cc.* 215, 397. Gen. Sts. *c.* 86. St. 1869, *c.* 415. St. 1876, *c.* 162. Pub. Sts. *c.* 212. The repetitions emphasize the intention manifested in the statute.

The intention that there should be authority to execute the warrant in the night-time might also be shown by the purpose and the particular provisions of the statute, and by its history, and the history of other statutes authorizing searches and seizures. But the considerations already presented are sufficient, and render further discussion unnecessary.

Exceptions overruled.

EBEN H. SPRING *vs.* FREEMAN S. HAGER & another.

Franklin. Sept. 20. — Oct. 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

If a guest at an inn, upon retiring for the night, locks the door of his room, but omits to fasten it with a bolt, such omission, if the existence of the bolt is unknown to him, and his attention is not called to it by the innkeeper, is not such negligence as will preclude him from maintaining an action against the innkeeper for the value of his property stolen from the room during the night.

TORT against the keepers of an inn, called the Elm House, in Greenfield, for the value of a watch, chain, and a sum of money, alleged to have been stolen while the plaintiff was a guest at the inn. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Barker*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff, who was a grain-dealer, about fifty years of age, and lived in Erving, came to Greenfield to attend court, as one of the grand jurors. On the first day of court, at noon, he registered as a guest at the Elm House, having on his person a gold watch of the value of about $100, and a gold watch-chain of the

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value of about $40. The watch was carried in the watch pocket of his waistcoat, and the chain was attached to the waistcoat; and he had in the pocket of his trousers $15 or $20 in money. It was admitted by the defendants, at the trial, that the watch and chain were articles worn or carried on the person, and were reasonable in value and amount, and that the money was for travelling expenses and personal use.

On the evening of that day, about half-past nine, the plaintiff was shown to his room by one of the defendants, who left with the plaintiff a glass kerosene lamp, such as is commonly used in country hotels. There was no gas or other light in the room. On the walls of this room were a large number of pictures of noted singers and actresses and performers, such pictures as are distributed for advertisements. The room was about ten feet wide and fifteen feet long, and had but one door. The plaintiff took the lamp from said defendant, and, as soon as the defendant left, closed the door and locked it, but did not bolt it. The lock was a common mortise lock connected with the door knob. After locking his door, the plaintiff looked at the pictures on three sides of the room, and prepared to retire. His waistcoat, with the watch in it and the chain attached, he laid upon a light stand on the farther side of the bed from the door, and near the head of the bed; his trousers containing the money he laid upon a chair, and retired. When he awoke in the morning, it was found that, during the night, the lock on the door had been picked, the room entered, and the trousers and waistcoat carried away by some person unknown. The waistcoat was soon found in the hallway, and the trousers were found in the street at some distance from the hotel, and the watch and chain and the money had been stolen. The door to the room was found to be slightly open.

It appeared that there was a bolt on the inside of said door, about six inches from the top. This bolt was about four inches long and one half-inch in diameter. The door was about six feet six inches high, and opened into the room. The plaintiff did not fasten the door with this bolt, and his attention was not called by the defendants or by any one else to the bolt; and he testified that he did not know it was there until after the robbery.

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One of the defendants testified that the plaintiff told him, the day following the plaintiff's loss, that he, the plaintiff, did not bolt said door, that he did not think of it; and another witness, called by the defendants, testified that the plaintiff said, on the same occasion, that he did not see said bolt. The plaintiff denied that he made either of these statements.

The plaintiff testified, on cross-examination, that he had travelled considerably, and had stopped at hotels on numerous occasions; and that his habit had always been on such occasions, when there were both a bolt and a lock upon the door of his room, to use both the bolt and the lock.

The defendants contended that, upon the evidence, the plaintiff must have seen the bolt; that the plaintiff's loss was attributable to his failure to bolt the door in addition to locking it; and that such failure was such negligence on his part as to exonerate the defendants from liability to the plaintiff. There was no contention on the part of the defendants that there was any negligence on the part of the plaintiff except his failure to bolt the door.

The plaintiff requested the judge to instruct the jury as follows: "1. The plaintiff having locked the door of his room, his failure also then to bolt the door was not such negligence on his part as would preclude his recovery in this action. 2. The failure of the plaintiff to bolt the door of his room after having locked it, if said bolt was not known to the plaintiff, nor his attention in any way called to the same, was not negligence on his part, and will not preclude the plaintiff from recovery in this action."

The judge declined to give the instructions requested, but submitted to the jury, as a question of fact for them to determine, whether the failure of the plaintiff to bolt his door in addition to locking it was negligence on his part to which the loss was attributable, with appropriate instructions, not objected to, defining negligence on the part of the plaintiff, and its effect on the case.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendants; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

C. C. Conant & S. D. Conant, for the plaintiff.

J. A. Aiken, for the defendant.

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FIELD, J. The only negligence of the plaintiff which the defendants contended that the evidence proved, was the neglect of the plaintiff to bolt the door. The plaintiff locked the door by a lock connected with the door knob. The bolt was on the inside of the door, six inches from the top, and the door was "about six feet and six inches high." The plaintiff testified that "he did not know it was there until after the robbery." It does not appear that there were any regulations of the inn, which were posted in the room or anywhere else, or which were in any manner brought to the notice of the plaintiff, and it is conceded that the attention of the plaintiff "was not called by the defendants or by any one else to the bolt." The defendants contended, however, upon all the evidence, that "the plaintiff must have seen the bolt." The first request of the plaintiff for a ruling was, in effect, that his failure to bolt the door after having locked it was not such negligence as would defeat the action, even if he saw the bolt; and the second request was, in effect, that his failure to bolt the door after having locked it would not defeat the action, "if said bolt was not known to the plaintiff, nor his attention in any way called to the same." This second request raises the question whether it was the duty of the plaintiff to examine the door to see if there were other fastenings upon it besides the lock. It may be conceded that the bolt and lock together afforded greater security than either of them alone, and that, although the bolt was in an unusual place upon the door, it could easily have been seen if the plaintiff had searched for it.

The Pub. Sts. *c.* 102, § 16, provide that "An innholder against whom a claim is made for loss sustained by a guest may in all cases show that such loss is attributable to the negligence of the guest himself, or to his non-compliance with the regulations of the inn, if such regulations are reasonable and proper, and are shown to have been duly brought to the notice of the guest by the innholder." This provision was first enacted in the St. of 1853, *c.* 405, § 3, which was soon after the decision in *Berkshire Woollen Co.* v. *Proctor*, 7 Cush. 417; and, although this statute made some changes in the law, the clause that it is competent for an innkeeper to show that the loss is attributable to the negligence of the guest is only declaratory of the common law.

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Mason v. *Thompson*, 9 Pick. 280. *Berkshire Woollen Co.* v. *Proctor*, *ubi supra*. *Elcox* v. *Hill*, 98 U. S. 218. *Oppenheim* v. *White Lion Hotel Co.* L. R. 6 C. P. 515. *Cashill* v. *Wright*, 6 El. & Bl. 890. *Morgan* v. *Ravey*, 6 H. & N. 265.

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It has indeed been said that, "in the absence of notice of a rule of the inn to lock and bolt the door, the failure to do so is not legal negligence at common law." *Murchison* v. *Sergent*, 69 Ga. 206, 213. It has been often decided that not locking or fastening the door of a bedroom is not, as matter of law, negligence, but that this fact, in connection with others, may be evidence of negligence for the jury; and the weight of modern authority is, we think, that the failure to lock or bolt the door of a lodging-room at an inn, when there is a lock or bolt upon it, is evidence of negligence for the jury. *Oppenheim* v. *White Lion Hotel Co.*, *ubi supra*. *Spice* v. *Bacon*, 36 L. T. (N. S.) 896. *Herbert* v. *Markwell*, 45 L. T. (N. S.) 649.

At common law, "inn-keepers, as well as common carriers, are regarded as insurers of the property committed to their care, and are bound to make restitution for any injury or loss not caused by the act of God, or the common enemy, or the neglect or fault of the owner of the property." *Mason* v. *Thompson*, 9 Pick. 284.

The statutes have not changed the general nature of the liability of an innholder; and, subject to the statutory provisions, he is liable to his guests in cases where no actual negligence on the part of himself or his servants is shown. It has been held that the burden of proof is upon the innholder to show that the loss was caused by the negligence of his guest. *Norcross* v. *Norcross*, 53 Maine, 163. The language of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 102, § 16, implies that this burden is upon the innholder. The case at bar is not, therefore, an action for negligence, and it may be doubted whether the rulings in such actions upon evidence of contributory negligence are in all respects applicable.

No case has been cited in which it has been held that the single fact that the plaintiff did not bolt his door, after having locked it on the inside, is sufficient evidence of negligence.

In *Spice* v. *Bacon*, and in *Herbert* v. *Markwell*, *ubi supra*, the jury must have found that the door was left unfastened either by bolt or lock.

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In *Morgan* v. *Rarey*, 2 F. & F. 283, it is said that the plaintiff locked the door, but did not bolt it. In the same case, in the Court of Exchequer, 6 H. & N. 265, 266, it is said that "witnesses were, however, called, on the part of the defendants, to prove that the plaintiff had told them he had not locked the door." It was admitted that he did not use the bolt. There was a notice posted over the mantel-piece requesting "all visitors to use the night bolt," which the plaintiff admitted he saw, but said he did not read beyond the word "notice." Chief Baron Pollock, at *nisi prius*, left the question of negligence to the jury, but told "them at the same time that the guest was not bound to lock his bedroom door, &c." The verdict was for the plaintiff.

It must often depend much upon the circumstances of the case, the customs of the age and country, and the usages of the place, whether the plaintiff has been guilty of such negligence that the loss can be said to be attributable to it; and we cannot say, as matter of law, that, on the facts appearing in this case, if the plaintiff saw the bolt and did not use it, this was not some evidence of negligence to be submitted to the jury. The delivery of a key to a guest may be held to be an intimation to him that he is to use it in locking his door. The lock, however, is the only fastening which the guest can use when he is not in the room. A bolt, if seen, may itself suggest that it ought to be used. If, however, there are no regulations brought to the notice of a guest requesting him to bolt the door, and if it is not known to the guest that there is a bolt, and his attention is not in any way called to it, we are of opinion that the fact that, after locking his door with the key, he does not search for a bolt and find it, is not evidence of negligence on his part, and that the second ruling requested should have been given. See *Murchison* v. *Sergent*, *ubi supra*; *Batterson* v. *Vogel*, 10 Mo. App. 235.

Exceptions sustained.

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EMORY A. SQUIRES *vs.* INHABITANTS OF AMHERST.

Hampshire. Sept. 20. — Oct. 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

A written instrument, given to a selectman of a town by a person who has been injured in his person and property by reason of a defect in a highway in the town, and reciting the receipt from such selectman, for the town, of a certain sum "in full for all demands for damages sustained on the highway," is a bar to an action by such person against the town for his personal injuries; and oral evidence is inadmissible, in the absence of fraud, to show that he understood the sum paid as intended in settlement of the damage to his property only, and that it was agreed between him and the selectman that, if it appeared that he had been injured in his person, he should be paid something more.

TORT for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by a defect in a highway in Amherst. Answer: 1. A general denial. 2. Accord and satisfaction. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff testified that he received personal injuries, and that damage was done to his horse, wagon, and harness, on the evening of December 31, 1885, by the horse and wagon going off the end of a culvert, by reason of the lack of a railing on a way in the defendant town, which it was bound to keep in repair.

On cross-examination, the plaintiff testified that, the morning after the injury, he went to see one Stone, who was a selectman of Amherst, about the accident; that they went together to the place where the accident occurred; that Stone said to the plaintiff, "You want to get your wagon repaired, I suppose, and are you hurt?" that the plaintiff replied that he felt rather lame and sore; that Stone said perhaps it was only a cold, and asked the plaintiff how much he would take to settle; that the plaintiff said he would take $50, and make it all even; that Stone said he should never pay that, as long as the plaintiff was not injured himself, and it would not take $50 to make the repairs; that the plaintiff replied that, if he was not injured, he wanted nothing, except for the repairs; that Stone said he guessed it was a cold only; that the plaintiff said, if he was not injured, he would be willing to take that, as he wanted only what was

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right of the town; that Stone said, if the plaintiff was injured, he was ready to do what was right; that the plaintiff was to be paid, according to the talk, $10, and if he was injured, was to be paid what was right; that Stone said he would pay more if the plaintiff was injured, wrote the following receipt, and read it, and the plaintiff signed it: "Received of F. L. Stone, for the town of Amherst, ten dollars in full for all demands for damage sustained on the highway near the house of Alden Cooley, on the evening of December 31, 1885." The plaintiff could not say that he read it just as it was written, and could not say that he did not, but it had in it all demands for damages, but nothing about personal injuries, and he did not understand that it covered them.

The plaintiff also testified that he signed it, because Stone agreed to pay him more if he was injured; that he could read it himself; that Stone estimated what the repairs would cost, and that it would be less than $10; that the plaintiff would have something left of the $10 for his trouble, and that he took out $10 from his pocket, and handed it to the plaintiff, who took it; and that the cost of said repairs was in fact about three dollars.

The judge asked the plaintiff's counsel if he contended that there was any fraud in procuring this writing. The plaintiff's counsel replied that he did not, but did contend there was a mistake about the writing; that the minds of the parties did not meet on the proposition that there was a settlement of any claim for personal injuries, or any other than for the property damage; that there was a distinct understanding and agreement that the plaintiff was to be paid more if he was injured in his person, at the time the writing was signed; and that it did not express the understanding of the plaintiff.

The plaintiff's counsel had stated in his opening that he should ask for damages for personal injuries only. After about five days from the injury, the plaintiff was taken quite sick, as he testified in chief, and suffered much in his back, head, and stomach as a result of his being thrown down the bank, and was disabled for a considerable time.

It was conceded that the town had ratified the act of said Stone as a settlement, at a town meeting, by accepting the selectmen's report describing such settlement.

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The plaintiff offered to show by the above testimony, and other evidence of the same kind, and by his own testimony, that he did not understand that he was settling for personal injuries, and that the writing was procured by mistake; and claimed the right to go to the jury on that question, and on the whole case. But the judge ruled that the writing could not be thus controlled, and directed a verdict for the defendant. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

W. G. Bassett, for the plaintiff.

D. W. Bond, for the defendant.

FIELD, J. In an action at law in this Commonwealth, the written paper put in evidence by the defendant is regarded not only as a receipt acknowledging the payment of money, but as an agreement that the money is received in full payment of all demands for damages sustained by reason of the defect in the highway complained of; and, so far as the written paper contains an agreement, it cannot be varied or controlled by evidence of an oral agreement made contemporaneously with it, and inconsistent with its terms. *Brown* v. *Cambridge*, 3 Allen, 474. *Curley* v. *Harris*, 11 Allen, 112. *Goss* v. *Ellison*, 136 Mass. 503. *Leddy* v. *Barney*, 139 Mass. 394. *Osborn* v. *Martha's Vineyard Railroad*, 140 Mass. 549.

It was not contended by the plaintiff, at the trial, "that there was any fraud in procuring this writing," which at common law would avoid it, and the plaintiff has not attempted to rescind the agreement by restoring the money he has received. The contention is, that there was a mistake, in this, that the plaintiff understood that the receipt covered only the claim for damages to his property, and did not include the claim for damages to his person, and that there was a distinct agreement between the plaintiff and Stone that the plaintiff should be paid something more if it appeared that he had been injured in his person. The agreement contained in the receipt is unambiguous, and clearly covers all demands for damages, whether to person or property; the oral agreement which the plaintiff offered to prove is plainly inconsistent with the writing, and a mistake or misunderstanding on the part of the plaintiff of the legal import of the written agreement is not a ground for avoiding it at common law.

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We need not decide whether the evidence offered would have been competent, if the plaintiff had intended to avail himself of his equitable rights pursuant to the St. of 1883, *c.* 223, § 14. It does not appear that the evidence was offered, or that the exceptions were taken, with reference to the rights conferred by this statute upon plaintiffs in actions at law.

Exceptions overruled.

QUINCY A. SEWARD *vs.* GILBERT W. ARMS & trustee.

Hampshire. Sept. 20. — Oct. 20, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

In a trustee process, if it appears from the trustee's answers that the trustee owes for washing done by the wife of the defendant under a contract made by the trustee with him, and that the trustee is informed and believes that the defendant, in making the contract, acted as the agent of his wife, and the plaintiff rests his case wholly upon the trustee's answers, the trustee is rightly discharged.

TRUSTEE PROCESS. Smith College, a corporation duly established by law in this Commonwealth, was summoned as trustee of the principal defendant. The material parts of the trustee's answers appear in the opinion. The Superior Court discharged the trustee; and the plaintiff appealed to this court.

C. G. Delano, for the plaintiff.

W. G. Bassett, for the trustee.

FIELD, J. To charge the corporation, which is the alleged trustee in this case, it must affirmatively appear from its answers that it has credits of the defendant in its hands. *Porter* v. *Stevens*, 9 Cush. 530. It appears from these answers that the trustee is indebted for washing done by the wife of the defendant; that the contract for the washing was made by it with the defendant; but that it is informed and believes that the defendant, in making the contract, acted as the agent of his wife, and that it understands that the indebtedness is to the wife. By the Pub. Sts. *c.* 147, § 4, this work of doing washing by the wife for a person other than her husband and

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children must, "unless there is an express agreement on her part to the contrary, be presumed to be performed on her separate account." It may be, that, if the trustee and the defendant agreed together that the defendant should have this washing done, and the husband employed his wife to do it, this would tend to show that she was working for her husband, and that the trustee was indebted to the husband. But the answers of the trustee, upon information and belief, that the husband, in making the contract, acted as agent of the wife, must, in the absence of any other evidence, be taken to be true. *Fay* v. *Sears*, 111 Mass. 154, 156. *Clinton National Bank* v. *Bright*, 126 Mass. 535.

The question does not arise whether the plaintiff might not have alleged and proved that the defendant made the contract on his own account, Pub. Sts. *c.* 183, § 17, or whether the wife might not have been summoned in as a claimant, and this issue tried upon evidence produced by the plaintiff and the claimant. The plaintiff rested his case against the trustee wholly upon its answers. See *Mortland* v. *Little*, 137 Mass. 339; *Sheehan* v. *Marston*, 132 Mass. 161. The judgment discharging the trustee must be *Affirmed.*

JOSEPH A. FORTIN *vs.* INHABITANTS OF EASTHAMPTON.

Hampshire. Sept. 20. — Oct. 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

In an action against a town for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by a defect consisting of ice on the sidewalk of a street, there was evidence that the ice was in substantially the same condition at the time of the injury that it was in immediately after a storm of snow and rain occurring nine days before; that the sidewalk was a frequented one, and was during that time patrolled by a police officer and several times passed by a selectman; and that an attempt to clear the sidewalk, which left it in the condition testified to, was made before the ice was fully formed and more than a week before the injury. *Held*, that the defendant was not entitled to a ruling that there was no evidence for the consideration of the jury that the injury might have been prevented by reasonable care and diligence on the part of the defendant, or that the defendant had reasonable notice of the defect, or might have had notice thereof by the exercise of proper care and diligence.

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TORT for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by a defect in a highway in Easthampton. At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., at the close of the testimony, the defendant requested the judge to rule that there was no evidence for the consideration of the jury, that the damage or injury might have been prevented by reasonable care and diligence on the part of the defendant, or that the defendant had reasonable notice of the defect, or might have had notice thereof by the exercise of proper care and diligence. The judge declined so to rule.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions. The nature of the evidence appears in the opinion.

W. G. Bassett, for the defendant.

D. W. Bond, for the plaintiff.

W. ALLEN, J. The case assumes that a defect in the sidewalk caused injury to the plaintiff. The only questions raised are, whether there was any evidence that the defendant had notice of the defect; and whether there was any evidence that the defect might have been remedied, or the injury prevented, by reasonable care and diligence on the part of the defendant, so as to render the defendant liable under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 18.

The defect was the existence and condition of ice on the sidewalk. There was evidence from which the jury might have found that the ice was in substantially the same condition at the time of the injury that it was in when formed immediately after a particular storm of snow and rain which occurred at some time before the injury. The plaintiff and several witnesses called by him testified that the storm was on the Sunday before he was injured, which was on a Wednesday. But there was other evidence from recorded observations, which might have satisfied the jury that, as was argued to them by the plaintiff's counsel, these witnesses were mistaken, and that the storm occurred nearly a week before the time testified to by them.

The defendant contends that there was no evidence that the injury to the plaintiff was caused by the general rough and uneven condition of the ice, or by any defect except the particular one described by the plaintiff as a hole in the ice, and that there was no evidence that that particular defect had existed for any

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considerable length of time. But we think that the jury would have been authorized to find that the attempt to clear the sidewalk, which left it in the condition testified to by the plaintiff, was made before the ice was fully formed, and more than a week before the injury to the plaintiff.

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The jury may have found that the defect which caused the injury had existed for nine days in a frequented sidewalk, which during that time was patrolled by a policeman and several times passed by a selectman. Clearly these facts afford evidence of notice of the defect and of negligence in not remedying it.

Exceptions overruled.

JOSEPH STEELE & another *vs.* H. E. NASH & others.

Hampden. Sept. 27. — Oct. 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

A., a creditor of C., brought an action against him, and attached his goods. B., another creditor of C., had attached his goods on a writ prior to A.'s attachment, and had recovered judgment. Before execution issued on said judgment, A. threatened to begin proceedings in insolvency against C. Thereupon B. agreed that if, after demand made by A. upon B., after the sale upon said execution of all the property attached in said action, and after the money realized upon such sale should have passed into the hands and possession of B., he should refuse to pay to A. one half of the amount which B. should have realized upon said execution, after all the costs and fees arising from and by reason of said action and said execution should have been deducted, then D. might indorse to A. a certain promissory note made by B. to D., and not otherwise. A. did not institute insolvency proceedings against C. B.'s attachment was perfected, the attached property was sold, and a certain sum realized; and B., upon request, refused to comply with his agreement with A. Subsequently, and while the proceeds of said sale were in the hands of the officer, the assignee in insolvency of C. brought a bill in equity against B. and the officer to avoid B.'s judgment and to recover the proceeds of the sale, and the officer was restrained from paying them to B. That suit was compromised by the payment of a part of the proceeds to the assignee, and the balance was paid to B.'s attorney in payment of costs and fees in said suits. A. then brought a bill in equity against B. and D. to enforce said agreement. *Held*, that the contingency on which the note was to be indorsed to A. had not arisen; and that the bill could not be maintained.

BILL IN EQUITY, by Joseph Steele and Alexander Emery, copartners under the firm name of Steele and Emery, against H. E.

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Nash and N. C. Cook, copartners under the firm name of H. E. Nash and Company, and John G. Mackintosh. The case was referred to a master, who reported the following facts:

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The plaintiffs, on September 4, 1882, were creditors of one John Bobsin, of Holyoke, and had brought an action against him, which is now pending, in which an attachment of his goods had been made. The defendants Nash and Cook were also creditors of Bobsin, and had caused his goods to be attached on two writs returnable to the Police Court of Holyoke prior to the attachments on the plaintiffs' writ, and on said September 4 recovered judgment in these actions, in one for the sum of $216.70, and in the other for $225.80. After said judgments were recovered, and on the same day, and previously to the issuing of executions on said judgments, the plaintiffs threatened to commence proceedings in insolvency against Bobsin, and the defendants promised and agreed that they would pay to the plaintiffs the sum of $200, or one half the amount which they should realize upon the executions which might issue upon said judgments, after all the costs and fees arising from and by reason of said suits and said executions should have been deducted, which sum was to be determined by the defendants. As security for the performance of said agreement, the defendants made a promissory note for $200, dated September 4, 1882, payable thirty days after date to the order of John G. Mackintosh, the other defendant, and signed "H. E. Nash & Co."

Accompanying the note was the following statement, signed by the plaintiffs and by H. E. Nash and Company: "The note which is attached hereto is given to John G. Mackintosh, to be held by him upon the following terms, and for the following purposes, to wit: if said H. E. Nash and Company, the signers of said note, shall pay to Steele and Emery one half the amount which they shall hereafter realize, over and above the fees and costs upon the executions which may hereafter issue in the two suits which are now pending in the Police Court of Holyoke, and which H. E. Nash and Company have brought against John Bobsin, the said note shall be returned to said H. E. Nash and Company by said Mackintosh. But if, upon demand therefor made by said Steele and Emery, said H. E. Nash and Company, after the sale upon said executions of all

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the property attached in said suits, and after the money realized upon such sales shall have passed into the hands and possession of said H. E. Nash and Company, they shall refuse to pay to the said Steele and Emery one half the amount which they, said Nash and Company, shall have realized upon said executions, after all the costs and fees arising from and by reason of said suits and said executions shall have been deducted, then said Mackintosh may indorse said note to said Steele and Emery, and not otherwise."

The plaintiff did not institute proceedings in insolvency against said Bobsin, and said attachments of the defendants were perfected and the property attached was sold by D. E. Kingsbury, a deputy sheriff for Hampden County, and the sum of $434.02 was realized. The defendants, although requested so to do, have refused to comply with the terms of said agreement. After said judgment had been perfected in said Police Court, but before sale and said executions, another creditor instituted proceedings in insolvency against Bobsin, and one claim of the plaintiffs for the sum of $429.93 was allowed; also one for the sum of $13.68, preferred for costs of the suit aforesaid, proof of said claims being made on the usual blanks, sworn to by the plaintiffs, and being for the full amount of their claim against Bobsin. From said insolvent estate the plaintiffs received and receipted for $46.77.

One Charles F. Rebstock, of Meriden, Connecticut, claims the goods sold under said executions, and, by writ dated July 21, 1883, brought an action against said deputy sheriff, D. E. Kingsbury, for the value thereof, which action is now pending in the Superior Court for the county of Hampden, but has never been placed upon the trial list.

William G. Ham, assignee of the estate of Bobsin, on January 22, 1883, filed a bill in equity in the Supreme Judicial Court for said county against these defendants, John Bobsin, and Kingsbury, praying that said judgments entered in the Holyoke Police Court be adjudged fraudulent and void, and that the proceeds of said sale be paid over to said assignee; and an injunction issued from said court restraining Kingsbury from paying any of the money received on said executions. The matters in controversy between the parties to said bill were compromised by

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the payment by Kingsbury to said Ham of the sum of $212 from the $434.02, the proceeds of the sale.

The balance of said $434.02, being the sum of $222.12, was paid to the attorneys of the defendants, Nash and Cook, in payment of costs and fees in the different cases growing out of the defendant's first-mentioned actions, and the executions issued thereon, including the equity proceedings above referred to.

The case was heard in the Superior Court, by *Knowlton*, J., who found that the defendants Nash and Cook made and delivered to the defendant Mackintosh, for the use and benefit of the plaintiffs, the note described in the bill, as stated in the memorandum attached thereto, for a sufficient consideration; that the property attached on the suits referred to was sold upon the executions which issued thereon, and the avails thereof came into the possession of the defendants Nash and Cook, who failed and refused to pay over to the plaintiffs any part thereof; and ordered that Mackintosh indorse said note to the plaintiffs, and deliver the same into court to be filed in this case; and that judgment be rendered against Nash and Cook for the amount of said note, and interest from the time the same became due, namely, $234.90. The defendants appealed to this court.

W. H. Brooks, for the defendants.

G. Wells, for the plaintiffs.

W. ALLEN, J. It is obvious from the facts stated in the master's report, that the parties supposed that the attachment of Nash and Company might be avoided under proceedings in insolvency. It does not appear whether they feared a statutory dissolution of the attachment by an assignment under proceedings commenced within four months after the attachment, or that it might be avoided by an assignee, as in fraud of creditors or of the insolvent law. The contract was made to protect the attachment from proceedings in insolvency. It was in view of the liability of the attachment to be dissolved by an assignment before the execution was levied, or avoided by a subsequent suit by an assignee, that the parties agreed that if, after the sale of the property upon the executions and after the money realized upon such sales should pass into the hands or possession of Nash and Company, they should refuse to pay to the plaintiff one half of the amount "which they, said Nash and Company, shall have

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realized upon said executions, after all the costs and fees arising from and by reason of said suits and said executions shall have been deducted, then said Mackintosh may indorse said note to said Steele and Emery, and not otherwise."

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The parties were creditors seeking payment of their debts, and the fair construction of the agreement is, that whatever Nash and Company should realize to apply on their debt they would share with the plaintiffs.

After the sale of the property on execution, and while the proceeds were in the hands of the officer, a bill in equity was brought against Nash and Company and the officer, by the assignee in insolvency, to avoid the judgments of Nash and Company, and to recover the proceeds of the sales; and the officer was enjoined against paying them over to Nash and Company. That suit was compromised by the payment of a part of the proceeds to the assignee, and the balance was paid over by the officer to the attorneys of Nash and Company in payment of costs and fees in the equity suit, and in other cases growing out of the suits and executions upon which the property was sold, so that Nash and Company never received anything which they could apply on their debts against the insolvent. We think that the costs and fees in actions brought to avoid the judgments and to recover the proceeds of the sales on execution in the hands of the officer were "costs and fees arising from and by reason of said suits and said executions," within the meaning of the contract, and that neither the money received by the officer on the sales while it remained in his hands as officer, nor the money paid by the officer in compromise of the suit of the assignee, nor the money paid by the officer to the attorney of Nash and Company for costs and fees incurred in the suit by the assignee, and in similar suits brought to recover the proceeds of the sales from the officer, was money realized upon such sales in the hands and possession of Nash and Company, within the meaning of the contract.

This decision renders it unnecessary to consider the question whether there was any legal consideration for the note, and we express no opinion upon it.

In the opinion of a majority of the court, the entry must be,

Bill dismissed.

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GEORGE W. BARBER *vs.* HENRY S. PARSONS.
SAME *vs.* JOSEPH WELCH.
SAME *vs.* HENRY W. CROCKER.

Hampden. Sept. 27. — Oct. 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

Three actions of slander were brought by the same plaintiff against three different defendants for the same or similar defamatory words; and, by agreement of parties, they were referred to the same referee, who heard them together on three consecutive days, and made an award in each case in favor of the defendant, on which judgment was entered. The certificate of witnesses filed in each case showed that the same witnesses for the defendants attended in each case the same number of days and travelled the same number of miles, with a trifling exception. *Held*, that the fees for the attendance of witnesses should be taxed in all the cases, but that the fees for their travel should be taxed only in the case in which they were summoned.

FIELD, J. These are three actions of slander brought by the same plaintiff against three different defendants for the same or similar defamatory words; and, by agreement of parties, they were referred to the same referee, who heard them together on the 15th, 16th, and 17th of December, 1886, and made an award in each case in favor of the defendant, on which judgment was entered. A certificate of witnesses has been filed in each case, from which it appears that the same twenty-seven witnesses for the defendants attended in each case the same number of days, and travelled the same number of miles, with a single exception. H. B. Lewis certifies in the first and second cases that he attended one day, and travelled twenty miles, and in the third case that he attended one day and travelled two miles. The number of days of attendance in each case is seventy-three. The number of miles of travel in the first and second cases is 1202, and in the third case 1184. The amount taxed for attendance in each case is $36.50. The amount taxed for travel in each of the first and second cases is $60.10, and in the third case $59.20, making the whole amount taxed for travel and attendance $96.60 in each of the first and second cases, and $95.70 in the third case, being at the rate of fifty cents a day for attendance, and five cents a mile for travel. Pub. Sts. *c.* 199, § 14.

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The principles which must govern these appeals are declared in *Miller* v. *Lyon*, 6 Allen, 514, and *Day* v. *Berkshire Woollen Co.* 1 Gray, 420. It must appear that the attendance of the witnesses "was reasonably and in good faith procured by the party making the taxation; and that they were paid, or actually attended, so as to be entitled to their fees." The certificates "are competent *prima facie* evidence for the allowance of the amount certified, but are not conclusive," and the court "may decide upon the reasonableness of the conduct of the party as to the number of witnesses, and the length of their attendance, in order to secure good faith, and prevent oppression or reckless expense." 6 Allen, 515. "If the witnesses were summoned, and attended and were paid in the different cases, their travel and attendance might be taxed in each." 1 Gray, 424.

It was said at the argument, and not denied, that the three defendants were represented by the same attorneys before the referee. The amount taxable in each case is the amount of the legal fees for witnesses in the case, which the defendant has paid or is under liability to pay. If the witnesses were summoned in but one case, their travel, we think, should be taxed only in that case, although the attorneys may have requested them to remain in attendance for all the cases. It is not necessary that a witness be summoned to entitle him to his fees: it is sufficient if he attends on request; but, when three cases are heard together, and the same attorneys are employed in each of the cases, and the witnesses are all summoned in but one case, they are not entitled to more than one travel merely because the officer who served the subpœnas on the witnesses requested them to attend for all the cases. There might, however, be such separate requests for travel and attendance as, if acted upon, would show separate contracts, and would entitle the witnesses to be paid for travel as well as attendance in each case. We infer, however, from the facts found in these cases, that there was no such request as entitles the witnesses to travel except in the case in which they were summoned. If the witnesses, having appeared in obedience to a subpœna, were requested to remain as witnesses in all the cases, we think they are entitled to be paid for attendance in each case while they attended as witnesses in that case, and that they might attend as witnesses in three cases

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at the same time. It is a question of fact whether, while a witness remains in attendance, he is attending as a witness in all the cases, or in some one or more of them. If one case is tried before the trial of another is begun, the attendance of a witness should not be taxed in the former case after the trial is finished, nor ought it to be taxed in the latter for a length of time before the trial, which under all the circumstances should be thought unreasonable.

On the somewhat meagre facts found in the Superior Court, and regarding the certificates as *prima facie* evidence, we think that the fees for the attendance of witnesses should be taxed in all the cases, but that the fees for their travel should be taxed only in the case in which they were summoned. We infer from the copies of the taxation appearing in the papers, that the witnesses were summoned in the first case, which is that in which Henry S. Parsons is defendant. The order of the Superior Court in the taxation of costs in that case is affirmed. In the other cases, the order is reversed, the fees for the travel of witnesses are to be stricken from the bills of costs, and, when thus corrected, the taxation is to be affirmed. No costs are to be allowed on these appeals. *So ordered.*

J. J. Jennings, (of Connecticut,) for the plaintiff.

M. B. Whitney, for the defendants.

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JOHN MALONEY.

Worcester. October 3. — 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A person arrested on a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors was brought before the trial justice who issued the warrant, and pleaded guilty; and the case was continued for sentence to a day certain. On that day, the trial justice ordered the case to be continued *nisi* upon payment of costs by the defendant, to be again called up for sentence upon notice to the defendant. Subsequently, the case was called up on notice to the defendant, and he was sentenced, and took an appeal to the Superior Court. *Held*, that the continuance *nisi* was, under the Pub. Sts. c. 212, § 26, made without authority; that the subsequent sentence imposed was of no validity; and that these defences were open to the defendant in the Superior Court, on an appeal by him.

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COMPLAINT to a trial justice, for keeping and maintaining a certain common nuisance, to wit, a tenement in Leominster, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors, on April 13, 1886, and on divers other days and times between that day and June 8, 1886.

The record showed that the defendant was arrested and brought before the trial justice on June 19, 1886, and pleaded not guilty; that the case was continued to June 26, 1886, at which time the defendant retracted his plea of not guilty, and pleaded guilty; that the case was "continued for sentence" to August 7, 1886, "at which time the cause was continued *nisi* upon payment of costs by the defendant, to be again called up for sentence upon notice to the defendant;" that on October 6, 1886, upon notice to the defendant, the case was called up for sentence, and continued to October 16, 1886, when the defendant was sentenced; from which sentence he appealed to the Superior Court.

In the Superior Court, upon motion for sentence, the defendant moved to dismiss the complaint for the following reasons: "1. Because the court has no jurisdiction, in that the record of the case discloses the fact that it was disposed of contrary to the St. of 1885, *c.* 359. 2. Because the trial justice, before whom the case was disposed of, had no power to continue *nisi*. 3. Because the trial justice had already accepted the costs in the case, as appears from the record. 4. Because, in accepting the costs as aforesaid, the trial justice has already imposed a sentence, which has been fully satisfied. 5. Because judgment cannot twice be entered on one and the same complaint. 6. Because the trial justice has no power to continue a criminal case for more than ten days."

Staples, J., overruled the motion; ruled that no legal obstacle existed to the award of sentence in the case; and reported the case for the determination of this court. If the motion to dismiss was rightly overruled, the case was to stand for judgment; otherwise, to be dismissed.

J. W. Corcoran, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

W. ALLEN, J. The defendant cannot, on appeal, take advantage of irregularities in the proceedings before the trial justice, unless they were such as to show that the magistrate had not

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jurisdiction to impose a sentence. If the trial justice had jurisdiction of the person of the defendant to sentence him upon the complaint, the appellate court had the same jurisdiction upon the appeal. *Commonwealth* v. *Holmes*, 119 Mass. 195, and cases cited. *Commonwealth* v. *Dunbar*, 15 Gray, 209. *Commonwealth* v. *Dillane*, 11 Gray, 67.

The record sufficiently shows that the defendant voluntarily appeared before the magistrate, and submitted to his sentence by appealing from it. Mere consent would not give jurisdiction over the person of the defendant. To make the voluntary appearance and submission show more than mere consent, it is at least necessary that the magistrate should have had power to compel the presence of the defendant. If the defendant could not have been arrested and held for sentence by any legal warrant or authority, the magistrate had no jurisdiction of his person, and could acquire none by consent.

If a magistrate has authority to order a party into custody, or to issue process to arrest him, the party can waive defects in process or service, perhaps can submit to the authority without process; but where there is no authority to arrest and hold a person, or to issue process for his arrest, he cannot by consent create such authority and give jurisdiction to hold and sentence him. The question in the case is, whether the magistrate could lawfully have had the defendant arrested and brought before him for sentence, either under the original warrant or on a capias. If he could not, and could not acquire jurisdiction of the person of the defendant by process, he could not by consent.

The record is very imperfect, but it shows that the defendant was arrested on the warrant and brought before the trial justice on June 19, and pleaded not guilty; that the case was continued to June 26, when the defendant retracted his plea and pleaded guilty, and the case was continued to August 7, when the defendant was discharged. The record does not state whether, before his discharge, he was under recognizance, or was held in custody, and it is immaterial whether he was committed to jail, or to the custody of his sureties; he was all the time held under the original warrant, or the warrant of commitment, until his discharge on August 7. *Commonwealth* v. *Morihan*, 4 Allen, 585. And that discharge, whether he had been committed or

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held under recognizance, extinguished the authority to hold him under any then existing process. This must necessarily have been the effect, unless his going at large was an escape on account of which he could have been retaken. But a going at large under order of court cannot be an escape, even though the order be irregular and unauthorized. The order amounted to a discharge of the defendant without a judgment, and to nothing more. The record is in the words: "The cause was continued *nisi* upon payment of costs by the defendant, to be again called up for sentence upon notice to the defendant." This was not in terms a final judgment, nor an absolute final disposition of the case; but the question is whether the defendant remained a party to it, and, if not, whether he could subsequently be made a party. The case was not "continued" within any meaning of that word known to the law. A continuance is an adjournment to a time certain; a continuance *nisi* is to a time certain unless something shall occur to cause action upon the case before that time. The record is, that the case is continued until it shall be called up on notice. This purports to be an indefinite adjournment of the court, and a contingent final disposition of the case. The Pub. Sts. *c.* 155, § 71, provide that trial justices may adjourn their courts in all cases, civil or criminal, on trial before them, to any time or place as occasion may require, except as provided in *c.* 212, § 26, which relates to continuances in criminal cases. This requires an adjournment to a time certain.

At common law, justices of the peace could detain in custody, for a reasonable time, prisoners brought before them for trial or examination. If they exceeded that, the custody was illegal, and they were liable in trespass. *Davis* v. *Capper*, 10 B. & C. 28. *Cave* v. *Mountain*, 1 Man. & Gr. 257. D. Davis's Justice, (2d ed.) 56–58. It may be that, prior to the St. of 1821, *c.* 98, there was authority in justices to admit prisoners before them to bail, pending an examination or trial, (see *Potter* v. *Kingsbury*, 4 Day, 98,) though the contrary seems to be laid down in D. Davis's Justice, *ubi supra*. That statute provided that justices of the peace might take the recognizance, with sureties, of any person brought before them for any crime, misdemeanor, or other offence, for his appearance for further examination at a future time, not exceeding ten days.

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The St. of 1783, c. 42, was "an act describing the power of justices of the peace in civil actions," and provided in § 2 that "every justice of the peace shall have power by public proclamation to adjourn the trial of any action brought before him, from time to time, when equity may require it." The Rev. Sts. c. 85, § 32, authorized a continuance by a justice of the peace of all cases, civil or criminal, on trial before him, to any other time or place, as occasion might require; and c. 135, § 9, the chapter relating to the arrest and examination of offenders, reënacted, with changes, the St. of 1821, c. 98. It authorized a magistrate to adjourn an examination or trial pending before him, from time to time, not exceeding ten days at one time, without the consent of the defendant or person charged. The words "without the consent of the defendant or person charged" were not in the St. of 1821, nor in the draft of the Revised Statutes reported by the Commissioners. These provisions of the Revised Statutes were reënacted in the Gen. Sts. c. 120, § 52, and c. 170, § 17; and in the Pub. Sts. c. 155, § 71, and c. 212, § 26, except that the Pub. Sts. c. 155, § 71, first expressed the exception from it of the provisions of c. 212, § 26.

It is clear that the trial justice had no power to continue the case indefinitely, and to hold the defendant to appear at a time to be afterwards named. A commitment or recognizance under such an order would be simply void, and a discharge of a defendant under it would be absolute. The record does not expressly state that the defendant was discharged; but that appears, as do other essential things in the record, by implication, because it shows that he could not lawfully be longer held in custody. The record also shows that there was no final judgment, and no termination of the case, unless the discharge of the defendant of itself terminated the case. During the progress of the trial, the case was indefinitely postponed, and the defendant discharged. Pronouncing sentence is a judicial act, and part of the trial. The indefinite postponement would relieve the defendant from lawful custody, and from any obligation to appear and answer further, and from any liability to be arrested and held to answer further. If the order of the magistrate discharged him, without leaving him under any obligation to appear, the magistrate would have no authority to issue a capias to compel

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his appearance: it would work a discontinuance of the case as to him.

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In *Doggett* v. *Cook*, 11 Cush. 262, there was a final judgment and sentence, which the defendant continued under obligation to perform. He appealed from the sentence of fine and costs, and the appeal was dismissed in the appellate court as improperly taken, and the case remanded for enforcement of the sentence. The question was as to the mode of enforcing the sentence. The magistrate was held liable for causing the commitment of the defendant, a year after his sentence, on the common mittimus, without first having him brought up on a capias or other process, and giving him an opportunity to pay the fine and costs.

But there is another fact disclosed in this record, which also appeared in *Doggett* v. *Cook*, *ubi supra*. The indefinite postponement was with the consent of the defendant. The payment of costs is not material otherwise than as showing this. The magistrate had no authority to impose it, except as part of a final sentence; and the defendant was under no obligation to pay it. The payment was, by the magistrate, made the consideration of the postponement, and was paid by the defendant to secure the postponement. The postponement was not, and was not intended to be, a continuance, but an end of the prosecution, unless the magistrate should see cause at some future time to notify the defendant that sentence was to be pronounced. It was obviously an arrangement between the trial justice and the defendant, like that sometimes made in the higher courts between the prosecuting officer and a defendant, with the approval of the court, by which, on payment of costs by the defendant, an indictment or complaint is "placed on file." See *Commonwealth* v. *Dowdican's Bail*, 115 Mass. 133. The court say, "Such an order is not equivalent to a final judgment, or to a *nolle prosequi* or discontinuance, by which the case is put out of court; but is a mere suspending of active proceedings in the case, which dispenses with the necessity of entering formal continuances upon the dockets, and leaves it within the power of the court at any time, upon the motion of either party, to bring the case forward and pass any lawful order or judgment therein." 115 Mass. 136.

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When a case is pending in a permanent court of general jurisdiction, with stated terms, in which continuances are from term to term, a defendant may waive the formal entries of continuance, and consent that the case may remain in court without such entries until asked for by either party. The court then retains its jurisdiction of the case and of the defendant, and has authority at any time to make the entries of continuance from term to term, and bring the case forward upon the docket of the term. A trial justice is not a permanent court, with stated terms. His court is a court of record, but it is a temporary court for each case, kept alive by continuances, and exercising limited jurisdiction by prescribed methods. The indefinite postponement of a case before it, is in effect the indefinite postponement of the court. He has no jurisdiction to suspend and revive at his will a case and court before him, and the question whether the consent of the defendant can give him such jurisdiction is very different from the question whether a defendant can consent to an indefinite continuance in the Superior Court. The authority to postpone a sentence by a continuance, not exceeding ten days, without the defendant's consent, and for a longer time with it, may perhaps be inferred from the power given to trial justices, and from the particular provisions in the statute as to continuances; but there is nothing in the statute which gives to a trial justice authority to settle a criminal case before him by receiving the costs from the defendant, and discharging him without judgment and without a continuance, on his agreement to present himself for sentence at any future time on notice. Apart from the abuse to which such a power would be liable, the functions and course of proceeding of justices of the peace in regard to offenders prescribed by statute show that it was never intended that they should have the general power of putting a prisoner convicted before them on probation by indefinitely holding the conviction over him, as is done in higher courts by putting an indictment on file. When such power is given by statute, it is carefully guarded. See Pub. Sts. *c.* 212, §§ 74–81; St. 1885, *c.* 359. We are of opinion that the defendant was not amenable to sentence by the trial justice, and the entry must be, *Proceedings quashed.*

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* SIMON SAVERY.

Worcester. October 3. — 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

It is no defence to a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors with intent unlawfully to sell the same, that the liquors were upon the defendant's premises by mistake, and he did not know that they were intoxicating, if he intended to sell them, and they were in fact intoxicating.

On a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors with intent unlawfully to sell the same, there was evidence for the government that the defendant had in his possession lager beer containing more than three per cent of alcohol, by volume, at sixty degrees Fahrenheit. The defendant testified that he ordered three per cent beer; that the lager beer was left by mistake; that he did not know that he had any lager beer; and that, if he had found, when he opened the beer, that it was lager beer, he should not have sold it. He asked the judge to instruct the jury, that, if they found that the lager beer was there by mistake, that he did not know it was lager beer, and that he did not intend to sell the same when the opportunity presented itself to him to know its true character and when he did know the true nature of it, and that he would have found out its true nature when he attempted to sell it, he could not be convicted. *Held*, in the absence of evidence that lager beer could be distinguished from three per cent beer in any manner except by analysis, and in the absence of evidence that the defendant intended to make an analysis, the request for instruction was rightly refused.

COMPLAINT for keeping intoxicating liquors with intent unlawfully to sell the same in this Commonwealth. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The government introduced witnesses, who testified that they found upon the defendant's premises, in different cases, beer in bottles known as lager-beer bottles; that four bottles of this beer were taken by the officers, one from each case. It was agreed that in one of these bottles so taken the beer contained more than three per cent of alcohol, by volume, at sixty degrees Fahrenheit. The contents of the other bottles were not analyzed.

The defendant offered to show that, when he purchased this beer, he ordered what is known as three per cent beer, and did not order lager beer; that he did not know that any lager beer was upon his premises; that the case containing the lager beer or beer that contained more than three per cent of alcohol was brought there by the person of whom he ordered the three per

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cent beer, and was left by mistake; that he purchased this beer in good faith for three per cent beer; and that if he had found, when he opened the beer, that it was lager beer, he should not have sold it.

The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury as follows: "1. If you find that the defendant ordered in good faith a beer which the law permits him to sell, known as three per cent beer, and that he did not order lager beer, and that the case of lager was left there at his place by mistake on the part of the person delivering it, and through no fault of his, and that the defendant honestly believed that he had nothing except three per cent beer upon his premises for sale, and did not intend to sell anything which he had not a right to sell under the law, then he should not be found guilty. 2. If the jury shall find that the defendant believed that he had not any lager beer in his possession to sell, but did believe and had good reason to believe that the beer which he had to sell was not lager beer, but a beer known in the market as three per cent beer, which he had a right to sell under the law, and that he did not intend to sell any lager beer, and did not know that he had any lager beer in his possession to sell, then he cannot be convicted under this complaint. 3. Before you can convict the defendant under this complaint, you must be satisfied, upon the evidence, that the defendant knew, or had good reason to know, that the beer which he had in his possession to sell was a beer which he was prohibited by law to sell. 4. If the jury shall find that the lager beer found with the defendant was there by mistake, and that the defendant did not know it was lager beer, and did not intend to sell the same when the opportunity presented itself to him to know the true character of the beer and when he did know the true nature of it, and you find that he would have found out whether it was lager or not when he attempted to sell it, then he cannot be convicted under this complaint."

The judge declined to give any of said instructions in the form in which they were requested, and ruled that, in order to convict the defendant, it must be proved that, at the time referred to, he kept for sale intoxicating liquor, that is, that he kept in his place of business liquor which was in fact intoxicating, intending to sell it as he had opportunity; and that, if that

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was proved, it would be no defence for the defendant to show that he was mistaken as to the kind or quality of liquor, or that he ordered or bought it for liquor which was not intoxicating, and believed that it was not intoxicating, or that the person who delivered it was mistaken about its quality.

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The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. R. Thayer, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

FIELD, J. At the argument in this court, the counsel for the defendant conceded that, if the defendant kept the beer with the intention of selling it, it was not a defence to show that he believed that the beer contained not more than three per cent of alcohol. The keeping of intoxicating liquor for sale without a license is prohibited from considerations of public policy, and the defendant was bound to know the kind and quality of the articles he kept for sale. *Commonwealth* v. *Boynton*, 2 Allen, 160. *Commonwealth* v. *Goodman*, 97 Mass. 117. *Commonwealth* v. *Raymond*, 97 Mass. 567. *Commonwealth* v. *Hallett*, 103 Mass. 452. The ruling of the court was in accordance with this view of the law, and the first three instructions asked for by the defendant ought not to have been given.

There is more difficulty in considering the fourth request. The counsel for the defendant contends, that if the defendant kept the beer, not with the absolute intention of selling it, but with the intention of first testing or analyzing it in order to ascertain the amount of alcohol it contained, and then of offering it for sale only if it was found to contain not more than three per cent of alcohol, he could not be convicted. It is unnecessary to determine the correctness of this contention. The fourth request is not predicated upon the assumption that the defendant actually had the intention of testing or analyzing the beer before offering it for sale, but upon the assumption that he would have found out that the beer was lager beer before he attempted to sell it, and that, if he had found this out, he would not have sold it.

It is implied in the exceptions that what is called three per cent beer is different from lager beer, but it is not found or implied that they differ except in the amount of alcohol they

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respectively contain. It does not appear that they are distinguishable in appearance by persons having no special knowledge of beer, or that one is anything more than a weaker solution of the other.

It may be that if a person, for example, keeps soda water in bottles for sale, and if by mistake a case of lager beer instead of soda water has been left at his place of business by the person of whom he has ordered soda water, he could not be convicted of keeping lager beer for sale, if he never intended to sell lager beer, and if the mistake would have been detected before the lager beer was offered for sale, and the beer would not have been sold by him. Soda water and lager beer are articles of different kinds, easily distinguishable at sight, and a person may well intend to deal in one and not in the other. If, however, a person keeps beer containing alcohol for sale without a license, intending that the beer shall not contain more than three per cent of alcohol, and by mistake he buys beer for sale which contains more than this amount of alcohol, he may be said to keep this beer with the intention of selling it, unless his intention is that the quantity of alcohol in the beer shall be ascertained by examination or analysis before it is offered or exposed for sale. This is merely a mistake in the quality of the article he intends to sell, which may or may not be discovered before he sells it.

The defendant testified "that he purchased this beer in good faith for three per cent beer; and that if he had found, when he opened the beer, that it was lager beer, he should not have sold it;" and that the beer found on his premises was left there by mistake. The nature of the mistake does not appear, unless it was the mistaken belief on the part of the buyer, and perhaps of the seller, that the beer did not contain more than three per cent of alcohol. Upon this evidence, the jury were not required to speculate upon the probability of the defendant's finding out that the beer contained more than three per cent of alcohol before he sold it, in the absence of evidence that he actually intended to test the beer before he offered it for sale.

Exceptions overruled.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* MAURICE WALL.

Worcester. October 3. — 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors with intent unlawfully to sell the same, the defendant admitted that a license issued to him to sell such liquors had been revoked by the board of aldermen granting it, upon proof satisfactory to the board that he had violated the conditions thereof. The defendant, for the purpose of showing that said revocation was invalid, on the ground that he was afforded no reasonable opportunity to be heard, offered to show that he was cited to appear before the board on a certain evening, to attend a hearing upon the revocation of his license; that on that evening he was confined to his bed by reason of illness, and was unable to attend the hearing; that he was represented by counsel, who presented to the board the certificate of his physician of his physical inability to be present, and requested a continuance of the hearing; that thereupon the city marshal stated to the board, but not under oath, that the defendant was in his saloon attending to business that afternoon, which statement the defendant offered at the trial to prove was incorrect; that it was then voted to proceed with the hearing; that the board refused his request for a continuance, upon which his counsel left; and that, after a hearing, the board revoked the license. The judge ruled that, upon these facts, if proved, the revocation was valid. *Held*, that the ruling was right.

COMPLAINT for keeping, on July 9, 1887, intoxicating liquors with intent unlawfully to sell the same in this Commonwealth. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The evidence for the government tended to show that the defendant, on July 9, 1887, kept certain intoxicating liquors at his grocery, with intent to sell the same.

It was admitted by the government that the defendant had received from the board of aldermen of Worcester a license of the fourth class, for the sale of intoxicating liquors at his grocery for the term of one year from the first day of May, 1887.

It was admitted by the defendant, that the board of aldermen, on June 6, 1887, passed an order revoking his said license, upon proof satisfactory to the board that he had violated the conditions thereof.

The defendant, for the purpose of showing said order of revocation to be invalid, and not destructive of his rights under said license, on the ground that no reasonable opportunity was

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afforded the defendant to be heard, offered to show that, on Saturday, June 4, 1887, he was cited to appear before said board of aldermen on the following Monday evening, June 6, at eight o'clock, to attend a hearing upon the revocation of his license; that on said Monday evening he was confined to his bed by reason of sickness, and was unable to attend said hearing; that he was represented by counsel, who presented to the board of aldermen the certificate of his physician of his physical inability to be present, and requested a continuance of said hearing; that thereupon the city marshal stated to the board, but not under oath, that the defendant was in his saloon attending to business that afternoon, which statement the defendant now offered to prove was incorrect; that it was then voted to proceed with the hearing; that the aldermen refused his request for a continuance, upon which his counsel left; and that the board, after a hearing, revoked his license.

The judge ruled that, upon the foregoing facts, if proved, the revocation was valid. The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. R. Thayer, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

FIELD, J. It is admitted by the defendant, that the record of the board of aldermen showed that his license had been by it declared to be forfeited, upon proof satisfactory to the board that he had violated the conditions of the license; and that this was done after notice to him, and an opportunity to be heard. Pub. Sts. c. 100, § 16. See *Commonwealth* v. *Moylan*, 119 Mass. 109; *Commonwealth* v. *Hamer*, 128 Mass. 76.

He contends, however, that the facts which he offered to prove show that he did not have a reasonable opportunity to be heard. His alleged grievance is, that, on account of his illness, he was entitled to a continuance of the hearing, and that this was refused.

The defendant was represented by counsel, who left after the request for a continuance had been refused. It thus appears that the board of aldermen had jurisdiction over the subject matter, and over the person of the defendant, so far as was required, in order to enable it to determine the question before the board. The motion for a continuance was addressed to the

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discretion of the board. We need not decide whether the manner in which this discretion was exercised can be reviewed by this court, for, if this can be done, it can only be by some proceeding to which the board of aldermen is a party.

Exceptions overruled.

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A. J. EATON *vs.* ALBERT TUSON.

Worcester. October 4. — 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

On October 12, A. made to B. a mortgage of "all the personal property described in a mortgage given by me to C.," reciting that "said mortgage has never been discharged, and said C. still holds the same," and covenanting that said property was free from all incumbrances, "except so far as the aforesaid mortgage may be an incumbrance thereon." On October 13, A. made to B. another mortgage of "the same property described in a mortgage from grantor to grantee," dated October 12, "and said property is subject to the incumbrances mentioned in said prior mortgage to grantee." On October 17, A. made to B. a third mortgage of "all the personal property previously mortgaged to grantee by mortgage dated October 13, to which reference is had for a description," and covenanting that the property was free from all incumbrances, "except a mortgage to C. upon which there is nothing owing or due, and two prior mortgages to grantee." *Held*, that the mortgage of October 17 only conveyed to B. the mortgagor's right of redemption from the mortgage to C., and was subject to the mortgage to C., although the latter mortgage had not been recorded.

TORT, for the conversion of a lot of furniture. Answer, a general denial. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

On December 13, 1880, one William T. Carroll mortgaged to the defendant the furniture in question, specifically describing it, to secure the payment of a promissory note for $47 and interest, in three days from date. This mortgage was never recorded.

On October 12, 1883, said Carroll made a mortgage to the plaintiff, to secure the payment of $50 in six months, containing the following description: "All the personal property described in a mortgage given by me to Albert Tuson to secure the payment of a note given by me to said Tuson, December 13, 1880, for forty-seven dollars, payable in fifty-five days after date; and

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said Tuson still holds said note, and said mortgage has never been discharged, and said Tuson still holds the same." The mortgagor covenanted that said goods and chattels were free from all incumbrances, "except so far as the aforesaid mortgage may be an incumbrance thereon," and warranted "against all persons except as aforesaid." This mortgage was duly recorded on the same day.

On October 13, 1883, Carroll made another mortgage to the plaintiff to secure the payment of $50 in one year, with this description: "The same property described in a mortgage from grantor to grantee, recorded with Worcester city registry of mortgages of personal property, October 12, 1883, and said property is subject to the incumbrances mentioned in said prior mortgage to grantee." The mortgagor covenanted that said goods and chattels were "free from all incumbrances except as aforesaid;" and warranted "against all persons except as aforesaid." This mortgage was recorded upon the day of its date.

On October 17, 1883, Carroll made another mortgage to the plaintiff, containing this description: "All the personal property previously mortgaged to grantee by mortgage dated October 13, 1883, and recorded with Worcester city mortgages of personal property, to which reference is had for a description." The covenant in this mortgage is as follows: "And I hereby covenant with the grantee that I am the lawful owner of the said goods and chattels; that they are free from all incumbrances, except a mortgage to Albert Tuson, upon which there is nothing owing or due, and two prior mortgages to grantee; that I have good right to sell and convey the same as aforesaid; and that I will warrant and defend the same against the lawful claims and demands of all persons." The condition in this mortgage is as follows: "Provided nevertheless that if I, or my executors, administrators, or assigns, shall pay unto the grantee, or his executors, administrators, or assigns, the sum of twenty-five dollars, on demand from this date, with interest semiannually at the rate of six per cent per annum, and shall also pay all former notes and mortgages, as also one note of even date herewith, signed by me, whereby I promise to pay to the grantee or order the said sum and interest at the times aforesaid, shall both be void." This mortgage was recorded on October 18, 1883.

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The plaintiff, on October 18, 1883, gave to Carroll a notice of his intention to foreclose the last recited mortgage. The notice and affidavit of the service were recorded on October 19, 1883.

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The plaintiff, in October, 1883, went to the dwelling-house of Carroll, took possession of said property, and appointed Frances C. Carroll, wife of William T. Carroll, his agent to care for said property.

On December 11, 1883, the defendant procured a replevin writ, in which writ the defendant was named as plaintiff and Frances C. Carroll was named as defendant, and caused the same to be served, and the property described in the mortgages aforesaid to be taken thereon.

There was no evidence of the conversion of said property by the defendant, except that the officer replevied it on said replevin writ; and it was in evidence that no demand was ever made upon the defendant by the plaintiff for said property before the bringing of this action.

It also appeared in evidence, that the defendant recovered judgment in the Central District Court of Worcester on August 23, 1884, in an action upon said note for the sum of $51.23. It appeared that a greater part of said sum was due when said replevin writ was sued out by the defendant; and that the defendant procured said writ for the purpose of enforcing his right against said property under his mortgage, and for the purpose of foreclosing said mortgage and applying the proceeds of said sale toward the payment of the debt thereby secured.

The defendant contended, and asked the judge to rule, that a demand upon him for said property before bringing this action was necessary; that this action could not be maintained; and that the title, if any, which the plaintiff took under his several mortgages, was subject to the prior mortgage of the defendant, which was then in force between the parties.

The judge ruled that the plaintiff's title was subject to the unrecorded mortgage of the defendant, and that, upon the whole evidence, the action could not be maintained; and ordered a verdict for the defendant. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

J. H. Bancroft, for the plaintiff.

F. W. Blackmer & E. H. Vaughan, for the defendant.

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FIELD, J. The question in this case is whether the plaintiff's title was subject to the unrecorded mortgage of the defendant. The first two mortgages given to the plaintiff, we think, clearly purport to convey to the plaintiff the property, subject to the mortgage to the defendant; or, in other words, only to convey the mortgagor's right of redeeming the property from the mortgage to the defendant. The third mortgage to the plaintiff is of "all the personal property mortgaged to grantee by mortgage dated October 13, 1883, and recorded with Worcester city mortgages of personal property, to which reference is had for a description." The mortgage dated October 13, 1883, is made expressly subject to the incumbrances mentioned in the prior mortgage of October 12, 1883, and the mortgage to the defendant is an incumbrance expressly mentioned in this mortgage of October 12, 1883. The mortgage of October 17, 1883, therefore, only conveyed to the plaintiff the mortgagor's right of redemption from the mortgage to the defendant. The case is governed by *Tuite* v. *Stevens*, 98 Mass. 305, *Howard* v. *Chase*, 104 Mass. 249, and *Pecker* v. *Silsby*, 123 Mass. 108.

Exceptions overruled.

WILLIAM E. LANE *vs.* CALVIN HOLMAN.

Worcester. October 5. — 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

Under the Pub. Sts. c. 162, § 18, requiring that the notice issued to a debtor, to appear and submit himself to examination touching his estate, be served by delivering a copy to him or leaving it at his last and usual place of abode, "allowing not less than three days before the time fixed for the examination, and at the rate of one day additional for every twenty-four miles' travel," if the debtor lives fifteen miles distant from the place fixed for the examination, the service of the notice upon him there must be made at least fifteen hours before the beginning of the third day from the day fixed for the examination.

If the service of notice to a debtor to appear and submit himself to examination touching his estate does not give him the full time allowed by the Pub. Sts. c. 162, § 18, and he does not appear in obedience to the notice, and is defaulted, the magistrate has no authority to annex his certificate to the execution authorizing the arrest of the debtor; and, as against the creditor causing the arrest, his arrest thereon is illegal.

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A debtor, who has been illegally arrested, does not, by recognizing before a magistrate other than the one authorizing the arrest, and submitting to examination and taking the oath for the relief of poor debtors, waive the illegality of the arrest.

The expenses incurred by a debtor, who has been illegally arrested, in submitting himself to examination for the purpose of taking the oath for the relief of poor debtors and taking the oath, having previously been discharged from imprisonment upon entering into a recognizance to appear for such examination, are not elements of damage in a subsequent action for the illegal arrest.

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TORT for an illegal arrest and false imprisonment. At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; and the judge reported the case for the determination of this court. The facts appear in the opinion.

J. W. Corcoran & H. Parker, for the defendant.

G. H. Mellen, for the plaintiff.

FIELD, J. It is contended that the arrest was unlawful, because, although the certificate of arrest was issued after notice to the debtor to appear and submit himself to an examination touching his estate, pursuant to the Pub. Sts. *c.* 162, § 18, the service of the notice was insufficient.

The statute requires that the notice be served "by delivering an attested copy of the notice to the debtor, or leaving the same at his last and usual place of abode, allowing not less than three days before the time fixed for the examination, and at the rate of one day additional for every twenty-four miles' travel." The plaintiff resided at Worcester, and the notice was served upon him there on November 17, 1885, at ten o'clock in the forenoon. The time fixed for the examination was November 20, 1885, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, and the place was the court-room in Clinton, which was fifteen miles distant from the plaintiff's residence in Worcester, and the same distance from the place where he was served with the notice.

In construing statutes which provide for the service of process, or of notice, when the process is required to be served, or the notice to be given, a certain number of days before the return day, the days have been reckoned by excluding the return day, and including the day on which the process is served or the notice given, and fractions of a day have not been regarded, because the statutes have made a day the unit of time. *Butler* v. *Fessenden*, 12 Cush. 78. *Bemis* v. *Leonard*, 118 Mass. 502, 507.

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Stewart v. *Griswold*, 134 Mass. 391. If, then, the statute had not required that additional time be given for travel, the service in this case would have been sufficient; but as the statute requires that time be allowed for travel, in addition to the three days, and as fractions of these three days are not regarded, it follows that the earliest time on which a notice can be served, if time is allowed for travel, is on the fourth day before the day fixed for the examination. In estimating the time to be allowed for travel, it is plainly the intention of the statute that a day may be divided. Time is to be allowed "at the rate of one day additional for every twenty-four miles' travel," that is, at the rate of one hour for each mile of travel. The plaintiff was therefore entitled to an allowance of fifteen hours for travel in addition to the three days' notice, and therefore the service, to be sufficient, should have been made at least fifteen hours before the beginning of the third day from the day fixed for the examination. *Stewart* v. *Griswold*, *ubi supra*.

The plaintiff did not appear in obedience to this notice, and was defaulted, and the magistrate thereupon annexed to the execution a certificate of arrest. There was no waiver by the plaintiff of the defect in the service, and the act of the magistrate in making and annexing this certificate to the execution was not authorized by law, and the arrest was illegal. While the process, if valid upon its face, may protect the officer, it does not protect the creditor at whose request the unlawful act is done; and the debtor, by recognizing before another magistrate, and by submitting himself to an examination for the purpose of taking the oath for the relief of poor debtors, and by taking the oath, does not waive the illegality of the arrest. *Carleton* v. *Akron Sewer Pipe Co.* 129 Mass. 40.

After the plaintiff had obtained his discharge by entering into a recognizance before a master in chancery, the imprisonment was at an end. He could have been discharged from imprisonment by other methods, if he had chosen to employ them. After his discharge on giving his recognizance, he was under no legal obligation to appear before the magistrate and submit himself to an examination. He could have successfully defended a suit on the recognizance. See *Stewart* v. *Griswold*, *ubi supra*. The expenses incurred after he was discharged were voluntarily

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incurred, and were rightly excluded as elements of damage resulting from the arrest and imprisonment.

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By the terms of the report, judgment is to be entered on the verdict. *So ordered.*

WILLIAM MURPHY *vs.* JAMES MURPHY.

Worcester. October 6. — 21, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 18, § 1, and *c.* 181, § 2, the certificate of an entry made for the breach of a condition of a mortgage may be sworn to before a notary public.

WRIT OF ENTRY to recover a certain tract of land in Holden. Plea, *nul disseisin*. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

It appeared that the demanded premises were conveyed to the demandant by a mortgage deed dated April 18, 1866, and recorded within a few days after its date.

The demandant put his mortgage in evidence; and the breach of a condition thereof at the time of the entry hereinafter referred to was admitted. It appeared that the demandant, on June 27, 1882, made an open and peaceable entry on the premises for breach of a condition of said mortgage, not being opposed by the mortgagor, the tenant, or other person claiming the same; and that such possession had continued peaceably for three years before the beginning of this action. The demandant put in evidence a certificate of two competent witnesses to prove said entry, made and sworn to before a notary public for the county of Worcester; and it appeared that said certificate was, within thirty days after the entry, duly recorded, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 181, § 2.

The tenant asked the judge to rule, that said certificate was insufficient in law, in that the same was not sworn to before a justice of the peace. The judge refused so to rule, and ruled that the certificate was sufficient.

The jury returned a verdict for the demandant; and the tenant alleged exceptions.

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L. F. O'Connell, for the tenant.

F. P. Goulding, for the demandant.

FIELD, J. The single exception of the tenant is, that the certificate of the entry made for the breach of a condition of the mortgage was not sworn to before a justice of the peace, but was sworn to before a notary public. Pub. Sts. *c.* 181, § 2. Gen. Sts. *c.* 140, § 2. Rev. Sts. *c.* 107, § 2. Sts. 1785, *c.* 22, § 2; 1798, *c.* 77, § 1.

The provision requiring a certificate of the entry to be made and recorded, and, if not made by the mortgagor or the person claiming under him, to be made by two competent witnesses and sworn to before a justice of the peace, was first enacted in the Revised Statutes. See Amendments to the Report of the Commissioners on the Revised Statutes adopted by the Committee, 134.

In the Rev. Sts. *c.* 85, § 36, it was enacted that "every justice of the peace may administer oaths, in all cases in which an oath is or shall be required, unless a different provision shall be expressly made by law." Of this section the Commissioners on the Revised Statutes say: "This section will probably add little or nothing to the authority of justices of the peace; but it may save trouble in future legislation, by preventing repetition in the numerous acts in which an oath is required to be taken." Com. Rep. on the Rev. Sts. *c.* 85, § 35, note. See Gen. Sts. *c.* 120, § 49; St. 1870, *c.* 120; Pub. Sts. *c.* 155, § 2.

By the Pub. Sts. *c.* 18, § 1, "Notaries public shall have the same authority to administer oaths as justices of the peace." Gen. Sts. *c.* 14, § 34. This was first enacted by the St. of 1851, *c.* 29.

Before the Revised Statutes, it was customary in enacting statutes, when an oath was required, to designate in the statute the person, magistrate or magistrates, before whom the oath must be taken, although this was sometimes left to be determined by the context. After the Revised Statutes, unless a different provision was expressly made by law, a justice of the peace might administer any oath required to be taken, and the statutes requiring an oath were often silent in regard to the person or magistrate before whom it should be taken.

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In administering an oath to the witnesses who have made a certificate of entry upon land for breach of the condition of a mortgage, there is nothing in the nature of a judicial proceeding. A justice of the peace was the person designated to administer the oath, because he was the magistrate usually designated to administer oaths in proceedings not judicial, and of which no record other than the jurat of the magistrate was required. The purpose of the statute was to require the certificate to be verified by an oath in such a manner that the witnesses could be convicted of perjury if it were false. The phraseology of the Revised Statutes has been retained in the General Statutes and in the Public Statutes, because no substantial change of the law was intended, and probably without any reference to the authority given to notaries public to administer oaths. As it is now the intention of the statutes that notaries public shall have the same authority to administer oaths as justices of the peace have, we are of opinion that a notary public had authority to administer the oath in this case; and that, taking all the statutory provisions together, the Pub. Sts. *c.* 181, § 2, must be construed to mean that the certificate must be sworn to before a person having the authority of a justice of the peace to administer an oath. *Exceptions overruled.*

ADELAIDE COBURN *vs.* TRAVELERS' INSURANCE COMPANY.

Hampden. Sept. 28. — Oct. 24, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

In an action upon a policy of insurance against bodily injuries "effected through external, violent, and accidental means," and against loss of life resulting from such injuries within ninety days, and containing a condition that immediate written notice shall be given to the company of any accident and injury for which claim is made, and that, unless affirmative proof of death or duration of disability is so furnished within seven months from the time of such accident, all claims based thereon shall be forfeited, the declaration set forth a contract made by the policy; and alleged the death of the assured from bodily injury "effected through external, violent, and accidental means," which injury occasioned his death within ninety days thereafter, and that due proof of such death and injuries was given to the company. The answer contained a general

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denial, and alleged that, if the death of the assured should be proved to have occurred within the term of the policy, "he did not die in consequence of external, violent, and accidental means." *Held*, that the defence that the immediate written notice of the injuries required by the policy had not been given was not open under the answer.

In an action upon a policy of insurance against bodily injuries "effected through external, violent, and accidental means," and against loss of life resulting from such injuries within ninety days, and containing a condition reciting that "this insurance does not cover disappearances," and enumerating a large number of injuries and death from a variety of causes as not covered by it, including "intentional injuries inflicted by the insured or any other person," the declaration set forth a contract made by the policy; and alleged the death of the assured from bodily injury "effected through external, violent, and accidental means," which injury occasioned his death within ninety days thereafter. The answer denied every material allegation of the declaration; and alleged that, if the death of the assured should be proved to have occurred within the term of the policy, "he did not die in consequence of external, violent, and accidental means." *Held*, that the defence that the injuries sustained by the assured were intentional was not open under the answer.

DEVENS, J. The policy upon which the plaintiff seeks to recover is known as an accident policy. It insured F. C. Coburn in the sum of ten dollars a week against loss of time, not exceeding twenty-six weeks, "resulting from bodily injuries effected during the term of this insurance, through external, violent, and accidental means," which should wholly disable him from transacting the business of his occupation; or if death should "result from such injuries within ninety days," the defendant agreed to pay to his wife Adelaide the sum of two thousand dollars. The policy thus written had on the back of it certain "agreements and conditions under which this policy is issued and accepted." The declaration sets forth a contract made by the policy, and alleges the death of F. C. Coburn from "bodily injury effected through external, violent, and accidental means," which injury occasioned his death within ninety days thereafter. It further alleges that due proof of such death and injuries was given to said company. The answer of the defendant denies "each and every material allegation in the plaintiff's declaration," and alleges that, if the death of the assured shall be proved to have occurred within the term of the policy, "he did not die in consequence of external, violent, or accidental means."

The second of the "agreements and conditions" is as follows: "Immediate written notice is to be given said company at Hartford of any accident and injury for which claim is made, with

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full particulars thereof, and full name and address of the insured. Unless affirmative proof of death or duration of disability is so furnished within seven months from the time of such accident, all claims based thereon shall be forfeited to the company." These agreements and conditions concluded with a "notice" that, in case of the death or disabling injury of the assured, notice of the fact, giving full particulars, &c., "should be given immediately to Homer G. Gilmore, Agent, 425 Main St., Springfield, Mass."

That the full proofs were given to the company within seven months after the injury is conceded; but the defendant contends that the immediate written notice required by the clause of the conditions above quoted was not given. The first question presented is whether this defence is open under the answer. Immediate notice was not a fact which the plaintiff was compelled to allege or prove in order to maintain her case; the failure to give it was a matter which, if available as a defence, was so in defeat or avoidance of the plaintiff's claim. When a defendant intends to rest his defence upon a fact which is not included in the allegations necessary to the support of the plaintiff's case, he must set it out in precise terms in the answer. *Mulry* v. *Mohawk Valley Ins. Co.* 5 Gray, 541. *Orrell* v. *Hampden Ins. Co.* 13 Gray, 431. *Peirce* v. *Cohasset Ins. Co.* 123 Mass. 572.

The presiding judge, by ruling that the question whether the notice required in paragraph 2 of the "agreements and conditions" had been given, or, if not given, whether the same had been waived, was for the determination of the jury, and, by directing a verdict for the defendant, in substance ruled, against the contention of the plaintiff, that this defence was open, and further that there was no evidence offered by the plaintiff sufficient to go to the jury that immediate notice had been given. The effect of this ruling was to place upon the plaintiff the burden of negativing by proof that which was matter in avoidance of the action, and which had not been pleaded by the defendant. This was, we think, erroneous. It would not be profitable now to consider whether there was evidence that the condition as to immediate written notice had been complied with, or that this condition had been waived.

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It is further to be considered whether it was correctly ruled at the trial that the defence that the injury sustained by Coburn was intentional was open under the answer, and, further, that there was no evidence upon which the jury would be warranted in finding that the same was not intentional. The third paragraph of the conditions on the back of the policy commences as follows: "This insurance does not cover disappearances," and it enumerates a large number of injuries, and death from a variety of causes, as not covered by it, including "intentional injuries inflicted by the insured or any other person." The answer, denying that the death of Coburn was occasioned "by external, violent, or accidental means," makes no averment that he died from intentional injuries, and leaves it to fair inference that the defence relied on was that the death of Coburn resulted from natural causes. If the defence of intentional injury is now open, it is because the plaintiff in her declaration should have negatived every cause of death enumerated in the third paragraph, and have been ready to prove the same in order to establish her cause of action.

Stipulations added to a principal contract, which are intended to avoid the defendant's promise by way of defeasance or excuse, must be pleaded in defence, and must be sustained by evidence. They are in the nature of provisos. Exceptions which leave the defendant liable to perform that which remains after the part excepted is taken away are to be negatived, and it is not always easy to determine to which class a stipulation belongs. In the case at bar, the third paragraph states that the insurance does not cover certain causes of death named, but the nature and character of a stipulation is to be considered as well as the form of it; and the use of the phrase "does not cover" is by no means decisive of its character. *Freeman* v. *Travelers' Ins. Co.* 144 Mass. 572. In *Sohier* v. *Norwich Ins. Co.* 11 Allen, 336, the clause was inserted, "This policy not to cover any loss or damage by fire which may originate in the theatre proper," and it was held that it was for the plaintiff to show a loss not originating in the theatre proper. But the clause was there written in between the statement of what was insured and the promise to pay in case of loss, in close connection with and qualification of the description of the subject matter of the insurance.

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Certain provisos were also set forth in a different part of the instrument, and the clause was on that account also deemed a direct limitation of the risk against which insurance was effected.

In the case at bar the policy itself is general, and insures against death or injury to Coburn by external, violent, and accidental means. It is made subject to certain agreements and conditions annexed thereto. The occurrence of these conditions is to operate to defeat the policy, and this should be shown by the party relying upon them. If the rule of pleading as stated in *Commonwealth* v. *Hart*, 11 Cush. 130, 134, be applied, it will be seen that intentional injury must be held to be a condition by reason of which the policy is not applicable. When operative, it has the effect of taking out of the general clause that which otherwise is included in it. The fair construction of this policy, with its agreements and conditions, is that the defendant insures Coburn against death or injury from external, violent, and accidental causes, provided that such death or injury does not proceed from those causes enumerated in paragraph 3. *Freeman* v. *Travelers' Ins. Co.*, *ubi supra*. We are therefore of opinion that the defence of intentional injury was not open to the defendant; and that it was erroneous also to place the burden of negativing this as a cause of death upon the plaintiff.

On account of the different posture, upon the evidence, which the case may hereafter assume should the defendant be permitted to amend its answer and again proceed to trial, it would not be desirable now to consider the construction of the phrase "intentional injury" within the meaning of the policy, which was somewhat discussed in the argument. *Verdict set aside.*

J. B. Carroll, for the plaintiff.

E. H. Lathrop, for the defendant.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* AMOS INGERSOLL & another.

Essex. November 1. — 2, 1887. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint for maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors in G., a witness for the government testified that he had been hired by a person to go to G., and there buy intoxicating liquors, and obtain evidence for the purpose of making complaints for violation of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100; that, while in G., he bought intoxicating liquors in the tenement named in the complaint; and that he did this for the purpose of prosecuting the defendant. The defendant asked the judge to rule that "the jury are to look upon the testimony of the witness with the greatest caution and distrust." The judge declined so to rule; and instructed the jury in reference to the witness as follows: "Judge him from his appearance, the plausibility of his story, and his relation to the case. Judge of him as you would any other witness. See if he has any motive to falsify. Look at him in all his relations to the case, and say whether upon the whole you believe his story." *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception.

COMPLAINT to the Police Court of Gloucester for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a certain tenement in Gloucester, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, on July 1, 1886, and on divers other days and times between that day and December 7, 1886. Trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Hammond*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The government called as a witness one Thompson, who testified that he lived in Watertown; that he had been hired by a person in Watertown to go to Gloucester, and there make purchase of intoxicating liquors, and obtain evidence for the purpose of making complaints for violation of the liquor law; that, in pursuance of said purpose, he went to Gloucester, and, while there, he purchased intoxicating liquors in the tenement alleged to have been kept and maintained as aforesaid; that he obtained from another person in the defendants' employ certain intoxicating liquors, by purchase; and that he did this for the purpose of prosecuting the defendants under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100.

The defendants requested the judge to instruct the jury as follows: "The jury are to look upon the testimony of the witness Thompson with the greatest caution and distrust."

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The judge declined to rule as requested, but instructed the jury in reference to the witness Thompson as follows: "Judge him from his appearance, the plausibility of his story, and his relation to the case. Judge of him as you would any other witness. See if he has any motive to falsify. Look at him in all his relations to the case, and say whether upon the whole you believe his story."

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendants alleged exceptions.

F. L. Evans, for the defendants.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

By the Court. The court was not required to give the instruction requested by the defendants. The weight to be given to the testimony of the witness for the government was for the jury; and the instructions given were sufficiently favorable to the defendants. *Commonwealth* v. *Trainor*, 123 Mass. 414. *Commonwealth* v. *Mason*, 135 Mass. 555.

Exceptions overruled.

Commonwealth *vs.* William C. Christie.

Essex. November 4. — 5, 1887. Devens & Knowlton, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors, with intent to sell the same unlawfully, the only issue in dispute was whether the defendant was the proprietor of a certain saloon. A police officer testified to an admission of the fact by the defendant at a certain interview when no one else was present. The defendant and two other witnesses testified to a conversation between the defendant and the police officer differing essentially from the version given by the latter. The defendant contended in his argument to the jury that the officer was mistaken. The district attorney contended that, if the jury acquitted the defendant, they would brand the officer as a perjurer. The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury that it was not necessary for the jury to disbelieve the officer in order to acquit; that, if all the evidence left their minds in doubt as to what was said, the defendant was entitled to the benefit of it. The judge did not instruct the jury as requested, but instructed them that the material allegations of the complaint were to be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, and that they were to consider the intelligence of the officer, and whether he understood and interpreted the conversation correctly; and that they were not responsible for the effect, if any, of their verdict upon witnesses. *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception.

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COMPLAINT for keeping intoxicating liquors on September 10, 1887, at Haverhill, with intent to sell the same unlawfully in this Commonwealth. Trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Sherman*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The only issue tried was that of proprietorship. As bearing upon this issue, the government introduced the evidence of Austin C. Sprague, a police officer, who testified that on the day alleged in the complaint he saw the defendant at a certain saloon in Haverhill, in the basement thereof; that the witness was about to open a door into an adjoining basement, when the defendant said, "If you find anything in there don't lay it to me; this is all I hire." Sprague further testified that no one was present during the conversation except the defendant.

The defendant introduced, among other testimony, the testimony of two witnesses besides himself, as to his declarations to Sprague, differing essentially from the version given by Sprague.

The defendant's counsel did not contend that Sprague had perjured himself, but urged upon the jury that he must be mistaken in his version and had confounded it with the facts in some other case, and that the testimony introduced in behalf of the defendant ought to create a doubt in their minds as to the correctness of the officer's version.

The district attorney, in arguing the case for the government, submitted to the jury, in substance, that, if they acquitted the defendant, they would, in doing so, be branding Sprague as a perjurer.

The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury as follows: "It is not necessary for the jury to disbelieve Sprague in order to acquit. If all the evidence leaves their minds in doubt as to what was said, the defendant is entitled to the benefit of it." The judge instructed the jury that all the material allegations of the complaint were to be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, and gave general instructions, not excepted to; and the judge did not instruct the jury as requested, but instructed them that they were to consider the intelligence of the officer, and whether he understood and interpreted the conversation correctly; and that they were not responsible for the effect, if any, of their verdict upon witnesses.

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The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions to the refusal to rule as requested.

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B. F. Brickett & C. H. Poor, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

By the Court. The court was not required by law to give the instruction requested by the defendant. The instructions given, that the government must prove all its material allegations beyond reasonable doubt, and that the jury were to consider the intelligence, memory, and accuracy of the witness Sprague, were sufficient and appropriate.

Exceptions overruled.

Alexander McCallum *vs.* Jasper E. Lambie.
Chauncey H. Pierce *vs.* Same.

Hampshire. Sept. 20. — Nov. 22, 1887. C. Allen & Holmes, JJ., absent.

Under the Pub. Sts. c. 153, § 8, a ruling of the Superior Court, sustaining a demurrer to a declaration in an action at law, and ordering judgment for the defendant, may be revised by this court on a bill of exceptions.

The declaration in an action for libel alleged, in the first count, that the defendant falsely and maliciously accused the plaintiff of conspiring with P. to defraud the neighbors and friends of the plaintiff and P.; and that the defendant caused said false and malicious libel to be published in a certain newspaper, as follows: "As to the E. Company, I doubt not all are willing it should pay a fair dividend, six per cent, even ten per cent, on the actual value of the plant. Here comes the rub, when the N. Company was capitalized for $40,000 its actual value was not $15,000. It was a plan for the T. Company to make a good sale, as no profit could be made with the sharp, bitter competition of the S. Company in the field, and it was a scheme by which certain parties (meaning the plaintiff and said P.) attempted to make $20,000 or more by buying a property worth in the neighborhood of $15,000 and capitalizing it for $40,000, and by selling stock to their neighbors and friends (meaning the neighbors and friends of the plaintiff and said P.) which was more than half water (meaning that more than half of the par value of said stock represented no assets and was of no real value). In fact, the T. plant at the time it was sold and capitalized for $40,000 was not worth near $15,000, as a large sacrifice had to be made, and was made by the projectors (meaning the plaintiff and said P.), who dare not force the loss of removing the S. competition on the stockholders after making 100 per cent and more on the stock sold." The second count alleged that the plaintiff was engaged in business in the city in which the newspaper was published; and that the defendant caused to be published in said newspaper "a false and malicious libel concerning the plaintiff, whereby the plaintiff was greatly injured in his

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trade, business, and employment;" and set out the publication annexed to the first count. *Held*, on demurrer, that the declaration was insufficient, in failing to apply the alleged libellous words to the plaintiff, or to show in what sense they were used.

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TWO ACTIONS OF TORT. The declaration in the first case contained two counts.

The first count was as follows: "The plaintiff says the defendant falsely and maliciously accused the plaintiff of conspiring with Chauncey H. Pierce of said Northampton to defraud the neighbors and friends of said plaintiff and said Pierce, and the defendant caused said false and malicious libel to be published in a newspaper published in said Northampton, called the Hampshire County Journal, a copy whereof is hereto annexed, viz.: 'As to the Electric Light Company, I doubt not all are willing it should pay a fair dividend, six per cent, even ten per cent, on the actual value of the plant. Here comes the rub, when the Northampton Electric Light Company was capitalized for $40,000 its actual value was not $15,000. It was a plan for the Thomson-Houston Company to make a good sale, as no profit could be made with the sharp, bitter competition of the Schuyler Company in the field, and it was a scheme by which certain parties (meaning the plaintiff and said Pierce) attempted to make $20,000 or more by buying a property worth in the neighborhood of $15,000 and capitalizing it for $40,000, and by selling stock to their neighbors and friends (meaning the neighbors and friends of the plaintiff and said Pierce) which was more than half water (meaning that more than half of the par value of said stock represented no assets and was of no real value). In fact, the Thomson-Houston plant at the time it was sold and capitalized for $40,000 was not worth near $15,000, as a large sacrifice had to be made and was made by the projectors (meaning the plaintiff and said Pierce), who dare not force the loss of removing the Schuyler competition on the stockholders after making 100 per cent and more on the stock sold.'"

The second count was as follows: "The plaintiff says that he is engaged in the business of a merchant in said Northampton, and as a manufacturer in the city of Holyoke in the county of Hampden, in said Commonwealth; and the plaintiff says the defendant caused to be published in a newspaper published in

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said Northampton, called the Hampshire County Journal, a false and malicious libel concerning the plaintiff (a copy whereof is hereto annexed), whereby the plaintiff was greatly injured in his trade, business, and employment." Then followed a copy of the same publication set out in the first count.

The declaration in the second case was similar to that in the first.

The defendant demurred to the declaration in each case, assigning in each the following grounds of demurrer: "1. Because there is not set forth anything in either count which is by its natural import libellous, or which furnishes legal ground for an action for libel, or is actionable on any ground. 2. Because the matter set out, with accompanying averments, in either count, is not libellous as to the plaintiff, or at all; nor does it appear that the matter set out relates to the plaintiff."

The Superior Court sustained the demurrers, and ordered judgments for the defendant; and the plaintiffs alleged exceptions.

D. W. Bond, for the plaintiffs.

W. G. Bassett, for the defendant.

KNOWLTON, J. These two cases differ only in the kinds of business in which the plaintiffs are respectively alleged to have been engaged, and the opinion given in the first is equally applicable to the second.

The defendant contends that the only remedy for an erroneous ruling upon a demurrer is by appeal, and that the bill of exceptions should be dismissed. The usual and better practice is to bring to this court questions of law arising upon demurrers in the Superior Court by appeal, and not by exception. But by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 153, § 8, "in all cases, civil and criminal, ... a party aggrieved by an opinion, ruling, direction, or judgment of the court in matters of law may allege exceptions thereto," upon which the matter may be further heard. An appeal from a ruling or judgment upon a demurrer in an action at law in the Supreme Judicial Court will not lie, and the remedy for error in such a case is by exception only. *Cowley* v. *Train*, 124 Mass. 226. Appeals and exceptions taken upon interlocutory matters cannot be heard in this court until the proceedings at nisi prius to determine the legal rights of the parties appear to be ended. *Bennett* v. *Clemence*, 3 Allen, 431. In this action the record

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indicates that the order of judgment and the ruling sustaining the demurrer were simultaneous, and the exceptions then taken are properly before us.

The declaration is in two counts, the first to recover general damages for an injury to reputation from the publication of a libel, and the second charging an injury to the plaintiff's business from the same cause. In actions of libel and slander, it has always been held necessary, both in England and in this country, to allege the application of the words to the plaintiff, and, if in themselves they do not make their meaning clear, to allege also what will show their defamatory character. *Goldstein* v. *Foss*, 6 B. & C. 154. *Capital & Counties Bank* v. *Henty*, 7 App. Cas. 741. *Bloss* v. *Tobey*, 2 Pick. 320. *Carter* v. *Andrews*, 16 Pick. 1. *Goodrich* v. *Davis*, 11 Met. 473. The technical strictness of the common law has been relaxed by the English Common Law Procedure Act of 1852, 15 & 16 Vict. *c.* 76, and by the Massachusetts statute of the same year; but the general principle of our practice stated in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 167, § 2, which requires that the "substantive facts necessary to constitute the cause of action may be stated with substantial certainty, and without unnecessary verbiage," and the more particular requirement accompanying the form for a declaration in slander in the same chapter, that, where the natural import of the words is not otherwise intelligible, "the declaration should contain a concise and clear statement of such things as are necessary to make the words relied on intelligible to the court and jury in the same sense in which they were spoken," call for averments to show particularly how the plaintiff has been defamed. *Baldwin* v. *Hildreth*, 14 Gray, 221. *Chenery* v. *Goodrich*, 98 Mass. 224. *York* v. *Johnson*, 116 Mass. 482. *Brettun* v. *Anthony*, 108 Mass. 37. *Adams* v. *Stone*, 131 Mass. 433.

The first count does not allege, in accordance with the form in the statute, that the libel was published "concerning the plaintiff." In *Baldwin* v. *Hildreth*, *ubi supra*, it was decided, Chief Justice Shaw giving the opinion, that a declaration that a "defendant publicly, falsely, and maliciously accused the plaintiff of the crime of larceny, in words substantially as follows, 'He is a thief,'" was bad on demurrer, for want of an allegation that the words were spoken of the plaintiff.

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But the second count contains the allegation, and it becomes important to determine whether, with that, enough is set out to enable the plaintiff to maintain his action. The fundamental principle of our statute does not differ from that of the common law. The allegations must show, not only that the words apply to the plaintiff, but also in what sense they are used, and how they are defamatory. A statement that they were published "concerning the plaintiff" is insufficient, if from their character they do not intelligibly apply to him in a defamatory sense. The defendant is entitled to be informed by the declaration what is imputed to him, — what injury he is said to have inflicted, and how he is said to have inflicted it. If the meaning of the language is clear, and a charge that it was used of the plaintiff shows how it would naturally injure him, nothing more is necessary. But if it is ambiguous, and, with an allegation that it was published of another, it is not apparent whether it was applicable to him, or whether it was applicable in a defamatory sense, or, if it was, in which of possible different defamatory senses, all such additional facts must be alleged as will make its meaning clear. General allegations and innuendoes are not enough. In *Brettun* v. *Anthony*, *ubi supra*, it is said that "general allegations, that the defendant charged the plaintiff, falsely and maliciously, with the commission of a particular crime, accompanied by innuendoes, however broad and sweeping, will not aid a declaration otherwise imperfect." It is familiar doctrine that innuendoes do not enlarge, but merely restate in plainer terms, the meaning of the language which precedes them.

In the declaration in this case, the "concise and clear statement" called for by our statute, and answering to the inducement and colloquium of common law pleading, is wanting. The words alleged to have been published do not indicate their application to a particular person, — much less how they apply to him, or what relation he had to the matters to which they refer. It is impossible to determine with certainty from them how many actors participated in the transactions, or what parts they respectively took, or whether the conduct of any one was moral or immoral, innocent or guilty. Their meaning, as imputing what would expose one of whom they are alleged to

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have been published to hatred, contempt, or ridicule, is not intelligible, and can only be vaguely conjectured. The demurrer was, therefore, rightly sustained.

The gist of the charge in the second count seems to be the injury to the plaintiff's business; and damages for such an injury cannot be recovered without an allegation that the words were published of and concerning the plaintiff in his trade, business, or profession. *James* v. *Brock*, 9 Q. B. 7. *Odiorne* v. *Bacon*, 6 Cush. 185. But we prefer to rest our decision upon the broader ground already stated, and so we have not considered the questions that might arise in this aspect of the case.

Exceptions overruled.

CHARLES TAYLOR & another, executors, *vs.* HORACE TAYLOR & others.

Berkshire. Sept. 27. — Nov. 22, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

A testator by his will directed that his executor should "lay aside a fund of" a certain amount, of which his widow was to have the income during her life; gave the rest and residue of the estate to his brothers and sisters who might be living at his decease, to be divided equally between them; and provided that, "in case any of the legatees are indebted to me at the time of my decease, such indebtedness shall be deducted from the legacy given him or her, and the balance only paid over to such legatee, and if such indebtedness exceeds the legacy given them, I hereby discharge and release the surplus of such indebtedness." At the decease of the testator some of the brothers were indebted to him on promissory notes bearing interest. *Held*, that the executor was not entitled in his account to charge these brothers with interest after the testator's decease.

APPEAL, by the executors of the will of William Taylor, from a decree of the Probate Court, disallowing certain items in the executors' account, charging interest to the legatees named in the will on debts due from them to the testator at the time of his death. The case was heard by *Holmes*, J., and reserved for the consideration of the full court, on the following agreed facts:

The will of William Taylor directed his executors "to lay aside a fund of twenty-five thousand dollars," the income of

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which was to be paid to his widow for life. It also gave legacies to several persons, and contained the following clauses:

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"The rest and residue of my estate I give, devise, and bequeath to my brothers and sisters who shall be living at the time of my decease, to be divided equally between them, share and share alike.

"In case any of the legatees are indebted to me at the time of my decease, such indebtedness shall be deducted from the legacy given him or her, and the balance only paid over to such legatee, and if such indebtedness exceeds the legacy given them, I hereby discharge and release the surplus of such indebtedness."

At the decease of said William, his brothers Horace Taylor and Franklin G. Taylor, and his sister Mrs. Mary T. Churchill, were severally indebted to him on their respective promissory notes, payable to him or order, on demand, with interest. There were four brothers and three sisters living at his death.

After setting aside the $25,000, to be held in trust for the widow during her life, and after paying the other small legacies, the executors had in their hands, from time to time, a small surplus, and made, during the life of the widow, three distributions therefrom to the four brothers and three sisters who were the residuary legatees: one in January, 1880, of $1000; one in April, 1881, of $500; one in September, 1881, of $526.28. These sums were paid over in money to those who were not indebted to the estate, and to those who were indebted the same sums were credited as an indorsement or part payment of such indebtedness due from them to the estate, as of the date of each of said distributions.

M. Wilcox, for the appellants, contended that interest continued to accrue as long as the principal, or any part, remained outstanding, and that the indebtedness to be deducted from the legacy of each of the debtors should be the principal, together with accruing interest, till paid or extinguished by having been deducted from or allowed out of their legacies in the course of the administration of the estate.

J. Branning, for the appellees, contended that interest on their indebtedness stopped at the death of the testator.

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MORTON, C. J. The question whether the executors have the right to charge interest, after the death of the testator, upon the debts due by his brothers and sisters, depends upon the intention of the testator, to be gathered from his will. *Bacon* v. *Gassett*, 13 Allen, 334. *Cummings* v. *Bramhall*, 120 Mass. 552.

The will gives legacies to several persons; directs that the executors "shall lay aside a fund of twenty-five thousand dollars," of which his widow is to have the income during her life; and devises and bequeaths the rest and residue of the estate to his brothers and sisters who may be living at the decease of the testator, to be divided equally between them.

It then provides that, "in case any of the legatees are indebted to me at the time of my decease, such indebtedness shall be deducted from the legacy given him or her, and the balance only paid over to such legatee, and if such indebtedness exceeds the legacy given them, I hereby discharge and release the surplus of such indebtedness."

The amounts due by the brothers and sisters at his death cannot, in strictness, be regarded as advancements; but it is clear that the testator did not intend that they should be treated as debts capable of being collected. At his death they ceased to be debts to be collected, and became amounts which were to be included in making up the residue to be divided, and then to be deducted from the separate shares of the legatees. The language first used implies that the debts to be deducted are to be taken as they exist at the death of the testator: "In case any of the legatees are indebted to me at the time of my decease, such indebtedness shall be deducted." "Such indebtedness" means the amount due at the decease of the testator. We think that the intention of the testator was that these debts should cease to be debts, and become at his decease in the nature of advancements. They therefore become substantially advancements, not by force of the statute nor by reason of the original character of the debts, but because they are made so by the will of the testator.

It follows that the executors are not entitled, in making up the residue, to charge, against the brothers and sisters of the testator who were indebted to him at the time of his decease, interest after his decease. *Decree affirmed.*

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* WILLIAM E. BURROUGHS.

SAME *vs.* THOMAS B. BARTLETT.

SAME *vs.* MARGARET KENNEDY.

Worcester. Oct. 3. — Nov. 22, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint for a violation of the law relating to intoxicating liquors, no exception lies to the refusal of the judge, after having put to the jurors the questions provided for by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 170, § 35, to ask them whether they are members of, or contributors to, any society or association having for its object the enforcement of the laws relating to intoxicating liquors.

THE FIRST CASE and THE SECOND CASE were complaints for keeping intoxicating liquors, with intent unlawfully to sell the same in this Commonwealth.

THE THIRD CASE was a complaint for keeping and maintaining a certain tenement used for the illegal sale and for the illegal keeping of intoxicating liquor, the same being a common nuisance.

At the trial of each case, on appeal, in the Superior Court, before the jury were empanelled, the defendant moved the court to examine certain of the jurors specified by him, with a view to a challenge for cause with reference to their bias; and that the following questions might be put them for that purpose: "1. Are you a member of any Law and Order League, so called? 2. Do you contribute funds to any Law and Order League? 3. Are you a member of any society or association that has for its object, or one of its objects, the enforcement of the laws of the Commonwealth relating to the sale of spirituous and intoxicating liquors? 4. Do you contribute to any society or association which has for its object, or one of its objects, the enforcement of the laws of the Commonwealth relating to the sale of spirituous and intoxicating liquors?"

The presiding judge refused to ask the jurors these questions; but put to them the questions specified in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 170, § 35, which questions they answered in the negative; and the jurors remained in the panel.

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The jury returned a verdict of guilty in each case; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

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J. Hopkins, for Burroughs.

J. R. Thayer, for Bartlett.

D. F. O'Connell, for Kennedy.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

DEVENS, J. The Pub. Sts. *c.* 170, § 35, provide that the court shall, on motion of either party in a suit, examine on oath each person who is called as a juror therein on certain subjects, and adds, "the party objecting to the juror may introduce any other competent evidence in support of the objection." The inquiries thus provided for were, in the cases at bar, made by the presiding judge. The defendants then moved that certain other questions should be submitted to the jurors, as they stated, with a view to a challenge for cause in relation to their bias, which questions the judge declined to put. It would be sufficient in these cases to say that replies to the questions themselves, however answered, would not have afforded any reason to reject the jurors. It would have been necessary to supplement them by evidence that the league or association of which the jurors might admit themselves to be members had, through some of its agents, initiated, or was then conducting, the prosecution of the individual defendants. The defendants neither offered, nor did they by their motions, or by any suggestion, propose to offer such evidence.

We are not, however, disposed to rest the matter upon so narrow a ground.

While the statute permits, after the statutory questions have been propounded, the party to a suit to introduce any other competent evidence, it was not intended to give him the right to submit the juror to an inquiry in the nature of a cross-examination, in order to ascertain if he could not thereby elicit something tending to show bias or prejudice on the part of the juror. The other competent evidence which he may of right introduce is that obtained from other sources than from an examination of this character. Undoubtedly the presiding judge, if he deems it desirable in determining whether a juror stands as impartial, may himself examine or permit an examination of the juror beyond the inquiries provided for expressly by the

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statute; but beyond these statutory provisions the whole matter of such examination is left to his sound judgment and judicial discretion.

The trials in the cases at bar occurred before the passage of the St. of 1887, *c.* 149.* It is unnecessary to consider how this statute will hereafter affect similar examinations.

Exceptions overruled.

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JAMES F. MOORE.

Bristol. Oct. 25. — Nov. 22, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, if the defendant has an innholder's license and also a license of the first class for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the evidence for the government tends to show that the defendant sold intoxicating liquors on the Lord's day to several persons who went into his premises for the purpose of procuring and drinking such liquors, such persons are not "guests," within the meaning of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 9, *cl.* 2; and the defendant is not entitled to have the jury instructed as to the rights of an innholder to sell to his guests.

If a person licensed to sell intoxicating liquors, places or maintains curtains in the windows upon the licensed premises, in such a way as to interfere with a view of the business conducted thereon, or of the interior thereof, it is a violation of his license; and it is immaterial for what purpose he maintains the curtains.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, the complainant testified that he was employed by a Law and Order League to obtain evidence against liquor sellers, and to prosecute such for illegal sales of intoxicating liquors; that the league furnished him with money to pay expenses; that he asked some sailors to visit the tenement in question with him, and ordered liquors for them, which he paid for out of money furnished by the league. *Held*, that the defendant was not entitled to have the jury instructed that the witness was not entitled to be believed, or that the jury should not convict upon such evidence.

COMPLAINT for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a certain tenement in New Bedford, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, on April 1, 1886,

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* This statute, which took effect on October 1, 1887, enacts that "the examination of jurors provided for by" the Pub. Sts. *c.* 170, § 35, "may be made by the parties or their attorneys under the direction of the court."

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and on divers other days and times between that day and May 22, 1886. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Brigham*, C. J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The defendant was a licensed innholder, and also held a license of the first class for the sale of intoxicating liquors during the time charged in the complaint, which license contained the provision of the statute in regard to innholders.

The complainant, Jules Giquel, testified that he went to the premises described in the license, on Sunday, May 9, 1886, about noon, with one Partridge and three sailors, whom he and Partridge found in one of the public streets of New Bedford, and invited to go with them where liquor could be sold; that, after visiting one or more places, they came to the defendant's place; that the curtains to the front windows on the east side of the defendant's saloon were drawn so as to cover the entire windows, and the defendant stood inside the saloon, near the window just north of the door leading into the saloon; that as he, Partridge, and the three sailors stopped in front of the defendant's place, the defendant pulled the curtains aside, and moved his hand towards the gate leading to a rear door on the south side of the building, which they interpreted to mean to go into the gate into the yard and round the house; that they did so, and went into the defendant's place at the back door, and found in the saloon or bar-room some twenty-five other persons; that others came in and went out, some through the front door and some through the back door; that while they were in there five persons got whiskey, drank it, and paid for it; that two or three of the sailors who went with him got whiskey or rum, and he paid for it; that the curtains to the windows were drawn so as to cover the entire windows at the time of said sales.

The bar-room in which the sales were testified to have taken place was the front room on the first floor next to the street; and the windows above referred to were windows looking out of said room.

The complainant further testified, that he was employed with Partridge by the Law and Order League of New Bedford to obtain evidence against liquor sellers in New Bedford, and to prosecute such for illegal sales of intoxicating liquor; that they were furnished by said league with money to pay their expenses,

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and were paid by the day for their labors; that the money they paid out for liquor drunk and food eaten by the sailors was money furnished by said league.

Partridge testified to similar matters and things; and both he and Giquel testified that the windows to the saloon were about six feet from the sidewalk, and that the house was some three or four feet back from the line of the street; and another witness testified that, standing on the sidewalk in front of the house, one could see into the saloon only a few feet, and could see only down to the waist of a person standing near the window.

There was some other testimony as to Sunday, April 25, and May 2, in regard to the use of the saloon on those days. The defendant and his bar-tender were called, and testified, directly contradicting the evidence of Giquel and Partridge.

The defendant asked the judge to give the following instructions to the jury: "1. An innholder, under a license to sell intoxicating liquor, has a right to sell on any part of the Lord's day, night as well as day, in any part of his inn, to a guest. 2. He has a right to sell to a guest on any part of any day of the week. 3. A guest is one who has resorted to his house for either food or lodging, as lodger, or boarder, or for lunch. 4. One is a guest who goes into such a place for food alone, or for lodging alone, and he would be a guest if only for a lunch or for an hour's rest; and to such a person the innholder may sell intoxicating liquor under his license. 5. If one goes to an inn for food, and gets it, he may be furnished with liquor under a license to an innholder. 6. Upon Sunday a licensed innholder has a right to have screens or curtains on the windows on his premises in the room in which intoxicating liquor is usually sold, and the law does not apply on that day to an innholder. 7. If curtains to a window that were up would not cut off a view of the premises, or the business done within the room to a passer-by, because they were so high one could not see in, or for any other cause, then the license would not be void or the sale illegal. 8. If the curtains were up, but not for the purpose of preventing persons passing by in the street from obtaining a view within the rooms or a view of the business done therein, then it would not make the license void, or the sale for that cause illegal.

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9. Persons employed by an association or league to induce the defendant and others to sell liquor for the purposes of prosecuting the defendant and others for violations of their license, are not such persons as are entitled to belief, and a jury should not convict upon the testimony of such hired witnesses."

The judge declined to give the instructions requested, and instructed the jury as follows: "The license of the defendant as an innholder would be violated, if, in the building to which that license applied, he sold intoxicating liquors to persons not guests, who had resorted to that building, either for food or for lodging, between the hours of eleven o'clock at night and six o'clock in the morning, or on the Lord's day, or when the windows of the room in which defendant or his servants thus sold intoxicating liquors were so screened by curtains as to interfere with a view of the business conducted in that room, or with a view of the interior of that room. A person, who for a considerable and substantial period of time violates, in the sale of intoxicating liquors, or in the keeping of intoxicating liquors for sale, the conditions of his license in the building to which that license applies, may be convicted of keeping and maintaining that building, at times when that building is so used in the violation of that license, as a common nuisance."

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

E. L. Barney, for the defendant.

H. C. Bliss, Assistant Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

MORTON, C. J. The instructions given were appropriate and sufficient.

The case made by the government was that the defendant sold intoxicating liquors on the Lord's day to several persons who went into his premises for the purpose of procuring and drinking liquor. Such persons were not guests within the meaning of the statute, and there was no occasion to instruct the jury, as requested by the defendant, as to the rights of an innholder to sell to his guests. *Commonwealth* v. *Hagan*, 140 Mass. 289.

The instructions requested as to curtains were properly refused. If the defendant placed or maintained curtains in his windows in such a way as to interfere with a view of the business

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conducted upon the premises, or with a view of the interior of the premises, it was a violation of his license, and it is immaterial for what purpose he maintained the curtains. *Commonwealth* v. *Worcester*, 141 Mass. 58. *Commonwealth* v. *Rourke*, 141 Mass. 321.

The last request of the defendant was properly refused. The court had no right to instruct the jury that the government's witnesses were not entitled to belief. The credibility of the witnesses on either side was a matter entirely for the jury, and the instruction requested would have been erroneous.

Exceptions overruled.

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* WILLIAM PRATT.

Bristol. Oct. 25. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint for an unlawful sale of intoxicating liquor to a person unknown to the complainant, the defendant put in the testimony of one M., that he told the complainant, about a week before the complaint was made, the name of the person to whom the unlawful sale relied on was made. The complainant testified, in answer to the question whether he knew, when he made the complaint, the name of the person to whom the sale was made, that he did not know the man. On cross-examination, he testified that he did not remember that M. told him the name of the person who bought and paid for the liquor; that he could not say, and would not like to say, that he did or did not tell him the name of the person. *Held*, that the question was properly submitted to the jury, whether the allegation that the name of the person to whom the sale was made was unknown to the complainant was sustained by the evidence.

COMPLAINT, made on April 24, 1887, for an unlawful sale of intoxicating liquor to a person to the complainant unknown, on April 17, 1887. At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., the jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions, which appear in the opinion.

T. F. Desmond, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

DEVENS, J. The complaint contained an allegation of an unlawful sale of liquor by the defendant to a person unknown. The defendant at the trial put in evidence the statement of one

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Morancy, that he told the complainant, on April 17, the name of the person to whom the unlawful sale of liquor relied on was made. The complainant testified, in answer to the question whether, when he made the complaint, he knew the name of the person to whom the sale was made, that he did not know the man. On cross-examination, he further testified that he did not remember that Morancy told him the name of the person who bought and paid for the liquor; that he could not say, and would not like to say, that he did or did not tell the name of the person.

Upon this evidence, the court rightly refused the motion of the defendant to order the defendant acquitted, and submitted the case to the jury upon the inquiry whether the allegation that the name of the person to whom the sale was made was in fact unknown to the complainant was sustained by the evidence.

If the fullest credence be given to Morancy's testimony, it does not necessarily follow that, at the time of making the complaint, about a week after, on April 24, the complainant then knew and remembered the name of the person. The question before the court was not what the complainant might with reasonable diligence have ascertained, or what he ought to and might have known if he had remembered what had been previously told him, but what he actually knew. This was to be determined by the jury as a question of fact. The presiding justice could not rule, as matter of law, that, because the complainant had been once informed of the name of the person to whom the liquor was sold, it was known to him at the time of making the complaint.

For similar reasons, the defendant was not entitled to the second and fourth instructions asked.* *Commonwealth* v. *Sherman*, 13 Allen, 248. *Commonwealth* v. *Glover*, 111 Mass. 395, 401.

Exceptions overruled.

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* The second and fourth instructions requested were as follows: "2. The complainant is bound to describe the person by such name as was given to him. He must give the best name he can." "4. If the complainant was told, before making the complaint, that the person buying the liquor was Abe Taber, then he was bound to describe such person by such name in such complaint, if that was the best name he could give him."

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* MICHAEL J. MURPHY & another.

Essex. November 1. — 22, 1887. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint against A. and B. for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, evidence was introduced showing that both defendants had been seen in and about the premises in question. The defendants contended that one defendant was in the employ of the other; and asked the judge to rule that, "if B. was employed by A. as an assistant, on wages, and did not act in the absence of A., nor at any time have sole charge of the premises, he cannot be convicted." The judge declined so to rule; but instructed the jury that, if B. assisted A. in keeping and maintaining the premises as a nuisance, he would be liable to conviction upon the complaint. *Held*, that B. had good ground of exception.

COMPLAINT to the Police Court of Gloucester, against Michael J. Murphy and David C. Godfrey, for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a certain tenement in Gloucester, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, on October 1, 1885, and on divers other days and times between that day and March 26, 1886.

At the trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Hammond*, J., evidence was introduced showing that both defendants had been seen in and about the premises in question. The defendants contended that one defendant was in the employ of the other; and requested the following ruling: "If Godfrey was employed by Murphy as an assistant, on wages, and did not act in the absence of Murphy, nor at any time have sole charge of the premises, he cannot be convicted."

The judge declined to give the instruction requested; but instructed the jury that, if the defendant Godfrey assisted Murphy in keeping and maintaining the premises as a nuisance, he would be liable to conviction upon this complaint.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty against each defendant; and they alleged exceptions.

H. P. Moulton, for the defendants.

H. C. Bliss, Assistant Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

HOLMES, J. The jury may fairly have understood that they were instructed to convict the defendant Godfrey, although they

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should find that Murphy was the sole proprietor, and that Godfrey's assistance was only that of a servant, rendered in Murphy's presence, and without exercising any kind of control over the premises. The case therefore falls within *Commonwealth* v. *Galligan*, 144 Mass. 171, which was decided after the ruling excepted to. See also *Commonwealth* v. *Churchill*, 136 Mass. 148, 151. This is the only exception argued, and is admitted not to affect the defendant Murphy.

Exceptions of Godfrey sustained.
Exceptions of Murphy overruled.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JAMES CLARK & another.

Essex. November 1. — 22, 1887. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A complaint against A. and B. for keeping and maintaining, at a time and place named, a certain tenement, "then and there used by said A. and B. as a house of ill-fame, resorted to for prostitution, lewdness, and for illegal gaming, and then and there used by said A. and B. for the illegal sale and for the illegal keeping of intoxicating liquor, said tenement, so used as aforesaid, being then and there a common nuisance," is sufficient, under the Pub. Sts. c. 101, § 6.

It is no objection to a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used as a house of ill-fame and for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, that the time of the continuance of the offence, as alleged in the complaint, extends beyond a period of six months.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping a tenement used as a house of ill-fame in G., a police officer testified that he visited the premises on a certain day, and in one of the rooms found two women in bed together, but no man with them, and in an adjoining room found another woman in bed, but with no man. The government then asked the witness, "What was the reputation of these three women for chastity in G.?" The defendant objected to this question, but the judge allowed it to be put, and the witness answered that it was bad. *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception.

At the trial of a complaint against A. for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, A. testified that he had nothing to do with the management or control of the premises, but that they were let to B., who alone conducted them during the period named in the complaint; that he, A., had never had any interest in any sale of liquor, or at any time on these premises. On cross-examination, the district attorney asked A. if he had had anything to do with keeping it before the first day named in the complaint; and A. answered that he had not. The district attorney was then allowed to put in evidence tending to contradict A. on this point,

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and to show expenditures for purchases for the premises for the four months preceding the first day named in the complaint, and was allowed to comment on this evidence in his argument to the jury. *Held*, that A. had no ground of exception.

If, at the trial of a criminal case, certain evidence for the government is admitted without objection, and is competent for some purposes, it is too late for the defendant to request the judge, in the course of the closing argument for the government, to instruct the jury that the evidence is incompetent for any purpose, and that the argument in relation to it should be disregarded by them.

COMPLAINT to the Police Court of Gloucester, against James Clark and William E. Wetmore, alleging that the defendants, on January 1, 1886, and on divers other days and times between that day and July 26, 1886, at Gloucester, "did keep and maintain a certain tenement, there situate, then and there used by said James Clark and William E. Wetmore as a house of ill-fame, resorted to for prostitution, lewdness, and for illegal gaming, and then and there used by the said Clark and Wetmore for the illegal sale and for the illegal keeping of intoxicating liquor, said tenement, so used as aforesaid, being then and there a common nuisance."

In the Superior Court, on appeal, before the jury were empanelled, the defendants renewed a motion to quash the complaint, previously made in the police court, assigning the following reasons therefor: "1. Because the same is uncertain, indefinite, and insufficient, and charges no offence in a sufficient, proper, and formal manner. 2. Because the complaint does not sufficiently inform the defendant of the offence with which he is charged, and does not identify the offence so as to protect him from a subsequent prosecution for the same offence, or enable the court to render a proper judgment upon it. 3. Because the same is double, and in one count purports to charge more than one offence. 4. Because the complaint does not properly describe the tenement or its location. 5. Because there is no such offence as that undertaken to be set forth in the complaint. 6. Because the complaint is in other respects uncertain, indefinite, and insufficient."

Pitman, J., overruled the motion; and the defendants excepted.

At the trial, Michael J. Sullivan, a police officer, was called as a witness for the government, and testified that the premises

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were at 18 and 20 Hancock Street, Gloucester, and known as "The Welcome Home;" and he was proceeding to testify to acts done, and in regard to the management and conduct of the premises, after July 1, 1886, and prior to July 26, when the defendant objected to this testimony, on the ground that the continuance could not properly be extended beyond the period of six months from January 1, namely, to July 1. The judge overruled the objection, and admitted the testimony.

Sullivan further testified that he visited the premises on July 13, 1886, and in one of the bed-rooms found two women in bed together, but no man with them, and also in the adjoining room found a woman in bed, but with no man. The government then asked the witness, "What was the reputation of these three women for chastity in Gloucester?" The defendant objected, but the judge permitted the question to be put. The witness answered that it was bad; and to this answer the defendant objected, and excepted to its admission.

The defence of the defendant Clark was, that the premises were not a nuisance, whoever kept them; and that he had nothing to do with the keeping and maintaining during the period covered by the complaint. The defendant Wetmore conceded and testified that he alone was the keeper and maintainer during the time covered by the complaint. Clark was a witness in his own behalf, and testified that his wife was the owner of the building; that he, as agent of his wife, leased the premises to Wetmore at $50 per month; that Wetmore managed and conducted the place during the period named in the complaint; that he had nothing to do with its conduct, management, control, or profits; and that he had never had any interest in any sale of liquor, at any time, on these premises, and was not in that kind of business. The district attorney, upon cross-examination, then asked the witness if he had run the place, or had anything to do with keeping it prior to January 1, 1886. This question was objected to, but the judge admitted it. The witness then answered that he had not. The district attorney then produced two books of account, purporting to be books of expenditures for purchases for "Welcome Home," at a time prior to January 1, 1886, and as far back as September, 1885, when it was contended by the government that the place was kept either alone or in

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part by one Coombs, with whom the defendant was then interested; and the district attorney then asked him in whose handwriting certain entries therein were. The question was objected to, but was admitted. The defendant admitted that said entries were his. The government then proceeded to ask the witness various questions, relating to his entries in said books, and to his connection with Coombs during the time that Coombs ran the place, all of which were objected to, but were admitted. These entries were largely of purchases of liquors, and of cash received. The government had not, up to this point, put the books in evidence, and disclaimed an intention so to do; but subseqently offered the books in evidence, and to their admissibility the defendant Clark objected. The judge overruled the objection, and admitted the books in evidence. The government, in arguing the case to the jury, commented upon the books and the entries therein, and exhibited and read the entries to the jury.

The district attorney, in arguing the case to the jury, commented on the management and proprietorship of the premises prior to January 1, 1886, and was proceeding to argue to the jury on the entries of the books aforesaid, and to contend therefrom that Clark was jointly interested with Coombs prior to January 1, when Clark's counsel, without interrupting the district attorney, passed to the judge in writing the following request for an instruction: "Neither of the books claimed to be put into the case by the government is competent for any purpose." Thereupon the judge passed back the paper with the statement thereon, that, not having been submitted until nearly at the close of the district attorney's argument, it was not received. A large number of requests for instructions had been submitted in writing by the defendant's counsel prior to the arguments, all of which the judge gave. The judge did not check the argument of the district attorney, or give any instruction whatever to the jury on the subject matter herein stated, nor was any request, oral or written, made that the judge should do so, except as above stated, nor was any exception taken to the refusals to give these additional instructions. The books were not sent to the jury-room, the judge remarking that he should not send them to the jury, unless the defendant's attorney so requested and desired.

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The witness Sullivan further testified that, on one occasion, he saw Clark late at night come from the depot on the arrival of a Boston train, accompanied by a woman, and go with her to the premises in question. Upon his own examination, Clark had admitted that he brought the woman from Boston as a housekeeper for the Welcome Home, but testified that he did so at the request of Wetmore. In arguing the case to the jury, the district attorney was proceeding to comment on this event, and on the woman as unchaste, when, without interrupting, the defendants' counsel at once passed in writing to the judge a request to give the following instruction to the jury: "The testimony in regard to the woman from Boston is incompetent for any purpose, and the argument of the government in regard to it should be disregarded by the jury." The judge declined to receive the request, for the reason stated in declining to receive the above-named request, and in the charge gave no instruction on the subject matter.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty against each defendant; and they alleged exceptions.

G. W. Searle, for Clark.

W. W. French & H. N. Woods, for Wetmore.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

C. ALLEN, J. 1. The motion to quash was properly overruled. The complaint was sufficient, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 101, § 6. *Commonwealth* v. *Ballou*, 124 Mass. 26.

2. The objection that the time of the continuance of the offence, as alleged in the complaint, was too long, cannot prevail. The defendant cites no authority in support of his view that six months is the longest time that can be legally covered by a complaint. He might have moved for a specification of particulars. See *Commonwealth* v. *Giles*, 1 Gray, 466, where the offence was alleged to have extended over a period of sixteen months.

3. The testimony as to the reputation for chastity in Gloucester of the three women who were found in the house was competent. Their general reputation in Gloucester was fairly implied; and the question could not reasonably be supposed, as the defendant argues, to call merely for the individual opinion of the witness.

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4. It was entirely competent for the court to allow a general cross-examination of the defendant Clark as to his relations to the house prior to the time charged in the complaint. He had testified in chief, that "he had never had any interest in any sale of liquor, at any time, on these premises." The cross-examination was proper, both for the purpose of contradicting his testimony in chief, and also on more general grounds. *Commonwealth* v. *Haher*, 113 Mass. 207. *Commonwealth* v. *Kelley*, 116 Mass. 341. His entries in the books of account, and his connection with Coombs, were also competent, and might properly be commented upon in argument to the jury.

5. No request was made that the books be sent to the jury. The presiding judge virtually offered to send them out, if desired; and all objection to the omission to do so, even if otherwise tenable, was thereby waived.

6. The testimony of the officer, Sullivan, that he saw the defendant Clark come from the depot, on the arrival of a train from Boston, accompanied by a woman, and go with her to the premises, must be assumed to relate to a time within the period covered by the complaint. The testimony appears to have been admitted without objection; but, in the course of the closing argument of the district attorney, the defendant asked the court to instruct the jury that the testimony was incompetent for any purpose, and that the argument in regard to it should be disregarded by the jury. It was then too late to ask a ruling that the testimony was incompetent for any purpose. Besides, it was clearly competent, as tending to show the defendant's connection with the house, and the business carried on there. In reference to the suggestion of unchastity, we do not know that all the evidence is reported, and the request was not put on the ground that this suggestion was unfounded. The point taken was not that the argument went too far, but that the district attorney had no right to argue at all upon the testimony in regard to the woman. If a question of law arises for the first time during the closing argument of the district attorney, we should not wish to say that the defendant would have no right to present it in a proper manner to the court, and ask a ruling upon it; but, in the present case, the objection was substantially to the competency of testimony which had been admitted without objection.

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There was no occasion for the court to give any instruction to the jury upon this objection; and, in reference to the suggestion of the woman's unchastity, the bill of exceptions does not contain enough to show that it was the duty of the court to caution the jury that the suggestion was unwarranted. *Commonwealth* v. *Cunningham*, 104 Mass. 545. *Exceptions overruled.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* FRANK McGURTY.

Suffolk. November 21. — 22, 1887. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

At the trial of an indictment on the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 43, for altering a ballot cast for a certain officer at a municipal election of a city, secondary evidence of the character of the ballot, which has been destroyed by the city clerk, as required by § 26, is admissible.

At the trial of an indictment on the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 43, for altering a ballot cast for a certain officer at a municipal election of a city, if the evidence shows that the ballot came from the ballot-box which was actually used in the election, it is not necessary to show that the ballot has been cancelled by a mechanical device, as provided in § 10 of the statute.

An indictment on the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 43, for altering a ballot cast at a municipal election of a city for Nelson S. Wakefield for a certain office, by "drawing lines and marks across the words and name Nelson S. Wakefield," is sustained by proof that the words and letters "S. Wakefield" only were so erased by the defendant.

A ballot cast, at a municipal election of a city, for a candidate for an office, who is not elected, is a "ballot cast for any officer," within the meaning of those words in the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 43, prescribing a penalty for the fraudulent alteration of such a ballot.

It is no defence to an indictment on the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 43, for altering a ballot cast for a certain officer at a municipal election of a city, that the fraud was discovered, and the ballot was counted and returned for the candidate for whom it was intended to be cast.

INDICTMENT on the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 43,* alleging that the defendant, on December 14, 1886, at Boston, at the annual municipal election of said city, wilfully, maliciously, unlawfully, and with intent to cheat and defraud, altered a ballot then and

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* "Whoever, with intent to cheat or defraud, alters any ballot cast for any officer at any election held for the choice of public officers, ... shall be punished," &c.

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there cast for a certain officer, to wit, for Nelson S. Wakefield for alderman of said city, by then and there, with a certain lead pencil, "drawing lines and marks across the words and name Nelson S. Wakefield." Trial in the Superior Court, before *Blodgett*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The government called as a witness a police officer named Comee, who testified that he was on duty on December 14, 1886, at precinct one of ward 25, Boston, where the defendant was an inspector; and that the defendant, while in the performance of his duties as such inspector, and while counting ballots, after the close of the polls, with a lead pencil, which he held in his right hand, drew lines and marks upon a certain ballot, over and across a certain letter and word upon said ballot, to wit, the letter and word "S. Wakefield;" and further testified as to the appearance of the ballot after said alleged alteration, and as to the lines and marks over and upon the letter and word "S. Wakefield."

The defendant requested the judge to rule that the witness could not testify as to what he saw the defendant then do, or to the marks or alteration on, or to the appearance of, said ballot after the alleged alteration, without the production of the ballot. The government introduced evidence, which was not controverted, that all the ballots cast at the municipal election in the city of Boston, in December, 1886, were destroyed by the city clerk, in January, 1887, as required by the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 26. The judge refused to rule as requested.

The government introduced other evidence, tending to show that, during the day, and while the polls were open, there were on duty at said precinct the defendant, as an inspector, the warden, named Hibbard, a clerk named Woods, and another inspector named Harris; that when the polls were closed, the ballots were emptied by said officers out of the ballot-box on to a table, for counting; and that the defendant, while counting a pile of ballots, made the alteration charged in the indictment. The defendant requested the judge to rule that there was not sufficient evidence in the case that the ballot alleged to have been altered was "cast," within the intent and purpose of the statute. The judge refused so to rule.

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There was evidence in the case that the name or word "Nelson" was not in any way touched or altered by the defendant, but that "S. Wakefield" only was marked over and altered by him. The defendant requested the judge to rule that there was a variance between the proof and the allegation of alteration in the indictment. This request was refused.

The government introduced evidence, which was uncontroverted, that Nelson S. Wakefield was the candidate for alderman at said election from the eleventh aldermanic district of the city of Boston, and was defeated; and there was no other evidence in the case that he held any office. The defendant requested the judge to rule that, on all the evidence in the case, Nelson S. Wakefield was not an "officer," within the intent and purpose of the statute. The judge refused so to rule.

It appeared in evidence, which was uncontroverted, that the warden, Hibbard, ordered that the ballot be, and it was accordingly, counted and returned for Nelson S. Wakefield. The defendant requested the judge to rule that the defendant had committed no crime, within the intent and meaning of the statute. The judge refused so to rule.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

F. Burke, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

C. ALLEN, J. 1. It was impossible to produce the ballot at the trial, because it had been destroyed by the city clerk, as required by the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 26. It is now objected, that such destruction must be deemed to have been the act of the prosecutor, namely, the government, and that therefore the government could not properly be allowed to introduce secondary evidence of what the ballot was. But a destruction of ballots, under this general provision of law, cannot be deemed a wrongful or negligent destruction of a document, or one which involves any fault upon the part of the government or its agents; and the case does not fall within the doctrine, which has sometimes been declared or implied, that a document which has been destroyed through the fault of the prosecutor cannot be proved by secondary evidence. See 3 Greenl. Ev. § 107; *Commonwealth* v. *Snell*, 3 Mass. 82; *Joannes* v. *Bennett*, 5 Allen, 169.

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2. It was not necessary to show that the ballot had been cancelled by a mechanical device, as provided in § 10 of the statute. Such cancellation is not essential to insure the counting of a ballot, since § 12 makes provision for the case where a ballot-box containing such mechanical device cannot be furnished. Besides, the evidence showing that the ballot came from the ballot-box which was actually used in the election would warrant the inference that it had been duly cast within the meaning of § 43.

3. The alteration was sufficient to sustain the indictment. If the ballot had been originally cast, with the erasure shown, it could not properly have been counted as a ballot for Mr. Wakefield. The erasure was sufficient to "alter" the ballot, so that the voter's intention would have been defeated if the fraud had not been observed or discovered. The name upon the ballot is to be taken as a whole. If the lines and marks drawn across it were sufficient to show an apparent intention upon the part of the voter to erase the name, so that the ballot would not be counted as a vote for Mr. Wakefield, that is sufficient to support the charge of altering the ballot by drawing lines and marks across the words and name "Nelson S. Wakefield."

4. The objection that the vote for Mr. Wakefield was not a "ballot cast for any officer," because he was merely a candidate for office, and was not elected, cannot prevail. The statute merely uses a short form of expression, and the meaning is not open to doubt; otherwise the statute would only apply to existing officers who might be candidates for re-election. The phraseology of "voting for any officers to be then chosen" is common and familiar in the legislation of this Commonwealth. Pub. Sts. *c.* 7, § 55. Gen. Sts. *c.* 7, § 28. See also St. 1884, *c.* 299, § 41.

5. The fact that the fraud of the defendant did not succeed, and that, by direction of the election officer, the ballot was counted and returned for Mr. Wakefield, cannot avail the defendant in defence to the indictment. The ballot was altered with intent to cheat and defraud, although the fraud was discovered at once. *Exceptions overruled.*

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JOHN W. FRENCH *vs.* CONNECTICUT RIVER LUMBER COMPANY.

Hampshire. Sept. 29. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

A corporation purchased all the property of another corporation, and all the shares of its capital stock except six. After this, the officers of the purchasing corporation were chosen officers of the selling corporation, and the six shares of stock were transferred to them. *Held*, that the purchasing corporation did not thereby acquire a right to do an act granted to the selling corporation by its charter, but which was contrary to the general laws of the Commonwealth.

The Sts. of 1871, *cc.* 285, 362, authorizing certain persons to construct booms across the Connecticut River, in such a way as not to obstruct the lumber of other persons, did not repeal by implication the Gen. Sts. *c.* 78, § 5, prohibiting the floating of logs on the said river unless the logs are formed into rafts.

A. owned and kept a public house and grounds, and in connection therewith owned a way to a navigable river, and a landing place on the river, by which persons had access to his house from the river. The river at A.'s landing was obstructed by sand, which was caused to be deposited there by B.'s boom above, and by logs which were stranded there while being floated down the river by B., whose acts were illegal. *Held*, that the diminution in A.'s business and profits caused by obstructing the river at his landing place, cutting off access to it from the river, and preventing persons from passing from the river to his house, constituted special and peculiar damage to him, for which he could maintain an action against B. *Held, also*, that evidence of the diminution in the number of visitors to A.'s house, and in the receipts and profits from them, caused by the acts of B. in obstructing the landing place, was competent upon the question of the loss occasioned to A. in his business. *Held, also*, that the judge properly refused to rule that A. could recover only for the expense of removing the obstructions.

TORT for damages alleged to have been occasioned to the plaintiff by the wrongful acts of the defendant in obstructing the Connecticut River at the plaintiff's landing place on said river. Writ dated February 5, 1883. At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Barker*, J., the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff in the sum of $406.67; and the defendant alleged exceptions. The facts appear in the opinion.

D. W. Bond, for the defendant.

J. C. Hammond, for the plaintiff.

W. ALLEN, J. The plaintiff owned and kept a public house and grounds on the summit of Mt. Holyoke, and in connection therewith owned a way to the Connecticut River, and a landing

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place on the river, by which persons had access to his house from the river. The defendant floated large quantities of logs down the river. The river at the plaintiff's landing was obstructed by sand, which was caused to be deposited there by the defendant's boom above, and by logs which were stranded there while being floated down the river loose, and not in rafts, by the defendant.

The plaintiff contended, and the court ruled, that the defendant had no right to float logs down the river except in rafts. We think that this ruling was right. It may be assumed that the Connecticut River is a public highway, in which the public have a right to float logs, either singly or connected together, unless prohibited by statute. To sustain the ruling, it must appear that some statute prohibited the floating of logs except in rafts for the whole time during which the acts relied on by the plaintiff were committed. The period alleged in the declaration, and to which the evidence applied, is from June 1, 1880, to February 5, 1883.

The provisions of § 5 of the Gen. Sts. *c.* 78, by their reënactment in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 94 § 5, were in force until May 27, 1882. That section provided that "No person shall cause or permit to be driven or floated down Connecticut River any masts, spars, logs, or other timber, unless the same are formed and bound into rafts, and placed under the care of a sufficient number of persons to govern and manage the same so as to prevent damage thereby." A similar statute had been in force since 1815. Rev. Sts. *c.* 52, § 5. St. 1814, *c.* 150.

The St. of 1882, *c.* 274, which took effect on May 27, authorized the defendant to construct a boom between the confluence of the Chicopee and Connecticut rivers and the ferry next above (which is several miles below the lower of the booms before mentioned). Section 2 amended § 5 of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 94, so that it should not apply to that portion of the Connecticut River above its confluence with the Chicopee River. The same section provided for proceedings before the county commissioners by which the damages occasioned to the owners of ferries and boats by the floating by the defendant of logs, etc. not in rafts should be determined, and provided that, "In case neither party petitions to have such damages fixed, any person floating or

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driving masts, spars, or logs upon said river not formed into rafts and attended as provided in said section five shall pay all damages done by such floating or driving." It does not appear that any party has ever petitioned for damages.

The St. of 1883, *c.* 183, which modifies these provisions, did not take effect until after this action was commenced.

To control the plain provisions of these acts, the defendant relies upon the St. of 1871, *c.* 362, by which the Holyoke and Northampton Boom and Lumber Company was incorporated, with authority to construct a boom where the defendant's boom next below the plaintiff's landing place now is. The defendant contends that this statute gave by implication to the Holyoke and Northampton Lumber Company the right to float logs not in rafts to its boom, and that it has acquired the right from that company. The court below ruled that the defendant could not justify its acts under the authority which the former corporation may have had. As we think that this ruling was correct, there is no occasion to consider whether there is any ground for the contention that the statute gave any such right to the Holyoke and Northampton Lumber Company. The only ground on which it is contended that the defendant has succeeded to the right of the other corporation is, that it has purchased the property which was used, though not owned, by that corporation; that it has purchased all the capital stock of that corporation, except enough to make stockholders for officers; and that the same persons are officers of both corporations.* The court correctly left it to the jury to say whether the acts and business were those of the defendant, or of the other corporation.

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* The exceptions stated that the charter granted to the Holyoke and Northampton Boom and Lumber Company in 1871 was accepted, and a corporation formed thereunder, which has continued to hold its meetings to the present time; that the corporation placed a boom across the river below the plaintiff's landing place, and put saw-mills on land belonging to persons who were stockholders; that, in 1879, the defendant purchased from the stockholders four hundred and ninety-four shares of the capital stock of the Northampton Boom and Lumber Company, and also, from the owners thereof, the land on which the saw-mills stood; and that, after this, the officers of the defendant company were chosen the officers of the Holyoke and Northampton Boom and Lumber Company, to whom the remaining six shares of stock were transferred, one share to each officer.

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The defendant further contends that the Sts. of 1871, *cc.* 285, 362, (by which certain persons were authorized to construct a boom in the Connecticut River above Turner's Falls,) repealed by implication the Gen. Sts. *c.* 78, § 5, because they required the booms to be constructed so as not to prevent the passage of boats and lumber of other persons, and also required the defendant to boom logs and lumber of other parties. We see nothing in these statutes inconsistent with the provisions of the General Statutes; and the facts that the section of the General Statutes remained unrepealed, and was reënacted in the Public Statutes, and that the St. of 1882, *c.* 274, when authorizing the construction of a boom lower down the river by the defendant, recognized the section as in force, and applicable to the defendant by amending it, and making new provisions, seem conclusive against the position taken by the defendant. See *Harrigan* v. *Connecticut River Lumber Co.* 129 Mass. 580.

The plaintiff sought to recover for special and peculiar damages occasioned to him by the public nuisance. The verdict must have been rendered on the first count of the amended declaration, and the special damages are alleged in the amendment to that count as follows: "And thereby the way and access from said river thereto [to the plaintiff's landing place] was hindered and obstructed, and divers persons who would otherwise have resorted to the plaintiff's house and grounds, to the profit of the plaintiff, were hindered and prevented from so doing. And the plaintiff was injured in the use of his landing place, and in the use of his Prospect House and grounds for the purpose for which they were constructed and used." All the damages found by the jury were for damage to the business of the plaintiff. This renders immaterial the question whether the plaintiff, as mortgagor in possession, could recover damages for diminution of the value of the mortgaged estate by the nuisance. The diminution in the plaintiff's business and profits occasioned by obstructing the river at his landing place, cutting off access to it from the river, and preventing patrons from passing from the river to his house, constituted special and peculiar damage to the plaintiff, for which he could maintain an action. *Stetson* v. *Faxon*, 19 Pick. 147. *Harvard College* v. *Stearns*, 15 Gray, 1. *Haskell* v. *New Bedford*, 108 Mass. 208. *Brayton* v. *Fall*

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River, 113 Mass. 218. *Blackwell* v. *Old Colony Railroad*, 122 Mass. 1. *Lyon* v. *Fishmongers' Co.* 1 App. Cas. 662. *Wilkes* v. *Hungerford Market*, 2 Bing. N. C. 281. *Rose* v. *Groves*, 5 Man. & Gr. 613.

Evidence of the diminution in the number of visitors to the plaintiff's house, and in the receipts and profits from them, caused by the acts of the defendant in obstructing the plaintiff's landing place, was competent upon the question of the loss occasioned to the plaintiff in his business.

The court properly refused to rule that the plaintiff could recover only for what he had expended in removing the obstructions. It did not appear that it was possible for the plaintiff to have removed them. Certainly he owed no duty to the defendant to remove the logs and sand with which the defendant continued to obstruct the river. *Exceptions overruled.*

PUTNAM TOOL COMPANY *vs.* FITCHBURG MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Worcester. Oct. 3. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

If, by the terms of a policy of insurance against loss by fire, the policy is to be void on the removal of the property insured without the written assent of the company issuing the policy, an agent of the company has no power by an oral agreement to waive this provision.

A policy of insurance against loss by fire contained a provision that the policy should be void on the removal of the property insured without the written assent of the company issuing the policy. The property insured was removed without such assent, and was afterwards destroyed by fire. After the fire, and when the officers of the company knew of the removal, they met the adjusters of the various companies in which the property was insured. The amount of the loss was discussed at this meeting, and a reduction of the sum covering the loss was agreed to by the insured, on the supposition that the company issuing the policy in question would pay its share of the loss. Subsequently the president of the company said that the loss would have been paid if the amount insured by his company had been no greater than that of other companies. *Held*, in an action on the policy, that the evidence was not sufficient to entitle the plaintiff to go to the jury on the question whether the officers of the company had waived the provision in the policy, or were estopped to claim the benefit of it.

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CONTRACT upon a policy of insurance, dated January 15, 1885, in the form prescribed by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 119, § 139, issued by the defendant to the plaintiff, and insuring it for the term of one year against loss by fire, to the amount of $2000, "on patterns contained in storehouse of Putnam Machine Company." By the terms of the policy it was to be void if, "without the assent in writing or in print of the company, ... the said property shall be removed." The case was sent to an auditor, who found the following facts:

The patterns when insured were on the premises of the Putnam Machine Company. About May 1, 1885, they were removed from there to the storehouse of a manufacturer in another part of the city. On October 16, 1885, they were injured by fire, and the amount of the loss was $3482.43.

There was no evidence that either the company, or any person acting or claiming to act in its behalf, assented in writing to the removal of the patterns. The plaintiff contended that it obtained a verbal or oral assent to said removal, and a waiver of the written assent called for by the contract. On this point the facts were as follows: The insurance was effected through Lockey and Allison, a firm of insurance agents doing business in Fitchburg, having a place of business not connected with the office of the defendant company, and acting in a similar capacity for six other mutual insurance companies and for several stock companies. Lockey and Allison were supplied from the office of the defendant company with a calendar, on which they were described as agents of the defendant company, and which was used by them as an advertisement, with the knowledge and consent of the defendant. The defendant supplied Lockey and Allison with blank applications, which were filled out by them, signed by the persons seeking insurance, and returned to the office of the company. If satisfactory to the company, a policy was made by the company and sent to Lockey and Allison; and they were authorized to receive the premiums, and settled with the company monthly. The rates were not made up by Lockey and Allison, but by the company.

The practice was, when there was any change in the policy, for the agent to send the policy, with an indorsement in writing of the change, to the company for its consent. Slight changes had

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sometimes been made by these agents, in writing, on the policy, which were afterwards ratified by the company, not, however, changing the substance of the contract, but correcting mistakes. As when a policy was incorrectly made payable to a bank, or when it was made payable to the insured, and should have been made payable to a savings bank. Such a change as the removal of the property from one location to another would ordinarily have been indorsed in writing by these agents, and taken to the company for their consent.

The risk was no greater where the property was burnt than at the place of its location when insured, and no additional premium would have been required by the company if it had been asked to consent to the removal.

Henry Allison, in his examination in chief, testified as follows: "Mr. Putnam came to me soon after the annual meeting of the Putnam Machine Company, April 8, 1885. He said they were not going to have castings made by the Putnam Machine Company, but had arranged with L. H. Goodnow. He said they should move the patterns to the storehouse over the office of Goodnow. We knew where it was. I said, 'All right, go ahead and move the patterns, I will take notice for the company; bring in your policies and have them indorsed. I do not remember about the rate, whether it is the same. I will come down and see whether it is necessary to make any change in the rate.' Nothing further was said, before the fire. He did not bring in the policies, and there was no indorsement permitting the removal."

This testimony was not substantially changed on cross-examination, but the witness added, that he did not notify the insurance company of the removal till after the fire, and that the reason he did not was because he forgot it.

George E. Putnam, the treasurer of the plaintiff, testified: "About May 1, I told Mr. Allison we were going to change our patterns to Goodnow's. He said, 'All right, go ahead and remove the patterns, and I will accept notice for the companies. Bring in your policies, and I will have them indorsed, and I will go down and see if there will be any change in the rate.' I did not take the policies to the office, and did not think of it after that, before the fire. I supposed Allison had the power to assent

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to the removal. Did not know the difference between a stock and mutual company as to power of an agent."

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Immediately after the fire, the defendant was notified of the loss and of the facts as to the removal of the property, as above set forth, and afterwards the officers of the company met the adjusters of the various companies in which the property was insured. At this meeting the amount of the loss was discussed, and a reduction of the sum covering the loss was agreed to by the plaintiff, on the supposition that the defendant company would pay its share of the loss. The president of the defendant company, in conversation with Allison at one time, and with Putnam, for the plaintiffs, at another time, on being told that the other companies that had insured had paid their share, said that his company would have done so if the amount of their insurance had been no greater than that of the other companies.

The defendant company never waived its right to rely on the clause in their policy as to removal of goods, unless the foregoing facts constitute such waiver. The defendant had no knowledge that the property insured had been removed until after the fire.

The auditor found that Lockey and Allison were not authorized to assent to the removal of the property; that the defendant did not assent to its removal in writing, or otherwise; and that the policy was void, and the plaintiff could not recover.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., the plaintiff offered to prove all the facts stated in the auditor's report, except his finding as to the authority of Lockey and Allison, and also offered to prove the following additional facts: At the time of his conversation with Allison, Putnam, the plaintiff's treasurer, believed that Lockey and Allison were the agents of the defendant, having authority to give the plaintiff permission to remove the insured property, and in removing said property he acted on said belief. The plaintiff asked to be allowed to go to the jury upon the questions involved.

The judge ruled that the jury would not be warranted in finding a verdict for the plaintiff; and directed a verdict for the defendant. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

F. P. Goulding, for the plaintiff.

H. C. Hartwell, for the defendant.

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W. ALLEN, J. Lockey and Allison were special agents for the defendant, to receive and forward to it applications for insurance, and to receive from it and deliver to the parties policies of insurance, and to receive the premiums thereon. They were not authorized to make or to vary contracts of insurance. The word "agents," printed on the calendar furnished to them by the defendant, does not imply more than this; but if it were held to be an advertisement of them as general agents, it would not import authority in them to waive the express provision of the contract that notice of removal should be given in writing. *Kyte* v. *Commercial Assurance Co.* 144 Mass. 43, and cases cited. *Eastern Railroad* v. *Relief Ins. Co.* 105 Mass. 570.

It is not stated in the auditor's report that the officers of the defendant did anything at the meeting of the adjusters of the companies in which the property was insured which would amount to a waiver of the provision in the policy, or estop the defendant from claiming the benefit of it. It is found that the amount of the loss was discussed at the meeting, and that the plaintiff agreed to a reduction on the supposition that the defendant would pay its share of the loss; but it is not found that the defendant's officers took part in the discussion, or knew that the plaintiff supposed that the defendant would pay its proportion of the loss, or said or did anything to create that supposition. No facts are found, and none can be inferred, which raise the question whether the officers had at that time authority expressly or by their acts to waive the provision.

Exceptions overruled.

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GEORGE A. BIGELOW *vs.* SAMUEL H. CAPEN.

Worcester. Oct. 4. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action of tort by a mortgagee of personal property, against an officer who had attached the goods as the property of the mortgagor, it appeared that the mortgage was conditioned to pay the sum of $1000 in one year, "as stated in my notes dated" a certain day; and that the demand, made in pursuance of the Pub. Sts. c. 161, § 75, on the defendant, was to pay the sum of $1000, "being the amount of two notes of $500 each, indorsed by me for the accommodation of" the mortgagor. *Held*, that oral evidence was admissible to show that the mortgage was intended to indemnify the plaintiff against liability as indorser of two notes of $500 each, signed by the mortgagor; and that the action could be maintained although the notes originally given had been renewed by other notes, also signed by the mortgagor and indorsed by the plaintiff, on delivery of which to the bank discounting the original notes the latter had been delivered to the mortgagor.

A demand in writing, made, under the Pub. Sts. c. 161, § 75, by a mortgagee of personal property upon an attaching officer, is not invalidated by including in the sum demanded the amount paid by the mortgagee for costs of protest of the promissory note secured by the mortgage, if the property attached is insufficient to pay more than the note alone.

TORT, against a deputy of the sheriff of Norfolk, for the conversion of certain personal property. The answer contained a general denial, and alleged that the defendant attached the property by virtue of a writ in favor of R. F. M. Atwood against William Burleigh, returnable to the Superior Court, which action was duly entered and is now pending.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

On October 1, 1885, William Burleigh executed to the plaintiff a mortgage of the property in question, which was duly recorded on October 3, 1885, and which contained this condition: "Provided nevertheless that if I, or my executors, administrators, or assigns, shall pay unto the grantee, or his executors, administrators, or assigns, the sum of one thousand dollars in one year from this date, with interest, as stated in my notes dated Oct. 27th, 1884, signed by me, then this deed, as also the aforesaid note, shall be void."

The defendant attached the property in question on October 12, 1885, as the property of said Burleigh.

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On November 17, 1885, the plaintiff made a demand in writing on the officer in respect to the attached property, containing the following: "I hereby demand of you the sum of one thousand dollars, being the amount of two notes of five hundred dollars each, indorsed by me for the accommodation of William Burleigh and protested for non-payment, and paid by me, with interest thereon from November 17, 1885, together with four $\frac{4}{100}$ dollars, costs of protest, which is the amount now due me, on a mortgage given to me by said William Burleigh dated October 1st, 1885, and recorded with the mortgages of personal property for the town of Needham, book 10, page 4, the said mortgage covering all the live stock, tools, farming implements, and dairy utensils and other property described in said mortgage, now held by you on attachment as the property of said William Burleigh, or which has been sold by you on said attachment." The defendant did not comply with the demand.

The plaintiff testified as follows: "I indorsed two notes for William Burleigh, each in October, 1884, one of which was discounted at the Mechanics' National Bank and one at the Worcester National Bank. I renewed the indorsements when the notes became due, the one at the Mechanics' Bank twice, the other once. I think the old notes were destroyed."

The notes last given in renewal were dated May 1, 1885, and July 6, 1885. Both of these notes were payable to the order of the plaintiff, and were indorsed by him. They went to protest at their maturity for non-payment, and the plaintiff paid one on November 10, 1885, with the fees of protest, amounting to $2.02; and the other on November 6, 1885, with the fees of protest, amounting to $2.02.

The plaintiff further testified as follows: "I received no interest or consideration for indorsing these notes. I did it to help Burleigh. The notes were delivered up to me on payment by me as aforesaid. At the time of the first indorsement, I received no security from Burleigh. In 1885, I visited Burleigh at his farm, and there spoke to him in reference to security. He gave me as security the personal property mortgage in question. The consideration of the mortgage was the indorsing of the two notes, $500 each. No note was given with the mortgage."

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On cross-examination, the plaintiff testified as follows: "I had a talk with Burleigh when the first note had become due; he told me he could not pay it, and it must be extended. I indorsed another to take up that first four months' note. I signed five different notes, three renewals and two original notes. I never asked him to deliver or return to me those old notes. I left the notes in his hands to take up the old notes, and these were never returned to me. Burleigh never paid me anything in respect to these transactions. When I first intimated to him that I wanted security, in the summer of 1885, I had renewed one note twice. At the renewal of the last four months' one, I had spoken to him about security."

Burleigh testified for the plaintiff, against the objection of the defendant, as follows: "The liability understood and intended to be secured by the mortgage was that on the outstanding indorsed notes, and there was no other liability. The one thousand dollars mentioned in the condition was intended to be the amount of the two $500 indorsed notes. The consideration of the mortgage was that of one thousand dollars for his indorsement. The plaintiff indorsed the first notes for me, I think, in October, 1884. I cannot fix the date, I think the first part of the month. These two notes were indorsed at the same time, in the afternoon. I had then arranged for the discount of them. I received the proceeds of the notes. I put the notes into the banks shortly after the indorsements. I think the indorsements were in the early part of October."

On re-direct examination, the witness, under the objection of the defendant, was allowed to testify as follows: "I intended to secure the plaintiff for indorsing those two notes by this mortgage, and there was no other liability between us."

The defendant asked the judge to rule that the demand on the officer of November 16, 1885, was insufficient in law; and that, on the facts and evidence, the action could not be maintained. The judge refused so to rule, and submitted the case to the jury under appropriate instructions.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, in the sum of $823.80; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

H. E. Fales, for the defendant.

D. Manning, Jr., for the plaintiff.

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DEVENS, J. Parol proof of extrinsic circumstances may be admitted to apply a description to the subject matter of a contract. If it appears that the description is not in all respects accurate, it may to a certain extent be rejected, and what remains alone regarded, if that be sufficient to identify it. *Pierce* v. *Parker*, 4 Met. 80. *Hall* v. *Tufts*, 18 Pick. 455. *Baxter* v. *McIntire*, 13 Gray, 168.

Where a note described in a mortgage of personal property has been renewed, this fact may be shown, and the security applied to the note as thus renewed. *Barrows* v. *Turner*, 50 Maine, 127. Conversely, where there has been a substitution for the original note which was the foundation of the liability of the mortgagor, and the parties to the mortgage describe the original note, either by accident or by mistake as to the liability, this error may be shown, and the security applied to the existing liability. In the case at bar, the original notes indorsed by the plaintiff were dated the latter part of October, 1884. These notes had been renewed once or twice, the plaintiff indorsing the renewals. It was competent for the plaintiff to show, as he did, by evidence, that, at the date of the execution of the mortgage, on October 1, 1885, the liability intended and understood to be secured by the mortgage was that on the then outstanding indorsed notes; and that there was no other liability to the plaintiff, the one thousand dollars mentioned in the condition being the amount of the two $500 indorsed notes. It was therefore a mistake, and an erroneous description of the notes intended to be secured, to state them as of the date of October 27, 1884, arising probably from the fact that the transactions between the plaintiff and Burleigh, the mortgagor, then commenced; but this would not invalidate the security, when it was shown that the liability of the plaintiff originated with them, and that the later notes were merely a substitution. Nor would it invalidate the plaintiff's security that the obligation of Burleigh was one to indemnify him for indorsing, rather than one to pay him the notes then outstanding. The plaintiff would, it is true, have no demand against Burleigh except after payment of them by himself. The plaintiff was the promisee of the notes, and it was the duty of Burleigh to pay them. If in form it is stated in the mortgage that Burleigh agrees to pay the

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plaintiff the notes, rather than to indemnify him against being compelled to pay them, the real character of the transaction will, as between the parties, be regarded. Nor is any injury done to third persons. They are informed of the exact amount of the claim of the plaintiff upon the property of his and their debtor, even if such claim is not described with entire accuracy. There is no evidence that, by this, any person has been misled; and we have no occasion to consider whether there may not be cases where, if one were misled by the carelessness or inaccuracy of another, the person so misleading might not be estopped thereby from proving the exact character of his transaction with the mortgagor.

As the mortgagor was bound to indemnify the plaintiff for signing these notes, it may well be contended that he properly included the fees for protest of the notes in his demand upon the defendant, and in stating the amount due to him, as he was compelled to do, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 161, §§ 74, 75. This demand was substantially correct, and it is not vitiated by a slight mistake, even if such was made. *Harding* v. *Coburn*, 12 Met. 333. A demand is also good, though made for an amount larger than is due, if the amount due exceeds the value of the property. *Clark* v. *Dearborn*, 103 Mass. 335. An examination of the verdict shows such to have been the fact in the case at bar. *Exceptions overruled.*

ROBERT P. BATH *vs.* E. D. METCALF & others.

Worcester. Oct. 4. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A. was arrested wrongfully, without a warrant, on a charge of felony, by two police officers of a city, and taken to the lock-up. Afterwards the city marshal, having reason to believe that A. was innocent, and having made up his mind to release him, sent him, the assistant marshal taking part in such act, from the lock-up to the railroad station in the custody of an officer other than those who arrested him, who released him only when on a train, and just before it started. *Held*, that A. could maintain an action against the five officers jointly for the imprisonment between the lock-up and the train.

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HOLMES, J. This is an action for false imprisonment against seven defendants, five of whom the jury have found guilty. Of these five, the defendants Hadd and Wheeler made the original arrest, without a warrant, on a charge of felony. We cannot say that the evidence, if believed, showed that Hadd and Wheeler had reasonable grounds to suspect the plaintiff of being a pickpocket, (supposing the justification to be well pleaded,) whether the question was properly one for the jury, or was for the court, like other questions of reasonable cause. Compare *Rohan* v. *Sawin*, 5 Cush. 281; *Good* v. *French*, 115 Mass. 201; *Davis* v. *Russell*, 5 Bing. 354; *Hill* v. *Yates*, 8 Taunt. 182; *Mure* v. *Kaye*, 4 Taunt. 34; 2 Hawk. P. C. *c.* 12, § 18; 2 Inst. 52. If the original arrest was wrongful, those who made it were answerable for the subsequent detention of the plaintiff under it; *Murphy* v. *Countiss*, 1 Harring. 143; *Powell* v. *Hodgetts*, 2 C. & P. 432; and, although the officers who carried the plaintiff in custody from the lock-up to the railroad station, after they had determined to release him, would have been liable, even if the previous imprisonment had been lawful, we do not think this continuation of the unlawful imprison ment so remote that the jury could not properly hold Hadd and Wheeler responsible for it. See also *Roswell* v. *Prior*, 12 Mod. 635, 640.

The defendant Pettis was city marshal, and, whether responsible for the arrest and detention of the plaintiff in the lock-up or not, sent the plaintiff to the railroad station in custody, after he had reason to believe him innocent, and had made up his mind to release him. The defendant Wright, the assistant marshal, took part in sending the plaintiff to the station, and the defendant Graves was the officer who took him there, only releasing him when on the train, and just before it started.

As we have said, we think that, even if the arrest had been lawful, the officers would have had no right to prolong the imprisonment beyond the doors of the lock-up for the purpose of sending the plaintiff out of town, and would have been liable, whether they had a right to release him without bringing him before a magistrate or not. See *M'Cloughan* v. *Clayton*, Holt N. P. 478, 480; 1 Hale P. C. 592; *Brock* v. *Stimson*, 108 Mass. 520; *Phillips* v. *Fadden*, 125 Mass. 198; *Caffrey* v. *Drugan*, 144

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Mass. 294. The only purpose for which an imprisonment without a warrant can be justified, in circumstances like the present, is that further proceedings may be instituted in due form. *Rohan* v. *Sawin*, 5 Cush. 285. *Wright* v. *Court*, 6 Dowl. & Ry. 623, 624; *S. C.* 4 B. & C. 596. *A fortiori*, these officers are liable if the original arrest was unlawful, for then the whole detention under it was unlawful. *Aaron* v. *Alexander*, 3 Camp. 35. *Griffin* v. *Coleman*, 4 H. & N. 265. It thus appears that the evidence warranted a verdict against each of the defendants named, and against all of them jointly; and that the instructions asked to the contrary were properly refused.

If the arrest had been made upon reasonable grounds of suspicion against the plaintiff, the defendants Hadd and Wheeler could not have been held liable for a subsequent wrongful imprisonment in which they took no part. On the other hand, Graves, at least, was not answerable for the imprisonment before the plaintiff was taken from the police station to the train, as he took no part in that. *Aaron* v. *Alexander* and *Powell* v. *Hodgetts*, *ubi supra*.

It follows that a verdict could be found against the five defendants jointly only for the imprisonment between the lock-up and the train, and on the ground that the arrest was wrongful. We regret that it does not appear that these considerations were brought distinctly to the jury's attention. But we cannot say that they were not; the exceptions are only to the refusal of rulings which were properly refused; and, as the jury were fully instructed that they could not find a verdict against two or more defendants unless they found that all such defendants participated in the same imprisonment and were parties to a joint wrong, we must assume that the verdict went on the proper ground, and covered the proper time.

Exceptions overruled.

G. Wells, for the defendants.

F. W. Blackmer & E. H. Vaughan, for the plaintiff.

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CHARLES W. SEARS *vs.* MARY F. LELAND.

Worcester. Oct. 4. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

If a person attaches mortgaged personal property which is in the possession of the mortgagor under a conditional sale, the terms of which have not been complied with, and, upon the demand of the mortgagee, pays the amount due on the mortgage to the latter, who assigns to him all his right, title, and interest in the mortgage, such person cannot maintain a bill in equity against the mortgagee to recover the amount so paid by him, upon the ground that the payment was made under a mutual mistake as to the validity of the mortgage.

BILL IN EQUITY to recover the amount paid by the plaintiff upon a mortgage of personal property given by Eugene M. Worthing to the defendant, and by her assigned to the plaintiff, upon such payment, together with the amount of certain expenses incurred by the plaintiff. The defendant demurred to the bill for want of equity. Hearing in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., who sustained the demurrer, and dismissed the bill; and the plaintiff appealed to this court. The facts appear in the opinion.

W. A. Gile, for the plaintiff.

G. H. Mellen, for the defendant.

DEVENS, J. By the amended bill it appears that Worthing was in possession of the property mortgaged (which was afterwards attached by the plaintiff) under a conditional sale, although nothing had been paid thereon, and the conditions of such sale had not been complied with. The defendant, upon the attachment of the property by the plaintiff, demanded the amount due upon her mortgage; the plaintiff paid the same, and the defendant then assigned to him all her right, title, and interest in the mortgage. The plaintiff now claims to recover from the defendant the amount paid by him upon said mortgage, together with certain expenses to which he has been subjected in restoring the property to the true owner, upon the grounds that the mortgage was invalid, and that said payment was made under a material mistake as to the validity of the mortgage. Whether the plaintiff should pay this mortgage or not was a matter at his own option; and the defendant was compelled to

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accept such payment, or lose her rights by virtue of it. We do not perceive, upon the case as stated, that the mortgage was invalid as a security, even if it was in fact valueless.

The mortgagor, Worthing, having obtained property under a conditional sale, had a right to mortgage it, and, in the hands of the defendant, the security was a valid and subsisting one. He had the possession of the property, and the right to possession, and could dispose of the property with his right therein, even if the sale to him was liable to be defeated by non-performance of the conditions. *Day* v. *Bassett*, 102 Mass. 445. *Crompton* v. *Pratt*, 105 Mass. 255. Of the right which the defendant had to comply with the conditions of the sale she has been deprived by the act of the plaintiff.

But if this were otherwise, and if the mortgagor had no property or right in the articles mortgaged, the plaintiff has no ground of complaint against the defendant. The plaintiff obtained from the defendant an assignment of all her interest in the mortgaged property, but there was no warranty, and the words chosen were apt to express a conveyance of such right, title, and interest, if any, as she might have. Where the subject of a contract has no existence, as where two parties contract as to the sale of a horse, which, without the knowledge of either, is dead, the contract may indeed be rescinded. But this principle has no application where one voluntarily purchases such right, title, or interest in property as another may have, even if both parties are in error as to the extent or value of that title or interest, or even if in fact the seller has no right. The subject of the contract is such right, title, or interest as may exist.

Unless the plaintiff had satisfied this mortgage within the time prescribed by the statute, his attachment would have failed, as the mortgagor and his debtor were the same person. Pub. Sts. *c.* 161, §§ 74, 75. It was for him to determine whether it was for his interest to pay it and obtain the rights of the mortgagee. He cannot now complain that this right is of less value than he anticipated. He has received all he purchased. No fraud or misrepresentation on the part of the defendant is alleged, and it is not important that she supposed she was parting with a more valuable right than she in fact possessed.

Decree affirmed.

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EDWIN HOWE *vs.* STEPHEN SALISBURY.

Worcester. Oct. 5. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

While a bill in equity, brought by a mill-owner on a natural stream against the owner of a reservoir higher up on the same stream to restrain the defendant from preventing the flow of the water to the plaintiff's mill, and for damages, was pending, the defendant wished a hearing on the question of granting a preliminary injunction postponed, and the plaintiff agreed to this, on the defendant's promise that sufficient water should be allowed to flow to the plaintiff's mill in the mean time. *Held*, that the plaintiff could not maintain an action at law against the defendant for breach of this agreement.

CONTRACT. Writ dated October 5, 1885. The declaration alleged that, in consideration of the plaintiff having a certain suit in equity, then pending between him and the defendant, continued *nisi* for an indefinite time, the defendant, who was then in possession of a certain reservoir, on August 21, 1885, agreed to open the gates thereof sufficiently to allow enough water to flow therefrom to the plaintiff's mill, on the stream below, to run said mill, until the defendant, who was about to go away, should return and have the suit taken up. The declaration also alleged performance on the part of the plaintiff, and a breach on the part of the defendant.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., who reported the case for the determination of this court, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff is the owner of a mill and of a water privilege about one mile below the reservoir hereinafter mentioned, said mill and reservoir being on the same natural stream. On August 18, 1885, the plaintiff brought a suit in equity in the Superior Court against the defendant, in his individual capacity and as executor of the will of Stephen Salisbury, deceased, praying among other things for an injunction to restrain him from holding back from the mill the natural flow of water of the stream, by means of a certain reservoir situate upon land of which Salisbury was then in possession as mortgagee for the purpose of foreclosure, and for damages for so doing. On August 19, 1885, notice to show cause and of a hearing upon the

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application hereinafter named issued to the defendant, upon application for a preliminary injunction to restrain the defendant as aforesaid, returnable on August 24, 1885. At the November sitting, 1885, of said court, an answer to the bill was filed by consent. At the December sitting, 1885, the replication and a request for issues to be framed to the jury were filed. Afterwards at said December sitting it was agreed that a master should be appointed, and trial by jury of issues was waived, and on May 5, 1886, a decree was filed appointing a master. The order or notice returnable on August 24 was served on the defendant on August 20, 1885.

The plaintiff's evidence tended to show that the defendant, on August 21, 1885, stating that he wished to go away, and would be unable to attend the hearing, agreed, in consideration of the plaintiff allowing the suit to be continued until his return, to allow sufficient water to run to the plaintiff's mill from the reservoir, until the defendant could return and have the suit in equity heard; that the case was continued; that, for a week after August 21, 1885, water was allowed to flow from the defendant's reservoir to the plaintiff's mill, and after that such flow was stopped; and that the plaintiff suffered damages in consequence thereof.

At the request of the defendant, the judge ruled that the agreement relied on, if made, was connected with the equity suit and an incident thereof, and that the same could only be enforced and damages awarded for breach thereof in the equity suit; and ordered a nonsuit to be entered.

If the order was right, the nonsuit was to stand; otherwise, the case to stand for trial.

C. F. Stevens, for the plaintiff.

F. A. Gaskill, for the defendant.

W. ALLEN, J. The agreement declared on was an agreement in the suit in equity between the parties. The plaintiff sought in that suit to have the defendant enjoined against holding water in his reservoir so that it would not flow to the plaintiff's mill below, and also sought for damages for such detention of the water. The agreement related to proceedings in the former branch of the case. The plaintiff had made a motion for an interlocutory injunction, and a day had been assigned for a hearing

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upon the motion. The defendant desired a postponement of the hearing. The plaintiff contends that there were mutual promises; that the plaintiff promised that the hearing should be postponed, and the defendant promised that he would let down water from his reservoir to run the plaintiff's mill. But whatever the agreement may have been, it related only to the proceedings in the suit and to the motion for an injunction, and the remedies of the parties for a breach of it must be sought in the suit. The agreement was intended to be an arrangement in regard to proceedings in the suit, and not to be the ground of an action at law. The plaintiff was seeking damages, and could recover in his suit for all he might sustain by the wrongful withholding of the water by the defendant, and it was clearly not within the scope and purpose of the agreement to provide for a separate action at law for a part of such damages, or to make the defendant liable for them, without regard to whether the detention was wrongful or of right. *Nonsuit to stand.*

KATE MULCHAHEY, administratrix, *vs.* WASHBURN CAR WHEEL COMPANY.

Worcester. Oct. 5. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff's intestate by the breaking of a machine upon which he was employed by the defendant, the evidence showed that the intestate was found, about ten minutes after the accident, with his body crushed and his bowels disrupted, and that, although breathing, he was unconscious, and died almost immediately in that state. The judge ruled that there was evidence to warrant the jury in finding that a cause of action accrued to the intestate in his lifetime, and survived to his personal representative; that there was no evidence to warrant the jury in finding that the deceased endured any conscious pain or suffering, and that the plaintiff was only entitled to recover nominal damages. *Held*, that the rulings were not inconsistent, and were correct.

TORT, for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff's intestate, Richard Mulchahey, by the breaking of a piston rod of a

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steam hammer which he was engaged in operating, while in the employ of the defendant. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., who reported the case for the determination of this court, in substance as follows:

The evidence showed that the hammer was a large and heavy machine with a "ram," so called, which was elevated by steam and which dropped together with the piston rod, which was attached to it, when the steam was allowed rapidly to escape.

The plaintiff's intestate worked upon a small platform halfway up the frame of the hammer, and about six feet from the ground, and managed the lever by which the steam was let off and on and the machine was worked; another hand worked at the machine, handling the steel while hot, with appliances, under the hammer on an anvil, and determined the force of the blow, whether light or heavy, by directing the man at the lever. The steam cylinder was upright and over the frame of the hammer, and the accident was caused by the breaking of the piston rod in the "ram," so that when the steam was let into the cylinder the piston head and rod blew upward and out, struck the beam overhead, and fell to the ground, injuring the intestate.

The evidence tended to show that the intestate was struck by the falling rod. There was no witness to the occurrence who could give an exact account of the accident. The evidence of those who described it tended to show that, when the rod was blown out, the steam escaped into the building, which was a large shop open to the roof with the earth for a floor, filling all that part near the hammer with steam so that nothing could be seen for the time. The hands, including all who were near and who testified, ran out of doors at once, and returned as they found it safe to do so. The hand who worked with the deceased on the hammer ran out of one door, around the building, and in at another door opposite the boilers, and assisted in shutting the steam off. until which time it was escaping. The first persons who saw the deceased went to him after the steam had cleared away. The lapse of time up to this point was variously described by witnesses as follows: "as much as five minutes after the steam was shut off;" "about ten minutes after" (the noise of the blowing out).

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The evidence also tended to show that the intestate was carried by some men into the office of the works, at the other end of the works and on the street, where he died in a few moments, without speaking or recognizing anybody.

The following is all the evidence from the witnesses as to what they observed of the injury and condition of the intestate.

The plaintiff testified as follows: "I saw him after he was hurt, lying in the office. He was then dead; quashed in his body."

Annie Wood testified as follows: "I saw him on the counter in the office breathing his last. I saw the drooping and falling of the chin that always occurs in a person when dying, that I ever saw die; he was just gasping. I went out before they would say he was dead, but it was evident from his appearance that he was dying."

Daniel Mulchahey testified as follows: "I just saw my brother breathing up and down in the office. I saw only one gasp, and turned away. I stood looking at them when they picked him up, and carried him to the office."

John Mulchahey testified as follows: "The steam had gone away when I went to the hammer. I saw him lying on the ground, lying down breathing. I put my head down and asked him if he knew me, and he made no answer. I did not help to take him in. I started back to the shop. I could not tell where he was struck. I observed a little cut on the temple. I did not see him again till he was dead. I understood his bowels were burst open. I stooped down and tried to speak to him; there was no answer at all; he was breathing, but very hard. He was puffing, a kind of gasp, as though he was in a death struggle. His body was burst, and his bowels were burst out."

James Clifford testified as follows: "When I got back after the accident, the steam was shut off. I helped to shut it off. I did not shut it off alone. I went right to the hammer, and I saw Mulchahey lying down. There was somebody there with him, and I believe had hold of his head. Then I looked right up to see if it had done any injury overhead, so the men would be safe, and when I came to look around again he was taken to the office. The only injury I saw at the time was the marks on his face, I will not be positive which side. I did not look at

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him any length of time. He gave no signs of life when I looked at him."www.libtool.com.cn

William A. Eager testified as follows: "I saw some one lying under a broken shaft almost dead, and immediately I saw two or three persons carrying Richard Mulchahey in the front part of the mill office, when he died almost immediately in my presence. He had been struck by a piston, or steel shaft, while he was working in the company's works. I did see him while he was unconscious under the shaft, before any one could have approached him, and just the moment he had been struck by the piston. The limbs of the poor man were all bruised, and his bones were broken. Every one at the time was satisfied that the man had been killed by the piston or shaft while he was working."

Frank N. Olin, superintendent of the defendant's works, testified for the defendant as follows: "I heard an explosion of steam, — a noise. I got to the hammer about as quick as I could. I went to him, and took hold of his hands and spoke to him, and he seemed to be lifeless; he made no move. I did not assist in carrying him into the office; observed a sort of gurgling in his throat. It must have been five or ten minutes before the body was taken up and carried in there. He did not bleed badly. He had a mark on his temple that bled a little. I did not look at his body; he had his clothes on. I did not see blood flow out in front of the office. I stayed in the office when they put him in the ambulance. He was crushed in the body. He was struck on the head."

Charles McFarland testified for the defendant as follows: "I was the first man to get to Mulchahey. I went over and took his hand. I noticed a cut on the side of his head. It was bleeding a little. I noticed no injury to any other part of the body. He had his clothes on, all but his cap. He laid side of the piston, probably two feet from it. I took hold of his hand and felt of his pulse, and found no pulse there. I went and lifted his head up, stooping down on one knee, put my hand under his head. I spoke to him and said, 'Don't you know me, Richard? here 's your wife, do you know me?' He made no answer. His wife was not there; I said that to attract his attention. I saw no motion, except a convulsive motion. His eyes were glassy and set. I stayed with him till he died."

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At the conclusion of the evidence, the judge ruled that there was evidence to warrant the jury in finding that a cause of action accrued to the intestate in his lifetime, and survived to his personal representative; that there was no evidence in the case to warrant the jury in finding that the intestate endured any conscious pain or suffering; and that, upon the evidence, the plaintiff was only entitled to recover nominal damages, if the defendant was liable. The defendant, in view of this ruling, submitted to a verdict for nominal damages, the plaintiff excepting to the ruling as to damages. A verdict was accordingly returned for one dollar. If the ruling as to damages was correct, the verdict was to stand; if not, a new trial was to be granted upon the whole case, inclusive of liability.

W. S. B. Hopkins, for the plaintiff.

F. P. Goulding, for the defendant.

DEVENS, J. As the report of the presiding judge deals only with the question of damages, the evidence tending to make a case of negligence on the part of the defendant, and to show that an action therefor accrued to the intestate in his lifetime, is not stated. It is assumed by the report, that it would be sufficient to sustain a verdict.

The plaintiff was justified in contending, upon the evidence, that the body of the deceased was not found until some ten minutes after the accident; that, although then unconscious, he was still alive; and therefore that his death was not instantaneous. The ruling of the presiding judge was in accordance with this contention; but he further ruled that there was no evidence of conscious suffering by the intestate, and therefore that the plaintiff was entitled only to nominal damages. There was no evidence of any expenses or loss incurred before death by reason of the accident, which in itself might afford ground for substantial damages. *Bancroft* v. *Boston & Worcester Railroad*, 11 Allen, 34. The question is as to the correctness of the latter ruling.

The plaintiff deems these rulings inconsistent each with the other. We do not perceive the inconsistency. Instantaneous death and absence of conscious suffering after a fatal injury are readily distinguishable, and have been distinguished in our decisions. The continuance of life after the accident, and not

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insensibility or want of consciousness, is the test by which it is determined whether a cause of action survives. *Hollenbeck* v. *Berkshire Railroad*, 9 Cush. 478. But as the plaintiff can only recover such damages as she can show were sustained by her intestate, if he became instantly insensible, and so remained until his death, nothing can be recovered for any physical or mental suffering sustained by him. Nothing can be recovered by the administratrix on account of the death which subsequently ensued. *Bancroft* v. *Boston & Worcester Railroad*, *ubi supra*. In *Kennedy* v. *Standard Sugar Refinery*, 125 Mass. 90, where the intestate fell from a platform twenty feet in height, became unconscious on striking the ground, and, in one aspect of the evidence, remained so until his death, the plaintiff was allowed at the trial, by the judge at *nisi prius*, to recover for mental suffering endured during his fall. It was held in this court that the burden of proof was upon the plaintiff to show that her intestate actually endured mental suffering during the fall, before she could recover damages on that account; that, as no proof was furnished of any mental suffering during the fall, and as the question whether he did suffer mental terror or distress was purely a matter of conjecture, no damages could be recovered on that account. Whether the person injured endured conscious suffering has sometimes depended upon the question whether his death was instantaneous, but the two inquiries are distinct. *Corcoran* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 133 Mass. 507. *Tully* v. *Fitchburg Railroad*, 134 Mass. 499. *Riley* v. *Connecticut River Railroad*, 135 Mass. 292.

That an adequate cause of the intestate's death, and one which must be held to have produced it, is found in the crushing of his body and disruption of his bowels, must be conceded. Viewed in the most favorable light for the plaintiff, this certainly fails to show any conscious pain or suffering on the part of the intestate. When found, although breathing, he was unconscious. Upon this state of facts, even if it were possible that there was some brief conscious suffering, evidence of it is not afforded, and it is left purely conjectural. The presiding judge did not undertake to say, as the plaintiff urges, that, because ten minutes after the accident the victim of it could not speak and was unconscious, he might not have passed into

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that condition after brief but terrible suffering, but said, in substance, that the case did not afford evidence that he had suffered consciously. This was correct.

The plaintiff urges that the case at bar strongly resembles *Nourse* v. *Packard*, 138 Mass. 307; but the evidence here wanting was afforded in that case. The dead body of the intestate was there found under a heap of loose grain, and there was expert testimony that he died from suffocation, and that a person situated as he was would retain consciousness from three to five minutes. It was a reasonable conclusion that he lived in a state of conscious suffering for a few minutes after the fall of the grain upon him which caused his death.

Judgment on the verdict.

LUCY B. BRIGGS & another *vs.* WALTER S. BARKER.

Plymouth. Oct. 18. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

If an appellant from a decree of the Probate Court, who claims his appeal seasonably, gives due notice thereof, and duly files and serves on the adverse party his reasons of appeal, omits, through accident and mistake, to enter his appeal in this court at the proper time, he is not entitled, under the Pub. Sts. c. 156, §§ 9, 10, to maintain a petition to this court for leave to enter the appeal, filed more than a year after the decree of the Probate Court was rendered.

PETITION to this court, dated May 10, 1887, for leave to enter an appeal from a decree of the Probate Court, rendered on April 12, 1886, admitting to probate an instrument purporting to be the last will of Waters B. Barker. Hearing before *C. Allen*, J., who ruled that the petition was not seasonably filed, and that the appeal could not be entered; and the petitioners alleged exceptions, which appear in the opinion.

J. F. Simmons, for the petitioners.

D. E. Damon, for the respondent.

DEVENS, J. The appeal from the decree of the Probate Court was seasonably claimed, notice thereof was duly given,

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and the reasons of appeal duly filed and served on the adverse party. Through accident and mistake on the part of the appellants, the appeal was not entered at the June Rules, 1886, and the present petition was filed more than a year after the decree of the Probate Court had been rendered. The petitioners do not contend that they are entitled under any provision of the statute now to enter their appeal, but urge that the court may permit them so to do by virtue of its general equity powers.

The right to appeal from the decision of the Probate Court depends upon the statute, which, for obvious reasons, requires that it shall be exercised within a fixed reasonable time. It further provides such safeguards as are deemed necessary to avoid the consequences of any accident or mistake of a party in exercising his right. The Pub. Sts. *c.* 156, §§ 7, 8, provide when the appeal shall be claimed, when notice thereof shall be given, and when the same shall be entered in the Supreme Judicial Court, and, further, for the filing of the reasons of appeal and the service thereof upon the adverse party. Section 9 provides that, where "a person aggrieved omits to claim or prosecute his appeal, without default on his part," the Supreme Court of Probate may, if justice requires a revision of the case, permit him to enter and prosecute such appeal. Section 10 provides that such appeal shall not be allowed unless the petition is filed within one year after the passing of the decree or order complained of. Provision is made for petitioners who are without the United States, which has no application to the present petitioners.

Section 10 therefore distinctly forbids the allowance of the petition in the case at bar, if the petitioners have omitted to claim or prosecute their appeal, without default on their part, as more than a year had expired since the decree complained of was rendered, when the petition was filed.

The contention of the petitioners is that they have not omitted to claim or prosecute their appeal, and that the failure to enter their appeal in this court is not a failure to prosecute. They urge that this is merely an omission to take one step in the formality required by the statute. This contention cannot be maintained. It is a failure to prosecute where the party claiming to be aggrieved fails to do what is necessary in order

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to bring his appeal before the appellate court. He thus prevents the execution of the decree appealed from by the court below, or the entry of another decree by this court, unless the adverse party by some petition brings the case before it. As the petition was not seasonably filed, the court has now no authority to grant it. *Decree affirmed.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* CATHARINE HAYES.

Plymouth. Oct. 18. — Nov. 28, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint against a married woman for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, she cannot, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 169, § 18, *cl.* 1, testify to a private conversation with her husband, who managed the tenement as her agent, in relation to instructions which she gave him about the conduct of the business, for the purpose of showing that she acted in good faith in giving them.

At the trial of a complaint against a married woman for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, the evidence tended to show that the defendant's husband conducted the tenement, which was a hotel, as her agent, that she did not live on the premises; and that he, acting according to her wishes, instructed the bar-keeper not to sell liquors in violation of her license. The judge instructed the jury as follows: "In considering whether the defendant acted in good faith in giving instructions as to the conducting of her business in the hotel, and intending that her instructions should be obeyed, the jury may consider the defendant's relations to and practical connection with the business of her hotel, her means and opportunities of knowing how her business was conducted there in the matter of selling intoxicating liquors, and what information her interest and duty in that matter would reasonably induce her to seek and obtain. An instruction would not be given in good faith, which the person giving it, from the nature of the matter to which that instruction applied, and the character of the persons to whom it was given, could not reasonably expect to be obeyed, and which he did not follow by any supervision or care, for the purpose of ascertaining if that instruction was obeyed." *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception.

At the trial of a complaint against a married woman for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, the evidence tended to show that the defendant's husband conducted the tenement, which was a hotel, as her agent; that she did not live on the premises; and that he, acting according to her wishes, instructed the bar-keeper not to sell liquors in violation of her license. The judge instructed the jury as follows: "Nothing to the contrary appearing, the natural and just inference from a sale, by a servant employed in his master's shop, of his master's goods, there kept

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for sale, would be that such a sale was authorized by the master. If a sale of intoxicating liquor was made in the hotel, during the time alleged in the complaint, by any person employed by the defendant to conduct her business at that hotel, without the defendant's knowledge, and really in opposition to her will, and the defendant in no way participated in, approved, or countenanced such sale, and this is clearly shown by the defendant, the defendant would not be responsible for such sale." *Held*, that the defendant had good ground of exception.

COMPLAINT for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a tenement in Brockton, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, on May 1, 1886, and on divers other days and times between that day and August 3, 1886. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Brigham*, C. J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

It appeared that during all of the time named in the complaint the defendant was the holder of a license of the first class for the keeping and selling of intoxicating liquors, and also of a license as an innholder, under the provisions of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100; that the licenses were procured to be used and were used for the purpose of carrying on the business of an innholder and seller of intoxicating liquors in the Occidental Hotel, in Brockton.

The defendant offered evidence tending to prove that she in no way or manner managed, controlled, or directed said business at any time, but left the management, control, and direction thereof, and the employment of necessary help, to her husband, John Hayes; that she did not live in or near said hotel, but in another part of the city, that during all of the period named in the complaint she was upon the premises of the Occidental Hotel but three times, and then only between the hours of nine and ten in the evening, and for the purpose of meeting her husband and of going with him to her home; and that at no other time was she notified, directly or indirectly, of any proceedings whatever at said hotel in violation of the conditions or provisions of her licenses; and there was no evidence in the case that she personally knew of the same.

It also appeared that the bar-keeper employed at said hotel during the period covered by said complaint was employed by the defendant's husband; and there was no evidence that the defendant ever saw or spoke to him.

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There was evidence tending to prove illegal sales of intoxicating liquor by the bar-keeper in said hotel within the period named in the complaint.

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There was also evidence tending to prove that the defendant's husband, in accordance with her wishes and with her knowledge, and upon her procuring said license to keep and sell intoxicating liquors, instructed the only person employed as a bar-keeper at said hotel during said period never to sell intoxicating liquor to minors or drunken men, or to any but guests of the house after eleven o'clock at night, or in any way to violate any of the provisions or conditions of said license, but to conduct the business at said hotel according to the provisions of said license in all respects; and that such instructions were reiterated to the bar-keeper two or three times a week during said period.

It appeared that the defendant's husband resided with her, and not at said hotel, but that he daily went to the hotel at about eight o'clock in the morning, and remained there until between nine and ten o'clock in the evening, when he left the same for his home.

All of the evidence relied upon by the government to show a breach of the conditions or provisions of said licenses related to acts happening between eleven o'clock at night and half past two or three o'clock in the morning, and to the sale of intoxicating liquors, and also to sales to persons other than guests upon the Lord's day.

The defendant's husband testified that his instructions to said bar-keeper were given in good faith, and with the intent that the same should be obeyed; and the defendant testified that she wished them obeyed.

The defendant testified in her own behalf, and was asked by her counsel what instructions were given by her to her husband, (no other person being present at the time she gave them,) that the bar-keeper at said hotel should not sell intoxicating liquors there in violation of the conditions or provisions of her license, and, for the purpose of showing her good faith, what were her reasons then given to her husband for such instructions. To this question the government objected, upon the sole ground that neither the husband nor the wife could testify as to a private conversation with each other; and the judge excluded it.

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The defendant asked the judge to rule as follows: "1. If the husband of the defendant, with her consent or by her direction, acting as her agent or as manager of the business at the Occidental Hotel during the time covered by said complaint, gave the bar-keeper full and proper instructions as to his duties under said license for the keeping and sale of intoxicating liquors, with proper warnings as to sales to all persons to whom, under said license, such liquors could not lawfully be sold, the jury are to regard such instructions as given by the defendant. 2. If the jury are satisfied as to the defendant's good faith as to the giving of such instructions and warning, it is immaterial whether her husband acted in good faith or not. 3. If the jury are satisfied that the defendant had only the bare legal proprietorship of the business at the Occidental Hotel, and took no control, direction, or management thereof, and knew nothing of any violations of law in carrying on said business, she is not liable under this complaint."

The judge declined to give the instructions asked for, but ruled as follows:

"1. Nothing to the contrary appearing, the natural and just inference from a sale, by a servant employed in his master's shop, of his master's goods, there kept for sale, would be that such a sale was authorized by the master.

"2. If a sale of intoxicating liquor was made in the Occidental Hotel, during the time alleged in the complaint, by any person employed by the defendant to conduct her business in that hotel, without the defendant's knowledge, and really in opposition to her will, and the defendant in no way participated in, approved, or countenanced such sale, and this is clearly shown by the defendant, the defendant would not be responsible for such sale.

"3. Did the defendant, in good faith, give instructions intended to be obeyed and enforced, that no sales of intoxicating liquor should be made in her hotel by any of the persons employed by her to conduct her business there, in violation of the conditions of her license, and did the defendant know that those instructions were disregarded by the persons so employed, in their management of her hotel, and the intoxicating liquors in it?

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"4. In considering whether the defendant acted in good faith in giving instructions as to the conducting of her business in the Occidental Hotel, and intending that her instructions should be obeyed, the jury may consider the defendant's relations to and practical connection with the business of her hotel, her means and opportunities of knowing how her business was conducted there in the matter of selling intoxicating liquors, and what information her interest and duty in that matter would reasonably induce her to seek and obtain.

"5. An instruction would not be given in good faith, which the person giving it, from the nature of the matter to which that instruction applied, and the character of the persons to whom it was given, could not reasonably expect to be obeyed, and which he did not follow by any supervision or care, for the purpose of ascertaining if that instruction was obeyed."

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions to the exclusion of the evidence offered, and to the clauses of the charge to the jury marked 1, 4, and 5.

Asa P. French, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

FIELD, J. The provision of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 169, § 18, *cl.* 1, that "neither husband nor wife shall be allowed to testify as to private conversations with each other," is not confined to conversations upon subjects which are confidential in their nature, and it includes conversations between them relating to business done by one as agent of the other. If the defendant could not be allowed to testify that she gave directions to her husband relating to her business, for the purpose of showing that they were given, she could not be allowed to testify that she gave them, for the purpose of proving that she acted in good faith in giving them. The evidence offered was rightly excluded. *Dexter* v. *Booth*, 2 Allen, 559. *Jacobs* v. *Hesler*, 113 Mass. 157. *Drew* v. *Tarbell*, 117 Mass. 90. *Brown* v. *Wood*, 121 Mass. 137.

The fourth and fifth instructions given relate to the good faith of the defendant in giving directions as to the management of her business. The presiding justice had already instructed the jury in conformity with the decision in *Commonwealth* v. *Wachendorf*, 141 Mass. 270. If from the nature of the business and the character of the servants employed in it, the defendant could not

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reasonably expect her directions to be obeyed, and if she took no care, and exercised no supervision, for the purpose of ascertaining that her directions were obeyed, it was competent for the jury to find that the directions were not given in good faith, and that the sales of intoxicating liquors on which the Commonwealth relied were made with her consent. It might be contended that she could not be convicted if she in fact expected that her directions would be obeyed, although this was not a reasonable expectation. We think that it was the duty of the defendant, if she intended to raise this question, distinctly to have called the attention of the court to it. The exceptions to this part of the charge are general, and must be overruled.

In *Commonwealth* v. *Wachendorf*, *ubi supra*, the defendant had a license, and the complaint charged that he unlawfully sold intoxicating liquors "between the hours of eleven at night and six in the morning," and it was said in the opinion "that the defendant was not liable criminally as a seller, when the sale proved was made by a servant, without his knowledge, in opposition to his will, and which was in no way participated in, approved, or countenanced by him," and *Commonwealth* v. *Nichols*, 10 Met. 259, was cited.

Commonwealth v. *Nichols* arose under the Rev. Sts. *c.* 47, § 2, and it was said in the opinion "that a sale by the servant, in the shop of the master, is only *prima facie* evidence of such sale by the master as would subject him to the penalty for violating the statute forbidding the sale of spirituous liquors without license; that the relation of these parties, the fact that the defendant was in possession of the shop and was the owner of the liquor, and that the sale was made by his servant, furnish strong evidence to authorize and require the jury to find the defendant guilty. . . . . Unexplained, they would be sufficient to convict the party."

In *Commonwealth* v. *Briant*, 142 Mass. 463, and in *Commonwealth* v. *Stevenson*, 142 Mass. 466, the complaints were for unlawfully selling intoxicating liquors to a minor, and the rulings which were held to be erroneous were to the effect that a sale of intoxicating liquors by a bar-tender in his master's shop, and in the regular course of his master's business, was *prima facie* a sale by the master, whether made to a minor or any other

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person. In *Commonwealth* v. *Briant*, it was said that, "although we should admit that a jury might be warranted in inferring that such a sale was authorized, it would not follow that a court could rule that there is a presumption of fact that it was so, which is the purport of the instruction fairly construed."

These last cases must be taken to have decided that, in complaints for unlawfully selling intoxicating liquors, it is a question of fact for the jury whether a sale by a servant in violation of a license was made by the authority or with the consent of his master, and that no presumption of law of any kind arises from the facts that it was made by the servant in his master's shop, in the ordinary course of the master's business, and from liquors owned by the master and there kept for sale. Evidence of these facts may be sufficient to warrant a jury in inferring as a fact that the sale was made by the authority or with the consent of the master, but the weight of this evidence and the inferences to be drawn from it are for the jury.

Whether evidence, if believed, is sufficient to warrant a jury in finding a defendant guilty, is a question of law; and if the presiding justice in this case had charged the jury that, "nothing to the contrary appearing, evidence of a sale by a servant, in his master's shop, of his master's goods there kept for sale, would, if believed, warrant the jury in finding that the sale was authorized by the master," the instructions would perhaps have been unobjectionable. The expression, that "the natural and just inference from" such a sale is that it "was authorized by the master," may be considered, either as an expression of an opinion by the justice that the jury ought to find, if nothing to the contrary appeared, that the sale was in fact authorized by the master, or as a strong statement of the law that they would be warranted in so finding. Whether the first clause of the charge ought to be held to be such an expression of an opinion upon a matter of fact as to require a new trial, we need not decide. The second clause of the charge, although not specifically excepted to, puts upon the defendant the burden of clearly showing that the sale, if made by a person employed by her to conduct her business in the hotel, was made "without the defendant's knowledge, and really in opposition to her will, and the defendant in no way participated in, approved, or countenanced such

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sale." The two clauses, taken together, may well have been understood by the jury to mean that the presumption was that a sale made by a servant, under the circumstances stated, was a sale authorized by the defendant, and that it was for the defendant clearly to show that the sale was made without her knowledge, and in opposition to her will, in order to escape criminal responsibility. It was wholly a question of fact whether the sales proved were made by the authority or with the consent of the defendant, and the burden was upon the government to prove this fact beyond a reasonable doubt. We think that the charge in this respect was erroneous.

Exceptions sustained.

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* ELMER TURNER.

Plymouth. Oct. 20. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN, J., absent.

A captive fox is an "animal" within the Pub. Sts. *c.* 207, § 53.

A person who lets loose a captive fox to be hunted by dogs may be convicted of subjecting the fox to unnecessary suffering, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 207, § 53.

A complaint alleged that the defendant had the custody of a fox, and knowingly and wilfully permitted the fox to be subjected to unnecessary suffering, by turning the fox loose to be hunted by dogs, in consequence of which the fox was hunted by dogs, and thereby subjected to unnecessary suffering. The evidence was that the defendant, in the presence of a number of men with dogs, let the fox loose within two rods of a piece of woods; that the fox ran into the woods, and was at once lost sight of; and that five minutes afterwards the dogs were let loose and ran after the fox; and there was no evidence that they were seen again that day. There was also evidence that, half an hour after the fox was released, a fox was found dead in the woods, a quarter of a mile away, with his side torn open. *Held*, that the evidence was sufficient to warrant the conviction of the defendant.

A formal defect in a complaint cannot be availed of for the first time in the Superior Court on appeal.

COMPLAINT, alleging that the defendant, on April 7, 1887, at Rockland, "was the person having the charge and custody of a certain animal, to wit, a fox, and did then and there, knowingly and wilfully, permit the said fox to be subjected to unnecessary suffering, by then and there, knowingly and wilfully, turning

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the said fox loose, to be hunted by divers dogs, in consequence of which turning loose of the said fox, as aforesaid, the said fox was hunted by divers dogs, and thereby subjected to unnecessary suffering as aforesaid."

At the trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before the jury were empanelled, the defendant moved to quash the complaint, because there was no offence set forth therein known to the laws of this Commonwealth, and because the offence intended to be charged therein was not fully, plainly, and substantially set forth. *Thompson*, J., overruled the motion.

At the trial, the government offered evidence tending to show that the defendant, on April 7, 1887, on Beech Hill, so called, in the town of Rockland, having the charge and custody of a fox, let the same loose; that at this time there were persons, to the number of ten or twelve, present with dogs, which they held by chains or cords fastened to their collars; that the defendant, before that day, said he was going to have a fox-hunt on that day, and was called upon by an agent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and informed that he would be prosecuted if he had the fox-hunt, and the defendant promised said agent that he would not take the fox there. It was also in evidence that, at the time the defendant let the fox loose, he forbade those having dogs letting loose their dogs. It appeared that the fox was let loose within two rods of the woods upon Beech Hill, which cover many acres of heavy growth of timber and wood, with thick underbrush; that the fox immediately ran into the woods upon his release, and was at once lost sight of in the woods; that, about five minutes after the release of the fox, those present having dogs, or some of them, let them loose, and they ran after the fox into the woods; and there was no evidence that they were seen again that day.

There was evidence that, in about half an hour after the fox was released by the defendant, a fox was found dead in the woods, with his side torn open, about one fourth of a mile from the place where the one was released by the defendant.

The defendant asked the judge to rule that the evidence was not sufficient to warrant the jury in convicting the defendant. The judge declined to rule as requested, and submitted the case to the jury, under instructions not excepted to. The

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jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

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L. A. Cook & W. J. Coughlan, for the defendant. 1. The complaint sets forth no offence known to the laws of this Commonwealth.

"The common law warrants the hunting of ravenous beasts of prey, as badgers and foxes, because the destroying such creatures is said to be profitable to the public." 3 Bl. Com. 213. *Geush* v. *Mynns*, Cro. Jac. 321. *Gundry* v. *Feltham*, 1 T. R. 334.

The Rev. Sts. *c.* 54, § 1, authorized and encouraged the destruction of foxes, and allowed a bounty of fifty cents per head for them. And by § 3 towns were authorized to raise money to encourage the destruction of foxes "and any other noxious animals whatever." By the Pub. Sts. *c.* 27, § 10, towns may raise money to encourage the destruction of noxious animals. As the law countenances the killing of foxes and allows towns to offer bounties for their destruction, killing them by a lawful method is no offence. Hunting is the proper and lawful method by which to kill foxes. 3 Bl. Com. 214.

The common law right to hunt foxes still prevails, unless controlled by statute law, and there is no statute law restricting or affecting that right in this Commonwealth. The St. of 1886, *c.* 276, does not apply to foxes.

If hunting a fox is not an offence, *a fortiori* turning a fox loose to be hunted is no offence.

That § 53 of *c.* 207 of the Pub. Sts., under which this complaint was made, does not apply to wild or noxious animals, is evident from the wording of the section itself, and from the provision of § 56, in regard to the care of animals found in the custody of the person arrested.

2. The offence intended to be charged is not fully, plainly, and substantially set forth. There is no allegation that the defendant permitted the fox to be subjected to unnecessary torture or cruelty of any kind. It is not enough to allege "unnecessary suffering." If it were, every person who fishes with hook and line might be convicted of cruelty to animals. There is no allegation as to the time when "the said fox was hunted by divers dogs." There is no allegation that at the time "the

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said fox was hunted by divers dogs, and thereby subjected to unnecessary suffering, the fox was in the charge or custody of the defendant.

3. The court should have instructed the jury that the evidence was not sufficient to warrant the jury in convicting the defendant. There was no evidence that the fox was turned loose by the defendant to be hunted, the evidence showing that, when the defendant turned the fox loose, he expressly forbade those having dogs letting loose their dogs. There was no evidence that the defendant permitted the fox to be subjected to unnecessary suffering, or that he had any control over the fox at the time the alleged unnecessary suffering took place. There was no evidence of unnecessary suffering on the part of the fox. And there was no evidence that the fox found dead was the fox liberated by the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

W. ALLEN, J. The Pub. Sts. *c.* 207, § 53, provide that "Every owner, possessor, or person having the charge or custody of an animal, who cruelly drives or works it when unfit for labor, or cruelly abandons it, or carries it or causes it to be carried in or upon a vehicle, or otherwise, in an unnecessarily cruel or inhuman manner, or knowingly and wilfully authorizes or permits it to be subjected to unnecessary torture, suffering, or cruelty of any kind, shall be punished," &c. The complaint alleges that the defendant, at a certain time and place, "was the person having the charge and custody of a certain animal, to wit, a fox, and did then and there, knowingly and wilfully, permit the said fox to be subjected to unnecessary suffering" by turning it loose to be hunted by dogs, whereby it was hunted, and "subjected to unnecessary suffering."

The defendant excepted to the refusal of the court to rule that the evidence was not sufficient to warrant a conviction. The evidence tended to prove that the defendant let a fox loose from his custody in the presence of several dogs; that the fox ran into a thick wood, and disappeared; that about five minutes afterwards the dogs were let loose, and pursued the fox, and caught it and mangled it. The jury might have found that the fox was let loose by the defendant to be hunted by the dogs, and that the dogs were procured by him and were let loose by

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his direction in order that they should hunt the fox. The evidence is sufficient to prove these facts; the question is whether these facts constitute or prove the offence described in the statute.

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It is objected that the statute does not include noxious animals; that there is no evidence that the fox was subjected to unnecessary suffering; and that there is no evidence that it was subjected to any suffering by the defendant, or while it was in the charge or custody of the defendant.

The word "animal" must be held to include wild and noxious animals, unless the purpose of the statute or the context indicate a limited meaning. There is nothing in the general purpose and intent of the statute that would prevent it from including all animals, within the common meaning of that word. The statute does not define an offence against the rights of property in animals, nor against the rights of the animals that are in a sense protected by it. The offence is against the public morals, which the commission of cruel and barbarous acts tends to corrupt. See *Commonwealth* v. *Tilton*, 8 Met. 232. It is as obnoxious to the reason of the statute wantonly to torture a wild animal, held in subjection by force, as to torture a tame animal.

The history and context of the statute show that all brute animals are intended. The Gen. Sts. *c.* 165, § 41, reënacting the Rev. Sts. *c.* 130, § 22, and in force until the St. of 1868, *c.* 212, was enacted, provided that "Whoever cruelly beats or tortures any horse, ox, or other animal, whether belonging to himself or another, shall be punished," &c. The St. of 1868, *c.* 212, contained particular provisions, which are substantially found in the Public Statutes. Section 1 provided for punishing "whoever shall overdrive, overload, overwork, torture, torment, deprive of necessary sustenance, cruelly beat, mutilate, or kill, or cause or procure" to be so treated "any horse, ox, or other animal, and whoever having the charge or custody of any such animal" shall unnecessarily fail to provide for it proper sustenance and shelter. Section 2 related to the owner or person having the charge or custody of "any horse, ox, or other animal," who permits it to be subjected to unnecessary torture or cruelty. Section 3 related to working or abandoning cruelly a disabled "horse, mule, or other animal." Section 4 was a general provision in

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regard to the transportation of "any animal." Sections 5–7 related to the transportation by railroad companies of "cattle, sheep, swine, or other animals." Under this statute it might have been contended that § 2 did not include wild or noxious animals; but the statute was repealed the next year, and the St. of 1869, *c.* 344, enacted in place of it, the first two sections of which were in the form in which they appear in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 207, §§ 52, 53. These two sections include the substance of the first four sections of the St. of 1868. Section 3 of the St. of 1869 included §§ 5–7 of the St. of 1868, relating to transportation on railroads. The St. of 1869 nowhere designated any particular animal, or species, but uniformly used the words "any animal" or "animals." Section 6 provided that "In this act the word 'animal' or 'animals' shall be held to include all brute creatures." This provision is not reënacted in the Public Statutes, apparently for the same reason that the provision immediately following it in the same section, that the words "owner," "person," and "whoever" should include corporations, was not reenacted, — because it was unnecessary. The word "animal," in its common acceptation, includes all irrational beings. It was used in that sense in the St. of 1869, and it is not conceivable that the Legislature intended to give a different meaning to the word in the reënactment of that statute in the Public Statutes.

The statute does not require either the allegation or proof of torture or cruelty, except as involved in unnecessary suffering, knowingly and wilfully permitted. It is argued that the fox is a noxious animal, which man may lawfully kill; that hunting it with dogs is a proper mode of killing it; and that therefore the suffering inflicted by that mode of killing is not "unnecessary" within the meaning of the statute. The statute does not apply to foxes in their natural free condition, but only when they are in the dominion and custody of man. The right to kill a captive fox does not involve the right to inflict unnecessary suffering upon it in the manner of its death, any more than the right to kill a domestic animal involves the right to inflict unnecessary suffering upon it, or cruelly to kill it. It cannot be said, as matter of law, that throwing a captive fox among dogs, to be mangled and torn by them, is not exposing it to unnecessary suffering.

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It is argued that there was not sufficient evidence to prove that the fox was in the custody or charge of the defendant when the suffering was inflicted upon it. It is not necessary to consider whether there was evidence of suffering from fear when the fox was in the custody of the defendant in the presence of the dogs, because we have no doubt that, by letting loose the fox for the purpose of being hunted by the dogs, the defendant permitted it to be hunted and permitted it to be subjected to all the suffering which it endured, and which naturally followed its being hunted in pursuance of that purpose. It was the act of the defendant while he had the custody of the fox that put it within the power of the dogs, and it is immaterial that they were restrained for five minutes before starting in fresh pursuit.

The objections to the complaint, which are not involved in the questions already considered, are for formal defects, of which the defendant could avail himself only by taking the objection before judgment in the District Court. Pub. Sts. *c.* 214, § 25. *Commonwealth* v. *Brigham*, 108 Mass. 457.

Exceptions overruled.

JOHN WINN *vs.* FREDERICK C. SANFORD.

Nantucket. Oct. 25. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

The surety on a joint and several bond, executed to a husband by his wife as principal, cannot avail himself, in defence to an action against him upon the bond, of the incapacity of the principal to contract with her husband.

CONTRACT against the surety upon the following bond, executed by Susan B. Winn as principal, and by the defendant as surety:

"Know all men by these presents, that we, Susan B. Winn, wife of John Winn, of Nantucket, as principal, and Frederick C. Sanford, of Nantucket, as surety, are holden and stand firmly bound unto John Winn, of Nantucket, above named, in the sum of three hundred dollars, to the payment of which to the said

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John Winn, or his executors, administrators, or assigns, we hereby jointly and severally bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators. The condition of this obligation is such, that whereas, in a settlement of differences between said John Winn and Susan B. Winn, it was agreed by said Susan B. Winn, and on her behalf, that she should give to said John Winn a bond, with surety, 'to release dower whenever requested, and make no further claim on said John Winn for any support or for any cause whatever.' Now therefore, if said Susan B. Winn shall, whenever requested, sign release of dower in any real estate of said John Winn, and shall make no further claim upon him for any support or for any cause whatever, then this obligation shall be void; otherwise it shall be and remain in full force and virtue."

Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Thompson*, J., who ruled, as matter of law, "that the bond sued on cannot be made the basis of any legal claim against the defendant; that, Mrs. Winn not being liable to her husband under it, the defendant is not liable;" and found for the defendant. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

J. Brown, for the plaintiff.

L. L. Holmes, for the defendant.

DEVENS, J. It is true, as a general proposition, that the liability of a guarantor or of a surety is limited by that of his principal. But to this there are certain exceptions. Thus, where the principal is excused from liability for reasons personal to himself, and which do not affect the debt he has incurred or the promise he has made, the surety would not be entitled to the benefit of this excuse. In such case, he is, in a certain sense, an independent promisor, and must perform his promise.

In *Maggs* v. *Ames*, 4 Bing. 470, the defendant had guaranteed the purchases made by a married woman incapable of making a contract; the question in the case was whether this guaranty should have been in writing; but it is assumed throughout, by court and counsel, that, if it had been in writing, the defendant would have been liable, although there could have been no liability on the part of the principal.

In a similar manner, where one becomes a surety for the performance of a promise made by a person incompetent to

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contract, his contract is not purely accessorial, nor is his liability necessarily ascertained by determining whether the principal can be made liable. Fraud, deceit in inducing the principal to make his promise, or illegality thereof, all of which would release the principal, would release the surety, as these affect the character of the debt; but incapacity of the principal party promising to make a legal contract, if understood by the parties, is the very defence on the part of the principal against which the surety assures the promisee. *Yale* v. *Wheelock*, 109 Mass. 502.

The bond in the case at bar is several, as well as joint. It appears from it that Mrs. Winn is the wife of the obligee, and it recites the agreement made between them. This agreement made by her is void, so far as the case now discloses, solely because of her incapacity to contract; but this should not release the defendant from his engagement that she should perform the promise made by her. The defence which Mrs. Winn personally has, resulting from her situation, should not be open to him.

Nor do we perceive that any distinction can be made, as suggested by the defendant, between the promise of a married woman, which is void, and that of a minor, which is voidable. In either case, the surety assures the promisee against the incapacity of the principal to make a legal contract, whether it be more or less complete.

The cases in which it has been held that the coverture of the principal promisor at the time of making her promise will not discharge the surety, when such coverture was known to him, are numerous, and have arisen on many descriptions of contract. *Smyley* v. *Head*, 2 Rich. (S. Car.) 590. *Kimball* v. *Newell*, 7 Hill, 116. *Nabb* v. *Koontz*, 17 Md. 283. *Jones* v. *Crosthwaite*, 17 Iowa, 393. *Weed Sewing Machine Co.* v. *Maxwell*, 63 Mo. 486. *St. Albans Bank* v. *Dillon*, 30 Vt. 122. *Davis* v. *Statts*, 43 Ind. 103. *Stillwell* v. *Bertrand*, 22 Ark. 375.

Exceptions sustained.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* GEORGE HILL.

Bristol. Oct. 25. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent

At the trial of a criminal case, whether the defendant's counsel shall be allowed to read to the jury provisions of the statutes other than those relating to the offence charged, instead of stating them orally, is within the discretion of the presiding judge, to the exercise of which no exception lies.

If a husband takes no part in keeping a tenement owned by his wife, and used by her as a house of ill-fame, for illegal gaming, or for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, he cannot be convicted of so keeping it, if his wife's acts are done without his consent and against his will; and whether he used all practicable means to prevent her from so keeping the tenement is relevant only on the question of his consent or want of consent.

At the trial of an indictment for keeping and maintaining a tenement used as a house of ill-fame, for illegal gaming, and for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, it appeared that the premises in question were owned and conducted by the defendant's wife; and that he lived there with her, and was present during, and knew of, her illegal acts. The defendant offered evidence to show that, "from time to time during five years prior to the finding of the indictment, he had ordered, directed, persuaded, and used all reasonable and practicable means in his power to prevent his wife from doing any of the acts charged, and that his wife told him the property was hers and she would do as she pleased." The judge excluded any evidence on this point relating to any period prior to the first date named in the indictment. *Held*, that the defendant had good ground of exception.

INDICTMENT for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a certain tenement in New Bedford, used as a house of ill-fame, for illegal gaming, and for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, on January 1, 1886, and on divers other days and times between that day and the day of finding the indictment, June 10, 1886.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Brigham*, C. J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The government's evidence tended to show that said tenement, which was a house, was used for the illegal sale of liquor, and was resorted to for prostitution and lewdness during the period covered by the indictment; that the business was transacted with the witnesses by the defendant's wife, in whom was the title to said house, which was paid for by moneys of the defendant; but that the defendant lived with her, and was present and had knowledge thereof. It also appeared that the wife furnished

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the food for the table; that the family consisted of themselves and three children; and that the defendant had done no business of his own for two years, but had money of his own to the amount of several hundred dollars, acquired in a business which he had formerly carried on.

The counsel for the defendant, in opening for the defence, stated to the jury that the defendant proposed to show that the dwelling-house and land where the business was carried on was the separate property of the wife, she being the owner thereof in fee since 1876; and that the defendant had ordered, directed, persuaded, and used all other reasonable and practicable means to prevent his wife from committing any of the offences charged in the indictment.

He then proceeded to read to the jury the first two sections of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 147, relating to the rights of married women in the management and control of their separate property, but was interrupted by the presiding judge, and directed not to read said statutes to the jury. Thereupon the counsel desisted from reading said statutes, but claimed the right to read them to the jury, and to have an exception to the refusal of the judge to allow him to do so. The judge thereupon ruled that the matter of reading said statutes to the jury was within the discretion of the court, and not a matter of exception.

It appeared in evidence for the defence, that the title in fee to the place was in the wife, as before stated, and that the parties had lived there as husband and wife ever since the purchase. The defendant offered evidence to show that, from time to time during five years prior to the finding of the indictment, he had ordered, directed, persuaded, and used all reasonable and practicable means in his power to prevent his wife from doing any of the acts charged, and that his wife told him the property was hers and she would do as she pleased. The judge excluded any evidence on this point at any time prior to January 1. The defendant then gave evidence tending to show those facts covering the time from January 1 to June, 1886.

At the close of the evidence, the defendant requested the judge to instruct the jury as follows: "1. A married woman who owns real estate in fee has as full control of the same during her life as she would have if single. She has a right to lease it for a

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term of years, or to convey it by deed, which will be good and effectual as against her husband during her lifetime. She has a right to occupy it alone and expel her husband therefrom if it suits her pleasure or convenience, even though she occupies it as her dwelling-place. 2. Her husband has no legal right to expel her therefrom, and any force used by him for that purpose would be a criminal assault. 3. He has no right in disciplining his household to beat or strike her. 4. If, under the circumstances disclosed by the evidence, the jury are satisfied that he did not in fact permit and suffer such use as is charged in the indictment, he cannot be convicted."

The judge refused to give any instructions on the first two points, ruling that they were immaterial; gave the third; and further instructed the jury as follows:

"If a house owned by a married woman, while used by her and her husband and their family as their domicil, is kept and used by her as a house of ill-fame, or is kept and used by her for any of the purposes alleged in this indictment, her husband would be responsible for such use, if it was with his knowledge and consent, or with his participation, or if he permitted and suffered that use; but he would not be responsible for that use if it was without his knowledge or consent, or against his wishes, and in spite of every reasonable, lawful, and practicable effort on his part, exercised in good faith, to prevent such use."

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. Brown, for the defendant.

H. C. Bliss, Assistant Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

FIELD, J. In offences like that charged in this indictment, there is a presumption of law that acts done by the wife in the immediate presence of her husband are done by her under coercion from him. This was originally a presumption in favor of the wife, but it is now also considered that there is a presumption against the husband that acts done by the wife in his immediate presence are done by his command or authority. In each case, it is a disputable presumption, and may be rebutted or contradicted by evidence, and this presumption has perhaps lost something of its force in modern times in consequence of

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the rights given to married women by statute, and the diminished power of control which by law and usage husbands now have over the person and property of their wives. Still, it has recently been distinctly declared that a husband has the rightful power to prevent his wife from using, for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, a house owned by her as her separate property, and occupied by both as the home of the family. This must be equally true when the wife uses the house as a resort for prostitution. *Commonwealth* v. *Carroll*, 124 Mass. 30.

If the husband took no part in keeping the tenement for the purposes charged in the indictment, we think that the question of fact was whether he consented to his wife's keeping it for these purposes. If she kept it of her own free will, and without his consent and against his will, he could not be convicted. Whether he used all reasonable and practicable means to prevent her from keeping the tenement for these illegal purposes was relevant only upon the question of his consent or want of consent; and if in fact she acted of her own free will, and without his consent and against his will, he could not be convicted, although he had not used all reasonable and practicable means to control her conduct.

We are aware that, in some of the decisions, expressions have been used which indicate that it is a substantive part of the law, that, to excuse himself, the husband must show that he has used all reasonable and practicable means to restrain his wife; but, taking all the decisions together, we think it appears that his whole conduct, including what he did and said, and as well what he could reasonably have done and did not do, is admitted as evidence only for the purpose of proving or disproving his consent in fact to the acts done by his wife. *Commonwealth* v. *Putnam*, 4 Gray, 16. *Commonwealth* v. *Wood*, 97 Mass. 225. *Commonwealth* v. *Welch*, 97 Mass. 593. *Commonwealth* v. *Tryon*, 99 Mass. 442. *Commonwealth* v. *Cheney*, 114 Mass. 281. *Commonwealth* v. *Barry*, 115 Mass. 146. *Commonwealth* v. *Kennedy*, 119 Mass. 211. *Commonwealth* v. *Carroll*, *ubi supra*. *Commonwealth* v. *Pratt*, 126 Mass. 462.

If, then, the tenement was the separate property of the wife, this fact and the rights generally which belonged to the wife as owner of the tenement, and the knowledge or belief of the

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husband, and the claim of the wife in reference to these rights, so far as there was evidence that the conduct of the husband might have been influenced thereby, were competent evidence for the jury upon the question of his consent.

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The defendant's counsel had the right to argue to the jury all questions of law and fact involved in the case, subject to the ultimate decision of the presiding justice upon all questions of law. *Commonwealth* v. *Porter*, 10 Met. 263. Those provisions of the statutes which directly relate to the offence charged, counsel have always been permitted to read to the jury. Whether counsel should be permitted to read other provisions of the statutes to the jury, we think, was in the discretion of the presiding justice. The whole law which defined the nature and extent of the right which the husband had to control the conduct of his wife was not contained in the statutes, and the general rule is that it is within the discretion of the presiding justice whether counsel shall read to the jury statutory or common law from books, or shall state it orally, subject to the correction of the court. *Commonwealth* v. *Austin*, 7 Gray, 51.

The first two instructions requested apparently involved some questions of law which were not raised by the evidence, and upon which the presiding justice was not required to rule; and the instructions given were correct, unless the last clause be considered as substantially modifying the instructions that the defendant would be responsible if the use of the house by his wife was with his knowledge and consent, and would not be responsible if her use of it was without his knowledge or consent. We are not convinced that this clause was intended to modify the substance of the instruction previously given.

The time covered by the indictment was from and including January 1, 1886, to the day of finding the indictment, which was June 10, 1886. It appears that "the defendant offered evidence to show that, from time to time during five years prior to the finding of the indictment, he had ordered, directed, persuaded, and used all reasonable and practicable means in his power to prevent his wife from doing any of the acts charged, and that his wife told him the property was hers, and she would do as she pleased. The judge excluded any evidence on this point at any time prior to January 1."

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The defendant was necessarily somewhat restricted in his defence, as he could not be permitted to testify to private conversations with his wife. The offence charged was a continuing one, and it might well be that he could produce but slight evidence that, during the time covered by the indictment, he had endeavored to prevent his wife from using the tenement for the illegal purposes charged; and yet he might have had ample proof that, within a reasonable time before this, he had in vain done, in good faith, all that he reasonably could to prevent her from using it as she did; and from this evidence the jury might have found that he continued to be of the same state of mind during the time covered by the indictment as before, and that his wife knew this, and continued to keep the premises in the same illegal manner, against his will.

When the question is of the state of mind of a person at or during a particular time, which can only be shown by acts or speech, evidence of what he said or did for a reasonable time before, if it tends to show a permanent or settled state of mind on the subject, has always been admitted. How far back a party shall be permitted to go, is largely in the discretion of the presiding justice; the only general rule is, that the evidence should be admitted, if, under all the facts proved, there can be a reasonable inference that the same state of mind continued to exist up to and during the particular time which is the subject of inquiry. Similar considerations apply to the knowledge or belief of the wife in regard to her husband's assent to or dissent from her course of conduct.

We think that the presiding justice erred in limiting the defendant to the time covered by the indictment; and, for this reason, the exceptions are sustained. *Potter* v. *Baldwin*, 133 Mass. 427. *Exceptions sustained.*

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JOHN O'CONNELL *vs.* PATRICK O'LEARY.

Bristol. Oct. 25. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

An action on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 24, for sales of intoxicating liquor to the plaintiff's minor children, is an action for a penalty or forfeiture, within *c.* 197, § 4, and, if brought more than one year after such sales, is barred by the latter statute.

The delivery of intoxicating liquor to a minor, in pursuance of a sale to his mother, and for her use, is not a sale to the minor, within the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 24.

HOLMES, J. This is an action under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 24, to recover for alleged sales of liquor to the plaintiff's minor son and daughter. The section is as follows: "Whoever, by himself or his agent or servant, sells or gives intoxicating liquor to a minor, ... shall forfeit one hundred dollars for each offence, to be recovered by the parent or guardian of such minor in an action of tort." It was admitted that the sales took place more than a year before action brought. The court ruled that the action was not barred by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 197, § 4, limiting to one year actions for penalties or forfeitures under penal statutes, if brought by a person to whom the penalty or forfeiture is given. The defendant excepted.

The plaintiff's evidence showed that the children were only messengers of their mother; that they delivered the whiskey to her, drinking none of it themselves; and that sometimes the mother sent the money to pay for it, and sometimes the whiskey was charged, it did not appear to whom. The court ruled that the sales were such sales to a minor as would entitle the plaintiff to recover under the statute, if the evidence was believed. To this ruling also the defendant excepted.

We are of opinion that both exceptions must be sustained. The statute reads, "shall forfeit . . . . for each offence." These words are technical, and are to be construed according to their peculiar and appropriate meaning in the law. Pub. Sts. *c.* 3, § 3, *cl.* 3. On their face they import forfeiture, that is, punishment, for an offence, not indemnity for a private wrong. The main purpose is manifestly to deter. Who shall have the money when

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recovered depends on construction; and, if the statute means indemnity, it leaves the question doubtful whose supposed wrong is to be made good. Sufficient provisions for private injury would seem to be made by §§ 21, 25, of the same chapter, where it is left to the jury, either wholly or within limits, to make the damages proportional to the harm. It is not readily to be supposed that the Legislature would undertake to declare an unchangeable sum the proper indemnity in all cases, even if for extraordinary reasons it might do so by language which could bear no other meaning. *Norris* v. *Crocker*, 13 How. 429, 440. The sum is to be recovered by the parent or guardian in an action of tort. But it is admitted by the plaintiff that an action for a penalty may be limited to certain persons. Indeed, the statute of limitations seems to contemplate that case. Pub. Sts. *c.* 197, § 4. See *Atlas Bank* v. *Nahant Bank*, 3 Met. 581, 583; *Cumberland & Oxford Canal* v. *Hitchings*, 57 Maine, 146. And the Legislature may as well make the sum recoverable in one form of action as in another. Pub. Sts. *c.* 217, § 2. *Wilson* v. *McLaughlin*, 107 Mass. 587. *Commonwealth* v. *Connecticut River Railroad*, 15 Gray, 447. *Smith* v. *Look*, 108 Mass. 139, 141.

Two cases cited for the plaintiff require notice. *Roberge* v. *Burnham*, 124 Mass. 277, decided that, in actions like the present, the jury need not be instructed that they must be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt. The attempt to measure the degree of certainty necessary to a verdict, like the attempt to fix the quantity of evidence, although familiar to the civilians, is not consonant to the general practice of our law, and may well be confined to the limits set by precedent. There is no reason for making such an attempt in an action for money, which is so far remedial that it is given by or on behalf of a person aggrieved, even though the sum sued for is a penalty. A penal statute imposing a forfeiture may be remedial in a certain sense. See *Commonwealth* v. *Fahey*, 5 Cush. 408, 411. In *Day* v. *Frank*, 127 Mass. 497, it was held that the bond of a licensee, under the St. of 1875, *c.* 99, § 9, (Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 13,) conditioned to pay all damages recovered under the act, applied to sums recovered under a section (§ 15) like the one now sued upon. The section (§ 9) fixed the form of the bond, and at the same time interpreted it, by providing that it should be for all costs, damages, and fines

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incurred by violation of the provisions of the act. Clearly the bond was intended to cover forfeitures to a person aggrieved, even if they are not described accurately in the opinion as liquidated damages.

We are of opinion that this is an action for a penalty or forfeiture, within the Pub. Sts. *c.* 197, § 4, and that it is barred by that section; and we do not regard the cases mentioned as inconsistent with our decision.

We are also of opinion that the second ruling which we have mentioned was wrong. If there had been any suggestion that the sales purported to be sales to the children as principals, or as agents of undisclosed principals, there might have been a question for the jury. But, on the evidence, it could not have been assumed, against the defendant, that they did purport to be such sales, and evidently the ruling proceeded, as did the argument for the plaintiff before us, on the opposite assumption, that it was known to the defendant that the children were buying for their mother. In *Commonwealth* v. *Lattinville*, 120 Mass. 385, it was held that a sale to a minor for his parents' use was not within the St. of 1875, *c.* 99, § 6, *cl.* 4; and § 15, which is the same as the § 24 now sued upon, was referred to as showing clearly that what the statute meant to prevent was "the possession of intoxicating liquor by a minor for his own use, and subject to his own control." In *St. Goddard* v. *Burnham*, 124 Mass. 578, it was held that § 15 of the St. of 1875 did not apply to a delivery to a minor of whiskey ordered and paid for by a third person. *A fortiori* it did not apply to a delivery to an errand-boy.

After these decisions, the former section was amended by the St. of 1880, *c.* 239, § 3, (Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 9, *cl.* 4,) so that licenses are now conditioned against sales to minors, either for their own use or that of any other person, and the penalties affixed to violations of the provisions of the license would be incurred by sales like the present. *Commonwealth* v. *O'Leary*, 143 Mass. 95. But § 15 of the St. of 1875 was left untouched, as it was, and as it still stands in the Public Statutes. If, before the amendment of the other section, the plain purpose and scope of § 15 was to prevent sales to minors for their own use, that is still its purpose. The words still mean what they meant when

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they were first enacted; and, if any inference is to be drawn from the subsequent action of the Legislature, it is that they were contented with the construction given to this section by the court.

Assuming that the amendment does not affect the construction of this section, it cannot be argued seriously, that, because a sale made or attempted to be made to a parent through the agency of a minor child is illegal, it therefore becomes a sale to the minor, (*Rodliff* v. *Dallinger*, 141 Mass. 1,) even if it were true that the illegality would prevent the title passing where there is a delivery, and the sale is fully executed. *Myers* v. *Meinrath*, 101 Mass. 366. *Exceptions sustained.*

J. Brown, for the defendant.

E. Avery & T. F. Desmond, for the plaintiff.

JOHN T. DONNELLY *vs.* HOMER M. DAGGETT, JR.

Bristol. Oct. 25. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action for malicious prosecution it appeared that the plaintiff had been arrested, on a complaint made by the defendant, for fraudulently concealing mortgaged property. At the trial, material facts were in dispute, and it did not appear that a full and correct statement of the facts as known to the defendant were made to his counsel. There was also evidence that the defendant believed, before making the complaint, that the property had been wrongfully removed by a third person. *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception to a refusal of the judge who presided at the trial to rule that whether or not there was probable cause was a question of law for the court, nor to his refusal to rule that there was no evidence of want of probable cause.

TORT, in two counts, for malicious prosecution.

The first count alleged that the defendant, at a term of the First District Court of Bristol, on December 2, 1885, falsely and maliciously, and without any reasonable or probable cause, procured the plaintiff to be complained against, for fraudulently removing and concealing certain personal property, on or about July 1, 1885, while a mortgage to the defendant was in force upon the same and unpaid.

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The second count alleged that at the same term the defendant falsely and maliciously, and without any reasonable or probable cause, procured the plaintiff to be complained against, for conveying, on January 7, 1885, by mortgage to the defendant, certain personal property, he, the plaintiff, not being the owner of said personal property, but having hired or leased the same without the written consent of the owner or lessor, and without informing the defendant that it was so hired or leased.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Barker*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

It appeared that on December 23, 1885, the said complaints were tried in the First District Court of Bristol at Attleborough; that, after a hearing, the court ordered the plaintiff to recognize in the sum of $300, on each of said complaints, for his appearance before the grand jury; that the grand jury found "no bills;" and that the plaintiff was discharged.

It was in evidence, and not contradicted, that the plaintiff by two mortgages, the first dated January 7, 1884, given for two months, and the second March 7, 1884, for one month, mortgaged to the defendant one New England organ, a rifle, a violin, and certain household furniture, all in North Attleborough, as security for two loans of $150 and of $80, which loans were at the time of making said complaints unpaid; that about the middle of July, 1885, while the plaintiff was in South Framingham, the furniture was taken away from his house; that the plaintiff told the defendant, before the complaints were made, that he understood the mortgaged furniture had been taken by the Providence Furniture Company.

The plaintiff testified that a portion of his furniture was bought of the Providence Furniture Company on a conditional sale, but denied that the mortgages included any of such portion.

It was in evidence, and uncontradicted, that the New England organ, the rifle, and the violin had disappeared before the making of said complaints, and that the defendant did not know where they were and was unable to find them; that the plaintiff knew where the rifle and the violin were; that the defendant demanded their return repeatedly before the complaints were made, but the plaintiff neglected to deliver them up or inform the defendant of their whereabouts until long after the criminal

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complaints were made; but the plaintiff testified that he told the defendant that he had lent the rifle and the violin.

The plaintiff testified, that on July 20, 1885, he came home from South Framingham, went to his house, and found that everything had been taken from it, in his absence and without his knowledge or authority, and that he went at once to the defendant's office and told one Parker, the defendant's agent and servant, about it; that he next saw the defendant personally on August 15, 1885, when the defendant told him that he understood the goods were taken away, and the plaintiff told him it was so, and thereupon the defendant asked him to assign his claim against the Providence Furniture Company for taking away the goods to the defendant in settlement, so that he could sue the company in his own name; that he did not give him such an assignment, but did then give him another assignment of his wages, to be operative after an assignment to one Herrick, and that the defendant told him he was willing to wait until after Herrick got through; that he next had a conversation with the defendant in Thanksgiving week, 1885, when he offered him his services as a jeweller to work out the bill, the defendant being then in the jewelry business; that the defendant said he would not have him in the shop anyway, and that, if he did not go to his mother or try to raise the money, he would "jail" him; that he next saw the defendant two days before his arrest, when the defendant drew up a mortgage which he told him to get his mother and brother to sign, and that it was either that or jail; that on the day of the arrest the defendant asked him what he was going to do, and said he must furnish the money or go to jail; and that he did not furnish the money, and was arrested.

J. E. Pond, called by the defendant, testified that he was an attorney at law, and had practised law about fourteen years in Attleborough; that the defendant came to him as an attorney at law, with the two mortgages before mentioned, and told him he wanted him to collect those mortgages either by foreclosure and sale under the power contained in each, or by getting them from the party himself; that Pond gave the mortgages to deputy sheriff James W. Riley of North Attleborough to hunt up the property; that, from the report made by Riley, Pond told the defendant that the only course he could see was for him to bring a

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criminal prosecution, in the manner and form in which the above mentioned complaints were made; and that he did not obtain any of the facts on which he based that advice from the defendant, except the fact that the mortgages were given; and that all that the defendant said to him with regard to the subject was the fact that those mortgages were given.

The defendant, to the question whether or not he had any facts within his knowledge with relation to this matter which were not stated to Pond, answered, "No, sir. In fact I got the most of my knowledge about this from Mr. Pond, from his report." To the question, "Were there any facts which you knew about this matter which were not brought out in your conversations with Mr. Pond, your attorney?" the defendant answered, "No, sir." To the question whether he told Pond the facts in this case, the defendant answered, "I told him he owed me these mortgages; I wished he would collect them." And to the question whether that was the only fact he laid before Mr. Pond, the defendant testified, "Perhaps I said to him I had heard the furniture had been taken away."

James W. Riley, called by the defendant, testified as follows: "Daggett and Pond called on me to look up some furniture that was mortgaged. I went to look after it, and saw Donnelly; he told me about this property that was mortgaged to Daggett, that Flint of Providence had come and taken it on a lease and carried it away. In a few days afterwards I had a warrant placed in my hands for his arrest. He was out of the State and I went to see his brother, and left word there for the plaintiff to come to my house. He came on Sunday night. I showed him the warrant, and told him what it was for. He said they came and took that property and carried it off. It was leased property. He supposed he could get the money for Daggett. When he mortgaged the property there, he expected to pay for it, but business had been dull, and he could not pay for it."

The plaintiff, in answer to the question whether he told Riley that the property that was mortgaged was the property of the Providence Furniture Company, testified as follows: "I did not have anything to say about the furniture. I was talking about the settlement with Daggett. That was all the conversation we had."

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There was no other evidence in the case material to the question of probable cause.

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At the close of the evidence, and before the arguments, the defendant requested the judge to rule, that the question whether or not there was probable cause on the facts proven was a question of law for the court, and to rule, as matter of law, that the evidence did not show want of probable cause.

The judge refused so to rule, but submitted to the jury the question whether, on the evidence, there was probable cause. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

W. H. Fox, (*F. I. Babcock* with him,) for the defendant.

A. E. Bragg, for the plaintiff.

FIELD, J. Whether there is probable cause for a prosecution is a question of law only when all the facts which are relevant are either agreed or are undisputed. *Sartwell* v. *Parker*, 141 Mass. 405. It is also a question of law whether there is sufficient evidence of a want of probable cause to sustain the burden of proof, which is on the plaintiff. If a person fully lays before counsel learned in the law all the facts which he knows, and all the facts which he believes to be true and can be established by evidence, and he is advised by counsel that they constitute a legal cause for a prosecution, and he in good faith accepts this advice and follows it, he is not liable to an action for malicious prosecution. *Olmstead* v. *Partridge*, 16 Gray, 381.

In the case at bar, material facts were in dispute, and it does not appear that a full and correct statement of the facts as known to the defendant was laid before counsel. There was some evidence that the defendant believed that the Providence Furniture Company had wrongfully taken away the goods, because there was evidence that the defendant asked the plaintiff for an assignment of his cause of action against that company; and although this evidence was more directly pertinent to the question of malice, we cannot say that it had no tendency to show a want of probable cause. *Mitchell* v. *Wall*, 111 Mass. 492. *Bobsin* v. *Kingsbury*, 138 Mass. 538. *Krulevitz* v. *Eastern Railroad*, 140 Mass. 573. *Moyle* v. *Drake*, 141 Mass. 238.

Exceptions overruled.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* HOLDER M. BROWNELL.

Dukes County. Oct. 26. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a criminal case, the defendant's counsel, in his closing argument to the jury, used this language: "If you acquit the defendant of this charge, how will you answer the question of your neighbors and friends as to why you did it? You will answer it as your own consciences must feel here. It was not proven. The government failed to convict him." The counsel was interrupted by the judge, who refused to allow him to pursue that line of argument, on the ground that it was improper. *Held*, that the defendant had good ground of exception.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, evidence of a conversation between a witness for the government, who has testified that he was active in the prosecution, and the complainant, who is not a witness, in relation to the matter, is properly excluded.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, it appeared that the tenement was a hotel, with a bar-room in the basement; that the bar-room could be entered by passing through the office of the hotel and going down stairs, and also by entering a door in the basement. Two officers, who testified that they made a seizure of liquors in the bar-room, stated that, when they passed through the office, they saw the defendant there. The sheriff of the county testified that he had seen the defendant about the office, looking at the books, writing, and giving directions. Another witness testified that he had seen the defendant about the office, giving directions, and had seen him direct a servant to take a card to a guest's room. The defendant did not testify as a witness. The judge, after instructing the jury as to the defendant's right not to testify, instructed them as follows: "If you find, upon the question of the proprietorship of that hotel, he had it in his power to produce witnesses here not known to the government, who could give you further light upon that question, and he does not choose to do it, you may take that fact into consideration when you come to consider whether there is any reasonable theory consistent with his non-proprietorship of that hotel and with the evidence. I do not mean to say that his failure to produce the witnesses here will fill up any gap, if you find any, in the evidence of the Commonwealth, but only that when you are to consider the reasonableness of any explanation of his acts here, if any have been proved, with regard to that hotel, consistent with his not being the proprietor of it, you may take into consideration the fact whether or not there is other evidence in his power upon that question which he could place before you." *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception.

COMPLAINT for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a certain tenement in Cottage City, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, on July 8, 1887,

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and on divers other days and times between that day and August 9, 1887. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Hammond*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

It appeared that the Sea View House, the tenement alleged in the complaint, was a public hotel in Cottage City. The usual passageway for guests led from the sidewalk in front of the building on to a piazza, and from there into a room where the office was, with reception-rooms on each side, and with an elevator, a coat-room, and a dining-room beyond. There was also a passageway on the side, where persons could pass from the office down stairs to the basement, where there was a barber's shop, a stand for the sale of newspapers and periodicals; also a billiard-room, with a bar-room about twenty feet by ten, partitioned therefrom, in one corner, which was entered by a door from the billiard-room. The billiard-room could be entered by a door from the outside, also by passing through the barber's shop from the outside, and also through a passageway from outside around the barber's shop. To get to the bar-room, it was necessary to pass through the billiard-room.

Two officers testified that, on July 12, 1887, they entered the hotel at the office and passed therefrom down the side passageway, through the billiard-room, into the bar-room, where they found a man in attendance whom they did not know; that they, with a search-warrant, seized a number of bottles of intoxicating liquor from behind and about the bar; and that, when they passed through the office-room, they saw the defendant moving about there.

Three persons testified to purchasing liquor at the bar on three different occasions; that at one time they passed through the barber's shop to the billiard-room, and at another time from the office down the side passageway mentioned. Two of them were paid detectives, and one was Hugh Montgomery, a clergyman, who said he purchased it to get evidence of selling liquor against the defendant. None of these witnesses testified to seeing or knowing the defendant at any time, and they did not know the person behind the bar who sold it to them.

Jason L. Dexter, the sheriff of the county, testified that he had seen the defendant about the office, looking at the books, writing, and giving directions; that he had also seen a man named Pease,

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and also one named Weeks, doing the same thing during the period.

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A. J. Church, a minister, testified that he had seen the defendant about the office of the hotel giving directions during the period; that on one occasion he had called for a guest who was stopping there; and that the defendant took his card and directed a servant to carry it to the guest's room, and the witness went up there.

No person testified to seeing the defendant in the basement at any time; and he offered no evidence in defence, except as to the reputation for truth of some of the witnesses for the government.

The witness Church testified that he had been active in the prosecution. He was inquired of whether he had had any conversation with Hatfield, the complainant, about the matter. He replied that he had. The defendant's counsel asked him what that conversation was. This was objected to; and the judge excluded it, on the ground that Hatfield was not a witness, and that statements by him were not material. It was not contended by the defendant that the conversation was offered to show that Church had made any statements contradicting or modifying his testimony as given. The defendant excepted to its exclusion.

During the closing argument, the counsel for the defendant relied mainly upon the point that there was no proof that the defendant exercised any control over the bar-room. He said in substance: "But, gentlemen, if you acquit Mr. Brownell of this charge, how will you answer the question of your neighbors and friends as to why you did it? You will answer it as your own consciences must feel here. It was not proven. The government failed to convict him." Here the judge interposed, and said that such a line of argument was not proper. The counsel replied that he regarded it as a legitimate and proper line of argument, and requested the judge to have his directions put in writing. This was done, as follows: "In so far as counsel for the defendant desires to instruct the jury what reasons they may hereafter give to anybody who chooses to talk with them about their verdict, for giving their verdict, the counsel for the defendant is stopped by the court." To this the defendant excepted.

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In his charge to the jury, relative to the fact that the defendant did not testify as a witness, the judge, after charging the jury fully and accurately as to the defendant's rights under the statute when not a witness, used the following language: "He is under the protection of the constitutional right to sit there, and you are not to say to yourselves that, if this thing is not so, he could explain it; but you are to take it as if he were mentally and physically unable to testify. But, gentlemen, this principle does not apply to witnesses other than the defendant, whom he can produce here; and if you find, for instance, upon the question of the proprietorship of that hotel, that he had it in his power to produce witnesses here not known to the government, who could give you further light upon that question, and he does not choose to do it, you may take that fact into consideration when you come to consider whether there is any reasonable theory consistent with his non-proprietorship of that hotel and with the evidence. I do not mean to say that his failure to produce the witnesses here will fill up any gap, if you find any, in the evidence of the Commonwealth, but only that when you are to consider the reasonableness of any explanation of his acts here, if any have been proved, with regard to that hotel, consistent with his not being the proprietor of it, you may take into consideration the fact whether or not there is other evidence in his power upon that question which he could place before you."

The counsel for the defendant, at the close of the charge, said to the judge, that, before taking exceptions, he wished to call attention to the fact that the real proprietor, or person in charge, could not be compelled to testify. The judge replied: "I think that is a fair criticism; and I will modify that to say, gentlemen of the jury, that what I have just said about witnesses whom the defendant could produce does not apply to any person who was the actual proprietor, or in charge. The defendant cannot be presumed or expected to produce here, to make testify, the actual proprietor himself." To the foregoing instructions the defendant excepted.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. Brown, for the defendant.

H. C. Bliss, Assistant Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

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W. ALLEN, J. It was proper for the counsel for the defendant to impress upon the jury their duty to acquit the defendant if his guilt was not proved by the evidence in the case, and to remind them that, whenever they should have a proper occasion to give a reason for acquitting the defendant, it would be sufficient to say that his guilt was not proved. The counsel had a right to present this thought in a logical or in a rhetorical form; he was at liberty to dramatize it in imaginary dialogue, and to illustrate and enforce it by imaginary occasions. The counsel in his argument suggested an occasion on which the jury might be asked the reason why they acquitted the defendant, and the answer which they would give. The language put into the mouth of the jurors is entirely proper and unobjectionable; the impropriety, if any, must have been in the supposed occasion of uttering it. The supposed occasion was the inquiry by friends and neighbors of the jury why they acquitted the defendant, and the supposed impropriety must have consisted, either in the implied suggestion that the jury might have in mind the opinions of their friends and neighbors, or in the suggestion that the jury might at some future time state to their friends and neighbors the grounds of their verdict.

Any attempt to influence a verdict by outside opinion and sentiment is improper, but an appeal to the jury not to be influenced by such opinions and sentiments is proper; and such appeal involves a recognition of the fact that the thought of such opinions may be in the mind of the jury. It is not an assertion of a fact, but the recognition of a possibility. There was no other suggestion of outside influences in the case at bar than was involved in warning the jury against them.

We see no impropriety in the other suggestion involved, — that, if the defendant was acquitted for want of proof, the jury were at liberty to say, in answer to questions of their friends and neighbors, that the proof was not sufficient. No question of disclosing the secrets of the jury-room, or of calling a juror to account for his verdict, is involved. The suggestion is, that the juror may voluntarily and on his own account make a statement of the true grounds on which he rendered his verdict. It was made to influence the jury to render their verdict upon the evidence, without regard to the opinions of others. Whether the

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exigencies of the defence called for such an appeal, and in what form it can be most effectively made, the court cannot know; that must be left to the discretion of counsel, within the limits of decorum and propriety. If a juror and his neighbor have, in common, information not in evidence, which satisfies them that the defendant is guilty, or if the jury know that the defendant is held to be guilty in common repute among their neighbors, it is still their duty to acquit him if the evidence does not prove him guilty. In such a case, the jurors could not but have in mind that outside knowledge and opinion, and it might be difficult for them to resist the influence of it, and to render a verdict solely upon the evidence. The reflection that they were not obliged to be forever silent, but could at some time explain that their verdict was rendered on the evidence before them, and not upon outside facts and opinions, might aid them in arriving at a true verdict, and would be proper for them to make; and we think that it is a consideration which counsel have a right to present to them. It was not for the defendant to show that the argument was particularly pertinent or applicable to his case. That is not matter of inquiry. It is not addressed to a known, but to a possible influence. The liability of the influence to exist, not its actual existence, makes the appeal proper.

As the defendant had a right to make the argument in the form in which his counsel put it, and as the considerations he desired to present were proper to be presented to the jury, the defendant was aggrieved by not being allowed to pursue his argument, and by the practical ruling of the court that the consideration was not proper to be regarded by the jury.

We do not find any other error in the rulings of the court.

Exceptions sustained.

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HENRY J. LANGLEY *vs.* CHARLES DAURAY & another, executors.

Bristol. Oct. 26. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

An action against an executor, for breach of an agreement to purchase land, made by his testator, cannot be maintained, if there were defects in the plaintiff's title of such a kind that he was never in condition to perform his part of the contract, and the testator did not repudiate the contract, but the plaintiff granted delay at his request, and the term of such delay had not expired at his death, and no offer to carry out the contract was made to the defendant, and no demand made upon him before bringing the action.

HOLMES, J. This is an action for breach of an agreement to purchase land, made by the defendants' testator. It is conceded that there were defects in the plaintiff's title of such a kind that he was never in condition to perform his part of the contract; but it is contended that the testator repudiated the contract altogether, and thus exonerated the plaintiff from attempting to perfect his title, and waived all defects. We think it unnecessary to examine the details of the case, or to consider whether it falls within the principle of *Curtis* v. *Aspinwall*, 114 Mass. 187, 193, and that class of cases, because not only it does not appear that the testator repudiated the contract, but it appears affirmatively that the plaintiff granted delay at his request ("Langley yielded to Bedard's request for delay"); that the delay granted had not expired at the testator's death; and thus that the testator had never broken or refused to perform his covenant. See *Ballou* v. *Billings*, 136 Mass. 307, 308. No offer to carry out the contract was made to the defendants, and no demand was made upon them before bringing this suit. The ruling that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover was correct.

Judgment for the defendants.

J. M. Morton, for the plaintiff.

T. M. Stetson & H. A. Dubuque, (*E. Higginson* with them,) for the defendants.

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JOSIAH O. HINCKLEY *vs.* INHABITANTS OF SOMERSET.

Bristol. Oct. 26. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A person, who, while driving along a highway in a town, is injured by reason of his horse taking fright and running against and upon a stone wall two feet in height on the side of the way, may maintain an action against the town, if the injury was received because the wall was not high enough to prevent it, and the want of height rendered it insufficient as a barrier, and the horse was reasonably safe to drive, and the driver was in the exercise of due care and did not lose control of his horse, or lost control for a moment only, and either regained control or would have regained it before the horse ran against the wall, if it had been of sufficient height.

The fact that a stone wall, built by county commissioners on the side of a way in a town, is afterwards rebuilt by the highway surveyor of the town, and remains in the same condition as when rebuilt by him until the happening of an accident by reason of the insufficiency in height of the wall as a barrier, is notice to the town of the existence of the defect.

In an action against a town for personal injuries occasioned by a defect in a way, evidence of conversations between a person who has met with a similar accident at the same place and others not officers of the town, concerning his accident, is not competent to show notice to the town of the existence of the defect.

Exceptions taken at a trial will not be sustained because incompetent evidence has been admitted to prove a fact which the conceded facts necessarily establish, if this court is not satisfied that the excepting party has been prejudiced by the admission of such evidence.

TORT, for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by a defect in a highway in the defendant town. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Barker*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The notice, duly served on the defendant, stated "that, while travelling on the highway from Somerset to Dighton across the Broad Cove Bridge, so called, on the 29th of May, 1886, between 5 and 6 o'clock P. M., in consequence of the narrowness of the road and the insufficiency of the barrier, and for want of a suitable wall, railing, or fence, when within fifteen feet of the bridge on the Somerset side thereof, and on the easterly side of the highway, my horse and team got partly over the wall, and I was thrown out of my carriage and severely bruised and injured, and my horse and carriage were also hurt and injured."

It was proved, or admitted, that the road in question was laid out by the county commissioners, and that by statutory authority

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the commissioners laid out and constructed Broad Cove Bridge and the approaches thereto, and the walls, railings, and barriers. Broad Cove is an inlet of Taunton River, and is tide water. The work was partly in Somerset and partly in Dighton, the middle of the channel, which was the middle of the bridge, being the dividing line. The defendant town was charged with the care and maintenance of the southerly part, which was where the accident happened, and had ever since, down to and including the day of the accident, maintained and kept in repair so much of said road and bridge as were within its limits. There was no question made but that a barrier or wall was necessary to prevent travellers from going off and into the water, which was some ten feet deep, and the surface of which was from eight to ten feet below the level of the top of the wall, and on the east side of the bridge or causeway. The barriers were constructed of stone, and on the east side were from two feet to two feet and three inches in height and twenty inches thick, and solidly built, and at the place of the accident were two feet high. They had been, up to and including the day of the accident, kept and maintained in substantially the same condition as left by the commissioners when they were turned over to the town, except as hereinafter stated. The work was done in 1854. In 1885, the highway surveyor of the town had rebuilt and repaired the same, and raised the east wall some six inches in height.

On the west side of the bridge, and in Broad Cove, persons engaged in oyster fishing anchored their boats, and sometimes tied them to the wall on the west side of the bridge; and this had been done for several years prior to the time of the accident. About four hundred feet to the west of the bridge was a railroad, which crosses the highway to the south of the bridge and between that and the village of Somerset.

The plaintiff introduced evidence, that, on May 29, 1886, between five and six o'clock in the afternoon, he was travelling on said highway, on the Somerset side, and along the causeway leading to the bridge; that his horse was gentle, his rate of speed being then six miles an hour; that he held a taut rein on his horse; that his horse was frightened by the oyster boats on the west side of the bridge, and suddenly shied to the east

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side of the way, and ran into and upon the wall or barrier on the east side; that his horse got up, on to, and astride of the wall with his hind legs, while his fore feet rested inside, on the road; that the right forward wheel of his open buggy went on to the wall, and over to the east side, and the axle rested on the wall, and the left wheel was in the road on the inside, and the right hind wheel also went up on to the top of the wall; that he was thrown out, but still held the reins; that his horse and wagon came back into the road; and that it was all done and over in an instant. The accident occurred from fifteen to twenty feet from the bridge.

The plaintiff had travelled over the road more or less since April 1, 1885, to and from Somerset and Dighton, and knew of the oyster boats and of the walls of the bridge. The plaintiff contended that the wall was defective, because too low; and that the accident was due to that defect.

The defendant introduced evidence tending to show that the horse only reared up, and placed his fore feet on the top of the wall.

This was all the evidence in the case as to the place, the time, and the cause of the accident, and as to the laying out, construction, and repair of the bridge, road, causeway, and wall. The jury took a view of the premises.

For the purpose of proving that the town had notice of the defect, the plaintiff called one Dr. Shurtleff, and offered to show by him that he had met with an accident similar to that which befell the plaintiff, and at or near the same place; but, it appearing that the witness had had no talk with any of the town officers about the accident, he was at that stage of the case asked nothing by the plaintiff in regard to the accident. Subsequently, he was recalled by the plaintiff, and, upon the plaintiff's counsel stating that he expected to show that Dr. Shurtleff had spoken generally of the accident in the village of Somerset, where he lived, and where two of the three selectmen lived, and should contend that it was competent for the jury to find, if such should appear to be the fact, that the selectmen either knew, or by the exercise of reasonable care might have heard, of the accident, the judge ruled that it was competent for the plaintiff to put in evidence of the accident, as bearing on the

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question of notice to the authorities of the town, but that the evidence was not to be considered by the jury as tending to show that there was any defect, or that there had been any accident. The plaintiff thereupon put the following question: "Without asking you what the accident was, how generally did you speak of it around the village?" and he answered, "Very little indeed." The witness further stated, that he had spoken of it but very few times, and to but two or three persons; and the plaintiff put no further questions, and pursued the matter no further.

The defendant called as a witness one Edward Buffington, who testified that he was a deputy sheriff, living about a mile and a half from the village of Somerset, but that he was in the village nearly every day, and his business led him through all parts of the village, and brought him in contact with many different people, and he had never heard the accident to Dr. Shurtleff spoken of.

At the close of the evidence, the defendant asked the judge to rule that, on the evidence, the defendant was not liable, and to direct a verdict for the defendant. The judge refused so to do.

The defendant then asked for the following instructions to the jury: "1. If the injuries for which the plaintiff seeks to recover were due in whole or in part to the narrowness of the highway, the plaintiff cannot recover. Narrowness of the highway, duly located, is not a defect for which the defendant is liable. 2. If the plaintiff's horse was frightened by an object outside of the limits of the highway, and while so frightened and because of said fright ran into and upon the railing or wall, and the injuries were received of which the plaintiff complains, the plaintiff cannot recover. Such injuries would not be caused solely by a defect in the highway, or want of sufficient railing or barrier. 3. If the plaintiff's horse, wagon, or himself would not have come in contact with the railing or wall, nor the accident have occurred if the team had passed on in the course in which the plaintiff was driving, if the plaintiff's horse had not been frightened, the plaintiff cannot recover. 4. The fact that boats with sails were anchored in Broad Cove, and frightened the plaintiff's horse, would not render the town liable. Broad Cove on the evidence is tide water, over which the town has no control.

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5. If the highway and barriers where the plaintiff was injured were in good repair, and in substantially the same condition as constructed and left by the county commissioners when they located the highway and built the barriers or walls, the plaintiff cannot recover. 6. If the plaintiff's horse, by reason of fright, became uncontrollable, so that the plaintiff could not stop him, or direct his course, or exercise control over his movements, and in this condition came upon the barrier or wall which was defective, the plaintiff cannot recover. 7. The defendant was not obliged to maintain a wall or barrier that under any and all circumstances, such as the rearing up of a horse, would prevent injury to those travelling on the highway. If the wall or barrier in question here was suitable for the ordinary purposes of travel upon such a road in a country town, it was sufficient. If the plaintiff's horse reared up and placed his fore feet on the top of the wall, but did not go over, and the injuries complained of were thus received, the plaintiff cannot recover."

The judge gave the first, fourth, and sixth requests, and, on the other questions raised, instructed the jury in substance as follows:

It makes no difference whether the accident was occasioned by the plaintiff's horse being frightened by an object either inside or outside of the limits of the highway.

The narrowness of the road is not in itself anything which constitutes a defect in this case. It is not required of towns that they should fence their highways, or that they should erect railings or barriers to prevent travellers from driving out of the limits of the highway, or to prevent unmanageable horses from escaping from the limits of the highway. The railings or barriers are required only when some steep bank or other dangerous object or place exists so near to the travelled road as to make it dangerous to travel on the road. In this case the evidence tends to show that this highway was located twenty feet wide through water where the tide rose and fell on each side. It is not contended by the defendant but that some kind of a railing or barrier was necessary at this point. The question would be whether the railing or barrier was a suitable one. In deciding that, it is for the plaintiff to prove, by a fair preponderance of the evidence, that it was not a suitable railing or barrier. Whether

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or not it was a suitable railing or barrier depends upon whether it was suitable to do that to the ordinary travel which might be expected there, which a railing or barrier is required to do.

Towns are not required to provide barriers to prevent a man from deliberately straying out of the highway, or unmanageable horses from escaping from the highway, nor for persons to sit upon or lean against; neither are they bound to erect and maintain barriers to prevent the getting off from the highway and into dangerous places of extraordinary loads, that is to say, if the strength of a barrier is called in question, if it is sufficient to keep in the highway the ordinary load and team which might be expected along there. If a team of extra weight comes along there and breaks it down, the question would be whether or not it was suitable for the ordinary and usual and expected travel. That would decide the question whether or not it was a suitable barrier. So, in order to determine whether or not there was a suitable barrier, you are to take into account the road as it was, you are to take into account the nature and amount of travel which would reasonably be expected to pass over it, you are to take into account all the circumstances which might reasonably and naturally and ordinarily be expected to attend the travel over and upon that road, and you are to say that the object of the rail is not for people to sit upon or to walk upon, that it is in order to protect them from getting into dangerous places in immediate proximity to the highway by the ordinary things which might be expected to happen upon a highway.

If you find that the railing itself was not such a railing as ought to have been there, then you can find the way defective by reason of its not having been a suitable railing. But it is not decisive of the case if you find that, because, even if there were not a suitable railing in the place, and a railing were required, the fact that there was not a suitable railing is not sufficient to make the town pay damages for an accident that happened at the point where the railing was insufficient, unless you are also satisfied that the presence of a suitable railing would have prevented the injury and the accident. That is to say, you may be entirely satisfied that the railing was not suitable or sufficient, but the accident may be of such a nature that you fail to be satisfied that the presence of a suitable railing would have

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prevented the injury; and if it would not have prevented the injury, then you cannot give the plaintiff compensation in such a case for his injury, because, even if the town had discharged its duty, it would not have prevented the injury from occurring. So if you find that there was a want of a suitable railing, the plaintiff must also satisfy you, by a fair preponderance of the evidence, that, if there had been a suitable railing, the accident and injury would not have occurred.

The evidence tended to show that the plaintiff's horse had shied, and had been for some portion of time without his control. The law with reference to that matter is this. If a horse shies, and an accident occurs, if the shying comes because the horse has a vicious habit of shying, then the man would not be in the exercise of due care in driving such a horse; and an accident occurring from the shying of a horse which came in consequence of a vicious habit of the horse would not be an accident for which the plaintiff could recover. But the law presumes that even gentle horses — or rather it recognizes the fact — may sometimes momentarily and occasionally shy and be without the control of the driver. The law with reference to that is to be stated in this way: If from no vicious propensity of the horse, but from some cause which makes an ordinarily gentle and safe horse suddenly start and shy so that he is momentarily without the control of his driver, if the control of the horse would have been immediately regained by the driver if there had been no difficulty or defect in the way, and, while in this condition of want of control, he comes upon a defect, the plaintiff may recover, provided it appears to the jury as a fact, by a fair preponderance of the evidence, that if the defect of a want of a suitable railing, which is claimed as the defect, had not existed, the driver of the horse would have regained the control of the horse before the defect was encountered, that is, before the obstacle that did the damage was encountered, and so the accident would have been prevented. That is to say, applying the illustration, if one's horse sees some object, and for the purpose of this case I will say either within or without the limits of the highway, and it is ordinarily a safe and gentle horse, and it is suddenly frightened by the sight of this object and so shies, and if while in that act of shying, and before anything like a defect

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or want of repair in the highway has contributed in any way to what is happening, the driver is thrown out, he cannot recover for any damage he receives in being thrown out, because at that time the horse is beyond his control, although the horse might presently have come under his control again. He would not be prevented from recovery by reason of the fact that momentarily the horse had been out of his control; but for an accident that happens while the horse is out of his control by reason of his shying he cannot recover.

When the horse shies and comes upon something which is claimed to be a defect, and which it is claimed the vehicle would not have come in contact with except for the want of a suitable railing, then the question for the jury is this: Can we say that, if there had been a suitable railing there, the control of the horse would have been regained by his driver, and the accident and injury would not have happened? If the plaintiff makes it appear, by a fair preponderance of all the evidence, that that was the state of things, then he can recover. If he fails to show that, then he cannot recover.

There is, perhaps, in this case a very fine point. It is contended here that, if the wall had been higher, the accident would not have happened. It is conceded upon both sides that a wall or barrier of some kind was necessary. This may be the case, that what is erected as a barrier or wall upon the side or within the limits of a highway by the town may be of such a character or nature as in itself to constitute a defect. But the jury must remember this, that no barrier or railing can be erected which is not an obstacle to the progress of a horse or carriage. Its object is to obstruct and stop the progress of a team beyond its limits. So if a horse suddenly shies, and should by shying throw the team against a barrier, and the obstruction caused by the barrier injured the horse or the wagon, or threw out the man, that would not be a cause of action against the town, because it would be the natural and expected result of the very operation of the barrier as a barrier. But on the other hand, if this barrier was so constructed as in itself to be a dangerous object in the highway, and a defect in the highway, the fact that it was intended also as a barrier would not necessarily prevent the plaintiff from recovering upon the ground that it was,

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although a barrier itself, a defect or an obstacle in the highway. In other words, the fact that a certain structure by the side of the highway or in the highway was erected or maintained by the authority of the town, with the intention of having it as a railing or barrier, — a railing or barrier of some kind being necessary at that place, — would not necessarily protect the town from damage for everything that could happen by the existence of that thing there. The fact that it was intended as a barrier would not make it, so to speak, protected. But there would be the question whether or not it was of such a shape and character that it was a defect in the highway.

Then you come to the question whether or not a railing which is too low may also constitute a defect, and for that reason the town or city be liable under some circumstances. The claim here is made that the wall, being about two feet in height, ought to have been higher, and, if it had been higher, the accident would not have happened. With reference to that, all I can say to you is this: if you shall find that the wall as it was there was not a suitable railing or barrier, taking into account the whole location of the place, and the kind and amount of travel, and all those things, and if you shall find that a higher wall would have prevented the accident and injury to the plaintiff, would have enabled the plaintiff to recover the control of his horse, and would have prevented any accident happening, then you may find for the plaintiff, if you believe that that want of height in the railing was the sole cause of the injury.

It is not claimed here that the barrier was of any improper material, or that its perpendicular surface next to the road constituted any defect. For any injury which was occasioned by the striking of the wagon or of the horse against the perpendicular side of the wall, you cannot allow damages. If the plaintiff had been thrown out from his carriage by the striking of the wagon or of the horse against the perpendicular side of the wall, the horse shying at the time, for that injury the plaintiff could not recover. But if solely because this wall was too low, and you believe that the injury occurred by reason of the horse and wagon getting on top of the wall, and, if the wall had been sufficiently high for the purpose of ordinary travel there, the horse and wagon would not have got upon the wall, but the control of

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the horse would have been regained, and the accident averted, then for the consequences of the accident the plaintiff might recover, so far as they came from the horse or wagon getting on the wall because too low. That, as it seems to me, is as far as the law would allow the plaintiff to go, and for the purposes of the case I instruct you that that is the law to govern the case.

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There is certain evidence in the case that was introduced solely on the question of notice, which you must not consider in any other view of the case. That is, there has been some intimation in the case that some difficulty may have occurred upon this bridge or causeway before. It would not be competent for a plaintiff to show that other accidents had happened at the same place in order to show that the way was defective. If there is before you any evidence tending to show anything of that kind, it is not to be considered by you upon the question as to whether there was any defect in the way or not. It simply bears on the question of notice. It only bears upon that in this way. It is competent for witnesses to say, that upon such and such a time they gave such and such information to the authorities of the town. The question of notice is to be tried upon what were the circumstances of any alleged notice.

There was testimony in the case, other than that of Dr. Shurtleff, to which the last instruction would apply.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

H. K. Braley, for the defendant.

A. J. Jennings, (*J. M. Morton* with him,) for the plaintiff.

FIELD, J. This is an action to recover damages for an injury received through want of a sufficient railing in or upon a highway, on the ground that the defect might have been remedied, or the injury prevented, by reasonable care and diligence on the part of the town. The damages are recoverable from the town by law obliged to repair the way, if it "had reasonable notice of the defect, or might have had notice thereof by the exercise of proper care and diligence" on its part. Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 18.

It was contended that the railing was insufficient because it was not of proper height. The second and third requests for instructions ought not to have been granted if the railing was insufficient, and the plaintiff did not lose control of the horse,

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and if the injury would not have been received if the railing had been sufficient. The instructions given relating to the fact that the horse became frightened, and the effect of this upon the plaintiff's right of action, were correct. *Stone* v. *Hubbardston*, 100 Mass. 49, 55. *Babson* v. *Rockport*, 101 Mass. 93. *Britton* v. *Cummington*, 107 Mass. 347. *Wright* v. *Templeton*, 132 Mass. 49.

The fifth request ought not to have been granted. It was the duty of the town to keep the way "reasonably safe and convenient for travellers;" Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 1; and to put up a sufficient railing or barrier, if the barrier constructed by the commissioners was not sufficient, and if a railing or barrier was required to make the way reasonably safe.

The seventh request ought not to have been granted, because, if the wall was insufficient, and the way not reasonably safe, it was not necessary that the horse "should go over the wall" in order to enable the plaintiff to recover. If the injury was received because the wall was not high enough, and the want of height made it insufficient as a railing or barrier, the plaintiff could recover, if the horse was a reasonably safe horse to drive, and if the plaintiff was in the exercise of due care and did not lose control of the horse, or lost control for a moment only, and either regained the control or would have regained it before the horse would have run against the wall, if it had been of sufficient height.

If the injury would not have been received if the wall had been of sufficient height, and this want of height rendered the way unsafe, then the insufficient wall was the immediate cause of the injury. We do not know that the plaintiff's horse would have run against the wall if it had been of sufficient height, and this defect in the height of the wall may have been the sole cause of the injury. We think that there was evidence for the jury of all the facts necessary to be proved, and that the court rightly refused to direct a verdict for the defendant.

It appears that certain evidence was introduced "solely on the question of notice," which means notice to the town of the height of the wall and of the condition of the way. If the wall was insufficient and the way unsafe, it is immaterial what the authorities of the town thought about it, if they knew the facts.

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Notice of a defect is notice of that condition of things which constitutes a defect, although the authorities of the town may think that it does not constitute a defect. This wall was a permanent structure, built in 1854, and was rebuilt and raised about six inches in height in 1885 by the highway surveyor of the defendant town. The plaintiff was injured on May 29, 1886. If the wall was insufficient as a railing or barrier, we have no doubt that, on the undisputed facts, it must be held, as matter of law, that the town either "had reasonable notice of the defect, or might have had notice thereof by the exercise of proper care and diligence" on its part. The wall was a structure which was visible and conspicuous, and had existed for so long a time that the town ought to have known its condition and height, and ought to have known that it was insufficient, if in fact it was insufficient. Besides, the fact that the wall had been rebuilt in 1885 by the highway surveyor of the town, and remained in the same condition as when rebuilt by him, was equivalent to notice to the town of its condition and height. "There is no occasion to prove actual notice to a city or town of its own acts, or of acts which are constructively its own." *Monies* v. *Lynn*, 119 Mass. 273, 275. *Brooks* v. *Somerville*, 106 Mass. 271.

In *Donaldson* v. *Boston*, 16 Gray, 508, 511, it was said: "Mere proof of notice to one or more of the inhabitants does not establish the requisite notice, because it is not their duty to repair the defect or remove the obstruction. The facts must be such as to lead to the inference that the proper officers of the town, whose duty it is to attend to municipal affairs, did actually know of the existence of the defect, or with proper vigilance and care might have known it. Such knowledge may be inferred from the length of time during which the defect has existed, from the central position and publicity of the place where it exists, and any other circumstances which tend to show its notoriety." This is the rule of law under existing statutes. *Hanscom* v. *Boston*, 141 Mass. 242.

The evidence of Dr. Shurtleff was admitted, not "as tending to show that there was any defect, or that there had been any accident," but "as bearing on the question of notice to the authorities of the town," and it appears that there was other testimony of the same kind. The presiding justice carefully limited

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the relevancy of this evidence to "the question of notice." We think that conversations about an accident or a defect in a way, between persons no one of whom is an officer of the town, is not competent evidence to show notice to the town, although the conversations may have been had between many different persons. It cannot be inferred that the conversations were heard by other persons than those shown to have heard them. Whether a public notice of a defect in a highway by advertisement in a newspaper or in some other public manner, would be evidence to the town, need not be decided. The evidence, therefore, was inadmissible for the purpose for which it was received, and it is clear that it was not admissible for any other purpose.

But the evidence was admitted to prove a fact which it was unnecessary to prove, if the other facts we have referred to had been proved or admitted, and the exceptions so recite. Exceptions will not generally be sustained because incompetent evidence has been received to prove a fact which the conceded facts necessarily establish. The real complaint is, that the evidence tended to prejudice the defendant with the jury, because, however careful the instructions of the court may have been, the jury would be likely to consider the evidence of a previous accident as evidence that the defendant was in fault, and ought to have repaired the way. There is some force in this, and it would undoubtedly be within the power of the court to sustain these exceptions on this ground, if satisfied that injustice had been done; but we are not satisfied that injustice has been done. *Exceptions overruled.*

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JOB T. WILSON *vs.* CHARLES WINSLOW & another.

Bristol. Oct. 26. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

An assignee in bankruptcy made a contract with the bankrupt to convey to him a parcel of land belonging to the estate, and was authorized by a decree of court so to convey it. At the request of the bankrupt, after the price was paid, the land was conveyed to the bankrupt's wife, and the deed was delivered to him as his wife's agent. *Held*, that the conveyance was valid, and that the bankrupt could not maintain an action for a subsequent trespass committed on the land.

HOLMES, J. This is an action for the conversion of certain wood, and for trespass to land which had belonged to the plaintiff before he went into bankruptcy. The defendants claim title as devisees of the plaintiff's wife, to whom the plaintiff's assignees in bankruptcy conveyed the premises.

The first difficulty which the plaintiff has to encounter in the attempt to maintain an action at law is, that, if the conveyance were void, the legal title would be in the assignees, not in him. *Bacon* v. *Abbott*, 137 Mass. 397. But the conveyance was valid. It was authorized by the decree giving the assignees leave to sell to the plaintiff, as the plaintiff requested that it should be made to his wife, after the price was paid as required by the decree. For the same reason, the plaintiff could not set up that the conveyance was against the terms of the assignees' contract with him, if it was, and if that fact would make any difference on a question of legal title. The court found that the deed was delivered to the plaintiff as his wife's agent, and the exceptions state that there was evidence to support the finding. We see nothing in the case requiring discussion. The suggestion that a conveyance by assignees to the bankrupt's wife is void, on the same grounds as a sale on execution to the debtor's wife, is plainly unfounded. In the latter case the officer has only a power, and the title would pass direct from husband to wife. *Stetson* v. *O'Sullivan*, 8 Allen, 321. In the former, the assignees have title in themselves. *Exceptions overruled.*

J. M. Wood, for the plaintiff.

J. M. Morton, for the defendants.

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JOHN H. CALLAGHAN *vs.* D. W. WHITMARSH & another.

Bristol. Oct. 26. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

The service upon the creditor's attorney of the original notice of the desire of a person arrested on execution to take the oath for the relief of poor debtors is, so far as the rights of the creditor are concerned, a sufficient compliance with the requirement of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 162, § 32, that such notice shall be served by giving to the creditor, his agent or attorney, "an attested copy thereof."

CONTRACT, against D. W. Whitmarsh and Alvin C. Brownell, upon a poor debtor's recognizance, entered into on September 3, 1886, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 162, § 28, by the first-named defendant as principal, and the other defendant as surety, and containing the usual conditions. The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and, after judgment for the plaintiff, to this court, on appeal, upon agreed facts, the material parts of which appear in the opinion.

L. E. White, for the defendant surety.

F. V. Fuller, for the plaintiff.

FIELD, J. It appears by the agreed statement of facts that "the only alleged breach of the recognizance whereby the plaintiff seeks to recover is the fact that the notice required to be given by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 162, § 32, to the judgment creditor," was served by the officer's giving in hand to the creditor's attorney the original notice, instead of an attested copy. At the argument, it was contended, among other things, that the subsequent proceedings before the magistrate were void, because he could not have had before him the notice, with the officer's return of service upon it. The record of the magistrate is not before us, and it is consistent with the agreed statement of facts that the officer served the original notice, and made his return to the magistrate upon an attested copy. We are not required to determine the validity of these subsequent proceedings.

In *Young* v. *Capen*, 7 Met. 287, it was held that reading a notice to a creditor was "not a compliance with the statute, literal or substantial," which required that the notice be served by delivering an attested copy, and it was said that "the service

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required by the statute is manifestly more beneficial and useful than reading."

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It is manifest that delivering the original notice is as beneficial and useful to the creditor as delivering an attested copy. The argument is, that there must be a literal compliance with the statute, and that the statute requires service by an attested copy. That errors in the terms of the notice which have no tendency to mislead the creditor do not make it insufficient, if properly served, has been often decided. *Calnan* v. *Toomey*, 129 Mass. 451.

In *Wilbur* v. *Ripley*, 124 Mass. 468, the court reversed a judgment entered upon default in a writ of entry, because an attachment of the defendant's property had been made, and the service of the writ was by leaving an attested copy, and not by leaving an original summons. The statutes then in force provided that, "when goods or estates are attached, ... there shall be a separate summons, to be served on the defendant after the attachment, and the service thereof shall be a sufficient service of the original summons." Gen. Sts. *c.* 123, § 11. This separate summons was required to be served by delivering it to the defendant, or by leaving it for him; but an original summons without an attachment was required to be served by reading it to the defendant, or by delivering to him an attested copy, or by leaving such copy for him. § 23. A separate summons informs the defendant that his goods or estate have been attached to an amount expressed in the summons, while the writ contains only a command to attach them. St. 1784, *c.* 28, § 1. The two are not literally or substantially duplicates or copies one of the other.

In the case at bar, the service of the notice was not the commencement of the proceedings. The defendant Whitmarsh had been arrested upon execution, and, desiring to take the oath for the relief of poor debtors, but not desiring a time fixed for his examination, had entered into a recognizance with Brownell, the other defendant, as surety, before a magistrate, pursuant to the Pub. Sts. *c.* 162, § 28. The notice given was for the purpose of informing the creditor that Whitmarsh desired to take the oath at a certain time and place expressed in the notice. This notice must be in writing, and signed by the magistrate in his official

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capacity. § 31. The contents of the original and of the copy are the same. The statute intended that the creditor should have a notice in writing, in order to insure the certainty which a writing gives; but whether the officer should deliver the original, and return a copy, or the reverse, is a matter of statutory regulation, made for the purpose of directing the manner in which the notice should be served. So far as the rights of the creditor are concerned, we think that the service in this case was a substantial compliance with the statute, and that a literal compliance was unnecessary. See *Eaton* v. *Miner*, 5 N. H. 542.

Judgment for the defendants.

ADONIRAM J. MARBLE *vs.* EMMA S. MELLEN.

Bristol. Oct. 26. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action upon a paper writing, signed by the defendant, a married woman, and reciting the receipt from the plaintiff of a certain sum to be paid to him in the stock of a certain corporation, or in cash, within a time named, the plaintiff testified that he and the defendant's husband made a settlement, at the latter's house, of demands which the plaintiff had against him; that the husband proposed to give to the plaintiff in settlement the stock named in the paper declared on, or a certain sum, in ten days; that the husband said that the stock was in the defendant's name; that she was in the house, but was not present in the room with them; that the husband wrote the agreement, and left the room to get his wife's signature to the paper; and that he soon returned with the paper signed by her. The defendant and her husband were present at the trial, but did not testify. *Held*, that the judge properly submitted to the jury the question whether the defendant knew of the consideration for her agreement.

CONTRACT, in two counts. The first count was for money had and received to the plaintiff's use. The second count was upon the agreement contained in the following paper, dated October 1, 1881, and signed by the defendant: "Received of A. J. Marble two thousand and sixty-two dollars and fifty cents, to be paid to said Marble in stock at its par value in the Lewiston and Auburn Horse Railroad Co., or in cash, within ten days." The answer admitted that the defendant signed the agreement set forth in the declaration, but denied that she received any money or other

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valuable or good consideration therefor; alleged that the same was without consideration, and that she did not owe the plaintiff anything; and denied each and every allegation in the declaration, except that she signed said writing.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Mason*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff testified that, on October 1, 1881, he went to the house of George F. Mellen, the husband of the defendant, at his request and by previous appointment with him, for the purpose of a settlement with him of various claims which the plaintiff had against him, including certain notes and $3000 in cash which he had lent him; that, after figuring up, it was agreed that the amount in suit was due from the defendant's husband to the plaintiff on certain of their transactions; that the defendant was in the house at this time, but was not present during any of the transactions between the plaintiff and her husband in the room; that the husband proposed to give the plaintiff stock in the Lewiston and Auburn Horse Railroad Company at par, or cash in ten days in settlement, and said that the stock was in his wife's name, and he should have to get her to sign the agreement; that the defendant's husband thereupon wrote the agreement, and went out of the room to get his wife's signature, and in a few minutes came back with the paper signed; that the plaintiff then gave up to him the notes included in the settlement, which bore the indorsement of the defendant's husband and of the firm of which he was a member, and amounted to $1200 or $1400, with said paper, in settlement of the same and of the money lent; and that no money or property was given to the defendant, and no demand was ever made upon her personally, but a demand was afterwards made on her husband.

The defendant and her husband were both in court during the trial, but neither was called as a witness, nor was the deposition of either taken.

The defendant asked the judge to rule, that, upon the whole evidence, the plaintiff could not recover, and to direct a verdict for the defendant, upon the ground that there was no evidence that the defendant had any knowledge of the consideration for her agreement. The judge refused to rule as requested, but submitted the question of the defendant's knowledge of the

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consideration to the jury, with full instructions, to which no exception was taken.

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The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. F. Jackson & D. F. Slade, for the defendant.

J. M. Morton & A. J. Jennings, for the plaintiff.

DEVENS, J. The ruling of the presiding judge submitted to the jury the question whether the defendant knew of the consideration for her agreement. She has no ground of complaint, if there was evidence sufficient to go to the jury of such knowledge. Direct evidence was not necessary. It could be inferred from the conduct of the party.

The instrument recited an adequate money consideration, and was signed by the defendant. The plaintiff's testimony was that he made a settlement of certain demands with the defendant's husband at his house; that the husband was to transfer to him the stock described in the paper signed by the defendant; that the defendant was in the house, but not in the room; and that the husband went out of the room to get her to sign the paper, as the stock was in her name, and soon returned with it. It further appeared that the husband and the defendant were present at the trial, heard the plaintiff's testimony as to the transaction, did not contradict it, and did not testify that the defendant did not know of the consideration. Upon these facts, it could not have been ruled that there was no evidence to go to the jury, who might fairly have inferred that, even if the money consideration recited was not the actual one, the real consideration, namely, the settlement between her husband and the plaintiff, was known to the defendant. *Exceptions overruled.*

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WILLIAM WHEATON vs. MARGARET TRIMBLE.

Bristol. Oct. 27. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

Evidence that a husband had the general management of premises belonging to his wife, that he employed A. to perform labor upon a house on the land, that the wife knew that A. was working on the house, and that she gave him directions as to parts of the work, will justify a finding that the husband, in employing A., acted as the duly authorized agent of the wife.

PETITION to enforce a mechanic's lien, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 191. Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Knowlton*, J., who found for the petitioner; and the respondent alleged exceptions. The facts appear in the opinion.

H. J. Fuller, for the respondent.

L. N. Francis, for the petitioner.

MORTON, C. J. The labor for which the petitioner seeks to enforce a lien was performed by him upon the house of the respondent. He was employed by the respondent's husband; and the presiding justice, who tried the case without a jury, has found that, in employing the petitioner, the husband acted as the duly authorized agent of the respondent. The only question before us is whether there was evidence to justify this finding. There was evidence tending to show that the work was done upon her house, and was for her benefit; that she knew that the petitioner was working upon the house, and was present at different times, and personally gave him directions as to parts of the work; that she selected the papers for the upper rooms, and the bills for them were afterwards paid by her husband. The husband and wife both testified that he was not her agent; but, upon cross-examination, she testified that "her husband manages the property just as he used to when it was his, that she allows him to go ahead and do just as he pleases with the whole property, and that ever since it has been in her name he has managed it just as he did before." It was for the court to determine what credit should be given to their testimony. Considering the relation which she bore to her husband and to the estate, that she knew the petitioner was working for her benefit, and took part in directing his work, and that she

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substantially testified that she had put the general management of the property in the hands of her husband, it is not an unreasonable inference that, in contracting with the petitioner, the husband was acting as her authorized agent. The evidence is quite as strong as it was in the case of *Arnold* v. *Spurr*, 130 Mass. 347, in which it was held that the question of agency should have been submitted to the jury.

Exceptions overruled.

ANN TOMLINSON & others *vs.* SARAH BURY & others.

Bristol. Oct. 27. — Nov. 23, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A bequest of the testator's "bank stock" is to be construed as describing deposits in savings banks owned by the testator, if he owns no shares of stock in a bank.

A bequest of "all the mill stock and bank stock remaining in my name after the decease of my said wife" is specific, and not general.

If shares of stock, specifically bequeathed by a will, are appropriated to satisfy the claims of the testator's widow, who has waived the provisions of the will in her favor, the legatee is entitled to contribution from other legatees under the will.

BILL IN EQUITY, by certain legatees under the will of John Tomlinson, to obtain contribution from other beneficiaries under said will. At the hearing in the Superior Court, a decree was ordered for the plaintiffs; and the defendants appealed to this court. The facts appear in the opinion.

M. Reed, for the defendants.

J. M. Morton & A. J. Jennings, for the plaintiffs.

DEVENS, J. The parties litigant have agreed, if the plaintiffs, whose legacy has been appropriated to the claims of the widow, are entitled to contribution from other legatees, as to the amount to which contribution shall be made, and also as to the proportions in which it shall be distributed. This leaves open as the only question for discussion whether they are thus entitled. This depends apparently upon the inquiry whether the legacy to them is to be held as specific or general. The rule is well settled that, if a legacy is specific, and is appropriated to

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the payment of debts, the legatee (if the general or residuary legacies are not sufficient) is entitled to contribution from the holders of other specific legacies. *Farnum* v. *Bascom*, 122 Mass. 282. Nor is there any distinction between such a case and one where a specific legacy is appropriated to satisfy the lawful claims of the widow of the testator, who has waived the provisions of the will made in her favor. To the extent to which a specific legacy has been taken by the widow, the legatee would be entitled to contribution, as much as if it had been taken for the payment of debts. It is equally well settled that, if the claim for contribution of the plaintiffs rested upon the fact that they were residuary legatees, it could not be maintained. Nothing is given by a residuary clause except upon the condition that something remains after all paramount claims upon the testator's estate are satisfied. *Richardson* v. *Hall*, 124 Mass. 228, 233.

The gift to the plaintiffs by the fourth clause of the testator's will was "all the mill stock and bank stock remaining in my name after the decease of my said wife." The plaintiffs were also residuary legatees and devisees under the sixth clause of the will, but they make, and could make, no claim on that account to any contribution. The words "bank stock" are to be construed as describing the testator's deposits in various savings banks. He had no shares of the capital stock of any bank, nor any other property in banking associations, and, while the expression is not accurate, it must be held, under these circumstances, to describe these deposits. The question is not of importance in the case at bar, as, if there is a specific legacy of the "mill stock," which has been taken, the plaintiff would be entitled to contribution from the other legatees, and the amount has been agreed upon. Specific legacies are held to contribute proportionally to the charges on the estate, unless from the expressions of the will, or from the position of the legatee, as where he receives a legacy in lieu of a debt or claim against the estate, it is seen that such legacy is entitled to a preference. *Farnum* v. *Bascom*, *ubi supra*. There is a presumption of intended equality between general legatees as a class, and between specific legatees as a class. A specific legacy is one which separates and distinguishes the property bequeathed from the other property of the testator, so that it can be identified. It can only

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be satisfied by the thing bequeathed; if that has no existence, when the bequest would otherwise become operative, the legacy has no effect. If the testator subsequently parts with the property, even if he exchanges it for other property or purchases other property with the proceeds, the legatee has no claim on the estate for the value of his legacy. The legacy is adeemed by the act of the testator. Tried by these tests, the legacy of the testator's "mill stock and bank stock" must be held specific. It could only be satisfied by this mill and bank stock, and if the testator had disposed of them, or of any part of them, to that extent the legacy would have been adeemed.

Nor, in considering whether the legacy is specific, is it important that it was of such of these stocks as remained after the decease of his wife. He had bequeathed to her "the use, improvement, and income, of all" his estate, real and personal; he may have anticipated that it might suffer some diminution during her life, but, whether he did so anticipate or not, the subject of the gift was distinctly defined.

The defendants contend that this case comes within a class of cases where it has been held that a gift of all a testator's personal estate, enumerating the various classes, has been held to be general, and not specific. *Hays* v. *Jackson*, 6 Mass. 149. *Howe* v. *Dartmouth*, 7 Ves. 137. *Brummel* v. *Prothero*, 3 Ves. 111. *Walker's estate*, 3 Rawle, 229. *Woodworth's estate*, 31 Cal. 595. But the reason why it has been thus held is that in those cases no intent was shown to give a distinct part of the estate, nor to separate a portion thereof from the residue, but rather an intent to give the whole. A bequest is not the less specific because it includes numerous articles. A bequest of all the horses which the testator may own, of all his plate, of all the books in his library, or of all the horses, cattle, and farming tools on a particular farm or farms, is specific. *Stephenson* v. *Dowson*, 3 Beav. 342. *Borden* v. *Jenks*, 140 Mass. 562.

In the case at bar, the mill and bank stock were, by the bequest, separated and distinguished from the testator's other personal property. *Decree affirmed.*

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* BENJAMIN F. SHAW.

Essex. November 1. — 23, 1887. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

The description, in an indictment for embezzlement, of the property embezzled as "thirteen hundred and twenty pairs of shoes, each pair of the value of one dollar, of the property" of a person named, is sufficient.

At the trial of an indictment for the embezzlement of goods of A., it appeared in evidence that A., after the time of the alleged embezzlement, charged the defendant, in a certain conversation, with having spent the money he had collected from the sales of the embezzled property in gambling in stocks. The defendant, in testifying in his own behalf, denied that such a conversation took place; and, on cross-examination, he was asked "if he had been engaged in stock gambling" at a place named. The defendant objected to this question, but was required to answer it. *Held*, that he had no ground of exception.

INDICTMENT, in two counts, for the embezzlement, on December 15, 1886, and on January 15, 1887, respectively, of "thirteen hundred and twenty pairs of shoes, each pair of the value of one dollar, of the property" of Warren D. Hill and Frank B. Lippincott.

In the Superior Court before the jury were empanelled, the defendant moved to quash the indictment, for the following reason: "Because there is in said indictment no sufficient allegation or description of the property alleged to have been embezzled." This motion was overruled; and the defendant excepted.

At the trial, before *Brigham*, C. J., it was not contended by the government that more than thirteen hundred and twenty pairs of shoes were embezzled. It appeared in evidence that Warren D. Hill, one of the persons from whom it was alleged that said goods were embezzled, after the time of the alleged embezzlement, charged the defendant, in a certain conversation, with having spent the money he had collected from the sales of said embezzled property in gambling in stocks. The defendant, in testifying in his own behalf, denied that such a conversation took place; and, on cross-examination, among other things, he was asked if he had been engaged in stock gambling at J. P. Welsh's office, in Lynn. He was also asked if he had been engaged in stock gambling at Wood's office, in Boston. The

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defendant objected to said questions; but the objection was overruled, and the defendant was required to answer the same.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. H. Sisk, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

FIELD, J. The property alleged to have been embezzled is described as "thirteen hundred and twenty pairs of shoes, each pair of the value of one dollar, of the property," &c. This is a sufficient description. The word "shoes" must be taken to mean shoes for the feet of human beings, and a description of a chattel by its proper and special name is sufficient. *Commonwealth* v. *Butterick*, 100 Mass. 1. 3 Chit. Crim. Law, (2d ed.) 961.

We do not clearly understand what is meant by stock gambling in the exceptions, but the point of the inquiry is shown by the statement that there was evidence that Hill had "charged the defendant, in a certain conversation, with having spent the money he had collected from the sales of said embezzled property in gambling in stocks." The defendant, testifying in his own behalf, could be asked, on cross-examination, if he had not spent considerable sums of money in stock gambling, or in anything else, and could be asked how he obtained the money. Such an examination should be confined to a period of time subsequent to that of the embezzlement. The questions asked were general, but it does not appear that the defendant was compelled to answer questions concerning any stock gambling in which he was engaged before the time when the evidence tended to show that he had embezzled the property described in the indictment. *Exceptions overruled.*

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* WILLIAM SNEE.

Essex. November 4. — 23, 1887. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors with intent to sell the same unlawfully, a police officer testified for the government to facts tending to show that liquor was kept for sale, on the day alleged, in a certain saloon, and to the presence of the defendant there on that day, and also to acts of the defendant at different times before said day, tending to show that he was the keeper of the place. On cross-examination, the witness testified that he had seen A., the defendant's brother, about the saloon before said day, but not so frequently as he had seen the defendant; and that he had never seen any specific acts of A. about the saloon. The witness was then asked if he had not sworn to a complaint to search, charging A. as the owner of liquors at that place; and he admitted that he had, and identified a certified copy of a complaint shown to him as a true copy of a complaint against A., sworn to by the witness on the day named in the present complaint. The defendant offered said certified copy in evidence to contradict the witness; but the judge excluded it. *Held*, that it should have been admitted.

COMPLAINT alleging that the defendant, on July 17, 1887, at Haverhill, kept intoxicating liquors with intent to sell the same unlawfully in this Commonwealth. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Sherman*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

Austin C. Sprague, a police officer, testified for the government to facts tending to show that liquor was kept for sale on the day named in the complaint in a certain saloon, in Haverhill, and also as to the presence of the defendant in said saloon upon that day, while a search was being made therein for intoxicating liquors, and to certain acts of the defendant at different times before said day tending to show that the defendant was the keeper of the place, it appearing that Martin E. Snee, the defendant's brother, was not present on said day. On the cross-examination of Sprague, it appeared that he had seen Martin E. Snee about said saloon before said day, but not so frequently as he had seen the defendant; and that he had never seen any specific acts on the part of Martin E. Snee about said saloon.

Sprague was also asked, on cross-examination, if he had not sworn to a complaint to search, charging said Martin E. Snee as the owner of liquors at that place, and he answered, without objection, in the affirmative.

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Sprague was then shown a certified copy of a complaint to search, and identified the same as a true copy of the process which he had sworn to upon the said July 17, against Martin E. Snee.

The defendant introduced evidence tending to explain his presence as an innocent one, on said day; also the testimony of the owner of the building that Martin E. Snee was the tenant of said saloon at said time, and other testimony tending to control the testimony of Sprague as to acts of the defendant prior to said date. The defendant then offered in evidence said certified copy, as tending to contradict Sprague in his testimony, and for any purpose for which it might be competent. To this evidence the government objected, and the judge excluded it.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

B. F. Brickett & C. H. Poor, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

FIELD, J. The certified copy of the complaint offered in evidence by the defendant was competent to contradict the witness Sprague. The fact that, on cross-examination, the witness admitted that he had signed and sworn to such a complaint, and identified the copy as a true copy, rendered the contents of the complaint admissible, so far as they tended to contradict the witness, and the contents of the complaint were not offered in evidence during the cross-examination. The defendant, when putting in his defence, offered this copy in evidence. To what extent it tended to contradict the witness, and what weight it was entitled to, in view of the whole evidence and the contentions of the government, we do not know; it plainly had some tendency to contradict the witness, and its rejection may have prejudiced the defendant. *Exceptions sustained.*

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GEORGE STONE *vs.* ISAIAH GRAVES, administrator.

Essex. November 4. — 23, 1887. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

It cannot be ruled, as matter of law, that the work of shaving an aged and infirm person in his own house on the Lord's day is not a work of necessity.

CONTRACT, upon an account annexed, for services rendered to Samuel Graves, the defendant's intestate.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Hammond*, J., without a jury, it appears that the services rendered were the shaving of the beard of the defendant's intestate for a number of years before his death; that the intestate was over eighty years of age, and had received an injury to his shoulder, which made it difficult for him to shave himself; and that the shaving was all done at the house of the intestate, by the plaintiff, who was a shoemaker by trade, and mostly on the Lord's day.

The defendant asked the judge to rule that the plaintiff could not recover for the services rendered on the Lord's day. But the judge declined so to rule, and found as a fact that the services rendered on the Lord's day were works of necessity.

The defendant also asked the judge to rule that there was no evidence to warrant a finding that the shaving of the beard of the defendant's intestate on the Lord's day was a work of necessity. But the judge declined so to rule; and found for the plaintiff for the full amount of his claim.

The defendant alleged exceptions.

E. F. P. Smith, for the defendant. The doing of "any manner of labor, business, or work, except works of necessity and charity," on the Lord's day, is prohibited by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 98, § 2.

In *Phillips* v. *Innes*, 4 Cl. & Fin. 233, it was held that shaving and hair-cutting were not works of necessity. Lord Chancellor Cottenham said: "This work [shaving] is not a work of necessity, nor is it a work of mercy, it is one of mere convenience." See also *Commonwealth* v. *Jacobus*, Leg. Gaz. Rep. 491.

It is no sufficient excuse for work on the Lord's day, that it is more convenient or profitable if then done than it would

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be to defer or omit it. *Jones* v. *Andover*, 10 Allen, 18. *Commonwealth* v. *Sampson*, 97 Mass. 407. *McGrath* v. *Merwin*, 112 Mass. 467.

"The necessity contemplated by the exception in the statute was the necessity of the person who worked, and not of him who compelled the work. . . . . Gain, in fact, was the object of the master; and such work, being for hire merely," is not a work of necessity. Lord Brougham, in *Phillips* v. *Innes*, *ubi supra*.

The ordinary business of the plaintiff being that of a shoemaker, it was not necessary for him to do the work of a barber on the Lord's day.

H. P. Moulton, for the plaintiff.

FIELD, J. It appears that Graves, the defendant's intestate, was an old man, whose shoulder had been injured, and who could not well shave himself; and that the work of shaving him was done by the plaintiff, not in a public shop, but in the house of Graves. If Graves wished to be shaved on the Lord's day in his own house, we cannot say, as matter of law, that it was not morally fit and proper that the plaintiff should shave him.

Exceptions overruled.

SAMUEL GOLDENBERG *vs.* NATHAN F. BLAKE & another.

Suffolk. November 9. — 23, 1887. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

In an action upon a poor debtor's recognizance, entered into under the Pub. Sts. c. 162, § 28, if the service upon the creditor of notice of the debtor's desire to take the oath for the relief of poor debtors is insufficient, by reason of the fact that the officer read the notice to the creditor instead of giving him a copy of it, but it appears that the creditor told the officer that he understood the notice and would attend the hearing appointed for the examination of the debtor, the question whether the creditor waived due service of the notice should be submitted to the jury.

CONTRACT, against Nathan F. Blake and John G. Daggett, upon a poor debtor's recognizance, entered into on September 20, 1886, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 162, § 28, by the first-named defendant as principal, and the other defendant as surety, and

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containing the usual conditions. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

It was admitted that the defendant Blake was duly arrested upon an execution in favor of the plaintiff, on September 20, 1886, and on the same day, before Edward J. Jones, a master in chancery, entered into the recognizance declared on; that, on October 13, 1886, Blake, desiring to take the oath for the relief of poor debtors, applied to said Jones, as master in chancery, to fix a time and place for his examination; and that thereupon Jones issued a notice to the plaintiff, fixing the time and place of the examination as October 15, 1886, at his office in Boston, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was further admitted, that, at the time and place named therein, Blake appeared before said master in chancery, and, no one appearing in behalf of the plaintiff, took the oath for the relief of poor debtors in the form prescribed by statute, and was discharged. Before the hearing, the attorney for the plaintiff appeared before the master in chancery, and objected to the master's jurisdiction on account of the service of the notice, and left before the expiration of the hour.

The defendant introduced evidence tending to show that the notice was handed by Blake to one Moses P. Brown, a constable, on October 14, for service upon the plaintiff; that Brown took the notice and called with it upon the plaintiff at the latter's residence and place of business in East Boston, between twelve and one o'clock in the afternoon of October 14; that he then read the notice to the plaintiff, and asked him if he understood it, to which the plaintiff replied, "Yes;" that he then asked the plaintiff if he would come, to which the plaintiff replied, "Yes;" that Brown and the plaintiff then had some talk in regard to the plaintiff's claim against Blake, and Brown left; that the next morning Brown, in preparing his return, found that the service of the notice should have been by copy, and thereafter he prepared a copy, dating the copy October 14, and at about eleven o'clock on October 15, the day of the hearing, called with the copy at the plaintiff's residence, and, not finding him in, left it with the plaintiff's wife. Brown then made his return upon the notice.

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The plaintiff introduced evidence tending to show that, at the time the constable read to him the notice, the constable asked him if he understood it, and he replied, "Yes;" that the constable asked him if he would come, and he replied, "I will see about it." The plaintiff also testified, on cross-examination, that he knew Brown was a constable; and that he understood the notice when it was read to him.

At the close of the evidence, upon the plaintiff's motion, the judge instructed the jury that there was no evidence for the jury of waiver of the service of the notice in the form provided by law; and directed a verdict for the plaintiff. The defendant Daggett alleged exceptions.

C. T. Russell, Jr., for the defendant.

J. F. Kilton, for the plaintiff.

C. ALLEN, J. It is conceded that the service of notice upon the plaintiff was not in conformity to the requirement of the statute; and the only question is whether the presiding judge ought to have submitted to the jury the question whether the plaintiff waived due service. Upon consideration of this question, as the case is presented upon the bill of exceptions, we do not find that the conduct and language of the plaintiff were such as necessarily to exclude the supposition contended for by the defendant. Clearly, an actual appearance by the plaintiff at the time and place appointed for the hearing, without objection to the service, would be a waiver. A promise or a declaration of intention to appear might or might not amount to such a waiver. In order to waive a legal service, there must have been an intention to waive a known right, or at least a willingness to accept the service as sufficient, without caring to inquire whether it was legally sufficient or not. If it should be shown, or if it could fairly be inferred from the appearance of the plaintiff, who was a witness, that he was aware that the service was insufficient, and yet told the constable that he would attend the hearing, it might perhaps be a reasonable inference that he waived a more formal service. If, on the other hand, both he and the officer supposed, at the time the service was made, that it was in due form, and the plaintiff under that supposition merely declared a present intention to attend the examination, meaning, however, to stand upon all his rights, and not to waive

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any objection for insufficiency of service, and if the officer was not thereby misled into omitting to make further service seasonably, there was no waiver. This apparently was the view of the facts which was taken by the court. But we cannot say that the language and conduct of the plaintiff were not susceptible of the other construction, and think that the question of waiver should have been submitted to the jury. *Williams* v. *Kimball*, 135 Mass. 411; *S. C.* 132 Mass. 214. *West* v. *Platt*, 127 Mass. 367. *Exceptions sustained.*

JOHANNA TRACY *vs.* JOHN A. LINCOLN.

Middlesex. November 10. — 23, 1887. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

A. borrowed a sum of money from B., and gave him a promissory note therefor, secured by a mortgage of personal property which he had formerly owned, but which he had previously conveyed to his wife, through a third person. Afterwards A., not having paid any part of the sum so lent to him by B., borrowed from B. another sum, and gave him a promissory note for the amount of both loans, secured by another mortgage of the same property; and B. surrendered to A. the first mortgage and note. Both mortgages were duly recorded. A. died without having paid any part of the second mortgage, and B. took possession of the property under a foreclosure of the mortgage. A.'s wife was present and heard A. and B. making the arrangements for the first loan, and knew such loan was to be made on the security of a mortgage of her property, but did not inform B. of her claim to the property; and B. did not know of such claim until after A.'s death. In an action by A.'s wife against B. for conversion of the property, the judge ruled that the plaintiff's conduct would create an estoppel against her as to the first mortgage and note, but not as to the second, if the first were in fact paid by the second; and that the giving of the second was *prima facie* payment of the first. *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception.

TORT, for the conversion of certain personal property. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Thompson*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The evidence showed that the property alleged to have been converted was owned by Patrick Tracy, the husband of the plaintiff; that he conveyed the property on October 10, 1883, to William H. Ryan, who, on the same day, conveyed the same

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to the plaintiff; that the plaintiff paid Ryan $400 for the property; that Ryan paid the money to the plaintiff's husband for the property; and that, on January 26, 1885, the plaintiff's husband borrowed of the defendant $105, and gave to the defendant his negotiable note for said sum, payable in two months, secured by a mortgage covering the property in suit, which mortgage was duly recorded.

On April 16, 1885, the plaintiff's husband, not having paid any part of the January loan, except the interest thereon, borrowed $100 more from the defendant, and gave to the defendant his negotiable note for $200, covering the January loan and the new loan, payable in one month from its date, secured by another mortgage, in the same form, and covering the same property, and this mortgage was also duly recorded. At the same time the defendant surrendered to the plaintiff's husband the January mortgage and note.

On September 13, 1885, the plaintiff's husband died, and the defendant, on September 26, 1885, took possession of the property in suit for the purpose of foreclosing the April mortgage, which had not been paid in any part, except the interest.

The defendant introduced evidence tending to prove that the plaintiff was present and heard the defendant and her husband making the arrangements for the defendant to lend her husband the $105, on January 26, 1885; that she knew such loan was to be made on the security of a mortgage by her husband on the property which she herself claimed to own; that she neglected to inform the defendant of her claim to the property; and that the defendant did not know of her claim to the property until after the husband's death. Upon this matter the evidence was conflicting.

The defendant requested the judge to instruct the jury that such conduct on the part of the plaintiff would estop her from claiming the property, as against the defendant, until the January loan of $105 was repaid to the defendant.

The judge declined to instruct the jury as requested by the defendant, but instructed them that such conduct would create an estoppel on the plaintiff as to the January mortgage, but that such estoppel would not extend to the April mortgage, if the April mortgage and note were given in payment of the January

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mortgage and note; that the estoppel would not continue, if the January mortgage and note were in fact paid, and the mortgage cancelled or surrendered for the purpose of relinquishing all claim under the same; that the giving of the April mortgage and note was *prima facie* payment of the January mortgage and note; that if the January mortgage and note were given back by the defendant to the plaintiff's husband for the purpose between them of surrendering them, that is, of giving up all claim under them, then the estoppel would not continue, but that it would continue if they were given back with an agreement that the January mortgage and note should stand, that is, that the April mortgage and note should not be considered a payment and discharge of the January mortgage and note; that if the April mortgage and note were taken in payment of the January mortgage and note, then, the January mortgage and note having been paid, the plaintiff would not be estopped by what took place in January to set up her title as against the April mortgage.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

P. Keyes, for the defendant.

H. N. Allin, for the plaintiff.

KNOWLTON, J. The plaintiff, by her silence on January 26, 1885, was estopped from claiming her property as against the mortgage which the defendant then took. The intention by one's conduct to induce another to change his situation, which is said in many of the cases to lie at the foundation of the doctrine of estoppel *in pais*, is commonly inferred from the conduct itself. It is sometimes even conclusively presumed from it, or rather, the actor is held to be bound by the inference of his intention legitimately drawn from his acts by the party with whom he is dealing. If his conduct is in fact acted upon by another, and is of such a kind that a reasonable man would rely on it, and would believe that he meant it as an inducement to be acted upon, he is bound by it. And this is often true of conduct by negligence or omission, where for any cause it is the duty of a person to disclose the truth. The plaintiff's failure to declare her ownership, when she was present and knew that the defendant was lending his money on the supposed security of

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her husband's mortgage of her chattels, was equivalent to consent to the conveyance, and an agreement not to set up her title against it. *Fall River Bank* v. *Buffinton*, 97 Mass. 498. *Fowler* v. *Parsons*, 143 Mass. 401. *Freeman* v. *Cooke*, 2 Exch. 654. *In re Bahia & San Francisco Railway*, L. R. 3 Q. B. 584.

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But the law does not regard estoppels with favor, nor extend them beyond the requirements of the transactions in which they originate. The plaintiff was estopped from denying the validity of the transaction into which, with her knowledge, the defendant was induced to enter by her conduct. The arrangement then made gave him security for the note then given. She was not estopped from claiming her property as against a new mortgage which might subsequently be made, nor from availing herself of a release of the mortgage, or a payment of the note, even though such payment would not have been accepted in the form in which it was made, if the mortgagee had known that the mortgagor could not give a good title by a new mortgage. Her silence cannot, upon any correct principle, be held to affect her in connection with transactions which did not directly result from it. She cannot be deemed to have contemplated the making of a mortgage in April, 1885, nor the payment of the original mortgage note by a new one. If the defendant suffered from mistaken confidence in his new security, it was a misfortune for which she is not legally responsible.

The jury were rightly instructed "that the giving of the April mortgage and note was *prima facie* payment of the January mortgage and note," which were surrendered at the same time; and, under all the instructions, they must have found that, when the defendant surrendered the papers, he intended to give up his claim under them. *Taft* v. *Boyd*, 13 Allen, 84. *Dodge* v. *Emerson*, 131 Mass. 467. *Exceptions overruled.*

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EDMUND J. FREEMAN *vs.* LEWIS T. FOSS.

Suffolk. November 15. — 23, 1887. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

A. agreed orally to work for B. for two years, receiving as his compensation instruction in B.'s business, and certain tuition at the end of that time by a third person, to be paid for by B. Before the expiration of the two years, A. was unwilling to remain longer under the contract, and asked that a certain sum be paid him by B. for his services thereafter. This was agreed to. *Held*, that the original agreement was within the statute of frauds, Pub. Sts. c. 78, § 1, *cl.* 5, and could not be set up in defence to an action brought against B. by A., on a *quantum meruit*, for services rendered under it.

CONTRACT, on an account annexed, for work and labor of the plaintiff's minor son, from March 31, 1884, to March 18, 1885, and from October 5, 1885, to January 4, 1886, at $3 a week, amounting in all to $189. Writ dated May 29, 1886. Answer: 1. A general denial. 2. That, on or about March 31, 1884, the defendant entered into an agreement with the son, with the full knowledge of the father, by the terms of which the defendant, a dentist, agreed to take the son into his office, furnish him with books for his use and study, and, if the son remained with the defendant two years, to pay his tuition fees at the Boston Dental College; that the son, in consideration thereof, agreed to remain with the defendant for two years, devote his time to his studies and the business of the defendant, and accept the compensation above set forth for such services as he should render the defendant; that the son remained with the defendant until March 18, 1885, when he left and remained away until October 5, 1885, when he returned, and resumed his studies and services until January 4, 1886, when he declined to proceed further under the existing contract; whereupon the defendant annulled the agreement, with the full consent of the plaintiff, and made a new one. The answer further alleged performance on the part of the defendant of the terms of both agreements.

Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Hammond*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff agreed that his son should go to work for two years in the office of the defendant, who is a dentist of many

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years' experience in Boston, and should there receive instruction in the business and profession of dentistry. The defendant thereupon agreed to take him into his office, instruct him, and furnish him with books and the use of tools, stipulating that the plaintiff's son should so remain in his office, working and gaining instruction for the space of two years, when he would pay to the authorities of the Boston Dental College the tuition fees of the plaintiff's son in that institution; all of which was agreed upon by both parties. On March 31, 1884, the plaintiff's son went into the office of the defendant under said agreement, and remained there until March 18, 1885, when, by reason of illness, he left and remained away until October 5, 1885; he then returned and remained until January 4, 1886, when he expressed his unwillingness and inability to remain, and declined to remain longer under the original agreement, but requested that he should be paid the sum of three dollars per week thereafter. This was agreed to, and thereafter for some weeks that sum was paid to him. None of the agreements were in writing.

The plaintiff contended that, by the statute of frauds, the contract set up in the answer could not be used in evidence in defence to this action. The judge permitted the evidence to be heard; but ruled that the plaintiff could maintain his action upon a *quantum meruit*, notwithstanding said contract, and that, by reason of the statute of frauds, the defendant could not set up the contract in defence to this action. The defendant asked the judge to rule that, upon the facts proved, the contract was executed on both sides up to the time of the new agreement to pay three dollars per week for services, January 4, 1886; and that an action on a *quantum meruit* could not be maintained when the plaintiff had received from the defendant, on January 4, 1886, all the considerations due and payable at that time under the original contract for services theretofore performed. The judge refused so to rule; and found for the plaintiff for the full amount claimed. The defendant alleged exceptions.

C. W. Bartlett, for the defendant.

C. P. Weston, for the plaintiff.

KNOWLTON, J. The defendant seeks to avoid liability for services of the plaintiff's son, by showing that they were rendered under an express contract, and that he did all that he

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agreed to do so long as the boy remained in his service. The contract which he sets up was within the statute of frauds; it was entire and indivisible, and was not fully performed by either party. A large part of the consideration for the plaintiff's agreement was not payable by the defendant until after the end of the term of service, and no part of it was applicable to any particular portion of the term. As the plaintiff could not have enforced this contract against the defendant, so the defendant cannot avail himself of it to avoid liability upon a *quantum meruit*. This case cannot be distinguished from *King* v. *Welcome*, 5 Gray, 41. See also *Bernier* v. *Cabot Manuf. Co.* 71 Maine, 506; *Comes* v. *Lamson*, 16 Conn. 246.

Exceptions overruled.

MARGARET COWEN *vs.* MEHITABLE SUNDERLAND.

Norfolk. November 18. — 23, 1887. W. ALLEN, J., absent.

In an action for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by falling into a cesspool upon premises owned by the defendant, and occupied by the plaintiff as a tenant at will, there was evidence that the plaintiff did not know of the existence or location of the cesspool; that it was in the yard she had hired and was entitled to use; that it was covered with boards, over which were from four to six inches of earth on which grass and weeds were growing; that it presented the same appearance as the rest of the yard; that it had never been pointed out to her; that it was where she passed over it in her use of the yard; that the boards which covered it were rotten and decayed; that, in stepping upon this covering of the cesspool, she sank into it and was injured; that this cover had been repaired with old boards some time before by the defendant's direction; and that the defendant was present when this was done. *Held*, that this evidence should have been submitted to the jury.

TORT for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by falling into a cesspool upon premises owned by the defendant, and occupied by the plaintiff as a tenant at will. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Hammond*, J., who ruled, as requested by the defendant, that there was no evidence which would authorize a verdict for the plaintiff; directed a verdict for the defendant; and, at the plaintiff's request, reported the case for the determination of this court. If the ruling and direction were

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wrong, the verdict was to be set aside; otherwise, judgment to be entered on the verdict. The facts appear in the opinion.

J. E. Cotter & C. F. Jenney, for the plaintiff.

C. P. Gorely & A. L. Bartlett, for the defendant.

DEVENS, J. It is a general rule, well established by the decisions of this court, that the lessee takes an estate in the premises hired, and takes the risk of the quality of the premises, in the absence of an express or implied warranty by the lessor, or of deceit. If, therefore, he is injured by reason of the unsafe condition of the premises hired, he cannot ordinarily maintain an action, in the absence of such warranty or of misrepresentation. The rule of *caveat emptor* applies, and it is for the lessee to make the examination necessary to determine whether the premises he hires are safe, and adapted to the purposes for which they are hired.

There is an exception to this general rule, arising from the duty which the lessor owes the lessee. This duty does not spring directly from the contract, but from the relation of the parties, and is imposed by law. When there are concealed defects, attended with danger to an occupant, and which a careful examination would not discover, known to the lessor, the latter is bound to reveal them, in order that the lessee may guard against them. While the failure to reveal such facts may not be actual fraud or misrepresentation, it is such negligence as may lay the foundation of an action against the lessor, if injury occurs. The principle, that one who delivers an article which he knows to be dangerous to another ignorant of its qualities, without notice of its nature or qualities, is liable for any injury reasonably likely to result, and which does result, has been applied to the letting of tenements. It has thus been held that, where one let premises infected with the small-pox, and injury occurred thereby, he was liable, if, knowing this danger, he omitted to inform the lessee. *Minor* v. *Sharon*, 112 Mass. 477. This case proceeded upon the ground of the lessor's negligent failure to perform a duty which he owed the lessee; and it was not deemed important whether the omission to give the information was intentional or otherwise. See also *Bowe* v. *Hunking*, 135 Mass. 380, and cases cited; *Tuttle* v. *Gilbert Manuf. Co.*, *ante*, 169.

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Obviously, there may be many concealed defects and dangers about a house which careful examination will not discover. If these are known to the lessor, it is for him to reveal them. Traps or contrivances may exist by means of which the most careful occupant might be injured. "Such traps or contrivances," says Mr. Justice Field, "are not merely a want of repair; they are, in a sense, active agencies of mischief, which no tenant would expect to find in even a decayed and ruinous tenement." *Bowe* v. *Hunking*, *ubi supra*.

In *Reichenbacher* v. *Pahmeyer*, 8 Bradw. 217, the defect alleged was in the manner of hanging a chandelier. The chandelier was hung unsafely, and the lessor knew it, and did not disclose this fact to the lessee. It was not apparent to an observer. It was held that the lessor was liable to a servant of the lessee who was injured by its fall. See also *Scott* v. *Simons*, 54 N. H. 426; *Godley* v. *Hagerty*, 20 Penn. St. 387.

In *Bowe* v. *Hunking*, it was held that the case then at bar was not within the exception to the general rule, by which a lessor is rendered liable for negligence of this character. There was no evidence that the defective step by which the injury in that case occurred was known to the lessor or her agent to be unsafe; and, further, this defect itself was obvious, and whatever danger existed was readily seen by examination.

In the case at bar, as the plaintiff presented it, there was evidence that she did not know of the existence or location of the cesspool; that it was in the yard she had hired and was entitled to use; that it was covered with from four to six inches of earth on which grass and weeds were growing; that it presented the same appearance as the rest of the yard; that it had never been pointed out to her; that it was where she passed over it in her use of the yard; that the boards which covered it, and on which the earth rested, were rotten and decayed; and that, in stepping upon this covering of the cesspool, she sank into it and was injured. There was further evidence that this cover had been repaired with old boards some time before, by the defendant's direction; and that the defendant was present when this was done. From the testimony of the witnesses of these repairs, the jury might fairly have inferred that it was left in an unsafe state, and known to be so.

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Upon these facts, the learned judge erred in withdrawing the case from the jury. It should have been submitted, with proper instructions, to determine whether the defendant knew the defective covering of the cesspool and the danger therefrom, and had negligently omitted to inform the plaintiff, and whether the plaintiff herself, making careful examination, had been injured thereby by reason of a want of proper information.

Verdict set aside.

TAUNTON NATIONAL BANK *vs.* NAHUM STETSON & others.

Plymouth. Oct. 18. — Nov. 25, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

The Pub. Sts. c. 157, § 112, authorize proceedings in insolvency against a debtor whose real estate has been attached on mesne process in an action of contract for the sum of $100 or upwards, founded on a demand in its nature provable against the estate of an insolvent debtor, if the defendant does not before the return day of the writ dissolve the attachment, although it appears from the return of the officer that the attachment was a general one, if the defendant then had in fact a record title to real estate in the county in which the attachment was made.

A., the maker of a promissory note indorsed by B., assigned all his property to trustees for the benefit of his creditors, by an indenture, which was also executed by C., the holder of the note, and by other creditors. The indenture provided that a holder of any promissory note to which A. was a party, and upon which any other person was absolutely or contingently liable, did not, by signing the indenture, release or discharge such other person, or in any manner impair his liability thereon; but every such holder fully reserved all rights and remedies thereon, and the same might be as fully enforced as if the indenture had not been executed. *Held*, on a petition by C. against B., under the Pub. Sts. c. 157, § 112, to have B. adjudged insolvent, and a warrant issue against his estate, that C. was a creditor of B., within the statute, and that evidence offered by B., that the property received by the trustees of A. was more than enough to pay all A.'s liabilities, was immaterial.

It is not necessary or proper that the judge of insolvency should be made a party to an appeal from his decision dismissing a petition to have a person adjudged insolvent and a warrant issue against his estate.

After a petition to the Court of Insolvency, to have a person adjudged insolvent and a warrant issue against his estate, has been dismissed, it is not necessary that the petitioner should apply to that court for a further hearing before bringing his petition to this court, under the Pub. Sts. c. 157, § 15.

APPEAL from a decision of the Court of Insolvency, dismissing a petition to have the respondent Stetson adjudged insolvent,

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and a warrant issue against his estate. Hearing before *C. Allen*, J., who ordered the warrant to issue, and reported the case for the consideration of the full court; such decree to be entered as justice might require. The facts appear in the opinion.

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H. Kingman, for Stetson.

H. J. Fuller, (*J. M. Morton* with him,) for the petitioner.

MORTON, C. J. Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 157, § 15, this court has jurisdiction, upon the bill or petition of any party aggrieved, to revise and correct the decisions of a court of insolvency, either in matters of law or of fact, except where special provision is otherwise made. *Lancaster* v. *Choate*, 5 Allen, 530. The question in the case before us is, therefore, whether, upon the facts shown in this court, a warrant should issue against the estate of the respondent Stetson.

The insolvency law provides that, if a person whose goods or estate are attached upon mesne process in a civil action for the sum of one hundred dollars or upwards, founded upon a demand in its nature provable against the estate of an insolvent debtor, has not, before the return day of such process, dissolved the attachment in the manner provided by law, any of his creditors whose claims provable against his estate amount to one hundred dollars, may apply by petition to have his estate seized and distributed under the insolvent law; and, if the facts set forth in the petition appear to be true, a warrant is to issue against the estate of the debtor. Pub. Sts. *c.* 157, §§ 112–114.

In the case before us, it appears from the return of the officer making the attachment, that, on August 16, 1886, a general attachment of all the right, title, and interest which the respondent had in any real estate in the county of Plymouth was made in an action by a creditor upon a debt of more than one hundred dollars, which was in its nature provable against the estate of an insolvent debtor, and that such attachment has never been dissolved. It appears in evidence that, at the time the attachment was made, the respondent had "the record title of certain real estate in said county of Plymouth." It is the settled law of this Commonwealth, that such a general attachment is valid, and is effectual to bind any real estate in the county, of which the record title is in the debtor. *Taylor* v. *Mixter*, 11

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Pick. 341. *Pratt* v. *Wheeler*, 6 Gray, 520. *Woodward* v. *Sartwell*, 129 Mass. 210.

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The respondent relies upon *Dennis* v. *Sayles*, 11 Met. 233. There are some expressions in the opinion, which, if taken apart from their context, and regarded as intended as statements of general principles, would support the respondent's claim. But in that case the return of the officer was that he had attached the right, title, and interest of the debtor to any real estate in the county, and there was no evidence that the debtor had any real estate which was subject to attachment; and the decision was that such return was not conclusive evidence of an actual attachment.

In the case at bar, as we have seen, the return of the officer was supplemented by proof that the debtor had real estate in the county of Plymouth upon which the attachment operated.

We come next to the question whether the petitioner is a creditor entitled to maintain this petition. It is the holder of three promissory notes, each for the sum of $10,000, and each signed by the Bridgewater Iron Company, payable to the respondent, and by him indorsed to the petitioner. Each of said notes was duly protested at maturity, and due notice given to the respondent. *Prima facie* this was a debt provable against the respondent as an insolvent debtor. But the respondent put in evidence an indenture by which the Bridgewater Iron Company assigned all its property to trustees, for the benefit of its creditors, which indenture was executed by the petitioner and by other creditors. This indenture contains the following provision: "And it is further expressly provided and agreed, that no holder of any promissory note, draft, bill of exchange, check, or other debt to which the said Bridgewater Iron Company is a party, whether as drawer, indorser, guarantor, surety, maker, joint maker, or otherwise, and upon which any other person, firm, or corporation is absolutely or contingently liable, whether as drawer, indorser, guarantor, surety, maker, joint maker, or otherwise, does, by signing or executing these presents, release or discharge such other person, firm, or corporation therefrom, or in any manner impair his or their liability thereon, but, on the contrary, every such holder hereby fully reserves all rights and remedies thereon against any and all such persons, firms, or

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corporations, and the same may be as fully enforced as if these presents had not been executed."

We need not consider what would have been the effect of the indenture if it had not contained this provision. By this clause, the petitioner, in the clearest manner, fully reserved all rights and remedies which it had against the respondent as indorser of notes signed by the Bridgewater Iron Company. It would clearly have a right to maintain an action at law on the note against the respondent as indorser, and it is equally clear that it could prove the debt in insolvency proceedings against the respondent. *Tobey* v. *Ellis*, 114 Mass. 120. *Dickinson* v. *Metacomet Bank*, 130 Mass. 132. The assignment to trustees did not pay or extinguish the petitioner's debt against the principal debtor, the maker of the note. To hold thus would nullify the careful provision which we have cited above. It reserved its rights against the indorser, and these rights would continue until the notes are paid, either by the maker, trustees, or indorser. Therefore the evidence offered by the respondent to prove that the property received by the trustees is more than sufficient to pay all the creditors of the Bridgewater Iron Company was properly rejected. If the fact be true, it could not take away the right which the petitioner has to proceed by any appropriate remedy against one who is liable as indorser or otherwise upon the notes of the Bridgewater Iron Company. It follows that the petitioner is a creditor who had the right to apply for a warrant, *in invitum*, against the respondent, under the statute.

The two questions we have considered are the only substantial questions raised by the report. It is not necessary or proper that the judge of insolvency should be made a party to these proceedings. *Winchester* v. *Thayer*, 129 Mass. 129.

The claim of the respondent that the petitioner, after his petition was dismissed by the Court of Insolvency, should have applied to that court for a further hearing before bringing his petition or bill in this court, cannot be sustained. We know of no law which requires such application or further hearing.

It follows, that the order of the judge of insolvency dismissing the petition should be reversed, and an order should be made directing the judge of insolvency to issue a warrant upon the petition.

Decree accordingly.

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M. B. SLOCUM *vs.* JOHN C. RILEY.

Bristol. Oct. 25. — Nov. 25, 1887. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

The operation of the statute of limitations upon a promissory note is not, under the Pub. Sts. c. 197, § 11, suspended by the temporary absence of the maker from the State, but only by absence of such a character as works a change of his domicil.

In an action against an officer for negligently suffering the escape of a person whom he had arrested upon a writ sued out by the plaintiff, the latter is not entitled to recover, as the measure of damages, the amount of his debt against the escaped person, but only such damages as he proves that he has actually sustained.

In an action against an officer for negligently suffering the escape of a person whom he had arrested upon a writ sued out by the plaintiff, the burden of proof is upon the plaintiff to show that he had a valuable debt against the escaped person, which he has lost by the act of the officer; and this burden is not sustained by showing that he holds a promissory note signed by such person, which, on its face, was at the time of the escape barred by the statute of limitations.

In an action against an officer for negligently suffering the escape of a person whom he had arrested upon a writ sued out by the plaintiff, if the defendant relies, in mitigation of damages, upon the fact that the plaintiff's debt against the escaped person is barred by the statute of limitations, he is not required to set up such defence in his answer.

MORTON, C. J. This is an action against an officer for negligently suffering the escape of one Maynard, whom he had arrested upon a writ sued out by the plaintiff. At the trial, the defendant admitted his liability; and the only question presented to us is as to the correctness of the ruling of the court upon the subject of damages. The plaintiff contended that he was entitled to recover the amount of his debt against Maynard. It appeared that the plaintiff's writ against Maynard was dated on August 20, 1881. In order to prove the debt of Maynard the plaintiff produced a note signed by Maynard, and described in the writ against him as being of the following tenor: "Fall River, March 21, 1874. Four months after date, I promise to pay to the order of M. Bradford Slocum forty-one $\frac{7}{100}$ dollars, value received." Upon the face of the note, it was barred by the statute of limitations, more than six years having elapsed from its maturity to the date of the writ against Maynard. Pub. Sts. c. 197, § 1. The plaintiff then attempted to show that the

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running of the statute of limitations had been suspended by the absence of the maker from the State. Pub. Sts. c. 197, § 11. But, in computing the period of limitation, the time of a debtor's absence from the State is not to be excluded, unless it is of such a character as to work a change of his domicil. *Collester* v. *Hailey*, 6 Gray, 517. *Langdon* v. *Doud*, 6 Allen, 423. The evidence offered by the plaintiff at most proved a temporary absence of Maynard, and was insufficient to show that he had changed his domicil from this State to another.

In this state of the case, the Superior Court ruled that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover the face of the note, with interest; and we are of opinion that the ruling was correct. In an action like this, the plaintiff can recover such damages as he proves he has actually sustained by the wrongful act of the officer. *Chase* v. *Keyes*, 2 Gray, 214. If he shows that the officer has permitted an escape, he is entitled to nominal damages; but beyond this he can recover no damages except what he proves he has actually sustained. The debt against the escaped debtor is not the measure of damages, but the loss in fact sustained. Accordingly, it has been repeatedly held that the officer might show in mitigation of damages that the debtor was poor and unable to pay the debt. *Weld* v. *Bartlett*, 10 Mass. 470. *Brooks* v. *Hoyt*, 6 Pick. 468. *Woods* v. *Varnum*, 21 Pick. 165.

Upon the issue whether the right of action was barred by the statute of limitations, the burden of proof was not upon the defendant. On the contrary, it is settled that where the statute of limitations is set up in bar, the burden of proof is on the plaintiff to show both a cause of action and the suing out of process within the period of limitation. *Pond* v. *Gibson*, 5 Allen, 19, and cased cited. *Corliss Steam Engine Co.* v. *Schumacher*, 109 Mass. 416. Inasmuch as the note on its face appears to have matured more than six years before suing out process against the maker, if the plaintiff relies upon the absence of the maker from the State as bringing the case within the exception of the statute, the burden is upon him to prove that the absence was of such a character that the time of his absence is to be deducted in computing the period of limitation. As we have before intimated, there is not sufficient evidence to justify the jury in finding this to be so.

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In the case at bar, therefore, the burden being upon the plaintiff to prove that he had a valuable debt against Maynard, which he has lost by the misconduct of the defendant, he shows merely that he holds a note signed by Maynard which is barred by the statute of limitations. This does not meet and sustain the burden. It is no answer to say that the defence of the statute of limitations is in the nature of a personal privilege, and that possibly Maynard might not avail himself of it. To hold that the jury might, on this ground, find that the note was of value, would be to allow them to supply by the merest conjecture a vital deficiency in the plaintiff's proofs. Indeed, the only evidence upon this point is that Maynard did object to the plaintiff's suit against him, on the ground that the debt sued was barred by the statute of limitations, and it was for this reason that the defendant released him from arrest. For these reasons, we are of opinion that the facts and evidence in the case would not warrant the jury in including in their verdict damages for the loss of said note and interest; and that the court rightly so ruled.

The plaintiff contends that the issue of the statute of limitations was not open to the defendant, because not raised in his answer. He was not required to plead it. Under our Practice Act, it is necessary to set forth in the answer each substantive fact intended to be relied upon in avoidance of the action. Pub. Sts. *c.* 167, § 20. But in this case the fact that the note was barred by the statute of limitations is not a fact in avoidance of the action. It is available only in mitigation of damages. It only goes to show that the plaintiff has not lost a valuable debt, and thus to reduce the damages. *Exceptions overruled.*

J. M. Wood, for the plaintiff.

H. K. Braley, for the defendant.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JAMES BOYLE.

Middlesex. November 21. — 25, 1887. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, there was evidence tending to show that the tenement in question was visited within the time alleged, and the defendant was found behind a bar, where cigars and hop beer containing less than three per cent of alcohol were kept; that samples of dirty water were taken from a tank under the bar near where the defendant stood, and from the bottom of an ice-chest, which samples, on analysis, were found to contain more than three per cent of alcohol; that on each visit the defendant was seen to go to the tank and go through the motion of rinsing a two-quart can, which was kept under the bar; that an empty can was found in the ice-chest which smelt of whiskey; and that the sample of the water taken from the bottom of the ice-chest also smelt of whiskey. *Held*, that the evidence was competent; and that it was sufficient to warrant a verdict of guilty.

COMPLAINT for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a shop, in Malden, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, on September 10, 1886, and on divers other days and times between that day and September 25, 1886. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Blodgett*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

There was evidence tending to show the following facts: Two police officers visited the shop in question within the time alleged, and found the defendant behind the bar, where cigars and hop beer containing less than three per cent of alcohol were kept. The officers took samples of dirty water, one from a tank under the bar near which the defendant stood, and the other from the bottom of an ice-chest. These samples were sealed up in two bottles, one of which one of the officers subsequently left in the office of the State Assayer, one Sharples, in Boston, and when he left it there he did not see the assayer. On each occasion when the officers visited the shop, as above stated, they saw the defendant go to said tank and go through the motion of rinsing a two-quart can, which was also kept under said bar. On one occasion when they visited the shop, they found in the ice-chest an empty can which smelt of whiskey, and a sample of the water taken from the bottom of the ice-chest also smelt of whiskey.

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Sharples testified, for the government, that he analyzed the contents of the two bottles, and that they contained more than three per cent of alcohol. The bottles or contents were not produced, nor was any certificate of analysis produced.

The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury, "that there must be proved a sale or some act of keeping or offering for sale in said shop by the defendant; and that the jury must be satisfied that what liquor was found and analyzed was a beverage, to be used as such."

The judge refused so to rule, but instructed the jury, in addition to other instructions to which the defendant did not except, that there was competent evidence in the case tending to prove that the defendant was guilty; and that the defendant should be convicted, if, upon all the evidence in the case, they were satisfied, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the defendant used his shop, within the time named in the complaint, for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquor.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

A. V. Lynde & W. P. Harding, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

By the Court. It was not necessary for the government to prove an act of sale or offering for sale. It was required to prove that the defendant kept the premises, and used them for the illegal sale or illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors; but this burden of proof may be met by other evidence than that of specific sales. The instructions given at the trial were sufficient and appropriate. The evidence excepted to was clearly competent. *Exceptions overruled.*

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* FREDERICK H. BISCH.

Middlesex. November 22. — 25, 1887. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

The copy of the record of a trial justice in a criminal case, transmitted to the Superior Court, recited that the defendant was adjudged guilty, and appealed to the term of the Superior Court next to be held for the county, and was ordered to recognize to appear and prosecute his appeal. It did not state that the defendant recognized, but it was accompanied by a copy of the recognizance entered into by the defendant. *Held*, that it sufficiently appeared that the appeal was perfected by a recognizance; and that the Superior Court had jurisdiction of the case.

Under the Pub. Sts. c. 155, § 58, providing for an appeal from the sentence of a trial justice to the Superior Court, and that the appellant shall be committed "until he recognizes to the Commonwealth in such reasonable sum and with such sureties as the justice requires," the magistrate has the right in his discretion to accept as sufficient a recognizance with one surety.

The copy of the record of a trial justice in a criminal case, transmitted to the Superior Court, recited that the defendant was adjudged guilty and sentenced on November 22, 1886, from which sentence he appealed to the Superior Court next to be held at C. in and for said county, on the second Monday of February, 1886. *Held*, that the error in the second date furnished no ground for quashing the complaint or for an arrest of judgment.

COMPLAINT to a trial justice, for keeping and maintaining a certain common nuisance, to wit, a tenement in Natick, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors, on October 1, 1886, and on divers other days and times between that day and November 20, 1886.

The record showed that the defendant was arrested and brought before the trial justice, and pleaded not guilty; that he was adjudged guilty and sentenced on November 22, 1886; from which sentence he appealed "to the Superior Court next to be held at Cambridge in and for said county, on the second Monday of February, A. D. 1886," and was ordered to recognize to appear and prosecute his appeal. A copy of the recognizance, entered into by the defendant with one surety, accompanied the copy of the record transmitted by the trial justice to the Superior Court.

In the Superior Court, on appeal, before the jury were empanelled, the defendant moved to quash the complaint, for the following reason: "The complaint is not lawfully before this

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court, no recognizance, as required by statute, having been given before the magistrate upon the alleged appeal; and this court has no jurisdiction of the complaint nor of the defendant."

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Bacon, J., overruled this motion; and, at the trial, the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

The defendant, after verdict and before judgment, moved that judgment be arrested, for the following reasons: "1. Because the recognizance and the copy of the record transmitted are inconsistent and contradictory. 2. Because it does not appear from the record whether the defendant recognized as ordered, or was ordered to be committed, &c. 3. Because it does not appear that this court had any jurisdiction in the premises."

This motion was overruled; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. L. Eldridge, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

MORTON, C. J. The motion to quash and the motion in arrest of judgment were properly overruled. There are no such errors in the record of the magistrate as show that the Superior Court had not jurisdiction of the case. The record shows that the defendant, being convicted, appealed to the term of the Superior Court next to be held for the county, and was ordered to recognize. It does not formally state that the defendant recognized, but the magistrate transmitted to the Superior Court a copy of his record, accompanied by the recognizance actually entered into by the defendant. This sufficiently shows that the appeal was perfected by a recognizance, and that the Superior Court had jurisdiction. Under the Pub. Sts. c. 155, § 58, the magistrate has the right in his discretion to accept as sufficient a recognizance with one surety.

The defendant was sentenced on November 22, 1886; the record recites that he appealed "to the Superior Court next to be held at Cambridge in and for said county, on the second Monday of February, A. D. 1886." The date 1886 is clearly a mere clerical error. Taking the whole record, it is plain it was intended to be "1887." The first part of the sentence shows this. The error misleads no one, and furnishes no ground for quashing the complaint or arresting judgment.

Exceptions overruled.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* MORTIMER DOWNEY.

Middlesex. November 22. — 25, 1887. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors at S., with intent unlawfully to sell the same, if it appears that the defendant's premises are situated partly in S. and partly in C., an adjoining city, evidence that intoxicating liquors were found by an officer, who searched the premises, in that part situated in C., is admissible upon the question of the intent with which the defendant kept liquors in that part of the premises situated in S.

COMPLAINT for keeping, at Somerville, intoxicating liquor with intent unlawfully to sell the same in this Commonwealth. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

One Johnson, a Somerville police officer, testified that on May 25, 1887, with a search-warrant issued by the Somerville Police Court, he went to the premises of the defendant, which were located in a building on the line between Somerville and Cambridge, so that a part of the tenement was in Somerville and a part in Cambridge; that, together with a police officer of Cambridge, who also had a search-warrant, he entered that portion of the premises of the defendant which were occupied by him as grocery, and which was on the Cambridge side of the line; and that he found hop beer on draught in the shop, and also a bottle and a flask, each containing a teaspoonful of whiskey, behind the counter. The defendant objected to the testimony of the officer as to what was found in the shop in Cambridge, on the ground that the complaint alleged a keeping at Somerville. The judge overruled the objection, and admitted the evidence, but only as bearing upon the question of intent as to the keeping of the liquor found in Somerville. The officer then testified to finding a jug containing whiskey, in the third story, in that part of the building which was in Somerville, and upon the premises of one White. The officer seized and carried away this as the property of the defendant. It was claimed as the property of White.

Testimony was further introduced that a large number of people were seen on Sunday, May 22, to enter the building, and

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that Mrs. Downey and a girl were seen to go from the lower part of the building, which was occupied by the defendant, up stairs with a pitcher.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

G. F. Piper, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

By the Court. For the purpose of showing that the intoxicating liquor found in that part of the defendant's premises situated in Somerville was kept with intent to sell, the evidence admitted as to what was found in that part of the building situated in Cambridge was competent.

Upon this issue, it was proper that the jury should know the situation and use of the whole building, it being immaterial whether the liquor found in Somerville was intended for sale in that city, or in the part of the building which was in Cambridge. *Commonwealth* v. *McCluskey*, 123 Mass. 401.

Exceptions overruled.

Commonwealth *vs.* Philip McParland.

Norfolk. November 22. — 25, 1887. Devens & W. Allen, JJ., absent.

It is no ground for an arrest of judgment in a criminal case, that the copy of the record transmitted to the Superior Court by the trial justice who tried the case is attested by him as "justice" only.

Complaint to a trial justice, for keeping intoxicating liquors, with intent unlawfully to sell the same in this Commonwealth.

The record showed that the defendant was arrested and brought before the trial justice, and pleaded not guilty; that he was adjudged guilty, and sentenced; and that he appealed from said sentence to the Superior Court. The copy of the record transmitted to that court was attested by the trial justice who tried the case as "justice."

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In the Superior Court the defendant, after verdict and before judgment, moved in arrest of judgment, "because the trial justice has not transmitted to this court a true and attested copy of the record, and because the court has no jurisdiction."

This motion was overruled; and the defendant appealed to this court.

J. L. Eldridge, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

BY THE COURT. The copy of the record transmitted to the Superior Court is sufficiently attested. It is attested by the trial justice who tried the case; and the fact that, in the attestation, he describes himself as "justice," instead of "trial justice," is immaterial. *Judgment on the verdict.*

EUGENE TOMPKINS *vs.* NOBLE H. HILL.

Suffolk. Nov. 14. — Dec. 5, 1887. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

A. had a claim against B. for one third of the net profits of an enterprise in which they were jointly engaged. He sent a letter, requesting B. to render an account. B., in reply, sent a letter, enclosing an account, in which he credited A. with one third of the profits, and charged him with a certain sum, claimed to be due for B.'s services, and also enclosing a check for the balance of the account thus stated. A. credited the check to B. on account, and forthwith demanded of B. payment of the sum so charged to him by B.; and, upon B.'s refusal to pay, brought an action against him. *Held*, that the facts did not show an accord and satisfaction; and that the action could be maintained.

CONTRACT, in three counts. The first count was for money had and received to the plaintiff's use. The second count was for a balance due under an oral agreement. The third count was for a balance found due on an accounting together. Answer: 1. A general denial. 2. Accord and satisfaction. The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and, after judgment for the plaintiff, to this court, on appeal, upon agreed facts, the material parts of which appear in the opinion.

C. H. Sprague, for the defendant.

L. L. Scaife, for the plaintiff, was not called upon.

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MORTON, C. J. If a creditor, having an unliquidated or disputed claim against his debtor, accepts a sum smaller than the amount claimed in satisfaction of the claim, he cannot afterwards maintain an action for the unpaid balance of his original claim. *Tuttle* v. *Tuttle*, 12 Met. 551. *Donohue* v. *Woodbury*, 6 Cush. 148. This proceeds upon the ground that the parties have agreed to settle an unliquidated or disputed claim, or, in other words, have agreed to an accord and satisfaction of such claim.

In the case before us, the facts agreed do not show any such accord and satisfaction. The plaintiff had a claim against the defendant for one third of the net profits of an enterprise in which they were jointly engaged. He sent a letter requesting the defendant to render an account. The defendant, in reply, sent a letter enclosing an account, in which he credited the plaintiff with one third of the profits, and charged him with an item of $260, claimed to be due for the defendant's services, and also enclosing a check for the balance of the account thus stated. The plaintiff credited the check to the defendant on account, but he did not agree to accept it in satisfaction of his claim. On the contrary, he forthwith demanded payment of the said amount of $260 of the defendant, and, upon his refusal to pay, at once brought this suit. The case stands, in legal effect, the same as if the defendant had presented his account and check in a personal interview, and the plaintiff had refused to agree to the account, or to accept the check in full satisfaction. It shows no agreement to compromise, and no accord and satisfaction; and the plaintiff is entitled to recover the balance due him.

Judgment affirmed.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* EDWARD INGERSOLL.

Essex. Nov. 1, 1887. — Jan. 2, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

The record of a police court, to which a complaint was made, recited that the defendant, "being asked whether he is guilty or not of the offence within charged upon him, pleads *nolo contendere*, but, after hearing divers witnesses duly sworn to testify the whole truth, and fully understanding the defence of said defendant, it is adjudged by the said court that said defendant is guilty of said offence;" and that the defendant was sentenced, and appealed therefrom to the Superior Court. *Held*, that the record did not sufficiently show that the defendant's plea was accepted by the court, and sentence passed thereupon; and that the defendant had the right to plead anew in the Superior Court, and to have a trial by jury.

COMPLAINT to the Police Court of Gloucester, for keeping intoxicating liquors with intent unlawfully to sell the same in this Commonwealth.

The record recited that the defendant was arrested and brought before said court, and the complaint read to him, "and, being asked whether he is guilty or not of the offence within charged upon him, pleads *nolo contendere*, but, after hearing divers witnesses duly sworn to testify the whole truth, and fully understanding the defence of said defendant, it is adjudged by the said court that said defendant is guilty of said offence;" and that the defendant was sentenced.

From this sentence the defendant appealed to the Superior Court, and at May term, 1886, at the request of the defendant, the complaint was placed upon file.

At January term, 1887, the defendant having been convicted upon another complaint, the district attorney moved for sentence upon the former complaint. Whereupon the defendant claimed the right to plead anew, and filed a motion therefor, upon the following grounds: "1. That it did not appear by the record of said Police Court that the plea of *nolo contendere* was received with the consent of the public prosecutor, or accepted by the Commonwealth, or by the court. 2. That no plea had been entered in said Police Court upon which the defendant could be legally tried."

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Hammond, J., overruled this motion; and ruled that there was nothing for the jury, and that the case was ripe for sentence. The defendant alleged exceptions.

F. L. Evans, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

MORTON, C. J. If the defendant in a criminal case pleads guilty, he cannot afterwards retract his plea and plead anew, except by leave of the court. If, therefore, a defendant pleads guilty in a municipal or police court, and appeals from the sentence to the Superior Court, he cannot of right claim a trial by jury, but is liable to be sentenced upon his original plea in the court below, unless the court gives him leave to plead anew. *Commonwealth* v. *Mahoney*, 115 Mass. 151. A plea of *nolo contendere*, when accepted by the court, is, in its effect upon the case, equivalent to a plea of guilty. It is an implied confession of guilt only, and cannot be used against the defendant as an admission in any civil suit for the same act. The judgment of conviction follows upon such a plea, as well as upon a plea of guilty, and such plea, if accepted, cannot be withdrawn, and a plea of not guilty entered, except by leave of court. But there is a difference between the two pleas, in that the defendant cannot plead *nolo contendere* without the leave of the court. If such plea is tendered, the court may accept or decline it in its discretion.

If the plea is accepted, it is not necessary or proper that the court should adjudge the party to be guilty, for that follows as a legal inference from the implied confession, but the court proceeds thereupon to pass the sentence of the law. *Commonwealth* v. *Horton*, 9 Pick. 206.

In *Commonwealth* v. *Adams*, 6 Gray, 359, the complaint was founded upon the St. of 1855, *c.* 215, § 35, which provided that "no admission of the defendant, made in court, shall be received on the trial, without the consent of the prosecutor, except a plea of guilty;" the defendant pleaded *nolo contendere* in the Police Court, but the record did not show that the plea was received with the consent of the prosecutor. This court held that such consent must appear of record, and that, as it did not so appear, judgment entered upon his plea by the Court of Common Pleas, to which the defendant had appealed, was

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erroneous, and that he had the right to plead anew, and to be tried by a jury.

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Applying these principles to the case at bar, it follows that, if it appeared by the record of the Police Court, to which the complaint was made, that the defendant's plea of *nolo contendere* was accepted by the court, the Superior Court, upon appeal, could sentence him upon his plea, and decline to permit him to plead anew.

The only difficulty arises from the obscurity of the record of the Police Court. It recites that the defendant, "being asked whether he is guilty or not of the offence within charged upon him, pleads *nolo contendere*, but, after hearing divers witnesses duly sworn to testify the whole truth, and fully understanding the defence of said defendant, it is adjudged by the said court that said defendant is guilty of said offence." This record does not state that the court accepted the plea. The latter part of the record above cited implies that the court did not accept the plea, but proceeded to hear witnesses, and adjudged the defendant to be guilty, as if he had pleaded "not guilty," or had stood mute. If the record had stated that the defendant pleads *nolo contendere*, and thereupon the court passes sentence upon him, it might be held that it showed an accepted plea, although not directly stated to have been accepted, because in such case the action of the court upon the plea would import that it was accepted. But in this case the record implies, not that the court passed sentence upon the plea of *nolo contendere*, but upon an adjudication, after hearing witnesses, that the defendant was guilty. To say the least, the record does not certainly show that the plea was accepted and sentence passed thereupon; and we are of opinion that the defendant had the right to plead anew in the Superior Court, and to have a trial by jury.

Exceptions sustained.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JAMES H. MCCAFFERTY.

Essex. Nov. 4, 1887. — Jan. 2, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

If the charter of a city provides that its by-laws or ordinances shall take effect, and be in force, from and after the time therein respectively limited, without the sanction of any court, or other authority whatever, the provisions of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 27, § 23, and of *c.* 28, § 2, as to publication of by-laws or ordinances, do not apply.

An ordinance of a city, providing that "no person shall place or carry, or cause to be placed or carried, on any sidewalk, any show-board, placard, or sign, for the purpose of there displaying the same," is reasonable and valid.

At the trial of a complaint for a violation of an ordinance of a city, providing that "no person shall place or carry, or cause to be placed or carried, on any sidewalk, any show-board, placard, or sign, for the purpose of there displaying the same," it appeared that the defendant walked upon the sidewalk of a street in the city, having over his shoulders a piece of oil cloth, which he wore like a vest or coat, on which was printed the inscription, "Lasters on strike. All lasters are requested to keep away from P. P. Sherry until the present trouble is settled. Per order L. P. U." *Held*, that the defendant's act was a violation of the ordinance.

MORTON, C. J. This is a complaint for a violation of an ordinance of the city of Lynn. The part of the ordinance which applies to the case is as follows: "No person shall place or carry, or cause to be placed or carried, on any sidewalk, any show-board, placard, or sign, for the purpose of there displaying the same."

The ordinances were proved by the production by the clerk of the original records of the city, and we do not understand that the defendant now insists upon his objection to the sufficiency of the proof. He contends that the ordinance in question has no legal effect, because it has not been published according to the provision of the Gen. Sts. *c.* 18, § 16,* which was in force when the ordinance was passed. The provisions of the charter of Lynn as to the power to make ordinances are, in effect, the same as those contained in the charter of Boston, as to which it

* This section (reënacted in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 27, § 23) requires the by-laws of a town to be published in one or more newspapers. Section 2 of the Gen. Sts. *c.* 19 (reënacted in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 28, § 2), provides that *c.* 18, and all other laws relating to towns, shall apply to cities "so far as they are not inconsistent with the general or special provisions relating thereto."

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has been decided that no publication is necessary as a condition precedent to the validity of the ordinances. The ordinances of Lynn take effect upon their passage, if no time is therein limited or named. St. 1850, c. 184, § 20.* *Commonwealth* v. *Davis*, 140 Mass. 485. *Commonwealth* v. *Brooks*, 109 Mass. 355.

The defendant also contends that the ordinance is unreasonable, and therefore void. The city is authorized "to make all such salutary and needful by-laws" as towns have power to make and establish. St. 1850, c. 184, § 20. Towns have power to "make such necessary orders and by-laws, not repugnant to the laws of the State, for directing and managing the prudential affairs, preserving the peace and good order, and maintaining the internal police thereof, as they may judge most conducive to the welfare of the town." Gen. Sts. c. 18, § 11. Pub. Sts. c. 27, § 15.

The purpose of the ordinance in question is to prevent the placing of show-boards and signs upon the sidewalks so as to obstruct them, and also to prevent the carrying of placards and signs for the purpose of displaying them, of which the tendency and effect might be to collect crowds, and thus to interfere with the use of the sidewalks by the public, and lead to disorder. We cannot say that such a provision applicable to the crowded streets of a populous city is unreasonable.

The remaining question is whether the defendant was shown to have violated the ordinance. It appeared that the defendant walked upon the sidewalk in Munroe Street, having over his shoulders a piece of oil-cloth, which he wore like a vest or coat, on which was printed the inscription, "Lasters on strike. All lasters are requested to keep away from P. P. Sherry until the present trouble is settled. Per order L. P. U."

It does not require argument to show that this is a placard or sign, and that wearing it upon his person like a vest or coat was carrying it for the purpose of displaying it. The natural

* "The city council shall have power to make all such salutary and needful by-laws as towns, by the laws of this Commonwealth, have power to make and establish, and to annex penalties, not exceeding twenty dollars, for the breach thereof; which by-laws shall take effect and be in force from and after the time therein respectively limited, without the sanction of any court or other authority whatever."

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tendency of his act was to collect a crowd and to create disorder, and it falls within the letter and spirit of the ordinance.

Exceptions overruled.

J. R. Baldwin, for the defendant.

H. C. Bliss, Assistant Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

JOHN D. DOYLE, administrator, *vs.* BOSTON AND ALBANY RAILROAD COMPANY.

Suffolk. Nov. 9, 10, 1887. — Jan. 2, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

At the trial of an action of tort, brought by an administrator, under the Pub. Sts. c. 112, § 213, against a railroad corporation, for the death of the plaintiff's intestate, caused by a collision between a locomotive engine of the defendant and a wagon in which the intestate was driving, at a place where the highway crossed the railroad at grade, there was evidence that between two and three o'clock in the morning the intestate delivered milk to a customer who lived a quarter of a mile from the crossing, and that he had another customer near the crossing on the farther side; that his wagon was more than half-way over the crossing, which was one hundred and sixty-eight feet wide, when the gateman cried, "Stop," and shut the gates; that the intestate whipped up his horse, the gateman told him to come on and opened the gate, and the wagon was struck by the locomotive engine, and the intestate instantly killed; and that no bell was rung or whistle sounded on the locomotive. *Held*, that the evidence would warrant an inference that the intestate was awake when approaching the crossing, and a finding that the neglect to ring the bell or sound the whistle contributed to the injury; and that the court could not rule, as matter of law, that the intestate was guilty of gross negligence.

HOLMES, J. This is an action of tort, brought under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 213, by an administrator to recover for the death of his intestate. It was admitted that the intestate was killed by a collision with the defendant's engine, upon a crossing of a highway at grade within § 163, and there was evidence that neither the bell upon the engine was rung nor the whistle sounded. But the defendant denies that "it appears that such neglect contributed to the injury," as required by § 213, and argues that to allow the connection to be inferred from the

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neglect and the accident alone is to make the clause of the statute nugatory.

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The distance between the gates on each side of the crossing was one hundred and sixty-eight feet, and the accident happened more than half-way across. The defendant further argues, that the conduct of the deceased the moment before constituted gross negligence, which, by the terms of the statute, would prevent a recovery. But if the deceased was not guilty of such gross negligence as, by the terms of the statute, would prevent a recovery, then whether there was some neglect on his part, or on the part of the defendant's servant, or the conduct of both was not more ill-judged than might have been expected in the flurry of approaching danger, the intervention of these later causes would not necessarily prevent the neglect to give warning from "contributing" to the injury. *Elmer* v. *Locke*, 135 Mass. 575, 576, and cases cited. *Norton* v. *Eastern Railroad*, 113 Mass. 366. *Commonwealth* v. *Boston & Lowell Railroad*, 134 Mass. 211. The later conduct of the parties, therefore, may be laid out of the case, so far as the first question is concerned, and it may be assumed that, if there was evidence that the defendant's neglect contributed to bring the deceased to where he heard the shout of warning, there was evidence that it contributed to the injury.

Coming then to the defendant's argument which we have stated, we agree that the plaintiff must allege and prove that the neglect of the defendant contributed to the injury. *Wright* v. *Boston & Maine Railroad*, 129 Mass. 440, 444. But it is plain that we cannot expect, and the statute cannot have meant to require, direct evidence of the connection. The only absolutely direct proof possible would have to come from the lips of the person killed. Even if eyewitnesses were produced who saw him watching and listening as he approached, the connection would still be an inference. But a fact proved by a legitimate inference is proved no less than when it is directly sworn to. *Commonwealth* v. *Doherty*, 137 Mass. 245, 247. And the question what inferences are legitimate is not affected by the terms of the statute, but is to be answered in accordance with the general principles of law. To answer this question the court refers to its own knowledge of the ordinary course

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of events so far as to consider whether it can say that there is no probability or presumption of fact that when facts A and B exist, of which there is direct evidence, fact C also exists by way of cause, effect, or concomitant. If it cannot, then it leaves it to the jury to say whether, according to their experience, there is such a probability or presumption. *Commonwealth* v. *Briant*, 142 Mass. 463, 464.

In this case we have a man driving a milk wagon between two and three o'clock in the morning. He was awake a quarter of a mile before reaching the crossing, as he then served a customer with milk. He knew where the crossing was, and he had to serve another customer a short distance on the other side of the crossing. Very plainly, we cannot say that there is no probability that the man was awake as he approached the crossing, or that the jury might not find that there was such a probability, and therefore infer that the deceased was awake. The warning, either by bell or whistle, if it had been sounded, would have been audible, and, as the deceased was not driving in a furious or reckless manner, the jury might infer that he would have heard it. People do not generally try to drive across railway tracks when they know by the bell or whistle that a train is approaching; the jury therefore might find that the deceased would have stopped if the bell had been rung or the whistle sounded.

We cannot say, as matter of law, that the intestate was guilty of gross negligence. The plaintiff's evidence tended to show that the intestate had got half-way across before there was any warning, and before the gates were shut, and that the first warning he received was when the gates were shut and the gateman shouted, "Stop," — a shout which he may have heard only as an alarming sound; that then, practically all at once, the deceased whipped his horse, the gateman shouted to him to come on, and opened again the gate in front of him. We do not say that this seems to us the most probable view of the facts, but it is one which the jury might have taken on the evidence. Going on under these circumstances was a mistake, but we cannot say it was gross negligence. Something must be allowed for the natural impulse which some people feel, when suddenly startled and alarmed, to leap forward, and more

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for the natural tendency to follow the gateman's directions. It is not argued that there was gross negligence before the deceased whipped his horse. See *Copley* v. *New Haven & Northampton Co.* 136 Mass. 6. *Bayley* v. *Eastern Railroad*, 125 Mass. 62. *Commonwealth* v. *Fitchburg Railroad*, 10 Allen, 189, 191.

Exceptions overruled.

S. Hoar for the defendant.

H. E. Swasey & G. R. Swasey, for the plaintiff.

JOHN W. BRYAN *vs.* TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY OF CHICAGO.

Suffolk. Nov. 11, 1887. — Jan. 2, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

A policy of insurance, in the form prescribed by the Pub. Sts. c. 119, § 139, against loss by fire, upon a house, provided that it should be void if the property should be "sold." During the term of the policy the assured conveyed the property to A. by a deed, absolute in form and duly recorded. On the same day A. executed to the assured a bond to reconvey the property, on the assured indemnifying A. against loss on account of his becoming a surety on a recognizance in a criminal prosecution. This bond was not recorded, and the company issuing the policy had no knowledge of it. Subsequently, A., with the knowledge of the assured, and for his benefit, mortgaged the property insured to C. by an instrument not under seal. After a loss by fire occurred, the mortgage was discharged, and the property was conveyed by A. to the assured, the condition named in the bond having been performed. *Held*, that the property had not been "sold" by the assured, and that he could maintain an action on the policy.

CONTRACT upon a policy of insurance, in the form prescribed by the Pub. Sts. c. 119, § 139, against loss by fire, on a building in Brockton. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., who ordered a verdict for the plaintiff, and reported the case for the determination of this court. The facts appear in the opinion.

J. A. Maxwell, for the defendant.

J. Bennett & E. O. Cooke, for the plaintiff.

MORTON, C. J. The policy in suit is of the standard form provided by our statute, and contains the provision that the policy shall be void if, without the written assent of the company,

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"the said property shall be sold." After the policy was issued, the plaintiff, who is the assured, conveyed the building insured to one Mary Madigan, by a deed absolute in form, which was duly recorded. At the same time, and as a part of the same transaction, Madigan executed to the assured a bond, upon the condition that she would reconvey the property to him upon his indemnifying her against any damage by reason of her having become his surety in a recognizance in a criminal suit. This bond was never recorded. Afterwards, Madigan, with the knowledge and for the benefit of the plaintiff, mortgaged the premises to one Gallagher for the sum of $3000, which mortgage was recorded, but there was no seal to it, and nothing was paid upon it. After the loss, the mortgage was discharged, and Madigan reconveyed the premises to the plaintiff, the condition of her bond having been performed.

It is clear that, as between the parties, the transaction between the plaintiff and Madigan constituted a mortgage. Its purpose was not to convey an absolute estate, but to give security for the performance of a duty by the plaintiff. It has been repeatedly held that such a transaction is a mortgage, although the bond to reconvey is not recorded. *Murphy* v. *Calley*, 1 Allen, 107. *Foote* v. *Hartford Ins. Co.* 119 Mass. 259. *Walsh* v. *Philadelphia Fire Association*, 127 Mass. 383. The last cited case is singularly like the case at bar upon this point, and it was held that, although the plaintiff had given a deed of the premises insured absolute in form, taking back a defeasance which was never recorded, he was only a mortgagor and still had an insurable interest.

The defendant contends that although this transaction was a mortgage as between the parties, yet as to the defendant it is to be treated as in all respects an absolute conveyance. He relies upon the provision of the statute that "when a deed purports to contain an absolute conveyance of real estate, but is made defeasible by a deed, bond, or other instrument, the original deed shall not be thereby affected, as against any person other than the maker of the instrument of defeasance and his heirs and devisees and persons having actual notice of it, unless such instrument is recorded in the registry of deeds for the county or district in which the real estate to which it relates is situated." Pub. Sts. *c.* 120, § 23.

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The purpose of requiring the instrument of defeasance to be recorded is to give notice to purchasers, attaching creditors, and others who may become interested in the estate, and may rely upon the apparently absolute deed, and thus be misled by the record, if the defeasance is not recorded. *Bayley* v. *Bailey*, 5 Gray, 505. *Pratt* v. *Harlow*, 16 Gray, 379.

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Looking at the object of the statute and the mischief intended to be guarded against, we are of opinion that it does not apply to a case like this, where the defendant makes no claim to the property, and could not in any way have been misled by the failure to record the defeasance.

The defendant relies upon *Foote* v. *Hartford Ins. Co.* 119 Mass. 259. Some of the expressions in the opinion support his claim, but they were not necessary to the decision, which may be supported upon the ground that, under the peculiar terms of the policy in that case, providing that it should be void if any change took place in the title or possession of the property, a mortgage would avoid the policy. The question before us was not involved in that case; but in a later case, where the question was involved, it was held that a person who had given an absolute deed, taking back an instrument of defeasance which was never recorded, was a mortgagor, and, as against the insurance company, had an insurable interest. The opinion, written by the same justice, states that "the rights of the parties under this contract of insurance are to be settled according to the relations which were in fact created between the parties to those conveyances, although the defeasances were never recorded. It is not a question between the plaintiff and attaching creditors and purchasers without notice." *Walsh* v. *Philadelphia Fire Association*, *ubi supra*. We do not consider that the attempted mortgage from Madigan to Gallagher is of any importance. Having no seal, it was inoperative, and does not affect the rights of the parties. *Springfield Savings Bank* v. *Springfield Congregational Society*, 127 Mass. 516.

We are then to regard the plaintiff as in the position of one who, after a policy is issued to him, mortgages the property insured, and the remaining question is whether such mortgage avoids the policy under the provision that it shall be void "if the said property shall be sold" without the written assent of

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the company. We do not understand the defendant to contend that this would be the effect of a mortgage, and it is clear that such would not be the effect. After the mortgage the plaintiff retained an insurable interest to the same extent as before. He was interested to the amount of the whole value of the premises, and would bear all the loss in case of fire.

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It has been repeatedly held in this and in other jurisdictions, that, where a policy contains a condition that it shall be void upon an alienation by sale or otherwise, a mortgage does not avoid the policy. *Judge* v. *Connecticut Ins. Co.* 132 Mass. 521, and cases cited. Alienation is a broader term than sale. A mortgage is not a sale, and it cannot fairly be contended that the policy in suit was avoided by the mortgage made by the plaintiff. *Verdict to stand.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* FRANCIS L. WHITE.

Suffolk. Nov. 21, 1887. — Jan. 2, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

At the trial of an indictment in several counts for forging and uttering twelve bills of parcels, the defendant filed a motion to quash the indictment, but, instead of arguing the motion at the outset, consented that the court should reserve all his rights under it, with the understanding that it would be disposed of at a later stage of the case. After the case for the government was closed, the motion to quash was argued, and the presiding judge quashed several of the counts of the indictment; but refused to strike out the evidence introduced under these counts. *Held*, that, if the evidence was admissible under the remaining counts, the defendant had no ground of exception.

At the trial of an indictment for forging and uttering certain receipted bills of parcels, the persons whose names appeared on the bills as signers testified that they did not sign them, and that the bills did not represent genuine transactions. The defendant, who appeared on the bills as the purchaser of the goods therein mentioned, used the bills, certified upon them that A. was the owner of the goods, received money for them from A., and gave A. his promissory notes for the amount. *Held*, that the evidence was sufficient to warrant a conviction.

At the trial of an indictment for forging and uttering certain receipted bills of parcels, evidence is admissible, on the question of the defendant's knowledge that the bills were forged, that he fabricated certain other unreceipted bills of a like character, and uttered them to the same person to whom he uttered the receipted bills, by a continuous series of transactions, extending some months later than the latest forgery mentioned in the indictment.

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An indictment for forgery described the instrument alleged to be forged as an acquittance and discharge for money, and set forth a bill of parcels purporting to be receipted. *Held*, that the instrument was not misdescribed.

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HOLMES, J. 1. The most serious question in this case arises in a way for which the defendant is partly responsible. The indictment was in fifty-four counts, for forging and uttering twelve bills of parcels; and a motion to quash was filed. But the defendant, instead of arguing the motion at the outset, consented that the court should reserve all his rights under it, with the understanding that it would be disposed of at a later stage. Accordingly the trial proceeded, and evidence was put in under all the counts. Then, at the close of the government's case, the motion to quash was called up, and by the consent of the government all but six counts were quashed. The defendant thereupon asked that the evidence introduced under the other counts should be stricken out, but the court refused so to order.

It is suggested that the defendant has suffered by a device intended to get before the jury evidence which was not admissible on the issues upon which he was convicted, under the pretence that it sustained other issues, which were abandoned when the evidence was in. It need not be said that, if this appeared to be the fact, the verdict could not stand. But we cannot gather any such conclusion from the record. The question whether the evidence was admissible upon the issues finally tried is as fully open, and is to be considered on the same principles, as if the counts not quashed had been the only ones from the beginning. If it were true that evidence was offered upon one issue and retained for its bearing upon another, it would be hard to see how the defendant had suffered if it was admissible upon that other, even though the former was a charge of a distinct substantive felony. See *Commonwealth* v. *Stearns*, 10 Met. 256. But, so far as appears, the evidence was offered and admitted generally for any purpose for which it was competent, and if at the time there was a possibility that its chief use was to sustain the other counts, the opposite possibility was no less plain to the defendant, who was insisting that those counts were bad. The uncertainty was by the defendant's consent, who had agreed that they need not be

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passed upon until the evidence was in. We see no reason why he could not consent to a course which preserved all his rights.

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We are of opinion that the evidence was admissible under the counts not quashed, upon which the defendant was convicted. These counts were for forging certain receipted bills for hides, &c., and for uttering the same. The evidence objected to tended to show that the defendant fabricated certain other unreceipted bills of a like character, and uttered them to the same persons, by a continuous series of transactions, extending some months later than the latest forgery of which the defendant was convicted.

It appeared that there was a contract between H. Leonard and Company and the defendant, by which Leonard and Company were to sell the defendant hides, which were to be tanned and sold by him, he giving Leonard and Company his note at four months for a little more than the sum paid by them, and the property in the hides remaining in Leonard and Company until all the notes were paid.

The government's evidence tended to show that a frequent course of dealing — or at least the course of dealing as it was made to appear to Leonard and Company in the alleged fraudulent transactions — was, that, instead of Leonard and Company themselves purchasing the hides which the defendant was to tan, the defendant purchased them, presented the bill from the sellers to him, receipted in the earlier transactions, afterwards unreceipted, to Leonard and Company, wrote upon it that the hides belonged to Leonard and Company under the contract, or to that effect, received the cash to pay for them, and gave his note as provided in the contract, just as if Leonard and Company had themselves ordered and paid for the hides, and had then consigned them to him. It will be seen that the use made of the bill, receipted or unreceipted, was to show it to Leonard and Company, in order to satisfy them that hides had been bought, which were to belong to them, and for which they were to pay in the first instance, under the contract, and thus to enable the defendant to get cash, giving his note in return.

All the bills, then, receipted or unreceipted, if known by the defendant not to be genuine, were used by him, in a single scheme of fraud, under his contract with Leonard and Company.

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Lynde v. *McGregor*, 13 Allen, 172, 180. *Jordan* v. *Osgood*, 109 Mass. 457. *Commonwealth* v. *Eastman*, 1 Cush. 189, 216. And on the question of the defendant's knowledge that the bills in issue were not genuine, his possession and use of other similar false bills, about the same time, whether before or afterwards, in a continuous series of transactions with the same persons under the same contract, was competent to show that his use of the former was not innocent. *Commonwealth* v. *Coe*, 115 Mass. 481, 501. *Commonwealth* v. *Hall*, 4 Allen, 305, 306. *Commonwealth* v. *Price*, 10 Gray, 472, 476. *Regina* v. *Forster*, Dearsly C. C. 456. Thus the evidence satisfies the general conditions which have been laid down in similar cases. See further *Commonwealth* v. *Jackson*, 132 Mass. 16, 18. To be sure the evidence was not admissible to prove that the bills in issue were forged; *Costelo* v. *Crowell*, 139 Mass. 588; and the jury were so instructed; and it might be thought that in a case like this, when the bills ran to the defendant, purported to be for hides bought by him, and were certified by him, if the jury believed that the bills were forged it would follow almost necessarily that the defendant knew them to be so, and so it might be thought that the evidence of his use of other false bills was unnecessary for the purpose for which it was admitted, while it tended to prejudice the defendant in the eyes of the jury. But the defendant's knowledge was not admitted; on the contrary, it is still argued that there was no sufficient evidence to warrant the verdict; and evidence of knowledge which otherwise would be admissible is not made inadmissible by the fact that there is other strong evidence of knowledge in the case.

It is argued that the bills not in issue which were put in were not signed, and therefore were not forgeries, and were inadmissible for that reason. It is not necessary to consider whether they were technically forgeries. See *Commonwealth* v. *Ayer*, 3 Cush. 150, 152. *Commonwealth* v. *Hinds*, 101 Mass. 209, 210. For if they were not, they were none the less admissible. Being fabricated instruments similar to those in issue in every respect except in regard to signature, their tendency to show knowledge and a fraudulent scheme on the defendant's part was not affected by the degree or kind of fraud committed in their manufacture and use. They equally purported to be a

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declaration by the supposed sellers, in the course of business, that they had sold the hides mentioned in them to the defendant, whether they acknowledged or demanded payment; and, signed or unsigned, they equally served the purpose of getting the amount of the bill from Leonard and Company.

2. We can have no doubt that the evidence warranted a conviction. The persons by whom the bills purported to be made out and signed testified that they were not genuine, and did not represent genuine transactions. The defendant, who fairly might be presumed by the jury to know the facts about sales purporting to have been made to him, used the bills, certified upon them, and received the money for them, as has been stated. It is suggested that, by the contract, Leonard and Company were authorized to buy for him, and that they may have had the bills made out, or at least that he may have supposed the bills to be genuine and correct; but it is a mistake to say that the contract authorized Leonard and Company to buy as agents for the defendant, or to charge goods to him. The phrase in the contract, "except in case the hides are bought by said Leonard and Company for said White," does not import any such authority. It means only to distinguish hides bought for the purpose of being sold to White from those bought by Leonard and Company in the ordinary course of their business, and afterwards sold to him. And it appears on the face of the contract that the only purpose of this distinction is to adopt a different way of fixing the date from which White shall be charged with interest. The contract throughout contemplated Leonard and Company's purchasing hides on their own behalf, and selling them to the defendant only after his notes had been paid. There was no evidence of any course of dealing by which they bought in his name, or of any case where they had done so, and there was no reason why they should have given their check to him if they had conducted or had purported to have conducted the dealings with the supposed seller of the hides. On the face of the transactions there was evidence that the defendant uttered the bills (3 Inst. 171) knowing them to be false, if they were false in fact. But, in addition, there was evidence as to the Morey bill that Leonard and Company had no transaction with Morey, and

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that the defendant did buy hides corresponding to a part of the hides set forth in the bill; and evidence tending in the same direction as to the other persons named in the indictment, and that all that Leonard knew of the supposed transactions with them he learned from the defendant. It is true that the defendant's clerk could not say from whom he received any particular bill, but he testified that they were all brought by the defendant or left at the office, where the defendant then wrote his name on them and got the money. We do not think it necessary to state the evidence in greater detail. See *Commonwealth* v. *Talbot*, 2 Allen, 161. The fact, if it be one, that the defendant intended to pay his notes at maturity, did not affect his liability. *Commonwealth* v. *Henry*, 118 Mass. 460, 463.

3. The motion to quash was rightly overruled. Each of the counts submitted to the jury describes the bill of parcels set forth in it as an acquittance and discharge for money. The defendant contends that this is a misdescription; but a receipted bill for goods purports to be an acquittance and discharge for the money due in respect of those goods. *Commonwealth* v. *Ladd*, 15 Mass. 526. See *Commonwealth* v. *Talbot*, *ubi supra*. The instrument being set out, and purporting on its face to be the thing prohibited to be forged, Pub. Sts. *c.* 204, § 1, there is no need of further allegations to show how it was that thing, or how it could be used as an instrument of fraud, or that it was so used in fact. 2 East P. C. 977. *Commonwealth* v. *Costello*, 120 Mass. 358. *Commonwealth* v. *Ladd*, *ubi supra*. There is a slight peculiarity in the receipt set out in the seventh count, as it bears, in addition to the words "Terms cash," the words "Our sight draft." But the word "Settled," followed by the signature, imports a discharge of the money due for the price, whether it was discharged by money or draft. Whether it is not to be read as importing a settlement in money, especially in view of the words "Paid for by H. Leonard & Co." in the margin, we need not consider. We notice nothing else in the exceptions which calls for particular remark.

Exceptions overruled.

E. Avery, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, & *H. C. Bliss*, Assistant Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* BEALY F. FOWLER.

Middlesex. Nov. 21, 1887. — Jan. 2, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

A complaint cannot be maintained for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquor to a minor, unless the fact of such minority is averred.

A complaint for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquor to A. is maintained by proof that A. was acting as the agent of an undisclosed principal.

At the trial of a complaint for selling intoxicating liquor to A., there was evidence that A. was a boy eleven years of age; that, at the time alleged, acting as the agent of his father, he ordered the liquor in question and paid for it, and the defendant delivered it at the house where the boy and his father lived; and that he did not disclose his agency to the defendant on this occasion, or on similar previous occasions. The defendant asked the judge to rule that there was no sufficient evidence of a sale and delivery to A. The judge refused so to rule, and instructed the jury that if the boy did not disclose, in any manner, to the defendant, at the time of the alleged sale, that he wanted the liquor for his father, the sale would be to the boy. *Held*, that the instruction might be construed to mean that, if the father was not in any manner disclosed or known at the time as the principal, the charge of a sale to the son was supported by the evidence; and that the defendant had no ground of exception.

At the trial of a complaint for selling intoxicating liquor to A., there was evidence that A., who was a boy eleven years old, had given to him by his father a sum of money to buy liquor for the father; that the boy met the defendant on the street, and ordered and paid for the liquor, which the defendant subsequently delivered at the house where the boy and his father lived; and that the boy did not on this occasion, or on similar occasions, inform the defendant that he was acting as his father's agent. *Held*, that the evidence would warrant the jury in finding that there had been a sale and delivery to A.

COMPLAINT, alleging that the defendant, at Newton, on October 15, 1886, "did sell to one Michael O'Marra intoxicating liquor." Trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

Michael O'Marra testified for the government that he was eleven years of age in October last, and then lived at Newton, with his father, mother, and grown-up sister, in the father's house; that on said day his father gave him fifty cents, and instructed him to get six bottles of ale from the defendant, who had been in the habit, from time to time, of passing by the house driving a beer wagon; that he took the money, and afterwards met the defendant with the beer wagon in the public street, in front of the house; that the defendant said to him, "What will

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you have to-day, Mickey?" and that he replied, "One half-dozen of ale," and gave the defendant the money, and went away, but not to his house; and that, as he was going away, he looked and saw the defendant, or a man who had been with him just before, carrying what he supposed to be the ale towards his father's house.

He further testified, that he did not, during the above transaction, inform the defendant that his father wanted the ale, or that he bought it for his father, or that his father had sent him to get it. And, testifying with reference to other previous transactions, substantially similar, he said that, while he had always procured the liquor for his father at his request and for his use, he had never informed the defendant of the fact.

The sister of the witness testified that the six bottles of ale were brought by the defendant to the house, and that she put them in the cellar for her father, who was away from home at work.

The defendant testified that the delivery was at the house on all occasions, and not to the son; that he had on his wagon at the time of the sale of six bottles, a large number of bottles of ale and beer.

The defendant asked the judge to rule that there was no evidence of a sale to Michael O'Marra, as a minor, or otherwise; that the defendant could not be convicted on the complaint of a sale to O'Marra as a minor; and that there was no sufficient evidence of any sale and delivery to him. The judge refused so to rule, and instructed the jury that, if the boy did not disclose, in any manner, to the defendant, at the time of the alleged sale, that he wanted the ale for his father, in such case the sale might be alleged and would be to the boy, and in that case an allegation of minority was unnecessary.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. L. Eldridge, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

C. ALLEN, J. The fact that Michael O'Marra, the alleged purchaser, was a minor, must be disregarded, it not having been averred. When the government wishes to avail itself of the special statutory provisions respecting a sale or delivery of

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intoxicating liquors to a minor, the fact of minority must be set forth.

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The case as proved, then, was a sale by an unlicensed person under a contract made with Michael. If Michael was the agent of an undisclosed principal, the complaint properly charged the sale as having been made to him; but if he was the agent of a disclosed principal, the complaint should have charged the sale as having been made to the principal. See *Commonwealth* v. *O'Leary*, 143 Mass. 95, and cases cited. The defendant now contends that the instruction to the jury was too limited, and that it authorized a conviction, unless Michael himself disclosed his principal at the time of the alleged sale, without adverting to the consideration that his agency for his father might have been well understood from a previous course of dealing, or otherwise. This distinction, however, was not taken at the trial, but the court was asked to rule that there was no evidence of a sale to Michael, or at any rate no sufficient evidence of a sale and delivery to him. The instruction actually given may properly be considered with reference to the requests made; and, if regarded in this manner, may fairly be understood to mean that, if Michael's father was not in any manner disclosed or known at the time as the principal in the transaction, then the charge of a sale to Michael was supported by the evidence. If the defendant had wished to take the distinction upon which he now relies, he should have called attention to it at the trial. The language used by the court was quite similar to that used in *Commonwealth* v. *Gormley*, 133 Mass. 580.

The evidence was sufficient to warrant a verdict of guilty, provided Michael was acting for an undisclosed principal.

Exceptions overruled.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* DAVIS LOCKE.

Middlesex. Nov. 22, 1887. — Jan. 2, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

On a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal keeping and sale of intoxicating liquors, it is competent to prove the discovery of liquor in the defendant's bar-room, and also the circumstances of the discovery.

On a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal keeping and sale of intoxicating liquors, evidence that the defendant's bar-keeper endeavored to conceal intoxicating liquor, while a search was being made under a search-warrant, is admissible, although the defendant was absent at the time, and there was evidence that he had no knowledge that intoxicating liquor was sold there.

On a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal keeping and sale of intoxicating liquors, the jury may infer that intoxicating liquor is being kept for the purposes of unlawful sale from the fact of its presence in the tenement, and an attempt by the defendant's servant to conceal it.

COMPLAINT, on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 101, §§ 6, 7, for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a tenement in Cambridge, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, on May 1, 1887, and on divers other days and times between that day and June 4, 1887. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Barker*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

On Tuesday, May 24, 1887, several police officers of Cambridge, with a search-warrant, visited Porter's Hotel, Cambridge, of which the defendant was the proprietor, and searched the hotel for intoxicating liquors. Coulter, one of the officers, immediately entered the bar-room, in which no one was present but the bar-keeper. Coulter testified that on entering the bar-room he immediately proceeded around the bar to the place where the bar-keeper was, and that the bar-keeper had in his hands a measure, the contents of which he was attempting to throw into the sink. The officer attempted to seize the measure, the bar-keeper resisted, and in the struggle the contents of the measure were spilled upon the floor. The officer testified that gin was spilled on the floor, and that a small quantity of whiskey was found in a measure under the bar. The defendant objected to the introduction of this evidence of the acts of the bar-keeper in the absence of the defendant, unless it was shown in some way that

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the defendant knew and consented to them; but the judge ruled that they were admissible in evidence.

The defendant testified that, prior to May 1, 1887, he had been licensed; that nothing was for sale in the bar-room except hop beer and tonics, and that nothing intoxicating had been, to his knowledge, brought there or sold there since the expiration of his license.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

G. F. Piper, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

HOLMES, J. It was competent to prove the discovery of gin and whiskey in the defendant's bar-room. *Commonwealth* v. *Kahlmeyer*, 124 Mass. 322. *Commonwealth* v. *Intoxicating Liquors*, 116 Mass. 27. Therefore it was competent to prove the circumstances of the discovery. But, further, evidence of the bar-keeper's conduct was admissible in connection with the other facts as tending to show that the defendant was guilty. If liquor was kept for sale in the defendant's bar-room by the defendant's bar-keeper, the jury might think it unlikely, as matter of common experience, that it would be kept for sale there without the defendant's consent, and might infer his consent on that ground. *Commonwealth* v. *Briant*, 142 Mass. 463, 465. *Commonwealth* v. *Holmes*, 119 Mass. 195. *Commonwealth* v. *Edds*, 14 Gray, 406, 409. *Commonwealth* v. *Nichols*, 10 Met. 259. And they might infer that the liquor was kept there for the purpose of unlawful sale, from its presence and the attempt to conceal it.

Exceptions overruled.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* PATRICK H. CARROLL.

Middlesex. Nov. 22, 1887. — Jan. 2, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

A complaint may be made by any one who is competent to make oath to it.

If a court has jurisdiction over offences committed within a certain city, a complaint to that court, which alleges the offence to have been committed at that city, sufficiently alleges the jurisdiction of the court.

Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 206, the throwing of a missile at a car is a punishable offence, whether the car was in use at the time or not.

In a complaint for throwing a missile at a car, any defect in the description of the car, or defect in respect of the place where the car was at the time, is a defect in form, which cannot be availed of for the first time in the Superior Court on appeal.

Proof of a statute chartering a corporation under a particular name, and of other statutes authorizing the corporation to do particular acts, and the act of the railroad commissioners approving the consolidation of the corporation with another corporation, in pursuance of an authority conferred upon them by statute, will warrant a finding of the existence of the corporation, and of its ownership of property which it employs in exercising its franchise.

The existence of a corporation, not organized under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 106, and which has not availed itself of the provisions of § 22, may be proved, without producing the certificate of the Secretary of the Commonwealth mentioned in that section.

If a car is described in a complaint as the property of a certain street railway company, a witness may properly testify what words and marks were on the car, and another witness may testify that a car with those marks on it belonged to the company mentioned in the complaint.

At the trial of a complaint, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 206, for throwing a stone at a car, the judge is not required to give to the jury a definition of the word "stone."

COMPLAINT, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 206, by William F. Batchelder, to the Justice of the Third District Court of Eastern Middlesex, alleging that the defendant, on February 20, 1887, at Cambridge, "wilfully did throw a certain missile, to wit, a stone, at a certain street railway car of the property of the Cambridge Railroad Company, a corporation duly established by law."

In the Superior Court, on appeal, before the jury were empanelled, the defendant moved to quash the complaint, for the following reasons: 1. The complaint is not made by any competent and proper person or authority. 2. There is no averment, and nothing to show, that the alleged offence was

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within the jurisdiction of the lower court. 3. There is no proper and fit description of the railway car. 4. There is no proper and sufficient description of the place where the said car was, or in what street it was, or that it was in any public place whatever. *Barker*, J., overruled the motion.

The defendant was then tried, and found guilty; and a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows, was allowed.

The testimony tended to show that on Sunday, February 20, 1887, between four and five P. M., a certain horse-car was passing in and along Webster Avenue, at the junction of Windsor Street, in Cambridge, going towards Somerville, and that a stone was thrown from the sidewalk towards the car by some one, the stone not hitting the car, unless possibly by a rebound.

The government offered three witnesses, who testified that the defendant was the person who threw it. The defendant then testified that he threw no stone, and presented five witnesses, who were with him all the time, and who testified that he threw nothing. No stone or other missile was produced at the trial. Neither of the government witnesses undertook to describe the thing alleged to have been thrown, otherwise than as a stone, and about the size of a goose's egg, and dark.

The government offered in evidence the St. of 1853, *c.* 383, incorporating the Cambridge Railroad Company, the St. of 1872, *c.* 17, authorizing said company to increase its capital stock, the St. of 1883, *c.* 37, authorizing said company to issue mortgage bonds, and the St. of 1886, *c.* 229, allowing, with the approval of the railroad commissioners, any of the street railway companies authorized to run cars in the city of Boston to consolidate with any other street railway corporation. The government also offered in evidence an alleged agreement of consolidation between the Cambridge Railroad Company and another street railway company, dated in September, 1886, and having at the bottom the assent thereto of the railroad commissioners. The government produced no further evidence of the incorporation of the Cambridge Railroad Company.

The government asked one of its witnesses, "What, if anything, was painted on the car?" The defendant objected to the question, but the judge admitted it. The witness answered

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that he knew that the words "Webster Avenue and Park Square" were on it. Another government witness was asked the same question, under objection, and he replied that the words "Cambridge Railroad Company" were painted on the car; also, "No. 13."

The superintendent of the road testified that the car numbered 13, with the words painted outside, "Cambridge Railroad Company," was the property of the Cambridge Railroad Company.

The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury as follows: "1. The burden is upon the government to prove that the Cambridge Railroad Company was at the time of the alleged offence a duly incorporated company, and that that was its correct name; and that this car belonged to that corporation, and was then and there its property and in its possession, custody, control, and use. 2. There has been no competent legal evidence offered of the organization and existence of this alleged corporation. 3. The certificate of the Secretary of State is indispensable. 4. Under this complaint the burden is upon the government to prove, beyond reasonable doubt, that the alleged missile was a stone. It is not enough to show it to be a hard, compact body of any form or size. 5. A stone is a concretion of some species of earth, as lime, silex, clay, and the like, usually in combination with some species of air or gas, with sulphur, or with a metallic substance."

The judge declined to instruct the jury as requested, but instructed them as follows: "The government must prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, all the facts alleged in the complaint as alleged, except that the date is not material; that it was a stone, and not another missile; that the defendant did wilfully throw it at a certain railway car; that the car was the property of the Cambridge Railroad Company; and that that company was a corporation duly established by law. The judge declined to give the definition of a stone asked, or any definition of a stone or of a missile.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

G. W. Searle, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

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HOLMES, J. 1. The motion to quash was rightly overruled. Any one may make a complaint who is competent to make oath to it. The offence is alleged to have been committed at Cambridge, and therefore is shown to be within the jurisdiction of the court. St. 1882, *c.* 233. In the opinion of a majority of the court, the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 206, must be construed to punish throwing a missile at a car whether in use or not, and therefore it was unnecessary to allege that the car was in use at the time. It was also unnecessary to describe the car more particularly, and if there had been any defect in this respect, or in respect of the place, it would have been a defect of form, which could not be objected to for the first time in the Superior Court. Pub. Sts. *c.* 214, § 25.

2. The evidence of the existence of the corporation was competent. *Commonwealth* v. *Bakeman*, 105 Mass. 53, 60. Pub. Sts. *c.* 169, §§ 68, 69. The certificate of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, provided for in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 106, §§ 21, 22, is for corporations established under that chapter, or taking advantage of its provisions. It was also competent to prove the ownership of the car by the testimony of one witness describing its particular marks, coupled with that of another that the car bearing those marks belonged to the company. Moreover, possession was enough. Pub. Sts. *c.* 214, § 14.

3. The instructions requested were given in substance, so far as correct and material. The word "stone" did not need definition. *Exceptions overruled.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JOHN MCNEFF.

Middlesex. Nov. 22, 1887. — Jan. 2, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

On a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal keeping and sale of intoxicating liquors, if illegal sales on two different days are proved, the element of the continuing use of the tenement for that purpose, which would not necessarily follow from one sale, may be inferred by the jury.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal keeping and illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, it appeared that the defendant had a license of the first class to sell intoxicating liquors. There was

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evidence of sales made by the defendant to a person known by him to be a drunkard, and that at the trial of another case the defendant testified that he knew that this person had frequently been intoxicated, but had never sold to him when intoxicated, but only when he was not intoxicated. The judge instructed the jury that they must be satisfied that the defendant knew that this person was a drunkard, or that he had been intoxicated within six months. The judge further instructed the jury that evidence of sales to a person who was a drunkard or a person intoxicated, and known to the defendant to be intoxicated, would be evidence on which the jury might convict, but omitted to state the requirement of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 9, *cl.* 4, that the person must be "known to be a drunkard." The judge's attention was not called to this omission. *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception to the rulings given.

At the trial, on appeal, of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, the conviction of the defendant must be of the same offence of which he was convicted in the court below, but need not be upon the same evidence.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, evidence of illegal sales of such liquors was admitted, and the defendant's bill of exceptions did not show whether they were made during the time included in the complaint. *Held*, that the defendant showed no ground of exception.

COMPLAINT, to a trial justice, on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 101, §§ 6, 7, for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a tenement in Hopkinton, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, on May 1, 1886, and on divers other days and times between that day and November 1, 1886.

Trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

It was agreed that the defendant had a license of the first class to sell liquors to be drunk on the premises.

The government put in evidence tending to prove one sale at five o'clock in the morning of July 3, 1886, and another sale made at about the same hour on July 4, 1886, which was on Sunday. This was the evidence on which the defendant was convicted before the trial justice.

The government also offered evidence of sales made to one O'Brien, a person who testified that he had been a drunkard during the past year, that he had been convicted several times of drunkenness during the same period, and that he was known to have been a drunkard by the defendant.

The defendant objected to this evidence, on the ground that it was not evidence of the same offence of which he was convicted before the trial justice. The judge ruled that the evidence was

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admissible as tending to prove the offence alleged in the complaint. To this ruling the defendant excepted.

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There was evidence that in the trial of another case, in October, 1886, the defendant testified that he knew said O'Brien had frequently been intoxicated, but that he had never sold to him when he was intoxicated, although he had sold to him when he was not intoxicated.

The defendant objected to the admission of this testimony, on the ground that there was nothing to show that it referred to the time mentioned in the complaint. The judge ruled that the evidence was admissible, but that the jury must be satisfied that the defendant knew he was a drunkard, or that he had been intoxicated within six months; and the defendant excepted.

The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury, that a building cannot be said to be used for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, within the meaning of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 101, § 6, which makes it a nuisance, nor can the proprietor be said to keep or maintain such common nuisance, within § 7, on the strength of casual sales made without premeditation in the course of a lawful business; and that not only do the words "keep or maintain" import a certain degree of permanence, but the same idea is usually a part of the conception of a nuisance.

The judge refused so to rule, and instructed the jury that "evidence of more than one sale of intoxicating liquors by the defendant contrary to the terms of his license would be evidence for the jury to consider upon the question whether he kept a nuisance, and that evidence of one sale would not be sufficient to convict the defendant. Evidence of sales to a person who was a drunkard, or a person intoxicated and known to the defendant to be intoxicated, would be evidence on which the jury might convict the defendant if he kept the premises for the purpose of making such sales."

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

P. J. Doherty, for the defendant, cited *Commonwealth* v. *Adams*, 4 Gray, 27; *Commonwealth* v. *Patterson*, 138 Mass. 498, 500.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

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HOLMES, J. 1. *Commonwealth* v. *Patterson*, 138 Mass. 498, did not decide that even a single illegal sale might not be evidence of maintaining a liquor nuisance, (*Commonwealth* v. *Coolidge*, 138 Mass. 193,) but simply that a single sale, made it might be casually and without premeditation, could not be said necessarily, and as matter of law, to make the seller guilty of maintaining such a nuisance. If illegal sales on two different days were proved, the element of the continuing use of the building for that purpose, which would not necessarily follow from one sale, would be inferred more easily, and might be inferred by the jury. *Commonwealth* v. *Tabor*, 138 Mass. 496. *Commonwealth* v. *Murray*, 138 Mass. 508. The ruling of the court on this point was sufficiently favorable to the defendant.

There was an oversight in the instruction that "evidence of sales to a person who was a drunkard, or a person intoxicated and known to the defendant to be intoxicated, would be evidence," &c., as it did not explicitly require that the drunkard should be "known to be a drunkard." Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 9, *cl.* 4. But an important part of the evidence was admitted, as we understand it, partly at least, for the purpose of showing that the defendant knew that a person to whom he sold was a drunkard, and the jury were then told that they must be satisfied that the defendant knew it. The defendant's knowledge seems to have been one of the controversies in the case; and, as the judge's attention was not called to this slip of language, we think it fair to assume that the words "known to the defendant to be intoxicated" were understood to extend the requirement of knowledge by implication to the case of the drunkard also, or at least that the omission was not understood to overrule the requirement of knowledge which had been laid down before, and which the whole course of the case had shown to be insisted on as material.

2. The exceptions do not show when the sales to O'Brien took place. We infer that they were not the same sales which were proved before the trial justice; but if, as may be presumed, they were sales within the time during which the defendant is alleged in the complaint to have maintained the nuisance, they tended to establish the same offence of which the defendant was convicted below. *Commonwealth* v. *Ronan*, 126 Mass. 59. The

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sales were not the offence, as in *Commonwealth* v. *Blood*, 4 Gray, 31; but only evidence of the offence. But if the sales had been before the time laid in the complaint, they would have been admissible, so far as appears, upon the question whether the defendant kept the house. *Commonwealth* v. *Kelley*, 116 Mass. 341.

3. The evidence that the defendant testified in another case, in October, 1886, "that he knew said O'Brien had frequently been intoxicated, but that he had never sold to him when he was intoxicated, although he had sold to him when he was not intoxicated," was admissible as tending to show that the defendant knew that O'Brien was a drunkard between May 1 and November 1, 1886, if the other testimony showed sales to O'Brien during that time, which must be presumed, if material, against the excepting party. But if the sales to O'Brien were not made at that time, still, so far as appears, the evidence was admissible "as tending to show, in the absence of any apparent change, the nature of the defendant's continuous occupancy of the premises as keeper." *Commonwealth* v. *Carney*, 108 Mass. 417.

Exceptions overruled.

UNITED SOCIETY, CALLED SHAKERS, *vs.* FRANK A. BROOKS.

Berkshire. Sept. 27, 1887. — Jan. 3, 1888. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

A., the owner of land with growing trees upon it, entered into a contract, under seal, with B., which stated that A. "agrees to sell," and B. "agrees to buy" all the hemlock bark, and all the hemlock and spruce timber standing on the land. B. agreed to cut and remove the same within four years, to cut and remove a certain amount each year, and to pay certain prices per cord for the bark, and per thousand feet for the timber. It was further agreed that all the trees that were down, or that should thereafter fall, should be cut and paid for by B. The contract provided for measurements to be made by A. on notice to B., and for notice to A. by B. when a sufficient quantity was ready for measurement. *Held*, that the contract was an executory agreement for the sale of timber and bark; that the property in the trees did not pass to B. until they were cut; and that, on B.'s not fulfilling his contract, A. was entitled to recover only such damages as he had sustained on the basis that the timber and bark remained his property until severed from the soil.

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CONTRACT, for breach of the following instrument, under seal, executed by the parties in the presence of one witness:

"This agreement, made this twenty-seventh day of December, A. D. 1879, by and between the United Society, called Shakers, of Pittsfield and Hancock in said county of Berkshire, and Franklin A. Brooks of North Adams in said county of Berkshire, witnesseth: That the said United Society agrees to sell and Brooks agrees to buy all the hemlock bark and all the hemlock and spruce timber now standing, growing, and being on the land owned by said United Society, and situate in Stamford in the State of Vermont, and known as the 'Mountain lot,' containing about four hundred acres of land. And said Brooks agrees to purchase, take, cut, and remove all the hemlock timber and hemlock bark from said Mountain lot within four years from this date, and also all the spruce timber within five years from this date, and agrees to pay for the same the following sums or prices, viz.: all hemlock bark the sum or price of two and 25-100 dollars per cord, all hemlock lumber at one dollar and twelve and one half cents per thousand feet, and all spruce timber two and 75-100 dollars per thousand feet. All hemlock bark in each and every year cut and peeled shall be paid for on or before September first in each and every year. And all hemlock and spruce timber cut in each and every year shall be paid for respectively on the first days of June and December in each and every year, all payments to be made at the office of said United Society in said Pittsfield. Said Brooks shall cut, peel, and pay for not less than one hundred and fifty cords of hemlock bark in each and every year until the end of the term, or until all the hemlock bark is cut, peeled, and removed from said Mountain lot, and said Brooks shall also cut, remove, and pay for at least one fifth part of all the spruce timber on said Mountain lot in each and every year during the entire term, or until the whole is cut, removed, and paid for; it is also further hereby agreed that all spruce and hemlock trees which are down, or which may hereafter fall, which will make fair merchantable lumber, shall be cut, removed, measured, and paid for by said Brooks. And said Brooks is also to use due care in cutting and removing said spruce and hemlock lumber, so as not to injure the hard-wood timber which may be on said Mountain lot. And

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said Brooks is to cut and remove all the spruce and hemlock lumber and timber clean as he goes, and to do the same in a proper, skilful, and workmanlike manner, and he shall cut, remove, and pay for all such spruce and hemlock timber as will measure six inches through at the small end.

"It is also hereby agreed that the hemlock bark may be measured on the lot, or in the tannery yard of said Brooks, or at both of said places, as shall be found most convenient. The trustee of said United Society, or their agent, shall measure all the hemlock bark, and said Brooks or his agent may be present at all such measurements and see that the same is fairly and properly measured, and said trustee or their agent shall give said Brooks due notice of all measurements of bark in order that he or his agent may, if he desires, be present at such measurements. All spruce and hemlock logs shall be measured in the saw-mill yard, in lots of ten thousand feet and upwards, to be measured by the trustee of said United Society or their agent, giving notice, &c. in the same way as is to be done in the measurement of the said hemlock bark. All the hemlock and spruce timber and logs shall be measured by the rule known as Scribner's rule for measuring timber in the log, and shall be measured as follows, viz.: All logs sixteen feet long and under to be measured at the small end; all logs from and above sixteen feet to thirty feet in length are to be measured at the middle, and all logs above thirty feet in length shall be measured in sections of twelve feet each, all by Scribner's rule.

"And it is further hereby agreed that after the first year of this agreement the said United Society may and shall have the right to put on to said Mountain lot men to cut and remove the hard-wood timber, or they may sell the same to others to cut and remove, and said Brooks shall in no way hinder or interrupt them in so doing. Nor shall said United Society, or those whom they put on or sell to, in any way or manner hinder or interrupt said Brooks in his work of cutting, peeling, and removing the bark, spruce and hemlock timber, but both and all shall do all in their power to accommodate each other.

"And said Brooks shall as often as he shall get ten thousand or more feet of lumber ready to be measured, and when he shall have a quantity of bark peeled and ready for measurement he

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shall notify the said United Society or their agent of that fact, and the same shall be then measured as before stated."

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Writ dated October 19, 1885, and returnable to the Superior Court.

The case was sent to an auditor, who made a report, in substance as follows: At the time of making the contract the parties thereto were and they still are residents of this county. The defendant, working under it, has cut and sold from the premises referred to therein two hundred and eleven thousand feet of spruce lumber, one hundred and fifty thousand feet of hemlock lumber, and one hundred and nine cords of bark. A few thousand feet of timber, cut under the authority of the defendant, remain on the lot, but the defendant has paid for all timber and bark cut on said lot by him or his authority, the last payment being made about July 1, 1884, by a note which matured about September 1, 1884. No peeling of bark has been done by the defendant, or by any one acting under him, on said lot, since the fall of 1880. The last cutting of timber on the lot by the defendant, or those claiming under him, was done in the spring of 1884. The plaintiff has in all respects complied with its part of said contract. There is a quantity of spruce and hemlock timber, with bark, now growing on the lot mentioned in the contract, and covered by its terms or stipulations.

The plaintiff contended that said contract, being under seal, operated to convey to the defendant a present or immediate title to the spruce and hemlock timber and hemlock bark growing on said lot, with a certain interest in the soil of the lot, and that, under said contract, it was entitled to recover, as damages, the value of said spruce and hemlock timber and bark so growing on said lot, at the price therefor named in said contract, with interest thereon.

The defendant contended that said contract was executory only, and that it did not, by its terms and in legal effect, at once transfer to the defendant the title to the said spruce and hemlock timber, and hemlock bark, and that, under said contract, the plaintiff could only recover such damages as it should prove it had suffered; and that said damages must be assessed upon the basis that the said timber and bark, so far as the same were

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unsevered from the soil, had continued, since the execution of said contract, the property of the plaintiff.

The defendant further contended, that, if said contract was to be construed as conveying to the defendant, immediately upon its execution, the title to, and ownership of, said timber and bark, and an interest in the soil of said lot, then the said contract was invalid by the law of the State of Vermont. Upon this question were cited in evidence the Gen. Sts. of Vt. *c.* 65, § 4, and the following decisions of the Supreme Court of that State. *Day* v. *Adams*, 42 Vt. 510. *Mining & Quarrying Co.* v. *Windham County Bank*, 44 Vt. 489. *Cady* v. *Sanford*, 53 Vt. 632.

The parties agreed that the time for getting off from said lot the hemlock timber and bark should be considered as having expired on January 1, 1884, and for getting off the spruce timber on January 1, 1885.

The auditor found that on January 1, 1884, there were left standing on said lot one hundred and fifty thousand feet of hemlock timber, and one hundred and sixteen cords of hemlock bark, and that on January 1, 1885, there were left standing on said lot two hundred and thirty thousand feet of spruce timber, all of which it was the defendant's duty, according to the terms of the said contract, to have cut, removed, and paid for.

The auditor further found, that, if the plaintiff's contention was correct, it was entitled to recover $1062.25, with interest; and that, if the defendant's contention was correct, the plaintiff was entitled to recover $300, with interest from the date of the writ.

At the hearing, before *Bacon*, J., the auditor's report was put in evidence, and the judge ruled that the plaintiff was entitled to recover the larger sum stated in the report, and ordered judgment accordingly. The defendant alleged exceptions.

A. Potter, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman & E. M. Wood, for the plaintiff.

KNOWLTON, J. We are to determine in this case whether the writing declared on passed a title to the defendant in the trees growing upon the land, or whether it was an executory agreement for the sale of chattels, to take effect after they should appear in the form of timber, lumber, and bark.

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An oral contract purporting to be a present sale of growing wood and timber, with a privilege of entering upon the land to remove it, is held not to be within the statute of frauds, but a sale of chattels, which changes the ownership as fast as the trees are severed from the real estate under the license granted to the purchaser. *Claflin* v. *Carpenter*, 4 Met. 583. *Giles* v. *Simonds*, 15 Gray, 441. *Drake* v. *Wells*, 11 Allen, 141. If a contract for the sale of growing wood and timber is in the form required for a conveyance of real property, it becomes a question of construction, upon the language of the whole instrument, whether it was intended immediately to pass a title to an interest in land, or whether by its terms it is executory. *White* v. *Foster*, 102 Mass. 375.

In the case at bar, the property was in Vermont, and the parties entered into a contract, under seal, which was not signed in the presence of two witnesses, or acknowledged, or recorded, as was required by the law of that State, to make a conveyance of an interest in land good against others than the grantor and his heirs. By the first language of stipulation in the instrument, the plaintiff agreed to sell, and the defendant agreed to buy, "all the hemlock bark, and the hemlock and spruce timber, now standing," &c. In the next sentence the defendant agreed "to purchase, take, cut, and remove" the timber and bark "within four years" from the date of the agreement. Then followed provisions as to the quantity to be cut in each year, the prices to be paid per cord for the bark, and per thousand for the hemlock lumber and for the spruce timber, and the times for payments. Measurements were to be made by the plaintiff or its agent, at places specified in the contract, with notice to the defendant in all cases to enable him to be present at them. Other details for proceeding in execution of the contract were inserted, with a stipulation in these words, "It is also further agreed that all spruce and hemlock trees, which are down, or which may hereafter fall, which will make fair merchantable lumber, shall be cut, removed, measured, and paid for by said Brooks."

The language of the writing was "agrees to sell," and "agrees to buy," not "sells," and "buys." In the second sentence four years were given in which to perform the agreement "to purchase,"

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as well as the agreement "to take, cut, and remove" the timber. The instrument in all its parts seemed to look to future action and future results, rather than to a present change of title. The property to be transferred had no existence in the form in which it was referred to in the contract. It was called bark, lumber, and timber, and was to be first put into that form, and then measured and paid for, at certain prices by the cord and by the thousand.

The general rule as to sales of personal property is, "that where any operation, as surveying, weighing, measuring, counting, or the like, remains to be performed, in order to ascertain the price, or the quantity, or the parcel to be delivered, the contract is incomplete, and the property does not pass." *Mason* v. *Thompson*, 18 Pick. 305.

Interpreting this instrument in the light of all its provisions, we find it to have been, not an executed contract of sale, but executory. It follows, that, so long as the timber and bark remained standing, no property in it passed under the contract, and that the value of the wood and timber left uncut upon the lot should not have been included in the damages awarded to the plaintiff at the trial. Upon the facts there presented, the plaintiff should have been permitted to recover, as damages for the non-fulfilment of the defendant's contract, $300, and interest from the date of the writ.

Exceptions sustained.

HELEN E. PHELPS *vs.* GEORGE W. PHELPS & others, executors, & others.

Hampden. Sept. 27, 1887. — Jan. 3, 1888. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

A bill in equity, brought by a creditor of A., was submitted to this court upon an agreed statement of facts, which showed that the plaintiff was a creditor of A.; that A. was a *cestui que trust* under a will, which gave him the income of certain property for the support of himself and his son, and provided that the support of the son should be as the father directed; and that all claims against the estate of the testator had been paid, and the executors of the will had a large amount

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of property in their hands applicable to the bequest to A. and his son; but did not show the amount of the trust fund, nor the income, nor the age and condition of the son, nor what was needed for his support, nor whether the whole or any part had been appropriated for that purpose. *Held*, that the case stated was imperfect, and should be discharged.

BILL IN EQUITY against the executors of the will of Willis Phelps, John Wesley Phelps, and Willis Phelps, 2d, alleging the following facts:

On March 26, 1885, the plaintiff was divorced from John Wesley Phelps, and said John was ordered by a decree of this court to pay her, as alimony, the sum of $1200 annually, in equal quarterly payments, after the date of the decree. One of these payments has become due, and said John has neglected to pay the same; and he has no property which can be come at to be taken to satisfy any execution which might issue therefor.

The will of Willis Phelps, after disposing of the income of one half of his estate, provides as follows: "The income of the other half of my estate, both real and personal, ... is to be given to my son, John Wesley Phelps, for the support of himself and son, Willis Phelps, 2d. (The support of the son shall be as the father shall elect.)"

The bill further alleged that there was then in the hands and possession of the executors a large amount of property, both real and personal, and the proceeds of real estate sold by authority of the will; "that the income of one half thereof is largely in excess of the amount needed for the proper support of said Willis Phelps, ... and largely in excess of any sum by the said John W. used and appropriated therefor;" and "that the excess thereof, above what is reasonably necessary for the support of said Willis Phelps, or the whole thereof, is payable to said John W. Phelps, and should be used for the payment of the alimony decreed to the plaintiff, as the same from time to time becomes due."

The prayer of the bill was for a decree directing the executors to pay to the plaintiff the amount then payable to her under said decree, and, from time to time thereafter, to pay such sums as should become due thereunder, out of the income of said one half of said estate, after making suitable provision for the

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support of Willis Phelps, 2d, and for a decree fixing the amount to be appropriated for his support.

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The case was heard by *W. Allen*, J., and reserved for the consideration of the full court, upon an agreed statement of facts, which, after stating that the pleadings might be referred to, proceeded in substance as follows:

John W. Phelps has paid nothing under the decree for alimony. Willis Phelps, 2d, is a minor, under the care of his father, and without means of support, except under the provisions of said will. More than two years have elapsed since the executors gave bonds for the performance of their trust, due notice was given of the appointment, all claims against the estate have been paid, and there is a large amount of personal and real estate in the hands of the executors in this State, to which the residuary clause of said will applies.

If, in the opinion of the court, the bill can be maintained, the case may be referred to a master to determine the amount of the income of said estate, and what part thereof should be applied for the maintenance of Willis Phelps, 2d, and what part for the satisfaction of the plaintiff's claim, subject to such rights as the executors of said will, or any person interested in said will, may have, if any, to retain or hold any sums due said John W. under said will, for any debts or sums owing by him to said estate, or to the testator in his lifetime.

G. Wells, for the plaintiff.

G. M. Stearns, for J. W. Phelps and W. Phelps.

MORTON, C. J. The statement of facts upon which the case is submitted to the court is imperfect, and does not contain enough to enable us to determine the rights of the parties. It has been held that, under the will of Willis Phelps, his son John W. Phelps does not take the income of one half of the residue absolutely, but it comes into his hands charged with a trust for the support of his son Willis Phelps, who could enforce its due appropriation in part for his benefit in a court of equity. *Phelps* v. *Phelps*, 143 Mass. 570.

Under the terms of this will, John W. would have the right to appropriate the whole of the income coming to him for the support of Willis, if it was reasonably needed for that purpose. The plaintiff's bill proceeds upon this view of the will, and

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alleges that "the income of one half thereof is largely in excess of the amount needed for the proper support of the said Willis Phelps, ... and largely in excess of any sum by the said John W. used or appropriated therefor." But the statement of facts does not show what the amount of the trust fund is, what the income is, what the age or condition of Willis is, or what is needed for his support, or whether the whole or any part of it has or not been appropriated for that purpose. It is not the right of parties or their counsel to submit a case upon a statement of facts which is imperfect and inconclusive in itself, with an agreement that if, upon any facts, the plaintiff's case can be maintained, the case may be referred to a master or assessor to determine whether such vital facts exist. This is what the parties have attempted in this case. It is asking the court to pass upon a case which may never arise, and to decide questions which may be purely speculative. *Smith* v. *Cudworth*, 24 Pick. 196.

We can only decide now that upon the facts stated the plaintiff cannot maintain her bill. Whether she can do so upon any state of facts cannot be decided until the facts are settled. But, as the case was probably presented in this form under a misapprehension as to the rights of the parties, we are of opinion that the just and proper result is that the reservation and case stated should be discharged. *Old Colony Railroad* v. *Wilder*, 137 Mass. 536. *Order accordingly.*

MANUFACTURERS' FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY *vs.* WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Suffolk. Nov. 14, 1887. — Jan. 3, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

A policy of insurance against loss by fire was issued by an insurance company to a corporation, payable to "A., trustee for mortgage bondholders." By the terms of the policy it was to become void, if, without the assent of the insurer, any change should take place in title or possession. On the same day the insurance company reinsured one half of its risk, and received a policy made out on a printed blank form adapted to insurance on property directly. By the printed

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provisions a sale or transfer of the property insured, or the entry of a decree of foreclosure, without the consent of the insurer, terminated the risk. Attached to the policy was a slip, also in print, as follows: "This policy to be subject to the same risks, conditions, valuations, indorsements, privileges, assignments, and mode of settlement as are or may be assumed or adopted by" the first company, "and the loss, if any, payable *pro rata*, at the same time and in the same manner as by said company." Subsequently, the mortgage was foreclosed, and the property sold. It was bought by a person representing the bondholders, to whom the first policy was assigned, with the assent of the company issuing it; but no notice was given to the company reinsuring the risk. A loss by fire afterwards occurred, and was paid by the first company. *Held*, that it could maintain an action on the policy of reinsurance for the amount thereby insured.

CONTRACT upon a policy of reinsurance. The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and, after judgment for the plaintiff, to this court, on appeal, on agreed facts in substance as follows:

On October 27, 1884, the plaintiff issued a policy of insurance, numbered 264,895, on certain property of the Indianapolis Cotton Manufacturing Company, against loss by fire, for the term of one year from the date of the policy, "loss, if any, payable to George B. Yandes, trustee for mortgage bondholders, as his interest may appear." By the terms of the policy it was to become void, "if, without the assent in writing or in print of the company, any change shall take place in title or possession."

On the same day, the defendant issued to the plaintiff the policy declared on. This policy was made by filling out the blank form used by the defendant in insuring property directly, and not the form used for reinsurance, and by attaching to the policy a slip, called a reinsurance slip. On this slip was the following: "$2500 on its [the Manufacturers' Insurance Company's] liability as insurers under its policy No. 264,895, issued at its Indianapolis agency to Indianapolis Cotton Manufacturing Company for $5000, as follows. [Then followed a description of the property.] This policy to be subject to the same risks, conditions, valuations, indorsements, privileges, assignments, and mode of settlement as are or may be assumed or adopted by the Manufacturers' Insurance Company, and the loss, if any, and expense of adjustment, payable *pro rata* at the same time and in the same manner as by said company. Other reinsurance permitted." On a blank space in the policy were written these words: "It is understood and agreed that the Manufacturers'

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Ins. Co. of Boston will retain at its own risk an amount upon this risk equal to this policy."

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Then followed certain printed provisions, among which were these:

"1. If, ... without the consent of this company written hereon, ... the property be sold or transferred, or upon the passing or entry of a decree of foreclosure, or upon a sale under a deed of trust, or if the property insured be assigned under any bankrupt or insolvent law, or any change take place in title or possession (except in case of succession by reason of the death of the assured), whether by legal process or judicial decree, or voluntary transfer or conveyance; or if this policy shall be assigned before a loss without the consent of this company indorsed hereon, ... this policy shall become void."

"3. When property has been sold and delivered or is otherwise disposed of, so that all interest or liability for loss thereon by fire or otherwise on the part of the assured herein named has ceased, this insurance on such property shall immediately terminate."

"7. The use of general terms or anything less than a distinct specific agreement clearly expressed and indorsed on this policy, shall not be construed as a waiver of any printed or written condition or restriction herein."

The property insured was on October 27, 1884, the property of the Indianapolis Cotton Manufacturing Company. It was mortgaged for over $40,000 to George B. Yandes, trustee, as security for certain negotiable bonds.

The plaintiff's policy was taken out by said cotton manufacturing company, in accordance with a covenant in said bonds, to insure the property mortgaged for the benefit of the mortgagee, but this was never communicated to the defendant company, and the premiums were paid by said cotton manufacturing company. Prior to December 6, 1884, a suit was brought to foreclose said mortgage; and, in pursuance of a decree made in said suit, a foreclosure sale of said property was made on December 6, 1884. At this sale, the property was bid in by Henry Schnull, trustee, on behalf of the holders of the mortgage bonds aforesaid. The sum bid was less than the amount due under the mortgage. By the laws then in force in the State of

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Indiana, the purchase by Schnull vested the title to the property in him, subject to a right on the part of the Indianapolis Cotton Manufacturing Company to redeem the property mortgaged by paying the amount due upon the mortgage, with interest, within one year after the date of the sale. Upon December 6, the policy issued by the plaintiff was assigned by the cotton manufacturing company, with the consent of Yandes, to Schnull, as trustee, and said assignment of the policy, and the change in the title and possession of the property insured, stated above, were both duly consented to, in writing, by the plaintiff company, the written consent being indorsed on the back of the policy issued by the plaintiff, but were not known or consented to by the defendant company.

On December 27, 1884, the property insured was damaged by fire, under such circumstances as to create a liability on the part of the plaintiff company under its policy. Notice of the loss was given by the assured to the plaintiff company on December 29, 1884, and a statement in writing in regard to the loss, in the form required by the plaintiff's policy, and sworn to by the insured, was rendered to the company on January 6, 1885, and Schnull did all things necessary to entitle him to the payment by the plaintiff company of the loss under said policy. The total amount of insurance on said property, including the plaintiff's policy, was $30,000. The plaintiff company duly adjusted with Schnull the amount of damage to the property insured at the sum of $24,000, and it was agreed that the immediate loss and damage to the property insured, estimated according to the actual cash value of the property at the time of the loss was $24,000. The plaintiff's portion of the total loss, namely, $4000, was on January 9, 1885, paid by the plaintiff to Schnull, as trustee. The plaintiff incurred expenses in the adjustment of said loss, amounting to seventeen dollars and fifty cents, and these expenses were reasonable and proper under the circumstances.

Notice of the fire and loss was given by the plaintiff to the defendant on Monday, December 29, 1885, the same day on which the notice was given to the plaintiff by Schnull, and proofs of loss, as required by the defendant's policy, were duly rendered by the plaintiff, and received by the defendant at the

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Indianapolis office on January 10, 1885. The plaintiff retained, at its own risk, an amount equal to the defendant's policy. The plaintiff demanded from the defendant, on said January 10th, the payment of $2000, its proportion of the loss on the property insured, and $8.75, being one half the amount of the expenses incurred in the adjustment.

W. C. Loring, for the plaintiff.

H. D. Hyde, for the defendant.

KNOWLTON, J. The contract entered into by the defendant with the plaintiff differed materially from an ordinary contract to insure a general owner against damage to his property by fire. While in a sense it was an insurance upon property, it was strictly a contract of indemnity against risk under another contract which had been entered into by the assured. The assured was not the owner of the property at risk, and had no relation to it except as insurer under the original policy. In that relation it had an insurable interest in it, and could enter into any proper contract for the protection of that interest. *Eastern Railroad* v. *Relief Ins. Co.* 98 Mass. 420. But, manifestly, many provisions appropriate to an ordinary agreement with the owner of property for the insurance of it could have no proper application to the agreement made by these parties.

The defence relied on is that there was a change of title to the buildings and machinery referred to in the defendant's policy, and an assignment of the policy issued by the plaintiff upon them, and an assent by the plaintiff to that assignment, all without the consent of the defendant.

It appears upon inspection of the defendant's policy, and is agreed by the parties, that it was prepared upon a printed blank, commonly used in writing policies to insure against loss upon property by the owners of it. This blank contained stipulations making void the policy, if, without the written consent of the company, the subject of the insurance should be sold or transferred, or any change should take place in title or possession, or the policy should be assigned before loss; and these stipulations appear in the policy declared on.

It is often doubtful how far provisions which relate to the conduct of an assured person as general owner of that which is the subject of the contract should be given effect, in a policy to

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indemnify against a risk which the assured has taken upon the property of another. That can only be determined in a given case by a careful scrutiny of the different parts of the writing to ascertain its meaning. Whenever words are found in a contract which can have no proper application to the subject to which it relates, they cannot be regarded; and, not infrequently, the careless use of printed blanks compels recognition of this rule. The policy in this case contained many provisions which were originally intended to regulate the conduct of an owner in relation to his property before and after a possible fire. The nature of the risk against which it insured, if there were no special stipulation pertaining to it, would suggest troublesome questions with reference to the applicability of these provisions to this peculiar kind of insurance, some of which it might be necessary to decide. But, in connection with the statement of the risk, the following sentence was inserted, which relieves the case of this difficulty: "This policy to be subject to the same risks, conditions, valuations, indorsements, privileges, assignments, and mode of settlement as are or may be assumed or adopted by the Manufacturers' Insurance Company, and the loss, if any, and expense of adjustment, payable *pro rata* at the same time and in the same manner as by said company. Other reinsurance permitted."

By this language the defendant bound itself by what had been, and by what might be, assumed and adopted by the plaintiff, properly pertaining to the risk which it was reinsuring. This agreement rendered nugatory many printed portions of the policy in which it was inserted. This was special and peculiar, pertaining directly to the subject matter of the contract, and it controlled those parts of the policy which were inconsistent with it. It assumed knowledge on the part of the defendant of all the terms and conditions of the plaintiff's policy, and it implied that the plaintiff, as the original insurer, might properly "assume or adopt . . . . risks, conditions, valuations, indorsements, privileges, assignments, and modes of settlement," without materially changing the nature of the liability created by the original policy. It did not authorize the plaintiff to charge the defendant by the assumption of a new risk of a different character, or to materially enlarge the existing one. But it covered whatever an insurance

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company, in accordance with the general usage of such companies in like cases, would do, in the proper performance of its duty, for the continuation of the same risk, having due regard to the rights and interests of both insurer and insured.

The plaintiff consented to that which continued its liability under the policy which it had issued. When the trustee of the mortgage bondholders, to whom the policy was payable, took measures to foreclose his mortgage, and the property was bought under a judicial sale by an agent of these bondholders, there was a change of title, although the mortgagor under the law of Indiana still had a year in which to redeem by paying the mortgage debt. It was provided in the policy issued by the plaintiff, that a change of title not assented to in writing by the company should render the policy void. Thereupon, to continue the insurance, the plaintiff assented in writing to this change, and also to an assignment of the policy, made by a mortgagor to the purchaser at the judicial sale, who represented the bondholders, and who afterward held the policy in the same interest as the mortgagee had done, to whom it was at first made payable.

The only change which occurred was hardly more than a technical transfer of the legal estate. The validity of the policy was preserved by the plaintiff's indorsement of consent upon it. The defendant, in the sentence which we have quoted, expressly agreed that its policy should be subject to "indorsements" and "assignments" upon the plaintiff's policy, to be afterward "assumed or adopted" by the plaintiff. The language chosen was apt to cover what the plaintiff did, and fully justified it. The defendant, therefore, cannot now be relieved from liability on the ground that a change in ownership which did not affect the risk was assented to by the plaintiff to prevent a forfeiture.

This conclusion not only results from a proper construction of the language of the parties touching this subject, but is consistent with the manifest purpose and spirit of their contract. The defendant agreed to assume half the risk of the plaintiff upon the buildings and machinery insured. It was expressly agreed that the plaintiff should retain at its own risk an equal amount under its own policy. Both parties understood that an insurance company, to do a successful business, must deal equitably with its patrons, and hold itself in readiness to consent to

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changes in the situation and ownership of subjects of insurance which do not affect the risk, and which the necessities or convenience of policy-holders require. Contracts for reinsurance are properly made with reference to this recognized principle; and it is not unnatural that discretionary power should be given the original underwriter with reference to modifications of the contract which are commonly made, and which do not change its character. A partial guaranty for the proper exercise of that discretion may be obtained, as was done in this case, by requiring the reinsured company to continue to carry, on its own account, a part of the risk reinsured. The interests of all parties may be served, and their rights protected, by inserting in the contract a liberal provision, like that in the policy before us.

Courts of New York, and also of Maryland, in dealing with somewhat different questions under policies of reinsurance, have reached conclusions not unlike our own. *Jackson* v. *St. Paul Ins. Co.* 99 N. Y. 124. *Consolidated Ins. Co.* v. *Cashow*, 41 Md. 59. *Judgment affirmed.*

CHARLOTTE A. RING & another *vs.* PHŒNIX ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Suffolk. Nov. 14, 1887. — Jan. 3, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

A policy of insurance was issued, in the form prescribed by the Pub. Sts. c. 119, § 139, against loss by fire, upon chattels, while contained in a certain house "occupied the year around." A loss occurred in May, and during the previous October, and for a few days before and after, the house was unoccupied. The judge instructed the jury that the plaintiff must satisfy them that the building containing the property answered the description in the policy at the time when the contract was made and at the time of the fire, and the attention of the jury was called to the nature of the occupancy as a circumstance to be considered in determining whether the house could be called a building "occupied all the year around." *Held*, that the instructions were sufficiently favorable to the defendant, and that the action could be maintained.

Under the Pub. Sts. c. 119, §§ 138, 139, 181, a misrepresentation made in obtaining a policy of fire insurance is to be deemed material, if the matter misrepresented increases the risk of loss, although not made with intent to deceive.

HOLMES, J. The policy sued upon is a Massachusetts standard policy. Pub. Sts. *c.* 119, § 139. The "description of

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property insured" describes various chattels, "all while contained in the frame dwelling-house known as the 'Pebbly Beach House,' Bass Rocks, Gloucester, Mass., (on Ocean Avenue,) and occupied the year around." The judge instructed the jury that the plaintiffs must satisfy them that the building containing the property insured answered the above description at the time when the contract was made, and also at the time of the fire. The fire took place on May 4, 1884, and the attention of the jury was directed to the fact, that during the previous October, and for a few days before and after, the family in charge lived in the adjoining laundry building, and not in the house where the insured property was, as a circumstance to be considered by them in determining whether it properly could be called a building "occupied all the year around."

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These instructions were sufficiently favorable to the defendant. Assuming that the jury could not have found that the break in October was of so trifling a nature as not to prevent its remaining a house "occupied all the year around," or that the house was occupied in October, and assuming also that the words quoted look to the future occupation of the house, and that the plaintiff could not have recovered for a loss while the house was unoccupied, the stipulation must be taken to have been satisfied if the permanent occupation was resumed so long before the fire that the temporary absence of an occupant plainly appears to have had no connection with the loss. *Hinckley* v. *Germania Ins. Co.* 140 Mass. 38.

The description is not a description of the insured articles, but of the house where they are contained; and although the introductory words, "while contained in," governing the whole clause, fairly enough may be held to confine the operation of the policy to such time as the articles are contained in a house answering to the whole of that description, we see no reason why they should do more than suspend the insurance while the articles are not contained in such a house. The fact that the house was unoccupied for a short time six months before the fire, can have no greater effect than removing the goods to safety deposit vaults would have done. In either case, we assume, the goods would not have been covered by the insurance for the time being; but it would be a startling proposition that in the latter

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case the insurers would have had a right to repudiate the policy after the goods had been brought back to the place mentioned in it.

After instructing the jury concerning the contract, the court proceeded to deal with certain representations made by one who, as the court stated, "was confessedly the authorized agent and representative of the plaintiffs." These were contained in a paper headed "Application for insurance," and in a letter and a plan accompanying it. Some of these representations were similar to the statements in the policy already discussed, and necessarily fell under consideration with the rest as representations. But all that was said plainly referred to the contents of these other papers, and did not qualify or change the instructions with regard to the stipulations of the contract.

So far as the occupation of the house was concerned, the representation seems to have been of no importance as such, since the clause was made a part of the contract, and the plaintiffs were held to the rules applicable to such a clause when part of the contract. *Goddard* v. *Monitor Ins. Co.* 108 Mass. 56, 59. But there was also a representation, not made part of the contract, that there were no houses within one hundred feet, which may not have been literally accurate, because the pool-room belonging to the house, but in a separate building, was not mentioned.

The jury were instructed to consider whether the facts stated were matters material to the risk, — "whether insurance companies are accustomed to charge more where there are wooden buildings near to that which they are about to insure" (*Luce* v. *Dorchester Ins. Co.* 105 Mass. 297, 301); if the facts were material, whether the representations were false; and, if false, whether the representations were made innocently and by mistake, and so fairly made. We are of opinion that there was error in putting the last question to the jury, and in thus allowing them to find for the plaintiffs if they had made misrepresentations on matters which increased the risk of loss, provided they had not been guilty of fraud.

It is true that the St. of 1864, *c.* 196, now the Pub. Sts. *c.* 119, § 138, enacts, with regard to fire insurance, that the application shall not be considered as a warranty or a part of the contract. But it seems to have been thought in *Eastern Railroad*

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v. *Relief Ins. Co.* 98 Mass. 420, 426, that this statute did not change the common law rule bearing upon this case, concerning representations forming the basis of a policy. *Kimball* v. *Ætna Ins. Co.* 9 Allen, 540, 542. *Campbell* v. *New England Ins. Co.* 98 Mass. 381, 390, 396. *Moens* v. *Heyworth*, 10 M. & W. 147, 157, 158. However this may be, the effect of the later St. of 1878, *c.* 157, now the Pub. Sts. *c.* 119, § 181, is, that, if the matter misrepresented increases the risk of loss, it still may defeat the policy, although not made with intent to deceive. The provision of § 138, that the application shall not be considered a warranty, means only that an inquiry into the effect of matters there represented upon the risk of loss shall not be cut off, and that substantial accuracy as to material facts shall be sufficient. Perhaps the rest of the section makes it more difficult to say, as in the decisions cited, that in case of a material misrepresentation there has been no agreement upon the subject matter of the contract, because that form of statement seems to imply that material representations are tacitly incorporated into the description in the contract of the property insured, and thus to bring the cases within the principles of *Goddard* v. *Monitor Ins. Co.*, *ubi supra*, *Gardner* v. *Lane*, 98 Mass. 517, *S. C.* 12 Allen, 39, and 9 Allen, 492, where there was a disagreement between the express words of the description and the designated object. But although misrepresentations which form no part of a contract in any sense, but merely offer motives for making it, commonly do not affect its validity unless fraudulent, it is perfectly possible to require the insured to see at his peril that his material statements are true, if it is thought politic to do so, because of the necessity which the insurer is under of seeking the information, and of getting it in that way. So the law stood after the St. of 1878, and probably before; *Eastern Railroad* v. *Relief Ins. Co.*, *ubi supra;* and whether it required a change in the mode of statement or not is unimportant for our present purposes. The substantive reasons which led to the common law rule are still recognized as in full force.

There has been no change in the law since, unless one was made by the St. of 1881, *c.* 166, now the Pub. Sts. *c.* 119, § 139, fixing the form of the standard policy. The material language is, "This policy shall be void if any material fact or

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circumstance stated in writing has not been fairly represented by the insured." Of course it is possible to read the word "fairly" as meaning "honestly," and as cutting down the effect of misrepresentations which form the basis of insurance to the single case of fraud. But it is just as possible to read the word as requiring a fair correspondence between the representation and the fact; and in view of the well-known reasons for requiring it to which we have referred, and of the fact that the St. of 1878 stands upon the statute-book in § 181 unmodified, although manifestly inconsistent with the former interpretation, we are of opinion that this latter reading must be adopted.

Exceptions sustained.

A. Russ & J. D. Bryant, for the defendant.

L. W. Howes, for the plaintiffs.

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JAMES W. CROWLEY.

Suffolk. Nov. 21, 1887. — Jan. 3, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

A person who keeps open a shop on the Lord's day for the purpose of selling therein bread and pastry, not made by him, but bought for the purpose of resale, is not a "baker," within the meaning of that word in the St. of 1886, *c.* 82, although he has a small stove in his shop in which his wife sometimes bakes a few cookies or ginger-snaps, which he sells; and he may be convicted, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 98, § 2, of keeping open his shop for the purpose of doing business therein.

COMPLAINT on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 98, § 2, alleging that the defendant, at Boston, on March 13, 1887, that day being the Lord's day, kept open his shop "for the purpose of doing business therein, the same not being then and there works of necessity or charity."

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Dewey*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The defendant testified that on Sunday, March 13, 1887, between the hours of eight and nine o'clock in the forenoon, he kept open a shop, situated on Cambridge Street in Boston, and of which he was the proprietor, for the purpose of selling therein,

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on said day, bread, pastry, and milk; that he also had in said shop certain groceries and fancy articles which he sold on other days, but not on Sunday, and that he did not keep his shop open for the purpose of selling these last-mentioned articles on said Sunday; that he did not make, or cause to be made, the bread and pastry which he was thus selling and intending to sell, but bought the same from time to time of other persons, for the purpose of reselling, as he did also the milk sold by him; and that milk was usually sold by bakers of Boston to their customers.

The defendant further testified that he had a small stove in the rear part of his shop in which his wife sometimes baked a few cookies or ginger-snaps, which he placed in his show-cases and sold with the bread and pastry.

The government offered no evidence tending to control the defendant's testimony.

The defendant requested the judge to submit to the jury the question, whether, upon the foregoing testimony, the defendant was a "baker," within the St. of 1886, *c.* 82, but the judge declined so to do, and instructed the jury that, if they believed the testimony of the defendant to be true, they might return a verdict of guilty.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

C. B. Loud, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

KNOWLTON, J. Section 2 of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 98, which forbids keeping open one's shop on the Lord's day, or doing "any manner of labor, business, or work, except works of necessity and charity," was amended by the St. of 1886, *c.* 82, which provides that "this section shall not apply to sales by bakers, between the hours of six and ten o'clock in the forenoon and four and half-past six o'clock in the afternoon, of bread and other articles of food usually dealt in by them."

The refusal of the judge to rule as requested, taken in connection with his instruction to the jury, that, "if they believed the testimony of the defendant to be true, they might return a verdict of guilty," we understand to have been merely a refusal to leave the jury uninstructed as to the meaning of the word "baker" as used in the statute, and not an interference with

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their right to pass upon all the questions at issue between the parties.

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In this view, the only question in the case is whether, upon the defendant's own testimony, he was a baker, within the meaning of the amendment. There is nothing to indicate that this word is used in any other than its ordinary signification. A baker is one whose occupation is to bake bread and other articles of food. The statute which we are considering may be presumed to have been founded upon the desirability and propriety of permitting freshly cooked food to be obtained on the Lord's day, as well from the shop of the manufacturer as from the kitchen of the householder. That the interval may be short between the preparation of the food and the appearance of it on the table of the consumer, the baker is permitted to do his work, and deliver his viands, on the Lord's day. But this reason does not apply to sales of provisions which do not require preparation by the dealer for the immediate use of the purchaser. We cannot believe that the Legislature intended to include in the exception of the amendment all persons who deal in the products of bakeries. Such a construction of the statute would allow a large proportion of the grocers and provision dealers of the Commonwealth to open their shops every Lord's day.

The defendant was not a baker in any sense. He kept a shop for the purpose of selling groceries, fancy articles, bread, pastry, and milk. He did not make or cause to be made the bread and pastry which he sold, but bought it from time to time from other persons. The fact that he had a small stove in the rear part of his shop, in which his wife sometimes baked a few cookies and ginger-snaps, which he placed in his show-cases and sold with the bread and pastry, was not of such importance as to characterize his business, or warrant the jury in finding that he was a baker. *Exceptions overruled.*

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THOMAS TURNER *vs.* FITCHBURG RAILROAD COMPANY.

Franklin. Sept. 27, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

A private right of way across the location of a railroad may be acquired by prescription, notwithstanding the St. of 1853, *c.* 414, § 4, (Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 196,) imposing a penalty on any person who, without right, knowingly stands or walks on any railroad track, and the St. of 1874, *c.* 372, § 151, (Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 198,) imposing a penalty on a person who, without the consent of the corporation, rides or drives a horse on a railroad.

In an action against a railroad corporation for obstructing a prescriptive right of way across the location of the defendant, it is no defence that, after the way was used, a statute was passed allowing the corporation to relocate its road, and for that purpose, under proper proceedings, to take lands, in the absence of evidence that such proceedings were had.

On the issue whether a right of way by prescription has been acquired over the location of a railroad corporation, an agreed statement of facts stated that the plaintiff and his grantors had used the way openly, adversely, and uninterruptedly for more than twenty years. *Held*, that the court might assume that the defendant had knowledge of the acts of user.

In an action against a railroad corporation for obstructing a right of way claimed to exist by prescription over the defendant's location, the declaration alleged that the defendant erected a fence across the way, and placed upon the way stones, earth, gravel, ties, and iron rails. The case was submitted to the court on agreed facts, which stated that the acts of the defendant declared on were done upon its land "in the construction and maintenance of its railroad, which it was authorized by law to construct and maintain." *Held*, that this was not to be construed to mean that the acts done by the defendant were done as a part of the necessary repair of its road.

TORT. Writ dated December 8, 1886. The declaration alleged that the plaintiff owned two tracts of land in Orange, the first bounded south by land of the defendant, and north by the highway leading from said Orange to Erving, and the second bounded south by Miller's River, and north by land of the defendant; that the south side of the first described tract of land and the north side of the second are bounded by the defendant's land, on which are the roadbed and track of the defendant's railroad; that there was a way leading from the first described tract of land over the land of the defendant to the plaintiff's second lot of land, which the plaintiff had a right to use as a footway and a carriageway; that the defendant erected a fence across

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said way, filled it with, and placed upon the same, stones, earth, gravel, ties, and iron rails, so that the plaintiff could not use the same as a carriageway, and only with great difficulty as a footway, and by reason of obstructing his right of way as aforesaid the market value of the plaintiff's second tract of land had been greatly decreased, and the plaintiff had been put to great expense, inconvenience, and damage in cultivating said land and harvesting the crops grown thereon. The answer contained a general denial, and alleged that all the acts committed by the defendant were upon the soil and freehold of the defendant, and upon its roadbed and track, and were such as its charter and the rights obtained thereunder permitted it to do.

The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and, after judgment for the plaintiff, to this court on appeal, on agreed facts, in substance as follows:

On January 12, 1849, the tracts of land described in the plaintiff's declaration, and the tract of land between the same, owned by the defendant, over which said right of way is claimed, were owned by one Rodney Hunt of Orange, and formed one continuous tract of land. On said January 12, 1849, said Hunt, by warranty deed, conveyed in fee to the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad Company the tract of land now lying between the plaintiff's two tracts of land, over which said right of way is claimed. This deed described the land by metes and bounds, and following the description were these words: "The above consideration includes all damage done to my adjoining land in the construction of said railroad by said corporation."

The defendant is now rightfully in possession of said land, through conveyance from the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad Company, and the same has been occupied and used as a railroad continuously since 1849. On July 31, 1874, the plaintiff became possessed of the two tracts of land described in his declaration by a deed of warranty from one Patrick H. McCushing, the said McCushing holding title under one Howe, to whom said Hunt had granted said tracts, the possession of the said Hunt, Howe, McCushing, and the plaintiff being continuous and without interruption. All of the defendant's acts declared on occurred between July 1, 1880, and July 1, 1885, and were done upon its said described tract of land in the construction and maintenance

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of its railroad, which it was authorized by law to construct and maintain.

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The second described tract of land is bounded continuously on the north by land of the defendant, as set forth in the declaration, and on the south is bounded continuously by Miller's River, so called, a stream of water varying in width from one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet, and there is no approach to said tract either from the east or west, excepting over the land and track of the defendant. There is no bridge or other means of getting over said river, and the only access had by the plaintiff to and from said described tract of land is over the land of the defendant. The plaintiff does not own any land south of said river, which is separated from the nearest public highway, south, by a tract of land about half a mile wide, mostly covered with an unbroken forest. The plaintiff and his grantors have used said right of way openly, adversely, and uninterruptedly for more than twenty years prior to the acts of the defendant declared on.

C. F. Perkins & A. M. Lyman, for the plaintiff.

G. A. Torrey, for the defendant.

DEVENS, J. The plaintiff and those under whom he claims have used a right of way "openly, adversely, and uninterruptedly" across the railroad of the defendant for more than twenty years prior to the acts of the defendant declared on. The most important question which the parties have presented is whether, under the statutes as they now exist, a private right of way by prescription can be acquired by an individual over the location of a railroad corporation. That such a right of way may be acquired by reservation, by grant, or by agreement of parties, is well established. *Boston Gas Light Co.* v. *Old Colony & Newport Railway*, 14 Allen, 444. *Gay* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 141 Mass. 407. If such a right might be thus acquired, there would be nothing inconsistent in holding that it might be acquired by prescription, and that twenty years' adverse user would be evidence of a grant thereof. In *Fisher* v. *New York & New England Railroad*, 135 Mass. 107, it was held that the St. of 1861, *c.* 100, (Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 215,) which in substance provides that no length of possession or occupancy of land of a railroad corporation by an abutter shall create a right in such land

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to the abutter, would not prevent him from acquiring a right to a private way across the railroad by a twenty years' user thereof.

That which the defendant urges as the strongest argument against the plaintiff's having acquired a prescriptive right to cross the railroad track is, that, in order to have done so, he and his grantors must have continuously violated the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, §§ 195, 198, and that such violations could confer no rights on the violator. Section 195, imposing a penalty on any person, "without right, knowingly," walking or standing on any railroad track, is first found in the St. of 1853, *c.* 414, § 4. Since that time it has been decided that, in the case of a public way, such a right may be acquired by prescription, although the effect of this section of the statute was not discussed. *Fitchburg Railroad* v. *Page*, 131 Mass. 391. There are intimations also, since the St. of 1853, that a private way may be thus acquired. *Gay* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, *ubi supra*. *Wright* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 142 Mass. 296. *Deerfield* v. *Connecticut River Railroad*, 144 Mass. 325. Section 198 makes it a penal offence to ride or drive a horse, without consent of a railroad corporation, on its road. The defendant contends that, under these sections, rights cannot be acquired by prescription, against another or his property, by acts done in violation of the absolute prohibition of a public statute, that such acts where expressly prohibited are illegal in their inception and continuance, and cannot become lawful, as against individual members of the public, however long they may have been exercised. It is urged that, "when a statute forbids anything to be done, the right to do it is not to be granted or acquired." This contention, apparently drawn from the case of *Brookline* v. *Mackintosh*, 133 Mass. 215, 225, is there applied to a claim of a prescriptive right to defile a stream of water by pouring into it deleterious substances contrary to law, which right it was not in the power of any one to grant. Such an act, for public reasons, was one expressly prohibited to all. The argument has no proper application where the act done is or is not lawful according as it may have been done by right or with the consent of the party claiming to be injured, or as it may have been done against right or without such consent. The acts forbidden by §§ 195, 198, are so only when done without

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consent, but they may be permitted by the railroad corporation. The right to maintain a private crossing is also one which the railroad might grant, and to which it could give consent. The acts done in assertion of such a right, or by virtue of such an alleged consent, are not to be treated as originally wrongful, when they have been continued over twenty years, and when the party affected thereby has acquiesced for that length of time.

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The defendant further urges, that it is impossible to gain a right of way over a railroad in actual operation, as the land of the railroad would be subject to the easement of the plaintiff, who might make use of it at his own pleasure. The case does not require us to define the exact limits of the right which the plaintiff has acquired. But it does not follow that, even if he has an easement, it is not one which he is compelled to exercise, subject to the superior right of the railroad corporation to run its trains, as it may determine to be proper for the general business of its road. There certainly may be an easement which will permit a way to be used only at particular times or seasons, or for particular purposes. As there may be by grant a right to cross a railroad when the trains of the corporation are not passing, so such a right may be acquired.

It is contended that the defendant has, under the St. of 1874, *c.* 401, a right to take lands for railroad purposes; that "lands" includes rights of way; and that, if the plaintiff's rights are interfered with, his remedy is by application to the county commissioners. This statute gives to the defendant a right to relocate its railroad, and for that purpose, upon proper proceedings, to take other lands than those thus occupied by it; but the case affords no evidence that such proceedings have been had, nor does it appear that the agreed statement of facts was intended to bring any such question before us.

It must be assumed that the defendant had knowledge of the acts of the plaintiff, as they were open and adverse, although such knowledge is not stated, in terms, in the statement of facts. The statement also fails to show precisely what the acts of the defendant were, although it refers to them as those declared on. These are alleged in the declaration to have been the erection of a fence across the way used by the plaintiff, filling and placing

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upon it stones, ties, gravel, and iron rails, so as to render it impassable as a carriageway, and with great difficulty as a footway. The statement finds that the acts done by the defendant were done "in the construction and maintenance of its railroad, which it was authorized by law to construct and maintain." If the meaning of this is that the acts done by the defendant were done as a part of the necessary repair of its road, and were appropriate for that purpose, and that interference with the plaintiff's way was necessarily incidental to such repair, there would be strong ground to argue that the plaintiff had, and could acquire, no right which interfered with this, and that such a right of the defendant was necessarily superior to any which the plaintiff could have acquired. But an examination of the whole facts, taken in connection with the arguments submitted,* leads us to the conclusion that the obstacle to the plaintiff was a permanent one, that its purpose was simply to deprive the plaintiff of the use of the way, and that it was in no other sense an act done in the maintenance of its road by the defendant.

We have not found it necessary to consider whether the plaintiff was entitled to a way by necessity.

Judgment affirmed.

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* The argument of the defendant on this point was as follows: "Even if the plaintiff has succeeded in showing that he was entitled to a right of way across the railroad, he has not shown that the railroad company has unlawfully interfered with the same. The railroad company has a perfect right to use the whole location for railroad purposes, and for constructing the necessary tracks, buildings, and other structures thereon. *Boston Gas Light Co.* v. *Old Colony & Newport Railway*, 14 Allen, 444."

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RICHARD GIROUX *vs.* PHINEAS STEDMAN & another.
MARY GIROUX *vs.* SAME.
JOSEPH PECORD *vs.* SAME.
MARY GIROUX *vs.* SAME.

Hampden. Sept. 27, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

If a farmer, not a dealer in provisions, kills a hog and sells it, knowing that the purchaser intends to eat it, there is no implied warranty on the seller's part that the hog is fit for food.

FOUR ACTIONS OF TORT. The declaration in the first case was as follows: "And the plaintiff says the defendants solicited him to purchase from them a certain quantity of meat to be used as and for provisions for himself and others; that said meat was unwholesome, corrupted, tainted, and unfit to be used as provisions; that said defendants, well knowing said meat to be unwholesome, tainted, and corrupted, and unfit and improper meat to be used as provisions, were bound to give the plaintiff notice and information of said unfit, unsafe, and tainted condition of said meat, and were bound to tell the plaintiff that said meat was improper meat to be used as and for provisions for himself and others. But said defendants improperly, negligently, and wrongfully failed and neglected to give the plaintiff such notice or information, and failed and neglected to tell the plaintiff that said meat was improper to be used for provisions, and the plaintiff purchased said meat and ate thereof and was made sick thereby for a long period of time, to his great damage." The declaration in each of the other cases was similar. The answer in each case was a general denial.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, which, after stating that the pleadings formed a part thereof, proceeded in substance as follows:

The plaintiffs claimed to have purchased from the defendants certain provisions, namely, certain quantities of dressed pork; that said pork was tainted and unfit for food; and that they ate of said pork and were made sick thereby.

The evidence showed that the defendants were farmers carrying on a farm in Chicopee, and jointly interested in raising pigs;

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that, about the middle of September, 1885, the defendants found that an infectious disease, known as hog cholera, existed upon their farm, and that their entire herd had been exposed to the disease; that on October 3, 1885, the defendants killed two of their hogs, dressed them, and sold one half of one of them to the plaintiff Richard Giroux, and one half of the other to the plaintiff Joseph Pecord; and that, on October 5, the defendants killed and dressed two other hogs, one of which was sold to the plaintiff Pecord.

The evidence showed further, that, at the time of the several sales to the plaintiffs, no representations as to the quality of the meat were made, and no notice was given to the plaintiffs, at the times of the sales, of the existence of the disease among the herd owned by the defendants; but it appeared that the defendants knew at the time of the several sales to the several plaintiffs that the meat so sold by them to the plaintiffs was to be used by the plaintiffs for provisions.

There was evidence tending to show that, although the defendants' whole herd of swine had been exposed to the aforesaid disease, yet that some of the herd were not in fact diseased; and there was also evidence tending to show that an animal might be infected with the said disease, and the meat of such animal would not necessarily, for that reason, be unwholesome and unfit for food.

The judge instructed the jury as follows: "At common law, the general rule is, that where personal property is sold in the presence of the buyer and seller, each having an opportunity to see the property, and there is nothing said about the quality, the only implied warranty on the part of the seller is that he has a valid title to, or has a right to sell, the chattel. In the case of a provision dealer or marketman selling meat, flour, or vegetables to his customers, there is an exception to this general rule; the law presumes that the marketman or provision dealer knows whether the provisions he sells are in a condition fit for use, and, knowing what use his customers are to make of the articles sold, the law implies a warranty on the part of the seller, although he does not say anything, that the food is wholesome."

The judge further instructed the jury as follows: "This exception to the general rule does not apply in these cases, for the

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reason that the defendants are farmers, and not provision dealers or marketmen. And the plaintiffs are not entitled to prevail in these cases, if they have failed to prove the allegations in their declarations, that the defendants knew that the meat sold by them to the plaintiffs was unwholesome and improper meat to be used as provisions."

Other and full instructions were given.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendants; and the plaintiffs alleged exceptions.

W. W. McClench, for the plaintiffs.

E. W. Chapin, for the defendants.

DEVENS, J. It was known to the defendants that the plaintiffs purchased the meat to be used as provisions, but it was held by the presiding judge that, in order that they should recover, they must prove the allegations in their declarations, that the defendants knew that the meat sold by them was unwholesome, and improper to be used as provisions. He instructed the jury that, at common law, the general rule is, that where personal property is sold in the presence of buyer and seller, each having an opportunity to see the property, and there is nothing said as to the quality, the only implied warranty on the part of the seller is that he has a valid title in, or has a right to sell, the chattel. He added, that there is an exception to this general rule where a provision dealer or marketman sells provisions, as meat and vegetables, to his customers for use, and that in such case there would be an implied warranty that they were fit for use and wholesome.

Whether this exception exists or not, it is not important in the case at bar to inquire, as it cannot be, and was not, contended that the defendants were brought within it. The contention of the plaintiffs is, that, even if the rule is well established that, where there is no express warranty and no fraud, no warranty of the quality of the thing sold is implied by law, and that the maxim of *caveat emptor* applies, there is a more general exception which excludes from its operation all sales of provisions for immediate domestic use, no matter by whom made.

That in a sale of an animal by one dealer to another, even with the knowledge that the latter dealer intends to convert it into meat for domestic use, or that in the sale of provisions in

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the course of commercial transactions there is no implied warranty of the quality, appears to be well settled. *Howard* v. *Emerson*, 110 Mass. 320, and cases cited. *Burnby* v. *Bollett*, 16 M. & W. 644. While occasional expressions may be found, as in *Van Bracklin* v. *Fonda*, 12 Johns. 468, which sustain the plaintiffs' contention, we have found but one decided case which supports it. In *Van Bracklin* v. *Fonda*, *ubi supra*, it is said that in a sale of provisions the vendor is bound to know that they are sound, at his peril, but the case shows that the defendant, who had sold beef for domestic use, knew the animal from which it came to be diseased. This had been found by the jury, and the remark is made in connection with the facts proved.

The case of *Hoover* v. *Peters*, 18 Mich. 51, does sustain the plaintiffs' contention, as it is there held that, where articles of food are bought for domestic consumption, and the vendor sells them for that express purpose, the law implies a warranty that they are fit for such purpose, whether the sale be made by a retail dealer or by any other person. This case imposes a heavier liability on a person not engaged in the sale of provisions as a business than he should be called on to bear. The opinion is not supported by any citation of authorities. In a dissenting opinion by Mr. Justice Christiancy it is said, "Had it appeared that he [the defendant] was the keeper of a meat market or butcher's shop and was engaged in the business of selling meat for food, and therefore bound or presumed to know whether it was fit for that purpose, I should have concurred in the opinion my brethren have expressed." If there is an exception to the rule of *caveat emptor* which grows out of the circumstances of the case and the relations of buyer and seller, where the latter is a general dealer and the former a purchaser for immediate use, there appears no reason why it should be further extended.

In the case at bar, the defendants were not common dealers in provisions, or marketmen. They were farmers selling a portion of the produce of their farms. No representations of the quality of the meat sold was made by them. In making casual sales from a farm of its products, to hold the owner to the duty of ascertaining at his peril the condition of the articles sold, and

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of impliedly warranting, if sold with the knowledge that they are to be used as food, that they are fit for the purpose, imposes a larger liability than should be placed upon one who may often have no better means of knowledge than the purchaser.

The plaintiffs contend that the case of *French* v. *Vining*, 102 Mass. 132, is decisive in their favor, but it appears to us otherwise. In that case the defendant sold hay, which he knew had been poisoned, for the purpose of being fed to a cow, although he had carefully endeavored to separate the damaged portion from the rest, and supposed he had succeeded. From the effects of eating the hay the cow died, and the defendant was held liable. His knowledge of the injury to the hay was certain and positive; his belief that he had remedied the difficulty was conjectural and uncertain, and proved to be wholly erroneous.

In the case at bar, while the defendants' herd had been exposed to hog cholera, there was evidence that a portion of it only had been affected, and further, that, even if affected, the meat of the animals was not necessarily unwholesome. There was no evidence that the animals whose meat was sold had ever, so far as the defendants knew, actually had the disease; and the verdict of the jury has established that they were ignorant that the meat sold by them was unwholesome.

In *French* v. *Vining*, the defendant knew what the condition of the hay had been, and this is a vital part of the case. He sold an article which he knew had been poisoned, and from which he had taken no effectual means to remove the poison. His belief or supposition that his effort had been successful could not relieve him from liability for the consequences that ensued because it had been unsuccessful, if he sold the hay without informing the purchaser of the dangerous injury which it had received.

Exceptions overruled.

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FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NORTHAMPTON *vs.* JOSEPHUS CRAFTS, assignee.

SAME *vs.* HAMPSHIRE COUNTY NATIONAL BANK & another.

Hampshire. Sept. 29, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. MORTON, C. J., C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

If an assignee in insolvency sells, by leave of the Court of Insolvency, the estate of the insolvent, and, acting through a third person, becomes the purchaser, and manages the estate for his own benefit and for the benefit of other persons, this court will not entertain a bill in equity, brought by a creditor of the estate against the assignee, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 157, § 15, to revise an order of the Court of Insolvency dismissing a petition of the creditor seeking to compel the assignee to account for the profits made by him after the sale, unless the persons interested with the assignee in the purchase are made parties.

If a creditor of an insolvent estate proves a valid claim against it, the fact that he subsequently participates with the assignee of the estate in a transaction prejudicial to the rights of the creditors affords no ground for expunging his claim, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 157, § 85.

DEVENS, J. These cases are two bills in equity, seeking the supervisory intervention of this court over the Court of Insolvency, and are in the nature of appeals from its decisions. Pub. Sts. *c.* 157, § 15.

In the first case, the plaintiff seeks that the account of the assignee of the insolvent estate of N. Day and Brothers should be surcharged, and that he be denied any compensation as assignee, on the ground that he has wrongfully withheld from the general creditors large sums of money belonging to the insolvent estate, and has unlawfully gained and secured them for his own benefit, and for that of the Hampshire County National Bank.

In the second case, the plaintiff seeks that this court shall order that the proof of the claim of the Hampshire County National Bank as a creditor of N. Day and Brothers, heretofore made, shall be expunged.

Without undertaking to state the facts in their complete details, they may be summarized from the allegations of the pleadings and the report of the master sufficiently for the immediate purpose of the present inquiry. N. Day and Brothers became embarrassed in the summer of 1884, and were largely and nearly

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equally indebted to the plaintiff and to the Hampshire County National Bank on promissory notes regularly discounted. Before proceedings in insolvency were begun, these banks conferred as to making further advances, determined that it was unwise to do so, and the insolvency of N. Day and Brothers followed. Crafts was a director of the Hampshire Bank, was present at this conference, and was subsequently chosen assignee, on August 30, 1884. On October 20, 1884, Crafts, as assignee, filed his petition for leave to sell all the property of the insolvents for the sum of $41,500, at private sale, except certain pieces of real estate mortgaged for more than their value. The price offered for that which was proposed to be sold slightly exceeded its appraised value. This petition was supported by fifteen of the creditors, including the Hampshire Bank, and was opposed by the plaintiff, but on November 15 was granted. It was represented to the court that this offer was made by Charles Day and William C. Hall. Charles Day was a brother of the insolvents, was tenant in common of several pieces of real estate used by them in their business, but was not a partner or otherwise interested therein. Before this leave was granted, he also relinquished any claim against the insolvents, if any he had, for the use made by them of his share of the real estate.

On November 10, 1884, Charles Day had a conference with Luther Bodman, the president of the defendant bank, relative to a loan of $27,000 or $28,000, to enable him to purchase the property which the assignee had petitioned for leave to sell. It was finally arranged that the Hampshire Bank should lend $27,000 or $28,000, and that the property should be conveyed to a trustee to be used to repay this loan, and for other purposes, which appear in a declaration of trust which was made on November 15, the day when leave to sell was granted. It was also then arranged that Crafts should be the trustee. On November 15, 1884, Crafts, as assignee, acting under the authority given by the Court of Insolvency, conveyed to Charles Day and Hall all of the property, real and personal, except the five lots heretofore mentioned, and said Day and Hall reconveyed the same to Crafts, for the purposes set forth in the declaration of trust. This declaration recited the conveyance to Crafts of all the real and personal estate of the insolvents, and also a conveyance of all the interest of Charles

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Day in their real estate, and also that Charles Day had given to Crafts, as trustee, his negotiable note for the sum of $5000, and that Crafts had given his note to the Hampshire Bank for $27,000, lent to him in order to carry out the trust. The declaration further stated, as the purpose of the trust, that Crafts should have power to manage all the estate, and carry on the business for the best interest of those concerned, should sell or convey the same, and should devote the proceeds, first, to the payment of the sum of $27,000 borrowed from the bank, provided that the note of $5000, given to him by Charles Day, should not be collected, except so far as Crafts might fail to realize, from the property conveyed, what was necessary in order to pay the loan made to him from the Hampshire Bank. Secondly, Crafts was to pay to the Hampshire Bank seventy-five per cent of the debt due to it from the insolvents, and proved by it, deducting therefrom the amount of any dividends which it might receive in the insolvency proceedings. Thirdly, if any property remained, it was to be transferred or paid to Charles Day. Charles Day gave to Crafts his note for $5000, and a quitclaim deed of his undivided interest in the lots he had owned in common with his brothers.

Crafts entered upon the management of this estate, and has carried on the business of farming, brickmaking, and manufacturing lumber, making the necessary disbursements therefor. He has sold certain parts of the property, and has paid to the Hampshire Bank a portion of the sum borrowed from it. He is alleged to have conducted the business successfully; so that, estimating the value of the property now in his hands, and charging him with what he has received, and the fair value of the property when he received it, it is alleged that he has made a profit in the transaction, for which the plaintiff contends that he should now account as assignee.

The bill, in substance, seeks to set aside the whole transaction by which Crafts became trustee, and to appropriate to the benefit of the general creditors all the property which passed to him by the sale made to him, together with the profits thereon. He certainly is not bound to account for this property as assignee, nor for any profits arising from the transaction by which the property passed into his hands as trustee, unless the transaction

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itself was fraudulent and voidable by the general creditors. This cannot be investigated between himself and the creditors alone, but those must be made parties whose interests are directly concerned. The interest of Charles Day in this matter is direct. He does not appear to have been made a party to the original proceeding in the Court of Insolvency, on which the bill is founded, in which it was sought to charge Crafts on account of the receipt of moneys and other property, or of profits made thereon, which, as alleged, ought properly to belong to the estate; nor has he been made a party to the bill in this case.

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All parties interested in the object of a suit should, as a general rule, be made parties thereto. Story Eq. Pl. § 72. Calvert on Parties, *c.* 1, § 1. In suits concerning trust property the *cestuis que trust* are necessary parties. This is especially so where the inquiry as to the rights of the trustee involves the necessity of investigating the relations between him and the *cestuis que trust*. *Boyden* v. *Partridge*, 2 Gray, 190. While the object of the court is to do justice to all parties interested in the subject matter of a suit, if complete justice can be done to those immediately before the court, other parties may, in its discretion, be dispensed with. *Jewett* v. *Tucker*, 139 Mass. 566. But where it is seen at the final hearing that justice cannot be done on account of a want of parties whose interests are involved in the controversy, this objection may then be made, or the court may of its own motion decline to proceed to a final decree, and may dismiss the bill. *Sears* v. *Hardy*, 120 Mass. 524.

The position in which Crafts stands in reference to the insolvent estate cannot be determined without passing upon the relation which he occupies to Charles Day, and upon the rights of Day if he has a direct interest in the transaction sought to be inquired into, and, practically, set aside. In such case, for the protection both of Crafts and of Day himself, and for a full investigation, it is necessary that Day should be made a party. That Day has such an interest by virtue of the declaration of trust, and the acts which were done in connection with it, is apparent. He was one of the purchasers under the sale made by order of the Court of Insolvency, subsequently transferring his purchase to Crafts as trustee. When the order was made, he relinquished a claim, whether real or pretended we are not

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now called on to decide, which he had against the insolvent estate. He transferred to Crafts his interest as tenant in common with the insolvents in certain portions of the real estate, and Crafts has since managed it with the other real estate formerly of the insolvents. Day also became responsible in the sum of $5000 for the payment of the loan agreed to be made to Crafts, and which was in fact afterwards made to him, to enable him to carry out the purposes of the trust, which loan has been only partially paid. He is finally entitled, under the declaration of trust, to receive whatever shall remain after Crafts has paid all expenses, and otherwise completed the execution of his trust.

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It would be premature now to discuss whether a bill can be brought, founded upon the interlocutory order of the Court of Insolvency, — whether the investigation of such a transaction as the bill describes should be made upon a bill framed upon the supervisory power of this court in insolvency proceedings, — or whether an original bill should be brought to set aside the transaction, to which all interested should be made parties. The discussion of these, as well as of numerous other important questions, suggested by the pleadings and the master's report, must be postponed until Charles Day is made a party to the proceedings.

Similar considerations, which it is unnecessary to state in detail, apply to the Hampshire Bank, which has not been made a party defendant.

The plaintiff may move before a single justice to make Charles Day and the Hampshire Bank parties defendant, and to make such other amendments to his bill, if any, as he shall be advised will bring the inquiry he desires to present properly before the court, which motion may be then considered. If such motion is not made within a reasonable time, the bill must be dismissed.

Ordered accordingly.

The bill in the second case involves a different subject of inquiry. We assume, in considering this case, in favor of the plaintiff's contention, without in any way intending so to decide, that the transaction by which the property of the insolvent estate was sold, and finally passed into the hands of Crafts in trust, the defendant bank advancing to him the sum of $27,000 for the

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purpose of carrying out the objects of his declaration of trust, was one which was fraudulent in law, and which, by proper proceedings, through the assignee or otherwise, might be avoided by the creditors, and the property conveyed, and any profits made in the sale or management of the same, appropriated to the benefit of the creditors. If this be so, the plaintiff contends that an order should now be made that the proof of the claim of the defendant bank should be expunged. It has made application to the Court of Insolvency by petition to that effect, which petition has been refused, and it is upon this refusal that the bill before us, invoking the supervisory power of this court, is founded.

Having sought to obtain an advantage over other creditors in the payment of its claim, and to prevent an equal division of the property of the insolvents by the conveyance thereof to Crafts through Day and Hall, upon the trust heretofore stated, the plaintiff urges that the claim "proved by said Hampshire Bank ought to be expunged, for that it is founded in fraud and illegality." But the case shows that the claim proved by the Hampshire Bank was honestly due, nor is there any evidence that it had received any conveyance by way of preference or security, or that the claim was in any way diminished by any payment. Under certain circumstances, the Court of Insolvency has power to expunge a claim, or may alter it, as where "the evidence shows that it is founded in whole or in part in fraud, illegality, or mistake." Pub. Sts. *c.* 157, § 35. If the defendant bank has participated in a transaction prejudicial to the rights of creditors, and in fraud of the insolvent law, of such a character that it may be avoided by them, or may afford ground for an action in which a remedy may be sought in damages commensurate with the wrong inflicted, it is a transaction subsequent to the proof of its claim, and having no connection with such proof. The original claim is not the less valid. It is not founded in fraud or illegality because the bank may have subsequently done something which is justly the subject of animadversion, which may expose it to a demand for damages, or which may cause property which has been transferred for its benefit to be reclaimed. It would be to inflict a punishment purely arbitrary to expunge a claim in itself entirely honest and

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correct, on any such ground. We can find no warrant for doing so on any general legal principle, or by virtue of any provision of the statute. *Bill dismissed.*

W. S. B. Hopkins, for the plaintiff.

D. W. Bond & G. Wells, for the defendants.

CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT *vs.* NEW YORK AND NEW ENGLAND RAILROAD COMPANY.

GEORGE EDWARDS *vs.* SAME.

ELIZABETH COMSTOCK *vs.* CHARLOTTE P. CHAMBERLAIN.

WILLIAM COMSTOCK *vs.* WILLIAM EDWARDS.

Worcester. Oct. 5, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

Under the Gen. Sts. *c.* 63, § 45, providing that, after a railroad "corporation has by virtue of its charter taken land or other property for the purpose of its road, it shall, before proceeding to construct the road, furnish a plan of the land to the owner," and that, if such plan is not so furnished, all the rights of the corporation to enter upon or use such land, except for making surveys, shall be suspended until it has delivered a plan, the failure to deliver a plan of land taken does not invalidate the taking; and a person whose land has been taken cannot, after the road has been completed and has been in use for nearly twenty years, object to such use on the ground that no plan has been furnished him.

Although the power to take land by the right of eminent domain which has been granted by the Legislature to a domestic railroad corporation will not pass to a foreign corporation, which by deed succeeds to the rights and powers of the domestic corporation, without the assent of the Legislature, such assent may be gathered by implication from a series of acts of the Legislature.

HOLMES, J. The first two cases are actions of tort in two counts, one in trespass, the other alleging the obstruction of a right of way. The alleged trespass consists of the use of a strip of land, five rods wide, by the defendant for its road across the farm of each of the plaintiffs, and is admitted, unless the defendant has a valid location under the statutes of this State. The other count is of less importance, and will be referred to later.

The defendant is the successor of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company, St. 1873, *c.* 289, and the location

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principally relied on is a location five rods wide made by that company on March 30, 1866. At that time that company was a Connecticut corporation only, and held no charter from this Commonwealth. It had taken a deed from the Southern Midland Railroad Company, (whose projected road ran through the premises in question,) purporting to convey the franchises and property of the latter, and certain acts had been passed by the Legislature; but the plaintiff contends that nothing had been done sufficient to confer upon a foreign corporation the power to take land by eminent domain, and that, if enough had been done, the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company did not comply with conditions precedent attached to the exercise of such power.

The last objection may as well be disposed of at the outset. It appeared that plans of the land taken were prepared and furnished by the company to all land-owners who demanded them, and to no others. It did not appear that they were furnished to the owners of the plaintiffs' farms. It is argued for the plaintiffs that the burden was on the defendant to show that it had delivered plans to all owners of land taken, or at least to the owners of the plaintiffs' farms, whether demanded or not, and however long after the event, to save its use of their lands from being deemed a trespass. But if the requirement of the Gen. Sts. c. 63, § 45, to "furnish" a plan, means more than deliver on demand, as to which we express no opinion, the plan, by the words of the section, is not to be furnished until after the corporation has taken the land, and the title of the corporation is not affected by failure to furnish it, but only the right to enter upon and use the land, which is suspended, except for making surveys, until the plan has been delivered. After the road is built, the plan is no longer necessary or useful. *Charlestown Branch Railroad* v. *County Commissioners*, 7 Met. 78, 83. And whatever might have been the merits of the plaintiffs' case had they or their predecessors objected to the use of the land when the railroad was first laid out, and when the right to object could and would have been at once removed, it is too late for them to take the objection now, when the road has been constructed and in operation for nearly twenty years. See *Dietrich* v. *Murdock*, 42 Mo. 279.

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The question of the power of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company to make the location of 1866 is more difficult. The Southern Midland Railroad Company, which sold to the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company, was the Midland Land Damage Company, with a changed name. St. 1863, *c.* 116. The Midland Land Damage Company was incorporated by the St. of 1861, *c.* 155, and was made up of parties having claims for land damages against the Midland Railroad Company. It was given general railroad powers for the purpose of completing its road, § 3, and was authorized to purchase the franchise and property of the Midland Railroad, § 7; and although it would seem not to have completed the purchase when the St. of 1862, *c.* 126, was passed, "to extend the time for locating and constructing the Midland Railroad," it appears to have done so before the St. of 1863, *c.* 116. (In the third case, the deed was put in, dated June 14, 1862.) The Midland Railroad Company was incorporated by the St. of 1858, *c.* 60, with general powers, including that of taking land by eminent domain, and also with special power to buy out the Boston and New York Central Railroad Company. By § 2, for the purpose of completing the said railroad, it was to have all the rights to which the last-named company was then entitled. It made the purchase on November 1, 1858. The Boston and New York Central Railroad Company was successor, by consolidation, to the powers of the Southbridge and Blackstone Railroad Company, which was incorporated by the St. of 1849, *c.* 194. (Sts. 1852, *c.* 158; 1854, *c.* 447. *Boston & Providence Railroad* v. *Midland Railroad*, 1 Gray, 340.) As such successor, it had made a location three rods wide over the locus on August 5, 1854. And as this was assumed by the counsel for the plaintiffs to have been valid, subject to the objection just disposed of, we shall make the same assumption.

To repeat. The Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company's grantor, under a changed name, was the purchaser of the franchise and rights of the Midland Railroad Company. The Midland Railroad Company was given general powers, and succeeded to all the powers of the Boston and New York Central Railroad Company, including the powers of the Southbridge and Blackstone Railroad Company. Assuming the three-rod wide

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location of the Boston and New York Central Railroad Company to have been valid, we do not understand the counsel for the plaintiffs to deny that the grantor of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company could have made the five-rod location in 1866, if it had not conveyed away its franchise and property, and if the legislation then in force had applied to it. St. 1865, *c.* 171. Gen. Sts. *c.* 63, § 38. *Boston & Providence Railroad* v. *Midland Railroad*, *ubi supra*. We do not understand that the location of 1866 was without the limits prescribed by the St. of 1849, *c.* 194, § 2.

Before examining the powers of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company more specifically, it will be well to advert to one or two general considerations. It was conceded by the plaintiffs' counsel that the power to take land by eminent domain may be given to a foreign corporation. When the use for which land is taken is otherwise a public use, such as a railroad within the State granting the power, the use is not the less public because the owners are domiciled or incorporated out of the State. In *In re Townsend*, 39 N. Y. 171, it was held that the power could be given to a company in another State in aid of a canal which also was in another State. And the proposition which we have laid down has never been doubted, so far as we know, by any court of last resort. *New York & Erie Railroad* v. *Young*, 33 Penn. St. 175. *State* v. *Sherman*, 22 Ohio St. 411, 434. *Southwestern Railroad* v. *Southern & Atlantic Telegraph Co.* 46 Ga. 43, 51. *Gilmer* v. *Lime Point*, 18 Cal. 229, 251, 255. See *Clark* v. *Barnard*, 108 U. S. 436, 452.

The decision of this court in *Burt* v. *Merchants' Ins. Co.* 106 Mass. 356, that the power could be conferred upon the United States government, is criticised in *Kohl* v. *United States*, 91 U. S. 367, 373; see also *Darlington* v. *United States*, 82 Penn. St. 382; *Van Brocklin* v. *Tennessee*, 117 U. S. 151, 154; but the criticism is not applicable to a case like the present.

It seems to us equally clear that a corporation by consent of the Legislature may take this power as quasi successor of another corporation to which it was originally granted, and it is not very material whether the legislative consent be regarded as authorizing a transfer of the old power, or, more strictly, as delegating a new power in the same terms as the old. See *State* v.

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Sherman, 22 Ohio St. 428. The substance of the transaction is seen in cases of consolidation. *Boston & Providence Railroad* v. *Midland Railroad*, *ubi supra*. But there is nothing in reason to confine it to such cases. See *Atkinson* v. *Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad*, 15 Ohio St. 21; *Coe* v. *Columbus, Piqua, & Indiana Railroad*, 10 Ohio St. 372, 387. *Hall* v. *Sullivan Railroad*, 21 Law Rep. 138, 141.

When the power is claimed under the form of a transfer rather than of original grant, the legislative consent or grant may be inferred somewhat more readily than where the whole question is new, because the Legislature has already adjudicated the use to be public, and has granted a coextensive power. See *Black* v. *Delaware & Raritan Canal*, 7 C. E. Green, 130, 402. For, while it is very plain that the power in this Commonwealth could not be transferred to, or exercised by, a purchaser from the original donee, without such consent or grant, (*Braslin* v. *Somerville Horse Railroad*, 145 Mass. 64, 67, *Commonwealth* v. *Smith*, 10 Allen, 448.) the reasons which have led some courts and judges to doubt the need of such consent for the transfer of franchises show that the *delectus personarum* is of little more than theoretical importance, and is the least determining element in the more common cases where the power is conferred. *Shepley* v. *Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad*, 55 Maine, 395, 407. *Kennebec & Portland Railroad* v. *Portland & Kennebec Railroad*, 59 Maine, 9, 23. *Miller* v. *Rutland & Washington Railroad*, 36 Vt. 452, 492. *Bickford* v. *Grand Junction Railway*, 1 Sup. Ct. of Canada, 696, 738. And this reasoning is of equal force whether the power to take land by eminent domain is properly called a franchise or not. *Coe* v. *Columbus, Piqua, & Indiana Railroad*, *ubi supra*. *Chicago & Western Indiana Railroad* v. *Dunbar*, 95 Ill. 571. *Pierce* v. *Emery*, 32 N. H. 484, 507, 511, 513.

Finally, the legislative consent may be expressed by way of ratification of what purports to be a transfer already executed. *Shaw* v. *Norfolk County Railroad*, 5 Gray, 162, 180; *S. C.* 16 Gray, 407, 410. *Galveston Railroad* v. *Cowdrey*, 11 Wall. 459. And it may be gathered by implication from a series of acts. *East Boston Freight Railroad* v. *Eastern Railroad*, 13 Allen, 422.

At the time of the attempted transfer by the Southern Midland Railroad Company to the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad

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Company, the former had power, by the St. of 1861, *c.* 155, § 7, to purchase and enjoy "all the rights and privileges" of the Midland Railroad Company, and to "use, enjoy, lease, sell, or convey the same to any other railroad company." And, inasmuch as from an early date it had been contemplated that the road would not only connect with roads outside the State, but that the corporations within and without the State might unite, (Sts. 1850, *c.* 268, § 9; 1852, *c.* 158; *Boston & Providence Railroad* v. *Midland Railroad*, 1 Gray, 858;) it was not very extraordinary if the parties concerned assumed that the power to sell was not confined to domestic purchasers, especially as in the next line a purchase of cars jointly with connecting roads was allowed, showing that other corporations beside those of this State were in the mind of the Legislature. It was hardly less natural that it should be assumed that the Legislature intended the purchaser to stand in the seller's shoes, and to have whatever powers the seller would have had if the sale had not been made.

The two acts next to be cited, both passed before the location by the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company, either show that this construction of the St. of 1861 is the true one, (*Kohl* v. *United States*, 91 U. S. 374,) or else sufficiently express the consent of the Legislature. By the St. of 1865, *c.* 171, "The time for locating and constructing the road of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company, is hereby extended to" May 1, 1863. The St. of 1865, *c.* 275, authorizes the same road to secure any bonds issued under its Connecticut charter "by mortgage of its railways, property, rights, and franchise, or any part thereof, purchased or acquired by contract or arrangement with the Southern Midland Railroad Company, ... situate and being in this Commonwealth, ... provided, that nothing in this act contained shall in any way affect any claim, or any remedies, ... which any person may have against said corporation or any other railroad corporation, ... for damage caused to such person by the taking of the land or any part thereof included within the location of said corporations, or any or either of them, or by the laying out, making, and maintaining a railroad over the same." See also St. 1864, *c.* 310.

After reading these acts, we cannot doubt that the Legislature believed that the purchase by the Boston, Hartford, and Erie

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Railroad Company was valid, and intended that it should be, and that the purchaser should have the rights and powers which the seller had previously possessed. The latter statute in terms saves claims against the purchaser for damage caused by the taking of land. The former gives it three years to locate and construct its road. The word "locate" is a term of art, in using which the Legislature can have had but one meaning. As was said by Chief Justice Shaw about this very road, "The effect of the location is to bind the land described to that servitude." *Boston & Providence Railroad* v. *Midland Railroad*, 1 Gray, 360. See also Gen. Sts. *c.* 63, §§ 17, 18. *Hazen* v. *Boston & Maine Railroad*, 2 Gray, 574. *Charlestown Branch Railroad* v. *County Commissioners*, 7 Met. 78. Moreover, the Legislature intended that the power to locate should be exercised by the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company, as quasi successor to its vendor; for the power is given in the form of an extension of the time previously allowed, referring, of course, to the statute giving the vendor until May 1, 1863, for the same purpose. St. 1863, *c.* 116, § 2. See, further, St. 1862, *c.* 126, "An act to extend the time for locating and constructing the Midland Railroad;" and Sts. 1861, *c.* 44; 1860, *c.* 44; 1859, *c.* 23; 1858, *c.* 13; 1857, *c.* 32; 1856, *c.* 33; 1855, *c.* 115; 1854, *c.* 447; 1851, *c.* 134; 1849, *c.* 194, § 2.

If there had been no consolidation, and the transfer had been direct from the Southbridge and Blackstone Railroad Company to another Massachusetts corporation, we hardly can suppose that it would have been argued that the purchaser had not the same powers to take land and to complete the road that the Southbridge and Blackstone Railroad Company would have had, if its time had been extended by similar words before the sale. No doubt, the expression of the Legislature's belief and intent might have been plainer. But the St. of 1865 was passed before *Commonwealth* v. *Smith*, *ubi supra*, was decided, and when the need of such expression was less accurately understood. If, however, the intent can be discovered, that is enough. And if the intent would be clear in the case which we have supposed, it is clear notwithstanding the facts that the grantor was formed by consolidation of different lines, and that the grantee was a Connecticut corporation. So far as the former fact is concerned,

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the St. of 1863, *c.* 116, § 2, had already fixed a common time, by extension, for finishing all parts of the line; and, as to the latter, the statutes, by treating the Connecticut corporation as a successor to its vendor, impliedly but plainly subjected it to the conditions to which its vendor was subject with respect to the power of taking lands.

We repeat, that it is immaterial whether the purchaser in strict theory receives this power by transfer or by a new grant. For if the grant to the purchaser is of a power limited and qualified, as if it had been the same power conferred on the vendor and taken by succession, the rights of landowners are as fully protected as they were against the vendor, except so far as the fact that the purchaser is a foreign corporation necessarily makes a difference. In this case that fact made no difference. The landowners could have required security of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company, as well as of the Southern Midland Railroad Company, and they had the same means of compelling both security and payment in the one case as in the other, by stopping the use of their land. Gen. Sts. *c.* 63, §§ 32–34, 39. See *Drury* v. *Midland Railroad*, 127 Mass. 571, 576.

We pass now to the acts of the Legislature subsequent to the location in question.

The St. of 1866, *c.* 142, approved April 12, ratifies the mortgage made under the St. of 1865, *c.* 275, and provides for the exchange of bonds secured by former mortgages, and for the recording of the mortgage.

The St. of 1866, *c.* 266, approved May 26, about two months after the location, authorizes the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company to locate, construct, and maintain a road of about six hundred feet to the Rhode Island line. There are no express provisions for compensation. It is assumed, of course, that the power is subject to the General Statutes.

The St. of 1866, *c.* 278, § 5, authorizes the company to construct a railroad from its "chartered line" in Newton to its "chartered line" in Somerville.

The St. of 1867, *c.* 75, incorporating the Roxbury Branch Railroad Company, authorizes the corporation to transfer its franchise, property, and all its rights to the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company; and other statutes give like powers to

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other corporations. St. 1867, *c.* 133, § 5; *c.* 170, § 14. St. 1868, *c.* 35, § 8. St. 1869, *c.* 406.

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The St. of 1867, *c.* 284, authorizes a loan from the State to the company of $3,000,000, for the purpose of aiding it to complete its railway from Boston to Fishkill, New York, with elaborate conditions.

By the St. of 1868, *c.* 145, the company "heretofore created in the State of Connecticut, ... and acting within this Commonwealth and recognized by acts heretofore passed by its Legislature, is hereby declared to be a corporation by that name, and vested with all the franchises, powers," etc., set forth in the general laws, "and the acts of said company in forming a union or connection with one or more railroad companies in the States of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York," to connect Boston with the Erie Railway Company in New York by a continuous line, are ratified. This seems to be intended to make the corporation a Massachusetts corporation (St. 1874, *c.* 334), and to ratify unions with other roads. The act then continues, "and the said Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company is hereby substituted in the place and vested with all the franchises, rights, property, and powers, and is subject to all the duties and liabilities, of the Southern Midland Railroad Company," &c. This part of the statute sanctions, in terms, such a substitution as we have construed the earlier acts to sanction by fair implication, and shows very plainly what was in everybody's mind from the beginning. If our construction is right, the act is simply declaratory and passed *ex majori cautela*.

The St. of 1869, *c.* 450, increases the amount of State aid to the road to $5,000,000. The St. of 1869, *c.* 456, authorizes bonds and a mortgage of lands and flats. The St. of 1871, *c.* 372, authorizes the foreclosure of a mortgage to the Commonwealth.

The St. of 1873, *c.* 289, ratifies the proceedings of the bondholders of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company in organizing the defendant, and authorizes the new corporation to acquire all the rights, powers, and franchises of the former company, and to make a new mortgage of "its railroads, property, and franchises." We may remark here, — with reference to a suggestion, thrown out in the last two cases, that the defendant did not succeed to all the rights of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie

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Railroad Company because its title was derived in part from foreclosure of a mortgage which was dated a few days before the location, — that, if the suggestion could help either the plaintiffs in the first two cases or the defendants in the last two, and if it is not answered by this statute, it is by the fact that the mortgage covered subsequent locations, (see 107 Mass. 3, note,) and was ratified in that form, as we have seen, by the St. of 1866, c. 142.

Finally, the St. of 1873, c. 289, ratifies the proceedings of the bondholders of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company in organizing the defendant, and authorizes the new corporation to acquire all the rights, powers, and franchises of the former company, and to make a new mortgage of "its railroads, property, and franchises." The St. of 1874, c. 334, dissolves the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company, saving all rights.

It thus appears that for twenty years the Commonwealth has constantly dealt with this corporation and its predecessor as having a good title to the road, and as having possessed the powers which they assumed to exercise. The Commonwealth has advanced a large sum of money on that assumption. For nearly twenty years before these actions were brought the plaintiffs have acquiesced in the same view, while the road over their lands has been in public operation. Meantime the mortgage was made, and the bonds were sold in the market. We think that courts should be slow to pronounce the Legislature to have been mistaken in its constantly manifested opinion upon a matter resting wholly within its will, when for so long a time everything has been conducted upon that footing. But we are satisfied, for the reasons which we have given, that the opinion of the Legislature was correct, and that the Boston, Hartford, and Erie Railroad Company must be taken to have had the power and right to make its location of July 30, 1866.

It was admitted that, if the five-rod wide location of 1866 was valid, the claims of the plaintiffs to rights of way must be abandoned. The alleged adverse use had not continued for twenty years across the five rods. It would be too refined to say, and it was not argued, that the adverse use, if any, of a way across the three-rod location of 1854, begun before the widening, ripened

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into a right of way across the original three rods after the widening, and carried with it a necessary right of access across the strips on either side which made the residue of the five rods. For, without admitting that there would have been any such right of access across the outside strips had a right of way existed across the three rods before the widening, it is enough to say that, as no rights had been acquired at that time, the new location gave the railroad company the right to the exclusive use of the land taken, and thus interrupted, for a moment at least, any adverse user, and made a fresh start necessary as to the whole. *Old Colony Railroad* v. *Miller*, 125 Mass. 1, 5. *Smith* v. *New York & New England Railroad*, 142 Mass. 21, 22.

It follows that the rulings of the court below, that the locations were valid, and that the plaintiffs' evidence failed to show an adverse use of the crossings for a period of twenty years before the obstruction of them by the defendant in 1885, were correct, and that, by the terms of the report, judgment must be entered on the verdicts. *Judgment on the verdicts.*

The last two cases are actions for breach of covenant of warranty, the eviction complained of being by the same location of 1866. The only question seriously argued is whether that location was valid, as the court ruled. *Verdicts to stand.*

A. J. Bartholomew & D. Manning, Jr., for the plaintiffs in the first two cases.

F. P. Goulding, (*R. M. Saltonstall* with him,) for the New York & New England Railroad Company.

J. M. Cochran, for the plaintiffs in the last two cases.

R. Hoar, for the defendant in the third case.

A. J. Bartholomew, for the defendant in the fourth case.

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MICHAEL O'DONNELL *vs.* INHABITANTS OF CLINTON.

Worcester. Oct. 6, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

On a petition, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 49, §§ 79, 105, for the assessment of damages caused by taking land for a town way, and damages to the petitioner's house caused by the taking, there was evidence that the petitioner could not read, and that the road commissioners of the town knew of his inability; that before filing his petition he had accepted an award of $200 for damages, and had put his mark to a receipt acknowledging full payment of all claims, but which he understood at the time, and declared, to be for the land alone; that the road commissioners expressed no dissent, but said that "that would be all right;" that the petitioner, on learning what he had signed, repudiated the transaction, tendered the money back to them, giving them a notice addressed to the town, and left the money and the notice in the hands of the town treasurer. *Held*, that the receipt was not a bar.

If a town authorizes its road commissioners to pay a certain sum in full for all damages sustained by an owner of land caused by the taking of his land for a town way, and the commissioners pay the money and take a receipt under such circumstances that their act amounts to constructive fraud, the town cannot, on a petition for the assessment of damages for the taking, set up the receipt as a bar to the petition.

HOLMES, J. This is a petition for the assessment of damages caused by taking land for a town way, including damage to the petitioner's house. Pub. Sts. *c.* 49, §§ 79, 105. The petitioner before filing his petition had accepted two hundred dollars awarded by the road commissioners, and had set his mark to a receipt prepared by them acknowledging full payment of all claims. The respondent asked a ruling that this settlement was a bar, which was refused, and the respondent excepted.

The petitioner's evidence tended to show that he could not read, and that the road commissioners knew of his inability; that at the time of accepting the two hundred dollars he stated that he took it for the land alone, and also stated that he signed the receipt for the land alone, understanding that to be its tenor; that the road commissioners expressed no dissent, but through their spokesman, McGowan, said that "that would be all right;" and that as soon as the petitioner understood that the commissioners regarded the payment as a full settlement he repudiated the transaction, tendered the money back to them, giving them

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a notice addressed to the town, and left the money with the notice in the hands of the town treasurer, although no sufficient tender was made to the latter.

The court instructed the jury, that it was not necessary that there should have been any intent to defraud the petitioner, but that it was necessary to show some conduct which was calculated to mislead him and did mislead him. In the connection in which the instruction was given, it must be taken to mean that the petitioner must have been misled as to the terms of the receipt, and as to what the money was paid for. Thus construed, and having reference to the petitioner's evidence, it was sufficiently favorable for the respondent, and the respondent's request for a ruling was rightly refused.

If the petitioner was ignorant of the contents of the instrument prepared by the respondent, and was known to be so by the respondent's agents, and if he expressly declared in good faith that he set his mark to it as a receipt for the damage to his land alone, and the respondent's agents thereupon accepted the instrument in silence, or with words importing an assent to that declaration, such conduct would be a representation that the instrument was what it was signed for. *Trambly* v. *Ricard*, 130 Mass. 259, 261. *Hall* v. *Holden*, 116 Mass. 172, 176. And a representation of what is known to be false may be none the less a fraud that it is made without any corrupt motive or intent. *Stone* v. *Denny*, 4 Met. 151, 161. *Fisher* v. *Mellen*, 103 Mass. 503. *Litchfield* v. *Hutchinson*, 117 Mass. 195. *Polhill* v. *Walter*, 3 B. & Ad. 114. *Quick* v. *Milligan*, 108 Ind. 419, 422.

It is unnecessary to go further, and to consider whether or not the ultimate reason why the party cannot be held in the case supposed is that the overt acts of setting his mark to the instrument and delivering it, which, standing alone, would have been an execution of it, were qualified by another overt act which changed their character, as between the parties, and prevented the mark and delivery from having that effect, or from expressing an intent corresponding with the written words. In the old books it is said that a deed which is misread to an illiterate man, although by his friend and without fraud, does not bind him. *Thoroughgood's case*, 2 Rep. 9. Com. Dig. *Fait*, B. 2. *Foster* v. *Mackinnon*, L. R. 4 C. P. 704, 711. *Schuylkill* v. *Copley*, 67

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Penn. St. 386, 389. And the proper mode of pleading the facts was *non est factum*, because, as was said, "the matter proves that it never was his deed." Plowden, 66. Y. B. 30 Ed. III. 31, 32. Lib. Ass. 292, pl. 30; *S. C.* 44 Ed. III. 23, pl. 28. 9 Hen. V. 15, pl. 2. 9 Hen. VI. 59, pl. 8. 2 Roll. Abr. 28. 1 Gilb. Ev. (6th ed.) 144. Keilwey, 70 b, pl. 6. *Pigot's case*, 11 Rep. 26 b, 27 b. *Mullen* v. *Old Colony Railroad*, 127 Mass. 86, 90. *White* v. *Graves*, 107 Mass. 325, 328. *Somes* v. *Brewer*, 2 Pick. 184, 204. Whereas an ordinary case of fraud or duress could not be pleaded in this way, because the delivery was not void. Plowden, *ubi supra*. 1 Chit. Pl. (7th ed.) 511. See *Fairbanks* v. *Snow*, *ante*, 153. But we put our decision solely on the ground of fraud, and express no opinion with regard to the suggestions last thrown out.

In either view, the oral evidence is not offered for the purpose of varying the written instrument, or of adding an oral promise to it, which it may be assumed could not be done; *Brown* v. *Cambridge*, 3 Allen, 474; *James* v. *Bligh*, 11 Allen, 4; but for the purpose of showing that it was never executed, or was voidable for fraud. We may add, by way of caution, that in the case of a *bona fide* purchaser for value other considerations come in, which have no place here. See *White* v. *Duggan*, 140 Mass. 18, 20; *Williams* v. *Stoll*, 79 Ind. 80; *Chapman* v. *Rose*, 56 N. Y. 137.

Leaving the receipt on one side, if the conduct of the respondent's agents was calculated to lead the petitioner to suppose that the money was paid for the land alone, and did lead him to suppose so, then it was paid for the land alone. To lead a person reasonably to suppose that you assent to an oral arrangement is to assent to it, wholly irrespective of fraud. Assent, in the sense of the law, is a matter of overt acts, not of inward unanimity in motives, design, or the interpretation of words. See *Hall* v. *Holden*, *ubi supra*. *Ford* v. *Ford*, 143 Mass. 577, 578.

It was argued that the road commissioners had not power to make the arrangement testified to by the petitioner, and it is true that the two hundred dollars was decreed, and the decree was accepted by the town, as an award for all the damages suffered. But assuming that the commissioners had no right to offer the sum for less than all the damages, that did not make it

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impossible for them to do so in fact, and would not make a payment which purported to be made and accepted for land alone a payment for land and buildings. Of course, too, if the conduct of the commissioners, however innocent in intention, amounted to fraud by construction of law, the respondent, when it claims the benefit of an arrangement made through them, takes it with all its defects.

Upon the facts, as the petitioner states them, he had a right to repudiate the transaction when he found what he had signed. *Mullen* v. *Old Colony Railroad*, *ubi supra*. *Smith* v. *Holyoke*, 112 Mass. 517. *Michigan Central Railroad* v. *Dunham*, 30 Mich. 128. If it was necessary for him to return the money, he did all that he was called on to do. Had the commissioners accepted his tender, things would have been restored to their condition before the settlement. The money was left where the town could take it at any time, and the town was notified; but it is plain that the town did not accept his version of the facts, and denied his right to repudiate the arrangement.

Exceptions overruled.

J. W. Corcoran & H. Parker, (*W. R. Dame* with them,) for the respondent.

A. Norcross & H. C. Hartwell, (*C. F. Baker* with them,) for the petitioner.

JOHN MURPHY & another *vs.* PATRICK H. MCNULTY.

Bristol. Oct. 26, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

If a dealer in intoxicating liquors, having a license authorizing him to sell such liquors only at his shop, sends a wagon containing liquors to his regular customers, and authorizes the driver to let such customers have what they want from time to time, a delivery of liquor at the shop of a customer by the driver, in pursuance of an order then and there given, is an illegal sale; and the dealer cannot maintain an action to recover the price of the liquors delivered, although he had previously, at his own shop, made an agreement with the customer to supply him in this manner with such liquors as he should from time to time require.

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CONTRACT, on an account annexed, for goods sold and delivered. Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Barker*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

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The plaintiffs introduced testimony tending to show that the defendant, who was a liquor dealer and who conducted his business under a license of the first class, called upon John Murphy, one of the plaintiffs, at their place of business, and where they were licensed to sell liquors under a license of the fourth class, issued by the city of Fall River, and made a contract with said Murphy to furnish and supply him with ales and liquors; and that the plaintiffs directed their teamsters to call upon the defendant on their rounds to customers, and supply him with such liquors as he might order.

The defendant had a pass-book, given to him by the plaintiffs, on the cover of which appeared, "Patrick McNulty in account with John Murphy & Co., wholesale liquor dealers, 141 South Main Street, Fall River, Mass." The pass-book was in the possession of the defendant, and the entries were made by the plaintiffs' teamsters. There was evidence tending to show that the teamsters, who acted as agents of the plaintiffs, did load four or five barrels of ale on their wagons daily, except Sundays, and drove around to their regular customers, and, if one of them was out of ale, they would deliver what was needed by the customer, and at other times they would take an order from said customer at his shop, and go to the plaintiffs' shop and return with the order filled, and deliver the liquors at the customer's shop.

There was no evidence of teamsters delivering liquors to anybody except regular customers, or of their receiving orders from other than regular customers.

It also appeared that the defendant ordered liquors a few times at the shop of the plaintiffs. Four witnesses for the plaintiffs testified that all of the liquors except ales were ordered by the defendant of the plaintiffs at the shop of the defendant, the order being given to the drivers, taken to the shop of the plaintiffs and filled, and then taken back to the shop of the defendant and delivered; but the defendant testified that he ordered and received such liquors from the teamsters while the teamsters were at his shop.

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The plaintiffs asked the judge to rule, that if the plaintiffs, at the beginning of their dealing with the defendant, agreed to furnish the defendant with ales and liquors as a regular customer, and, in pursuance of this agreement, sent his agents to the defendant's shop for orders, which were communicated to the plaintiffs at the plaintiffs' shop, and the goods then delivered by the plaintiffs' teams, and, in further pursuance of said agreement, orders were given to the plaintiffs by the defendant, at the plaintiffs' shop, and there filled, and, in further pursuance of said agreement, at times, the plaintiffs' teamsters brought, upon their regular rounds, ales and liquors of the plaintiffs' in the plaintiffs' teams to the defendant's shop, which ales and liquors had not been previously ordered by the defendant, and then, at the defendant's shop, filled from such ales and liquors orders then and there given to the plaintiffs' teamsters, such sales would be legal, and the plaintiffs could recover therefor.

The judge refused so to rule, but ruled that sales so made by teamsters from the plaintiffs' wagon of ales and liquors not previously ordered by the defendant would be illegal; and found for the defendant.

The plaintiffs alleged exceptions.

D. V. Sullivan, for the plaintiffs.

M. G. B. Swift, for the defendant.

DEVENS, J. The plaintiffs had what is termed a license of the fourth class, which authorized them to sell spirituous liquors not to be drunk upon their premises. They could conduct this business lawfully only upon the premises designated in and covered by their license. Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 9, *cl.* 1, and § 10. Upon sales there made they could recover, such sales being legal. Upon sales made elsewhere they could not recover, as such sales would not be authorized by their license.

The request for a ruling made by the plaintiffs embraced, in a single paragraph, three different assumptions of fact. The request as made was refused, and the instruction actually given dealt only with the third assumption. It was evidently upon the state of facts thus assumed that the plaintiffs sought to recover. The plaintiffs in their argument at the bar also have relied solely upon the failure to give the instruction based upon the third assumption, and that actually given in lieu thereof.

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The request was made as a whole, and was refused as such, and the plaintiffs could not be allowed to maintain an exception to such refusal based upon the ground that a portion of his request, if it had been separately made, should have been granted. It is by no means impossible that such instructions may actually have been separately given. The defendant was himself a liquor dealer, conducting his business under a license of the first class, and the ruling asked, upon the third assumption of facts, was in substance, that, "if the plaintiffs, at the beginning of their dealing with the defendant, agreed to furnish the defendant with ales and liquors as a regular customer," and, in pursuance of said agreement, "at times, the plaintiffs' teamsters brought, upon their regular rounds, ales and liquors of the plaintiffs' in the plaintiffs' teams to the defendant's shop, which ales and liquors had not been previously ordered by the defendant, and then, at the defendant's shop, filled from such ales and liquors orders then and there given to the plaintiffs' teamsters, such sales would be legal, and the plaintiffs could recover therefor." The court refused so to rule, and ruled that "sales so made by teamsters from the plaintiffs' wagon of ales and liquors not previously ordered by the defendant would be illegal."

A general agreement by the plaintiffs that they would furnish the defendant with such ales and liquors as he might desire to use in his business could not identify any of these articles as the subject of a contract mutually assented to by the parties. It would not authorize the plaintiffs to set apart any such goods at their place of business as the defendant's property, or to cause any to be transported to the defendant's shop, as if the same had been ordered or purchased by him; nor did the plaintiffs attempt anything of the sort.

The case at bar does not require us to consider whether, if orders had actually been given at, or sent to, the shop of the plaintiffs, and the liquors sent in response thereto, (this being in accordance with the usual conduct of such business,) such a transaction could be considered a sale at the plaintiffs' place of business under the statute, even if the plaintiffs did not authorize any delivery of the goods sent unless paid for upon such delivery, or even if the defendant had the right to reject the goods if not satisfactory when they arrived. The plaintiff sent

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out the liquors that their customers might be supplied from the wagon, if they so desired. This was simply making it convenient for them to purchase on their own premises, if the customers saw fit so to purchase. Such a transaction with the teamster constituted a peddling of the articles sold, and was carrying on the licensed business of the plaintiffs, not at their own shop and on their own premises, but on those of the defendant.

The fact that the teamster was to fill the orders only of regular customers, that is, of those who habitually bought of the plaintiffs, and not of chance or occasional customers, did not render the transaction the less a sale on the premises of the customer. *Exceptions overruled.*

JAMES COUNSELL *vs.* SYLVANUS M. HALL.

Bristol. Oct. 27, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

Machinery upon which a servant was employed became defective and dangerous. The master promised the servant that the defect should be remedied. The servant continued to attend to the machinery, knowing that the defect had not been remedied, and sustained an injury by reason of the defect. *Held*, in an action by him against the master for the injury, that the plaintiff was not entitled to a ruling that, on these facts, the defendant was liable.

TORT, for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff while in the employ of the defendant.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in substance as follows:

The evidence of the plaintiff tended to show, that he entered into the employ of the defendant in March, 1885, taking charge of a small steam-engine of about six horse-power, as engineer, and continued in such employ until July 13, 1886, the time of his injury; that during his employment up to June 28, 1886, the engine, boiler, and appliances, including the glass water-gauge, were in good and suitable condition; that the glass water-

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gauge occasionally broke and was replaced by the plaintiff, who received from the defendant proper ones adapted to the purpose; that the proper length of the gauge was about fourteen inches, it being cylindrical in form, hollow, and of an inside diameter of about a quarter of an inch; that, on June 28, 1886, the glass water-gauge which had been used since the preceding September gave out, and it was necessary to replace it with a new one; that the defendant, being informed of it, bought a water-gauge that was not fitted or adapted for the purpose, being too long and otherwise defective; that the defendant thereupon ground it down, and told the plaintiff to put it in place in connection with the boiler; that the plaintiff tried it as directed, and told the defendant that it was too long, and not adapted to the purpose; that thereupon he handed it back to the defendant, who took it and ground it down still more, leaving the end jagged and cracked about an eighth of an inch from the end; that the defendant then directed the plaintiff to put it in place in connection with the boiler; that the plaintiff objected to putting it in, and told the defendant that it was not suitable, and that it was shameful to put such a glass in; that the defendant replied, "Put it in now, and use it, and I will get another one;" that the plaintiff then put it in, but it jammed, and did not properly fit in place, as did those that had been before used, which were fitted and adapted to the purpose by the manufacturer; that the gauge so cracked and fitted was dangerous to be used; and that, on June 29, the plaintiff requested the defendant to get a proper one, and the defendant said he would when he got time to go into the city, though he did not procure one.

The plaintiff continued in the defendant's employ, running the boiler until July 13, when, while he was attending to his duty about the boiler and the engine, using due care, the glass water-gauge exploded, and a piece of the glass flew into his eye, causing the injury complained of.

The defendant introduced evidence tending to contradict all the contentions of the plaintiff referred to in his request for a ruling hereinafter stated, and there was much other evidence touching the question of negligence, and the other questions of the case. There was also testimony tending to show, that, when

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the plaintiff entered the service of the defendant, he undertook to assume the responsibility of the management of the engine and boiler, the defendant not being skilled in that business.

The plaintiff requested the judge to instruct the jury as follows: "If a servant enters into an employment when the machinery is in a state of safety, and continues in the service, and while in the service an appliance of the machinery becomes out of repair, and it is necessary to withdraw it and replace it by another, and the employer for a temporary purpose replaces it by an appliance that is not suitable for the purpose, the use of which exposes the servant to greater risk and danger of injury, and the servant complains of it, and tells his employer that it is unsuitable, and the employer promises to replace it by a suitable one, but fails to do so, he is guilty of negligence; and, if an injury to the servant ensues in consequence thereof, he is responsible to the servant in damages therefor."

The judge refused to give the instruction requested, but instructed the jury generally, in terms not excepted to, in relation to the rights, duties, and liabilities of master and servant, and to the law of negligence, and as to what constitutes negligence, but did not state that any particular matters testified to would or would not constitute negligence.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

J. Brown, for the plaintiff.

W. Clifford, for the defendant.

HOLMES, J. If machinery upon which a servant is employed has become dangerous, and the servant has complained of it, and has been promised that it shall be repaired, but is injured before the defect is remedied, and while he is reasonably expecting the promise to be performed, the promise is a circumstance to be considered by the jury in determining whether he has assumed the risk in the mean time, and whether he was using due care in working when he knew there was danger. But no case, we believe, has gone the length of deciding that the promise entitles the servant to recover as matter of law, which was the effect of the ruling asked. And if, as supposed in the request, the time for performance has gone by before the accident,

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and, as must have been the fact, the servant knows that the repair has not been made, there is a very strong argument that the servant is no longer relying upon the promise, but has decided to take the risk. *Exceptions overruled.*

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DANIEL F. McCARTHY & another *vs.* ALBERT D. SWAN.

Essex. Nov 1, 2, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A case pending in court was sent to an auditor. The parties and a third person appeared before the auditor and filed with him an agreement appointing him referee, and submitting to him all matters in dispute between the three, growing out of a certain matter referred to in the declaration. The agreement was headed with the name of the case and the court in which it was pending. The submission was stated to be "in the above entitled action," the referee was to report to the court, and final judgment was to be entered in the action upon the coming in of the referee's report. No rule of reference was issued by the court. *Held*, that the agreement was not one *in pais*, and did not work a discontinuance of the action. *Held, also*, that, as the defendant was not indebted to the plaintiff and to the third person jointly, no rule of reference could have been issued in the action; and that the referee's award could not be accepted.

CONTRACT. Writ dated May 21, 1883, and returnable to the Superior Court. The declaration contained four counts, and alleged, in substance, that one William Sullivan made a contract with the city of Somerville to build a sewer in said city; that Sullivan became indebted to the plaintiffs, and assigned to them his claim against the city for building the sewer; that Sullivan also became indebted to the defendant, and assigned the same claim to him, said assignment being made after the assignment to the plaintiffs; that the plaintiffs agreed that the defendant's claim and assignment should have preference over their assignment to the amount of $7000; that the defendant should receive from the city the whole amount due to Sullivan, and, after deducting $7000, should pay so much of the residue to the plaintiffs as should be sufficient to pay the plaintiffs' claim against Sullivan; and that the defendant had received from the

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city the amount of $23,000, but refused to pay the plaintiffs the amount due them.

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At December term, 1883, a commission in ordinary form issued to W. F. Gile, Esq., as auditor. On February 13, 1885, the parties to the action appeared before the auditor, and they together with Sullivan executed an agreement of reference, which, after stating the name of the case and the court in which it was pending, proceeded as follows:

"In the above entitled action all matters in dispute between Daniel F. McCarthy, Mary McCarthy, and William Sullivan, and Albert D. Swan, arising out of the transactions and relations of the parties in the construction of the sewer in Somerville which is referred to in the declaration, are referred to the final determination of W. F. Gile, Esq., of Lawrence in said county, who shall hear the parties and report to said court what sum, if any, is due from said Swan to said parties, or either of them.

"And in case the referee shall find and report that anything is due from said Swan to said parties, or either of them, final judgment shall be entered for such sum in this action upon the coming in of the referee's report. And in case no sum is found to be due from said Swan to these parties, or either of them, final judgment shall be entered for the defendant in this suit; which judgment the parties agree shall have the same effect as though said Sullivan were a party plaintiff to this suit."

The defendant died on August 27, 1885, and on July 3, 1886, Alvin E. Mack, the executor of his will, appeared as a party defendant. On July 2, 1886, the parties appeared before said Gile, acting as referee under said agreement, and a hearing was begun. On the next day papers containing the suggestion of the defendant's death, the appearance of the executor, and the agreement of reference, were filed in the office of the clerk of the Superior Court; but no rule of reference was taken out.

On December 31, 1886, the referee filed his report, stating that there was due from the defendant to the plaintiffs the sum of $2374.23, with interest from April 10, 1880; and to William Sullivan the sum of $6000, with interest from April 10, 1880; "making a total sum of $11,751.84, inclusive of interest

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reckoned from the tenth day of April, 1880, to the date of this award, for which total sum final judgment is to be entered in this action, according to said agreement of reference."

The defendant filed twenty-four objections to the acceptance of the award, of which only the following need now be stated:

"Because there is now no case pending in which a judgment upon said award can be entered, and the parties to said award are not before the court. . . . .

"Because the said arbitrator was not appointed such by the court in which the suit of Daniel F. McCarthy and Mary McCarthy against Albert D. Swan was pending. . . . .

"Because by the alleged submission certain matters in dispute between Daniel F. McCarthy, Mary McCarthy, and one William Sullivan (the said Sullivan not then, at the time of the execution of said alleged submission, being, and never having since become, a party to said suit), were referred to arbitration.

"Because the alleged submission worked a discontinuance of said suit.

"Because the said W. F. Gile had no authority to make or to return to this court any award.

"Because this court has no jurisdiction in respect to said award.

"Because no judgment can be entered by this court upon said award."

On January 24, 1887, the plaintiffs filed a motion to amend the record by the issue of a rule of reference as of the day of the filing of said agreement, and on January 25, a motion for the acceptance of the award, and for judgment.

At the hearing on these motions, and on the objections of the defendant to the acceptance of the award, before *Bacon*, J., it appeared that in 1876 Sullivan was building a sewer under a contract with the city of Somerville; that he was indebted to the plaintiffs and to Swan for money lent to carry on the work, and for labor on the sewer, and had given assignments to Swan, and to the plaintiffs jointly, of the whole sum coming to him from the city of Somerville, to secure what he owed them; that the amount due from the city was settled by suit, and the whole sum due, which was $23,160, was paid to Swan on an execution issued in his name, which execution was

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so issued by agreement and consent of the plaintiffs and of Sullivan.

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The plaintiffs offered to prove the acts and declarations of the parties, as tending to show their understanding that the hearings before the referee were had under a rule of court; and also offered to prove by the referee the same declarations, and that he heard the case understanding that he was acting as referee under a rule of court.

The judge ruled that he had no power to amend the record by ordering the issue of a rule of reference as of the date of the filing of said agreement, and refused for that reason, and not as matter of discretion, to grant the plaintiffs' motion for such rule; and held, as matter of law, that said report could not be accepted, nor judgment ordered thereon. The judge further ruled that the agreement of reference was a submission *in pais*, and did not entitle the plaintiffs to judgment upon the award, and that it worked a discontinuance of the action; and he ordered judgment therein as on a discontinuance, and reported the case for the determination of this court.

S. Lincoln & C. U. Bell, (*J. P. Sweeney* with them,) for the plaintiffs.

W. S. Knox & A. C. Stone, for the defendant.

C. ALLEN, J. 1. The agreement of reference did not have the effect to discontinue the plaintiffs' action. It was not intended to take effect as a submission *in pais;* but as a reference in court. It is entitled as an agreement in the action which was pending between the plaintiffs and the defendant in the Superior Court. It is stated to be a submission "in the above entitled action." The referee was to "report to said court." Final judgment was to be entered in this action, upon the coming in of the referee's report. The whole phraseology of the agreement contemplated a reference as a step in the action, and as a means of determining the judgment to be entered in the action. The agreement therefore could not take effect as an agreement for a reference *in pais*, which would work a discontinuance of the action. Such was not the intention of the parties.

2. Sullivan was no party to the action, nor could he be. There was no pretence of an indebtedness of the defendant to the plaintiffs and Sullivan jointly. The claims of the plaintiffs

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and of Sullivan grew out of the same matter, but they were in law distinct. Nor was there any agreement of parties by which the plaintiffs should be substituted as creditors of Swan, in place of Sullivan. Sullivan did not release Swan. Swan did not promise to pay to the plaintiffs whatever sum he might owe Sullivan. It was merely an agreement that the amount due to Sullivan, if any, should be ascertained, and included in a judgment in favor of the plaintiffs, but if nothing should be found due either to Sullivan or to the plaintiffs, then judgment should be entered for Swan, which judgment should have the same effect as though Sullivan were a party plaintiff. Under this agreement, if the referee should find that something was due to the plaintiffs, but that nothing was due to Sullivan, the plaintiffs would have judgment for the sum so found due to them; but no judgment could be rendered against Sullivan, and the stipulation did not include this contingency. It was contemplated by the parties that the claims of the plaintiffs and of Sullivan should be treated and passed upon separately, and they were so treated and passed upon. This agreement falls short of constituting a substitution or novation of parties; 2 Chit. Con. (11th Am. ed.) 1374; *Derby* v. *Sanford*, 9 Cush. 263; and indeed it has not been contended otherwise in argument.

The effect of the agreement, therefore, was that the referee should hear and pass upon a new and separate cause of action, held by one who was not and could not be a party to the record, and make report thereon to the court. If application had been seasonably made to the court for a rule of reference upon this agreement, such rule could not properly have been issued, because neither Sullivan nor his claim was or could be before the court. *Porter* v. *Dickerman*, 11 Gray, 482. The court could not give effect to such an agreement. A reference under rule of court cannot properly embrace the claim of a party not before the court. Nothing short of an agreement which would amount to a novation, by which the plaintiffs should be substituted for Sullivan as creditors of Swan, to all intents and purposes, and the claim of Sullivan extinguished, would enable the plaintiffs to declare in their own names upon this claim against the defendant, and to amend their pleadings by adding this new cause of action. Nothing short of this would make it proper to issue

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a rule of reference embracing the claim of Sullivan. None of the cases heretofore decided have gone further than to hold that other matters of controversy between the parties to the action may be included in a submission under a rule of court. *Berkshire Woollen Co.* v. *Day*, 12 Cush. 128. *Commonwealth* v. *Pejepscut Proprietors*, 7 Mass. 399, 417. *Haskell* v. *Whitney*, 12 Mass. 47. The agreement of the parties in this case, as in *Foster* v. *Durant*, 2 Cush. 544, cannot be carried into effect according to the rules of law.

It is objected by the defendant, that a rule of reference should not be issued *nunc pro tunc*, even if it might properly have been issued before the hearing; but we do not need to go into that question, being of opinion that it could not properly have been issued at the outset.

The result is, that the judgment for the defendant must be reversed, that a rule of reference under the agreement must be refused, and that the case stand for further proceedings.

Judgment reversed.

Mary E. Stanton *vs.* City of Salem.

Essex. Nov. 2, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. Devens & Knowlton, JJ., absent.

In an action against a city for personal injuries sustained by an alleged defect in a highway, the plaintiff testified, that, while walking on a sidewalk in the city, he struck his foot against some ice on the sidewalk which projected about two inches above the sidewalk, fell, and received the injuries complained of; and that the ice was hobbly, and had the marks of footprints upon it. A witness, who examined the ice the next day, testified that it was about three feet in length, and a foot and a half wide; that the edge, against which the plaintiff testified that he struck his foot, was such as would be formed by anything wearing away a perpendicular surface; and that the ice had apparently been left, when other ice on the sidewalk had been cut away. There was also evidence that snow had fallen on the third, fourth, and fifth days before the accident, but not on the day of the accident or on the day before. *Held*, that there was no evidence to be submitted to the jury on the question whether the proper officers of the city might, by the exercise of reasonable care and diligence, have had knowledge of the defect in time to have remedied it.

Tort, for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff, a minor, by falling on a sidewalk on Winter Street in the city of Salem.

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Trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

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The plaintiff testified as follows: "About nine o'clock on Monday morning, December 21, 1885, I was walking on the sidewalk in front of the dwelling-house occupied by George R. Jewett, No. 24 Winter Street in Salem. I struck my foot against a piece of ice which projected above the level of the sidewalk about two inches, and fell down and sprained my ankle. A small gutter crossed the sidewalk where I fell, and the ice was on the side of the gutter nearest the Common. After I fell, a lady assisted me up, and I sat on the stone steps in front of the Jewett house, which steps are about four feet from where I fell. I remained on the steps for a half-hour, and noticed the condition of the ice on the sidewalk. It was about two inches thick, and longer than it was broad. The top or surface of the ice was very hobbly."

On cross-examination, she testified as follows: "There was a little ice in the gutter which crossed the sidewalk in front of the Jewett house. The streets were very frosty that morning, and very slippery. I was walking in the middle of the sidewalk. I fell just before I got to the steps in front of the Jewett house. The gutter is very near the steps. I fell after I passed the gutter. I am sure I crossed the gutter because the ice that I struck my foot against was on that side (the Common side) of the gutter. I noticed the ice after I fell. The ice was on the bricks on the side of the gutter. I did not see any ice before I fell. I looked at the ice after I fell. While sitting on the steps I noticed the condition of the ice. It was very hobbly, as if some one had trampled on it. Foot-prints and marks of shoes were on it. The ice looked as though it had been left there, and had not been shovelled."

It was admitted that the sidewalk was of proper construction and width, of no unusual slope, and was of brick; and that, except as herein stated, it was entirely clear of snow and ice.

Charles H. Gilbert, a hack-driver, called by the plaintiff, testified as follows: "I went to Winter Street, Salem, about half-past nine on Monday, December 21, 1885. I found the plaintiff sitting on the steps in front of the Jewett house on Winter Street. I got another man, and we took the plaintiff

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in our arms and carried her into the coach. I drove her to her house in Beverly. My attention was called by a lady to the place; there was a little ice there; I could not swear how long or how thick it was; perhaps the ice ran half-way down the sidewalk. The ice was a little rough, as if somebody had been kind of chopping it up and had left it there."

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William J. Berry, a civil engineer, testified that on Tuesday, December 22, 1885, being the day after the accident, about one o'clock P. M., he went in company with the plaintiff's counsel for the purpose of making measurements of the sidewalk where the alleged accident happened; that he found a stone gutter leading from the westerly corner of the Jewett house crossing the sidewalk; that the sidewalk was clear of snow and ice in front of the Jewett house, showing the bricks, with the exception of a small piece of ice which was on the easterly side of the stone gutter; that the ice was three feet in length on the gutter, that is, across the sidewalk on the stone gutter, and it was a foot and a half in the direction toward the Common, that would be perpendicular to the gutter, and the outline of it was roughly irregular between the measurements taken across it, roughly circular joining those points; that the position of it was about the middle of the sidewalk.

On cross-examination, he testified that his impression was that it was quite cold, thawing in the sun, and quite cold in the shade; that the streets were wet except in some places, and water was coming off the eaves of the Jewett house; that the gutter was clear; that he did not notice any water falling upon the sidewalk in front of the Jewett house; that there could not be any doubt but that the ice was left on the sidewalk after ice had been cut off the sidewalk; that the ice was one inch and a half at the thickest point; that it started level with the edge of the gutter, and then it rose rapidly and sharply for possibly two or three inches of its length, and then it was substantially level out towards the centre, and the greatest depth of the ice was one inch and a half; and that the edge was such an edge as would be formed by anything wearing away a perpendicular surface.

The plaintiff put in evidence a notice served upon the defendant within thirty days of said injury, stating the time, place,

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and cause of the injury as required by law; and also put in evidence the weather record kept at the police station in Salem, showing that it was snowing at ten o'clock in the evening of December 17, 1885, at one o'clock and at five o'clock in the morning of the 18th, and at five o'clock in the morning of the 19th; and that the weather was clear or cloudy on the 20th and the 21st until sunset, when there was snow.

At the close of the plaintiff's case, the defendant asked the judge to rule that the action could not be maintained. The judge so ruled. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

D. W. Quill, for the plaintiff.

F. L. Evans, for the defendant.

MORTON, C. J. In an action brought under the Pub. Sts. c. 52, § 18, the burden is upon the plaintiff to show, not only a defect in a highway, but also that the defect was one which the proper officers either had knowledge of, or, by the exercise of reasonable care and diligence, might have had knowledge of, in time to have remedied it or to have prevented the injury complained of. *Hanscom* v. *Boston*, 141 Mass. 242, and cases cited.

In the case at bar, the plaintiff was injured by stepping upon ice about two inches thick which had formed upon the sidewalk. If we assume this to have been a defect, there is no evidence in the case as to how it was formed, or how long it had existed. No witness saw it before the accident, and there was no evidence to show that any officer of the city either knew of it, or could, by reasonable diligence, have known of it, before the injury to the plaintiff. She failed to meet the burden of proving her case, and the court rightly directed a verdict for the defendant. *Exceptions overruled.*

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WILLIAM D. PICKMAN & another, trustees, *vs.* INHABITANTS OF PEABODY.

Essex. Nov. 2, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

The charter of a corporation authorized it to convey water by subterraneous pipes to a certain town. A subsequent act authorized it to conduct by subterranean pipes into their own land the waters of certain ponds, for the purposes for which the original charter was granted, and, for said purposes, to "construct, lay down, and maintain any dam or dams, pipes, fountains, or reservoirs, whatsoever, upon and over any land whatsoever." The statute also provided a remedy for any person injured "by the taking the water aforesaid." *Held*, that the corporation had no power to take the land of a third person and build a dam upon it.

HOLMES, J. This is an action of tort for entering and building a dam upon the plaintiff's land, and for flowing other land belonging to the plaintiff, on the borders of Spring Pond, in Peabody, Salem, and Lynn. The defendant, as allowed by the Sts. of 1870, *c.* 93, § 1, and 1873, *c.* 255, (Pub. Sts. *c.* 27, § 27,) has purchased all the rights and franchises of the proprietors of the Salem and Danvers Aqueduct, and justifies under the acts giving that corporation its powers (namely, Sts. 1796, *c.* 76; 1839, *c.* 114; 1850, *c.* 273); and also under the St. of 1881, *c.* 171; and sets up that the remedy, if any, is by petition under those acts.

The St. of 1881, *c.* 171, may be laid out of the case, because, if the authority given by that act applies to any of the acts complained of, we must assume that it was not pursued, as no description of the lands taken for the dam or by flowing was filed, as required by § 5. *Kenison* v. *Arlington*, 144 Mass. 456. Of the other acts mentioned, the St. of 1850, *c.* 273, is the only one relied on as authorizing what the defendant has done.

The first section of the St. of 1850 is as follows: "The said corporation are hereby empowered to conduct by subterranean pipes, into their own land in Salem and Danvers, the waters of Spring Pond and Brown's Pond, so called, and also the waters of the brook in the towns of Danvers and Salem, now dammed by said aqueduct corporation, which they now have, or may

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acquire the right to take and use, for the purposes and objects for which the original charter was granted; and for said purposes may construct, lay down, and maintain any dam or dams, pipes, fountains, or reservoirs, whatsoever, upon and over any land whatsoever, subject to the following provisions hereinafter continued." Section 2 provides a remedy "if any person or corporation shall suffer damage by the taking the water aforesaid." No other remedies are provided, and the remaining sections are immaterial. See *Fay* v. *Salem & Danvers Aqueduct*, 9 Allen, 577; *Fay* v. *Salem & Danvers Aqueduct*, 111 Mass. 27.

The authority to construct dams upon any land whatsoever "for said purposes," that is, it would seem, "for the purposes for which the original charter was granted," is broadly expressed, but upon a consideration of the whole section, and of what was done under it at the time, we are of opinion that it does not justify the defendant's acts.

The purpose for which the original charter was granted is that of "conveying fresh water by subterraneous pipes into the towns of Salem and Danvers." St. 1796, *c.* 76, § 1. The power given by the St. of 1850, so far as it expressly touches the pond, is to conduct off its waters by subterranean pipes. It hardly can have been deemed necessary to dam the pond, still less to raise it above its natural level, as has been done, in order to carry off its water in this way. The only purpose contemplated by the act for which there was any apparent need of dams was to build reservoirs. The reservoirs contemplated by the act would seem to be reservoirs upon the corporation's own land, as the power given is to conduct the waters "into their own land." Nothing is said about flowing land of other people. The only provision for compensation is for damage by taking the water. When the act was passed, the company simply built a series of reservoirs on its own land, and thus things remained until 1882. It seems to us more reasonable to construe the power to build dams as limited to the scheme contemplated and carried out, and by the absence of express powers to flow and of provisions for damages caused by flowing, rather than to extend by implication the powers to flow and the remedies for the damage caused by their exercise so as to admit a right to build dams and

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sluiceways at the mouth of the pond, and to carry out a new scheme which plainly never entered the mind of the Legislature. *Judgment set aside, and case to stand for trial.*

J. G. Abbott & C. G. Saunders, for the plaintiffs.

H. Wardwell, for the defendant.

WILLIAM HALE *vs.* LEONARD V. SPAULDING & others.

Essex. Nov. 3, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A receipt, under seal, given by the obligee of a joint obligation to one of the joint obligors, "in full satisfaction for his liability" on said joint obligation, releases all of the obligors; and oral evidence is inadmissible to show that the obligee did not intend to release them all.

CONTRACT, upon an instrument under seal, dated May 23, 1885, by the terms of which the defendants, six in number, agreed to pay to the plaintiff, on demand, six sevenths of any loss to which he might be subjected as the indorser of a certain note for a corporation.

Aaron H. Saltmarsh alone defended. He filed an answer alleging that the plaintiff, since the execution of the contract declared on, had executed and delivered the following paper, under seal, to one of the joint obligors under the contract:

"Received of L. V. Spaulding $1060.84, in full satisfaction for his liability on the document" signed, &c., and dated May 23, 1885.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Hammond*, J., it appeared that on September 20, 1886, the defendants, except Saltmarsh, settled with the plaintiff for their proportionate part of the amount alleged to be due under the agreement declared on, and the plaintiff executed the paper under seal, annexed to the answer, and delivered it to the defendant Spaulding. The plaintiff offered to prove facts showing that, in giving said sealed paper annexed to the answer, there was no intention of releasing the defendant Saltmarsh. The judge ruled that said offer was

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not material, and that said sealed paper released the defendant Saltmarsh, and ordered a verdict for the defendant. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

W. H. Moody, for the plaintiff.

H. N. Merrill, for Saltmarsh.

C. ALLEN, J. The words "in full satisfaction for his liability" import a release and discharge to Spaulding, and, the instrument being under seal, it amounts to a technical release. The plaintiff does not controvert the general rule, that a release to one joint obligor releases all. *Wiggin* v. *Tudor*, 23 Pick. 434, 444. *Goodnow* v. *Smith*, 18 Pick. 414. *Pond* v. *Williams*, 1 Gray, 630, 636. But this result is avoided when the instrument is so drawn as to show a contrary intention. 1 Lindl. Part. 433. 2 Chit. Con. (11th Am. ed.) 1154 *& seq.* *Ex parte Good*, 5 Ch. D. 46, 55. The difficulty with the plaintiff's case is, that there is nothing in the instrument before us to show such contrary intention. Usually a reservation of rights against other parties is inserted for that purpose; or the instrument is put in the form of a covenant not to sue. See *Kenworthy* v. *Sawyer*, 125 Mass. 28; *Willis* v. *De Castro*, 4 C. B. (N. S.) 216; *North* v. *Wakefield*, 13 Q. B. 536, 541. Parol evidence to show the actual intention is incompetent. *Tuckerman* v. *Newhall*, 17 Mass. 580, 585. The instrument given in this case was a mere receipt under seal of money from one of several joint obligors, in full satisfaction for his liability on the document signed by himself and others. There is nothing to get hold of to show an intent to reserve rights against the others. He might already have discharged each of them by a similar release.

Exceptions overruled.

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LYDIA J. ABBOTT *vs.* INHABITANTS OF NORTH ANDOVER.

Essex. Nov. 4, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

Under the St. of 1875, c. 209, a town treasurer has no right, *virtute officii*, to give a new note of the town in renewal of an old note; and the town is not bound by his assurances as to his authority, or by any custom or usage on his part to act without authority.

If the holder of a valid promissory note, signed in behalf of the town by its treasurer, surrenders it to the treasurer and takes from him a new note in renewal, on his assurance that he has authority to bind the town by the renewal, when, in fact, he has not such authority, the treasurer's conduct is not a fraudulent concealment by the town of the cause of action, within the Pub. Sts. c. 197, § 14, and an action cannot be maintained on the old note, which is not brought within six years after the cause of action upon it accrued.

CONTRACT. Writ dated April 14, 1886. The declaration contained two counts. The first count was on the following promissory note:

"$ 5400. North Andover, May 3, 1879.

One year after date, for value received, the town of North Andover, in the county of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by their treasurer duly authorized, promise to pay to the order of Mrs. Lydia J. Abbott the sum of fifty-four hundred dollars, with interest at the rate of seven per cent per annum. Andrew Smith, treasurer."

The second count was on an account annexed for money lent by the plaintiff to the defendant in the years 1872, 1873, 1875, and 1876, with interest thereon.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Hammond*, J., Asa H. Abbott testified that, acting as the agent of the plaintiff, he lent the money set forth in the second count to the treasurer of the town of North Andover for the use of the town, the treasurer representing that he was authorized by the selectmen to borrow the money, and that promissory notes were given by the treasurer for the money so lent. Abbott further testified, that the amount stated in the note set forth in the first count was the aggregate of the amounts of the previous notes, with interest, and that when Smith gave that note he made the same representations as to his authority.

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There was also other evidence, the nature of which appears in the opinion.

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On all the evidence, the judge ruled that the action could not be maintained, and directed a verdict for the defendant. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

W. S. Knox & J. C. Sanborn, (*J. R. Poor* with them,) for the plaintiff.

E. T. Burley & C. U. Bell, for the defendant.

C. ALLEN, J. The note of May 3, 1879, cannot be supported as a valid indebtedness of the town. The St. of 1875, *c.* 209, which was then in force, provided that no debts should thereafter be incurred by any town, except, 1. for temporary loans in anticipation of the taxes for the year in which such debts are incurred, and of the year next ensuing, and expressly made payable therefrom by vote of the said city or town; 2. debts incurred by a vote of two thirds of the legal voters present and voting at a legal meeting; or, 3. debts contracted for purposes for which towns may lawfully expend money. The present note did not fall within either of these classes. It was given in place of similar notes held by the plaintiff in the various years from 1872 to 1876 inclusive. The plaintiff contends that the greater part of these earlier notes were given for money borrowed by the town prior to the passage of the St. of 1875, on legal votes of the town, and also that the last of these notes, given in 1876, was legal, and that, being legal obligations of the town, these formed a good consideration for the later note, and that the town treasurer had a right at their maturity to take them up, or pay them, by giving another note in place of them, or in some form to continue and renew the liability of the town to pay them. But, even assuming the premises, the difficulty with this argument is that the new note was a new and independent contract. It is nothing to say that it was founded on a good consideration. Debts founded on good considerations are within the prohibition of the statute. It is difficult to see how the town itself could give a new note in renewal of an old one, for borrowed money, without a two-thirds vote. But we need not go so far as that. Clearly, a town treasurer, *virtute officii*, has no right to give new notes in the place of old ones. His authority to bind the town springs only from legal votes of the

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town; and he cannot enlarge his actual authority by assurances, whether made fraudulently or in good faith, as to the extent of it, or by any custom or usage to act without authority. *Agawam Bank* v. *South Hadley*, 128 Mass. 503, 506, and cases cited. A new note is a new contract, and, if valid, creates a new liability. It is not merely an admission of an existing debt, but it is the creation of a new liability. It has been often held or declared that this is beyond a partner's power, after dissolution. *Bell* v. *Morrison*, 1 Pet. 351, 373. *Hall* v. *Lanning*, 91 U. S. 160, 170. 1 Lind. Part. 408–412. Story Part. (7th ed.) § 322 and note. *Lumberman's Bank* v. *Pratt*, 51 Maine, 563. However this may be, a town treasurer has no such authority. *Lowell Five Cents Savings Bank* v. *Winchester*, 8 Allen, 109. The nature of his agency does not enable him to enter into contracts for his principal, unless specially authorized. The vote of the town in 1879 authorized him "to hire money for the use of the town when necessary, upon the approval of the selectmen." This had no reference to renewing existing notes. There is no aspect in which the note of May 3, 1879, can be upheld as valid.

This being so, all earlier indebtedness, if ever valid, is barred by the statute of limitations. There was no fraudulent concealment by the defendant of the plaintiff's cause of action, within the Pub. Sts. *c.* 197, § 14. Upon this point, it is sufficient to say that the town was not responsible for the fraud of its treasurer. *Exceptions overruled.*

JOSIAH D. RICHARDS *vs.* BERNARD GAUFFRET & another.

Bristol. Nov. 19, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. W. ALLEN, J., absent.

The owner of a mill-pond executed an instrument under seal, whereby he leased, demised, and let "the sole and exclusive right to cut and carry away" from said pond "all such ice as can be so cut in form and shape to use either for private use or as merchandise," the lessor reserving to himself the right to cut all ice needed for his own use. *Held*, that the interest of the lessee was not a mere revocable license, and that he could maintain an action against one who, without right, entered upon the pond, and cut ice therefrom.

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TORT, in three counts. The first count was for breaking and entering the plaintiff's close in Attleborough, known as the Falls Pond, and cutting and carrying away five thousand tons of ice, the property of the plaintiff. The second count was as follows: "And the plaintiff says that on the first day of January, 1887, he had and held, and now has and holds, and has so had and held since said first day of January, 1887, till the present time, the sole and exclusive right to cut and carry from the Falls Pond — the close described in the first count — all the ice formed or forming on said pond; and the defendants, in violation of the plaintiff's said rights, entered upon said pond and cut and carried away therefrom five thousand tons of ice, the property of the plaintiff." The third count was for the conversion of five thousand tons of ice, the property of the plaintiff. Answer, a general denial.

Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Mason*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, which, after stating that the pleadings formed part thereof, was in substance as follows:

The defendants took ice from the pond as alleged, but did not actually interfere with the plaintiff's taking ice from said pond, and the plaintiff made no attempt to take ice from said pond, except a small quantity to fill the private ice-house of his lessor.

The pond from which the ice was cut was a large mill-pond, covering about one hundred and fifty acres, owned by Handel N. Daggett, who had obtained his title to the soil or land under the water in said pond by various mesne conveyances, giving him the fee of the same.

On January 1, 1887, Daggett, by an instrument under seal, leased, demised, and let to the plaintiff, for the term of one year from that date, "the sole and exclusive right to cut and carry away from the Falls Pond, so called, ... all such ice as can be so cut in form and shape to use either for private use or as merchandise." The lease also contained this provision: "The lessor may cut all ice needed for his own use from and off said pond."

The plaintiff asked the judge to rule, that, under this lease, if the defendants entered upon the pond, and cut and carried away ice therefrom, the plaintiff was entitled to recover in this action. The judge refused so to rule.

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The defendants asked the judge to rule, that the lease had no other effect than as a license to the plaintiff to cut and carry away the ice from said pond; that it conveyed no interest in the premises to him; that he acquired no title to any ice in the pond under it until the same was cut and taken possession of by him; and that he could not maintain this action upon any of the counts in the declaration.

The judge so ruled, and found for the defendants. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

E. Avery & J. E. Pond, for the plaintiff.

H. J. Fuller, for the defendants.

MORTON, C. J. Daggett as owner of the pond had the right to dispose of the water and of the ice which might be formed upon it, and there can be no doubt that it was the purpose of the indenture to transfer to the plaintiff the sole and exclusive right to cut and use, or sell, all such ice, except what the lessor needed for his private use. *Paine* v. *Woods*, 108 Mass. 160, 173. By the lease, therefore, the plaintiff acquired a valuable right, and it would be a reproach to the law if it did not furnish him a remedy for an unlawful encroachment upon this right by a stranger.

It is not necessary to discuss the somewhat nice questions whether the plaintiff had such an interest in the land that he could bring trespass *quare clausum*, or whether he had such property in the ice that he could maintain an action of trover against the defendants. He had an interest greater than a mere revocable license, and could bring an action against Daggett if he interfered with his rights under the lease; he had, as we have said, a valuable right, and, if a stranger unlawfully encroached upon this right, we can see no reason why he might not maintain a proper action therefor.

The second count of the plaintiff's declaration substantially sets out his rights, and the violation of them by the defendants; and we are of opinion that, under it, the plaintiff may recover such damages as he shows he has sustained by reason of such unlawful violation of his rights. *Exceptions sustained.*

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JAMES C. EDDY & others, executors, *vs.* WALTER S. ADAMS, administrator.

Bristol. Nov. 19, 1887. — Jan. 4, 1888. W. ALLEN, J., absent.

A. made a promissory note, dated May 25, 1878, and payable to B. one year from date. A. died on March 31, 1884, and an administrator was appointed and gave bond on April 7, 1884. Said administrator resigned, and an administrator *de bonis non* was appointed on April 6, 1885. *Held*, in an action on the note against the administrator *de bonis non*, brought on April 5, 1887, that the action was brought within the time allowed by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 136, § 17, and was not barred by the statute of limitations.

HOLMES, J. This is an action on a promissory note made by the defendant's intestate on May 25, 1878, payable to the plaintiffs' testator in one year, which therefore would have been barred by the statute of limitations after May 28, 1885, if the maker and payee had both lived so long. The maker died, however, on March 31, 1884, and one Boynton was appointed his administrator, and gave bond on April 7, 1884. If Boynton had remained administrator, the note would have been barred after April 7, 1886. Pub. Sts. *c.* 197, § 12; *c.* 136, § 9. But Boynton resigned, and the defendant was appointed administrator *de bonis non* on April 6, 1885. The plaintiff's testator died on April 19, 1886, and the plaintiffs were duly appointed executors on June 4, 1886. The writ in this action is dated April 5, 1887.

1. The defendant contends that Boynton's resignation makes no difference in the running of the special statute of limitations in favor of executors and administrators; that the language of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 197, § 12, allows the action to be brought only within two years after "the grant" of letters of administration, and that the word "the" can only refer to the original grant, and thus that the time within which this action could be brought ended April 7, 1886. But we think it perfectly clear that this section, so far as it expresses a limit and not an extension of the time for suing, is simply a general statement of the rule for the ordinary case where the same person remains administrator for two years, that the general rule is more specifically stated in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 136, § 9, and that neither section is

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inconsistent with or qualifies the express provisions for cases like the present in *c.* 136, § 17, which apply in terms, and allow an action within two years from the defendant's giving bond. The special statute of limitations overrides the general statute, and sometimes abridges and sometimes extends the period of liability. But it cannot have been intended to bar an action by the lapse of the time during which it provides that the administrator shall not be held to answer to a suit. Section 1 of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 136, applies to administrators *de bonis non*, as well as to others, and is a bar to an action prematurely commenced. Therefore, on the defendant's contention, the plaintiffs had only one day, April 7, 1886, on which they could have sued within the two years from Boynton's giving bond, and by a little contrivance could have been prevented from suing at all.

2. It does not appear that the estate had been exhausted in paying preferred claims, so that the action is barred by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 136, § 5. The exceptions state that there was evidence that there were funds of the estate in the hands of Boynton's agent which were not included in his inventory or account, and several of the claims paid do not appear to have been preferred claims. See also *Cushing* v. *Field*, 9 Met. 180.

Defendant's exceptions overruled.

J. M. Morton & A. J. Jennings, for the plaintiffs.

J. C. Coombs & J. V. Beal, for the defendant.

JOB T. WILSON *vs.* JAMES H. WILSON.

Bristol. Oct. 26, 1887. — Jan. 5, 1888. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A woman devised the greater part of her estate to her son and two other persons, in trust that they "may, in the exercise of their discretion, pay" to her husband such portion of the income, "or no portion at all thereof, as they shall from time to time think fitting and proper," and, further, to invest the surplus income, and, at the death of the husband, to convey one half of the trust estate to the daughter of the testatrix or her issue, or, if she should leave no issue, then to the issue of the son, and, at the death of the son, to convey the other half to the issue of the son. The will further provided, that, if either of the recipients under the will

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should be wanting in thrift, the trustees should make the payments provided for in such way and to such persons as should be most likely to enure to the benefit of the recipients, "exercising in all such case and cases the judgment that would be expected from a good father to each of such recipients respectively." On a petition by the husband for the removal of the son from the office of trustee, a single justice of this court, before whom the hearing was had, found that the son was the dominant member of the board of trustees; that there was a strong mutual hostility between the son and the husband; that he could not satisfactorily apportion the blame for the quarrel, and did not find any misconduct of the son distinctly attributable to hostility; and that, in view of the absolute discretion reposed in the trustees as to the allowance to the husband, and the whole state of affairs disclosed by the evidence, the son ought to be removed, if the husband had a *locus standi*, and unless mutual hostility not attributable solely to the trustee, without distinct proof of misconduct in consequence of it, is never a sufficient ground of removal in such a case. The judge on these findings reported the case for the consideration of the full court. *Held*, that the husband was "beneficially interested in the trust," within the Pub. Sts. c. 141, § 9, and had a right to bring the petition; and that, on the facts found, the trustee ought to be removed.

APPEAL from a decree of the Probate Court, allowing a petition filed by Job T. Wilson, praying for the removal of James H. Wilson, one of the trustees under the will of Deborah Wilson. The case was heard by *Holmes*, J., and reserved for the consideration of the full court. The facts appear in the opinion.

J. M. Wood, for the petitioner.

J. M. Morton, for the respondent.

MORTON, C. J. The will of the testatrix, who was the wife of the petitioner, gives the most of her estate to the respondent and two others, upon the trust that they "may, in the exercise of their discretion, pay" to the petitioner such portion of the income, "or no portion at all thereof, as they shall from time to time think fitting and proper," shall invest the surplus income for accumulation, and at the death of the petitioner shall convey one half of the trust estate to her daughter or her issue, or, if she leaves no issue, to the issue of the respondent, and shall hold the other half in trust until the death of the respondent, when it shall be conveyed to his issue. It also provides in the last clause, that, "if either of the recipients under this will, husband, children, or grandchildren, or children's issue, shall be wanting in thrift," the trustees are ordered and charged with making the conveyances and payments before provided in such way and to such persons as shall be most likely to enure to the benefit of the recipients, "exercising in all such case and cases

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the judgment that would be expected from a good father to each of such recipients respectively."

The will contemplates that a part of the income is to be applied to the benefit of the petitioner, unless some cause exists to the contrary. Although the discretion given to the trustees is very broad, yet they are to act upon their discretion and judgment, not upon their mere will or caprice, or from selfish or improper motives; they are to exercise the judgment to be expected from a good father.

The petitioner has a right to demand of them that, in determining how much of the income should be paid to him or for his benefit, they should exercise a fair and reasonable discretion and judgment; and if they unfairly or corruptly refuse to do this, he is a party "beneficially interested in the trust," who, under the statute, may apply for the removal of the trustees. Pub. Sts. *c.* 141, § 9.

We come, then, to the merits of the case.

The statute provides that the Supreme Judicial Court and the probate courts may, "upon application of the parties beneficially interested in the trust, remove a trustee under a written instrument, if such removal appears essential to the interests of the applicants." Pub. Sts. *c.* 141, § 9. This gives a broad power to the court, and leaves the question of the removal of a trustee very largely to its discretion.

In this case the justice who heard the case upon appeal from the Probate Court has not reported the evidence; we cannot, therefore, revise his findings. He has found, as the result of the hearing, that the respondent is the dominant member of the board of trustees appointed by the will, that there exists a strong mutual hostility between the respondent and the petitioner, who is his father, that he cannot satisfactorily apportion the blame for the existing quarrel, and that he does not find any misconduct of the trustee distinctly attributable to hostility. But he finds that "in view of the absolute discretion reposed in the trustees as to the allowance to the petitioner, and the whole state of affairs disclosed by the evidence, the trustee ought to be removed, if the petitioner has a *locus standi*, and unless mutual hostility not attributable solely to the trustee, without distinct proof of misconduct in consequence of it, is never a

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sufficient ground of removal in a case like the present." This is equivalent to a finding by the justice that the respondent ought to be removed, unless, upon the facts in the case, the justice had no right in law to remove him.

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We think it was within the province of the presiding justice to decide whether, upon all the evidence, the trustee should be removed. The relation between the father and the son created by the will is one of extreme delicacy. The trustees have full power to determine what allowance the father shall have, limited only by the duty of exercising a fair and reasonable discretion. Every one instinctively feels that a state of mutual hostility between the trustee and such a beneficiary, arising after the trust was created, caused in part by the fault of the trustee, unfits him, to a greater or less degree, for the fair execution of the trust. But from the nature of the case it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to find distinct proof that, in exercising his discretion, the trustee was actuated or influenced by such hostility. And yet it may be apparent that, according to the laws which generally govern human action, he could not be relied upon to act fairly towards the beneficiary. We think that in a case like this, where the duty of a trustee is so delicate, where the hostility has arisen since the trust was created, and is attributable in part to the fault of the trustee, where the existence of the hostility would naturally pervert his feelings and judgment, it is competent for a justice to remove a trustee without further proof of misconduct, upon the ground that the removal appears essential to the interests of the beneficiary.

In *McPherson* v. *Cox*, 96 U. S. 404, 419, Mr. Justice Miller states that, "where a trustee is charged with an active trust, which gives him some discretionary power over the rights of the *cestui que trust*, and which brings him into constant personal intercourse with the latter, it may be conceded that the mere existence of strong mutual ill-feeling between the parties will, under some circumstances, justify a change by the court." In *Scott* v. *Rand*, 118 Mass. 215, it is said in the opinion, that the question of removing a trustee depends upon "a careful consideration of all the circumstances, the existing relations, and to some extent the state of feeling between the parties. It is addressed

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to the reasonable discretion of the court." And the trustee was removed, although he had acted from honest motives, mainly upon the ground that, in a quarrel between the *cestui que trust* and her husband, he had taken the part of the husband, and thus created unfriendly relations with her.

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The respondent relies upon the cases of *Forster* v. *Davies*, 4 DeG. F. & J. 133, and *Nickels* v. *Philips*, 18 Fla. 732. But they are quite different from the case at bar. It does not appear in those cases that any blame attached to the trustees for the existing feud or hostility; and the trustees had no discretionary power over the rights of the *cestuis que trust*, so that the existence of hostility was of minor importance, as it could not affect the due execution of the trust.

Decree of Probate Court affirmed.

MILON S. JENKINS *vs.* JOHN T. WOOD.

Essex. Nov. 3, 1887. — Jan. 5, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

An action of tort to recover the forfeiture prescribed in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 179, § 6, cannot be maintained where a tenant in common commits waste in good faith, under an honest belief that he is not a tenant in common.

TORT, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 179, §§ 6, 7, to recover three times the amount of the damages to be assessed for the cutting of wood by the defendant, on land alleged to be owned by the plaintiff and the defendant as tenants in common.

The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and to this court, on appeal, on agreed facts, in substance as follows:

The defendant, at the time of the cutting, was a tenant in common of said land with the plaintiff, and did not give the notice to his cotenant provided in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 179, § 6. The damage to the whole land resulting from said cutting is $350.

The premises originally were the property of Sarah Wood, the wife of the defendant, who died on July 4, 1871, without leaving issue living. The defendant owns one undivided half

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of the premises, and the other half descended to the plaintiff, as heir of the said Sarah Wood.

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A child was born during the existence of the marriage of the defendant and the said Sarah, and the defendant believed that this child was born alive, and that he was tenant by the curtesy of the undivided half of the premises, the remainder in which belonged to the plaintiff. So believing, the defendant cut the wood and timber.

After the cutting, the plaintiff brought a petition for partition of the said premises, in the Superior Court, against the defendant. Upon the trial of said petition, the defendant was a witness, and testified that he was present at the birth of the said child, and that it was born alive, and other witnesses testified upon the question in issue. It was determined that the child aforesaid was not born alive, and judgment for partition was entered. Subsequently to said judgment the present action was brought.

If the plaintiff was entitled to recover the forfeiture provided in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 179, § 6, judgment was to be entered for the plaintiff accordingly. If the plaintiff was not entitled to recover said forfeiture, but, in any form of action, could recover the actual damage occasioned by said cutting, judgment was to be entered for such damage.

The court ordered judgment for the plaintiff for the actual damage; and the plaintiff appealed to this court.

W. S. Knox, for the plaintiff.

C. G. Saunders, for the defendant.

MORTON, C. J. The statute provides that, "if a joint tenant, coparcener, or tenant in common of undivided lands cuts down, destroys, or carries away any trees, timber, wood, or underwood standing or lying on such lands, or digs up or carries away any stone, ore, or other valuable thing found there, or commits any other strip or waste, without first giving thirty days' notice in writing under his hand to all the other persons interested therein, or to their respective agents or attorneys, of his intention to enter upon and improve the land, or if he does any of said acts during the pendency of a petition or other suit for the partition of the premises, he shall forfeit three times the amount of the damages that shall be assessed therefor," to be

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recovered in an action of tort by his cotenant. Pub. Sts. *c.* 179, §§ 6, 7.

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Although such action is not strictly an action for a penalty, (*Goodridge* v. *Rogers*, 22 Pick. 495,) yet the provisions of the statute are highly punitive or penal in their character, and should be strictly construed, and held to apply only to such cases as are clearly intended by the Legislature. *Adams* v. *Palmer*, 6 Gray, 338. *Byam* v. *Bickford*, 140 Mass. 31. Similar statutes have been in force for more than a century. St. 1783, *c.* 52, § 1. St. 1785, *c.* 62, § 1. Rev. Sts. *c.* 105, § 7. Gen. Sts. *c.* 138, § 7. Pub. Sts. *c.* 179, § 6.

We are of opinion that the Legislature intended that these statutes should apply only to cases of known and recognized tenancies in common or joint tenancies, and not to cases where a party enters upon land and cuts wood or timber under an honest claim that he owns the whole in fee, or by some other title than that of a tenant in common or joint tenant. If a man in good faith buys land, supposing that he gets a title in fee to the whole, and cuts wood from it, it is not to be presumed that the statute intended that he should be subject to the severe penalty of threefold the amount of damage done, if he afterwards discovers that he has a title only to an undivided portion instead of to the whole of the land. The object of the statutes is to enforce a penalty against tenants in common or joint tenants who knowingly encroach upon the rights of their cotenants. Before cutting wood or timber, they are to give notice to their cotenants of their intention to enter upon and improve the land, or, as it is expressed in the Sts. of 1783 and 1785, that they "have occasion for, and shall enter upon and improve such lot or lots of land lying in common." Such a notice could not be given by a person who did not know that he was a tenant in common, and the provision tends strongly to show that the object of the statute is to deal with cases of known and recognized tenancies in common.

A similar question was decided in *Reed* v. *Davis*, 8 Pick. 514. The St. of 1795, *c.* 75, § 3, provided that if any person should commence any action for recovering possession of land, and the person in possession, or any other person, pending such action, should make strip or waste, he should forfeit and pay treble

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damages. It was held that an action for the penalty could not be maintained against a person who did not know of the pendency of the action.

We are therefore of opinion, that, upon the facts agreed in this case, the plaintiff cannot maintain an action under the statute for the penalty; but, under the stipulation in the case stated, that, if the plaintiff can in any form of action recover the actual damage he has sustained, judgment is to be entered for such damage, the Superior Court rightly entered judgment for such damage. *Judgment affirmed.*

JOSEPH SIMPSON *vs.* ARTHUR D. STORY & another.

Essex. Nov. 4, 1887. — Jan. 5, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

The provisions of the U. S. St. of June 26, 1884, *c.* 121, § 18, providing that the individual liability of a shipowner shall be limited to the proportion of any and all debts and liabilities that his individual share of the vessel bears to the whole, do not apply to fishing vessels.

CONTRACT, against Arthur D. Story and Eli Wilson, on an account annexed, for the price of a mackerel seine, sold in 1885, and for work done on the same in that year and in May, 1886. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Brigham*, C. J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The seine was purchased, at Gloucester, of the plaintiff, by the defendant Wilson, for the use of the fishing schooner A. M. Burnham, of the burden of one hundred and fifteen tons, of said Gloucester, Wilson being the master of the vessel, and also being the owner of one half of it. The defendant Story owned the other half. The repairs on the seine were also ordered by Wilson.

Story alone defended, and contended that, if he was liable at all, he was, under the U. S. St. of June 26, 1884, *c.* 121, § 18,*

* This section provides that "the individual liability of a shipowner shall be limited to the proportion of any or all debts and liabilities that his individual share of the vessel bears to the whole; and the aggregate liabili-

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only liable for one half of the bill; and requested the judge so to instruct the jury.

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The judge declined so to instruct the jury, but instructed them that, if Story authorized the purchase of the seine, or afterwards ratified such purchase, he was liable for the full amount of the plaintiff's bill.

The jury returned a verdict against Story for the full amount of the bill; and he alleged exceptions.

C. A. Russell, for Story.

W. A. Pew, Jr., for the plaintiff.

C. ALLEN, J. In construing an act of Congress, the title of the act, the objects to be accomplished, the other provisions found in connection with those under especial consideration, the provisions and arrangement of the statutes which were amended, the mode in which the embarrassing words were introduced, as shown by the journals and records, the history of the times, and especially of prior legislation upon the same general subject, may all be considered. *Myer* v. *Car Co.* 102 U. S. 1, 11. *United States* v. *Union Pacific Railroad*, 91 U. S. 72, 79, 82. *Hadden* v. *The Collector*, 5 Wall. 107, 110. *Blake* v. *National Banks*, 23 Wall. 307, 319. See also *Field* v. *Gooding*, 106 Mass. 310, 313; *Commonwealth* v. *Bank of Mutual Redemption*, 4 Allen, 1, 13; *Holbrook* v. *Holbrook*, 1 Pick. 248. Looking at the statute now under consideration, U. S. St. of June 26, 1884, *c.* 121, § 18, in this manner, it appears that it was not the design of Congress to include fishing vessels within its provisions. Its title is, "An act to remove certain burdens on the American merchant marine, and encourage the American foreign carrying trade and for other purposes." The object of the prior legislation which was amended, as well as of the act in question, was to promote the building of ships, and to encourage persons engaged in the business of navigation, with special reference to the foreign carrying trade; so that American vessels might enter into this trade in competition with foreign vessels, and on more nearly the same

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ties of all the owners of a vessel on account of the same shall not exceed the value of such vessels and freight pending; provided, that this provision shall not affect the liability of any owner incurred previous to the passage of this act, nor prevent any claimant from joining all the owners in one action; nor shall the same apply to wages due to persons employed by said shipowners."

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terms. See *Moore* v. *American Transportation Co.* 24 How. 1; *Walker* v. *Transportation Co.* 3 Wall. 150. This is shown by the whole history of the legislation, and by the course of the discussions in Congress. See Cong. Record, 48th Congress. American vessels were subject to burdens which foreign vessels were free from; and all the other sections of the statute had reference to the removal of such burdens. Section 18 was not in the original bill introduced in the House of Representatives, but it is found in substance in a bill introduced in the Senate, which proceeded concurrently with that in the House; and it was retained in the report of a joint committee of conference. Prior statutes had established an exemption or limitation of responsibility for losses by fire, embezzlement, and otherwise, but they did not include any exemption in respect to debts; and similar limitations existed in foreign countries. U. S. St. 1851, *c.* 43, §§ 1–4. U. S. Rev. Sts. §§ 4282–4284. *The Scotland*, 105 U. S. 24. *Norwich Co.* v. *Wright*, 13 Wall. 104. *The Rebecca*, 1 Ware, 188. A similar statute had long existed in Massachusetts. St. 1818, *c.* 122. Rev. Sts. *c.* 32, §§ 1–4. Except as thus limited, the responsibility of joint owners of vessels was joint; while the *delectus personarum* of a partnership did not exist, since one joint owner could transfer his share in the vessel without the consent of the others. A vessel engaged in foreign trade is liable to be away from home for long periods of time, under the control of agents. Section 18 sought to place the owners of such vessels more nearly on the footing of stockholders in a corporation, in order that men of wealth might be encouraged to invest in ships. Congress was not, however, at this time dealing with fishing vessels, but with vessels engaged in foreign commerce. The merchant shipping is treated as a subject distinct from the fisheries in legislation, in decisions of the courts, and in text-books. U. S. Rev. Sts. Tit. 48–53. *Wait* v. *Gibbs*, 4 Pick. 298. *The Swallow*, 1 Ware, 21. *Taber* v. *United States*, 1 Story C. C. 1, 6, 7. *The Three Brothers*, 1 Gall. 142. Abbott on Shipping, 605, 606. Section 18 appears to have been intended to relate to the same common object with the rest of the statute, and does not extend the limitation of responsibility to owners of fishing vessels; and the common law liability of such owners remains.

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Since the decision of this case, the attention of the court has been called to the U. S. St. of June 19, 1886, *c.* 421, § 4, extending the provisions of the U. S. St. of 1884, *c.* 121, § 18, to all sea-going vessels. While this does not affect the liability of the defendant in the present case, it confirms the construction put by the court upon the St. of 1884, *c.* 121, § 18.

Exceptions overruled.

CLINTON P. VOSE *vs.* COUNTY OF ESSEX.

Essex. Nov. 5, 1887. — Jan. 5, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

The salary of an employee of a jail and house of correction was established by the county commissioners, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 220, § 26, and increased by the Superior Court, under § 27. More than a year afterwards, the county commissioners reduced the salary. *Held*, that the salary fixed by the Superior Court did not continue until the further order of the court, and that the action of the county commissioners was legal.

CONTRACT to recover a balance of salary alleged to be due the plaintiff for services rendered, as steward and engineer, at the jail and house of correction at Lawrence, in the county of Essex. Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Hammond*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

In 1879, the county commissioners fixed the salary of the then steward and engineer at the rate of $775 per annum. The sheriff of said county, who was master of the house of correction and keeper of the jail at Lawrence, deemed this salary inadequate, and he presented his petition to the Superior Court to fix the salary of said officer. Upon a hearing of this petition, after due notice thereof to the county commissioners, the court fixed said salary at $900 per annum,* which was thereafter paid to said steward and engineer, until he resigned his office.

On or about October 1, 1880, the sheriff of said county appointed the plaintiff steward and engineer of the jail and house

* The petition related to the salaries of several of the officers, and the order of the court, passed on June 24, 1879, was, "that the salaries of certain officers at the jail and house of correction at Lawrence shall be fixed as follows, viz.: steward and engineer, $900, ... from April first, 1879."

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of correction at said Lawrence; and the county commissioners, a short time after January 1, 1881, fixed his salary at the rate of $800 per annum. The plaintiff, however, contended that, under the order of the court before mentioned, he was entitled to a salary at the rate of $900 per annum; which claim was denied by the commissioners; they contending that they had a right to fix his salary at $800, and refused to allow him a larger rate. This sum of $800 per annum was paid to him so long as he remained in the service of the county as steward and engineer. No question was raised as to the plaintiff's salary prior to January 1, 1881, payment for the same prior to that time having been made to the satisfaction of both parties. No contention was made that the plaintiff waived his claim to the full amount of $900 per annum by accepting the amount of $800 as paid him.

The defendant put in the records of the county commissioners, showing that their board was organized annually, on or about January 1, of each year, and contended that the order of the court above referred to did not limit the right of the board of county commissioners of 1881, to fix the salary of the plaintiff; and that the said board and succeeding boards, notwithstanding said order, had the right to fix the salary of the plaintiff, as they did; and requested the judge so to rule; but the judge declined so to rule, and did rule, that so long as said order of court remained unchanged, and in the absence of any contract to the contrary, the plaintiff was entitled to receive the amount of salary fixed by the court; and that the county commissioners had not authority to fix the plaintiff's salary at a different sum. The judge found for the plaintiff for the full amount of his claim; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

C. G. Saunders, for the defendant.

E. T. Burley, for the plaintiff.

MORTON, C. J. Under our system of managing the prisons of the State, the sheriff has charge of the jails, and, except in the county of Suffolk, of the house of correction in his county, and is to keep them by himself or by his deputy or jailer or master. The jailer or master appoints all subordinate officers or assistants, but the responsibility of determining their compensation is placed upon the county commissioners. The statute

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provides that "the commissioners shall establish fixed salaries for all officers, assistants, and employees of jails and houses of correction, which shall be in full compensation for all their services." Pub. Sts. c. 220, § 26.

Section 27 provides that, "if the sheriff, master, keeper, or jailer deems any such salary inadequate, he may present his petition, showing the facts, to the Superior Court next to be holden for the county, and the court, after notice to the chairman of the county commissioners and a hearing, shall fix the salary, and pass such further order in the premises as law and justice require."

The provision that the commissioners shall establish the salaries implies that they shall have the power to change them from time to time, as the public interests seem to require. If the commissioners establish a salary, and the Superior Court, upon petition of the sheriff, increases it, we do not think that this takes away the power of the commissioners to establish a different salary in the future, if a change in the circumstances or the officer seems to require it. The order of the court fixing the salary is not for any definite period in the future. It is based upon the facts existing at the time it is passed. The statute contains no provision that the commissioners shall or may apply to the court for a reconsideration or revision of its order. It is not intended that the court shall exercise a continuing supervision over the officers or their salaries; that responsibility rests upon the county commissioners. This seems to be the purpose of the statute. If, therefore, after the Superior Court has fixed the salary of an officer or employee, the commissioners are of the opinion that a change in the circumstances and conditions has occurred which makes it just in the interest of the public that a different salary should be established, we are of opinion that they have the power to fix the salary at a lower sum, subject to the revision of the Superior Court upon the petition of the sheriff or jailer, if he is dissatisfied with the new salary as fixed.

In the case at bar, in 1879, the Superior Court, upon the petition of the sheriff, fixed the salary of the steward and engineer at the jail and house of correction in Lawrence at $900. The person who then held the office resigned, and in 1880 the

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plaintiff was appointed in his place, and the commissioners fixed his salary at $800. For the reasons stated above, we think they had the right to do this. It follows that, as the plaintiff has been paid his salary as fixed by the commissioners, he has no claim against the defendant. *Exceptions sustained.*

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EDWARD P. SHAW *vs.* FREDERIC A. SILLOWAY.

Essex. Nov. 5, 1887. — Jan. 5, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

Where a debtor executes a collateral agreement to deliver, on demand, certain property as security for the payment of a debt, a demand made after the debt is barred by the statute of limitations is too late.

TORT. Writ dated March 8, 1886. The declaration contained two counts. The first count was for the conversion of one horse, one buggy, one wagon, one sleigh, and eleven pieces of furniture. The second count alleged that, on June 10, 1878, the defendant executed the following agreement: "I, Frederic A. Silloway, in consideration of the receipt of two hundred and twenty-four dollars on my note of this date, payable to Edward P. Shaw, or to his order, in four months from date, I herewith consign for sale to Edward P. Shaw the following merchandise, and as security for the payment of said note and all contracts due from me payable to the order of said E. P. Shaw, and the proceeds of all sales of merchandise herewith consigned, and to satisfy full payment of all contracts said Shaw may hold against me, payable to his order. Consignment." Then followed a list of the chattels set forth in the first count, and these words: "All stored in house and barn, 14 Fruit St., which I will deliver on demand of said E. P. Shaw. F. A. Silloway."

The second count further alleged that this agreement was given as security for the payment of a promissory note of even date with said agreement, and as security for the payment of all contracts due and payable from the defendant to the plaintiff; that these contracts were two promissory notes, signed by

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the defendant and payable to the plaintiff, each being dated October 12, 1878, for the sum of $89, payable four months after date; that the defendant owed the plaintiff a certain sum on these two notes; that the defendant had refused to deliver to the plaintiff the chattels set forth in said agreement, though requested so to do; and that he had within six years converted the same to his own use, and deprived the plaintiff of his security.

Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Hammond*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff's evidence tended to show the following facts: On June 10, 1878, the defendant made and delivered to the plaintiff a promissory note, payable in four months to the plaintiff or his order, for $224, and executed and delivered to the plaintiff, at the same time, the instrument declared on. The chattels enumerated in said instrument were then in the defendant's possession, and continued in his possession up to the time of the trial. When the note of June 10, 1878, became due, the plaintiff paid a part of it, and gave for the balance the two notes, dated October 12, 1878, described in the declaration.

The defendant proved that the plaintiff brought an action against him in the Superior Court, wherein he declared upon said notes of October 12. The answer in said action was a general denial, and the statute of limitations. After hearing, a verdict and a judgment for the defendant were rendered. Neither party introduced any evidence showing upon what ground this verdict was rendered.

The plaintiff testified that in October, 1886, he made a demand upon the defendant for the goods enumerated in the instrument of June 10, 1878. This testimony was not contradicted or controlled. The plaintiff also testified that the said new notes had never been paid.

The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury as follows: "1. There is no evidence of a conversion, and for that reason there must be a finding for the defendant on the first count. 2. The action cannot be maintained, on the evidence, on either count. 3. The statute of limitations is a bar to this action. 4. The evidence and the writ showing that no demand was made for the goods described in the writing dated July 10, 1878,

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until after more than six years from its date, and that no action was brought until after six years from its date, this action is barred. 5. The writing of July 10, 1878, does not secure the payment of the two notes of October 12, 1878."

The judge declined to give the rulings requested, except the first; and ruled that the action could be maintained. He also found, as a fact, that the demand in October, 1886, was within a reasonable time, and ruled that the statute of limitations was not a bar to the action. He accordingly found for the defendant on the first count, and for the plaintiff on the second count; and assessed damages in the sum of $158. The defendant alleged exceptions.

W. H. Moody, for the defendant.

A. Noyes, for the plaintiff.

C. ALLEN, J. The instrument upon which this action is brought is not clearly expressed, but its purpose and meaning seem to be reasonably plain. The defendant executed his promissory note for $224 to the plaintiff, and on the same day also executed and delivered to the plaintiff this instrument, reciting the receipt of $224 on his note, and consigning for sale to the plaintiff the personal property therein mentioned as security for the payment of the note and of all contracts due from him and payable to the plaintiff's order. The property in question consisted chiefly of a horse and vehicles; articles which would naturally be used by the person in possession of them. The instrument contained a promise to deliver this property to the plaintiff on demand. This shows that it was not necessarily to be delivered at once, and that it was contemplated that the defendant might remain in possession of it until a demand should be made. It must also have been understood that the defendant might himself sell part of the property, since the words "and the proceeds of all sales of merchandise herewith consigned" can only refer to sales by the defendant.

This instrument did not amount to a mortgage. There are no words in it which import a transfer of the legal title to the plaintiff; and there are no words of defeasance. It has been held that a bill of parcels, which contains no words of defeasance, and which is intended merely as security, if accompanied by delivery, is at most only a pledge, and is not a mortgage.

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Thompson v. *Dolliver*, 132 Mass. 108. *Walker* v. *Staples*, 5 Allen, 34. *Whitaker* v. *Sumner*, 20 Pick. 399. But the instrument now before us does not purport to convey the title; it is merely a consignment for sale. If possession of the property had accompanied the delivery of the instrument, the transaction would have been a pledge. The fact that possession was retained by the defendant did not have the effect to make the instrument a mortgage. The instrument, therefore, is merely a power of sale, with an agreement to deliver the property on demand, or the proceeds in case the property or any part of it should be sold by the defendant. Meanwhile he was to keep the possession until a demand by the plaintiff. It is an agreement to make a pledge as security for the demands referred to. This did not devest the defendant's title; it did not even create a lien. It would not authorize the plaintiff to take possession of the property, without the defendant's consent. It was a mere executory agreement. The property might have been sold by the defendant, or attached upon a writ against him. The contract might or might not be enforceable in equity, according to the circumstances. *City Ins. Co.* v. *Olmsted*, 33 Conn. 476. *Beeman* v. *Lawton*, 37 Maine, 543.

When the defendant's note fell due, it was partly paid in cash, and new notes were given to the plaintiff for the unpaid balance. These have never been paid. The finding of the court necessarily implies that these notes cannot be deemed to have been taken in payment of the original note, in such a sense as to destroy the security of the defendant's agreement. But the new notes, as well as the original note, are now barred by the statute of limitations, and an action brought upon them was defeated, as we must infer, on that ground. And this was the state of things at the time of the plaintiff's demand, under the agreement. The question, therefore, is, whether the action can be maintained upon the agreement, after the debts to be secured have become barred by the statute of limitations, and have been adjudged to be barred; or whether the agreement falls with the right to enforce the debt.

If there is an actual pledge, and the debt becomes barred, this does not give to the debtor a right to reclaim his pledged property. The debt is not extinguished; the statute only takes

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away the remedy. *Hancock* v. *Franklin Ins. Co.* 114 Mass. 155. In case of an ordinary mortgage of real or personal estate, the security is not lost, though the debt be barred. *Norton* v. *Palmer*, 142 Mass. 433. The rule is the same where there is a lien. *Spears* v. *Hartly*, 3 Esp. 81. *Higgins* v. *Scott*, 2 B. & Ad. 413. *In re Broomhead*, 16 L. J. (Q. B.) 355. In New York it has even been held, under the statutes of that State, that the lien of a judgment is not lost, although an action upon the judgment is barred. *Waltermire* v. *Westover*, 4 Kern. 16. And there appears to be no good reason why an independent collateral agreement given by way of guaranty or other security should not outlive the remedy upon the debt which it was given to secure, under proper circumstances.

It is however objected, in the present case, that the demand was made too late. The question has often arisen elsewhere, whether a court of law can properly lay down a general rule, that where a demand is necessary, as preliminary to the bringing of an action, such demand must be made within a reasonable time, and that, by analogy to the statute of limitations, six years should ordinarily be considered as a reasonable time. Such rule has been repudiated, or at least not acted upon, in the following cases: *Holmes* v. *Kerrison*, 2 Taunt. 323; *Thorpe* v. *Coombe*, 8 Dowl. & Ry. 347; *Rhind* v. *Hyndman*, 54 Md. 527; *Taylor* v. *Witman*, 3 Grant, (Penn.) 138; *Girard Bank* v. *Bank of Penn*, 39 Penn. St. 92. It has been adopted in the following cases: *Pittsburgh Railroad* v. *Byers*, 32 Penn. St. 22; *Morrison* v. *Mullin*, 34 Penn. St. 12; *Rhines* v. *Evans*, 66 Penn. St. 195; *Palmer* v. *Palmer*, 36 Mich. 487; *Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fé Railroad* v. *Burlingame*, 36 Kans. 628. See also *Stanton* v. *Stanton*, 37 Vt. 411; *Thrall* v. *Mead*, 40 Vt. 540; *Keithler* v. *Foster*, 22 Ohio St. 27; *Jameson* v. *Jameson*, 72 Mo. 640; *Brown* v. *Rutherford*, 42 Law T. (N. S.) 659; *S. C.* on appeal, *nom. In re Rutherford*, 14 Ch. D. 687.

This question has not been determined in Massachusetts. *Codman* v. *Rogers*, 10 Pick. 112, was a case in equity, and the doctrine declared was merely the ordinary doctrine of laches in equity. See also *Western Union Telegraph Co.* v. *Caldwell*, 141 Mass. 489, 494. In *Emmons* v. *Hayward*, 6 Cush. 501, the agreement contained a stipulation that the demand should not be

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made until the plaintiffs, who were assignees under an assignment for the benefit of creditors, should make up their accounts, and they were prevented from doing this until the expiration of thirteen years from the date of the agreement, by reason of proceedings in equity instituted against them by the defendant. Under these circumstances, a demand having been made within about fourteen months after the termination of the suit in equity, it was held that the defendant could not be allowed to object that it was not made within a reasonable time. In *French* v. *Merrill*, 132 Mass. 525, it was held that an officer who held the avails of property sold under an attachment could not be allowed to object that a demand made upon him for the same, by the party entitled thereto, after the lapse of eleven years, was too late, as the funds were in the custody of the law, whose officer he was.

We have no occasion to determine the general question here, because we are of opinion that where, as in the present case, there is merely a separate collateral agreement to deliver, on demand, certain property as security for the payment of an existing debt, it is not a just or reasonable construction of such agreement to hold that a demand may be made upon it at any time, however remote, and although the debt to be secured has become barred by the statute of limitations. Otherwise, the claim might continue open forever. It is not to be supposed that such was the intention of the parties. It is true that no cause of action accrues until a demand, and that therefore the statute of limitations does not begin to run till such demand. But our decision rests on the ground that the contract, by implication, requires a demand within the time of the continuance of legal liability upon the debt, and that a demand after the expiration of that time is too late.

Exceptions sustained.

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JOHN P. WOODBURY *vs.* MARBLEHEAD WATER COMPANY.

Essex. Nov. 7, 1887. — Jan. 5, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

The St. of 1883, *c.* 163, incorporated a water company, for the purpose of furnishing the town of M., or any other town or city, with water. Power was given to take the water of a certain brook in M., to purchase other water sources, to take and hold lands for the purpose of conveying water into M., or other town or city, to lay down pipes over any lands, and to enter upon public or private ways under the direction of the authorities of the city or town where such ways are situated. The company was required, when land was taken, to record a description in the registry of deeds of the county in which the lands should be situated. Power was also given to make contracts with M., or with any other town or city, to supply water. It was also provided that the county commissioners for the county in which land taken was situated should require security for damages. The town of M. was given the right to purchase the franchise, and to tax the inhabitants therefor. *Held*, that the company had the right, under the statute, to acquire water rights outside of M. without acquiring any therein, and, for the purpose of conveying water to another town, to take land, although it conveyed no water to M.

The St. of 1883, *c.* 163, incorporating a water company, and giving it power to take lands, requires, in § 13, the county commissioners, upon the application of the owner of any land taken, to estimate the damages and require the corporation to give satisfactory security for the payment of all damages and costs which may be awarded such owner; and provides that the right of the corporation to enter upon or use such lands, except for making surveys, shall be suspended until it gives the security so required. *Held*, that the statute made adequate provision for compensation.

If a statute giving the right to a water company to take land by the right of eminent domain requires it to file a description of the land taken, "sufficiently accurate for identification," and land is taken in two towns, a description which states the land to be in one town, which does not state the width of the land taken, and which is vague as to the termini, is insufficient.

If a statute giving the right to a water company to take land by the right of eminent domain requires it to file a description of the land taken, "sufficiently accurate for identification," it is no objection to a description that it does not state the name of the owner of the land taken.

A water company, authorized to take land by the right of eminent domain on filing a description "sufficiently accurate for identification," filed a description and entered upon the land. The owner brought a bill in equity for an injunction against the company, and the company, after it had filed an answer in the case, filed a new description, and set this up in a supplemental answer. The first description was held to be insufficient, and the second to be sufficient. *Held*, that no injunction could issue, but that the bill might be retained for the assessment of damages in respect to the entry before the lawful taking.

HOLMES, J. This is a bill in equity to restrain the defendant from maintaining its pipes in the plaintiff's land, and from

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entering upon or using the same. The defendant justifies under the St. of 1883, c. 163. It has bought land in Swampscott, has sunk wells there, about three miles from the Marblehead boundary and has laid pipes from them in Lynn, in an opposite direction from Marblehead, through the plaintiff's land.

The plaintiff's first contention is, that the defendant is not authorized to purchase water sources outside the town of Marblehead, — arguing from the name given to the defendant, from the special power in § 2 to take the waters of Putnam's Brook in that town, preceding the general words used, from the power given to Marblehead to purchase the franchise, &c., from the unlimited extent of the powers conferred upon any other construction, and from the general scope of the act. We certainly are much impressed with the force of these considerations, but we cannot escape from the plain effect of the language used.

The first section creates a corporation "for the purpose of furnishing the inhabitants of the town of Marblehead, or any other town or city, with water." By § 2 the corporation may take "the water of Putnam's Brook, so called, in the town of Marblehead, and the water rights connected therewith, and may purchase other water sources," and may take and hold all lands and easements necessary for holding and preserving such water and for conveying the same into said town, "or other town or city," and may construct and lay down pipes, &c., under or over "any lands," &c., "or public or private ways, and along any such ways," &c., "and under the direction of the board of selectmen of the town, or the mayor and aldermen of the city in which any such ways are situated, may enter upon and dig up any such ways," &c. See also St. 1886, *c.* 343. In § 3 is the usual provision, that "within sixty days after the taking of any lands, rights of way, water rights, water sources, or easements as aforesaid, otherwise than by purchase," the corporation shall "file and cause to be recorded in the registry of deeds for the county within which such lands or other property is situated, a description thereof," &c. By § 5, the corporation may make contracts with Marblehead, "or any other town or city, ... or with any individual or corporation, to supply water," &c. Finally, by § 13, "The county commissioners for the county within which any land, water, or water rights taken under this act is situated,"

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shall require security for damages, upon application of the owner. It seems to us, that, if we should say that the defendant's right to take water is confined to the water in Marblehead, we should be yielding to our surprise at the scope of the powers conferred, rather than construing words according to their ordinary and plain meaning.

The plaintiff next objects that no adequate provision is made for compensation to the owner of lands taken otherwise than by purchase. But § 13,* to which we have referred, makes substantially the same provision that is made in respect of railroads by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 97, the sufficiency of which, we believe, never has been doubted. *Connecticut River Railroad* v. *County Commissioners*, 127 Mass. 50, 56. *Abbott* v. *New York & New England Railroad*, *ante*, 450. And although the injunction provided for by § 104 is not mentioned, doubtless one would be granted if the defendant undertook to use the land contrary to the terms of the act. *Brickett* v. *Haverhill Aqueduct Co.* 142 Mass. 394, 397.

We agree with the plaintiff, that the first description filed was not "sufficiently accurate for identification," as required by § 3. *Wilson* v. *Lynn*, 119 Mass. 174. *Warren* v. *Spencer Water Co.* 143 Mass. 9. The vote to take "the following described lot of land in Lynn," † which the written description

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* This section is as follows: "The county commissioners for the county within which any land, water, or water rights taken under this act is situated, shall, upon application of the owner thereof, require said corporation to give satisfactory security for the payment of all damages and costs which may be awarded such owner for the land or other property so taken; but previous to requiring such security the county commissioners shall, if application therefor is made by either party, make an estimate of the damages which may result from such taking, and the county commissioners shall in like manner require further security, if at any time the security before required appears to them to have become insufficient; and all the right or authority of said corporation to enter upon or use such land or other property, except for making surveys, shall be suspended until it gives the security so required."

† The description, after these words, was as follows: "Commencing at the southerly line of Nahant Street, in the city of Lynn, at a point approximating the crest of the Lynn Beach; thence in a southwesterly direction on the said crest of said beach, through lands supposed to belong to J. P. Woodbury and Edward Heffernan, to Beach Street in said Lynn."

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incorporates, and to which the plan subsequently filed within the sixty days refers, does not set out the width of the lot, and is vague as to the termini. A part of the plaintiff's land, too, is in Nahant. The written description is equally vague. The plan, if sought to be used either in aid of the instrument or as an independent description, apart from other objections, only cures the latter defect of the vote, if it can be cured.

But since the bringing of the bill there has been a new vote, a new entry, and a new description filed, accurate in itself and referring to an accurate plan. The only fault found with this description is that it does not set forth the names of the owners. But it identifies the land, which is all that the statute or justice to the owners requires. See *Grand Junction Railroad & Depot Co.* v. *County Commissioners*, 14 Gray, 553, 564. It was not argued for the plaintiff that the power to take could not be exercised from time to time, or that it was exhausted as to this particular land by an ineffectual attempt to exercise it. See *Sudbury Meadows* v. *Middlesex Canal*, 23 Pick. 36, 52; *Stamps* v. *Birmingham & Stour Railway*, 2 Phillips, 673.

It follows that no injunction can be granted. But whether or not the plaintiff would have obtained an injunction on the merits of his case as it stood at the time when the bill was filed, he must be taken to have had a case within the equitable jurisdiction of the court, in the absence of a demurrer, and for damages as an incident of the cause, until after the original pleadings were complete. *Creely* v. *Bay State Brick Co.* 103 Mass. 514. *Winslow* v. *Nayson*, 113 Mass. 411. The bill therefor may be retained for the assessment of damages, if any, in respect of the entry before the lawful taking, if it be desired. See further *Milkman* v. *Ordway*, 106 Mass. 232.

Ordered accordingly.

G. O. Shattuck & J. Woodbury, for the plaintiff.

J. P. Farley & J. F. Wheeler, for the defendant.

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CLARA E. FOGG *vs.* EBEN N. PRICE & others.

Essex. Nov. 7, 1887. — Jan. 5, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

If the defendant in a suit in equity files a demurrer to the bill, and also an answer, the court may, under Rule 22 in Chancery, allow the answer to be withdrawn, and may hear the case on the bill and demurrer; and it is not necessary that the demurrer should be again filed.

If a lease of land contains a provision that, "if the premises are for sale at any time, the lessee shall have the refusal of them," and the lessor conveys them to a third person, the lessee cannot maintain a bill in equity, against the lessor and the purchaser, for specific performance of the provision.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed April 21, 1886, against Eben N. Price, Charles H. Price, and Joseph Price, alleging the following facts:

On April 9, 1867, Eben N. Price, the owner of a parcel of land in Salem, with the buildings thereon, executed a lease of the same, for the term of twenty years from said April 9, to Julian A. Fogg, his executors and administrators. The lease contained this provision: "It is further provided, that, if the premises are for sale at any time, the lessee shall have the refusal of them."

On July 29, 1875, Julian A. Fogg, by an instrument under seal, assigned the lease, the premises thereby demised, and all his right, title, and interest in or under the same, to Edward A. Hodgkins.

On September 21, 1875, Eben N. Price, by a deed of quitclaim, released all his right, title, and interest in and to the premises to Charles H. Price and Joseph Price. This conveyance, the bill alleged, was made with intent to defraud Hodgkins, and without notifying the lessee or Hodgkins that the premises were for sale, the grantees having full knowledge of the provisions of the lease, and Hodgkins having always held himself in readiness to purchase the estate.

On March 5, 1886, Hodgkins assigned to the plaintiff the lease, the premises therein described, and all his right, title, and interest in or under the same. The prayer of the bill was that the deed from Eben N. Price be declared void; that a specific performance of the contract contained in the lease be enforced;

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that the defendants be ordered to convey the premises to the plaintiff on the same terms as were at the sale enjoyed by said Charles and Joseph; that the defendants be restrained by injunction from collecting from the plaintiff the rents of the estate; and that a receiver be appointed.

On July 27, 1886, the defendants filed a demurrer to the bill, assigning, as grounds thereof, that the bill stated no case for relief in equity; that the plaintiff had no interest in the subject matter; that the bill was multifarious; and that the cause of action, if any, did not accrue within six years.

On July 27, 1886, the defendants filed an answer to the bill; and on December 6, 1886, the plaintiff filed an exception to the answer.

At the hearing, before *C. Allen*, J., when the case was opened, and before argument on the demurrer, the plaintiff asked the judge to rule as follows: "The defendants, having demurred to the whole bill and answered the whole bill, have thereby overruled their own demurrer."

The judge intimated to the defendants' counsel that the answer might be withdrawn. The defendants thereupon made a motion to be allowed to withdraw their answer. The plaintiff asked the judge to rule that the answer could not be withdrawn without the consent of the plaintiff. The judge declined so to rule, and the answer of the defendants was allowed to be withdrawn. The judge then entertained the demurrer, and, upon a hearing, ordered it to be sustained on the ground of laches.

The plaintiff appealed from the order sustaining the demurrer, and alleged exceptions to the rulings of the judge as above set forth.

J. A. Fogg, for the plaintiff.

G. B. Ives, for the defendants.

HOLMES, J. It was formerly a rule that you could not demur and answer to the same matter, and as the demurrer was a reason for not answering, the subsequent filing of an answer overruled the demurrer. Now that a demurrer may be inserted in an answer (Rule 13), there seems to be no longer any reason why a separate demurrer should be overruled by an answer filed subsequently. But whether the answer had such an effect or not, the court had power to allow it to be withdrawn (Rule 22),

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and when it was withdrawn, then, so far as the present question is concerned, it was as if it never had been filed. To say that the demurrer was dead, is only a misleading figure of speech. It was a part of the record, which may have been inoperative so long as another part of the record showed that it had no function to perform because the defendant had done what the demurrer said he ought not to be required to do. But when the record ceased to show that state of things, it was not necessary for the defendant to go through the empty form of requesting the clerk to note a second filing of the paper. If it were, it would not help the plaintiff, as we should permit it to be done now, because we are of opinion that the bill does not state a case for equitable relief, and that the covenant set out is not of a nature to be specifically enforced.

The covenant is, "if the premises are for sale at any time, the lessee shall have the refusal of them." This is simply an agreement to give the lessee the first chance to make a contract, — an agreement to sell if the parties can agree, but not otherwise. It neither fixes the price nor provides any way in which it can be fixed. Suppose that the premises had been advertised for sale, and that the tenant had brought his bill at once, it is plain that the court could not have named any sum at which the lessor should be compelled to sell. Considered therefore in the light of a contract to sell, as it is treated by the bill, it does not satisfy the statute of frauds, and, apart from the statute, it is not such a contract as equity can specifically enforce. *Pray* v. *Clark*, 113 Mass. 283. *Grace* v. *Denison*, 114 Mass. 16. *Gelston* v. *Sigmund*, 27 Md. 334. *Abeel* v. *Radcliff*, 13 Johns. 297. *Bromley* v. *Jefferies*, 2 Vern. 415.

It may be said that the contract does mean that the lessor will deal with the lessee on the same terms as with any one else, or at least will not discriminate against him; that the lessor has now fixed his price by a sale; and that, as the purchaser had notice of the contract, the defendants have removed the difficulties in the way of specific performance by their own conduct. It might be that the remedy would do substantial justice as against the lessor, but, in order to do it, a term would have to be added which is not in the contract. The contract certainly does not contemplate a sale to somebody else as a mode of

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ascertaining the price at which the lessor will sell to the lessee. *Bromley* v. *Jefferies*, *ubi supra*. The statute of frauds remains unsatisfied notwithstanding what has happened. It is not the event, but the nature of the contract, which is to be considered, and that must be determined by looking at it as it stood at the time it was made. See *Stapilton* v. *Stapilton*, 1 Atk. 2, 10; *Walton* v. *Coulson*, 1 McLean, 120, 129; *Moore* v. *Fitz Randolph*, 6 Leigh, 175, 186.

In deciding the case upon this ground, we do not mean to intimate that the bill does not disclose laches. See *Milward* v. *Thanet*, 5 Ves. 720, n.; *Eads* v. *Williams*, 4 DeG. M. & G. 674, 691; *Brooke* v. *Garrod*, 3 K. & J. 608; *Ranelagh* v. *Melton*, 2 Dr. & Sm. 278; *Weston* v. *Collins*, 13 W. R. 510; Fry Sp. Perf. §§ 1072, 1073. Neither do we mean to say that this defence is not open upon demurrer. There is no doubt that the statute of limitations can be taken advantage of in this way, because, although at common law the statute would have to be pleaded, and matter of avoidance could not be alleged before the replication, (2 Wms. Saund. 63, n. 6; *Sawyer* v. *Boston*, 144 Mass. 470, 472,) in equity such replication as the plaintiff desires to make, other than the formal joinder of issue, must be inserted in the bill, and therefore, if the lapse of time is shown and not met, a demurrer lies. It has been thought that a different rule applies to laches, on the ground that it is a conclusion of fact which cannot be drawn on demurrer. Mitf. Eq. Pl. (4th ed.) 212. But the Massachusetts decisions hold that a demurrer will lie in clear cases. *Plymouth* v. *Russell Mills*, 7 Allen, 438. *Williams* v. *Hart*, 116 Mass. 513.

We have assumed in favor of the plaintiff, without deciding, that although the covenant sought to be enforced was broken before the assignment to the plaintiff, and the right of action was therefore attached to the person of her assignor, (*Clark* v. *Swift*, 3 Met. 390, 392,) the chose in action might be assigned in equity, (3 Met. 395,) at least for purposes of specific performance, and that the assignee might sue in her own name without joining her assignor, as properly as if the contract had not been broken. *Bill dismissed.*

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WILLIAM R. STOCKBRIDGE & others, petitioners.

Hampden. Sept. 27, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. W. ALLEN, J., absent.

A man left his wife and family in August, 1871, to seek work. His wife heard from him only twice after he left, the last time being about three weeks after so leaving, and she never heard of him again, though she made inquiries. At the time he left, his health was "fair," although he was then "drinking hard," and had been for some years. *Held*, that these facts were sufficient to raise a presumption of fact that he died before June 21, 1881.

Under the Gen. Sts. *c.* 92, § 28, (Pub. Sts. *c.* 127, § 23,) if a bequest is made to one of a class, who is a relation of the testator, and the legatee dies before the testator, leaving issue surviving the testator, such issue are entitled to the legacy.

If, under the St. of 1885, *c.* 376, the judge of probate directs the amount of a legacy to be deposited in a savings bank, on the representation of the executors that the residence of the legatee is unknown, and it afterwards appears that the legatee died before the testator, and that his issue are entitled to it, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 127, § 23, the judge of probate should order the amount to be paid to such issue.

PETITION to the judge of probate, by the three children of David H. Stockbridge, one of said children being a minor, alleging that said David H. was named as a legatee under the will of Elam Stockbridge, whose will had been duly proved and allowed; that David H. died before said Elam; that the legacy, amounting to $1521.60, had, by a decree of the Probate Court, been ordered to be deposited in the Springfield Institution for Savings; and that the petitioners were entitled to the same.

The judge of probate dismissed the petition; and the petitioners appealed to this court.

The case was heard before *W. Allen*, J., who reported the case for the consideration of the full court, in substance as follows:

Elam Stockbridge died on June 21, 1881. His will was dated December 19, 1873, and the last of several codicils, each of which expressly ratified and confirmed the will, except so far as changed by the codicils, was dated June 19, 1879. These instruments were duly admitted to probate. By the third clause of his will, he directed his executors to divide all the remainder of his estate into nine parts. One of these nine parts he directed to be divided into five parts, and one of these five parts he directed his executors "to divide equally among the children

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of Chester Stockbridge." In another part of the will, the
tator described Chester Stockbridge as "son of my brot
David."

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The estate of Elam Stockbridge has been settled by the
ecutors, and the residuary legacies have become payable.

The executors of the will of Elam Stockbridge filed a petit
in the Probate Court, on which no notice was ordered, re
senting that a certain sum was due David H. Stockbridge
a legatee under said will, and that his place of residence
unknown; and praying that the sum might be ordered to
deposited or invested, according to the provisions of the St
1885, *c.* 376. On March 17, 1886, the judge of probate passed
order, which, after reciting the petition, proceeded as follo
"It appearing that the residence of said David H. Stockbri
is unknown, said executors are hereby ordered to deposit
sum in the Springfield Institution for Savings, in the name
the judge of said court, for the time being, to accumulate for
benefit of said legatee, and said executors are further orde
to file in said court a memorandum of such deposit, with
original certificates or other evidence of title thereto." T
executors deposited the money accordingly.

David H. Stockbridge is the son of said Chester Stockbrid
the petitioners are the only children of said David H., and w
his only issue living at the decease of the testator. Neit
said David H. nor the petitioners are named in the will, or t
anything under it, unless under a legacy to children of Che
Stockbridge.

The petitioners, to prove that David H. Stockbridge d
before the testator, offered the deposition of the wife of
David H., in which she testified that she and David H. w
married on September 10, 1857; that she last saw him
August 17, 1871, at Princeton, Illinois; that at that time t
were living together as man and wife; that they then had th
children, William R., twelve years old, Hattie L., eleven y
old, and Mary G., one year old; that the family had no me
of support other than those provided by said David; that Da
was out of work and could get none; that he was offered w
on the construction of a new railroad in Michigan, and accep
it; that the railroad was to run from Houghton, Michigan

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Chicago; that he and others left to go to Michigan and work on that job; that he said he should go to Houghton; that after he left his home she received two letters from him, the first dated at Chicago, Illinois, and the last at Milwaukee, Wisconsin; that the first was received about two days after he left, and the last about three weeks after he left; that she had not heard from him since that last letter; that he was forty-one years old on August 28, 1871, the month he left home; that she had written to him at Houghton, Michigan, and also to the postmaster at that place; that his brother, Frank W., had made all the effort he could to find his whereabouts; that she had inquired of persons who left with him; and that the condition of his health when he left home was fair; but he was drinking very hard, and had been for some years before he left home.

C. L. Long, for the petitioners.

C. ALLEN, J. Assuming that the statements contained in the deposition were true, they are sufficient, in the absence of anything to the contrary, to raise a presumption of fact that David H. Stockbridge died before the testator. The rule is carefully stated in *Loring* v. *Steineman*, 1 Met. 204, 211, by Chief Justice Shaw: "Upon a person's leaving his usual home and place of residence for temporary purposes of business or pleasure, and not being heard of, or known to be living, for the term of seven years, the presumption of life then ceases, and that of his death arises. But this presumption may be rebutted by counter evidence, or by a conflicting presumption." And in *Prudential Assur. Co.* v. *Edmonds*, 2 App. Cas. 487, 509, it was stated by Lord Blackburn to be "necessary, in order to raise the presumption, that there should have been an inquiry and search made for the man among those who, if he was alive, would be likely to hear of him." See also *Flynn* v. *Coffee*, 12 Allen, 133; *Jochumsen* v. *Suffolk Savings Bank*, 3 Allen, 87, 96; *Bowditch* v. *Jordan*, 131 Mass. 321; *In re Phené's trusts*, L. R. 5 Ch. 139; *In re Lewes' trusts*, L. R. 6 Ch. 356; 1 Greenl. Ev. § 41; 1 Taylor Ev. § 200. It should therefore now be taken for granted that David H. Stockbridge died before the testator; and by virtue of the Gen. Sts. *c.* 92, § 28, reënacted in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 127, § 23, his issue who survived the testator are entitled to take what he would have taken had he survived the testator.

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The circumstance that the gift to him was only as one of a class does not prevent the operation of this statute. *Moore* v. *Weaver*, 16 Gray, 305. The fact that David H. Stockbridge was a nephew of the testator is found in the will. It does not appear, nor in the view which we have taken is it material, whether any children of Chester Stockbridge survived the testator; that fact, if it existed, would not cut off the right of the children of David H. Stockbridge; it would only diminish the amount to which they would be entitled.

The executors of the will of Elam Stockbridge deposited the money in the Springfield Institution for Savings, by virtue of an order of the judge of probate, passed in pursuance of the St. of 1885, *c.* 376, it being recited that it appeared to him that the residence of David H. Stockbridge was unknown. This, however, was not intended to have any further effect than to provide for the proper keeping of the money, with its accumulations, until it should be ascertained and determined who are properly entitled to receive the same. It now appears that the petitioners are so entitled; and an order may be framed for the payment of two thirds of the amount to the two petitioners who are *sui juris*, and of one third to the guardian of Mary G. Stockbridge, a minor, when such guardian shall be duly appointed.

Decree accordingly.

JOSIAH A. BRIGHAM & another, executors, *vs.* LOUIS J. ELWELL.

Worcester. Oct. 4, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

If a sole devisee of a farm is appointed one of the executors of the will of his devisor, the executors, with the assent of the devisee, may occupy the farm for the benefit of the estate, and, while it is so occupied, the products of the farm cannot be taken on attachment as the property of the devisee.

TORT, by the executors of the will of Azubah Brigham, for the conversion of a quantity of hay and thirty-three casks of cider. The defendant, a deputy sheriff, justified by virtue of a

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writ in an action against Josiah A. Brigham individually, on which he attached, on January 5, 1885, the hay and cider as the property of said Brigham.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., it appeared that Josiah A. Brigham was the sole devisee of a farm owned by the testatrix at the time of her death. The plaintiffs contended that the hay and cider were the products of the farm, while it was being carried on by them as executors, and that they were assets of the estate.

Josiah A. Brigham, who was the only witness called, testified, in substance, as follows: Azubah Brigham, my mother, died on December 6, 1883. I lived on the farm with her. William Curtis and I were appointed executors on January 15, 1884. After we were appointed, we carried on the farm as it had been carried on, took care of the stock, and did what was necessary to be done. In the spring of 1884, we sold a part of the stock; then we went on, having a lot of young stock. We cut the hay and kept the young stock. The young stock grew, and in April, 1885, we sold all the stock. After that we did not carry on the farm. When we took possession we had a talk about carrying on the farm. This was in January or February, 1884. We thought we would sell the stock off by auction in the winter. We waited until March, when we thought it would be better to keep the young stock, and cut the hay, for the benefit of the estate. We kept an account of all this as executors, and have rendered an account. The hay in question was cut on the farm in July, 1884, and the cider was made from apples that came from the farm the same year. I made the contracts for cutting the hay and picking the apples. Curtis lived two miles from the farm. He paid the bill for cutting the hay.

At the close of the evidence the defendant asked the judge to rule as follows: "1. There is no evidence to go to the jury which will warrant them in finding that the property in question belonged to the plaintiffs; and the plaintiffs, upon all the evidence, cannot recover. 2. The parties who are alleged to have made the arrangement were not competent to make such an arrangement or agreement as would make the products of the farm in 1884 the property of the executors, the said Josiah A. being a necessary party on each side of the same."

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The judge declined so to rule, and submitted to the jury the following question: "On or about January 1, 1884, was it arranged and agreed by and between the executors and Josiah A. Brigham, as sole devisee of the farm, that the executors should use, occupy, and carry on the farm, and that the executors during such use and occupation should take the entire proceeds of the farm, including the hay and cider in suit, and that the same should belong to the estate and be accounted for as assets thereof, and did the executors use, occupy, and carry on the same under such agreement and arrangement?" The jury answered this question in the affirmative, and also answered questions as to the value of the property. The jury were thereupon directed to return a verdict for the plaintiffs for the amount so found, with interest. The defendant alleged exceptions.

T. G. Kent, for the defendant.

F. P. Goulding, for the plaintiffs.

W. ALLEN, J. The jury found that the hay and cider were produced by the plaintiffs from the farm while they carried it on as executors, under an arrangement with the devisee that they should carry it on and take the proceeds and account for them as assets. Income of the real estate of a testator so received by his executor is assets of his estate. Pub. Sts. *c.* 144, § 5. *Stearns* v. *Stearns*, 1 Pick. 157. *Palmer* v. *Palmer*, 13 Gray, 326. *Choate* v. *Arrington*, 116 Mass. 552. *Choate* v. *Jacobs*, 136 Mass. 297. *Edwards* v. *Ela*, 5 Allen, 87. *Brooks* v. *Jackson*, 125 Mass. 307. *Adams* v. *Palmer*, 6 Gray, 338. *Newcomb* v. *Stebbins*, 9 Met. 540. *Almy* v. *Crapo*, 100 Mass. 218. *Towle* v. *Swasey*, 106 Mass. 100. The direct question is, whether the property in the hay and cider was in the plaintiffs as executors, and that involves two questions: whether the fact that one of the executors was also the sole devisee of the land prevented the executors from occupying it for the benefit of the estate, with the assent of the devisee, so as to be chargeable with the income; and whether, if they did so occupy the farm, its produce, while it was carried on by the executors, belonged to them in their representative, and not in their personal capacity.

1. The presumption that a devisee of land who enters upon it enters under his title as devisee may be overthrown. He may

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enter under another title, and occupy in another character than that of devisee. If he is also sole executor, it would seem that he would have the power to occupy as executor, for the benefit of the estate. What would constitute or prove such an occupancy, so as to make the rents and profits assets, is a very different question from that of the power so to occupy. In *Newcomb* v. *Stebbins*, *ubi supra*, it was held that taking notes for rent to himself as executor did not of itself make them assets, and estop him to show in what capacity he occupied; but it would seem that charging himself with the rents and profits in his account would show that he received and held them as assets. The fact that the sole executor and devisee occupied as executor, and not as devisee, may be difficult of proof, but it is not impossible. But when the devisee is also one of two executors there is no difficulty. Whether the two occupied the real estate and took the rents and profits, is a question of fact easily susceptible of proof. Whether the devisee assented to their occupancy as executors, for the benefit of their estate, is also a question of fact. The fact that he is the devisee of the land does not take from him his capacity to assent to the occupancy by the executors, or to occupy with his co-executor. There is no question of contract, or of estate in the land. The rents and profits come from the actual occupancy by the executors, and the assent to such occupancy by the devisee prevents him from claiming them, and leaves them assets of the estate. The jury have found that the executors carried on the farm for the purpose of taking the proceeds and accounting for them as assets. The assent of the devisee is not left to be implied from the fact that he was one of the executors who so occupied, but it is found that it was expressly given; the executors are therefore bound to account for the income as assets.

2. As Brigham and Curtis carried on the farm jointly, the products in question — hay and cider made by them from the produce of the farm — belonged to both of them, and not to either one alone. To maintain this action they must show that it belonged to the estate of their testator, that is, that it belonged to them in their representative, and not in their personal capacity. The statute is, "If the real estate has been used or occupied by an executor or administrator, he shall account for

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the income thereof as ordered by the Probate Court." Pub. Sts. c. 144, § 5. The St. of 1789, c. 11, § 2, read as follows: "When a dispute shall arise respecting the occupation, use, and improvement of real estate in the hands of the executor or administrator, and the quantum he ought to credit in his account therefor," &c. An executor can account for the income of real estate which he has occupied by charging himself with a proper sum as rents and profits, or by charging himself with the net receipts and products from it, and the statute includes either mode of accounting. An executor may himself use the real estate, living in the house or carrying on the farm for his own use, as if a tenant, in which case he would account for the income by charging himself with the use and occupation; or he may occupy it as a bailiff, collecting rents from tenants, or carrying on the farm for the estate, in which case he would account for the income by charging himself with the rents and products received. In the former case, the produce of the farm would belong to him personally; in the latter, it would belong to him as executor. Whether a particular occupancy is of the one character or the other is an inference from the particular facts affecting it. In this case it is found as a fact, that the farm was carried on for the estate of the testator, and with the intent and purpose that the proceeds should belong to the estate. The evidence shows that the particular reason for doing this was to benefit the personal property of the estate, to increase the value of the stock upon the farm by keeping it upon the produce of the farm, for a better market. It is inconsistent with this to regard the produce of the farm as belonging to the executors personally, to be removed from the farm by them or their creditors at pleasure. The conversion by the defendant was in the month of January; the property converted was products of the farm remaining upon it, which had been produced and were held by the plaintiffs as executors. If on that day they had vacated their office, and an administrator had been appointed in their place, we cannot doubt that the property in such products of the farm, as well as in the stock upon it held by them as executors, would have passed to the administrator. They had then rendered no account. It does not appear when or in what form their account was afterwards rendered; but it is to be presumed that their

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account when rendered would conform to the facts, like the accounts in *Edwards* v. *Ela*, *ubi supra*, and would charge them with the specific property as assets of the estate. It does not appear that they have not already done so.

Upon the facts found by the jury, and assumed to be true, the inference of law is, that the property converted belonged to the plaintiffs as executors. *Exceptions overruled.*

TIMOTHY SHEA *vs.* INHABITANTS OF MILFORD & another.

Worcester. Oct. 5, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

B. made a contract with A., an owner of land, to build a house for A. on the land. Before the house was finished, A. requested B. to remove certain chattels, then on the land and used by B. in building the house, to another part of the land. B. unreasonably neglected to do so, and A. removed them to another part of the land, doing no unnecessary damage to them. *Held*, that even if B. had an unrevoked license to have the chattels on the land, he could not maintain an action against A. for their conversion.

TORT for the conversion of certain personal property. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

Evidence was introduced tending to show that the town of Milford, one of the defendants, contracted with the firm of Mead, Mason, and Company for the construction of a granite stone building for a Memorial Hall in Milford; that Mead, Mason, and Company sublet the stone-work to the plaintiff; that the defendant Swasey was the agent and architect for the town, and as such had the supervision of the building for said town under a contract with Mead, Mason, and Company; that the time for building said hall by the contract with Mead, Mason, and Company was from the making of the contract, in March, 1884, until April 1, 1885; that the contract with the plaintiff was until August 15, 1884; that the plaintiff did not complete his part of the work by August 15, but was requested by the contractors

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and the town's agent, Swasey, to perform work included in the contract after said time had expired; and that Swasey requested the plaintiff to perform certain work upon the walls of said building after the alleged conversion of said property, which alleged conversion took place by the direction of Swasey, acting for the town, in April, 1885.

The property alleged to have been converted was the plaintiff's sheds, engine-house and engine, plank, staging, lime, cement, and other like personal property used by the plaintiff in the construction of said building, and which the plaintiff had placed upon the property of the defendant town under the license implied or conferred, as he alleged, in the contract for building said hall. The property alleged to have been converted was removed from where the plaintiff had used it during the erection of said building, and where he claimed the right to use it in the completion of the building, which he had contracted to do, and which the defendants had requested him to perform, to another part of the lot of the town; and there was evidence tending to show that it was necessary for him to use the tools, implements, and other personal property in the completion of said contract.

The plaintiff asked the judge to rule, that so long as the plaintiff had the right of possession of the premises, either under the contract of the town with the general contractors, or with the plaintiff as sub-contractor, the defendants had no right to interfere with the plaintiff's reasonable use of the premises for his tools, implements, and machinery necessary to the proper performance of his work under said contract of the town.

The judge refused to rule as requested, but instructed the jury as follows: "The plaintiff, upon the evidence, had only an implied license to keep his engine and other property upon the property of the town, which might be at any time revoked altogether, or as to any particular portion of the lot. If the town, for any cause, required of the plaintiff the removal of that property from the lot, or from any particular part of the lot, and the plaintiff unreasonably neglected so to remove it, and thereupon the defendants removed it to another part of the lot, doing no unnecessary damage to the property, the plaintiff cannot recover."

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The jury returned a verdict for the defendants; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

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W. A. Gile, for the plaintiff.

T. G. Kent & G. T. Dewey, for the defendants.

W. ALLEN, J. The property of the plaintiff alleged to have been converted by the defendants was on land belonging to and occupied by the defendant town. The town requested the plaintiff to remove the property to another place on the same parcel of land, and the plaintiff refused to do so, whereupon the defendants removed it to the place assigned by the town. The instruction, that, if the plaintiff unreasonably neglected to remove the property, and the defendants removed it to another part of the lot, doing no unnecessary damage, the plaintiff could not recover, was sufficiently favorable to the plaintiff, even if he occupied under a license which had not been revoked. The evidence negatived a conversion of the property by the defendants, and showed that they claimed no title to it, assumed no dominion over it, and did nothing in derogation of the plaintiff's title to it, and that all that was claimed by the defendants was the right to remove the goods from one place to another on their own land. All that was done was in assertion of their right in the land, and in recognition of the plaintiff's right of property in the chattels. If the plaintiff had the right to occupy the land which he claimed, the act of the defendants was wrongful, and they would be liable to the plaintiff for damages for breach of contract, or for the trespass, but not for the value of property converted to their own use. *Farnsworth* v. *Lowery*, 134 Mass. 512. *Fouldes* v. *Willoughby*, 8 M. & W. 540. *Heald* v. *Carey*, 11 C. B. 977.

It is immaterial whether the plaintiff had an unrevoked license to occupy the land, and we express no opinion upon that question. *Exceptions overruled.*

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TIMOTHY SHEA *vs.* INHABITANTS OF MILFORD.

Worcester, Oct. 6, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

A committee chosen by a town to erect a building is not a board of public officers, but acts as agent of the town, and it is not obliged to act as a body, but may act by the agreement of the individual members separately obtained.

The St. of 1888, c. 119, authorizing a town to build a Memorial Hall, and, for that purpose, to borrow a sum not exceeding $20,000, does not prohibit the town from voting to expend a larger sum upon the building.

A committee, appointed by a town to consider location, plans, and estimates, and to make recommendations for a building to be built by the town, recommended a certain location, and the plans and specifications of a certain architect, and reported that the price should not exceed $20,000. This report was accepted by the town and placed on file, and the committee was instructed to receive proposals for a building. Subsequently, the town voted that the report and plans of the committee be adopted, and that the same committee build the building. The town also voted to raise by taxation for the purpose the sum of $2000, and to borrow the sum of $20,000. The specifications reported by the committee were for the entire completion of the building, and stated that no charge should be made for extra work, except it be ordered in writing by the architect. *Held*, that the plan and specifications were adopted by the town as a limitation upon the powers of the committee. *Held, also*, that the committee had authority to change the specifications in order to remedy defects in them, and to improve them in minor details, within reasonable limits. *Held, also*, that the vote of the town did not prohibit the committee from incurring liabilities for extra work beyond the amount of the appropriation.

CONTRACT, on an account annexed, to recover for work done and material furnished in the erection of a Memorial Hall in the town of Milford. At the trial in the Superior Court, *Bacon*, J., directed the jury to return a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions, which appear in the opinion.

W. S. B. Hopkins & W. A. Gile, for the plaintiff.

T. G. Kent, for the defendant.

W. ALLEN, J. The committee was an agent of the town, and not a judicial body or a board of public officers, and the ruling of the court that the committee could act only as a body, and not by the agreement of individual members separately obtained, cannot be sustained. *Haven* v. *Lowell*, 5 Met. 35.

The defendant contends that the further ruling, that there was no evidence sufficient to show agency on the part of Swasey, or action by the committee, was right, for the reasons that the

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committee had no authority to make the contract under which the plaintiff claims, or authorize it to be made, and that the evidence was not sufficient to prove that contract.

The committee was appointed by the defendant town to build a Memorial Hall. Mead, Mason, and Company contracted with the committee to erect the building according to certain specifications. The plaintiff contracted with Mead, Mason, and Company to do all the stone-work according to the specifications. The plaintiff's bill of particulars contains five items for materials and labor which he contends were not included in his contract with Mead, Mason, and Company, but were furnished under a contract or contracts between him and the defendant, through the committee and Swasey, the supervising architect. The largest of these items, and the only one in reference to which any evidence was given, is $2500, for brown-stone trimmings for the building. It is not disputed that these trimmings were put in by the plaintiff, and that they were not included in the specifications. The first question is as to the authority of the committee to contract for work outside of the contract with Mead, Mason, and Company.

The Memorial Hall was built under authority of the St. of 1883, *c.* 119, which authorized the town to borrow for the purpose a sum not exceeding $20,000, but put no limit upon the amount the town might expend.

In November, 1883, a committee, which had been appointed in the April preceding to consider location, plans, and estimates, and to make recommendations, reported, to quote the words of the exceptions, "recommending the location on which the hall was afterwards built, and the plan and specifications of Frederick Swasey, architect, and reported that the price should not exceed $20,000." We would say here, that we do not understand by this that the committee recommended that the town should vote that the cost of the building should not exceed $20,000, but that they expressed the opinion that it would not, meaning the same as if they had said "ought not" or "would not." In the absence of the language of the report, and upon the mere statement of its substance, the plaintiff ought not to be bound by a meaning that is not clear, and the fact that this is not among the things recommended in the

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report, and the action of the town at the same and at a subsequent meeting, indicate that the committee intended and was understood to express its opinion that it could be built for that sum. The report was accepted and placed on file, and the committee instructed to receive proposals for a building.

At a town meeting in March, 1884, the following votes were passed: "Voted, that the report and plans of the Memorial Hall committee be adopted. Amended: also location adopted. Also that the same committee locate and build the same. Voted, that, for the purpose of building a Memorial Hall, we raise by taxation the sum of $2000, and the town borrow the sum of $20,000, payable in equal instalments of $5000, in one, two, three, and four years."

The specifications reported by the committee in November, 1883, so far as material, were as follows: "Specifications of material and labor required in the erection and entire completion of a Memorial Building for the town of Milford, said building to be erected on the corner of Spruce and School streets in said Milford, and to be built in accordance with drawings and these specifications, furnished by Frederick Swasey, architect, of said Milford, and under his superintendence. Conditions. The contract will include all labor and material necessary to carry into entire completion all the works of every name and nature shown by drawings, except such parts as the specifications expressly designate to be furnished by the town. . . . . No charge of any kind shall be made for extra work except said work be ordered in writing by said architect. All orders for extra work or claims therefor must be presented to the committee within thirty days from the issue of said order."

The first question which arises under this action of the town is, whether the plan and specifications reported by the committee were adopted by the town as a limitation upon the powers of the committee. We think that they were, and that the committee was authorized to locate and build only according to the plan and specifications. This would require the committee to make one contract for the completion of the building. They could not materially change the location or the specifications for the building. The town had voted to build according to the specifications, and under one contract for the completion

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of the building, and had authorized the committee to build. While it was the duty of the committee to make a contract for the completion of the building in substantial accordance with the specifications, they had authority to add to or to change the specifications in order to remedy defects in them, and to improve them in minor details, within reasonable limits. This authority would be implied, and it was recognized in the specifications themselves, in the provision regulating claims for extra work. Of course extra work — work not included in the general contract — must be done under particular contracts, and such contracts could be made with the general contractor or with any other person. We cannot say that the committee did not have authority to contract for the extra work which the plaintiff says he performed. This question does not appear to have been raised at the trial, and the evidence is not stated with reference to it. The principal item of the plaintiff's account is for brown-stone trimmings. It does not appear what the specifications were which were changed, nor what, if any, the increased cost was, nor how important the change was. The other items are all for extra labor, and vary in amount from $200 to $1000. No evidence whatever was offered in regard to them, and we cannot say that the committee had not authority to make contracts for the labor described.

After the votes of the town, the committee made the contract with Mead, Mason, and Company, by which the price to be paid for the building was $20,324.40. The defendant contends that the committee was limited to an expenditure of $20,000, and that, having contracted for more than that amount, they had no authority to make a contract which involved any further payment. We have already said that we do not regard the vote adopting the report of the committee as a vote that the expenditure should be limited to $20,000.

It is further argued that the committee could not make any contract which involved an expenditure in excess of the whole amount appropriated by the town, $22,000. The vote does not expressly prohibit the committee from incurring liabilities beyond the amount of the appropriation, and we do not think that such prohibition can be implied. While it was probably intended to make an appropriation large enough to cover the

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contract price and such "extra work" as would be likely to
required, there seems to be no prohibition against contract
for "extra work" beyond the amount of the appropriation
circumstances should justify and require it. Under what
cumstances such a contract would be valid we need not consi
because it is not material to the decision of the question be
us. It does not appear that the contract in question invol
an expenditure beyond the amount appropriated. There
$1675 left of the appropriation, after the payments provi
for by the contract with Mead, Mason, and Company. I
probable that some of this was used, but that does not appea
evidence. The plaintiff appears to have sued for the entire
of the brown-stone trimmings, on the ground that the cont
for them was made directly with him. There would presu
bly be an allowance made by the plaintiff to Mead, Mason,
Company, and by them to the defendant, for corresponding it
in the specifications of which these took the place. How m
that would be does not appear, though there is some evide
that it was supposed by the committee that the expense wo
not be increased by the substitution. It may be that the red
tion from the contract price would equal the amount of
plaintiff's charge. The other items of the plaintiff's account
for labor, and no two of them exceed the amount of the ap
priation apparently remaining not used; it may be that all
"extra work" done by the plaintiff would not exceed t
These matters were rendered immaterial by the ruling of
court, and no evidence was offered in regard to them.

The course of the trial is apparent from the exceptions.
plaintiff put in documentary evidence to prove the autho
given to the committee by the defendant. He then procee
to prove that authority was given by the committee to Swa
and that Swasey ordered the work done; and called one Strat
a member of the committee, and offered to prove by him t
three members of the committee, including Swasey, who w
member of the committee as well as the architect, stated to
that they agreed to the change, and that he agreed to it,
that Swasey, in the presence of the witness, told the plai
that he had seen the committee, or a majority of the commit
and they had agreed to have the brown-stone trimmings.

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testimony of this witness was objected to, and was heard *de bene* by the court, and at its conclusion, on the statement by the counsel for the plaintiff, that he relied upon no other or different kind of evidence to prove authority in Swasey than the documentary evidence, and the statements of members of the committee, such as those testified to by Stratton, the ruling was made by the court. The ruling, as we understand it, was to the effect that any evidence of the action of the committee except when it was in session as an organized body was not competent; that the evidence offered by the plaintiff should be excluded; and the corollary from that, that there was no evidence in the case sufficient to show authority in Swasey to make the contracts with the plaintiff. Under this ruling, evidence that all the members of the committee agreed to authorize Swasey to order the change, that Swasey did in fact order it in writing, that the plaintiff's claim was duly presented to the committee, or that any of these things had been in any way dispensed with or waived, became immaterial and incompetent. The ruling of the court that the evidence was not sufficient could not have been on the ground that the plaintiff did not insist upon putting in evidence that the members of the committee agreed to the change, or that Swasey ordered it, after he had stated the character of the evidence that he had to offer, and the court had ruled that it was not competent.

But if the ruling that the evidence was not sufficient can be separated from the ruling that the evidence of agency was incompetent, and taken as an independent ruling upon evidence in the case, we think that it cannot be sustained. Swasey was the architect, having superintendence of the whole work, and through whom orders for extra work must pass, and was also a member of the committee. The testimony of Stratton was sufficient to show that, after there had been conversations among members of the committee, and between members and the plaintiff, in regard to having brown-stone trimmings, Swasey told the plaintiff that the committee, or a majority of the committee, had agreed to have it done, and that the plaintiff went on and did the work, with the knowledge and approval of the committee, and that the work was accepted by the committee. This was some evidence of agency in Swasey, and of action by the

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committee to authorize additional work, that is, the substitu
of brown-stone trimmings for the corresponding specificati
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The words "at additional expense" in the ruling are imm
rial, as applied to the item for brown-stone trimmings at le
because it does not appear that any additional expense was
volved. The record does not show it; the item does not pur
to be for extra work as the others do. The evidence only te
to show a contract with the plaintiff to furnish the trimmi
as a substitute for a contract with Mead, Mason, and Comp
to furnish some other trimmings; but there is no presumpt
or evidence that it was to be at an expense additional to the
propriation, or even to the contract price. The action of
plaintiff is to recover the full worth of the trimmings which he
nished under a contract between him and the defendant, thro
Swasey, thereto authorized by the committee. If a valid
tract was made, and he performed it, he is entitled to rec
according to its terms. If one of its terms was that it sh
not increase the cost of the building over the contract pr
then the plaintiff can recover only so much as the contract p
was reduced by his contract. It is not matter of law, no
fact in the case, that the contract price has been paid in
nor that it has not been reduced on account of the plaint
contract by more than enough to pay his claim.

We think, however, that the ruling must be taken to b
ruling that the evidence offered was not competent to prove
action of the committee, and that the plaintiff had for
reason failed to prove his case, and not as a ruling as to
sufficiency, to prove every part of the plaintiff's case, of evide
offered only to prove one part, and held to be incompetent
that. *Exceptions sustained*

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INHABITANTS OF SOUTH SCITUATE *vs.* INHABITANTS OF STOUGHTON.

Plymouth. Oct. 18, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action by one town against another town for relief furnished a pauper, evidence is inadmissible, on the issue whether the pauper had his domicil in the defendant town, that, at a previous time, the overseers of the poor of the defendant town, on being notified by a third town that the pauper was in need of relief, took the pauper to their town and furnished such relief. And the fact that the records of the defendant town have been destroyed by fire does not make the evidence admissible.

W. ALLEN, J. This is an action to recover for relief furnished by the plaintiff town to a pauper.

The only controverted question was whether the pauper's settlement was in the defendant town. Her father had a settlement in the town of North Bridgewater, and she derived a settlement there from him. In the year 1851 she was married in that town. There was no evidence that her husband had a settlement in the defendant town, or that she ever acquired a settlement there, unless certain acts of the overseers of the poor of that town are competent for that purpose. These acts were the removal of the pauper and her children, after her marriage, from North Bridgewater to the defendant town, by its overseers of the poor, and relief furnished to them there at different times, and the payment by the defendant to North Bridgewater of bills presented for the support of the pauper. The circumstances attending the marriage of the pauper, and these acts of the overseers of the poor, might affect the weight of this evidence if it were competent, but they cannot affect the question of its competency.

1. The evidence is not competent to show an estoppel under the statute. The Rev. Sts. *c.* 46, §§ 19–21, which were in force at the time of the acts under consideration, are substantially the same as the Pub. Sts. *c.* 84, §§ 28–30, and provide that the overseers of the poor may send a written notice, stating the facts in regard to a person who has become chargeable to their town, to one or more of the overseers of the place where his settlement is

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supposed to be, requesting them to remove him; if the removal is not made within two months after the notice, a written answer stating the objections to the removal shall be sent; and if that is not done, the overseers who requested the removal may remove him to the place of his supposed settlement, and the overseers of that place shall receive and provide for him, and their town shall be liable for the expenses of his support and removal, to be recovered in an action by the other town, "and shall be barred from contesting the question of settlement . . . . in such action." The estoppel is plainly limited to the action and to the parties to it. It does not arise in favor of third parties, nor between the parties themselves, when, as in the case at bar, the overseers of the town notified voluntarily remove the pauper and pay the expenses. *Bridgewater* v. *Dartmouth*, 4 Mass. 273. *Edgartown* v. *Tisbury*, 10 Cush. 408.

2. The acts of the overseers of the poor in removing the pauper to their town and supporting her, and in paying to North Bridgewater the expenses of her support, are not competent as admissions by the defendant. The overseers in these respects acted as public officers, and not as agents of the town. Their acts, whether in removing the pauper, or in providing for her support in their town, or in ordering payment for her relief furnished by North Bridgewater, bound their town by authority of law, and not by authority of the town, and cannot be taken as admissions by the town or its agents. *New Bedford* v. *Taunton*, 9 Allen, 207. *Dartmouth* v. *Lakeville*, 7 Allen, 284, and 9 Allen, 211, note. *Oakham* v. *Sutton*, 13 Met. 192. *Edgartown* v. *Tisbury*, *ubi supra*.

We do not see that the loss of the records of the defendant town for the year when the overseers of the poor removed the pauper, and furnished relief to her, at all affects the question. One answer to the argument for the plaintiff that the acts of the defendant's overseers of the poor are secondary evidence of the contents of the record kept under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 27, § 72, is that there was no provision for such record until after the acts were performed. St. 1877, *c.* 186.

Judgment for the defendant.

J. F. Simmons, for the plaintiff.

O. A. Marden, for the defendant.

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LeGrand C. Tibbetts, petitioner, *vs.* Calvert Handy.

Nantucket. Oct. 25, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. C. Allen & Knowlton, JJ., absent.

If an appeal is taken to the Superior Court from a judgment of a trial justice, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 155, § 28, and the appellant fails to recognize to the adverse party, as required by § 29, or to deposit with the trial justice a reasonable sum as security for the prosecution of the appeal and the payment of costs, the Superior Court has no jurisdiction of the appeal; and, on a petition to that court for leave to enter the appeal, parol evidence is inadmissible that the appellant offered to recognize, or to deposit a reasonable sum as security, and that the trial justice refused to allow him to do either.

Petition to the Superior Court for leave to enter an appeal, alleging the following facts:

On October 7, 1886, Thomas B. Field, Esquire, a trial justice for the county of Nantucket, in an action of contract brought against the petitioner by the respondent, rendered judgment against the petitioner for the sum of $17.20, damages, and $8.40, costs of suit. Within twenty-four hours after said judgment, the petitioner appealed from said judgment to the Superior Court, and offered within said time to recognize to the adverse party, with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the adverse party or by the justice, in a reasonable sum, namely, the sum of $110, with condition to enter and prosecute his appeal with effect, and to satisfy within thirty days of the entry thereof any judgment which might be entered against him in the Superior Court for costs. The trial justice refused, contending that a written bond, signed and sealed by the principal and sureties, should be given. The petitioner also offered within said time to deposit with said trial justice such reasonable sum, to be fixed by the justice, as security for the prosecution of the appeal and the payment of costs, and was ready and willing so to do, under the provisions of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 155, § 30. This the trial justice refused, contending that a bond as aforesaid only could be given. Such reasonable sum was duly tendered to said trial justice, and the petitioner is now ready to bring it into this court. He subsequently gave such bond, but under the statute

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such bond is void, and will not permit a lawful entry of the appeal in the Superior Court.

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Accompanying the petition was a record of the trial justice, from which it appeared that judgment was entered and an appeal taken, as alleged in the petition. There was also a copy of a bond, signed by the petitioner with sureties, and the sureties were approved by the trial justice on October 7, 1886.

On the first day of the sitting of the court to which the appeal was taken, the respondent moved to dismiss the appeal, because the petitioner did not enter into a recognizance, as required by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 155, § 29.

On the same day the petitioner filed the petition to enter his appeal.

The motions were heard together by *Thompson*, J., who ruled, as matter of law, that the petition could not be granted, even if the petitioner proved all the allegations set forth in the petition; and dismissed the appeal. The petitioner alleged exceptions.

J. Brown, for the petitioner.

H. B. Worth, for the respondent.

W. ALLEN, J. It must be taken to be settled law, that an appeal under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 155, § 28, cannot be allowed, (except under the exception in § 29,) unless the party appealing recognize according to the provisions of § 29, although he may not be in fault, and may be ready and may offer to recognize. *Parker* v. *Snow*, 143 Mass. 423. *Henderson* v. *Benson*, 141 Mass. 218, and cases cited. The same rule must be applied to the provisions of §§ 30–32, which constitute the exception in § 29. They authorize, in lieu of the recognizance, a deposit by the appellant with the trial justice of a reasonable sum, to be fixed by the justice, a certificate of which shall be issued by him to the depositor, and provide that the trial justice shall transmit the sum deposited to the clerk of the Superior Court, with the papers, and that the clerk shall hold such sum until the final disposition of the case, when he shall pay it as the court may order.

The record of the trial justice does not show any deposit with the justice, or any offer to make a deposit. On the contrary, a copy of a bond approved by the justice, with the same condition

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as is required in a recognizance, is among the papers produced in the Superior Court.

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We think that the ruling of the court was right, and that it was not competent for the defendant to show compliance with the statutory provisions by parol evidence that he offered to recognize, or that he offered to deposit with the trial justice, and tendered to him, a sufficient sum in lieu of a recognizance, which recognizance or deposit the justice refused to accept. If the defendant without fault failed to perfect his appeal, he has his remedy, not by treating the appeal as perfected, but by proceedings in review. *Keene* v. *White*, 136 Mass. 23.

Exceptions overruled.

CHARLES E. CARR *vs.* INHABITANTS OF BERKLEY.

Bristol. Oct. 27, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. C. ALLEN & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 49, § 71, it is sufficient if the laying out of a town way is filed in the office of the town clerk seven days at least before the town meeting at which the laying out is reported by the selectmen and accepted; and the report to the town is not required to be filed seven days before such meeting.

The laying out of a town way is not invalidated by the fact that one course is stated to be "41¼° E." instead of "N. 41¼° E.," if there is no ambiguity in the whole description.

PETITION to the Superior Court for a jury to assess damages for the taking of land, by the respondent, to lay out a highway in the town of Berkley. Hearing in the Superior Court, before *Barker*, J., who ruled that the way was not legally laid out, directed a verdict for the respondent, and reported the case for the determination of this court. The facts appear in the opinion.

J. M. Morton, for the petitioner.

W. H. Fox, for the respondent.

W. ALLEN, J. The Pub. Sts. *c.* 49, § 65, provide that the selectmen of the several towns may lay out town ways. Section 71 provides that no town way laid out by the selectmen shall be

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established until such laying out is reported to the town, accepted and allowed at a town meeting warned and noti therefor; nor unless "such laying out" is filed in the offic the town clerk seven days at least before such meeting.

In this case, the selectmen proceeded in literal compliance the statute. On February 17, 1886, they laid out the way, on the next day they filed the laying out with the town cl After that a warrant was issued for a town meeting, to be on March 1, to take action upon the report of the selectmen laying out the way. On February 27, after the warrant posted and before the day of the meeting, the selectmen with the town clerk a paper which was intended to be a c or duplicate of the paper before filed, with the following w added: "The laying out with the boundaries and admeas ments have been filed with the town clerk on the 19th da February, 1886, being seven days before this meeting; and now hereby report such laying out, with the boundaries and measurements of the same, to said town, at the meeting of legal voters regularly warned and notified, for them to ac and allow the same." The statute does not require that report to the town of the laying out shall be made seven before the meeting, and it does not require that the laying filed in the clerk's office for the examination of all parties in ested, and that reported to the town for its action, shall be tained in the same writing. Both may be combined in and in this case the papers first filed might have been tre as a report, and acted on by the town; but it was not ne sary to do that when a formal report was properly before meeting.

It is objected that the laying out filed with the clerk on ruary 18 was uncertain in description because it gave one co as "41½° east" instead of "N. 41½° east." But there is ambiguity in the whole description. The other courses and distances and monuments have no uncertainty.

Verdict set asid

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EMMA F. CLEAVES *vs.* PIGEON HILL GRANITE COMPANY.

Essex. Nov. 1, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff, by reason of the carriage in which he was driving being struck by a car on the defendant's railroad at a place where it crossed a way at grade, there was evidence that the car, which was slowly descending an incline by the force of gravity, was in charge of a brakeman, and could have been stopped in a short distance if the brake had been applied. There was also evidence that the plaintiff was driving at a moderate trot; that, as he approached the crossing, his head was turned towards the side from which the car was approaching; that the hind wheel of the carriage alone was struck; that as the carriage approached the crossing it was visible from the car; and that cars did not ordinarily run at that time. The plaintiff was so injured that he was unable to give any account of the occurrence. *Held*, that there was evidence proper to be submitted to the jury on the questions whether the plaintiff was in the exercise of due care, and whether the defendant was negligent.

TORT, for personal injuries alleged to have been sustained by the plaintiff, by reason of the carriage in which she was driving being struck by a car on the defendant's railroad in Rockport, at a place where the railroad crossed a private way at grade. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Mason*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff is the owner of a messuage bounding on a private way over which she usually passed to and from her dwelling-house to the public highway. There was no question as to the plaintiff's right over said private way. She built her house on the lot in 1878.

The defendant is the owner of a quarry a short distance above said private way, and is the owner of land on both sides of said private way from the main highway to the quarry.

In 1874, the defendant laid a tramway from this quarry over its land, across said private way, to its wharf at tide water, and has since conveyed stone in cars over the same from the quarry to the wharf, where the stone is loaded into vessels. The cars descend from near the quarry to the wharf, on a down grade, by their own momentum, the descent of the tramway both above and below the crossing being so steep as to require the constant application of brakes to control the car. The cars are

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controlled only by brakes, and only one car goes down at a ti
The distance from the plaintiff's house to the tramway cross
on said private way is about seven hundred feet, and from s
crossing to another private way, which passes the former at ri
angles and leads to the main highway, about three hundred fe

The plaintiff introduced evidence tending to show that
had been in the habit of driving almost daily over this crossi
and on the day of the accident had passed over it a few ho
before; that she had been in the habit of driving horses; t
she had seen cars pass down over this crossing frequently dur
the day until six o'clock P. M., but had never seen them p
down after that time; and that she had no recollection whate
of the circumstances under which she was injured, and co
not recall any circumstance connected with the affair. It
in evidence that plaintiff was unconscious for ten days after
injury.

There was evidence tending to show that the running of
defendant's cars after six o'clock P. M. was not a frequent occ
rence; that a steam whistle on the defendant's works was blo
at a quarter before six o'clock P. M., and was the usual signal
stopping the defendant's work; that the whistle had blown
the usual time on the day the plaintiff was injured; that the
fendant had no flagman at this crossing, and had provided
means whatever to give notice to travellers upon the priv
way of the approach of a car; and that the plaintiff had ne
seen a flagman at the crossing. There was no evidence t
she knew that any warning had ever been given of the appro
of cars.

One O'Brine testified, for the plaintiff, that he was stand
upon the highway about two hundred feet distant from the cr
ing; that he saw the car about a quarter past six in the af
noon coming down the track, and saw the plaintiff pass the b
of one Curtis, on the private way; that the car came down o
the hill at the usual rate of speed, going about as fast as a n
ordinarily walks; that nothing attracted his attention as to
speed at which the car was run; that he saw the plaintiff c
ing upon the crossing; that the horse was going at a good t
nothing out of the way at all; that, as the plaintiff crossed,
car struck the hind wheel of the buggy, knocked it around,

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the buggy went along on one side to the culvert, before it tipped over and the plaintiff was thrown out; that the car was loaded with stone; that he saw the brakeman on the car, but did not see him do anything; and that he could not tell how the plaintiff was sitting in her carriage; but thought she was looking straight ahead, going on about her business.

Upon cross-examination, the witness testified that just after the accident he had told a person that he thought the car struck the buggy, but that he would not swear to it.

Annie Ahearn testified that she saw the plaintiff turn into the private way some eight hundred feet distant from where the witness stood, and drive along to Curtis's barn; that the plaintiff was sitting in her carriage, and was looking towards the left, and in the direction the car was approaching; and that she did not see the plaintiff after she passed Curtis's barn.

One Dolliff testified that she saw the plaintiff pass said Dolliff's house, sitting in an open buggy, on the right side of the buggy; that the horse was going at a slow trot; that the plaintiff was holding the reins in her hands, also the whip; that the witness observed the plaintiff a short distance past Curtis's barn; that the plaintiff's head was turned towards the trees on the corner to the left where the track comes down; that the witness was sitting at an open window in her house; that her attention was withdrawn for a moment while the plaintiff was near Curtis's barn; that, on hearing the sound of the car, the witness looked again, and saw that the plaintiff's carriage had just passed across the last rail of the tramway, and seemed to be out of the road and tipped on one side, and it went along until she was thrown out near the stone wall; that the witness did not see the car at all, but before she looked out of the window the second time she heard an unusual noise of the car, but could not say whether it was above or below the crossing; and that she had seen the plaintiff often drive over this road.

The evidence of both the plaintiff and the defendant was, that the defendant's car did not stop at all, from the time O'Brine saw it coming down above the crossing, until it had passed over the crossing and had reached the defendant's wharf.

The plaintiff also introduced evidence, upon the question of a collision having taken place between the buggy and the car,

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of the condition of the left hind wheel of the plaintiff's buggy, to the effect that there was a cut on the tire of the wheel; that the spokes were started in the hub, and the axle was sprung. This evidence was by witnesses who examined it afterwards.

Arthur M. Waite testified that he had examined the defendant's cars, and the brakes attached to them; that the brakes were not sufficient to stop a car quickly, if going as fast as a man could walk; that they would not stop it within ten or fifteen feet, and that the brake would not stop the car quickly if it was going but little faster than a man could walk, and was loaded and moving down the hill.

The foregoing was all the evidence for the plaintiff upon the question of due care on her part, and negligence on the part of the defendant. The defendant asked the judge to rule that there was no evidence to go to the jury which would entitle the plaintiff to recover. The judge declined so to rule.

The defendant offered evidence in rebuttal of Waite, to the effect that the cars had been stopped, when going as Waite described, within five feet.

One Knights testified, for the defendant, that he was in charge of the car as brakeman at the time of the accident; that he saw the plaintiff first as she came on to the crossing by the trees, the car being about sixty feet from the private way as the horse's head came in sight on the track; that the horse was going a fair trot at the time; that the car was moving as fast as a man ordinarily walks; that he turned the brake to slow up the car, as the plaintiff went over the crossing; that the plaintiff passed over the track and went as far as the culvert, when she went out of her carriage about thirty feet from the track; that the car was twenty-five or thirty feet from the crossing when the plaintiff went out of her carriage; that the car did not strike her carriage nor come within twenty-five feet of it; that he had run cars ten to eleven years, about twenty a day on an average; that he had run cars when they had vessels to load as late as eight o'clock P. M., and that the time for the whistle to blow was a quarter to six o'clock P. M.

Upon cross-examination, the witness was asked if he did not tell Mrs. Brown that he did not think the car struck the plaintiff's

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carriage, but he could not tell; to which he replied that he did not.

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One Parker testified that, from his chamber window on the highway, he saw the plaintiff pass from Curtis's barn over the crossing towards the culvert, going a good fair gait; that she crossed the track before the car came to the crossing; that the car was thirty feet above the crossing after she passed; that the car did not touch the carriage; and that the whistle was blown at a quarter before six o'clock, but cars ran after that time when there was a vessel to load.

One Cunningham testified that at the time of the accident he was on the main highway as flagman; that he saw the plaintiff come past Curtis's barn, and observed her till she crossed the track and was thrown out at the bridge or culvert; that her horse was going a fair jog; and that when she crossed the track the car was from twenty to twenty-five feet up the track, and did not come in contact with the plaintiff's carriage.

Upon cross-examination, the witness testified that O'Brine, who stood near him at the time of the accident, called at the stable one evening thereafter, and had a discussion with him as to whether the car struck the plaintiff's carriage; O'Brine contending that it did, and he, the witness, that it did not; and that, upon the third evening after the accident, in consequence of the talk with O'Brine, the witness went to the plaintiff's stable to examine the carriage to satisfy himself.

Upon direct examination the witness testified that he did not find any mark on the nigh hind wheel, but found a scratch on the off hind wheel.

The defendant offered evidence tending to show that the stones covering the culvert were elevated above the roadway.

One Botanico testified that he saw the plaintiff turn into the private way, going towards the railroad crossing; that he, with a friend, was going home, and just as he came upon the private way he saw the plaintiff thrown out of her carriage at the culvert; that he ran towards the plaintiff, and when he came near Curtis's barn, the car passed down across the private way; that he had not seen the car before; that he knew the brakeman by sight; and that he went over to where the plaintiff was, with his companion Tocchi.

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Tocchi testified to the same facts sworn to by Botanico.

Mrs. Brown testified, in rebuttal, that Knights, the brakeman, told her he thought the car did not strike the plaintiff's carriage, but that he could not tell.

This, with a description of the locality at the time of the accident, was all the testimony bearing upon the question of negligence of the defendants, and due care on the part of the plaintiff, at the time of the accident.

The defendant requested the judge to give to the jury the following instructions, among others: "1. There is no evidence which would warrant the jury in finding a verdict for the plaintiff. . . . . 8. Upon the whole testimony in the case, there is no evidence of due care on the part of the plaintiff, and negligence on the part of the defendant, which would justify a verdict for the plaintiff. . . . . 16. Negligence cannot be inferred from the happening of the accident to the plaintiff; and, upon the whole of the plaintiff's evidence, the jury would not be warranted in finding that the defendant was guilty of negligence."

The judge refused to give the first and eighth instructions requested. The first part of the sixteenth request was given, and the last part, namely, "and, upon the whole of the plaintiff's evidence, the jury would not be warranted in finding that the defendant was guilty of negligence," was refused.

The judge gave general instructions to the jury, to which no exception was taken.

The jury found specially, in answer to questions submitted to them, that there was a collision between the defendant's car and the carriage in which the plaintiff was riding, and that said collision was occasioned by the negligence of the defendant, and returned a general verdict for the plaintiff in the sum of $5500. The defendant alleged exceptions to the refusal to give the instructions above set forth.

N. Morse & C. Sewall, for the defendant.

H. P. Moulton, (*H. N. Woods* with him,) for the plaintiff.

W. ALLEN, J. There was evidence that the plaintiff was driving at a moderate trot, and that the defendant's car was going about as fast as a man ordinarily walks; that the car was moved by gravity only, and could be stopped by the brake in going a distance of five feet, according to the evidence for the

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defendant, and of ten to fifteen feet, according to the evidence for the plaintiff; that the plaintiff's horse and carriage had crossed the track in front of the approaching car so far that the hind wheel was struck by the car, in such a manner that the carriage was not prevented from going along twenty or twenty-five feet in the road before the plaintiff was thrown out. The jury may well have found that the speed of the car was not slackened. The brakeman upon the car testified that he saw the plaintiff's horse as soon as it appeared upon the track, and that the car was then sixty feet from the crossing; that he turned the brake to slacken the speed of the car, and that the car at no time was within twenty-five feet of the plaintiff's carriage. Several witnesses testified that they saw the car at the crossing, and before it reached it, but no one testified that there was any diminution in its speed; one said that he saw the brakeman, and did not notice that he did anything. The jury may well have found that the speed of the car was not checked, and that, if the brake had been applied when the plaintiff's horse first went upon the track in sight of any person upon the car, the collision would have been prevented; and that, whether the collision was without the knowledge of the brakeman, or whether he falsified in his testimony in regard to it, it was caused by his negligence.

The plaintiff, according to the evidence, was so injured that she had no recollection of anything connected with the accident, and could not give testimony as to her care at the time. It was in evidence that she was accustomed almost daily to drive over this crossing. Several witnesses who saw her before she reached the crossing testified to the manner in which she was driving. Four witnesses testified that they saw the plaintiff drive over the crossing. They described her manner of driving as fully as the parties asked them to, and it was for the jury to say whether she was driving in an ordinary way and with ordinary care, unless some fact appeared which showed, as matter of law, that she was negligent. Unless there was some such fact, the question was plainly for the jury.

Three of these witnesses testified that, when the plaintiff drove over the crossing, the car was twenty-five or thirty feet from her, and their testimony alone would justify no inference but that she was in the exercise of ordinary care. It is true that the jury

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found that these witnesses were wrong as to the position of
car, but they were called by the defendant, and they did
testify to anything in the plaintiff inconsistent with ordin
care. The other witness, the only one of the four called by
plaintiff, also testified to a fact which the jury found to be t
and which the defendant claims was in law negligence, and t
the question of due care from the jury, that the car struck
hind wheel of the plaintiff's carriage. However strong evide
of negligence in the plaintiff this may have been, it clearly
not conclusive. Even in the case of a steam railway, the fac
a collision at a crossing between the engine and a traveller
never been deemed conclusive evidence that the traveller
wanting in due care. See *Tyler* v. *New York & New Engl*
Railroad, 137 Mass. 238. There was evidence that it was
usual for cars to pass at that hour, and that the plaintiff had
reason to expect one; there was evidence that the plaintiff
looking in the direction from which the car was coming. Th
was no evidence that the car could be seen by her until
herself came upon the track, while there was evidence that
horse could be seen from the car before she or her carri
reached the track; and if she had seen the car, and attempt
of choice, to pass before it, it would be a question for the j
whether the act was negligent. The car was moving slowly, a
was easily controlled, in these respects resembling an ordin
carriage more than a locomotive engine. The plaintiff ha
right to expect that it would do something towards avoidin
collision, and, while that would not justify the plaintiff in putt
herself in a dangerous position, it might be an element in de
mining whether a certain position would be dangerous, just
the fact that a horse is under its driver's control is an element
determining whether it is dangerous to pass in front of it.
driver who at a crossing of streets sees that he apparently can
safely before a horse and carriage approaching on a cross str
is not, as matter of law, obliged to stop and wait for the o
to pass, unless he is certain that he has made no mistake in
estimate of speed and distance; he may have a right to pas
front, and to assume that, if necessary, the speed of the o
will be checked. So, in this case, the fact that the speed of
car could be checked, if there should prove to be danger tha

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would run into the plaintiff's carriage, was a fact proper to be considered by the jury in determining whether the plaintiff was negligent in making a slight miscalculation, which could be remedied by proper management of the car.

We think that the question whether the plaintiff was in the exercise of due care was for the jury, and that the rulings excepted to were correct. *Exceptions overruled.*

KATE T. LIFFIN *vs.* INHABITANTS OF BEVERLY.

Essex. Nov. 2, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action against a town for an injury occasioned by an alleged defect in a way, the notice to the town stated, as the cause of the injury, that the way was "defectively constructed and left in a dangerous and unfinished condition." The plaintiff offered to prove that her foot went into a hole caused by a defective construction of the way. *Held*, that the notice was sufficient, under the St. of 1882, c. 36, unless there was an intention to mislead, and the defendant was in fact misled; and that these questions were for the jury.

TORT, for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by a defect in a way in Beverly, which the defendants were bound to keep in repair. Trial in the Superior Court before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff's counsel, in opening his case to the jury, offered to prove the following facts.

There is in the defendant town a public highway called Elliot Street, on which the plaintiff lives. On December 24, 1884, the plaintiff, while travelling upon said street, and in the exercise of due care, struck her foot against a hard substance of either snow or ice. At the same time her foot broke through the ice on which she was standing, and went into a hole about four or five inches in depth and her leg was broken. At the time of the accident there was no defined sidewalk constructed at the place where the injury happened. On the side of the way where the plaintiff was injured was a large depression, forming a basin, where snow, ice, and water would remain in the

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winter; and, when said depression or basin got filled with wa
or snow, the water ran across said way, and washed away, a
gullied out a passageway for itself across said way, making
way dangerous. The way where the injury occurred was
properly constructed, and allowed to remain in a dangerous
unfinished condition.

The plaintiff offered in evidence the following notice, addres
to the selectmen, signed by her, and handed to the town clerk

"You are hereby notified that on December 24, 1884, ab
two o'clock in the afternoon, I fell down on the northerly s
of the travelled way, nearly in front of the dwelling-house oc
pied by George Tufts on Elliot Street in Beverly, in said cou
of Essex, and received bodily injuries. The place where I
ceived said injury may be found as follows: beginning at
southwesterly corner of the dwelling-house occupied by s
Tufts on said Elliot Street, and thence running southerly o
line at right angles with the front of said house about fifty-se
feet to a point on the northerly side of said travelled way, a
running westerly by said travelled way about ten feet to
place where I received the aforesaid injury. The cause of
injury at the time and place aforesaid was: 1st. A defect
said travelled way on said Elliot Street, by reason of an ac
mulation of snow, ice, and hobbly and rough snow and
making said place where I received said injury rough, hobb
slippery, uneven, and dangerous; and 2d. That said travel
way, where I received said injury, was defectively construct
and is now, and was at the time of the injury, left in a d
gerous and unfinished condition."

The defendant objected to the case opened by the plaintiff,
the ground that the notice did not state the existence of a h
or gully in the street, by means of which the plaintiff recei
her injury. The defendant also contended that it was mis
by the notice; and no evidence was offered by the plaintif
show that the defendant had not in fact been misled.

The judge sustained the defendant's objections, and ru
that the plaintiff could not recover for an injury caused by
existence of the hole or gully described in the plaintiff's op
ing, because the notice did not describe such a defect; a
upon the plaintiff's counsel stating that he relied upon

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proposed to prove the case opened to the jury, a verdict for the defendant was ordered. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

D. W. Quill, for the plaintiff.

H. P. Moulton, for the defendant.

W. ALLEN, J. The St. of 1882, *c.* 36, provides that a notice shall not be deemed to be insufficient by reason of any inaccuracy in stating the cause of the injury, if it is shown that there was no intention to mislead, and if the party entitled to notice was not in fact misled.

The place of the injury is minutely described in the notice, and it is said, as a cause of the injury, that the way at that place was defectively constructed, and in a dangerous and unfinished condition. The plaintiff offered to prove that the way was imperfectly constructed, so that at times water would accumulate on its side and run over the way and gully out a channel across it, and that she broke through the ice into a hole or gully four or five inches deep, caused by such faulty construction of the way. The jury might have found that there was no intention to mislead, and that the defendant was not in fact misled by the notice. Suppose the plaintiff had proved her case as she opened it, and shown that, if one of the defendant's officers had gone to the spot designated in the notice, he could have found a way defectively constructed so as to collect the water in winter and pour it over the travelled path, and a hole or gully four or five inches deep caused by such defective condition, would not a jury be justified, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, in finding that the defendant was not misled? The notice pointed to a particular place of the highway which it said was defectively constructed, and left in a dangerous and unfinished condition. It does not follow, from the fact that that particular defect was not mentioned, that the defendant was misled; and a jury would be authorized to find, upon proof of the facts stated by the plaintiff, and in the absence of other evidence, that there was no intention to mislead, and that the defendant was not in fact misled. *Fortin* v. *Easthampton*, 142 Mass. 486. *Canterbury* v. *Boston*, 141 Mass. 215. *Spellman* v. *Chicopee*, 131 Mass. 443. *Exceptions sustained.*

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Edwin C. Swift *vs.* John Carr & another.

Essex. Nov. 2, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. Devens & Knowlton, JJ., absent.

A. and B. were in partnership under the name of B. and Company. B. withdrew from the firm, and A. carried on the business under the same firm name. Subsequently, A. sent to C., with whom the former partnership had had dealings, a letter with the printed heading, "A., under firm name of B. and Company." This letter was received by C. *Held*, that this heading was admissible in evidence on the issue whether C. had notice of the withdrawal of B. from the firm.

Writ of entry, to recover a parcel of land in Newburyport, brought against John Carr and Elizabeth H. Carr, his wife. John Carr filed a plea of disclaimer, and died after the action was brought and before the trial, and his heirs came in under the same plea. Elizabeth H. Carr filed a plea of *nul disseisin*. Trial in the Superior Court before *Hammond*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The demandant claimed title by virtue of a deed made to him, as purchaser at a sale duly made on a levy of an execution by a deputy sheriff, which execution was duly issued, after trial and judgment for the plaintiffs, in an action brought by Gustavus F. Swift and another, copartners under the firm name of Swift Brothers and Company, against said John Carr and Edward F. Coffin, as copartners under the firm name of Carr, Brown, and Company.

Said lot of land was attached on mesne process, in the above-named action, on April 5, 1884, and the execution was levied in due time and form, so that said attachment was in full force up to the time of said levy.

The tenant, Elizabeth H. Carr, claimed title by virtue of two deeds: the first, from John Carr to his daughter, Elizabeth M. Carr; and the second from said Elizabeth M. Carr to the tenant, Elizabeth H. Carr. Both deeds were dated March 1, 1880, and were both recorded on November 21, 1884.

The causes of action in the suit on which the attachment was made were five promissory notes, indorsed "Carr, Brown, and Company." These notes were delivered to Gustavus F. Swift, senior member of the plaintiff firm, in payment for horns sold by him through his agent, Tuttle Culver, residing in New York

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city, in pursuance of a contract entered into by the acceptance of a written proposition, and which, before maturity, became the property of said firm of Swift Brothers and Company.

Gustavus F. Swift had for two years before, in the years 1881 and 1882, through his agent, Tuttle Culver, sold horns to Carr and Coffin, under the firm name of Carr, Brown, and Company, and said Culver knew them as copartners under that firm name.

John Carr went to Chicago in May, 1883, and received said horns, and delivered on his arrival, about May 21, in part payment for the same, two of said five notes, one for $2500, and the other for $2000.

Culver met said Carr when he arrived in Chicago, and went with him to Gustavus F. Swift's place of business, introduced him to said Swift, and saw him deliver said notes.

Edward F. Coffin testified that he hired Carr to go and receive said horns, but there was no evidence that either Culver or Swift knew of such hiring. Coffin also testified that, when Culver was in Newburyport, on January 9, 1883, arranging with him for a settlement of a small balance due for the previous year's horns, he told him he was going to take the business, and that thereafter he was Carr, Brown, and Company. Coffin also testified that said firm of Carr, Brown, and Company was dissolved on February 1, 1883, and Carr retired from the firm on that date.

Culver testified that no such conversation took place, and that he had no notice of the dissolution of the firm of Carr, Brown, and Company until after the maturity of the five notes in the fall. Culver was the general agent of G. F. Swift.

As evidence bearing on the question of notice of dissolution of the firm of Carr, Brown, and Company, and of the withdrawal of John Carr therefrom, and to show that Swift Brothers and Company were not creditors of John Carr at the time of said attachment, in consequence of said notice, the tenant, Mrs. Carr, offered evidence that two letters, one bearing date June 18, 1883, and the other July 9, 1883, each containing one of the five notes, in part settlement for said horns, were mailed on those dates to Gustavus F. Swift, said letters having a printed letter-head as follows: "Edward F. Coffin, under firm name of

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Carr, Brown, and Company, manufacturer and dealer in horn combs, tips, and waste, Newburyport, Mass." To the admission of this evidence the demandant excepted.

The jury returned a verdict for the tenant; and the demandant alleged exceptions.

F. Hutchinson, for the demandant.

F. W. Hale, for Mrs. Carr.

W. ALLEN, J. At the trial it was deemed to be a material question whether John Carr was liable as a member of the firm of Carr, Brown, and Company to one Gustavus F. Swift, upon certain notes given by the firm to Swift. In 1881 and 1882 Carr and one Edward F. Coffin were copartners, under the name of Carr, Brown, and Company, and had transactions with Swift. Similar transactions were had between Carr, Brown, and Company and Swift in 1883, in the course of which five notes indorsed by the firm name were given by the firm to Swift in April, June, and July of that year. There was evidence that the firm was dissolved on February 1, 1883, and that Carr then retired, and that the business was afterwards carried on by Coffin alone, in the name of Carr, Brown, and Company. As evidence that Swift had knowledge that the firm had been dissolved, and that Carr was not a member, the defendant offered in evidence the printed letter-head of two letters dated respectively in June and July, 1883, sent to Swift, each containing one of the notes before mentioned, which letter-head was in these words: "Edwin F. Coffin, under firm name of Carr, Brown, and Company, Manufacturer and dealer in horn combs, tips, and waste, Newburyport, Mass." The only exception is to the admission of this evidence. The question is not as to the weight or sufficiency of the evidence, but only as to its competency. There was evidence that the letters were received by Swift, because he received the notes which were enclosed in them. That the statement at the head of the letter, that the name Carr, Brown, and Company, the indorser and sender of the note, was the business name of Coffin, was some evidence that Swift had notice that Carr had retired from the business, seems too plain for argument. The question whether that with the other evidence reported was sufficient, is not open on the exceptions.

Exceptions overruled.

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DANIEL McKENNA *vs.* NATHANIEL T. KIMBALL & others.

Essex. Nov. 3, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

Under the Pub. Sts. c. 44, § 46, which imposes upon the school committee of a town, unless the town otherwise directs, the duty of keeping "the school-houses in good order," and of providing "all things necessary for the comfort of the scholars," the committee may lawfully order a tree on a school-house lot to be cut down; and they are not liable for the negligence of those whom they employ to execute their order.

TORT, against the school committee of the town of Bradford. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Hammond*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The evidence of the plaintiff tended to show that there was a tree standing upon a lot of land, owned by the town of Bradford, which lot adjoined Main Street, a public highway in said Bradford; that on the lot there was a school-house used for a high school; that the defendants, who were the school committee at the time, decided by a vote taken upon the ground to cause the tree to be felled, and to employ one Knight, who was a highway surveyor, to fell the tree; that the three defendants directed Knight to fell the tree, and subsequently the tree was felled by two men other than Knight, but it did not appear by whose order, except as hereinbefore stated. There was no evidence or claim that Knight was not a proper person to employ to do such a piece of work. It did not appear that the town of Bradford had given any direction relieving the school committee of the duties imposed by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 44, § 46.

The plaintiff testified that he was at work on the highway for a horse-railroad company, grading the highway at a point opposite said school-house lot at the time said tree was being felled; that said tree fell across the highway, and a limb struck him upon the back and severely injured him; and that he heard no warning from anybody that the tree was about to fall. Two witnesses testified that they were at work with the plaintiff at the time the tree fell, and that they heard a shout of warning after the tree had begun to fall, but none before. There was evidence that no rope or support of any kind was used while the

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tree was being cut down. One witness testified that he looked at the roots of the tree after it had fallen, and that they had all been cut away except two, that all the roots extending sidewise from the tree had been cut, and the earth removed from about the base of the tree; and that the tree was about forty feet in height.

There was no other evidence of negligence of those felling the tree, or of due care on the part of the plaintiff.

The judge ruled that the action could not be maintained, and ordered a verdict for the defendants. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

W. H. Moody & E. B. Fuller, for the plaintiff.

S. A. Abbott & F. H. Pearl, for the defendants.

W. ALLEN, J. The Pub. Sts. *c.* 44, § 21, provide for the election of a school committee by each town, which shall have the general charge and superintendence of all the public schools of the town. The school committee is a board of public officers whose duties are prescribed by statute, and in the execution of its duties the members do not act as agents of the town, but as public officers in the performance of public duties. Besides the general provision before referred to, the statutes specify various duties required of the committee, and among them the care of school-houses. This duty is absolute in regard to high school houses. Pub. Sts. *c.* 44, § 41; *c.* 45, § 16. Since the abolition of school districts by the St. of 1882, *c.* 219, the Pub. Sts. *c.* 44, § 46, give the care of all the school-houses to the committee, unless the town otherwise directs. The language is the same in both provisions. The school committee "shall keep such houses in good order, and shall procure a suitable place for the schools, where there is no school-house, and provide fuel and all things necessary for the comfort of the scholars therein, at the expense of the town." Section 50 provides that the school committee of a town shall have the general charge and superintendence of the school-houses therein, so far as relates to the uses to which the same may be appropriated. The town of Bradford gave no direction in regard to the care of its school-houses, and it was the official duty of the defendants to care for them, with all the authority expressly or impliedly given to them as the school committee of the town. The committee voted to cause a tree

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standing on the high school lot to be cut down, and to employ one Knight, who was a highway surveyor, to fell it, and directed Knight to do so. The tree was afterwards cut down by two men, who, it may be assumed, acted under orders from Knight. Knight was a suitable person to be employed to fell the tree. The tree fell upon the plaintiff and injured him, as he alleges, in consequence of the negligence of the persons engaged in cutting it down. The only question is whether the defendants are responsible for the negligence of those persons.

If the school committee had authority to order the tree to be felled, the vote must be taken to have been a proper exercise of that authority. It does not appear that any notice of the meeting was required, and it does not appear what notice was given, but the committee were all present at the meeting. It is not necessary that the vote should have been upon a written motion. No objection was made that the vote was not proved by the record required by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 44, § 27, and the questions whether a record of the vote was made, and whether, if there was no record, the vote was therefore invalid, were not raised. See *Russell* v. *Lynnfield*, 116 Mass. 365. The defendants were not themselves negligent, and, if their vote was an official act, they are not responsible for the negligence of those whom they employed in carrying it out. The doctrine of *respondeat superior* is founded on the supposed benefit to the master of the act of the servant, and does not apply to a public officer employing agents in the discharge of a public duty. *Nowell* v. *Wright*, 3 Allen, 166. *Hill* v. *Boston*, 122 Mass. 344. Story on Agency, § 319.

The case is then narrowed to the single question, whether the school committee had authority to remove the tree from the lot on which the high school building was situated. If they had, they were the judges of the necessity and the propriety of its removal, and it was not necessary to recite in the vote the occasion for their action. It is immaterial whether the tree endangered the school building, or the children attending the school, or what the reason for its removal was. The right to remove it involved, or rather arose from, the duty of determining whether the removal was necessary. The town owned the school building and lot, but it had appointed no agent to have charge of it, and no officer had any authority over it, except the school committee. The

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duty expressly put upon the committee by statute, to keep the school-house in good order, and to provide all things necessary for the comfort of the scholars, included the care of the lot on which the house stood, as well as of the house. It was their duty not only to take proper measures to protect the school-house from threatened danger, but to see that the access to it over the lot from the adjoining street was safe and comfortable for the scholars, and that the lot was kept in proper condition for them to use in connection with the school-house. This would be included in their general duty of charge and superintendence of the school, if it was not within their specific duty in regard to school-houses. But we cannot doubt that the statute made it their duty to keep the lot, as well as the house upon it, in good order. If snow, or if a fallen tree, incumbered the lot, they could remove it; and they were not obliged to wait until the tree fell. It was their duty to exercise their judgment and discretion as to the necessity and propriety of cutting it down, and to act thereupon, and in so do doing they were acting as public officers, in the discharge of a public duty. *Exceptions overruled.*

EDMUND PYNE, JR. *vs.* JOHN WOOD, JR.

Essex. Nov. 4, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

In an action by an infant to recover money paid by him for an article of merchandise, there was evidence that the father of the infant made a demand for the money and caused the action to be brought, and that the infant was present when the demand was made, and returned the article to the defendant. *Held*, that the evidence would warrant a finding that the plaintiff had rescinded the contract. *Held, also*, that the fact that the infant testified at the trial that he was willing to stand by the contract, and did not wish the action prosecuted, was immaterial.

In an action by an infant to recover money paid by him for a bicycle, on the question whether the bicycle was a "necessary," it appeared that the plaintiff, a boy seventeen years of age, lived with his father, and worked in a shoe shop, a mile from his father's house; that he went home for his dinner, and was allowed to be absent an hour. The judge who tried the case without a jury found for the plaintiff. *Held*, that no error of law appeared.

CONTRACT, to recover the sum of $64, paid by the plaintiff, a minor. Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before

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Hammond, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

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On June 1, 1886, the plaintiff, who was then nearly seventeen years old, bought a bicycle of the defendant, and paid $30 in cash on account of the same. He also signed a paper writing by which he agreed to pay further sums of money from time to time. By the terms of the writing, the bicycle was to remain the property of the defendant until paid for, and he was to have the right to take possession of it, if the plaintiff made any default in payment.

The amount paid by the plaintiff in cash was a part of the money which he had saved from his own earnings. At that time he worked regularly in a shoe shop, earning $10 a week, out of which he paid his father for board $4 a week. There had been no special emancipation or giving away of the plaintiff's time, except what may be implied from the circumstances.

The plaintiff paid $12 on July 1, 1886, and $18 on July 28, 1886, and also on the last-named day exchanged the machine originally purchased for another, slightly different, and signed a new agreement similar to the former. He afterwards paid to the defendant $4 on general account. There was also charged against him, on account, $4 for repairing the bicycle.

The son paid all the cash out of his own earnings, to which the father had no claim other than that which might be asserted by a father to the earnings of a minor child.

At a later day the father demanded the money paid, but was refused payment by the defendant. He then demanded payment a second and third time, and was refused. Whereupon the father, leaving the bicycle at the defendant's shop, went away and caused this action to be brought. The boy was present when these demands were made, and also carried the bicycle to the defendant's shop when it was returned.

The defendant did not accept the bicycle in rescission of the contract, but claimed it as his under the contract.

The son testified that at the time of the trial he was willing to stand by the contract, and had no wish to have the present action prosecuted; but the judge found that the action was brought by his consent.

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It was in controversy whether the plaintiff returned the machine bought. On this point the judge found for the plaintiff.

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A question was raised how far the bicycle was a "necessary," and it appeared that the plaintiff worked in Lynn, but resided in Swampscott, at his father's, more than a mile off; that during the hour allowed for dinner, he could easily go home to dinner, but that at least half of the hour allowed for dinner would be consumed in walking; and it was contended that it was impracticable for him to take his meals at home, unless he had a bicycle.

The judge ruled that the contract was voidable, and that an action in this form might be maintained by a next friend, in the name of the son, and found for the plaintiff. The defendant alleged exceptions.

S. H. Phillips & J. W. Porter, for the defendant.

I. B. Keith & C. Leighton, for the plaintiff.

W. ALLEN, J. There is nothing in this case to distinguish it from *McCarthy* v. *Henderson*, 138 Mass. 310, and it must be governed by that decision.

The facts that the plaintiff was present when his father demanded the money of the defendant, and himself carried the bicycle to the defendant's shop when it was returned to him, and that the plaintiff consented to the bringing of the action, certainly warrant the findings that the contract was avoided by the plaintiff, and that the action was properly brought. The statement of the plaintiff on the witness stand that he was then willing to stand by the contract, did not show that he had not avoided the contract, or that there was not a good cause of action.

There was no error in the finding that the bicycle was not a necessary. *Merriam* v. *Cunningham*, 11 Cush. 40. *Leonard* v. *Stott*, 108 Mass. 46. ***Exceptions overruled.***

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MARY J. NEALLEY *vs.* INHABITANTS OF BRADFORD & others.

Essex. Nov. 7, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. DEVENS & KNOWLTON, JJ., absent.

If a natural watercourse has its source, body, and outlet in a highway, the surveyor of highways of the town in which the highway is situated may, for the purpose of repairing the highway, change the direction of the watercourse, and convey it in an open ditch along the highway; and the fact that the ditch is dug between the centre of the highway and the land on the side, does not entitle the owner of the land, although he owns the fee to the centre of the highway, to maintain a bill in equity against the highway surveyor and the town to abate the nuisance and for damages; but his remedy is under the Pub. Sts. c. 52, §§ 15, 16.

W. ALLEN, J. This is a bill in equity for the abatement of a nuisance, praying that the defendants may be enjoined against diverting the water which flowed through a culvert across the highway on to land of the defendant Gage, and conveying it in a ditch in the highway in front of the plaintiff's land, and for damages. The defendants are the town of Bradford, the highway surveyor of the town, who opened the ditch and filled the culvert, and Gage, the owner of the land upon which the water flowed after passing through the culvert. The case was referred to a master, who reported the facts, his findings, and the evidence. The case was heard by a single justice upon exceptions to the master's report, and, by agreement, upon the report as it should stand after any changes that might be made on the exceptions, and comes up on appeal by the plaintiff from a decree dismissing the bill. We have not found it necessary to consider all the points presented, and advert to the facts only so far as they bear upon the questions decided.

The plaintiff's land lies on the southerly side of the highway, and extends about three hundred and fifty feet on the highway. Her house is on the westerly part of the land, and the easterly part is vacant. There was a ditch on the southerly side of the highway extending from the plaintiff's easterly line westerly about eighty feet. Just beyond the plaintiff's easterly line was a ditch extending southerly from the highway, from which water passed into the ditch in the highway, though the former did not open into the latter. The plaintiff's cellar drain opened

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into the ditch in the highway, about fifty feet from the easterly end of it. The land about was flat and wet, and water collected and stood in the ditch. About twenty-five feet westerly from the plaintiff's easterly line was the mouth of a culvert, which extended from the ditch to the northerly side of the highway, where it opened on land of the defendant Gage, and through which water from the ditch flowed upon Gage's land. The bottom of the culvert was higher than the bottom of the ditch, and water stood in the ditch on both sides of the mouth of the culvert, and for fifty or sixty feet westerly from it. The road in front of the plaintiff's house was higher than at the culvert, and there was no escape for the water in the ditch below the level of the culvert. The road commissioners of Bradford cut down the street in front of the plaintiff's house, established a regular descending grade from the culvert beyond the plaintiff's westerly line, underdrained the road-bed, and made a ditch or drain on the southerly side of the highway, between the road-bed and the plaintiff's line, from the westerly end of the old ditch to a point beyond the plaintiff's land, and obstructed the culvert.

This was in 1882. In 1883 the plaintiff filled up the new ditch and opened the culvert. In 1884 the highway surveyor of Bradford, acting under the direction of the selectmen of the town, opened the ditch and filled up the culvert, which is the act of which the plaintiff complains. At that time there was in front of the plaintiff's house and land, extending two hundred and twelve feet from her westerly line to a point eighty feet easterly from her house, a covered drain, most of it a stone drain twelve by fifteen inches in size, and the rest drain-pipe fifteen inches in diameter; from her easterly line, extending westerly about eighty feet, was the ditch which had been there from time immemorial, and connecting the two were the fifty or sixty feet of new ditch. Through this ditch and drain ran the water which had formerly run through the culvert, and that which had run and stood in the old ditch. The acts were all done in the repair of the highway, and were suitable and beneficial. No question is made of the authority of the road commissioners and highway surveyor to change the grade of the street. See *Callender* v. *Marsh*, 1 Pick. 418; *Burr* v. *Leicester*, 121 Mass. 241; *Sisson* v. *New Bedford*, 137 Mass. 255; *Sullivan* v.

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Fall River, 144 Mass. 579. And no question was made of their authority to divert the watercourse and carry it in front of the plaintiff's land, if it was occasioned by surface water. See *Elder* v. *Bemis*, 2 Met. 599; *Benjamin* v. *Wheeler*, 15 Gray, 486; *Flagg* v. *Worcester*, 13 Gray, 601. But the plaintiff contends that it was a natural watercourse, and that there is no authority to divert a natural watercourse for the purpose of repairing a highway. The master found that there was no natural watercourse southerly from the highway; but that one arose within the limits of the highway, on its southerly side, in the ditch easterly of the culvert that has been spoken of, and flowed into and through the culvert, and out upon land of Gage. The plaintiff excepted to the finding of the master that there was no natural watercourse south of the highway. An examination of the evidence shows that the finding was required by it. The defendants excepted to the finding that there was a natural watercourse within the limits of the highway. This exception would require careful consideration were the finding material. As we are of opinion that the officers had authority to divert the water, though of a natural watercourse as found by the master, this and some other exceptions become immaterial.

The whole authority for repairing highways was originally in the highway surveyors. St. 1786, *c.* 81. The only statutory limitation upon that authority was the provision that appears in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 12, that highway surveyors should not, without the approbation of the selectmen first had in writing, cause a watercourse occasioned by the wash of the highway to be so conveyed by the side of the way as to incommode a house, store, shop, or other building, or to obstruct a person in the prosecution of his business. This section does not make such act illegal, so that an action will lie for it, but provides a remedy in the nature of an appeal to the selectmen. *Elder* v. *Bemis*, *ubi supra*. The Rev. Sts. *c.* 24, § 7, provided that county commissioners, on an application for laying out or altering a highway, might order specific repairs, as is provided in the Pub. Sts. *c.* 49, § 16. By the St. of 1877, *c.* 58, (Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 3,) highway surveyors are to act under the direction of the selectmen in expending money for repairs. By the St. of 1871, *c.* 158, towns were authorized to choose road commissioners who should

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have all the authority of selectmen and highway surveyors r
garding ways. See Pub. Sts. *c.* 27, § 75. The authority of t
selectmen and road commissioners to order specific repairs
limited to town and private ways. Pub. Sts. *c.* 49, § 65.

Substantially the whole authority of the public over highway
as regards making repairs upon them, is vested in the highwa
surveyors, or the road commissioners as their substitutes, and t
right of the public is the same in respect to the repair as it
in respect to the construction of a highway. That this pow
may be exercised to the damage of adjoining owners is reco
nized in the provision for compensation. Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 15.

In constructing and repairing a highway the public have t
rights of a landowner as regards watercourses within the limi
of the highway. It can make an artificial watercourse for su
face water. In regard to natural streams it must have rega
to rights of riparian owners upon them. It has no right
obstruct a stream so that the water will be prevented from flo
ing off from land of proprietors above; *Parker* v. *Lowell*, 1
Gray, 353; but it has a right to make changes in the cour
of a stream within the location of the highway which will n
affect the rights in the stream of riparian proprietors upon i
Rowe v. *Granite Bridge Corporation*, 21 Pick. 344.

In the case at bar the riparian proprietors on the stream b
low the highway concurred in the action of the road commi
sioners and of the highway surveyor, so that the questi
whether the plaintiff could take advantage of a wrong to the
is not presented. As the natural watercourse begins within t
limits of the highway, there is no riparian proprietor above t
highway whose rights can be affected. If it is assumed th
the plaintiff owned the fee to the centre of the highway, th
would give her no right to the water upon it as against the pu
lic. Any right relating to the water, as owner of the land, w
taken with the land for public uses. The water in the highw
was like earth and stones, so much matter to be disposed of
the manner most beneficial to the highway, the only restri
tion being that the rights of private property should not be i
fringed. There may be private property in earth and ston
which happen to be upon the highway, but the only right
water running upon a highway which can conflict with t

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right of the public to appropriate it to the repair of the way is the right of riparian proprietors on a stream to the natural flow of the water. As there were no such rights involved in the case at bar, the stream was practically wholly within the limits of the highway, and the right to convey a natural stream, whose source and body and outlet are in the highway, in an artificial drain or ditch within the highway, cannot be distinguished from the right to carry surface water.

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No damage was done to the plaintiff except from the inconvenience of having an open watercourse in front of her vacant land, and no other or greater damage than would be caused by a watercourse for the wash of the street, unless a greater quantity of water might increase the inconvenience. But the amount of damage done to the plaintiff's estate is immaterial. The statute provides an adequate remedy. As the acts which occasioned the damage were lawful acts, done for the purpose of repairing the way, the plaintiff must pursue the remedy provided by the statute. *Bill dismissed.*

H. Carter & B. B. Jones, for the plaintiff.

I. A. Abbott, for the defendants.

RODERICK McPHEE *vs.* FREDERICK W. LITCHFIELD & others.

Suffolk. Nov. 10, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 191, § 6, providing that a mechanic's lien shall be dissolved unless the person desiring to avail himself thereof files in the registry of deeds a statement including the name of the owner of the property, if known, the fact that, when ignorant of the owner's name, he sets forth in his statement that he believes A. to be the owner, does not prevent his maintaining a petition against B., who is in fact the owner.

PETITION, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 191, against Frederick W. Litchfield, Catherine Broderick, and Margaret McNamara, to enforce a mechanic's lien for labor performed in the erection of a building in Chelsea.

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Trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., who rule
that the petitioner was entitled to maintain his lien; and re
ported the case for the determination of this court. The fact
appear in the opinion.

J. A. Maxwell, for the respondents.

T. J. Morrison, for the petitioner.

MORTON, C. J. The only objection made by the respondent
to the validity of the petitioner's lien is that the certificate file
by him in the registry of deeds was insufficient. The statut
provides that "the lien shall be dissolved unless the perso
desiring to avail himself thereof, within thirty days after h
ceases to labor on or to furnish labor or materials for the build
ing or structure, files in the registry of deeds for the county o
district in which the same is situated a statement of a just an
true account of the amount due him, with all just credits given
a description of the property intended to be covered by th
lien, sufficiently accurate for identification; and the name o
the owner or owners of such property, if known." Pub. St
c. 191, § 6.

In the case before us, the petitioner duly filed a certificat
which was in all respects a compliance with the statute, unle
the statement therein as to the ownership of the property wa
insufficient. This statement was as follows: "said lot of lan
being owned, to the best of my knowledge and belief, by Cat
erine Broderick, of said Chelsea." In fact the property wa
owned by the defendant McNamara, but the petitioner believe
that the defendant Broderick was the owner. The statute an
the decisions regard it as important that the name of the own
should be given in the certificate, if it can be done, becaus
otherwise, subsequent purchasers who buy upon the faith
the registry title are liable to be misled; and it has been he
that, if a petitioner knows the true owner and gives a wron
name in his certificate, it avoids the certificate and he loses h
lien. *Kelly* v. *Laws*, 109 Mass. 395. *Amidon* v. *Benjamin*, 1
Mass. 534.

But the statute contemplates that there may be cases whe
the name of the owner need not be given in the certificate. T
name is to be given "if known." This implies that, if the nam
is not known to the petitioner, the certificate is good if it do

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not name the owner. In this case the petitioner did not know the owner, and thus it differs from *Kelly* v. *Laws*, and *Amidon* v. *Benjamin*, *ubi supra*.

This case, then, is one where the name of the owner is unknown. If the certificate had so stated, no fault could be found with it. Does the fact that the petitioner innocently states his belief that the respondent Broderick is the owner vitiate the certificate? So to hold would be to import into the statute a provision not found there. We are of opinion that this cannot be done, especially in a case like this, where the honest mistake of the petitioner has not in any way misled or injured the respondents. *Judgment accordingly.*

GRANITE NATIONAL BANK *vs.* ROBERT G. FITCH & others.

Suffolk. Nov. 10, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

If a guarantor of a promissory note makes a payment thereon, upon the agreement that the payee shall hold the note as security to him for the amount paid as well as for the balance remaining due the payee, such payment does not *pro tanto* discharge the maker of the note.

In an action against A. on a promissory note signed by A. and B., it appeared that B. sent his promissory note to the payee for the amount due, and that this note was not discounted or paid, nor accepted by the payee in discharge of the original note. *Held*, that the transaction did not amount to a payment of the original note.

CONTRACT, against R. G. Fitch, A. P. Moore, and J. E. Moore, upon a promissory note for $5000, signed by the defendants, and guaranteed by D. Alden and J. W. Bradbury. On the note was indorsed a payment of $2000. The plaintiff discontinued as to all the defendants but Fitch. Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Barker*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

It appeared that after the reported failure of A. P. and J. E. Moore, and the payment of the $2000 indorsed on the note, the guarantors of the note paid to the plaintiff the principal part thereof, leaving due a balance of $217.50, upon the agreement

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that the bank was to hold the note as security to the guarantors for the amount paid by them, as well as for the balance remaining due to itself.

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Subsequently the defendants A. P. and J. E. Moore sent to the plaintiff bank their note for said balance of $217.50, the amount that remained due at that time on the original note, which note so sent has never been discounted or paid, in whole or in part, nor accepted by the bank in discharge of the original note.

Upon this evidence, the defendant Fitch requested the judge to rule as follows: "1. The payment made by the guarantors on the note in suit to the plaintiff bank, discharged and released the defendant Fitch from his liability on such note to the amount of said payment, and the plaintiff cannot have its action against said Fitch for such amount, notwithstanding the arrangement said to be made with the guarantors. 2. The giving of the note to the plaintiff bank by the Moores, for the balance remaining due after the payment by the guarantors, extinguished the remainder of the cause of action against the defendant Fitch, and the plaintiff can recover nothing against him in this action."

The judge declined so to rule, but ruled that the aforesaid facts constituted no defence on the part of the defendant Fitch to this action, or any part thereof, and found for the plaintiff for the full amount of its claim, with interest thereon. The defendant alleged exceptions.

Z. S. Arnold, for Fitch.

R. D. Smith & M. M. Weston, for the plaintiff.

C. ALLEN, J. The guarantors made a partial payment upon the note in suit, but it is found by the court that the payment was made upon the agreement that the payee and holder of the note should hold it as security to the guarantors for the amount paid by them, as well as for the balance remaining due to the payee. This was equivalent to an agreement that the sum paid by the guarantors should not be deemed a payment for or on account of the parties primarily liable to pay the note, but that the note should be kept alive, in order to be put in suit for the benefit of the guarantors. If they had paid the whole amount of the note, there is no doubt that they might have taken an

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indorsement to themselves, and brought suit upon it in their own names. It is not necessary to determine whether, in the absence of any express understanding, a payment in whole or in part by guarantors will have the effect to extinguish the note wholly or *pro tanto;* though this result is often broadly denied. See Story Prom. Notes, § 400; Byles on Bills, (7th Am. ed.) 173, 224, 225. But clearly, where there is an agreement that the note shall be kept alive, such payment does not discharge the makers. *Pinney* v. *McGregory*, 102 Mass. 186. *McGregory* v. *McGregory*, 107 Mass. 548. *Pacific Bank* v. *Mitchell*, 9 Met. 297, 302. *Williams* v. *James*, 15 Q. B. 498. *Jones* v. *Broadhurst*, 9 C. B. 173. *Thornton* v. *Maynard*, L. R. 10 C. P. 695.

As to the subsequent transaction, by which two of the makers sent to the holder of the note their new note for the balance remaining due beyond the amount paid by the guarantors, it is expressly found that the holder did not accept such new note in discharge of the original note; and under such circumstances, according to the well settled doctrine, the new note is not to be treated as payment. *Cotton* v. *Atlas Bank*, *ante*, 43, 45.

Exceptions overruled.

ELLEN O'SHAUGHNESSY *vs.* SUFFOLK BREWING COMPANY.

Suffolk. Nov. 14, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

A girl, eight years and one month old, while on her way to school, sat down on the curbstone of the sidewalk, with one leg under her and the other leg projecting into the street, leaned over, and began to sharpen a slate pencil. She knew that there was much driving on the street, but did not look to see whether any wagon was coming. While so sitting, she was struck by a wagon, and run over. *Held*, that the question whether she was in the exercise of due care was for the jury.

TORT, for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff, a girl eight years one month and a half old, by being run over by the defendant's wagon, on April 17, 1885, on East Eighth Street in South Boston.

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At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Brigham*, C. J., the plaintiff testified, that, while on her way to school, shortly before two o'clock in the afternoon, she sat down on the curbstone of the sidewalk, with her right leg under her and her left leg projecting into the street, leaned forward, and began to sharpen a slate pencil; that while so sitting she was struck in the back just above her left hip, knocked into the street, and run over by one of the hind wheels of the defendant's wagon. She further testified, on cross-examination, that she knew, when she sat down, that there were horse-car tracks in the middle of the street, on which horse cars passed both ways, and that there was a good deal of driving in the street; and that when she sat down, and while sitting there, she did not look to see if any wagons were coming.

The defendant's evidence tended to show that the plaintiff, while walking on the sidewalk, caught hold of an iron brace on the side of the defendant's wagon and between the front and hind wheels, and that, while holding on to this brace, her foot slipped, and she fell under the wagon, and was run over.

At the close of the evidence, the defendant asked the judge to rule, as matter of law, that the plaintiff could not recover, because there was no evidence that would warrant the jury in finding that the plaintiff was in the exercise of due care.

The judge declined to rule as requested; and instructed the jury that, if the plaintiff was hanging on to the wagon as it passed, and fell in consequence thereof, she could not recover; and that, if the plaintiff was sitting on the curbstone when she was struck, the question was what care might be expected of the child in view of her age and intelligence; that if she knew better than to be there, and knew that it was not a safe place and was struck while there, she could not recover.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, in the sum of $2000; and the defendant alleged exceptions to the refusal of the judge to give the ruling requested.

M. F. Dickinson, Jr., & H. R. Bailey, for the defendant.

S. B. Allen, for the plaintiff.

C. ALLEN, J. In view of the verdict, it must now be assumed in favor of the plaintiff, that the injury to her occurred substantially in the manner which she described; namely, that while

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her way to school she sat down on the curbstone, in order to sharpen her pencil, with one foot in the gutter, and that the defendant's wagon came along and hit her while she was in that position. The instructions to the jury left them free to find a want of due care on her part, and were carefully guarded in all respects, unless it was the duty of the court to rule, as matter of law, that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover, because there was no evidence which would warrant the jury in finding that she was in the exercise of due care. It is to be observed, in the view which is now to be taken of the evidence, that there was no spirit of recklessness on her part, no intention to take a risk, no thought of encountering danger or hazard, and no calculation of chances; there was simply a lack of sufficient precaution. Under these circumstances, the case differs from *Messenger* v. *Dennie*, 137 Mass. 197, and 141 Mass. 335; and we think it was properly left to the jury to determine, under all the circumstances of the case, whether the plaintiff was using such care as was reasonably to be expected of her. See *Collins* v. *South Boston Railroad*, 142 Mass. 301, 314; *Mattey* v. *Whittier Machine Co.* 140 Mass. 337; *O'Connor* v. *Boston & Lowell Railroad*, 135 Mass. 352, 361; *Murley* v. *Roche*, 130 Mass. 330; *Lynch* v. *Smith*, 104 Mass. 52; *Mulligan* v. *Curtis*, 100 Mass. 512; *Bliss* v. *South Hadley*, 145 Mass. 91. *Exceptions overruled.*

JOSEPH F. WILSON *vs.* WALTER O. CROOKER.

Norfolk. Nov. 15, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

In an action by an assignee of a mortgage for the conversion of two horses, against an officer, who attached one of the horses as the property of the mortgagor on a writ in favor of one creditor, and the other horse on another writ in favor of another creditor, the demand made by the plaintiff, under the Pub. Sts. c. 161, § 75, stated that he held a mortgage for $492, then due, upon the two horses, and referred to the records of a town for further particulars, without stating when the mortgage was given, or by whom, or to whom. The mortgage purported to secure payment of a note for $650, and interest, but did not show when the note would become due, or the rate of interest. The note was payable six

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months after date, with interest at the rate of three per cent a month. The mortgage and note were made to a third person, and were assigned to the plaintiff a short time before the attachment. By an arrangement between the plaintiff and the mortgagor, a part of the mortgaged property was sold, and the proceeds applied to the payment of $25 to the plaintiff as a commission, the interest for six months in advance, and $158 upon the principal. *Held*, that the demand was insufficient.

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KNOWLTON, J. The plaintiff held a mortgage covering two horses, which are alleged to have been converted by the defendant. The defendant attached them as the property of the mortgagor, one upon a writ in favor of one creditor, and the other upon another writ in favor of a different creditor. The plaintiff could protect his rights against each attachment by demanding of the defendant payment of his claim, and stating "in writing a just and true account of the debt or demand for which the property was liable to him," in accordance with the provisions of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 161, § 75.

The purpose of the statute in requiring an account is to enable the attaching creditor to know definitely what the mortgage secures. The information called for is important, not merely as fixing a sum to be paid, but also as assisting the creditor in determining whether the mortgage was made in good faith, and whether the debt, demand, or obligation will be valuable to him if he retains his attachment, and takes to himself the benefit of the mortgage, as he has a right to do. The law gives him ten days after the demand in which to decide whether he will pay the mortgage debt. The words "just and true account of the debt or demand" mean something more than a bare statement of a sum due. They call for a description of the debt or demand, such as will give the attaching creditor a reasonably full and accurate understanding of the nature and particulars of it. The account should state, not merely what amount is due, but also upon what kind of a debt it is due.

In many cases this has been held to have been sufficiently done by very general language, or by a reference to the provisions of the mortgage. No precise form is required. It is enough if the attaching creditor can know from the statement the nature and qualities of the debt or demand which the mortgage secures, and the amount that is due upon it. It has also been repeatedly held that innocent inaccuracies or errors in the

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account, resulting from accident or mistake, and which do not mislead or injuriously affect the attaching creditor, do not invalidate the demand. *Rowley* v. *Rice*, 10 Met. 7. *Hills* v. *Farrington*, 6 Allen, 80. *Folsom* v. *Clemence*, 111 Mass. 273. *Bicknell* v. *Cleverly*, 125 Mass. 164. *Robinson* v. *Sprague*, 125 Mass. 582. But no demand is sufficient which fails to give the attaching creditor such information as will enable him to act understandingly in reference to the claim.

In the case at bar, the plaintiff gave notice in his demand that he held a mortgage on the horses for $492 then due, and referred to the records of a town for further particulars, without stating when the mortgage was given, or by whom, or to whom. If the attaching creditor succeeded in finding and identifying the mortgage as recorded, it gave him little valuable information. It purported to secure payment of a note for $650 and interest, but it did not show when the note would become due, or what rate of interest it bore. The case finds, that the note was payable six months after date, with interest monthly at the rate of thirty-six per cent per annum; that it was made to one Reynolds, and with the mortgage was by him transferred to the plaintiff a short time before the attachment; and that by an arrangement between the plaintiff and the mortgagor a part of the mortgaged property had been sold, and the proceeds applied to the payment, first, of $25 to the plaintiff for his trouble and as a commission, secondly, of interest upon the note for six months in advance, and thirdly, of $158 upon the principal. From reading together the plaintiff's demand and the mortgage, the creditor would naturally have inferred that the note of $650, payable at some unknown time, and running at an unknown but presumably common rate of interest, had been reduced by payment to $492, and that it was a valid debt for that amount, bearing interest until maturity. He would not have suspected that the rate of interest was exorbitant, or that a large part of the mortgaged property had been applied to the payment of a commission to the plaintiff, and of interest for a period extending nearly five months beyond the time of the demand. And it can hardly be doubted, that, if these matters of which he was ignorant had been disclosed, he would have carefully considered them in determining his course.

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The plaintiff's demand, with all the aid to be derived from a mortgage which did not fully describe the note, gave the defendant no sufficient account of the nature of the mortgage debt as it then existed. It was misleading even as to the amount secured. For the sum which it stated to be due was not payable for nearly five months, and the interest for that period had been paid in advance. It was not therefore a "just and true account of the debt or demand," within the meaning of the statute, and the other defences set up at the trial need not be considered.

Defendant's exceptions sustained.

J. L. Eldridge, for the defendant.

J. E. Tirrell, for the plaintiff.

WILLIAM W. BROOKS *vs.* MATTIE BROOKS.

Norfolk. Nov. 15, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

On the hearing of a libel for divorce on the ground of adultery committed with a certain person, evidence of sexual intercourse by the libellee with that person on the morning of her marriage to the libellant, and evidence of acts of familiarity shortly before the marriage, are admissible to show the nature of the intercourse between them shortly after the marriage, when the adultery was alleged to have been committed.

LIBEL FOR DIVORCE, filed April 15, 1887, charging the libellee with committing adultery with Charles R. Percival, on June 15, 1886, at Boston, on June 25, 26, 27, 1886, at Revere, on June 26, 1886, at Boston, and on September 21, 1886, at Revere. The case was heard before *Field*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The libellant offered evidence that sexual intercourse was had by the libellee with said Percival, at a hotel in Boston, in the forenoon of the day of the marriage, and before the marriage, which was on June 15, 1886, and also offered evidence of certain familiarities with Percival, consisting of visits by the libellee to the room of Percival in said hotel, within a short time preceding said marriage. To this evidence the libellee objected, and the judge admitted the same solely on the ground that it tended to

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prove sexual intimacy with the same person who was charged in the libel with acts of adultery with the libellee, after marriage, to support which other evidence was offered and received without objection.

The judge found, as a fact, that the libellee was guilty of adultery with Percival, after marriage. The libellee alleged exceptions to the admission of this testimony.

H. Dunham, for the libellee.

W. Gaston & T. E. Grover, for the libellant.

HOLMES, J. It is settled that evidence of indecent familiarities with the person with whom adultery is charged, and even of sexual intercourse with him, at other times after marriage, is admissible to explain the character of ambiguous conduct relied on as evidence of the act of adultery in issue. *Thayer* v. *Thayer*, 101 Mass. 111. *Commonwealth* v. *Nichols*, 114 Mass. 285. *Commonwealth* v. *Merriam*, 14 Pick. 518. There can be no doubt that evidence of sexual intercourse on the morning of the marriage, and of acts of familiarity shortly before, tends in like manner to explain doubtful conduct shortly after it. The objections based on the general rules of evidence are answered by *Thayer* v. *Thayer*. It is said that marriage operates as an oblivion of all that is passed. But there is no reason for making of this rule a veil of fiction which prevents the facts from throwing their natural light on subsequent events. See *Weatherley* v. *Weatherley*, 1 Spinks 193, 196; *Van Epps* v. *Van Epps*, 6 Barb. 320. *Exceptions overruled.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* FRANCIS J. McCARTHY.

Middlesex. Nov. 22, 1887. — Jan. 6, 1888. DEVENS & W. ALLEN, JJ., absent.

An allegation in an indictment that the defendant "wilfully did throw a certain missile, to wit, a stone," at a street-railway car, is not sustained by proof that he threw only a billet of wood.

W. ALLEN, J. This is a complaint under § 206 of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, which provides that "Whoever wilfully throws or

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shoots a missile at a . . . . street-railway car," shall be punished, &c. The complaint alleges that the defendant "wilfully did throw a certain missile, to wit, a stone," at a street-railway car. The evidence tended to prove that the defendant threw a billet of wood at a car, but there was no evidence that he threw a stone. The exception is to the refusal of the court to rule that there was a variance between the allegation and the proof.

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The allegation is that the defendant threw a stone. The words "to wit, a stone," limit the general meaning of the word "missile" and are descriptive of it, and the whole shows that the only missile which the defendant was charged with throwing was a stone. Even if these words are unnecessary, they are material, and cannot be rejected, because they are descriptive of the identity of what is essential to the offence. Some description of the thing thrown is essential, and the description in the complaint is material, and must be proved as laid. *Commonwealth* v. *Wellington*, 7 Allen, 299. *Commonwealth* v. *Hartwell*, 128 Mass. 415. *Commonwealth* v. *Moore*, 130 Mass. 45. *Commonwealth* v. *Luscomb*, 130 Mass. 42. *Commonwealth* v. *Tobias*, 141 Mass. 129. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 65.

The rule, that, when an allegation is not descriptive of an offence charged, but a statement of the manner in which it was committed, it is sufficient to prove the substance of it, as when, in an indictment for murder, the death is alleged to have been caused by a blow with a stone, proof that it was caused by a blow with a stick is sufficient, does not apply to this case. Here the offence consists in throwing a missile, and words describing the missile are descriptive of the offence, and must be strictly proved. We think that the allegation that the missile thrown was a stone was not sustained by proof that it was a billet of wood. *Exceptions sustained.*

H. H. Winslow, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

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ALEXANDER McKENZIE *vs.* MARIAH ASHLEY & others.

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Hampden. Sept. 28, 1887. — Jan. 7, 1888. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

A testator bequeathed to his wife, in lieu of dower, the income for life of the residue of his estate after the payment of two legacies to herself, and also so much of the principal as should be necessary to give her "a good and comfortable support." With $1100 of her own money, and $2500 paid her from the principal of the trust fund, which was paid to her with the consent of the remainderman, she purchased a house, in which she lived for several years on the income received from her husband's estate. Subsequently, the income became insufficient for her support, and she requested that another part of the principal be paid to her. *Held*, that she was not obliged to dispose of her house and use the proceeds thereof for her support, before her request could be granted.

BILL IN EQUITY by the executor of the will of Josiah D. Ashley, alleging that said Ashley died on January 20, 1871, leaving a will, which contained the following clauses:

"To my beloved wife, Mariah Ashley, I give and bequeath all my household furniture and wearing apparel.

"I further give and bequeath to my beloved wife, Mariah, the sum of seven hundred dollars.

"To my beloved wife, Mariah, I further give and bequeath the use of all the rest and residue of my estate during her natural life; but, should the use of my estate not be sufficient to give her a good and comfortable support, then it is my will that she use so much of the principal as shall be necessary to give her a good and comfortable living during her lifetime; this in lieu of dower, subject, however, to the payment of my just debts and funeral expenses.

"I give and bequeath one hundred dollars to Frederic Alderman, son of Nelson Alderman, out of that part of my estate made subject to my wife's use, to be paid after her decease.

"I give and bequeath to Joseph B. Hascall all of that portion of my estate not before disposed of, made subject to my wife's use, that shall remain unexpended at her decease."

The bill further alleged that the estate of the testator consisted mostly of real estate, which was sold for the payment of debts, under a license from the Probate Court; that the proceeds, after payment of liabilities, had been invested by the

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plaintiff, and the income paid to the widow of the testator, provided in the will; that on May 20, 1871, Joseph B. Hascal the remainderman, executed an instrument in writing, by th terms of which he agreed that the plaintiff might appropria from the principal the sum of $2500 "for the comfort and th comfortable support" of the widow of the testator; that sa sum was so appropriated, and was duly allowed by the Proba Court in the plaintiff's account as executor; and that since sa payment other sums had been paid to the widow out of the pri cipal, and had been accounted for and allowed in the Proba Court.

The bill further alleged, that the widow contended that th income of the estate was not sufficient to give her a good an comfortable support.

The prayer of the bill was that the plaintiff be instructed to the proper execution of his said trust.

The case was heard by *Holmes*, J., who reported it for th consideration of the full court, in substance as follows:

It was admitted that the income of the fund now in th plaintiff's hands was not sufficient to give the widow "a goo and comfortable support," but the representatives of Josep Hascall, the remainderman, who is now deceased, rely upon th fact, also admitted, that on May 20, 1871, the sum of $250 was appropriated to the widow's use, by the consent of sa Hascall, and that this sum was used by the widow, in the pu chase of a house, which she now occupies. This sum has n been exhausted upon her support, otherwise than as above s forth.

It was further agreed, that at the testator's death, and at th time of the widow's receipt of said sum of $2500, the income the fund applicable to her support was $600, and that the i come was sufficient for her support for some years after th receipt of said sum. It was proved, subject to the question the admissibility of the evidence, that Hascall intended that th widow should purchase a house, and expressed his approval this purchase, in a conversation before the instrument was ma by him; that the widow is now seventy-seven years old a partially paralyzed, and thought at the time of the purcha that she could be more comfortable in a house of her ow

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which she had always been accustomed to, than she would be in hired lodgings. She was in the ordinary health of people of her age at the time of the purchase. The house purchased was of the same class that she had previously lived in with her husband. At the time of the purchase, the rent of the house was $15 or $16 a month. It cost $3600, but it is now worth about $1800.

H. B. Stevens, for the widow.

E. B. Maynard & C. C. Spellman, for the representatives of Hascall.

KNOWLTON, J. The defendant Mariah Ashley was entitled, under the will of her husband, to the income for life of the residue of his estate after the payment of two legacies to herself, and also to so much of the principal as should be necessary to give her a good and comfortable support. After her death, Frederic Alderman, one of the defendants, is to be paid $100 from what is left, and the remainder is to be given to the representatives of Joseph B. Hascall, a legatee who has deceased since the death of the testator. The income is now insufficient for the support of Mariah Ashley, and the plaintiff should provide for her from the principal, unless the whole or a part of $2500, paid her in 1871, is first to be used for that purpose. With this sum paid her, and with $1100 of her own money, she bought at that time a house for her home, and has occupied it ever since. The only question in the case is whether she must dispose of that house, or of some interest in it, and use the proceeds, before she can receive anything more from the principal of her husband's estate.

The words in the will, "a good and comfortable support," and "good and comfortable living," are to be construed liberally. She is the testator's widow, and this provision is in lieu of dower. Moreover, the facts that no one else was to receive anything under the will until after her death, and that the entire estate was set apart by the testator for her use if she should need it, indicate an intention on his part that she should be well supported.

The house which she bought was of the same class that she had previously lived in with her husband, and would rent for fifteen or sixteen dollars per month. She was well advanced in years, and had always been accustomed to living in a house of

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her own. When the payment of $2500 was made, the income of the fund was sufficient for her support, and continued to be for some years afterward. This payment was accounted for and allowed in the Probate Court, with full knowledge, on the part of those interested, of the use to which it was put, and it has apparently never been objected to. Indeed, Joseph B. Hascall, who, as residuary legatee, was the only person interested against it, — except in the remote contingency of the fund being so far consumed as to affect the legacy of $100 to Frederic Alderman, — consented in writing to the payment, well knowing that the money was to be used in the purchase of this house. In the light of these facts, we cannot doubt that the procurement of a house to be used as a home for Mariah Ashley was reasonably necessary, and that the cost of it was properly chargeable to the fund for her support.

If the $2500 had been exhausted in procuring such a home for her lifetime, the case would be free from difficulty. But she obtained an estate in fee, and after her death this house will pass under her will or descend to her heirs. To have kept strictly within the purpose for which the money was to be appropriated under the will, she should have applied it to the purchase of an estate for her personal occupation during her life, and, if it became necessary to acquire the whole title, the remainder should have been held for the benefit of the fund. Instead of making a strict appropriation of the payment with a view to the preservation of the legal rights of all parties, she put $1100 of her own money with it, and bought the house, and took an estate in fee to herself. The property has diminished in value and is now worth but $1800. Eleven thirty-sixths of that sum represent a payment from her own money, and twenty-five thirty-sixths a payment from the principal of the fund. The use too of the contribution from her own property has apparently gone in diminution of the sum which the fund would otherwise have been required to supply. Does her holding a title in fee, instead of for life, in this share, preclude her from claiming support until she shall have disposed of the remainder, and consumed the proceeds?

Her purchase was made at a time when it was not expected that this question could ever arise. The income was then ample

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for her wants, and continued to be for several years. It is fair to suppose that she acted in good faith, and that all parties interested consented to her action. The payment having been made to her absolutely, as needed for her support, with the consent of the only one interested, she might apply it as she chose, without accounting for any part of it, if the income should continue to be sufficient for her wants. It was only in the unexpected event of her needing more of the principal, that her disposition of it would become material. Moreover, there may have been practical objections to complicating the title with a division of it into different estates. There is nothing to indicate that any one suggested taking the title differently at the time of the purchase. On the contrary, the approval of the account in the Probate Court, and the payment to her of portions of the principal from time to time afterward, all of which have been accounted for and allowed, indicate that all parties interested have treated this purchase as a final disposition of the $2500 in accordance with the provisions of the will. If the money had been paid her for her support, and she had lost it, it would hardly have been contended that she could not afterward, if needy, have resorted to the fund for relief. All she received was used more than sixteen years ago. Most of it was properly applied to a use contemplated by the will, — the procurement for her of a home for life. The remaining part, which represents the excess of value of the estate after her death above the contribution from her money, was so paid out and used in connection with the first, as to be difficult of separation from it. And this was done, as we infer, under an implied agreement of all parties to consider it a payment authorized by the will.

We do not think, under the circumstances of this case, that Mariah Ashley's ownership of an estate in the house which will extend beyond her lifetime is such a possession of property received from the plaintiff as to require her to dispose of it and apply the proceeds to her support, or render it necessary that a transaction so long assented to should be now disturbed. The plaintiff may therefore properly pay her, under the will, such sums, in addition to the income, as she may need for her comfortable support. *Decree accordingly.*

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HENRY G. TOWNE *vs.* SPRINGFIELD FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Hampden. Sept. 27, 1887. — Jan. 7, 1888. C. ALLEN & HOLMES, JJ., absent.

In an action on a policy of insurance against loss by fire, an overestimate of the value of the property lost in the proof of loss, if not made fraudulently, will not avoid the policy, or render the proof of loss insufficient to satisfy a condition in the policy requiring the insured to render a statement of his loss in writing.

If a policy of insurance against loss by fire requires that, in case of loss, the insured shall make a statement in writing, "setting forth the value of the property insured," the property insured need not be set forth in detail.

A provision in a policy of insurance against loss by fire, that all other insurance on the property insured shall be set forth in detail in the proof of loss, is complied with by inserting in such proof a copy of the description contained in another policy of insurance on the same property.

If goods in two buildings are insured, in separate amounts, against loss by fire, by a policy providing that the insured, in case of loss, shall make a statement in writing, setting forth the value of the property insured, and the purposes for which and the persons by whom the building containing the property insured was used, a statement in which the insured claims payment for all the property insured, but in which he refers to one of the buildings only, is insufficient.

CONTRACT, upon a policy of insurance in the form prescribed by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 119, § 139, against loss by fire upon stock in trade and furniture in a building in Hardwick. The case was referred to a referee, who made an award in favor of the plaintiff, which award was returned to and accepted by the Superior Court, and judgment entered thereon. The defendant appealed to this court. The facts appear in the opinion.

C. A. Brine, for the defendant.

C. L. Gardner, for the plaintiff.

FIELD, J. The referee overruled the objections of the defendant to the admission of the proof of loss as evidence, having found that the "plaintiff did not wilfully swear falsely in his said proof," and ruled that it "was sufficient," and this is the question of law raised by this appeal. The plaintiff inserted at the end of the proof of loss a statement that "any other information that may be required will be furnished on call, and considered a portion of these proofs," but it does not distinctly appear that any other information was called for. The proof of loss contains

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the provisions of the policy describing the subject of the insurance, and the corresponding provisions of another policy taken out by the plaintiff in another company, — other insurance being permitted; and it purports to give the "actual cash value of each specific subject thus situated and insured under the aforesaid policies at the time of loss, and the actual loss and damage by said fire on the same, and for which claim is hereby made;" by which it appears that, except articles of the estimated value of $13.66, the claim was for a total loss. For a more particular statement the proof refers to a schedule annexed. This schedule contains in its first clause, "Stock and fixtures in Hardwick store, as per account taken, $6135," and then follow a few small items of goods bought and sold, and of goods saved, making the whole loss $5862.92. The referee has found that the goods were totally consumed by fire, "excepting about $13.66 worth."

The objections taken to this proof are, that it was fraudulently false in the amount stated, did not specify in which of the two buildings mentioned in the policy the goods insured were, or the amount destroyed in either, and did not give any quantities or items in detail; and that, as there was other insurance on the property, not concurrent, the extent of the claim on the defendant did not appear by the proof. The referee has found as a fact, that the proof was not fraudulently false in the amount stated; and this disposes of the first objection. The policy provides that it shall be void "if the insured shall make any attempt to defraud the company, either before or after the loss;" but overestimates of value in the proof of loss, which are not fraudulently made, do not avoid the policy, or make a proof of loss insufficient to satisfy the condition precedent of the policy, that the insured shall render a statement of his loss in writing before the company shall be liable to pay the amount insured. *Little* v. *Phœnix Ins. Co.* 123 Mass. 380, 385.

The policy was the Massachusetts standard policy, and it provided that, "In case of loss or damage under this policy, a statement in writing, signed and sworn to by the insured, shall be forthwith rendered to the company, setting forth the value of the property insured, the interest of the insured therein, all other insurance thereon in detail, the purposes for which and the persons by whom the building insured, or containing the

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property insured, was used, and the time at which and the manner in which the fire originated, so far as known to the insured. The company may also examine the books of account and vouchers of the insured, and make extracts from the same."

The defendant insured $1800 on the plaintiff's stock of goods in two-story frame dwelling and store building; $100 on his furniture and fixtures therein; and "$200 on his goods stored in old store situate five feet north of new store." The referee finds that the principal building was wholly occupied by the plaintiff as a store and dwelling, and that ten feet from this building was an old store building, formerly used by the plaintiff as a store, the upper part of which was occupied by an undertaker, but in the basement of which, as the plaintiff testified, was "about $300 worth of the plaintiff's goods," which were totally consumed. The proof of loss states that "the building insured, or containing the property destroyed or damaged, was occupied in its several parts . . . . by Henry G. Towne for store and dwelling." The policy does not in terms require a statement of the value of the property insured in detail, or a particular statement of the value of the property; and if it be conceded that from the nature of insurance, and from the provision that the company "shall either pay the amount for which it shall be liable, or replace the property with other of the same kind and goodness," the company could properly require a statement in detail of a stock of goods, if the plaintiff could reasonably furnish such a statement; still, a neglect or refusal to furnish a detailed statement would not of itself defeat the plaintiff's claim, or make the proof of loss insufficient; at most, it would only be evidence of an attempt to defraud the company. It is not found that the plaintiff refused to permit an examination of his books and vouchers, or that his books and vouchers were not all consumed by the fire, or that the plaintiff could have submitted a more specific statement of his loss, or that the plaintiff fraudulently withheld any information or attempted to defraud the company. The objection, that the proof does not give quantities or values in detail, cannot avail the defendant. *Harkins* v. *Quincy Ins. Co.* 16 Gray, 591. *Wyman* v. *People's Ins. Co.* 1 Allen, 301. *Fowle* v. *Springfield Ins. Co.* 122 Mass. 191, 196. *Clement* v. *British American Assurance Co.* 141 Mass. 298, 301.

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Catlin v. *Springfield Ins. Co.* 1 Sumner, 434. *McLaughlin* v. *Washington County Ins. Co.* 23 Wend. 525. *Norton* v. *Rensselaer Ins. Co.* 7 Cowen, 645. *Bumstead* v. *Dividend Ins. Co.* 2 Kern. 81. *O'Conner* v. *Hartford Ins. Co.* 31 Wis. 160.

As the plaintiff set out in his proof an exact copy of the description of the property insured by the other policy which he had obtained, he complied with the requirement that the statement of loss should set forth "all other insurance thereon in detail." If there was any difficulty in applying the two policies to the loss, it was occasioned by the want of particularity in describing the goods lost, and the buildings in which they were when the fire occurred.

The most formidable objection is, that the proof of loss did not distinguish between the goods in the principal store, and the goods in the "old store." From the statement in the proof of loss, with the schedule annexed, it appears with reasonable certainty that the plaintiff made claim for a loss of his whole stock and fixtures "in Hardwick store," excepting goods saved of the value of $13.66, and that these were situated and insured as expressed in the policy; and from the policy it appears that the old store was used as a place of storage for goods belonging to the stock which was kept for sale in the new store. But in the description which is contained in the proof of loss of the building "containing the property insured," there is no reference to the old store, and the statement of "the purposes for which and the persons by whom" the building was used indicates that the plaintiff had in mind only the new store. As the award is for $1924.22, with interest from November 1, 1883, it is plain that the referee must have awarded something for the loss of goods in the old store, because the insurance on property situated elsewhere amounts to only $1900, and the date of November 1 is probably taken as the time when interest would begin to run, being about sixty days from the time when the proof of loss was submitted.

By the policy, the goods in the old store were made a distinct subject of insurance, and these goods were not covered by the other insurance. The defendant, therefore, had an interest in knowing the amount of the damage to the goods in the old store.

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We think that the old store must be considered as a build
distinct from the new store, and that the proof of loss sho
have contained a statement of the amount of the damage to
goods in the old store, and the purposes for which and the
sons by whom this building was used, and that this has not b
done. This particular defect concerns only the insurance u
the goods in the old store, and may not have been seasona
called to the attention of the plaintiff, and the defendant's c
duct may have been such as to constitute a waiver, or may es
it from making this objection; but there are no facts found
the referee from which such inferences can be drawn as matte
law, and the referee has found generally that the defendant
not waived its right to have such a proof of loss as is requi
by law.

For this reason the judgment must be reversed, and the
port recommitted to the referee. See *Cumberland* v. *No*
Yarmouth, 4 Greenl. 459. *So ordered*

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SUPPLEMENT.

Opinion of the Justices to the Governor and Council.

Under the St. of 1887, *c.* 437, persons who served in the army or navy of the United States in the time of the war of the Rebellion, and were honorably discharged therefrom, cannot be preferred for appointment to office or employment in the service of the Commonwealth or the cities thereof, without having made application for appointment to office or employment to the civil service commissioners, as required by the St. of 1884, *c.* 320, and the rules of the civil service commissioners made thereunder.

The following order was passed by the Governor and Council on July 20, 1887, and transmitted on the following day to the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, who on September 22, 1887, returned the answer which is subjoined.

Whereas, the civil service commissioners have prepared and submitted to the Governor and Council for approval, pursuant to section 2 of chapter 320 of the Acts of the Legislature for 1884, the following additional Civil Service Rule:

"Amendment of Rules.

"Clause 1. Any person who served in the army or navy of the United States in the time of the war of the Rebellion, and was honorably discharged therefrom, desiring, under chapter 437 of the Acts of 1887, appointment to office or employment in positions classified under the civil service rules, without having passed any examination provided for therein, shall file an application for such appointment, stating on oath, — 1. His name, residence, and post-office address. 2. The office or employment he seeks. 3. The time of service in the army or navy; the regiment and company in which, or the vessel on which, such service was rendered; and the date of his discharge. 4. Whether the applicant habitually uses intoxicating beverages to excess, or is a vender of intoxicating liquor. 5. Whether

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he has within one year been convicted of any offence against the laws of the Commonwealth. 6. That he desires appointment or employment without having passed the examination provided for by the civil service rules.

"Such application shall be accompanied by certificates of good moral character and capacity for performance of the duties of the office or employment.

"Such application, if for an office or employment in the service of the Commonwealth, or the city of Boston, shall be filed in the office of the commissioners; if for an office or employment in the service of any other city than Boston, it shall be filed with the civil service examiners for such city. Such applicant, if he expresses a desire not to pass the examination provided for by the civil service rules, shall be exempt therefrom.

"Clause 2. When requisition is made by an appointing officer upon the commissioners for names of eligible persons for appointment to office or employment in the public service, the commissioners shall certify the names of those most eligible on the proper register, as provided for by the civil service rules, and in addition shall, when so requested by the appointing officer, report the names of any honorably discharged soldiers or sailors of the war of the Rebellion, who have filed proper and true applications for appointment to such office without examination. The appointing officer can appoint from the list of names so certified or reported to him."

And whereas, the question of the approval of said civil service rule is now before the Governor and Council, and they wish to be advised as to its legality under chapter 437, of the Acts of the Legislature for 1887,

It is therefore ordered that the opinion of the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court be required upon the following important questions of law:

First. Under chapter 437 of the Acts of the Legislature of 1887, can persons who served in the army or navy of the United States in the time of the Rebellion, and were honorably discharged therefrom, be preferred for appointment to office or employment in the service of the Commonwealth, or the cities thereof, without having made application for appointment to

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office or employment to the civil service commissioners, as required by chapter 320 of the Acts of the Legislature for 1884, and the rules of the civil service commissioners made thereunder?

Second. Will the proposed civil service rule, set forth as above, if approved by the Governor and Council, be valid?

To His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

The undersigned, Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, having considered the questions upon which their opinion is required by the Governor and Council, respectfully submit the following opinion:

The statute of 1887, chapter 437, provides that "all persons who served in the army or navy of the United States in the time of the war of the Rebellion, and were honorably discharged therefrom, may be preferred for appointment to office or employment in the service of the Commonwealth, or the cities thereof, without having passed any examination provided for by chapter three hundred and twenty of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-four, or by the rules of the civil service commission made under the provisions of said act. Age, loss of limb, or other physical impairment, which shall not in fact incapacitate, shall not be deemed cause to disqualify under this act. But nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent such persons from making application for such examination, or from taking such examination, provided they were entitled to do so under the rules of said commission."

It seems to us that this statute was intended to be an amendment of the statute of 1884, chapter 320, usually called the civil service law, the main purpose being to exempt honorably discharged soldiers and sailors from the examination required by that law and the rules established under it, leaving them subject to the operation of the law except so far as exempted by the amending act. This is the natural and obvious meaning of the act of 1887. If the Legislature had intended to provide that soldiers and sailors should be exempted from the operation of the civil service law, it is to be presumed that it would have said so in direct and explicit language, as is done in the fifteenth section of the act of 1884, where it is provided that

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certain classes of officers "shall not be affected, as to their election or selection, by any of the rules made as aforesaid."

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The statute of 1887 does not provide that soldiers and sailors may be appointed to office or employment without making application to the civil service commissioners. On the contrary, the structure of the act shows that it was intended to be engrafted upon and to become a part of the act of 1884, for the regulation of the civil service. The language used is, "may be preferred for appointment to office or employment," which implies that they are to be selected out of a list or number of applicants, and plainly refers to the fourteenth section of the civil service law, providing for giving preference to soldiers and sailors.

The provision that "age, loss of limb, or other physical impairment, which shall not in fact incapacitate, shall not be deemed cause to disqualify under this act," implies that soldiers and sailors were to remain subject to the civil service law, except so far as expressly exempted by this act. This provision would be entirely useless if the purpose of the preceding clause was to take the appointment of soldiers and sailors out of the jurisdiction and supervision of the commissioners. Considered as a part of the civil service law it has force and effect, because it exempts soldiers and sailors from the operation of the rules of the commissioners, making in certain cases the age of the applicant a disqualification, and limits the power of the commissioners to make any rules, in the future, which are inconsistent with it.

The civil service law made a radical change in the method of appointing such officers and servants as are within its scope. Its scheme is that all such appointments should be under the supervision of the civil service commissioners, who are to determine the qualifications of the applicants for the offices or employment which they seek. The statute does not attempt to fully define the qualifications of such officers and servants, but it confers upon the commissioners the authority to make rules, not inconsistent with law, for their selection and appointment, which rules, when approved by the Governor and Council, have the force of laws, and are binding upon the appointing officers.

The statute and the rules made under it establish certain requirements or conditions, which must be complied with before

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an appointment will be made. Thus, among other things, it is required that an application must be made to the civil service commissioners, stating certain facts as to the name, age, residence, and previous history of the applicant; it is also provided that no person shall be appointed who is a vender of intoxicating liquor, or who habitually uses intoxicating beverages to excess, or who within one year preceding his application has been convicted of any offence against the laws of this Commonwealth, and that certain officers shall be appointed for a probationary period. The rules, following the directions of the statute, further make specific and minute provisions for the personal examination of the applicant, designed as a test of his attainments and proficiency in the department of knowledge deemed necessary for his fitness for the position which he seeks.

The examination of the applicant is an important requirement of the statute, and of the rules, but it is not the only material requirement. It cannot justly be said that the other requirements to which we have referred are parts or incidents of the examination. They are separate and independent requirements or conditions, and are so treated throughout the statute and the rules. The Legislature, in enacting the statute of 1887, had in mind the civil service law and the rules of the commissioners; the provision that soldiers and sailors "may be preferred for appointment to office or employment in the service of the Commonwealth, or the cities thereof, without having passed any examination provided for" by such law and rules, according to the natural import of the words used, refers to the personal examination provided for by the statute and rules. It cannot be held to repeal the statute of 1884 so far as it relates to soldiers and sailors, or to exempt them from the other requirements of the statute and rules, without greatly enlarging the language of the Legislature.

We are therefore of opinion, in answer to the first question proposed, that, under chapter 437 of the Acts of the Legislature of 1887, persons who served in the army or navy of the United States in the time of the Rebellion, and were honorably discharged therefrom, cannot be preferred for appointment to office or employment in the service of the Commonwealth, or the cities thereof, without having made application for appointment to

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office or employment to the civil service commissioners, as required by chapter 320 of the Acts of the Legislature of 1884 and the rules of the civil service commissioners made thereunder.

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The second question is general, and points out no particular question of law upon which our opinion is desired.

We have doubts whether, within the fair intent of the Constitution, the executive or legislative departments can submit to the Justices a law, or a series of laws or rules more or less complicated, and ask them to examine and ascertain what questions can be raised as to the validity of every clause, and to express an opinion in advance upon every such question. The practice always has been for the Justices to confine their answer to the particular questions of law submitted to them. As the order of the Governor and Council points out no definite question except the one we have answered, we have considered no other. If we were to suggest questions which might arise as to the validity of parts of the rule proposed by the commissioners, and to express an opinion upon them, it would be going beyond our proper duty, and might be regarded as an interference with the independence of the executive department.

Mr. Justice Devens does not concur in this opinion, and requests us to state that in his view the statute of 1887, chapter 437, in providing that the soldiers and sailors therein described may be preferred for appointment without having passed any examination provided for by the civil service act, or the rules of the civil service commissioners made under the provisions of said act, exempts them from any investigation by the civil service commissioners of their qualifications, and leaves them to be determined by the power competent to appoint, and that they are thus necessarily exempted from making application for appointment to the civil service commissioners.

MARCUS MORTON.
WALBRIDGE A. FIELD.
WILLIAM ALLEN.
CHARLES ALLEN.
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, JR.
MARCUS P. KNOWLTON.

Boston, September 22, 1887.

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THE Honorable AUGUSTUS LORD SOULE, a Justice of this Court from the twenty-seventh day of March, 1877, to the eleventh day of April, 1881, died at Franconia, New Hampshire, on the twenty-fifth day of August, 1887. A meeting of the members of the Hampden Bar was held in Springfield on the twenty-second day of the following September, at which the following resolutions were passed, which were presented to the full court on the twenty-seventh day of the same month.

Resolved, That in the death of the Honorable Augustus L. Soule, a former member of this bar, and an ex-Associate Justice of this Court, the bar and the community suffer the loss of an excellent, eminent, and honorable practitioner; a just, generous, and upright man; one who dignified and adorned each and every station he was called to occupy; who illustrated the practice of his profession with fairness, courtesy, and grace; who evaded the littlenesses of law and of life. Jealous of the honor of the profession, he believed in the maintenance of its amenities as well as its dignities. A quiet, steadfast, and reliable friend, allegiance to the right was his characteristic. An honorable citizen, an accomplished lawyer, a dignified, courteous, able, and upright judge, his memory remains to us an inheritance and an example.

Resolved, That these resolutions be presented to the Honorable the Supreme Judicial Court, that they may be placed upon record, and a copy thereof be transmitted by the clerk to the family of Mr. Soule, in token of our earnest sympathy with them in their loss.

Edward H. Lathrop, Esq., in presenting the resolutions, addressed the court as follows:

These resolutions typify and illustrate in a measure, perhaps, the feelings of the bar toward Mr. Soule, — this bar where he started out in his profession, and where he had fought his way upward to a highly successful and honorable practice. Few men knew Mr. Soule as we did. The revelation of himself to the multitude was rare. Conscious of his own strength and limitations,

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there yet was always in him a desire to be of and among the people. He made little noise in his career up to where he attained the distinction of yourselves. It is true, perhaps, that contact with other and jury tribunals was not to his taste. The chosen arena of his efforts was before the bar of this court. He loved the seclusion and dignity and strength of the Supreme Court. He was a constant and appreciative friend and man. His desire and enthusiasm for the advancement of the younger members of the bar was ever quietly, watchfully manifested; for he knew well what it was to struggle for professional existence. Always, in the office and as a citizen, did he identify himself with the advancement of the people's interests. I need not enlarge upon his personal characteristics. You know them well. It only remains for me to move that these resolutions be made a part of the record of this court.

The Hon. George M. Stearns then addressed the court as follows:

The death of one who for nearly forty years was a member of this bar, who represented this city in the Legislature of the State, and who was an Associate Justice of this court, appears a proper occasion for us to ask your Honors to pause in the transaction of the business of this court, and to join with us in an affectionate tribute of respect to Mr. Soule.

As I look about me, I see no one whose recollections of Brother Soule were earlier than mine. When I was a student in the office of the late Mr. Justice Wells of Chicopee, coming there in 1848, Mr. Soule became a student in the office of George Walker. Our offices were but a few steps apart. I soon became an intimate acquaintance of his, and enjoyed the freedom and frankness which the companionship of youth affords. He was then a witty, a genial, and a most confidential companion and friend; and although generally deemed to be haughty and almost defiant in manner, I have never met any one who more readily laid bare his bosom, or more fully exposed his emotions and purposes to those in whom he trusted and confided.

As a lawyer, I think he presents a most wonderful phase of our profession. He was keen, peering, incisive, thorough in detail, searching, and able. He had the most wonderful agility, it

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always seemed to me, for it was my lot to meet him in the vehement combats which we professional men enter upon so often as much as any other man. I was always surprised with the alertness of the man. No case was so strong that we felt sure it was safe, when Brother Soule was on the other side. If we rushed on him with a case apparently invincible, he stepped aside and gave us a wound as we swept by. I recollect well the first case we ever had, and I speak of it as illustrating somewhat his ability and the character of the man. We were both of us students, and both of us ambitious to try cases, — an ambition of which most of us of my age have been happily cured. I brought a case before George Walker. Lawyers then brought cases before one another as justices of the peace. I supposed there was no defence. To my surprise, when I went over to Mr. Walker's office to ask for an execution, he told me Mr. Soule had appeared and filed a plea in abatement. I examined the papers in the case, and found there a plea in abatement drawn out in faultless form, with the summons duly enrolled. The point was that the summons was dated in June, and was returnable on the 13th day of July, and did not express what July, the word "next" having been omitted in the haste of writing. We argued the case before Mr. Walker, Brother Soule arguing that it was necessary that it should appear certainly what July was meant, as the writ must be returnable within sixty days from its date, and it was not legally certain that this writ was so returnable. Mr. Walker decided to sustain the plea, and ordered the suit abated. I was mildly enraged at the decision, as I have been sometimes since at the decisions of other tribunals. I appealed, but before the case came to trial Brother Soule became satisfied that the broader principles of our jurisprudence would not sustain this New Hampshire technicality.

He was a powerful antagonist. As I have said, we never knew when we were safe, and never until the jury were locked up were we quite certain that we knew the worst. He exhausted his adversary's case by tapping the veins over the body of it, rather than by any brutal assault upon the jugular, or any savage cuts of the femoral arteries. He did not like a jury trial, and a jury trial did not like him. He could not get down to the jury. He had not the knack of sitting on the milking-stool

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of the farmer, or of handling the oil-can with the mechanic, or of flecking himself with cotton with the mill hand, and he could not avoid his manner betraying the loftier conceptions he had of a case. Consequently, he always sought for exceptions, and most wonderfully astute and keen was he in attaining that valuable weapon, a good exception. I may truly say, in remembering the many contests I have had with him and the many remarkable questions and points which he raised that never occurred to me or any other member of the bar, that he was the Christopher Columbus of this bar in matters of law, — discovering not only legal continents, but the minute and unknown islands that dot the coast. He said to me the last time I saw him in this court-house, that he hoped he might never be obliged to try another jury case. He loved to argue cases before this court, he loved the Supreme Court and discussions before it. He said that when he was beaten here, he knew there was a reason for it.

As an office lawyer, and in the position which he occupied in later years, I think he was unsurpassed. In counsel he was clear and cool, and balanced and fair, and in the preparation of instruments, of documents, of contracts, and of bills before the Legislature, I never have met with his equal. As a judge of this court he seemed to us to be nearly perfect. He was dignified and fair, and quick and strong. As a citizen, he was honorable and noble and true; as a husband and father and as a friend, he was blameless.

The Hon. George D. Robinson then addressed the court as follows:

May it please your Honors: When I came to the bar in this county, Mr. Soule was in the full vigor and forceful exercise of his high powers of manhood. He stood out as a man of large capacity, and of varied and accurate learning. Cultured, keen, clear-sighted, frank, earnest, equipped in the learning of the profession, he impressed me as the possessor of rare natural gifts, and as a master in the difficult and abstruse questions of the law. He was at the time associated with Judge Wells, and the subsequent career of the two members of that firm, and of some whose course of professional studies they directed, by example

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ll as by precept, demonstrates the quality of greatness, of
ulous honor, and of scholarly attainments that impressed
into the character and standing of that office.

m well aware that it has sometimes been said of Mr. Soule
he was cold, haughty, and distant, and that he seemed to
little sympathy with the every-day people about him.
am sure it was only in the exterior of the man that one
discover such a characteristic. Deeper than the expres-
of manner, his heart was full of generosity and kindness,
ne needed but to know him thoroughly and intimately to
a warm, loyal, and confiding nature, enriching and enno-
his life. I shall never forget my earliest acquaintance
him in the court-room. He was but a stranger to me.
osition at the bar was assured and recognized. My effort
ut the halting and uncertain struggle with questions which
perience had taught me to solve. I had made a motion in
which seemed to me so clearly just and proper, that I
not my countenance revealed my deep disappointment
the presiding justice, justly convinced, no doubt, by the
ior wisdom and experience of my opponent, denied my
cation. As I turned away Mr. Soule made a jocose remark
e, and said: "Never mind, Robinson, don't let that dis-
ge you. You 'll come out all right by and by." To a
g man such encouragement and cheer are of immeasurable
nd the older practitioner who speaks such words out of a
and sympathetic heart has done very much to make a
f success and honor far more probable than one of misfor-
and failure. And such kindliness of bearing was not ex-
onal with him. Others have profited again and again by
elpfulness of his suggestions, and bear unhesitating testi-
to the generous qualities as well as the excellent abilities
s accomplished lawyer, this refined scholar, this courteous
eman.

later years we knew him as Judge Soule, a Justice of the
me Judicial Court of the Commonwealth. You who were
ssociates must have highly appreciated the maturity of
, the strength and clearness of judgment, and the unwaver-
nse of justice, with which he participated in the delibera-
of the court. We who placed our causes before him for

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his consideration and determination were assured that he never forgot what was due from him as a man and as a judge. We never doubted that his judgments were always the result of his honest convictions. He who at the bar had waged warfare on the highest plane of professional honor, above the meanness of tricks and deception, who claimed no advantage through favoritism and won no victory by questionable practices, who could entertain no respect for any court, high or low, that was not pure and incorruptible, — he never lowered in the slightest degree the dignity and character of this honorable court, or disturbed the confidence of the people in the integrity and fairness of its judgments. Personal favor exercised no control or influence in his conclusions. He passed upon the causes, not the suitors, that came before him. He was ever actuated by the spirit of the legend of this court, *Nulli vendemus, nulli negabimus, justitiam.*

When a judge so able and upright dies, when an accomplished lawyer and gifted scholar passes beyond the vail, when the clean-handed and honorable gentleman whom we all knew, goes forever from our sight, his memory is our precious possession, and his character remains to inspire and uplift. I am sure, may it please your Honors, that the sentiments of the resolutions which have been offered are in cordial accord with the feelings of the members of this bar, and I trust that they may be adopted and written upon the records of the court.

All that was mortal of our departed friend and associate moulders in the soil of his native town and State; but his standing and character as a lawyer, as a judge, and as a man, all that he was to this court and to this community, are imperishable, and will be held in grateful remembrance and jealous regard.

Frederick H. Gillett, Esq., addressed the court as follows:

May it please your Honors: The same reasons which probably influenced the bar in assigning me to the committee on resolutions make it, I think, proper that I should add a word of appreciation of Judge Soule. I knew him only in his later life, from the time when he resigned his seat as your Honors' associate and then invited me to become his partner. I had indeed then known him for years in that casual intercourse

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n often develops into friendship, yet in me he had awak- — and it was perhaps characteristic of the man — no feel- ss formal than respect. I was taken at once, necessarily, his intimacy and confidence, and my cold acquaintance oped into a warm admiration and personal affection, which ased until his death.

nagine it is often true, on the principle *Omne ignotum pro ifico*, that a senior partner appears to his junior in less proportions than to the world at large. Certainly, as far ncerns strength and keenness of intellect, delicacy of moral and geniality and even joviality of disposition, the very re- of this was true of Judge Soule. The more I witnessed orkings of his mind, the more I admired its native force ts trained dexterity. There were constantly recurring nces of the quick penetration and strong grasp with which stantly seized the vital elements of a case, the acute dis- nation with which he compared and weighed balancing and dictory phases, distinguishing closely and refining deeply, ontrolling all his processes by a masterful common sense. aped quickly, often instantaneously, to his conclusions, and onfident in upholding them; but it was confidence in an at could see clearly where most would grope in a haze. to my mind, was his chief distinction, — a strong, clear l vision, which pierced easily into obscurity, and saw ob- n their true proportions and perspective. I should char- ze him as more strong than profound, more sagacious than d, more quick and penetrating than exhaustive; a man a brain of the very first quality, disciplined into instant nce.

law was to him a profession, never a trade. He was lously careful that his opinions should be correct, though s never anxious; and I sometimes fancied his sensitive- n this regard was a relic of his judicial experience, a sort ing of *noblesse oblige*, and that his solicitude that his de- should be right when it was only the opinion of a lawyer kin to that sense of responsibility which must weigh upon one whose words are *ipso facto* law. If in the conduct of the thought what course would best promote his selfish st ever entered his mind, I am sure it never governed his

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action. He scorned low ends, and base methods, and dishonorable weapons, and would never affect to conceal his scorn. Indeed, his contempt for finesse, and artifice, and indirection, extended to the milder and more innocent methods of winning popularity and success; and he would never seek so to ingratiate himself that "thrift may follow fawning."

I went to him immediately from a similar association with one whom your Honors and the whole bar of Massachusetts knew and honored, the late George Marston, and it may not be unduly personal or out of the line of this occasion to suggest the singular contrast their characteristics and careers present, honorable alike to both. Both were endowed with unusual abilities. The life of one opened on the sands of Cape Cod, where modern ideas make slowest headway, and he had for early culture only the advantages which our remotest district offers to all her children; the other was born in the very groves of the academy, surrounded by the most fastidious culture, and reared in a constant atmosphere of refined scholarship. Not improbably the earnest, practical struggle with life of the one broadened his sympathies, while it tended, perhaps, to blunt sensibilities; as the studious seclusion of the other tended to dull at least the expression of general sympathies, while it quickened sensitiveness. One started in his profession with mind and faculties completely equipped, with all the polished weapons education could furnish, but needed clients; the other in his upward progress had won friends and clients, but needed erudition. Both found what they needed in full measure, and it seems to me their prosperous careers and the goals which they attained were exactly what a scientific forecast would have indicated, and exemplify the influence of environment, one becoming the Attorney General, the other the Justice, one dealing with and mastering facts and men, the other principles and abstractions.

Where in Judge Soule's career his faculties found their most useful and congenial sphere, I will not presume to determine; but if it was true of him, as it is in general of us all, that what we enjoy doing we do well, then I am confident that his association with your Honors was his most successful field, for I have heard him speak of the deliberations and discussions and displays of intellectual strength in the consultation room with a

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and warmth and enthusiastic admiration which I never
v him to exhibit toward any other forum of the profession.
is private life was pure and his morals were irreproachable.
le he did not wear his heart upon his sleeve, he was in the
strained society of his friends a most delightful companion.
lial, hearty, fond of fun, enjoying a joke, even at his own
nse, quick at repartee and quotation and allusion, bright
witty, — not a wit that sparkled coldly without warming
good will, but a genial humor that while it entertained you
you into closer fellowship with him, — in his society you
ys knew that no witticism was too subtle, no allusion too
ndite, no humor too lively, no discussion too deep or too
for his appreciation. And beneath all was a warm heart
ng with ready sympathy. I never found a draft upon his
ness dishonored; and, while I deplore the public loss, I
rn most deeply the true, affectionate, warm-hearted friend.

ief Justice Morton responded as follows:
ethren of the Bar: We receive with the deepest sensibility
tributes of respect and affection to our deceased associate
friend, Judge Soule. The death of such a man, in the
of useful and honorable work, in the full maturity of his
rs, before age has weakened his faculties or impaired his
ity for useful labor, is of itself a solemn and impressive
. But this afflictive event is made more impressive and
icant to us from the fact that in late years we have been so
ently called upon to deplore the loss of those associated
us in our duties. In the last five years during which I
been Chief Justice, we have lost by death or by sickness
those who have served as Justices of this court, only one
om had reached the age of threescore years and ten.
is is not an occasion on which to attempt an elaborate
y, but I desire, on behalf of the court, to express, in few
, the enduring respect and affection which we entertain for
eceased friend, and our deep sense of the great loss which
rofession and the community have sustained in his death.
lge Soule was born in 1827. His father, the Rev. Gideon
was for many years the Principal of Phillips Academy
eter, then, as now, one of the most celebrated preparatory

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schools for boys in the country. The Judge inherited from
a sound mind in a sound body. He was of a robust and vi
ous frame, healthy and strong, capable of enduring cons
and exacting labor. He also inherited an intellect vigorous
logical, and also scholarly and delicate, and a high-toned, n
moral character. His natural tendency and the habit of his
was to look to high and ennobling aims. He was a graduat
Harvard College and of the Law School connected with
and, very soon after leaving the Law School, he establis
himself in Springfield as a member of your bar. His his
here is familiar to all of you. After a few years, he associ
himself with the lamented John Wells, and soon became on
the most prominent of your members. Who can wonder
two such men were drawn to each other? Both were of
same nobility of character, both loved the law as a science
were diligent and assiduous in its study, both had habits of e
and thorough investigation, both were faithful to duty, modest,
selfish, just, and conscientious. By an unusual coincidence
afterwards served with marked ability as Justices of this co

The service of Mr. Justice Soule was unfortunately of
duration. He was appointed in 1877, and resigned in 1
He discharged his important duties with great ability and
punctilious fidelity. His mind was quick to perceive the p
involved in any case before him, and comprehensive to see
bearings and relations, and its effect upon the rights of par
At nisi prius trials, he was patient, courteous, self-possessed,
firm. In consultation, he was logical and forcible in discuss
concise and clear, and never obscure, in presenting his a
ments, with the frank manliness which never hesitated to di
from his associates, accompanied by a spirit of candor which
him readily to yield his own impressions when he found
the weight of argument and reason was against him. Whe
the end of four years he resigned, he had so commended him
to the profession and the public, by the satisfactory performa
of his duties, that his retirement was universally felt to
great public loss. He resigned with great reluctance, afte
severe struggle between his own inclination and tastes and
promptings of duty to his family. It is a pleasure to us to
flect that his duties while with us were pleasant and congenia

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him, and that his term of service here was the happiest period of his life. After he left us, his time was absorbed by the duties of his new position. He was often called upon, in the performance of those duties, to argue questions of law before us; and his arguments were always models of clear, concise, and forcible statements and illustrations of his views.

We cannot fully express our estimate of the worth of Mr. Justice Soule without referring to the many attractive traits of his personal and private character and life. To the stranger, upon first acquaintance, he may have appeared dignified and somewhat distant and cold in his manner. But a short acquaintance was sufficient to lead to admiration of his kind and sympathetic heart, his urbane and courteous manners, his ready and delightful flow of wit and repartee. In his family and private life he was ever affectionate, kind, cheerful, hospitable, and unselfish, — a fond husband and father, a firm friend, and a delightful companion.

For the last two or three years of his life he knew that disease had fastened itself upon him, and that in a short time it must result fatally, a fact known to very few except to his family and his physicians. All who saw him during these years know that he bore this affliction with brave resignation and Christian fortitude, maintaining to the last the cheerfulness and unselfishness which had marked his whole life. We, who knew him well, mourn the loss, not only of an upright, able magistrate and lawyer, but of an esteemed and beloved friend.

I have spoken of two of the members of this bar who have honored it by faithful and able services upon this bench. To these should be added the honored name of Chief Justice Chapman. Truly the bar of Hampden County may indulge a just pride in the memory of such eminent lawyers and jurists as Judges Chapman, Wells, and Soule.

We can only add, that we concur in the expressions of esteem and affection contained in your resolutions, and shall order that they, together with a memorandum of these proceedings, be entered upon the records of the court.

The Court then adjourned.

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INDEX.

ACCORD AND SATISFACTION.

A. had a claim against B. for one third of the net profits of an enterprise in which they were jointly engaged. He sent a letter, requesting B. to render an account. B., in reply, sent a letter, enclosing an account, in which he credited A. with one third of the profits, and charged him with a certain sum, claimed to be due for B.'s services, and also enclosing a check for the balance of the account thus stated. A. credited the check to B. on account, and forthwith demanded of B. payment of the sum so charged to him by B.; and, upon B.'s refusal to pay, brought an action against him. *Held*, that the facts did not show an accord and satisfaction; and that the action could be maintained. *Tompkins* v. *Hill*, 379.

ACCOUNT.

See ACCORD AND SATISFACTION; EQUITY, 7.

ACTION.

1. A lessee of a building, who sustains personal injuries occasioned by the defective condition of the building, cannot maintain an action of tort against the lessor, founded upon a breach by the lessor of an agreement to repair the building within a reasonable time. *Tuttle* v. *Gilbert Manuf. Co.* 169.
2. Land abutting on a public street in a city was sold under a power contained in a mortgage, and the owner of the equity of redemption released any title he might have to the purchaser, and was allowed by the purchaser to remain in possession under an agreement that he should pay rent at a certain rate monthly. At the time of the sale there was an open and visible defect in the cover of a coal-hole in the sidewalk in front of a house on the land, which hole led to the cellar of the house. In consequence of this defect, during the tenancy, a person walking on the sidewalk fell into the hole. *Held*, that he could maintain an action against the purchaser of the land for the injury thereby sustained. *Dalay* v. *Savage*, 38.
3. In an action against the owner of a building for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by a fall down an elevator well in the building, it appeared that the plaintiff, who was a plumber, was employed by A., a

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tenant of a portion of the building, to do some work therein; that, in the prosecution of his work, he opened a door leading into the well, it being unlighted and without a barrier, and fell, receiving the injuries complained of; that the door to the well had been provided with a lock, had been locked, and the key deposited in the defendant's office; and that this was the only key known by the defendant or his agent to exist, and it was found in its place in the defendant's office after the accident. There was evidence that a key had been procured by A. and used, but without the consent or knowledge of the defendant or his agent; and that the neglect of A. in unlocking the door and in leaving it unlocked caused the accident. The lease to A. gave him a right to the use of the elevator in common with the other tenants. *Held*, that the action could not be maintained. *Handyside* v. *Powers*, 123.

4. A. owned and kept a public house and grounds, and in connection therewith owned a way to a navigable river, and a landing place on the river, by which persons had access to his house from the river. The river at A.'s landing was obstructed by sand, which was caused to be deposited there by B.'s boom above, and by logs which were stranded there while being floated down the river by B., whose acts were illegal. *Held*, that the diminution in A.'s business and profits caused by obstructing the river at his landing place, cutting off access to it from the river, and preventing persons from passing from the river to his house, constituted special and peculiar damage to him, for which he could maintain an action against B. *Held*, *also*, that evidence of the diminution in the number of visitors to A.'s house, and in the receipts and profits from them, caused by the acts of B. in obstructing the landing place, was competent upon the question of the loss occasioned to A. in his business. *Held*, *also*, that the judge properly refused to rule that A. could recover only for the expense of removing the obstructions. *French* v. *Connecticut River Lumber Co.* 261.

5. While a bill in equity, brought by a mill-owner on a natural stream against the owner of a reservoir higher up on the same stream to restrain the defendant from preventing the flow of the water to the plaintiff's mill, and for damages, was pending, the defendant wished a hearing on the question of granting a preliminary injunction postponed, and the plaintiff agreed to this, on the defendant's promise that sufficient water should be allowed to flow to the plaintiff's mill in the mean time. *Held*, that the plaintiff could not maintain an action at law against the defendant for breach of this agreement. *Howe* v. *Salisbury*, 279.

6. A girl, eight years and one month old, while on her way to school, sat down on the curbstone of the sidewalk, with one leg under her and the other leg projecting into the street, leaned over, and began to sharpen a slate pencil. She knew that there was much driving on the street, but did not look to see whether any wagon was coming. While so sitting, she was struck by a wagon, and run over. *Held*, that the question whether she was in the exercise of due care was for the jury. *O'Shaughnessy* v. *Suffolk Brewing Co.* 569.

See ACCORD AND SATISFACTION; BANKRUPT; COLLATERAL SECURITY, 1; CONTRACT, 2; CONVERSION; FALSE IMPRISONMENT; INNKEEPER;

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INSURANCE, 5; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 7, 31, 33, 34; LANDLORD AND TENANT; LEASE, 3; LIMITATIONS, STATUTE OF, 1, 3; MASTER AND SERVANT, 1; MORTGAGE, 2, 4; PAUPER; RAILROAD, 7–9, 12; SCHOOL; STATUTE, 2; WAY, 3–7.

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ADMINISTRATOR.

See EXECUTOR AND ADMINISTRATOR.

ADULTERY.

At the trial of an indictment for adultery, the evidence was conflicting upon the question whether the parties named in the indictment had occupied the same room; and the judge instructed the jury as follows: "If they occupied together the room known as the parlor, that is evidence enough to warrant you in finding adultery. That is as strong evidence as is usually found in adultery cases." This being excepted to, the judge said, "I withdraw those instructions and instruct the jury as follows: If a married man is found with a woman not his wife in a room with a bed in it, and stays through the night with her there, that is sufficient to warrant a finding of adultery against him." *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *Clifford*, 97.

See DIVORCE.

AGENT.

See PRINCIPAL AND AGENT.

AGREED FACTS.

See EQUITY, 3; RAILROAD, 5, 6.

ALTERATION OF BALLOT.

See ELECTION.

ANIMAL.

See CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

ANSWER.

See PLEADING, III.

APPEAL.

1. If an appellant from a decree of the Probate Court, who claims his appeal seasonably, gives due notice thereof, and duly files and serves on the adverse party his reasons of appeal, omits, through accident and mistake, to enter his appeal in this court at the proper time, he is not entitled, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 156, §§ 9, 10, to maintain a petition to this court for leave to enter the appeal, filed more than a year after the decree of the Probate Court was rendered. *Briggs* v. *Barker*, 287.

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2. If an appeal is taken to the Superior Court from a judgment of a trial justice, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 155, § 28, and the appellant fails to recognize to the adverse party, as required by § 29, or to deposit with the trial justice a reasonable sum as security for the prosecution of the appeal and the payment of costs, the Superior Court has no jurisdiction of the appeal; and, on a petition to that court for leave to enter the appeal, parol evidence is inadmissible that the appellant offered to recognize, or to deposit a reasonable sum as security, and that the trial justice refused to allow him to do either. *Tibbetts* v. *Handy*, 537.
3. At the trial, on appeal, of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, the conviction of the defendant must be of the same offence of which he was convicted in the court below, but need not be upon the same evidence. *Commonwealth* v. *McNeff*, 406.

See COMPLAINT, 3, 4; INSOLVENT DEBTOR, 3, 4; RECORD, 2; TRIAL JUSTICE.

ARBITRAMENT AND AWARD.

A case pending in court was sent to an auditor. The parties and a third person appeared before the auditor and filed with him an agreement appointing him referee, and submitting to him all matters in dispute between the three, growing out of a certain matter referred to in the declaration. The agreement was headed with the name of the case and the court in which it was pending. The submission was stated to be "in the above entitled action," the referee was to report to the court, and final judgment was to be entered in the action upon the coming in of the referee's report. No rule of reference was issued by the court. *Held*, that the agreement was not one *in pais*, and did not work a discontinuance of the action. *Held, also*, that, as the defendant was not indebted to the plaintiff and to the third person jointly, no rule of reference could have been issued in the action; and that the referee's award could not be accepted. *McCarthy* v. *Swan*, 471.

ARREST.

See FALSE IMPRISONMENT; POOR DEBTOR, 2, 3; RAILROAD, 10; WARRANT.

ARREST OF JUDGMENT.

See RECORD, 1, 3.

ASSAULT.

See RAILROAD, 10.

ASSENT.

See RAILROAD, 2.

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ASSIGNMENT.
See Insolvent Debtor, 2.

ASSUMPSIT.
See Pauper, 2.

ATTACHMENT.
See Contract, 3; Executor and Administrator; Insolvent Debtor, 1; Mortgage, 2–4.

ATTORNEY AND COUNSEL.
See Intoxicating Liquors, 1; Trial, 2

AUDITOR.
See Arbitrament and Award; Contract, 2.

AUTREFOIS ACQUIT OR CONVICT.
nviction on a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement for illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors from August 1 October 4, is a bar to a complaint for keeping the same tenement for same purpose from May 1 to November 17 of the same year; and the vernment has no authority to enter a *nolle prosequi* as to so much of the ence as is charged in the second complaint to have been committed prior October 5. *Commonwealth* v. *Dunster*, 101.

AWARD.
See Arbitrament and Award.

BAILMENT.
See Innkeeper; Railroad, 7, 8.

BANK.
See Equity, 5, 6.

BANKRUPT.
ssignee in bankruptcy made a contract with the bankrupt to convey to n a parcel of land belonging to the estate, and was authorized by a ree of court so to convey it. At the request of the bankrupt, after the ce was paid, the land was conveyed to the bankrupt's wife, and the deed s delivered to him as his wife's agent. *Held*, that the conveyance was id, and that the bankrupt could not maintain an action for a subsequent spass committed on the land. *Wilson* v. *Winslow*, 339.

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BASTARDY PROCESS.

See JUDGMENT.

BAWDY-HOUSE.

At the trial of a complaint for keeping a tenement used as a house of fame in G., a police officer testified that he visited the premises c certain day, and in one of the rooms found two women in bed toget but no man with them, and in an adjoining room found another wo in bed, but with no man. The government then asked the wit "What was the reputation of these three women for chastity in G The defendant objected to this question, but the judge allowed it t put, and the witness answered that it was bad. *Held*, that the defen had no ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *Clark*, 251.

See COMPLAINT, 6, 7; HUSBAND AND WIFE, 3, 4.

BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION.

1. A beneficiary association was organized under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 115, 8, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the sickness and buri its members, and rendering pecuniary aid to the families of deceased m bers or to their heirs. The by-laws of the association provided, that, payment of the expenses of the funeral and of the last sickness, the ba should be paid to the person designated by the member in his applic for membership, or last legal assignment, provided such person wa heir or member of the decedent's family, and, if either of the person ignated should die, the sum which would have been payable to him had lived should be paid to the widow of the designator for the u herself and her minor children. A member of the association desig his wife as his beneficiary. She afterwards obtained a divorce from and he, after this, changed the designation to his son and to his ma sister, the latter not being a member of his family and not depende him for support. *Held*, that the wife, by obtaining a divorce, los rights under the designation; that the attempted designation to the was invalid; and that the son was entitled to the fund. *Tyler* v. *Fellows' Relief Association*, 134.
2. A member of a beneficiary association organized under the Pub. S 115, §§ 2, 8, had certificates in two classes, each for $1000. Befor death he designated his minor son as his beneficiary to the amou $500, and his sister as his beneficiary to the amount of $1500. The designation was in fact invalid. On his death, the guardian of th told the president of the association that he thought the son was en to $2000. The president did not dispute that the son was entitled to but claimed the balance as belonging to the sister. The guardian y to this claim, believing it to be well founded, and received $500, u standing that the association was about to pay $1500 to the siste signed a receipt, acknowledging that the $500 was received in full

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mands or claims against the association. The association then paid the 500 to the sister. *Held*, on a bill in equity brought by the son against e association to recover the $1500, that, if the receipt could be construed an agreement not to claim the $1500, there was no consideration for *Held, also*, that the son was not estopped to maintain the bill by the nduct of his guardian. *Tyler* v. *Odd Fellows' Relief Association*, 134.

BOND.

See EQUITY, 5, 6; PRINCIPAL AND SURETY.

BURDEN OF PROOF.

See ESCAPE, 2.

BY-LAW.

See BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION, 1; CITY.

CARRIER.

See RAILROAD, 7, 8.

CASE STATED.

See EQUITY, 3; RAILROAD, 5, 6.

CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION.

See BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION.

CHARITY.

See CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.

CHILD.

See ACTION, 6; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 2, 31, 32, 34; WAY, 4.

CITY.

f the charter of a city provides that its by-laws or ordinances shall take ect, and be in force, from and after the time therein respectively limited, hout the sanction of any court, or other authority whatever, the pro- ions of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 27, § 23, and of *c.* 28, § 2, as to publication of -laws or ordinances, do not apply. *Commonwealth* v. *McCafferty*, 384.

An ordinance of a city, providing that "no person shall place or carry, cause to be placed or carried, on any sidewalk, any show-board, placard, sign, for the purpose of there displaying the same," is reasonable and id. *Ib.*

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3. At the trial of a complaint for a violation of an ordinance of a city, providing that "no person shall place or carry, or cause to be placed or carried, on any sidewalk, any show-board, placard, or sign, for the purpose of there displaying the same," it appeared that the defendant walked upon the sidewalk of a street in the city, having over his shoulders a piece of oil cloth, which he wore like a vest or coat, on which was printed the inscription, "Lasters on strike. All lasters are requested to keep away from P. P. Sherry until the present trouble is settled. Per order L. P. U." *Held*, that the defendant's act was a violation of the ordinance. *Commonwealth* v. *McCafferty*, 384.

See STATUTE, 2; WAY, 3–11.

CIVIL SERVICE.

Under the St. of 1887, *c.* 437, persons who served in the army or navy of the United States in the time of the war of the Rebellion, and were honorably discharged therefrom, cannot be preferred for appointment to office or employment in the service of the Commonwealth or the cities thereof, without having made application for appointment to office or employment to the civil service commissioners, as required by the St. of 1884, *c.* 320, and the rules of the civil service commissioners made thereunder. *Opinion of Justices*, 587.

COLLATERAL SECURITY.

1. Where a debtor executes a collateral agreement to deliver, on demand, certain property as security for the payment of a debt, a demand made after the debt is barred by the statute of limitations is too late. *Shaw* v. *Silloway*, 503.
2. If A. transfers shares of stock owned by him to a bank, as collateral security for the promissory note of B., and, on the note becoming due, a new note is given by B. to the bank in renewal, the parties to the note not intending that the debt represented by the original note shall be thereby paid or discharged, the bank is entitled to hold the shares of stock as security for the payment of the new note, even though the renewal is made after the death of A. *Cotton* v. *Atlas Bank*, 43.
3. A., at the request of B., transferred shares of stock to a bank as collateral security, knowing that the bank was to lend money to C., and leaving the details of the transaction to B., who was her son and her general agent. B. procured his promissory note to be discounted at the bank, and the money thus obtained was given to C. The note stated that the shares of stock were held as collateral security. New notes were given from time to time in renewal of the old note, and one of these stated that the shares were held as collateral security for any liability of B. due or to become due to the bank, and that might be afterwards contracted. This was done inadvertently, and without any intention to pledge the shares for any liability other than that for which they were originally pledged. After the death of A., B. being indebted to the bank on one of the notes given in renewal and on another note for which certain shares of stock were pledged as

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collateral security, and both notes being then overdue, B. gave a new note for the amount due on both of the overdue notes, and this note stated that certain shares of stock were pledged as collateral security for its payment. These shares were the same as those before pledged as security for both notes. Partial payments were made on the new note from dividends and sales of the shares pledged by A. *Held*, on a bill in equity by the executor of A.'s will against the bank, that the defendant was entitled to hold the shares of stock for the original debt contracted by B., after deducting the payments that had been made. *Cotton* v. *Atlas Bank*, 43.

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See FRAUDULENT REPRESENTATION, 4.

COMPLAINT.

1. A complaint may be made by any one who is competent to make oath to it. *Commonwealth* v. *Carroll*, 408.
2. If a court has jurisdiction over offences committed within a certain city, a complaint to that court, which alleges the offence to have been committed at that city, sufficiently alleges the jurisdiction of the court. *Ib.*
3. A formal defect in a complaint cannot be availed of for the first time in the Superior Court on appeal. *Commonwealth* v. *Turner*, 296.
4. In a complaint for throwing a missile at a car, any defect in the description of the car, or defect in respect of the place where the car was at the time, is a defect in form, which cannot be availed of for the first time in the Superior Court on appeal. *Commonwealth* v. *Carroll*, 403.
5. At the trial of a complaint for an unlawful sale of intoxicating liquor to a person unknown to the complainant, the defendant put in the testimony of one M., that he told the complainant, about a week before the complaint was made, the name of the person to whom the unlawful sale relied on was made. The complainant testified, in answer to the question whether he knew, when he made the complaint, the name of the person to whom the sale was made, that he did not know the man. On cross-examination, he testified that he did not remember that M. told him the name of the person who bought and paid for the liquor; that he could not say, and would not like to say, that he did or did not tell him the name of the person. *Held*, that the question was properly submitted to the jury, whether the allegation that the name of the person to whom the sale was made was unknown to the complainant was sustained by the evidence. *Commonwealth* v. *Pratt*, 248.
6. A complaint against A. and B. for keeping and maintaining, at a time and place named, a certain tenement, "then and there used by said A. and B. as a house of ill-fame, resorted to for prostitution, lewdness, and for illegal gaming, and then and there used by said A. and B. for the illegal sale and for the illegal keeping of intoxicating liquor, said tenement, so used as aforesaid, being then and there a common nuisance," is sufficient, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 101, § 6. *Commonwealth* v. *Clark*, 251.
7. It is no objection to a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used as a house of ill-fame and for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, that the time of the continuance of the offence, as

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alleged in the complaint, extends beyond a period of six months. *Commonwealth* v. *Clark*, 251.

See APPEAL, 3; DISTRICT COURT; EVIDENCE, 2; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 1–6, 8–20, 22–30; LORD'S DAY, 1; RECORD, 3.

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CONDITION.

See EQUITY, 2.

CONSIDERATION.

See BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION, 2; CONTRACT, 2; EVIDENCE, 6; PROMISSORY NOTE, 2, 3.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.

Section 4 of the St. of 1849, *c.* 96, (which statute incorporated the Trustees of the Smith Charities,) providing that the funds of the corporation shall, for the purpose of taxation, "be equally apportioned among the eight towns named in said will, ... or such of them as shall not have forfeited their rights therein; and said apportionment shall be made, and the assessors of each of said towns shall be notified of the same by the trustees provided for in said will, on or before the first day of May annually; and the portions of said funds thus assigned to the said towns respectively may be assessed therein, in all the taxes legally voted and assessed by said towns," is constitutional. *Northampton* v. *County Commissioners*, 108.

CONTRACT.

I. *Making.*

See PAUPER, 3.

II. *Consideration.*

1. In an action upon a paper writing, signed by the defendant, a married woman, and reciting the receipt from the plaintiff of a certain sum to be paid to him in the stock of a certain corporation, or in cash, within a time named, the plaintiff testified that he and the defendant's husband made a settlement, at the latter's house, of demands which the plaintiff had against him; that the husband proposed to give to the plaintiff in settlement the stock named in the paper declared on, or a certain sum, in ten days; that the husband said that the stock was in the defendant's name; that she was in the house, but was not present in the room with them; that the husband wrote the agreement, and left the room to get his wife's signature to the paper; and that he soon returned with the paper signed by her. The defendant and her husband were present at the trial, but did not testify. *Held*, that the judge properly submitted to the jury the question whether the defendant knew of the consideration for her agreement. *Marble* v. *Mellen*, 342.

See BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION, 2; CONTRACT, 2; EVIDENCE, 6; PROMISSORY NOTE, 2, 3.

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III. *Validity.*

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2. In an action against the administrator with the will annexed of the estate of A., on an alleged agreement by A. to bequeath to the plaintiff $5000, an auditor, to whom the case was referred, found that the plaintiff was the brother-in-law of A., an unmarried woman, and lived in the same house with her, and advised with her as to her investments; that she said if she made a profit on one investment managed by the plaintiff she would give him one half, and on this she made a profit of $10,000; that, soon after, she told the plaintiff that if he would go on and act as her adviser she would make a will giving the plaintiff's wife a legacy of $5000, and if his wife died before the plaintiff she would, by a new will, leave this sum to him; that such a will was made; that, afterwards, the plaintiff assisted A. in making many profitable investments; that subsequently, when the plaintiff's wife was fatally ill, A. said to the plaintiff, that, if he would accompany her on a visit to California, she in consideration thereof, and in consideration of the services he had rendered and might thereafter render to her, would make a will leaving him $5000; that the plaintiff assented, and the will was made, the old will being destroyed; that the plaintiff accompanied A. on the journey proposed, and in all respects complied with the agreement; and that, subsequently, A. made a new will which revoked the former will and left nothing to the plaintiff. *Held*, that, these facts not being controverted, the judge who tried the case without a jury was not warranted in finding that the facts did not show that A. entered into a binding agreement with the plaintiff, or in finding that the agreement declared on was not proved as alleged; and that he should have found that the plaintiff was entitled to maintain the action. *Wellington* v. *Apthorp*, 69.

IV. *Construction.*

3. A., a creditor of C., brought an action against him, and attached his goods. B., another creditor of C., had attached his goods on a writ prior to A.'s attachment, and had recovered judgment. Before execution issued on said judgment, A. threatened to begin proceedings in insolvency against C. Thereupon B. agreed that if, after demand made by A. upon B., after the sale upon said execution of all the property attached in said action, and after the money realized upon such sale should have passed into the hands and possession of B., he should refuse to pay to A. one half of the amount which B. should have realized upon said execution, after all the costs and fees arising from and by reason of said action and said execution should have been deducted, then D. might indorse to A. a certain promissory note made by B. to D., and not otherwise. A. did not institute insolvency proceedings against C. B.'s attachment was perfected, the attached property was sold, and a certain sum realized; and B., upon request, refused to comply with his agreement with A. Subsequently, and while the proceeds of said sale were in the hands of the officer, the assignee in insolvency of C. brought a bill in equity against B. and the officer to avoid B.'s judgment and to recover the proceeds of the sale, and the officer

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was restrained from paying them to B. That suit was compromised by the payment of a part of the proceeds to the assignee, and the balance was paid to B.'s attorney in payment of costs and fees in said suits. A. then brought a bill in equity against B. and D. to enforce said agreement. *Held*, that the contingency on which the note was to be indorsed to A. had not arisen; and that the bill could not be maintained. *Steele* v. *Nash*, 198.

4. A., the owner of land with growing trees upon it, entered into a contract, under seal, with B., which stated that A. "agrees to sell," and B. "agrees to buy" all the hemlock bark, and all the hemlock and spruce timber standing on the land. B. agreed to cut and remove the same within four years, to cut and remove a certain amount each year, and to pay certain prices per cord for the bark, and per thousand feet for the timber. It was further agreed that all the trees that were down, or that should thereafter fall, should be cut and paid for by B. The contract provided for measurements to be made by A. on notice to B., and for notice to A. by B. when a sufficient quantity was ready for measurement. *Held*, that the contract was an executory agreement for the sale of timber and bark; that the property in the trees did not pass to B. until they were cut; and that, on B.'s not fulfilling his contract, A. was entitled to recover only such damages as he had sustained on the basis that the timber and bark remained his property until severed from the soil. *United Society* v. *Brooks*, 410.

See CONTRACT, 2.

V. *Performance and Breach.*

5. An action against an executor, for breach of an agreement to purchase land, made by his testator, cannot be maintained, if there were defects in the plaintiff's title of such a kind that he was never in condition to perform his part of the contract, and the testator did not repudiate the contract, but the plaintiff granted delay at his request, and the term of such delay had not expired at his death, and no offer to carry out the contract was made to the defendant, and no demand made upon him before bringing the action. *Langley* v. *Dauray*, 325.

See ACTION, 5; CONTRACT, 2, 3; DEED; LEASE, 2.

VI. *Rescission.*

See INFANT, 1.

CONTRIBUTION.

See DEVISE AND LEGACY, 3.

CONVERSION.

B. made a contract with A., an owner of land, to build a house for A. on the land. Before the house was finished, A. requested B. to remove certain chattels, then on the land and used by B. in building the house, to

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ther part of the land. B. unreasonably neglected to do so, and A. re-
ved them to another part of the land, doing no unnecessary damage to
n. *Held*, that even if B. had an unrevoked license to have the chattels
he land, he could not maintain an action against A. for their conversion.
v. *Milford*, 525.

See CORPORATION, 1.

CORPORATION.

an action for the conversion of personal property, a mortgage of the
perty to the plaintiff, purporting to be executed in the name of a cor-
ation by its president and under its corporate seal, is sufficient *prima*
evidence of the incorporation, and of the authority of the president to
cute the mortgage. *Hamilton* v. *McLaughlin*, 20.

oof of a statute chartering a corporation under a particular name, and
ther statutes authorizing the corporation to do particular acts, and the
of the railroad commissioners approving the consolidation of the cor-
ation with another corporation, in pursuance of an authority conferred
n them by statute, will warrant a finding of the existence of the cor-
ation, and of its ownership of property which it employs in exercising
franchise. *Commonwealth* v. *Carroll*, 403.

e existence of a corporation, not organized under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 106,
which has not availed itself of the provisions of § 22, may be proved,
hout producing the certificate of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
tioned in that section. *Ib.*

corporation purchased all the property of another corporation, and all
shares of its capital stock except six. After this, the officers of the
chasing corporation were chosen officers of the selling corporation, and
six shares of stock were transferred to them. *Held*, that the purchasing
oration did not thereby acquire a right to do an act granted to the
ng corporation by its charter, but which was contrary to the general
of the Commonwealth. *French* v. *Connecticut River Lumber Co.* 261.

EMINENT DOMAIN; EQUITY, 7, 10; RAILROAD, 2, 9; TRUST AND TRUSTEE, 1; WATERWORKS.

COSTS.

actions of slander were brought by the same plaintiff against three
erent defendants for the same or similar defamatory words; and, by
ement of parties, they were referred to the same referee, who heard
n together on three consecutive days, and made an award in each case
avor of the defendant, on which judgment was entered. The certificate
witnesses filed in each case showed that the same witnesses for the de-
lants attended in each case the same number of days and travelled the
e number of miles, with a trifling exception. *Held*, that the fees for
attendance of witnesses should be taxed in all the cases, but that the
for their travel should be taxed only in the case in which they were
moned. *Barber* v. *Parsons*, 203.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

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The salary of an employee of a jail and house of correction was established by the county commissioners, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 220, § 26, and increased by the Superior Court, under § 27. More than a year afterwards, the county commissioners reduced the salary. *Held*, that the salary fixed by the Superior Court did not continue until the further order of the court, and that the action of the county commissioners was legal. *Vose* v. *Essex*, 500.

COURT.

See DISTRICT COURT; PROBATE COURT; SUPERIOR COURT; SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT; TRIAL JUSTICE.

COVENANT.

See DEED; EQUITY, 1; EVIDENCE, 6; LEASE, 2.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

1. A captive fox is an "animal" within the Pub. Sts. *c.* 207, § 53. *Commonwealth* v. *Turner*, 296.
2. A person who lets loose a captive fox to be hunted by dogs may be convicted of subjecting the fox to unnecessary suffering, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 207, § 53. *Ib.*
3. A complaint alleged that the defendant had the custody of a fox, and knowingly and wilfully permitted the fox to be subjected to unnecessary suffering, by turning the fox loose to be hunted by dogs, in consequence of which the fox was hunted by dogs, and thereby subjected to unnecessary suffering. The evidence was that the defendant, in the presence of a number of men with dogs, let the fox loose within two rods of a piece of woods; that the fox ran into the woods, and was at once lost sight of; and that five minutes afterwards the dogs were let loose and ran after the fox; and there was no evidence that they were seen again that day. There was also evidence that, half an hour after the fox was released, a fox was found dead in the woods, a quarter of a mile away, with his side torn open. *Held*, that the evidence was sufficient to warrant the conviction of the defendant. *Ib.*

CUSTOM.

See TOWN, 2.

DAMAGES.

See ACTION, 4; CONTRACT, 4; ESCAPE, 1; POOR DEBTOR, 4.

DEATH.

See PRESUMPTION; RAILROAD, 11.

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DEED.

A., the owner of a tract of land, having a house on the southerly side, and bounding on the north on a turnpike, conveyed the northerly portion of it to B., reserving to himself, his heirs and assigns, a right of passageway from his house to the turnpike. A. subsequently sold the remainder of the estate to C., and conveyed to him, his heirs and assigns, the right of a passageway from the dwelling-house on the estate to the turnpike. C. divided the land into two lots, and sold the southerly lot to D. and conveyed to him, his heirs and assigns, a right of passage to the turnpike. Subsequently, B. sold the lot on the turnpike to E., "reserving to the owner and his assigns of the adjoining estate, formerly of A., the right of a passageway to the turnpike." The heirs of E. afterwards sold the lot on the turnpike to F. "reserving to the owner of the estate and others adjoining on the south a right of passageway over the within granted premises as specified in deed of B. to E." *Held*, that the language of the two deeds last named as to the passageway constituted an exception, and not a reservation, and that the exception was not confined to the right which the owner of the lot immediately adjoining on the south might have to a passageway, but applied also to the right of the owner of the most southerly lot owned by D. *Held*, *also*, that there was no breach of a covenant against incumbrances contained in the deed to F. *Wood* v. *Boyd*, 176.

See BANKRUPT; EVIDENCE, 6; LEASE; MORTGAGE, 1.

DEFAULT.

See JUDGMENT.

DELIVERY.

See BANKRUPT.

DEMAND.

See COLLATERAL SECURITY, 1; CONTRACT, 5; MORTGAGE, 2-4.

DEVISE AND LEGACY.

1. A bequest of the testator's "bank stock" is to be construed as describing deposits in savings banks owned by the testator, if he owns no shares of stock in a bank. *Tomlinson* v. *Bury*, 346.
2. A bequest of "all the mill stock and bank stock remaining in my name after the decease of my said wife" is specific, and not general. *Ib.*
3. If shares of stock, specifically bequeathed by a will, are appropriated to satisfy the claims of the testator's widow, who has waived the provisions of the will in her favor, the legatee is entitled to contribution from other legatees under the will. *Ib.*
4. Under the Gen. Sts. *c.* 92, § 28, (Pub. Sts. *c.* 127, § 23,) if a bequest is made to one of a class, who is a relation of the testator, and the legatee

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dies before the testator, leaving issue surviving the testator, such issue are entitled to the legacy. *Stockbridge, petitioner*, 517.

5. A testator by his will directed that his executor should "lay aside a fund of" a certain amount, of which his widow was to have the income during her life; gave the rest and residue of the estate to his brothers and sisters who might be living at his decease, to be divided equally between them; and provided that, "in case any of the legatees are indebted to me at the time of my decease, such indebtedness shall be deducted from the legacy given him or her, and the balance only paid over to such legatee, and if such indebtedness exceeds the legacy given them, I hereby discharge and release the surplus of such indebtedness." At the decease of the testator some of the brothers were indebted to him on promissory notes bearing interest. *Held*, that the executor was not entitled in his account to charge these brothers with interest after the testator's decease. *Taylor* v. *Taylor*, 239.

6. A testator bequeathed to his wife, in lieu of dower, the income for life of the residue of his estate after the payment of two legacies to herself, and also so much of the principal as should be necessary to give her "a good and comfortable support." With $1100 of her own money, and $2500 paid her from the principal of the trust fund, which was paid to her with the consent of the remainderman, she purchased a house, in which she lived for several years on the income received from her husband's estate. Subsequently, the income became insufficient for her support, and she requested that another part of the principal be paid to her. *Held*, that she was not obliged to dispose of her house and use the proceeds thereof for her support, before her request could be granted. *McKenzie* v. *Ashley*, 577.

7. A testator by his will gave his homestead at W., after the death of his wife, to his two sons, A. and B., in fee; the sum of $300,000 to trustees, in trust to pay the income to his wife during her life, and at her death to pay to such person as she should by her will direct $50,000 of the principal of said sum, and to pay the residue of said principal sum into the residuary fund of the estate; and gave the residue of his estate to trustees, in trust to divide the same into two equal parts for the benefit of his two sons, to subdivide each of such parts into two equal parts, to pay one of the parts, after the subdivision, to each of the sons absolutely, and to hold the other part and pay the income of the same to each son, or his wife or family, during his life, and at his death to such persons as he should by his will direct. A. died before his mother, leaving a will, by the first clause of which he gave to his wife, "except as otherwise provided in the subsequent articles" of the will, the use during life of all the property of which he should die possessed or entitled to, or which he could dispose of, and also the income of all property devised by his father's will of which he could direct the disposition, "not included in the foregoing gift to her of a life estate therein;" and in case any subsequent gift or direction in the will should fail, he gave the use or income of all the property in respect to which the gift or direction should so fail to his wife for life. The third article of A.'s will, after reciting that, whereas by his father's will certain

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property, including his homestead at W., was devised to be held in trust for the benefit of his mother during her life, and that one half of the same or the proceeds thereof might be disposed of by A. subject to his mother's interest therein, directed that his wife, if living at the time of his mother's death, should have the use and enjoyment of that part of said property "which is thus liable to be disposed of by me, or of the income thereof, if my power extends no further than to dispose of the income," until the eldest of his children who survived him attained his majority, at which time, if his wife was still living, his executors were directed "to set apart, out of the said property, a fund for the benefit of said child, consisting of money or securities, or partly of money and partly of securities," to the amount or value of $100,000; and when his second child who survived him attained his majority, his executors were directed "to set apart" for his benefit a "similar" fund of $100,000; and so on in succession as each child attained his majority, until a fund of $100,000 had been set apart for each of his children who should attain majority; and further provided that his wife should continue to have the use and enjoyment during life of the remainder of the property, or its income, after such funds were successively set apart; and that, at any time after his mother's death, his wife might give to any of his children, or their issue, absolutely and indefeasibly, any part of the capital mentioned in this article or in the first article, "except such portion thereof as may have been set apart to constitute any of the funds mentioned in this article, or which it is necessary to retain in order to constitute all of said funds," and that every division subsequently provided for in the will should be made without reference to such gift. By subsequent clauses of the will the testator indicated his intention that his children should share his property equally. A.'s children, of whom there were three, all survived him, and their mother was also living. A.'s mother died after A. The real estate in W., mentioned in the will, was conveyed by A. in fee to his mother before the date of his will. The trustees of A.'s will received from his father's estate the sum of $389,000, of which $125,000 was from the fund of $300,000. *Held*, that the reference in the third article of A.'s will to the fund for the benefit of his mother was so definite as to exclude the construction that he meant to refer to his power over his part of the entire residuary estate of his father. *Held, also*, that the legacies given by the third clause of A.'s will to his children were demonstrative, and not specific; and that a legacy of $100,000 to each of the children must be paid in full, on each child coming of age. *Bradford* v. *Brinley*, 81.

See TRUST AND TRUSTEE, 2.

DISTRICT COURT.

1. If a complaint is received by the justice of a district court, and is sworn to before him, and he issues a warrant, it is to be presumed that he acted under his authority as justice, and that the court was not in session at the time, although the complaint is stated to have been sworn to before the court. *Commonwealth* v. *Brusie*, 117.

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2. If a complaint is received by the justice of a district court, and is sworn to before him, and he issues a warrant, it is not necessary that the clerk should sign the jurat or the warrant, or that the warrant should bear the teste of the justice. *Commonwealth* v. *Brusie*, 117.

See WARRANT.

DIVORCE.

On the hearing of a libel for divorce on the ground of adultery committed with a certain person, evidence of sexual intercourse by the libellee with that person on the morning of her marriage to the libellant, and evidence of acts of familiarity shortly before the marriage, are admissible to show the nature of the intercourse between them shortly after the marriage, when the adultery was alleged to have been committed. *Brooks* v. *Brooks*, 574.

See BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION, 1.

DOMICIL.

See PAUPER, 4.

DURESS.

See PROMISSORY NOTE, 4.

EASEMENT.

See DEED.

ELECTION.

1. At the trial of an indictment on the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 43, for altering a ballot cast for a certain officer at a municipal election of a city, if the evidence shows that the ballot came from the ballot-box which was actually used in the election, it is not necessary to show that the ballot has been cancelled by a mechanical device, as provided in § 10 of the statute. *Commonwealth* v. *McGurty*, 257.
2. An indictment on the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 43, for altering a ballot cast at a municipal election of a city for Nelson S. Wakefield for a certain office, by "drawing lines and marks across the words and name Nelson S. Wakefield," is sustained by proof that the words and letters "S. Wakefield" only were so erased by the defendant. *Ib.*
3. A ballot cast, at a municipal election of a city, for a candidate for an office, who is not elected, is a "ballot cast for any officer," within the meaning of those words in the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 43, prescribing a penalty for the fraudulent alteration of such a ballot. *Ib.*
4. It is no defence to an indictment on the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 43, for altering a ballot cast for a certain officer at a municipal election of a city, that the fraud was discovered, and the ballot was counted and returned for the candidate for whom it was intended to be cast. *Ib.*

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5. At the trial of an indictment on the St. of 1884, *c.* 299, § 43, for altering a ballot cast for a certain officer at a municipal election of a city, secondary evidence of the character of the ballot, which has been destroyed by the city clerk, as required by § 26, is admissible. *Commonwealth* v. *McGurty*, 257.

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EMBEZZLEMENT.

The description, in an indictment for embezzlement, of the property embezzled as "thirteen hundred and twenty pairs of shoes, each pair of the value of one dollar, of the property" of a person named. is sufficient. *Commonwealth* v. *Shaw*, 349.

See EVIDENCE, 4.

EMINENT DOMAIN.

1. The charter of a corporation authorized it to convey water by subterraneous pipes to a certain town. A subsequent act authorized it to conduct by subterranean pipes into their own land the waters of certain ponds, for the purposes for which the original charter was granted, and, for said purposes, to "construct, lay down, and maintain any dam or dams, pipes, fountains, or reservoirs, whatsoever, upon and over any land whatsoever." The statute also provided a remedy for any person injured "by the taking the water aforesaid." *Held*, that the corporation had no power to take the land of a third person and build a dam upon it. *Pickman* v. *Peabody*, 480.

2. The St. of 1883, *c.* 163, incorporating a water company, and giving it power to take lands, requires, in § 13, the county commissioners, upon the application of the owner of any land taken, to estimate the damages and require the corporation to give satisfactory security for the payment of all damages and costs which may be awarded such owner; and provides that the right of the corporation to enter upon or use such lands, except for making surveys, shall be suspended until it gives the security so required. *Held*, that the statute made adequate provision for compensation. *Woodbury* v. *Marblehead Water Co.* 509.

3. If a statute giving the right to a water company to take land by the right of eminent domain requires it to file a description of the land taken, "sufficiently accurate for identification," and land is taken in two towns, a description which states the land to be in one town, which does not state the width of the land taken, and which is vague as to the termini, is insufficient. *Ib.*

4. If a statute giving the right to a water company to take land by the right of eminent domain requires it to file a description of the land taken, "sufficiently accurate for identification," it is no objection to a description that it does not state the name of the owner of the land taken. *Ib.*

See EQUITY, 10; RAILROAD, 1, 2; WATERWORKS.

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EQUITY.

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I. *Jurisdiction and General Principles.*

1. If a lease of land contains a provision that, "if the premises are for sale at any time, the lessee shall have the refusal of them," and the lessor conveys them to a third person, the lessee cannot maintain a bill in equity, against the lessor and the purchaser, for specific performance of the provision. *Fogg* v. *Price*, 513.
2. If a person attaches mortgaged personal property which is in the possession of the mortgagor under a conditional sale, the terms of which have not been complied with, and, upon the demand of the mortgagee, pays the amount due on the mortgage to the latter, who assigns to him all his right, title, and interest in the mortgage, such person cannot maintain a bill in equity against the mortgagee to recover the amount so paid by him, upon the ground that the payment was made under a mutual mistake as to the validity of the mortgage. *Sears* v. *Leland*, 277.
3. A bill in equity, brought by a creditor of A., was submitted to this court upon an agreed statement of facts, which showed that the plaintiff was a creditor of A.; that A. was a *cestui que trust* under a will, which gave him the income of certain property for the support of himself and his son, and provided that the support of the son should be as the father directed; and that all claims against the estate of the testator had been paid, and the executors of the will had a large amount of property in their hands applicable to the bequest to A. and his son; but did not show the amount of the trust fund, nor the income, nor the age and condition of the son, nor what was needed for his support, nor whether the whole or any part had been appropriated for that purpose. *Held*, that the case stated was imperfect, and should be discharged. *Phelps* v. *Phelps*, 416.
4. If a natural watercourse has its source, body, and outlet in a highway, the surveyor of highways of the town in which the highway is situated may, for the purpose of repairing the highway, change the direction of the watercourse, and convey it in an open ditch along the highway; and the fact that the ditch is dug between the centre of the highway and the land on the side, does not entitle the owner of the land, although he owns the fee to the centre of the highway, to maintain a bill in equity against the highway surveyor and the town to abate the nuisance and for damages; but his remedy is under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, §§ 15, 16. *Nealley* v. *Bradford*, 561.
5. A trustee pledged to a bank certain shares of stock belonging to a trust estate as security for the payment of a debt due from him to the bank, the certificate and the assignment of the shares showing that it was held in trust. The bank was subsequently organized as a national bank, received the shares, and, at the request of the trustee, sold the shares and applied the proceeds on the debt, the trust estate receiving no benefit therefrom. The trustee was removed and a new trustee appointed in his place. A surety on the original trustee's bond was compelled, in an action upon the bond, brought in the name of the judge of probate, to pay to the trust

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estate the value of the stock. *Held*, that the surety was subrogated to the rights of the new trustee and of the *cestuis que trust*, and could maintain a bill in equity against the national bank to recover the amount so paid by him. *Blake* v. *Traders' Bank*, 13.

6. A. became a surety on a trustee's bond in 1855. The only account rendered by the trustee in the Probate Court was allowed in 1856, but he from time to time rendered accounts to the *cestuis que trust*, and paid to them the balances appearing to be due. In 1858, A. received from the trustee certain security, which was believed by all parties to be ample, and which A. surrendered upon being discharged from the probate bond in 1869. In 1864, the trustee pledged to a bank certain stock belonging to the trust estate as security for the payment of a debt due from him to the bank. The certificate and assignment of the stock showed that it was held in trust. In 1867, the bank, at the request of the trustee, sold the stock and applied the proceeds on the debt, the trust estate receiving no benefit therefrom. The trustee was afterwards removed, and a new trustee appointed in his place. It appeared by the accounts rendered by the original trustee that the stock was held by him, and the *cestuis que trust* did not know of the breach of trust until August, 1877. In November, 1877, before the removal of the original trustee, an action was commenced upon his bond by order of the Probate Court for the benefit of the *cestuis que trust*, which was prosecuted by the new trustee. A. defended the action, on the ground that he had been released as surety, but judgment was rendered against him, in 1882, for the penal sum of the bond; and execution issued for the value of the stock, which was paid by A. In 1884, after such payment, A. brought a bill in equity against the bank to recover the amount so paid by him. *Held*, that the statute of limitations was not a bar to the suit; and that there was not such laches as would prevent A. from recovering. *Ib.*

7. An insurance company, incorporated in another State, issued there to A., who was a resident of that State, a policy of insurance upon his life for a certain sum payable on his death to him, his executors, administrators, or assigns. The policy was known as a tontine policy on the savings fund insurance plan, and was to continue as such for the term of ten years, if A. should live so long. If a person insured under such a policy should die during the tontine period, his estate would receive only the amount of his policy; and if he should fail, during the tontine term, to pay the premiums on his policy, it would be forfeited. Policies of this character were kept in classes according to their tontine periods, and, while the funds of each class were not kept separate, distinct accounts were kept with each class, showing the amount due upon each policy at the expiration of the tontine term. At the expiration of such term, it was provided that "all the surplus or profits derived from such policies on the tontine savings fund insurance plan as shall cease to be in force before the completion of their respective tontine dividend periods shall be apportioned equitably among such policies as shall complete their tontine dividend periods." The holder of the policy then had the option "to withdraw in cash the policy's entire share of the assets, whether in the reserve fund proper or in the

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accumulated surplus," or to use this share in various modes prescribed by the policy for the procurement of additional insurance, or by the purchase of an annuity for the payment of the premiums thereafter becoming due on his policy. The "reserve fund proper" and "accumulated surplus" were made up of the dividends withheld on the premiums of the class during the tontine term, by reason of forfeiture by death or non-payment of premiums within the term. The corporation had a place of business in this Commonwealth, and an agent to receive service of process, but its books and papers were kept in the other State. A. brought a bill in equity in this Commonwealth against the corporation, after the expiration of the tontine period of his policy, for an account. The corporation put in a general appearance, and an answer to the merits, and objected to the jurisdiction of the court for the first time at a hearing on the merits. *Held*, that the defendant had waived any objection to the jurisdiction of the court; that A. was a creditor, and not a member, of the corporation; and that the bill could be maintained without joining the other policy holders of the plaintiff's class. *Pierce* v. *Equitable Assurance Society*, 56.

See BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION, 2; COLLATERAL SECURITY, 3; CONTRACT, 3.

II. *Pleading and Practice.*

8. If the defendant in a suit in equity files a demurrer to the bill, and also an answer, the court may, under Rule 22 in Chancery, allow the answer to be withdrawn, and may hear the case on the bill and demurrer; and it is not necessary that the demurrer should be again filed. *Fogg* v. *Price*, 513.

9. If an assignee in insolvency sells, by leave of the Court of Insolvency, the estate of the insolvent, and, acting through a third person, becomes the purchaser, and manages the estate for his own benefit and for the benefit of other persons, this court will not entertain a bill in equity, brought by a creditor of the estate against the assignee, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 157, § 15, to revise an order of the Court of Insolvency dismissing a petition of the creditor seeking to compel the assignee to account for the profits made by him after the sale, unless the persons interested with the assignee in the purchase are made parties. *Northampton Bank* v. *Crafts*, 444.

10. A water company, authorized to take land by the right of eminent domain on filing a description "sufficiently accurate for identification," filed a description and entered upon the land. The owner brought a bill in equity for an injunction against the company, and the company, after it had filed an answer in the case, filed a new description, and set this up in a supplemental answer. The first description was held to be insufficient, and the second to be sufficient. *Held*, that no injunction could issue, but that the bill might be retained for the assessment of damages in respect to the entry before the lawful taking. *Woodbury* v. *Marblehead Water Co.* 509.

See EQUITY, 7.

ESCAPE.

1. In an action against an officer for negligently suffering the escape of a person whom he had arrested upon a writ sued out by the plaintiff, the

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ter is not entitled to recover, as the measure of damages, the amount of s debt against the escaped person, but only such damages as he proves at he has actually sustained. *Slocum* v. *Riley*, 370.

n an action against an officer for negligently suffering the escape of a rson whom he had arrested upon a writ sued out by the plaintiff, the rden of proof is upon the plaintiff to show that he had a valuable debt ainst the escaped person, which he has lost by the act of the officer; and is burden is not sustained by showing that he holds a promissory note gned by such person, which, on its face, was at the time of the escape rred by the statute of limitations. *Ib.*

See PLEADING, III.

ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS.

CONTRACT, 5; EXECUTOR AND ADMINISTRATOR; LIMITATIONS, STATUTE OF, 1; PROBATE COURT; WAY, 10.

ESTOPPEL.

orrowed a sum of money from B., and gave him a promissory note erefor, secured by a mortgage of personal property which he had formerly ned, but which he had previously conveyed to his wife, through a third rson. Afterwards A., not having paid any part of the sum so lent to n by B., borrowed from B. another sum, and gave him a promissory te for the amount of both loans, secured by another mortgage of the me property; and B. surrendered to A. the first mortgage and note. th mortgages were duly recorded. A. died without having paid any rt of the second mortgage, and B. took possession of the property under foreclosure of the mortgage. A.'s wife was present and heard A. and making the arrangements for the first loan, and knew such loan was to made on the security of a mortgage of her property, but did not inform of her claim to the property; and B. did not know of such claim until er A.'s death. In an action by A.'s wife against B. for conversion of e property, the judge ruled that the plaintiff's conduct would create an oppel against her as to the first mortgage and note, but not as to the ond, if the first were in fact paid by the second; and that the giving of e second was *prima facie* payment of the first. *Held*, that the defendant d no ground of exception. *Tracy* v. *Lincoln*, 357.

See BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION, 2; RECEIPT, 4.

EVIDENCE.

copy of a material paper is admissible in evidence against one who, ving the original in his possession, fails to produce it on notice. *Commnwealth* v. *Shurn*, 150.

a car is described in a complaint as the property of a certain street raily company, a witness may properly testify what words and marks were the car, and another witness may testify that a car with those marks on

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it belonged to the company mentioned in the complaint. *Commonwealth* v. *Carroll*, 403.

3. If a party to an action seeks to justify an act on the ground that he believed that he had a right to do as he did, and his belief is a material issue, he cannot, as of right, strengthen his direct testimony as to what his belief was, by testifying to other facts which would make it likely that he believed as he said. *Marshall* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 164.
4. At the trial of an indictment for the embezzlement of goods of A., it appeared in evidence that A., after the time of the alleged embezzlement, charged the defendant, in a certain conversation, with having spent the money he had collected from the sales of the embezzled property in gambling in stocks. The defendant, in testifying in his own behalf, denied that such a conversation took place; and, on cross-examination, he was asked "if he had been engaged in stock gambling" at a place named. The defendant objected to this question, but was required to answer it. *Held*, that he had no ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *Shaw*, 349.
5. At the trial of a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors with intent to sell the same unlawfully, a police officer testified for the government to facts tending to show that liquor was kept for sale, on the day alleged, in a certain saloon, and to the presence of the defendant there on that day, and also to acts of the defendant at different times before said day, tending to show that he was the keeper of the place. On cross-examination, the witness testified that he had seen A., the defendant's brother, about the saloon before said day, but not so frequently as he had seen the defendant; and that he had never seen any specific acts of A. about the saloon. The witness was then asked if he had not sworn to a complaint to search, charging A. as the owner of liquors at that place; and he admitted that he had, and identified a certified copy of a complaint shown to him as a true copy of a complaint against A., sworn to by the witness on the day named in the present complaint. The defendant offered said certified copy in evidence to contradict the witness; but the judge excluded it. *Held*, that it should have been admitted. *Commonwealth* v. *Snee*, 351.
6. In an action for breach of a covenant against incumbrances in a deed of land from the defendant to the plaintiff, oral evidence is inadmissible to prove that, at the time the deed was given, and as a part of the consideration, the plaintiff promised to pay an assessment then existing upon the land. *Simanovich* v. *Wood*, 180.
7. In an action, the answer to which is a general denial only, for the obstruction of an ancient watercourse, caused by placing a pipe in the defendant's land while the adjoining land was owned by C., the plaintiff's grantor, evidence that C., after his deed to the plaintiff, told a third person that the pipe was an improvement on the old drain, and that he assented to the putting in of the pipe, is inadmissible, although the plaintiff holds the land in trust, and C. is one of the *cestuis que trust;* and evidence that C., when informed by the defendant that he contemplated putting in the pipe, told him to do so and he would bear part of the expense, and that he subsequently paid a part of such expense, is also inadmissible. *Warren* v. *Carey*, 78.

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8. A book of original entries kept by a man who is unable to write, and in which the only entries are straight marks, is admissible in evidence, when supported by his suppletory oath. *Miller* v. *Shay*, 162.
9. If goods are delivered by a servant, and his entries or marks are transferred to the master's account-book, the servant is a competent and necessary witness to support the charges and to prove the delivery. *Ib.*

See ACTION, 4; ADULTERY; APPEAL, 2; BAWDY-HOUSE; CONTRACT, 1; CORPORATION, 1–3; CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, 3; DIVORCE; ELECTION, 1, 5; EXCEPTIONS, 2–5; FORGERY, 1, 2; FRAUDULENT REPRESENTATION, 1–3; HUSBAND AND WIFE, 1, 2, 4; INFANT, 1; INSOLVENT DEBTOR, 2; INSURANCE, 4; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 16, 18, 22–27, 30; LANDLORD AND TENANT; MASTER AND SERVANT, 1; MORTGAGE, 2; MOTION TO QUASH; PARTNERSHIP; PAUPER, 3, 4; PROMISSORY NOTE, 1, 3; RAILROAD, 11, 12; RECEIPT, 1–3; WAY, 5, 6, 9.

EXCEPTION.

See DEED.

EXCEPTIONS.

1. Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 153, § 8, a ruling of the Superior Court, sustaining a demurrer to a declaration in an action at law, and ordering judgment for the defendant, may be revised by this court on a bill of exceptions. *McCallum* v. *Lambie*, 284.
2. At the trial of an action, if evidence is admitted subject to another witness being called to prove a certain fact, and the case is closed without the witness being called, and the adverse party makes no request to have the evidence stricken out or the jury instructed to disregard it, he has no ground of exception. *Reeve* v. *Dennett*, 23.
3. Exceptions taken at a trial will not be sustained because incompetent evidence has been admitted to prove a fact which the conceded facts necessarily establish, if this court is not satisfied that the excepting party has been prejudiced by the admission of such evidence. *Hinckley* v. *Somerset*, 326.
4. At the trial of an action for fraudulent representations as to the value of shares of stock in a corporation formed to promote the use in dentistry of a compound invented by the defendant, for which letters patent had been obtained, the plaintiff's evidence tended to show that the defendant's invention was merely a mixture of ingredients, all of which had been used long before in dentistry; and that the compound was worthless for the purpose for which it was intended to be used. The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury that there was no evidence of a want of novelty in his invention; but the judge refused so to do. *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception. *Reeve* v. *Dennett*, 23.
5. If, at the trial of a criminal case, certain evidence for the government is admitted without objection, and is competent for some purposes, it is too late for the defendant to request the judge, in the course of the closing argument for the government, to instruct the jury that the evidence is

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incompetent for any purpose, and that the argument in relation to it should be disregarded by them. *Commonwealth* v. *Clark*, 251.

6. At the trial of a complaint for maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors in G., a witness for the government testified that he had been hired by a person to go to G., and there buy intoxicating liquors, and obtain evidence for the purpose of making complaints for violation of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100; that, while in G., he bought intoxicating liquors in the tenement named in the complaint; and that he did this for the purpose of prosecuting the defendant. The defendant asked the judge to rule that "the jury are to look upon the testimony of the witness with the greatest caution and distrust." The judge declined so to rule; and instructed the jury in reference to the witness as follows: "Judge him from his appearance, the plausibility of his story, and his relation to the case. Judge of him as you would any other witness. See if he has any motive to falsify. Look at him in all his relations to the case, and say whether upon the whole you believe his story." *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *Ingersoll*, 231.

7. At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, the complainant testified that he was employed by a Law and Order League to obtain evidence against liquor sellers, and to prosecute such for illegal sales of intoxicating liquors; that the league furnished him with money to pay expenses; that he asked some sailors to visit the tenement in question with him, and ordered liquors for them, which he paid for out of money furnished by the league. *Held*, that the defendant was not entitled to have the jury instructed that the witness was not entitled to be believed, or that the jury should not convict upon such evidence. *Commonwealth* v. *Moore*, 244.

See Action, 4; Adultery; Bawdy-House; Complaint, 5; Evidence, 4; Fraudulent Representation, 1; Husband and Wife, 4; Infant, 2; Insurance, 7; Intoxicating Liquors, 6, 9, 11, 14–16, 18, 19, 27–29; Juror; Lord's Day, 4; Malicious Prosecution; Master and Servant, 1; Motion to Quash; Railroad, 10; Trial.

EXECUTOR AND ADMINISTRATOR.

If a sole devisee of a farm is appointed one of the executors of the will of his devisor, the executors, with the assent of the devisee, may occupy the farm for the benefit of the estate, and, while it is so occupied, the products of the farm cannot be taken on attachment as the property of the devisee. *Brigham* v. *Elwell*, 520.

See Contract, 5; Devise and Legacy, 5; Limitations, Statute of, 1.

FALSE IMPRISONMENT.

A. was arrested wrongfully, without a warrant, on a charge of felony, by two police officers of a city, and taken to the lock-up. Afterwards the city marshal, having reason to believe that A. was innocent, and having

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ade up his mind to release him, sent him, the assistant marshal taking rt in such act, from the lock-up to the railroad station in the custody of officer other than those who arrested him, who released him only when a train, and just before it started. *Held*, that A. could maintain an tion against the five officers jointly for the imprisonment between the ck-up and the train. *Bath* v. *Metcalf*, 274.

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See RAILROAD, 10.

FIRE.

See RAILROAD, 7, 8.

FOREIGN LAW.

he law of the State of New York, as shown by its judicial decisions, an surance company which by a policy agrees that the surplus or profits rived from policies on the tontine savings fund assurance plan that shall ase to be in force before the completion of their tontine dividend periods all be apportioned equitably among such polices as shall complete their ntine dividend periods, does not hold such surplus or profits as a trust. erce v. *Equitable Assurance Society*, 56.

FORGERY.

t the trial of an indictment for forging and uttering certain receipted ls of parcels, the persons whose names appeared on the bills as signers tified that they did not sign them, and that the bills did not represent nuine transactions. The defendant, who appeared on the bills as the rchaser of the goods therein mentioned, used the bills, certified upon them at A. was the owner of the goods, received money for them from A., d gave A. his promissory notes for the amount. *Held*, that the evidence s sufficient to warrant a conviction. *Commonwealth* v. *White*, 392.

t the trial of an indictment for forging and uttering certain receipted ls of parcels, evidence is admissible, on the question of the defendant's owledge that the bills were forged, that he fabricated certain other un- eipted bills of a like character, and uttered them to the same person to om he uttered the receipted bills, by a continuous series of transactions, xending some months later than the latest forgery mentioned in the dictment. *Ib.*

n indictment for forgery described the instrument alleged to be forged an acquittance and discharge for money, and set forth a bill of parcels rporting to be receipted. *Held*, that the instrument was not misde- ibed. *Ib.*

See MOTION TO QUASH.

FRAUD.

See LIMITATIONS, STATUTE OF, 3; RECEIPT, 3, 4.

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FRAUDS, STATUTE OF.

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A. agreed orally to work for B. for two years, receiving as his compensation instruction in B.'s business, and certain tuition at the end of that time by a third person, to be paid for by B. Before the expiration of the two years, A. was unwilling to remain longer under the contract, and asked that a certain sum be paid him by B. for his services thereafter. This was agreed to. *Held*, that the original agreement was within the statute of frauds, Pub. Sts. *c.* 78, § 1, *cl.* 5, and could not be set up in defence to an action brought against B. by A., on a *quantum meruit*, for services rendered under it. *Freeman* v. *Foss*, 361.

See CONTRACT, 2.

FRAUDULENT REPRESENTATION.

1. In an action for fraudulent representations as to the value of shares of stock in a corporation formed to promote the use in dentistry of a compound invented by the defendant, a dentist, the plaintiff's evidence tended to show that the compound was worthless for the purpose of allaying pain, for which it was intended to be used. The defendant was allowed to introduce the evidence of a number of his patients, who testified that the defendant's operations upon their teeth, using his invention, were practically painless, whereas similar operations before had been very painful. *Held*, that the plaintiff had no ground of exception. *Reeve* v. *Dennett*, 23.
2. In an action for fraudulent representations as to the value of shares of stock in a corporation, if there is evidence tending to show that the defendant made such false representations at a certain time for the purpose of inducing the plaintiff to buy some of the stock, it cannot be said, as matter of law, that such representations may not have continued to operate in the plaintiff's mind eleven months afterwards, and may not have induced him to accept more stock, even if he had become a director in the corporation and had acquired independent means of knowledge in the mean time, if in fact he continued to rely upon the defendant's statements in dealing with him. *Ib.*
3. In an action for fraudulent representations, if there is evidence tending to show that the defendant made false representations to the plaintiff as to the defendant's ownership of certain land in order to induce the plaintiff to advance money to the defendant, it cannot be said, as matter of law, that the representations were made good by a purchase of the land by the defendant before the plaintiff had acted upon the representations, if in the purchase the greater part of the price was secured by a mortgage on the land. *Ib.*
4. In an action for fraudulent representations, alleged to have induced the plaintiff to take certain shares of stock and to borrow a sum of money, with a pledge of the stock as collateral security, which he paid to the defendant, the plaintiff's failure to prove that he pledged stock to secure the loan to him is not material, if he proves the defendant's fraud and his own advance of money on the faith of it. *Ib.*

See EXCEPTIONS, 4.

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GAMING.
See HUSBAND AND WIFE, 3, 4.

GOODS SOLD AND DELIVERED.
See EVIDENCE, 9.

GUARANTY.
See PROMISSORY NOTE, 5.

GUARDIAN AND WARD.
See BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION, 2.

HIGHWAY.
See WAY.

HORSE RAILROAD.
See INDICTMENT; RAILROAD, 9.

HOUSE OF ILL-FAME.
BAWDY-HOUSE; COMPLAINT, 6, 7; HUSBAND AND WIFE, 3, 4.

HUSBAND AND WIFE.

dence that a husband had the general management of premises belong-
to his wife, that he employed A. to perform labor upon a house on the
, that the wife knew that A. was working on the house, and that she
him directions as to parts of the work, will justify a finding that the
band, in employing A., acted as the duly authorized agent of the wife.
aton v. *Trimble*, 345.

the trial of a complaint against a married woman for keeping and
ntaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of in-
cating liquors, she cannot, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 169, § 18, *cl.* 1, testify
private conversation with her husband, who managed the tenement as
agent, in relation to instructions which she gave him about the conduct
he business, for the purpose of showing that she acted in good faith in
ng them. *Commonwealth* v. *Hayes*, 289.

husband takes no part in keeping a tenement owned by his wife, and
by her as a house of ill-fame, for illegal gaming, or for the illegal sale
illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, he cannot be convicted of so
ing it, if his wife's acts are done without his consent and against his
; and whether he used all practicable means to prevent her from so
ing the tenement is relevant only on the question of his consent or
t of consent. *Commonwealth* v. *Hill*, 305.

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4. At the trial of an indictment for keeping and maintaining a tenement used as a house of ill-fame, for illegal gaming, and for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, it appeared that the premises in in question were owned and conducted by the defendant's wife; and that he lived there with her, and was present during, and knew of, her illegal acts. The defendant offered evidence to show that, "from time to time during five years prior to the finding of the indictment, he had ordered, directed, persuaded, and used all reasonable and practicable means in his power to prevent his wife from doing any of the acts charged, and that his wife told him the property was hers and she would do as she pleased." The judge excluded any evidence on this point relating to any period prior to the first date named in the indictment. *Held*, that the defendant had good ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *Hill*, 305.

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See BANKRUPT; CONTRACT, 1; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 28, 29; PRINCIPAL AND SURETY; PROMISSORY NOTE, 4; TRUSTEE PROCESS.

ICE.

See LEASE, 3.

INDICTMENT.

An allegation in an indictment that the defendant "wilfully did throw a certain missile, to wit, a stone," at a street-railway car, is not sustained by proof that he threw only a billet of wood. *Commonwealth* v. *McCarthy*, 575.

See ELECTION, 1, 2, 4, 5; EMBEZZLEMENT; FORGERY, 3; VARIANCE.

INFANT.

1. In an action by an infant to recover money paid by him for an article of merchandise, there was evidence that the father of the infant made a demand for the money and caused the action to be brought, and that the infant was present when the demand was made, and returned the article to the defendant. *Held*, that the evidence would warrant a finding that the plaintiff had rescinded the contract. *Held*, *also*, that the fact that the infant testified at the trial that he was willing to stand by the contract, and did not wish the action prosecuted, was immaterial. *Pyne* v. *Wood*, 558.
2. In an action by an infant to recover money paid by him for a bicycle, on the question whether the bicycle was a "necessary," it appeared that the plaintiff, a boy seventeen years of age, lived with his father, and worked in a shoe shop, a mile from his father's house; that he went home for his dinner, and was allowed to be absent an hour. The judge who tried the case without a jury found for the plaintiff. *Held*, that no error of law appeared. *Ib.*

See ACTION, 6; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 2, 31, 32, 34; WAY, 4.

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INNKEEPER.

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uest at an inn, upon retiring for the night, locks the door of his room, omits to fasten it with a bolt, such omission, if the existence of the bolt nknown to him, and his attention is not called to it by the innkeeper, ot such negligence as will preclude him from maintaining an action inst the innkeeper for the value of his property stolen from the room ing the night. *Spring* v. *Hager*, 186.

INSOLVENT DEBTOR.

e Pub. Sts. *c.* 157, § 112, authorize proceedings in insolvency against a tor whose real estate has been attached on mesne process in an action contract for the sum of $100 or upwards, founded on a demand in its ure provable against the estate of an insolvent debtor, if the defendant s not before the return day of the writ dissolve the attachment, ough it appears from the return of the officer that the attachment a general one, if the defendant then had in fact a record title to real te in the county in which the attachment was made. *Taunton Bank* v. *son*, 366.

the maker of a promissory note indorsed by B., assigned all his prop- to trustees for the benefit of his creditors, by an indenture, which also executed by C., the holder of the note, and by other creditors. indenture provided that a holder of any promissory note to which A. a party, and upon which any other person was absolutely or contin- tly liable, did not, by signing the indenture, release or discharge such er person, or in any manner impair his liability thereon; but every such der fully reserved all rights and remedies thereon, and the same might s fully enforced as if the indenture had not been executed. *Held*, on a tion by C. against B., under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 157, § 112, to have B. dged insolvent, and a warrant issue against his estate, that C. was a litor of B., within the statute, and that evidence offered by B., that the perty received by the trustees of A. was more than enough to pay all liabilities, was immaterial. *Ib.*

is not necessary or proper that the judge of insolvency should be le a party to an appeal from his decision dismissing a petition to have erson adjudged insolvent and a warrant issue against his estate. *Ib.*

ter a petition to the Court of Insolvency, to have a person adjudged lvent and a warrant issue against his estate, has been dismissed, it is necessary that the petitioner should apply to that court for a further ring before bringing his petition to this court, under the Pub. Sts. 57, § 15. *Ib.*

a creditor of an involvent estate proves a valid claim against it, the that he subsequently participates with the assignee of the estate in a saction prejudicial to the rights of the creditors affords no ground for nging his claim, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 157, § 35. *Northampton Bank Crafts*, 444.

See CONTRACT, 3; EQUITY, 9.

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INSURANCE.

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I. *Accident.*

1. In an action upon a policy of insurance against bodily injuries "effected through external, violent, and accidental means," and against loss of life resulting from such injuries within ninety days, and containing a condition that immediate written notice shall be given to the company of any accident and injury for which claim is made, and that, unless affirmative proof of death or duration of disability is so furnished within seven months from the time of such accident, all claims based thereon shall be forfeited, the declaration set forth a contract made by the policy; and alleged the death of the assured from bodily injury "effected through external, violent and accidental means," which injury occasioned his death within ninety days thereafter, and that due proof of such death and injuries was given to the company. The answer contained a general denial, and alleged that, if the death of the assured should be proved to have occurred within the term of the policy, "he did not die in consequence of external, violent, and accidental means." *Held*, that the defence that the immediate written notice of the injuries required by the policy had not been given was not open under the answer. *Coburn* v. *Travelers' Ins. Co.* 226.
2. In an action upon a policy of insurance against bodily injuries "effected through external, violent, and accidental means," and against loss of life resulting from such injuries within ninety days, and containing a condition reciting that "this insurance does not cover disappearances," and enumerating a large number of injuries and death from a variety of causes as not covered by it, including "intentional injuries inflicted by the insured or any other person," the declaration set forth a contract made by the policy; and alleged the death of the assured from bodily injury "effected through external, violent, and accidental means," which injury occasioned his death within ninety days thereafter. The answer denied every material allegation of the declaration; and alleged that, if the death of the assured should be proved to have occurred within the term of the policy, "he did not die in consequence of external, violent, and accidental means." *Held*, that the defence that the injuries sustained by the assured were intentional was not open under the answer. *Ib.*

II. *Life.*

See EQUITY, 7; FOREIGN LAW.

III. *Fire.*

3. If, by the terms of a policy of insurance against loss by fire, the policy is to be void on the removal of the property insured without the written assent of the company issuing the policy, an agent of the company has no power by an oral agreement to waive this provision. *Putnam Tool Co.* v. *Fitchburg Ins. Co.* 265.
4. A policy of insurance against loss by fire contained a provision that the policy should be void on the removal of the property insured without the

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written assent of the company issuing the policy. The property insured was removed without such assent, and was afterwards destroyed by fire. After the fire, and when the officers of the company knew of the removal, they met the adjusters of the various companies in which the property was insured. The amount of the loss was discussed at this meeting, and a reduction of the sum covering the loss was agreed to by the insured, on the supposition that the company issuing the policy in question would pay its share of the loss. Subsequently the president of the company said that the loss would have been paid if the amount insured by his company had been no greater than that of other companies. *Held*, in an action on the policy, that the evidence was not sufficient to entitle the plaintiff to go to the jury on the question whether the officers of the company had waived the provision in the policy, or were estopped to claim the benefit of it. *Putnam Tool Co.* v. *Fitchburg Ins. Co.* 265.

5. A policy of insurance, in the form prescribed by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 119, § 139, against loss by fire, upon a house, provided that it should be void if the property should be "sold." During the term of the policy the assured conveyed the property to A. by a deed, absolute in form and duly recorded. On the same day A. executed to the assured a bond to reconvey the property, on the assured indemnifying A. against loss on account of his becoming a surety on a recognizance in a criminal prosecution. This bond was not recorded, and the company issuing the policy had no knowledge of it. Subsequently, A., with the knowledge of the assured, and for his benefit, mortgaged the property insured to C. by an instrument not under seal. After a loss by fire occurred, the mortgage was discharged, and the property was conveyed by A. to the assured, the condition named in the bond having been performed. *Held*, that the property had not been "sold" by the assured, and that he could maintain an action on the policy. *Bryan* v. *Traders' Ins. Co.* 389.

6. A policy of insurance against loss by fire was issued by an insurance company to a corporation, payable to "A., trustee for mortgage bondholders." By the terms of the policy it was to become void, if, without the assent of the insurer, any change should take place in title or possession. On the same day the insurance company reinsured one half of its risk, and received a policy made out on a printed blank form adapted to insurance on property directly. By the printed provisions a sale or transfer of the property insured, or the entry of a decree of foreclosure, without the consent of the insurer, terminated the risk. Attached to the policy was a slip, also in print, as follows: "This policy to be subject to the same risks, conditions, valuations, indorsements, privileges, assignments, and mode of settlement as are or may be assumed or adopted by" the first company, "and the loss, if any, payable *pro rata*, at the same time and in the same manner as by said company." Subsequently, the mortgage was foreclosed, and the property sold. It was bought by a person representing the bondholders, to whom the first policy was assigned, with the assent of the company issuing it; but no notice was given to the company reinsuring the risk. A loss by fire afterwards occurred, and was paid by the first company. *Held*, that it could maintain an action on the policy

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of reinsurance for the amount thereby insured. *Manufacturers' Ins. Co.* v. *Western Assur. Co.* 419.

7. A policy of insurance was issued, in the form prescribed by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 119, § 139, against loss by fire, upon chattels, while contained in a certain house "occupied the year around." A loss occurred in May, and during the previous October, and for a few days before and after, the house was unoccupied. The judge instructed the jury that the plaintiff must satisfy them that the building containing the property answered the description in the policy at the time when the contract was made and at the time of the fire, and the attention of the jury was called to the nature of the occupancy as a circumstance to be considered in determining whether the house could be called a building "occupied all the year around." *Held*, that the instructions were sufficiently favorable to the defendant, and that the action could be maintained. *Ring* v. *Phœnix Assur. Co.* 426.
8. Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 119, §§ 138, 139, 181, a misrepresentation made in obtaining a policy of fire insurance is to be deemed material, if the matter misrepresented increases the risk of loss, although not made with intent to deceive. *Ib.*
9. In an action on a policy of insurance against loss by fire, an overestimate of the value of the property lost in the proof of loss, if not made fraudulently, will not avoid the policy, or render the proof of loss insufficient to satisfy a condition in the policy requiring the insured to render a statement of his loss in writing. *Towne* v. *Springfield Ins. Co.* 582.
10. If a policy of insurance against loss by fire requires that, in case of loss, the insured shall make a statement in writing, "setting forth the value of the property insured," the property insured need not be set forth in detail. *Ib.*
11. A provision in a policy of insurance against loss by fire, that all other insurance on the property insured shall be set forth in detail in the proof of loss, is complied with by inserting in such proof a copy of the description contained in another policy of insurance on the same property. *Ib.*
12. If goods in two buildings are insured, in separate amounts, against loss by fire, by a policy providing that the insured, in case of loss, shall make a statement in writing, setting forth the value of the property insured, and the purposes for which and the persons by whom the building containing the property insured was used, a statement in which the insured claims payment for all the property insured, but in which he refers to one of the buildings only, is insufficient. *Ib.*

INTEREST.

See DEVISE AND LEGACY, 5.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

1. At the trial of a complaint against A. for the sale of intoxicating liquor to B. at W., there was evidence that B. asked C. to get him some liquor

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when he went to M.; that the quantity ordered was delivered to B. at W.; and that he then paid for it and took a receipt for the money, which receipt purported to be a bill from A., signed in his name by D. There was also evidence that, at the trial in the district court, when A. was present, his counsel took possession of the receipt, and claimed the right to retain it, and refused to produce it, on notice, at the trial in the Superior Court. *Held*, that there was sufficient evidence to sustain the complaint. *Commonwealth* v. *Shurn*, 150.

2. A complaint cannot be maintained for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquor to a minor, unless the fact of such minority is averred. *Commonwealth* v. *Fowler*, 398.

3. A complaint for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquor to A. is maintained by proof that A. was acting as the agent of an undisclosed principal. *Ib.*

4. At the trial of a complaint for selling intoxicating liquor to A., there was evidence that A. was a boy eleven years of age; that, at the time alleged, acting as the agent of his father, he ordered the liquor in question and paid for it, and the defendant delivered it at the house where the boy and his father lived; and that he did not disclose his agency to the defendant on this occasion, or on similar previous occasions. The defendant asked the judge to rule that there was no sufficient evidence of a sale and delivery to A. The judge refused so to rule, and instructed the jury that if the boy did not disclose, in any manner, to the defendant, at the time of the alleged sale, that he wanted the liquor for his father, the sale would be to the boy. *Held*, that the instruction might be construed to mean that, if the father was not in any manner disclosed or known at the time as the principal, the charge of a sale to the son was supported by the evidence; and that the defendant had no ground of exception. *Ib.*

5. At the trial of a complaint for selling intoxicating liquor to A., there was evidence that A., who was a boy eleven years old, had given to him by his father a sum of money to buy liquor for the father; that the boy met the defendant on the street, and ordered and paid for the liquor, which the defendant subsequently delivered at the house where the boy and his father lived; and that the boy did not on this occasion, or on similar occasions, inform the defendant that he was acting as his father's agent. *Held*, that the evidence would warrant the jury in finding that there had been a sale and delivery to A. *Ib.*

6. On a complaint for selling intoxicating liquors, there was evidence that there was a delivery of liquor by the steward of a club to one of the members of the club, who paid for it, in a city which had voted to grant licenses to sell intoxicating liquors; and books purporting to be the records of the club were put in evidence. The government contended that the club was organized to defraud the city of a license fee; and that the books and records were not genuine, were founded in fraud, and were gotten up to cover the illegal acts of the defendant. The judge instructed the jury, as requested by the defendant, that if the club was a *bona fide* club and the liquors owned in common by the members, and the members on receiving liquors gave money in return, it would not be a sale within the meaning

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of the statute; and that, "if two or more persons unite in buying intoxicating liquor, and then distribute it among themselves, they do not violate the statute, and the intent with which they do this is immaterial. If they intend in this manner to obtain intoxicating liquor to drink without thereby subjecting any person to the penalties of the statute, they still act with impunity." The judge further instructed the jury, against the objection of the defendant, as follows: "It is not a violation of law if they unite in good faith in dividing it. If two persons buy a gallon of liquor, and divide it among themselves, they act with impunity; but if this is a mere device to cheat the government out of its license fee, and prevent the due execution of law, it is not a protection, and the defendant does not act with impunity." *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *Ewig*, 119.

7. If a dealer in intoxicating liquors, having a license authorizing him to sell such liquors only at his shop, sends a wagon containing liquors to his regular customers, and authorizes the driver to let such customers have what they want from time to time, a delivery of liquor at the shop of a customer by the driver, in pursuance of an order then and there given, is an illegal sale; and the dealer cannot maintain an action to recover the price of the liquors delivered, although he had previously, at his own shop, made an agreement with the customer to supply him in this manner with such liquors as he should from time to time require. *Murphy* v. *McNulty*, 464.

8. At the trial of a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors at S., with intent unlawfully to sell the same, if it appears that the defendant's premises are situated partly in S. and partly in C., an adjoining city, evidence that intoxicating liquors were found by an officer, who searched the premises, in that part situated in C., is admissible upon the question of the intent with which the defendant kept liquors in that part of the premises situated in S. *Commonwealth* v. *Downey*, 377.

9. At the trial of a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors with intent unlawfully to sell the same, the defendant admitted that a license issued to him to sell such liquors had been revoked by the board of aldermen granting it, upon proof satisfactory to the board that he had violated the conditions thereof. The defendant, for the purpose of showing that said revocation was invalid, on the ground that he was afforded no reasonable opportunity to be heard, offered to show that he was cited to appear before the board on a certain evening, to attend a hearing upon the revocation of his license; that on that evening he was confined to his bed by reason of illness, and was unable to attend the hearing; that he was represented by counsel, who presented to the board the certificate of his physician of his physical inability to be present, and requested a continuance of the hearing; that thereupon the city marshal stated to the board, but not under oath, that the defendant was in his saloon attending to business that afternoon, which statement the defendant offered at the trial to prove was incorrect; that it was then voted to proceed with the hearing; that the board refused his request for a continuance, upon which his counsel left; and that, after a hearing, the board revoked the license. The judge

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ruled that, upon these facts, if proved, the revocation was valid. *Held*, that the ruling was right. *Commonwealth* v. *Wall*, 216.

10. It is no defence to a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors with intent unlawfully to sell the same, that the liquors were upon the defendant's premises by mistake, and he did not know that they were intoxicating, if he intended to sell them, and they were in fact intoxicating. *Commonwealth* v. *Savery*, 212.

11. On a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors with intent unlawfully to sell the same, there was evidence for the government that the defendant had in his possession lager beer containing more than three per cent of alcohol, by volume, at sixty degrees Fahrenheit. The defendant testified that he ordered three per cent beer; that the lager beer was left by mistake; that he did not know that he had any lager beer; and that, if he had found, when he opened the beer, that it was lager beer, he should not have sold it. He asked the judge to instruct the jury, that, if they found that the lager beer was there by mistake, that he did not know it was lager beer, and that he did not intend to sell the same when the opportunity presented itself to him to know its true character and when he did know the true nature of it, and that he would have found out its true nature when he attempted to sell it, he could not be convicted. *Held*, in the absence of evidence that lager beer could be distinguished from three per cent beer in any manner except by analysis, and in the absence of evidence that the defendant intended to make an analysis, the request for instruction was rightly refused. *Ib.*

12. A complaint on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 101, § 6, alleging the keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, need contain no other allegation negativing an authority to keep or sell intoxicating liquors. *Commonwealth* v. *Brusie*, 117.

13. A complaint on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 101, §§ 6, 7, alleging that the defendant, at a place and on a day named, and on divers other days and times between that day and the day of making the complaint, "is guilty of keeping and maintaining a certain tenement, then and there used for the illegal keeping and illegal sale of intoxicating liquors," is sufficient. *Commonwealth* v. *Gallagher*, 104.

14. At the trial of a complaint for keeping intoxicating liquors, with intent to sell the same unlawfully, the only issue in dispute was whether the defendant was the proprietor of a certain saloon. A police officer testified to an admission of the fact by the defendant at a certain interview when no one else was present. The defendant and two other witnesses testified to a conversation between the defendant and the police officer differing essentially from the version given by the latter. The defendant contended in his argument to the jury that the officer was mistaken. The district attorney contended that, if the jury acquitted the defendant, they would brand the officer as a perjurer. The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury that it was not necessary for the jury to disbelieve the officer in order to acquit; that, if all the evidence left their minds in doubt as to what was said, the defendant was entitled to the benefit of it. The judge did not instruct the jury as requested, but instructed them that the

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material allegations of the complaint were to be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, and that they were to consider the intelligence of the officer, and whether he understood and interpreted the conversation correctly; and that they were not responsible for the effect, if any, of their verdict upon witnesses. *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *Christie*, 232.

15. At the trial of a complaint against A. and B. for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, evidence was introduced showing that both defendants had been seen in and about the premises in question. The defendants contended that one defendant was in the employ of the other; and asked the judge to rule that, "if B. was employed by A. as an assistant, on wages, and did not act in the absence of A., nor at any time have sole charge of the premises, he cannot be convicted." The judge declined so to rule; but instructed the jury that, if B. assisted A. in keeping and maintaining the premises as a nuisance, he would be liable to conviction upon the complaint. *Held*, that B. had good ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *Murphy*, 250.

16. At the trial of a complaint against A. for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, A. testified that he had nothing to do with the management or control of the premises, but that they were let to B., who alone conducted them during the period named in the complaint; that he, A., had never had any interest in any sale of liquor, or at any time, on these premises. On cross-examination, the district attorney asked A. if he had had anything to do with keeping it before the first day named in the complaint; and A. answered that he had not. The district attorney was then allowed to put in evidence tending to contradict A. on this point, and to show expenditures for purchases for the premises for the four months preceding the first day named in the complaint, and was allowed to comment on this evidence in his argument to the jury. *Held*, that A. had no ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *Clark*, 251.

17. On a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal keeping and sale of intoxicating liquors, if illegal sales on two different days are proved, the element of the continuing use of the tenement for that purpose, which would not necessarily follow from one sale, may be inferred by the jury. *Commonwealth* v. *McNeff*, 406.

18. At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal keeping and illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, it appeared that the defendant had a license of the first class to sell intoxicating liquors. There was evidence of sales made by the defendant to a person known by him to be a drunkard, and that at the trial of another case the defendant testified that he knew that this person had frequently been intoxicated, but had never sold to him when intoxicated, but only when he was not intoxicated. The judge instructed the jury that they must be satisfied that the defendant knew that this person was a drunkard, or that he had been intoxicated within six months. The judge further instructed the jury that evidence of sales to a person who was a drunkard or a person

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intoxicated, and known to the defendant to be intoxicated, would be evidence on which the jury might convict, but omitted to state the requirement of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 9, *cl.* 4, that the person must be "known to be a drunkard." The judge's attention was not called to this omission. *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception to the rulings given. *Commonwealth* v. *McNeff*, 406.

19. At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, evidence of illegal sales of such liquors was admitted, and the defendant's bill of exceptions did not show whether they were made during the time included in the complaint. *Held*, that the defendant showed no ground of exception. *Ib.*

20. At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, if the defendant has an innholder's license and also a license of the first class for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the evidence for the government tends to show that the defendant sold intoxicating liquors on the Lord's day to several persons who went into his premises for the purpose of procuring and drinking such liquors, such persons are not "guests," within the meaning of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 9, *cl.* 2; and the defendant is not entitled to have the jury instructed as to the rights of an innholder to sell to his guests. *Commonwealth* v. *Moore*, 244.

21. If a person licensed to sell intoxicating liquors places or maintains curtains in the windows upon the licensed premises, in such a way as to interfere with a view of the business conducted thereon, or of the interior thereof, it is a violation of his license; and it is immaterial for what purpose he maintains the curtains. *Ib.*

22. At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, there was evidence tending to show that the tenement in question was visited within the time alleged, and the defendant was found behind a bar, where cigars and hop beer containing less than three per cent of alcohol were kept; that samples of dirty water were taken from a tank under the bar near where the defendant stood, and from the bottom of an ice-chest, which samples, on analysis, were found to contain more than three per cent of alcohol; that on each visit the defendant was seen to go to the tank and go through the motion of rinsing a two-quart can, which was kept under the bar; that an empty can was found in the ice-chest which smelt of whiskey; and that the sample of the water taken from the bottom of the ice-chest also smelt of whiskey. *Held*, that the evidence was competent; and that it was sufficient to warrant a verdict of guilty. *Commonwealth* v. *Boyle*, 373.

23. On a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal keeping and sale of intoxicating liquors, it is competent to prove the discovery of liquor in the defendant's bar-room, and also the circumstances of the discovery. *Commonwealth* v. *Locke*, 401.

24. On a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal keeping and sale of intoxicating liquors, evidence that the defendant's bar-keeper endeavored to conceal intoxicating liquor, while a search

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was being made under a search-warrant, is admissible, although the defendant was absent at the time, and there was evidence that he had no knowledge that intoxicating liquor was sold there. *Commonwealth* v. *Locke*, 401.

25. On a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal keeping and sale of intoxicating liquors, the jury may infer that intoxicating liquor is being kept for the purposes of unlawful sale from the fact of its presence in the tenement, and an attempt by the defendant's servant to conceal it. *Ib.*

26. At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, evidence of a conversation between a witness for the government, who has testified that he was active in the prosecution, and the complainant, who is not a witness, in relation to the matter, is properly excluded. *Commonwealth* v. *Brownell*, 319.

27. At the trial of a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, it appeared that the tenement was a hotel, with a bar-room in the basement; that the bar-room could be entered by passing through the office of the hotel and going down stairs, and also by entering a door in the basement. Two officers, who testified that they made a seizure of liquors in the bar-room, stated that, when they passed through the office, they saw the defendant there. The sheriff of the county testified that he had seen the defendant about the office, looking at the books, writing, and giving directions. Another witness testified that he had seen the defendant about the office, giving directions, and had seen him direct a servant to take a card to a guest's room. The defendant did not testify as a witness. The judge, after instructing the jury as to the defendant's right not to testify, instructed them as follows: "If you find, upon the question of the proprietorship of that hotel, he had it in his power to produce witnesses here not known to the government, who could give you further light upon that question, and he does not choose to do it, you may take that fact into consideration when you come to consider whether there is any reasonable theory consistent with his non-proprietorship of that hotel and with the evidence. I do not mean to say that his failure to produce the witnesses here will fill up any gap, if you find any, in the evidence of the Commonwealth, but only that when you are to consider the reasonableness of any explanation of his acts here, if any have been proved, with regard to that hotel, consistent with his not being the proprietor of it, you may take into consideration the fact whether or not there is other evidence in his power upon that question which he could place before you." *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception. *Ib.*

28. At the trial of a complaint against a married woman for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, the evidence tended to show that the defendant's husband conducted the tenement, which was a hotel, as her agent; that she did not live on the premises; and that he, acting according to her wishes, instructed the bar-keeper not to sell liquors in violation of her

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license. The judge instructed the jury as follows: "In considering whether the defendant acted in good faith in giving instructions as to the conducting of her business in the hotel, and intending that her instructions should be obeyed, the jury may consider the defendant's relations to and practical connection with the business of her hotel, her means and opportunities of knowing how her business was conducted there in the matter of selling intoxicating liquors, and what information her interest and duty in that matter would reasonably induce her to seek and obtain. An instruction would not be given in good faith, which the person giving it, from the nature of the matter to which that instruction applied, and the character of the persons to whom it was given, could not reasonably expect to be obeyed, and which he did not follow by any supervision or care, for the purpose of ascertaining if that instruction was obeyed." *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *Hayes*, 289.

29. At the trial of a complaint against a married woman for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, the evidence tended to show that the defendant's husband conducted the tenement, which was a hotel, as her agent; that she did not live on the premises; and that he, acting according to her wishes, instructed the bar-keeper not to sell liquors in violation of her license. The judge instructed the jury as follows: "Nothing to the contrary appearing, the natural and just inference from a sale, by a servant employed in his master's shop, of his master's goods, there kept for sale, would be that such a sale was authorized by the master. If a sale of intoxicating liquor was made in the hotel, during the time alleged in the complaint, by any person employed by the defendant to conduct her business at that hotel, without the defendant's knowledge, and really in opposition to her will, and the defendant in no way participated in, approved, or countenanced such sale, and this is clearly shown by the defendant, the defendant would not be responsible for such sale." *Held*, that the defendant had good ground of exception. *Ib.*

30. At the trial of a complaint, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 17, alleging that the defendant brought into a certain city spirituous and intoxicating liquors, he having reasonable cause to believe that such liquors were intended to be sold in violation of law, the evidence showed that the defendant brought into the city from a certain town various packages of liquors, some of which were consigned to one D. *Held*, that evidence of a police officer of the city, as to his search of D.'s place three days before the date of the defendant's alleged offence, as to what he found there, and as to D.'s acts and conduct, was competent. *Held*, *also*, that it was competent for the government to show, on the issue whether the defendant had reasonable cause to believe that D. intended to sell such liquors in violation of law, that, on the day of the alleged offence, D. was generally known and reputed to be a dealer in intoxicating liquors at his place. *Commonwealth* v. *Harper*, 100.

31. An action on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 24, for sales of intoxicating liquor to the plaintiff's minor children, is an action for a penalty or forfeiture,

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within *c.* 197, § 4, and, if brought more than one year after such sales, is barred by the latter statute. *O'Connell* v. *O'Leary*, 311.

32. The delivery of intoxicating liquor to a minor, in pursuance of a sale to his mother, and for her use, is not a sale to the minor, within the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 24. *Ib.*

33. A notice in writing, signed by I. T., Jr., the son of a person having the habit of drinking intoxicating liquors to excess, to a seller of such liquors, as follows: "I forbid you selling or delivering liquor to I. T.," is a sufficient compliance with the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 25. *Taylor* v. *Carroll*, 95.

34. An adult son, although not dependent for support on his father, is a "child," within the meaning of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 25, and may maintain an action against a person selling the father spirituous or intoxicating liquors, after a notice in writing by the son, under the statute, forbidding him so to sell. *Ib.*

See APPEAL, 3; COMPLAINT, 5–7; EVIDENCE, 5; EXCEPTIONS, 6, 7; HUSBAND AND WIFE, 2–4; JUROR; SEARCH-WARRANT; TRIAL JUSTICE.

JUDGMENT.

1. *It seems*, that the Pub. Sts. *c.* 171, § 1, providing that "the court may enter up judgment upon default at any time after four days from the day of default," do not apply to proceedings upon a complaint under the bastardy act, Pub. Sts. *c.* 85; and that a judgment in such proceedings is not irregular because entered on the day of a default. *Keith* v. *McCaffrey*, 18.

2. If the respondent in a bastardy complaint appears and answers, and is defaulted because not present when the case is called for trial, and judgment is entered on the default, and he did not intend to make default, and his absence is reasonably explained, and if, at a hearing upon his motion that the judgment be vacated, made at the same term of the court at which the judgment was entered, he shows circumstances from which the judge finds that the judgment ought to be vacated and a trial allowed, it is within the authority of the judge to find that the judgment was rendered by mistake, and to bring forward the case and vacate the judgment. *Ib.*

See TRIAL JUSTICE.

JURISDICTION.

See APPEAL, 2; COMPLAINT, 2; EQUITY, 7; RECORD, 2; TRIAL JUSTICE.

JUROR.

At the trial of a complaint for a violation of the law relating to intoxicating liquors, no exception lies to the refusal of the judge, after having put to the jurors the questions provided for by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 170, § 35, to ask them whether they are members of, or contributors to, any society or association having for its object the enforcement of the laws relating to intoxicating liquors. *Commonwealth* v. *Burroughs*, 242.

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LACHES.

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See EQUITY, 6.

LANDLORD AND TENANT.

In an action for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by falling into a cesspool upon premises owned by the defendant, and occupied by the plaintiff as a tenant at will, there was evidence that the plaintiff did not know of the existence or location of the cesspool; that it was in the yard she had hired and was entitled to use; that it was covered with boards, over which were from four to six inches of earth on which grass and weeds were growing; that it presented the same appearance as the rest of the yard; that it had never been pointed out to her; that it was where she passed over it in her use of the yard; that the boards which covered it were rotten and decayed; that, in stepping upon this covering of the cesspool, she sank into it and was injured; that this cover had been repaired with old boards some time before by the defendant's direction; and that the defendant was present when this was done. *Held*, that this evidence should have been submitted to the jury. *Cowen* v. *Sunderland*, 363.

See ACTION, 1, 2.

LAW AND FACT.

See ACTION, 6; FRAUDULENT REPRESENTATION, 2, 3; INNKEEPER; LORD'S DAY, 3; MALICIOUS PROSECUTION; POOR DEBTOR, 5; RAILROAD, 11, 12; WAY, 3, 4.

LEASE.

1. A lease of "the first floor" in a building includes the outside of the front wall of that part of the building, if there is nothing in the lease to control such construction. *Lowell* v. *Strahan*, 1.
2. An agreement by the lessee of a building to allow a third person, in consideration of an annual payment by him, to place a sign upon the outside wall of the building, for a stated time, is not a breach of a covenant in the lease not to underlet any part of the premises. *Ib.*
3. The owner of a mill-pond executed an instrument under seal, whereby he leased, demised, and let "the sole and exclusive right to cut and carry away" from said pond "all such ice as can be so cut in form and shape to use either for private use or as merchandise," the lessor reserving to himself the right to cut all ice needed for his own use. *Held*, that the interest of the lessee was not a mere revocable license, and that he could maintain an action against one who, without right, entered upon the pond, and cut ice therefrom. *Richards* v. *Gauffret*, 486.

See ACTION, 1; EQUITY, 1; RAILROAD, 9.

LEGACY.

See DEVISE AND LEGACY.

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LIBEL.

The declaration in an action for libel alleged, in the first count, that the defendant falsely and maliciously accused the plaintiff of conspiring with P. to defraud the neighbors and friends of the plaintiff and P.; and that the defendant caused said false and malicious libel to be published in a certain newspaper, as follows: "As to the E. Company, I doubt not all are willing it should pay a fair dividend, six per cent, even ten per cent, on the actual value of the plant. Here comes the rub, when the N. Company was capitalized for $40,000 its actual value was not $15,000. It was a plan for the T. Company to make a good sale, as no profit could be made with the sharp, bitter competition of the S. Company in the field, and it was a scheme by which certain parties (meaning the plaintiff and said P.) attempted to make $20,000 or more by buying a property worth in the neighborhood of $15,000 and capitalizing it for $40,000, and by selling stock to their neighbors and friends (meaning the neighbors and friends of the plaintiff and said P.) which was more than half water (meaning that more than half of the par value of said stock represented no assets and was of no real value). In fact, the T. plant at the time it was sold and capitalized for $40,000 was not worth near $15,000, as a large sacrifice had to be made, and was made by the projectors (meaning the plaintiff and said P.), who dare not force the loss of removing the S. competition on the stockholders after making 100 per cent and more on the stock sold." The second count alleged that the plaintiff was engaged in business in the city in which the newspaper was published; and that the defendant caused to be published in said newspaper "a false and malicious libel concerning the plaintiff, whereby the plaintiff was greatly injured in his trade, business, and employment;" and set out the publication annexed to the first count. *Held*, on demurrer, that the declaration was insufficient, in failing to apply the alleged libellous words to the plaintiff, or to show in what sense they were used. *McCallum* v. *Lambie*, 234.

LICENSE.

See CONVERSION; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 7, 9, 18, 20, 21; LEASE, 3.

LIEN.

If the keeper of a livery stable, who, upon learning that a horse in his stable belongs to another person, notifies the owner that the horse is there, and states the amount due for its board, refuses, upon the demand of the owner a few weeks later, to deliver the horse to him unless the whole bill for its board is paid, he waives whatever lien he may have for the board of the horse after the notice to the owner. *Hamilton* v. *McLaughlin*, 20.

See MECHANIC'S LIEN.

LIMITATIONS, STATUTE OF.

1. A. made a promissory note, dated May 25, 1878, and payable to B. one year from date. A. died on March 31, 1884, and an administrator was

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appointed and gave bond on April 7, 1884. Said administrator resigned, and an administrator *de bonis non* was appointed on April 6, 1885. *Held*, in an action on the note against the administrator *de bonis non*, brought on April 5, 1887, that the action was brought within the time allowed by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 136, § 17, and was not barred by the statute of limitations. *Eddy* v. *Adams*, 489.

2. The operation of the statute of limitations upon a promissory note is not, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 197, § 11, suspended by the temporary absence of the maker from the State, but only by absence of such a character as works a change of his domicil. *Slocum* v. *Riley*, 370.
3. If the holder of a valid promissory note, signed in behalf of the town by its treasurer, surrenders it to the treasurer and takes from him a new note in renewal, on his assurance that he has authority to bind the town by the renewal, when, in fact, he has not such authority, the treasurer's conduct is not a fraudulent concealment by the town of the cause of action, within the Pub. Sts. *c.* 197, § 14, and an action cannot be maintained on the old note, which is not brought within six years after the cause of action upon it accrued. *Abbott* v. *North Andover*, 484.

See COLLATERAL SECURITY, 1; EQUITY, 6; ESCAPE, 2; PLEADING, III.

LORD'S DAY.

1. A complaint on the Pub. Sts. *c.* 98, § 2, for unlawfully keeping open a shop on the Lord's day, need not negative the exceptions contained in the St. of 1887, *c.* 391, § 2. *Commonwealth* v. *Shannihan*, 99.
2. A person who keeps open a shop on the Lord's day for the purpose of selling therein bread and pastry, not made by him, but bought for the purpose of resale, is not a "baker," within the meaning of that word in the St. of 1886, *c.* 82, although he has a small stove in his shop in which his wife sometimes bakes a few cookies or ginger-snaps, which he sells; and he may be convicted, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 98, § 2, of keeping open his shop for the purpose of doing business therein. *Commonwealth* v. *Crowley*, 430.
3. It cannot be ruled, as matter of law, that the work of shaving an aged and infirm person in his own house on the Lord's day is not a work of necessity. *Stone* v. *Graves*, 353.

MALICIOUS PROSECUTION.

In an action for malicious prosecution it appeared that the plaintiff had been arrested, on a complaint made by the defendant, for fraudulently concealing mortgaged property. At the trial, material facts were in dispute, and it did not appear that a full and correct statement of the facts as known to the defendant was made to his counsel. There was also evidence that the defendant believed, before making the complaint, that the property had been wrongfully removed by a third person. *Held*, that the defendant had no ground of exception to a refusal of the judge who presided at the

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trial to rule that whether or not there was probable cause was a question of law for the court, nor to his refusal to rule that there was no evidence of want of probable cause. *Donnelly* v. *Daggett*, 314.

MARRIED WOMAN.

See HUSBAND AND WIFE.

MASTER AND SERVANT.

1. In an action for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff's intestate by the breaking of a machine upon which he was employed by the defendant, the evidence showed that the intestate was found, about ten minutes after the accident, with his body crushed and his bowels disrupted, and that, although breathing, he was unconscious, and died almost immediately in that state. The judge ruled that there was evidence to warrant the jury in finding that a cause of action accrued to the intestate in his lifetime, and survived to his personal representative; that there was no evidence to warrant the jury in finding that the deceased endured any conscious pain or suffering, and that the plaintiff was only entitled to recover nominal damages. *Held*, that the rulings were not inconsistent, and were correct. *Mulchahey* v. *Washburn Car Wheel Co.* 281.

2. Machinery upon which a servant was employed became defective and dangerous. The master promised the servant that the defect should be remedied. The servant continued to attend to the machinery, knowing that the defect had not been remedied, and sustained an injury by reason of the defect. *Held*, in an action by him against the master for the injury, that the plaintiff was not entitled to a ruling that, on these facts, the defendant was liable. *Counsell* v. *Hall*, 468.

See EVIDENCE, 9; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 15, 16, 29.

MECHANIC'S LIEN.

Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 191, § 6, providing that a mechanic's lien shall be dissolved unless the person desiring to avail himself thereof files in the registry of deeds a statement including the name of the owner of the property, if known, the fact that, when ignorant of the owner's name, he sets forth in his statement that he believes A. to be the owner, does not prevent his maintaining a petition against B., who is in fact the owner. *McPhee* v. *Litchfield*, 565.

See HUSBAND AND WIFE, 1.

MEMORANDA.

Resignation of Mr. Justice Gardner, 55.
Appointment of Mr. Justice Knowlton, 78.
Death of Mr. Justice Soule, 593.

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MISTAKE.

See EQUITY, 2; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 10, 11; JUDGMENT, 2.

MORTGAGE.

I. *Real Estate.*

See ACTION, 2; NOTARY PUBLIC; TRUST AND TRUSTEE, 1.

II. *Personal Property.*

1. On October 12, A. made to B. a mortgage of "all the personal property described in a mortgage given by me to C.," reciting that "said mortgage has never been discharged, and said C. still holds the same," and covenanting that said property was free from all incumbrances, "except so far as the aforesaid mortgage may be an incumbrance thereon." On October 13, A. made to B. another mortgage of "the same property described in a mortgage from grantor to grantee," dated October 12, "and said property is subject to the incumbrances mentioned in said prior mortgage to grantee." On October 17, A. made to B. a third mortgage of "all the personal property previously mortgaged to grantee by mortgage dated October 13, to which reference is had for a description," and covenanting that the property was free from all incumbrances, "except a mortgage to C. upon which there is nothing owing or due, and two prior mortgages to grantee." *Held*, that the mortgage of October 17 only conveyed to B. the mortgagor's right of redemption from the mortgage to C., and was subject to the mortgage to C., although the latter mortgage had not been recorded. *Eaton* v. *Tuson*, 218.
2. In an action of tort by a mortgagee of personal property, against an officer who had attached the goods as the property of the mortgagor, it appeared that the mortgage was conditioned to pay the sum of $1000 in one year, "as stated in my notes dated" a certain day; and that the demand, made in pursuance of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 161, § 75, on the defendant, was to pay the sum of $1000, "being the amount of two notes of $500 each, indorsed by me for the accommodation of" the mortgagor. *Held*, that oral evidence was admissible to show that the mortgage was intended to indemnify the plaintiff against liability as indorser of two notes of $500 each, signed by the mortgagor; and that the action could be maintained although the notes originally given had been renewed by other notes, also signed by the mortgagor and indorsed by the plaintiff, on delivery of which to the bank discounting the original notes the latter had been delivered to the mortgagor. *Bigelow* v. *Capen*, 270.
3. A demand in writing, made, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 161, § 75, by a mortgagee of personal property upon an attaching officer, is not invalidated by including in the sum demanded the amount paid by the mortgagee for costs of protest of the promissory note secured by the mortgage, if the property attached is insufficient to pay more than the note alone. *Ib.*
4. In an action by an assignee of a mortgage for the conversion of two horses, against an officer, who attached one of the horses as the property of the mortgagor on a writ in favor of one creditor, and the other horse on

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another writ in favor of another creditor, the demand made by the plaintiff, under the Pub. Sts. c. 161, § 75, stated that he held a mortgage for $492, then due, upon the two horses, and referred to the records of a town for further particulars, without stating when the mortgage was given, or by whom, or to whom. The mortgage purported to secure payment of a note for $650, and interest, but did not show when the note would become due, or the rate of interest. The note was payable six months after date, with interest at the rate of three per cent a month. The mortgage and note were made to a third person, and were assigned to the plaintiff a short time before the attachment. By an arrangement between the plaintiff and the mortgagor, a part of the mortgaged property was sold, and the proceeds applied to the payment of $25 to the plaintiff as a commission, the interest for six months in advance, and $158 upon the principal. *Held*, that the demand was insufficient. *Wilson* v. *Crooker*, 571.

See CORPORATION, 1; EQUITY, 2; ESTOPPEL.

MOTION TO QUASH.

At the trial of an indictment in several counts for forging and uttering twelve bills of parcels, the defendant filed a motion to quash the indictment, but, instead of arguing the motion at the outset, consented that the court should reserve all his rights under it, with the understanding that it would be disposed of at a later stage of the case. After the case for the government was closed, the motion to quash was argued, and the presiding judge quashed several of the counts of the indictment; but refused to strike out the evidence introduced under these counts. *Held*, that, if the evidence was admissible under the remaining counts, the defendant had no ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *White*, 392.

See COMPLAINT, 4.

NAME.

See COMPLAINT, 5; ELECTION, 2; VARIANCE.

NATIONAL BANK.

See EQUITY, 5, 6.

NEGLIGENCE.

See ACTION, 3, 6; INNKEEPER; MASTER AND SERVANT, 2; RAILROAD, 11, 12; SCHOOL; WAY, 3, 4, 7.

NEW TRIAL.

If the declaration in an action contains counts in contract and counts in tort, and the plaintiff, by order of the judge, elects to proceed to trial on the counts in tort, the refusal of the judge to order the counts in contract stricken from the record is no ground for a new trial. *Reeve* v. *Dennett*, 23.

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NOLLE PROSEQUI.

See AUTREFOIS ACQUIT OR CONVICT.

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NOLO CONTENDERE.

See RECORD, 4.

NOTARY PUBLIC.

Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 18, § 1, and *c.* 181, § 2, the certificate of an entry made for the breach of a condition of a mortgage may be sworn to before a notary public. *Murphy* v. *Murphy*, 224.

NOTICE.

See INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 33; LIEN; PARTNERSHIP; PAUPER, 1; POOR DEBTOR, 1, 2, 5, 6; WAY, 5, 8–11.

NUISANCE.

See EQUITY, 4.

OFFICER.

See ESCAPE; MORTGAGE, 2–4; PLEADING, III.

PARENT AND CHILD.

See INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 31, 32, 34; WAY, 4.

PARTNERSHIP.

A. and B. were in partnership under the name of B. and Company. B. withdrew from the firm, and A. carried on the business under the same firm name. Subsequently, A. sent to C., with whom the former partnership had had dealings, a letter with the printed heading, "A., under firm name of B. and Company." This letter was received by C. *Held*, that this heading was admissible in evidence on the issue whether C. had notice of the withdrawal of B. from the firm. *Swift* v. *Carr*, 552.

PAUPER.

1. An action against a town for relief furnished a pauper cannot be maintained under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 84, § 27, except upon evidence of an express and formal notice to the overseers of the poor of the town, and a distinct request to them that the pauper be provided for. *O'Keefe* v. *Northampton*, 115.
2. An action founded upon an implied contract will not lie against a town for relief furnished a pauper. *Ib.*
3. In an action against a town for relief furnished a pauper, there was evidence that one of the overseers of the poor, in the absence of his associates,

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agreed to pay the plaintiff (a married woman then living with her husband, and with whom the husband's father, a pauper, was then living) to take care of the father as long as he lived; that the father lived there until his death; and that the town paid the husband by the month for his support. *Held*, that the evidence was not sufficient to maintain the action. *O'Keefe* v. *Northampton*, 115.

4. In an action by one town against another town for relief furnished a pauper, evidence is inadmissible, on the issue whether the pauper had his domicil in the defendant town, that, at a previous time, the overseers of the poor of the defendant town, on being notified by a third town that the pauper was in need of relief, took the pauper to their town and furnished such relief. And the fact that the records of the defendant town have been destroyed by fire does not make the evidence admissible. *South Scituate* v. *Stoughton*, 535.

PAYMENT.

See COLLATERAL SECURITY, 2; ESTOPPEL; MORTGAGE, 2; PROMISSORY NOTE, 5, 6.

PLEADING.

I. *Parties to Action.*

See ARBITRAMENT AND AWARD.

II. *Declaration.*

See LIBEL; NEW TRIAL.

III. *Answer.*

In an action against an officer for negligently suffering the escape of a person whom he had arrested upon a writ sued out by the plaintiff, if the defendant relies, in mitigation of damages, upon the fact that the plaintiff's debt against the escaped person is barred by the statute of limitations, he is not required to set up such defence in his answer. *Slocum* v. *Riley*, 370.

See INSURANCE, 1, 2.

PLEDGE.

See COLLATERAL SECURITY, 2, 3; EQUITY, 5, 6; FRAUDULENT REPRESENTATION, 4.

POLICE COURT.

See RECORD, 4.

POOR DEBTOR.

1. Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 162, § 18, requiring that the notice issued to a debtor, to appear and submit himself to examination touching his estate,

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be served by delivering a copy to him or leaving it at his last and usual place of abode, "allowing not less than three days before the time fixed for the examination, and at the rate of one day additional for every twenty-four miles' travel," if the debtor lives fifteen miles distant from the place fixed for the examination, the service of the notice upon him there must be made at least fifteen hours before the beginning of the third day from the day fixed for the examination. *Lane* v. *Holman*, 221.

2. If the service of notice to a debtor to appear and submit himself to examination touching his estate does not give him the full time allowed by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 162, § 18, and he does not appear in obedience to the notice, and is defaulted, the magistrate has no authority to annex his certificate to the execution authorizing the arrest of the debtor; and, as against the creditor causing the arrest, his arrest thereon is illegal. *Ib.*

3. A debtor, who has been illegally arrested, does not, by recognizing before a magistrate other than the one authorizing the arrest, and submitting to examination and taking the oath for the relief of poor debtors, waive the illegality of the arrest. *Ib.*

4. The expenses incurred by a debtor, who has been illegally arrested, in submitting himself to examination for the purpose of taking the oath for the relief of poor debtors and taking the oath, having previously been discharged from imprisonment upon entering into a recognizance to appear for such examination, are not elements of damage in a subsequent action for the illegal arrest. *Ib.*

5. In an action upon a poor debtor's recognizance, entered into under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 162, § 28, if the service upon the creditor of notice of the debtor's desire to take the oath for the relief of poor debtors is insufficient, by reason of the fact that the officer read the notice to the creditor instead of giving him a copy of it, but it appears that the creditor told the officer that he understood the notice and would attend the hearing appointed for the examination of the debtor, the question whether the creditor waived due service of the notice should be submitted to the jury. *Goldenberg* v. *Blake*, 354.

6. The service upon the creditor's attorney of the original notice of the desire of a person arrested on execution to take the oath for the relief of poor debtors is, so far as the rights of the creditor are concerned, a sufficient compliance with the requirement of the Pub. Sts. *c.* 162, § 32, that such notice shall be served by giving to the creditor, his agent or attorney, "an attested copy thereof." *Callaghan* v. *Whitmarsh*, 340.

PRESCRIPTION.

See RAILROAD, 3-6.

PRESUMPTION.

A man left his wife and family in August, 1871, to seek work. His wife heard from him only twice after he left, the last time being about three weeks after so leaving, and she never heard of him again, though she made

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inquiries. At the time he left, his health was "fair," although he was then "drinking hard," and had been for some years. *Held*, that these facts were sufficient to raise a presumption of fact that he died before June 21, 1881. *Stockbridge, petitioner*, 517.

See CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, 3; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 29.

PRINCIPAL AND AGENT.

See BANKRUPT; COLLATERAL SECURITY, 3; HUSBAND AND WIFE, 1, 2; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 3–5, 24, 25, 28, 29; TRUSTEE PROCESS.

PRINCIPAL AND SURETY.

The surety on a joint and several bond, executed to a husband by his wife as principal, cannot avail himself, in defence to an action against him upon the bond, of the incapacity of the principal to contract with her husband. *Winn* v. *Sanford*, 302.

See EQUITY, 5, 6; RECOGNIZANCE.

PROBATE COURT.

If, under the St. of 1885, *c.* 376, the judge of probate directs the amount of a legacy to be deposited in a savings bank, on the representation of the executors that the residence of the legatee is unknown, and it afterwards appears that the legatee died before the testator, and that his issue are entitled to it, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 127, § 23, the judge of probate should order the amount to be paid to such issue. *Stockbridge, petitioner*, 517.

See APPEAL, 1.

PROMISSORY NOTE.

1. In an action on a promissory note, payable to A. and purporting to be signed by B. by his mark and to be witnessed, on the issue of the genuineness of the defendant's signature, the attesting witness testified that A. and B. were in the room adjoining the one he was in, the door being ajar; that A. wrote the note and read it to B.; that he was then called in to witness the note; that A. said, "This is B. who is giving his note, and I want you to witness it;" and that the witness then took the pen out of B.'s hand, read the note, and then witnessed it. *Held*, that the testimony was sufficient to warrant the jury in finding that B. duly signed the note. *Whitney* v. *Clary*, 156.
2. When the signature to a promissory note is proved, the note itself is *prima facie* evidence of consideration. *Ib.*
3. In an action on a promissory note, to which the defence was want of consideration, it appeared that the payee held a note of a son of the maker, and that the maker was the administrator of his son's estate and his only heir, and gave the note in suit in renewal of the old note. *Held*, that, even if the old note could not have been enforced at law at the time the

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new note was given, there was sufficient evidence of consideration for the new note. *Whitney* v. *Clary*, 156.

4. In an action by the payee against the maker of a promissory note, it is no defence, that the defendant, a married woman, was induced to sign the note by threats made to her by her husband, if the payee took the note in ignorance thereof. *Fairbanks* v. *Snow*, 153.

5. If a guarantor of a promissory note makes a payment thereon, upon the agreement that the payee shall hold the note as security to him for the amount paid as well as for the balance remaining due the payee, such payment does not *pro tanto* discharge the maker of the note. *Granite Bank* v. *Fitch*, 567.

6. In an action against A. on a promissory note signed by A. and B., it appeared that B. sent his promissory note to the payee for the amount due, and that this note was not discounted or paid, nor accepted by the payee in discharge of the original note. *Held*, that the transaction did not amount to a payment of the original note. *Ib.*

See COLLATERAL SECURITY, 2, 3; ESCAPE, 2; ESTOPPEL; LIMITATIONS, STATUTE OF; MORTGAGE, 2; TOWN, 2.

QUIETING TITLE.

1. At the hearing upon a petition, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 176, to compel the respondent to bring an action to try his alleged title to a parcel of land, the question of title to the land cannot be adjudicated, but only the question whether the petitioner has shown that he is in possession of the land, claiming an estate of freehold therein. *Orthodox Congregational Society* v. *Greenwich*, 112.

2. At the hearing upon a petition, brought in 1885, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 176, by a religious society, to compel the town in which it was located to try its alleged title to the land on which the meeting-house stood, it appeared that the meeting-house was built in 1828 by the town upon a portion of the common belonging to the town; that, by a vote of the town, it was "to be used as a town-house and place for public worship," and the town held its meetings in it up to 1855, when a new town-house was built; that, during this period, several religious societies occupied the building on Sundays by permission of the town; that, since 1855, the building had not been used for the general purposes of a town-house; that the audience-room had been used for religious services solely, except that since 1880 it had been used on seven or eight occasions for public entertainments; that the town had from time to time expended money for repairs of the meeting-house, both inside and outside; that after 1855, as before, the petitioner, since its incorporation in 1865, and the religious society which preceded it, occupied the audience-room by the permission of the town; that the town kept up the old customs of ringing the bell at noon and of tolling it when deaths occurred; and that it had always had access to the vestibule of the meeting-house for these purposes. There was no evidence that this was by the permission of the petitioner, and no evidence of any ouster of the town by the petitioner; and no claim of title adverse to the

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town was made by the petitioner until 1885, when it voted to contest any claim made to the meeting-house adverse to the petitioner. *Held*, that the petitioner had not shown such an exclusive possession as entitled it to maintain the petition. *Orthodox Congregational Society* v. *Greenwich*, 112.

RAILROAD.

1. Under the Gen. Sts. *c.* 63, § 45, providing that, after a railroad "corporation has by virtue of its charter taken land or other property for the purpose of its road, it shall, before proceeding to construct the road, furnish a plan of the land to the owner," and that, if such plan is not so furnished, all the rights of the corporation to enter upon or use such land, except for making surveys, shall be suspended until it has delivered a plan, the failure to deliver a plan of land taken does not invalidate the taking; and a person whose land has been taken cannot, after the road has been completed and has been in use for nearly twenty years, object to such use on the ground that no plan has been furnished him. *Abbott* v. *New York & New England Railroad*, 450.
2. Although the power to take land by the right of eminent domain which has been granted by the Legislature to a domestic railroad corporation will not pass to a foreign corporation, which by deed succeeds to the rights and powers of the domestic corporation, without the assent of the Legislature, such assent may be gathered by implication from a series of acts of the Legislature. *Ib.*
3. A private right of way across the location of a railroad may be acquired by prescription, notwithstanding the St. of 1853, *c.* 414, § 4, (Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 195,) imposing a penality on any person who, without right, knowingly stands or walks on any railroad track, and the St. of 1874, *c.* 372, § 151, (Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 198,) imposing a penalty on a person who, without the consent of the corporation, rides or drives a horse on a railroad. *Turner* v. *Fitchburg Railroad*, 433.
4. In an action against a railroad corporation for obstructing a prescriptive right of way across the location of the defendant, it is no defence that, after the way was used, a statute was passed allowing the corporation to relocate its road, and for that purpose, under proper proceedings, to take lands, in the absence of evidence that such proceedings were had. *Ib.*
5. On the issue whether a right of way by prescription has been acquired over the location of a railroad corporation, an agreed statement of facts stated that the plaintiff and his grantors had used the way openly, adversely, and uninterruptedly for more than twenty years. *Held*, that the court might assume that the defendant had knowledge of the acts of user. *Ib.*
6. In an action against a railroad corporation for obstructing a right of way claimed to exist by prescription over the defendant's location, the declaration alleged that the defendant erected a fence across the way, and placed upon the way stones, earth, gravel, ties, and iron rails. The case was submitted to the court on agreed facts, which stated that the acts of the defendant declared on were done upon its land "in the construction and

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maintenance of its railroad, which it was authorized by law to construct and maintain." *Held*, that this was not to be construed to mean that the acts done by the defendant were done as a part of the necessary repair of its road. *Turner* v. *Fitchburg Railroad*, 433.

7. The Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 214, providing that a railroad corporation shall be responsible in damages to a person whose buildings or other property may be injured by fire communicated by its locomotive engines, do not apply to goods delivered to a railroad corporation as a carrier, and in its custody as a warehouseman, at the time of such a fire. *Bassett* v. *Connecticut River Railroad*, 129.

8. If goods, which have been transported over a railroad, and have been received by the owner and placed in a storehouse, occupied exclusively by him and owned by the corporation, adjoining its freight depot at a station, and other goods therein intended for transportation, but not having been delivered to the corporation, are destroyed by fire communicated by its locomotive engine, the owner may maintain an action against the corporation, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 214, for the loss of the goods. *Blaisdell* v. *Connecticut River Railroad*, 132.

9. A street railway corporation was made liable by its charter for any injury that any person might sustain by reason of any carelessness, negligence, or misconduct of its agents and servants, in the management, construction, or use of its tracks. Subsequently, the corporation leased to another street railway corporation a certain portion of its track for the unexpired term of its charter, subject to all duties and liabilities imposed upon the lessor by its charter, and the lessee covenanted to assume and perform them, and to defend any suits brought against the lessor arising out of the operation and use of the road, and to pay any judgment recovered against the lessor. The lessee further agreed to deliver the property to the lessor at the end of the term, and there was a provision for reëntry for breach of covenant. The lease was afterwards ratified by an act of the Legislature. After this, a passenger on a car of the lessee while on the leased road was injured by the negligence of a servant of the lessee. *Held*, that an action could be maintained against the lessor for such injury. *Braslin* v. *Somerville Horse Railroad*, 64.

10. In an action against a railroad corporation for an assault and false imprisonment, it appeared that the plaintiff, who was the holder of a mileage coupon ticket, tendered, while a passenger on a train on the defendant's railroad, some of the coupons in payment of his fare, in violation of the conditions of the contract under which he held them; and that the conductor of the train refused to receive them, and arrested him. The plaintiff at the trial asked the judge to rule that the evasion or attempt to evade the payment of fare, for which a passenger may be lawfully ejected or removed from a railroad car must be a fraudulent evasion, with an intention to defraud the railroad company. The judge refused so to rule, but did rule that the coupons offered by the plaintiff to the conductor were not a legal tender of his fare, and that, upon the plaintiff's refusal to make any other payment, the conductor, who was a railroad police officer, might arrest him without a warrant. The plaintiff excepted to the refusal to

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rule as requested, but not to the ruling given. *Held*, that the words "ejected or removed" in the ruling requested were not to be construed as meaning "removed by arrest." *Marshall* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 164.

11. At the trial of an action of tort, brought by an administrator, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 213, against a railroad corporation, for the death of the plaintiff's intestate, caused by a collision between a locomotive engine of the defendant and a wagon in which the intestate was driving, at a place where the highway crossed the railroad at grade, there was evidence that between two and three o'clock in the morning the intestate delivered milk to a customer who lived a quarter of a mile from the crossing, and that he had another customer near the crossing on the farther side; that his wagon was more than half-way over the crossing, which was one hundred and sixty-eight feet wide, when the gateman cried, "Stop," and shut the gates; that the intestate whipped up his horse, the gateman told him to come on and opened the gate, and the wagon was struck by the locomotive engine, and the intestate instantly killed; and that no bell was rung or whistle sounded on the locomotive. *Held*, that the evidence would warrant an inference that the intestate was awake when approaching the crossing, and a finding that the neglect to ring the bell or sound the whistle contributed to the injury; and that the court could not rule, as matter of law, that the intestate was guilty of gross negligence. *Doyle* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 386.

12. In an action for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff, by reason of the carriage in which he was driving being struck by a car on the defendant's railroad at a place where it crossed a way at grade, there was evidence that the car, which was slowly descending an incline by the force of gravity, was in charge of a brakeman, and could have been stopped in a short distance if the brake had been applied. There was also evidence that the plaintiff was driving at a moderate trot; that, as he approached the crossing, his head was turned towards the side from which the car was approaching; that the hind wheel of the carriage alone was struck; that as the carriage approached the crossing it was visible from the car; and that cars did not ordinarily run at that time. The plaintiff was so injured that he was unable to give any account of the occurrence. *Held*, that there was evidence proper to be submitted to the jury on the questions whether the plaintiff was in the exercise of due care, and whether the defendant was negligent. *Cleaves* v. *Pigeon Hill Granite Co.* 541.

13. Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 206, the throwing of a missile at a car is a punishable offence, whether the car was in use at the time or not. *Commonwealth* v. *Carroll*, 403.

See COMPLAINT, 4; EVIDENCE, 2; INDICTMENT; TRIAL, 3.

RECEIPT.

1. A receipt, under seal, given by the obligee of a joint obligation to one of the joint obligors, "in full satisfaction for his liability" on said joint obligation, releases all of the obligors; and oral evidence is inadmissible

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to show that the obligee did not intend to release them all. *Hale* v. *Spaulding*, 482.

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2. A written instrument, given to a selectman of a town by a person who has been injured in his person and property by reason of a defect in a highway in the town, and reciting the receipt from such selectman, for the town, of a certain sum "in full for all demands for damages sustained on the highway," is a bar to an action by such person against the town for his personal injuries; and oral evidence is inadmissible, in the absence of fraud, to show that he understood the sum paid as intended in settlement of the damage to his property only, and that it was agreed between him and the selectman that, if it appeared that he had been injured in his person, he should be paid something more. *Squires* v. *Amherst*, 192.

3. On a petition, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 49, §§ 79, 105, for the assessment of damages caused by taking land for a town way, and damages to the petitioner's house caused by the taking, there was evidence that the petitioner could not read, and that the road commissioners of the town knew of his inability; that before filing his petition he had accepted an award of $200 for damages, and had put his mark to a receipt acknowledging full payment of all claims, but which he understood at the time, and declared, to be for the land alone; that the road commissioners expressed no dissent, but said that "that would be all right;" that the petitioner, on learning what he had signed, repudiated the transaction, tendered the money back to them, giving them a notice addressed to the town, and left the money and the notice in the hands of the town treasurer. *Held*, that the receipt was not a bar. *O'Donnell* v. *Clinton*, 461.

4. If a town authorizes its road commissioners to pay a certain sum in full for all damages sustained by an owner of land caused by the taking of his land for a town way, and the commissioners pay the money and take a receipt under such circumstances that their act amounts to constructive fraud, the town cannot, on a petition for the assessment of damages for the taking, set up the receipt as a bar to the petition. *Ib.*

See BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION, 2.

RECOGNIZANCE.

Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 155, § 58, providing for an appeal from the sentence of a trial justice to the Superior Court, and that the appellant shall be committed "until he recognizes to the Commonwealth in such reasonable sum and with such sureties as the justice requires," the magistrate has the right in his discretion to accept as sufficient a recognizance with one surety. *Commonwealth* v. *Bisch*, 375.

See RECORD, 2.

RECORD.

1. It is no ground for an arrest of judgment in a criminal case, that the copy of the record transmitted to the Superior Court by the trial justice who tried the case is attested by him as "justice" only. *Commonwealth* v. *McParland*, 378.

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2. The copy of the record of a trial justice in a criminal case, transmitted to the Superior Court, recited that the defendant was adjudged guilty, and appealed to the term of the Superior Court next to be held for the county, and was ordered to recognize to appear and prosecute his appeal. It did not state that the defendant recognized, but it was accompanied by a copy of the recognizance entered into by the defendant. *Held*, that it sufficiently appeared that the appeal was perfected by a recognizance; and that the Superior Court had jurisdiction of the case. *Commonwealth* v. *Bisch*, 375.
3. The copy of the record of a trial justice in a criminal case, transmitted to the Superior Court, recited that the defendant was adjudged guilty and sentenced on November 22, 1886, from which sentence he appealed to the Superior Court next to be held at C. in and for said county, on the second Monday of February, 1886. *Held*, that the error in the second date furnished no ground for quashing the complaint or for an arrest of judgment. *Ib.*
4. The record of a police court, to which a complaint was made, recited that the defendant, "being asked whether he is guilty or not of the offence within charged upon him, pleads *nolo contendere*, but, after hearing divers witnesses duly sworn to testify the whole truth, and fully understanding the defence of said defendant, it is adjudged by the said court that said defendant is guilty of said offence;" and that the defendant was sentenced, and appealed therefrom to the Superior Court. *Held*, that the record did not sufficiently show that the defendant's plea was accepted by the court, and sentence passed thereupon; and that the defendant had the right to plead anew in the Superior Court, and to have a trial by jury. *Commonwealth* v. *Ingersoll*, 381.

RELEASE.

See RECEIPT.

RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

See BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION.

RESERVATION.

See DEED.

RIVER.

See ACTION, 4; STATUTE, 1.

RULES OF COURT.

See EQUITY, 8.

SALE.

See EQUITY, 2; INTOXICATING LIQUORS, 1–7, 31, 32; WARRANTY.

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SCHOOL.

Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 44, § 46, which imposes upon the school committee of a town, unless the town otherwise directs, the duty of keeping "the school-houses in good order," and of providing "all things necessary for the comfort of the scholars," the committee may lawfully order a tree on a school-house lot to be cut down; and they are not liable for the negligence of those whom they employ to execute their order. *McKenna* v. *Kimball*, 555.

See TAX.

SEARCH-WARRANT.

A warrant to search for and seize intoxicating liquors, issued under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 100, § 30, in the form prescribed by § 46, may be executed in the night-time. *Commonwealth* v. *Hinds*, 182.

SELECTMEN.

See TOWN, 1.

SETTLEMENT.

See PAUPER, 4.

SHIP.

The provisions of the U. S. St. of June 26, 1884, *c.* 121, § 18, providing that the individual liability of a shipowner shall be limited to the proportion of any and all debts and liabilities that his individual share of the vessel bears to the whole, do not apply to fishing vessels. *Simpson* v. *Story*, 497.

SIGNATURE.

See PROMISSORY NOTE, 1, 2.

SLANDER.

See COSTS.

SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE.

See EQUITY, 1.

STATUTE.

1. The Sts. of 1871, *cc.* 285, 362, authorizing certain persons to construct booms across the Connecticut River, in such a way as not to obstruct the lumber of other persons, did not repeal by implication the Gen. Sts. *c.* 78, § 5, prohibiting the floating of logs on the said river unless the logs are formed into rafts. *French* v. *Connecticut River Lumber Co.* 261.

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2. The Pub. Sts. c. 104, § 14, as amended by the St. of 1882, c. 208, requiring safeguards to elevator openings, do not make the owner of a building who does not comply with their provisions liable to a person injured by falling down an elevator well, in the absence of evidence that the act has been accepted by the city in which the building is located. *Handyside* v. *Powers*, 123.

See Civil Service; Constitutional Law; Notary Public; Railroad, 7, 8; Ship; Trial, 1, 3, 4.

STATUTE OF FRAUDS.

See Frauds, Statute of.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

See Limitations, Statute of.

STATUTES CITED, EXPOUNDED, ETC.

English Statutes.

15 & 16 Vict. c. 76. Practice 237

Statutes of the United States.

1851, c. 43, §§ 1–4. Shipping 499
1884, c. 121, § 18. " 498
1886, c. 421, § 4. " 500

Revised Statutes of the United States.

§§ 4282–4284. Shipping 499

Statutes of the Commonwealth.

1783, c. 42, § 2. Justice of the Peace 209
—— c. 52, § 1. Waste 496
1784, c. 28, § 1. Writ 341
1785, c. 22, § 2. Mortgage 225
—— c. 62, § 1. Waste 496
1786, c. 81. Way 563
1789, c. 11, § 2. Executor and Administrator 524
1795, c. 75, § 3. Waste 496
1796, c. 76. Salem & Danvers Aqueduct 480
1798, c. 77, § 1. Mortgage 225
1814, c. 150. Connecticut River 262
1818, c. 122. Shipping 499
1821, c. 98. Justice of the Peace 209
1823, c. 40. Search-warrant 184
1828, c. 62. " " 184
1834, c. 172. " " 184
1839, c. 114. Salem & Danvers Aqueduct 480
1849, c. 96, § 4. Smith Charities 108
—— c. 194. Southbridge and Blackstone Railroad 452, 453, 456
1850, c. 184, § 20. Lynn 385
—— c. 268, § 9 Midland Railroad 455

Digitized by Google

1850, c. 273. Salem & Danvers Aqueduct 480
1851, c. 29. Notary Public 225
—— c. 134. Southbridge and Blackstone Railroad 456
1852, c. 158. Norfolk County Railroad 452, 455
—— c. 322. Intoxicating Liquors 186
1853, c. 405, § 3. Innkeeper 189
—— c. 414, § 4. Railroad 436
1854, c. 434, § 5. Middlesex Railroad 65
—— c. 447. Boston & New York Central Railroad 452, 456
1855, c. 115. " " 456
—— c. 215. Intoxicating Liquors 186
—— ——— § 35. " " 382
—— c. 397. " " 186
1856, c. 33. Boston & New York Central Railroad 456
1857, c. 32. " " 456
—— c. 250. Somerville Horse Railroad 65
1858, c. 13. Boston & New York Central Railroad 456
—— c. 60, § 2. Midland Railroad 452
1859, c. 23. " 456
1860, c. 44. " 456
1861, c. 44. " 456
—— c. 100. Railroad 435
—— c. 155, §§ 3, 7. Midland Land Damage Co. 452, 455
1862, c. 126. Midland Railroad 452, 456
1863, c. 116, § 2. Southern Midland Railroad 452, 456
1864, c. 196. Fire Insurance 428
—— c. 310. Harbor Lines 455
1865, c. 171. Boston, Hartford, & Erie Railroad 453
—— c. 275. " " 455
1866, c. 142. " " 457
1866, c. 266. Boston, Hartford, & Erie Railroad 457
—— c. 278, § 5. " " 457
1867, c. 75. " " 457
—— c. 133, § 5. " " 458
—— c. 170, § 14. " " 458
—— c. 284. " " 458
1868, c. 35, § 8. " " 458
—— c. 145. " " 458
—— c. 212, §§ 1–4. Animal 300
—— ——— §§ 5–7. " 301
1869, c. 344, §§ 1–3, 6. " 301
—— c. 406. Boston, Hartford, & Erie Railroad 458
—— c. 415. Intoxicating Liquors 186
—— cc. 450, 456. Boston, Hartford, & Erie Railroad 458
1870, c. 93, § 1. Water 480
—— c. 120. Justice of the Peace 225
1871, c. 158. Road Commissioners 563
—— c. 285. Connecticut River 264
—— c. 362. Holyoke & Northampton Boom & Lumber Co. 263
—— c. 372. Boston, Hartford, & Erie Railroad 458
1873, c. 255. Water 480
—— c. 289. New York & New England Railroad 450, 458
1874, c. 334. Boston, Hartford, & Erie Railroad 458
—— c. 401. Fitchburg Railroad 437
1875, c. 99, § 6, *cl.* 4. Intoxicating Liquors 313
—— ———, §§ 9, 15. Intoxicating Liquors 312
—— c. 209. Municipal Indebtedness 485
1876, c. 162. Intoxicating Liquors 186
1877, c. 58. Way 563
—— c. 186. Pauper 536
—— c. 234. Way 106

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1878, c. 157. Insurance 429
1880, c. 239, § 3. Intoxicating Liquors 313
1881, c. 166. Fire Insurance 429
—— c. 171, § 5. Peabody 480
—— c. 236. Way 106
1882, c. 36. " 551
—— c. 208. Hatchway 128
—— c. 219. School Districts 556
—— c. 233. District Court 406
—— c. 274, § 2. Connecticut River 262
1883, c. 119. Milford 529
—— c. 163, §§ 2, 3, 5, 13, Marblehead Water Co. 510
—— c. 183. Connecticut River 263
1883, c. 223, § 14. Equitable Defence 195
1884, c. 299, §§ 10, 12, 41, 43. Election 260
—— —— § 26. " 259
—— c. 320. Civil Service 589
1885, c. 359. Intoxicating Liquors 211
—— c. 376. Estates of deceased persons 520
1886, c. 82. Lord's Day 431
—— c. 243. Marblehead Water Co. 510
1887, c. 149. Juror 244
—— c. 391, § 2. Lord's Day 99
—— c. 437. Civil Service 589

Revised Statutes.

c. 24, § 7. Highway 563
c. 32, §§ 1–4. Shipping 499
c. 46, §§ 19–21. Pauper 535
c. 47, § 2. Intoxicating Liquors 294
c. 52, § 5. Connecticut River 262
c. 85, § 32. Justice of the Peace 209
c. 85, §§ 35, 36. Justice of the Peace 225
c. 105, § 7. Waste 496
c. 107, § 2. Mortgage 225
c. 130, § 22. Animal 300
c. 135, § 9. Trial 209
c. 142, §§ 1–4. Search-warrant 184

General Statutes.

c. 7, § 28. Election 260
c. 14, § 34. Notary Public 225
c. 18, §§ 11, 16. Town 384
—— §§ 22, 73. " 53
c. 63, §§ 17, 18. Railroad 456
—— §§ 32, 34, 39. " 457
—— § 38. " 453
—— § 45. " 451
c. 78, § 5. Connecticut River 262
c. 86. Intoxicating Liquors 186
c. 92, § 28. Estates of deceased persons 519
c. 116, § 16. Police Court 118
c. 120, § 49. Justice of the Peace 225
—— § 52. " " 209
c. 123, §§ 11, 23. Service of Writ 341
c. 138, § 7. Waste 496
c. 140, § 2. Mortgage 225
c. 165, § 41. Animal 300
c. 170, §§ 1–4 Search-warrant 184
—— § 17. Trial 209

Public Statutes.

c. 3, § 3, cl. 3. Statute 311
c. 7, § 55. Election 260
c. 11, § 5, cl. 3. Tax 111, 146
—— § 20, cl. 1, 3. " 110
—— —— cl. 4, 5. " 111
c. 11, § 21. Tax 111
c. 13, § 8. " 110
c. 18, § 1. Notary Public 225
c. 27, § 15. Town 385
—— § 23. " 384

www.libtool.com.cn
Digitized by Google

c. 27, § 27. Town 480
—— § 72. " 536
—— § 75. Road Commissioners 564
—— § 101. Selectmen 52
c. 28, § 2. City 384
c. 44, §§ 21, 41, 46, 50. School 556
—— § 27. " 557
c. 45, § 16. School Districts 556
c. 49, § 16. Way 563
—— § 65. " 539, 564
—— § 71. " 539
—— §§ 79, 105. " 461
c. 52, § 1. " 336
—— §§ 3, 12. " 563
—— § 15. " 564
—— § 17. " 92
—— § 18. " 197, 335, 479
—— §§ 19, 21. " 106
c. 58, § 4. Search-warrant 185
c. 78, § 1, *cl.* 5. Statute of Frauds 361
c. 84, §§ 2, 27. Pauper 115
—— §§ 28–30 " 535
c. 85. Bastard 18
c. 94, § 5. Connecticut River 262
c. 98, § 2. Lord's Day 99, 430
c. 100. Intoxicating Liquors 231
——— § 9, *cl.* 2. " " 244
——— § 9, *cl.* 4. " " 313, 409
——— §§ 9, 10. " " 466
——— § 13. " " 312
——— § 16. " " 217
——— § 17. " " 100
——— §§ 21, 25. " " 312
——— § 24. " " 311
——— § 25. " " 95
——— § 30. " " 183
c. 101, § 6. Nuisance 117, 255
——— §§ 6, 7. " 104, 401, 407
c. 102, § 16. Innholder 189
c. 104, § 14. Hatchway 128
c. 106, §§ 21, 22. Corporation 406
c. 112, §§ 97, 104. Railroad 511
——— §§ 163, 213. " 386
——— §§ 195, 198. " 436
——— § 206. " 406, 575
——— § 214. " 130, 132
——— § 215. " 435
c. 115. Association 139
——— §§ 2, 8. " 136
c. 119, § 138. Fire Insurance 428
——— § 139. " " 389, 426, 429, 582
——— § 181. " " 429
c. 120, § 23. Recording Defeasance 390
c. 127, § 23. Estates of deceased persons 519
c. 136, § 5. " " 490
——— § 9. " " 489
——— § 17. " " 490
c. 141, § 9. Trust 492
c. 144, § 5. Executor and Administrator 522
c. 147, § 4. Married Woman 195
c. 151, § 2, *cl.* 10. Equity 59
c. 153, § 8. Exceptions 236
——— § 12. " 98
c. 154, §§ 22, 30. Police Court 118
c. 155, § 2. Justice of the Peace 225
——— §§ 28, 29, 30–32. Trial Justice 538
——— § 58. Appeal 376
——— § 71. Trial Justice 208
c. 156, §§ 7–10. Appeal 288
c. 157, § 15. Insolvency 367, 444
——— § 35. " 449
——— §§ 112–114. " 367
c. 161, §§ 74, 75. Attachment 274, 278
——— § 75. " 572
c. 162, § 18. Poor Debtor 222
——— § 28. " 341, 354
——— § 31. " 342
——— § 32. " 340
c. 167, § 2. Declaration 237
——— § 20. Answer 80, 372
c. 169, § 18, *cl.* 1. Witness 293
——— §§ 68, 69. Evidence 406
c. 170, § 35. Juror 243
c. 171, § 1. Judgment 18
c. 176. Quieting Title 112
c. 179, §§ 6, 7. Waste 496
c. 181, § 2. Mortgage 225
c. 183, § 17. Trustee Process 196

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c. 187, § 17. Review 20
c. 191. Lien 345
——— § 6. " 566
c. 197, § 1. Statute of Limitations 370
——— § 4. " " 311
——— § 11. " " 371
——— § 12. " " 489
——— § 14. " " 486
c. 199, § 14. Witness Fees 203
c. 202, § 29. Threatening to accuse of Crime 181
c. 204, § 1. Forgery 397
c. 207, § 52. Animal 301
——— § 53 " 299
——— §§ 57, 60. Search-warrant 185
c. 212, §§ 1–4. " 184
——— § 26. Trial 206
——— §§ 74–81. Probation Officer 211
c. 214, § 14. Trial 406
——— § 25. Complaint 302, 406
c. 217, § 2. Fine 312
c. 220, §§ 26, 27. Jail 502

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STREET RAILWAY.

See INDICTMENT; RAILROAD, 9.

SUBROGATION.

See EQUITY, 5.

SUPERIOR COURT.

See APPEAL, 2; COMPLAINT, 3; COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; EXCEPTIONS, 1; RECORD, 2; WARRANT.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT.

See APPEAL, 1; EXCEPTIONS, 1.

SURETY.

See PRINCIPAL AND SURETY.

SURVEYOR OF HIGHWAYS.

See EQUITY, 4; TOWN, 1.

TAX.

An institution organized under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 115, for the education of boys, owned a large farm, on which were the school buildings, two farm-houses, barns, and other buildings adapted for farm purposes, and live stock. The scholars, in addition to attending school, were required to work on the farm two or three hours a day, and were taught agriculture. The price of board and tuition was $100 a year for each scholar. The products of the farm and the live stock were for the most part consumed in furnishing food for the scholars, but others were sold or bartered and the proceeds applied to the maintenance of the school. *Held*, that, under

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the Pub. Sts. *c.* 11, § 5, *cl.* 3, the whole of the property of the institution was exempt from taxation. *Mount Hermon School* v. *Gill*, 139.

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See CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.

TENANT IN COMMON.

An action of tort to recover the forfeiture prescribed in the Pub. Sts. c. 179, § 6, cannot be maintained where a tenant in common commits waste in good faith, under an honest belief that he is not a tenant in common. *Jenkins* v. *Wood*, 494.

THREATENING TO ACCUSE OF CRIME.

See VARIANCE.

TOWN.

1. A warrant for a town meeting contained an article "to see if the town will choose the selectmen surveyors of highways," and an article "to choose all necessary town officers," naming those who were to be chosen by ballot, including selectmen, assessors, and overseers of the poor, and adding "all of said votes to be on one ballot." *Held*, that the town might vote to "choose the selectmen surveyors of highways," and "to proceed to ballot for five selectmen who shall also be assessors, overseers of the poor, and highway surveyors." *Held*, *also*, that ballots subsequently cast for separate boards of selectmen, assessors, overseers, and surveyors could be rejected except so far as they contained the names of persons voted for as selectmen; and that they were to be counted for such persons. *Commonwealth* v. *Wentworth*, 50.

2. Under the St. of 1875, *c.* 209, a town treasurer has no right, *virtute officii*, to give a new note of the town in renewal of an old note; and the town is not bound by his assurances as to his authority, or by any custom or usage on his part to act without authority. *Abbott* v. *North Andover*, 484.

3. A committee chosen by a town to erect a building is not a board of public officers, but acts as agent of the town, and it is not obliged to act as a body, but may act by the agreement of the individual members separately obtained. *Shea* v. *Milford*, 528.

4. The St. of 1883, *c.* 119, authorizing a town to build a Memorial Hall, and, for that purpose, to borrow a sum not exceeding $20,000, does not prohibit the town from voting to expend a larger sum upon the building. *Ib.*

5. A committee, appointed by a town to consider location, plans, and estimates, and to make recommendations for a building to be built by the town, recommended a certain location, and the plans and specifications of a certain architect, and reported that the price should not exceed $20,000. This report was accepted by the town and placed on file, and the committee was instructed to receive proposals for a building. Subsequently, the town voted that the report and plans of the committee be adopted,

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and that the same committee build the building. The town also voted to raise by taxation for the purpose the sum of $2,000, and to borrow the sum of $20,000. The specifications reported by the committee were for the entire completion of the building, and stated that no charge should be made for extra work, except it be ordered in writing by the architect. *Held*, that the plan and specifications were adopted by the town as a limitation upon the powers of the committee. *Held*, *also*, that the committee had authority to change the specifications in order to remedy defects in them, and to improve them in minor details, within reasonable limits. *Held*, *also*, that the vote of the town did not prohibit the committee from incurring liabilities for extra work beyond the amount of the appropriation. *Shea* v. *Milford*, 528.

See EQUITY, 4; LIMITATIONS, STATUTE OF, 3; PAUPER; QUIETING TITLE, 2; RECEIPT, 2-4; SCHOOL; WAY.

TRIAL.

1. At the trial of a criminal case, whether the defendant's counsel shall be allowed to read to the jury provisions of the statutes other than those relating to the offence charged, instead of stating them orally, is within the discretion of the presiding judge, to the exercise of which no exception lies. *Commonwealth* v. *Hill*, 305.
2. At the trial of a criminal case, the defendant's counsel, in his closing argument to the jury, used this language: "If you acquit the defendant of this charge, how will you answer the question of your neighbors and friends as to why you did it? You will answer it as your own consciences must feel here. It was not proven. The government failed to convict him." The counsel was interrupted by the judge, who refused to allow him to pursue that line of argument, on the ground that it was improper. *Held*, that the defendant had good ground of exception. *Commonwealth* v. *Brownell*, 319.
3. At the trial of a complaint, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 112, § 206, for throwing a stone at a car, the judge is not required to give to the jury a definition of the word "stone." *Commonwealth* v. *Carroll*, 403.
4. Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 153, § 12, the judge presiding at the trial of a criminal case may, before exceptions taken to his rulings are reduced to writing and filed, pronounce them frivolous and intended for delay, and proceed to sentence the defendant. *Commonwealth* v. *Clifford*, 97.

See EXCEPTIONS, 5; NEW TRIAL.

TRIAL JUSTICE.

A person arrested on a complaint for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors was brought before the trial justice who issued the warrant, and pleaded guilty; and the case was continued for sentence to a day certain. On that day, the trial justice ordered the case to be continued *nisi* upon payment of costs by the defendant, to be again called up for sentence upon notice to the defendant. Subse-

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quently, the case was called up on notice to the defendant, and he was sentenced, and took an appeal to the Superior Court. *Held*, that the continuance *nisi* was, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 212, § 26, made without authority; that the subsequent sentence imposed was of no validity; and that these defences were open to the defendant in the Superior Court, on an appeal by him. *Commonwealth* v. *Maloney*, 205.

See APPEAL, 2; RECOGNIZANCE; RECORD, 1–3.

TROVER.

See CONVERSION.

TRUST AND TRUSTEE.

1. A corporation, having large tracts of unimproved lands, for the purpose of borrowing money to discharge existing liens upon the lands and to make them available for sale, issued bonds, the interest on which was payable semiannually, and, as security for the payment of principal and interest, conveyed its lands to trustees on the following trusts: 1. To permit the corporation to remain in possession, improve and sell the lands, until default should be made in the payment of the bonds, or the interest thereon. 2. To release from time to time from the lien created by the conveyance such portions as, in the opinion of the trustees and of the president of the corporation, might be safely released without impairing the security for the payment of the bonds. 3. To receive and invest the moneys received from the proceeds of sales of said lands, and to pay therefrom interest due on the bonds and the expenses of the trust, and to apply the residue to the purchase and cancellation of the bonds. The deed further provided that, in case default should be made in the payment of the bonds or of the interest thereof, and for six months thereafter, all the bonds should become payable; that the trustees then might, and upon the request of a certain number of the holders of the bonds should, enter and take possession of the granted premises, and should thereafter, as attorneys and agents of the corporation, "so long as said default shall continue," so manage and dispose of the same as to carry out the purposes of the trust, either by sales of the lands in their then existing condition, or by improving the same and thereafter selling them, with the largest discretion as to quantity, time, notice, and mode of sale, as they might deem reasonable and "for the best interests of all parties concerned in the trust;" and that the trustees, after applying any surplus proceeds of sales to the payment of the bonds, "shall restore the residue thereof, and all lands, securities, and other property remaining in their possession after such payment is completed," to the corporation, "and thereupon this trust shall terminate." The corporation covenanted that, in case of default continuing for six months, it would, on the request of the trustees, deliver up possession of the granted premises, and make any further conveyance required; and it was "further mutually agreed that, upon payment of the principal and interest of said bonds, the conveyance herein made, and the

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estate and interests hereby granted" to the trustees, "shall be void," and the right to the lands conveyed should revert to the corporation. *Held*, on a bill in equity by the bondholders, that the provisions of the deed were inconsistent with a right on the part of the trustees to treat the instrument merely as a mortgage, and to foreclose by entry and lapse of time. *Shepard* v. *Richardson*, 32.

2. A woman devised the greater part of her estate to her son and two other persons, in trust that they "may, in the exercise of their discretion, pay" to her husband such portion of the income, "or no portion at all thereof, as they shall from time to time think fitting and proper," and, further, to invest the surplus income, and, at the death of the husband, to convey one half of the trust estate to the daughter of the testatrix or her issue, or, if she should leave no issue, then to the issue of the son, and, at the death of the son, to convey the other half to the issue of the son. The will further provided, that, if either of the recipients under the will should be wanting in thrift, the trustees should make the payments provided for in such way and to such persons as should be most likely to enure to the benefit of the recipients, "exercising in all such case and cases the judgment that would be expected from a good father to each of such recipients respectively." On a petition by the husband for the removal of the son from the office of trustee, a single justice of this court, before whom the hearing was had, found that the son was the dominant member of the board of trustees; that there was a strong mutual hostility between the son and the husband; that he could not satisfactorily apportion the blame for the quarrel, and did not find any misconduct of the son distinctly attributable to hostility; and that, in view of the absolute discretion reposed in the trustees as to the allowance to the husband, and the whole state of affairs disclosed by the evidence, the son ought to be removed, if the husband had a *locus standi*, and unless mutual hostility not attributable solely to the trustee, without distinct proof of misconduct in consequence of it, is never a sufficient ground of removal in such a case. The judge on these findings reported the case for the consideration of the full court. *Held*, that the husband was "beneficially interested in the trust," within the Pub. Sts. *c.* 141, § 9, and had a right to bring the petition; and that, on the facts found, the trustee ought to be removed. *Wilson* v. *Wilson*, 490.

See DEVISE AND LEGACY, 6, 7; EQUITY, 3, 5, 6; EVIDENCE, 7; FOREIGN LAW.

TRUSTEE PROCESS.

In a trustee process, if it appears from the trustee's answers that the trustee owes for washing done by the wife of the defendant under a contract made by the trustee with him, and that the trustee is informed and believes that the defendant, in making the contract, acted as the agent of his wife, and the plaintiff rests his case wholly upon the trustee's answers, the trustee is rightly discharged. *Seward* v. *Arms*, 195.

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USAGE.

See Town, 2.

VARIANCE.

An indictment on the Pub. Sts. c. 202, § 29, for threatening to accuse Frank E. White of having committed a crime, is not sustained by proof that the person so threatened was Frank A. White, there being no evidence that he was ever called Frank E. White. *Commonwealth* v. *Buckley*, 181.

See Election, 2.

VOTE.

See Town, 1, 5.

WAIVER.

See Contract, 5; Equity, 7; Insurance, 3, 4; Lien; Poor Debtor, 3, 5.

WAREHOUSEMAN.

See Railroad, 7, 8.

WARRANT.

An objection to the form of a warrant, issued for the arrest of an accused person by a justice of a district court, for an offence within the jurisdiction of that court, cannot be taken, for the first time, in the Superior Court on appeal. *Commonwealth* v. *Brusie*, 117.

WARRANTY.

If a farmer, not a dealer in provisions, kills a hog and sells it, knowing that the purchaser intends to eat it, there is no implied warranty on the seller's part that the hog is fit for food. *Giroux* v. *Stedman*, 439.

WASTE.

See Tenant in Common.

WATERCOURSE.

See Equity, 4; Evidence, 7.

WATERWORKS.

The St. of 1883, c. 168, incorporated a water company, for the purpose of furnishing the town of M., or any other town or city, with water. Power was given to take the water of a certain brook in M., to purchase other water sources, to take and hold lands for the purpose of conveying water

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into M., or other town or city, to lay down pipes over any lands, and to enter upon public or private ways under the direction of the authorities of the city or town where such ways are situated. The company was required, when land was taken, to record a description in the registry of deeds of the county in which the lands should be situated. Power was also given to make contracts with M., or with any other town or city, to supply water. It was also provided that the county commissioners for the county in which land taken was situated should require security for damages. The town of M. was given the right to purchase the franchise, and to tax the inhabitants therefor. *Held*, that the company had the right, under the statute, to acquire water rights outside of M. without acquiring any therein, and, for the purpose of conveying water to another town, to take land, although it conveyed no water to M. *Woodbury* v. *Marblehead Water Co.* 509.

See EMINENT DOMAIN; EQUITY, 10.

WAY.

1. Under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 49, § 71, it is sufficient if the laying out of a town way is filed in the office of the town clerk seven days at least before the town meeting at which the laying out is reported by the selectmen and accepted; and the report to the town is not required to be filed seven days before such meeting. *Carr* v. *Berkley*, 539.
2. The laying out of a town way is not invalidated by the fact that one course is stated to be "41⅛° E." instead of "N. 41⅛° E.," if there is no ambiguity in the whole description. *Ib.*
3. It cannot be ruled, as matter of law, that a person who is driving a blind horse on a dark and rainy night cannot maintain an action against a town for an injury occasioned by a defect in a highway while so driving. *Brackenridge* v. *Fitchburg*, 160.
4. A child one year and ten months old was sent by his mother into the street in a country village for air and exercise, in the charge of a brother eight years old, who had been accustomed to take charge of him. They went across the street and stood for a time watching some other boys at play, the elder child not having hold of the younger's hand. The younger child, without being noticed by the elder, left his side and started to cross the street alone, and, upon being seen and called by the elder, who ran after him, he ran, fell down, and rolled into a gutter at the side of the street, which had been filled with water for a long time by reason of an obstructed culvert, and received injuries which caused his death. Both of the child's parents and the elder brother knew of the existence of this water. *Held*, in an action against the town, under the Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 17, that it could not be ruled as matter of law that the child's parents or his brother were not in the exercise of due care; and that it was competent for the jury to find that the children were travellers on the highway. *Bliss* v. *South Hadley*, 91.
5. In an action against a town for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by a defect consisting of ice on the sidewalk of a street, there was

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evidence that the ice was in substantially the same condition at the time of the injury that it was in immediately after a storm of snow and rain occurring nine days before; that the sidewalk was a frequented one, and was during that time patrolled by a police officer and several times passed by a selectman; and that an attempt to clear the sidewalk, which left it in the condition testified to, was made before the ice was fully formed and more than a week before the injury. *Held*, that the defendant was not entitled to a ruling that there was no evidence for the consideration of the jury that the injury might have been prevented by reasonable care and diligence on the part of the defendant, or that the defendant had reasonable notice of the defect, or might have had notice thereof by the exercise of proper care and diligence. *Fortin* v. *Easthampton*, 196.

6. In an action against a city for personal injuries sustained by an alleged defect in a highway, the plaintiff testified, that, while walking on a sidewalk in the city, he struck his foot against some ice on the sidewalk which projected about two inches above the sidewalk, fell, and received the injuries complained of; and that the ice was hobbly, and had the marks of footprints upon it. A witness, who examined the ice the next day, testified that it was about three feet in length, and a foot and a half wide; that the edge, against which the plaintiff testified that he struck his foot, was such as would be formed by anything wearing away a perpendicular surface; and that the ice had apparently been left, when other ice on the sidewalk had been cut away. There was also evidence that snow had fallen on the third, fourth, and fifth days before the accident, but not on the day of the accident or on the day before. *Held*, that there was no evidence to be submitted to the jury on the question whether the proper officers of the city might, by the exercise of reasonable care and diligence, have had knowledge of the defect in time to have remedied it. *Stanton* v. *Salem*, 476.

7. A person, who, while driving along a highway in a town, is injured by reason of his horse taking fright and running against and upon a stone wall two feet in height on the side of the way, may maintain an action against the town, if the injury was received because the wall was not high enough to prevent it, and the want of height rendered it insufficient as a barrier, and the horse was reasonably safe to drive, and the driver was in the exercise of due care and did not lose control of his horse, or lost control for a moment only, and either regained control or would have regained it before the horse ran against the wall, if it had been of sufficient height. *Hinckley* v. *Somerset*, 326.

8. The fact that a stone wall, built by county commissioners on the side of a way in a town, is afterwards rebuilt by the highway surveyor of the town, and remains in the same condition as when rebuilt by him until the happening of an accident by reason of the insufficiency in height of the wall as a barrier, is notice to the town of the existence of the defect. *Ib.*

9. In an action against a town for personal injuries occasioned by a defect in a way, evidence of conversations between a person who has met with a similar accident at the same place and others not officers of the town, con-

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cerning his accident, is not competent to show notice to the town of the existence of the defect. *Hinckley* v. *Somerset*, 326.

10. If a person, who has been injured by a defect in a highway in a town, lives more than ten days in a condition in which it is possible for him to give to the town the notice required by the Pub. Sts. *c.* 52, § 19, and fails to do so, the person named as executor in his will is not entitled, under § 21, to give such notice within thirty days after the death of the testator, but before his appointment as executor. *Nash* v. *South Hadley*, 105.

11. In an action against a town for an injury occasioned by an alleged defect in a way, the notice to the town stated, as the cause of the injury, that the way was "defectively constructed and left in a dangerous and unfinished condition." The plaintiff offered to prove that her foot went into a hole caused by a defective construction of the way. *Held*, that the notice was sufficient, under the St. of 1882, *c.* 36, unless there was an intention to mislead, and the defendant was in fact misled; and that these questions were for the jury. *Liffin* v. *Beverly*, 549.

See DEED; EQUITY, 4; RAILROAD, 3–6; RECEIPT, 2–4.

WIDOW.

See DEVISE AND LEGACY, 3.

WILL.

See CONTRACT, 2; DEVISE AND LEGACY.

WITNESS.

See EVIDENCE, 9; EXCEPTIONS, 6, 7.

WORDS.

"Alter." See *Commonwealth* v. *Mc Gurty*, 257, 260.
"Animal." See *Commonwealth* v. *Turner*, 296, 300.
"Baker." See *Commonwealth* v. *Crowley*, 430, 432.
"Child." See *Taylor* v. *Carroll*, 95, 96.
"Continued." See *Commonwealth* v. *Maloney*, 205, 208.
"Education." See *Mount Hermon School* v. *Gill*, 139, 146.
"Ejected." See *Marshall* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 164, 168.
"Floor." See *Lowell* v. *Strahan*, 1, 8.
"Guest." See *Commonwealth* v. *Moore*, 244, 247.
"Necessary." See *Pyne* v. *Wood*, 558, 560.
"Removed." See *Marshall* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 164, 168.
"Room." See *Lowell* v. *Strahan*, 1, 8.
"Sold." See *Bryan* v. *Traders' Ins. Co.* 389, 391.

WORK AND LABOR.

See FRAUDS, STATUTE OF.

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ERRORS NOTED IN PREVIOUS VOLUMES OF THIS SERIES.

Vol. CXXXVIII.

Page 604, 14th line from top, omit "of the questions."

Vol. CXLIV.

Page 491, 3d line from end of the head-note, for "in action" read "in an action.'

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146

CASES ARGUED AND DETERMINED

IN THE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

OF

MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 1888 — MAY 1888

WILLIAM V KELLEN

REPORTER

BOSTON

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JUDGES

OF THE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

DURING THE TIME OF THESE REPORTS.

HON. MARCUS MORTON, CHIEF JUSTICE.
HON. WALBRIDGE A. FIELD.
HON. CHARLES DEVENS.
HON. WILLIAM ALLEN.
HON. CHARLES ALLEN.
HON. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, JR.
HON. MARCUS P. KNOWLTON.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

HON. ANDREW J. WATERMAN.

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TABLE

OF THE CASES REPORTED.

Abbott *v.* Foote 333
——— (Hoar *v.*) 290
Alger *v.* North End Savings Bank 418
Allen (Brooks *v.*) 201
Allendorff *v.* Gaugengigl . . 542
Allerton *v.* Boston & Maine Railroad 241
American Carpet Lining Co. *v.* Chipman 385
Atlantic Mills (Clifford *v.*) . 47

Baker *v.* Brown 369
Bell *v.* Pierce 58
Bennett (Holt *v.*) 437
Beverly (Kennison *v.*) . . . 467
Bishop *v.* Palmer 469
Blanchard *v.* Fitzpatrick . . 24
Boardman *v.* Boston Insurance Co. 442
Bolles (Eustis *v.*) 413
Boston (Dorey *v.*) 336
——— (Patch *v.*) 52
Boston & Albany Railroad (Chipman *v.*) 276
——— (Granger *v.*) . . . 276
——— (Littlefield *v.*) . . . 268
Boston & Maine Railroad (Allerton *v.*) 241
——— *v.* Chipman 107
——— (Haddock *v.*) . . . 155
Boston & Providence Railroad (Stewart *v.*) 605
Boston Catholic Cemetery Association (Donnelly *v.*) . . 163
Boston Insurance Co. (Boardman *v.*) 442
Boston Protective Department (Newcomb *v.*) 596
Boston Safe Deposit & Trust Co. *v.* Mixter 100
Boston Sugar Refining Co. (Schramm *v.*) 211
Bowditch *v.* Raymond . . . 109
Boynton *v.* Shaw Stocking Co. 219
Braintree (Braintree Water Supply Co. *v.*) 482
Braintree Water Supply Co. *v.* Braintree 482
Bridge *v.* Bridge 373
Brigham *v.* Holden 259
Brock *v.* Old Colony Railroad 194
Brooks *v.* Allen 201
Brown (Baker *v.*) 369
——— (Hunt *v.*) 253
——— (Rowe *v.*) 369
Butler (Gilbert & Barker Manufacturing Co. *v.*) 82

Callahan (Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters *v.*) . 391
Carey (Cullen *v.*) 50
Chadwick (Lane *v.*) 68
Chaffee *v.* Middlesex Railroad 224
Chipman (American Carpet Lining Co. *v.*) 385
——— *v.* Boston & Albany Railroad 276
——— (Boston & Maine Railroad *v.*) 107
Choate (Sears *v.*) 395
Ciriack *v.* Merchants' Woolen Co. 182
Clapp *v.* Massachusetts Benefit Association 519
Clark *v.* Easton 43
Clark *v.* Holbrook 366
Clifford *v.* Atlantic Mills . . 47

Digitized by Google

Collins *v.* Holyoke 298
Commercial Wharf Co. *v.* Winsor 559
Commonwealth *v.* Eliot . . 5
——— *v.* Ferry 203
——— *v.* Ford 131
——— *v.* Funai 570
——— *v.* Geary 139
——— *v.* Holt 38
——— *v.* Intoxicating Liquors 509
——— *v.* Purdy 138
——— *v.* Robinson 571
——— *v.* Rowell 128
——— *v.* Schaffner 512
——— *v.* Sullivan 142
——— *v.* Tay 146
——— *v.* Uhrig 132
——— *v.* Wellington . . . 566
——— *v.* Wentworth . . . 36
Conant (Spalding *v.*) . . . 292
Constantinides *v.* Walsh . . 281
Converse *v.* Johnson 20
——— (Whall *v.*) 345
Cook *v.* Holbrook 66
Corcoran *v.* White 329
Coulter *v.* Haynes 458
County Commissioners (Lowell *v.*) 403
Creedon (Newburyport *v.*) . 134
Cullen *v.* Carey 50
Cummings *v.* Cummings . . 501

Dame *v.* Kempster 454
Dearborn (North *v.*) . . . 17
De Sénancour *v.* Société la Prévoyance 616
Devine (Short *v.*) 119
Dexter Engine Co. (Taylor *v.*) 613
Dockray (Logan *v.*) 296
Doe (Rosenberg *v.*) 191
Donnelly *v.* Boston Catholic Cemetery Association . . 163
Dooley *v.* Potter 148
Dorey *v.* Boston 336
Downing (Herring *v.*) . . . 10
Duff *v.* Leary 533
Dunphy *v.* Traveller Newspaper Association 495

Easton (Clark *v.*) 43
Eliot (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 5
Elliott (Rogers *v.*) 349
Eustis *v.* Bolles 413
Everett *v.* Henderson . . . 89

Farnsworth (Pope *v.*) . . . 339
Fenno *v.* Gay 118
Ferry (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 203
Fitchburg Railroad (Jennings *v.*) 621
——— (Maguire *v.*) 379
Fitzpatrick (Blanchard *v.*) . . 24
Foote (Abbott *v.*) 333
Ford (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 131
——— *v.* Linehan 283
Foster *v.* Worthing 607
Funai (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 570

Gage (Johnson *v.*) 70
Gaugengigl (Allendorff *v.*) . 542
Gay (Fenno *v.*) 118
Geary (Commonwealth *v.*) . 139
Gibson *v.* Lewis 222
Gilbert & Barker Manufacturing Co. *v.* Butler 82
Gillespie *v.* Rogers 610
Goodnow *v.* Walpole Emery Mills 261
Granger *v.* Boston & Albany Railroad 276
Greeley (Murphy *v.*) . . . 196
Gurney (Wehrle *v.*) 331

Haddock *v.* Boston & Maine Railroad 155
Hagan *v.* Sartwell 33
Hair (Phillips *v.*) 1
—— (Pickert *v.*) 1
Hale (Riley *v.*) 465
Ham *v.* Kerwin 378
Hammond (May *v.*) 439
Havender (Lancy *v.*) . . . 615
Haynes (Coulter *v.*) 458
Heard *v.* Sturgis 545
Henderson (Everett *v.*) . . 89
Herring *v.* Downing 10
Hills Co. (Moynihan *v.*) . . 586
Hoar *v.* Abbott 290
Holbrook (Clark *v.*) 366
——— (Cook *v.*) 66
Holden (Brigham *v.*) . . . 259
Holt *v.* Bennett 437

www.libool.com.cn
Digitized by Google

Holt (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 38
Holyoke (Collins *v.*) . . . 298
Howes *v.* Newcomb 76
Hunt *v.* Brown 253
Hurlbut (Slater *v.*) 308

Intoxicating Liquors (Commonwealth *v.*) 509

Jennings *v.* Fitchburg Railroad 621
Johnson (Converse *v.*) . . . 20
——— *v.* Gage 70
——— *v.* Knapp 70

Kavanaugh *v.* Kavanaugh . . 40
Keenan (Knowlton *v.*) . . . 86
Kelley *v.* Saltmarsh 585
Kempster (Dame *v.*) 454
Kennison *v.* Beverly 467
Kerwin (Ham *v.*) 378
Knapp (Johnson *v.*) . . . 70
Knowlton *v.* Keenan . . . 86

Lancy *v.* Havender 615
Lane *v.* Chadwick 68
Leary (Duff *v.*) 533
Lewis (Gibson *v.*) 222
——— (Taylor *v.*) 222
Linehan (Ford *v.*) 283
Littlefield *v.* Boston & Albany Railroad 268
Lockwood *v.* Twitchell . . . 623
Logan *v.* Dockray 296
Lowell *v.* County Commissioners 403

Mactier *v.* Osborn 399
Maguire *v.* Fitchburg Railroad 379
Manufacturers' Insurance Co. *v.* Middlesex Railroad . . 224
Martin *v.* Martin 517
Massachusetts Benefit Association (Clapp *v.*) 519
——— (Skillings *v.*) . . . 217
Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters *v.* Callahan . . 391
May *v.* Hammond 439
Merchants & Miners' Transportation Co. (North *v.*) . . . 315
Merchants' Woolen Co. (Ciriack *v.*) 182
Merrill *v.* Peaslee 460
Middlesex Railroad (Chaffee *v.*) 224
——— (Manufacturers' Insurance Co. *v.*) 224
Mixter (Boston Safe Deposit & Trust Co. *v.*) 100
Moors *v.* Wyman 60
Morton (Needham *v.*) . . . 476
Moynihan *v.* Hills Co. . . . 586
Murphy *v.* Greeley 196

Needham *v.* Morton 476
Newburyport *v.* Creedon . . 134
Newcomb *v.* Boston Protective Department 596
——— (Howes *v.*) 76
New England Aid Society (Rice *v.*) 248
——— (Rindge *v.*) 286
Nickerson *v.* Thacher . . . 609
North *v.* Dearborn 17
——— *v.* Merchants & Miners' Transportation Co. . . . 315
North End Savings Bank (Alger *v.*) 418

O'Brien (Smith *v.*) 294
Old Colony Railroad (Brock *v.*) 194
O'Leary (Sullivan *v.*) . . . 322
Osborn (Mactier *v.*) 399

Paine (Sturgis *v.*) 354
Palmer (Bishop *v.*) 469
Parker *v.* Parker 320
Patch *v.* Boston 52
Peaslee (Merrill *v.*) 460
Phillips *v.* Hair 1
Pickert *v.* Hair 1
Pierce (Bell *v.*) 58
Pope *v.* Farnsworth 339
Porter *v.* Wakefield 25
Potter (Dooley *v.*) 148
Pray *v.* Wasdell 324
Purdy (Commonwealth *v.*) . 138

Raymond (Bowditch *v.*) . . 109
Rice *v.* New England Aid Society 248
Riley *v.* Hale 465
Rindge *v.* New England Aid Society 286

www.libtool.com.cn
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Roberts *v.* White 256
Robinson (Commonwealth *v.*) 571
——— *v.* Simmons 167
Rogers *v.* Elliott 349
——— (Gillespie *v.*) . . . 610
Rosenberg *v.* Doe 191
Rowe *v.* Brown 369
Rowell (Commonwealth *v.*) . 128

Saltmarsh (Kelley *v.*) . . . 585
Sanborn (Toomey *v.*) . . . 28
Sartwell (Hagan *v.*) 33
Schaffner (Commonwealth *v.*) 512
Schramm *v.* Boston Sugar Refining Co. 211
Sears *v.* Choate 395
Sénancour, de, *v.* Société la Prévoyance 616
Sennott's Case 489
Shaw Stocking Co. (Boynton *v.*) 219
Short *v.* Devine 119
Simmons (Robinson *v.*) . . . 167
Skillings *v.* Massachusetts Benefit Association 217
Slater *v.* Hurlbut 308
Smith *v.* O'Brien 294
Société la Prévoyance (Sénancour *v.*) 616
Spalding *v.* Conant 292
Stanfield (White *v.*) 424
Stewart *v.* Boston & Providence Railroad 605
Sturgis (Heard *v.*) 545
——— *v.* Paine 354
Sullivan (Commonwealth *v*) . 142
——— *v.* O'Leary 322

Tay (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 146
Taylor *v.* Dexter Engine Co. . 613
——— *v.* Lewis 222
Thacher (Nickerson *v.*) . . . 609
Thorndike *v.* Wells Memorial Association 619
Toomey *v.* Sanborn 28
Traveller Newspaper Association (Dunphy *v.*) . . . 495
Twitchell (Lockwood *v.*) . . 623

Uhrig (Commonwealth *v.*) . . 132

Wakefield (Porter *v.*) . . . 25
Walpole Emery Mills (Goodnow *v.*) 261
Walsh (Constantinides *v.*) . . 281
Wasdell (Pray *v.*) 324
Wehrle *v.* Gurney 331
Wellington (Commonwealth *v.*) 566
Wells Memorial Association (Thorndike *v.*) 619
Wentworth (Commonwealth *v.*) 36
Whall *v.* Converse 345
White (Corcoran *v.*) 329
——— (Roberts *v.*) 256
——— *v.* Stanfield 424
Winsor (Commercial Wharf Co. *v.*) 559
Worthing (Foster *v.*) . . . 607
Wyman (Moors *v.*) 60

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TABLE OF CASES

CITED BY THE COURT.

Abbott *v.* Bradstreet, 3 Allen, 587 348
——— *v.* New York & New England Railroad, 145 Mass. 450 195
——— *v.* Winchester, 105 Mass. 115 518
Ackert *v.* Barker, 131 Mass. 436 616
Adams *v.* Adams, 91 N. Y. 381 468
——— *v.* ———, 139 Mass. 449 436
——— *v.* Cummiskey, 4 Cush. 420 332
——— *v.* Pratt, 109 Mass. 59 612
——— *v.* Vose, 1 Gray, 51 492
Adams & Kensington Vestry, In re, 24 Ch. D. 199 365
——— *v.* ———, 27 Ch. D. 394 365
Ætna Mills *v.* Waltham, 126 Mass. 422 488
Agnew *v.* Platt, 15 Pick. 417 417
Alger *v.* Thacher, 19 Pick. 51 474
Allen *v.* Boston, 137 Mass. 319 56
——— *v.* Charlestown, 111 Mass. 123 307
——— *v.* Commercial Ins. Co. 1 Gray, 154 451
——— *v.* Taft, 6 Gray, 552 610
——— *v.* Wilson, 28 Fed. Rep. 677 498
Alvord *v.* Collin, 20 Pick. 418 479
American Legion of Honor *v.* Perry, 140 Mass. 580 219, 394
Ames *v.* Phelps, 18 Pick. 314 612
Ammidon *v.* Smith, 1 Wheat. 447 98
Appleby *v.* Myers, L. R. 2 C. P. 651 85
Appleton Ins. Co. *v.* Jesser, 5 Allen, 446 488
Arents *v.* Commonwealth, 18 Gratt. 750 235
Arkerson *v.* Dennison, 117 Mass. 407 595
Arnold *v.* Brown, 24 Pick. 89 415
Atkins *v.* Bordman, 2 Met. 457 75
——— *v.* Chilson, 11 Met. 112 402
Atlantic Bank *v.* Tavener, 130 Mass. 407 27

Bachman *v.* Lawson, 109 U. S. 659 547
Bailey *v.* New England Ins. Co. 114 Mass. 177 289
Bain *v.* Cooper, 1 Dowl. Pr. Cas. (N. S.) 11 552
Baker *v.* Portland, 58 Maine, 199 603
Balcom *v.* Haynes, 14 Allen, 204 507
Bancroft *v.* Boston & Worcester Railroad, 97 Mass. 275 246
Bank of Brighton *v.* Smith, 5 Allen, 418 328
Bankruptcy Question, The, Rules, Opinions, &c. of Alabama Commissioners 547
Banks *v.* Highland Street Railway, 136 Mass. 485 602
Barber *v.* Rollinson, 1 C. & M. 330 94
Barker *v.* Braham, 3 Wils. 368 92
——— *v.* Parker, 6 Pick. 80 233
Barney *v.* Lowell, 98 Mass. 570 44
Barnstable *v.* Thacher, 3 Met. 239 609
Baron *v.* Sleigh, 2 Cro. Eliz. 628 98
Barrett *v.* Marsh, 126 Mass. 218 365
Barry *v.* Lowell, 8 Allen, 127 469
Bates *v.* Pilling, 6 B. & C. 38 92
Battles *v.* Fobes, 21 Pick. 239 328
Beal *v.* Burchstead, 10 Cush. 523 417
Beattie *v.* Lord Ebury, L. R. 7 Ch. 777 88
Belding *v.* Smythe, 138 Mass. 530 616
Belk *v.* Broadbent, 3 T. R. 183 92
Bemis *v.* Call, 10 Allen, 512 518
Bennett *v.* New Bedford, 110 Mass. 433 338
Benton *v.* Trustees of Boston City Hospital, 140 Mass. 13 166
Benzing *v.* Steinway, 101 N. Y. 547 595
Bigelow *v.* Forrest, 9 Wall. 339 493
——— *v.* Pritchard, 21 Pick. 169 417
Birdsall *v.* Clark, 73 N. Y. 73 389
Blaisdell *v.* Ahern, 144 Mass. 393 616
Blake's case, 106 Mass. 501 42
Blake *v.* Blake, 110 Mass. 202 255
——— *v.* Pegram, 109 Mass. 541 377
Blanchard *v.* Blanchard, 1 Allen, 223 507
Bliss *v.* Negus, 8 Mass. 46 474
Booth *v.* Vicars, 1 Collyer, 6 507
Bordman *v.* Osborn, 23 Pick. 295 114
Boston *v.* Amesbury, 4 Met. 278 135
——— *v.* Binney, 11 Pick. 1 203
——— *v.* Worthington, 10 Gray, 496 48
Bosworth *v.* Swansey, 10 Met. 363 601
Bourne *v.* Greenleaf, 1 Pick. 117, n. 160
Bouton *v.* American Ins. Co. 25 Conn. 542 252
Bowditch *v.* Andrew, 8 Allen, 339 398
Bowker *v.* Childs, 3 Allen, 434 254

Digitized by Google

Boyer v. Rivet, 3 Bulstr. 317 552
Boynton v. Remington, 3 Allen, 397 221
Bradlie v. Maryland Ins. Co. 12 Pet. 378 452
Bradshaw v. Beard, 12 C. B. (N. S.) 344 282
Bragg v. Danielson, 141 Mass. 195 255
Brannon v. Hursell, 112 Mass. 66 513
Brewer v. Boston Theatre, 104 Mass. 378 498
Brickett v. Wallace, 98 Mass. 528 258
Briggs v. Earl, 139 Mass. 473 219, 394
Brigham v. Clark, 100 Mass. 430 608
——— v. Fayerweather, 140 Mass. 411 608
Broadway National Bank v. Adams, 133 Mass. 170 371, 398
Brooks v. Ahrens, 68 Md. 212 552
Brown v. Brine, 1 Ex. D. 5 463
——— v. Buffalo & State Line Railroad, 22 N. Y. 191 603
——— v. De Tastet, Jacob, 284 176
——— v. Kelsey, 2 Cush. 243 377
——— v. Kendall, 8 Allen, 209 96
Bruce v. Wood, 1 Met. 542 544
Bump v. Betts, 19 Wend. 421 99
Burkholder's appeal, 105 Penn. St. 31 464
Burnand v. Rodocanachi, 7 App. Cas. 333 549
Burnett v. Smith, 4 Gray, 50 265
Burt v. Brigham, 117 Mass. 307 488
——— v. British Assurance Association, 4 DeG. & J. 158 500
Butler v. Ives, 139 Mass. 262 27, 466, 518
——— v. Mullen, 109 Mass. 453 415

Callander v. Howard, 10 C. B. 290 224
Campbell v. Dearborn, 109 Mass. 130 51
——— v. New England Ins. Co. 98 Mass. 381 531
Campbell's Trusts, In re, 33 Ch. D. 98 507
Capital & Counties' Bank v. Henty, 7 App. Cas. 741 221
Carter v. Towne, 103 Mass. 507 49
Cary v. Bancroft, 14 Pick. 315 224
Cassier v. Fales, 139 Mass. 461 92
Central Mills v. Hart, 124 Mass. 123 203
Chambers v. Smith, 3 App. Cas. 795 372
Chandler v. Jamaica Pond Aqueduct Co. 122 Mass. 305 57
Chapin v. Vermont & Massachusetts Railroad, 8 Gray, 575 224
Chapman v. Dyett, 11 Wend. 31 92
——— v. Kellogg, 102 Mass. 246 518
Charlestown Branch Railroad v. County Commissioners, 7 Met. 78 196
Chase v. Breed, 5 Gray, 440 60
Chicopee v. County Commissioners, 16 Gray, 38 412
Claflin v. Boston & Lowell Railroad, 7 Allen, 341 319
Clark v. Chambers, 3 Q. B. D. 327 48
——— v. Hatch, 7 Cush. 455 418
——— v. Parker, 4 Cush. 361 388
——— v. Ricker, 14 N. H. 44 474
——— v. United Ins. Co. 7 Mass. 365 453
Clarke's case, 12 Cush. 320 492
Clarke v. Cordis, 4 Allen, 466 435
——— v. Morgan, 38 L. T. (N. S.) 854 49
——— v. Westrope, 18 C. B. 765 620
Clay v. Smith, 3 Pet. 411 417
Cleary v. Sohier, 120 Mass. 210 85
Clement v. British American Assurance Co. 141 Mass. 298 56
——— v. Kimball, 98 Mass. 535 606
Coates v. Legard, L. R. 19 Eq. 56 499
Cobb v. Curtiss, 8 Johns. 470 255
——— v. Lucas, 15 Pick. 1 412
Cochran v. Goodell, 131 Mass. 464 19
Cock v. Cross, 1 Freem. 49 367
——— v. ———, 3 Keb. 116 367
——— v. ———, 2 Lev. 73 367
Collett v. Foster, 2 H. & N. 356 92
Collins v. Evans, 15 Pick. 63 69
Comegys v. Vasse, 1 Pet. 193 547
Commonwealth v. Anthes, 5 Gray, 185 148
——— v. Atkins, 136 Mass. 160 148
——— v. Bennett, 118 Mass. 443 574
——— v. Blood, 141 Mass. 571 577
——— v. Brailey, 134 Mass. 527 571
——— v. Briggs, 11 Met. 573 139
——— v. Brown, 14 Gray, 419 582
——— v. Boynton, 2 Allen, 160 600
——— v. Buckley, 145 Mass. 181 321
——— v. Carney, 108 Mass. 417 319
——— v. Chisholm, 103 Mass. 213 188
——— v. Choate, 105 Mass. 451 515, 579
——— v. Conant, 6 Gray, 482 514
——— v. Cooley, 10 Pick. 37 130
——— v. Cotton, 138 Mass. 590 141
——— v. Crowninshield, 10 Pick. 497 582
——— v. Culver, 126 Mass. 464 581
——— v. Dunster, 145 Mass. 161 139
——— v. Elwell, 1 Gray, 463 139
——— v. Field, 119 Mass. 135 209
——— v. Fitchburg Railroad, 126 Mass. 472 514
——— v. Galavan, 9 Allen, 271 571
——— v. Gray, 129 Mass. 474 581
——— v. Hall, 4 Allen, 305 182
——— v. Hamilton Manufacturing Co. 12 Allen, 298 408
——— v. Hersey, 2 Allen, 173 515
——— v. Hills, 10 Cush. 530 581
——— v. Intoxicating Liquors, 97 Mass. 601 512
——— v. ———, 97 Mass. 68 511
——— v. ———, 107 Mass. 236 511
——— v. ———, 109 Mass. 371 511
——— v. ———, 110 Mass. 182 512
——— v. ———, 113 Mass. 208 511
——— v. ———, 122 Mass. 36 511
——— v. Jackson, 132 Mass. 16 323, 577
——— v. Kenney, 12 Met. 235 571
——— v. Lewis, 1 Met. 151 130
——— v. Locke, 145 Mass. 401 571
——— v. McCue, 121 Mass. 356 571
——— v. Mason, 105 Mass. 163 515
——— v. Moody, 148 Mass. 177 206
——— v. Morrell, 99 Mass. 542 581
——— v. Mullins, 2 Allen, 295 581
——— v. Murray, 135 Mass. 530 514

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Commonwealth v. Peto, 126 Mass. 155 148
——— v. Piper, 120 Mass. 185 582
——— v. Pomphret, 127 Mass. 364 141
——— v. Pratt, 137 Mass. 68 514
——— v. Pray, 13 Pick. 359 130
——— v. Preece, 140 Mass. 276 582
——— v. Quin, 5 Gray, 478 315
——— v. Ratcliffe, 150 Mass. 36 571
——— v. Scott, 123 Mass. 222 515, 579
——— v. Shaw, 4 Cush. 593 515
——— v. Shearman, 11 Cush. 546 321
——— v. Spear, 143 Mass. 172 46
——— v. Sprague, 128 Mass. 75 148
——— v. Thornikey, 6 Allen, 445 148
——— v. Waterman, 122 Mass. 43 582
——— v. Welch, 149 Mass. 572 146
——— v. Wright, 137 Mass. 250 144
Conant v. Newton, 126 Mass. 105 598
Connery v. Brooke, 73 Penn. St. 80 127
Cook v. Berth, 106 Mass. 78 441
——— v. Collingridge, Jacob, 607 176
Coolidge v. Gloucester Ins. Co. 15 Mass. 341 258
Coombs v. New Bedford Cordage Co. 102 Mass. 572 101, 287
Copeland v. Boaz, 9 Baxter, 226 462
Corbett, Ex parte, 14 Ch. D. 122 117
Corlies v. Howe, 11 Gray, 125 625
Corliss Steam Engine Co. v. Schumacher, 109 Mass. 416 23
Cormerais v. Wesselhoeft, 114 Mass. 550 518
Costello v. Cady, 102 Mass. 140 265
Coupal v. Ward, 106 Mass. 289 93
Coupland v. Hardingham, 3 Camp. 398 48
Cowdin v. Perry, 11 Pick. 503 385
Crawshay v. Collins, 1 Jac. & W. 267 176
——— v. ———, 2 Russ. 325 176
——— v. ———, 15 Ves. 218 176
Crocker v. Atwood, 144 Mass. 588 98
Crump v. Lambert, L. R. 3 Eq. 409 352
Cumber v. Wane, 1 Smith's Lead. Cas. (8th Am. ed.) 663 254
Cupp v. Commissioners of Seneca County, 19 Ohio St. 178 195
Cushing v. Bedford, 125 Mass. 526 44

Daley v. Savage, 145 Mass. 38 49
Damon v. Scituate, 119 Mass. 66 600
Daniels v. Fielding, 16 M. & W. 200 94
——— v. Pratt, 148 Mass. 216 268
Darling v. Boston & Worcester Railroad, 11 Allen, 295 319
Davies v. Davies, 36 Ch. D. 359 474
Davis v. Guarnieri, 45 Ohio St. 470 602
——— v. Hedges, L. R. 6 Q. B. 687 255
——— v. Newton, 6 Met. 537 335
——— v. Sawyer, 133 Mass. 289 351
Day v. Green, 4 Cush. 433 339
Dean v. Emerson, 102 Mass. 480 474
Deane v. Caldwell, 127 Mass. 242 114
Deansville Cemetery Association, Matter of, 66 N. Y. 569 166
DeBeauvoir v. DeBeauvoir, 3 H. L. Cas. 524 434
Deblois v. Ocean Ins. Co., 16 Pick. 303 459
Dehon v. Stetson, 9 Met. 341 224
De Medina v. Grove, 10 Q. B. 152 96
Denoon v. Home & Colonial Association Co. L. R. 7 C. P. 341 453
Detroit v. Dean, 106 U. S. 537 498
De Wolf v. Gardner, 12 Cush. 19 92
Deyo v. Jennison, 10 Allen, 410 97
——— v. Van Valkenburgh, 5 Hill, (N. Y.) 242 92
Dickinson v. Whiting, 141 Mass. 414 124
——— v. Worcester, 138 Mass. 555 305
Dimpfell v. Ohio & Mississippi Railway, 110 U. S. 209 498
Dixon v. Bell, 5 M. & S. 198 48
Dole v. Thurlow, 12 Met. 157 580, 611
Dooling v. Budget Publishing Co. 144 Mass. 258 221
Dove v. Torr, 128 Mass. 38 248
Draper v. Bugbee, 138 Mass. 258 87
Dunham v. Dunham, 128 Mass. 34 28
Dwelley v. Dwelley, 148 Mass. 509 372
Dyke, Ex parte, 22 Ch. D. 410 117

Earle v. Coburn, 130 Mass. 596 296
——— v. Fiske, 103 Mass. 491 611
Edgerly v. Whalen, 106 Mass. 307 27
Edwards v. Ela, 5 Allen, 87 377
——— v. New York & Harlem Railroad, 98 N. Y. 245 49
Ellicott v. Alliance Ins. Co. 14 Gray, 318 451
Elliot v. Willis, 1 Allen, 461 44
Elmer v. Locke, 135 Mass. 575 48, 592
Elsey v. Odd Fellows' Relief Association, 142 Mass. 224 394
Emerson v. Hall, 13 Pet. 409 551
Emery v. Lowell, 104 Mass. 18 469
Erwin v. United States, 97 U. S. 392 548
Evans v. Harlow, 5 Q. B. 624 221
Evergreen Cemetery Association v. Beecher, 53 Conn. 351 166
Everston v. National Bank of Newport, 66 N. Y. 14 235

Fabens v. Fabens, 141 Mass. 395 435
Fairbanks v. Fitchburg, 122 Mass. 42 306
Fall River v. Riley, 140 Mass. 488 328
Farmington River Water Power Co. v. County Commissioners, 113 Mass. 206 412
Fay v. Alliance Ins. Co. 16 Gray, 455 453
——— v. Duggan, 135 Mass. 242 330
——— v. Sylvester, 2 Gray, 171 507
——— v. Taft, 12 Cush. 448 313
——— v. Whitman, 100 Mass. 76 351
Feeley's case, 12 Cush. 598 493
Ffooks v. South Western Railway, 1 Sm. & G. 342 500
Fielden v. Ashworth, L. R. 20 Eq. 410 507
Fisher v. Currier, 7 Met. 424 417

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Fitchburg Railroad v. Grand Junction Railroad, 1 Allen, 552 45
Flagg v. Worcester, 13 Gray, 601 469
Flike v. Boston & Albany Railroad, 53 N. Y. 549 592
Flint v. Flint, 6 Allen, 34 57
Flynn v. Canton Co., 40 Md. 312 608
——— v. North America Ins. Co. 115 Mass. 449 289
Forbes v. Boston & Lowell Railroad, 133 Mass. 154 63, 319
——— v. Manufacturers' Ins. Co. 1 Gray, 371 453
Ford v. Fitchburg Railroad, 110 Mass. 240 592
Fortman v. Rottier, 8 Ohio St. 548 99
Forward v. Forward, 6 Allen, 494 377
Foss v. Harbottle, 2 Hare, 461 498
Fowle v. Torrey, 135 Mass. 87 27
Franklin v. Fisk, 13 Allen, 211 469
Frevall v. Bache, 14 Pet. 95 553
Fuller v. Cunningham, 105 Mass. 442 612
——— v. Shattuck, 13 Gray, 70 254

Games v. Stiles, 14 Pet. 322 611
Gandy v. Jubber, 5 B. & S. 78 49
——— v. ———, 9 B. & S. 15 49
Garretty v. Brazell, 34 Iowa, 100 84
Garth v. Earnshaw, 3 Y. & C. 584 463
Gay v. Kingsley, 11 Allen, 345 16
George's Creek Coal Co. v. New Central Coal Co. 40 Md. 425 195
Gerrish v. New Bedford Institution for Savings, 128 Mass. 159 422
Getchell v. Moran, 124 Mass. 404 612
Gibbens v. Gibbens, 140 Mass. 102 507
Gibson, Ex parte, 31 Cal. 619 495
Gifford v. Rockett, 121 Mass. 431 613
Gilbert v. Hebard, 8 Met. 129 418
Gillan v. Gillan, 55 Penn. St. 430 551
Gilman v. Eastern Railroad, 10 Allen, 233; 13 Allen, 433 595
Gipps v. Hume, 2 Johns. & Hem. 517 463
Gleason v. Sloper, 24 Pick. 181 412
Goersen v. Commonwealth, 99 Penn. St. 388 579
Goodnow v. Smith, 18 Pick. 414 254
Goodrich v. Stevens, 116 Mass. 170 388
Gorton v. Hadsell, 9 Cush. 508 581
Gould v. Emerson, 99 Mass. 154 289
——— v. Hawkes, 1 Allen, 170 322
Gracie v. New York Ins. Co. 8 Johns. 237 547
Graham v. Birkenhead Railway, 2 Macn. & G. 146 500
Grand Junction Railroad v. County Commissioners, 14 Gray, 553 195
Granger v. Parker, 142 Mass. 186 327
Grant v. Bodwell, 78 Maine, 460 552
——— v. Chase, 17 Mass. 443 75
Green v. Ekins, 2 Atk. 473 552
——— v. Price, 13 M. & W. 695; 16 M. & W. 346 475
Gregg v. Wyman, 4 Cush. 322 602
Grinnell v. Spink, 128 Mass. 25 256
Griswold v. Union Ins. Co. 3 Blatchf. C. C. 231 453
Grow v. Dobbins, 124 Mass. 560 368
——— v. ———, 128 Mass. 271 368
Gwinnell v. Eamer, L. R. 10 C. P. 658 49

Hadley v. Watson, 143 Mass. 27 390
Haley v. Bellamy, 137 Mass. 357 620
Hall v. Boston & Worcester Railroad, 14 Allen, 439 319
——— v. Bumstead, 20 Pick. 2 368
——— v. Corcoran, 107 Mass. 251 602
——— v. Hall, 140 Mass. 267 507
——— v. Holden, 116 Mass. 172 487
——— v. Leonard, 1 Pick. 27 611
——— v. Ripley, 119 Mass. 135 600
Hallett v. Fowler, 10 Allen, 36 16
Hallgarten v. Oldham, 135 Mass. 1 63
Hammond v. Danielson, 126 Mass. 294 79
Hancock v. Carlton, 6 Gray, 89 402
——— v. Hubbard, 19 Pick. 167 335
Hanlon v. South Boston Horse Railroad, 129 Mass. 310 600
Harrington v. Victoria Graving Dock Co. 3 Q. B. D. 549 474
Harris, In re, 47 Mo. 164 492
——— v. James, 45 L. J. Q. B. 545 49
Hart v. Hart, 18 Ch. D. 670 464
Haskell v. New Bedford, 108 Mass. 208 44
Hastings v. Stetson, 126 Mass. 329 49
Hathaway v. Crocker, 7 Met. 262 516
Hawes v. Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co. 101 Mass. 385 488
——— v. Oakland, 104 U. S. 450 498
Hawkes v. Pike, 105 Mass. 560 60
Hayden v. Stone, 112 Mass. 346 608
Hazen v. Boston & Maine Railroad, 2 Gray, 574 196
Heeney v. Sprague, 11 R. I. 456 603
Heland v. Lowell, 3 Allen, 407 602
Henry v. Tupper, 29 Vt. 358 402
Henshaw v. Savil, 114 Mass. 74 441
Herrick v. Smith, 1 Gray, 1 492
Hess v. Singler, 114 Mass. 56 365
Heywood v. Stiles, 124 Mass. 275 424
Hicks v. Chapman, 10 Allen, 463 42
Hill v. Boston, 122 Mass. 344 166
—— v. Mixter, 5 Allen, 27 22
Hills v. Snell, 104 Mass. 173 208
Hinckley v. Cape Cod Railroad, 120 Mass. 257 383
Hitchings v. Edmands, 132 Mass. 338 118
Hodsdon v. Guardian Ins. Co. 97 Mass. 144 252
Holbrook v. Bliss, 9 Allen, 67 334
——— v. Dow, 12 Gray, 357 323, 515
——— v. Harrington, 16 Gray, 102 507
Holden v. Fitchburg Railroad, 129 Mass. 268 594
Holt v. Somerville, 127 Mass. 408 307
Hood v. Hartshorn, 100 Mass. 117 620
Hook v. George, 108 Mass. 324 608
Horton v. Cooley, 135 Mass. 589 615
Hough v. Railway, 100 U. S. 213 592
Houghton, Ex parte, 1 Lowell, 554 114

Digitized by Google

Houghton v. Kendall, 7 Allen, 72 434
Howard v. Proctor, 7 Gray, 128 479
Huggins, Ex parte, 21 Ch. D. 85 548
Hulin v. Richards, 2 C. & K. 216 5
Humaston v. Telegraph Co. 20 Wall. 20 620
Hutchinson and Tenant, In re, 8 Ch. D. 540 365
Hynds v. Hays, 25 Ind. 31 474

Ilsley v. Nichols, 12 Pick. 270 97
Inches v. Hill, 106 Mass. 575 349, 398
Irving v. Manning, 1 H. L. Cas. 287 452

Jackman v. Arlington Mills, 137 Mass. 277 49
Jennings v. Whitehead & Atherton Machine Co. 138 Mass. 594 216
Jodrell v. Jodrell, 9 Beav. 45 464
Johnson v. Boston Tow-Boat Co. 135 Mass. 209 594
——— v. Joliet & Chicago Railroad, 23 Ill. 202 195
——— v. Kinnicutt, 2 Cush. 153 122
——— v. New York Central Railroad, 33 N. Y. 610 319
Jones v. Andover, 10 Allen, 18 601
——— v. Dexter, 125 Mass. 469 548
——— v. Fales, 4 Mass. 245 233
Jordan v. Farnsworth, 15 Gray, 517 612
——— v. Osgood, 109 Mass. 457 323, 579
Joyce v. Martin, 15 R. I. 558 49

Kelley v. Norcross, 121 Mass. 508 592
Kellogg, Ex parte, 6 Vt. 509 495
——— v. Barton, 12 Allen, 527 625
——— v. Thompson, 142 Mass. 76 63
Kennebec Railroad v. Portland Railroad, 54 Maine, 173 499
Kennedy v. Owen, 131 Mass. 481 123
Killea v. Faxon, 125 Mass. 485 592
Killion v. Kelley, 120 Mass. 47 585
Kimberly v. Ely, 6 Pick. 440 417
King v. Boston & Worcester Railroad, 9 Cush. 112 595
——— v. ———, 129 Mass. 277, n. 595
——— v. Eagle Mills, 10 Allen, 548 216
King, The, v. Bedford Level, 6 East, 356 45
Kirby v. Boylston Market Association, 14 Gray, 249 48, 603
——— v. State, 62 Ala. 51 493
Kneil v. Egleston, 140 Mass. 202 27

Lake, Ex parte, 2 Lowell, 544 115
Lakin v. Ames, 10 Cush. 198 282
Lamb v. Briard, Abb. Adm. 367 198
Lambe v. Eames, L. R. 10 Eq. 267 365
——— v. ———, L. R. 6 Ch. App. 597 365
Lampert v. Haydel, 20 Mo. App. 616 373
Lane v. Atlantic Works, 111 Mass. 136 48, 603
Lange, Ex parte, 18 Wall. 168 493
Langford v. Boston & Albany Railroad, 144 Mass. 431 93
Lark v. State, 55 Ga. 435 493
Larue v. Farren Hotel Co. 116 Mass. 67 48
Lawless v. Connecticut River Railroad, 136 Mass. 1 592
Leddy v. Barney, 139 Mass. 394 193
Legallee v. Blaisdell, 134 Mass. 473 93
Lenz v. Prescott, 144 Mass. 505 499
Leonard v. Kingman, 136 Mass. 123 203
——— v. Nye, 125 Mass. 455 547
——— v. Storer, 115 Mass. 86 48
Lerow v. Wilmarth, 9 Allen, 382 67
Lewis v. Sumner, 13 Met. 269 5
Libby v. Ingalls, 124 Mass. 503 319
Lincoln v. Cook, 124 Mass. 388 441
Litchfield v. Hutchinson, 117 Mass. 195 216
Little Miami Railroad v. Washburn, 22 Ohio St. 324 319
Livingston v. Tompkins, 4 John. Ch. 415 402
Livingstone v. Whiting, 15 Q. B. 722 224
Lombard v. Boyden, 5 Allen, 249 435
Long Wharf v. Central Wharf, 14 Allen, 271 561
Lord v. Wheeler, 1 Gray, 282 85
Loring v. Thorndike, 5 Allen, 257 434
Lovier v. Gilpin, 6 Dana, 321 92
Low v. DeWolf, 8 Pick. 101 63
—— v. Smith, 2 Jur. (N. S.) 344 434
Lowell v. County Commissioners, 3 Allen, 546 411
——— v. Simpson, 10 Allen, 88 389
——— v. Spaulding, 4 Cush. 277 48
Luce v. Dexter, 135 Mass. 28 93
Luddy, In re, 25 Ch. D. 394 343
Lumley v. Gye, 2 El. & Bl. 216 49
Lynch v. Knight, 9 H. L. C. 577 48
Lyons v. Desotelle, 124 Mass. 387 602

McCarthy v. Boston, 135 Mass. 197 44
McCoy v. Metropolitan Ins. Co. 133 Mass. 82 531
McDonald v. Massachusetts General Hospital, 120 Mass. 432 166
McGee v. Boston Cordage Co. 139 Mass. 445 595
McGrath v. Merwin, 112 Mass. 467 601
McGregor v. Crane, 98 Mass. 590 92
McLeane v. United States, Davis's Report of Alabama Commissioners, 112 547
Mallan v. May, 11 M. & W. 653 474
Mansfield v. Dyer, 133 Mass. 374 19
Marble v. Ross, 124 Mass. 44 602
Marcy v. Marcy, 6 Met. 360 161
Marks v. Townsend, 97 N. Y. 590 93
Marlett v. Jackman, 3 Allen, 287 415
Marsh v. Putnam, 3 Gray, 551 418
Marshall v. Jaquith, 134 Mass. 138 27
Martin v. Campbell, 120 Mass. 126 328
Massachusetts General Hospital v. Fairbanks, 129 Mass. 78 203
Matthewson v. Moulton, 135 Mass. 122 466
Maugham v. Sharpe, 17 C. B. (N. S.) 443 611
Maughan, In re, 14 Q. B. D. 956 117

Digitized by Google

Maunsell v. White, 4 H. L. C. 1039 88
Maxwell v. McAtee, 9 B. Mon. 20 127
May v. King, 12 Mod. 537 255
Mayer v. People, 80 N. Y. 364 579
Mayhew v. Pentecost, 129 Mass. 332 16
Mayo v. Boston & Maine Railroad, 104 Mass. 137 246
Meehan v. Barry, 97 Mass. 447 586
Mellen v. Morrill, 126 Mass. 545 49
Merchants' National Bank v. Bangs, 102 Mass. 291 69
Meriam v. Brown, 128 Mass. 391 196
Merriam v. Goss, 189 Mass. 77 66
Merrifield v. Worcester, 110 Mass. 216 469
Merrill v. Preston, 135 Mass. 451 435
Middlesex Husbandmen v. Davis, 3 Met. 133 488
Miller v. Miller, 35 N. W. Rep. 464 463
——— v. Washburn, 117 Mass. 371 586
Milliken v. Thorndike, 103 Mass. 382 88
Milnor v. Metz, 16 Pet. 221 553
Minot v. Harris, 132 Mass. 528 434
——— v. Tappan, 122 Mass. 535 348
Model Lodging House Association v. Boston, 114 Mass. 133 518
Moore v. Coughlin, 4 Allen, 335 388
——— v. Spiegel, 143 Mass. 413 388, 459
Moors v. Kidder, 106 N. Y. 32 63
Morgan v. Curley, 142 Mass. 107 96
Morley, In re, L. R. 8 Eq. 594 519
Morse v. Hodsdon, 5 Mass. 314 328
Morse Twist Drill Co. v. Morse, 103 Mass. 73 474
Motte v. Alger, 15 Gray, 322 27, 540, 610
Moulor v. American Ins. Co. 111 U. S. 335 531
Moulton v. Bowker, 115 Mass. 36 5
Mullen v. Brown, 138 Mass. 114 93
Munde v. Lambie, 122 Mass. 336 88
Mussoorie Bank v. Raynor, 7 App. Cas. 321 366

Narragansett Bank v. Atlantic Silk Co. 3 Met. 282 488
Nash v. New England Ins. Co. 127 Mass. 91 122
National Bank v. Insurance Co. 95 U. S. 673 531
——— v. Whitney, 103 U. S. 99 240
Nelson v. Liverpool Brewery Co. 2 C. P. D. 311 49
——— v. Milford, 7 Pick. 18 487
New Brunswick & Canada Railway v. Conybeare, 9 H. L. Cas. 711 618
Newcomb v. Reed, 12 Allen, 362 488
Newell v. Hill, 2 Met. 180 123
Newman v. Zachary, Aleyn, 3 48
Newsome v. Newsome, L. R. 2 P. & D. 306 463
Nichols v. Nichols, 136 Mass. 256 463
Niles v. Field, 2 Met. 327 382
Norcross v. James, 140 Mass. 188 368
Norris v. Litchfield, 35 N. H. 271 603
Northern Pacific Railroad v. Herbert, 116 U. S. 642 595
Northern Railroad v. Fitchburg Railroad, 6 Allen, 254 319
Nutt v. Morse, 142 Mass. 1 421

O'Connor v. Cavan, 126 Mass. 117 613
——— v. Hallinan, 103 Mass. 547 581
O'Donnell v. Clinton, 145 Mass. 461 193
Old South Society v. Crocker, 119 Mass. 1 166
O'Linda v. Lothrop, 21 Pick. 292 125
Olivant v. Wright, 1 Ch. D. 346 343
O'Mahoney v. Burdett, L. R. 7 H. L. 388 343
O'Neil v. Glover, 5 Gray, 144 388
Oregon Steam Navigation Co. v. Winsor, 20 Wall. 64 474
Ormrod v. Huth, 14 M. & W. 651 216
Ormsby v. People, 53 N. Y. 472 582
Ouimet v. Sirois, 124 Mass. 162 613
Overton v. Sydall, Gouldsb. 120 552
——— v. ———, Poph. 120 552
Owners of Ground v. Albany, 15 Wend. 374 195

Packard v. Marshall, 188 Mass. 301 104
Page v. Bent, 2 Met. 371 88
Palmer v. Stockwell, 9 Gray, 237 620
Parish v. Stone, 14 Pick. 198 474
Parker v. Bennett, 11 Allen, 388 75
——— v. Parker, 126 Mass. 433 372
Parkins v. Hawkshaw, 2 Stark. 239 5
Parsons v. Dickinson, 11 Pick. 352 97
——— v. Winslow, 16 Mass. 361 376
Paterson, Ex parte, 11 Ch. D. 908 117
Payne v. Rogers, 2 H. Bl. 350 48
Peabody v. Brown, 10 Gray, 45 611
——— v. Flint, 6 Allen, 52 501
Peck v. Denniston, 121 Mass. 17 585
People v. Baker, 89 N. Y. 460 493
——— v. Irving, 95 N. Y. 541 515
——— v. Jacobs, 66 N. Y. 8 493
——— v. Liscomb, 60 N. Y. 559 493
——— v. Roff, 3 Park. Cr. Rep. 216 492
——— v. Sharp, 107 N. Y. 427 579
Perkins v. Nichols, 11 Allen, 542 387
Perry v. Breed, 117 Mass. 155 608
Petch v. Lyon, 9 Q. B. 147 5
Petersilea v. Stone, 119 Mass. 465 45
Petty v. Allen, 134 Mass. 265 254
Phelps v. McDonald, 99 U. S. 298 548
Philadelphia, Wilmington, & Baltimore Railroad v. Quigley, 21 How. 202 618
Philbrick v. Ewing, 97 Mass. 133 75
Phinney, petitioner, 32 Maine, 440 493
Phœnix Ins. Co. v. Raddin, 120 U. S. 183 252
Pickering v. Ilfracombe Railway, L. R. 3 C. P. 235 474
Pierce v. Stidworthy, 79 Maine, 234 552
Pike v. Fay, 101 Mass. 134 216
—— v. Stephenson, 99 Mass. 188 507
Pine v. Morrison, 121 Mass. 296 97
Plater v. Scott, 6 Gill & J. 116 548
Platt v. Harrison, 6 Iowa, 79 492
Plimpton v. Goodell, 143 Mass. 365 19

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Plympton v. Boston Dispensary, 106 Mass. 544 376, 519
Pointon v. Pointon, L. R. 12 Eq. 547 499
Powers v. Raymond, 137 Mass. 483 16
Pratt v. Gibbs, 9 Cush. 82 60
——— v. Lamson, 128 Mass. 528 367
——— v. Parkman, 24 Pick. 42 63
Pretty v. Bickmore, L. R. 8 C. P. 401 49
Priest v. Groton, 108 Mass. 580 216

Quinby v. Cook, 10 Allen, 32 518

Rand v. Mather, 11 Cush. 1 474
——— v. Sanger, 115 Mass. 124 507
Rawson v. Clark, 70 Ill. 656 84
Raymond v. Holden, 2 Cush. 264 544
Reeves v. Watts, 7 B. & S. 528 611
Rhodes v. Brooks, 16 Gray, 170 332
Rich v. Basterfield, 4 C. B. 783 49
Richardson v. Hall, 124 Mass. 228 508
Richmond Iron Works v. Wadhams, 142 Mass. 569 541
Riding v. Smith, 1 Ex. D. 91 49
Rigge v. Burbidge, 15 M. & W. 598 256
Riley v. Lowell, 117 Mass. 76 54
Roberts v. Frisby, 38 Tex. 219 462
Robinson v. Green, 3 Met. 159 474
——— v. Trofitter, 109 Mass. 478 27
Roby v. Phelon, 118 Mass. 541 27
Rockwood v. Whiting, 118 Mass. 337 22
Rogers v. Currier, 13 Gray, 129 78
——— v. Ludlow Manufacturing Co. 144 Mass. 198 594
Rollins v. Marsh, 128 Mass. 116 42
Ross's case, 2 Pick. 165 498
Royal Bank of Liverpool v. Grand Junction Railroad, 125 Mass. 490 501
Royce v. Burrill, 12 Mass. 395 368
Russ v. Alpaugh, 118 Mass. 369 368
Russell v. Shenton, 3 Q. B. 449 50
——— v. Tillotson, 140 Mass. 201 191, 267

St. Helen's Smelting Co. v. Tipping, 11 H. L. Cas. 642 351
Sanborn v. Woodman, 5 Cush. 86 402
Sanders v. Pope, 12 Ves. 282 402
Saunders v. McCarthy, 8 Allen, 42 5
Savory v. Stocking, 4 Cush. 607 114
Sawyer v. Baldwin, 20 Pick. 378 377
Scanlan v. Wright, 13 Pick. 523 611
Scott v. Berkshire County Savings Bank, 140 Mass. 157 422
——— v. Shepherd, 2 W. Bl. 892 48
——— v. ———, 3 Wils. 403 48
Sears v. Cunningham, 122 Mass. 538 365
——— v. Hardy, 120 Mass. 524 397
——— v. Russell, 8 Gray, 86 104
Semler, petitioner, 41 Wis. 517 498
Sewall v. Sullivan, 108 Mass. 355 441
Shaffner v. Commonwealth, 72 Penn. St. 60 579
Shattuck v. Stoneham Branch Railroad, 6 Allen, 115 57
Shaughnessey v. Lewis, 130 Mass. 355 328
Shaw, Ex parte, 7 Ohio St. 81 493
——— v. Loud, 12 Mass. 447 611
——— v. McIntier, 5 Allen, 428 328
——— v. Pratt, 22 Pick. 305 254
Sheldon v. Carpenter, 4 N. Y. 578 96
Sherman v. New Bedford Savings Bank, 138 Mass. 581 422
Shipley v. Fifty Associates, 101 Mass. 251 46
——— v. ———, 106 Mass. 194 46
Shumway v. Holbrook, 1 Pick. 115 160
Siebold, Ex parte, 100 U. S. 371 492
Simmons v. Mitchell, 6 App. Cas. 156 221
Smith v. Boston & Maine Railroad, 120 Mass. 490 602
——— v. Brown, 136 Mass. 416 466
——— v. Butcher, 10 Ch. D. 113 434
——— v. Castles, 1 Gray, 108 323, 515
——— v. Fellows, 131 Mass. 20 377
——— v. Harrington, 4 Allen, 566 389
——— v. Palmer, 6 Cush. 513 255
——— v. Quinton, 2 Bray. (Vt.) 200 96
——— v. Sydney, L. R. 5 Q. B. 203 93
Snow v. Moore, 107 Mass. 512 608
Sohier v. Eldredge, 103 Mass. 345 376
Solomon v. Lawson, 8 Q. B. 823 221
Soltau v. De Held, 2 Sim. (N. S.) 133 351
Sparhawk v. Cloon, 125 Mass. 263 398
——— v. Twichell, 1 Allen, 450 123
——— v. Union Passenger Railway, 54 Penn. St. 401 352
Spaulding v. Backus, 122 Mass. 553 334
Spicer v. South Boston Iron Co. 138 Mass. 426 595
Spofford v. Harlow, 3 Allen, 176 605
Squire v. Lincoln, 137 Mass. 399 16
Star Glass Co. v. Morey, 108 Mass. 570 256
State v. Lapage, 57 N. H. 245 579
——— v. Paterson, 5 Vroom, 163 339
Steele v. Burkhardt, 104 Mass. 59 601
Steib v. Whitehead, 111 Ill. 247 373
Stephens v. Milnor, 9 C. E. Green, 358 508
Sterling v. Sterling, 12 Ga. 201 464
Stetson v. O'Sullivan, 8 Allen, 321 27
Stevens v. Commonwealth, 6 Met. 241 206
Stewart v. Board of Police, 25 Miss. 479 196
——— v. Greenock Ins. Co. 6 Ct. of Sess. Cas. (2d series), 859 452
——— v. Putnam, 127 Mass. 408 50
Stickney v. Clement, 7 Gray, 170 335
Stone, petitioner, 138 Mass. 476 398
Storer v. McGaw, 11 Allen, 527 258
Storms v. Smith, 137 Mass. 201 80
Sturtevant v. Wallack, 141 Mass. 119 571
Sudbury v. Heard, 103 Mass. 543 44
Sullivan v. India Manufacturing Co. 113 Mass. 396 190, 267
Sumner v. Stevens, 6 Met. 337 540

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Sutton v. Wauwatosa, 29 Wis. 21 603
Swan v. Commonwealth, 104 Penn. St. 218 579
——— v. Middlesex, 101 Mass. 173 413
Sweeney v. Muldoon, 139 Mass. 304 282
Sweet v. Dutton, 109 Mass. 589 435
Sweetland v. Stetson, 115 Mass. 49 609
Sweetser v. Hay, 2 Gray, 49 328
Swett v. Boston, 18 Pick. 128 508
Swords v. Edgar, 59 N. Y. 28 48
Sykes v. Keating, 118 Mass. 517 612
Symons v. Burton, Monro, Acta Cancellariæ, 266 464

Taber v. New Bedford, 135 Mass. 162 307
Taft v. Marsily, 47 Hun, 175 552
Tarlton v. Fisher, 2 Doug. 672 92
Taylor v. Blanchard, 13 Allen, 370 478
——— v. Carew Manufacturing Co. 140 Mass. 150 267
——— v. Manners, L. R. 1 Ch. 48 254
——— v. Wright, 121 Ill. 455 389
Terry v. Sisson, 125 Mass. 560 321
Tewksbury v. County Commissioners, 117 Mass. 568 412
Thacher v. Moors, 134 Mass. 156 63
Thackara v. Mintzer, 100 Penn. St. 151 373
Thomas v. Marshfield, 10 Pick. 364 611
Thorp v. Owen, 2 Hare, 607 366
Thurnell v. Balbirnie, 2 M. & W. 786 620
Thurston v. Percival, 1 Pick. 415 616
Thwing v. Washington Ins. Co. 10 Gray, 443 450
Tickle, In re, 3 Morrell, 126 117
Tindley v. Salem, 137 Mass. 171 166
Todd v. Flight, 9 C. B. (N. S.) 377 49
Topping v. Bickford, 4 Allen, 120 488
Tracy v. Jenks, 15 Pick. 465 612
Treadway v. Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad, 40 Iowa, 526 5
Treadwell v. Cordis, 5 Gray, 341 508
——— v. Marden, 123 Mass. 390 114
Tryon v. Whitmarsh, 1 Met. 1 88
Tucker v. Fenno, 110 Mass. 311 518
——— v. Howard, 122 Mass. 529 122
Tufts v. Charlestown, 117 Mass. 401 562
Turnbull v. Pomeroy, 140 Mass. 117 377
Turner v. Dartmouth, 13 Allen, 291 469
Tuttle v. Lawrence, 119 Mass. 276 602
Twombly v. Monroe, 136 Mass. 464 221
Tyler v. Brigham, 143 Mass. 410 260

Ulsch v. Muller, 143 Mass. 379 256
Underwood, In re, 30 Mich. 502 492
——— v. Boston Five Cents Savings Bank, 141 Mass. 305 349, 398
——— v. Carney, 1 Cush. 285 125
United States v. Diekelman, 92 U. S. 520 553
——— v. Hunter, 5 Mason, 62 553
——— v. ———, 5 Pet. 173 553
Unity Association v. Dugan, 118 Mass. 219 289

Upham v. Wyman, 7 Allen, 499 334
Upton v. Tribilcock, 91 U. S. 45 193

Valentine v. Farnsworth, 21 Pick. 176 368
Van Hagan, Ex parte, 25 Ohio St. 426 493
Van Order v. Van Order, 8 Hun, 815 462
Varnum v. Meserve, 8 Allen, 158 64

Wade v. Mason, 12 Gray, 335 69
Wagstaff v. Wilson, 4 B. & Ad. 339 5
Walker v. Cronin, 107 Mass. 555 48
——— v. Curtis, 116 Mass. 98 581
Walter v. Selfe, 4 DeG. & Sm. 315 351
Walton, Ex parte, 17 Ch. D. 746 117
Walworth v. Brackett, 98 Mass. 96 488
Wankford v. Wankford, 1 Salk. 299 367
Warren v. Fitchburg Railroad, 8 Allen, 227 246
Waters v. Stickney, 12 Allen, 1 161
Watkins, Ex parte, 3 Pet. 193 492
Watson v. Charlestown, 5 Met. 54 135
——— v. King, 3 C. B. 608 5
Watts v. Howard, 7 Met. 478 376
Webber, Ex parte, 18 Q. B. D. 111 548
Webster v. Foster, 15 Gray, 81 19
Wedderburn v. Wedderburn, 22 Beav. 84 176
——— v. ———, 2 Keen, 722 176
——— v. ———, 4 Myl. & Cr. 41 176
Welch v. Wesson, 6 Gray, 505 604
——— v. Wilcox, 101 Mass. 162 124
Weld v. Walker, 130 Mass. 422 282
Wells v. Calnan, 107 Mass. 514 85
Welsh v. Woodbury, 144 Mass. 542 349
Wesson v. Washburn Iron Co. 13 Allen, 95 351
West v. Smallwood, 3 M. & W. 418 92
Westcott v. Middleton, 16 Stew. (N. J.) 478 352
Wheeler v. Wason Manufacturing Co. 135 Mass. 294 191
Wheelwright v. Boston & Albany Railroad, 135 Mass. 225 246
Whipple v. Fairchild, 139 Mass. 262 349
White v. Boston & Albany Railroad, 144 Mass. 404 591
——— v. Buss, 3 Cush. 448 474
——— v. Lang, 128 Mass. 598 605
Whitman v. Boston & Maine Railroad, 7 Allen, 313 57
Whitney v. New York Ins. Co. 18 Johns. 208 451
——— v. Union Railway, 11 Gray, 359 561
Willard v. Newburyport, 12 Pick. 227 275
Willett v. Blanford, 1 Hare, 253 176
Williams v. Churchill, 137 Mass. 243 191
——— v. Clark, 140 Mass. 238 124
——— v. Smith, 14 C. B. (N. S.) 596 93
Wilson v. Hathaway, 42 Iowa, 173 195
——— v. Wilson, 1 H. L. Cas. 538 464
——— v. ———, 14 Sim. 405 464
——— v. ———, 5 H. L. Cas. 40 464

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Wilson *v.* Wilson, 145 Mass. 490 363
Winchester *v.* Charter, 12 Allen, 606 67
Winsmore *v.* Greenbank, Willes, 577 48
Wood *v.* Graves, 144 Mass. 365 94
——— *v.* Simons, 110 Mass. 116 612
Woodbridge *v.* Cambridge, 114 Mass. 488 487
Woodbury *v.* Marblehead Water Co. 145 Mass. 509 195
Woodruff *v.* Hinman, 11 Vt. 592 474
——— *v.* Wentworth, 133 Mass. 309 474
Woodward *v.* Darcy, Plowd. 184 367
——— *v.* Spurr, 141 Mass. 283 27
Worcester *v.* County Commissioners, 100 Mass. 108 54
Worcester Medical Institution *v.* Harding, 11 Cush. 285 488
Wright *v.* Boston & Maine Railroad, 129 Mass. 440 246
——— *v.* Malden & Melrose Railroad, 4 Allen, 283 603
Wroughton *v.* Colquhoun, 1 DeG. & Sm. 36 508
Yates *v.* Finn, 13 Ch. D. 839 176
Young *v.* Wright, 1 Camp. 139 5

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CASES

ARGUED AND DETERMINED

IN THE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

JAMES A. PICKERT *vs.* CHARLES N. HAIR.
THOMAS PHILLIPS *vs.* SAME.

Worcester. October 3, 4, 1887. — January 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Evidence — Attorney — Admission.

In an action by A. against a deputy sheriff for the conversion of goods, attached by him as the property of B., B. testified that the goods had belonged to his mother, who had sold them to A., and that he, B., was the general manager of the business in which the goods were used. There was also evidence that, immediately after the attachment, B. consulted C., a lawyer, who afterwards brought this action. The defendant offered to show that on the evening of the attachment C. called on the lawyer who brought the action on which the goods were attached, and said that B. represented to him that D. owned the goods. *Held*, that the evidence was inadmissible for the purpose either of contradicting B., or of showing an admission which was binding on A.

TWO ACTIONS OF TORT. The first case was for the conversion of certain articles of personal property, and the second case was for the conversion of a sum of money. The defendant, a deputy sheriff, justified in each case, by virtue of an attachment of the articles as the property of Rozel F. Pickert and Hattie E. Pickert.

The cases were tried together in the Superior Court, before *Aldrich*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

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In August, 1883, a shop was opened in Worcester for the sale of tea and coffee, inducements being advertised and offered to buyers, in the shape of prizes or gifts of more or less value, put up in the packages of tea and coffee. The name in which the business was conducted was the "Importers Tea Company." The manager of this shop was the plaintiff Phillips, and he had under him several clerks. The Importers Tea Company had been in existence under that name for several years, and had shops, for a few weeks or months at a time, in each of a large number of cities and towns all over the country, and there were several shops running at the same time that this one in Worcester was in operation. Rozel F. Pickert and his wife were indebted to certain New York merchants, who caused an attachment to be made by the defendant of the stock, &c. of the Importers Tea Company in Worcester, including money displayed in the shop window to attract attention, contending that the owners and proprietors of the Importers Tea Company were said Pickert and wife. The plaintiff James A. Pickert claimed to be the owner of the attached property, except $150, and to carry on, and to be the person doing business as, the said company. Thomas Phillips claimed the $150, not claimed by James A. Pickert, which was part of some $450 in bills, taken from the shop window.

Evidence for the plaintiffs tended to show that Rozel F. Pickert had organized this general business as the agent of his mother, and with his mother's funds, in 1879, and had always been the general manager of all the shops of the Importers Tea Company, conducting and directing the whole business until the spring of 1883, when his mother sold the business to his brother, James A. Pickert; and that thereafter said R. F. Pickert acted in the same capacity for his brother, who was living in Dakota on a farm, and, as such general manager conducting the business, established the Worcester store. Both R. F. Pickert and Thomas Phillips were witnesses, and testified to these facts, Pickert in detail, and Phillips in a general way, to the ownership by James A. Pickert, and to the general management by R. F. Pickert.

Evidence for the defendant tended to show that R. F. Pickert and his wife were the real owners of this business and property,

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and that the sale to James A. Pickert was a pretended transfer, and was colorable only, and this issue was submitted to the jury.

Thomas Phillips, called by the plaintiffs as the first witness, testified that the attachment took place on September 6, 1883; that one Cleveland was left in the shop by the defendant, as a keeper; that he, Phillips, notified R. F. Pickert of the attachment, by telegram to Providence, Rhode Island, where he then was; that he came up the same day or evening, he thought; that they consulted together in the shop, in relation to the attachment; that he, Phillips, did not go to see counsel with Pickert, but he thought a clerk named Wilson was the person who went; that he did not remember clearly, but supposed, and had no doubt, that Pickert with Wilson did go to consult Mr. John R. Thayer. Cleveland, the keeper, testified that R. F. Pickert came up from Providence the afternoon of the attachment, and, after a conference with Phillips, which the witness did not overhear, said they would take counsel of Mr. Thayer, and, having failed to find him in his office, in the evening asked the witness where Mr. Thayer lived, and went where directed, to see Mr. Thayer, in a hack with Wilson.

The defendant called Mr. Henry Bacon, of the firm of lawyers who made the writs on which the attachments were made, and who had charge of the making of the same, and offered his testimony to show that, on the evening of September 6, Mr. Thayer, who in these cases throughout has been, since they were brought, the sole counsel for these plaintiffs, came to his (Bacon's) office, and said to him that R. F. Pickert represented to him that a certain party in New York, entirely other than James A. Pickert, and not now claimed to be the owner of the property at all, was the owner of the attached property; that he had come to state the fact because Pickert wanted to have him (Bacon) write to his clients in New York this fact, and that, if they would go to see the owner in New York, they would be satisfied, and relinquish the attachment, which communication Mr. Bacon at once made by letter. The name of the alleged owner in New York was given to Mr. Bacon. To the admission of this testimony the plaintiffs objected, and the judge excluded the evidence.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff in each case; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

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W. S. B. Hopkins, for the defendant.
J. R. Thayer, for the plaintiffs.

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FIELD, J. It is contended that the evidence offered of what Mr. Thayer said to Mr. Bacon was competent for two purposes: first, to contradict R. F. Pickert, who had testified as a witness for the plaintiffs; and, secondly, as an admission made by Mr. Thayer as attorney for the plaintiffs in these actions, and therefore equivalent to an admission by the plaintiffs themselves.

As evidence to contradict the witness Pickert, it was not competent, because it was not testimony of anything R. F. Pickert said, but testimony of what Mr. Thayer said that he said. For the same reason, if the evidence was offered for the purpose of showing that R. F. Pickert, as general manager of the business, made certain statements which are to be regarded as made by him, while acting for his principals within the scope of his employment, and in legal effect the same as if made by his principals, the testimony was not competent to prove that R. F. Pickert ever made the statements. It is not necessary to determine whether evidence that Pickert made the statements to Mr. Thayer would be competent. On the defendant's theory, they were statements made by one agent of the plaintiffs to another, and it is at least doubtful if they were within the scope of the authority given to R. F. Pickert. It is only on the ground that there was evidence that Mr. Thayer, when he had the conversation with Mr. Bacon, was attorney for these plaintiffs, and adopted the alleged statements of Pickert to him as his own, that the argument of the defendant upon the competency of the admissions of an attorney at law against his client has any relevancy.

We think it very doubtful whether the evidence offered can be regarded as anything more than a statement by Mr. Thayer of what R. F. Pickert represented to him, and wished to have done; but if it be assumed that it contained any admission or representation by Mr. Thayer of the fact of ownership of the property, and if it also be assumed that there was evidence for the jury, that, at the time of the conversation with Mr. Bacon, Mr. Thayer had been retained as an attorney at law for these plaintiffs, for the purpose of obtaining a discharge of the attachment upon the property, still we think that the evidence was

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incompetent, because the statement was one which an attorney at law is not authorized, by virtue of his employment, to make on behalf of his client. The present suits had not then been brought. The information which Mr. Thayer said he had received from R. F. Pickert was given to Mr. Bacon that it might be sent to Mr. Bacon's clients in New York, to induce them to investigate the truth of the statement, and, if satisfied of its truth, to discharge the attachment. The attachment was never discharged. The admission was not made by Mr. Thayer for the purpose of dispensing with any rule of practice, or with the proof of any fact in the trial of the action already brought, or of the actions which might be brought, in reference to the attached property. It was a conversation relating to a fact in controversy, but not an agreement relating to the management and trial of a suit, or an admission intended to influence the procedure in the pending action, or in any other, if the attachment was not discharged. *Saunders* v. *McCarthy*, 8 Allen, 42. *Lewis* v. *Sumner*, 13 Met. 269. *Treadway* v. *Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad*, 40 Iowa, 526. *Petch* v. *Lyon*, 9 Q. B. 147. *Wagstaff* v. *Wilson*, 4 B. & Ad. 339. *Moulton* v. *Bowker*, 115 Mass. 36. *Parkins* v. *Hawkshaw*, 2 Stark. 239. *Young* v. *Wright*, 1 Camp. 139. *Watson* v. *King*, 3 C. B. 608. *Hulin* v. *Richards*, 2 C. & K. 216. 1 Greenl. Ev. § 186. *Exceptions overruled.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* GEORGE B. ELIOT.

Essex. November 1, 1887. — January 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Great Pond — Lease — Covenant — Town — Notice.

Under the Pub. Sts. c. 91, § 13, providing that, before making a lease of a great pond, the commissioners on inland fisheries "shall appoint a time and place for a hearing upon the application therefor, and shall give notice thereof to every city or town within whose limits any part of the pond lies," no notice is necessary where the whole of the pond lies in the city or town making the application.

If a lease of a great pond is made to a town, under the Pub. Sts. c. 91, containing covenants to be performed by the town, and a provision that, in case of breach

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of any of the covenants, the commissioners on inland fisheries may enter and expel the lessee, a breach of the covenants on the part of the lessee is not of itself evidence of an abandonment of the lease.

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COMPLAINT, under the Pub. Sts. c. 91, § 27, alleging that the defendant, on December 23, 1885, at North Andover, "in a certain pond called the Great Pond, otherwise known as Lake Cochickewick, said pond being a body of water of more than twenty acres in area, and being wholly situated in said North Andover, the whole of said pond being then and there a place where useful fishes were then and there lawfully artificially cultivated and maintained, unlawfully did fish without the permission or consent of the inhabitants of the said North Andover, the said inhabitants being then and there the lessees and proprietors of said pond, and proprietors of all the fishes therein contained, under and by virtue of a lease of said pond, made to said inhabitants," by the Commonwealth.

Trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Hammond*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The government put in evidence a lease of said pond from the board of commissioners on inland fisheries to the inhabitants of North Andover, for the term of fifteen years from and including September 5, 1884, the date of the lease. The lease contained certain provisions, which are stated in the margin.*

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* "And the said lessees hereby covenant with said Commonwealth, that they will pay said rent in manner aforesaid; that they will not occupy more than one tenth part of the premises aforesaid with the enclosure and appliances necessary for the taking and cultivation of fishes; that they will not avail themselves of the privilege of this lease to the prejudice of any rights of individuals, or public rights, other than the taking and cultivation aforesaid; that they will so arrange their enclosures and appliances aforesaid as not to debar ingress to and egress from said premises at proper places and at proper times; that they will not sell fishes for food at seasons when their capture is prohibited by law; that they will allow said board of commissioners at all times to enter on said premises, and to take fishes for purposes connected with fish culture and scientific observation; that during the last year of the period embraced by this lease they will not take nor capture any useful fishes, nor suffer the same to be taken or captured within the limits of said premises; that they will observe and obey all the laws of said Commonwealth relating to inland fisheries.

"Provided always, and these presents are upon this condition, that in case of the breach of any of the covenants to be observed on the part of the

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It appeared in evidence, from the records of the town clerk, that, on August 25, 1884, the inhabitants of said town, at a town meeting, and under an article in the warrant for said meeting, voted to lease said Great Pond for a term of years, and to instruct the selectmen to petition for said lease, and to do it without delay. There was no other record relating to said leasing of the pond, subsequent to this date, upon the records of the town clerk.

The government called one Frye as a witness, who was a selectman of said town in the year 1884. He testified that, as such selectman, and under said vote, he went to the chairman of the board of commissioners on inland fisheries, for the purpose of obtaining a lease from the Commonwealth to the inhabitants of North Andover of said Great Pond; that he had a paper with him, and had a conversation with one Brackett, who was then acting as commissioner on inland fisheries; that he received a notice from said Brackett, which he took with him, and made two copies, and posted the notices in three places in North Andover; that they were posted between three and five days of the date of the lease, which was the date of the hearing; that said notices had been lost, and that, generally, said notices stated that ap-

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lessees, or in case the estate hereby created shall be taken from the lessees or its representatives by process of law, proceedings in bankruptcy, insolvency, or otherwise, the said board of commissioners or their successors may while the default or neglect continues, or at any time after such taking by process of law, without any notice or demand, enter on said premises, and expel and remove, forcibly if necessary, the said lessees and those claiming under them, and their effects.

"And these presents are upon the further condition, that all fishes artificially cultivated and maintained by said lessees within the limits of said premises, and not removed by them at the expiration of the last year of the period embraced by this lease, shall become the absolute property of said Commonwealth, and that said lessees shall use all reasonable efforts to thoroughly stock the waters of said pond with one of the species of fish commonly known as trout, land-locked salmon, or bass, keeping accurate records for the inspection of said board, and shall make a return of their doings to the commissioners on the first of October of each year, of the number and species of fish which they may place in or remove from the waters of said pond. And upon the further condition that said lessees shall make such regulations concerning the use of such pond and fishing therein as may be required by said commissioners. All regulations concerning the same shall be submitted to said commissioners, and be subject to their approval."

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plication had been made by the inhabitants of North Andover for a lease of Great Pond, under the provisions of the Pub. Sts. c. 91, and that a hearing would be had at the State House in Boston upon the matter, on September 5, 1884; that nobody appeared in opposition to the lease; and that he then received said lease.

It appeared that, since said lease, the town had expended on account of it about $34, made up of a payment of $15, as the entire rental reserved by said lease, and certain sums for the obtaining and recording of said lease, car fare, &c., and certain sums for fees incurred in prosecutions instituted against persons fishing, since said lease, upon said pond. It appeared, upon cross-examination of said Frye, that, since said lease, the town had paid nothing for the stocking of said pond with either of the species of fish mentioned in said lease, nor for the purpose of artificially cultivating fish in said pond, nor for the erection of any appliances for so doing, and had done nothing, except as before stated, towards the artificial cultivation of fish of any species in said pond. Frye also testified that he did not know of any return being made in the year 1884 to the commissioners on inland fisheries, as provided in said lease. And the defendant introduced evidence from the report of the commissioners on inland fisheries, for the year ending December 31, 1886, that said town had made no such return up to that time.

This was all the evidence upon the matters embraced in the rulings asked for by the defendant, and in the rulings of the court. It did not appear whether the commissioners kept a record of their proceedings or not.

The defendant asked the judge to give several instructions to the jury, of which the following is the only one which need now be stated:

"4. In order to the validity of a lease of a great pond there must be an application by the lessees, a hearing upon that application, and notice of the hearing. And the hearing must be at a reasonable hour, and at a reasonable place, and there must be reasonable notice of the time and place for hearing."

The judge declined so to rule, and instructed the jury, "that, it being undisputed that the whole of said pond was within the limits of the town of North Andover, the notice of hearing

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provided by the Pub. Sts. c. 91, § 13, was not necessary, and no notice was required; that no actual setting apart or occupancy of said pond by the town, for the purposes of said lease, was necessary to be proved in the case; and that there was no evidence to be submitted to the jury upon the question whether the town had abandoned the lease."

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

W. S. Knox, for the defendant.

H. C. Bliss, Assistant Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

FIELD, J. The only exceptions argued are the exception to the refusal to give the fourth instruction requested, and the exception to the instruction "that there was no evidence to be submitted to the jury upon the question whether the town had abandoned the lease." The instruction of the court upon the fourth request was, "that, it being undisputed that the whole of said pond was within the limits of the town of North Andover, the notice of hearing provided by the Pub. Sts. c. 91, § 13, was not necessary, and no notice was required." The town of North Andover was the lessee. The Pub. Sts. c. 91, §§ 13, 14, are re-enactments of the St. of 1873, c. 195, and the St. of 1874, c. 135. Notice is required "to every city or town within whose limits any part of the pond lies," that the city or town may appear and be heard upon the application for a lease. But when a city or town within whose limits the whole of the pond lies makes the application for a lease, a notice to it would be unnecessary. The notice required is notice to a city or town in its corporate capacity, and notice to any person or any other body corporate is not required.

There was no evidence that the lease had been determined by the board of commissioners on inland fisheries for breach of any of the conditions contained in it, or that the estate created by the lease had been surrendered by the town, and this surrender accepted by the commissioners. The town was still in possession under the lease, and liable to pay the rent reserved, and to keep its covenants contained in the lease.

Exceptions overruled.

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ASA H. HERRING *vs.* CHARLES H. DOWNING.

Essex. November 2, 1887. — January 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Insolvent Debtor — Action — Assent — Contract — Evidence — Consideration.

If an assignee of an insolvent debtor has knowledge of the pendency of an action brought by the insolvent upon a contract executed before the insolvency, and does not interfere with the action, his assent to the bringing of the action may be inferred; and the action may be maintained.

The declaration in an action of contract, brought by A. against B., alleged that, in consideration that A. should work up certain stock of B., which had been owned by A., B. agreed that A. should have as his property whatever remained of the stock after paying a promissory note held by B., for the benefit of A.'s creditors, and a certain sum which A. owed B. There was evidence that A. gave B. a bill of parcels of certain stock, and B. executed a promissory note to A. for the amount, which he did not deliver to A., but retained for the benefit of A.'s creditors, this note being equal to forty per cent of A.'s indebtedness; that, at the time this was done, B. said to A. that he might manufacture the stock, and raise the forty per cent, and that, if there should be anything more after paying that and B.'s claim in full, it should belong to A.; and that A. paid the forty per cent, and B.'s claim in full. *Held*, that there was evidence to sustain the declaration; and that, on the evidence, the action could be maintained.

CONTRACT. Writ dated December 27, 1884. The declaration contained three counts. The first count was to recover the sum of $3167.17, as a balance found due the plaintiff on an accounting together. The second count was on an account annexed to recover the sum of $1316.31. The third count was as follows: "And the plaintiff says that it was agreed by and between the plaintiff and defendant, that, in consideration that the plaintiff and his son should work up certain stock of the defendant, which had been owned and used by the firm of A. H. Herring and Son, in the business of manufacturing shoes, the plaintiff should have as his property whatever remained of said stock after paying from the same a certain note for the amount of $2770.94, which the defendant held for the benefit of the creditors of said A. H. Herring and Son, and a certain claim amounting to $1840.55, which the firm of A. W. Downing and Company (of which the defendant was a member) held against said A. H. Herring and Son. And the plaintiff says, that, in pursuance of said agreement, said stock was worked up by the

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plaintiff and his son, and said note and claim was paid therefrom, and there remained of said stock, after said payments, property of the value of $1316.31, which the defendant retained and refused to deliver to the plaintiff, and deprived the plaintiff of."

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Hammond*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The plaintiff introduced evidence tending to show the following facts: The firm of A. H. Herring and Son, which consisted of the plaintiff and his son Edwin A., failed in March, 1883. Their business was that of manufacturing boots and shoes, in Haverhill. Their liabilities at the time of their failure amounted to about $8000, and their assets, which consisted of stock in the various stages of manufacture, manufactured goods, and leather, machinery, and accounts, were worth to them, to use in their business, about $7000, but to sell at forced sale were of much less value. Among the creditors was the firm of Amos W. Downing and Company, leather dealers, who held a claim against them of about $1850. The defendant and his brother, Amos W. Downing, were members of this firm. A. H. Herring furnished the entire capital stock of A. H. Herring and Son, but it did not exceed in amount the sum of $500. He was on friendly terms with Amos W. Downing and Company, and was an old friend of Amos W. Downing.

Upon the failure of A. H. Herring and Son, a meeting of their creditors was called. The creditors present were disposed to deal easily with the debtors, and voted unanimously to settle for forty cents on a dollar. An attempt to settle on that basis proved unsuccessful, owing to the refusal of two or three creditors (one of whom resided out of the State) to accept it, and the plaintiff and his son continued, without interruption, to work the business along until June 11, 1883. At that date the amount of their liabilities and the value of their assets remained substantially the same as at the time of their failure; but, having no credit, and little money, they were unable to continue, and were liable at any time to suit and attachment.

On June 11, 1883, A. H. Herring and Son signed and delivered to the defendant a receipted bill of parcels of all the assets of A. H. Herring and Son, for the expressed amount of

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$2770.94, and the defendant on the same day signed a promissory note of that date for the sum of $2770.94, payable to the order of A. H. Herring and Son, in six months from date, without interest.

Both parties admitted that $2770.94 was all that the goods were fairly worth to sell; but there was testimony in the case, which, as before stated, tended to show that said goods were of much greater value to the plaintiff, to be used by him in business in connection with his customers.

The note and bill of sale were both taken by the defendant, and retained in his possession, and the testimony of both parties tended to show that the note was retained by the defendant, as the property of A. H. Herring and Son, for the benefit of their creditors.

The sum of $2770.94 was supposed by the parties to be forty per cent of A. H. Herring and Son's indebtedness. The plaintiff and his son, Edwin A., differed in their testimony of the conversation with the defendant at the time the bill of parcels and note were given, but it was upon this conversation and the other evidence in the case that the plaintiff based his right of action, admitting, as he did, that, if he was entitled to recover on one count, he could not recover on the other.

The plaintiff testified that the note and the bill of parcels were signed on or about June 11, and that, at that time, this conversation took place: "I told Downing that we would give him a bill of sale for forty per cent, the sum that the creditors voted to take, or were willing to take, and he to give a note for that amount. He said he would take the bill of sale, and give his note for that amount, and then said that we might go on as before, and continue to manufacture, and raise the amount of the indebtedness, the forty per cent, and that, if there should be anything over after paying that, it should be mine."

Edwin A. Herring, who was present at the interview testified to by his father, gave the following testimony: "On June 11, 1883, we took to Downing this bill of sale of the entire stock and business, amounting to some $2700 or $2800. Prior to that time, we wished to sell the property for the amount that the majority of the creditors, all the creditors that attended the meeting, had agreed to take, for the purpose of preserving that

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for them. We therefore went to Charles Downing, and asked if he would not buy it for that amount. He said he wished us to bring over a statement of the amount of property that was there, with its value, what it was fairly worth in the business. We did so. We made out an itemized account; we went through the stock at the time we made this second schedule for Downing, and made an estimate of what it was worth to the business. We took the schedule to him. He had the schedule before him on his desk when we had the interview, and was glancing over the items of it, and asked some questions for information about the schedule and about the values. I know one thing he said, referring to the items of tools and implements which were set down, I think, at about $1100, and said, 'I shall not want them. You may have them.' There may have been some remarks made about the schedule, and then he said, 'Why, there is enough here to pay off the note to the creditors and pay our claim in full, and then leave you four or five hundred dollars.' I said, 'Yes, and more.' He said, 'I will take it.' I do not know whether it was at that interview or not, but in connection with it he said to father, 'Now I want you to go to work and work this out. I shall expect you to get me the note, and want you to go right on and work out this amount to the best of your ability.'"

The plaintiff and his son further testified that, at the interview of June 11, nothing was said about wages, and that some few days after, upon inquiry of the defendant as to what they should do about their living expenses, were told by him to draw them out of the business.

The plaintiff testified that frequently thereafter the defendant told him that all there was in the business after paying the note belonged to the plaintiff, and that the defendant had no interest except to help him.

It further appeared in evidence, that the plaintiff continued the business from June 11, under the name of A. H. Herring, agent, in that name buying and selling goods, collecting and paying out money, and depositing money in the bank and drawing the same out.

The defendant, however, had given his credit to the business; and purchases, though made in the name of A. H. Herring, agent,

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were made on the defendant's credit. These purchases, however, were largely from Amos W. Downing and Company. Between June 11, 1883, and January 1, 1884, the plaintiff drew out of the business, for his living expenses, at irregular times, and in irregular amounts, $377.

The defendant testified that, after a conference with his brother, Amos W. Downing, he agreed to buy the assets of A. H. Herring and Son, for a sum equal to forty per cent of their indebtedness; that the plaintiff said that he would work for just simply a living out of it; that he asked the plaintiff, "How much will that living cost you?" and the plaintiff said that he could live for nine dollars a week, and would.

On September 13, 1883, A. H. Herring and Son filed their petition in insolvency, and were duly adjudicated insolvent debtors on October 16, 1883. At the first meeting of their creditors, Amos W. Downing was appointed assignee of their joint and separate estates. On May 6, 1884, they received their certificates of discharge. Upon the election of the assignee, the note was delivered to him.

The plaintiff never called the attention of his assignee to the claim made in this action, did not insert it in his schedule of assets, and never conversed about the subject with the assignee. At the time of the sale of the stock to the defendant, the creditors knew and approved of the transaction, but there was no evidence that they knew of the alleged contract which was the foundation of this action. Amos W. Downing lived in Haverhill, was a witness at the hearing of this case before an auditor, and was present at the trial in the Superior Court.

The plaintiff also testified that, shortly before January 1, 1884, the defendant proposed to the plaintiff that one Cram, who was related to the defendant's wife, should put some money into the business, and have an interest therein; that the plaintiff assented to the suggestion, and thereupon, on January 1, 1884, an account of stock was taken. The account of stock showed that there was sufficient in the business to pay the note for the benefit of the creditors, and leave $3740 in the business; but this account only showed $390 in money. Cram became a partner in the business, which was thereafter carried on by the plaintiff and Cram, under the name of Downing and Cram. The plaintiff

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testified that the defendant told him that the $3000, which was credited to the defendant as capital, belonged to the plaintiff, but that he (the plaintiff) could not appear in the business, because he had not obtained his discharge in insolvency. On the ledger of Downing and Cram, Downing was credited with $3000, and Cram was credited with $1500. The plaintiff was debited with the sums, irregular in time and amount, by him drawn out, amounting in all, between January 1, 1884, and July 22, 1884, to $477.46. Cram was debited in the same way with $385. No other personal account appeared in the ledger or books of Downing and Cram.

The plaintiff testified that the amount of $3000, which was left in said business on January 1, 1884, was arrived at by giving the defendant, at his request, a check for $290.20, and by setting aside $450 for the plaintiff to use for personal expenses. The defendant denied that there was anything said about setting aside any money for the plaintiff's use, nor did the defendant testify that there was at any time any arrangement as to the plaintiff's compensation, other than that which the defendant testified to as occurring on June 11, 1883.

Before July, 1884, the note was paid in full to the assignee, to whom it had been delivered. In July, 1884, the defendant, under circumstances which were in dispute, sold the assets to Cram, the value of the same at the time being sufficient to pay the claim of Amos W. Downing and Company in full, and leave a balance of $1316.31. This balance the defendant has retained.

The case went to the jury on the first and third counts only. The defendant asked the judge to rule that, upon this evidence, the action could not be maintained, because the right of action had vested in the assignee.

The judge refused so to rule, and instructed the jury that the action might be maintained with the assent of the assignee, and that it was competent for the jury to find such assent from the assignee's knowledge of the pendency of the suit, his non-interference with it, and his attendance at the hearing before the auditor, and at the trial in the Superior Court.

The defendant also asked the judge to rule that there was no evidence for the jury on the third count, and to direct them to

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return a verdict for the defendant on that count; and also asked for a general ruling, that, on the evidence, the action could not be maintained. The judge refused so to rule.

The case was submitted to the jury under instructions, which were not excepted to, except as hereinbefore stated, and they returned a verdict for the defendant on the first count, and for the plaintiff on the third count. The defendant alleged exceptions.

W. H. Moody, for the defendant.

B. B. Jones, for the plaintiff.

FIELD, J. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff upon the third count of the declaration only. The defendant asked rulings, which were refused, that, upon the evidence, the action could not be maintained, because the right of action had vested in the plaintiff's assignee in insolvency; that there was no evidence for the jury on the third count; and, generally, that, on the evidence, the action could not be maintained.

The date of the petition in insolvency of A. H. Herring and Son was September 13, 1883, and they were duly adjudicated insolvent debtors on October 16, 1883, and Amos W. Downing was appointed assignee. The alleged contract was made on or about June 11, 1883. Whether this contract was, at the time the assignment in insolvency took effect, such an executory contract for personal services that it did not pass to the assignee, need not be decided, because, if it was not, an action could be brought, in the name of the plaintiff, for a subsequent breach of it by the defendant, if the assignee assented, and there was abundant evidence that the assignee had assented to the plaintiff's maintaining the action in his own name. *Hallett* v. *Fowler*, 10 Allen, 36. *Gay* v. *Kingsley*, 11 Allen, 345. *Mayhew* v. *Pentecost*, 129 Mass. 332. *Squire* v. *Lincoln*, 137 Mass. 399. *Powers* v. *Raymond*, 137 Mass. 483.

There was evidence for the jury, that the parties entered into the agreement set out in the third count. The plaintiff testified that the defendant "said he would take the bill of sale, and give his note for that amount, and then said that we might go on as before, and continue to manufacture, and raise the amount of the indebtedness, the forty per cent; and that, if there should be anything over, after paying that, it should be mine." There

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was other evidence, that, in addition to the payment of the note given by the defendant, which was in amount forty per cent of the whole indebtedness of A. H. Herring and Son, it was agreed that the plaintiff should pay in full the claim of Amos H. Downing and Company against A. H. Herring and Son.

The whole consideration of this agreement, as proved, is not set out in the third count; but, as we construe the exceptions, this objection was not taken. If it had been, the defect could have been cured by an amendment. There was evidence of the promise or agreement declared on, and that this promise or agreement was founded upon a sufficient consideration, a part of which is properly described in the declaration.

Exceptions overruled.

CHARLES H. NORTH & another *vs.* CARRIE S. DEARBORN.

Middlesex. November 9, 1887. — January 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Mortgage — Sale on Execution.

If a mortgagor by one deed mortgages two parcels of land, and subsequently conveys his equity of redemption in each parcel to a different grantee, he so far severs his interest in the different parcels by these conveyances that it is no ground of objection that his interest in each parcel is levied upon and sold separately on an execution against him.

WRIT OF ENTRY to recover two parcels of land in Woburn. Plea, *nul disseisin*. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Thompson*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, which appears in the opinion.

L. R. Wentworth, for the demandants.

T. F. Maguire, for the tenant.

FIELD, J. It appears that the first parcel described in the writ was conveyed by one Thompson to Charles T. Dearborn, the husband of Carrie S. Dearborn, the tenant in this action, by deed recorded on April 7, 1884, and that the second parcel was conveyed by said Thompson to said Charles T. Dearborn by

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deed recorded on November 11, 1881. The wife and her husband mortgaged the second parcel (which in some manner had been conveyed to the wife) to the Woburn Five Cents Savings Bank, by deed recorded on December 18, 1884, and they mortgaged both parcels to said bank by deed recorded on April 30, 1885. When this last mortgage was given, the title to the equity in the second parcel remained in the wife, and the title to the equity in the first parcel remained in the husband.

These demandants brought suit against the husband on July 27, 1885, and attached his interest in all this real estate, making a special attachment of his interest in the first parcel, the record title to which then stood in the name of Benjamin F. Fish, and they obtained judgment in the suit, and execution issued, and was levied upon the equity of redemption in the first parcel, as it stood at the time of the attachment, and upon the equity of redemption in the second parcel, the record title to which still stood in the name of the wife; and the officer sold by public auction, under this levy, separately, the equity of redemption in the two parcels to the demandants, who paid the price bid for each, and received deeds of both, which were duly recorded. Thereupon they brought this action against the wife.

The objection of the tenant is, that, "it appearing that both parcels demanded were included in said mortgage, recorded April 30, 1885, the officer should have sold both parcels for one bid to one person, and for one sum; that, as they were sold separately, the sale was void." The court sustained this objection, and directed a verdict for the tenant.

The demandants' claim necessarily is, that the conveyance to the wife of the second parcel is void as to them, and that the equity in this parcel was liable to be taken on execution by the judgment creditors of her husband. A similar claim must be made as to the first parcel, although it does not appear that Fish has conveyed this to the wife, or what claim, if any, she makes to it, except that both parcels are demanded in the writ, and she has pleaded *nul disseisin* as to both.

When a mortgagor retains the equity of redemption in all the parcels of land included in an existing mortgage, or when by one conveyance he has conveyed this equity to another person, who remains the assignee of the whole interest of the mortgagor

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in all the parcels subject to the mortgage, this equity must be levied upon and sold as one single and entire *res*, and separate sales of the right to redeem each parcel are void. *Webster* v. *Foster*, 15 Gray, 31. *Cochran* v. *Goodell*, 131 Mass. 464. *Plimpton* v. *Goodell*, 143 Mass. 365, 367.

When, however, the mortgagor has conveyed his equity in some of the parcels, but retains it in others, all of which are included in one mortgage, the levy of an execution issued upon a judgment against him must be upon only his right to redeem the parcels of land of which he retains the equity, if his conveyances are recognized as valid by the judgment creditor. If the mortgagor has conveyed his equity in all the different parcels to different grantees, by several conveyances, some or all of which are, or are claimed to be, voidable by his creditors, the levy of an execution against him may be made by a sale separately of the equities in the different parcels which have been conveyed to the different grantees. The mortgagee is not injured by this, as the mortgage debt must be fully paid before he can be compelled to release any parcel from the mortgage. The mortgagor is not aggrieved, because he has severed his interest in the equity of the different parcels by his conveyances. The purchasers at the sale on execution must bring separate suits against the different persons who hold the record titles to recover possession, and it may happen that some of the titles will prove to be good, and some void, as against creditors of the grantor, and this may render separate sales desirable. *Mansfield* v. *Dyer*, 133 Mass. 374.

We need not decide whether, in the last case supposed, there must be separate sales, or consider what rule, if any, there should be of contribution toward the payment of the mortgage debt, or of exoneration therefrom between the purchasers of the equities in the different parcels.

In the present case, the second parcel was conveyed to the wife before the execution of either of the mortgages. The equity in the first parcel was conveyed to Fish, after the execution of the second mortgage. Both these conveyances must have come mediately or immediately from the husband. The tenant's plea put the demandants' title to each parcel in issue, and the demandants might recover one parcel, and not the other.

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We are of opinion that the husband had so far severed his interest in the parcels, that the equities could be levied upon, and sold separately, under an execution issued against him.

Exceptions sustained.

PARKER L. CONVERSE, administrator, *vs.* EDWARD F. JOHNSON, administrator.

Middlesex. November 9, 1887. — January 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Demand Note — Statute of Limitations — Administrator.

A promissory note for a certain sum, with interest payable annually, but which states no time of payment, is payable on demand.

A person who has a domicil and actual residence in another State, and who only comes into this Commonwealth for a short visit, is "absent from and resides out of the State," within the Gen. Sts. c. 155, § 9, (Pub. Sts. c. 197, § 11,) and the statute of limitations does not run in his favor.

If the payee of a promissory note dies before his right of action upon it is barred by the statute of limitations, and the administrator of his estate brings an action upon the note against the administrator of the estate of the maker, within two years after the grant of the defendant's letters of administration, the action may be maintained, under the Pub. Sts. c. 197, § 12, although not brought until more than two years after the grant to the plaintiff of his letters of administration.

CONTRACT, by the administrator of the estate of Marshall F. Barrett against the administrator with the will annexed of the estate of Mary F. Hart, upon the following promissory note:

"$600. Concord, N. H., December 10, 1867.

"Value received, I promise to pay to Marshall F. Barrett, or his order, the sum of six hundred dollars, with interest at the rate of five per cent, payable annually. Mary F. Hart."

Writ dated June 19, 1886. The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and, after judgment for the plaintiff, to this court, on appeal, on agreed facts, in substance as follows:

On the day the note was given, Mary F. Hart was in Concord, in the State of New Hampshire, where she resided, and she continued to reside in said Concord up to the time of her decease. She owned real estate in Woburn, in this county, when the note was given, and subsequently. After the note was given, she visited in said Woburn for a few days, and her presence there

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was known by Barrett, the plaintiff's intestate. She died testate on June 3, 1870, and by her will gave to her two daughters, Mary D. Hart and Sarah L. Barker, a life estate in the real estate situate in Woburn, and nominated them executrixes of her will. This will was duly proved and allowed in Merrimack county, New Hampshire, in September, 1870, but no letters testamentary or of administration were ever issued in that State. In December, 1870, a copy of the will was filed and recorded in this county as a foreign will, on petition of said executrixes, who also petitioned that letters testamentary be granted to them; but, by reason of their failure to file a bond, no letters testamentary were ever issued to them, or either of them, and the estate remained unadministered until April 14, 1885, when, Mary D. Hart having died, and Sarah L. Barker having declined to accept the trust, the defendant was duly appointed administrator with the will annexed of the estate of Mary F. Hart by the Probate Court for this county, and gave due notice of his appointment as required by law.

Marshall F. Barrett, who during his whole life was a resident of Woburn, died on April 5, 1883, and the plaintiff, Parker L. Converse, was appointed administrator of his estate by the Probate Court for this county on June 26, 1883; he accepted the trust, and is now administering the same.

The affidavit of notice of his appointment was filed on June 29, 1883, and the note in suit is described in his inventory of the estate filed in the Probate Court on August 22, 1883. On August 3, 1885, he for the first time demanded of the defendant payment of said note, which was refused.

Interest on the note in suit was paid annually by the maker during her life, and, after her death, by her daughters above named, the last payment being made on December 10, 1882. These payments were indorsed on the note by a friend of the payee, acting as his agent and at his request.

If, upon these facts, the plaintiff was entitled to recover, judgment was to be entered for him for the sum of $600, with interest at the rate of five per cent per annum from December 10, 1882; otherwise, judgment to be entered for the defendant.

J. W. Johnson, for the plaintiff.

E. F. Johnson, pro se.

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FIELD, J. The promissory note was dated December 10, 1867, and was in legal effect payable on demand. The construction we give to the Gen. Sts. c. 155, § 9, (Pub. Sts. c. 197, § 11,) is, that as Mary F. Hart had her domicil and actual residence in New Hampshire when she gave the note, and continued to have them there until her death, and only made short, occasional visits in this Commonwealth, our statute of limitations never began to run in her favor. Within the meaning of the statute, she never came into this Commonwealth, but was absent from and resided out of it during the whole time which elapsed between the date of the note and her death. *Rockwood* v. *Whiting*, 118 Mass. 337.

She died testate in New Hampshire, on June 3, 1870, and her will was duly proved there in September, 1870, but no letters testamentary or of administration were ever issued in that State. In December, 1870, a copy of the will was duly filed, allowed, and recorded in Middlesex County, in this Commonwealth, where she left property. This was done on the petition of the persons named as executrixes in the will, but as they failed to file a bond, no letters testamentary were granted to them; "and the estate remained unadministered until April 14, 1885," when the defendant was duly appointed administrator with the will annexed by the Probate Court of that county, and gave due notice of his appointment.

Marshall F. Barrett, the payee and holder of the note, died in this Commonwealth, on April 5, 1883, and the plaintiff was duly appointed administrator of his estate by said Probate Court, on June 26, 1883, and gave due notice of his appointment. He brought this suit on June 19, 1886.

The defendant as administrator could not have been sued within one year after he gave a bond as administrator, which we assume was on April 14, 1885, the date of his appointment. And a suit must be commenced against him within two years after he gave the bond. Pub. Sts. c. 136, §§ 1, 9. After Mary F. Hart died, there was no one anywhere who could be sued until the defendant was appointed administrator.

It has been decided that § 12 of the Pub. Sts. c. 197, (Gen. Sts. c. 155, § 10,) is to be construed distributively. *Hill* v. *Mixter*, 5 Allen, 27. The precise point decided in that case is, that an

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action brought by the executor of the estate of the holder of a note against the executor of the estate of the maker, more than two years after the defendant's appointment, although within two years after the plaintiff was appointed executor, cannot be maintained; and it is said that § 10 of the Gen. Sts. c. 155, does not extend the time for bringing the action beyond that limited by the Gen. Sts. c. 97, §§ 5–8.

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If Barrett had lived, the statute of limitations would not have been a defence, if he had brought this suit at the time it was brought. The contention is, that it cannot be maintained by the administrator of his estate, because brought more than two years after the grant of letters of administration to him.

Section 12 of the Pub. Sts. c. 197, was intended to be a re-enactment of the Gen. Sts. c. 155, § 10, and it was enacted in the Public Statutes in the form reported by the Commissioners. The Commissioners made some unimportant verbal changes, and omitted the words, "and not afterwards if otherwise barred by the provisions of this chapter," found at the end of the section in the General Statutes. It cannot be held that this omission was intended to change the law. The Pub. Sts. c. 197, § 12, cannot well be construed to mean that in every case the executor or administrator of a deceased person, who was entitled to bring an action, must bring the action within two years after the grant of letters testamentary, or of administration. The section was not intended further to limit the bringing of actions, but to extend the time within which they could be brought when the person entitled to bring them died before the expiration of the time, or within thirty days after the expiration of the time limited by other provisions of the statutes. It was not intended by this section that the debtor should have a defence to which he was not otherwise entitled, or that an executor or administrator should not collect debts due the estate by suits brought more than two years after his appointment, when the debts were not barred by other provisions of the statutes. See *Corliss Steam Engine Co.* v. *Schumacher*, 109 Mass. 416.

Judgment affirmed.

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LOREN N. BLANCHARD *vs.* JOHN B. FITZPATRICK.

Suffolk. November 11, 1887. — January 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Replevin — Sale — Case stated.

In an action of replevin brought by A. against B., the facts agreed stated that A. let C. have the goods replevied at an agreed price, on credit, the length of which depended on the monthly sales of C., that is, on the first of each month, C. was to pay A. for all goods sold by C. during the preceding month, but was not to pay for any goods until sold; that no agreement was made for a return of the goods; and that, while the goods were in C.'s possession, they were attached by B., an officer, on a writ against C. *Held*, that the title to the goods passed to C. on their delivery to him; and that A. could not maintain the action.

REPLEVIN. The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and, after judgment for the defendant, to this court, on appeal, on agreed facts, in substance as follows:

Prior to November, 1884, Sumner Fickett was engaged in the retail grocery and provision business at Boston. Early in that month, he sold an undivided half of his stock in trade to Charles E. Harriman, and immediately formed a copartnership with said Harriman, under the firm name of Fickett and Harriman, for the purpose of carrying on the grocery and provision business previously conducted by himself. Fickett and Harriman entered upon the contemplated business, and continued it until December 8, 1885.

The defendant, who is a deputy of the sheriff of Suffolk, on December 8, 1885, attached the goods replevied, which then formed a part of the stock in trade of Fickett and Harriman, by virtue of a writ in favor of one Jacob Fullarton and against said Fickett and Harriman, issuing from the Municipal Court of the city of Boston, on said December 8. The defendant held the goods in question by virtue of said writ when replevied by the plaintiff.

The plaintiff, who is a wholesale dealer in pickles and grocers' sundries, let Fickett and Harriman have the goods in question at an agreed and fixed price, on a credit, the length of whose

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term depended upon the monthly sales of Fickett and Harriman; that is, on the first day of each month said firm was to pay the plaintiff the agreed and fixed price for all the goods sold by the firm during the preceding month, but was not to be required to pay for any of said goods until sold by the firm. No agreement was made for a return of any of the goods.

If, upon these facts, the plaintiff was entitled to a judgment, damages were to be assessed in the sum of one cent; otherwise, judgment for a return of the goods to be entered, with nominal damages for the defendant.

G. O. Burnham & S. D. Charles, for the plaintiff.

W. B. French, for the defendant.

FIELD, J. It is sufficient to say that it does not appear by the agreed facts that the plaintiff at the time he sued out his writ was entitled to the immediate possession of the goods replevied. The agreed statement is not as full and clear as might be desired, but it does not appear that any condition was attached to the delivery of the goods by the plaintiff to Fickett and Harriman, and the reasonable construction of the agreed statement is, that the goods were sold to Fickett and Harriman on credit, and were to be paid for by them in monthly payments, at an agreed price, when they were sold by them. On this construction an absolute title to the goods passed to Fickett and Harriman when the goods were delivered to them.

Judgment affirmed.

LYDIA A. PORTER *vs.* ANNIE B. WAKEFIELD & trustee.

Suffolk. November 15, 1887. — January 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Husband and Wife — Pledge — Divorce — Trustee Process.

Jewelry to the value of $600 was given by a husband to his wife, and was afterwards delivered by her to him, in pledge for money advanced by him to her. Subsequently he was divorced from her. In an action by a creditor against the woman, in which the former husband was summoned as trustee, the trustee admitted in his answer that the jewelry belonged to his former wife, and set up the pledge to himself. *Held*, that the pledge was invalid, and that the trustee was properly charged.

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TRUSTEE PROCESS. Writ dated February 24, 1887. Cyrus Wakefield, summoned as trustee, answered, that, at the time of the service of said process upon him, he had in his possession certain jewelry of the defendant, namely, one pair of ear-rings and one cross, of the value in all of $600; and that he held the same as security for the payment to him by the defendant of the sum of $1336.88, which sum the defendant owed him.

In response to interrogatories filed by the plaintiff, the trustee answered that he and the defendant were married in this Commonwealth on January 17, 1871; that they were divorced here, by proceedings begun on December 17, 1885, in which a decree *nisi* was entered on May 3, 1886, which was made absolute on November 10, 1886; that, while they were husband and wife, he advanced certain sums of money to her, and, at her request, paid certain of her bills; that the jewelry in question was bought by him between 1873 and 1880, and was given by him to his wife; and that in December, 1885, it was handed to him by his wife, when no one else was present. The trustee declined to state what was said to him by the defendant at that time.

The Superior Court ordered the trustee to be charged; and he appealed to this court.

L. S. Dabney, for the trustee.

E. M. Parker, for the plaintiff.

FIELD, J. We need not consider whether clause 1 of the Pub. Sts. c. 169, § 18, providing that "neither husband nor wife shall be allowed to testify as to private conversations with each other," applies to the answers of a trustee in trustee process, or whether, if it does, a trustee can rely upon an agreement made with his wife in the presence of no other person, when he cannot be asked on interrogatories, or be permitted to state, what the conversations were which resulted in the agreement.

Taking the answers of the trustee most favorably for him, they show that he "advanced" money to his wife, or paid out money for her, at her request, and that she delivered to him the jewelry, which, as he admits, was her separate property, to be held by him as security for the payment of the money, and that afterwards he obtained against her an absolute divorce from the bonds of matrimony.

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Our statutes do not authorize the transfer of property from the wife to the husband. Pub. Sts. c. 147, § 3. St. 1884, c. 132. Independently of statute, a husband might be a trustee of the separate property of his wife, but a pledge of a chattel by her to him as security for the payment of money which he had lent to her, or paid for her, does not constitute a trust. The statutes now authorize the gift of certain kinds of property, to a limited amount, by the husband to the wife, if not made in fraud of his creditors. Pub. Sts. c. 147, § 3. And, without the aid of the statutes, gifts by the husband to the wife, if the wife retains possession, have, after his death, been upheld, subject to the right of his creditors to have the property applied to the payment of their debts, if it is required for that purpose; and gifts by the wife to the husband would perhaps be upheld in like cases, subject to a similar right on the part of her creditors. *Marshall* v. *Jaquith*, 134 Mass. 138.

With these exceptions, our law regards transfers of property and contracts made directly between husband and wife as void, although property can be conveyed by one to the other through the intervention of a third person. *Motte* v. *Alger*, 15 Gray, 322. *Stetson* v. *O'Sullivan*, 8 Allen, 321. *Edgerly* v. *Whalan*, 106 Mass. 307. *Roby* v. *Phelon*, 118 Mass. 541. *Atlantic Bank* v. *Taverner*, 130 Mass. 487. *Fowle* v. *Torrey*, 135 Mass. 87. *Butler* v. *Ives*, 139 Mass. 202. *Kneil* v. *Egleston*, 140 Mass. 202. *Woodward* v. *Spurr*, 141 Mass. 283.

It appears by the answers of the trustee to interrogatories, that this jewelry was bought by him and given to his wife "between 1873 and 1880." It is not certain, therefore, whether it was given before or after the passage of the St. of 1879, c. 133. The trustee, however, in his answer and throughout his examination, does not contend that the jewelry is his property, but he expressly or impliedly admits that it is the property of the defendant, and he contends that he has a right to retain it as security for the payment of the money due from her to him.

If a contract of pledge was made between the husband and wife in this case, it was void as against her creditors. Whether the trustee process could have been maintained while the relation of husband and wife existed need not be decided. See *Robinson* v. *Trofitter*, 109 Mass. 478. This is no reason why it

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should not be maintained after this relation has been dissolved by a divorce. See *Dunham* v. *Dunham*, 128 Mass. 34. This was not property which came to the husband by reason of the marriage, and no decree of the court in the libel for divorce was necessary to vest the title in her. Pub. Sts. c. 146, § 24.

Judgment affirmed.

MICHAEL TOOMEY *vs.* ERASTUS W. SANBORN.

Suffolk. November 15, 1887. — January 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Negligence — Personal Injuries — Private Way — Dangerous Pitfall.

The husband of the owner of city premises, rear communication with which was had through a dimly lighted passageway, while personally supervising repairs on the premises, caused a plank to be removed from the passageway and left a hole beneath unguarded, into which an employee of the city who was wont to use the passageway in taking offal from the premises fell, and was injured. *Held*, that the husband was liable.

TORT for personal injuries.

The third count of the declaration was as follows: "The defendant carelessly and negligently removed the planking of a certain passageway, thereby uncovering an excavation and hole beneath, and neglected to properly guard the same, and warn and notify those using said passageway of the removal of said plank, and the existence of said opening, excavation, and hole; and said passageway was thereby rendered unsafe to those using the same. The plaintiff was rightfully using said passageway, and was in the exercise of due care, and in consequence of the aforesaid condition of said passageway, and the aforesaid negligence of the defendant, he fell into said opening, excavation, and hole, and was seriously hurt."

The answer was a general denial.

Trial in the Superior Court before *Mason*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in substance as follows:

The plaintiff called several witnesses, who testified, in substance, that the passageway in question was about four feet

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wide, and some thirty or forty feet in length, with a plank walk or floor; that it opened out of Cambridge Street in Boston, and communicated by means of doors through its walls or sides with back entrances to houses numbered 1, 3, 5, and 7, on Hancock Street; that it was covered by building No. 1, and received light from the door opening on Cambridge Street, which was usually kept open during the day, and from a window over the door at the opposite end. The defendant, who was called by the plaintiff, testified that the door on Cambridge Street was the full width of the passageway, with the exception of the necessary casings on either side; that the door was eight or nine feet high; that above the door was a window extending across the door, and about two feet high; and that at the time of the accident a portion of the partition fence in the rear of No. 5 was down, and light came in through that opening.

The flooring of the passageway for some six or eight feet from the street entrance was on the street level; but from that point it was higher, there being a rise of five steps, and it was upon this raised or higher part of the passageway that the accident occurred. The entrance to No. 5 was on the left of the passageway entering from Cambridge Street, and to No. 1 on the right nearly opposite the entrance to No. 5; both opening from the higher part of the passageway. The accident occurred on Tuesday, October 20, 1885, at about half past nine in the morning.

The plaintiff put in evidence to show that there were no basement entrances to any of the above-named houses on Hancock Street, and that no other rear entrances for the removal of offal existed, save those opening on the passageway. It further appeared, that, some time prior to October 20, certain repairs were being made on house No. 5, either on the rear extension or on the shed connected with it; that the house belonged to the wife of the defendant; that the repairs were being done under the personal direction and supervision of the defendant; that the material used for making these repairs was brought in through this passageway; that, on the morning of October 20, two workmen employed by the defendant, by the direction and under the personal supervision of the defendant, removed a plank of the floor on the left-hand side of the passageway, for the purpose of seeing if there were some brick beneath

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which they desired to use (the plank taken up being about six feet long, and from one and a half to two feet wide); that in order to ascertain this, a small lamp was obtained, and one of the workmen and the defendant went down into the excavation beneath the floor, which was between two and three feet deep; that, after they had examined and found no brick there, the workmen went back to their work in the yard, and the defendant took the lamp into the house, leaving no one in the passageway; and that in a "little while" — "don't know how long" — afterwards, in the language of the only witness who testified as to the time, one of the workmen heard a noise in the passageway, immediately went into it, and found that the plaintiff had fallen into the excavation. This was about half past nine in the morning, the day being bright and sunlit. The precise time between the removal of the plank and the time when the plaintiff fell into the excavation was not given, one of the plaintiff's witnesses putting it at from one half to three quarters of an hour, and two others at about twenty minutes, the defendant saying he should think it was ten or fifteen minutes.

The defendant testified that when he left the passageway the plank had been placed on its edge, resting at one end against the wall on the left, adjacent to the opening, so as to form a guard to those coming into the passageway from Cambridge Street. The two workmen did not remember where it was placed, and the plaintiff testified that no plank stood on its edge, and no plank at all was on that side of the passageway; that he saw the plank when it was put back in its place by the defendant, a short time after he was hurt, and that it was taken from the pile of lumber on the other side of the passageway. One Hardy testified that there was no plank near the hole, and no plank at all on that side of the passageway. Some of the plaintiff's witnesses testified that there was on the right side of the passageway a pile of lumber; others testified that they saw none, and did not think there was any. The defendant testified that there was no lumber in the passageway over which he had any control; that he did not think there was any lumber in the passageway; and that he was certain that there was none opposite or near the hole. It appeared by the evidence that the

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space between the opening and the right-hand wall of the passageway was from two to two and a half feet.

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The plaintiff testified that he was employed in the health department of the city of Boston, in the removal of offal, and acted under the direction of the superintendent of health; that on the 20th of October he was assisting the driver of the offal cart; that on the said 20th of October, and in his regular round of duty, he went to the passageway in question; that as he went up, with the purpose of entering the entrance of No. 1 to remove the offal, he fell into the opening occasioned by the removal of the plank; that he had been in the habit of going to these houses on Hancock Street to collect offal, and of using this passageway, for some thirteen years; that he usually went there on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of each week, generally at from 9.20 to 9.30 in the morning, but sometimes went in the afternoon; that his hours of work were from a quarter before seven in the morning until six in the afternoon; and that he went into the passageway as usual, saw the pile of lumber on the right, and as he was passing it stepped into the hole on the left, which he did not see, it was so dark. He said, "I had to keep to the left of the lumber." He was intending to enter No. 1 first; said he did not see the hole before he stepped into it, and that there was nothing there which led him to think a plank was up; that there was nobody in the passageway; that there was no light there, and nothing there except this pile of lumber; and that he was walking the same as he usually did. He said, "I walked into it just as anybody would; I thought the place was as solid as any place." He said that he had never known of any of the floor of the passageway being taken up except once, about nine years before.

The plaintiff also testified that, during the thirteen years that he had been in the habit of going to this place, he had seen other people use this passageway, — grocery-men, icemen, provision-men, milkmen, every kind that would want to go there on business.

John Hardy testified that he was the driver of the offal cart on the day in question; that the plaintiff entered the passageway to get the offal from No. 1, a little ahead of the witness; and that when he got nearly opposite No. 5 he fell into the

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hole; that he had been on this route a year and a half, using this passageway; that Toomey walked into the passageway "as usual, same as he always did"; that there was no light there, and that there was no barrier or warning of any kind.

The plaintiff offered two ordinances of the city of Boston, one relating to house offal, and another relating to the superintendent of health, for the purpose of showing that the removal of house dirt, ashes, and offal is within the power and duty of the superintendent of health; and that all house offal shall be kept in easily accessible places, and taken away as often as twice each week by the men in the employ of the superintendent of health.

The defendant, having been called as a witness by the plaintiff, testified that he did not own house No. 5 on Hancock Street; that he had once owned it, but about twenty years ago conveyed it to his daughter; that some fifteen years ago his daughter conveyed it to his wife, who had owned it ever since; that in 1885, and for some years prior thereto, she rented it to a tenant, and that he, his wife, daughter, and son boarded in the house with the tenant; and that he had lived or boarded in the house continuously for some twenty years.

All the plaintiff's witnesses excepting the defendant testified that the passageway was quite dark, one testifying that it was so dark that you could not distinguish a person's features until close to him, the plaintiff testifying that it was very dark, and the defendant testifying that it was light enough to read a newspaper, as he had satisfied himself a day or two before the trial. A witness called by the defendant testified, "I think it was plenty light enough for one to see well enough."

The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury that on the whole evidence the plaintiff was not entitled to recover under the third count. The judge declined so to instruct; the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

E. Avery, for the defendant.

H. E. Swasey, for the plaintiff.

FIELD, J. The single exception argued by the defendant is to the refusal of the court to rule "that on the whole evidence the plaintiff was not entitled to recover under the third count." It appears that estate No. 5 was owned by the wife of the

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defendant, but had been let to a tenant who occupied it; that the defendant and his wife boarded and lived with the tenant in the house on the estate; that the defendant was personally supervising repairs which were being made upon the house, and had directed that a plank be removed from the floor of the passageway; and that this had caused a dangerous hole to be opened in the floor, which was left unguarded and into which the plaintiff fell. There was evidence that the passageway had been constructed and was maintained for the purpose, among other things, of affording a back entrance to the house, and was, as the defendant knew, constantly used by the servants of the city of Boston for the purpose of removing the ashes and offal from the house, and that the plaintiff, as such servant, was rightfully using the passageway on the implied invitation of both the owner and occupant of the house for this purpose and was in the exercise of due care.

The case taken most favorably for the defendant is, that he caused to be opened in a private way a dangerous pitfall, into which the plaintiff, while rightfully using the way with due care, fell. The ruling was right. *Exceptions overruled.*

DANIEL T. HAGAN *vs.* JOHN K. SARTWELL.

Suffolk. November 18, 1887. — January 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Written Agreement — Extrinsic Evidence — Fraud.

A creditor, who had executed an assignment and release of his claim, signed a receipt containing an agreement "to pay all my costs" in an action pending on the claim. The debtor refused to pay the costs in that action, and was defaulted. On a review, the creditor offered extrinsic evidence of an agreement by the debtor to pay the costs. *Held*, that, as the assignment and release would have been a defence to the original action, or ground for dismissing it, the evidence was immaterial.

WRIT OF REVIEW. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Aldrich*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions the substance of which appears in the opinion.

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P. J. Doherty, for the defendant in review.

J. L. Eldridge, for the plaintiff in review.

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FIELD, J. On February 3, 1883, Sartwell with other creditors of Hagan signed an agreement under seal, whereby he agreed to accept, in discharge of his claim against Hagan, twenty-five per cent thereof, to be paid within twenty days from date, "provided also that in addition to said twenty-five per cent all costs shall be paid." When this agreement was signed by Sartwell, he had brought an action at law against Hagan on his claim, in which Hagan's goods had been attached, but the writ had not then been entered. Hagan, through Everett, his attorney, paid his creditors, including Sartwell, the twenty-five per cent within the time agreed upon, and Sartwell with the other creditors signed and delivered to Everett papers under seal, the first purporting to assign to Everett all claims against Hagan, and the second purporting to release to Everett all claims against Hagan. At the same time that Sartwell signed these papers he also signed a receipt for twenty dollars received from Everett, and containing an agreement "to pay all my costs" in the action pending against Hagan. Hagan subsequently refused to pay the sheriff's fees in the suit, and Sartwell entered the writ on the return day in April, 1883, and, the defendant having been defaulted, obtained judgment against Hagan, whereupon Hagan brought this writ of review.

Sartwell offered to show that before he signed the receipt "there was an oral agreement between him and said Everett that Hagan was to pay all the costs in said Sartwell's suit against him, and also twenty dollars for the fee of said Sartwell's attorney; that he, said Sartwell, did not read the receipt before signing it; that said Everett when he paid said twenty dollars said he wanted a receipt for it as a voucher, and thereupon drew up the receipt, which he handed to Sartwell to sign"; and that Sartwell signed it and delivered it to Everett. Sartwell also testified that he did not read the receipt, having confidence in Everett, and supposing that "it contained nothing but a receipt for the twenty dollars paid him to cover the amount of his attorney's fee."

Sartwell's contention was, that, although he could have read the paper if he had chosen to read it, and although Everett did

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nothing to mislead him except to present the paper for signature, yet under the circumstances stated he was in fact deceived and misled by Everett, and that his signature was obtained by fraud.

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The court ruled that the evidence of Sartwell as recited above "was inadmissible to vary the terms of the written agreement contained in the receipt, and that the evidence offered would not authorize the jury to find that the signature of the defendant in review to that agreement was obtained by fraud on the part of the plaintiff in review," and to this Sartwell excepted.

We are unable to see that the question presented is material. There is nothing in the exceptions to indicate that the delivery of the assignment and release was conditional upon or influenced by the form of the receipt, and the assignment and release would have been a defence to the action of Sartwell against Hagan, or a sufficient ground for dismissing it if Sartwell prosecuted it without Everett's consent. If the receipt were reformed so as to read as Sartwell contends it should read, the legal effect of the assignment and release would remain. Sartwell according to his own statement delivered the assignment and release to the attorney of Hagan, for Hagan's benefit, without insisting upon the payment of the costs. He trusted to Hagan's paying the costs in the future. As the receipt does not discharge or relate to the claim or cause of action of Sartwell, but only to the costs of suit, it could not be pleaded in bar of the action, or used to defeat the action. If Sartwell should bring an action on the promise of Hagan to pay the costs, the validity of the receipt would be material, provided that, notwithstanding the delivery of the assignment and release, an action could be maintained on this promise; but the validity of the receipt is not material in the present suit, when it appears that Sartwell has executed and delivered the assignment and release, concerning which no fraud or misunderstanding is claimed.

Exceptions overruled.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* EDWIN WENTWORTH.

Norfolk. November 21, 1887. — January 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Liquor Nuisance — Lease — Landlord's Control — Indictment — Variance.

An indictment on the Pub. Sts. c. 101, § 9, alleging "control" by a landlord over a liquor nuisance, is negatived by proof that the tenant is in possession under a lease.

INDICTMENT under the Pub. Sts. c. 101, § 9, alleging that the defendant, from June 1, 1886, to February 4, 1887, "had under his control a certain building, ... and did then and there, while said building was so under his control, unlawfully and knowingly permit a certain tenement in said building to be used by one Edward H. Galligan of said Canton for the illegal sale and illegal keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors," and that said Galligan kept and maintained a nuisance "with the knowledge and permission of the said Edwin Wentworth, then and there having control of said building as aforesaid."

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, the material parts of which are as follows:

It was admitted that the defendant was the owner during the time alleged of the building described in the indictment, and that no person was licensed during that time to sell or keep for sale intoxicating liquors in any part of the building. There was evidence that Galligan was the lessee of the defendant of part of the building, by virtue of a lease which covered the time alleged in the indictment; that liquors kept for sale had been seized on the leased premises during the same time; that the defendant was present at a trial in July, 1886, before a trial justice, at which counsel for Galligan stated "that he would admit that the liquors seized were kept for sale, but by whom was the question"; that the defendant had said that he could not be convicted if Galligan did make illegal sales, as he had no notice; that the defendant was asked, on one occasion, if he would pretend that the building in question was not used for the purpose of a grog-shop, and he replied that he would not

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say; that the defendant had recommended in writing that an application by Galligan for a license be granted; and that the defendant, in reply to the question, "Did you believe liquors were sold" on the leased premises? answered, "I presume it was so."

The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury that the government had failed to prove by sufficient evidence that the defendant during the time alleged, or any part thereof, had the actual control, or any such control as is required to constitute the offence charged, and that if the premises described were leased to Edward H. Galligan during the time alleged, and said Galligan was in occupation of the same under said lease, the defendant could not be convicted. The judge refused so to rule, but ruled that said tenement was under the control of the defendant by virtue of the provisions of the Pub. Sts. c. 101, § 8, and that a man may be said to permit what he has the right and power to prevent, but which right and power he does not choose to exercise. The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. L. Eldridge, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

FIELD, J. If a building is let to a tenant who enters into possession under a lease, the building is not under the control of the landlord, but is under the control of the tenant while he continues in possession under the lease, unless there are special provisions in the lease which give the control to the landlord. By the Pub. Sts. c. 101, § 8, the landlord can recover possession by entry or by action if the tenant uses the building for the illegal purposes described in the Pub. Sts. c. 101, § 6; but unless there are special provisions in the lease, the landlord cannot in any other manner prevent the tenant from using the building for these illegal purposes.

The Pub. Sts. c. 101, § 9, provide for the punishment of three different acts. If a person who owns a building, or has control of it, knowingly lets it for the illegal purposes specified, or if while having the building under his control he knowingly permits it to be used for these illegal purposes, or if after due notice that the building is used for these illegal purposes he omits to take all reasonable measures to eject the occupant, he

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"shall be deemed guilty of aiding in the maintenance of such nuisance."

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If the statute had been less carefully drawn, there would be some force in the contention that a person may be said to permit what he does not prevent, if he has lawfully the power to prevent it, and it is made by law his duty to prevent it. But the last clause of the section was, we think, intended to define the whole duty of a landlord who, having let his building not knowingly for any of these illegal purposes, has due notice that the tenant, after he has taken possession and control, is using the building for these purposes. See Pub. Sts. c. 100, § 20.

The evidence recited in the exceptions tended to prove an offence under the last clause of the section, if it tended to prove any offence, while the indictment is under the second clause of the section. There was no evidence that the defendant actually had the control of the building described in the indictment. So far as appears, he had not the control, but he could have taken control by ejecting his tenant, if the tenant was using the building for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors. The principal exception must be sustained, and it is unnecessary to consider the others. *Exceptions sustained.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* BENJAMIN F. HOLT.

Suffolk. November 21, 1887. — January 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Milk — Sale — Special Contract — Evidence — Analysis.

On a complaint for the sale of milk not of good standard quality, evidence that the milk was delivered under a special contract is immaterial.

If a buyer of milk takes a portion to a milk inspector, the latter may testify on the trial of such a complaint as to the results of his analysis.

COMPLAINT alleging that the defendant, on April 23, 1887, "did sell to Robert Rooney one pint of milk not of good standard quality; that is to say, milk containing less than thirteen per cent of milk solids."

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Trial in the Superior Court, before *Brigham*, C. J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in substance as follows:

The defendant made a special contract with the wife of Rooney, by which he was to deliver to her each day one quart of the milk of one dairy, and fulfilled his part of the contract. On April 23, 1887, after the milk had been delivered, Rooney, without any notice of his intention to the defendant or his agent, carried the milk to the milk inspector, who caused a sample of the same to be analyzed, and then brought this complaint, which he signed and prosecuted in the usual way.

Subsequently, the defendant called upon the milk inspector and requested a portion of the milk in question; but the remainder of the milk had not been preserved, nor had the inspector reserved or sealed a portion of the same before making the analysis. It appeared from the evidence that the milk contained less than thirteen per cent of milk solids, and was not of good standard quality.

The defendant asked the judge to rule, — 1. that, as this was a special contract for the milk of one dairy, it was immaterial what the quality of the milk might be, and, if delivered by the defendant as he received it from the dairy, he would not be guilty; 2. that, as the defendant and his agent were deprived of the opportunity of requesting a portion of the sample of milk at the time it was taken, no request was necessary, and the results of the analysis were not admissible in evidence; 3. that, under the circumstances, the defendant's subsequent request was sufficient, and the analysis was inadmissible; 4. that the analysis was inadmissible, because the St. of 1884, c. 310, § 4, had not been complied with.

The judge refused so to rule, the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. A. McGeough, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

FIELD, J. The St. of 1886, c. 318, § 2, prohibits, under a penalty, the sale of milk which is not of good standard quality, and the alleged contract was immaterial. Indeed, the contract would be held to mean that the milk delivered should be such as could lawfully be bought and sold. The testimony of the milk inspector to the results of the analysis was properly received in

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evidence. The milk was delivered to the inspector for analysis by the purchaser of the milk, and was not taken from the possession of the defendant, pursuant to the St. of 1886, c. 318, § 1.

In cases where the milk analyzed has not been taken under the provisions of the statute, the competency of evidence is to be determined by the common law, and the testimony of any person who had sufficient skill to analyze milk, and who had analyzed some of the milk which was shown to have been sold by the defendant, was admissible. *Commonwealth* v. *Spear*, 143 Mass. 172. *Exceptions overruled.*

CATHERINE KAVANAUGH *vs.* MORRIS KAVANAUGH.

Hampden. September 27, 1887. — January 9, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Probate Court — Separate Support — Guardian — Spendthrift.

Under the Pub. Sts. c. 147, § 33, on a petition for separate support brought by a wife against a spendthrift husband under guardianship, the Probate Court cannot make a decree against the guardian.

PETITION to the Probate Court under the Pub. Sts. c. 147, § 33, by Catherine Kavanaugh, alleging that she was the lawful wife of Morris Kavanaugh; that her husband failed, without just cause, to furnish suitable support for her; that the petitioner, for justifiable cause, was actually living apart from her said husband; and praying that the court would prohibit the husband from imposing any restraint on her personal liberty, and would make an order for her support. The following indorsement was upon the petition: "I, Jas. H. Loomis, guardian of said Morris Kavanaugh, hereby waive further notice, and request that a hearing and decree be had forthwith. James H. Loomis."

On this petition the judge of probate made a decree that, "due notice of said petition having been given to the said Morris Kavanaugh, and to James H. Loomis, his guardian, ... said husband be, and hereby is, prohibited from imposing any restraint

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on the personal liberty of said petitioner; and that said guardian pay to her for her support, from income of estate of said Morris, the sum of three dollars per week, provided one third of the net income of the property of said ward, in the hands and control of said guardian, shall amount to as much as that sum; but if it shall amount to less than that sum, then said guardian shall pay to the petitioner such proportion of three dollars per week as one third of said net income shall amount to."

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From this decree the respondent appealed, and filed the following reasons of appeal, as amended:

"1. That the court had no authority to decree a payment or payments of money by the respondent, he being at the time of the institution of these proceedings, and at the time of said decree, unable to pay said money, or to comply with said decree, by reason of being under guardianship as a spendthrift by former decree of said Probate Court.

"2. That the guardian was not made a party to the proceedings.

"3. That the court had no authority to decree a payment of money by the respondent to the petitioner, he being by order and decree of this court unable to pay.

"4. That the court had no authority to make a decree ordering the guardian to pay money as decreed.

"5. That the court had no authority to order a conditional or fluctuating decree.

"6. That the court did order a conditional or fluctuating and uncertain and indefinite decree.

"7. That the court only has authority to make a definite decree in this case, if any, for a fixed time of payment."

It was agreed by the parties, that, when the petition was brought, the respondent was under guardianship as a spendthrift by a former decree of the Probate Court for the same county, and so continued; that the guardian, James H. Loomis, was not made a party to the proceedings; and that Loomis made the indorsement on the petition before the decree.

Hearing before *Holmes*, J., who reserved the case for the consideration of the full court.

E. H. Lathrop, for the respondent.

W. W. McClench, for the petitioner.

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FIELD, J. The jurisdiction of probate courts to entertain petitions brought under the Pub. Sts. c. 147, § 33, is distinct from their jurisdiction over the appointment of guardians for spendthrifts. Pub. Sts. c. 139, §§ 1, 8; Sts. 1874, c. 205; 1880, c. 64; 1887, c. 332, § 3. It happens that the proceedings in this case, and in that for the appointment of the guardian, were had before the Probate Court of the same county, because the residence of the respondent continued to be in the same county; Pub. Sts. c. 147, § 34; c. 139, § 1; but they are independent proceedings.

The guardian properly appeared for and represented his ward in this petition, but the guardian was not a party to it, and no decree could be made against him. Pub. Sts. c. 139, § 29. *Hicks* v. *Chapman*, 10 Allen, 463. *Rollins* v. *Marsh*, 128 Mass. 116.

The decree cannot be considered as an attempt by the Probate Court to compel the guardian to apply "the income and profits" of the ward's estate, "so far as may be necessary, to the comfortable and suitable maintenance and support of the ward and his family," under the Pub. Sts. c. 139, §§ 30, 38.

Other objections have been taken to this decree, the most important of which are that the decree is conditional and indefinite, and that no decree for the payment of money could be made against a person under guardianship as a spendthrift, because by the guardianship he is divested of all control over his property. There are manifest reasons why, if a decree for the payment of money be made against the ward, it should not be enforced by an attachment of his person. *Blake's case*, 106 Mass. 501.

Whether in a proceeding like this a decree for definite sums of money to be paid in the future can be rendered against the ward, which may be enforced by an execution to be levied upon his property, or which the guardian can be compelled to satisfy, if he has sufficient estate in his hands, by an action on his bond, — or whether the amount of the ward's property which should be devoted to the support of the wife must be determined by the Probate Court under any jurisdiction it may have to control the guardian in the management and disposition of the ward's estate and the income and profits thereof, — are questions of some

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difficulty, which need not now be decided. That part of the decree of the Probate Court which requires the guardian to pay money to the petitioner must be reversed, and that part of the decree which prohibits the husband from imposing any restraint on the personal liberty of the wife until the further order of the court, must be affirmed. *Ordered accordingly.*

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CHARLOTTE A. CLARK *vs.* INHABITANTS OF EASTON.

Bristol. October 26, 1887. — January 9, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Public Officer — De Facto and De Jure — Road Commissioners.

Road commissioners are public officers for whose acts a town is not responsible.

A town, not having accepted the St. of 1871, c. 158, or the Pub. Sts. c. 27, §§ 74–77, elected "road commissioners," who, while performing the duties of that office, committed a trespass. *Held*, in an action against the town therefor, that they were road commissioners *de facto*, the validity of whose election could not be collaterally impeached.

TORT for trespass in repairing a town way in the defendant town. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Barker*, J., who ruled that on the facts the action could not be maintained, and directed a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions. The facts appear in the opinion.

L. C. Southard, (*D. F. Buckley* with him,) for the plaintiff.

H. J. Fuller, for the defendant.

MORTON, C. J. This is an action of tort for a trespass upon the plaintiff's land. The trespass consisted in entering upon the land and depositing thereon stone, earth, and rubbish, thereby obstructing a watercourse. The acts of trespass were committed by three persons acting as road commissioners in repairing a town way.

It is too well settled to need extended discussion, that officers like surveyors of highways and road commissioners, although they are elected and paid by the town, are public officers, and not agents or servants of the town, and that the town is not

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responsible for their acts in the performance of their public duties. *Elliott* v. *Willis*, 1 Allen, 461. *Barney* v. *Lowell*, 98 Mass. 570. *Sudbury* v. *Heard*, 103 Mass. 543. *Haskell* v. *New Bedford*, 108 Mass. 208. *Cushing* v. *Bedford*, 125 Mass. 526. *McCarthy* v. *Boston*, 135 Mass. 197.

A majority of the court is of the opinion that this principle applies in the case at bar, because the persons who committed the trespass were acting as public officers, and were road commissioners *de facto*, not *de jure*.

At the annual meeting in March, 1883, the town elected three persons as road commissioners, being the same persons who committed the acts of trespass complained of.

In the year 1879 the town voted "to choose three road commissioners for the ensuing year to superintend the repairs of highways and town ways," and also voted "that all roads authorized or ordered to be built shall be built under the direction of the road commissioners." In that year, and in every year up to and including the year 1883, the town elected three road commissioners with the same powers and duties. It appeared in the trial of the case at bar that the town had never voted to accept the provisions of the St. of 1871, c. 158, or of the Pub. Sts. c. 27, §§ 74–77, relating to road commissioners.

Perhaps it might be held, in a proceeding directly against the persons chosen to test their title to office, that, by reason of the irregularities in the action of the town, they were not legally elected as road commissioners, with all the powers and duties appertaining to that office. But it is a serious question whether, so far as the duties of repairing highways and town ways are concerned, road commissioners thus elected would not be regarded as highway surveyors. The law requires that a town shall at the annual meeting elect "one or more surveyors of highways." Pub. Sts. c. 27, § 78.

Suppose a town should elect one person as road superintendent to repair the highways, there would be strong grounds for holding that such person was a surveyor of highways, though called by a different name.

But however this may be, we think that for the purposes of this case the persons elected by the town must be treated as road commissioners *de facto*, and that the plaintiff cannot in this

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suit collaterally inquire into the validity and regularity of their election. They were elected by the town as road commissioners, and accepted, were qualified, and publicly acted as such. They were thus in the position of persons who were holding and publicly exercising the functions of an office known to our laws, by virtue of an election by the town which was *prima facie* valid.

In *Fitchburg Railroad* v. *Grand Junction Railroad*, 1 Allen, 552, it is said in the opinion, that the definition of an officer *de facto* is "one who comes in by the forms of law, and acts under a commission or election apparently valid, but, in consequence of some illegality, incapacity or want of qualification, is incapable of lawfully holding the office." The case at bar falls within this definition. But in a later case it was held that this definition was too narrow, and that a man who had been a constable and continued to perform the functions of the office after his commission had expired, publicly holding himself out as a constable, was an officer *de facto*, whose acts in serving process could not be collaterally called in question, the court adopting in substance the broader definition of an officer *de facto* given by Lord Ellenborough in *The King* v. *Bedford Level*, 6 East, 356, 368, as being "one who has the reputation of being the officer he assumes to be, and yet is not a good officer in point of law." *Petersilea* v. *Stone*, 119 Mass. 465.

It is urged by the plaintiff, that the doctrine as to officers *de facto* cannot apply in this case, because there is no such office as that of road commissioner in Easton. The argument is, that there cannot be an officer *de facto* unless there is a legal office of which he performs the functions. The argument is plausible rather than sound.

A public office is a trust or charge created and defined by the public authority. The St. of 1871, re-enacted in the Public Statutes, operating throughout the State, created the office of road commissioner and defined its powers and duties. St. 1871, c. 158. Pub. Sts. c. 27, § 74 *et seq.*

Under the statute the right inheres in each town to elect its citizens to fill the office. The office potentially exists in each town, capable of being filled in a certain manner. As a preliminary to a legal election, the town must first accept the act. If

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it fails to do this, it is an illegality or irregularity in the election, but the persons who qualify and perform the functions of the office are in the position of persons who are publicly discharging the duties of a charge or trust created and defined by the general laws. The vote of the town accepting the act does not create the office. That exists by virtue of the general law, and the vote merely puts the town in a position in which it can legally fill the office by an election.

The question whether there can be a *de facto* officer when there is not a *de jure* office has been the subject of much discussion, and of conflicting decisions. We are inclined to the opinion that there cannot be such a *de facto* officer. But it is not necessary to discuss this question. There is no doubt that there may be *de jure* road commissioners in Easton; and the action of the town in the election of such officers is not legislative, but administrative in its character. As we have said, it does not create the office, but fills it.

In the case before us, the town year after year, for several years, elected road commissioners. The persons elected went on publicly performing the duties prescribed by the statute, and acting as a board of road commissioners under the sanction of the statute creating that office. All the considerations of public policy upon which the doctrine as to officers *de facto* is founded apply in this case as strongly as in any case where there is illegality in the election of officers.

We are therefore of opinion that the persons elected as road commissioners in the defendant town in the year 1883 were road commissioners *de facto*, and were public officers for whose acts the town is not responsible. *Exceptions overruled.*

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MARGARET A. CLIFFORD *vs.* ATLANTIC COTTON MILLS.

Essex. November 4, 1887. — January 9, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Personal Injuries — Landlord and Tenant — Roof — Snow.

The owner of a building with a steep and unguarded roof, who lets it to a tenant, reserving only the right to enter the "premises to repair the same," is not liable to a person injured by a fall of snow from the roof while travelling with due care upon the adjoining highway, it not appearing that the tenant might not by the use of reasonable care have prevented the accident.

TORT for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff by the fall of snow from a building.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Hammond*, J., without a jury, there was evidence that the defendant owned a block of dwelling-houses on Canal Street in Lawrence; that the block was three stories high, constructed with a steep slate roof, slanting towards the sidewalk, the ridgepole being parallel therewith, and that the roof had no protection or railing to keep the snow from falling upon the sidewalk; that the plaintiff was going along the sidewalk, in the exercise of due care, when a large quantity of snow slid from the roof of one of the houses upon her, and greatly injured her; and that a tenant occupied the house under a written lease which covered the whole house, and provided, so far as it was material, that the lessee should not "make, nor suffer to be made, any alteration in the same, but with the assent in writing" of the agent of the defendant, and "that the said agent, or any one appointed by him for the purpose, may, at any time, enter into said premises to repair the same, or to ascertain if the same are properly used."

The judge ruled that the plaintiff could not maintain her action, and found for the defendant. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

J. M. Stearns, for the plaintiff.

D. Saunders & C. G. Saunders, for the defendant.

HOLMES, J. This is an action for personal injuries done to the plaintiff by the fall of snow from the roof of the defendant's house into the highway. The whole house was let at the time to

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a tenant, and the only difference between this case and *Leonard* v. *Storer*, 115 Mass. 86, is, that there the tenant had agreed to make all needful repairs, while in the case at bar there was no contract on either side, but the landlord reserved the right to enter the premises to repair the same, or to ascertain if the same were properly used, &c. This difference cannot affect the result, because the damage was not caused in either case by a want of repairs, but by the original character of the structure, and therefore the presence or absence of a covenant to repair has nothing to do with the question, and because the landlord's reservation of a right to enter, in the case before us, did not include the control of the roof, which the landlord was held to have had in *Kirby* v. *Boylston Market Association*, 14 Gray, 249. *Shipley* v. *Fifty Associates*, 101 Mass. 251, 254; and 106 Mass. 194, 200. See *Larue* v. *Farren Hotel Co.* 116 Mass. 67. See also *Lowell* v. *Spaulding*, 4 Cush. 277; *Payne* v. *Rogers*, 2 H. Bl. 350.

It may be that the tenant had a right to put a guard upon the roof in *Leonard* v. *Storer*, but if so, his right was independent of his covenant to repair, and the tenant had the same right in the present case. *Boston* v. *Worthington*, 10 Gray, 496, 500. See *Swords* v. *Edgar*, 59 N. Y. 28, 36; *Coupland* v. *Hardingham*, 3 Camp. 398. On the other hand, if the landlord had the right to put up a guard in the present case during the tenancy, it is not clear that he did not have it also in the other. In either case, of course, a guard might have been put up before the lease was made. The decision in *Leonard* v. *Storer* was on the ground that "it does not appear that [the tenant] might not have cleared the roof of snow by the exercise of due care, or that he could not by proper precautions have prevented the accident." The same is true here.

There is no doubt that a man sometimes may be liable in tort, notwithstanding the fact that the damage was attributable in part to the concurrent or subsequently intervening misconduct of a third person. *Elmer* v. *Locke*, 135 Mass. 575, 576. *Lane* v. *Atlantic Works*, 111 Mass. 136. *Walker* v. *Cronin*, 107 Mass. 555. *Newman* v. *Zachary*, Aleyn, 3. *Scott* v. *Shepherd*, 2 W. Bl. 892; *S. C.* 3 Wils. 403. *Dixon* v. *Bell*, 5 M. & S. 198. *Clark* v. *Chambers*, 3 Q. B. D. 327. *Winsmore* v. *Greenbank*, Willes, 577 (see 21 Am. Law Rev. 765, 769). *Lynch* v. *Knight*, 9 H. L. C.

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577, 590, 600. *Lumley* v. *Gye*, 2 El. & Bl. 216. See 1 Hale P. C. 428; *Riding* v. *Smith*, 1 Ex. D. 91, 94. But the general tendency has been to look no further back than the last wrongdoer, especially when he has complete and intelligent control of the consequences of the earlier wrongful act. See, for example, 111 Mass. 141. *Hastings* v. *Stetson*, 126 Mass. 329. *Clarke* v. *Morgan*, 38 L. T. (N. S.) 354. *Carter* v. *Towne*, 103 Mass. 507.

In the case of landlords who have given up to the tenant control of the premises in the matter out of which the damage arises, this court has never gone further than to hold them liable when the use from which the damage or nuisance necessarily ensues was plainly contemplated by the lease. See *Jackman* v. *Arlington Mills*, 137 Mass. 277; *Harris* v. *James*, 45 L. J. Q. B. 545.

It is true, that, if the nuisance exists when the premises are let, the landlord can be held, although the tenant may be liable also to the person injured, for the landlord is taken to have contemplated the premises remaining in the condition in which he let them. *Dalay* v. *Savage*, 145 Mass. 38, 41. *Todd* v. *Flight*, 9 C. B. (N. S.) 377. *Swords* v. *Edgar*, 59 N. Y. 28, 34. *Joyce* v. *Martin*, 15 R. I. 558. But courts have differed when the nuisance existing at the time of the lease was due to want of repairs, and the tenant had covenanted to make repairs. *Pretty* v. *Bickmore*, L. R. 8 C. P. 401. *Gwinnell* v. *Eamer*, L. R. 10 C. P. 658. *Swords* v. *Edgar*, *ubi supra*. And the landlord will not be liable for the use of the premises in such a way as to do harm, merely because there was a manifest possibility of their being used in such a way. The liability will stop with the tenant whose intervening wrong is the immediate cause of the damage. *Mellen* v. *Morrill*, 126 Mass. 545. *Rich* v. *Basterfield*, 4 C. B. 783. *Gandy* v. *Jubber*, 5 B. & S. 78, 90; 9 B. & S. 15, 16. *Nelson* v. *Liverpool Brewery Co.* 2 C. P. D. 311. *Edwards* v. *New York & Harlem Railroad*, 98 N. Y. 245. In such cases it cannot matter whether the wrong on the part of the tenant is an act which makes the premises a nuisance, or an omission which allows them to become so. It is as much his duty to act in the latter case as it is to abstain in the former. In either, as against the public, the landlord, unless he has assumed the duty himself by covenant, has a right to rely upon the tenant's managing the premises in his occupation in such a way as to pre-

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vent their being a nuisance. *Stewart* v. *Putnam*, 127 Mass. 403, 406. *Lowell* v. *Spaulding*, 4 Cush. 277. *Russell* v. *Shenton*, 3 Q. B. 449. 1 Chitty Pl. (7th ed.) 94.

The defendant's house was not a nuisance in itself. If it was, half the householders in Boston are indictable at the present moment. It was certain to become so at times by the mere working of nature alone, unless the tenant cleared the roof, or took other steps to prevent it. But, so far as appears, the tenant could have done so by using reasonable care. If he could, it was his duty to do so, and the landlord was not liable, for the reasons which we have stated. *Exceptions overruled.*

JOHN CULLEN *vs.* CATHARINE CAREY.

Essex. November 7, 1887. — January 9, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, W ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Absolute Conveyance — Mortgage — Devisee — Reconveyance.

A creditor, under an agreement with his debtor to hold land as security for the debt, got a title thereto by levy of execution on a judgment obtained by consent and by foreclosure of a mortgage. *Held*, that the transaction was a mortgage, and that a general devisee of the creditor could be compelled to reconvey.

BILL IN EQUITY to compel the reconveyance of land on the ground that the transaction by which the defendant's testator gained title was in substance a mortgage. Writ dated December 24, 1885.

In the Superior Court the case was referred to a master, who found the following facts:

In 1869 the plaintiff bought the land in question, subject to a mortgage, and proceeded to erect a tenement house. Leonard Carey, the husband of the defendant, who was a carpenter and indebted to the plaintiff for money lent, built the house for the plaintiff, supplying nearly all the materials and labor under an oral agreement whereby his indebtedness to the plaintiff was to be applied in payment of the cost of construction. When the house was completed, the balance due Carey, after paying his debt to the plaintiff, was $1,106, and the value of the house and

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land above the existing mortgage was $3,300. The plaintiff moved into the house and occupied it about six months.

On or about June 1, 1870, the plaintiff and Carey made an oral agreement that Carey should gain title to the premises by levy on execution, and by a sale under the power in the mortgage, and hold them as security for the plaintiff's debt to him, and, after payment of the debt and expenses out of the rents, should reconvey to the plaintiff. In pursuance of this agreement, the plaintiff, on June 1, 1870, gave to Carey a note for $4,000, upon which an action was brought and judgment obtained by default against the plaintiff as agreed. An execution was issued and levied by a sale to Carey of the plaintiff's equity of redemption in the premises for $4,317.39, and a conveyance in due form was made to him on May 29, 1871. On July 6, 1871, Carey, by the payment of $583.17, procured the assignment of the mortgage to a third person, who proceeded in due form to sell the premises under the power therein to Carey for $950, and a deed was given to him and duly recorded.

Prior to the sale on execution and under the mortgage, Carey was put in possession of the premises by the plaintiff, and so continued until his death, on October 25, 1885. At various times the plaintiff demanded of Carey a settlement and reconveyance of the premises, his last demand being made a few days before Carey's death, in the presence and hearing of the defendant. Carey made a will, by which his real estate was devised to the defendant, who took possession of the premises and continued to receive the rents and profits. The defendant declined to file an account, but it was agreed by both parties that the receipts by Carey and the defendant had been sufficient to pay the plaintiff's debt to Carey, including interest and expenses. The master also found that there had been no laches on the part of the plaintiff.

The case was then heard on the report of the master, and a decree was entered that the defendant convey the premises to the plaintiff. The defendant appealed to this court.

N. P. Frye, for the defendant.

J. C. Sanborn, for the plaintiff.

MORTON, C. J. It was held in *Campbell* v. *Dearborn*, 109 Mass. 130, that, although a deed be given which is absolute in

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form, yet the grantor may prove by parol testimony that it was understood and agreed by both parties to be given as security for a debt; and that upon such proof a court of equity will treat the deed as a mortgage. This is decisive of the case at bar.

For some reason, which does not appear to be fraudulent, the plaintiff did not directly convey the estate in question to the defendant's testator; he permitted the latter to obtain a judgment upon a debt in part fictitious, and thus to get a title by a levy upon the execution, and also to foreclose by a sale under an existing mortgage. But the substance of the transaction was the same as if a deed had been directly given by the plaintiff. Both parties agreed that the title thus obtained was to be held solely as security for the debt of the plaintiff to the defendant's testator, and a court of equity will treat the transaction according to its real nature as a mortgage.

The defendant does not stand in the position of an innocent purchaser, as she contends. She took as a general devisee under the will of her husband, and besides is shown to have had notice of the nature of the transaction. *Decree affirmed.*

FRANKLIN F. PATCH *vs.* CITY OF BOSTON.
SAME *vs.* SAME.

Suffolk. November 15, 1887. — January 9, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Land Damages — Evidence — Tribunal — Boston — Court-House.

Under the St. of 1885, c. 377, authorizing commissioners to take land in Boston for a new court-house and providing that damages should be assessed as "in case of the laying out, altering, or discontinuing of ways within the city of Boston," such damages are to be assessed in the first instance by the street commissioners of Boston, and not by the court-house commissioners.

On the assessment of damages for land taken by a city, evidence of the cost of a recent addition to the house thereon is inadmissible.

A declaration of opinion as to the value of land taken by a city, made by the owner and occupant for seventeen years to an assessor over a year before the taking, and also before an addition was built to the house thereon, is competent as an admission against such owner.

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On the assessment of damages for the taking by a city of land with a building thereon, evidence was offered on the part of the city of the price at which neighboring estates in the same street with buildings thereon were sold a few months after the taking, it appearing that the effect of the taking had been, if any, to increase the value of such property. *Held*, that, in the absence of proof that the buildings were dissimilar, the evidence was rightly admitted.

TWO PETITIONS for juries to assess damages for the taking of land in Boston for a new court-house. The cases came on for trial together in the Superior Court, before *Blodgett*, J., who dismissed the first petition and allowed a bill of exceptions, which appear in the opinion.

E. W. Hutchins, for the petitioner.

T. M. Babson, for the respondent.

C. ALLEN, J. This was a petition to the Superior Court, setting forth that the petitioner was the owner of a parcel of land on Somerset Street in Boston; that the court-house commissioners appointed by the Mayor of Boston had taken said land for a court-house, under the St. of 1885, c. 377; that he had been offered by said commissioners a very much less sum than the damages sustained by him; and praying that his damages might be ascertained by a jury, at the bar of the Superior Court.

It appeared that the street commissioners also had made an award of damages for the same taking, with which the petitioner was dissatisfied, and accordingly he had filed another petition praying that his damages might be ascertained by a jury, at the bar of the Superior Court.

Both of these petitions came on to be heard together in that court, and after the reading of the petitions and answers the petitioner declined to elect upon which petition he would go to trial. No objection to the form of proceedings was made by the city in either case, but in the answer to each petition the city said that, if any land or property of the petitioner had been taken for any public use of the city of Boston, the city was, and ever since such taking had been, ready and willing to pay all damages caused thereby, for which it was liable. Under these circumstances, the petitioner declining to elect which petition he would go to trial on, the court ruled that the court-house commissioners had no authority to award damages for the taking of the petitioner's land, but that the street commissioners of the city of Boston were the persons to award the damages, and therefore that the present

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petition could not be maintained. The parties went to trial upon the other petition, without any exception being saved by the city, and the petitioner's damages were assessed by the jury.

By the St. of 1885, c. 377, the board of commissioners appointed by the mayor is authorized to take land for a court-house, by purchase or otherwise, and the city is to be liable to pay all damages that shall be sustained by any person or persons by reason of the taking of such land; such damages to be ascertained and determined in the manner provided for ascertaining and determining damages in case of the laying out, altering, or discontinuing of ways within the city of Boston. In Boston, such damages are determined in the first instance by the street commissioners; that is, they have the same power in Boston as county commissioners in other counties, and this includes the estimate of such damages. Pub. Sts. c. 49, §§ 14, 84. A party aggrieved by the doings of the street commissioners in the estimation of damages may apply for a jury by petition to the Superior Court. Pub. Sts. c. 49, § 86.

Under a statute somewhat similar to the one now under consideration, namely, the St. of 1864, c. 104, authorizing the city of Worcester to supply itself with water, and providing that all damages should be assessed in the manner provided in the general laws in regard to highways, it was held that a claimant should petition in the first instance to the county commissioners. *Worcester* v. *County Commissioners*, 100 Mass. 103. To a similar effect is *Riley* v. *Lowell*, 117 Mass. 76. Certain differences in matters of detail have been pointed out by the counsel for the petitioner, but the reasons assigned by the court in those cases, in substance, cover the present case.

If the legislature had intended that the court-house commissioners, being a special body created for the particular purpose, should make the assessment of damages, they would have been likely to say so in express terms. Usually, we believe, when any special board or committee is to make the first assessment of damages, the statute plainly so provides. But where the provisions in reference to the ascertainment of damages is merely a general one, referring to the mode of ascertaining damages in other cases of frequent occurrence, it is natural and reasonable to suppose that all the incidents of such mode are included, as

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far as the same are applicable. Especially should this construction be given to the St. of 1885, c. 377, which contains no express provision for a jury in any case. If the legislature had meant that the court-house commissioners should assess the damages in the first instance, it would have been natural and probable that an express provision for a jury would have been inserted. But if they meant that the street commissioners should assess the damages, there was no occasion for such special provision, as the general provision already referred to would cover it. On the whole, we think it the better construction of the statute to hold that the duty of estimating damages in the first instance belonged to the street commissioners. *Exceptions overruled.*

THE trial proceeded upon the second petition, and the petitioner testified that about May 1, 1885, three months before the taking, he built an addition to the L of his dwelling-house, making it a story higher, whereby another room was added to the building, and offered to show the cost of the addition. The judge ruled that evidence of the cost of the addition was incompetent, and excluded it.

On cross-examination, the petitioner was asked whether he had not stated to one Browne, an assessor, in 1884, that his house was worth less than $22,000, to which he replied that he had not. The respondent afterwards offered to show by Browne, that in the first week in May, 1884, Browne and his clerk met the petitioner coming out of his house, and he asked them what his house was taxed for; that they told him that in 1883 it was taxed for $22,000, and that the petitioner said, "That is too much; you ought to reduce it; it is more than it will sell for; it is more than it is worth;" that Browne said he could sell it for him for that, and that the petitioner said he did not want to sell, but it was more than it was worth. To this evidence the petitioner objected, but the judge admitted it. Except as stated, there was no evidence that the petitioner was acquainted with the value of the property, or that he was fitted to give an opinion upon it, and he was not asked by either side what his opinion of its value was. The petitioner had owned the estate for about seventeen years, and during that time occupied it as his dwelling-house, until within a few months before the taking.

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The respondent offered to put in evidence the price at which two other pieces of land, with buildings upon them, on Somerset Street, near the estate of the petitioner, were sold in 1886, a few months after the taking, it appearing that the effect of the taking had been, if any, to increase the value of such property. To this evidence the petitioner objected, but the judge found that the estates were situated similarly to that of the petitioner, and admitted the same.

The jury returned a verdict assessing the petitioner's damages; and the petitioner, being dissatisfied therewith, alleged exceptions.

E. W. Hutchins, for the petitioner.

T. M. Babson, for the respondent.

C. ALLEN, J. The exceptions in the present case present three questions as to the exclusion and admission of testimony.

1. The first question is as to the exclusion of the testimony offered by the petitioner as to the cost of the addition to the L. As a general rule, the market value of the property is the measure of damages. Ordinarily, the cost is not material, and especially the cost of some particular improvement, which, however convenient to the owner, may not correspondingly increase the market value. In the case of goods which are constantly manufactured and sold in the market, evidence of the cost has been received, as having a direct tendency to show the value. *Clement* v. *British American Assurance Co.* 141 Mass. 298, 301. But the addition of special improvements in buildings does not fall within the same reason. *Allen* v. *Boston*, 137 Mass. 319, 321. In the present case, all that was offered in evidence to make the cost admissible was, that, three months before the taking the plaintiff built an addition to the L of his dwelling-house, making it a story higher, whereby another room was added to the building. There was nothing to show that the cost of this addition would aid in determining the market value of the whole estate, or that the value of the whole estate would depend closely on the cost in detail of improvements made upon it from time to time. We see no error in the exclusion of the testimony.

2. The objection, that an owner and occupant of a house for seventeen years must be shown to be qualified to judge of the value of real estate, before his expressed statement of an opinion

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of its value can be received in evidence against him, savors of too much refinement for practical purposes, and cannot be adopted. Usually such owner and occupant may be presumed to have a sufficient opinion of the value of his property to make his admission competent against himself. See *Flint* v. *Flint*, 6 Allen, 34. *Whitman* v. *Boston & Maine Railroad*, 7 Allen, 313. The other objections to his opinion go rather to the weight and importance than to the competency of the statements, and cannot prevail. Much must be left to the discretion of the presiding judge in determining whether the time was too remote, and the condition of the property too dissimilar, to make the evidence valuable; and exceptions should not be sustained on such grounds, unless a manifest error has been committed. *Shattuck* v. *Stoneham Branch Railroad*, 6 Allen, 115, 117. *Chandler* v. *Jamaica Pond Aqueduct Co.* 122 Mass. 305.

3. The last exception taken by the plaintiff was to the admission in evidence of the prices at which two other estates on the same street, and near the plaintiff's estate, were sold, a few months after the taking. It is admitted that ordinarily sales of other similar lands in the vicinity, at or about the time in question, may be shown. *Chandler* v. *Jamaica Pond Aqueduct Co.*, *ubi supra*. But it is contended that the rule does not include sales of land with buildings thereon, or sales made so long afterwards, and after there had been a change of value. If it had appeared that the buildings upon the lots which were sold were quite unlike those upon the plaintiff's land, there would be force in the objection; but this does not appear. Houses on the same street in a city often correspond closely in style, cost, and value. The mere fact that buildings were upon the land does not of itself have the effect to vary the rule of law that sales of other similar lands may be shown, upon the question of value; but it is in such case, as in all others, to be determined by the court whether on the whole there was such a general similarity that the price obtained on the sale of one estate may fairly tend to show the value of the other. The objection founded on the time when the sales were made has at first sight more plausibility; but the aspect of the case, at the time the evidence was admitted, must be considered. The city did not ask to have any allowance made by reason of an increase of value after the tak-

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ing, but offered evidence to show that, even with such increase in value as may have resulted from the taking of land for the court-house, estates in the vicinity had been sold at rates lower than the plaintiff claimed as the value of his property. It might, indeed, have been different if the respondent had asked the jury to form an opinion as to the rise in value, and to make allowance for that; but the position of the respondent, as we understand the bill of exceptions, was just the reverse; the respondent in substance said, "We will offer as a standard sales made at a later date, when the effect, if any, had been to increase the value of such property; we will give you the benefit of that; and even then your claim is excessive."

There was nothing to show that in point of fact there had been any substantial increase of value, or that it was contended before the jury that there had been. It must now be presumed that the city made no claim on the ground of any such supposed increase of value; and in this aspect the plaintiff has no ground of exception. *Exceptions overruled.*

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WILBUR M. BELL *vs.* JOHN Q. A. PIERCE.

Middlesex. November 15, 1887. — January 9, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Bail Bond — Validity — Assignment — Sheriff.

A bond, invalid as a bail bond under the Pub. Sts. c. 163, § 2, as not made to the sheriff or other officer, may be effective on acceptance by the obligee.

An obligee on an invalid bond to release from arrest, who repudiates it when brought to his knowledge, and when the sureties could have surrendered the principal debtor, cannot, on payment of the judgment by the sheriff, assign the bond to him so as to bind the sureties.

CONTRACT on a bond executed by the defendant and others as sureties, and by Frank T. Fay as principal, reciting that they were "holden and stand firmly bound unto Wilbur M. Bell," and conditioned that Fay, who had been arrested on mesne process in an action of contract in which Bell was also plaintiff, should

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appear before the Superior Court, abide its final judgment, and not avoid. The bond was approved by a master in chancery.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., without a jury, who found the following facts:

The bond declared on was executed by the defendant and his co-obligors as and for a bail bond for the purpose of relieving Frank T. Fay from imprisonment on mesne process, and was delivered to the jailer as a public officer, who received and accepted the same in his official capacity, and thereupon, deeming it a good and sufficient bail bond, discharged Fay from arrest. Bell, who was also the plaintiff in the original action, resided in Vermont, and all his business here was done by F. E. Crawford, his attorney. Neither Bell nor Crawford saw the bond until after the recovery of judgment in the original action, or ever accepted it. Samuel P. Abbott, an attorney at law, acted for Fay and for the defendant and other sureties upon the bond. Within less than thirty days after judgment was recovered, Abbott, acting for Fay and the sureties upon the bond, saw Crawford at his office in Boston, and told him that Fay was in Boston, and inquired if Crawford wanted Fay in this matter, and was answered in the negative. He also spoke about having Fay delivered into the jail, and Crawford replied that in case of such delivery he should treat Fay as an outsider, and should have nothing to do with him, and that in any event he should hold the sheriff responsible for his judgment. Abbott also applied to the clerk of the Superior Court for a copy of the bail bond, with a view to the surrender of Fay within thirty days after the judgment, but was unable to obtain it because no proper bond had been filed. The sureties upon the bond desired to surrender Fay to relieve themselves from liability, and would have so surrendered him if the bond had been in proper form, or if the plaintiff would have accepted the body of Fay and discharged them from liability. Subsequently the sheriff took an assignment of the judgment in favor of said Bell against said Fay, and paid the amount thereof, and also took an assignment of the bond, and brought and is now prosecuting this suit in the plaintiff's name for his own benefit.

On these facts, the judge found for the defendant, and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

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A. S. Hall, for the plaintiff.

B. B. Johnson, for the defendant.

C. ALLEN, J. The bond was not valid as a bail bond, since it ran directly to the plaintiff in the action, and not to the sheriff or other officer. Pub. Sts. c. 163, § 2. The approval of the master in chancery, therefore, signified nothing. But the bond might be valid at common law, if approved and accepted by the obligee. *Pratt* v. *Gibbs*, 9 Cush. 82. An actual or implied acceptance is essential, in order to constitute a delivery. *Hawkes* v. *Pike*, 105 Mass. 560. *Chase* v. *Breed*, 5 Gray, 440. 4 Kent Com. 454. Met. Con. 14. In the present case, the plaintiff never authorized nor ratified the taking of the bond; on the other hand, he always repudiated it. Up to the time of the assignment, he obviously intended to do no act to accept or ratify it, and declared, by his counsel, that in any event he should hold the sheriff responsible for the judgment. He thus treated the bond as invalid at a time when, if valid, the sureties could and would have saved the condition by surrendering their principal. It was too late afterwards to make it valid and binding upon them by an act done without their consent and to their injury. Under the circumstances, the assignment of the bond to the sheriff, upon the payment by the sheriff of the amount of the judgment, could not have the effect to give vitality to a bond which up to that time was invalid. *Exceptions overruled.*

JOSEPH B. MOORS *vs.* FERDINAND A. WYMAN & others.

Suffolk. November 16, 17, 1887. — January 9, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Advances — Pledge — Bill of Lading — Sale — Commission.

A banker made advances to leather merchants on hides, for which bills of parcels were given to him or bills of lading taken to his order or indorsed to him with power to take possession and sell for his security or reimbursement. He indorsed the bills of lading to the firm to get the hides from the carriers, and gave it the custody upon its express agreement to hold as his agents and to redeliver the identical hides when tanned. *Held*, that the banker took the title to the hides, and did not divest it by his indorsement or release of custody.

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On the failure of the firm the banker took possession of the hides as they arrived, and sold them at private sale through reputable brokers at fair prices. *Held*, that the sales were valid, and that the banker was entitled to a reasonable compensation.

A trustee of the firm, holding under a voluntary assignment for the benefit of creditors, charged the banker commissions for sales of leather, and for tanning hides in the vats to prevent their loss. *Held*, that the former item and the latter item, above a certain limit, were rightly disallowed.

HOLMES, J. This is a bill in equity brought by a creditor of the Boston firm of F. Shaw & Brothers, consisting of Fayette Shaw and Brackley Shaw, against that firm; against another firm in Vanceboro, Maine, of the same name, consisting of the above-named Shaws and Thaxter Shaw; and against Ferdinand A. Wyman, to whom both firms have made voluntary assignments for the benefit of creditors. As the objections to the jurisdiction are now waived, and as the assets in controversy have been converted into money, and a large part of the plaintiff's claim has been paid since the filing of the bill, leaving only certain items of the account in dispute, such only of the facts need be stated as are necessary in order to settle these disputed items.

The plaintiff, Moors, made advances to the Boston firm in several ways. 1st. Under what is called the loan account agreement, by indorsing their notes, &c., in Boston, taking as security bills of parcels of specified hides, which the Vanceboro firm were tanning for the Boston firm, and which were delivered by the Boston firm to and held by Thaxter Shaw as agent for the plaintiff with the consent of the Vanceboro firm. The Vanceboro firm agreed that the cost to Moors for tanning should not exceed four cents per pound, and in fact all charges for tanning were paid by the Boston firm to the Vanceboro firm. By the Boston firm's agreement, Moors had power in case of default, or if in his opinion the collateral did not afford a margin of twenty-five per cent above the amount unpaid, to sell at public or private sale without notice; and it was further agreed that all collateral security held by Moors for the Boston firm's account, whether under that contract or otherwise, might be taken and applied as general security for all existing or subsequent indebtedness. This account has been paid off in great part, since the filing of the bill.

2d. The plaintiff issued to the Boston firm letters of credit on Morton, Rose, & Co., of London, under which the firm bought

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hides, taking bills of lading to the plaintiff's order by agreement, the plaintiff having a lien on the goods, bills of lading, and policies of insurance, with authority to take possession and dispose of them at his discretion for his security or reimbursement. Before the defendant's failure the practice was for the plaintiff to indorse the bill of lading to the Boston firm, they signing a contract by which they received the hides as his agents, and agreed as such agents to send the hides to specified tanneries of theirs in Maine or New York, and to deliver to the plaintiff upon demand the identical leather into which the hides should be manufactured, the plaintiff not to be chargeable with any expense thereon. The intention of the agreement was stated to be to protect and preserve unimpaired the plaintiff's lien. After the failure the plaintiff took possession of the hides as they arrived, and sold them through reputable brokers for fair prices. The plaintiff has paid Morton, Rose, & Co. the whole amount due them.

3d. The plaintiff obtained letters of credit for the Boston firm drawn upon the Bank of Montreal by the agents of the bank, the Boston firm giving the bank an agreement similar to that with Moors, last mentioned, with authority to the agents to take possession of the goods and dispose of the same at discretion, and to charge all expenses, including commissions, for sale and guaranty. Upon the arrival of the hides the agents of the bank indorsed the bills of lading to Moors, who before the failure indorsed them to the Boston firm under the same form of agreement as stated with regard to bills of lading under the Morton, Rose, & Co. credit. The hides arriving after the failure were sold by him in like manner as before stated. The plaintiff has paid the bank the whole amount due to it.

It is argued for the Shaws that Moors received the indorsed bills of lading as agent of the Bank of Montreal, and that, however this may be, he has lost his rights in all hides received by him under any bills of lading before the failure, and turned over to the Boston firm as Moors's agents. But upon the record before us we must take it that Moors received the hides, as the master's report implies that he did, on his own behalf. The agents of the bank looked to him for payment, and they have been paid. The bank had a title, whether absolute or qualified does not matter. See *De Wolf* v. *Gardner*, 12 Cush. 19; *Forbes*

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v. *Boston & Lowell Railroad*, 133 Mass. 154, 156. *Moors* v. *Kidder*, 106 N. Y. 32. Moors got this title by indorsement, and had a similar title originally under the Morton, Rose, & Co. bills of lading. His indorsements of the bills of lading to the Boston firm as his agents did not release this title. It was not a conveyance in form, and being made only for the purpose of enabling him to get the goods from the carriers, it was not a conveyance in substance or effect. See *Moors* v. *Kidder*, *ubi supra*; *Pratt* v. *Parkman*, 24 Pick. 42, 47; *Low* v. *De Wolf*, 8 Pick. 101, 107.

Neither did Moors lose his rights by giving the custody of the hides to the Shaws. They expressly agreed to hold as Moors's agents, and the general rule is perfectly well settled that the custody of a servant or of a mere agent to hold is the possession of the master or principal. The only difficulties that have arisen have been due to the failure to distinguish accurately between such servants or agents and bailees who hold in their own name; *Hallgarten* v. *Oldham*, 135 Mass. 1, 9; or, in the case of pledges, between a delivery to the pledgor for his own purposes and intrusting him with the custody on behalf of the pledgee. *Kellogg* v. *Tompson*, 142 Mass. 76, 79. It might be argued that policy requires an exception to be made in favor of a *bona fide* purchaser for value from the general owner having the seeming possession of the goods, as against a person whose security depended upon possession, and who had made the owner his custodian. But the Massachusetts cases tend to show that there is no such exception in the absence of fraud. *Kellogg* v. *Tompson*, and *Moors* v. *Kidder*, *ubi supra*. *Thacher* v. *Moors*, 134 Mass. 156, 165. At all events, there is nothing in this case to warrant our making one, even assuming that all parties before us are not concluded by the express agreement of the Shaws that the plaintiff's rights should remain. There is nothing in Wyman's position, as to proceeds in his hands, to diminish the rights which Moors had as against the Shaws, nor do his counsel argue that there is, so far as the question of possession is concerned.

The plaintiff has charged a commission of five per cent on the hides sold by him, of which rather more than nine tenths in value was imported under the Morton, Rose, & Co. credit, the rest under that of the Bank of Montreal. The defendants deny

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his right to sell at private sale, and more particularly deny his right to charge any commission. We see no reason to doubt that the sale was lawful, and we are of opinion that the plaintiff should be allowed the sum which the master has found to be a reasonable compensation for the services actually rendered by him, namely, two and one half per cent upon the gross sales, or $5,080.65. The argument is strong that the loan account agreement, authorizing the plaintiff to apply all security to any indebtedness, imports an application in the manner and with the incidents there set forth, one of which was a charge of two and one half per cent commission. All of the facts tend to the conclusion that a commission was to be charged. See, further, *Varnum* v. *Meserve*, 8 Allen, 158, 161.

It is admitted that there was due to the plaintiff on April 1, 1886, the sum of $61,448.87, as found by the master. Adding the commission, the amount is $66,529.52. By the master's findings the defendant Wyman had in his hands on the same date $89,533.34, proceeds of the plaintiff's security, or more than enough to pay what remains due, unless Wyman has a right to make certain charges which have been disallowed by the master.

The first of these is a charge of five per cent commission for sales made by Wyman. The master found no agreement to that effect with the plaintiff, and rightly disallowed the charge. There is no reason why a debtor selling his own property to pay his debts should charge his creditor for doing so, and there is no reason why Wyman in this respect should stand in a better position than the Shaws. So far as the sales were made by agreement, the agreement excluded the right to make a charge. It is at least a fair inference that he made the other sales, if rightful, on the same footing.

Wyman's second charge is for tanning the hides which were on hand at the time of filing the bill, and which were mostly in the process of tanning, and could not be removed without serious injury. The master finds that there was no agreement or understanding between the plaintiff and Wyman that the latter should make any charge to the plaintiff for tanning.

One item of $43,298.64 was charged for tanning leather which Wyman agreed to deliver to purchasers, as Moors's agent, and

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the proceeds of which in money he further agreed to deliver to Moors as soon as received, his contract expressly stating that Moors was not to be chargeable with any expense incurred thereon. It will be seen that this agreement follows the form of the original contract of the Boston firm as to letter of credit hides, with such change only as was required by the fact that Wyman received the purchase money for the leather in the first place. We think that the master was plainly right in disallowing this charge.

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The remaining item is $36,710.43, being the difference between four cents a pound allowed by the master, and seven cents, the actual cost of tanning. Of this sum, according to the statement of Wyman's counsel, $13,972.89 was for tanning loan account hides, for which the Vanceboro firm agreed that the cost to Moors should not be more than four cents. In the absence of agreement to the contrary, the master was warranted in finding that, as to these hides at least, Wyman proceeded on the terms of the contract, and could not charge more than four cents, if entitled to charge anything. There was nothing to preclude such a finding in the fact that Moors took possession of the bill of lading hides arriving after the failure. He had a right to do so, and if he had not had the right, we could not say, as matter of law or fact, that his doing so imported a repudiation of the distinct contract relations as to the loan account hides in the tannery.

There is left, then, only $22,787.54 in dispute, which might be deducted from the amount in Wyman's hands and yet leave enough to pay the plaintiff. As to this sum, we think that the allowance of four cents was sufficiently favorable to the defendants, and, if it were necessary to go further in order to secure the plaintiff's rights, we should have some difficulty in finding a warrant for making any allowance at all. The hides were bill of lading hides, which by the original agreement were to be manufactured into leather without any expense to Moors or the Bank. Such bill of lading hides as Wyman did make an agreement about, he undertook to deal with in the same way. On these facts alone the argument against his right to charge is strong. But, further, bearing in mind that these hides were to be tanned and held by the Boston firm, and that the Vanceboro firm had nothing to do with them, if that fact be material, it is to be

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observed that where the holder of the equity of redemption in property, or of a kindred interest, makes improvements upon it necessary to preserve it from destruction or great loss, he may be presumed to make such improvements in the interest of the equity, for the purpose of at least diminishing the claim upon his general funds not pledged, and, if possible, of obtaining a surplus. Undoubtedly, it was for the interest of the creditors of the Boston firm that the hides should be tanned rather than be spoiled. The principle is the converse of that which allows a mortgagee to charge for reasonable improvements. *Merriam* v. *Goss*, 139 Mass. 77, 82. There are obvious objections to allowing the holder of the equity to create a lien superior to an existing mortgage. Even if the Vanceboro firm were concerned, it would not necessarily change our opinion upon the matter, in view of the circumstances of this case.

Decree accordingly.

R. M. Morse, Jr., for the plaintiff.

E. R. Hoar & Samuel Hoar, for the defendant Wyman.

J. C. Lane, for the defendants Shaw.

CHARLES D. COOK & others *vs.* FREDERICK H. HOLBROOK & another.

Suffolk. November 18, 1887. — January 9, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Voluntary Conveyance — Fraud — Question of Fact.

Whether a voluntary conveyance, made on a meritorious consideration by a person deeply indebted, is fraudulent and void as to existing creditors, is a question not of law but of fact for the jury upon all the circumstances of the transaction.

BILL IN EQUITY to reach and apply real estate in payment of a debt. In the Superior Court issues were framed for a jury, and *Pitman*, J., allowed a bill of exceptions, which, so far as material, appear in the opinion.

H. Baylies, for the plaintiffs.

S. J. Thomas, for the defendants.

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MORTON, C. J. The object of this suit is to reach and apply in payment of the plaintiffs' debt certain real estate conveyed by their debtor, the defendant Holbrook, to the defendant Russ. The conveyance was a voluntary one, made by said Holbrook for the benefit of his children to the defendant Russ as trustee, and the plaintiffs were pre-existing creditors.

The court gave instructions to the jury as to the legal meaning of fraud which would invalidate such a conveyance, which were not excepted to, and are presumed to be appropriate. The plaintiffs requested the court to rule that "fraud, in a voluntary conveyance, such as this is shown to be, so far as concerns existing debts, is an inference of law." The refusal to give this ruling presents the only question before us.

There is some confusion and contradiction in the adjudged cases as to the effect of a voluntary conveyance by a debtor upon the rights of his creditors; but the law is well settled in this Commonwealth that a conveyance made on the meritorious consideration of blood, or affection to a child, or as a settlement to a wife, is not, as matter of law, fraudulent and void as to existing creditors. Whether it is so or not depends upon all the circumstances of the transaction. If made when a person is deeply indebted, it furnishes *prima facie* evidence of fraud; but this may be rebutted or controlled, and the question of fraud is not one of law, but of fact for the jury. *Lerow* v. *Wilmarth*, 9 Allen, 382. *Winchester* v. *Charter*, 12 Allen, 606. *Draper* v. *Buggee*, 133 Mass. 258.

The ruling requested was therefore properly refused.

Exceptions overruled.

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SARAH S. LANE *vs.* CHARLES F. CHADWICK.

Dukes County. November 28, 1887. — January 9, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Consignor and Consignee — Carrier — Delivery — Title — Replevin.

A consignee of goods sent C. O. D. cannot maintain replevin against the carrier before payment and delivery.

REPLEVIN of certain goods. Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Hammond*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in substance as follows:

The plaintiff ordered the goods from wholesale druggists in Boston to be shipped to her by express C. O. D. The goods were so shipped, nailed up in two boxes, and accompanied by an itemized bill. The defendant, an express messenger, took the goods to the plaintiff's store, and demanded the amount of the bill with express charges on delivery of the boxes. The plaintiff refused to pay until she had had an opportunity to examine the contents of the boxes, and to compare the contents with the bill. The defendant refused to permit such an examination, and took the boxes away. There was evidence tending to show that the defendant told the plaintiff, when he brought the boxes, that if the boxes did not contain the goods ordered by the plaintiff he would not refund the C. O. D. charges after payment to him.

Subsequently the plaintiff procured this writ and went to the defendant with the officer, and in his presence tendered to the defendant the amount of the bill and express charges; and, showing the bill of items, demanded that those specific goods be delivered to her. The defendant replied that he knew nothing about those particular goods, and could not be responsible for the contents of the boxes, but said he was ready to deliver the boxes. The plaintiff refused to accept the boxes without knowledge of their contents, and the writ was served. The goods named in the itemized bill were all in the boxes. The

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plaintiff also introduced evidence tending to show that after this last tender she made an absolute tender of the money and demanded the boxes.

The plaintiff asked the judge to rule, that, under a C. O. D. contract like the one in this case, if the consignee pays the carrier's charges, and tenders the price of the goods, the consignee has a right to have it certain that the goods are present before he actually parts with his money, especially when told that the money would not be refunded even if the boxes did not contain the goods so ordered C. O. D. The judge refused so to rule, and found for the defendant.

The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

P. H. Hutchinson & C. G. M. Dunham, for the plaintiff.

H. M. Knowlton, for the defendant.

MORTON, C. J. To maintain replevin, the plaintiff must show that, at the time she sued out her writ, she was entitled to the immediate and exclusive possession of the goods replevied. *Collins* v. *Evans*, 15 Pick. 63. *Wade* v. *Mason*, 12 Gray, 335.

The goods in suit were delivered to the defendant, who is a common carrier, by the consignor in Boston, to be transported to the plaintiff. They were in two boxes securely nailed up, and were accompanied by an itemized bill. The defendant was instructed to deliver the goods to the plaintiff upon the payment of the bill by her in cash.

The delivery to the carrier was not a delivery to the plaintiff. He was not her agent, but the agent of the consignor. *Merchants' National Bank* v. *Bangs*, 102 Mass. 291. Until he delivered the goods to her, no title or right of possession would pass to her, and it is immaterial whether he rightfully or wrongfully refused to make the delivery. At the time she replevied the goods, she had no title or right of possession. ***Exceptions overruled.***

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CORNELIA A. JOHNSON *vs.* MARIAN B. KNAPP & others.
SAME *vs.* ANSON GAGE & others.

Franklin. September 20, 21, 1887. — January 10, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Deed — Incumbrances — Adverse User — Implied Grant — Power of Attorney.

An owner of land, to which was appurtenant the right to draw water through an aqueduct, conveyed the upper part with a like right, "reserving the privilege of conveying water" across the same to the lower part. The heirs of the owner conveyed the lower part with the "same privilege of drawing water and conveying the same" as their ancestor enjoyed "in his lifetime," covenanting against incumbrances. *Held*, that the right of the grantee of the upper part to take water was not an incumbrance within such covenant.

Evidence of the drawing of water from an aqueduct and its use on one lot for less than twenty years under an unrecorded grant, and of the first drawing on another lot twenty years before and its continued use thereon with the knowledge but without the consent of an owner of the aqueduct, and without any assertion of a claim of right, is insufficient to establish a right by adverse user.

An owner of two estates, to one of which was appurtenant a right to draw water from an aqueduct, while the other was supplied with water from the aqueduct through pipes maintained in the former estate, such maintenance being necessary to its enjoyment, conveyed the latter with no mention of the water or pipes. *Held*, that a grant of the right to maintain such pipes would be implied.

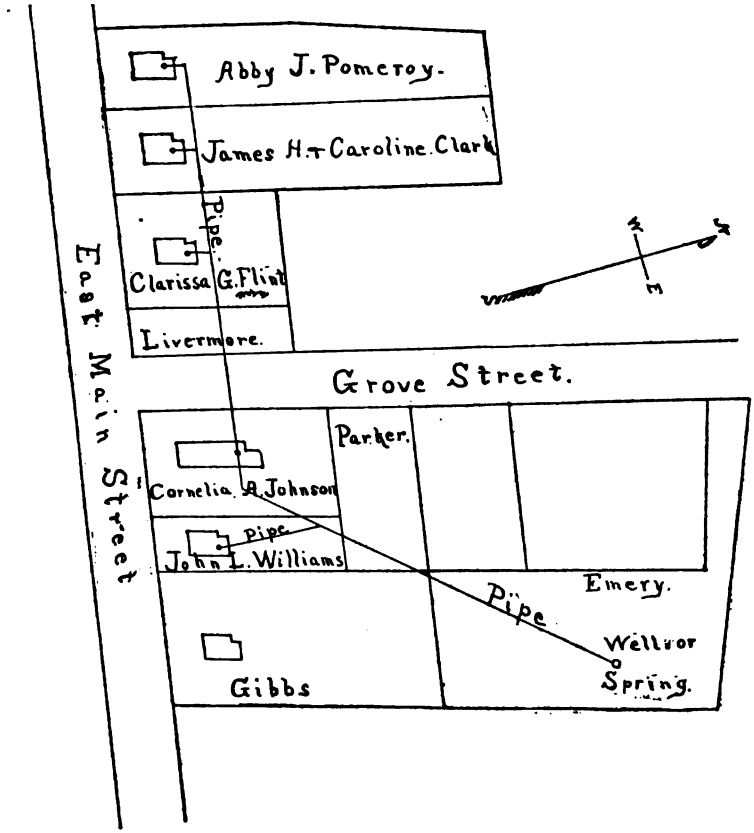
A power of attorney to make and deliver a good and sufficient deed "with or without covenants of warranty," as fully as if the grantor was personally present, authorizes the insertion of a covenant against incumbrances.

TWO ACTIONS OF CONTRACT. The declaration in each case alleged that the defendants, who were the heirs of Levi Gage, had, by a deed dated December 28, 1880, and acknowledged on December 31, 1880, conveyed an undivided half of a lot of land to the plaintiff; that each deed contained a covenant against incumbrances; and that the owners of other lots, named Williams, Pomeroy, Flint, and Clark, had each the right "to take and carry water from and through said land to his dwelling-house by means of one or more pipes, and to enter upon said land and repair said pipes when necessary so to do," which right constituted a breach of said covenant. In the first case, the deed of the defendants was executed under powers of attorney, each of which provided that Anson Gage should "make, execute, acknowledge, and deliver good and sufficient deeds and convey-

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ances of the same, either with or without covenants of warranty, giving and granting to our said attorney full power and authority to do all acts necessary and proper to be done in the premises, in as full and ample a manner as we might or could do if personally present."

The various lots were shown on a plan used at the trial, a copy of which is here printed.



The cases were tried together in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Brigham*, C. J., who ruled that on the facts found by him the actions could not be maintained, and found for the defendants; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions. The facts appear in the opinion.

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S. D. Conant (*C. C. Conant* with him), for the plaintiff.

A. De Wolf, for the defendants.

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W. ALLEN, J. This is an action on the covenant against incumbrances in deeds of land from the defendants to the plaintiff. The declarations allege a right in each of the owners of four dwelling-houses to take and carry water to his house from and through the land by means of pipes, and to enter upon the land to repair the pipes. When the deed was given, an aqueduct or pipe led from a well or spring on the Emory lot through what was called the Williams lot to the land conveyed to the plaintiff, and through and beyond that through the Flint lot and the Clark lot to the dwelling-house upon the Pomeroy lot, and supplied water from the spring to the dwelling-house upon each of the lots. The plaintiff claims that the owners of the Flint, Clark, and Pomeroy lots have severally a right to maintain a pipe on the plaintiff's land, and by it to take water from the plaintiff's pipe. If this right existed as to any of the lots, there was a breach of the covenant against incumbrances.

The right of the owner of the Williams lot was to take water from the aqueduct on his own land before it reached the plaintiff's land. There was no right to enter upon the plaintiff's land, or to take water from it. This right, which pertained to the Williams lot, could not be or work a breach of any covenant in the plaintiff's deed, unless that deed purported to convey to the plaintiff a right in the aqueduct or the water inconsistent with the right appurtenant to the Williams lot. This right had been exercised as appurtenant to that lot since 1863, and was so used at the time of the deed to the plaintiff in 1880. Of course the right to take the same water could not pass as appurtenant to the plaintiff's land, and the fact that it did not pass could not be a breach of any covenant in the deed to the plaintiff. But this is not all; in 1871, Levi Gage owned both the plaintiff's lot and the Williams lot, and conveyed the Williams lot to the present owner with the right of drawing water from the aqueduct, and "reserved the privilege of conveying water across the northwest corner of the premises, as now conveyed." The conveyance from the heirs of Gage to the plaintiff "includes the same privilege of drawing water and conveying the same through land of said Williams as enjoyed by said Levi Gage in his lifetime," thus

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necessarily excluding from the grant the right appurtenant to the Williams lot.

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In 1830, William Brooks, under whom the plaintiff claims, bought of Emory the right of carrying water from a well on Emory's land, by logs or pipes, through Emory's land to Brooks's house. In 1837, Brooks, by an instrument under seal but never recorded, granted to French and Town, their heirs and assigns, the privilege of drawing and conveying water in pipes or logs from Brooks's aqueduct "(situated under his horse shed) to the dwelling-house and barn of Richard French, or to any other person or place." This was the aqueduct which Brooks was using under his grant from Emory. French and Town then owned the Clark and Pomeroy lots, and immediately after the grant to them the pipe was extended to the Pomeroy lot, and water has flowed in it to the dwelling-house upon that lot ever since. The pipe crossed the highway from Brooks's land, and through the Livermore lot, the Flint lot, and the Clark lot, to the Pomeroy lot. Water was subsequently taken from the pipe on the Flint lot and the Clark lot to supply dwelling-houses upon those lots. The question is, whether the owner of either of these houses had a right, as against the plaintiff when she had taken her deed, to maintain a pipe on the plaintiff's land, or to have water flow through it, so as to constitute an easement in the land and an incumbrance upon the title to it. No such right could exist by reason of the grant from Brooks to French and Town, as that was not recorded, and there is no evidence that the plaintiff, or others through whom her title is derived from Brooks, had notice of it. As to the Flint lot, no claim is made under French and Town.

The plaintiff claims that rights had been acquired by adverse user. The deed to the plaintiff is dated on December 28, 1880, and acknowledged on December 31, 1880. The covenant against incumbrances must have been broken, if at all, when the deed was delivered. Unless there was an existing easement, then there was no incumbrance.

As to the Clark and Flint lots, it does not appear that there was twenty years' use of the water before the deed to the plaintiff. It was first drawn and used on the Clark lot in 1862. In regard to the Flint lot, it is said that water was first drawn from

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the pipe in 1860, and that it has continued to be drawn and used since. If it can be assumed that the water was first drawn from the pipe twenty years before the delivery of the deed, it does not appear that there was an adverse user of it for twenty years. If drawing and using the water with the knowledge of the owners of the Brooks lot, and without asking or receiving their consent, and without any assertion of a claim of right, would show adverse user, it is not stated, and it cannot be inferred from the facts stated, that such use was continued for twenty years before the delivery of the deed. The facts are not sufficient to show an easement in favor of either of those lots, acquired by adverse user.

In regard to the Pomeroy estate, it appeared that water had flowed to it since 1837; but in 1865, one Carpenter, who then owned the plaintiff's land, acquired the title to the Pomeroy lot, and continued to be the owner of both estates until he conveyed to Pomeroy. If an easement in the plaintiff's land had been acquired, it would have been extinguished by the union of the fee of both estates in him. Carpenter, while the owner of both estates, conveyed the dominant estate to Pomeroy by a deed in which no mention is made of the water or the pipe, and the question is whether an easement in the plaintiff's land passed by implied grant in the deed from Carpenter to Pomeroy. The easement claimed is the right to maintain a pipe upon the plaintiff's land, and there to connect with the plaintiff's pipe and to draw from it water which flows to it from the Emory well.

At the time of the deed Carpenter was the absolute owner of both estates, and had all the rights to water from the Emory well which appertained to either estate. When he became the owner of the Pomeroy estate it had been for more than twenty years supplied with water from the Emory well, through pipes which had been maintained upon the plaintiff's land, then owned by Carpenter; and Carpenter continued to supply the house with water in the same manner until he sold to Pomeroy. At that time the pipe extended from the Pomeroy house into the plaintiff's land, and furnished the supply of water for the house. It sufficiently appears that the conveyance was made and the estate was occupied in view of the fact that the Pomeroy house depended for its supply of water upon that which flowed through

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the pipe upon the plaintiff's land, and that the maintenance of the pipe upon that land was reasonably necessary to the enjoyment of the Pomeroy estate; and a grant of the right will be implied. *Grant* v. *Chase*, 17 Mass. 443. *Atkins* v. *Bordman*, 2 Met. 457. *Parker* v. *Bennett*, 11 Allen, 388. *Philbrick* v. *Ewing*, 97 Mass. 133.

It is true that the grant by Emory to William Brooks was limited to the right to take water for the use of the plaintiff's land, and that the right to take water for the use of the Pomeroy house was not appurtenant to the plaintiff's land, and Carpenter, as owner of that land, had no right to grant it, and a grant of it cannot be implied so as to create an easement in the land. But the right to maintain pipes in the land is distinct from the right to take water from the aqueduct on the land, and is a right which Carpenter could have granted without the right to take the water. The right to take the water could be derived only from the owner of the Emory land; the right to maintain the pipes could be derived only from the owner of the plaintiff's land, and a grant of the latter without a grant of the former may be implied. Carpenter as owner of the Pomeroy lot may have had a right to the water from the Emory well by grant or by prescription, or he may have been using the water without right. In any case a grant of all that he owned and was capable of granting in the aqueduct and the water which for thirty years had furnished the water supply of the house which he sold, would be implied.

We think that a grant of the right to maintain the pipe in the plaintiff's land was implied in the deed to Pomeroy. To this extent there was an incumbrance on the land at the time of the deed to the plaintiff.

The powers of attorney to Anson Gage, under which the deed from the defendants in the action against Knapp and others was executed, authorized the covenant against incumbrances in the deed. *Exceptions sustained.*

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FRANCIS E. HOWES *vs.* DAVID H. NEWCOMB.

Hampden. September 27, 1887. — January 10, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Chattel Mortgage — Lien — Replevin.

A lien under the Pub. Sts. c. 192, § 82, for the board of horses, is maintainable only upon proof that the board was furnished with the consent of the owner; and a mortgagee of the horses, not the mortgagor, is such an owner.

A mortgagor of horses in his possession for use in his business cannot, by keeping them at the barn of an employee, who furnishes feed for them, create a lien as against the mortgagee.

REPLEVIN of horses and other personal property. Writ dated November 6, 1886. Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Staples*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in substance as follows:

It appeared in evidence that one Thompson, on April 26, 1886, mortgaged certain personal property to the plaintiff, consisting of the stock, tools, and fixtures in his meat, fish, and vegetable market, in Springfield, and the two horses, one wagon, three single harnesses, and one business sleigh, described in the writ. The mortgage, which was put in evidence, described the property named in the writ as "used in connection with said business," and provided that on default the mortgagee might sell the mortgaged property, and out of the proceeds "discharge any claims or liens of third persons affecting the same." The plaintiff relied on said mortgage as entitling him to the possession of the property. It appeared that the mortgage was given to secure the payment of a promissory note, given by Thompson to the plaintiff, of even date with the mortgage, for the sum of $325 and interest, and for other purposes, as set forth therein. The note and mortgage were dated April 26, 1886, and the mortgage was duly recorded on April 27, 1886. Thompson, from the date of said mortgage to about October 12, 1886, carried on the business of buying and selling meats, fish, and vegetables, and the horses in question were used in the delivery of goods in the business.

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The defendant was in the employ of Thompson in the market, as a salesman, also peddling fish, and keeping books during the whole time. The horses were kept at the defendant's barn, about one and a half miles from the market, during the whole time, and were there when the mortgage was made, although it did not appear that the plaintiff then, or afterwards, prior to Thompson's disappearance, knew where they were kept. The defendant furnished the grain and hay eaten by the horses during the whole time, and claimed that Thompson owed him therefor the sum of about $30. It appeared that the defendant and Thompson had a settlement on May 8, 1886, when the defendant was paid for keeping the horses to that date; and it is for the keeping after that date that the defendant claims a lien. Thompson absconded on or about October 12, 1886, and has never returned. Before he left, he put all the property described in the writ into the custody and care of the defendant, and directed him to notify the plaintiff of his leaving, which he did. Evidence was offered tending to show a detention of the horses by the defendant prior to November 6, 1886, the same being detained by the defendant on the ground that he had a lien thereon for the expense incurred by him in keeping them. It did not appear that the defendant had taken any steps provided in the statutes towards the enforcement of his lien, except as herein set forth.

The defendant asked the judge to rule, that he had a lien upon the horses for their keeping, as against the plaintiff's mortgage, both for the time intervening between the first interview, on October 12, 1886, and the date of plaintiff's writ, November 6, 1886, and also for the whole time he kept them for said Thompson.

The judge declined so to rule, and found for the plaintiff as respects the horses; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

A. M. Copeland, for the defendant.

W. B. Stone, for the plaintiff.

KNOWLTON, J. The horses sought to be replevied are claimed by the plaintiff under a mortgage of unquestioned validity, and by the defendant under an alleged lien for their board, founded on the Pub. Sts. c. 192, § 32. This section provides that "persons having proper charges due them for pasturing, boarding, or keeping horses or other domestic animals brought to their premises

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or placed in their care by or with the consent of the owners thereof, shall have a lien on such horses or other domestic animals for such charges." It creates rights in derogation of the common law, and is to be construed strictly. *Rogers* v. *Currier*, 13 Gray, 129. To maintain a lien under it, one must show that he has pastured, boarded, or kept the animals claimed, and that they were brought to his premises or placed in his care by or with the consent of their owner. These are matters of fact to be established by evidence.

The only exception taken was to the refusal to rule as requested, that the defendant "had a lien upon the horses for their keeping, as against the plaintiff's mortgage, both for the time intervening between the first interview, on October 12, 1886, and the date of the plaintiff's writ, November 6, 1886, and also for the whole time he kept them for said Thompson"; and the question is, whether the case shows such facts that the judge ought to have made this ruling as a matter of law.

The bill of exceptions does not purport to be a full report of the evidence or facts of the case. It does not even state that it presents all the facts or evidence bearing upon the legal question raised. If we assume, what in a case of this kind, in the absence of an express statement, should not ordinarily be assumed in favor of an excepting party, that we have all the facts touching the existence of the lien claimed, can there be no proper interpretation of them other than as creating a lien? The defendant was bound to prove that the horses were brought to his premises or put in his care by or with the consent of the owner. This fact is not found. Are the others which appear in the exceptions equivalent to it in law? Is it impossible properly to draw inferences from the others inconsistent with the existence of this?

The mortgagor was not the owner within the meaning of this statute, but the plaintiff was. It is not contended that the plaintiff expressly agreed to the horses being placed in the defendant's care. But undoubtedly an implied consent will answer the requirements of the law, and in every case of this kind the inquiry is whether such implied consent is proved. That depends, where animals are left with a mortgagor by a mortgagee, not only upon the terms of the express contract in relation to them, but also upon

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all the circumstances surrounding the transaction, indicating the expectation of the mortgagee as to the management of them by the mortgagor. If from these the mortgagee may be presumed to have understood that the mortgagor would take them to a stable-keeper to be boarded, and no objection was made, such consent should be implied, otherwise it should not. It should be kept in mind that the purpose of a mortgage is to furnish security, and that the property is usually left with the mortgagor for his convenience, with an understanding that nothing shall be done or permitted by him to impair the security. An agreement which will defeat the purpose of the transaction should not be inferred or implied against a mortgagee without cogent evidence. A mortgage of horses, given to secure performance of an act in the distant future, is worthless, if the mortgagor may create a lien upon them by putting them out to be boarded. It is true that the mortgagee must know they are to be fed, and that it will cost something to feed them. But that in itself is immaterial. The real question is, whether he has reason to believe, and does believe, that they are to be boarded at a livery stable, or kept by any one else than the mortgagor.

It is doubtless true that, outside of the largest cities, a very small part of the horses or cattle in Massachusetts are boarded out by their owners. Keeping them in the personal care of the owner or of his servants, upon his own premises, or in barns where he hires privileges and furnishes his own fodder, is the rule. And one acquiring an interest in horses used in a common kind of business in the interior of the State, and leaving them with their owner, would naturally suppose, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary, that they were to be kept by him, and not taken elsewhere to be boarded. If, on the other hand, he should know at the time of taking a mortgage that the mortgagor kept his horses at a boarding stable, or that he was engaged in a business in which men generally hire their horses boarded, and he should leave them with him without directions, he would be held to consent to their being so kept.

The question before us differs from that raised in *Hammond* v. *Danielson*, 126 Mass. 294. In that case the mortgage was upon a hack, which the mortgagee left in the possession of the mortgagor to be used in his business, and the question was whether

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consent was to be implied that it should be taken to a mechanic for repairs in the ordinary way, so as to become subject to a lien. The use agreed to naturally caused wear, and a consequent necessity for repairs; and inasmuch as these repairs could hardly be procured otherwise than by putting it in the shop of a mechanic, the court held that it must be deemed to have been taken there with the mortgagee's consent. Not merely the making of repairs was necessary to the preservation of it, in the use to which the mortgagee permitted it to be put, but the making of them by a person other than the mortgagor, under such circumstances as would ordinarily create a lien at the common law. The keeping of mortgaged horses is necessary to the preservation of the security, but it may be, and commonly is, done by the person who uses them in his business, and it seldom necessitates their being taken away, or put in the custody of another.

The case at bar is like *Storms* v. *Smith*, 137 Mass. 201. In that case, as in this, the effort was to establish a lien for keeping property, and the question was whether the mortgagee impliedly consented to the storage of it for pay by one to whom the mortgagor delivered it. In that case, as in this, the mortgagor might keep it in his personal charge in a building which he owned, or procured for that purpose, or he might put it into the custody of another. It was decided that the mortgagee could not be presumed to have consented to its being left by the mortgagor for storage with one who was to keep it for pay and claim a lien upon it. It is said in the opinion, "The mortgagee had given no authority other than what was to be implied from his allowing the mortgagor to remain in possession of the mortgaged goods, coupled with the fact that it was necessary that the goods should be stored somewhere to prevent their destruction. If these circumstances were enough to support the defendant's claim, every mortgagor in possession of perishable goods would have power to create a paramount lien upon them." And, referring to the record of the mortgage, it is said of the claimant, "If storage was necessary, he was chargeable with notice that the plaintiff had a right to judge for himself where it should be, if his interest was to be charged with the cost."

A charge for keeping goods is the same in kind as a charge for keeping living animals. Each is for the use of the place

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occupied by the property, and for care and supervision. The only difference is, that, from the nature of the property, care and supervision of animals involves feeding them, and is on that account more costly. Perhaps this is a reason why consent to it, as a charge upon mortgaged property, should less readily be implied against a mortgagee.

In the case at bar, no fact appears bearing upon the question of implied consent of the plaintiff to the mortgagor's hiring the horses boarded, except his taking a mortgage to secure payment of a note of three hundred and twenty-five dollars upon the horses and other articles used in the business of the mortgagor as a buyer and seller of meats, fish, and vegetables, and his leaving the property in the mortgagor's possession. It did not appear that "when the mortgage was made, ... or afterwards prior to Thompson's disappearance, he knew where the horses were kept." And knowledge that they were kept in the defendant's barn would not, upon the facts stated, have shown that he was boarding or keeping them, within the meaning of the law. The defendant does not appear to have been engaged in the business of boarding horses. He "was in the employ of Thompson in the market as a salesman, also peddling fish, and keeping books during the whole time." The horses were kept at his "barn, about one and a half miles from the market," and he "furnished the grain and hay eaten" by them. "Thompson absconded on or about October 12, 1886," and "before he left he put all the property described in the writ into the custody and care of the defendant." We have assumed that the defendant had the horses in his "custody and care" as a keeper for hire before that date, and that he did not merely sell Thompson hay and grain and let him room in the barn. But if this was so, there is nothing to show that it was apparent at the time, and it is not clearly stated in the bill of exceptions. The provision in the power of sale authorizing the mortgagee to discharge from the proceeds "any claim or lien of a third person affecting the property" before rendering the surplus to the mortgagor, has little significance as affecting this particular claim of lien; first, because it was a general clause inserted in the mortgage to cover any state of facts that might arise; and secondly, because in this mortgage a great variety of property was conveyed, and, among

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other things, wagons used in the business, which might need to be taken to a shop for repairs.

Putting upon all the facts the interpretation most favorable to the defendant, we cannot say that Thompson had the implied consent of the plaintiff to subject the horses to a lien, or that the judge should have ruled, as matter of law, that the defence was made out. If this were to be held a valid lien, it would seem to follow that every one taking a mortgage upon horses used in a business like that of a provision dealer, and leaving them with the mortgagor, must be deemed impliedly to consent to an arrangement for the destruction of his security. Such a result would be inconsistent with the liberal policy of our law in relation to mortgages of personal property.

Exceptions overruled.

GILBERT AND BARKER MANUFACTURING COMPANY *vs.* BAZALDA BUTLER.

Hampden. September 28, 1887. — January 10, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Contract — Part Performance — Work and Materials.

One who agrees to put in a gas machine for a certain sum, and is prevented from completing his contract before the destruction of the building solely by the failure of the owner to do carpenter work as agreed, can recover for work done and materials furnished.

CONTRACT for work done and materials furnished. Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Dewey*, J., who found for the plaintiff, and the defendant alleged exceptions. The facts appear in the opinion.

C. L. Gardner, for the defendant.

G. Wells, for the plaintiff.

W. ALLEN, J. The plaintiff made a contract with the defendant to furnish certain fixtures and appliances in and about a building that the defendant was to have erected, for which the defendant agreed to pay a specific sum. The plaintiff performed

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its contract only in part, and this action is not upon the contract, but in general assumpsit for labor and materials furnished in such part performance. If it appears that the non-performance of the contract by the plaintiff was caused by the fault of the defendant, and that without the fault of the plaintiff the contract has been rescinded or put an end to, so that nothing more can be done under it, and no action will lie upon it, this action can be maintained.

The contract provided for furnishing the machinery and appliances for supplying a hotel, and a barn and bowling-alley near it, with gas. The plaintiff was to furnish and put in place an air-pump, a mixing regulator, a tank or gas-generator, and pipes and fittings to distribute the gas about the buildings; the defendant was to do all the earth-work, mason-work, and carpenter-work that was required. So far as the work to be done by the defendant was a condition precedent to work to be done by the plaintiff, the contract implied that the defendant should have it seasonably done, so as not to delay the plaintiff after it had been notified that the buildings were ready and had commenced work under the contract.

The plaintiff had put the holder or gas-generator into the defendant's land, and the pipes in the hotel and in the barn and bowling-alley, and the air-pump and mixing regulator in the cellar of the hotel, and had completed everything required of it by the contract except filling the weight case and attaching the pulleys and cords by which the air-pump was worked. The case, pulleys, and cords were provided, and everything was finished in accordance with the contract except filling and hanging the weight case. The plaintiff was prevented from doing that, and from completing the work under the contract, by the neglect of the defendant to furnish the frame to which the case was to be hung. Not only was the frame not ready, but the defendant was not then prepared to build it. The plaintiff left the work unfinished solely because the breach by the defendant of his contract to furnish the carpenter-work made it impossible for the plaintiff to finish its work at that time. The plaintiff did not rescind the contract, if it had the right to do so. The work was substantially all done. The hotel was not completed. When it should be completed, the plaintiff would have occasion — though

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it was not required by the contract — to send a man to the premises to start up the machinery, and the same man could attend to filling and hanging the weight box, and attaching the cords and pulleys. The plaintiff intended to do this, and it was understood by both parties that it would be done. The hotel was destroyed by fire before it was finished, and before the plaintiff had notice that the frame was ready. The destruction of the building without the fault of either party absolved both parties from the obligation of the contract, and rendered further performance of it by the plaintiff impossible; it worked a virtual dissolution of the contract.

It is hardly necessary to cite authorities or adduce arguments to sustain the proposition, that, if the plaintiff had furnished labor and materials under an entire contract, which it had not fully performed at the time the contract was dissolved, and if such non-performance was owing to the fault of the defendant, the plaintiff can maintain an action for the labor and materials. *Rawson* v. *Clark*, 70 Ill. 656, and *Garretty* v. *Brazell*, 34 Iowa, 100, are in point.

There is no question that the fault of the defendant prevented the completion of the plaintiff's work at some time before the fire, and it must be taken to have been the cause of the non-completion of the work at the time of the fire, unless some fault of the plaintiff intervened as a contributing cause. The plaintiff could not be in fault unless he was under obligation to perform the contract, and had an opportunity to complete the work. If the breach of contract by the defendant was such as to give the plaintiff a right to rescind the contract, and he exercised that right, he would be under no obligation further to perform the contract, and could not be in fault in not doing so. If the circumstances were such that he could not, or if he did not, rescind the contract, but continued under its obligation, the fact would remain that he would have fully performed the contract but for the fault of the defendant, and that fault would remain the cause of the non-performance until the plaintiff should be in fault. The plaintiff could be in no fault in not completing the work until it had notice that the defendant had finished the frame. Although the frame was in fact ready two months before the hotel was burned, the plaintiff had no notice of it. It had no reason to

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suppose that the defendant had rendered it possible to finish the work, and we need not consider what would have been the effect of notice from the defendant before that time, that he had performed the condition precedent, with a request to the plaintiff to complete the work.

The plaintiff was not in fault in not insisting upon a speedy performance of the contract by the defendant, and in agreeing to a postponement. The defendant had already broken his contract, and prevented the plaintiff from completing its part, and obliged it to suspend its work, and it could not perform the little that remained until the defendant had performed his part. At what time that should be done was immaterial. It might be more desirable and convenient for both parties that it should not be done until the building was finished, so that the machine could be put in use. The defendant's work was a condition precedent to the plaintiff's, and if they mutually agreed that both should be postponed for a time their relations were not changed, nor was the fact altered that the failure of the defendant to finish his work prevented the plaintiff from performing its contract.

Without deciding, that, if there had been no fault in either party, the destruction of the building before the plaintiff had fully performed its contract would give it a right to recover for what it had furnished under it, (see *Lord* v. *Wheeler*, 1 Gray, 282; *Cleary* v. *Sohier*, 120 Mass. 210; *Wells* v. *Calnan*, 107 Mass. 514; *Appleby* v. *Myers*, L. R. 2 C. P. 651,) we decide that, as the plaintiff had been prevented from performing its contract by the fault of the defendant, and as, without the fault of the plaintiff, the contract remained unperformed at the time it was dissolved by the burning of the building, the plaintiff can recover for the labor and materials furnished under the contract, although the completion of the work had been further delayed by the consent of both parties, and without the immediate fault of either. *Exceptions overruled.*

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EMERY KNOWLTON & another *vs.* JAMES KEENAN & others.

Worcester. October 3, 1887. — January 10, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Representation — Contract — Extrinsic Evidence.

A representation as an inducement to a contract that something shall thereafter be done, is not a representation such as will render the maker liable, but, if anything, amounts to a distinct agreement.

A contractor to carry the United States mails sublet the contract by an agreement in writing, by the terms of which the mails were to be carried according to a certain schedule. In an action for breach of contract, the sub-contractor offered evidence that the contractor at the execution of the agreement fraudulently promised to secure thereafter a change in the schedule. *Held*, that the evidence was inadmissible as varying the terms of a written contract.

CONTRACT upon an agreement in writing, dated June 22, 1885, entered into between the plaintiffs and the defendants, to transport the United States mails between Mashpee and Sandwich.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., without a jury, it appeared that the plaintiffs were contractors with the United States for transporting the mails between these towns, and had authority to sublet the contract.

The agreement provided that the defendants should transport the mails from Mashpee to Sandwich and back six times a week from July 1, 1885, to June 30, 1889, inclusive, on such schedule as the Postmaster General might direct. There was a schedule annexed to the agreement, which provided for leaving Mashpee daily, except Sundays, at 5 o'clock A. M., and arriving at Sandwich at 7.30 o'clock A. M., and leaving Sandwich at 11 o'clock A. M. and arriving at Mashpee at 1.30 o'clock P. M. The defendants lived and did business at Sandwich, and the defendant Keenan testified that he could not perform the contract without pecuniary loss, unless the schedule time for carrying the mails should be changed so that he could carry the mails from Sandwich to Mashpee and return each day so as to allow him to live and do business at Sandwich. The plaintiffs produced evidence tending to show that the defendant Keenan refused to carry the mails as provided in the schedule annexed

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to the agreement, and that the plaintiffs, on or about July 10, 1885, sublet the contract to other parties at an advance of forty dollars a year above the price stated in the agreement with the defendants.

The defendant Keenan offered evidence tending to show that the plaintiffs, at and before the execution of the agreement, fraudulently promised the defendants that, if they would execute the agreement, the plaintiffs would secure a change in the schedule time of carrying the mails, so that he could carry the same from Sandwich to Mashpee and return, and fraudulently represented to him that the plaintiffs could easily secure such a change in the schedule time from the Postmaster General; that the defendants, relying upon such promise and statement, signed and executed the agreement; and that the plaintiffs did not secure such a change in the schedule, and made no effort to do so, and that the plaintiffs knew, at the time that they made the statement, that they could not secure such a change in the schedule.

The judge rejected the offer of evidence, and found for the plaintiffs; and the defendants alleged exceptions.

J. W. Corcoran, for the defendants.

S. L. Graves, for the plaintiffs.

DEVENS, J. The plaintiffs, who were themselves contractors with the United States to carry the mails, having authority to sublet their contract, made a written contract with the defendants to carry the mails from Mashpee to Sandwich and back, according to a certain schedule. As an excuse for the nonperformance of their contract they offered evidence that, at and before the execution of this contract, the plaintiffs fraudulently promised to procure a change in the schedule, and fraudulently represented that they could secure such a change; and that they knew at the time that they could not, and that they thereafter did not do so. The fraud which the defendants sought to establish was the failure to perform an oral promise contemporaneous with the written agreement, and constituting a part of the transaction, which the plaintiffs knew they could not perform.

The case at bar is readily distinguishable from those cases where it has been held that, if a person makes a representation of a fact as of his own knowledge in a matter susceptible of

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knowledge, and such representation is not true, or where in a matter of opinion, judgment, or estimate dishonestly and with the intent to deceive states that as of his own knowledge which is not true, and the party to whom the statement is made relies and acts upon it as true, and thus sustains damage, it is a fraud and deceit for which the party making it is responsible. *Tryan* v. *Whitmarsh*, 1 Met. 1. *Page* v. *Bent*, 2 Met. 371. *Milliken* v. *Thorndike*, 103 Mass. 382. *Munde* v. *Lambie*, 122 Mass. 336.

That which the defendant sought to prove, if it can with propriety be termed a representation at all, was a representation that something should thereafter be done. Such a representation from its nature could not be true or false at the time it was made, and, if anything, was a contract or promise. The difference between a representation that something exists which does not, and a representation that something shall be done thereafter, is obvious. *Beattie* v. *Lord Ebury*, L. R. 7 Ch. 777, 804. A representation which amounts to an engagement, if enforceable, must be so as amounting to a contract. "There is no middle term, no *tertium quid*," says Lord Cranworth, "between a representation so made to be effective for such a purpose and being effective for it, and a contract." *Maunsell* v. *White*, 4 H. L. C. 1039, 1056.

What the defendants sought to establish by their evidence was an oral contract, by which the terms of the written contract were to be changed by the efforts of the plaintiffs, and the mails which the defendants had in writing agreed to transport according to a specified schedule were to be transported according to a different schedule, to be obtained from the Postmaster General. The principle that written contracts are not to be enlarged, added to, or controlled by previous or contemporaneous oral agreements is too well settled to require a citation of authorities. Proof of such a representation as that offered by the defendants was proof only of an oral contract to be thereafter executed. Nor even if the plaintiffs made this oral contract fraudulently, knowing they could not perform it, would that have rendered the evidence admissible. There was no fraud in the written contract itself, and such evidence could not have been received to control its operation, and virtually to annul it.

Exceptions overruled.

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GEORGE EVERETT *vs.* EDWIN P. HENDERSON & another.

Suffolk. November 10, 1887. — January 10, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Arrest on Execution — Affidavit — Recognizance — Malicious Prosecution.

The legality of an arrest on execution made in due form, and the validity of a recognizance thereupon entered into, cannot, in an action on the recognizance, be questioned as founded on a false affidavit; but the only remedy is by an action for malicious prosecution.

In an action on a recognizance entered into by a poor debtor under the Pub. Sts. c. 162, § 28, upon his arrest in due form, the defence that the affidavit of the creditor was wilfully false, and that the certificate of the magistrate thereon was got by fraud and perjury, is not open, and will not avoid the recognizance.

CONTRACT on a poor debtor's recognizance, entered into by the first-named defendant as principal, and by the other defendant as surety, and containing the usual conditions.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Mason*, J., it appeared that the plaintiff duly recovered judgment against Henderson in the Municipal Court of the city of Boston, on May 29, 1884, and that execution duly issued on the judgment, but was returned in no part satisfied, and without service. On September 3, 1884, an alias execution on the judgment duly issued, and on September 8, 1884, the plaintiff made an affidavit, in due form of law, before Edward J. Jones, a master in chancery, that he believed, and had good reasons to believe, that Henderson "has property not exempt from being taken on execution, which he does not intend to apply to the payment" of the claim; and that Henderson "contracted the debt with an intention not to pay the same." Thereupon Jones, upon an *ex parte* hearing, granted a certificate "that, after due hearing, I am satisfied there is reasonable cause to believe that the charge made in the said affidavit is true; and satisfactory cause having been shown, I hereby authorize the arrest of the said debtor on the annexed execution"; and annexed the affidavit and certificate to the alias execution.

On November 1, 1884, Henderson was arrested in Boston by an officer duly qualified to make the arrest and serve the execu-

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tion, and carried before Edward J. Jenkins, a commissioner of insolvency, before whom he gave the recognizance.

On November 24, 1884, Henderson duly gave notice of his intention to take the oath for the relief of poor debtors, before Henry W. Bragg, a master in chancery, and several hearings were had. On March 7, 1885, pending the examination, the plaintiff duly filed before Bragg charges of fraud, among which was the one sworn to in the affidavit, and hearings were had on such charges. The hearings on the charges of fraud were continued from time to time, and finally to April 18, 1885, at one P. M., at which time the plaintiff and Henderson appeared and remained during the whole hour, and after the lapse of the hour the plaintiff, before the appearance of the magistrate, departed. The magistrate, Bragg, was not in attendance within the hour, and did not appear and attend until a quarter past two o'clock, nor did any other magistrate attend in his place, and there were no further adjournments or proceedings had.

The defendants contended that the affidavit was made by the plaintiff falsely, fraudulently, and without probable cause, and that the plaintiff did not, at the time he made it, believe or have good reason to believe the affidavit to be true. The plaintiff, before any evidence was offered by the defendants, asked the judge to rule that no evidence could be offered or introduced in this action to control or affect the affidavit, or to show that the affidavit was false, fraudulent, or made without probable cause, or that the plaintiff did not believe, or had no good reason to believe, that the affidavit was true; but the judge refused so to rule, and admitted evidence to show that the affidavit was false and fraudulent, and made without probable cause, and that the plaintiff did not believe, and had no good reason to believe, the affidavit to be true at the time of making.

The judge instructed the jury, that the burden of proof was upon the defendants to establish the defence of fraud, and it must be proved affirmatively; that it was not sufficient to show that Henderson intended to pay the debt when he contracted it, nor that the plaintiff when he made the affidavit had no good reason to believe that Henderson did not intend to pay the debt when he contracted it; that, while it was necessary for the defendants to prove both these propositions, they must go further,

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and prove that the plaintiff did not believe the affidavit when he made it, and that it was in fact a corrupt affidavit; that if the defendants proved all this, and that the magistrate's certificate authorizing the arrest was obtained by the fraud and perjury of the plaintiff, the plaintiff could not avail himself of the arrest thus obtained as the foundation of his cause of action, but as between the plaintiff and these defendants the arrest and recognizance would be void, and their verdict should be for the defendants; but that if the defendants had not sustained the burden of proof, and established wilful fraud and perjury on the part of the plaintiff, their verdict should be for the plaintiff in the penal sum named in the recognizance.

The jury found for the defendants; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

E. M. Bigelow, for the plaintiff.

C. G. Keyes, for the defendants.

KNOWLTON, J. The defendants contend that the recognizance declared on cannot be enforced, because the proceedings in which it was taken were founded upon a wilfully false affidavit of the plaintiff. The act imputed to the plaintiff involves such moral turpitude, that we cannot permit him even temporarily to profit by it, unless upon principle as well as authority our duty is clear.

The wrong complained of, so far as it affects the question before us, was like an ordinary malicious prosecution of a groundless suit. The proceedings for the arrest of the defendant Henderson were in the nature of a new prosecution. They were for the purpose of obtaining a remedy which was not available without them. The statute provides that they "shall be considered in the nature of a suit at law." Pub. Sts. c. 162, § 49. They were founded upon allegations of fact, heard at first *ex parte*, which, if issue was taken upon the arrest, were afterward to be regularly tried between the parties, with a view to an adjudication which should give or withhold the remedy sought. It is admitted that the affidavit was proper in form and substance, that the magistrate had jurisdiction to act upon it, and that he judicially found the facts alleged in it to be true, and signed a certificate authorizing the arrest. The arrest was regularly made by a proper officer, and the defendant Henderson was taken

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before a magistrate, and there entered into the recognizance in suit. The proceedings being conceded to have been in all other respects legal and proper, it is contended that the known falsity of the plaintiff's allegations in his affidavit rendered the arrest, as to him, illegal, and the recognizance void.

It is familiar law that an officer called upon to serve a process needs only to see that it is good upon its face, and it is not suggested that the conduct of the officer or of the magistrate in relation to this arrest can be called in question. But there are cases in which an officer is protected in making an arrest, when the person who caused it or set the proceedings in motion is liable. If the arrest in this case was legal as to the plaintiff as well as the officer, the recognizance founded upon it was legal also, and can be enforced in this action. If it was illegal as to the plaintiff, he can be sued in trespass for causing it, the process as to him is no justification, and the recognizance is tainted with illegality and is void. We are brought, therefore, to the inquiry, Under what circumstances is an arrest under process illegal, as to the party causing it to be made?

There is no doubt that one who obtains a process and causes it to be served assumes the duty of seeing that it is well founded. He should know that it rests upon a good record, or other proper preliminary proceeding; but so far as the matter depends upon an adjudication by a court or magistrate having jurisdiction, he may rely upon that. Processes good on their face may be absolutely void for want of jurisdiction in the court or magistrate that issues them, or they may be voidable for error, or they may be voidable for irregularity in obtaining them. Processes voidable for error do not subject the person who directs their use to any liability, even after they are set aside. But processes irregularly obtained may be set aside, and then, as against those who obtained them, acts done under them are deemed to have been done illegally. *Cassier* v. *Fales*, 139 Mass. 461. *McGregor* v. *Crane*, 98 Mass. 530. *Barker* v. *Braham*, 3 Wils. 368. *Tarlton* v. *Fisher*, 2 Doug. 672. *Belt* v. *Broadbent*, 3 T. R. 183. *Bates* v. *Pilling*, 6 B. & C. 38. *West* v. *Smallwood*, 3 M. & W. 418. *Collett* v. *Foster*, 2 H. & N. 356, 361. *Chapman* v. *Dyett*, 11 Wend. 31. *Deyo* v. *Van Valkenburgh*, 5 Hill, (N. Y.) 242. *Lovier* v. *Gilpin*, 6 Dana, 321.

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In cases of error, the judicial action in which the error is found is a justification for all who have acted in reliance upon it. In *Marks* v. *Townsend*, 97 N. Y. 590, where a process for arrest was set aside for error, it was held that the person who obtained it was not liable, and it was said in the opinion, that if he had known facts which made the arrest improper, and, concealing them, had maliciously made the affidavit and caused the arrest, he would not have been liable for false imprisonment, but only for malicious prosecution. The affidavit seems to have been of matters other than those to be tried in the proceeding then instituted, and against this dictum there are conflicting dicta in other cases. Some judges have intimated that action like that supposed would constitute irregularity, for which the process might be set aside even if there was error also, and that the affiant would then be liable in trespass for false imprisonment. *Williams* v. *Smith*, 14 C. B. (N. S.) 596. *Smith* v. *Sydney*, L. R. 5 Q. B. 203. *Daniels* v. *Fielding*, 16 M. & W. 200.

The cases of irregularity cover a variety of defects in the record, or in other preliminary proceedings. Irregularities do not result from wrong adjudications, and in that respect they differ from errors. But irregularities, whether we include in the term those fundamental defects which go to the jurisdiction and render the process void, or limit it by a stricter definition which will comprise only those upon which the proceedings may be set aside, do not include false allegations of fact, made as a foundation for a suit in which the allegations are to be proved or disproved. And this is equally true whether they are falsely made by mistake or by design.

The remedy for causing an arrest by maliciously bringing a suit upon false charges, or maliciously making a false affidavit, is by an action on the case for a malicious prosecution. *Legallee* v. *Blaisdell*, 134 Mass. 473. *Luce* v. *Dexter*, 135 Mass. 23. *Baron* v. *Sleigh*, 2 Cro. Eliz. 628. *Daniels* v. *Fielding*, 16 M. & W. 200, 207. *De Medina* v. *Grove*, 10 Q. B. 152, 170. *Sheldon* v. *Carpenter*, 4 N. Y. 578. These authorities imply the negative, that an action of trespass for the arrest or for false imprisonment will not lie. And this point has been directly adjudicated. *Coupal* v. *Ward*, 106 Mass. 289. *Mullen* v. *Brown*, 138 Mass. 114. *Langford* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 144 Mass. 431.

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Wood v. *Graves*, 144 Mass. 365. *Daniels* v. *Fielding*, 16 M. & W. 200. *Barber* v. *Rollinson*, 1 C. & M. 330. In each of the first three of the latter cases the arrest was upon a criminal prosecution, and the complainant did not cause it in the same sense as one causes an arrest who sues out a capias for his own purposes, and gives it to an officer with directions to serve it. One who makes a criminal complaint does not commonly direct the service of the precept, but from the beginning the control of the prosecution is with the officers of the law. In *Wood* v. *Graves*, *ubi supra*, in which the arrest was under a criminal warrant, it was held that the defendants were not liable for false imprisonment on account of abusing the process by procuring it to be issued for an improper purpose, and that the only abuse which would render them liable was an improper use of it after it had been served. In *Cassier* v. *Fales*, 139 Mass. 461, it is said that "it is difficult to see how any person can be guilty of a trespass in serving or causing to be served a valid writ, or other process of a court." *Lovier* v. *Gilpin*, 6 Dana, 321, 328, was an action of trespass against the plaintiff in a civil suit, for causing an attachment of property and assisting the officer in making it. There was an offer to show that the process was maliciously obtained, and in an elaborate opinion, reviewing the cases and holding that the action could not be maintained, Marshall, J., said: "We have found no case in which a party who institutes a groundless proceeding has been held liable as a trespasser for what is done by his direction, or with his aid, in the regular course of that proceeding, unless the process under which the act complained of was done be void, or unless, if voidable only, the process itself, or the proceeding on which it rests, has been set aside or annulled before the action of trespass is brought."

The doctrine that the validity of proceedings in a suit at law cannot be called in question on the ground that it is not well founded in fact, rests upon important considerations of public policy. Every suit involves allegations of fact upon which a claim is founded. If the claim is resisted, the truth or falsity of the allegations is to be ascertained by a trial in the suit itself. The bringing of the suit is an offer on the part of the plaintiff to prove them. All action in the case proceeds upon the theory that the plaintiff is ready to maintain his claim, and that he may

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or may not succeed in establishing it. Every step in the suit is incidental to the purpose for which it is presumed to have been brought, — that of determining whether its allegations are true, and of obtaining a remedy if they are proved. Provisions are made for preserving the rights of both parties. They all recognize that the existence of a just cause of action is in dispute, and is to be regularly inquired into and finally passed upon in the suit itself. Whatever the law prescribes in the course of the proceeding, whether for the security of the plaintiff by way of attachment or arrest, or for the protection of any other interests of either party, may be legally done, and an ultimate decision that the plaintiff was mistaken or wilfully false in the original statement of his cause of action should not render it invalid. And this because there must be incidental acts, oftentimes of great importance and variety, in the litigation of a disputed question; and it is necessary that rights dependent upon these acts should be fixed and stable. Neither the plaintiff, nor any one else connected with the suit, should be called upon by the defendant to try collaterally the questions involved in it.

If, while the suit is pending, it should be attempted to separate the question of the merits of the action from that of the plaintiff's belief in regard to the merits of it, it would be practically impossible to do it. The rule is familiar, that an action for malicious prosecution cannot be maintained until the original suit has first been determined in favor of the original defendant. So long as anything remains open for trial upon the plaintiff's allegations in that, it will be deemed to have been properly brought. When it has been decided in favor of the defendant, he may show, if he can, that it was brought maliciously and without probable cause, and recover damages for the wrong done him.

There is no want of jurisdiction, irregularity, or error to affect any of the proceedings in a suit brought in due form, on a maliciously false statement of a claim. The only questionable element in it relates to that which must be uncertain in every case, the validity of the plaintiff's claim, and his belief in regard to it. When the uncertainty as to which of the parties is right is eliminated at the trial by a verdict for the defendant, or the case is otherwise ended in his favor, and an action for malicious

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prosecution is brought, the former proceedings cannot be set aside, and are not rendered invalid.

In an action for malicious prosecution damages may be recovered for all the injury which resulted directly from bringing the suit, and from the measures regularly adopted in conducting it. It would be an anomaly if one could recover in such an action, and recover also in trespass from the same defendant for an arrest regularly made as a part of the same prosecution; or if an attachment of property, or any other incidental act from which damage resulted, could be made a separate cause of action, on the ground that it was illegal as against the original plaintiff who caused it; — much more if, before the termination of the original suit, one who as receiptor had contracted with an officer to return attached property on demand could answer the officer's suit for the goods by alleging that the attachment was illegal as against the original plaintiff because the suit was maliciously brought; or if the officer himself could make a similar answer to a suit by the plaintiff for negligence in the performance of his duty in relation to an attachment.

If in the case at bar the arrest was not illegal as against the plaintiff, there was no defect in the recognizance. It was for a good consideration, and was entered into in due form, in accordance with the statute, before a magistrate having jurisdiction. Moreover, under our law it became the only security of the plaintiff, and stood in place of the judgment and execution. *Brown* v. *Kendall*, 8 Allen, 209, 210. *Morgan* v. *Curley*, 142 Mass. 107. It was perfect unless tainted with illegality. But the same considerations that show the arrest to have been regular and legal apply to this also. Indeed, this having been entered into voluntarily by the defendants, the only illegality to affect it must be sought for in the arrest which preceded it.

And it cannot be truly said that the reasoning applicable to arrests or attachments upon ordinary suits maliciously brought is inapplicable to this arrest upon execution. For the affidavit was a statement of matters which if true entitled the plaintiff to prosecute and maintain his suit in this way. The charge of fraud was the foundation of the new proceeding. It was a charge upon which the defendant could plead not guilty, and demand a trial, which would determine the ultimate rights of

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the parties. That trial could be had quickly, and the statute contemplated that both parties should proceed regularly in the mode prescribed, to ascertain the truth or falsity of the facts alleged, as they are required to do in any suit at law. The fact that an issue in relation to the pecuniary condition of the defendant was also triable is immaterial. Every reason why arrests and attachments made in suits upon maliciously false declarations should be held legal, can be urged in support of the legality of the arrest in this case.

This case does not fall within the principle of numerous cases in which it is held that one shall not be permitted to take advantage of his own wrong. It is true that an arrest which is accomplished by means of an unlawful act, like breaking a dwelling-house, is void. But in these cases there is illegal action which precedes or accompanies the use of process, and is outside of it, and which leads directly to the arrest, and enters as an element into it. In the case at bar the arrest was not directly caused by an unlawful act. The plaintiff had no connection with it except through the process which he ordered served according to its precept. He made a statement under oath, which showed a proper case for an arrest, and a trial in the manner prescribed by law. The magistrate in a preliminary hearing acted judicially upon it, and gave his certificate of authority. Making a statement in such a case is in itself a lawful act; and a process regularly issued upon it, under which the statement may be further passed upon, is a lawful process. Illegality and fraud taint the statement, but not the process. That is good in law, whether the statement be true or false.

So where unlawful acts have been done in obtaining an attachment of property, like taking possession of it on Sunday, or fraudulently inducing the owner to bring it from a State where it cannot be attached to one where it can, there has been an element of wrong other than in the cause of action upon which the writ was procured. *Parsons* v. *Dickinson*, 11 Pick. 352. *Ilsley* v. *Nichols*, 12 Pick. 270. *Deyo* v. *Jennison*, 10 Allen, 410. In each of the cases cited there was fraud or misconduct in regard to the property before it was taken under the writ, which made it unlawful for the plaintiff to attach it. The writ of replevin referred to in *Pine* v. *Morrison*, 121 Mass. 296, was not between

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the parties to that suit, and did not present for trial the issue presented in that. In *Crocker* v. *Atwood*, 144 Mass. 588, the fraud was not solely in stating a fictitious claim. The attachment of a particular article of personal property does not ordinarily follow from merely suing out a writ of attachment. Besides obtaining the writ, the plaintiff, in the original case to which *Crocker* v. *Atwood* relates, "caused the property to be taken on the attachment," and this he did with a fraudulent purpose to deprive the defendant of his rights in it. The case merely holds that other fraud may be taken advantage of, notwithstanding that there was a malicious prosecution.

A distinction has sometimes been suggested between illegality as a ground for a suit, and illegality which can be availed of in defence against the claim of another. But no such distinction exists in cases like that at bar. If the arrest was illegal as against the plaintiff, it was so as well for the purpose of sustaining a suit against him for his wrong as for defeating an action brought upon the recognizance. In *Ammidon* v. *Smith*, 1 Wheat. 447, it was held that the fraudulent taking of an oath by a person under arrest on a civil process, and the obtaining of a release thereby, did not constitute an escape, nor charge the sureties in a suit upon his bond for the prison limits, even though they participated in the fraud. That too was a case in which the oath taken was not the foundation of proceedings for the purpose of trying the allegations contained therein. See also *Smith* v. *Quinton*, 2 Bray. (Vt.) 200.

If the validity of legal proceedings could be tried collaterally before the termination of the suit, on the ground that a false cause of action was maliciously stated, or that a false affidavit for arrest was maliciously made, a defendant whose property had been taken might sue for an injunction against the attaching officer. A defendant arrested, instead of trying the facts charged in the affidavit, in the manner prescribed by law, might apply for release upon habeas corpus, or, after a trial upon the charges before a magistrate, and at any time before final judgment in the Superior Court, if he saw he was likely to be convicted, he might make default, and set up, as the defendants have done in this case, the falsity of the affidavit in defence to the supplemental suit upon the recognizance. With such a rule there

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could be no regularity in procedure, and no certainty as to the value of any security.

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In a case of this kind there is no hardship in leaving a party to existing remedies. He may, first, obtain under the statute an early hearing of the matters alleged against him, and secondly, after the case is ended, he may, if the facts will warrant it, bring his action for a malicious prosecution.

If this remedy is not now available to the defendant, it is because of neglect or misfortune for which he is legally responsible. It was his duty to have a magistrate present to hear or continue the case at the time to which the hearing was adjourned. His neglect of that duty was a breach of his recognizance. Whether, with such a termination of the proceeding, he can now bring a suit for malicious arrest or prosecution is a question which is not before us. In *Fortman* v. *Rottier*, 8 Ohio St. 548, it was held by a majority of the court, that an action for malicious prosecution could be maintained for procuring an attachment upon a false affidavit, without first getting the proceeding set aside. And in *Bump* v. *Betts*, 19 Wend. 421, a similar decision was made, where property was attached and a judgment *in rem* obtained upon a false and malicious affidavit that the defendant had absconded. But in both of these cases it seems that the affidavits were not of matters which were to be tried in the regular course of proceedings instituted by them, and in that respect they differed from that in the case at bar.

Inasmuch as the jury were permitted to find for the defendants upon a defence which was not properly open to them, the entry must be *Exceptions sustained.*

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BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY *vs.* GEORGE MIXTER.

Suffolk. November 15, 1887. — January 10, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Trust and Trustee — Title — Private Sale — Notice.

A testator, after bequeathing to each of his four children the income of a specified sum to be held in trust, gave to them the residue of his estate, real and personal, "to be divided equally between them share and share alike, to them, their heirs and assigns forever." After the marriage of a daughter, the testator by a codicil directed that "all the property and estate so given my said daughter in addition to said income in said will shall be paid" to a trustee, "to be invested" for her benefit, and provided for the disposition of the trust fund by the trustee at her death. *Held*, that the trustee took the legal title to both the real and personal estate, with power to sell and convey.

A notice of a sale of a trust estate under the Pub. Sts. c. 141, § 21, addressed to the "heirs at law, next of kin, and all other persons interested" is sufficient.

A trustee, after the lapse of a year from the granting of a license to sell at private sale, is not obliged by force of the Pub. Sts. c. 142, § 18, cl. 4, to sell by public auction.

CONTRACT to recover the purchase money for an undivided fourth part of real estate, which the plaintiff, as trustee, agreed in writing, on October 29, 1886, to sell and convey to the defendant in fee by a good and sufficient deed. The deed was tendered on November 9, 1886. A decree of the Probate Court authorizing a private sale was made on July 21, 1885, the citation and order of notice upon the plaintiff's petition being addressed "To the heirs at law, next of kin, and all other persons interested in the real estate held in trust."

The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and, after judgment for the plaintiff, to this court, on appeal, on agreed facts, which appear in the opinion.

J. D. Ball, for the defendant. The plaintiff, as trustee, took only an estate during the life of Fanny L. Howard, and her children or their representatives are to take the remainder if they survive her, the remainder being contingent. The codicil does not provide that at her death the plaintiff shall divide, but that the estate left in trust shall be divided. All the

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purposes of the trust could be accomplished if the trustee took only such life estate. A fee in the trustee was not essential to the execution of the trusts. The usual rule in respect to property given in trust is, that the trustee takes an estate commensurate with the purposes of the trust, and nothing more. Perry on Trusts, § 312. *Smith* v. *Thompson*, 2 Swan, 386. *Doe* v. *Williams*, 2 M. & W. 749, 756, 757. *Curtis* v. *Price*, 12 Ves. 89. *Packard* v. *Marshall*, 138 Mass. 301, 302. *Moore* v. *Stinson*, 144 Mass. 594. *Doe* v. *Considine*, 6 Wall. 458, 469–472.

The statute authorizes the sale and conveyance of the "estate held in trust," when it appears to be necessary or expedient; not a sale of the estate in fee when the trust estate is limited to a life estate, as here. The statute contemplates merely the sale of the trust estate, and if the trust estate is only a life estate, it does not authorize the court to decree a sale and conveyance of the title of the remaindermen.

The statute required notice to be given to "all persons who are or may become interested in such estate, and to all persons whose issue, not then in being, may become so interested." It is clear that the children of Fanny L. Howard living at the time of her death, and the issue then living of any deceased child, would be interested in the estate. If the trustee took a fee before the Probate Court could authorize a sale, it must give the notice required by the statute. The only notice given was a citation addressed to the heirs at law, next of kin, "and all other persons interested in the real estate held in trust, under the will of William Mixter, by the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, trustee for Fanny L. Howard." The provisions of the statute must be strictly pursued. The notice did not substantially conform to the statute.

The Public Statutes, although embracing all the public law in Massachusetts in force at the time when they were passed, are yet to be construed as having been passed *uno flatu*. One provision of the statutes is, that "no sale of real estate made by an executor, administrator, guardian, trustee, or other person by license of court, and no title under such a sale, shall be avoided for the reason that the deed was not delivered within one year after the license, or on account of any irregularity in the proceed-

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ings if it appears . . . . that the premises were sold by public auction in accordance with the notice, and are held by one who purchased them in good faith." Pub. Sts. c. 142, § 18.

Before this provision was enacted, which was in 1864, it seems that a trustee was not in so many words bound to sell, if at private sale, within one year from the date of the decree or license, and, if the trustee sold after the lapse of one year, to sell by public auction. At that time, however, an executor, or administrator, or guardian, could sell only within the year, and could sell then only by public auction. And the Legislature by this provision, probably overlooking the fact that a trustee was not then, in so many words, limited to a sale within a year, or to a sale by public auction, put executors, administrators, guardians, and trustees, in so many words, in the same category, and provided that a sale by neither should be avoided, if made after the lapse of a year, if certain things enumerated had been done. See Gen. Sts. c. 102, § 47; Sts. 1860, c. 60, § 1; 1864, c. 137, § 1.

And it results from this provision, that, if the sale by either was after the lapse of a year, and was not by public auction, the sale would not be protected by this provision of the law; and the conclusion seems to be justified that a sale by a trustee after the lapse of a year could not be by private contract, but must be by public auction.

H. G. Nichols, for the plaintiff.

MORTON, C. J. William Mixter by the third clause of his will bequeaths to each of his children, George, Mary Ann, Fanny Louise (afterwards Fanny L. Howard), and Samuel Jason, the interest or income of twenty thousand dollars, to be paid to each at least annually, or as often as the income shall be received; said principal sum to be paid into the hands of trustees, and by them invested, and at the decease of either of the children "said principal sum of twenty thousand dollars, the income of which is given to the child deceased, shall be divided among the heirs at law of the deceased child."

By the sixth clause he gives the residue of his estate, real and personal, to his four children, "to be divided equally between them, share and share alike, to them, their heirs and assigns forever." There can be no doubt, under this clause, that each of the four children would take an absolute estate in one quarter

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of the residue. But he afterwards made a codicil which provides as follows:

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"Whereas I have given to my daughter Fanny L. Howard, wife of Daniel W. Howard, in my said will, the income of twenty thousand dollars, and also a certain portion of my remaining estate, I now order and direct that all the property and estate so given my said daughter in addition to said income in said will shall be paid to the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, an incorporated institution in the city of Boston, to be held by said corporation in trust for the benefit of my said daughter, Fanny L. Howard, to be invested by said corporation as shall seem prudent and safe; and that the net income thereof shall be paid to my said daughter, Fanny L. Howard, at least semi-annually, said income to be paid to my said daughter personally, or upon her order or receipt in writing, free from the interference or control of her husband or any creditors, my intention being that the use of said income shall not be anticipated by assignments; and at the decease of my said daughter I direct that said estate so left in trust shall be divided among her children, or the representatives of any deceased child, equally, share and share alike, giving to each child and the representatives of any deceased child, one share. If my said daughter shall leave no children living at her decease, then I direct that said sum so left in trust with said corporation shall be paid, one third to her husband, if living, but not to his heirs, if deceased, and the balance of said estate so left in trust shall be equally divided among her brothers and sisters, share and share alike."

This codicil is not in form a direct gift to the plaintiff as trustee, but it is in law equivalent to such a gift; and the first question in this case is whether under the codicil the plaintiff took an estate in fee in that portion of the real estate, namely, one undivided quarter, which would have come to the said Fanny under the sixth clause of the will, or only an estate for the life of said Fanny.

The will and codicil are not drawn with technical skill, but we think there is no difficulty in ascertaining the intentions of the testator. The sixth clause contemplates that the residue will consist of real and personal estate. Under it, if unchanged, the daughter Fanny would take one quarter of the personal prop-

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erty absolutely, and one undivided quarter of the real estate in fee.

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The object of the codicil was to change the disposition of this share of said Fanny in the residue by putting the legal title in trustees, to give her the income during her life, and to provide for the division of the trust fund after her death. It gives to the plaintiff as trustee "all the property and estate so given my said daughter," implying that the trustee was to take the same property and estate which the daughter would take under the sixth clause. The codicil deals with the trust fund, which might at first consist of both real and personal estate, as a single fund subject to the same disposition.

It directs that at the decease of the daughter "said estate so left in trust shall be divided among her children," and that, if she leave no children, "said sum so left in trust with said corporation shall be paid one third to her husband," and "the balance of said estate so left in trust shall be equally divided among her brothers and sister." In these provisions he is clearly dealing with the whole trust estate as a single fund, and they imply that the trustee is to make the division according to his directions. It must do this so far as the fund consisted of personal property, and there is nothing to indicate that he intended that there should be any difference as to that part of the fund which at his death was real estate. The whole estate held in trust was "to be invested by said corporation as shall seem prudent and safe," which implies that the trustee may find it prudent to change the investments. The testator does not directly or by implication give any vested legal estate to those who under the codicil will be the distributees at his daughter's decease. He imposes upon the trustee the duty of dividing and transferring the fund after her death.

Looking at the whole will, it seems to us reasonably clear that he intended to give to the trustee the legal title to both the real and the personal estate, with the power to sell and convey the same, and that such a title in the trustee is necessary in order to enable it to carry out the purposes of the testator. *Sears* v. *Russell*, 8 Gray, 86. *Packard* v. *Marshall*, 138 Mass. 301.

The trustee, taking this view of the will, applied to the Probate Court for leave to sell the undivided fourth of the real estate

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held by it in trust, and the court ordered and decreed that the estate so held in trust be sold at private sale, and that the proceeds be reinvested and held upon the same trusts under which the real estate was held. The defendant contends that a valid sale cannot be made under this decree, because the notice given of the petition was insufficient. We can see no force in this claim. Upon such a petition notice is to be "given in such manner as the court may order, to all persons who are or may become interested in such estate, and to all persons whose issue, not then in being, may become so interested." Pub. Sts. c. 141, § 21.

The caption of the order of notice issued by the court did not follow the words of the statute, but the words used, "heirs at law, next of kin, and all other persons interested in the real estate," embrace and describe all living persons who are or can become interested, or whose issue may become interested, and was sufficient.

The defendant further contends that a good deed cannot now be given by the trustee, because more than a year has elapsed since the license to sell was given. The statutes do not provide that a license to a trustee to sell real estate shall not be in force more than a year. Trustees may be licensed to sell, either at public or private sale, when it appears to be necessary or expedient. Pub. Sts. c. 141, § 20. As a general rule, executors, administrators, and guardians can be licensed to sell only by public auction. Pub. Sts. c. 134, §§ 1–11. Pub. Sts. c. 140, §§ 1, 3, 18.

In the Pub. Sts. c. 142, which contains many provisions relating to sales by executors, administrators, guardians, and trustees, it is provided in § 8 that "no license for a sale by an executor, administrator, or guardian shall be in force for more than one year after the granting thereof," but there is no equivalent or similar provision in our statutes as to sales by trustees.

Section 18 provides that "No sale of real estate made by an executor, administrator, guardian, trustee, or other person by license of court, and no title under such a sale, shall be avoided for the reason that the deed was not delivered within one year after the license, or on account of any irregularity in the proceedings, if it appears, —

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"First, that the license was granted by a court of competent jurisdiction;

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"Second, that the person licensed gave a bond which was approved by the judge of the Probate Court, if a bond was required upon the granting of the license;

"Third, that the notice of the time and place of sale was given according to the order of the court; and,

"Fourth, that the premises were sold by public auction in accordance with the notice, and are held by one who purchased them in good faith."

The defendant argues that this statute by implication prohibits a trustee from making a sale after the lapse of a year from the granting of his license, except by public auction. No such implication is necessary or justifiable. This provision is a re-enactment of the St. of 1864, c. 137. It is an enabling, and not a disabling statute. It was not intended to cut down the powers of executors, administrators, guardians, or trustees, but to cure any formal and unimportant irregularities in their actions in making sales. It was not designed to create irregularities, but to remedy them. It cannot fairly be construed as providing that, if a trustee does not sell within a year, which he is not bound to do, it shall be an irregularity which can be cured only by a sale by auction. Most of the provisions are pertinent as applied to executors, administrators, and guardians, but have no application to trustees who ordinarily are not required to give bond, or to sell by public auction, or to give any notice of the time and place of sale. It is not improbable that the word "trustee" was inadvertently used in the statute. But however this may be, we cannot think that it was the intention of the Legislature to make in this indirect way so important a change in the other provisions of the statute as to require trustees to sell within a year, or otherwise to sell by public auction.

Upon the whole case, therefore, we are of opinion that the deed which the plaintiff has tendered to the defendant will convey a good title in fee; and, in accordance with the stipulation in the case stated, judgment was rightly entered for the plaintiff in the Superior Court. *Judgment affirmed.*

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BOSTON AND MAINE RAILROAD *vs.* ROBERT W. CHIPMAN.

Suffolk. January 11, 1888. — January 12, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Railroad — Coupon Ticket — Evidence — Waiver.

A condition on a railroad coupon ticket that the coupons are to be "detached by or in the presence of the conductor, and will be accepted for passage only when accompanied by this ticket," is reasonable and valid.

The holder of such a coupon ticket tendered as his fare a detached coupon, which the defendant refused to take unless the ticket was shown. Evidence was offered, in an action for the fare, that the conductor had accepted such coupons on prior occasions from the holder and others, and on the same occasion from others, in payment of fares, without demanding the tickets. *Held*, that the conductor was not required to accept the detached coupon and could demand the production of the ticket, and that the evidence would not justify a finding of a waiver of the condition.

CONTRACT to recover twenty-nine cents, the fare between Boston and Melrose Highlands. Trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, without a jury, before *Mason*, J., who reported the case for the consideration of this court, in substance as follows:

The following facts were admitted by both parties. The plaintiff operates a railroad, and had established reasonable rates for the transportation of passengers; the fare between Boston and Melrose Highlands for those paying their fare upon the train being twenty-nine cents.

The plaintiff had previously sold to the defendant, and many others, books containing coupons. The outside cover of the book bore the inscription, "Boston and Melrose Highlands," and on the inside of the cover was printed the following: "One hundred-ride ticket, Boston and Maine Railroad, good for one ride, and an additional ride for each coupon attached, between Boston and Melrose Highlands, continuous passage. Coupons to be detached by conductor only. (1200) D. T. Flanders, Gen. Ticket Agent." Each coupon was of the form following: "B. & M. R. R. I (1200) II Not good if detached." Upon the third page of the cover was printed, "Notice to passengers. Passengers will please take notice that the coupons attached hereto are to be detached by or in the presence of the

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conductor, and will be accepted for passage only when accompanied by this ticket."

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This book, with coupons entitling the owner to one hundred rides between Boston and Melrose Highlands, was sold at a price less than that of one hundred separate single tickets between the same places.

When the conductor of the train on which the defendant was transported demanded of the defendant his fare, on March 20, 1886, the latter tendered for such fare a coupon which he had detached from a book, then in his possession, similar to that described above. The conductor declined to receive this coupon as a fare, unless the defendant would exhibit the book from which he had detached the coupon, but offered to receive it in payment of fare if the defendant would exhibit such book. The defendant declined to do this, and refused to pay his fare in any other manner, and has not paid it, unless the tender above described amounts to payment.

The defendant offered evidence tending to show that, for a long time next prior to March 20, 1886, it had been the custom for passengers, including the defendant, to detach coupon tickets and pay their fares therewith, without showing their books to the plaintiff's conductor, he not having demanded to see the books. The defendant had so paid his fares for a long time next prior to March 20, 1886, without objection or warning not to detach the coupon, and without being requested to exhibit his book; and, at the time referred to, other passengers on the same car gave coupons detached by them in payment of their fares, and the same were received without objection and without their being requested to show their books. This evidence was excluded.

Upon the facts admitted, the judge found for the plaintiff, and assessed damages in the sum of twenty-nine cents. If the evidence excluded was properly excluded, and the finding upon the admitted facts was correct, judgment was to be entered for the plaintiff for twenty-nine cents; otherwise, a new trial was to be had.

W. S. Stearns & J. H. Butler, (*W. H. Stearns* with them,) for the defendant.

S. Lincoln, for the plaintiff.

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BY THE COURT. The contract, of which the book and the coupons therein sold to the defendant by the plaintiff are the evidence, is a reasonable and valid one. Under it the plaintiff's conductor was not required to accept as the defendant's fare a detached coupon, and had at least the right to demand that he should produce and show the book.

There was no evidence which would justify the finding that the plaintiff had rescinded or waived any of the conditions or terms of the contract. *Judgment for the plaintiff.*

WILLIAM I. BOWDITCH & another *vs.* CHARLES E. RAYMOND & another.

Suffolk. November 9, 1887. — January 16, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Lease — Rent — Insolvency — Proof of Claim.

The St. of 1879, c. 245, § 1, re-enacted in the Pub. Sts. c. 157, § 26, as to the acceptance or surrender by assignees in insolvency of leases or agreements in writing for use and occupation, does not apply to a lease determined before the first publication of notice.

A lease provided that, if the lessees should assign for the benefit of creditors, the lessors might enter to end the lease, and, in their discretion, relet the premises at the lessees' risk, who were to continue liable for the rent and to be credited with any sums realized from the reletting. The lessees made an assignment and the lessors entered to determine the lease. Subsequently the lessees went into insolvency, and thereafter the lessors relet the premises at a reduced rental. *Held*, that a claim against the insolvent estate, being the difference between the rent as reserved and sums received by the lessors, was rightly disallowed.

APPEAL from a decision of the Court of Insolvency, disallowing the claim of the appellants against an insolvent estate. The appeal was heard in the Superior Court, without a jury, by *Mason*, J., on agreed facts, which, so far as material, are as follows:

On March 30, 1883, the appellants, as trustees, made a lease to McDewell and Adams of the premises numbered 156 Tremont Street in Boston for a term of ten years "from the first day of November, A. D. 1884," at a yearly rent of $10,000, payable in

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equal monthly payments, the first payment to be made on December 1, 1884. The lease provided that, if the "lessees shall be declared bankrupt or insolvent according to law, or if any assignment shall be made of their property for the benefit of creditors, then and in either of said cases the lessors, or those having their estate in the said premises, lawfully may, immediately or at any time thereafter, and whilst such neglect or default continues, and without further notice or demand, enter into and upon the said premises, or any part thereof, in the name of the whole, and repossess the same as of their former estate, and expel the said lessees, and those claiming under them, and remove their effects (forcibly if necessary), without being taken or deemed guilty of any manner of trespass, and without prejudice to any remedies which might otherwise be used for arrears of rent or preceding breach of covenant; and thereupon the lessors may, at their discretion, relet the premises at the risk of the lessees, who shall remain for the residue of said term responsible for the rent and taxes herein reserved, and shall be credited with such amounts only as shall be by the lessors actually realized. Also, that in case the premises, or any part thereof, shall during said term be destroyed or damaged by fire," the rent was to be proportionately abated until the said premises should have been put in proper condition for use.

On October 15, 1884, the lessees, who were in possession of the premises under an agreement with prior lessees, made a voluntary assignment for the benefit of creditors, and on November 1, 1884, the lessors entered upon the premises to terminate the lease, and from and after December 1, 1884, were in possession of the premises.

On December 2, 1884, the lessees filed a petition in insolvency, subsequently filing a schedule of creditors, which included their liability under the lease. On December 30, 1884, the appellees, who had been chosen assignees of the estate, filed in the Court of Insolvency a disclaimer of the lease.

On February 21, 1885, the lessors relet the premises for the residue of the term at a reduced rental, and their claim, which was disallowed, was for the difference between the rent reserved in the original lease and such reduced rental and certain minor matters.

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The judge found for the appellees, and reported the case for the determination of this court.

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J. B. Warner, for the appellants.

I. The first question is whether McDewell and Adams are still liable upon their covenant, and remain responsible for rent for the residue of the term. This seems clear: the stipulation in a lease by which the lessor may re-enter for breach of condition, relet the premises at his discretion, and hold the lessee for any loss of rent, has been found in the usual forms of lease for a generation, and was passed upon by this court nearly twenty-five years ago in *Way* v. *Reed*, 6 Allen, 364.

The entry on November 1, 1884, whether that day be regarded as included within the term or not, did not terminate the liability of the tenants upon their covenant. Even before the term actually began, the lessees had an interest, *interesse termini*, which, though not an estate, is recognized by the law as something more than a contract. Taylor, Landlord and Tenant, § 176. Com. Dig. Assignment (A), Estates (G 14). Shep. Touch. 267. Co. Litt. 46 b, 51 b. *Whitney* v. *Allaire*, 1 N. Y. 305, 311. The lessee's obligation to pay rent springs from his covenant, and is wholly independent of possession, being complete though he never enters, or even gives notice that he will not occupy, and his only defence would be some wrongful act of the lessor preventing possession. Taylor, Landlord and Tenant, *ubi supra*. *Becar* v. *Flues*, 64 N. Y. 518. *Birckhead* v. *Cummins*, 4 Vroom, 44. *Spencer* v. *Burton*, 5 Blackf. 57.

II. The question of the admissibility of the proof in insolvency is first to be considered under the provisions of the insolvency statute prior to the amendment of 1879. Inasmuch as the debtor cannot get his discharge from his liability unless it is provable, the question concerns the debtor as much as the creditor. The word "debts" in that statute is to be construed liberally, in order to accomplish the two ground objects of the act; the objects, namely, of relieving the debtor who surrenders his property, and of distributing that property among his creditors.

The statute is highly equitable in its character, and has always been administered avowedly upon equitable principles. *Lothrop* v. *Reed*, 13 Allen, 294. *Gray* v. *Bennett*, 3 Met. 522. *Brown* v. *Lamb*, 6 Met. 203.

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It is certainly true that a claim for rent not yet due has not been considered admissible in proof either in insolvency or bankruptcy. *Savory* v. *Stocking*, 4 Cush. 607. *Ex parte Houghton*, 1 Lowell, 554. *Treadwell* v. *Marden*, 123 Mass. 390. But this is for the reasons stated by Shaw, C. J., in *Boardman* v. *Osborn*, 23 Pick. 295; namely, that rent is supposed to come out of the profits of the land, and occupation is the consideration for it, therefore no action should lie before it has actually accrued; and Lord Coke is quoted to the effect that a release of all actions would not release rent subsequently accruing on an existing lease. These reasons do not apply here. The lessees in this case are now liable, absolutely, to a fixed monthly payment, which, though still alluded to as rent, should, for the purposes of this discussion, be designated as a sum equal to the former rental. The obligation does not depend upon occupation, nor is it liable to be terminated by eviction.

There is no question of an estate in the lessee out of which the rent is said to grow, — there is a simple contract liability. Can there be any doubt, to apply Lord Coke's test, that a general release given by these appellants to the lessees would discharge them from this covenant? If so, there is a present liability.

We submit that the existence of the liability is complete; that the only question is that of amount, and that this is certain because it may be made certain. As matters now stand, there is a covenant to pay a fixed sum, and the landlord holds property, namely, the lease the income of which he is bound to apply to the debt. This is in effect only a debt secured, the security being the lease. Or it may be considered, what it in reality is, a case where, in a sale of a chattel, the vendee has refused to accept, and the vendor is entitled to the stipulated price, less the value of the goods.

Our insolvency system, unlike the English, provides the machinery through a jury trial, by which just such questions as this may be dealt with (*Lothrop* v. *Reed*, *supra*); and we ask only to have this contract treated as any other contract, and damages estimated, as was done in the case just cited, since the stipulation of the parties fixing the lessees' liability follows exactly the principles which the law would have applied without it. *Whitney* v. *Boardman*, 118 Mass. 242. *Abbott* v. *Stearns*, 139 Mass. 168, 172.

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Opposed to our contention is the case of *Ex parte Lake*, 2 Lowell, 544. In this case, a claim arose under a covenant in a lease precisely the same in terms with that which we are discussing, and Judge Lowell held that the claim was not provable. As to this case we must say that the learned judge seems to exclude the claim because the word "rent" was used, and without reference to the reasons upon which the rule as to rent stands, none of which seem applicable, and seems also to disappoint the just expectations which he had raised in *Ex parte Houghton*, 1 Lowell, 554. The decision in the second case can hardly stand with the suggestions of the former, which retain their weight and value, though now overlooked. We submit that this case should not control this court in administering our insolvency act.

Against this we put the contrary and more equitable decision of the United States District Court in *In re Clancy*, 10 Nat. Bankr. Reg. 215. The controlling fact there, namely, that what was rent in name was no longer dependent on occupation, is the decisive consideration here.

III. We come now to the St. of 1879, c. 245, passed expressly to meet the case of subsequently accruing rent. This statute seems to be explicit enough; but the defendants seek to avoid its effect in this case by a technical argument, which, if we understand it, is this.

The statute, they say, contemplates only a case where the lease carries a beneficial interest, and where the assignee has the alternative presented him of accepting or refusing such an interest. The use of the word "property" and the provision for an election both, according to their contention, limit the statute to such leases as still confer a right of occupation, and if for any reason the insolvent had lost his right of occupation, as by assignment of the lease, or by the operation of some provision in it, then the statute does not apply, since the assignee has no real choice.

This, surely, is a somewhat liberal construction to put upon a statute for the relief of insolvent debtors. The cases where relief is most needed, those, namely, of liability with no corresponding benefit remaining, are, on this theory, the cases not provided for.

The whole spirit and purpose of the act, as already pointed out, require the most liberal and equitable interpretation. It was unquestionably passed in consequence of the previous

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decisions, and for the purpose of giving the creditor his proof, and the debtor his discharge.

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No amendment was needed in order to give to the assignee full rights over leasehold property held by the insolvent. The assignee always had the alternative either to assume such a lease and be bound by its provisions, or to disclaim it and be free from all liability. *Hoyt* v. *Stoddard*, 2 Allen, 442. *Commonwealth* v. *Franklin Ins. Co.* 115 Mass. 278. *Abbott* v. *Stearns*, 139 Mass. 168. *Ex parte Houghton*, 1 Lowell, 554. The real purpose of the act is found in the later clauses, which introduce the new feature of giving the insolvent his discharge.

Our statute was "plainly taken, with some modifications, from the English bankruptcy act of 1869" (*Abbott* v. *Stearns*, 139 Mass. 168), and the decisions under that act throw great light upon this question. *Ex parte Dyke*, 22 Ch. D. 410. *Ex parte Patterson*, 11 Ch. D. 908. *In re Maughan*, 14 Q. B. D. 956. *Ex parte Corbett*, 14 Ch. D. 122. *In re Tickle*, 3 Morrell, 126. *Ex parte Walton*, 17 Ch. D. 746.

W. G. Russell, (*E. B. Hale* with him,) for the appellees.

MORTON, C. J. Under our insolvent law, prior to the St. of 1879, c. 245, no debts, with certain exceptions not material to this case, were provable, unless they were debts "absolutely due" at the time of the first publication of the notice of issuing the warrant. It has accordingly been repeatedly held that future rent, to accrue under a lease in which the insolvent debtor is lessee, cannot be proved. *Savory* v. *Stocking*, 4 Cush. 607. *Treadwell* v. *Marden*, 123 Mass. 390. *Deane* v. *Caldwell*, 127 Mass. 242. *Ex parte Houghton*, 1 Lowell, 554.

The principle of these cases is, that such rent is not a debt absolutely due at the time of the first publication. The lease may be terminated by the eviction of the lessee or otherwise, and no rent may ever accrue or become due. The lessor's claim is a contingent one. It is not contingent merely as to amount, but the very existence of the claim depends upon a contingency. *Boardman* v. *Osborn*, 23 Pick. 295.

In the case before us the lease contains the provision that, if the lessees shall be declared bankrupt or insolvent, or shall make an assignment for the benefit of their creditors, the lessors may enter and expel the lessees, "and thereupon the lessors

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may, at their discretion, relet the premises at the risk of the lessees, who shall remain for the residue of said term responsible for the rent and taxes herein reserved, and shall be credited only with such amounts as shall be by the lessors actually realized." The appellants contend that under this provision the liability of the lessees arises solely from their covenant, and that the amount to be paid by them is not technically rent, as the provision does not contemplate that they are to occupy the premises. But however this may be, the sums to be paid partake of the character of rent so largely that they come within the same principle. The covenant is to pay the rent reserved reduced by such sum as the lessors might receive from the new lessees if they should relet the premises.

At the first publication of notice there was a contingency, not merely as to the amount of liability, but as to whether it would ever attach or arise out of the covenant. The lessors in their discretion might not relet the premises, but resume possession of them. It may be that the lessees will be evicted by a paramount title, in which case it cannot be doubted that the liability of the original lessees would be terminated, or fail to attach. It may happen that the new lessees will pay as large a sum as the rent and taxes reserved in the lease, in which event no liability would arise under the covenant. Or the premises might be destroyed by fire, and thus the liability of the lessees be terminated. The existence of any debt in the future depends upon contingencies, and therefore the appellants' claim cannot be proved under our insolvent law prior to the St. of 1879.

In the bankrupt court of this district it has been decided that a claim under a like clause in a lease could not be proved in bankruptcy. *Ex parte Lake*, 2 Lowell, 544.

The next question is, What is the effect of the St. of 1879, c. 245, § 1, re-enacted in the Pub. Sts. c. 157, § 26? The part of the statute which is of importance in this case is as follows: "When any of the property of a debtor consists of a lease or agreement in writing, whereby he is liable for the rent therein reserved or for the use and occupation of premises as therein stipulated, the assignee at any time may, and at the request in writing of either the debtor, or of the lessor, or of those having his estate in the premises, shall, within twenty days after such

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request, by a written instrument filed with the records of the case, elect either to accept and hold under said lease or agreement in writing, or to disclaim the same; and if he elects to disclaim, such lease or agreement in writing shall thereupon be deemed to have been surrendered as of the day on which said disclaimer was so filed. And the debtor, provided he obtains his discharge in insolvency, shall be discharged from all liability under or by reason of said lease or agreement in writing, whether the assignee does or does not disclaim the same as aforesaid; and the lessor or those having his estate in the premises may prove such damages, if any, as are caused by such surrender, as a debt against the estate of the debtor."

The objects of the statute were to define the rights and duties of assignees when they found a part of the property of the debtor to consist of a lease or other instrument under which he was liable for rent or for use and occupation, and to give them the right to accept or disclaim such property, as the interests of the estate required; to enlarge the effect of the debtor's discharge by making it a bar to his liability under such lease or agreement; and to give to the lessor thereunder the correlative right to prove his damages if it is disclaimed and surrendered.

All parts of the statute refer to the case where there is property of the debtor consisting of a lease or an agreement for use and occupation. In other words, the provisions as to the discharge of the debtor and the proof by the lessor apply only to the case where there is an existing lease or agreement which the assignee can accept or surrender. The lessors can prove only such damages as are caused "by such surrender."

In inquiring whether the statute applies to the case at bar, we are met with this difficulty. Before the first publication of notice, the lessors had entered upon the premises and expelled the lessees, and thus practically terminated the lease. The lessees had no longer any rights in the premises; they could not occupy them; they could not re-enter; the only interest they had in the matter was a bare liability under their covenant or agreement to indemnify the lessors for any deficiency in the amount they might realize from new tenants if they chose to let to such tenants. There was no property of the debtor which the assignee could accept; there was no right or interest in the

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debtor which the assignee, if he had undertaken to accept, could take or hold; and there was nothing for him to surrender.

Suppose this had been a case where the lessors had entered and expelled the insolvent two or three years before the insolvency. Could an assignee under the guise of accepting the lease revive it, and subject the estate to the liability of indemnifying the lessors for any deficiency in the rent, and thus make them preferred creditors? In such a case there is no election for the assignee to make; there is nothing to accept and nothing to surrender, and we are of opinion that it does not fall within the statute.

The Legislature had in mind the ordinary case of an existing lease or agreement; it did not contemplate a case like the one before us, and did not provide for it.

The appellants cite several English cases arising under the bankruptcy act of 1869, from which our statute of 1879 was taken with some modifications. 32 & 33 Vict. c. 71, § 23. *Ex parte Dyke*, 22 Ch. D. 410. *Ex parte Patterson*, 11 Ch. D. 908. *In re Maughan*, 14 Q. B. D. 956. *Ex parte Corbett*, 14 Ch. D. 122. *In re Tickle*, 3 Morrell, 126. *Ex parte Walton*, 17 Ch. D. 746.

The English bankruptcy statutes differ so much from our insolvent law that adjudications under the former are of very little aid to us in determining the construction of our statutes. But it will be found upon examination that the cases cited are not like the case at bar. In each of them there was an existing lease or term vested in the bankrupt at the institution of the bankruptcy proceedings, having more or less time to run.

We have considered the case in the light most favorable to the appellants, as if they had entered and expelled the lessees after the lease went into operation. We do not find it necessary to consider whether they in fact took possession before the term commenced, nor, if they did so, what would be the effect upon the rights of the lessors and lessees. The facts, that the assignees disclaimed the lease in this case, and that the insolvent debtors entered the appellants' claim upon the schedule of creditors, are unimportant. Neither could thus change the application of the statute, or affect the rights of the creditors.

Judgment for the appellees.

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ISAAC FENNO *vs.* CLARENCE H. GAY.

Suffolk. January 12, 1888. — January 16, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Demand Note — Statute of Limitations.

An action brought on May 21, 1886, on a promissory note dated May 20, 1880, and payable "on demand after date," is barred by the statute of limitations.

CONTRACT against the defendant, as the maker of a promissory note dated May 20, 1880, payable "on demand, after date," to the order of John Everitt, and by him indorsed to the plaintiff. Writ dated May 21, 1886. The answer set up, among other defences, the statute of limitations.

In the Superior Court, *Brigham*, C. J., who heard the case, without a jury, ruled that the action was not commenced within six years next after the cause of action accrued, and found for the defendant upon that ground only. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

E. O. Shepard, for the plaintiff.

F. T. Benner, for the defendant.

BY THE COURT. It was held in *Hitchings* v. *Edmands*, 132 Mass. 338, that a promissory note payable "on demand, after date," is not a note payable on time, but "is an ordinary demand note, payable at once on demand, on which an action could have been brought immediately after it was given, without any demand." This is decisive of the case at bar. An action might have been brought on the note in suit at any time on May 20, 1880, after it was given.

It follows that this suit, commenced May 21, 1886, was not brought within six years after the cause of action accrued, and that the statute of limitations is a bar.

Exceptions overruled.

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WINNIFRED SHORT *vs.* JOHN DEVINE.

Bristol. October 26, 1887. — February 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Deed — Reservation — Right of Way — Partition Fence — Gates.

A reservation in a deed of a right of way "over a strip of land ten feet wide" describes the land over which the grantor may enjoy the right, and not the limits of the way itself; and the grantee may use the strip for any purpose not inconsistent with such enjoyment.

The owner of a narrow lot on a city street conveyed the front part, on the northerly side of which stood a house covering nearly two thirds of its width, reserving for the benefit of the rear part a right of way "over a strip of land ten feet wide on the southerly line of the granted premises." The grantee erected a partition fence on the "south line of the way," and put up gates at either end of the "strip," and an action was brought for obstructing the way. *Held*, that the partition fence on what must be taken to be the division line was not an obstruction, and that, in the absence of controlling evidence, the gates were rightfully maintained.

TORT for the obstruction of a right of way across the defendant's land in Fall River. The plaintiff's husband was joined as a party plaintiff.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Barker*, J., who reported the case for the determination of this court, as follows:

Thomas Devine, who owned the premises, shown on a plan used at the trial, a copy of which is printed on the next page, conveyed the defendant's land to him by a deed, which described it as beginning at a corner of other land of the grantor on the easterly side of North Court Street, thence running northerly by that street $43\frac{8}{100}$ feet to land formerly of Murphy, thence easterly by Murphy's land $88\frac{47}{100}$ feet, thence southerly and westerly "by land of said grantor's to the point of beginning, containing fourteen (14) rods of land, more or less," and set forth that "the grantor reserves to himself, his heirs and assigns, to pass and repass over and upon a strip of land ten (10) feet in width on the southerly line of above granted premises to and from North Court Street with teams and otherwise."

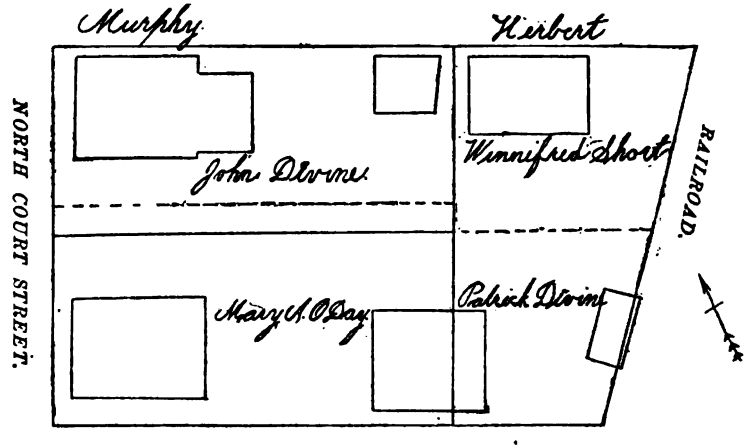
By his will Thomas Devine devised the rest of the premises shown on the plan as follows: "2d. To my daughter Mary Ann O'Day the dwelling-house in which I now reside, and fourteen

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rods of land; said house being situate on North Court Street in Fall River, and being south of the lot of land heretofore conveyed by me to my son John Devine; to her, her heirs and assigns, with all privileges, easements, and appurtenances thereto belonging. 3d. To my daughter Winnifred Short, the house and seven (7) rods of land, built by me and located easterly of the house of my son John, on his lot before mentioned; to her, her heirs and assigns, with all the privileges, easements, and appurtenances thereto belonging. 4th. To my son Patrick Devine, the house and seven (7) rods of land, situate easterly of the lot heretofore devised in this will to my daughter Mary Ann O'Day."

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It was agreed that the plaintiff had a right of way over and upon the premises described in the deed of Thomas Devine to the defendant, within the limits named in said deed, this being the only way from the plaintiffs' premises, which were at the easterly end of said way, to the public highway; that the defendant had built, as a division fence, a close board fence, supported by posts, along and upon the south line of the way described in the deed, which is the south line of the defendant's premises, the fence and posts averaging from six to eight inches in thickness, and between four and five feet in height; that the defendant had also caused to be made and hung across and upon the way, at the easterly end thereof, two close board gates, — one of the gates being about five and a half feet in width, and hung at one end with hinges to the fence aforesaid, and fastened



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at the other end with a long iron rod or hook hooked into a staple in a stub set in the ground, and the other gate being about four feet wide and shutting upon the larger gate with a latch, both gates being between four and five feet in height, and ten feet and one half-inch wide; and that at the westerly end of said way there are two open slat gates, eleven feet wide, corresponding in width and manner of construction with those at the easterly end.

No question was made that, if the defendant had the right to erect and maintain gates and a fence, these were reasonable and suitable, and there was no evidence that the fence had at any time actually obstructed the plaintiff in the use of the way.

Upon these agreed facts, the plaintiff requested the judge to rule, and to instruct the jury, that, under the clause in the deed reserving a right of way, the fee remained in the grantor, and the plaintiff, as his devisee, acquired a right of way in the locus as appurtenant to the lot devised to her, and that she had a right to use it for all beneficial purposes for which a street or way might be rightfully used, including the ways mentioned in the deed of the grantor to the grantee and otherwise, without being obstructed in its use by gates, fences, bars, or otherwise; but that, if the fee did pass from the grantor to the grantee, the plaintiff had a right of way over the locus as appurtenant to the lot devised to her, and had a right to use the same as before named.

The judge declined so to rule, and ruled that the fee in the land over which the right of way was reserved in the deed passed to the grantee therein, and that the defendant, as owner thereof subject to the right of way, had the right to build and keep up suitable gates across the same at either end, and also to build and maintain a suitable division fence upon the line between him and the adjoining proprietor; and directed a verdict for the defendant.

Judgment was to be entered for the defendant upon the verdict, if the rulings and refusals to rule were correct; but if upon the facts the plaintiff was entitled to a judgment, then judgment was to be entered for the plaintiff for such sums as the parties might agree upon, or as an assessor might find.

J. C. Blaisdell, for the plaintiff.

J. M. Morton, for the defendant.

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W. ALLEN, J. Thomas Devine, under whom both parties claim, conveyed the northerly portion of his front land to the defendant, and in the deed reserved a right of way in these words: "The grantor reserves to himself, his heirs and assigns, to pass and repass over and upon a strip of land ten feet in width on the southerly line of above granted premises to and from North Court Street with teams and otherwise." In *Johnson* v. *Kinnicut*, 2 Cush. 153, the grantor conveyed the westerly portion of his land, the easterly line of the land conveyed being twenty feet westerly of the west wall of his store, and granted "the right of passing and repassing over the space of twenty feet between the west wall of the store aforesaid and the eastern line of the before granted premises." It was held that these words did not describe the limits of the way granted, but the close over which the grantee should have a convenient and suitable way, and that he could not object to obstructions of the "space" which did not interfere with a reasonable and convenient way for him. The reservation in the deed in the case at bar will not be construed more strictly against the grantee than the grant in the case cited would be construed against the grantor; and in other respects the cases are on all-fours, and differ from *Tucker* v. *Howard*, 122 Mass. 529, and *Nash* v. *New England Life Insurance Company*, 127 Mass. 91, both of which were grants of existing and defined "passageways" particularly described.

The statement in the report, that the division fence was built upon the south line of the way described in the deed, must be taken to mean the south line of the strip of land over which the right to pass and repass was granted, and that the south line of the way was also the division line, that is, the south line of the land conveyed, the line of the way coinciding with the division line between adjacent lands. The question in regard to the fence is, whether the building of a division fence upon the line was a disturbance of the plaintiff's right of way.

It does not appear that the division fence interfered, or could interfere with any suitable and reasonable way for the plaintiff over the strip of land. But if it should be assumed that the plaintiff had a right of way over the whole width of ten feet, we do not think that the fence would be an obstruction. The law

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provides for partition fences. Pub. Sts. c. 36, §§ 2, 7, 9. When the statute applies, the privileges and burdens prescribed in it apply to the land, and affect and modify the estate in it. The right to a partition fence is part of the estate in the land. The conveyance of the land includes the right and the duty to have a fence upon the division line; the burden of having one half of the fence upon the premises, and the privilege of having the other half upon the conterminous land. *Newell* v. *Hill*, 2 Met. 180. *Sparhawk* v. *Twichell*, 1 Allen, 450. *Kennedy* v. *Owen*, 131 Mass. 431. No easement or incumbrance can grow out of this right; it cannot constitute or work a breach of a covenant of warranty, or of quiet enjoyment, or against incumbrance in a conveyance of the land, nor a disturbance of a right of way granted over the land. How could the reservation of the right of way in the deed affect the right of the parties to it as to a partition fence?

The reservation in the deed of Thomas Devine to the defendant of a right of way over the land, the line of which coincided with the division line between the lands, could not affect the right to a partition fence on the line. Thomas Devine, the grantor, clearly had a right to have a partition fence, one half of which should be on the defendant's land that was subject to the right of way; and Mary Ann O'Day, his devisee of the land adjoining on that side, and of the right of way appurtenant to it, has the same right; and the defendant has no right to erect a fence wholly on her land. As against the plaintiff, it will not affect the defendant's right to a partition fence if the reservation shall be so construed as to give to Thomas Devine, and those holding, under him, the parcel of land on the southerly side of the way, the right of free access to the way from any part of that land, and to prevent the erection of any fence or obstruction on the division line between that parcel and the way. If the owner did not assert such right, but required or assented to the erection of a fence, the statutes in relation to partition fences would apply. The plaintiff is the devisee of Thomas Devine of another parcel of the land, bounding only on the easterly end of the way, and of the right of way over the strip of land to the street as appurtenant to that. The right she has is the right apportioned to the parcel she holds, and does not include

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a right to enter upon the way except at its termini, and gives her no right to prohibit the defendant and Mary Ann O'Day from erecting a partition fence between their lands. Under any construction that can be given to the reservation, we think that the defendant had a right, as against the plaintiff, to erect a division fence upon the line of the way, which we understand to be a fence one half of which is upon either side of the division line, and the ruling of the court on this point was correct.

The right of the defendant to erect gates must depend upon the facts and circumstances. The plaintiff's right was to pass and repass from the street to her house-lot over a strip of land ten feet wide belonging to the defendant. The gates were erected at the termini of the way, not in the middle of it, as in *Dickinson* v. *Whiting*, 141 Mass. 414. The passage through these was more than ten feet wide, and the only question in regard to them was whether the defendant had a right to maintain reasonable and suitable gates at the termini of the way.

Williams v. *Clark*, 140 Mass. 238, was on the construction of an agreement by a railroad corporation to furnish a convenient crossing. The crossing was built by the corporation in 1853, without gates or bars, and was so maintained by it and its successors until 1884. It was held that there was no right to obstruct the crossing by gates or bars. The court say: "While, in terms, it is not provided that this crossing should not be unobstructed by gates or bars, yet the facts that it was to be 'convenient,' and that the railroad company itself constructed and for many years permitted the existence of such a one, sufficiently show that what it intended to grant was a free right of passage. No usage or circumstances such as are shown where one grants a way or right of way over a field devoted to agricultural or other purposes, indicating that the right granted is to be subordinate to the rights of the grantor, or the use made by him of the premises, here exist. That a crossing obstructed by gates or bars is far less convenient to those entitled to use it, is fully conceded by the defendant's argument."

In *Welch* v. *Wilcox*, 101 Mass. 162, the owner of two adjoining estates in Charlestown conveyed one to the defendant, with the right to use "the passageway leading from Lexington Street,

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as now laid out," over the other estate, which he soon after conveyed to the plaintiff, excepting a three-foot passageway as laid out on the premises. There was no gate on Lexington Street, and the passage was open and remained so for eight years, when the plaintiff erected a gate at the end of it on Lexington Street, which narrowed the passage three inches. The defendant removed the gate. The case was submitted on agreed facts, one of which was that the defendant could show that passages of like character in Charlestown were without gates, and the court held that the plaintiff had no right to maintain the gate. The court say: "It does not appear in what manner the way was laid out, but we must infer that it was by some well marked boundaries known and recognized by both parties. There was no gate separating the passageway from the street at the time of these conveyances, and in the opinion of the court the plaintiff has no right to erect and maintain a gate at the entrance of said passageway, or to narrow the way as described. If the obstruction in the way had existed at the time of the deed to the defendant, or even if it had been shown that similar passageways were usually so closed, the plaintiff's claim would stand on stronger ground, for it may well be presumed that the parties to the grant were acquainted with the public usages, and created this easement with reference to those usages."

In *Underwood* v. *Carney*, 1 Cush. 285, the defendant owned a right of way over Morton Place, in Boston, subject to a prior right of way of the plaintiff. The defendant erected warehouses on the line of Morton Place, obstructing the place with sidewalks, trap-doors, shutters, &c. A ruling that the use made by the defendant of the way was a reasonable use was sustained, and judgment was entered on a verdict ordered for the defendant. The court say that "public usage, — the use, which others, similarly situated, make of their land, — is evidence of a reasonable use," and that that rule is decisive of the case; "for we are not satisfied, that the defendants have made any use of the passageway, or that they have done any acts on their lands adjoining thereto, which are not justified by a common and well established usage in the place."

In *O'Linda* v. *Lothrop*, 21 Pick. 292, the action was by the owner of the fee against the owner of a right of way for

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abuse of the right. The case was tried before Chief Justice Shaw and a jury, and was submitted to the jury under instructions as to what would be a reasonable use of the way. The opinion considers what is a reasonable use of a way, depending much on the local situation, and much on general usage.

The present case was tried before a jury, and comes up on the report of the judge, which states that the parties agreed upon certain facts, upon which the plaintiff asked for certain rulings and instructions to the jury, which were refused, that other rulings were given, and that a verdict was directed and taken for the defendant. In this respect, and in the fact that the action is by the owner of the right of way for obstructing the way, the case resembles *Underwood* v. *Carney*, *ubi supra*. The case was not submitted to the court upon an agreed statement of facts, but the parties agreed upon what facts could be proved, and the court ruled that they were not sufficient to sustain a verdict for the plaintiff. The form of the ruling was that the defendant had a right to maintain suitable gates; but the real ruling, as shown by the course of the trial, was that the plaintiff had not shown that the defendant did not have the right to maintain the gates. A person over whose land there is a right of way will or will not have a right to maintain gates at the ends of the way, according to circumstances.

Upon the facts in this case, we think it does not appear that the defendant had not the right, and it must be taken, for the purposes of this case, that he had the right. The defendant holds the fee of a house and lot on a public street, under a deed in which the grantor reserved a right of way. The grantor owned and occupied the adjoining lot on the street, and owned two smaller lots in the rear of the two upon the street. There were no division fences between the lots. It does not appear whether they were or were not fenced upon the street. The right reserved was to pass and repass over a strip of land ten feet wide next to the lot occupied by the grantor. At the time of the grantor's death there were houses upon the two lots in the rear, and those lots and the one occupied by him were devised by him to different children, the one in the rear of the defendant's lot being devised to the plaintiff, and occupied by her. The defendant's lot is about forty-four feet wide and eighty-

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eight feet deep. The plaintiff's lot is of the same width, and about one half the depth of the defendant's. Nothing appears as to the manner in which the way and the different lots have been used, and nothing as to the size and position of the houses except a plan without measurements and not stated to have been drawn to scale. It appears from the plan that the defendant's house is near the northerly line of his lot, and not far from the street, and occupies considerably more than half of the front of the lot, and that the strip of land on which is the right of way is a part of his door-yard.

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It does not appear what the usage in Fall River and in the defendant's neighborhood is in regard to having fences in front of houses and gates at the entrance to yards. It is probable that there is some usage in regard to it, and it is reasonable to suppose that it may be customary to have such fences and gates. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it may be assumed that a person who receives a right to pass through his neighbor's yard receives it under the same conditions, as to an entrance to the yard, that owners generally impose upon themselves, and that the person who receives it would be likely, were he owner, to impose upon himself. It is not to be presumed from the mere fact that a person grants a right to pass through his yard to adjoining land, that he thereby agrees to leave his yard open to the public, and the reservation in a deed of a house and lot of a right to pass through the yard does not imply a right to remove usual and reasonable gates at the entrance. *Maxwell* v. *McAtee*, 9 B. Mon. 20. *Connery* v. *Brooke*, 73 Penn. St. 80.

All the facts and circumstances which are stated are consistent with the right of the defendant to maintain the gates, and nothing appears to restrict his right in that respect as owner of the fee. The court therefore properly ruled that he had the right to maintain suitable gates at either end of the strip of land over which the right of way was reserved.

Judgment on the verdict.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* GRIDLEY B. ROWELL.

Suffolk. February 3, 1888. — February 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Complaint — Surplusage — Evidence — Milk.

An averment in a complaint under the milk acts, that the defendants were "partners," is mere surplusage, and need not be proved.

On such a complaint, evidence that the defendant was on a wagon with a license number on it and containing milk cans, from one of which was taken adulterated milk, is competent on the issue that he was in possession of the milk to sell it.

COMPLAINT to the Municipal Court of the city of Boston, in two counts. The first count alleged that "Gridley B. Rowell and John A. Lawrence, copartners in trade," on July 22, 1887, "did have in their possession a certain quantity, that is to say one pint, of milk not of good standard quality, that is to say milk containing less than thirteen per cent of milk solids, with intent then and there unlawfully to sell the said milk." The second count alleged that "Rowell and the said Lawrence, copartners as aforesaid, did have in their possession a certain quantity, that is to say one pint, of milk, to which a certain foreign substance, to wit, annatto coloring-matter, had been added, with intent then and there unlawfully to sell the said milk."

In the Municipal Court, Lawrence was acquitted, and the defendant was tried and found guilty. Trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in substance as follows:

The government introduced evidence tending to show that one pint of milk was taken from a two-quart can, not marked "Skimmed milk," on a team on which was painted the license number and the name "Rowell & Lawrence," — on which team was the defendant, with certain other cans of milk, — and that the milk was handed to a chemist, in the employ of the milk inspector, for analysis, both of whom testified as to the results.

There was also evidence, on cross-examination of the government witnesses, that there were other milk dealers in Boston named Rowell.

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The government offered no evidence tending to prove a copartnership between the defendant and Lawrence, and no evidence that the defendant was the servant or agent of said copartnership, or of any other person.

The defendant offered no evidence, and asked the judge to rule that, under the complaint, the defendant could not be convicted; but the judge declined so to rule, and ruled that if the jury believed beyond a reasonable doubt that the milk was in the possession of the defendant, at the time the sample was taken from the can, with intent to sell the same, he should be convicted, notwithstanding the allegations in the complaint in reference to copartnership with Lawrence.

The defendant requested the judge to instruct the jury: "1. In order to convict, the government must prove that there was a copartnership between Rowell and Lawrence, and that the defendant was one of said partners Rowell and Lawrence, the name on the wagon. 2. The government not having submitted any evidence that there was such a copartnership, and no evidence that he was a copartner, and no evidence that he was the servant or agent of said copartnership, or of any other person, he cannot be convicted. 3. The mere fact that the defendant was in the wagon marked Rowell and Lawrence would not of itself be evidence that he intended to sell the milk, or expose or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange, said milk. 4. If the cart did not belong to Rowell, then the milk was not in his possession."

The judge declined to give these instructions, but instructed the jury that, if the defendant was upon the wagon, and in charge of the same, that was evidence from which the jury might find that he was in possession of said milk with intent to sell the same. The jury returned a verdict of guilty on the second count, and of not guilty on the first count; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

F. A. Perry, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, (*H. C. Bliss*, Assistant Attorney General, with him,) for the Commonwealth.

MORTON, C. J. The first count of the complaint charges that "Gridley B. Rowell and John A. Lawrence, copartners in trade, of said Boston," had in their possession, with intent to sell it,

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milk not of good standard quality; the second count, upon which alone the defendant Rowell was convicted, charges that "the said Rowell and the said Lawrence, copartners as aforesaid," had in their possession, with intent to sell it, milk to which a foreign substance had been added.

The court refused to rule that it was necessary for the government to prove that Rowell and Lawrence were copartners, and the defendant Rowell excepted. The rule is that mere surplusage will not vitiate a complaint or indictment, and need not be established by proof.

The complaint must allege all the material elements which constitute the offence charged, and they must be proved. And if the complaint unnecessarily alleges anything which is descriptive of the identity of the offence, it must be proved as alleged. But any allegations not descriptive of the identity of the offence, which can be omitted without affecting the charge against the defendant, and without detriment to the complaint, may be treated as surplusage, and need not be proved. *Commonwealth* v. *Pray*, 13 Pick. 359. *Commonwealth* v. *Cooley*, 10 Pick. 37. *Commonwealth* v. *Lewis*, 1 Met. 151.

In the case at bar, the allegation that the defendants are copartners in trade is entirely immaterial. If it be stricken out the complaint is good, and the same offence is charged. It is not one of the elements of the offence that they were partners, and the allegation may be rejected as surplusage and need not be proved. The rulings of the court upon this subject were correct.

The court also correctly ruled that the fact that the defendant Rowell was upon the wagon, under the circumstances stated in the testimony in the case, was competent evidence for the jury upon the issue whether he was in possession of the milk with intent to sell it. *Exceptions overruled.*

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* THOMAS FORD.

Middlesex. February 3, 1888. — February 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Evidence — Credibility — Prior Conviction — Charge to Jury.

Under the Pub. Sts. c. 169, § 19, the conviction either of a felony or of a misdemeanor may be shown to affect the credibility of a witness.

At a criminal trial it is within the discretion of the presiding judge, to the exercise of which no exception lies, to refuse to re-instruct the jury that they should not decide the case by a "majority or minority vote" and that "it is the right of any juror to stick to his judgment if he thinks he is right."

COMPLAINT for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a certain tenement used for the illegal sale and keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors.

At the trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Aldrich*, J., the defendant was a witness in his own behalf, and the government offered in evidence a record showing his previous conviction of a similar offence. The defendant objected to the introduction of the record, and asked the judge to rule that the word "crime" in the Pub. Sts. c. 169, § 19, meant felony, and not misdemeanor. The judge overruled the objection, and allowed the record to be put in evidence.

After the jury had retired and been out several hours, they were sent for by the judge, and in reply to a question put by him they reported that they had been unable to agree. The judge then read to the jury that part of the report of the case of *Commonwealth* v. *Tuey*, 8 Cush. 1, beginning with the words, (on page 2,) "The only mode," and ending with "and distrust the weight or sufficiency of that evidence which fails to carry conviction to the minds of their fellows," and also read that portion of the opinion in that case, (on page 4,) beginning with the words, "The jury room," and ending with "would become a most effectual obstacle to it."

The defendant then requested the judge to instruct the jury: "1. The case should not be decided with reference to a majority or minority vote of the jury; and 2. It is the right of any juror to stick to his judgment if he thinks he is right."

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The judge refused to give these instructions, which were in writing, but were not read to or in the hearing of the jury. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the defendant alleged exceptions.

T. Riley, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

BY THE COURT. Under the Pub. Sts. c. 169, § 19, the conviction of a witness of any crime, whether a felony or a misdemeanor, may be shown to affect his credibility. *Commonwealth* v. *Hall*, 4 Allen, 305.

It is to be presumed that proper instructions were given; and such instructions necessarily implied that the jury could not act by a majority, and that each juror must act upon his own convictions. The judge was not required to repeat these principles, which every juror must have understood. Whether he should do so was within his discretion, and no exception lies to his refusal to give the further instructions at the time and in the form requested by the defendant. *Exceptions overruled.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JOSEPH UHRIG.

Middlesex. February 3, 1888. — February 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Intoxicating Liquors — Evidence — United States Tax Receipt — Constitutional Law.

The St. of 1887, c. 414, § 2, providing that the posting on premises described in § 1 of a "United States tax receipt as a dealer" in certain liquors, shall be "*prima facie* evidence" that he or his agent in charge "keeps for sale and sells such liquors," is valid so far as it authorizes evidence of such posting.

COMPLAINT for keeping and maintaining a common nuisance, to wit, a certain tenement used for the illegal sale and keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors from May 1, 1887, to September 19, 1887.

At the trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Aldrich*, J., it was admitted that the defendant was the proprietor and

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had control of the Prospect House, a public hotel in Cambridge. The district attorney called as a witness one Batchelder, and asked him the following question: "During the time covered by the complaint did you see posted in the defendant's premises a United States tax receipt as a dealer in spirituous or intoxicating liquors other than malt liquors?"

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The defendant objected to the question, upon the ground that the St. of 1887, c. 414, so far as it authorized the introduction of such evidence, was unconstitutional and void. The judge overruled the objection, and the witness answered the question in the affirmative.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

H. E. Fales, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

By the Court. The fact that the defendant kept posted in his premises a United States tax receipt running to him as a dealer in spirituous or intoxicating liquors, is competent evidence that he kept the premises for the sale of liquor, irrespective of the provisions of the St. of 1887, c. 414.

So far as that statute authorizes the introduction of such evidence, it is merely declaratory of the common law, and is valid. In the case at bar, the only ruling was that the evidence was admissible; no ruling was asked or given as to the weight or effect of the evidence. The ruling given was clearly right, and we cannot properly consider any question not raised by the bill of exceptions. *Exceptions overruled.*

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CITY OF NEWBURYPORT *vs.* DANIEL CREEDON.

Essex. November 3, 1887. — February 15, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Essex County — Insane Person — Support — Statute.

Essex County may recover for the support of an insane person in its receptacle for the insane, under the Pub. Sts. c. 87, § 49, and is not restricted to § 47, as limited by the Pub. Sts. c. 220, §§ 60, 61.

HOLMES, J. This is an action under the St. of 1882, c. 113, to recover money paid by the plaintiff for the defendant's support in the Essex County receptacle for the insane at Ipswich. As the statute would not apply to a purely officious payment, the plaintiff seeks to show that it was bound to pay for the defendant's support there. It appears that the defendant had a settlement in the plaintiff city, and we assume that the defendant was a pauper at the time when the support was furnished and paid for. It was found that the terms of the Pub. Sts. c. 87, § 47, had not been complied with. The court ruled that the plaintiff was liable under that section only, and not under § 49 of the same chapter; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

There can be no doubt that the plaintiff falls within the words of § 49, or that it must prevail, unless the county of Essex is excepted by implication from the general words used, and is confined to such rights, if any, against towns where lunatics are settled, as are given by § 47. There is no obvious reason for making such a distinction, but the defendant contends that § 49 is merely a substantial re-enactment of a part of § 2 of the St. of 1836, c. 223, an act providing for lunatic asylums throughout the State, while § 47 represents a part of the later act of 1846, c. 154, §§ 1, 2, which made special provisions for the county of Essex; that this later act, by reference, attached certain conditions to the remedies given that county, and therefore overrode the earlier statute; and that the sections in the Public Statutes must be construed in the same way as the acts which they represent.

The St. of 1846, c. 154, § 2, gives the county the same remedies for the support of persons confined in the Essex lunatic asylum

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"as are provided in the preceding section for maintaining prisoners in the house of correction." By § 1, the "said county of Essex shall have the same remedies for maintaining prisoners committed to said house as are provided by law for the city of Boston in like cases." The counsel on both sides agree that § 2 thus gives the county the same remedies for the support of lunatics confined in the asylum as are provided by law for the city of Boston for maintaining prisoners in the house of correction, and that these are to be found in the Rev. Sts. c. 143, §§ 15, 16, re-enacted with important modifications in the Pub. Sts. c. 220, §§ 60–63, but then, as now, subjecting the remedy to the condition that the amount due should be certified as there required, (*Boston* v. *Amesbury*, 4 Met. 278,) whereas no such condition was expressed, at least in the act of 1836. Pub. Sts. c. 220, limits the remedy against towns much more, as we shall show.

The compilers of the General Statutes adopted the same construction in terms, and were followed by the Public Statutes. Gen. Sts. c. 74, § 2. Pub. Sts. c. 87, § 47.

It is at least doubtful, however, whether the St. of 1846, c. 154, § 2, meant anything more than that the county of Essex should have the same remedies as were provided by law for the city of Boston in like cases; that is, for the support of lunatics confined in the Boston lunatic asylum. By this interpretation the reference would be, not to the Rev. Sts. c. 143, but to the St. of 1839, c. 131, § 5, which corresponds almost word for word with the St. of 1836, c. 223, § 2, so far as it bears upon the present question. The St. of 1836 was held to give a remedy against the town of settlement in certain cases by necessary implication. *Watson* v. *Charlestown*, 5 Met. 54. The same would be true of the St. of 1839, by the same reasoning, and thus by the interpretation suggested we should avoid the anomaly of a different rule for Essex County from that which governs the other counties of the State. At the same time the argument for the defendant would be answered, so far as it depends on the order of the acts in point of time, which it mainly does. For if the original purport of the act of 1846 was not to put Essex County on a different footing from the others, the subsequent misunderstanding by the General Statutes and Public Statutes as to the acts to which it referred could not be held to set Essex apart for the first

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time, and to take it out of the broad provisions of the Pub. Sts. c. 87, § 49 (Gen. Sts. c. 74, § 6). In other words, if the Public Statutes should be read as a code all composed at the same time, we should have no doubt that § 49 applied to Essex County, for reasons which we shall state in a moment.

But supposing the defendant's interpretation of the act of 1846 to be the true one, the liability of towns for the support of persons committed to the house of correction was done away with, except in a limited class of cases, by the St. of 1843, c. 66, § 2, and it will be seen that the Pub. Sts. c. 220, § 61, (Gen. Sts. c. 178, § 58, amended by St. 1876, c. 148,) does not give counties the general remedy against towns of settlement provided by the Rev. Sts. c. 143, § 16. So that if the remedies of the county of Essex are limited to those given by the Pub. Sts. c. 220, § 61, referred to in the Pub. Sts. c. 87, § 47, they have now been cut down unwittingly, by changes made with a different intent upon a different subject matter, to much narrower limits than were imposed by the St. of 1846, however construed.

Such a result ought not to be, and we think that it is prevented by the changes which have been made in the Pub. Sts. c. 87, § 49, from the language of the original act of 1836. That act, as we have said, gave a remedy against towns, not in express terms, but by implication only. Then came the act of 1846, determining the remedies of Essex County by reference to other acts; then came modifications of the other acts supposed to be referred to; and then the acts of 1846 and 1836 were taken up into the Gen. Sts. c. 74, §§ 2, 6. The latter section gives a remedy in express terms which on their face and construed by their surroundings apply to all the counties. We are of opinion that these words, inserted as they were for the first time after the uncertainties introduced by the act of 1846 and the vicissitudes of the legislation upon which the section representing it has been made to depend, must be read as intended not only to place it beyond doubt that the counties had a remedy, but also to include all counties in a clear provision. The rest of the section, as to the comfortable support, government, and employment of "persons confined in said receptacles," undoubtedly refers to Essex, the receptacle in which is mentioned just above, as well as to other counties, as does also the

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provision that "such sum a week shall be allowed and paid for the support of persons so confined as the commissioners shall direct." We must give an equal scope to the following words, "and the same may be recovered of such person, or of any parent, kindred, master, guardian, city, or town obligated by law to maintain him." Pub. Sts. c. 87, § 49, is the same, except that it says "bound" instead of "obligated." We may note as a further reason for our construction, that this section gives a remedy against the person himself for the first time, unless it is given by implication by the Rev. Sts. c. 143, § 16.

But if Pub. Sts. c. 87, § 49, does apply to Essex County, then it is argued by the defendant, that, as the act of 1836 only gave a remedy to the county against the town by implication, it was subject by implication to the conditions in other cases; that is, the conditions expressed in the Rev. Sts. c. 143, §§ 15, 16; and therefore that the remedy expressly given by the Pub. Sts. c. 87, § 49, must be subject to the much more stringent terms and conditions in the Pub. Sts. c. 220, § 61. It is enough to say that, as the statute expresses no such terms or conditions, we cannot make it almost nugatory by implying them. The provision in the Pub. Sts. c. 220, § 60, for the county commissioners certifying the amount due, is made less necessary by the requirement that the sum to be paid in this case shall be directed by them in the first instance.

We may remark that, if the defendant's construction of the act of 1836 were the true one, then the act of 1846 did not put Essex County on a different footing from the other counties, and the defendant's main argument would be met in that way.

Exceptions sustained.

F. W. Hale, for the plaintiff.

N. N. Jones, for the defendant.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* HENRY PURDY.

Norfolk. November 21, 1887. — February 28, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Intoxicating Liquors — Complaint — Evidence — Time.

On a complaint dated August 23, 1887, and alleging the keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors on April 1, 1887, "and on divers days and times" between that date and November 1, 1886, evidence of such keeping prior to November 1, 1886, but within two years of the making of the complaint, is inadmissible.

COMPLAINT dated August 23, 1887, alleging that the defendant on April 1, 1887, at Medway, "and on divers days and times between said first day of April and the first day of November, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, did keep intoxicating liquors with intent to sell the same."

At the trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Blodgett*, J., evidence was admitted, against the objection of the defendant, that on July 3, 1886, a seizure of liquors was made in the dwelling-house occupied by the defendant, but not in the part occupied by him as a store; and that the defendant, in a conversation had with a witness in July, 1886, had admitted that he had previously sold intoxicating liquors.

The judge instructed the jury that if the evidence proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant kept at Medway intoxicating liquors with intent to sell the same at any time within two years before the making of the complaint, the jury would be authorized to find the defendant guilty.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

F. D. Ely, for the defendant.

H. C. Bliss, Assistant Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

MORTON, C. J. The offence of keeping intoxicating liquors with intent to sell the same unlawfully may extend over many successive days, and may properly be charged with a continuando. *Commonwealth* v. *Chisholm*, 103 Mass. 213. When a continuing offence is charged, the time alleged is material; it is descriptive

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of the offence, and fixes its identity; and the evidence generally must be confined to acts done within the time specified, and the defendant can be convicted only for such acts. *Commonwealth* v. *Briggs*, 11 Met. 573. *Commonwealth* v. *Elwell*, 1 Gray, 463. *Commonwealth* v. *Dunster*, 145 Mass. 101.

In the case at bar the offence is charged with a continuando, and the Superior Court erred in admitting proof of acts of the defendant at times not specified in the complaint, and in ruling that he might be convicted if he kept intoxicating liquors with intent to sell the same at any time within two years before the making of the complaint. *Exceptions sustained.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* SIMON GEARY.

Suffolk. February 3, 1888. — February 28, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Intoxicating Liquors — Complaint — Evidence — Club.

On a complaint for an unlawful sale of intoxicating liquors, after evidence that the defendant was found behind a counter with his coat off, in possession of whiskey in a bottle with glasses, and that he then made the sale alleged, all of which is contradicted, the defendant may show that the whiskey belonged to a club, of which he was a member, and that it was for the use only of such members, who had no right, and were not permitted, to sell any.

A request for an instruction, at the trial of such complaint, that, if only a portion of the whiskey was paid for, but the entire contents of the bottle when passed were kept, the glasses being used merely to taste from, there was no complete sale, was rightly refused.

COMPLAINT to the Municipal Court of the city of Boston, for an unlawful sale of intoxicating liquors on August 14, 1887, to Daniel H. Drew. Trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in substance as follows:

Drew and a brother officer testified that on August 14, 1887, they visited certain premises, and found the defendant behind a counter with his hat on and his coat off; that Drew called for whiskey and asked his companion what he would have, and he

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replied, the same; that the defendant passed them a bottle and two glasses, and Drew passed him two ten-cent pieces; and that they poured some of the contents of the bottle into the glasses, tasted it, poured it back into the bottle, and took bottle and contents away. On cross-examination, they admitted that they intended to obtain, and paid for, what is ordinarily considered in a bar-room as two drinks; that there was much more than that in the bottle; that from the time the bottle was passed to them the defendant did not regain possession of it or any of its contents; and that they poured some into the glasses, not to drink it, but to taste it.

The defendant testified that he was a member of an association that occupied the premises, and the liquor was owned by the association; that he had no control over it, and none of it was for sale; that at the time in question he had on his hat and coat; that he had been in the premises about twenty minutes with a friend whom he was talking with; that Drew and his companion came in; that the bottle was on the counter, and they took it, and paid no money; and that he called to have them bring it back, and, in going after them towards the door, was arrested. One Duffy, who was then present, testified substantially as the defendant did as to the transaction with Drew and his companion.

The defendant offered to show by several witnesses, who, with him, were members of an association called the Albany Associates, that the liquor on the premises was owned by the association, each member having contributed towards its purchase; that the defendant was simply a member, and had contributed the same amount as other members for the purchase of the liquor, as was their custom; that it was there only for the use of members; that none of it was for sale, and no member had a right, or was permitted, to sell any, all of which was excluded by the judge.

The judge instructed the jury as follows: The question to be determined is, whether the defendant did sell intoxicating liquors to one Daniel H. Drew. Did the officers go into the place and find the defendant behind the bar with his coat off? Did the officers call for whiskey, and did the defendant put it on the counter before them? Did they take some and pour it into two

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glasses? If so, this would make a sale, if he received two ten-cent pieces in payment. Those other arrangements and questions we have nothing to do with. Did the defendant do this act, as testified to by the officers? If so, he is guilty.

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The defendant requested the judge to rule, that if the officers paid for only a portion of the whiskey, and the bottle was passed them for that purpose, and they retained possession of the entire contents, and simply used the glasses to taste from, to determine what it was, and took all away, there was not a complete sale. The judge declined so to instruct, and the jury returned a verdict of guilty. The defendant alleged exceptions.

H. F. Naphen, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

C. ALLEN, J. For the prosecution, evidence was introduced tending to establish certain criminatory facts, namely, that the defendant was behind the counter with his coat off, and in possession of whiskey in a bottle, with glasses; thus being apparently prepared for making sales. This evidence tended to confirm the direct testimony of the government witnesses, that a sale was made by him. The direct testimony of a sale being contradicted by two witnesses, it was obviously important for the defendant to show, if he could, that the circumstances which bore against him were consistent with his innocence. In this aspect, testimony was competent to show that the whiskey did not belong to him, but to a club of which he was a member; that the whiskey was there merely for the use of the members, and was not for sale; and that no member had a right, or was permitted, to sell any. No doubt all these things might be true, and yet the defendant be guilty; but their tendency was in favor of his innocence. The jury might properly find them sufficient to explain the suspicious circumstances against him, and thus to rebut the presumption of fact which might otherwise arise from them. *Commonwealth* v. *Cotton*, 138 Mass. 500. *Commonwealth* v. *Pomphret*, 137 Mass. 564.

The final instruction asked for was properly refused.

Exceptions sustained.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JOHN SULLIVAN.

Suffolk. February 3, 1888. — February 28, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Lottery — Indictment — Evidence.

An indictment on the Pub. Sts. c. 209, § 1, alleging that the defendant "did set up and promote a certain lottery, ... which said lottery was then and there for money," is sufficient.

At the trial of an indictment for setting up and promoting a lottery, the evidence described a game substantially like the policy or envelope game, and the judge ruled that, if the evidence was believed, "it was a lottery and a setting up and promoting a lottery," and that the jury would be warranted in finding the defendant guilty. *Held*, that the ruling did not go too far.

On cross-examination a witness was asked if a person, present with him on another occasion when the game was played, did not charge him with having picked up on the floor a ticket produced at the trial, and with having proposed to swear that it was bought of the manager of the game. *Held*, that the exclusion of the question was within the judicial discretion.

If it does not appear with certainty that several transactions were not parts of one continuous setting up and promoting a lottery, the government is not obliged to elect one transaction on which to go to the jury.

INDICTMENT alleging that the defendant "did set up and promote a certain lottery, the name and a more particular description of which said lottery being to said jurors unknown, which said lottery was then and there for money, said lottery not being then and there authorized by law in said Commonwealth."

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, which, so far as material, was as follows:

Franklin H. Walker, the only witness called by the government, testified that he knew the defendant; that on April 1, 1886, he went to a small room in building No. 1156 Washington Street, Boston, in which was a long counter, and behind it were some men writing; that thirty minutes after he got there the defendant came in, took off his coat and hat, and said to one Graham, who was one of the writers, "I am ready to go to work"; that he asked the defendant if he was a writer there, and the defendant said he was, and on being further asked if he was the proprietor, replied that he was only hired there, and did it for money; that he asked the defendant to whom he should look for his

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money if he won any, and the defendant said he would settle all as soon as the drawings were made; that he gave the defendant four numbers, — what is called a "horse," that is, a combination of four numbers from a column of 78; that if he had given the defendant three numbers it would have been a "gig"; that he paid ten cents to the defendant; that he saw several other persons give the defendant numbers and give and take money; that the defendant gave him a ticket or piece of paper with 479 on it; and on being asked, "What does 479 stand for?" replied, "The number for the drawing; each drawing is numbered a class number. The drawings are put in envelopes."

Walker further testified, that he stayed there ten or fifteen minutes, and saw others receive from the defendant similar papers with numbers, and give money to him; that the defendant stood up and asked if there were any other parties that wanted to take part in the game; that the defendant took an envelope from the wall, and taking therefrom a slip of paper with twelve numbers in each column below 78, turned around and copied with chalk the numbers on a black-board, and also the class number; that then a man made a claim of five dollars, and the defendant paid him with money from the counter drawer; that then the defendant continued to write again, and he remained and saw another drawing made in the same way; that the numbers that the persons wanted to give the defendant, or call out, the defendant would write on slips of paper in place of the money he took from them; and that then, when the audience ceased to take part, another drawing was made, that is, the defendant took another envelope and took out a drawing just as he did in the other case.

Walker was then asked to "describe this game in full, — in detail"; but this question was excluded by the judge, and he proceeded to testify that his four numbers were 4, 17, 11, 44, and were not in the claim; that he was not entitled to any claim because those numbers did not appear in the claim, and that he did not draw any money. The latter portion of this testimony was objected to.

On cross-examination, Walker was asked, "Did one Washington go with you to this room on March 31, or April 3, 1886?" to which he replied, "Yes"; and "Did n't Washington charge you with picking up this paper you have produced, and other papers

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with numbers on them, from the room floor, and proposing to him to go into court and swear that they were bought of defendant and Graham, and did n't Washington say that he would n't have anything to do with you on that account?" The latter question was excluded, on objection by the district attorney.

The defendant also asked the judge to require the government to elect some transaction, complete by itself, on which they would go to the jury; but the judge refused so to rule, and ruled that the government might rely on all the transactions of said April 1, and that, as matter of law, if the jury should believe the evidence of Walker, "it was a lottery, and a setting up and promoting a lottery, and they would be warranted in finding that the defendant was guilty of setting up and promoting a lottery."

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. L. Eldridge, (*D. F. Fitz* with him,) for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, (*H. C. Bliss*, Assistant Attorney General, with him,) for the Commonwealth.

HOLMES, J. 1. This is an indictment under the Pub. Sts. c. 209, § 1, for setting up and promoting a lottery. The indictment follows the words of the statute, and is well enough.

2. The testimony described a game substantially similar to that described in *Commonwealth* v. *Wright*, 137 Mass. 250, which the jury found to be a lottery. The defendant asked the court to rule that there was no sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction. The court refused so to rule, but ruled that, if the evidence was believed, "it was a lottery, and a setting up and promoting a lottery," and that the jury would be warranted in finding the defendant guilty. If the statement that "it was a lottery," &c., was anything more than a preliminary explanation of why the court refused the defendant's request, the substance of the ruling made being that there was evidence for the jury, we cannot say that it went too far.

The testimony was not very clear, it is true, and further description seems to have been excluded on the defendant's objection. But if the evidence meant anything, it described a game in which a price was paid for a chance of a prize, and in which it purported to be determined by chance; that is, by means making the result independent of the will of the manager of the

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game, according to a scheme held out to the public, whether he who paid the money should have the prize or nothing. This having been determined to be a lottery in *Commonwealth* v. *Wright*, it is not necessary to go on forever taking the opinion of the jury in each new case that comes up. Whether or not a definitely described game falls within the prohibition of the statute, is a question of law. The defendant was bound to know at his peril. Whatever practical uncertainty courts may have felt upon a subject with which they are less well acquainted than some others of the community, in theory of law there is no uncertainty, and the sooner the question is relieved from doubt the better.

3. The court excluded a question by the defendant on cross-examination, whether one Washington, who, on another occasion, accompanied the witness to the same place, did not charge him with having picked up a paper produced, and with having proposed to Washington to swear that it was bought of the defendant, &c. The exclusion was proper, in the discretion of the court. There was no offer to prove that the witness acquiesced in the charge. The means of Washington's knowledge were not suggested. The witness might have been asked about the fact with which he was supposed to have been charged, and Washington might have been produced to contradict him if he could do so.

4. It did not appear with certainty that all the transactions of April 1 were not parts of one continuous setting up and promoting a lottery. The tendency of the evidence was the other way. The motion that the government should be required to elect some transaction complete in itself was rightly overruled.

Exceptions overruled.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* CHARLES O. TAY & another.

Middlesex. February 3, 1888. — February 28, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Intoxicating Liquors — Complaint — Surplusage — Instructions.

A complaint for unlawfully exposing and keeping for sale intoxicating liquors is supported by proof of such keeping for sale merely, and the averment of exposure may be rejected as surplusage.

If a judge at a criminal trial correctly instructs the jury as to the true interpretation of the statutes and law applicable thereto, no exception lies to his refusal to instruct them in terms that they may consider such statutes and law.

COMPLAINT to the First District Court of Eastern Middlesex, alleging that Charles O. Tay and Frank J. Daley, on January 15, 1887, "did expose and keep for sale intoxicating liquors, with intent unlawfully to sell the same in this Commonwealth," at Stoneham, without any "license, authority, or appointment."

At the trial in the Superior Court, on appeal, before *Hammond*, J., the complainant testified for the government that Daley kept a saloon on Central Street, wherein were cigars, tobacco, and light drinks; that he had a search-warrant, and on January 15, 1887, searched the saloon and a barn owned by one Emerson, fifty feet from Daley's saloon; that one could pass into the barn from the saloon over two open passageways; that in the barn he found a barrel of whiskey in the corner, two thirds full, with a lock-faucet upon it locked, and with a card upon it marked C. O. Tay, and covered over and concealed from sight by a sail-cloth, which barrel he carried away. This barrel of whiskey was claimed by Tay, who testified that he was an invalid, and that he had this liquor for his personal use, and who duly filed his claim as owner of the whiskey.

It appeared that the barn was leased by Emerson in 1885 to one Richardson, who had let a part of it to an expressman who was a brother of the defendant Daley, and a part for a month to Tay, from January 12, 1887, for which Tay had paid rent to Richardson; and that Daley alone kept and owned the saloon on Central Street, and Tay alone kept and owned a saloon on Main Street. There were no other intoxicating liquors found,

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nor, except as stated, was there evidence of any sale, or offering or exposing for sale, of the whiskey or other liquors.

It also appeared that the defendants were formerly in business together in the building occupied by Daley, but not within a year of the date of the complaint; that there was a private path leading from the back door of Daley's saloon to the window in the barn, through which was an opening; and that there were several empty flasks and empty lager beer bottles in the barn, near the barrel of whiskey, but Richardson testified that he owned them.

The defendants asked for these instructions: "1. That finding intoxicating liquors in the shop or barn is not *prima facie* evidence of keeping with intent to sell or expose for sale. 2. That the government must show that such liquor was kept with the intent to expose for sale or to sell in this Commonwealth. 3. That there must be an offer of the liquor by exposing it to those who might become purchasers. If the liquor is covered up, concealed, or deposited where its presence could not be seen or known to the public, it is not exposed for sale within the meaning of the statute. The words are to be taken together to get at the sense of the statute. 4. That the jury may consider the statutes of the Commonwealth relating to intoxicating liquors, and the law in the case."

The judge refused to give these instructions, but instructed the jury as follows: The burden is upon the government to satisfy you that the whiskey found in the barn was illegally kept for sale, or illegally exposed for sale, and that it was so kept or exposed by the defendants; that, as the defendants did not claim to have a license to sell spirituous or intoxicating liquor, if the whiskey was kept for sale and to be sold by defendants, or either of them, in this Commonwealth, or if any part of it was so kept, then the part so kept was illegally kept; that, upon the question of whether it was so kept, the jury may take into consideration all the circumstances disclosed in the evidence; that the mere fact that the whiskey was in the barn is not *prima facie* evidence one way or the other, but is simply one of the circumstances to be considered. If the whiskey, or any part of it, was illegally kept for sale, and the defendants, or either of them, so kept it, then the one who so kept it should be convicted. That the com-

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plaint is sustained if the jury are satisfied that the defendants kept the whiskey, or any part of it, for sale as above stated, although there was no exposure for sale, and that in this case there is no evidence to warrant a conviction upon the ground of exposure for sale.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendants alleged exceptions.

A. V. Lynde, for the defendants.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

C. ALLEN, J. The defendants merely present a brief, which is very short, and does not show in detail the grounds on which he relies in support of his exceptions. The judge ruled that there was no evidence to warrant a conviction upon the ground of exposure for sale. But the complaint was well supported by proof of keeping for sale. *Commonwealth* v. *Atkins*, 136 Mass. 160. *Commonwealth* v. *Welch*, 140 Mass. 372. The averment of exposure might have been omitted. *Commonwealth* v. *Sprague*, 128 Mass. 75. *Commonwealth* v. *Peto*, 136 Mass. 155. The judge having correctly instructed the jury upon the true interpretation of the statutes, and upon the law relating to the case, there was no occasion to give the fourth instruction which was asked for. *Commonwealth* v. *Anthes*, 5 Gray, 185. *Commonwealth* v. *Thorniley*, 6 Allen, 445, 448. We see no error in the trial. *Exceptions overruled.*

JOHN T. DOOLEY *vs.* ARNOLD G. POTTER.

Berkshire. September 28, 1887. — February 29, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Mortgage — Waiver — Accord and Satisfaction — Title — Interest.

A mortgage of land was made to secure certain notes. The mortgage was delivered, but a memorandum signed by the mortgagee provided for the safe keeping of the notes until the land was measured and the notes proportionately increased or reduced, and for remedying "any defects in said title." The notes were never delivered, but the mortgagor caused payments to be made on them, and in a second mortgage excepted the prior mortgage from the covenants, and stated the amount payable thereon; and a reconveyance of a portion of the land was made to the mortgagee. *Held*, on a bill in equity brought by an assignee of

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the second mortgage to redeem the land from the first mortgage, that the notes and mortgage became valid and subsisting by waiver, and that the title was made good.

The mortgagor made an agreement with an assignee of the first mortgage, which provided that the assignee should apply the proceeds of standing timber, sold to him by the mortgagor, in payment of the balance due on the notes, on which interest was to cease at once; but no such application was made by the assignee, and the performance of the agreement was abandoned. *Held*, that there was no accord and satisfaction of the mortgage debt, and that interest did not cease on the notes.

The memorandum provided, in terms, that, "if said land falls short the required number of acres to amount to the sum set forth in said notes at four dollars per acre, the said notes are to be reduced in that proportion." The sum of the notes was much larger than the value of the land described in the mortgage at that price, and the measurement reduced the quantity somewhat, but it appeared that other considerations besides the land entered into the notes. *Held*, that the "sum set forth in said notes" did not mean the whole amount of the notes, but that sum included in them which represented the land at that price, which latter sum only was to be reduced.

A master, to whom the case was referred, allowed a payment to free the land from an incumbrance; a note due in five, but described as due in four, years; taxes and interest thereon; and interest on the costs of a foreclosure suit; and reckoned interest in his account according to the rule of partial payments. *Held*, that the allowances were right, and that the interest was correctly computed.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed August 25, 1879, to redeem a parcel of land in the town of Florida, in this Commonwealth, from a mortgage held by the defendant. After the former decision, reported 140 Mass. 49, the case was again heard by *W. Allen*, J., on a further report of the master and exceptions thereto, and reserved for the consideration of the full court. The facts appear in the opinion.

M. E. Couch, for the plaintiff.

A. Potter, for the defendant.

W. ALLEN, J. In May, 1869, Peter Dooley made a mortgage to one Wiley, who assigned it, on November 27, 1869, to one Ketchum, who assigned it, on August 17, 1876, to the defendant. The plaintiff holds the equity of redemption under a mortgage deed given by Peter Dooley, on August 7, 1871, to one Edmonds, and assigned by Edmonds's administrator to the plaintiff in 1878, and seeks in this suit to redeem the land from the first mortgage. The case was referred to a master to report the amount due upon the mortgage held by the defendant, and was reserved for the full court upon the master's report and exceptions thereto. We will first consider the plaintiff's exceptions in their order.

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1. The first exception is to the allowance of anything as due upon the mortgage. The mortgage, which was of land conveyed by Wiley to Dooley as part of the same transaction, was to secure the payment of six notes, one of $100, and five of $432 each, one of which was reduced by the indorsement of a payment of $260. The mortgage was delivered, but the notes were put into the hands of one Robinson, with a writing signed by the mortgagee to the effect that it was agreed by him that the notes should remain in the hands of Robinson for safe keeping, and not be used for the benefit of the mortgagee until the land should be measured, and if there was found a deficiency or an excess in quantity the notes were to be reduced or increased in proportion, and all incumbrances were to be paid, and any defects in title made good. The objection is, that the terms of the memorandum have not been complied with, and the notes have never been delivered. The land was measured, and was found to be deficient in quantity. No indorsement was made on the notes. There were some defects in the title, but they appear to have been subsequently remedied; but that is not material, because it is obvious that the terms of the memorandum were not performed, that performance was waived by the mortgagor, that the memorandum was treated by all parties as not in force, and that the notes were valid, subsisting notes. It is not necessary to consider the objection of the plaintiff, that Peter Dooley could not, as against the plaintiff, waive performance after his mortgage to Edmonds in 1871. Before that time one of the large notes had been taken up, and a payment made upon another; before that time, in November, 1869, when only the small note was due, the mortgage had been assigned by Wiley to Ketchum, under whom the defendant claims, and Peter Dooley had made an agreement with Ketchum which made no reference to the memorandum, but recognized the notes as in force, and provided for payments to be made upon them; and at that time, in the mortgage to Edmonds, under which the plaintiff claims, the mortgage is excepted from the covenants, and the amount to be paid upon it is stated.

The plaintiff also claims that there was an accord and satisfaction of the mortgage debt under the agreement between Peter Dooley and Ketchum, dated January 1, 1875, which was in sub-

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stance, so far as relates to this point, that Ketchum that day bought of Dooley a quantity of timber standing on certain land in Vermont, at a certain price per thousand feet, the amount to be thereafter ascertained, and to be sufficient to pay the balance due on the notes and mortgage, and Ketchum was to have three years in which to take off the timber. Very little timber, if any, was taken out by Ketchum under this agreement, and none was applied by him on the mortgage debt. Neither the agreement nor anything done under it extinguished or satisfied the debt.

2. The plaintiff's second exception is to the amount allowed by the master on account of the deficiency in the quantity of land. The master found the deficiency to be thirteen acres, and allowed four dollars an acre under the memorandum before referred to, which provided that, "if said land falls short the required number of acres to amount to the sum set forth in the said notes at four dollars per acre, the said notes are to be reduced in that proportion." The plaintiff contends that the notes were given only for the price of the land which was at that time conveyed by Wiley to Peter Dooley, and that the agreement is to be so construed as to reduce the notes to the sum that the land when measured would amount to at four dollars an acre. This is one construction of the language of the memorandum, and the most natural one; but it is not plain, and the subject matter and attending circumstances show that it was not the meaning of the parties.

The land lay partly in Vermont and partly in this State. The part in Vermont was fixed by the deed at 200 acres, the part in this State was said to be 250 acres more or less. It was only the land in this State which could fall short or exceed 250 acres on measurement. This makes the required number of acres in it to make up the amount of the notes, to be 365, or 115 more than was estimated and stated in the deed, and the notes and mortgage to be $468 more than the parties believed to be the whole purchase money for the land, which, it is found, they put at the price of four dollars an acre. It was found by the master, that there had been a contract between Wiley and Peter Dooley by which Wiley had agreed to convey to Dooley 800 acres of land, which included that which was conveyed; that Dooley had

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been in possession under this contract and cut off wood and timber; and that there were difficulties and litigation between them in regard to it. The indorsement of $260 on one of the notes was made at the time the deed and mortgage were delivered, but did not represent any consideration then advanced, but was the result of some arrangement between the parties which is not disclosed, and it reduced the notes to the amount of the consideration named in the deed and mortgage, $2,000. This shows what without it would be the only reasonable way of accounting for the amount of the notes, that other considerations than the price of the land entered into them. Construing the agreement in the light of these circumstances, that the parties were settling differences as well as selling and buying land, that they did include something besides the price of the land in the notes, that they estimated the quantity of land at 450 acres and fixed the price at four dollars an acre, we think that by the words "sum set forth in said notes" they did not mean the whole amount of the notes, but that sum included in them which was the price of the number of acres mentioned in the deed at four dollars an acre. This would give the result reached by the master.

3. The plaintiff's third exception is to the refusal of the master to make deductions and allowances for certain supposed defects in title. Two defects in title are specified which existed when the mortgage was given; but the master finds that both have been made good, and there is no occasion to consider whether the plaintiff could avail himself as against the defendant of a breach by Wiley of the agreement made when the mortgage was given.

It is argued that the conveyance by Ketchum to Wiley of the twenty-five acres of the Johnson lot, so called, being a portion of the land in Vermont, was made after the land had been diminished in value by the cutting off of timber by Ketchum, and that the plaintiff cannot be required to accept that reconveyance as making good the title. The title to the land was made good by the deed to Wiley, and it was held under the mortgage, and the title to it was made absolute in the defendant by the foreclosure in Vermont, and its value was properly allowed by the master as part of the value of the land in Vermont. Whether any timber was cut from it by Ketchum under his paramount

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title under such circumstances as would make the allowance of its value upon the mortgage debt proper, and what amount, if any, was so cut, and whether any right there may have been to a reduction of the debt on that account was waived by Peter Dooley, we need not consider; no exception was taken to any finding or action of the master in that respect.

4. The plaintiff's fourth exception is to the allowance of two of the notes, on the ground that they are not correctly described in the mortgage. The only discrepancy which appears is, that the note payable in five years from its date is described in the mortgage as payable in four years; that is, the mortgage describes two notes payable in four years, instead of one payable in four years and one in five years. The note payable in five years is the one on which the $260 was indorsed at the time the mortgage was given. The master properly treated the amount due on it as due on the mortgage.

5. The exception to the allowance for payment of taxes, and of interest on such payment, must be overruled.

6. The sixth exception is to the allowance of any interest on the notes after January 1, 1875, on the ground that, by the agreement of that date between Ketchum and Peter Dooley, interest on the notes was to stop at that time. The words relating to interest on the notes are, "the interest on the forementioned notes at the date of this instrument per agreement is to stop." This agreement has already been adverted to in considering the first exception. Besides giving to Ketchum the right to cut timber on land of Dooley in Vermont, to apply on the mortgage notes, it gave him the right to cut a certain quantity of timber on the mortgaged premises in this State. One Arnold held a deed of the land in this State at the time of the mortgage, as security for a note of Wiley's, and Ketchum had paid him and taken a quitclaim deed of the land from him. By the agreement, Ketchum agreed to quitclaim this land to Peter Dooley. The whole agreement was in the form of a sale of timber standing in Vermont in sufficient quantity to pay the mortgage debt, to be cut and removed within three years, and of a certain quantity of timber standing in this State, at a fixed price, which was equal to the amount Ketchum had paid to Arnold, and Ketchum was to extinguish any claim under Arnold's deed by quitclaim-

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ing to Peter Dooley. Under this agreement Ketchum cut off about the amount of timber he was authorized to cut on the Massachusetts land, but a little less. The master finds that some of it, but he cannot tell how much, was cut from the land in Vermont. All that was cut was applied by Ketchum to reimburse himself for the money he had paid to Arnold. It was not an executed sale of the timber in Vermont, and Ketchum's right to cut it was limited to three years. Nothing was ever done under the part of the contract that related to the mortgage notes; no payment was made on the notes by Ketchum, and he did not give the quitclaim to Dooley. All that was done under the whole agreement was, that Ketchum cut off the timber to repay himself what he had paid to Arnold; he gave a quitclaim of the right he had from Arnold, not to Peter Dooley, but to the defendant when he became assignee of the mortgage which Ketchum held, which this bill is brought to redeem. The agreement so far as related to that mortgage was never acted on by the parties, and was wholly abandoned by them. The agreement as to interest on the notes fell with the rest.

7. The seventh exception is to the allowance of interest on the costs of the foreclosure suit in Vermont. The same mortgage covered lands in Vermont, and the plaintiff obtained a decree of foreclosure in that State. The decree was entered on December 22, 1883, fixed the amount due on the mortgage and the costs of suit, and required payment of those sums and interest by a fixed day, or the right of redemption would be foreclosed. The payment was not made, and the foreclosure was completed. In fixing the value of the land to be applied to the mortgage debt, the master deducted from its full value the amount of the costs, with interest from the date of the decree until the foreclosure was perfected. The objection is to the allowance of the interest. We think this was right. The amount of the costs when the mortgage was foreclosed should be deducted from the value of the land, to ascertain the amount that was applicable to the debt, and that, by the terms of the decree, included interest from the date of the decree.

8. The eighth exception is to the application to the Arnold mortgage of the value of the timber cut by Ketchum, as stated under the sixth exception. The application to the Arnold mort-

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gage was made by Ketchum. The master applied the value of the timber cut by Ketchum to the defendant's mortgage.

The defendant's exception to the refusal of the master to allow annual interest must be overruled. His other exceptions become immaterial. *Exceptions of both parties overruled.*

CLARENCE A. HADDOCK, executor, *vs.* BOSTON AND MAINE RAILROAD.

Essex. January 28, 1888. — February 29, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Will — Probate — Limitation — Evidence.

A will devising lands may be admitted to probate at any time after the death of the testator.

A woman, whose husband was reputed to have died soon after their marriage, and to whom a deed of land, describing her as "Sarah P., widow," was given in 1801, made a will devising the same land in 1807, as "Sarah P.," without more, and died in 1822, the will being probated in 1885. *Held*, that the fact that she made the will was competent evidence of her legal capacity.

APPEAL by the Boston and Maine Railroad from a decree of the Probate Court, entered November 16, 1885, allowing the will of Sarah Pendergast, formerly of Haverhill, who died in 1822.

Trial in this court before *Morton*, C. J., who reported the case for the consideration of the full court, which, so far as material, is as follows:

The executor claimed that the appellant had no right to appeal from the probate of the will; but it was agreed that the title of the appellant to real estate devised by the will might be affected by the establishment of rights under the will if it was admitted to probate, and the judge ruled that the appellant had the right to appeal.

The following issue among others was submitted to the jury: "4. Was Sarah Pendergast a married woman, having a lawful husband alive at the time of the execution of said will?" The executor offered in evidence the writing propounded for probate as the will of Sarah Pendergast, which was delivered to him in

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1884, having been found among papers in the possession of one of her heirs, and which, so far as material, was as follows: "I, Sarah Pendergast, of Haverhill, in the county of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being of sound mind, memory, and understanding, do make, publish, and declare this my last will and testament, in manner following: . . . . 1. I give, devise, and bequeath unto my grandson, Samuel Frink, Jr., and his heirs and assigns forever, all my real estate, consisting of a small lot of land situate in said Haverhill, with a small dwelling-house and barn on the same; and in case the said Samuel Frink, Jr., shall decease in my lifetime, I will that my daughter Elizabeth Frink shall have, hold, and enjoy the aforesaid real estate, and at her decease to be equally divided between her children. . . . . In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seven. Sarah Pendergast. [Seal.]"

It appeared that in 1859 one of the heirs of Sarah Pendergast brought suit against the appellant to recover possession of a portion of the land devised by the will, and the executor offered in evidence a deed from Mary Ayer to "Sarah Pendergrass, of Haverhill aforesaid, widow," dated December 25, 1801, and duly recorded, which purported to convey the premises claimed by the demandant in that suit, together with testimony tending to show that the deed was found with the file of court papers in that case. The appellant objected to the admission of this deed; but the judge admitted it, on the ground that the recitals contained in it, and the fact that the grantee received it, and acted under it, had a bearing upon the question whether the husband of Sarah Pendergast, as it was conceded that she had been previously married, was living when she executed the paper purporting to be her will. There was also evidence tending to show that the tradition and repute in the family were that Pendergast died soon after his marriage.

The appellant requested the judge to make the following rulings: "1. That, as matter of law, the paper offered could not be admitted to probate as a will, by reason of the lapse of time since it purported to have been executed, and the death of the testatrix. 3. That upon the evidence the jury would not be authorized to find that Sarah Pendergast was a widow at the

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time of the execution of the instrument propounded. 4. That, in determining whether or not Sarah Pendergast was a widow when she executed said instrument, the jury would have no right to consider the fact that she executed a paper purporting to be a will as evidence that she had legal capacity to execute a will devising land."

The judge declined so to rule; the appellant excepted to such refusal; and the judge submitted the issue to the jury, under instructions not otherwise excepted to.

If the rulings and refusals to rule, made under the exception of the appellant, were incorrect, another trial of the issues was to be had; if otherwise, the case was to stand for further proceedings in this court.

S. Lincoln, for the appellant. 1. To the opinion of the court in *Shumway* v. *Holbrook*, 1 Pick. 117, the reporter has appended the following note: "Mr. Justice Jackson, at the argument, said that there was a case in the county of Essex perhaps thirty years ago, where it was found that the widow of a testator must hold land under the will which had not been proved. The will was therefore carried to the probate office, but, more than twenty years being elapsed since the death of the testator, the judge of probate refused to allow it; but upon an appeal the decision was reversed, as a will must be proved and allowed in order to convey land."

The case in Essex referred to by Mr. Justice Jackson was, without doubt, the case of *Bourne* v. *Greenleaf*. An examination of the papers on file in the Probate Court and in the Supreme Judicial Court confirms this belief, because the facts there disclosed appear to conform to Mr. Justice Jackson's statement of them. This was also the opinion of Mr. Justice Gray, as stated in *Waters* v. *Stickney*, 12 Allen, 13.

The papers on file in *Bourne* v. *Greenleaf* show that a paper purporting to be the will of Thomas Beck, bearing date August 1, 1765, was offered for probate to the Probate Court of Essex County on December 7, 1801, by Joseph Buckley, attorney to Deborah Bourne, who recites in her petition that she is a sister and one of the heirs of Frances Beck, deceased, who was named in the will of Thomas Beck as his widow and executrix. Her petition does not state the date of the death of Thomas Beck, nor of the death of Frances Beck. It prays the court "to pro-

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ceed to hear and examine the witnesses whose names are subscribed to said will, and to prove and allow the same in due form of law." Upon the same day the court decided as follows: "I do not consider myself authorized by law to make any order or decree on the instrument above mentioned, and therefore do not grant the above request"; and Deborah Bourne claimed an appeal from the decision, which was duly entered in the Supreme Judicial Court. One of her reasons of appeal was as follows: "*Third.* That the said judge was fully authorized by law to proceed to hear and examine the said subscribing witnesses, and upon such examination to prove, approve, and allow the said instrument as the last will and testament of the said Thomas Beck." The appeal was duly heard by the Supreme Judicial Court at a term beginning November 9, 1802, and the court admitted the will to probate. The record contains this simple statement, but no reasons for the decree are given. The members of the court who held the term were the "Honble Theodore Sedgwick, Esq., Samuel Sewall, Esq., George Thatcher, Esq., Justices."

Among the papers on file in the probate office at Salem is a letter bearing date January 5, 1801, addressed to the judge of probate by Abner Greenleaf, asking that notice be given to the heirs of Thomas Beck in case any instrument purporting to be his last will should be presented for probate, "as there are several reasons which the said heirs will give against proving that will at this late hour." There is also another paper on file in the probate office, without signature and without date, which begins as follows: "May it please your honour, I have objections as follows: 1st. Because the executrix is dead, and she lived upwards of thirty years after the death of the testator and never offered this will for probate; now, may it please your honour, as the executrix is dead, I wish to know by what authority Mr. Hinkley offers this will for probate. No administration shall be granted, says the law, on any estate after thirty years, &c., and how can a will be proved after upwards of thirty years, and an administration granted with the will annexed?" &c. It does not appear that this paper was ever presented to the appellate court. The handwriting indicates that it was probably written by the same hand which wrote the paper above mentioned signed Abner Greenleaf. Unless this unsigned manu-

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script be held to exhibit the facts of this case, there is no evidence to show how long it was after the testator's death when his will was admitted to probate.

In *Shumway* v. *Holbrook*, 1 Pick. 117, the court says, "If a will can be found, it may be proved in the probate office at any time, in order to establish a title to real estate." The case does not decide this point, however, but merely that a will of which there has been no probate cannot be admitted in evidence; and the words quoted are *obiter dicta*.

In *Waters* v. *Stickney*, 12 Allen, 13, Mr. Justice Gray says, "It has been directly adjudged by this court that a will may be proved even thirty years after the death of the testator," &c.; and cites as authority *Bourne* v. *Greenleaf* and *Shumway* v. *Holbrook*. In this case, again, the only point decided material to the present discussion is that a codicil may be admitted to probate fourteen years after the maker's death, and the words quoted above are again *obiter dicta*.

The cases of *Bourne* v. *Greenleaf*, *Shumway* v. *Holbrook*, and *Waters* v. *Stickney* are all the cases decided in Massachusetts which touch the question under consideration, and they all rest upon the narrow foundation of *Bourne* v. *Greenleaf*, and in that case the essential facts are not authenticated, nor is it clear to what extent the matter of the alleged lapse of time was brought to the attention of the court, or was argued before it or considered by it.

After a lapse of more than eighty-five years since *Bourne* v. *Greenleaf* was decided, and when so little appears upon the record, the case cannot be regarded as one of controlling authority; and at most, neither this case nor either of the others which follow and depend upon it, is authority for the proposition that a will can be admitted to probate more than thirty years after the death of the maker.

2. The jury should have been instructed that, in determining the question whether or not, when Sarah Pendergast executed the paper purporting to be a will, she had legal capacity to make a will devising land, they had no right to consider as evidence of such capacity the fact that she executed the paper. The appellant submits that no presumption of any sort arises, and that the jury should have been instructed that the fact that

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a paper was executed had no tendency to show that its maker had legal capacity to execute it.

B. F. Butler & P. Webster, for the executor.

DEVENS, J. The first question discussed by the appellant is whether the Probate Court has authority, as matter of law, to admit a will to probate sixty-three years after the death of the testator, and incidentally whether there is any limit of time after the death of the testator subsequent to which the court has no such authority.

In *Shumway* v. *Holbrook*, 1 Pick. 115, 117, the question was whether a will not admitted to probate was admissible in evidence. It was held that it was not, but it is said: "If a will can be found, it may be proved in the Probate Court at any time, in order to establish a title to real estate. It differs from an administration of personal property, which cannot be originally granted upon the estate of any person after twenty years from his decease." In the course of the argument Mr. Justice Jackson alluded to a case in Essex County perhaps thirty years before, where it was found that a widow "must hold land under the will which had not been proved." The will having been offered for probate, the judge of probate declined to allow it, as more than twenty years had elapsed since the death of the testator, and on appeal his decision was reversed and the will admitted to probate. The research of the counsel for the defendant has established that the case thus alluded to was that of *Bourne* v. *Greenleaf*, Essex, 1802; *S. C.* cited 1 Pick. 117, note; and has supplied us with as satisfactory an account of it, drawn from the papers on file, as they will afford. It is a case to which some weight must be attached, as it brought into question directly the authority of the Court of Probate, and the appeal was to the full bench of the Supreme Court, which reversed the original decree. While no opinion appears to have been written, it could not but have been a carefully considered case, as it reversed the opinion of the judge of probate as to the extent of his jurisdiction. The will thus admitted to probate was so admitted thirty-six or thirty-seven years after its date. How long after the death of the testator does not clearly appear, although some of the papers found indicate that it was more than thirty years after.

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In *Marcy* v. *Marcy*, 6 Met. 360, 370, the question was whether there was sufficient evidence that a will which became operative forty-three years before had been admitted to probate so that it could be read in evidence. The court held that there was such evidence, adding, "On evidence like the present, it would be the duty of the Probate Court to establish the will, if, for want of form, the probate should have been considered so defective that the will had been rejected as evidence in its present state."

In *Waters* v. *Stickney*, 12 Allen, 1, where it was held that the Probate Court, fourteen years after admitting a will to probate, might admit to probate a codicil written upon the same leaf, which had escaped attention and was not passed upon at the time of the probate of the original will, it is said by Mr. Justice Gray, citing the above cases, "It has been directly adjudged by this court that a will may be proved even thirty years after the death of the testator, although original administration could not by statute be granted after twenty years"; and again, "If no will had been proved, the lapse of time would not prevent both will and codicil from being proved now."

While it is true that in neither of these cases has it been decided that a will disposing of lands can be admitted to probate after sixty years, yet there is no suggestion in any of them that there is any limitation of time to such proof, and the language used is quite explicit to the contrary. In view of the decisions made, and the repeated expressions directly relevant to the cases considered used in argument by judges of this court, we cannot treat this inquiry, as the defendant desires we should, as practically a new question. We must deem it one that has been fairly passed upon and decided.

It may be that the inconveniences which might arise from the probate of a will many years after the death of the testator are such that a statute limiting the period might be properly enacted. That course has in some States been adopted. Conn. Gen. Sts. 1875, tit. 18, c. 11, § 11. Maine Rev. Sts. c. 64, § 1. But statutes of limitation are arbitrary, and the considerations which apply to positive laws of this character are legislative rather than judicial. In every instance where a great length of time has elapsed after the death of a testator, possessory titles may have been acquired which will prevail against the record. What is due to

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the just rights of the devisees is to be considered with reference to other rights of property, or to the repose of the community, but such considerations belong to the domain of legislation.

So long as one can produce the evidence necessary to obtain the probate of a will, we can see no legal reason why one who relies upon it should not be allowed to prove it as he would be permitted to prove a deed, however ancient, under which he claimed title. The fact that he could not offer in evidence a will not admitted to probate, as he might an ancient deed, would certainly afford no reason why its authenticity should not be established in the Probate Court by its regular course of procedure.

The appellant further contended that the jury ought not to have been allowed, in determining the question whether the testatrix was a widow and thus competent to make a will as the law stood in 1807, to consider the fact that she actually executed a paper purporting to be a will devising land as any evidence that she had legal capacity so to do. This fact, in connection with the other facts proved, was competent to be considered. There was no ruling that alone it would have been sufficient to establish her legal capacity, that is, that she was at the time a widow. There was evidence of reputation that the husband of the testatrix died soon after their marriage; that a deed was made to her on December 21, 1801, of the very land which she undertook to dispose of by will, in which she was described as "Sarah Pendergrass, widow," which deed was found among her papers; and that she executed the will by the same name as that recited in the deed in which she was described as widow, although that word is not appended to her name in the will. The act done by her of disposing, or assuming to dispose, of her property, which she could only lawfully do if a widow, was an assertion of her status, and thus of her legal capacity, made in an important transaction, which might properly have been considered in connection with the other evidence.

The conclusion we have reached renders it unnecessary to decide whether the appellant was lawfully entitled to appeal. Other exceptions taken by it were waived in this court.

Cause to stand for further proceedings.

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PATRICK DONNELLY *vs.* BOSTON CATHOLIC CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

Suffolk. November 15, 1887. — February 29, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Public Charity — Cemetery Corporation — Negligence.

A cemetery corporation, which voluntarily uses its funds for objects akin to the purposes of its organization, is not a public charity, but is liable to the proprietor of a grave for the negligent burial of a stranger therein.

TORT for negligently burying the body of a stranger in a grave belonging to the plaintiff. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Aldrich*, J., who ordered a verdict for the defendant, and reported the case for the determination of this court as follows:

It appeared that the defendant was specially incorporated by the St. of 1851, c. 292, "for the purpose of establishing and perpetuating a place for the burial of the dead," subject to the St. of 1841, c. 114,* and by subsequent legislation was author-

* The sections material to this case are as follows:

"Section 3. Every such corporation may take and hold, by purchase or otherwise, so much real and personal estate as may be necessary for the objects of their organization; and all such real and personal estate shall be applied exclusively to purposes connected with, and appropriate to, the objects of such organization.

"Section 4. Every such corporation shall have authority to lay out the real estate which they may hold in suitable lots or subdivisions, and to grant and convey to any person or persons the sole and exclusive right of burial, and of erecting tombs or cenotaphs, in any such designated lot or subdivision, and of ornamenting the same, upon such terms and conditions, and subject to such regulations as said corporation shall prescribe.

"Section 5. The lots in said cemetery which may be granted as aforesaid shall be held indivisible, and upon the decease of any proprietor, the heirs at law or devisees of such proprietor, as the case may be, shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership; provided, however, that if there be more than one heir or devisee of any lot, they shall be held to give in writing, within nine months from the decease of such proprietor, to the clerk of said corporation, which of said heirs or devisees shall represent said lot; and in case said heirs or devisees shall fail so to do, the board of trustees shall enter of record which of said heirs or devisees shall represent said lot, and vote at the meetings of said corporation, until said heirs or devisees shall designate as aforesaid."

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ized to hold real and personal estate for the purposes for which it was established to the amount of $132,500; that it had no capital stock, issued no certificates of shares, and paid no dividends or any profits; that no member of the corporation, by virtue of his membership, received any pecuniary benefit whatever from the association; that all of the money received by the corporation, whether from the sale of graves or otherwise, was exclusively used for ornamenting the grounds, burying the poor, giving graves to public institutions, and carrying out the purposes for which the corporation was formed; that when persons died without leaving sufficient funds for burial, the corporation gave graves, and furnished the coffin and hearse, and in case of the death of any of the inmates of public and charitable institutions, the graves were, upon application, furnished for nothing; and that this had been the character and course of the association from its organization.

The plaintiff, in 1878, purchased a grave from the defendant for seven dollars, the deed of which entitled him and his heirs and assigns to the grave as a place of burial, and contained the following conditions: "that said lot shall not be transferred without the consent of the trustees; shall be subject to the regulations made, or to be made, in the care and management of said cemetery by the trustees, who shall also have the right to prevent the erection of any offensive or improper monument or inscription thereon; and shall retain the right to enter any lot or lots for the removal of anything objectionable; that no remains shall be deposited therein for hire; and that persons dying in drunkenness, duel, or by self-destruction, unbaptized, non-Catholics, or otherwise opposed to the Catholic Church, shall not be there interred."

The plaintiff had successively buried his father and one of his children in this grave, and in March, 1884, brought the remains of his wife for interment in the same grave. Upon the arrival of the funeral procession at the grave, there appeared upon the side of the grave, which had previously been opened by a gravedigger in the employ of the corporation, two small coffins, one of which bore the name of John McDonald. The plaintiff testified that no John McDonald had ever been buried in his grave with his consent, and offered testimony tending to show that

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this body of John McDonald, and the coffin containing the same, had been negligently buried by the employees of the corporation in his grave. Among other testimony thus put in by the plaintiff, he offered evidence to show that, at the time of the burial of his wife, there were in the possession of the defendant no books of record which would enable its officers (independently of an actual examination of the grave, or a search through the day-book of daily interments since the purchase of the grave) to determine in all cases, without considerable delay, who might be buried in any specified single grave, and that there were not, at the time of the burial of the plaintiff's wife, any regulations or orders of the corporation requiring or directing the keeping of such records.

The defendant contended, and offered testimony to show, that the coffin and body of John McDonald had never been buried in the plaintiff's grave, or if so buried such burial was not made by any person for whom the defendant was responsible.

No claim was made or evidence offered by the plaintiff that there was any negligence in the employment or selection by the corporation of the grave-digger above referred to, or any of its servants or employees. There was evidence tending to show that some sixty thousand bodies were buried in the cemetery of the defendant at the time of the trial; and it also appeared that the agent or superintendent of the corporation who had charge of the cemetery received a salary of $300 per annum, and that the grave-diggers, who were employed by him, also received pay for their services from the corporation. It also appeared, that when a grave had been sold, and the same was subsequently opened at the request of the owner for the purpose of a fresh interment, a charge of three dollars was made by the corporation for such opening; which sum, however, was devoted, with the other receipts of the corporation, to carrying out the general purposes of the corporation, as above stated.

If the ruling of the judge was correct, judgment was to be entered on the verdict; if the ruling was incorrect, judgment was to be entered for the plaintiff, by agreement of parties, in the sum of $250.

J. L. Eldridge, for the plaintiff.

C. L. B. Whitney, for the defendant.

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HOLMES, J. There was evidence warranting a verdict for the plaintiff if the defendant was subject to the ordinary rules of liability. We are of opinion that it was subject to those rules, and that by the terms of the report judgment must be entered for the plaintiff. *McDonald* v. *Massachusetts General Hospital*, 120 Mass. 432, was decided on the ground that the defendant was a public charitable institution under the laws of the Commonwealth, and *Benton* v. *Trustees of Boston City Hospital*, 140 Mass. 13, on the ground that, if it was not within the former decision, then the defendant was a mere agent to perform a duty which the city of Boston had assumed solely for the benefit of the public, under the authority of a statute; that the city of Boston would not be liable under the rules peculiar to municipal corporations stated in *Tindley* v. *Salem*, 137 Mass. 171, and *Hill* v. *Boston*, 122 Mass. 344; and that therefore a mere statutory agent without property intervening between the city and the actual wrongdoer was also free from liability.

The latter ground has no application here. There is no pretence that the defendant is acting as an agent for the city. We think that there is equally little ground for calling it a charitable corporation. Assuming for the sake of argument that it would have no right to declare dividends to its members in case of realizing profits, there is nothing in the charter which compels the application of any part of its funds to charitable uses. It would be acting strictly within its powers if it sold all its lands for full price. The purpose of the charter is to secure permanent care of graves, and such advantages to the persons interested as may be deemed incident to burial in such a cemetery. The beneficiaries are a definite number of persons clearly pointed out by law. St. 1841, c. 114, §§ 4, 5. *Old South Society* v. *Crocker*, 119 Mass. 1, 23. See *Evergreen Cemetery Association* v. *Beecher*, 53 Conn. 551; *Matter of Deansville Cemetery Association*, 66 N. Y. 569.

The provision in the St. of 1841, c. 114, § 3, that all the real and personal estate of the corporation "shall be applied exclusively to purposes connected with, and appropriate to, the objects of such organization," does not mean to exempt its property, and thus the corporation, from ordinary civil liabilities. There is a similar restriction, express or implied, in the case of a railroad.

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The fact that the funds received were actually applied to a considerable extent in charity, is no more material than evidence of a similar application of a part of his income by a private citizen would be, in a suit against him.

Judgment for plaintiff.

CHARLES ROBINSON & another, administrators, *vs.* GEORGE W. SIMMONS & others.

Suffolk. November 17, 18, 1887. — February 29, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Partnership — Surviving Partners — Distribution of Profits — Equity Practice.

The representatives of a deceased partner, whose capital is used by the surviving partner in the business, may generally, if there is no agreement, elect to demand either interest on such capital or the profits earned by its use.

A surviving partner, who in good faith continues to use in the business his deceased partner's capital with the consent of a majority of his heirs, is entitled to compensation for his skill and services out of the profits earned by it; and the latter's representatives will take only such profits as then remain.

The surviving partners in a manufacturing firm paid the debts of a deceased partner out of the firm assets, and continued to use in the business his share of the capital, which consisted largely of goods in process of manufacture, with the consent of the majority of his heirs but against the protest of the minority, and realized large profits. Subsequently, the majority agreed that their shares of the capital might remain in the business at a certain rate of interest, and the minority were paid a sum on account of their shares. *Held*, on a bill in equity for an accounting, that the debts so paid should go in reduction of the deceased partner's capital, and that the balance due the minority after the payment on account should be paid with interest at the rate agreed on by the majority.

On a bill in equity by administrators against the surviving partners and all the heirs of the intestate, the object of which is to ascertain a sum due from the partners to a minority of the heirs, this court will order payment of such sum to be made directly to the latter.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed March 25, 1884, by two of the administrators of the estate of George W. Simmons against the surviving partners of the firm of George W. Simmons and Son, one of whom was the remaining administrator, for an account and for the recovery of an amount due the estate. On January 29, 1887, the bill was amended so as to make the surviving children

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of said Simmons, and the representatives of his widow and of a deceased child, parties defendant. The case was referred to a master, whose report, so far as material, is as follows:

On February 1, 1869, George W. Simmons, who had been engaged for many years in the business of manufacturing and selling clothing at "Oak Hall," so called, numbered 32 and 34 North Street, in Boston, formed a copartnership with his son, George W. Simmons, junior, and Philip A. Spofford. By the terms of the partnership, George W. Simmons was to receive eighty-two per cent of the profits, George W. Simmons, junior, ten per cent, and Philip A. Spofford eight per cent of the same; and this arrangement continued until the death of George W. Simmons, except that his share of the profits was from time to time reduced, and the share of the profits of George W. Simmons, junior, was correspondingly increased.

George W. Simmons died, intestate, on December 14, 1882, leaving a widow and seven children. The balance of capital to his credit on that day was $66,480.10; to the credit of the defendant Simmons, $9,584.29; and to the defendant Spofford, $5,203.29; making a total capital of $81,267.48. The widow was entitled to one third of her husband's interest, and the children, including the defendant Simmons, were entitled to the remaining two thirds.

Immediately after the death of George W. Simmons an account of stock was taken by the firm, and on December 20, 1882, the defendants Simmons and Spofford formed a new copartnership under the firm name of G. W. Simmons & Co., by the terms of which the former was to receive ninety-two per cent of the profits and the latter eight per cent of the same. The new firm paid the liabilities, and began business at the same place with the stock and assets of the old firm, and without any new capital, and have continued to do a profitable business. No consent was given by Virginia A. Beals, Edith W. Beals, or Frances A. Henshaw, three married daughters of George W. Simmons, or by the representative of the last named daughter and her children, to such use and appropriation of the stock and assets of the old firm, and they always objected thereto; but the same was concurred in by the widow and the other three children, besides the defendant Simmons. The heirs were not

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able to agree upon the appointment of administrators upon the estate, and the Probate Court, on February 5, 1883, appointed two administrators, of whom the defendant Simmons was one. From this decree an appeal was taken, and in November, 1883, the plaintiffs and the defendant Simmons were appointed administrators by the Supreme Judicial Court.

On September 1, 1883, the widow and the three children last named executed the following writing: "The undersigned desire, and do hereby give their consent, that their respective shares in the interest of G. W. Simmons (deceased) in the firm of G. W. Simmons and Son, Oak Hall, shall remain in the business as at present conducted by G. W. Simmons and P. Augustus Spofford under the name of G. W. Simmons & Co. for a period of three years; simple interest to be paid reckoned at rate of seven (7) per cent yearly, — payable quarterly or monthly if desired."

On August 27, 1883, the surviving partners paid to two of the heirs, and to the representative of the third, who had not consented to the use by the firm of their interests in the estate, the sum of $20,000, taking the following receipt therefor: "Boston, August 25, 1883. Received of George W. Simmons and T. Augustus Spofford, surviving partners of the firm of George W. Simmons and Son, the sum of ($20,000) twenty thousand dollars, the same to be accounted for in settlement of the estate of George W. Simmons, deceased, as received on account of our respective shares in his interest in the firm of George W. Simmons and Son, and which to that extent shall be discharge of the liability of the surviving partners to us as heirs of said deceased, directly or through administrators. This receipt is executed without prejudice to our further claims on said surviving partners, whether through administrators or otherwise, and is strictly limited to the business and assets of Oak Hall." Before and after this payment the defendants Simmons and Spofford expressed a willingness to pay to the parties to this receipt the whole amount to which they were entitled, but without offering any specific sum or rendering any account whereby it could be ascertained. The parties could never agree as to the methods of ascertaining, or as to the persons by whom such amount should be ascertained, but said defendants were willing to have the books examined by an expert who should be

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suggested by the parties seeking the examination. No person to act as such expert was suggested, though requested by said defendants. Offers were made to have the amount determined by arbitration, but no names for arbitrators were ever suggested or agreed upon; and said defendants were active in urging and procuring the bringing of the present suit, as the only means of fixing the amount of their liability.

Among the individual debts of George W. Simmons, deceased, was a subscription of $5,000 to the stock of a new corporation called the Craighead and Kintz Manufacturing Company, and a note amounting with interest to $13,433.33, secured by mortgage of real estate at Ballardvale. The subscription of $5,000 was paid on May 4, 1883, by the defendant Simmons, out of the assets of the firm, under a written agreement, dated April 27, 1883, and signed by the widow and the surviving children, and the representative of the deceased daughter and her children, which provided that the subscription might be "paid out of any personal assets of the estate of said George W. Simmons, deceased, the widow and each of the heirs to bear their proper proportion of the payment. They also agree that said sum of five thousand dollars so to be paid shall be considered as so much personal estate taken out of the estate subject to administration, and that they will protect each other if any contingency shall arise requiring the widow and heirs of said George W. to make restitution to the administrators when appointed. The purpose of this agreement is to enable said corporation to get in all its capital, and to provide for the five thousand dollars subscribed by said George W., payment of which could not now be enforced, but which we are willing to pay according to our several interests and liability (if any exists), and so to take so much of the personal assets out of the administration." The mortgage note was paid in the same manner, on December 7, 1883, under an agreement, which was dated June 21, 1883, and signed by the same persons, and was as follows: "The undersigned hereby request Geo. W. Simmons to pay — out of any available assets of the estate of Geo. W. Simmons, deceased — the mortgage on the Ballardvale real estate, the amount of the mortgage to be allowed him in his settlement with the administrators of the estate when appointed."

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Among the assets of the estate in the possession of the defendant Simmons were fifteen St. Paul and Sioux City bonds of one thousand dollars each. These bonds were sold by brokers in New York, employed for that purpose by the defendant Simmons when the market reached prices satisfactory to him, and the proceeds, with interest and coupons, amounting to $18,807.64, were paid over to the defendant Simmons by the brokers, in one payment by check, in February, 1885. This check was delivered by him to the plaintiff Robinson, who gave a receipt therefor, dated February 11, 1885, and held the proceeds as a part of the estate in his hands. The defendant Simmons, when he began to sell these bonds, intended to apply the proceeds to the Craighead and Kintz subscription and the Ballardvale mortgage, and ordered them to be sold for that purpose, but at the time of the payment of the subscription, on May 4, 1883, none of the bonds had been sold; and at the time of the payment of the mortgage, on December 7, 1883, three bonds only had been sold, realizing $3,436.25, in the hands of the brokers. The other debts of the estate have been paid, the payments being largely made by the defendant Simmons out of the assets of the new firm. The amount so paid before the appointment of administrators was $11,792.45, and that paid subsequent to such appointment was $25,041.18; the balance of $14,607.85 over and above the mortgage being made up principally of interest on mortgage notes of George W. Simmons, deceased. The defendant Simmons collected the rents of the real estate, and paid the taxes and other expenses thereon. The net income received by him from the real estate up to February 1, 1885, was $15,448.95, which sum was paid into the general fund of the new firm, and was credited on their books to the estate of George W. Simmons, to which account also were charged all the disbursements and other expenses on account of the real estate.

The master found that at the death of George W. Simmons a considerable portion of the stock then on hand was partially manufactured clothing, and that the only way to realize the fair or substantial value of such goods was to deal with it as the defendants did, by completing the garments, adding new materials, and disposing of them at retail; that if the unfinished clothing had been sold, either in large or small lots, in the condition in

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which it was on December 14, 1882, a small percentage only of its cost could have been realized; that the manner in which the defendants dealt with the whole stock was necessary in order to obtain its full value; that if any allowance was to be made to the defendants for their skill and services in realizing the full value of the whole stock, such allowance would be equal to twenty per cent of the profits, to be deducted from the share of George W. Simmons, deceased; and that, if profits were to be allowed to the estate of George W. Simmons and to the defendants in proportion to the amounts of capital standing to their several credits, and without regard to the share of profits which the parties were severally receiving at his death, the value of the services of the defendants in earning them was forty per cent of such profits; and reserved for the decision of the court the rule for the measure of the liability of the surviving partners, upon the facts stated in his report.

Hearing before *Devens*, J., who reserved the case for the consideration of the full court.

R. M. Morse, Jr., for the plaintiffs.

I. In ascertaining the share of the deceased, the surviving partners must not only bring into account the assets of the firm which actually existed at the time of his death, but also whatever has been obtained by the employment of these assets up to the time of the closing of the account; for so long as profits are made by the employment of the capital of the deceased partner, so long must such profits be accounted for by the surviving partners. 2 Lindl. Part. 1046. *Crawshay* v. *Collins*, 15 Ves. 218. *Yates* v. *Finn*, 13 Ch. D. 839. *Washburn* v. *Goodman*, 17 Pick. 519. *Townend* v. *Townend*, 1 Giff. 201. *Goodburn* v. *Stevens*, 1 Md. Ch. 420; *S. C.* 5 Gill, 1. *Brown's Appeal*, 89 Penn. St. 139. *Forrester* v. *Oliver*, 1 Bradw. 259. *Skidmore* v. *Collier*, 8 Hun, 50. *Cook* v. *Collingridge*, Jacob, 607.

The defendants Simmons and Spofford contend that, conceding the rule above stated to be correct, they are not to be charged with the $66,480.10, standing to the credit of George W. Simmons at his death, but certain payments are to be deducted therefrom. The entire amount of these payments is not to be applied to the reduction of the capital, because they were not made to the administrators, or at their request, but

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should be treated as debits to the estate in the account which said defendants have opened with it. At the most, they cannot have any greater allowance than for the difference between the amounts so paid and the amounts received by them for rents.

II. The surviving partners are not entitled to compensation for their services in carrying on the business. 1. Because they were bound to deal with the stock in such manner as in the exercise of reasonable diligence would produce the most money. 2. Because, if under any circumstances surviving partners might be allowed compensation, they are not entitled to it where they have wilfully, against the objection of parties interested in the estate, undertaken to pervert the trust in their hands, and to use the firm assets for their private benefit. 3. Because the defendant Simmons, who would receive $\frac{92}{100}$ of the compensation, is an administrator, as well as surviving partner.

The general rule is, that surviving partners are not entitled to compensation. *Dunlap* v. *Watson*, 124 Mass. 305. *Beatty* v. *Wray*, 19 Penn. St. 516. *Brown* v. *McFarland*, 41 Penn. St. 129. *Washburn* v. *Goodman*, 17 Pick. 519. *Brown's Appeal*, 89 Penn. St. 139. It has been allowed only in exceptional cases: where the surviving partner, with the consent of the representative of the deceased partner, carried on the business of completing important contracts with the government during the war for the manufacture of cannon under patents, *Schenkl* v. *Dana*, 118 Mass. 236; where the surviving partner carried on the business under a claim of right to buy the business by the terms of the partnership agreement, *Yates* v. *Finn*, 13 Ch. D. 839; where at the time of the death of the deceased partner the firm was insolvent, and was rendered solvent by the credit and connections of the surviving partners, *Wedderburn* v. *Wedderburn*, 2 Keen, 722; *S. C.* 4 Myl. & Cr. 41, and 22 Beav. 84.

But there is a clear distinction between all of these cases and the case at bar. No peculiar skill or service was required in making up a lot of unfinished clothing, and in selling out the stock at retail. It was the obvious and proper thing to do. It must fairly have been within the contemplation of the partners, as the best method for winding up the business whenever a dissolution should come. The fact that the defendant Simmons is administrator, and as such entitled to compensation, is a suffi-

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cient reason why no compensation should be allowed him as surviving partner. To allow compensation to him in the latter capacity would make it for his interest to prolong the settlement of the estate, and to use it for his private benefit, instead of securing a diligent conversion of the assets "into an available and distributable form." *Heathcote* v. *Hulme*, 1 Jac. & W. 122.

III. The only issue in this case is the amount due from the defendants Simmons and Spofford to the administrators. The transaction of August 25, 1883, by which the former paid $20,000 to the married daughters and the representative of one of them, and that of September 1, 1883, by which the widow and remaining children agreed that their shares should remain in the business at seven per cent interest, are not material to the issue, and the questions arising thereon cannot be determined by the decree in this case.

W. G. Russell & J. O. Teele, for the surviving partners and other defendants.

W. K. Blodgett, Jr., for the surviving married daughters.

MORTON, C. J. George W. Simmons died intestate, on December 14, 1882, leaving a widow and seven children. He was a member of the firm of George W. Simmons and Son, in which his son, George W. Simmons, Jr., and Philip A. Spofford were his partners. Immediately upon his death the two surviving partners formed a new firm under the name of G. W. Simmons & Co., and continued the business at the same place, using the capital and stock in trade of the old firm. Owing to a disagreement between the heirs, administration was not taken out until November, 1883, when the plaintiffs and the defendant Simmons were appointed administrators. In the mean time, the defendant Simmons had paid debts of his father to a large amount out of the property in the hands of the surviving partners; the widow and three of the children had, on September 1, 1883, made an agreement that their respective shares in the interest of the intestate "in the firm of G. W. Simmons and Son, Oak Hall, shall remain in the business as at present conducted by" the surviving partners, at interest at the rate of seven per cent per year, and on August 25, 1883, the defendant Simmons had paid to the other three children twenty thousand dollars, to be accounted for in settlement of the estate of the intestate on

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account of their respective shares in his interest in the firm of G. W. Simmons and Son. The surviving partners continued the business, using the capital of the intestate, with the consent and approval of the widow and the three children first above named; the other three children, being the married daughters, never gave any such consent, but objected thereto.

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The suit was originally brought by two of the administrators against the surviving partners, but by amendment all the children of the intestate, and the representatives of the widow and of a deceased child, were made parties defendant. The only controversy is between the three married daughters and the surviving partners, the ultimate object of the suit being to recover the share to which they are respectively entitled of the profits of the business since the death of the intestate.

There is nothing in the case to show any want of fairness or good faith in the conduct of the surviving partners, but the master has found that the interest of the intestate was of such a character that the only way to realize its fair or substantial value was to deal with it as the defendants did, and "that the manner in which the defendants dealt with the full stock was necessary in order to obtain its full value." The master found that upon the death of the intestate the capital standing to his credit was $66,480.10, that to the credit of the surviving partners $14,787.38, making the whole capital $81,267.48. This is an outline of the principal facts in the case, and upon them the master reserved for the decision of the court the rule for the measure of the liability of the surviving partners.

If the accounts could have been settled at the death of the intestate, his representatives would have been entitled to receive the above named amount of capital standing to his credit. As we have seen, this was impracticable, and the surviving partners continued the business, using the capital of the intestate with the consent of those who represented five sevenths of his interest, and under the objections of the three dissenting heirs who represented two sevenths.

As a general rule, where a surviving partner continues to use the capital of a deceased partner in the business, the representatives of the latter, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary, have the election to demand either interest on the

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capital used or the profits earned by its use, the latter being accretions to the fund owned by them. There is, however, no inflexible rule governing all cases, but each case depends upon its own circumstances and equities.

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The plaintiffs contend that in this case the rule should be that the profits accruing after the death of the intestate should be divided according to the amount of capital which each partner or person interested had in the business, and that no compensation or allowance should be made to the surviving partners for their services and skill in conducting the business. We do not think that this rule is supported by the authorities, or is just as applied to this case. It finds some support in *Crawshay* v. *Collins*, 15 Ves. 218; *S. C.* 1 Jac. & W. 267, and 2 Russ. 325. This case, which was before Lord Eldon at intervals for eighteen years, was a suit by an assignee of a bankrupt against the continuing partners of the firm of which he was a member; the assignee was held to be entitled to three eighths of the profits accruing after the bankruptcy, that being the proportion of the bankrupt's capital and profits in the business, but a just allowance was made for the services of the continuing partners. The case has been much commented on in later cases, and it has never been regarded as establishing an inflexible rule applicable to all cases. Indeed, in this case Lord Eldon says, "The rule which is to be applied must be deduced, in almost every case, from the particular circumstances of that very case"; and he fully recognized the justice of making allowance for the skill and services of the surviving partners. The later English authorities regard this as the effect of Lord Eldon's decisions in the various stages of *Crawshay* v. *Collins*. *Brown* v. *De Tastet*, Jacob, 284. *Cook* v. *Collingridge*, Jacob, 607. *Wedderburn* v. *Wedderburn*, 2 Keen, 722; *S. C.* 4 Myl. & Cr. 41, and 22 Beav. 84. *Willett* v. *Blanford*, 1 Hare, 253. *Yates* v. *Finn*, 13 Ch. D. 839.

In most of these cases the rule applied was, that the profits should be divided according to the capital, after making allowance for profits earned by the personal activity, attention to business, skill, and services of the surviving partners, though in *Wedderburn* v. *Wedderburn* the representatives of the deceased partner were held to be entitled to interest at the rate of five per cent on their capital, instead of a share of the profits.

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We think a just rule to be deduced from the authorities is, that, where there are no circumstances which render its application inequitable, the profits should be divided according to the capital, after deducting such share of them as is attributable to the skill and services of the surviving partner. When his good faith and fairness are not impeached, the most that the representatives of the deceased partner can justly demand is, that he should account to them for their capital, and, in addition, for whatever it has earned. This involves the necessity of inquiring how much of the profits is attributable to the services and skill of the surviving partners, and how much to the capital invested in the business. The latter portion of the profits shows what the capital has earned, and should rightfully be divided among the owners of the capital in proportion to their shares of the capital. It is clear, that, in applying this rule, any withdrawal or subtraction by the representatives of the deceased partner of any part of their capital would diminish *pro tanto* the proportion of the profits to which they are entitled. *Willett* v. *Blanford*, *ubi supra*.

In the case at bar, as we have said, there is nothing to impeach the good faith or fairness of the surviving partners. The defendant Simmons, who is the principal surviving partner, upon the death of his father, was placed in a very difficult and embarrassing position. A large amount of property belonging to his father was invested in the business. Owing to a quarrel among the heirs, no administrators were appointed for nearly a year. There was no one with any power to close up the business, either by a sale of the interest of the intestate, or otherwise; a majority of the heirs in number and amount desired him to continue the business. It is difficult to see how he could have done better than he did; he appears to have acted with due regard to the interests of all concerned, and no rule of a punitive character could justly be applied in the case. We think the rule of division of profits we have stated above will work out substantial justice to all parties, for that period of time when the surviving partners employed the whole or the principal part of the capital of the intestate as the basis of their business, that is, up to August 27, 1883.

In applying the rule, some questions arise as to the amount of

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the capital belonging to the plaintiffs which was from time to time embarked in the business and thus earning profits. Among the individual debts of the intestate was a subscription of five thousand dollars to the stock of a corporation recently established in Ballardvale, and a note of thirteen thousand dollars secured by a mortgage of real estate at Ballardvale. It was for some reason deemed necessary that these should be promptly paid, and the widow and all the heirs agreed in writing that the defendant Simmons should pay them out of any personal assets of the intestate. Accordingly, on May 4, 1883, he paid the subscription out of the assets of the new firm, and charged his father's account with the amount. The facts found by the master show that this was the only means he had of paying this debt. At one time he intended to apply to this debt the proceeds of the fifteen St. Paul and Sioux City bonds mentioned in the report; but the proceeds of these bonds were not in fact received in time to pay this debt. He could only carry out the wishes of all the interested parties by paying it, as he did, out of the property of the estate in the hands of the new firm. Such payment had the effect in law which it had in fact, of reducing the capital of the intestate in use in the new firm. We think that the same rule should apply to the other debts in good faith paid by the defendant Simmons and charged to his father's account; and that, after applying to such payments the amounts received by him for rents and used in making such payments, the balance should go in reduction of the capital of the intestate in use in the new firm.

After the death of the intestate the surviving partners were desirous of paying as soon as could be the amount of the capital which he left in the business. As we have seen, delay occurred in appointing administrators, and on August 27, 1883, the defendants paid to the three dissenting heirs the sum of twenty thousand dollars, which, in the words of the receipt signed by them, was "to be accounted for in settlement of the estate of George W. Simmons, deceased, as received on account of our respective shares in his interest in the firm of George W. Simmons and Son, and which to that extent shall be discharge of the liability of the surviving partners to us as heirs of said deceased, directly or through administrators." There can be no doubt

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that this was, in intention and effect, a withdrawal by the three dissenting heirs of twenty thousand dollars of their share of the capital. The only question is as to the mode in which this payment should be applied. It seems to us that the just mode is to ascertain what was the interest of the dissenting heirs at the time the payment was made, both in capital and accumulated profits which are attributable to capital, and from this amount to deduct the payment. The balance will represent the amount of their capital which continues in the firm, and for the use of which they are entitled to compensation. In ascertaining the amount of profits in this computation there should be deducted from the gross profits that share which is attributable to the services and skill of the surviving partners, which we understand the master finds to be forty per cent, and the balance should be divided according to the respective shares of the parties in the capital.

It also appears that, on September 1, 1883, the surviving partners made an arrangement with the widow and three of the children, by which they agreed that their respective shares in the interest of the deceased in the firm of G. W. Simmons and Son should remain in the business of the new firm at an interest of seven per cent per annum. The effect of this was to change the amount of their shares so far as they were concerned, from capital to a debt of the new firm, and to transfer the same amount of the capital to the credit of the surviving partners. The widow and three children who signed it, and the defendant Simmons, were entitled to five sevenths of the estate of the intestate, and the result of this arrangement therefore was that the surviving partners became the owners of the whole of the capital, except the small balance due to the dissenting heirs.

As we have before intimated, the principles we have discussed should be applied in ascertaining how much was due to the dissenting children on August 27, 1883. But, as we have seen, at that time a material change occurred in the circumstances and the relations of the parties which justifies and requires the application of a different rule for the future.

The surviving partners then, evidently as parts of the same scheme or purpose of relieving themselves of the responsibility of the care of the property of the intestate which was forced

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upon them, virtually paid to the widow and four of the heirs the amount of their shares of the estate of the intestate, and also paid to the three dissenting heirs twenty thousand dollars on account of their shares. This is more than the amount of their original shares, with interest; but upon applying the rule we have adopted, it is less than the amount they were entitled to at the time of the payment. The parties differed as to the basis upon which the accounts should be settled. The facts show that the surviving partners were willing to pay all that the heirs were entitled to; that they offered to have the books and accounts examined by any impartial expert, to be named by the dissenting heirs; that they offered to have the amount determined by arbitration, and that they were, when the administrators were appointed, active in urging and procuring the bringing of this suit, as the only means of fixing the amount of their liability.

It also appears that the business of the new firm was prosperous, and its profits very large; the surviving partners were anxious to pay what they justly owed the heirs, and it is not an unfair inference that the payment of this amount by the firm would not in any measure cripple its resources or injure its business. It is difficult to believe that the retention or withdrawal of this comparatively small amount would in any considerable degree affect the volume of business, or the amount of the profits. Under these circumstances, it would be inequitable to apply the rule of the division of the future profits according to the nominal capital. It would be unjust to the surviving partners, as it would compel them to work for the benefit of a compulsory partner against their wishes, and to bear the most of the burden of a protracted litigation, for which the dissenting heirs are at least equally to blame. It would give the latter more than they are fairly entitled to as the earnings or income of the debt which is due them, and swell unjustly the amount they receive from their father's estate.

We are therefore of opinion, that, unless the parties can agree, the case should be recommitted to the master to ascertain the balance due to the three dissenting heirs after the payment of August 27, 1883, upon the principles we have stated, and that thereafter the surviving partners should pay interest upon such

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balance at the rate of seven per cent per year. We adopt this rate of interest, because the defendants at the time of the payment in August fixed this as the worth to them of the capital retained.

A question remains as to the payment by the defendant Simmons of the Ballardvale mortgage above referred to. This payment was not made until after August, 1883, and cannot therefore be applied in reduction of the capital of the intestate before that day in determining the amount due to the dissenting heirs on that day. But it was made by virtue of an agreement with all the heirs. The dissenting heirs were responsible for two sevenths of it, and we think that, when paid, two sevenths of the amount should be charged to them in diminution of the amount then found to be due them.

The plaintiffs contend that this suit is to be treated as simply a suit between the administrators and the surviving partners, and that the latter should be decreed to pay to the former the whole amount of the accrued profits, without any regard to their payments to and agreements with the heirs, leaving the sum so paid to be distributed in the Probate Court. We do not think this is necessary or just. All the persons interested are parties to this suit. None have any controversy with the surviving partners, except the three dissenting heirs, and the object of the suit is to determine the amount to which they are entitled. This being determined, and paid, either directly or through the administrators, the object of the suit is accomplished, and the rights of all parties are protected. The amount, if paid to the administrators, would be for the sole benefit of these three heirs; no one else would have any claim upon it, and it is to be assumed that the Probate Court would order its distribution and payment to them. There would be no conflict between the two courts, and no mandatory order to the Probate Court. The decree would operate personally upon all the parties, and by its force would enable the dissenting children to receive the amount they are entitled to.

There is no necessity of going through the form of ordering the surviving partners to pay a large sum to the administrators which must be immediately repaid to them.

Case recommitted.

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CHARLES CIRIACK *vs.* MERCHANTS' WOOLEN COMPANY.

Suffolk. January 10, 11, 1888. — February 29, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Master and Servant — Personal Injuries — Negligence — Child.

A boy of twelve years of age and of average intelligence, who had worked for nearly two months in the same room with, but not upon, certain machines, the rapidly revolving gearing of which was upon the outside and in plain sight, while obeying an order from the overseer to "go up between" the machines to look for a tool, and to "hurry up," became entangled in the gearing and was injured. *Held*, that he could not maintain an action against his employer for the injury so received.

TORT for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff on May 29, 1872, while in the defendant's employ. Writ dated June 16, 1885. Trial in the Superior Court before *Aldrich*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The accident to the plaintiff occurred in the finishing-room of the defendant's mill, a room filled with gigs, shears, and other machines, all of which were run by steam or water power. The plaintiff was injured by one of the gigs, which were cylindrical machines for rubbing up the nap of the cloth manufactured in the mill. Two of these gigs stood together in the finishing-room, with broad passageways between them and the adjacent machinery but with a distance between the bodies of the two machines of about two and a half feet, the distance between them at the narrowest point, from the cogs of one gig to the belt wheel of the other, being about one and a half feet. The gigs had on one side a belt wheel, and on the other side gearing, in plain sight, consisting of three cog wheels, each about eighteen inches in diameter, and one small cog wheel about two and a half inches in diameter running through the middle of the cylinder of the gig. The cylinder of each gig stood in an iron frame fastened to the floor by four legs, the bottom of the cylinder at its lowest point being about one and a half feet from the floor. Nothing obstructed the view underneath the cylinder, except so far as the cylinder itself did so. The cylinder, as well as the gearing, moved always in the same direction.

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The plaintiff was caught in the place where the small cog wheel came in contact with the second cog wheel, being at a distance of about three and a half feet from the floor. The machine was run by a man or boy standing in front of it, by turning up or down a handle, which caused the cloth on the cylinder to go in one direction or the other, or to stop, as the case might be. The cylinder made about one hundred revolutions a minute, and the small cog wheel the same number. The machine, measuring its extreme projections, was about five feet square, and nearly six feet high. Men, women and boys were employed in the finishing-room. Some of the boys tended machines, and there were four others, among whom were the plaintiff and his older brother, whose duty it was to take cloth from an apron on the back of the finishing shears, and wheel it on trucks through the passageways to the gig-room; also, to take cloth from racks, and wheel it to the finishing shears, and sew it on to the apron. These racks were small slat platforms, about four inches from the floor, and directly in front of and within six inches of the two gigs, though they had no connection with them. These racks sometimes had cloth piled upon them to the height of three or four feet, but there was no evidence that there was any cloth upon them at the time of the accident. In a line with these racks, and at a distance of about seven and a half feet apart, were posts, which supported the floor above, and were in a line half-way between the two sides of the room, and the racks lay between or just outside of these posts. The regular way to the gig-room was through the passageways, but some of the men and boys in going to and from the gig-room sometimes went between the gigs, as a shorter cut from one room to the other. There was room enough for a man to pass, with care, between the gigs when they were running, but the space was not designed or intended for a passageway for general passing, the broader passageways being provided for that purpose. There was conflicting evidence as to how light the place was at which the plaintiff was hurt.

Charles Ciriack, the plaintiff, testified that he was born on February 23, 1860, and that the accident happened on May 29, 1872, at about ten o'clock in the forenoon. He had lived in Dedham, near the defendant's mill, most of his life, and, having

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stopped going to school in 1871, went to work for the defendant for a month in the spring of that year in the flock-room, a room off of the finishing-room. He worked there on a flock machine, which he described as having no gearing on it, and his duty was to shovel the flocks into the machine. Before he went into the flock-room he knew nothing about machinery. In passing into the flock-room he did not have to go near the gigs, by one of which he was subsequently hurt, and did not know anything about them at that time. After working in this room he returned to school, and came back into the defendant's employ in April, 1872, and worked for it nearly the whole of April and May, down to the time of the accident. He was employed by the superintendent, who told him that he was to do what Craven, the overseer of the finishing-room, told him to do. Craven took him into the finishing-room, where his brother and other boys were working, and told him that they would show him what to do, and left him there. These boys showed him how to fold cloth from the gig-room off on to racks. When a piece was wanted on one of the shears, "we would fetch it off of this rack and hitch it on to the apron on the back of the shears. We had to take the cloth off of the shears when it was sheared, pull it off, fold it to same place we put it on, pull it off on to our trucks, and wheel it through a long entry into the gig-room, and one of the gig-room hands would help us fold it on to racks that they had in the gig-room; then we would fetch back the empty truck, deposit at these racks, and put a piece on it ready to put in the shears again. We took turns wheeling: one would go at one, and another at another time. The boys told me nothing else. We had nothing to do with the gearing on the shears. The fellows who run the shears stood behind them. The gearing runs along the side. My attention was never called to the gearing on the gig that I got hurt on. I never got any instructions at all outside of what the boys minded to give me. The overseer under Craven told me one day, when he saw me walk by a piece of lace leather on the floor, to pick it up and carry it down and put it on the bench where he used to have his tools, and never to let him see me again walk by anything that was on the floor without picking it up."

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"On the day of the accident, I was coming up from the gig-room, after wheeling in a piece of cloth, and when I got up near the corner of the aisle intersecting the passageway from the gig-room, Miller, who was our 'boss,' spoke to me from the tool bench, and told me to go up between the gigs and look for his belt punch and hurry up. I brought my truck up in front of one of the racks and left it, and went round into the space between the two gigs. As I was going, my brother wanted me to put a piece on one of the shears. I told him that I would be with him in a minute. I went in between the gigs and stooped down to look underneath the gig. As I was rising up, I saw a piece of lace leather which had been left there, such as you sew a belt with; I picked that up. I could not see the belt punch. As I rose up, the gears caught my jacket sleeve above the elbow and drew in my arm. When I felt it catch the sleeve, I grabbed my arm by the wrist, but it went so fast I could n't get it out before it was mangled."

He further testified, that he had never received any instructions from anybody about machinery or its dangers, either before or after he went into the defendant's employ, or during it, except as already shown, and that his knowledge of the parts and character of the machinery, except the flocking machine in the defendant's mill, was wholly derived from inspection of the same after the accident; that his duties in the gig-room required no connection with the machines therein, and did not require him to look at them; that he knew the machine that he was hurt on was called a gig, but he had never troubled himself to learn its uses, or its dangers, or the manner in which it was operated; that the duties of his job required him to devote his whole time to it; that his job did not require him to go near the gearing on which he was caught, nor into the space between the gigs, nor to look in the direction thereof; that when he was near the gig, he was behind the revolving cylinder; that he never, in his recollection, passed into the space between the gigs, except at the time when he got caught; that the overseer directed him to hurry, and he obeyed orders; that he did not recollect of ever passing in and out among the machines, except this one time, unless going through the broad passageways was passing in and out among the machines.

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On cross-examination, he testified that when he was at work in the flock-room, and passed through the finishing-room, he had no doubt that he saw the gig there, but did not recollect about it; that the flock machines were operated by steam power; that he understood at that time that if he knew of danger anywhere he would look out not to get into it, and that he appreciated the fact that it was necessary to take care as far as he knew; that he supposed that he felt like getting out of danger if there was any; that the gig-room into which he wheeled cloth contained a large number of gigs in operation having gearings; that he probably saw these gigs in operation, but paid no attention to them, because he had nothing to do with them; that when he fastened the cloth upon the apron on the finishing shears, the machine was stopped; that there was cloth upon the racks in front of the gigs at the time of the accident, but he did not remember how much, or whether the pile was six inches or three feet high; that the machine at which he was hurt was in operation at the time he was injured; that he could not say whether he did or did not know that it was in operation before he went in there; that he could not say that when he stooped down he did not see that the machine was in operation; that he would not say that he did not see it in operation, but could not recollect; that he had no doubt that the cylinder was going round, but did not believe that he took any notice of it; that he walked into the space between the two gigs close up to the machine, and that he did not believe that he looked at the machine or took any notice whether it was in operation; that he was in a hurry after the belt punch, which he was directed by the "boss" to get, and that he believed that that was the only thing that he had on his mind when he went in there; that there was some cloth dust or "flocks" on the floor under the gig, but how much he could not say; that at the time of the accident he was about the average height of boys of twelve years of age; that he could look under the machine without difficulty, but that it was necessary to stoop; that he did stoop down on the floor as far as he could get with his hands to the floor; that when he stooped he was probably within about a foot of the gears; that he might have been nearer; that he did not recollect whether he took notice before he stooped whether they

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were running or not; that when he got down on his hands on to the floor, he did not see the belt punch; that he could not say that during the week that he had worked in the finishing-room he had learned to look out for machines in operation, though no doubt he intended to keep out of such danger as he then appreciated; that he now supposed that he then thought that there was danger around the belts and such places, but that he did not believe that he then knew enough about them to know whether the danger was in them; that he had no doubt that he had seen the gearing; that he did not know as he had ever thought anything about the effect of his exposing his person or his clothing to contact with it, but that he knew enough at that time not to put his hand or his clothing into wheels in operation; that if he had seen the wheels revolving at the time, he believed that he would not have intentionally let his hand, or his arm, or his sleeve get in; that if he had noticed that the wheels were revolving, he did not know whether he would have known enough when he rose not to come into contact with them, and thought that he did not know that there was any danger in them at the time; that he did not believe that when he went in there he knew that there was gearing on the gig; and that he did not get hurt in consequence of putting his hand into the cylinder to play with a piece of string, and by his arm being suddenly thrown back against the gearing.

Miller, the "boss" referred to, died before the action was brought. Other witnesses for the plaintiff testified that the plaintiff possessed the average intelligence, and was as careful as the other boys.

Michael Craven testified, for the defendant, that he was overseer of the finishing-room until a day or two before the accident; that the plaintiff was a smart, bright boy; that he had seen the plaintiff as well as the other boys passing in and out among the machines; that there were no restrictions put on the boys about going in through them; and that there was plenty of room to get through. Frederick Bradley testified, that he was employed by the defendant at the time of the accident; that he asked in plaintiff's presence how the accident occurred, and some one said that the plaintiff was fooling with the machine, and the plaintiff said nothing. Mary Sullivan testified that she worked for the

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defendant in May, 1872, and "saw the plaintiff put his hand out towards the machine, as if he were picking something from some part of the machine. I happened to look up from my work and saw this, and then looked down and did n't see him again." William J. Kennedy testified that he "was in defendant's employ. At the time of the accident, I was in the finishing-room. Saw plaintiff in front of the gig. He was pulling something off the cylinder. It did n't suit him. He got round on the side, and undertook to catch it there. In catching it, he ran his arm up that way, followed it up the cylinder round this way, towards him, and the gears run this way too, and he followed it, and his arm went in."

The defendant asked the judge to rule that there was no evidence which would warrant a verdict for the plaintiff, which ruling the judge declined to give. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for $8,000; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

R. M. Morse, Jr., & H. G. Nichols, for the defendant.

H. W. Bragg & E. Greenhood, for the plaintiff.

1. An employer must see that servants are properly warned of the dangers of the place in which they are put to work, and is not relieved of responsibility for the consequences of a failure on their part to receive such warning by any delegation of the duty to warn to any agent or overseer, or by a neglect on the latter's part to give such warning. *Gilman* v. *Eastern Railroad*, 13 Allen, 433, 441. *Coombs* v. *New Bedford Cordage Co.* 102 Mass. 572, 599. *Wheeler* v. *Wason Manufacturing Co.* 135 Mass. 294. *Grizzle* v. *Frost*, 3 F. & F. 622. The sufficiency of the plaintiff's experience, as well as of his age and judgment, to relieve the defendant of the duty of giving him notice, was a question for the jury.

2. This court has sustained a verdict as to due care in a case disclosing evidence of a far less favorable character. *Coombs* v. *New Bedford Cordage Co.*, *ubi supra*. The undisputed evidence reported must conclusively show contributory negligence on the part of the plaintiff, considering all the admitted or undisputed facts in the case, including the age, experience, and intelligence of the plaintiff and the danger to which he was exposed, and the means of knowledge afforded to him, to justify the court in taking the case from the jury on the question of due

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care. *Lane* v. *Atlantic Works*, 107 Mass. 104, 108. *Tyler* v. *New York & New England Railroad*, 137 Mass. 238, 242.

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When the circumstances under which the plaintiff acts are complicated, and the general knowledge and experience of men do not at once condemn his conduct as careless, it is plainly to be submitted to the jury. What is ordinary care in such cases, even though the facts are undisputed, is peculiarly a question of fact to be determined by the jury under proper instructions. The refusal of the judge to withdraw the case from the jury cannot in any case be construed as an indication that in his opinion the jury ought to find in the plaintiff's favor upon this question. *Gahagan* v. *Boston & Lowell Railroad*, 1 Allen, 187. *Warren* v. *Fitchburg Railroad*, 8 Allen, 227. *Meesel* v. *Lynn & Boston Railroad*, 8 Allen, 234. *Reed* v. *Deerfield*, 8 Allen, 522. *Fox* v. *Sackett*, 10 Allen, 535. *Gaynor* v. *Old Colony & Newport Railway*, 100 Mass. 208, 212.

In a case of a boy thirteen years of age who incited a dog to bite him, the court held that the test is, "Would the injury have been prevented if the boy had exercised the thoughtfulness of one of his age, at the moment, without stopping to reflect?" *Plumley* v. *Birge*, 124 Mass. 57.

The evidence showed that the plaintiff exercised the care which might be expected of a boy of his age and experience under the circumstances disclosed by the evidence.

See also Wood, Master and Servant, 880, 886; *Cayzer* v. *Taylor*, 10 Gray, 274, 281, 282; *Munn* v. *Reed*, 4 Allen, 431; *Snow* v. *Housatonic Railroad*, 8 Allen, 441; *Carter* v. *Towne*, 98 Mass. 567; *Lane* v. *Atlantic Works*, 107 Mass. 104; *Ford* v. *Fitchburg Railroad*, 110 Mass. 240, 259; *Murley* v. *Roche*, 130 Mass. 330; *Johnson* v. *Boston Tow-Boat Co.* 135 Mass. 209, 211; *O'Connor* v. *Boston & Lowell Railroad*, 135 Mass. 352; *Railroad Co.* v. *Fort*, 17 Wall. 553; *Siegel* v. *Schantz*, 2 Th. & C. 353; *Mann* v. *Oriental Print Works*, 11 R. I. 152; *Lalor* v. *Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad*, 52 Ill. 401; *Grizzle* v. *Frost*, 3 F. & F. 622; *Somerville* v. *Gray*, 1 Ct. of Sess. Cas. (3d series) 768; *Morton* v. *Edinburgh & Glasgow Railroad*, 2 Ct. of Sess. Cas. (3d series) 589; *Murphy* v. *Smith*, 19 C. B. (N. S.) 361.

C. ALLEN, J. In order to show negligence on the part of the defendant, the plaintiff relies on the omission to give him suitable

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instructions in reference to the dangers to which he would be exposed in the course of his employment. His injury arose from coming in contact with the revolving cog wheels of a machine; and the instructions which he was entitled to receive must therefore have been concerning the danger from that cause. But it seems to us that it must fairly be assumed that the plaintiff had all such knowledge as it was the duty of the defendant to impart to him. There was no peculiar or secret source of danger. Anybody seeing the machine in motion must soon become aware of the danger which would arise from coming in contact with it. The duty of the defendant would be sufficiently discharged by pointing out to the plaintiff the situation of the machine, and the rapid revolution of the wheels when in operation, and explaining the probable effect of touching them under these circumstances. Certainly the duty of the defendant did not extend so far as to require the giving of a special caution on every occasion when he might be called upon to pass near the machine. The master is only bound to give such instructions as are reasonably necessary in order to enable the servant to understand the perils to which he is exposed by reason of his employment. A servant is held to take the risk of such dangers as are known and understood.

In the present case, the duty of the defendant to the plaintiff would not require an explanation of anything which he already sufficiently understood. In order to show actionable negligence on the defendant's part, it was incumbent on the plaintiff to show an omission to inform him of something which he needed to know in order to be safe. *Sullivan* v. *India Manufacturing Co.* 113 Mass. 396. In the absence of anything to show the contrary, the plaintiff must be assumed to have had the intelligence and understanding which are usual with boys of his age. There is nothing to show that he did not know the danger of coming in contact with the revolving wheels of the machine. It must be assumed that he was well aware of it. The accident happened in consequence of his omitting to guard against a known peril. He had been employed in the same room for a period of nearly two months. There is no reason to suppose that explicit instructions, if given to him at the beginning of his employment, in reference to the danger of touching these wheels when in motion, would

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have added anything to what he must fairly be presumed to have known at the time of the accident.

It would be carrying the doctrine of holding employers to the duty of giving reasonable instructions to their servants quite too far, to require a special caution every time a boy is sent on an errand, under circumstances like those disclosed in the present case. The injury appears to have arisen from a lack of sufficient precaution on his part, and not from the negligence of the defendant. *Russell* v. *Tillotson*, 140 Mass. 201. *Williams* v. *Churchill*, 137 Mass. 243. *Wheeler* v. *Wason Manufacturing Co.* 135 Mass. 294.

In *Coombs* v. *New Bedford Cordage Co.* 102 Mass. 572, 598, which is chiefly relied on by the plaintiff, the plaintiff had been at work for the defendant only one day, and under these circumstances the evidence of the nature of the work, and of the position in which he was to do it, were considered to warrant the jury in finding that the plaintiff was manifestly incapable of understanding and appreciating the dangers to which he was exposed by the gearings, or manifestly incapable of performing the work there with safety.

In the present case, we are of the opinion that there was no sufficient evidence of negligence on the part of the defendant.

Exceptions sustained.

JOHN J. ROSENBERG *vs.* JOHN DOE.

Suffolk. January 12, 1888. — February 29, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Release — Seal — Seamen's Wages — Fraud or Coercion — Statute.

The mutual release of wages by master and seamen before a shipping commissioner, provided for by the U. S. Rev. Sts. § 4552, need not be made or authenticated under seal, and is conclusive if it is executed and attested as required, without fraud or coercion.

HOLMES, J. This is an action by a seaman against the master of a vessel to recover a balance of wages alleged to be due.

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The defendant denies the liability, and also sets up a release executed before a shipping commissioner under the U. S. Rev. Sts. § 4552. The plaintiff is a Finnish sailor, and speaks the English language very imperfectly. At the trial he testified that he did not know the contents of the release when he signed it, and did so thinking it was a mere receipt for the money actually received. He also testified to circumstances which he relied on as showing fraud on the part of the commissioner, but which it is unnecessary to state, as the instructions * to the jury required them to find that the release was signed, not only without any fraud, deception, or coercion, but also with knowledge of its contents, in order to constitute a bar. This we think was too broad, and started an inquiry which the statute cannot have intended to leave open.

The statute enacts that upon the completion, before a shipping commissioner, of any discharge and settlement, the master and seamen shall sign "a mutual release of all claims for wages in respect of the past voyage or engagement," in his presence, and that he shall also sign and attest it, &c., provided both the master and seamen assent to such settlement, or the settlement has been adjusted by the shipping commissioner. "Such release, so signed and attested, shall operate as a mutual discharge and settlement of all demands for wages between the parties thereto, on account of wages, in respect of the past voyage or engagement."

The release in this case did not bear the seal either of the parties or of the shipping commissioner. But from the nature of the transaction, and from the word used ("sign"), we assume, as it was assumed by the court below, that the release need not be a technical release under seal in order to have the effect given

* The judge instructed the jury, that if the plaintiff signed the release before the shipping commissioner without any fraud, deception, or coercion, and with knowledge of its contents, it constituted a full discharge of the claim; that they must determine upon all the circumstances, as, for instance, his imperfect knowledge of the language, the fact that some of his shipmates were present and signed the same release at the same time, that he had never served upon an American vessel before, and other facts before them, whether the plaintiff understood what he was doing when he signed the release, and did it intelligently; that if he signed it knowing what it was, he could not recover; but if he signed it, not understanding its purport or legal effect, it did not constitute a bar to the plaintiff's claim.

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it by statute. We are also of opinion, that if the execution before the commissioner, and his signature and attestation, are established, the absence of his seal to authenticate his act (§ 4506) does not deprive the release of its effect. The instrument followed the words of the statute, and therefore, by the terms of the act, it had at least the effect of a release under seal irrespective of any question of consideration.

Coming now to the ruling, it authorized the jury to find for the plaintiff if they found that he did not know the contents of the release, although they should be of opinion that there was no direct or indirect misrepresentation to him of its contents, or other fraud, or any declaration by him of what he understood its contents to be, or any request by him to have it read in a language which he understood (if he could not read English), or any pressure brought to bear upon him to make him sign without having it read. This would not be the law in the case of a release under seal. *Leddy* v. *Barney*, 139 Mass. 394, 396. *Upton* v. *Tribilcock*, 91 U. S. 45, 50. Shep. Touchst. 56. Com. Dig. Fait (B 2). We think that it is not the true construction of the statute. We are of opinion that the statute means to make the release conclusive, if it is executed and attested as required, without fraud or coercion. See *Lamb* v. *Briard*, Abb. Adm. 367.

Reading the act in the way most favorable to the plaintiff, the proviso that "both the master and seamen assent to such settlement" is only attached to the requirement that the parties shall sign. If they do sign, the effect of their signatures must be determined by the ordinary rules of law. Signature under such circumstances as we have supposed conclusively imports assent to the instrument, and the instrument expresses consent to the settlement. It is contrary to first principles to allow a person whose overt acts have expressed assent to deny their effect on the ground of an undisclosed state of his mind for which no one else was responsible. *O'Donnell* v. *Clinton*, 145 Mass. 461. The common law makes no exception to these principles in favor of seamen, nor do we see any evidence that the statute meant to make one. *Exceptions sustained.*

F. Cunningham, for the defendant.

J. M. Browne, for the plaintiff.

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STEPHEN BROCK *vs.* OLD COLONY RAILROAD COMPANY.

Norfolk. January 16, 1888. — February 29, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Railroad — Location — Taking — Notice — Plan.

The filing of a railroad location, identifying the land taken, under the Rev. Sts. c. 39, § 75, was a sufficient notice of the taking.

A plan filed with a valid railroad location did not bear the name of the owner of certain land taken, but did give that of an adjoining owner. *Held*, that the former could not have been misled by such omission.

A railroad filed a valid location in 1854, under the Rev. Sts. c. 39, § 75, but did not furnish a plan to an owner of land taken but not actually used until 1879. *Held*, on a writ of entry brought by such owner in 1886, that his right to a plan if it existed, was a naked right, and would not entitle him to recover.

WRIT OF ENTRY, dated October 1, 1886, to recover a parcel of land in Stoughton. The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and, after a judgment for the tenant, to this court, on appeal, on an agreed statement of facts, in substance as follows:

On September 27, 1854, the plaintiff owned a tract of land in Stoughton, which was bounded on its easterly side by land of O. Ames and Sons. The Easton Branch Railroad Company, to whose rights and liabilities the tenant had succeeded, was incorporated by the St. of 1854, c. 55, and on September 27, 1854, filed the location of its railroad in the office of the county commissioners of the county of Norfolk. A plan accompanied, and was made a part of the location. By such location and plan the demandant's name did not appear as one of the persons whose land was taken in and by the location, though the name of O. Ames and Sons did so appear; but by an application of the monuments, boundaries, courses, and distances given in the plan and location to the land itself, it appeared that the demanded premises were included in the location.

The Easton Branch Railroad Company afterwards constructed its road over the land described in its location, but did not before doing so furnish the demandant with a plan of his land included in its said location, nor did the plaintiff request such a plan.

The Easton Branch Railroad Company or the tenant did not fence or enter into actual occupation of the demanded premises

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until the year 1879, since which time the tenant has been in actual occupation against the objection of the demandant, who up to that time had no actual knowledge that any of his land was included in the location, nor any notice of that fact except such as was given by the filing of the location. The demandant has never parted with his title to the demanded premises except as herein stated, nor did the Easton Branch Railroad Company or the tenant ever pay the plaintiff any damages or compensation for the taking of his land.

O. A. Marden, for the demandant.

J. H. Benton, Jr., for the tenant.

HOLMES, J. The location identified the land, and therefore satisfied the Rev. Sts. c. 39, § 75. Filing it was sufficient notice of the taking. *Woodbury* v. *Marblehead Water Co.* 145 Mass. 509. *Grand Junction Railroad* v. *County Commissioners*, 14 Gray, 553, 564. As pointed out by the tenant, it must be presumed that the demandant was notified of the petition for authority to take, as required by the Rev. Sts. c. 39, §§ 46–48. The authority and its limits are contained in the charter, St. 1854, c. 55, and acts referred to. It would be impracticable to make the validity of the taking depend upon notifying all owners personally by name, and in proceedings *in rem* of this sort it is not necessary. In view of the above decisions, we do not think it requisite to do more than cite a few cases from other States, which sustain or go beyond our opinion. *Johnson* v. *Joliet & Chicago Railroad*, 23 Ill. 202. *Cupp* v. *Commissioners of Seneca County*, 19 Ohio St. 173. *Stewart* v. *Board of Police*, 25 Miss. 479. *Wilson* v. *Hathaway*, 42 Iowa, 173, 176. *Owners of Ground* v. *Albany*, 15 Wend. 374. *George's Creek Coal Co.* v. *New Central Coal Co.* 40 Md. 425, 438.

It should be added, that the agreed facts do not warrant the assumption of the demandant in his argument that the names of other owners did appear in the location and plan in such a way as naturally to mislead him into the assumption that no part of his land was included.

The objection that the demandant was not furnished a plan is pretty nearly disposed of by *Abbott* v. *New York & New England Railroad*, 145 Mass. 450. The fact that the land in controversy belonged to a different person from the owner of the adjoining

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land actually used by the railroad, whether or not it might be important under other circumstances, is not so in this case. The failure to furnish a plan did not affect the tenant's title, (145 Mass. 451,) nor suspend the running of the time for applying for damages, which has long gone by. Rev. Sts. c. 39, § 58. *Charlestown Branch Railroad* v. *County Commissioners*, 7 Met. 78. *Hazen* v. *Boston & Maine Railroad*, 2 Gray, 574, 580. *Meriam* v. *Brown*, 128 Mass. 391, 393. The right of the demandant now to require a plan, if it exists, is a naked right of no practical use, and does not entitle him to recover in this action. *Judgment affirmed.*

CATHARINE MURPHY, administratrix, *vs.* LEANDER GREELEY.

Suffolk. January 17, 1888. — February 29, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Negligence — Personal Injuries — Evidence — Due Care.

A contractor to do the carpenter-work on a brick building in process of erection, who hires an experienced carpenter in the full possession of his faculties to do the furring on a room, is not bound to maintain artificial lights to prevent his wandering out of a regular passageway, and will not be liable to him if he so wanders in the darkness, and, falling through an opening in another room, is injured.

Evidence of the usage of builders as to guarding the openings in the floors of buildings in process of construction is competent on the question whether an experienced carpenter, who is injured by falling through such an opening, was in the exercise of due care.

TORT for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff's intestate, by falling through an opening in the first floor of a building in process of erection, while in the defendant's employ.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Mason*, J., it appeared that the defendant had made a contract to perform all the carpenter-work required in the construction of a family hotel. At the time of making this contract, the defendant saw the plans of the building, including the plan of the first floor, and for a long time prior to the accident had been upon the premises five or six times every week, and was familiar with the

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different parts of the building. The defendant began his work under his contract, and prior to the time of the accident had laid the flooring on the first floor, and had completed some other parts of the carpenter-work in the building. In laying this floor the defendant had, following the plan, left, in the floor of a room marked "store-room," an opening which was intended for a stairway to the cellar, in which at the time of the accident no staircase had been built.

On January 6, 1885, the plaintiff's intestate, James Sinnott, was employed by the defendant's foreman, who was authorized to employ help, to fur a certain room in the building other than the store-room. Sinnott was fifty-five years of age, a carpenter by trade, with full possession of all his faculties, and had worked on carpenter-work in the construction of buildings for more than twenty years. Sinnott was to work for so much per square, and nothing was said to him as to the hours when he was to work. No contract had been made with him for furring any other rooms, and under his contract he had no employment or business taking him into the store-room. The only way of going, as Sinnott testified, from the street entrance of the building to the room where he was employed, or of returning from that room to the street, was by a passageway which, at about the centre of the building, led through an opening adjoining a passageway leading into the store-room. In the neighborhood of both these passageways it was at times very dark, and was so at the time of the accident, so that a person who had just come in from the light could not see his hand before his face. One witness testified that on the night of the accident, when he was retiring from his work (about ten minutes after Sinnott quit work), he got lost in this same locality, came near getting into the store-room passageway, and only found his way by lighting a match. All these facts in relation to the position of these passageways, their darkness, and the existence of this opening in the store-room, were known to the defendant, and to his foreman.

On January 7, 1885, Sinnott came to the building as agreed, and, passing from the entrance along the passageway to the room which he had contracted to fur, commenced his work there, and remained in that room during the day. At night he did not retire from the building by the passageway, but

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passed out through a window opening on to the street from the room where he was at work. The next day in like manner he returned through the passageway to his work; remained in the room all day as before, stopped work at about five o'clock on account of the darkness, and, being unable to go out of the window as on the evening previous on account of its having been closed and fastened, started for the street entrance of the building by the passageway. When he arrived opposite the passageway leading into the store-room, he became confused on account of the darkness, not having before passed out of the building in this way, and supposing that the passageway leading into the store-room was the passageway which he ought to take, wandered, feeling with his hands and feet, into the store-room, and fell into the opening.

Sinnott did not know of the existence of this opening, and no express notice was given to him of its existence, either by the defendant or Higgins, and no notice at all except such, if any, as can be implied from the facts stated. There was no guard or railing around the opening, or at the entrance to the passageway leading to the store-room, and no light was put up at any point, either to mark the proper passageway out of the building or to mark the locality of the opening. All the brick partitions, as also all the brick-work of the entire building, which was five stories in height, were completed, and the openings in the walls for light were filled with sashes of cotton cloth, but the wooden partitions on the first floor were not at the time of the accident erected.

The plaintiff called one Harmon, who testified, on cross-examination, that he was a builder and contractor, and supervisor of the erection of buildings, and had been for many years; that it was not usual in erecting buildings to protect, or guard, or light up holes and openings in the floors, while in the process of construction, nor to light up the passageways in such buildings by artificial light. This was objected to by the plaintiff, but was admitted by the judge. The defendant called certain builders and contractors, who testified that it was not the custom in erecting buildings to protect, or guard, or light holes and openings in the floors of buildings while in the process of construction, and that the usage was to leave them open and

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unguarded. The defendant, in offering this testimony, did not state for what purpose it was offered; but the judge admitted it generally, under objection.

The judge ruled that the action could not be maintained, and directed a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

W. Gaston & C. L. B. Whitney, for the plaintiff.

Samuel Hoar, for the defendant.

KNOWLTON, J. To determine whether the defendant neglected his duty towards the plaintiff's intestate, we must first inquire what were the relations out of which his duty grew. He had a contract with the owner to do all the carpenter-work upon a large brick building five stories high, then in process of erection. Its outer walls and inside brick partitions were all completed, and the openings for windows were filled with sashes of cotton cloth. The flooring on the first floor had been laid, but the wooden partitions there had not been erected, and the carpenter-work in general was not far advanced. The plaintiff's intestate, James Sinnott, made a contract with him to do the furring of a room upon the first floor, at a certain price per square yard. The only duty which he owed Sinnott grew out of this contract. The passageway to the place where the work was to be done extended from the main entrance through the building a considerable distance to the room to be furred, and there was evidence that near the centre of the building the locality about the passageway was at times very dark; that at the time of the accident it was so dark that one could not see his hand before his face; and that Sinnott, having stopped work at about five o'clock on account of the darkness, it being winter, attempted to go out through this passageway, mistook his course, went through an opening in the wall which led to a room in the floor of which was an open space for a stairway to the basement, fell through this open space, and was injured. He testified that there was no other way than through this passageway to get to the room where the work was to be done, and it is to be presumed that he passed through it when he was shown the room at the time he took his contract. He entered by it in the morning on each of the two days that he worked. He was fifty-five years of age, a carpenter by trade, in full possession

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of all his faculties, and he had worked in the construction of buildings for more than twenty years.

In connection with such a contract, made under such circumstances, the law implied no contract on the part of the defendant, and imposed no duty upon him to have the building in such a condition that persons could wander through it in the darkness away from the regular passageway without risk of falling. Nor was it his duty to maintain artificial lights for those who should choose to attempt to go through after nightfall.

The burden was upon the plaintiff to show that the accident happened through the negligence of the defendant. The defendant was under no obligation to provide against the ordinary risks incident to the performance of the contract which the plaintiff's intestate entered into, nor against any special risks incident to the peculiar manner in which he might perform it. If it can fairly be said, contemplating the probabilities from the situation of the parties when they made their contract, that there was any risk that Sinnott would remain at his work until it was so dark in the passageway that he could not see his hand before his face, and then attempt to go through there without a light, and meet with an accident, that must be deemed to have been an ordinary risk of the business which he contracted to do, or a risk growing out of the peculiar manner in which he chose to do it. We do not think there was any evidence of negligence on the part of the defendant.

The testimony introduced in relation to the custom and usage of builders in reference to openings in the floors of buildings while in the process of construction, taken in connection with the testimony of the plaintiff's intestate as to his experience as a carpenter, tended to show what he had reason to expect, and what dangers he was called upon to guard against, and so was competent upon the question whether he was in the exercise of due care. Whether or not it was admissible for any other purpose, in the form in which it was presented, it is unnecessary to decide. *Exceptions overruled.*

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SARAH L. BROOKS & others *vs.* CHARLES F. ALLEN & another.

Suffolk. January 25, 1888. — February 29, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Lease — Rescission — Fraud — Use and Occupation — Insolvency.

A lease was given with a forged guaranty, and subsequently a firm formed by the lessee and another person occupied the premises, the lessor relying for the rent on the lessee alone and the supposed guarantor. On the discovery of the fraud, the lessor gave the lessee notice to quit within fourteen days for nonpayment of rent, and before the end of that period the firm went into insolvency. *Held*, that there was no rescission of the lease till after the firm was in insolvency, and that the firm was not liable for use and occupation.

APPEAL from a decision of the Court of Insolvency, disallowing the claim of the appellants against an insolvent estate. The appeal was heard in the Superior Court, and, after a judgment dismissing the appeal, in this court, on appeal on an agreed statement of facts, in substance as follows:

The appellants, owners of a store in Boston, made a new lease thereof, on January 21, 1885, to the appellee Allen, who was occupying the premises under a guaranteed lease. Allen agreed to obtain a guaranty of the new lease from the same guarantor, and the lease in the form of an indenture in two parts was delivered to him. Allen subsequently redelivered one part, duly executed by himself, which bore a contract of guaranty at the end of it with what purported to be a signature of the guarantor affixed thereto.

On February 1, 1885, Allen took into partnership the appellee Dennan, and thenceforward the premises were occupied by them under the firm name and style of Allen, Dennan, & Co., which fact was known to the appellants. The bills for rent were made to Allen, and the appellants took no steps to recognize the firm as their tenants. On December 7, 1885, the rent being in arrears, the appellants served on Allen a notice to quit for nonpayment of rent, within fourteen days from date; and on that day the appellants were notified by a son of the guarantor that what purported to be his signature upon the lease was a forgery. The fact of the forgery was admitted, and Allen was

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indicted therefor. The appellants, on January 1, 1886, rented the premises anew.

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On December 17, 1885, Dennan petitioned himself and the firm into insolvency; and the appellants claimed to prove against the firm for the arrears of rent, all of which accrued while the premises were occupied by the firm; but their claim was disallowed against the firm, and only allowed against the separate estate of Allen, who has never gone into insolvency.

F. Cunningham, for the appellants.

J. P. Prince & E. G. Alexander, (*W. F. Slocum* with them,) for the appellees.

C. ALLEN, J. According to the understanding of all parties, the rent was to be paid by Allen alone, and not by the firm. There could have been no pretence for holding the firm but for the fraud in respect to the guaranty of the rent. This fraud was practised by Allen alone, before the time when Dennan became his partner. There is nothing to show that Dennan had any more reason to suspect this fraud than the lessors had. The lessors relied only on Allen, and on his supposed guarantor, for the rent. Upon discovery of the fraud, they were entitled to treat the lease as invalid; or, at their option, they might treat it as valid. The lease was voidable, — valid till avoided.

The notice to quit for nonpayment of rent was no rescission of the lease; and if it were, it did not take effect till after fourteen days. There was no rescission of the lease till after the firm was in insolvency. Now, however it might be with regard to Allen alone, a rescission of the lease cannot relate back so as to make the firm liable for the use and occupation of the store prior to the time of such rescission. There was no express contract binding the firm; and there was no implied contract arising from the use and occupation, because the use and occupation were under an express contract with Allen. If the lessors were deceived and misled by Allen, that does not show an implied promise on the part of Dennan, or of the firm, until the happening of something further. Prior to the rescission the firm was not liable, because their use and occupation were by virtue of the lease to Allen, which was still in force. After the rescission the firm was not liable, because it no longer occupied the store, and the rescission did not have the effect to make it

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liable for past use and occupation, enjoyed under a special contract or lease, by which Allen promised to pay the rent. *Leonard* v. *Kingman*, 136 Mass. 123. *Earle* v. *Coburn*, 130 Mass. 596. *Massachusetts General Hospital* v. *Fairbanks*, 129 Mass. 78, 81. *Central Mills* v. *Hart*, 124 Mass. 123, 125. *Hills* v. *Snell*, 104 Mass. 173, 177. *Boston* v. *Binney*, 11 Pick. 1.

The result is, that the claim was properly disallowed against the estate of the firm; and this is the only question before us. In respect to this, therefore, the entry must be,

Appeal dismissed.

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* FRANK FERRY.

Suffolk. February 3, 1888. — February 29, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Complaint — Certainty — Duplicity — Pool — Evidence.

A pool is a combination of stakes, the money derived from which is to go to the winner.

The St. of 1885, c. 342, § 1, forbidding the "registering bets" or "buying or selling pools" on the results of various contests, describes but a single offence.

A complaint on the St. of 1885, c. 342, § 1, alleged that the defendant was present on a day certain, in a room equipped with "apparatus, books, and other devices," and was there engaged in the "business and employment of registering bets and selling pools" on the results of contests of speed between horses. *Held*, that the complaint was sufficient without a detailed description of the apparatus or of particular contests.

The averments "business and employment" and "registering bets and selling pools" in such a complaint do not render it bad for duplicity.

At the trial of such a complaint, on appeal, if the evidence as to the date of the offence corresponds with the allegation of the complaint, the jury, in the absence of proof to the contrary, may presume the offence proved to be the same as that of which the defendant was convicted in the lower court, especially if it appears that he there contended that there was not evidence enough to convict him of the offence on that day.

Evidence that the room was, during ten days prior to the date alleged, occupied for "registering bets and selling pools," is competent on the issue whether it was so kept on that date.

An instruction to the jury, that if the defendant was "present in any such place as that named in the statute, that is, any place like or similar" thereto, he would be guilty, could not have misled the jury into supposing that the defendant could be convicted unless he was present in a place of the character defined in the statute.

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COMPLAINT, under the St. of 1885, c. 342, § 1, by one Chase, to the Municipal Court of the city of Boston, alleging that at the time of the commission of the offence therein set forth a certain room in a certain building in Boston "was kept and occupied by some person whose name is unknown to said Chase, with apparatus, books, and other devices — a more particular description of said apparatus, books, and devices is to said Chase unknown — for the purpose of registering bets, and of buying and selling pools upon the results of trials and contests of skill, speed, and endurance of men, birds, beasts, and machines," and that the defendant, on May 28, 1887, "was present in said room, and then and there engaged in the business and employment of registering bets and selling pools upon the results of certain trials and contests of speed between contesting beasts, to wit, contesting horses."

In the Superior Court, on appeal, before the jury were impanelled, the defendant renewed a motion, which was made and overruled in the Municipal Court, to quash the complaint, for the following reasons: "1. That the complaint herein does not fully, plainly, substantially, and formally allege against him any crime or offence known to the laws of this Commonwealth. 2. Because the apparatus, books, and other devices referred to in said complaint are not described, nor are the uses and purposes for which they were designed and intended set forth; nor is it alleged in said complaint that said apparatus, books, and other devices were not intended and designed for use for lawful purposes. 3. Because said defendant is therein charged with being engaged in both the business and employment therein set forth. 4. Because the defendant is therein alleged to have been engaged in the business and employment of both registering bets and selling pools. 5. Because the method or manner of registering the bets and selling the pools, referred to in said complaint, is not stated or described, and because said bets and pools are not defined or described; nor are the facts and circumstances connected with the alleged registering of bets and selling of pools, referred to in said complaint, set forth or referred to. 6. Because the trials and contests of speed between contesting beasts, viz. contesting horses, therein referred to, are not sufficiently described; and because said contesting beasts, viz. con-

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testing horses, are not sufficiently described. *Bacon*, J., overruled the motion.

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At the trial, the first witness called by the government testified to numerous visits to the room between May 18 and May 28, 1887, inclusive, and that upon these occasions the defendant was present in the room, and engaged in doing certain things specified by the witness, which tended to show that the defendant was then and there engaged in the business named in the complaint. The defendant objected to the admission of evidence connecting the defendant with the room upon more than one date, and demanded that the government should elect a particular date upon which it would rely. The judge ruled that the evidence objected to should be admitted for the purpose of showing the character of the business carried on in the premises, and declined to order the government to elect a particular date upon which it would rely for conviction until all the evidence was in. When the evidence was in, the government elected May 28, 1887, as the date upon which it would rely. In his charge to the jury, the judge referred to the evidence which had been admitted, as to what took place in the premises at different times from that named in the complaint and relied upon by the government, and instructed the jury that they should consider it only as it related to the question whether the premises were kept for the purpose named in the complaint on May 28, and for that purpose alone.

Upon cross-examination of the government's witnesses, it appeared that in the court below evidence was introduced tending to show that the defendant was engaged in the business named in the complaint in the premises referred to upon several dates other than May 28, and a stenographer, called by the defendant, on cross-examination, produced a memorandum made by him in the trial below, that counsel for the defendant "claimed that the evidence was not sufficient to prove that any offence was committed on the date named." The defendant requested the judge to order a verdict for the defendant, on the ground that the government had failed to show that the offence upon which it sought to convict the defendant in the Superior Court was the identical offence upon which he was convicted in the court below; but the judge declined so to rule.

The defendant requested the judge to require the government

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to elect whether it would ask the jury to convict the defendant of being in the business, or in the employment, referred to in the complaint; and also whether he would ask the jury to convict the defendant of being engaged in the business or employment of buying or selling pools, or in that of registering bets. The judge declined to comply with this request, and ruled that, if the defendant was proved to have been engaged either in the business or employment of buying or selling pools or registering bets he might be convicted.

The defendant requested the judge to instruct the jury as follows: "1. In order to convict, the jury must find every element present in the case; viz. that the defendant was, upon the date named, present in a place or room fitted with apparatus, books, and other devices designed and intended for the purpose of registering bets and of buying and selling pools upon the results of certain trials and contests of speed between contesting beasts, to wit, contesting horses, and was then and there engaged in the business and employment of registering bets and selling pools upon the results of said trials and contests. 2. The things sold by the defendant, if he sold anything, must have been pools within the meaning of the statute, and that the following are standard definitions of a pool: 'the stakes played for in certain games'; 'the stake played for in certain games of cards.' 3. If the jury are not satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that it was true, at the time the complaint was drawn, that Chase, the complainant, did not have and could not give a more particular description of the apparatus, books, and other devices in the premises named in the complaint than that contained in the complaint, there is a variance between the allegation and the proof, and the jury must acquit the defendant. If Chase had, and could have given, a fuller and better description of said apparatus, books, and devices, he was bound to do so, and the absence of it is fatal to the complaint. The offence must not only be proved as charged, but it must be charged as proved."

The judge declined so to instruct, but gave the following instructions: 1. In order to convict they must find every element present in the case; viz. that if the defendant, at the time named, was present in any such place as that named in the statute, that is, any place like or similar to that named in the

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statute, and was then and there engaged in any such business or employment as that named in the statute, he would be guilty. 2. A pool, generally speaking, is a combination of stakes; and within the meaning of the law, a pool is money that has been paid in by those who have bought a right in it, and which is to be paid over to the winner, if he gets the right number in a game of chance. 3. The character of the apparatus, books, and other devices referred to in the complaint, was immaterial, and need not be proved; and the evidence which had been offered by the defendant, tending to show that Chase, the complainant, at the time the complaint was made by him, had and could have given a more particular description of said apparatus, books, and devices than that contained in the complaint, was immaterial.

After a verdict of guilty, the defendant moved in arrest of judgment, assigning the same reasons as for the motion to quash. This motion was overruled; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

E. W. Burdett, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, (*H. C. Bliss*, Assistant Attorney General with him,) for the Commonwealth.

DEVENS, J. 1. The defendant contends that a more particular description of the apparatus, &c. used should have been given in the complaint, especially as it appeared at the trial that the complainant might have done this. But all such apparatus, books, &c. might have been, and probably were, entirely lawful and proper instruments in themselves; the important matter charged was that they were used for an unlawful purpose, set forth in the complaint. If this was alleged and proved, any detailed description of them was unnecessary.

2. The complaint is not bad for duplicity in charging the defendant with having been engaged "in the business and employment" forbidden by the statute. These words are used as substantially synonymous terms, to describe the transaction of registering bets and buying or selling pools. It would be an extremely forced construction to hold, as the defendant urges, that by the use of these two words he is charged with being both principal and agent, or as employer and employee.

3. Nor is the allegation in a single count, that the defendant was engaged in the business and employment of both "registering bets and selling pools," open to the objection of duplicity.

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They are not distinct kinds of unlawful business, but different parts of one transaction, representing different stages of it. In *Stevens* v. *Commonwealth*, 6 Met. 241, 242, it was held that the Rev. Sts. c. 126, § 20, prescribing the punishment of "every person who shall buy, receive, or aid in the concealment of any stolen goods, knowing the same to have been stolen," describes only one offence, which may be committed either by buying, receiving, or aiding in the concealment of such goods; and that an indictment which alleged that a defendant received and aided in the concealment of such goods charged but a single offence. A pool was, we think, correctly defined as a combination of stakes, the money derived from which was to go to the winner. Registering the bets and "buying or selling pools" would appear to be but one transaction.

If, however, they were distinguishable criminal acts, the indictment would not be bad for duplicity. In *Commonwealth* v. *Moody*, 143 Mass. 177, assuming that the registering of bets and the selling of pools were distinct offences, it was held that the offence of keeping a room for these various purposes was but a single one, and that it made no difference how many unlawful purposes the room was kept for.

The offence with which the defendant was charged was being present in a room of this character, kept by another person, aiding in the unlawful business there conducted, under the clause of the statute which renders culpable "whoever is present in any such place, engaged in any such business or employment." Whatever portion of the unlawful business there conducted he engaged in, he was guilty of the offence denounced by the statute, nor was he guilty of more than a single offence if he both registered bets and bought or sold pools.

4. It was not necessary to describe the method or manner of registering bets or selling pools, or the particular contests which were made the subject of gambling. The defendant was sufficiently informed of the charge against him, although the indictment did not go into this minute detail.

5. At the trial, the defendant objected that it was not sufficiently shown that the offence for which the defendant was tried in the Superior Court was the same of which he had been convicted in the lower court. The government relied in the Supe-

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rior Court upon May 28, as alleged in the complaint, as the day of the offence. Where the evidence corresponds with the allegation in the complaint, the jury, in the absence of proof to the contrary, may presume the offence proved to be the same as that of which the defendant had been convicted in the lower court. *Commonwealth* v. *Field*, 119 Mass. 105. It was shown, also, that the defendant had contended in the lower court that there was not sufficient evidence to convict him of the offence upon the day named, which indicated that the day alleged was the day there relied on by the prosecution.

6. Evidence was admitted that at various times between May 18 and May 28 the defendant was present at the room described, engaged in doing certain things which tended to show he was engaged in the business alleged in the complaint. The presiding judge received this evidence, not requiring the government to make its election until the evidence was in as to which date it should rely upon. He then directed the jury to consider the evidence as to what occurred at other dates previous, as bearing only upon the question whether the premises were kept for that purpose on May 28. The character of the room was a vital point in the case, as the defendant was only to be held guilty under the statute if he had engaged in the business in a room kept or occupied for the unlawful purpose described.

For the limited object of showing this, evidence as to the business conducted there immediately previous to the date in question was competent. The offence of keeping and occupying such a room is a continuing one, and as relevant to the inquiry whether the room was kept on May 28 for the unlawful purpose of registering bets and selling pools, evidence that this business was there conducted at various times during the ten days previous had a legitimate bearing. *Commonwealth* v. *Carney*, 108 Mass. 417. It could not be excluded because it had also a tendency to show that the defendant was at other times engaged in assisting in it. We must assume that the jury received this evidence only to the limited extent allowed by the judge, that of ascertaining the character of the room described.

7. The defendant requested the judge to instruct the jury, that, in order to convict, the jury must find every element present in the case; viz. that the defendant was, upon the date named,

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present in a place or room fitted with apparatus, books, and other devices designed and intended for the purpose of registering bets and of buying and selling pools upon the results of certain trials and contests of speed between contesting beasts, to wit, contesting horses, and was then and there engaged in the business and employment of registering bets and selling pools upon the results of said trials and contests. The judge declined so to rule, but instructed the jury, that in order to convict they must find every element present in the case; viz. that if the defendant, at the time named, was "present in any such place as that named in the statute, that is, any place like or similar" to that named in the statute, and was then and there engaged in any such business or employment as that named in the statute, he would be guilty. To this ruling and refusal to rule the defendant excepted.

The ruling as given, while it met the request of the defendant fairly in the main, is in one respect unfortunately phrased in using in reference to the place, where the defendant must have been found aiding in the unlawful act charged, the expression, "that is, any place like that or similar to that named in the statute." This is preceded, however, by the words "any such place as that named in the statute, that is," &c. It is evident that the judge used the phrases as synonymous with each other, and that it could not have been supposed by the jury that the defendant could have been convicted unless he was present in a place clearly and distinctly of the character defined in the statute. The argument of the defendant is, that it might have been inferred by the jury that, if the place bore a likeness or similarity to that described in the statute, while yet it differed therefrom, the defendant might be convicted. Connected as it was with the previous expression, we do not think this misunderstanding could have arisen. If not, this verbal inaccuracy, to which the judge's attention was not called, can have done the defendant no harm.

Other exceptions taken by the defendant, as well as the numerous reasons assigned in arrest of judgment, which were identical with those stated in the motion to quash, have been considered so far as seemed desirable with those already discussed.

Exceptions overruled.

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F. OTTO SCHRAMM & another *vs.* BOSTON SUGAR REFINING COMPANY.

Suffolk. January 10, 1888. — March 1, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Contract — Sale — Broker — Rescission — False Representation — Evidence.

An agreement to ship sugars "per Swedish schooner Sylphide" is satisfied by a shipment by a vessel of that name which in Sweden would be called a "schooner," but here a "topsail schooner."

A contract of sale of an unselected article cannot be rescinded at law or in equity because, prior to the making thereof, an honest expression of opinion is made, or a statement of fact not purporting to be of knowledge, that the article when selected will be of a better quality than it proves to be.

A broker in good faith offered for sale to the agent of a refining company a cargo of sugars to be shipped of "eighty-four degrees test" by the polariscope, and a contract of sale was thereupon entered into which provided for that test as a "settlement basis," the price to be adjusted in accordance with variations therefrom. The actual test varied a number of degrees from that named, and, the refining company declining to accept the sugar, an action was brought for breach of contract. *Held*, that there was no evidence of a false representation of fact by the broker inducing the contract.

Evidence that the price of an article has fallen, between the date of a contract of sale and the time of delivery, may be competent to prove the market value; and the concession of the fact will not make it incompetent.

CONTRACT for breach of the following agreement: "Boston, December 24, 1885. Sold for account of Messrs. Schramm & Co., Maroim, Brazil, through Messrs. Smith and Schipper, New York, representing, to the Boston Sugar Refining Company, Boston, a cargo of about four hundred tons more or less of Maroim brown sugars at five and one eighth cents per pound, duty paid, landed terms. Less $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent payable in cash ten days from average date of delivery. Sugar to be shipped per Swedish schooner Sylphide (or in case of disaster to that vessel by another vessel) to Boston during January or February, 1886. Settlement basis 84° test, allowance at rate of $\frac{1}{10}$ c. per degree down, $\frac{1}{16}$ c. per degree up, fractions of a degree pro rata."

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Blodgett*, J., it was admitted that the contract was made by the defendant's agent with one Verplanck, a broker, who represented in Boston Smith and Schipper, the plaintiff's agents in New York. The parties

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agreed that the clause in the contract, "Settlement basis 84° test, allowance at rate of $\frac{1}{10}$ c. per degree down, $\frac{1}{16}$ c. per degree up, fractions of a degree pro rata," referred to a test of the cargo by the polariscope, and provided for an adjustment of the price according to the test, five and one eighth cents per pound to be paid in case the cargo tested 84°, and $\frac{1}{10}$ of a cent per pound less, and $\frac{1}{16}$ of a cent per pound more, in case of variation from that test.

The plaintiffs introduced evidence tending to show that the Sylphide was loaded at Aracaju, the port of Maroim, in Brazil, between February 17 and 20, 1886, with a cargo of Maroim sugar (which was manufactured during the months from October, 1885, to January, 1886), and that she arrived in Boston, with her cargo in good condition, on March 30, 1886; that her cargo was landed and placed in the warehouse of the defendant; and that, on being tested with the polariscope in the manner required by the contract, it tested $79\frac{19}{100}°$; after which the defendant wrote to Smith and Schipper, the agents of the plaintiffs in New York, that the sugar was not a proper quality to have shipped under the contract, and declined to receive it.

It was admitted that the parties afterwards by agreement sold the cargo without prejudice, and that the net proceeds were applied to the reduction of the plaintiffs' claim, the difference between the contract price and the net proceeds of the sale being $3,929.88, which amount it was agreed that the plaintiff was entitled to recover, if entitled to recover at all.

The plaintiffs read in evidence the deposition of the captain of the Sylphide, which set forth that he was in command of the "brig Sylphide. I have been in command of her from June, 1885, when she was launched. We call it a schooner in Sweden; here you call it a brigantine or topsail schooner." And the defendant requested the judge to rule that the plaintiffs had not made out a case, because they had not shown that the cargo was shipped by a schooner called the Sylphide; but the judge refused so to rule, saying that the description was well enough upon the evidence, and that, if the defendant had any right to insist upon any variance, it had waived it.

The defendant contended that it was induced to make the contract by false and fraudulent representations made to it by

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Verplanck, who acted for the plaintiffs in negotiating the sale, and further relied on the untruth of these representations inducing the contract, as constituting a defence in equity. One Foster, the president of the defendant company, testified that he conducted the negotiation for the purchase of the sugar named in the contract with Verplanck; that he knew that the crop of sugar at Maroim was a crop that came in from October to January; that "Verplanck offered me a cargo of sugar coming from the port of Maroim, in Brazil, and described that cargo to me as eighty-four test sugar"; and that "a variation of one degree nothing would be said about; I think a variation of two degrees they might complain; anything more than that would be serious; anything more than that, I think they would try to get an allowance on it." On cross-examination, he testified that Verplanck "offered to me a cargo of Maroim sugars of eighty-four degrees test"; that he could not describe Verplanck's language fully, but that that was his best recollection; that "possibly, it would n't be out of the way," though he did not remember, Verplanck might have come to him with a telegram stating, "You are authorized to offer a cargo of sugar ex Sylphide from Maroim, 84° settlement basis, a sixteenth up and a tenth down"; and that he did not think that Verplanck had been guilty of any fraud, and that he did not think that he would be.

The defendant's counsel admitted to the court that he had no evidence to show that Verplanck or Smith and Schipper knew at the time of the sale that the quality of the cargo was not as defendant claimed it was stated by Verplanck, or that the crop of Maroim sugar for that year was an inferior one; and the plaintiffs admitted that they had not informed Smith and Schipper, when authorizing them to sell this cargo, or prior to such sale, that the crop of Maroim sugar that year was inferior.

At the conclusion of this testimony, the judge asked the defendant's counsel whether he intended to change the testimony, or to offer any other evidence of fraudulent representations to support the defence on this point; and the defendant's counsel having stated that he did not, the judge said, "I will not say that there is not some evidence of a misstatement of fact" in regard to the cargo, but ruled that there was no evidence to support the defence on this point, and that the defendant had failed to

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establish the equitable defence on which it relied; to which ruling the defendant excepted.

The witness Foster was asked, on cross-examination, whether the market price of sugar had not fallen between the time of the contract and the time when the cargo in question was landed, and answered, first, that he did not remember, and finally, that he thought it had, but could not say how much; and Verplanck, when asked how much the market price of sugar had fallen between the date of the contract and the date when this cargo arrived, answered, "Three eighths of a cent," and said that the amount claimed by the plaintiffs was in fact the difference between the contract price and the market price of the sugar, and was seven sixteenths of a cent a pound less than the contract price. The defendant objected to the admission of this evidence, but the judge admitted it.

The defendant further contended, upon the evidence, first, that the sugar delivered was not Maroim sugar; secondly, that there was a usage in the sugar trade in Boston by which the defendant, under a contract like the one in suit, was entitled to reject the sugar, if, when tested by the polariscope, it did not show the test within two or three degrees of the settlement basis fixed in the contract; but the judge, without objection from either party, submitted to the jury, as the only questions of fact in issue, whether the sugar delivered was Maroim sugar, and whether the usage upon which the defendant relied existed, under instructions to which no objection was taken.

The jury found for the plaintiffs; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

D. E. Ware, for the defendant.

M. Storey, for the plaintiffs.

FIELD, J. The jury have found, under instructions to which no exception was taken, that the sugars delivered were Maroim brown sugars, within the meaning of the contract, and that there was no usage by which the defendant was entitled to reject the sugars because they fell below the test, which the contract made the basis of settlement, by more than two or three degrees of the polariscope.

It is plain that the sugars were shipped by the vessel intended by the parties to the contract; that this vessel might well have

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been called a Swedish schooner; that the defendant did not refuse to receive the sugars because the vessel carried some square sails; and that this fact was immaterial.

The defendant contends that there was evidence of a false representation of fact made by the agent of the plaintiffs whereby the defendant's agent was induced to make the contract. If any such representation was made, it was made by Verplanck, the broker, and it is said that there was evidence that a representation was made by him that the sugars were "of eighty-four degrees test." "The defendant's counsel admitted to the court that he had no evidence to show that Verplanck or Smith and Schipper knew at the time of the sale that the quality of the cargo was not as defendant claimed it was stated by Verplanck." There was no evidence that the plaintiffs knew that Verplanck ever made any such representation, or ever authorized him to make any such representation. The contention is, that if Verplanck, as agent of the plaintiffs, made a positive representation of fact, although he was not authorized by them to make it, and they did not know that he had made it, and although he believed it to be true, yet, if the defendant's agent relied upon it in making the contract, the defendant could rescind the contract, if the representation was actually false. If we assume that this is the law, we are yet of opinion that the evidence recited in the exceptions would not have warranted the jury in finding that Verplanck made any statement which was, or was understood by the defendant's agent to be, a positive representation of an existing fact relating to an ascertained lot of sugars.

There was no evidence that there was an ascertained lot of sugars in existence which Verplanck offered to sell, or that the defendant's agent who made the contract understood that Verplanck represented that there was such a lot of sugars which would test exactly eighty-four degrees. It appears that the defendant's agent clearly understood that the sugars when selected and put on board would vary somewhat from this test, and no contract was made limiting the extent of this variation, and no representation that it would not exceed any definite limit. So far as appears, Verplanck showed to the defendant's agent all the information he had concerning the sugars, and there is no evidence that the defendant's agent understood that Verplanck had any per-

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sonal knowledge of the quality of the sugars, or that he made any representation of the quality as of his own knowledge. If the plaintiffs made any representation, it was by the telegram, and that was not false. The contract contains no warranty of the quality of the sugars, and none could be shown by the oral testimony to add to or vary the terms of the written contract. Taking the most favorable view of the whole evidence that can be taken for the defendant, it amounts to this: that in December, 1885, Verplanck, as agent of the plaintiffs, offered for sale a cargo of about four hundred tons, more or less, of Maroim brown sugars, to be shipped by the Swedish schooner Sylphide in the following January or February, and that he in good faith said that they would, or that he thought they would, test about eighty-four degrees; and that, induced by this, the defendant's agent made the written contract in which eighty-four degrees was taken as the "settlement basis," and the price was agreed upon, with stipulated variations up or down if the sugars tested more or less than this.

Contracts of sale of articles thereafter to be selected cannot be rescinded because before the making of the contracts there may have been an honest expression of opinion, or an honest statement of fact not purporting to be as of knowledge, that when the articles are selected in conformity with the contracts they will be of a better quality than they prove to be. We are not aware that in this Commonwealth there is in this respect any different rule in equity from that which obtains at law. *King* v. *Eagle Mills*, 10 Allen, 548. *Pike* v. *Fay*, 101 Mass. 134. *Litchfield* v. *Hutchinson*, 117 Mass. 195. *Ormrod* v. *Huth*, 14 M. & W. 651.

The measure of damages was the difference between the contract price and the market value at the time and place of delivery. If the evidence that the market price of sugars had fallen between the date of the contract and the time when the cargo arrived and was landed was admitted for the purpose of proving this market value, it may have been competent in connection with other evidence; the fact that the evidence was rendered unnecessary by the concession of the defendant does not make the admission of it a ground for a new trial. *Priest* v. *Groton*, 103 Mass. 530, 540. *Jennings* v. *Whitehead & Atherton Machine Co.* 138 Mass. 594. It does not appear that this evi-

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dence was admitted for any other purpose, and the objection taken is general. We cannot say that evidence of the amount of the fall in price of sugars generally was not some evidence of the amount of the fall in price of this particular kind of sugars. The defendant contends that it was prejudiced by the admission of this evidence, and that the plaintiffs' counsel might argue from it that the defendant refused to receive the sugars because they had fallen in price, and not because they did not test eighty-four degrees. The exceptions do not state that any such argument was made; but if it was, we cannot say that it was not legitimate, or that it could not as well have been made upon the concession of the defendant as upon the evidence.

Exceptions overruled.

DAVID N. SKILLINGS *vs.* MASSACHUSETTS BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

Suffolk. January 13, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Beneficiary Association — Creditor — Dependent — Statute.

A creditor of a member of a beneficiary association is not "dependent" within the meaning of the Pub. Sts. c. 115, § 8, (as enlarged by the St. of 1882, c. 195, § 1,) and a promise by the association to pay a sum due at a member's death to such a creditor is void.

Certificates of membership in a beneficiary association were issued in February and March, 1885, payable to a creditor of a member, who died in 1886. *Held*, in an action by the creditor thereon, that the St. of 1885, c. 188, relating to such associations, which took effect in May, 1885, did not apply, and that, the promise being void, it could not be determined to whom, if to any one, the sums due should be paid.

CONTRACT to recover $7,000 upon two certificates of membership issued by the defendant on the life of Edward A. Clapp. The declaration alleged that the certificates were issued on February 18, 1885, and March 9, 1885, respectively, and were payable to the plaintiff; and that Clapp died on February 3, 1886.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., the plaintiff offered in evidence the certificates, the fact of the death of

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Clapp, and proofs of death, in conformity with the contract. The defendant put in evidence the application of Clapp to become a member of the defendant association, which stated that the contract was made for the benefit of the plaintiff, and that the plaintiff was "dependent."

The defendant contended that, as the plaintiff was not a relative of Clapp, but only a creditor, which facts the plaintiff admitted, he was not, within the meaning of the Pub. Sts. c. 115, § 8, dependent; and asked the judge to rule that, under these circumstances, the plaintiff was not dependent, and that the action could not be maintained.

The judge ruled as requested, and ordered a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

R. M. Morse, Jr., for the plaintiff.

E. Avery & A. E. Avery, for the defendant.

FIELD, J. The exceptions in this case are meagre, but it appears that the defendant was an association doing business under the provisions of the Pub. Sts. c. 115, and that it issued two certificates of membership on the life of Edward A. Clapp for sums of money to be paid on his death to the plaintiff, who was described in the application as "dependent." The plaintiff was not a relative of Clapp, and his only relation to him was that of a creditor. The declaration alleged that the certificates were issued on February 18, 1885, and March 9, 1885, respectively, and that Clapp died on February 3, 1886. The reference in the exceptions to the Pub. Sts. c. 115, plainly shows that this is a corporation organized "for the purpose of assisting the widows, orphans, or other persons dependent upon deceased members." Pub. Sts. c. 115, § 8; St. 1877, c. 204; St. 1874, c. 375.

The powers of corporations organized under these statutes were enlarged by the St. of 1882, c. 195, § 1, so as to include among the persons to be benefited other relatives of deceased members besides widows and orphans. A person whose only relation to the deceased member is that of a creditor is not a person dependent upon him within the meaning of these statutes, and the promise to pay the plaintiff is void. Such a promise is beyond the powers of the association, and contravenes the intention of the statutes under which the association was organized. The plaintiff cannot therefore maintain an action on this prom-

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ise, either for his own use, or for that of any other person. *Briggs* v. *Earl*, 139 Mass. 478. *American Legion of Honor* v. *Perry*, 140 Mass. 580.

The St. of 1885, c. 183, passed after these certificates were issued, does not affect the case, for these among other reasons: that it does not distinctly appear that this corporation was such an organization as could avail itself of the rights, powers, and privileges conferred by this act (§ 1); or if it could, that it had ever done so; or that it had done anything that could make valid the promise to pay the plaintiff which was void when it was made.

As the designation of the plaintiff as the person enabled to receive the sums payable on the death of Clapp is void, we cannot determine in this suit to whom they should be paid, if payable to any one. *Exceptions overruled.*

SETH W. BOYNTON *vs.* SHAW STOCKING COMPANY.

Middlesex. January 16, 1888. — March 1, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Libel — Construction — Character.

The publication of an article by a manufacturer cautioning the public not to form an opinion of goods of his manufacture from those advertised by a tradesman as of "first quality," since they were sold to him as "damaged," is not actionable as an imputation on the tradesman's character.

TORT for an alleged libel contained in the following words: "Caution: An opinion of Shaw knit hosiery should not be formed from the navy blue stockings advertised as of 'first quality' by Messrs. S. W. Boynton & Co. at 12½ cts., since we sold that firm at less than ten cents a pair some lots which were damaged in the dye-house. [Signed] Shaw Stocking Company. Lowell, May 29, 1886."

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Thompson*, J., the plaintiff offered evidence tending to prove the following facts:

The plaintiff was the proprietor of a dry goods store, and did

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a large business in Waltham, under the style of S. W. Boynton & Co., his customers also coming from the surrounding towns and cities. He had for several years purchased stockings manufactured by the defendant. On May 3, 1886, one Guild, who sold goods of the defendant on commission, called at the plaintiff's place of business and represented that he had a large stock of navy blue first quality Shaw knit stockings to sell, which were in such sizes that the defendant would sell them cheap, as it desired to reduce its very large stock. The plaintiff examined samples of the stock then in Guild's possession, which were first quality navy blue Shaw knit stockings, and, after being assured by Guild that the stock was like the samples and of the very first quality, purchased one hundred dozen pairs. After the receipt of the stockings, and after examining them, the plaintiff caused to be inserted in six issues of "The Charles River Laborer," a weekly paper published in Waltham, and having a large circulation in that place and in surrounding towns and cities, the following advertisement: "Shaw Knit Hose, navy blue, size 8 to 11, first quality goods, at 12½ cts. per pair." Afterwards, the defendant caused the alleged libel to be inserted in six issues of "The Waltham Daily Tribune," a newspaper published in Waltham, and having a large circulation therein and in the surrounding cities and towns.

The plaintiff also offered evidence tending to show that the stockings had not been damaged in the dye-house, and that they were not damaged in any other respect, but were first quality stockings, which the defendant well knew.

On the evidence, the judge ruled that the action could not be maintained, and directed a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

T. Curley, for the plaintiff. 1. The question of libel or no libel should have been left to the jury, according to the rule laid down in *Twombly* v. *Monroe*, 136 Mass. 464. See *Baylis* v. *Lawrence*, 11 Ad. & El. 920; *Donaghue* v. *Gaffy*, 54 Conn. 257.

2. The natural and necessary meaning of the words contained in the defendant's publication is defamatory of the plaintiff, particularly if taken in connection with the plaintiff's advertisement. Whatever words have a tendency to hurt or are calculated to prejudice a man who seeks a livelihood by any trade or

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business are actionable. *Whittaker* v. *Bradley*, 7 D. & R. 649. *Fowles* v. *Bowen*, 30 N. Y. 20. *Orr* v. *Skofield*, 56 Maine, 483. *Weiss* v. *Whittemore*, 28 Mich. 366. See Odgers, Libel and Slander, 30, 31; *Harman* v. *Delany*, 2 Strange, 898; *Jenner* v. *A'Beckett*, L. R. 7 Q. B. 11.

J. N. Marshall, for the defendant.

C. ALLEN, J. An action will not lie for mere disparagement of the plaintiff's goods, without averment and proof of special damage. *Dooling* v. *Budget Publishing Co.* 144 Mass. 258. But the plaintiff contends that the words used by the defendant contain an imputation upon his character, and that they imply that he was deceiving the public by advertising goods as of first quality which he knew were damaged. The question, therefore, is this: Taking the words in their natural sense, and without a forced or strained construction, do they contain this imputation? If the words may fairly bear that meaning, then the case should have been submitted to the jury; otherwise not. *Twombly* v. *Monroe*, 136 Mass. 464. *Simmons* v. *Mitchell*, 6 App. Cas. 156. *Capital & Counties' Bank* v. *Henty*, 7 App. Cas. 741, 744, 771, 772, 790, 793.

We are of opinion that the words, fairly construed, do not bear that meaning, and that, in order to reach such a construction, it is necessary to include something which the defendant did not say, and which its words do not imply. No doubt a case might be imagined where, from peculiar circumstances, — as, for example, from the nature of the article offered for sale, or from the long continued habit of selling goods of a different character or quality from that represented, — it would be a natural inference from a charge otherwise like that which is the subject of this action, that the party was practising fraud or imposition, or was guilty of trickery or meanness. In the present case, such an inference does not naturally arise, and the object of the defendant's advertisement, judging from its language, appears to have been rather to uphold and maintain the character of its goods than to attack the plaintiff's character. The court might properly withdraw the case from the jury. See *Boynton* v. *Remington*, 3 Allen, 397; *Evans* v. *Harlow*, 5 Q. B. 624; *Solomon* v. *Lawson*, 8 Q. B. 823. *Exceptions overruled.*

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DAVID TAYLOR *vs.* ARVILLA LEWIS & trustee.
LEANDER L. GIBSON, administrator, *vs.* NELSON G. LEWIS & another.

Middlesex. January 20, 1888. — March 1, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Promissory Note — Payment — Administrator — Evidence.

An agreement by an heir with an administrator that notes held by the latter may be deducted from her distributive share before the final settlement of the estate will not amount to payment of the notes.

TWO ACTIONS OF CONTRACT. The first case, in which the plaintiff in the second case was summoned as trustee of the principal defendant, was to recover a balance due on two promissory notes made by Arvilla Lewis to Leander L. Gibson, and transferred by him to the plaintiff. The second case was to recover a balance due upon a promissory note made by Nelson G. Lewis and Arvilla Lewis to Susan Gibson, the plaintiff's intestate. The answer in each case set up, among other defences, that of payment.

The cases were tried together in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, which, so far as material, was as follows:

It was admitted that Susan Gibson died on October 19, 1884, and that Leander L. Gibson was duly appointed the administrator of her estate on November 11, 1884; that Arvilla Lewis, the wife of Nelson G. Lewis, was an heir at law of Susan Gibson, and entitled to a distributive share in her estate, which she had never assigned or disposed of; and that Leander L. Gibson had never rendered any account as such administrator.

The defendants, to prove payment, offered evidence that in June, 1886, Arvilla Lewis and Leander L. Gibson made an oral agreement that the balance due on the notes should be deducted from her distributive share of the estate of Susan Gibson before final settlement, in payment of the same, and that the agreement had never been annulled.

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The plaintiff objected to the introduction of this evidence, and the judge, at his request, ruled that it was immaterial and incompetent, and excluded it. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff in each case; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

S. Haynes, for the defendants.

C. S. Hayden & S. L. Graves, for the plaintiffs.

C. ALLEN, J. The only question in these cases is, whether the plea of payment was supported by the evidence offered. There was no declaration in set-off, and no averment of an agreement for a set-off. Set-off can only be pleaded in the manner prescribed by statute; Pub. Sts. c. 168, § 16; and an answer must set forth in clear and precise terms each substantive fact intended to be relied on in avoidance of the action. Pub. Sts. c. 167, § 20. The statutes and the practice of the courts are very liberal in respect to allowing amendments, but in these cases there was no amendment to the answer, and no averment in the answer which the offered evidence was thought to support, except that of payment. And we are of opinion that the facts offered to be proved were not sufficient to show a payment. The estate in the hands of the administrator had never been settled, no account had been rendered, and of course it had not been ascertained what Mrs. Lewis's distributive share would amount to. Her counsel now assumes in argument that it would amount to more than the sums due upon the notes. But this is not conceded, and it was not included in the offer of proof; and if it had been, it is at least doubtful whether it would have been sufficient to establish a payment. The difficulty is, that there was no agreement for an actual present setting-off of one debt against the other. There was, upon the offer, merely an executory agreement that the notes should be deducted from her distributive share, in payment of the same, to be taken therefrom before the final settlement of the estate. The time had not come for carrying this agreement into execution, by making the actual application of the notes as contemplated. The notes were left as good subsisting notes, capable of passing by indorsement. It was not an agreement for a present deduction or set-off, but for one in the future. The notes were not extinguished or paid by the agreement that in the future, and before the

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final settlement of the estate, they should be deducted from her distributive share. *Dehon* v. *Stetson*, 9 Met. 341. *Cary* v. *Bancroft*, 14 Pick. 315. See also *Livingstone* v. *Whiting*, 15 Q. B. 722; *Callander* v. *Howard*, 10 C. B. 290.

Exceptions overruled.

KNOWLTON S. CHAFFEE *vs.* MIDDLESEX RAILROAD COMPANY.

MANUFACTURERS' FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY *vs.* SAME & another.

Suffolk. November 18, 1887. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Bonds — Coupons — Days of Grace — Election — Shares of Stock — Damages — Specific Performance.

Bonds for the payment of money and interest coupons thereon are not entitled to grace.

If bonds issued by a corporation provide for payment at maturity, in money or in shares of stock at the option of the holder, the former to be raised from a sale of the latter, time is of the essence of the contract, and a bondholder who on Monday, the day of maturity being Sunday, offers his bonds for conversion into shares, is too late.

A corporation issued bonds payable by statute in money or in shares of stock at or before maturity at the election of the holder, and, the bonds maturing on Sunday, at three o'clock on the Saturday afternoon before, that being the close of its business hours, sold and transferred to a trust company all the shares uncalled for and legally issuable for money to redeem the outstanding bonds. A bondholder was told, when he applied at the treasurer's office at about ten minutes after three o'clock to convert his bonds into shares, that he was too late, and did not in consequence present his bonds for conversion on that afternoon. On Monday he surrendered his bonds for their par value in money, not waiving thereby any rights to the shares or to their value. Subsequently the bondholder brought a bill in equity against the corporation for relief, and, upon its being merged in another corporation, joined the latter as a party defendant. *Held*, that he had seasonably exercised his right of election, and that he was entitled, not to specific performance, but only to the market value of the shares at the maturity of the bonds.

An insurance company which makes an investment in unauthorized bonds may enforce the payment of the bonds.

TWO BILLS IN EQUITY, alleging that the plaintiffs were the holders of bonds issued by the Middlesex Railroad Company,

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and dated February 1, 1875, each of which provided for the payment of the principal sum due thereon at the treasurer's office on February 1, 1885, "with interest at the rate of eight per centum per annum payable semiannually on the first day of August and February in each year, upon surrender of the interest warrants hereto attached as they become due," with a covenant for the issue "to said bearer or his order five shares in the capital stock of said company," upon "the surrender of this obligation to the treasurer of the company by the bearer, at the date of maturity of any interest warrant"; that twenty interest warrants were attached to each bond, each of which was, save the proper date and number, in form similar to the following: "$20. Interest warrant $20. The Middlesex Railroad Company will pay the bearer at the office of the treasurer in Boston twenty dollars on the first day of ——, being six months' interest on certificate of indebtedness No. —"; that the St. of 1880, c. 103, §§ 3, 4,* authorized the issue of new shares of stock, and legalized the issue of these bonds, providing for their redemption by or conversion into thirty-five hundred shares of the new stock; that the plaintiffs as such holders, on February 2, 1885, — February 1 being Sunday, — surrendered their bonds to the Middlesex Railroad Company, and demanded five shares of its capital stock for each bond, but it refused to issue such shares, and tendered in payment money to the amount of the par value of the bonds; and prayed that the Middlesex Railroad Company might be compelled to procure, issue, and transfer to the plaintiffs shares of its capital stock to the amount to which they were severally entitled.

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* The sections are as follows:

"Section 3. The Middlesex Railroad Company is hereby authorized to increase its capital stock to an amount not exceeding one million of dollars.

"Section 4. Three hundred and fifty thousand dollars of said stock shall be applied to the payment or redemption of the bonds of said company already issued under the following dates, to wit: — the first day of February, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, and the first day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, at or before maturity; and the issue of said bonds is hereby legalized and made valid, and the holders thereof may convert them into stock as said bonds mature, unless redeemed by the company before maturity."

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IN THE FIRST CASE, the bill was filed on February 26, 1885, and also alleged that the plaintiff was the holder of thirty bonds payable to "Knowlton S. Chaffee, or bearer." Hearing before *Holmes*, J., who found, among other things not material, that the plaintiff was informed when he surrendered his bonds, on February 2, 1885, that he was too late, as he should have made his offer and demand on Saturday, January 31, 1885; that the shares had all been sold for money with which to redeem the bonds; and that the plaintiff finally surrendered the bonds without waiving his rights to the stock or its value, if it had any; and reported the case for the consideration of this court.

IN THE SECOND CASE, the bill was filed on March 19, 1885, and also alleged that the plaintiff was the holder of fifty bonds, each of which was payable "to —— or bearer"; and that on Saturday, January 31, 1885, the plaintiff gave notice of its desire to surrender its bonds for shares of stock, but was informed that it was too late, and that the shares would not then be issued. On January 7, 1887, the plaintiff moved to amend its bill by making the Boston Consolidated Street Railway Company, into which the Middlesex Railroad Company had been merged, a party defendant, and by adding a prayer that it might be compelled to transfer and deliver to the plaintiff shares of its capital stock equivalent to the number for which the first named defendant had been liable. At the hearing, before *C. Allen*, J., the following facts appeared:

The Middlesex Railroad Company had made an agreement with the International Trust Company, that all the new stock that had not been delivered for the bonds at the close of business hours on January 31, 1885, should be delivered to the trust company at an agreed price, to be used to redeem the bonds then delivered or outstanding. At three o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, January 31, 1885, that being the close of business hours, the finance committee of the directors of the Middlesex Railroad Company sold for cash and transferred to the trust company six hundred and fifty-five shares, being the balance of the fifteen hundred shares appropriated by the St. of 1880, c. 103, for the bonds which had not been converted or required by the signified option of any bondholder, and, the price for these shares being then paid in cash, the shares were transferred.

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Afterwards, and before twenty minutes past three o'clock on the same afternoon, Samuel Appleton, the president of the plaintiff corporation, went to the office of the Middlesex Railroad Company, and told a clerk in the presence of the finance committee, composed of the president and two directors, that he had come to convert the fifty bonds held by the plaintiff. The clerk asked him if he had the bonds with him, and Appleton answered that he had not, that they were in the Union Safe Deposit Vaults, and that the usual hour for closing the vaults had passed, upon which the clerk informed him that it would be necessary to have the bonds. Appleton then asked to see the president of the Middlesex Railroad Company, and, as he stepped forward, said to him that he wanted to convert the bonds held by the plaintiff. Powers, the president, then told him that at three o'clock all stock which had not been taken up by the conversion of bonds had been sold and transferred to a third party; that it was too late to convert the bonds into stock, but that they would pay the bonds in cash. Appleton then left, and returned to the office of the Middlesex Railroad Company at five minutes after four o'clock, and, finding the door closed, dropped through a slit in the door the following letter:

"January 31, 1885. To the President of the Middlesex Railroad Co., Boston. Dear Sir, — Having called at your office this day at 3.20 P. M. and demanded a conversion of ($25,000) Twenty-five Thousand Dollars, face value, of bonds of your Company due and convertible on February 1st, 1885, I hereby repeat said demand for conversion to said stock, to amount of 250 shares, as in bonds provided. Yours respectfully, Samuel Appleton, Pres."

The bonds were in the Union Safe Deposit Vaults, the usual hour for closing which was three o'clock; but, on application to the sub-manager, the vaults could have been opened by him and a clerk. In January, 1885, the sub-manager lived on Beacon Street, the clerk lived at the Norfolk House, and the president of the Middlesex Railroad Company also lived on Beacon Street.

The judge found, that at about ten minutes after three o'clock in the afternoon of January 31, 1885, Appleton was informed by the president of the Middlesex Railroad Company that it was

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then too late to present his bonds; that Appleton could and would have got his bonds and presented them on that afternoon, but for Powers's telling him that it was too late; and that under these circumstances the presentation of the bonds on that afternoon, at a little later time than ten minutes after three o'clock, was waived by the Middlesex Railroad Company.

On Monday, February 2, 1885, Appleton went to the office of the Middlesex Railroad Company with the bonds, and again demanded the shares to which the plaintiff was entitled on converting the bonds into stock, and surrendered the bonds with one coupon attached, receiving in exchange a check for $26,000, upon the agreement set forth in the following letter:

"Boston, 2 February, 1885. Samuel Appleton, Esq., President Manufacturers' F. & M. Ins. Co. Dear Sir, — I hand you herewith check for $26,000, being the amount of the fifty $500 bonds with coupon attached of the Middlesex R. R. Co., surrendered by your Company to the Middlesex R. R. Co. this morning, and I expressly reserve on behalf of the Middlesex R. R. Co. all the rights of the Manufacturers' M. & F. Ins. Co. to the stock of the Middlesex R. R. Co. which you have demanded in exchange for the bonds, and which I have refused to deliver, or for the value of such stock over and above the par value of the bonds surrendered; it being expressly agreed that the acceptance of the above sum of $26,000 by your company is not a waiver of its rights to the stock or its value, if it has any. Yours, Middlesex Railroad Co., by Chas. E. Powers, Prest."

The stock of the Middlesex Railroad Company had sold on the market in small lots, between December 1, 1884, and January 31, 1885, for prices ranging from 108¾ to 112.

On August 19, 1886, the Middlesex Railroad Company voted to increase its capital stock, the rights to subscribe to the new stock being valuable rights, which were sold on the market, and declared dividends of one and three quarters per cent each in April, July, and October, 1885, and of one and one half per cent each in January, April, and July, 1886. On August 21, 1886, by articles of consolidation duly executed and approved, the Middlesex Railroad Company and the Highland Street Railway Company were consolidated, and became a new corporation, called the Boston Consolidated Street Railway Company, each

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shareholder in the Middlesex Railroad Company being entitled to seven eighths of a share of stock in the new corporation for each share held by him. The Boston Consolidated Street Railway Company, on January 1, 1887, paid a dividend of four per cent. In January, 1885, there was no mortgage or pledge of the franchises of the Middlesex Railroad Company, and all bills for the construction thereof were paid; but at that time it owed money borrowed to pay, among other things, for an extension of its road, which branch had at that time been completed and paid for with the money borrowed.

The plaintiff contended that it was originally entitled, as against the Middlesex Railroad Company, upon surrendering the $25,000 and interest thereon, to have a decree for a certificate for 250 shares of stock, and to subscribe at par for $15\frac{62}{100}$ more shares, and for the payment of such sum as would amount to the dividends which had been declared on the 250 shares; that it was entitled to a decree against the Boston Consolidated Street Railway Company, upon surrender of the money, for a certificate for $232\frac{4}{10}$ shares; or that, if it was impossible for the defendants to comply with such decrees in whole or in part, it was entitled, by way of compensation, to the market value of the shares or rights to subscribe upon the date at which the market value of the shares of either corporation, or of the rights, had been highest between January 31, 1885, and the date of the decree.

The judge reported for the consideration of the full court the questions whether the plaintiff is entitled to the relief sought; whether the law as to investment of the funds of insurance companies prevented the plaintiff from obtaining this decree; and whether, if the plaintiff was entitled to compensation only, it should be based upon the value of the stocks and the rights to subscribe at the date of the decree, or, if at any other day, at what day. The case was to be sent to an assessor to determine the values mentioned, and such decree was to be entered as equity might require.

Samuel Hoar, for the plaintiff in the first case.

I. Bonds and coupons, payable to bearer, have all the qualities of commercial paper. These coupons, when severed from the bonds, are negotiable, and pass by delivery. They then cease to be incidents of the bonds, and become in fact inde-

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pendent claims. They possess the essential attributes of commercial paper. They are suable without the production of the bond. They are promissory notes, and are properly declared on as such, and, when overdue, will bear interest. *Spooner* v. *Holmes*, 102 Mass. 503, 507. *Haven* v. *Grand Junction Railroad*, 109 Mass. 88. *Hinckley* v. *Union Pacific Railroad*, 129 Mass. 52. *Thomson* v. *Lee County*, 3 Wall. 327, 332. *Aurora City* v. *West*, 7 Wall. 82, 105. *Clark* v. *Iowa City*, 20 Wall. 583. *Cromwell* v. *County of Sac*, 94 U. S. 351, 362. *Hodges* v. *Shuler*, 22 N. Y. 114. *Evertson* v. *National Bank of Newport*, 66 N. Y. 14. Pierce on Railroads, 107. 2 Ames on Bills and Notes, 774, note 5. Jones on Railroad Securities, §§ 320–326.

II. Negotiable interest coupons are entitled to days of grace, like other negotiable instruments payable at a given day, or on time; and therefore one purchasing them after the expiration of the time of payment specified, but before the expiration of the days of grace, is a purchaser before maturity; so a negotiable bond, payable at a given day, or on time, is entitled to days of grace. *Hodges* v. *Shuler*, 22 N. Y. 114. *Evertson* v. *National Bank of Newport*, 66 N. Y. 22.

III. Even if days of grace were not allowed on these bonds and coupons, the offer to surrender having been made by the plaintiff on the next business day after they became payable, he could be held guilty of nothing more than a mistake easily and honestly made; and it is submitted, that time is not so far essential to the contract that an absolute punctuality of performance is indispensable. *Todd* v. *Taft*, 7 Allen, 371.

W. C. Loring, for the plaintiff in the second case.

I. The plaintiff exercised its option of converting its bonds into stock within the time allowed it. The notice on Saturday coupled with the defendant's waiver was sufficient. The plaintiff had the whole of Saturday in which to exercise its option. Shaw, C. J., in *Gordon* v. *Parmelee*, 15 Gray, 413, 418. *Estes* v. *Tower*, 102 Mass. 65. *Dibble* v. *Bowater*, 2 E. & B. 564. *Hinton* v. *Duff*, 11 C. B. (N. S.) 724.

The rule as to business hours is the rule of the law merchant, and consists of two parts. 1. To charge an indorser of a negotiable paper, demand must be made on the maker, if not a banker, within reasonable hours, and, if he is a banker,

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within banking hours on the date when the paper becomes due. *Wilkins* v. *Jadis*, 2 B. & Ad. 188. *Farnsworth* v. *Allen*, 4 Gray, 453. But a demand after banking hours is good, if the banker is in fact found. *Garnett* v. *Woodcock*, 6 M. & S. 44. *Shepherd* v. *Chamberlain*, 8 Gray, 225. 2. The contract of the acceptor of a draft, or of the maker of a note, bearing days of grace, is to pay on demand on the third day of grace. Buller, J., in *Leftley* v. *Mills*, 4 T. R. 170, 174. Shaw, C. J., in *Gordon* v. *Parmelee*, 15 Gray, 413, 418.

II. Upon exercising its option within the time, the plaintiff became entitled as against the Middlesex Railroad to a decree for a certificate upon two grounds.

1. Upon converting its bonds into stock the plaintiff became a stockholder, and having become a stockholder he was entitled to a decree for the issue of a certificate: upon exercising its option to convert its bonds into stock the plaintiff became a stockholder; and the plaintiff became a stockholder by force of St. 1880, c. 103. Before the statute, the plaintiff could not have become a stockholder without the co-operation of the company; before the statute, the plaintiff had nothing more than a covenant that upon its exercising its option the company would issue stock to it. (The covenant was then invalid, but that is not material in this connection.) But that contract right was changed by the statute into a property right. The statute provided that the holders of the bonds "may convert them into stock as said bonds mature." Upon exercising its option, the plaintiff became a stockholder by force of the statute without the co-operation of the company.

The attempt to issue shares to others before the expiration of the time within which the plaintiff had the right to make its bonds stock, could not defeat this right of the plaintiff. An attempt to create shares without legislative authority is confessedly a nullity. In the case at bar there was no power given by the Legislature to increase the capital stock except by the conversion of bonds into stock, until the time had expired within which the stockholders had the right to convert their bonds into stock. Until that time had expired the only way of increasing the capital stock authorized by the Legislature was by the creation of new shares brought into being by bonds being converted into

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shares. So far as an attempt to create new shares in any other way was concerned, there was no more legislative authority than there would have been had there been an entire absence of legislative authority to increase the capital stock by issuing new shares, in which case an attempt to issue shares is confessedly a nullity. If the plaintiff became a stockholder, it was entitled to a decree for a certificate. Lowell, Transfer of Stock, §§ 240, 241. Parker, C. J., in *Chester Glass Co.* v. *Dewey*, 16 Mass. 94, 101. *Sewall* v. *Boston Water Power Co.* 4 Allen, 277. *Pratt* v. *Taunton Copper Co.* 123 Mass. 110. *Iasigi* v. *Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad*, 129 Mass. 46. *Child* v. *New York & New England Railroad*, 129 Mass. 170. Morton, C. J., in *Boston & Albany Railroad* v. *Richardson*, 135 Mass. 473, 474. *Rosenkrans* v. *Lafayette Railroad*, 18 Fed. Rep. 513.

2. If the plaintiff did not in fact become a stockholder, it became entitled to stock which could not be issued to any one else, and equity will therefore specifically compel the issue of the shares to the plaintiff. The St. of 1880, c. 103, did not give the Middlesex Railroad Company an absolute right to increase its capital stock at any time and in any way. The St. of 1880, c. 103, § 4, authorized an increase of the capital stock by the issuing of 3,500 shares, which "shall be applied to the payment or redemption of the bonds of said company already issued," — of which the plaintiff's bonds were confessedly a part.

The St. of 1880, c. 103, § 4, when it became a law, did not authorize an immediate issue of the 3,500 shares. The right to issue those shares did not arise until the holders of the bonds, to the payment or redemption of which these shares were to be "applied," presented their bonds for payment or redemption. Until the holders presented the bonds for payment or redemption, the railroad company had no right to issue a share of that stock. When the holders did present the bonds, the right to issue the 3,500 shares came into existence for the first time. If the holders on presenting the bonds had demanded payment for them, the right of issuing stock, which then had come into existence, would have been the right to issue the stock to third persons for cash. On the other hand, if the holders demanded that the bonds should be redeemed, the right of issuing stock thereby created would have been the right to issue the stock to

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the bondholders; that is, in that event the right of increasing the capital stock given by the St. of 1880, c. 103, would have been a right to increase it by issuing new shares to the holders of the bonds, and in no other way.

In the case at bar, in the event that has happened, the right of the Middlesex Railroad Company to issue the new stock appropriated to the plaintiff's bonds is precisely the same as it would have been had the St. of 1880, c. 103, gone no further than to authorize an increase of the capital stock by issuing new shares to the holders of the bonds, who elected to convert them into stock. The new stock cannot be issued to any one but the plaintiff, and the statute says it "shall be" issued to the plaintiff.

The attempt to issue these shares to a third person before any right to issue them in any way had come into existence was a nullity, and does not stand in the way of the plaintiff's right to a decree that these be issued to it.

L. M. Child, for the defendants.

FIELD, J. Before the St. of 1824, c. 130, a negotiable promissory note payable in this Commonwealth was not entitled to grace unless it was made expressly payable with grace. The St. of 3 & 4 Anne, c. 9, was never enacted here. *Jones* v. *Fales*, 4 Mass. 245. *Barker* v. *Parker*, 6 Pick. 80.

By the St. of 1824, c. 130, grace was allowed, in like manner as on foreign bills of exchange, on all bills of exchange payable at sight or at a future day certain within this State, and on all promissory negotiable notes, orders, and drafts payable at a future day certain within this State, "in which there is not an express stipulation to the contrary." Rev. Sts. c. 33, §§ 5, 6. Gen. Sts. c. 53, §§ 15, 16. Pub. Sts. c. 77, §§ 9, 10. It is only by virtue of this statute and its re-enactments that grace is allowed in this Commonwealth on promissory notes.

By the St. of 1852, c. 76, bonds or other obligations under seal for the payment of money issued by a corporation, or joint stock company, payable to bearer, or to some person designated or bearer, or payable to order, "are hereby made negotiable in the same manner and to the same extent as promissory notes are now negotiable." Gen. Sts. c. 53, § 6. Pub. Sts. c. 77, § 4. The bonds in these cases, even if it be conceded that they are bonds for the payment of money within the meaning of the

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statute are not entitled to grace. They are not in fact negotiable promissory notes within the meaning of the Pub. Sts. c. 77, § 9. Bonds for the payment of money at common law were not entitled to grace, and they cannot be held to have been included among the instruments described in the Pub. Sts. c. 77, § 9.

Whether these bonds are negotiable or not under the Pub. Sts. c. 77, § 4, is immaterial in these cases. If, by reason of the stipulation that they may be converted into stock at the election of the holder, they are excluded from the provisions of the Pub. Sts. c. 77, § 4, yet an assignee can maintain a suit in equity upon them in his own name. In the first suit, the bonds are payable "to Knowlton S. Chaffee, or bearer," and Chaffee is the plaintiff in the suit; in the second suit the bonds are payable "to —— or bearer," and it is found that the plaintiff became the holder and owner of them "on or prior to January 31, 1885." See *Chapin* v. *Vermont & Massachusetts Railroad*, 8 Gray, 575.

The Middlesex Railroad Company originally issued these bonds without authority of law, but the issue was subsequently ratified by the St. of 1880, c. 103, § 4. There were two series of bonds thus issued, and these bonds are a part of the first series. By this statute the holders of these bonds "may convert them into stock as said bonds mature, unless redeemed by the company before maturity." Each bond covenants that upon the "surrender of this obligation to the treasurer of the company by the bearer, at the date of maturity of any interest warrant, they will cause to be issued to said bearer or his order five shares in the capital stock of said company." The bonds were dated on February 1, 1875, and were payable on February 1, 1885, "with interest at the rate of eight per centum per annum, payable semi-annually on the first day of August and February in each year, upon surrender of the interest warrants hereto attached as they become due." As the first day of February, 1885, was Sunday, the bonds matured on January 31, 1885. Pub. Sts. c. 77, § 8.

It is contended that the interest warrants were entitled to grace, and that by the terms of the bonds, although not by the terms of the statute, the holders of the bonds could convert them into stock on the day when the last interest warrant became due, and that therefore the offer to surrender the bonds and the demand for the stock were made in time. It is not a reasonable

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inference that the company issuing the bonds intended that the last interest warrants, which purport to be payable on the same day as the bonds, should be entitled to grace when the bonds were not, and it is only as holders of the bonds that the plaintiffs are entitled to stock. Interest warrants, or coupons, in form like these, when detached from the bonds, have been considered as having many of the qualities of negotiable promissory notes; but we are of opinion that they are not negotiable promissory notes within the meaning of the Pub. Sts. c. 77, § 9. When interest is payable on a note or bond at fixed times, no grace is allowed. The device of separate detachable interest warrants, payable to bearer, has been adopted for convenience, and courts have invested them when detached with many of the qualities of negotiable promissory notes, to carry into effect the intention of the parties apparent on the face of the contract; but they purport to be only promises to pay certain sums of money as interest on the principal obligation. They are not in common speech called promissory notes, nor have they the same history, or in all respects the same characteristics, as promissory notes, and they could not have been within the contemplation of the Legislature in passing the St. of 1824, c. 130. Although we are confined to a consideration of the construction to be given our statutes, we do not wish to imply that, either by usage or the general law merchant, days of grace should be allowed either on the bonds or the coupons. We are not satisfied with the decision in *Evertson* v. *National Bank of Newport*, 66 N. Y. 14. See *Arents* v. *Commonwealth*, 18 Gratt. 750, 773; 2 Dan. Neg. Inst. (3d ed.), §§ 1505, 1506, and notes.

The reasons why days of grace were originally allowed on foreign bills of exchange payable at sight, or at a future day certain, have little application to bonds with coupons issued by a corporation to obtain money, which usually have a long time to run, and are commonly bought and held as an investment. Such bonds and coupons do not serve the purposes of commercial paper.

By the St. of 1880, c. 103, §§ 3, 4, the Middlesex Railroad Company was authorized to increase its capital stock to an amount not exceeding one million of dollars, and three hundred and fifty thousand dollars of this stock was to be applied to the payment or redemption of the two series of bonds at or before

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their maturity. Before this statute, it does not appear that the corporation had any stock which it could lawfully issue in payment or redemption of these bonds. It was important that the corporation should know on or before the maturity of the bonds whether the holders elected to take stock or money, because the stock which was not taken must be applied to the payment in money of the bonds, and this could only be done by selling the stock for money; and the money must be paid on demand, at the maturity of the bonds. Time was essential, and unless the holder of the bonds on or before their maturity presented his bonds and demanded stock, or at least offered to do this, he lost all right to receive stock on the maturity of the bonds. The defendant had the right to assume that all holders of bonds who desired stock would make the surrender on or before the maturity of the bonds, and to sell for money all stock not called for on or before that day. That the defendant actually sold all the stock which it could apply to the redemption of these bonds at three o'clock of the afternoon of January 31, 1885, without waiting until that day expired, is immaterial in the first suit; because, if it be conceded that the plaintiff had the whole of that day to present his bonds and demand the stock, he neglected to do this, and when he presented the bonds on February 2, 1885, it was too late.

The bill brought by Chaffee *Must be dismissed.*

In the suit brought by the Manufacturers' Fire and Marine Insurance Company there was evidence that, on the afternoon of January 31, 1885, between three o'clock and twenty minutes past three, Appleton, the president of the plaintiff corporation, went to the office of the defendant, and met there the clerk and president of the corporation with two of the directors, who with the president constituted the finance committee of the company and Appleton told them that he wished to convert the fifty bonds held by the plaintiff corporation into stock. The clerk asked him if he had the bonds, and Appleton answered that he had not, that they were in the Union Safe Deposit Vaults, and that the usual hour for closing the vaults had passed. The clerk then informed him that it would be necessary to have the bonds. Appleton then asked to see the president of the railroad company, and when he came forward Appleton said to him that

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he wanted to convert the bonds into stock. Powers, the president, "then told him that at three o'clock all stock which had not been taken up by the conversion of bonds had been sold and transferred to a third party, that it was too late to convert the bonds into stock, but that they would pay the bonds in cash." Appleton then left, and returned at five minutes before four o'clock, and, finding the door of the office closed, dropped a letter through a slit in the door, in which he demanded that the bonds should be converted into stock. It is also found as a fact, that "Appleton could and would have got his bonds and presented them on that afternoon but for Powers's telling him that it was too late, and that under these circumstances the presentation of the bonds on that afternoon at a little later time than ten minutes after three o'clock was waived by the Middlesex Railroad Company." On February 2, 1885, the bonds were presented at the office, and the stock demanded, and by agreement of the parties the bonds were received by the company, and a check for $26,000, being the par value of the bonds with the last interest warrants, was given to the plaintiff. This check was received by the plaintiff without waiving "its rights to the stock or its value, if it has any," above the par value of the bonds surrendered. The check was paid, and the plaintiff received the money, and in its bill offers to return it. The stock at that time was worth more than par. It is found as a fact, that at three o'clock on the afternoon of January 31, 1885, the Middlesex Railroad Company undertook to sell and transfer to the International Trust Company "six hundred and fifty-five shares [of stock] being the balance of the fifteen hundred shares appropriated by the St. of 1880, c. 103, for the bonds which had not been converted or required by the signified option of any bondholder mentioned above; that the price for these shares was then paid in cash, and the shares transferred." It appeared that the whole amount of the series of bonds issued by the company in the form and of the date of those owned by the plaintiff was one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, so that all the stock which the Middlesex Company could lawfully issue and deliver in exchange for the bonds of the plaintiff was in fact issued and transferred for cash to the International Trust Company at three o'clock in the afternoon of January 31, 1885.

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We know of no rule of law which required the plaintiff to present the bonds for redemption at the office of the treasurer before three o'clock of the afternoon of January 31, because that happened to be the time when the business office was usually closed for the day. We think that the bonds could have been presented there at any reasonable time on that day, and that on the facts found the Middlesex Railroad Company had seasonable notice on the day of the maturity of the bonds that the plaintiff elected, and was ready and willing, to convert them into stock.

The election to take stock in payment of a bond, however, does not make the bondholder a stockholder. His right to become a stockholder depends upon the performance of an executory contract by the corporation, and the bondholder is not a stockholder until the contract is performed. Whether a court of equity will specifically enforce the performance of the contract depends upon a variety of considerations. Executory contracts for the sale of stock which is commonly bought and sold in the market are not specifically enforced as a matter of course. Unless there are some equitable circumstances, the remedy at law is adequate. See Pom. Eq. Jur. § 1402 and notes. If it be true that bonds of corporations like these, which may be converted into stock at the election of the holder, are usually specifically enforced against a corporation, even although the stock is commonly bought and sold in the market, on the ground that this is a right against the corporation derived from statute, and that good policy requires that corporations should specifically perform their statutory obligations, yet a court of equity could not compel a corporation to issue stock for this purpose which it was not legally authorized to issue.

The cases where corporations have issued certificates of stock to assignees on forged transfers have no application. A certificate is evidence of the ownership of stock, and a forged transfer does not convey the stockholder's interest, and he remains a stockholder, and is entitled to his certificate and to all dividends in the same manner as if no new certificates had been issued to an assignee under a forged assignment. The difficulty courts find in dealing with *bona fide* holders of certificates issued on forged assignments is occasioned by the fact that the recognition of such certificates as valid would often create an over-issue of

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stock. The questionable practice which has sometimes been adopted of compelling the corporation to buy stock in the market, if the stock is commonly bought and sold in the market, and then of compelling a conveyance of it to the plaintiff, is in effect nothing more than compelling the corporation to pay as damages the market price of the stock at the time when the conveyance is ordered to be made. And if to this the intervening dividends are added, it is in effect assessing damages up to and as of the date of the decree, which is of the nature of specific performance.

It sufficiently appears by the report, that the stock of the Middlesex Railroad Company was bought and sold in the market at the time the bonds matured. We think that it also appears by the report, that the Middlesex Railroad Company had disabled itself before the bill was filed from issuing stock in payment or redemption of these bonds, and that the plaintiff knew this. This alone is sufficient to defeat specific performance, unless the International Trust Company could be compelled to surrender some of the stock transferred to it, and the Trust Company has not been made a party to the suit. When a contract is broken before the suit is brought, and the plaintiff knows this, and specific performance is impossible, damages are usually assessed as of the date of the breach, with interest from that time. There is another fact in the case which furnishes an additional reason why damages should not be assessed as of the date of the decree. The plaintiff received before the bill was filed the par value of the bonds in money, and has had the use of this money until the present time, which is more than three years. It also inferentially appears that since the filing of the bill, which was on March 19, 1885, all the stock of the Middlesex Railroad Company has been surrendered, under articles of consolidation entered into with the Highland Street Railway Company pursuant to the St. of 1886, c. 229, whereby a new corporation has been formed, called the Boston Consolidated Street Railway Company, which has been made a party to the suit.

It does not appear that the Boston Consolidated Railway Company has any stock which it can lawfully issue to the plaintiff in satisfaction of its claim. The conduct of the plaintiff in accepting $26,000, although with a reservation of its rights, is

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inconsistent with an absolute election on its part to take stock instead of money. The plaintiff entered into no contract to repay this money, although it offers to repay it in its bill. It could have invested the money if it saw fit in stock of the Middlesex Railroad Company, unless the statutes prohibited such an investment. It was to the extent of $25,000 in effect a payment on account, and although it is not inconsistent with a claim for the value of the stock if it exceeded $25,000, it is in a sense inconsistent with a specific allotment of stock to the plaintiff. If the plaintiff intended to elect once for all to take stock rather than money, it should at once have brought its bill against the Middlesex Railroad Company and the International Trust Company, and attempted to compel a transfer to itself of some of the stock which by statute had been appropriated to the redemption of its bonds. Having neglected to do this, and having received money on account, which it has retained, equity does not require that it should be paid more than the market value of the stock at the time it demanded it. To permit the plaintiff to receive all the advantages which have subsequently happened to accrue from the ownership of stock, while at the same time it has had the use of the money, would be to permit it to speculate upon the advantages of taking either money or stock according to the event.

The defendants cannot resist payment on the ground that the plaintiff was not authorized to invest its money in the stock of the Middlesex Railroad Company, if this be true, upon which we express no opinion. Pub. Sts. c. 119, § 55. *National Bank* v. *Whitney*, 103 U. S. 99.

By the terms of the report, an assessor is to be appointed to determine the value of 250 shares of the stock of the Middlesex Railroad Company on January 31, 1885, and the plaintiff is entitled to a decree for the amount of this value over $25,000, with interest from that day. *So ordered.*

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CATHERINE ALLERTON, administratrix, *vs.* BOSTON AND MAINE RAILROAD.

Suffolk. January 12, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Railroad — Passenger — Loss of Life — Due Care — Statute — Declaration.

If a passenger on a railroad car alights at his destination, and, after the train has passed on, starts away from the station over an adjacent crossing of a highway at grade to go to some other place, he ceases to be a passenger.

A woman alighted from a railroad train upon a station platform near the crossing of a highway at grade, where the gates were down, and, as soon as the train had passed, without waiting for the gates to be raised and without looking to see whether a train was approaching on the other track, hurried over the crossing and was killed. The crossing was covered with planks for the entire width of the railroad, platforms sloping down to the tracks stretched away from it on either side, and there was nothing to prevent passing from the platforms to the crossing. *Held*, that there was no evidence that she was in the exercise of due care.

An action is not maintainable against a railroad under the Pub. Sts. c. 112, § 213, for the loss of life of one not in the exercise of due care, if the declaration is framed on § 212, and merely avers that the deceased while a passenger, or while not a passenger in the exercise of due care, was killed by the negligence of the defendant, its servants or agents.

TORT by the administratrix of the estate of Sarah M. Lawrence, for causing her death. Writ dated April 28, 1886. The declaration contained two counts. The first count was as follows: "The plaintiff says the defendants are a corporation owning and operating a railroad between Boston and Portland, and a common carrier of passengers; that the plaintiff's intestate, on the sixth day of March last, at Malden, which is a station on said railroad, was a passenger on said railroad; that while such passenger, and in the exercise of the rights of a passenger, she was killed, by reason of the negligence and carelessness of the defendant corporation, and the gross negligence and carelessness of its agents and servants engaged then in its business in the management and running of its trains into and through the station at said Malden, and the plaintiff further says that the defendant is liable to her in damages to the amount of five thousand dollars for the death of said intestate, so caused."

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The second count alleged that the intestate at the same time and place "was in the exercise of due care, and was not a passenger nor in the employment of the defendant; that while in the exercise of such care she was killed, by reason of the negligence and carelessness of the defendant corporation, and the gross negligence and carelessness of its agents and servants engaged then in its business, in the management and running of its trains." The declaration was amended so as to allege the following specific acts of negligence: 1. The making of improper, unsafe rules, regulations, and time-tables, for the running and management of its trains. 2. The establishment and maintenance of dangerous crossings, platforms, gates, and station accommodations. 3. The neglect to ring the bell or sound the whistle at the crossing. 4. The gross negligence and carelessness of its agents and servants. Answer, a general denial.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon* J., there was evidence tending to show the following facts:

The plaintiff was duly appointed administratrix of the estate of Sarah M. Lawrence. The intestate was a passenger from Wyoming to Malden on one of the defendant's inward trains, and alighting at Malden, either on the platform near the Pleasant Street crossing, or on the crossing, was killed at a place about the middle of the crossing by an outward train.

The railroad at the place of the accident consists of two tracks, and runs about north and south, outward trains using the easterly track. The width of each track is about four feet eight and one half inches between the rails, the distance between the tracks is a little less than six feet, and the distance between the platforms a little less than twenty-three feet. Pleasant Street, which crosses the railroad at the station at grade, is about sixty feet wide, and is planked between the tracks the full width of the street. There are platforms on both sides of the tracks on each side of the street, the platforms south of the crossing being each about two hundred feet long, and north of the crossing being each about two hundred and fifty feet long. There are gates at the crossing consisting of a single bar, on a line with the outside of the platforms on the westerly side of the tracks, and at a similar distance on the easterly side, which when lowered close the highway. There are no gates at the ends of the

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platforms, nor barriers to prevent passengers from walking off upon the crossing. The platform where the intestate left the train is on the western side of the tracks, is about eleven feet wide, and slants gradually down to the crossing. A horse-car track crosses the railroad tracks through the centre of Pleasant Street, at right angles with the tracks. There is a house for the gateman on the eastern side of the track at the crossing, on the south side of Pleasant Street, just off the line of the street. There is an apothecary store on the south side of Pleasant Street, on the easterly side of the railroad, next to the gateman's house. An express train left Boston at five o'clock, and the train that killed the intestate left Boston one minute later, and made no stops at regular stations before it reached Malden.

John F. McGrath testified, that the express train passed the place of the accident first, and then he saw the inward train coming down; that he was on the easterly side of the track, and did not see the intestate till that train had gone; that then she was between the two tracks, just a little north of the horse-car tracks, going in an easterly direction; that he thought that then the cow-catcher of the outward train from Boston was twenty or thirty feet south of the horse-car track, and probably half a car's length south of the gateman's house; and that when he saw her struck, she had just got both feet on the outward track. On cross-examination he said that she had begun to go across the street; that he heard somebody call out to her, and say, "Go back, lady"; that she could have gone back if she had heard it; that he could have done so; that he thought she had one foot on the track when they shouted to her; that even then she could have stepped back; that he did not see her look towards the train that was coming; that she was going ahead, and was paying no attention to anything that was going on; and that she was hurrying across the track, and not paying much attention to anything but getting across.

Annie Muldoon testified that she and Mrs. Lawrence took the train for Malden, at Wyoming, and sat within two seats of each other; that both got off at Malden, on the north side of Pleasant Street, near the end of the western platform, and walked along the platform and stood at the end of it; and that, as soon as the end of the train passed, Mrs. Lawrence started to cross over towards the apothecary store.

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Nelson Jameson testified, that he had known the intestate by sight; that when she was killed he was standing with his team on the western side of the track five or six feet from the gate, waiting to cross; that he saw the train for Boston come in, and saw the gates put down; that he saw her get off on the side and walk down the planks. "I should judge she got out of the second or third car; saw her attempt to cross the track in a hurry, after the train passed by in which she came. Just as quick as the train went by, she scooted across quick; did not see the train from Boston till it struck her; was on the opposite side of the train from Boston, and the train to Boston was between me and this train. When Mrs. Lawrence attempted to cross, she was in front of me, a little on my right-hand side. The gates were down till she was killed. When I first saw her, she was walking off the end of the platform down upon the street. She crossed the street diagonally, a little towards the right. Did not see the train from Boston at all, until it struck her. She walked down upon the street inside the gates, on the railroad side. There was no bell rung or whistle blown by the train from Boston. Don't remember, it was so long ago, whether I saw Mrs. Lawrence look towards the train from Boston. She could not see this train, because the other cars were between her and it, but after she got over the track, on which the train was going into Boston, then she could have seen it, by turning and looking, — by just slewing her head."

Emma E. Bradbury testified, that she "saw the train for Boston come into the station; don't remember any other train before it; saw Mrs. Lawrence get off on the western platform, and walk towards the lower end of the platform. She stood there till the train passed, and just after the train passed, she stepped right behind the last car on to the track, and walked diagonally across Pleasant Street towards the gate-house; she went inside the gate. As soon as the train had left Malden to go to Boston, she stepped right behind the last car; she stepped quick; saw Mrs. Lawrence from the time she got off till she was killed. I don't know that I saw the outgoing train from Boston, till it struck her. I was n't looking that way. From the place where I was, I could have seen the train from Boston when it got to the gate-house. From the place where Mrs. Lawrence stood, when she

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started to go across, she could not have seen the train from Boston, because her train was between her and that. Don't remember whether she looked up or down the track before crossing; she might have turned her head one way or the other. Noticed she was in a hurry to cross the track, that was all. She continued to hurry till she was struck."

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Samuel W. Ferbish testified that he was a hack-driver, and was standing on the eastern side of the track, probably twenty-five feet from the Pleasant Street gate, waiting for both trains to come in; that he saw the express from Boston go through first, and then the train to Boston come in; that he first saw the intestate just after the hind end of the train for Boston went by; that she was coming towards where he stood; that he saw her struck; and that, if she had looked, she could have seen the engine that was coming, but she did not look.

Albert W. Alger testified that he was the engineer of the train that left Boston at one minute past five o'clock; that he got to Malden at seventeen minutes past five o'clock; that he did not see the intestate, and did not know that his engine struck anybody till the fireman told him. On cross-examination he testified that he shut off steam very soon after he came around the gas-house curve; that the train for Boston was then in the Malden station, and was getting under way; that he passed the rear car about at the end of the southern platform; that at that time he was going as fast perhaps as from five to seven miles an hour; that the bell was rung, and that he reversed his engine when told by the fireman that something was happening, or likely to happen; that he was using the atmospheric brake when he passed the rear end of the other train, in order to make his stop at the station; and that he did not whistle when a crossing is at a station where he was going to make a stop.

Michael M. Moynahan testified that he was a hack-driver, and stood on the eastern platform, near the crossing; that just as soon as the inward train started off, the intestate started to go diagonally across Pleasant Street; that she was walking quite fast; that he kept his eye on her till she was killed, but did not see her look towards the engine at all; and that she was going quite fast, was looking in the direction in which she was going, and did not pay attention to anything else.

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Upon this evidence the judge ruled, at the request of the defendant, that the action could not be maintained, and directed the jury to return a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

C. G. Fall, for the plaintiff.

S. Lincoln & W. I. Badger, for the defendant.

KNOWLTON, J. The plaintiff's intestate had ceased to be a passenger before the accident which caused her death. She had reached her destination, had alighted from the train, had taken a position upon the sidewalk of the highway, and thence had started to cross the track along the street, not upon her way to the defendant's station, but to some other place which she had in mind.

Was there any evidence at the trial that she was in the exercise of due care? It is well established law, in this Commonwealth and elsewhere, that one who starts to cross a railroad track without looking for approaching trains, unless he has a good reason for not looking, is not in the exercise of proper care. And this rule has been repeatedly applied to persons crossing a double-track railroad, who have started immediately after the passage of one train without looking for the approach of another. *Warren* v. *Fitchburg Railroad*, 8 Allen, 227. *Bancroft* v. *Boston & Worcester Railroad*, 97 Mass. 275. *Mayo* v. *Boston & Maine Railroad*, 104 Mass. 137, 141. *Wheelwright* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 135 Mass. 225.

There is nothing in the case at bar to relieve the plaintiff from the operation of this rule. The gates upon the highway were down, as a warning that the tracks were in use, and that it was not safe to cross. As soon as the train from which the plaintiff's intestate had alighted passed on, she started to cross, without waiting for the gates to be raised, and without looking to see whether a train was approaching upon the other track. The evidence shows that, if she had looked after the first train passed, she could not have failed to see that by which she was afterwards struck. The latter train, when it met the former one from which she alighted, was going at the rate of five to seven miles an hour, with its atmospheric brake on, about to make the stop at the station. She must have known that this was a double-track railroad, upon which trains running in each direc-

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tion were always to be expected. There was no express or implied invitation to her to cross, nor any excuse for her crossing without looking for a coming train. There was no evidence in the case to warrant a finding that she was in the exercise of due care.

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The declaration contains two counts, the first alleging that the plaintiff's intestate was a passenger, and claiming under that part of c. 112, § 212 of the Public Statutes which makes a railroad corporation liable when the life of a passenger is lost through its negligence, or the gross negligence of its servants or agents, and the second claiming under that part of the same section which creates a liability when the life of a person in the exercise of due diligence and not a passenger is lost by reason of such negligence. This last count contains all the allegations appropriate to a claim under this branch of the statute, and no others.

Section 213 of the same chapter creates a liability in a particular class of cases, where a person is injured by collision with the engines or cars of a railroad corporation at a crossing of a highway or town way at grade, and it appears that the corporation neglected to ring the bell or blow the whistle as required by law, and such neglect contributed to the injury. In such cases, the person injured may recover, unless it appears that he was at the time guilty of gross or wilful negligence, or was acting in violation of law, and that such negligence or unlawful act contributed to the injury.

The declaration does not contain the allegations necessary to bring the case within this section. It is nowhere alleged in it that the accident occurred at a crossing of a highway or town way, or that the injury was by collision with an engine or car of the defendant. On the contrary, both counts follow in their averments the precise language of those parts of § 212 under which they were respectively brought. Under the last count there are certain specifications of negligence, which do not change the character of the count, nor contain the allegations material to a claim under § 213. The suit must therefore be deemed to have been brought under § 212, and the plaintiff cannot hold the defendant to answer under the provisions of § 213. *Wright* v. *Boston & Maine Railroad*, 129 Mass. 440.

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The Superior Court has ample power to allow amendments in all cases pending therein, and if the plaintiff at the trial thought her action maintainable under that section of the statute, and desired to avail herself of its provisions, she should have applied for leave to amend her declaration. In the opinion of a majority of the court, the entry must be

Exceptions overruled.

ELLEN C. RICE *vs.* NEW ENGLAND MUTUAL AID SOCIETY.

Suffolk. January 12, 13, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Beneficiary Association — Assessments — Payment — Forfeiture — Waiver.

The levy and acceptance of assessments by a beneficiary association without condition, after the conditional acceptance of a prior overdue payment, is a waiver of the right to avoid a certificate for delay of payment.

CONTRACT to recover $5,000 on a certificate of membership in the defendant society issued to Thomas G. Rice, the husband of the plaintiff. The plaintiff, who was the beneficiary named in the certificate, died after the action was brought, and her administrator was admitted to prosecute it.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., there was evidence tending to show the following facts:

Rice died on December 17, 1885, and notice and proofs of his death were duly furnished to the defendant. The certificate contained the clause, that if the member should "omit or neglect to pay to said society within thirty days of date of notice the annual fee of five dollars, the advance assessment, or any regular assessment of six and one half dollars, that may be made by said society upon him under this certificate, then in every or either event above named this certificate shall thereby become null and void." The application upon which the certificate was issued contained an agreement that "a printed notice, expiring thirty days from date, and mailed within one day of

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the date thereof, shall be sufficient notice of any assessment levied." The residence of Rice was stated in the certificate to be Cambridge, but he resided in Cambridgeport, and that was his post-office address. On or before July 17, 1885, a regular assessment was made by the society upon the class in which Rice held his certificate, and notices thereof were deposited in the post-office at Boston on July 18, 1885, between two and four o'clock P. M. There was no evidence that among these notices was included one to Rice, but one was found in his pocket on August 19, 1885, after he became ill. If a notice to Rice was among those so mailed, it would in due course of mail have arrived at Cambridge on July 19, and, as that was Sunday, would not have reached the Cambridgeport post-office until July 20, at about nine o'clock A. M.

On August 19, 1885, Rice was not in good health, and from that time never returned to business. His death took place in December, of Bright's disease. When the notice of assessment dated July 17, 1885, was found in the pocket of Rice, it was sent with $6.50 by a messenger, to the office of the defendant. The defendant's cashier received the money without inquiry or objection, stamped on the notice the words, "This assessment is accepted on condition that the member is in good health," and, having receipted for the sum on the notice, gave it back to the messenger. Nothing was said to or by the messenger relative to the health of Rice, nor did the messenger know anything about it. Afterwards, and before the death of Rice, six other assessments were made by the defendant upon him under the certificate, and were paid by the plaintiff, at Rice's request, to the defendant, within thirty days of the dates thereof. These assessments were received unconditionally by the defendant, and when paid the defendant made no inquiry concerning the health of Rice, and no information was furnished to the defendant concerning it. There was no evidence that the defendant had any knowledge that Rice was not in good health when the payment of August 19, 1885, and the subsequent payments of assessments were made, until after his death.

The judge, at the request of the defendant, instructed the jury, that, under the provisions of the certificate, if the assessment mentioned in the notice dated July 17, 1885, was not

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paid within thirty days of the time when it reached the post-office of the residence of Rice, in due course of mail, then the certificate became null and void; and that, under the provisions of the application and certificate, if the notice of assessment dated July 17, 1885, was mailed within one day of its date, and the assessment was not paid within thirty days of July 17, 1885, the certificate would become null and void, unless it was ratified by a subsequent payment made, and unless the fact of a failure to make this payment within the time was waived. The judge also ruled and instructed the jury, against the objection of the defendant, in substance, that the defendant, having received the six assessments made after the payment of the one paid conditionally on August 19, 1885, without making any inquiry to ascertain the facts concerning the health of Rice, waived the breach of the certificate, if there was any at the time of the payment on August 19, 1885; that if the jury found that the defendant did receive, without inquiry, assessments subsequent to that received on August 19, 1885, and that they were paid by the plaintiff, that would amount to a waiver of any default or nonpayment at that date, August 19, 1885; that if the jury were satisfied that without inquiry the defendant did receive such subsequent payments, it would amount to a waiver of a default at that time; and that it would make no difference that the six subsequent assessments were paid before they were due.

The jury found for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

F. D. Ely, for the defendant. Upon the facts, the receipt by the defendant of the subsequent assessments was not a waiver of the breach of the certificate. *Hoxie* v. *Home Ins. Co.* 32 Conn. 21. *Insurance Co.* v. *Wolff*, 95 U. S. 326. *Mobile Ins. Co.* v. *Pruett*, 74 Ala. 487. *Servoss* v. *Western Aid Society*, 67 Iowa, 86. The doctrine of waiver, as asserted against insurance companies to avoid the strict enforcement of conditions contained in their policies, is only another name for the doctrine of estoppel. *Insurance Co.* v. *Wolff*, *ubi supra*.

If the law recognizes a doctrine of waiver by conduct distinguished from that of estoppel *in pais*, the essential elements of such waiver are knowledge of the right claimed to be waived,

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and intention to waive it, and these must be concurrent. *West* v. *Platt*, 127 Mass. 367. *Oakes* v. *Manufacturers' Ins. Co.* 135 Mass. 248. *Holdsworth* v. *Tucker*, 143 Mass. 369.

The six subsequent payments and receipts relate back to the condition of the receipts of August 19, 1885, and are as much controlled and affected by it as though the words of that condition were stamped on each subsequent receipt. The acceptance and retention of the receipt of August 19, 1885, was an affirmation and representation that the insured was then in good health. The insured intended that the defendant should act on that representation, and it did act upon it. The plaintiff is therefore estopped from taking advantage of such acts of the defendant to its prejudice. *Dewey* v. *Field*, 4 Met. 381. *Osgood* v. *Nichols*, 5 Gray, 420. *Cartwright* v. *Bate*, 1 Allen, 514. *Audenried* v. *Betteley*, 5 Allen, 382.

C. P. Sampson, (*S. J. Thomas* with him,) for the plaintiff.

C. ALLEN, J. If it be assumed that the payment made on August 19, 1885, was too late, the question remains whether the company by its subsequent acts waived a right to avoid the policy or certificate of insurance on that ground.

Without expressing any opinion as to the effect of the retention of that money, we think the levy of the subsequent assessments, and the acceptance of the money paid upon them, amounted to such a waiver. When the time came for the levy of a new assessment, if Rice's policy was to be treated as still in force, he would properly be included in the assessment; otherwise not. Under this state of things, six other assessments upon him were made by the company, all of which were seasonably paid. There was no determination by the directors of the company, that for the time being Rice's policy should be treated as not in force or suspended; but in making the new assessments, so far as appears, no pains were taken and no intention was formed to exclude him. No condition was in express terms annexed to the levy of these new assessments, or to the acceptance of the payments by the assured upon them. The company, however, contends that the condition of the former acceptance reaches forward, and applies also to the later payments, and that it is not bound by later assessments which it made, and later payments which it received, in ignorance that the assured was

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in ill health at the time of the former payment. But it cannot be allowed in this way to imply a condition in favor of a forfeiture. It had knowledge that on the former occasion the payment had been made too late, and that the money had been accepted with a condition annexed. If, before levying a new assessment, the company wished to know the particulars as to Rice's health, and thus to determine whether that payment was valid or not, it was incumbent on it to make inquiry. Instead of doing so, instead of notifying him that it wished for some positive evidence or statement upon the subject, instead of imposing a further condition relating back to the time of the former payment, the company made an unconditional call upon him for the payment of a new assessment. It acted under no deception or misrepresentation, but it had all the information which it cared to take the pains to acquire. We are unable to see how it can properly be held that the former conditional acceptance cuts down the effect of the later unconditional acceptance. The condition relates to the former payment alone. Suppose the payment of the former assessment had never been made at all, and the company, without insisting upon the nonpayment as a ground of forfeiture, had levied new assessments upon the assured, which were all duly paid and accepted without condition; could it be contended that there was no waiver? An unconditional acceptance upon assessment waives all former known grounds of forfeiture, and this effect is not varied or limited because an acceptance of a former assessment had been on condition, and had not amounted to such a waiver. *Hodsdon* v. *Guardian Ins. Co.* 97 Mass. 144. *Bouton* v. *American Ins. Co.* 25 Conn. 542. *Phœnix Ins. Co.* v. *Raddin*, 120 U. S. 183. *Exceptions overruled.*

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HENRY HUNT *vs.* WILLIAM BROWN, administrator.

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Suffolk. January 13, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Contract — Consideration — Evidence — Pleading.

The payee of a note promised that, if the maker would assent to a compromise of a claim that would lessen such maker's share in an estate, he would accept the percentage taken to settle the claim in full settlement of what was due on the note. The assent was given, the compromise was made, proving beneficial to the estate, and full recovery was had on the note, the maker pleading a general denial and payment only. *Held*, in an action for breach of the agreement, that there was evidence of consideration, that it was not a release or satisfaction, but collateral, and that the judgment on the note was no bar.

HOLMES, J. The plaintiff made three notes to Russell, the defendant's intestate. Afterwards, according to the plaintiff's evidence in the present case, Russell promised that, if the plaintiff would assent to a compromise, by the executors of the plaintiff's father's will, of a claim in their hands against third persons, by which compromise the plaintiff's share of his father's estate would be diminished, Russell would accept in full settlement of the balance due upon the notes whatever percentage the executors should take in settlement of their claim. The executors then settled the claim for sixty-two per cent of the amount, with the plaintiff's assent. Then Russell died, and suit was brought by his administrator, the present defendant, upon the notes, against the present plaintiff. The latter pleaded a general denial and payment, and afterwards made an offer of judgment for the full amount of the notes, interest, and costs, which was accepted, and the sum was paid. The present suit is upon Russell's alleged agreement. The defendant asked a ruling that the agreement was without consideration, and also that the judgment in the former case was a bar. Both rulings were refused, and he excepts.

1. It is very plain that the jury were warranted in finding that the plaintiff's assent to the compromise was dealt with by the parties as a consideration, that is, as the conventional inducement of Russell's promise, and not merely as a condition precedent, and that if it was so dealt with it was sufficient. Evidence or

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even an admission that the compromise was for the plaintiff's advantage would not alter the case. In determining whether or not an act was dealt with by the parties to an oral agreement as a consideration, the fact that its consequences were seen to be advantageous to the actor may be important; but on the question of sufficiency alone, it is enough that the immediate effect of the act is an abandonment of an actual or supposed right, whatever the balance of advantages may be in the long run. It is hard to imagine any change of position, not made in pursuance of a previous duty, which may not be sufficient as a consideration, or which is not a detriment in a legal sense.

2. If Russell had received the sixty-two per cent as agreed, and the suit had been brought for the residue, the question would arise whether the acceptance of less than the sum due, upon a collateral consideration, could be distinguished from an acceptance of less, before the notes fell due, or, like that, constituted an accord and satisfaction; *Bowker* v. *Childs*, 3 Allen, 434, 436; and if it was technically a satisfaction, whether, like a payment, (*Fuller* v. *Shattuck*, 13 Gray, 70,) it must not have been pleaded in the suit upon the notes if it was to be relied on at all, or whether there remained any contract unexecuted by the party satisfied which he would break if he afterwards brought suit. But Russell did not accept the sixty-two per cent; so that the only question is whether his agreement in any other way extinguished the notes in whole or in part, since in that case the judgment might be a bar.

The agreement was not itself a satisfaction. It was not a new contract substituted for the notes, and entitling the plaintiff to demand their surrender. Neither could it operate as a release of thirty-eight per cent of the notes, when the percentage was fixed by the compromise referred to. Language sometimes has been used which suggests that an agreement for a sufficient consideration might take effect by way of release, although not under seal. *Goodnow* v. *Smith*, 18 Pick. 414, 416. *Petty* v. *Allen*, 134 Mass. 265, 267. *Taylor* v. *Manners*, L. R. 1 Ch. 48. But the common law knows no such release. *Shaw* v. *Pratt*, 22 Pick. 305, 308. The consideration of the notes being executed, the agreement could operate only by way of accord and satisfaction. See *Cumber* v. *Wane*, 1 Smith's Lead.

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Cas. (8th Am. ed.) 633 and notes. *Bragg* v. *Danielson*, 141 Mass. 195, 196. *May* v. *King*, 12 Mod. 537, 538. The suggestion which we are considering, if stated in technical form, would have to be that Russell accepted the plaintiff's assent to the compromise which he desired, in satisfaction of thirty-eight per cent of the notes. But this is plainly a distortion of the evidence, according to which the assent was accepted, not as partial satisfaction of a debt, but as the consideration for a promise.

If, however, the jury might have been warranted in finding that the agreement, and what was done under it, had released or satisfied thirty-eight per cent, they were warranted at least equally in finding that it was purely executory in purport as well as in form, viz. to accept a percentage in satisfaction when it was paid. The court could not rule, as matter of law, that the opposite construction was the true one, or assume the opposite construction as a foundation for its rulings.

But it may be said, that the contract must have been found to embrace the element that Russell would not sue for more than sixty-two per cent. And it may be argued, that, if not technically a release, it ought to have been available in defence *pro tanto*, by way of estoppel or otherwise, in order to avoid circuity of action, upon the same principle that a covenant not to sue is allowed to enure as a release. The answer is, that whether available in this way or not, whether or not such a defence would escape the objection that in substance it was accord without satisfaction, the plaintiff was not bound to use the agreement in defence. For if, as we have tried to show, and as the suggestion under consideration assumes, Russell's agreement did not extinguish the whole or any part of the notes, but left them in full force, it also necessarily retained its independent character as a collateral contract. See further *Costello* v. *Cady*, 102 Mass. 140. *Blake* v. *Blake*, 110 Mass. 202. A breach of it was a substantive cause of action, upon which the present plaintiff might bring his own suit in his own way, and he was no more bound to plead it than he would have been bound to plead a set-off, fraud, or a breach of warranty. *Smith* v. *Palmer*, 6 Cush. 513, 521. *Cobb* v. *Curtiss*, 8 Johns. 470. See *Burnett* v. *Smith*, 4 Gray, 50, 52; *Davis* v. *Hedges*, L. R. 6 Q. B. 687.

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When a defendant has the choice of setting up a matter in defence, or of suing upon it in another action, if he chooses not to set it up in defence, of course the judgment in the action against him is no bar to a subsequent suit by him. *Smith* v. *Palmer*, *ubi supra*. *Star Glass Co.* v. *Morey*, 108 Mass. 570, 573. *Davis* v. *Hedges*, *ubi supra*. Russell's agreement was not pleaded in the former action. Even if it had been executed, it would not have been admissible under a plea of payment. *Ulsch* v. *Muller*, 143 Mass. 379. *Grinnell* v. *Spink*, 128 Mass. 25. The present plaintiff, not having set up the agreement, and having no other defence, very properly saved himself costs and his antagonist delay by submitting at once to the inevitable and offering judgment. See *Rigge* v. *Burbidge*, 15 M. & W. 598.

Exceptions overruled.

N. W. Ladd, for the defendant.

H. N. Sheldon, for the plaintiff.

JOHN N. ROBERTS *vs.* FRANCIS L. WHITE.

Suffolk. January 16, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Chattel Mortgage — Replevin — Tender — Equitable Defence.

A tender to a mortgagee who has replevied goods to which he was entitled, if effective at all, must be followed by bringing the money into court and plea thereof.

In an action of replevin, an equitable defence that would not afford absolute relief, even if the facts relied on had not occurred since the writ was served, will not avail the defendant.

REPLEVIN of household furniture. Writ dated June 4, 1877. An amended answer filed by the defendant on October 24, 1884, to avail himself of the St. of 1883, c. 223, § 14,* alleged that he

* This statute, which conferred upon the Superior Court original and concurrent jurisdiction in equity with the Supreme Judicial Court, provides in this section: "In actions at law in the said courts, the defendant shall be entitled to allege as a defence any facts that would entitle him in equity to be absolutely and unconditionally relieved against the plaintiff's claim or

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was the assignee of a second mortgage of the replevied goods; that he took possession of the goods for breach of condition; that the first mortgage was given to one Ridgeway; that the plaintiff, on May 23, 1877, became the assignee of the first mortgage, and that on or about June 14, 1877, the defendant made a "tender of the full amount of money, with all costs and interest due on the said Ridgeway mortgage, but the said plaintiff wholly refused to receive the same; that since the removal of said property by said plaintiff, under his replevin writ, he has had the said property in constant use, deriving therefrom a large sum of money, and that by reason of the use to which the same has been put, the value thereof has greatly depreciated, so that a return of the same to this defendant would entail great loss upon him; that this defendant is now and ever has been ready, able, and willing to pay to the said plaintiff the amount due upon said Ridgeway mortgage, the interest thereon, and any costs prior to the tender and offers hereinbefore set forth. And further answering, this defendant says, that the plaintiff, in equity and good conscience, is bound to account to the defendant in this court, in this action, for any and all sums received by him for the use of said property, for any and all depreciation in the value of the property which has occurred since he took possession of the same; that the sums thus received, and the amount of depreciation, together with the damages for the taking and detention of the property in this suit, should be deducted from any sum due under his said mortgage, as principal, interest, and costs; and this defendant should be required to pay to said plaintiff, on return of said property, only such balance, if any, as may be found due after such deduction; and this defendant says that at the time of commencement of this replevin suit he was entitled to the possession of the said replevied property, and that the plaintiff then had no right, title, or interest in said property as against this defendant."

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Aldrich*, J., it appeared that the plaintiff was the assignee of a mortgage of the

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cause of action, or against a judgment obtained by the plaintiff in such action; and the plaintiff shall be entitled to avail himself, in answer to any defence alleged by the defendant, of any facts that would avoid such defence in equity, or would entitle the plaintiff to be absolutely and unconditionally relieved in equity against such defence."

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goods, dated March 5, 1877, and given to Edward Ridgeway to secure the payment of a note for $1,200, payable in one month, and by him assigned to the plaintiff on May 26, 1877, and that the defendant was the assignee of a second mortgage of the goods, of which he had taken possession for breach of condition of that mortgage, and retained possession till the writ was served. The defendant being prepared to offer evidence upon all the matters set up in the amended answer, the judge ruled that the defendant could not avail himself of the equitable defence set up therein, but did allow the defendant to introduce evidence in support of his plea or answer of tender therein set forth. The defendant introduced evidence of a tender, made after the service of the writ, by the defendant to the plaintiff, of the amount due on his mortgage, with interest and costs; but the judge ruled that the tender was invalid, because it was not followed up by bringing the money into court for the plaintiff's use, and because the answer contained no allegation that he brought the money into court for the plaintiff.

The judge directed a verdict for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

E. Avery & G. M. Hobbs, for the defendant.

J. B. Richardson, for the plaintiff.

MORTON, C. J. It appears that the plaintiff, who is the assignee of a first mortgage of the goods replevied, had, at the time he sued out his writ, a right to the immediate and exclusive possession of the goods. This entitles him to maintain this action, the object of which is to give him in fact the possession to which he is entitled in law. It is difficult to see how any tender after suit brought can avail the defendant; but if it can under any circumstances, it must be a tender followed up by bringing the money into court for the plaintiff's use. *Storer* v. *McGaw*, 11 Allen, 527. *Brickett* v. *Wallace*, 98 Mass. 528. No such tender was pleaded or proved, and the ruling of the Superior Court on this subject was sufficiently favorable to the defendant.

The court correctly ruled that the defendant could not avail himself of the equitable defence set up in his amended answer. This defence in substance is, that all sums received by the plaintiff for the use of the property replevied, and the amount of any depreciation in the value of the property since he took possession,

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together with the damages for the taking and detention in this suit, should be deducted from the amount due on his mortgage, and this defendant should be required to pay only the balance, if any, to the plaintiff on return of said property.

The answer does not allege that these items, if allowable, will fully pay and discharge the plaintiff's mortgage, and therefore does not set up facts which would entitle the defendant "to be absolutely and unconditionally relieved against the plaintiff's claim or cause of action." St. 1883, c. 223, § 14. But, further, all the facts set up have occurred since this action was commenced, and they have no tendency to prove that at the time of the caption he had not the right to the possession of the goods.

The defendant has mistaken his remedy, which plainly was to bring a bill to redeem after the plaintiff gained possession of the goods, in which action he could avail himself of the equities, if any, in his favor. *Exceptions overruled.*

RUFUS H. BRIGHAM, executor, *vs.* WILLIAM P. HOLDEN & another.

Middlesex. January 16, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Promissory Note — Consideration — Evidence.

If an agent of a mortgagor buys his equity at a sheriff's sale, and gives a note for the mortgage, which had been paid, evidence that he afterwards conveyed the land to the mortgagor for enough to cover the purchase money and the note is inadmissible to show a consideration for the note.

CONTRACT upon a promissory note payable to the order of the plaintiff's testator, and signed by the defendants. Answer, want and failure of consideration. At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., the jury returned a verdict for the defendants, and the plaintiff alleged exceptions, which, so far as material, appear in the opinion.

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G. A. King, for the plaintiff.

W. B. Gale & J. W. McDonald, (*J. P. Gale* with them,) for the defendants.

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MORTON, C. J. Abraham Tyler, being the owner of a lot of land, mortgaged it to Francis Brigham, the plaintiff's testator. The equity was afterwards seized on an execution against Tyler, and the defendants became the purchasers at a sheriff's sale. While they owned the equity, Brigham presented his mortgage note and represented that it was due and unpaid. Thereupon the defendants took an assignment of the mortgage and gave the note in suit. It is now admitted that nothing was due on the mortgage. This being so, it was the duty of Brigham to assign or discharge the mortgage, and therefore there was no consideration for the note in suit. To meet this defence, the plaintiff offered to prove that more than a year after the giving of the note in suit the defendants sold to Tyler the land in question, and received from him, in money and a note for five hundred dollars secured by a mortgage upon the land, all that they paid at the sheriff's sale, and all that they agreed to pay Brigham by the note in suit.

The court rightly rejected this evidence. When the conveyance was made to Tyler, the defendants had a legal fee simple. If we assume that Tyler agreed to pay to them enough to indemnify them for what they had paid for the equity and for the Brigham mortgage, it is difficult to see how the plaintiff can derive any advantage from it. It does not supply a consideration for his note, nor furnish any reason why the estate of Francis Brigham should recover a sum of money to which it has no legal or equitable right. It might furnish to Tyler an equitable, or perhaps legal, defence against his mortgage note given to the defendants.

But it appears in the record of the case of *Tyler* v. *Brigham*, reported 143 Mass. 410, which record is a part of the evidence in the case at bar, that in the purchase of the equity and of the mortgage the defendants were acting as the trustees or agents for Tyler. This being so, it is clear that the defendants have no claim against Tyler on their mortgage, (unless there are other undisclosed equities between them,) if he is not required to pay the note in suit. They receive no advantage from the assign-

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ment of the mortgage to them by Francis Brigham. Tyler, who has once paid the Brigham mortgage, gets the benefit of such payment, and thus the real equities of all parties are worked out in this suit.

The other exception taken by the plaintiff is not pressed, and we assume that it is waived. *Exceptions overruled.*

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JOHN M. GOODNOW *vs.* WALPOLE EMERY MILLS.

Suffolk. January 18, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Master and Servant — Negligence — Personal Injuries.

A machinist and engineer, who undertakes extra work for extra pay, first examining the place and receiving particular directions, within three feet of a rapidly revolving shaft, which he knew was in operation, and is caught by a set screw projecting from a collar on the shaft next a journal which he had once before oiled, the screw being of a kind in common use, with the nature and use of which he was familiar, cannot recover from his employer for an injury so received.

TORT for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff while in the defendant's employ. At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Aldrich*, J., there was evidence tending to prove the following facts:

The plaintiff was employed in July, 1881, to take charge of and run the engine and pumps in the defendant's mill by one Way, its superintendent. The plaintiff was injured on October 20, 1881, by being caught upon a set screw projecting about one inch from the collar of a two and a half inch smooth shaft, the collar being three inches broad and fixed on a shaft contiguous to the box or journal holding the end of the shaft, and the set screw being in the middle of the collar. The set screw had a square head with four sharp corners, and was within about two inches of the box or journal, which was hung vertically, the box being sixteen inches long, six inches wide, and six inches deep. The collar and set screw were about three feet from the stamp which the plaintiff was repairing when injured.

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The plaintiff testified in substance as follows: I am thirty-seven years old. On the night of October 19, 1881, I had been running the engine from six o'clock P. M. till six A. M., and Mr. Way asked me if I would help fix the stamp under his direction. I said I would. He told me what he wanted done, and how he wanted it done; that he wished to take out the lining and put in a new one. I had never done it before, and knew nothing about how it was to be done, except as I was told by Mr. Way. He told me this the morning of October 20. I left work at six o'clock A. M., went to breakfast, and returned about seven or a little after. Found Mr. Way in the yard. He asked me if I was ready to go to work, and help put the linings in. He went in and showed me what he wanted done and what had got to be done. I was never in the place where I was put to work before, that I know of; there was nothing in my duty which called me there, and no occasion for me to be there at all in my work. I had put a cylinder head in the steam cylinder and adjusted the valve upstairs before that; can't tell how long before. In doing that I would go through the engine-room and stamp-room. On October 20, Scott and Morissey were there helping me put in the lining all the time; and Mr. Way was there part of the time. I was at work in the stamp-room, in front of the mortar here. Scott from above lowered the lining down, and it was partly in the mortar, and Morissey and I were pushing it in. I stepped down, put my shoulder underneath the corner to push the lining in, and I was caught. [The witness illustrated with a model the manner in which he did this.] At that time I did not know anything about any set screw being on the shaft; never had any intimation of any such thing. There was nothing in my duties which would require me to see it, or know it was there, or to call my attention to it; the next thing that I knew I was going round with the shaft. When I first felt the pull I hollered to Joyce to shut down the engine. The shaft was revolving about one hundred and seventy times a minute, as I estimated by the speed of the engine and the size of the wheels and pulleys. I had on my under-flannels and a pair of pants, a workingman's striped shirt, overalls, and a frock or jumper. The overalls and jumper were made out of blue drilling. The jumper came about to my waist. This is

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the dress I usually wore, — the dress that workingmen usually wear.

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On cross-examination, he testified: Before I went to work for the defendant I had run the engine at the Union Straw Works for three seasons, commencing in the fall and shutting down in the spring. My duties as engineer at the Straw Works were to take care of the engine and the steam. I took the whole charge of the engine, kept it in ordinary repair, and oiled it. I had charge of the engine in the defendant's mill from the time I went there, and as engineer my duty was to keep it in ordinary repair, oil it, and make the steam. While there, and while in the employ of the Straw Works, I had learned that it was not expedient to go near machinery while in operation without using due care. I presume I could have stopped the shafting. I don't know whether I could have stopped the engine that morning while doing this work if I had wanted to do so. I was not asked whether it was not best to stop the engine. I knew that the shaft was revolving when I went to work there. I was standing within a very few feet of the revolving shaft; I knew the shaft was revolving because the engine was running. I don't know whether I looked out to see whether the shaft was revolving or not. I calculated to keep a safe distance from it. I think sixteen, eighteen, or twenty inches would be safe. Should not intend to get nearer than sixteen inches to it. I was led to go so near the shaft to get my shoulder under the lining. The side I was pressing to put in was the side farthest from me. My movement would depend upon whereabouts the lining was; it was suspended over the mortar down through the centre; the movement I was going to make was to throw it over to the side of the mortar farthest from the shaft, to put it in there. My tendency would be to keep a lining of two or three hundred pounds clear of all iron so it would not rub; my whole movement would not have been towards the shafting. In moving to put the lining into position, my movement would be away from the shafting; the farther the lining was pushed in, the farther from the shafting I would go. The lining was not in the mortar; one corner of it rested on the bar, and I was going to put it in. I never attempted to account for my being within two or three inches, or four inches, of the shafting while doing the work. I

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can't tell or recollect anything that required my getting within six inches of the shaft. I filled the oil cups on the hanger near the set screw once; it was not my business, and I can't say when I was in the engine-room; I smelt a hot box, and went from the engine-room and filled these oil cups. The shaft was revolving at the time, and I held my hand up near to the cups. It was in the daytime, I think; I can't tell how long before the accident. It was the business of Joyce, who ran the stamp overhead, to keep these cups filled. The oil cups were out of the engine-room. The collar in which was the set screw was next to the hanger; the object of it is to keep the shaft from working back and forth, so that, if there was another hanger beyond, you would have another collar to keep it steady; the collar is kept in place by the set screw. I had seen set screws in my life, and know what the object of set screws is; they are very common in machinery. There would be four or five on the engine; I could not tell how many on it. I could by stopping to think of the different parts. If I had stopped the engine, the accident would not have happened. I have no recollection when I filled the oil cups of how near my hand was to the shaft. The accident occurred about noon. I was working on extra time. I had worked whole time the night before. I agreed to come this morning, as extra work, and did come.

William A. Morissey testified for the plaintiff in substance as follows: I was in the employ of the defendant at the time the plaintiff was injured, as general workman. The stamp-room was eight or nine feet high; it is lighted by the door into the engine-room, and through the belt holes and the window. The window was about opposite the stamp. The window had three lights, I should think eight by ten, maybe a little larger, — a common window, the same as in underpinning of buildings; about half of the window was under ground. I was present when the injury was received. Goodnow and I stood in front of the mortar putting in the lining into the inside of it. The plaintiff said, "Hold on a minute, I want to get my shoulder under there," and turned facing me and got down to lift as I lifted on the inside corner to push the lining into the mortar, and I heard him cry out, and the next I saw him going over the shaft. In the progress of the work in the forenoon, we had occasion to use the lantern just

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inside the mortar, when we cleaned out the stone and took out the bolts of the old lining.

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On cross-examination he testified: The platform on which the mortar stood was, I should think, two feet high above the floor, maybe more, so that, if a man was standing upon the platform, his foot would be about three feet below the main shaft. At the time of the accident, one or two planks right over the mortar were up, and some light came through that opening. There was some light upon the staircase, and the door of the engine-room was open. In the engine-room I think there are two windows in the underpinning, and three windows in the other side of the basement of the engine-room. Joyce had charge of the engine on the day of the accident. Goodnow was in charge of the work.

John Senior testified that the plaintiff was caught on the set screw.

The plaintiff offered evidence, that, in the form of set screw and collar in common use, the collar is recessed so as to allow the set screw to sink into the collar flush with the face of the collar, and that there is much less liability of being caught upon this kind of set screw and collar than upon the one upon which the plaintiff was caught; that the superintendent, Way, knew that this set screw and collar were in the place described, and did not inform the plaintiff of its existence, and that the set screw would not be noticed by one looking at the shaft in motion. There was also evidence tending to show that a person dressed as the plaintiff was could come in contact with a smooth shaft without danger, but could not come in contact with the set screw described without being caught ninety-nine times out of a hundred. The defendant offered evidence that the recessed collar described above was not in common use, and that the collar and set screw upon which the plaintiff was caught were in common use.

The judge ruled that on this evidence the plaintiff could not maintain his action, and ordered the jury to return a verdict for the defendant, and reported the case for the determination of this court. If the ruling was correct, judgment was to be entered on the verdict; otherwise, the case was to stand for trial.

H. W. Bragg, for the plaintiff.

H. G. Nichols, (*R. M. Morse, Jr.*, with him,) for the defendant

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DEVENS, J. It was for the plaintiff to show both that he himself was in the exercise of due care, and that the injury to him was occasioned by the negligence of the defendant. He was an intelligent man, of about thirty-seven years of age, who had been in the employ of the defendant for about three months as a machinist and engineer, employed to run the engine and pumps, and have charge of them. He had previously been employed in this business elsewhere, for three seasons, and part of a fourth, taking the whole care of the engine, and keeping it in ordinary repair. On the day of the accident he had been asked by the superintendent of the defendant's works to repair a stamp under his direction. The superintendent told him "what he wanted done, and how he wanted it done," which was by taking out the lining of the mortar and putting in a new one. The plaintiff assented, and when ready to go to work the superintendent "went in and showed" him "what he wanted done, and what had got to be done." The plaintiff took charge of this job voluntarily. It was not in the regular line of his employment, but was extra work, for which he was to receive extra compensation. The engine was in motion, a shaft passing through the "stamp-room," as it was called, and revolving at the rate of one hundred and seventy times a minute. A set screw projected about an inch from the collar of the smooth shaft, which collar was about three inches broad, and fixed on the shaft contiguous to the box or journal holding the end of the shaft. The set screw was in the middle of the collar, and kept it in its place. The plaintiff was at work about three feet from this set screw, upon the platform on which the mortar was placed. He describes the accident as follows: "I was at work in the stamp-room in front of the mortar here. Scott, from above, lowered the lining down, and it was partly in the mortar, and Morissey and I were pushing it in. I stepped down, put my shoulder underneath the corner to push the lining in, and I was caught. [The witness illustrated with a model the manner in which he did this.] At that time I did not know anything about any set screw being on the shaft; never had any intimation of any such thing. There was nothing in my duties which would require me to see it or know it was there, or to call my attention to it; the next thing that I knew I was going round with the shaft." From

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his own testimony, it further appeared that the plaintiff knew perfectly the object of set screws, which are very common in machinery, and of which there were four or five on his engine. He knew also the danger of revolving machinery, and intended to keep at a safe distance from it. He stated that he knew that the shaft was revolving, and "presumed" that he could have stopped the engine, in which event the accident could not have occurred. The plaintiff did not intend to get within sixteen inches of the shaft, nor could he tell how it happened that in stepping back he got so near the shafting as he did, especially as in moving to put the lining into position his movement would be away from the shafting. Nor, as he testified, could he see any reason why he should have got within six inches of it.

The plaintiff contends upon these facts, that the defendant did not furnish him a suitable place in which to do his work, nor apprise him of the danger to be apprehended from the revolving set screw, which was not in any way connected with the work which he had in hand. But the plaintiff was before familiar with the place in which the work was to be done; he had examined it the same morning, before commencing his work with the defendant's superintendent. He had also, as appears from his statement, at a former time oiled the shafting at the very journal close to which was the set screw by which he was caught. Even if he had not then observed the set screw, or had not seen it on the morning of the accident on account of the revolution of the machinery, or for any other reason, he knew as an engineer that set screws were in constant use, and that from the purpose for which they were employed it might be expected that the collar would be kept in its position by one. There was no danger which, in view of the plaintiff's knowledge and capacity, must not have been well understood by and apparent to him, and there was therefore no negligence on the part of the defendant in exposing him to it. *Coombs* v. *New Bedford Cordage Co.* 102 Mass. 572. *Sullivan* v. *India Manufacturing Co.* 113 Mass. 396. *Russell* v. *Tillotson*, 140 Mass. 201. *Taylor* v. *Carew Manufacturing Co.* 140 Mass. 150.

It cannot be claimed that the machinery used by the defendant was out of repair, or defective and unsuitable for the purpose. There was evidence on the part of the plaintiff that a recessed

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collar was in common use, so made that the set screw was sunk into the collar flush with its face, upon which there was much less liability of being caught than on that used by the defendant. But the plaintiff offered no evidence that the collar and set screw as used by the defendant were not also in common use, while affirmative evidence on this point was offered by the defendant.

As we are of opinion that the plaintiff has failed to show any sufficient evidence of negligence on the part of the defendant, it is unnecessary to inquire whether he has shown that he himself was in the exercise of due care. *Judgment on the verdict.*

Armine W. Littlefield *vs.* Boston and Albany Railroad Company.

Middlesex. January 18, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: Morton, C. J., Devens, Holmes, & Knowlton, JJ.

Town — Selectmen — Deed — Adverse Possession — Equitable Title — Statute.

A town voted, at a meeting held in November, 1838, to refer the sale of land to a railroad corporation to the selectmen, and in October, 1839, the selectmen then in office made a deed thereof to the corporation. *Held*, that no title passed by the deed.

Land adjoining a railroad was occupied openly, adversely, and exclusively from 1852 to 1880, during which period a railroad corporation claimed an equitable right to it, but did not take actual possession until the latter year. *Held*, that title was gained to the land by adverse possession, and that the St. of 1861, c. 100, relating to such titles, did not apply.

Writ of entry, dated August 16, 1884, to recover a parcel of land in Newton. Plea, *nul disseisin*. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Thompson*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, which, so far as material, was as follows:

The demanded premises were a strip of land bounded on the east by Rowe Street, on the north by land of the demandant, on the west by land now or late of Washburn, and on the south by land of the tenant. The northerly line of the demanded premises was indicated by a retaining wall recently erected by the tenant, and the southerly line by a straight line, which was at its westerly end fourteen feet and six inches north of the centre

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line between the two present middle tracks of the railroad, and fifteen feet and six inches north of the centre line at its easterly end. The demanded premises, the land of the demandant, and that of the tenant opposite thereto, were formerly a part of the poor-house farm of the town of Newton.

The demandant offered in evidence a deed, dated May 15, 1847, from the town of Newton to William Jackson, which conveyed to him the poor-house farm, "being represented on a plan drawn by Seth Davis, dated April 30, 1847," and "reserving and excepting nevertheless so much of this parcel of land as belongs to the Boston and Worcester Railroad Corporation, whose road runs through the same"; that in 1877 she had acquired title, by mesne conveyances from Jackson, to that portion of the land so conveyed to him which was situated on the northwesterly corner of Rowe Street and the railroad; that the southerly boundary of her land on the railroad was indicated by a picket fence with turned posts; that the fence stood on the southerly line of the demanded premises, and was erected in 1852 by one Adams, who then owned the land of the demandant; that from and after 1852 she and those persons through whom she claimed had occupied the demanded premises; that the tenant destroyed a portion of the fence in 1880 and the remainder in 1883, and since those years had occupied the parts of the demanded premises north of the portion of the fence so destroyed; and introduced the deposition of Washburn, who testified that the fence stood on the southerly line of the demanded premises. The demandant contended that she was entitled to maintain her action by proof of more than twenty years' adverse possession of the demanded premises.

The tenant offered in evidence a deed dated September 25, 1833, from the inhabitants of Newton to the Boston and Worcester Railroad Corporation, of which the tenant was the successor, conveying, in consideration of three hundred dollars, "the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged," a strip of land through the poor-house farm about forty-six rods long and about two rods wide at its easterly end and about three rods wide at its westerly end, "as now staked out or fenced for said corporation railroad," and covenanting "that said inhabitants will and their assigns shall make, keep, and maintain at all times here-

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after a good and sufficient wall or walls, fence or fences, on the boundary lines between their own lands aforesaid and the premises above granted, which fences or walls shall be forever kept, maintained, and made at their expense and the expense of their assigns."

The tenant also offered evidence that the records of the town of Newton contained a copy of a warrant, dated October 23, 1838, for a town meeting to be held on November 12, 1838, article 4 of which was as follows: "To see if the town will authorize the selectmen to sell so much land on each side of the Worcester Railroad near the poor-house as will make the line straight"; that the record of the meeting of November 12, 1838, contained the following action under article 4: "4th article was referred to the selectmen"; that on October 1, 1839, the "selectmen of the town of Newton, in consideration of eighteen dollars to us paid by the Boston and Worcester Railroad corporation, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged," conveyed to it "two certain strips or parcels of land, being a part of the poor-house farm in said Newton, containing about forty-eight square rods lying on both sides of said railroad as it passes through said poor-house farm, and making together with what said railroad corporation had previously purchased a lot of land fifty-six feet wide and about forty-six rods in length. The northerly line of said northerly strip of land being thirty-one feet from the northerly rail of said railroad track," or thirty-eight feet from the centre line between the two present tracks of the railroad; and that the treasurer's books of the town of Newton contained the following entry: "1840, Jan. 1, Cr. Cash of Boston and Worcester Railroad for additional land and removing fences, $30.66." It appeared that the premises described by the deed of 1839 were not wholly occupied by the railroad until 1883.

Edward D. Bolton, called by the tenant, testified that he was a civil engineer; that between April, 1871, and December, 1873, he took certain measurements by which he got the position of the picket fence with the turned posts adjoining the demandant's land; that he measured from the centre line between the two existing tracks of the railroad to the picket fence, which was situated northerly, and distant from the centre line twenty-seven and ten one-hundredths feet on Rowe Street, and seventeen and

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seven tenths feet at the other end thereof; that he also measured from the centre line to where certain fences then were on the southerly side of the railroad opposite the picket fence, and that the measurement was twenty-seven and ninety-five one-hundredths feet near one Kimball's; that he should say that the Kimball fence was an old fence, as it was weather-beaten and had been built some time; that twenty-eight feet measured from the centre line northerly extended into the land beyond the fence he found on the demandant's land, to some extent. On cross-examination, he stated that he did not know whether the fence existing on Kimball's land at the time of the survey corresponded with the present fence there or not.

Walter Shepard, called by the tenant, testified that he was a civil engineer; that the retaining wall, which was built in 1883 upon the demanded premises, was built upon a line parallel with and twenty-eight feet northerly from the centre line, between the centre tracks, which were in the same position as the tracks which existed there in 1873; that the wall was placed upon the line which he obtained from the deed dated October 1, 1839; that a line measured thirty-one feet northerly from the north rail of the first railroad track that was built by the railroad would agree with the face of the retaining wall as it existed at the time of the trial; that the southerly line of a strip of land fifty-six feet wide would agree with the fence on the south side of the railroad, against the land of Kimball, as it existed at the time of the trial; and that, to get a strip of land fifty-six feet wide, measuring from the present fence against Kimball's land, it would be necessary to come out as far as the face of the retaining wall on the northerly side of the railroad.

The tenant further introduced in evidence a deed dated June 6, 1843, from the "selectmen of the town of Newton" to the Boston and Worcester Railroad Corporation, conveying, "in consideration of twenty-seven dollars to us paid" and "the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged," a strip of land adjoining that previously conveyed on the north, "with the condition that said corporation build at their own expense all the fence necessary on the southerly line of said lot separating the same from the railroad, — said fence to be of as good quality as that lately removed by said corporation, — and when built, said town is to maintain

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the fence on said line hereafter forever." It did not appear that any portion of the land described by the deed of 1843 was occupied by the railroad prior to 1883.

The tenant asked the judge to rule and instruct the jury as follows: "1. That the vote of the town of Newton of November 12, 1838, under article 4 of the warrant, authorized the selectmen to sell so much land of the poor-farm as would make the line straight. 2. The deed of the selectmen of Newton, dated October 1, 1839, and the receipt of the consideration thereof by the town, if proved as facts, establish the boundary of the land of the town and the railroad company, and the town of Newton and persons claiming through or under it are bound thereby. 3. On the evidence in this case, the demandant has shown no title to any part of the strip of land the northerly side of which is parallel with and twenty-eight feet northerly from the centre or base line of the railroad. 4. The deed of September 25, 1833, the deed of October 1, 1839, and the deed of June 6, 1843, to the railroad corporation, if the jury shall find that the town of Newton received the consideration of said deeds, determine the extent of the exception of the deed from the town of Newton to William Jackson, and the jury are authorized upon the evidence to find that, when said town conveyed to Jackson its poor-farm, it did not convey to him any of the land described in said first mentioned deeds, but that the same then belonged to the railroad corporation. 5. The recital in the deed of Newton to Jackson, excepting therefrom whatever then belonged to the Boston and Worcester Railroad Corporation, taken in connection with the fact that the deeds to the company purported to convey the property on which the railroad then existed and was in operation, may be taken by the jury as an admission by the town that those deeds conveyed title to the company."

The judge declined so to rule as requested by the tenant, but instructed the jury that the deed of October 1, 1839, and the deed of June 6, 1843, were not operative to convey any title whatever to the Boston and Worcester Railroad Corporation, and said, "So far as the deed of 1839 is concerned, I rule to you, as matter of law, that that deed did not convey to the Boston and Worcester Railroad Company the piece of land which the parties who made that deed intended to convey; but if the

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Boston and Worcester Railroad occupied or did have possession of only that, if they took a valid deed by that, then I should rule to you that the demandant could not obtain adverse possession; but that is not material, as I have ruled to you as matter of law that no title to that piece of land passed to the Boston and Worcester Railroad Company;" that the case was to stand as if those deeds had never been given; that, if the jury should find that the demandant, and those under whom she claims, had had open, exclusive, and adverse possession of the demanded premises from 1852 to 1880, then, so far as was necessary to obtain a title by adverse possession, the demandant had shown herself to come within the rule; that, if they found for the demandant up to the fence, they should find, upon the evidence, as matter of fact, the line upon which the fence was constructed and maintained, because the demandant does not claim that she has a claim to land south of that fence; and that "no adverse occupation of the land belonging to the railroad corporation since 1852 will give any title against it."

The jury found that the tenant had disseised the demandant of so much of the demanded premises as lay north of a line which was twenty-seven and ten one-hundredths feet north of the centre line between the two middle tracks of the railroad at the easterly end, and seventeen and seventy one-hundredths feet north of the centre line at the westerly end, of the demanded premises, which was the line of the fence as placed by the tenant's witnesses, and northerly of the line as placed by the demandant and by Washburn. The tenant alleged exceptions.

Samuel Hoar, for the tenant, contended, among other things, that the words "land belonging" to a railroad corporation, in the St. of 1861, c. 100,* do not mean simply land to which the rail-

* This statute is as follows: "If the owner or occupant of any land adjoining any railroad in this Commonwealth has taken or shall take into his enclosure any part of the land belonging to said railroad, as located and established, or has erected or shall erect any building upon, or has occupied or shall occupy, for the purposes of cultivation or otherwise, any land belonging to, or included within, the location of any such railroad, no continuance of such enclosure, building, or length of possession or occupancy of the land belonging to such railroad, so enclosed or occupied, shall create in such adjoining owner or occupant, or in any person claiming under him, any right to the land belonging to such railroad so enclosed or occupied."

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road corporation has a perfect title in fee simple, but rather land from which it has a right to exclude intruders; that as to the land described in the deed of 1839, the tenant had paid the town of Newton the purchase money, had paid for removing fences separating it from their original location, had entered into possession and erected new fences, and had taken a deed of it from the selectmen of Newton, which statements were partly true of the deed of 1843; that it became entitled therefore in equity, in 1847 and 1852, to a conveyance from the town of Newton of the legal title of the land described in one or both of these deeds, if it should be decided by the court that those deeds were insufficient to convey the legal title; *Potter* v. *Jacobs*, 111 Mass. 32; and that the words of the statute, "belonging to," included, covered, and protected such a title and interest in the railroad corporation.

E. M. Parker & J. G. Thorp, Jr., for the demandant.

KNOWLTON, J. The evidence at the trial tended to show, and the jury must have found, that from the year 1852 to the year 1880 the demandant occupied openly, adversely, exclusively, and continuously so much of the demanded property as was described by the jury in their verdict. The tenant did not contradict this evidence, but rested its defence solely upon certain deeds and accompanying evidence, under which it claimed an early title, and upon the St. of 1861, c. 100, which prevented the acquisition of titles by adverse possession against railroad companies in certain cases. If it showed such an ownership of any part of the land as to make this statute applicable, the verdict must be set aside; otherwise, it must stand.

To support its claim, the tenant introduced three deeds to the Boston and Worcester Railroad Corporation, to whose rights it had succeeded, made by the selectmen of Newton, and purporting to convey portions of the land of said town, one dated September 25, 1833, another dated October 1, 1839, and the third dated June 6, 1843. There was no evidence that the first covered any part of the demanded premises, nor that the third was ever authorized by said town or recognized by it in any way. The second included in its description a part or all of the land in controversy. If under this deed the land described in it belonged to the railroad, and came within the meaning of the

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language referring to lands of railroads in the St. of 1861, c. 100, the passage of that statute prevented the acquisition afterward of a title to the property by adverse possession, and the previous possession relied on by the demandant having been for less than twenty years, her case was not made out.

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Three objections were made to the validity of this deed. First, that the language of the vote of the town under which the selectmen acted was not broad enough to authorize a sale; secondly, that, if authority to sell was given by the vote, it was to the board of selectmen then existing, and not to that of the next year; and thirdly, that the deed was not properly executed to convey the interest of the town.

The first and last of these it is unnecessary to consider. For if we assume, as was decided in *Willard* v. *Newburyport*, 12 Pick. 227, in regard to a similar vote, that a reference of this subject to the selectmen conferred upon them authority, not merely to determine what should be done, but to do it, we think the authority was not intended to extend to other boards of selectmen who might be elected in subsequent years. The subject of the vote was a proposed sale of certain land, and the question was whether the town would authorize it. In respect to the answer to be given, it was a question which looked to the present, and not to the future. If the language of the vote is construed as a reference of the whole matter to the selectmen with power to act, it implied that they were to deal with the question presently, and to decide it finally without unreasonable delay. The authority was conferred upon an existing board of public officers. The vote was passed in November, 1838, and, as the law then was, the term of office of all these officers would expire in the following spring, and a new board would then be chosen. It must be presumed that in giving this authority the voters considered the membership of the existing board, and that they did not intend to allow the question to be postponed and afterwards determined by a board of selectmen that might be elected the next or any subsequent year. We think, therefore, that the deed made in October, 1839, was without authority of the town, and that the railroad companies acquired no title under it.

There was no evidence which would warrant the jury in finding that the Boston and Worcester Railroad Corporation, or the

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tenant, had actual possession of any part of the premises described in the verdict prior to the year 1880; and even if the St. of 1861, c. 100, — the language of which is very different from that in the substituted St. of 1874, c. 372, § 107, (Pub. Sts. c. 112, § 215,) — could be held to apply to land outside of a located or established railroad, and if the evidence in this case would warrant a finding that the town of Newton received a consideration for this land, we do not think the equitable right of the tenant or of its predecessor, if either of them had any, would prevent the acquisition of a title by the long continued adverse possession of another.

It follows that the St. of 1861, c. 100, has no application to this case, and that there was nothing to control the effect of the adverse possession proved at the trial. All the requests for instructions to the jury were either in conflict in some particular with the law as we have stated it, or were immaterial, and there was no error in the instructions given.

Exceptions overruled.

ABRAHAM H. GRANGER, administrator, *vs.* BOSTON AND ALBANY RAILROAD COMPANY.

GEORGE W. CHIPMAN, administrator, *vs.* SAME.

Suffolk. January 18, 19, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Railroad — Loss of Life — Contributory Negligence.

A person who enters upon a railroad at a grade crossing when gates with signal lanterns thereon are down, passes in front of an approaching freight train already upon the crossing, and is killed by an express train running on another track at its usual speed and on time, is guilty of contributory negligence, and recovery cannot be had for his death.

TWO ACTIONS OF TORT, by the administrators of the estates of Frederick W. Granger and of Frederick Murray, for causing their death. The second count of the declaration in each case, which alone need be stated, alleged that the intestates, while in the exercise of due care and not passengers or in the defendant's

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employment, were killed at a crossing of the defendant's railroad through the negligence of the defendant. Answer in each case, a general denial.

The cases were tried together in the Superior Court, before *Thompson*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, which, so far as material, was as follows:

The intestates were killed at the Cambridge Street crossing, near the Allston station in Brighton, on November 10, 1884, at about ten minutes past five o'clock in the afternoon. At that crossing, Cambridge Street is crossed obliquely at grade by the defendant's railroad, which there consists of four tracks, the first track on the easterly side being used as a freight track, the second for both freight and passenger service, and the third and fourth for passenger service exclusively. On the northerly side of Cambridge Street, and on the easterly side of the railroad, near the first track, there was a gateman's house. The crossing was protected by gates, which swung up and down, and when down closed the whole of the highway on each side of the railroad, and shut in the sidewalks, except between the gateman's house and the gate on that side. At this place the sidewalk was left open when the gates were closed, and the gateman who raised and lowered the gates usually stood upon the sidewalk when his gates were down. On the afternoon of the accident, the plaintiffs' intestates, who were painters, together with Edward S. Cummings, left their work at a place on the easterly side of the railroad, at about five o'clock P. M., it being then about dark, taking with them some unpainted blinds, to go to their homes on the westerly side of the railroad. They reached the railroad crossing at about ten minutes past five o'clock. A freight train from Boston, running on the first track, which was due at the crossing at five o'clock, had entered upon the crossing before their arrival there, and a regular passenger train, which ran express from Boston to Newtonville, was approaching the crossing at the same time, at regular speed and on time, on the third track, the distance between the first and third tracks being about seventeen feet.

Stephen Osgood testified, in substance, that he was a police officer, stationed near the Allston station; that, at the time of the accident, he was standing on the sidewalk, within ten or

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twelve feet of the gate, on the westerly side of the railroad; that, at about ten minutes before five o'clock in the afternoon, the freight train was creeping up pretty slow, — two or three miles an hour; that he saw three men trying to pass the freight train, who had some window blinds under their arms; that he "hollered" at them, and shook his club for them to keep back; that the express train was on the third track, coming from Boston, at from thirty to forty miles an hour; that the freight train was over half-way across the crossing; that the gates were down across the street; that the three men were strung along, one after the other; that Cummings, the one that was saved, was in front; that when he shook his club Cummings jumped, and the other two got caught by the engine of the express train, and were instantly killed; that it was quite dark and a little misty, and the lights were on the gates; that the freight train, if it got half-way across, would hide the express train coming out; that there was nothing to prevent the men from hearing the express train; that the freight train made a good deal of noise; that they took their chances; and that there was time to get by the freight train.

On cross-examination, he testified that he first saw the men when they started to pass the freight train; that the engine on the freight train was about fifteen feet from these men when they started to go across; that he noticed that they were going pretty quick, and pretty close to it; that the first thing he noticed of them they were hurrying to get by the freight train; that the gates were down on both sides, and that the lanterns were hung on the gates in their proper places; that the men might have been three or four feet apart; that there was nothing between Cummings and the train to prevent his seeing the approaching express train; that if he had looked down the track he would have seen it; that there was nothing to prevent a man, who was coming up in the direction these men were coming, from seeing that the gates were down at the crossing; that they could not help seeing that the gates were down, and the lights were hung up; that he had seen Murray going over that crossing before that time; that he had to go across four times a day to and from his work; that this was about the regular time that he came back from his work, at that time of year; that the

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express train was a regular passenger train, which crossed that crossing at that time every night, and that it was on its time. On re-examination, he testified that it was as dark as it generally is about November 10; that the men could see the lights on the gate, if they looked, and it was evident they could see the freight train.

Edward S. Cummings testified that he was a painter, and worked with the two men who were killed; that they quit work at five o'clock P. M., and got up to the crossing about ten minutes past five; that it was dark enough for lights; that when they got to the crossing he was ahead; that when he got to the crossing he saw the freight train moving along slowly; that he noticed the gates were down across the street; that nobody warned him of the coming of the express train; that he did not know it was coming; that Osgood, the police officer, first attracted his attention to any danger; and that, seeing him motion, he sprang forward. On cross-examination, he testified that he had two blinds under his arm, each about thirty inches long, and the others had three apiece; that he could not say how the others carried their blinds when they crossed the track; that there was nothing in the position of the blinds he carried that would prevent him from seeing the train as it came up the track; that the freight train, when he started to go across the track, was a little more than fifteen feet away; that he thought he had time to get by it; that he hurried, because the train was approaching; that he did not know whether the others hurried or not; that he knew that frequently trains were coming in either direction on the four tracks; that he had passed there at about this same time other nights, and his companions had; that he could not say that he looked up or down the track up to the time that he saw the police officer motion, and that he could not say that either of his companions had; that he had not seen anything of the express train, and had not looked to see; that when he started to go across he saw nothing but the freight train; that when he cleared the freight train he did not look down the track at all, and did not look either way; and that he was heading right across to the other sidewalk.

The locomotive engineer on the freight train testified that he remembered going across the crossing at Allston, and saw three

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men hurry across in front of the engine; that they all hurried across; that the last two were on the run; and that they carried some light woodwork on their shoulders. The fireman on the freight train testified that he saw the men hurry to cross in front of his train.

Patrick Ryan testified that he was the gateman at the crossing; that he shut down his gates on the night of the accident for the freight train to come along; and that the lanterns were lighted upon them. On cross-examination, he testified that his lanterns were hung out on the gates before he put them down; that they were hung on hooks, nearer the end than the middle of the gates; that the lanterns were put on before dark; and that he had a flag in the flag-house, but never used it unless the gates were broken or out of order.

The defendant asked the judge to rule and instruct the jury, among other things, that there was no evidence that the plaintiffs' intestates were in the use of due care, or that the defendant was guilty of negligence. The judge refused so to rule, and instructed the jury that these questions were for them, on all the evidence. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff in each case on the second count; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

Samuel Hoar, for the defendant.

A. H. Briggs, for the plaintiffs.

MORTON, C. J. In each of these cases the undisputed evidence shows that the plaintiff's intestate was guilty of negligence which contributed to his injury. The accident happened at a grade crossing, each plaintiff's intestate being struck by a passenger express train running on its usual time. It appeared that before they had reached the track the defendant's gateman had lowered the gates, with signal lanterns attached, across the travelled part of the highway, and the only conclusion which can be reached from the evidence is that the parties injured saw that they were lowered.

Railroads, from the necessity of the case, have the right to the exclusive use of grade crossings when their trains are passing, and it is their duty to give suitable warning of such passing trains to travellers upon the highway. If they do this, and the traveller disregards the warning, and without sufficient excuse insists upon crossing, he does so at his own risk.

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In these cases each plaintiff's intestate was warned by the lowered gates that it was unsafe for him to cross the track. It was his duty to wait till the gates were raised; he voluntarily entered upon the track, notwithstanding the warning and without any excuse. This was negligence on his part which caused the accident, and the consequences of his rashness cannot be cast upon the defendant. It is not an answer to say that he may have supposed that the gates were down because the freight train was passing, and he was willing to take the risk of getting safely by that. He had no right so to suppose. It was negligence for him to enter upon the track when he was warned that the railroad required the exclusive use of the crossing for its proper business.

As this is decisive of the cases, it is not necessary to discuss the question whether the evidence shows any negligence on the part of the defendant. *Exceptions sustained.*

JOHN P. CONSTANTINIDES *vs.* JAMES L. WALSH, executor.

Suffolk. January 20, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Husband — Married Woman — Separate Estate — Funeral Expenses.

A husband, paying the funeral expenses of his wife, who has left property, may recover them of her executor.

CONTRACT, upon an account annexed, for the expenses of the funeral of the defendant's testatrix. Writ dated June 18, 1886. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Blodgett*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in substance as follows:

Louisa Constantinides, the plaintiff's wife and the defendant's testatrix, died on October 23, 1884, possessed of separate estate, all of which she gave to her son, the step-son of the plaintiff, by her will admitted to probate on November 17, 1884. The plaintiff had no knowledge of the will until three weeks after her death, before which time he had contracted, and on October 27,

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1884, had paid a bill for her necessary funeral expenses, which it was agreed was reasonable. It was not contended that the defendant had, prior to or after his appointment, made any promise of payment.

The defendant asked the judge to rule that the plaintiff could not recover, and the judge so ruled, and ordered a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

J. A. Maxwell, for the plaintiff.

G. A. Bruce, for the defendant.

HOLMES, J. The funeral expenses of the testatrix were a preferred charge upon her estate. Pub. Sts. c. 135, § 3; c. 137, § 1. St. 1882, c. 141. Under these statutes, and those establishing the independent position of married women with regard to their property, we think that, as between the estate of a married woman leaving property and her husband, the liability of the estate must be regarded as primary, and that it would be unreasonable to charge the husband for the funeral expenses, in all events, as necessaries, irrespective of any fault on his part. If then it was still, as formerly, the plaintiff's legal duty to see that his wife was buried, but her estate was primarily liable, he is entitled to recover his reasonable expenditures, as in other cases when a person has paid in pursuance of a legal duty what, as between himself and another, that other was bound to pay. There is no technical difficulty in a husband's imposing a liability upon his wife's executor after her death.

If it was not the plaintiff's legal duty to do what he did, nevertheless we are of opinion that he stood on no worse ground than a stranger would have done. A stranger could have recovered against the estate of a man, if he was justified in intermeddling. *Sweeney* v. *Muldoon*, 139 Mass. 304, 306. And formerly, in the case of a married woman, he could have recovered against her husband. *Lakin* v. *Ames*, 10 Cush. 198, 221. *Weld* v. *Walker*, 130 Mass. 422, 423. *Bradshaw* v. *Beard*, 12 C. B. (N. S.) 344. Undoubtedly he could now recover against her estate. If so, the husband can. In such a matter, it is not to be presumed that the husband waives his legal rights, and makes a gift to the estate of his wife, in the absence of any expression or other evidence to that effect. *Exceptions sustained.*

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AUSTIN FORD vs. GARRETT LINEHAN.

Suffolk. January 18, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Contract — Agency — Evidence.

An only son without much property, who was his father's general agent for the transaction of all his business, signed a contract in his own name for a large amount of stone-work on his father's burial lot, told the latter about the contract, and conferred with him during the progress of the work, nothing being said about its being a gift to the father. The father, who had considerable property, was seventy-three years old; had been confined to his house for five years by sickness; had prior to his sickness had the idea of having this work done, and had consulted his wife about it; and had signed an application for a permit to do it. *Held*, that evidence of these facts would warrant a finding that the son was acting as his father's agent in signing the contract and doing the work.

CONTRACT to recover $629.75, $580 being for stone-work upon the defendant's lot in Calvary Cemetery, under a written agreement dated September 22, 1884, and signed by the plaintiff and Denis A. Linehan, and $49.75 upon an account annexed, for work done and materials furnished in connection therewith. Writ dated September 2, 1885.

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Brigham*, C. J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows:

The defendant, who was the father of Denis A. Linehan, contended that he was not a party to the contract, and testified by deposition, in answer to questions put by the plaintiff's counsel, that he had been confined to his house for about five years with rheumatism; that he was the owner of a lot in Calvary Cemetery; that he had not authorized anybody to put any stone-work, such as curbing, posts, and steps, on that lot; "but I would if I was able to go out. Myself and mother was about fixing that lot with curbing around it, when I got sick. That is all I done with it, except that my son told me afterwards he had done it. He did not tell me he was going to do it, and asked me nothing about it. He done it himself"; that he could not tell when he heard for the first time that the stone was being put into the lot, or when his son told him about it; that he did not know what his son told him, "except that he settled

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with the man to put a curb around the burial lot," and that he said it was Ford; that his son stated the amount, but he did not remember it, it was not a thousand dollars; that his son did it of his own accord, and did not tell him about it until he had done it; that after the work was done, his son "said it was not done right, that they appointed another lot to be made like it, that it was not done according to agreement"; that when his son told him that he had made a contract with Ford he did not know what he said to him, "I am so forgetful that I don't remember"; that it was his intention at that time to improve his lot; that he owned three houses; that his son looked after his houses, collected the rents, &c.; that he did not allow his son to do anything the latter saw fit for him, and that when his son "put an awning over the store without my knowledge and consent, and I did not approve of it, he paid for it himself"; and that his son purchased the burial lot for him. On cross-examination the defendant testified that he was about seventy-three years old; that when he spoke of "mother" he meant his wife; that he never promised to pay for the stone-work on his lot; that he never authorized his son to make any agreement that he should pay for such stone-work; that he did not know of his son's contracting with Ford before the contract was made; that after the contract was made with Ford he did not agree, promise, or intend to pay Ford if he performed the contract, and that Ford did not ask him to pay; and that he had but one son.

Denis A. Linehan, called by the defendant, testified that he procured from his father, the defendant, and delivered to Ford, an application addressed to the superintendent for a permit to do the work as required by the by-laws of Calvary Cemetery; that the plaintiff had never in any conversation with him, or to his knowledge, made any claim or demand on the defendant for payment; and that he intended to put the stone-work on the lot and pay for it out of his own pocket; and that he was in the grocery business.

On cross-examination, he testified that the plaintiff had never seen the defendant; that he had told the plaintiff what his father's name was before and at the time the contract was signed; that he attended to all his father's business; that his father owned the burial lot; that his father had never author-

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ized him to put the curbing around it, but that he told his father that he was doing it; that he himself was to pay for it; that he spoke to his father about the work not very often, but spoke to him oftener after the trouble commenced; that he told his father that he had signed the agreement with the defendant to put the stone-work on the lot, what the price and style were to be, and when the work was to commence and finish; that he did not show his father the contract, did not read it to him, nor tell him the substance of it; that he told his father all about the trouble with the defendant; that his father, as a matter of fact, left the whole thing to him; that his father did not disapprove of anything that he did; that he never stated to his father that it was going to be a gift; and that he had no property except his business.

It appeared that the stone-work was placed on the lot in June or July, 1885, and that on July 25, 1885, the plaintiff sent to Denis A. Linehan a bill entitled "Denis A. Linehan to Austin Ford, Dr.," for $580 for the stone-work on the lot.

The defendant asked the judge to rule that there was no evidence which would warrant the jury in finding that the defendant was a party to the contract; but the judge refused so to rule, and submitted the case to the jury with instructions not excepted to. The jury found for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. A. Maxwell, for the defendant.

T. F. Maguire, for the plaintiff.

MORTON, C. J. The written contract for the work which is sued for was signed by the son of the defendant; but if the plaintiff can prove that in contracting for the work the son was acting as the agent of the defendant, this action can be maintained. Whether he was so acting, is a question of fact for the jury, and we are of opinion that there was evidence at the trial which was properly submitted to them upon this issue.

It appeared that the defendant was seventy-three years old, and had been confined to his house for five years by rheumatism; that he was a man of considerable property; that he was the owner of the lot in the cemetery on which the work was done; and that before the work was begun he signed an application for a permit to do it, addressed to the superintendent of

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the cemetery. There was evidence tending to show that the son had very little property, that he told the defendant of his contract with the plaintiff, and conferred with the defendant from time to time during the progress of the work; that he was an only son, and his father's general agent for the transaction of all his business affairs; that the defendant, before he was taken sick, had in his mind the idea of putting curbing about his lot, and consulted with his wife about it; and that neither during the work nor after it was completed was anything said between the father and the son to show that it was intended by the latter as a gift to his father. The circumstances of the parties make it very improbable that he would or could make so large a gift.

All the evidence points to the inference that the son was acting for his father, and that both so understood it; and we think the jury might fairly draw this inference, notwithstanding the testimony of the defendant and his son to the contrary. They saw the witnesses, and could best judge of the credit to which they were entitled. *Exceptions overruled.*

FREDERICK H. RINDGE & others *vs.* NEW ENGLAND MUTUAL AID SOCIETY.

Suffolk. January 23, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Beneficiary Association — Administrator — Action — Forfeiture — Waiver.

A certificate in a beneficiary association stated that it was for the benefit of "friends," but provided, in case no beneficiaries, original or substituted, survived, that it should enure to the benefit of "legal heirs." An action was brought by the friends to recover on the certificate, but subsequently the member's administrator was admitted to prosecute it, as his declaration averred, for the benefit of such friends. *Held*, that the designation of "friends" as beneficiaries, though invalid, would not avoid the contract, but that the administrator might recover for the benefit of the heirs only, the averment as to friends being disregarded.

The levy and acceptance of assessments by a beneficiary association without condition, after the conditional acceptance of a prior overdue payment, is a waiver of the right to avoid a certificate for delay of payment.

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CONTRACT to recover $5,000 on a certificate of membership in the defendant association issued to Thomas G. Rice. The plaintiffs moved to amend their writ and declaration by admitting the administrator of Rice to prosecute the action, and an amended declaration was filed, which alleged that the defendant owed the amount due on the certificate to such administrator "for the benefit of" Frederick H. Rindge, Clarissa H. Rindge, and Francis J. Parker, administrators of the estate of Samuel B. Rindge, the original plaintiffs, who were "the beneficiaries under said policy for whose benefit this action is brought."

Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Thompson*, J., who reported the case for the determination of this court, in substance as follows:

On July 7, 1883, Rice was indebted to the Rindges and Parker, as administrators, in the sum of $6,363, and on that date the defendant, a beneficiary association incorporated under the St. of 1874, c. 375, as amended by the St. of 1877, c. 204, issued the certificate to him as collateral security for that indebtedness. The certificate, which was numbered 964, stated "that said Thomas G. Rice is a member of class 5 in said society, and for the benefit of friends, Clarissa H. Rindge, Frederick H. Rindge, and Francis J. Parker, administrators of the estate of Samuel B. Rindge, unless said member shall, at any time, or from time to time hereafter, in writing, assented to by said society, substitute some other beneficiary or beneficiaries, and in that case for the benefit only of the beneficiary or beneficiaries last substituted, as aforesaid, before the death of said member; but if said member shall survive each and all the original beneficiary or beneficiaries, or, in case of substitution, each and all the beneficiary or beneficiaries last substituted, as aforesaid, then for the benefit only of the legal heirs of said member," and contained the following condition: "If said member . . . . shall omit or neglect to pay to said society within thirty days of date of notice . . . . any regular assessment of five dollars 25-100 that may be made by said society upon him under this certificate, then, in every or either event above named, this certificate shall thereby become null and void." In the application upon which this certificate was issued, Rice agreed that, upon any omission or neglect for a period of thirty days after notice to pay any such assessment, the contract

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on the part of the society should thereupon become null and void, and that printed notices mailed thirty days in advance should be sufficient notice of any assessment levied.

On July 18, 1885, a notice of an assessment, dated July 17, 1885, was put into the mail addressed to Rice at his residence, which the judge found was delivered to him on July 20, 1885. On August 17, 1885, Rice was taken ill, and so continued until his death on December 17, 1885, due proofs of which were furnished. On August 19, 1885, Rice's son found the notice above referred to in his father's pocket, and sent it, with the amount of the assessment, to the office of the defendant, where it was receipted by the treasurer and handed back, stamped, "This assessment is accepted on condition that the member is in good health." Nothing was said on either side as to the condition of Rice, who subsequently refunded the amount of the assessment so advanced by his son. The defendant subsequently levied six different assessments on Rice, and accepted payment of the same unconditionally, without making any inquiry as to his health, and it knew nothing about his health until after his death.

The judge ruled that the certificate was forfeited by reason of the nonpayment of the assessment called for by the notice dated July 17, 1885, within thirty days therefrom, and that there was no evidence to justify him in finding a waiver of the forfeiture, and found for the defendant. If either of the rulings were erroneous, judgment was to be entered for the plaintiff, unless upon the other facts the plaintiff could not recover, in which case judgment was to be entered for the defendant.

H. Wheeler, for the plaintiffs.

F. D. Ely, for the defendant.

C. ALLEN, J. The designation of beneficiaries in the policy or certificate of membership is invalid, as the statutes under which the defendant corporation was organized did not authorize it to grant insurance for the benefit of friends. *Daniels* v. *Pratt*, 143 Mass. 216, 221. But an invalid designation of beneficiaries does not render the whole contract invalid. The contract in terms recognizes that there may be a change or substitution of beneficiaries, and there is a provision that, if the member shall survive all original or substituted beneficiaries, then his membership shall be for the benefit of his legal heirs. This provision is

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within the authority of the St. of 1882, c. 195, § 1, heirs being included under the head of relatives; and if there is no other legal designation, this may take effect. *Daniels* v. *Pratt*, *ubi supra*. By an amendment, the action is now prosecuted in the name of the administrator of the estate of the assured, and he is the proper party to maintain the action. *Bailey* v. *New England Ins. Co.* 114 Mass. 177, and cases cited. *Flynn* v. *North America Ins. Co.* 115 Mass. 449. *Unity Association* v. *Dugan*, 118 Mass. 219. This is not controverted; but the defendant contends that the declaration avers that the action is brought for the benefit of the Rindges and Parker, and therefore that the action cannot be maintained. This objection cannot be supported. If the plaintiff receives the money, it will be a good discharge to the defendant of its liability; and the defendant will not be responsible for the proper application of the money by the plaintiff. It is to be assumed, at this stage of the proceedings, that he will dispose of the funds properly; and he may be compelled to do so by judicial proceedings, to which the defendant would not be a necessary party. *Gould* v. *Emerson*, 99 Mass. 154. *Bailey* v. *New England Ins. Co.* 114 Mass. 177. The averment that the action is brought for the benefit of the Rindges and Parker is unnecessary, and may be disregarded.

Since the action is now prosecuted by the proper plaintiff, we need not consider the effect of the St. of 1885, c. 183, which the plaintiff relies on as enlarging the effect of the defendant's contract. The other objections to the plaintiff's recovery depend on the same facts which were considered in the case of Rice against this same defendant, *ante*, 248, where it was held that the defendant must be deemed to have waived the forfeiture.

According to the terms of the report, the entry must be,

Judgment for the plaintiff.

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PATRICK J. HOAR *vs.* JOHN W. ABBOTT & others.

Middlesex. January 24, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Evidence.

If a person alleges that he acted in consequence of a request in a conversation not given in terms, another conversation had at the same time by the requesting party with another person, in which the former asks the latter to do the same thing, is admissible as tending to disprove the first.

TORT for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff while at work upon a preparing machine in the defendants' mill.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., it appeared that in the room in which the accident occurred there were ten of these machines, in the management of which five men, including one Casey, were regularly employed, and that the plaintiff, then a boy about fourteen years of age, was on that day regularly at work in the same room, but not on any of these machines.

The plaintiff contended, and introduced evidence tending to show, that at the time of the accident there was a usage or custom in the defendants' mill, permitting the workmen regularly employed in running these preparing machines, when obliged to be temporarily absent therefrom, to call upon other of the defendants' employees engaged in the same room to look after and run the machines during such temporary absences; and in order to show that he was, at the time of the accident, employed by the defendants to work on this machine, and as the only evidence of such employment testified that, on the day of the accident, shortly before it occurred, Casey went out, and that the plaintiff had a conversation with him as he was about to go, the terms or substance of which were not put in direct evidence, and that, in consequence of this conversation, he tended Casey's machine during his absence.

The defendants contended, and offered evidence to show, that this custom or usage authorized the operative, under the circumstances mentioned, only to call on workmen regularly employed

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in running similar machines to attend to and run his machine during his absence; that the custom did not extend so far as to permit the calling in of any except workmen engaged on similar machines, or so far as to warrant the plaintiff, or any person of his age and inexperience, in attempting to run the machine; that the plaintiff was not required, in the discharge of his duties, to attempt to do so, or to go into close proximity to it; that the accident occurred while the plaintiff was attempting, without right, authority, or direction, and against positive orders, to run the machine; that when Casey left his machine, shortly before the accident, as testified to by the plaintiff, he called one O'Brien, who was employed on a similar machine, and so within the custom; and that, during Casey's absence, O'Brien was engaged in tending Casey's machine, together with his own.

The defendants called O'Brien as a witness, who, in reply to the question, "Did you have any talk with Casey at the time, or just preceding the time, that Casey went away from his machine?" was permitted, under objection, to state the conversation between Casey and himself.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendants; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

N. P. Pratt & E. B. Quinn, for the plaintiff.

Samuel Hoar, for the defendants.

HOLMES, J. The plaintiff was injured by a machine which it was not his regular duty to tend. He alleged that he was employed by the defendants to tend it at the time. The defendants' evidence, on the other hand, was that he was intermeddling without right and against order. To make out that he was employed, the plaintiff put in evidence that there was a known custom of the workmen in the mill employed to run such machines, when obliged to absent themselves temporarily, to call in other employees, and that the regular workman, Casey, went out, and just before doing so had a conversation with him, in consequence of which the plaintiff attended to Casey's machine during his absence. To meet this, the defendants put in the testimony of O'Brien, another workman, that Casey just before going out asked him to attend to his machine, and that he did so. The only exception is to the admission of what Casey said to O'Brien.

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The conversation referred to the occasion testified to by the plaintiff, and was alleged to have happened at the same time as that on which the plaintiff alleged the conversation with himself to have taken place. O'Brien's evidence therefore tended to show that the plaintiff was not requested to attend to Casey's machine. For the jury would have been warranted in finding that there was only one conversation upon the matter, and that that was a request from Casey to O'Brien; and even if the alleged conversations had been placed a moment apart by the respective witnesses, and that with O'Brien had taken place in the plaintiff's absence, it would have been unlikely that Casey, within a few minutes, would have requested two persons to take charge of the same work at the same time.

A request from Casey was none the less material to the plaintiff's case, that he did not testify to it in terms, but left it to be inferred from the other facts put in evidence. The conversation with O'Brien was properly admitted as tending to disprove it.

Exceptions overruled.

WELD SPALDING *vs.* EDMUND B. CONANT.

Middlesex. January 25, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Contract — Writing — Reformation — Mutual Consent.

If the parties to a written contract correct it by mutual consent to make it conform to their actual agreement, such amended writing is valid and binding.

CONTRACT for breach of warranty of soundness in the sale of a horse.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., it appeared that the plaintiff bought the horse of the defendant, who gave him a bill of sale, which described the horse and set forth merely that it was "warranted not to interfere behind from swelling on nigh hind ankle, with proper treatment." There was evidence tending to show that the defendant had previously agreed to give a written warranty of soundness of

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the horse with the exception of the ankle; that the plaintiff, when the paper was handed to him, noticed that it did not contain such a warranty, but took it without objection; that two or three days afterward he went to the defendant, told him that he had offered to give a written warranty of soundness of the horse, and asked him to write it into the bill; and that the defendant then wrote upon the bill of sale the words, "This horse is warranted sound, with exception of before mentioned ankle." The defendant admitted that he wrote the warranty upon such request, for which there was no new consideration, and there was no evidence that he made any objection to so doing.

The defendant asked the judge to rule: "1. The warranty of soundness contained in the bill of sale and written therein after the horse had been sold, paid for, and delivered, in the absence of any new consideration, is void. 2. The plaintiff can only recover upon showing a breach of the warranty contained in the bill of sale at the time the same was signed and delivered."

The judge refused so to rule, but ruled as follows: "If in making the agreement for a sale the defendant made affirmations which were intended by him to be relied on as part of the contract, and were relied on as such by the plaintiff, to the effect that the horse was sound except for the swelling at the ankle, and both parties at the time they concluded their parol bargain understood that by that contract the horse was warranted sound except as to his ankle, and the defendant then made and the plaintiff received the writing which has been introduced in evidence with no provision in it as to soundness except as to the ankle, and the parties did not intend thereby to change their parol contract, and the plaintiff two or three days afterward asked the defendant to write the warranty into the contract, and the defendant then wrote the words that appear around the edge of the original writing, with a view to make the writing correctly express their contract as it was at the time the paper was originally made, and delivered the paper in its amended form as the true statement of their contract, and the plaintiff received it as such and it was such, and it was delivered and received as a binding contract, the defendant is bound by it in its amended form."

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The jury found for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

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J. N. Marshall, for the defendant.

F. T. Greenhalge, for the plaintiff, was not called on.

C. ALLEN, J. In this case it must now be assumed that the bill of sale as originally delivered did not contain the whole of the bargain actually made between the parties, and, upon attention being called to the omission, the defendant, for the purpose of making the writing conform to the actual agreement, inserted the warranty upon which the action is brought. The defendant's counsel now contends that the plaintiff had accepted the bill of sale without this warranty, and that, having done so, he could not have maintained an action upon the oral warranty, because the bill of sale would have been treated as showing the whole of the contract, and that therefore the warranty inserted in the bill of sale must be treated as a new contract, which was invalid for want of a new consideration to support it. There is, however, no rule of law which prevents parties who discover that their contract has not been correctly expressed in the written instrument, from correcting the writing by mutual consent so as to make it conform to their actual agreement; thus doing voluntarily what might be compelled in equity, on a bill to reform the contract. The instructions were correct.

Exceptions overruled.

HENRY D. SMITH *vs.* JOHN O'BRIEN.

Suffolk. January 25, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Judgment — Review — Waiver.

A judgment debtor who makes a part payment on the judgment, and thus secures a postponement of levy of execution, thereby waives his right to a review.

PETITION to the Superior Court, alleging that, on May 20, 1887, the respondent recovered judgment against the petitioner in the Municipal Court of the city of Boston for the sum of $69,

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damages, and $12.88, costs of suit, in an action of contract; that an execution issued on said judgment on May 21, 1887, which was unsatisfied; and praying for a *supersedeas*, or stay of the execution, and that a review of the action might be granted.

At the hearing, without a jury, before *Thompson*, J., it appeared, in addition to the facts stated in the petition, that on May 23, 1887, the respondent's attorney notified the petitioner to come to his office and pay the execution by three o'clock P. M. on the next day; that the petitioner came on May 25, 1887, and informed the respondent's attorney of his intention to obtain a review and *supersedeas* of the judgment and execution; that the respondent's attorney immediately informed him that the execution would be placed in an officer's hands for levy on his property; that during this conversation an officer came into the attorney's office to receive the execution for that purpose, the petitioner was so informed, and payment of the execution was demanded; that thereupon the petitioner paid to the respondent's attorney the sum of twenty-five dollars in part payment of the execution, and promised to come to the attorney's office and pay the balance upon the following Tuesday, and also paid the officer one dollar for his trouble, whereupon the attorney agreed to refrain from enforcing the execution till that day; and that the petition was sworn to by the petitioner the same day that he made the part payment of twenty-five dollars, and that it was filed and *supersedeas* issued the next day.

The respondent asked the judge to rule: "If the court is satisfied, from the record and from the petitioner's own testimony or other evidence in the case, that the petitioner paid a part of the judgment sought to be reviewed on May 25, 1887, the same day on which he made oath to his petition, and before the same was filed, and before a *supersedeas* was issued, and at the same time promised to pay the balance of the judgment the following week, then the court must rule that in law and by statute the petitioner has waived his right to a review, and is not entitled thereto."

The judge declined so to rule, and granted the petition; and the respondent alleged exceptions.

S. H. Dudley, for the respondent.

I. R. Clark, for the petitioner.

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KNOWLTON, J. Assuming that the petitioner could have maintained a petition for a writ of review when he entered the office of the respondent's attorney on May 25, 1887, he there made an agreement for a valuable consideration, which was inconsistent with the continuance of his right to have a *supersedeas* and set aside the judgment upon a review. As soon as he informed the attorney that he intended to obtain a *supersedeas* and a review, he was told that the execution would be immediately enforced by a levy upon his property, and upon the officer's coming to get it for service, he gave the attorney twenty-five dollars in part payment of the judgment, paid the officer one dollar for his trouble, and made an oral contract with the attorney to pay the balance of the execution the following Tuesday, upon the attorney's agreeing to refrain from enforcing it until that time. By this arrangement the respondent's right to secure his execution by an immediate levy upon property was released, and the petitioner's right to treat the judgment as voidable was waived and given up.

The respondent's first prayer for a ruling must be considered in connection with the fact that his attorney, as a part of the transaction referred to in the prayer, agreed with the petitioner to refrain from enforcing the execution until the following Tuesday, and the court should have ruled as therein requested.

Exceptions sustained.

SAMUEL B. LOGAN *vs.* JAMES R. DOCKRAY.

Suffolk. February 2, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Contract — Construction — Written Agreement.

A written agreement by the assignee of a mortgage to pay to his assignor "one half of the amount collected on said mortgage over and above" or "in excess" of the sum paid by him in cash upon the assignment, must be construed to mean the gross amount so collected, without deducting expenses or disbursements.

CONTRACT for breach of the following agreement: "S. B. Logan, of Chelsea, having assigned to me a chattel mortgage

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signed by John W. Fletcher, and dated February 5, 1884, I hereby agree to pay to said Logan one half of the amount collected on said mortgage over and above one hundred and fifty dollars. That is, I agree to pay to said Logan one half of the excess over one hundred and fifty dollars collected on said mortgage by me or my assigns. James R. Dockray. Boston, May 9, 1884."

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., it was admitted that the mortgage referred to in the agreement was a second mortgage of the face value of $350, subject to a prior mortgage of $2,500 upon the same chattels. The defendant offered to prove that whatever he received over and above $150, the amount paid by him to the plaintiff upon the assignment of the second mortgage to him, was used by him in protecting the second mortgage from being wiped out by the sale of the chattels under a foreclosure of the first mortgage, and in expenses incurred in collecting the amount of the second mortgage, and contended that the written contract should be construed as an agreement to divide the net amount received from the second mortgage in excess of the $150 paid by him to the plaintiff, and not as an agreement to divide the gross amount in excess of that sum, and requested the judge so to rule.

The judge declined so to rule, but ruled that, under the agreement, the defendant was liable to the plaintiff for one half of the gross amount in excess of $150 collected by him on the second mortgage, without deducting the expenses and disbursements incurred and paid out by him in so doing; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

H. J. Edwards, for the defendant.

O. B. Mowry, for the plaintiff.

C. ALLEN, J. The defendant took from the plaintiff the assignment of the second mortgage, of the face value of $350, subject to a prior mortgage of $2,500 upon the same chattels, for which he paid to the plaintiff $150 in money, and gave to him the written agreement declared on, by which he promised to pay to the plaintiff "one half of the amount collected on said mortgage over and above $150"; that is, "one half of the excess over $150 collected on said mortgage by me or my assigns." The defendant now contends that he is only bound to pay one half of

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the net amount collected by him over and above the $150, after deducting certain disbursements and expenses. But the agreement does not admit of this construction. There is nothing in the agreement to show that it was understood that the defendant would necessarily be put to any disbursements or expenses, or, if so, that they would probably be considerable in amount. The defendant took his chance. He was to retain $150 at all events, to reimburse himself for the sum paid to the plaintiff, and also to retain one half of the excess above that sum. If he had meant the net excess, after deducting whatever payments he might see fit to make, he should have said so. But there is nothing to show that he did not consider himself sufficiently protected by the reservation of one half of the gross excess; and such is the meaning of his words.

Exceptions overruled.

GEORGE W. COLLINS *vs.* MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF HOLYOKE.

Hampden. October 4, 1887. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Certiorari — Pleading — Betterment — Sewer Assessment — Notice — Ordinance.

If a petition for a writ of certiorari to quash an assessment levied by the mayor and aldermen of a city is reserved by a single justice of this court for the consideration of the full court, upon a petition sworn to by the petitioner, and an answer filed by a succeeding board, the averments of the answer are to be taken as true.

Under the Pub. Sts. c. 50, § 1, as to the laying and making of common sewers, the mayor and aldermen of a city may order a sewer to be "built" by a joint committee of the city council.

Notice need not be given by the mayor and aldermen of a city of their intention to lay out and construct a sewer, and to levy assessments therefor, to a person to be benefited thereby.

It is no objection to a sewer assessment that a mayor and aldermen called in another person to assist them in making it.

The sewer ordinance of Holyoke of 1875, §§ 2, 5, requiring the superintendent of sewers to keep and submit to the mayor and aldermen an account of the cost of constructing a sewer, and to report a list of the persons benefited, is directory merely; and his failure to do so will not avoid a sewer assessment.

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Sewer assessments may, as a mode of equitable adjustment, be divided by the mayor and aldermen of a city "into three classes, direct benefit, remote benefit, and more remote benefit."

A notice in writing of a sewer assessment, with a demand of payment, given to a person benefited, by a city treasurer, under an order of the mayor and aldermen directing him to collect it, is sufficient.

The petition also alleged that the order of levy applied only to "abutters," the petitioner not being such; that the city records did not show the expense of the sewer; that no benefit was derived from the same; that the assessment was not made by the board, which had never made any legal assessment; that other persons similarly situated or abutting on the sewer had not been assessed; and that the time when the proportions of assessments should be paid had not been fixed. The answer of the board alleged that the use of the word "abutter" was a clerical error that had been corrected; that the records did disclose such expense; that the question of benefit could not be raised; that the board had made the assessment and that it was legal; that all persons benefited had been assessed; and that such time had been fixed. *Held*, that the writ ought not to issue.

PETITION for a writ of certiorari to quash the proceedings of the mayor and aldermen of the city of Holyoke, in assessing a proportionate part of the cost of a sewer in Lyman Street in that city.

The petition, and an amendment thereto, alleged that the mayor and aldermen, on March 24, 1885, adopted the following order: "*Ordered*, That the committee on sewers and drains be hereby authorized and instructed to construct a trunk sewer as follows, viz. in Canal and Lyman Streets, commencing at the outlet under the second level canal, opposite the Winona Paper Company's Mill, and terminating at the Connecticut River Railroad Company's Dry Bridge (so called), extending across Lyman and Canal"; that the petitioner owned an estate on Ely Street, not abutting on Lyman Street or on the line of the sewer; that the board of aldermen, on December 29, 1885, attempted to levy an assessment for the construction of the sewer by a vote, which, so far as material, was as follows: "Assessments on the abutters for the construction of sewers and sidewalks were levied as follows, and signed by the mayor and aldermen, viz. trunk sewer in Lyman Street, from Race Street to Canal Street, total $6,630.86"; that the above order and vote were all the records of the board of aldermen relating to the sewer; that the sewer had been constructed and a warrant had been issued by the mayor and aldermen to the city treasurer instructing him to collect $51.84 of the petitioner,

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that being the amount of his alleged assessment for the construction of the sewer, for which the following demand had been made upon him: "City of Holyoke, City Solicitor's Office, December 27, 1886. Geo. W. Collins: A sewer assessment amounting to $51.84 has been placed in my hands for collection. Please attend to the matter at once, and save further costs. T. B. O'Donnell, Solicitor"; that neither the petitioner nor his estate derived any benefit from the sewer, either by the entry of any particular drain, or by more remote means, and that his estate had ample sewerage previous to the construction of the sewer; that the board of aldermen did not fix the time when the proportion of any alleged assessments charged upon persons benefited by said sewer should be paid; that there was no record of the board of aldermen that the superintendent of sewers ever kept and submitted to the board an account of the cost of constructing the sewer and all other expenses in relation thereto, as was his duty under the ordinances of the city; * that the superintendent of sewers did not report to the board of aldermen a list of the persons and estates deriving benefit from the sewer, and there was no record of any such report; that there was no record that the board of aldermen ever assessed the petitioner $51.84, or any other sum, as his portion of the expense of the sewer; that a person not the superintendent of sewers, and not a member of the city council, made a list of persons who ought to be assessed, and of the amounts to be assessed, in which was the petitioner's name, and opposite it $51.84; that this list and the amounts therein were the only basis for the warrant, demand, and a notice of sale of the estate; that the sewer was built under the supervision and direction of a joint committee, composed of four members of the common council and three aldermen; that other persons

* The sewer ordinance of Holyoke of 1875 contains these provisions:

"Section 2. The superintendent of sewers shall keep and submit to the mayor and aldermen an accurate account of the cost of constructing each main drain or common sewer, and of all other expenses in relation thereto, and he shall, annually, in December, submit a report of all work performed and the amount of all expenditures for sewers and drains."

"Section 5. The superintendent of sewers shall keep an accurate account of the expense of constructing and repairing each main drain or common sewer, and shall report the same to the board of aldermen, together with a list of the persons and estates deriving benefit therefrom."

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owning land similarly situated with respect to the sewer, and deriving as much benefit therefrom, were not assessed, or in any manner required to pay for any portion of the expense of the construction of the sewer; and that persons owning land abutting on Lyman Street and the line of the sewer were not assessed or required in any manner to pay for any portion of the expense of the construction of the sewer.

The petition, as amended, averred that the assessment was illegal and void, for the following reasons:

"1. Because he is not an abutter upon said Lyman Street, or the line of said sewer. 2. Because the records of said city do not show what was the actual expense of constructing said sewer, in any legal or proper form. 3. Because the superintendent of sewers did not keep and submit to the board of aldermen an account of the cost of constructing said sewer, and all expenses in relation thereto. 4. Because the superintendent of sewers made no report to said board of the cost of constructing said sewer. 5. Because said superintendent of sewers did not report to said board a list of the persons and estates deriving benefit from said sewer. 6. Because the alleged assessment upon your petitioner was not made by the board of aldermen, and because said board never made any legal assessment for cost of constructing said sewer. 7. Because said sewer was not constructed by the mayor and aldermen, as required by law, and because no legal demand for payment of any assessment was ever made on your petitioner, and because no notice of any assessment or charge was ever given him. 8. Because various persons owning land situated on and abutting on line of said sewer, and various other persons owning land situated with respect to said sewer similarly to your petitioner's land, and deriving as much benefit therefrom, have not been assessed or required to pay for any portion of the cost of said sewer. 9. Because said alleged assessment, and the attempts to enforce the same, are invalid and illegal on account of divers other omissions, irregularities, and errors. 10. Because said petitioner or his estate does not derive any benefit from said sewer, either by entry or by more remote means, and because his said estate had ample sewerage previous to the construction of the sewer in question. 11. Because the board of aldermen did not fix the

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time when the proportion of any alleged assessments charged upon the persons benefited by said sewer should be paid."

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The following affidavit was annexed to the petition: "Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Hampden, ss. May 14th, 1887. Subscribed and sworn to before me. William H. Brooks, Justice of the Peace."

The answer, and amendments thereto, admitted that the mayor and aldermen ordered the sewer to be built, and that they made and laid the same; that the petitioner was the owner of the lot of land as alleged; that the petitioner was not an abutter on Lyman Street, or on the line of the sewer, in the sense that the land of the petitioner did not adjoin Lyman Street, and was not directly on the line of the sewer, "but the said assessment is not affected thereby"; that no notice was given to the petitioner of the intention to construct the sewer, as the mayor and aldermen were under no obligation to give such notice, and their "failure to give it in no way affects the validity of the assessment"; that the assessment was made to "abutters," but the use of that word was an error made by the clerk, who had amended his records in that respect, and "the use of the word 'abutters' did not affect the validity of the assessment"; that the order for the construction of the sewer, as set forth in the petition, was correct; that there was no record of the board of aldermen that the superintendent of sewers kept an account of the cost of constructing the sewer, and that the superintendent did not report to the board a list of persons and estates deriving benefit from the sewer, but "the failure of the superintendent to make such report, and the fact that there is no such record of the board of aldermen, do not affect the validity of the assessment"; and that the mayor and aldermen employed the chairman of the board of assessors, on account of his large experience, to aid and assist them in making the assessments, by furnishing them with a list of the names of the persons who he thought ought to be assessed, and the amount for which he thought they ought to be assessed. "They deny that said list and amounts so made were the only basis of said warrant, demand, and notice; and they say that the superintendent of sewers furnished them with the cost of said sewers, by which they were enabled to make said assessments."

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The answer, as amended, denied that the vote of the board of aldermen of December 29, 1885, levying the assessments for the construction of the sewer, was as set forth in the petition, but was as follows: "Assessments on the abutters for the construction of sidewalks, also assessments to defray in part the expense of constructing certain sewers, were levied as follows, and signed by the mayor and aldermen, viz. trunk sewer in Lyman Street, from Race Street to Canal Street, total $6,630.86"; that other persons whose land was similarly situated and derived as much benefit therefrom as that of the petitioner were not assessed; and that persons owning land on Lyman Street, and on the line of the sewer, were not assessed or required to pay for any portion of the expense of the construction of the sewer, but alleged that "all such persons were assessed."

The answer neither admitted nor denied, as a matter not within the knowledge of the respondents, the allegation in the petition that the sewer was built under the supervision and direction of a joint committee, composed of four members of the common council and three aldermen, and declared that, "if the said allegation be true, the validity of the assessment is not affected thereby."

The answer, as amended, alleged that, on December 29, 1885, an order or warrant for the collection of two thirds of the cost of the sewer, as provided by the ordinances of the city, was signed by the mayor and aldermen of that year; that in a list annexed to the same an apportionment of the cost of the sewer was made by the mayor and aldermen to the parties benefited thereby; that the warrant and list were given by the mayor and aldermen to the city treasurer for the collection of such sums; that the assessment of $51.84 upon the petitioner was made in the list annexed to the warrant; that the treasurer duly demanded that sum from the petitioner, who neglected and refused to pay the same; and that in the list the assessments were divided into three classes, which were called direct benefit, remote benefit, and more remote benefit, and that the petitioner was assessed in the third class.

The answer, as amended, then averred, in reply to the particular reasons for quashing the assessment: 1. that it was admitted that the petitioner was not an abutter in the sense

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of being an adjoining owner, but that the validity of the assessment was not thereby affected; 2. that the records of the city showed what was the actual expense of the construction of the sewer, in the order of the board of aldermen of December 29, 1885, and in the warrant of the mayor and aldermen of the same date; 3 and 4. that the superintendent of sewers did keep and submit to the board of aldermen an account of the cost of the construction of the sewer, and did make a report thereof, both of which were informal, and copies thereof could not be annexed, but if the superintendent made no such report, the said assessment would not be rendered invalid thereby; 5. that it was admitted that the superintendent of sewers did not report to the board a list of the persons and estates deriving benefit from the sewer, but the "validity of the assessment is not affected thereby"; 6. that the assessment was made by the board of aldermen, and was legal, as appeared by the above order and warrant of December 29, 1885; 7. that the sewer was constructed by the mayor and aldermen, as required by law, that a demand for the payment of the assessment was duly made upon the petitioner, and that he had sufficient notice that the assessment had been made, notice and demand being sent by mail, properly directed to the petitioner, by the city treasurer, and signed by him, about February 1, 1886, in substance as follows: "City of Holyoke, Treasurer's Office, 1886. George W. Collins. Sir: A tax has been assessed on you by the city of Holyoke, to defray the expense in part of constructing a main drain or common sewer in Lyman Street, from Race Street to Canal Street, of $51.84. You are hereby requested to make immediate payment of the same"; 8. that it was denied that various persons owning land situated and abutting on the line of the sewer, or situated with respect to the sewer similarly to the land of the petitioner, and deriving as much benefit therefrom, had not been assessed or not required to pay for any portion of the cost of the construction of the sewer; 9. that it was denied that the assessment was invalid because of divers other errors, but that the same should have been specifically set forth, if they existed, to require an answer; 10. that the petitioner could not object in this proceeding that he or his estate received no benefit from the sewer, but that if he could so object, his estate did receive such benefit; and 11. that the board of

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aldermen did fix the time when the proportions of the assessments should be paid.

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The answer was signed by "James J. O'Connor, William H. Jess, John Dillon, James F. Cleary, W. E. Syms, John Hildreth, Henry Winkler, James W. Toole, Mayor and Aldermen City of Holyoke, Mass.," and the following affidavit was annexed to it: "Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Hampden, ss. August 24, 1887. Personally appeared before me the above-named James J. O'Connor, William H. Jess, John Dillon, James F. Cleary, W. E. Syms, John Hildreth, Henry Winkler, and James W. Toole, who do depose, make oath, and say, that they are the respondents named in the foregoing answers and the amendments thereto subscribed by them, and they know the contents thereof; that those allegations in said answers and amendments which relate to the matters of the records of the board of mayor and aldermen, and to said warrant or order, they know of their own knowledge to be true; that any of them were not members of the board of mayor and aldermen of the year 1885, who made the assessment in question, and they do not know of their own knowledge that the other matters and things stated in said answers and amendments are true, but upon information and belief they believe them to be true. Before me, T. B. O'Donnell, Justice of the Peace."

Hearing before *W. Allen*, J., who reserved the case for the consideration of the full court, upon the petition and answer.

W. H. Brooks, for the petitioner.

T. B. O'Donnell, for the respondents.

KNOWLTON, J. In proceedings to obtain a writ of certiorari the burden is upon the petitioner to establish all the material allegations of his petition. In this case, which was reserved upon the petition and answer, we must hold, in accordance with the decision in *Dickinson* v. *Worcester*, 138 Mass. 555, that the statements in the defendant's official answer are to be taken as true, not only in those parts which set out the record, and the acts of the board within its jurisdiction which do not appear in the record, but also in those which allege extraneous facts which might have been traversed, and perhaps controlled by evidence. The affidavit appended to the petition could not have been received as evidence at a final hearing upon the facts, and cannot affect the rights of the parties upon this reservation.

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The membership of the defendant board is not the same as when the assessment in question was made. But while its members change from time to time, the board itself as a tribunal is continuously the same. In *Fairbanks* v. *Fitchburg*, 132 Mass. 42, the board of mayor and aldermen that made the answer had not the same members as when it passed the order which was alleged to be illegal, but it was held that its right to answer was not thereby affected. In that case it appeared that the members who answered had executed the order which was called in question, and it was assumed that in the performance of that duty they must have known the facts connected with the adoption of the order. But the right of such a tribunal to answer as to its previous doings does not depend upon former action of the members who make the answer in the matter to which the answer relates. It will often happen that the doings of a board acting judicially will be first called in question after they have been completed, and after the membership of the board has entirely changed. In such a case, it is important that the proceedings should be officially set forth. And this can be done only by those who are members when the question arises. Their answer as a board is made over their own signatures, and under the sanction of their official oaths. As public officers they may be expected to act impartially. It may be presumed that, before making such an answer, they will acquire what may be called official knowledge of the acts of their predecessors. As members of the same board, they may in a variety of ways be expected to have opportunities of knowing what the board has done, and how it has done it. Without personal knowledge, they may have official knowledge, which is something better than mere hearsay. And in presenting an answer upon which the conduct of the board is to be passed upon by a higher tribunal, they should be permitted to state facts which they know officially, even though they do not know them personally. The statements in relation to the records of the board, and its doings within its jurisdiction, which appear in the answer in this case, seem to be of this kind. The others are mere allegations in the nature of pleading, which may always be controverted by a petitioner. The form of jurat annexed to the answer does not indicate that those who answered had not official knowledge of the

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acts of the board in regard to which such an answer is ordinarily conclusive. It merely disclaims personal knowledge. But it is unnecessary to decide in this case whether any part of the answer except the record would have been conclusive if traversed by the petitioner, for, in accordance with the decision to which we have referred, all its allegations must be deemed to be true.

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Although the proceedings which we are considering were very irregular, the legal questions which arise in the case as presented are comparatively simple. It is true, as contended by the petitioner, that the mayor and aldermen could not delegate the authority given them by the Pub. Sts. c. 50, § 1, to lay and make common sewers. But no suggestion is made that this sewer was not legally laid, and it is only objected that it was "built under the supervision and direction of a committee, composed of four members of the common council and three aldermen." But this was done by order of the mayor and aldermen. The statute which gave them authority to make the sewer did not preclude them from employing agents to supervise and direct the work. If there was any irregularity in their conduct in this respect, we cannot say that the sewer was not "made" by the defendants, or that it was illegally constructed.

The petitioner was not entitled to notice of the defendant's intention to lay out and construct the sewer, or to make an assessment upon him. *Allen* v. *Charlestown*, 111 Mass. 123. *Holt* v. *Somerville*, 127 Mass. 408.

The validity of the assessment made by the mayor and aldermen is not affected by the fact that they called in another person to assist them in making it. *Taber* v. *New Bedford*, 135 Mass. 162.

The provisions of the ordinances requiring the superintendent of sewers to keep and submit to the board an account of the cost of constructing the sewer, and to report a list of the persons deriving benefit from it, were merely directory, and his failure to comply with them did not invalidate the assessment. *Dickinson* v. *Worcester*, 138 Mass. 555.

As a convenient method of equitably adjusting the assessments, the members of the board might, if they saw fit, divide them "into three classes, direct benefit, remote benefit, and more remote benefit."

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After the assessments were made, the petitioner appears to have had notice of the assessment upon him, in accordance with the provision of the Pub. Sts. c. 50, § 4.

The allegations of the answer and the amendments to it cover all the other matters referred to in the petition, and we find that justice does not require that a writ of certiorari should issue.

Petition dismissed.

MARY A. SLATER & others *vs.* CHARLES R. HURLBUT & another.

Worcester. October 6, 1887. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Will — Executor — Trust and Trustee.

A testator, after a bequest and devise of land for life to his wife, she to pay for repairs, insurance, and taxes, devised all the residue of his real estate, including the remainder of that given to his wife for life, to his sisters absolutely, requested his executor to insure and repair "all my buildings," and not to sell "any of my real estate" unless upon the sisters' written request "in performance of the duties of the trust," desired him to take commissions "on all the rents," and directed him to collect the rents monthly, to pay all taxes, and to pay over the balance to those entitled thereto. *Held*, that the executor, after distributing the personal estate and after two years from the filing of his bond, was not entitled, against the wishes of the residuary devisees, to continue to manage the real estate and to receive compensation therefor.

PETITION to the judge of probate, by the three sisters of Luther Slater, against his executor and widow, for the construction of the will. The material clauses of the will were the following:

"Item. I devise and bequeath to my beloved wife, Ella S. Slater, the use, income, and improvement of my two dwelling-houses, land, and the appurtenances, situated on the corner of Austin and Temple Streets in that part of Cambridge in said Commonwealth called and known as Cambridgeport. To have and to hold the same to her for and during her natural life. She to keep said dwellings in good repair and insured for a reasonable amount, and to pay all taxes on the same.

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"Item. I give and bequeath to my said wife, Ella S. Slater, one half of all the personal estate which I shall possess at the time of my decease. To have and to hold the same to the said Ella S. Slater, her heirs and assigns, to her and their use and behoof forever.

"Item. I devise and bequeath to my three sisters, N. Catharine Emerson, Elizabeth A. Slater, and Mary A. Slater, the reversion or remainder of said dwelling-houses in Cambridgeport, the land, and the appurtenances, and all profit, income, and advantages that may result therefrom, from and after the decease of my said wife, to them and their use and behoof forever. I also give to my said sisters all the furniture of mine which they may have now in their possession.

"Item. All the rest and residue of my estate, real, personal, or mixed, of which I shall die seised and possessed, or to which I shall be entitled at the time of my decease, I give, devise, and bequeath to my said three sisters, N. Catharine Emerson, Elizabeth A. Slater, and Mary A. Slater, as joint tenants, share and share alike; should either of my sisters die before me, then the surviving sisters shall receive the share of the deceased sister, to be divided equally; in case of the death of two of my sisters before my death, then I direct that the surviving sister shall have and receive the whole of the residue of my estate.

"Item. I do nominate and appoint Charles R. Hurlbut of said Worcester to be the executor of this my last will and testament. I hereby request my said executor to keep all my buildings insured for a reasonable amount, and to keep said buildings in proper repair, and I further request my said executor not to sell any of my real estate unless my sisters or the survivors or survivor of my said sisters shall request in writing such sale to be made, and I hereby authorize and empower my said executor, or whoever shall execute this will, if in the performance of the duties of the trust it becomes necessary or expedient to sell any or all of my real estate, and my said sisters, the survivors or survivor of my said sisters, shall so request in writing, then I give to my said executor, or whoever shall execute this will, power and authority to sell any of my real estate at auction or private sale, and to execute and declare good and sufficient deeds to convey the same.

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"I hereby devise and desire that my said executor shall have and receive a commission of five per cent on all the rents which he shall collect and receive for the use of my real estate, and shall have the use of the house he now occupies free from rent while he shall act as my executor, which said commission of five per cent and the free use of the house he now occupies shall be payment in full as executor of this will, and for all his services as executor.

"I further direct my said executor to collect the rents monthly, to pay all taxes upon my said estate, and to reserve from each monthly payment of rent one twelfth of the amount due for taxes, and to pay the balance of the rents, after deducting his commission of five per cent, to the persons who shall be legally entitled to have and receive the same by this will."

The petition alleged that the executor had distributed and paid over all the personal estate in accordance with the will, except certain bonds and papers that were stolen and never came to his hands; that he had filed his third account showing no assets in his hands; that more than two years had elapsed since his bond was filed; and that the estate had been fully settled, unless by reason of any question arising under the will.

The petition also alleged that the executor claimed the right and duty to continue to act as executor under the will; that his executorship would not expire until the same had been carried out and performed, and the bonds and papers recovered, notwithstanding the distribution of assets; and that he had the right to collect rents and pay taxes, insurance, and repairs upon the house now occupied by him so long as he occupied it, and also taxes, insurance, and repairs upon the real estate devised to the petitioners, and to continue to occupy the house rent free.

The petitioners contended that the executor had performed all the duties imposed upon him by the will, and that he had no right to continue to charge commissions or to have his house rent free, and asked the judge of probate to decree that the trust was terminated, and to hear and determine the following questions arising under the will:

"1. Is the distribution of assets, leaving no balance in the executor's hands, to be considered a final account and termination of his trust, or is said executor, by reason of said requests,

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directions, and power to sell, to continue as such for the purpose of complying therewith? 2. Do said requests, directions, and power impose a trust not terminated by the distribution of the personal estate, or a mere power, the purpose of which was accomplished upon said distribution? If the former, what is the duration of the trust? 3. How long, by the terms of the will, has the executor a right to collect the rents and be paid therefor in free house rent and commissions of five per cent? 4. Has the executor, if said requests, directions, and power impose a trust continuing after said distribution, the right to deduct and pay taxes, repairs, and insurance upon the house occupied by him rent free from the rents of the real estate devised to the residuary devisees? 5. Does any request, direction, or power conferred by the will impose any such trust as longer to necessitate the continuance of an executor? and if so, what is that request, direction, or power? 6. Is it the intent of the testator that all the duties of the executor, and his payment for their performance in commissions and house rent, should cease upon distribution of personal assets? If not, upon the happening of what event or events do they cease?"

The judge of probate made a decree, that no trust was created by the will of Luther Slater which was not terminated upon the distribution of the personal property, and that the duties of the executor ceased when such distribution was made. From this decree the respondents appealed.

The case was heard in this court, before *Gardner*, J., who made a decree that the will created a trust in the executor which was not terminated upon the distribution of the personal property, and that the duties of the executor did not cease when the distribution was made, but would continue during the life of the widow; and reversed the decree of the judge of probate. The petitioners appealed to the full court.

C. A. Merrill, for the petitioners.

W. S. B. Hopkins, for the respondents.

1. This will uses words fully adequate to create a trust and an interest in favor of the executor. "Wish and request," "authorize and empower," "devise and desire," not to add the word "direct" in especial connection with collecting rents, have all been adjudicated apt to create trusts. *Pierson* v. *Garnet*, 2

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Bro. C. C. 38. *Foley* v. *Parry*, 2 Myl. & K. 138, 144. Trusts arise by implication from the provisions of a will, in order to carry out the testator's intention where there is no corpus given to the trustee. *Walker* v. *Whiting*, 23 Pick. 313. *Braman* v. *Stiles*, 2 Pick. 460. *Fay* v. *Taft*, 12 Cush. 448.

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2. The evidences in this will of a confidence and duty intrusted to this executor, and that they extend at least over the period of the wife's life, are numerous. The testator expressly directs his executor to collect the rents monthly, to pay the taxes, to deduct one twelfth from the rents to pay taxes and commissions with, and to pay over the balance to those entitled to the same under his will. The testator "requests" the performance of those duties which pertain to the actual charge of the estate; and foreseeing that the trust — for he calls it a "trust" — might last so long that a question of the desirability of selling might arise, he vests the executor with a power to sell. The terms of the power to sell, and the requests connected with it, import that the testator intended to place, and supposed he did place, the executor in a position of long continuing responsibility and management, and are inconsistent with the limitation of the duty to two years or less. The words "in the performance of the duties of the trust it becomes necessary," &c., cannot refer to the ordinary settlement of the personalty and payment of debts. The testator then proceeds to "devise," as well as appoint by the expression of a "desire," that his executor should have a house free and a commission on rents for his compensation, with which ordinary executors have nothing to do. This compensation is to be "in full as executor of this will, and for all his services as executor." Does not this indicate that the testator had imposed two sets of duties, — first, the execution of the will in the regular probate channel, and second, the charge of the real estate, of which the beneficiaries were all women? The determination of the trust, in view of the various provisions of the will, is to take place when the widow dies and the residuary legatees come into possession of the "reversion or remainder" which is devised to them by the third item. Up to that time the management of the whole is in the executor. When no interest remains in any of the testator's realty, except that given to the daughters, viz. the fee, the executor's duties regarding the real estate will terminate.

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C. ALLEN, J. The question in this case is, whether under the terms of the will the executor is entitled, against the wishes of the residuary devisees, to continue in the management and care of the real estate left by the testator, and to receive the compensation provided in the will for such service.

So far as the personal estate of the testator is concerned, the executor has performed his duties and discharged his trust; unless hereafter the stolen bonds or some of them shall be recovered. There is nothing to show any probability of his receiving anything from this source. Two years have expired since the filing of his bond, and full distribution has been made of all the personal property in his hands. It is not contended in argument that the fact of the outstanding bonds furnishes any reason for his continuing in the care of the real estate.

The real estate of the testator was disposed of in this manner: certain of it was given to his wife, for her life, and all the residue, including the remainder of that given to his wife for life, to his sisters. There was a provision that his wife should keep the dwellings upon the land devised to her for life in good repair and insured, and should pay all taxes on the same. But the executor contends that the later provisions of the will have the effect by implication to vest in him an estate in trust in the whole or a part of the real estate, by conferring powers and imposing duties in respect to the same which cannot otherwise be properly executed and performed. *Fay* v. *Taft*, 12 Cush. 448.

In respect to the estate devised to the testator's wife for life, it is not to be supposed that he intended that the executor should exercise the powers and duties which are mentioned, because, in the first place, the testator imposes on her the duty of paying for repairs, insurance, and taxes, and gives to her certain personal property wherewith she may be able to do it; and, moreover, the executor would have no means with which to pay these expenses except from the residuary estate, unless it could be supposed that the testator meant that his wife should furnish to the executor the money for these purposes. Besides, the testator authorizes the executor, upon the request in writing of his sisters, under certain circumstances, to sell the real estate; and if he intended to include in this authority the land given to his wife for life, it would seem probable that he would have required

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her consent also. It must be considered that the testator did not intend to give his executor authority over the estates devised to his wife for life, although in terms the language includes all of his real estate. This conclusion is more easily reached, because the whole will shows a considerable want of accuracy in the use of language.

In respect to the residuary estate devised to the testator's sisters, the question is certainly far from clear, and it must be conceded that it is not easy to account for the various provisions by assuming that the testator inserted them merely in order that his executor should have the charge and management of the estates during the time required for the discharge of the ordinary duties of an executor. They seem to be more extensive and permanent than would naturally be expected for such a limited purpose. But, on the other hand, various considerations lead to the contrary inference. There is no express devise to him in trust; the devises to the testator's sisters are absolute and unqualified in their terms; their ages are not given, but at any rate it is assumed that at present they are all of age and *sui juris*; the will discloses no reason for the creation or permanent continuance of a trust in respect to their estates, unless for the purpose of benefiting the executor; there is no language necessarily implying that the executor was to perform duties or exercise powers which implied the vesting of a trust estate in him; he was not to sell the property unless by the written request of the testator's sisters; the other provisions were mostly in the nature of requests to the executor, and are susceptible of the construction that the testator was seeking to furnish assistance to his sisters in the care and management of the property in case they should need it; the final direction to collect rents and pay taxes may have been on the assumption that this should be done if his assistance should be needed, and not otherwise; and on the whole, and especially in view of the absolute character of the earlier provisions wherein the residue is given to the testator's sisters without qualification, we do not find in the later provisions a clear intent to cut down the estates so devised by subjecting them to a trust.

Moreover, even assuming that a trust was created, it is plain that the trustee would take no larger estate than was necessary

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for the proper execution of the trust. *Fay* v. *Taft*, *ubi supra*. The whole beneficial interest in this portion of the estate being vested in the testator's sisters, no other person has an interest to maintain or continue the trust, unless the trustee himself, and a decree for the termination of the trust might properly be entered.* We have not been referred to any case where a trust has been continued merely for the purpose of continuing the compensation of the trustee, and we should be slow to do this unless such clearly was the intention of the founder of the trust. We find no such intention in the present case.

The result is, that, in the opinion of a majority of the court, the decree appealed from must be reversed, and the decree of the judge of probate affirmed. *Decree accordingly.*

CHARLES H. NORTH & another *vs.* MERCHANTS AND MINERS' TRANSPORTATION COMPANY.

Suffolk. November 10, 1887. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Common Carrier — Bill of Lading — Contract — Breach.

A carrier, who receives goods under a bill of lading containing instructions to deliver them at the end of its route "to the order" of the consignor "or his assigns," as well as marks and directions indicating a place beyond as their ultimate destination, and who, without giving like instructions, forwards them to that place by intermediate carriers, the last of whom delivers them up to the consignee without requiring him to produce the bill of lading, commits a breach of contract, and is liable for the value of the goods.

CONTRACT to recover the value of certain goods, with a count in tort, for the conversion of the same, alleged to be for the same cause of action. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in substance as follows:

The plaintiffs delivered the goods on August 2, 1884, to the defendant, a common carrier by water between Boston and Nor-

* See Sears v. Choate, *post*, p. 395.

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folk, Virginia, and took from it a bill of lading, which recited the reception of the goods, and stated that they were to be transported "to the wharf of the above-mentioned company at N., and there to be delivered to the order of Chas. H. North & Co., or his assigns, if called for by him or them, as in this contract provided, he or they paying freight and charges thereon, and average, if any."

In the margin of the bill of lading, under the printed words "Marks and Numbers," were written the following:

" 

Windsor, N. C.,
Care Agent, Portsmouth, Va."

Across the face of the bill of lading the following words were written: "Notify M. E. Skirven, Windsor, N. C."

From Norfolk the usual and only practicable route for merchandise destined for Windsor, North Carolina, was by Lawson's Express from the wharf of the defendant at Norfolk to the Seaboard Railroad, at Portsmouth, Virginia, thence to Plymouth, North Carolina, and thence by steamer on the river Cashia to Windsor, these several connecting lines being independent of each other. The goods arrived and were landed on the wharf of the defendant at Norfolk, on or about August 4, 1884, and were then delivered by it to Lawson's Express, with the following instructions only, as contained in his receipt:

"For order / notify M. E. Skirven, Windsor, N. C."

Lawson's Express delivered the goods to the Seaboard Railroad, and gave to it the same instructions. The defendant collected its charge for carrying the goods of Lawson's Express, which collected that sum and its own charge in addition, of the Seaboard Railroad, on delivery of the goods. The goods arrived safely at Windsor, and were there delivered to Skirven by the last carrier in the line, without requiring him to produce the bill of lading. On or about August 2, 1884, the plaintiffs indorsed the bill of lading in blank, and sent it, attached to the receipted bill for the goods, by the Adams Express Company to Windsor, directing it to present the bill to Skirven for payment, and, upon receiving payment thereof, to deliver to him the receipted bill and the bill of lading. Subsequently, the Adams Express Company returned the receipted bill and the bill of lading to the

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plaintiffs, and informed them that they had presented the bill to Skirven, who had refused to pay it.

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The agent of the defendant, who had charge of its business in Boston, testified *de bene*, under objection, that the defendant had been engaged for many years in carrying merchandise from Boston to Norfolk, including merchandise marked for points beyond Norfolk; that it was the general custom of the defendant line, and of other steamship lines and railroad companies in Boston and New York, when they received merchandise for transportation marked for points beyond the ends of their lines, to forward the same from the end of their lines by connecting lines to its destination, in all cases where bills of lading or receipts were issued similar to the one in question; but that, so far as he knew, the plaintiffs had no knowledge of this custom.

The evidence for the plaintiffs was, that they had no such knowledge; that this was the only order ever received from Skirven, and that their understanding of the contract was that the goods were to be held at Norfolk until Skirven paid for them, and presented the bill of lading to the defendant, properly indorsed.

The defendant requested the judge to instruct the jury that the duty of the defendant was only to transport the goods to Norfolk as a common carrier, and to forward them from that point to Windsor, North Carolina; that if the defendant delivered the goods to the connecting carrier at Norfolk, in good order and condition, with proper instructions in regard to forwarding and delivering the same, it was not liable to the plaintiffs in this action; and that upon the evidence the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover. But the judge refused so to instruct the jury, and instructed them that, upon the evidence, the plaintiffs were entitled to a verdict as a matter of law. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs, and the defendant alleged exceptions.

R. Stone, for the defendant. The law is well settled in this Commonwealth, that a corporation established for the transportation of goods for hire between certain points, and receiving goods directed to a more distant place, is not responsible beyond the end of its own line as a common carrier, but only as a forwarder, unless it makes a positive agreement extending its liability. *Nutting* v. *Connecticut Railroad*, 1 Gray, 502. *Judson* v.

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Western Railroad, 4 Allen, 520. *Darling* v. *Boston & Worcester Railroad*, 11 Allen, 295. *Burroughs* v. *Norwich & Worcester Railroad*, 100 Mass. 26. *Washburn* v. *Providence & Worcester Railroad*, 113 Mass. 490. And the same rule is adopted in most of the States. *Myrick* v. *Michigan Central Railroad*, 107 U. S. 102. The case of *Simkins* v. *Norwich & New London Steamboat Co.* 11 Cush. 102, was similar to the present case.

The purchaser, having got possession of the goods, refused to pay for them, and the plaintiffs now seek to collect the bill of the defendant, upon the theory that the defendant violated the contract in forwarding the goods beyond Norfolk, and that it should have retained possession of them there until the bill of lading was presented to it properly indorsed. The presiding judge at the time seems to have been led to adopt this construction by the words in the bill of lading, "there to be delivered." In so doing he failed to give due weight to the marks on the goods, and to the direction to "Notify M. E. Skirven, Windsor, N. C.," both of which were in writing, while the words just quoted were printed in the blank bill of lading. If there is any repugnancy between the two, the printed should yield to the written words. A delivery of goods to a carrier for transportation, marked and directed to a distant place, has been held to show that the goods were intended to be transported to that place. *Darling* v. *Boston & Worcester Railroad*, 11 Allen, 295, and cases *ubi supra*. Why inform the carrier that the goods are to be transported to Windsor, North Carolina, if the carriage is to end at Norfolk? Why mark the goods, "Care Agent, Portsmouth, Va.," unless the carrier is to forward them by way of Portsmouth?

W. H. H. Emmons, for the plaintiffs.

FIELD, J. The contract of the defendant was to transport the goods by steamship from Boston to its wharf at Norfolk, Virginia, and there deliver them to the order of the plaintiffs, if they were called for by them, and if they paid the freight and charges thereon. The marks on the margin of the bill of lading of "Windsor, N. C., Care Agent, Portsmouth, Va.," as well as the directions written across the bill to "Notify M. E. Skirven, Windsor, N. C.," indicated the intention of the plaintiffs that the goods were to be sent from Norfolk to Windsor; but they

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did not indicate that the goods were to be delivered at Windsor to any person who did not have an order from the plaintiffs to receive them. The defendant made no contract to forward the goods beyond Norfolk, unless such a contract is to be implied from these marks and directions. As the contract is express that the goods shall be delivered at Norfolk to the order of the plaintiffs, a contract on the part of the defendant to forward the goods beyond Norfolk cannot be implied from marks and directions which indicate that Windsor was intended by the plaintiffs to be the ultimate destination of the goods. But if these marks and directions could be held to give authority to the defendant to send the goods forward by the usual route to Windsor, and if the defendant undertook to do this, it should have forwarded them with proper instructions. Although Skirven was to be notified of the arrival of the goods, yet it is plain from the contract of the defendant that the goods were ultimately to be delivered to the plaintiffs or their order, and the neglect of the defendant to give this instruction to the carrier to whom it delivered the goods at Norfolk for transportation to Windsor, was a breach of the duty which it assumed when it forwarded the goods. The plaintiffs have lost the value of the goods by the breach of the contract, or of this duty, by the defendant.

We infer from the exceptions that the facts therein recited were undisputed; if so, the instructions were correct. *Northern Railroad* v. *Fitchburg Railroad*, 6 Allen, 254. *Claflin* v. *Boston & Lowell Railroad*, 7 Allen, 341. *Darling* v. *Boston & Worcester Railroad*, 11 Allen, 295. *Hall* v. *Boston & Worcester Railroad*, 14 Allen, 439. *Libby* v. *Ingalls*, 124 Mass. 503. *Forbes* v. *Boston & Lowell Railroad*, 133 Mass. 154. *Johnson* v. *New York Central Railroad*, 33 N. Y. 610. *Little Miami Railroad* v. *Washburn*, 22 Ohio St. 324. *Exceptions overruled.*

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D. MARIA PARKER & another *vs.* JOHN M. G. PARKER.

Middlesex. January 10, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Deposition — Variance — Evidence — Waiver.

If a deposition purporting to be that of E. T. S., and taken upon interrogatories addressed to E. S. S., is offered in evidence at a trial, the testimony of the writer of the interrogatories, that he intended the middle S for a T, is inadmissible on the question whether the adverse party was misled.

The failure to exclude the deposition at a former trial because of the discrepancy, is a waiver of the objection, although counsel did not then notice it.

APPEAL by John M. G. Parker from a decree of the Probate Court appointing guardians for him as an insane person.

Trial in this court, upon issues submitted to a jury before *Knowlton*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, which so far as material was as follows:

The deposition of one E. T. Shepard, a medical expert in insanity, was offered in evidence for the appellant, to show that the appellant was sane and capable of taking care of himself. The judge ruled that the deposition was inadmissible, on the ground that in the interrogatories filed, and in the commission issued by the clerk of the court to take such deposition, the name was written "E. S. Shepard." The appellant then offered to show by the testimony of James H. Carmichael, in whose handwriting the interrogatories were, that the middle initial of Shepard's name, as written in the interrogatories, was made for a T and not an S, and that it was his habit to write T in that form; but the judge excluded this evidence.

The appellant then offered to show that the same deposition was offered in evidence, and read to the jury by the appellant's counsel, without objection, at the former trial of this case in this court; and contended that, if there was any valid objection to the admissibility of the deposition by reason of any supposed discrepancy in the middle initial of the name of Shepard, such objection should have been made when the deposition was first offered in evidence; and that, as the appellees had not so objected, they must be held to have waived such objection. The

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statement by one of the appellees' counsel, that he had not noticed the supposed discrepancy in the name at the former trial, was not controverted by the appellant. The judge ruled that the objection had not been waived, and excluded the evidence.

The jury returned a verdict that the appellant was insane; and the appellant alleged exceptions.

C. H. Conant, for the appellant.

E. M. Johnson, (*P. Webster* with him,) for the appellees.

KNOWLTON, J. The only exception argued in this case relates to the exclusion of a deposition offered by the appellant. The deposition taken was that of Dr. E. T. Shepard, of New Orleans, but the interrogatories and cross-interrogatories were addressed to "E. S. Shepard," and the commissioner was directed to take the deposition of "E. S. Shepard." In this Commonwealth a middle name or initial is held to be a part of the name of a person, and cannot be disregarded. *Commonwealth* v. *Shearman*, 11 Cush. 546. *Terry* v. *Sisson*, 125 Mass. 560. The name E. T. Shepard imported a different person from E. S. Shepard. *Commonwealth* v. *Buckley*, 145 Mass. 181. The deposition was therefore on its face inadmissible.

But the appellant might show by any competent evidence that E. T. Shepard was the person whose deposition was intended to be taken, and that the appellees were not misled by the name used in the direct interrogatories, and that they intended to interrogate E. T. Shepard in their cross-interrogatories. Such facts may often be found by the presiding judge upon slight evidence, and this is sometimes contained in whole or in part in the papers themselves; but mere opinions of witnesses cannot be received to establish them. And in the case at bar, testimony of the intention of the witness Carmichael, when he wrote the name in the direct interrogatories, to make a T when in fact he made an S, was not competent upon the question whether the appellees were misled by the name as he wrote it. For they had no means of knowing who was meant, or what he intended, except from what appeared on the paper.

Without considering more particularly the other questions in the case, we must sustain these exceptions, on account of error in the ruling in relation to the use of the deposition at the

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former trial. The appellant offered to show that at that time it was read without objection, and contended that the appellees, by their conduct then, had waived their right to make objection afterward. It was proved and admitted that the appellees' counsel did not discover the discrepancy in names until after the trial, and thereupon the court ruled that there was no waiver, and that the evidence was immaterial.

It is a general rule, that one cannot be held to waive that of which he has no knowledge; but there are cases in which one's action is important as affecting the situation or conduct of another, when it is his duty to ascertain facts, and act promptly if he desires to avail himself of his legal rights. In such a case, by failure to act he may waive a right of whose existence he is ignorant.

It was decided in *Gould* v. *Hawkes*, 1 Allen, 170, that a party who permitted depositions to be read without objection at a hearing before an auditor thereby waived his right to object to them afterward on account of formal defects at the trial. It is said in the opinion, that "fairness of dealing required that the plaintiff should object to the depositions as soon as they were offered in evidence, if he then was aware of a cause for objection; and if he did not discover the alleged defect in them until after the hearing before the auditor, it was an oversight which cannot be allowed to injure the defendant." The case at bar is within this decision. *Exceptions sustained.*

HANNAH SULLIVAN *vs.* CORNELIUS O'LEARY.

Suffolk. January 16, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Evidence — Cross-examination — Slander.

A party sued for slander, who denies the charge, cannot be asked on cross-examination if he had not slandered another person two or three years before.

TORT for slander in publicly accusing the plaintiff of being a prostitute.

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At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., the plaintiff was permitted, on cross-examination, to ask the defendant, who had denied that he uttered the words complained of, if another besides the plaintiff had not made complaints against him for abusive language, if two or three years before one McCann had not sued him for foul language about his wife, and if he had not paid McCann fifty dollars to settle that suit, to all of which the defendant replied in the affirmative.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for $642.24; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

I. R. Clark, for the defendant.

T. J. Gargan, for the plaintiff.

KNOWLTON, J. Upon the question whether the defendant had uttered slanderous words in relation to the plaintiff, evidence was permitted to be introduced tending to show that he had slandered another person two or three years before. This was contrary to the well established rule of the common law, that one cannot be proved to be guilty of an offence for which he is on trial by showing that at another time he committed a similar offence. *Jordan* v. *Osgood*, 109 Mass. 457. *Commonwealth* v. *Jackson*, 132 Mass. 16. If the testimony be considered in reference to contradiction of the defendant, it comes within the same rule, for it had no tendency to disprove his denial of the charge in the present case.

The discretion exercised in regard to cross-examination should not ordinarily go so far as to permit the introduction of evidence which has no legitimate relation to any of the issues on trial, and which is at the same time of such a character as to be likely to be applied to them by the jury, and improperly to affect the verdict. *Smith* v. *Castles*, 1 Gray, 108. *Holbrook* v. *Dow*, 12 Gray, 357. The evidence excepted to in this case may have led the jury to believe that the defendant was accustomed to slander people, and that he probably slandered the plaintiff. *Exceptions sustained.*

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WILLIAM PRAY *vs.* EMMA WASDELL & others.

Middlesex. January 18, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Landlord and Tenant — Forcible Entry and Detainer — Appeal — Bond — Judgment — Waiver — Rent — Damages.

A bond, given on an appeal under the Pub. Sts. c. 175, § 6, in an action to recover possession of a room, and conditioned that the tenant "shall enter and prosecute his said appeal" in the Superior Court "with effect, and satisfy any judgment which may be entered against him in said Superior Court, and all rent due or to become due, damages and costs, upon said appeal and for costs, within thirty days of the entry of such judgment," if not within the statute, is valid at common law.

If the bond provides for the entry of the appeal on the "first Monday of September next," and, although it is dated August 13 and recites proceedings as having occurred on August 16, is not filed and approved until September 1, which is Monday, that is the day for such entry, and the date of the bond, not being misleading, will not affect its validity.

If the tenant when notified to quit merely exchanges rooms in the same house with another person, the jury may, in an action on the bond, regard the latter's occupation as that of the tenant.

A misdescription in a writ on the Pub. Sts. c. 175, of the street on which the premises sought to be recovered are situated, is not fatal, if the description otherwise is sufficient.

In an action on the bond it is too late to impeach the validity of the judgment obtained without objection on appeal, on the ground that the bond differs from that prescribed by statute.

A lessee of premises for one year from June, 1884, brought an action in July, 1884, on the Pub. Sts. c. 175, to recover possession of a room from a sub-lessee, and in June, 1885, took a new lease for a further like term. The sub-lessee, on appeal from a judgment against him, gave a bond, in September, 1884, conditioned to pay all "rent due or to become due," and, on affirmance of the judgment, possession was taken on execution in March, 1886. *Held*, in an action on the bond brought in April, 1886, that rent was recoverable under the new, as well as under the original lease.

CONTRACT on a bond, bearing date August 13, 1884, to the plaintiff, by the defendant Charles Stebbins as principal, and by the other defendants as sureties, filed and approved on September 1, 1884, and containing the following condition:

"The condition of this obligation is such that whereas the said William Pray, by the consideration of the justice of the First District Court of Eastern Middlesex holden at Malden within

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the County of Middlesex for civil business on the sixteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, recovered judgment against the said Charles Stebbins for the possession of certain premises set forth in the below action, and costs of suit taxed at eleven dollars and twelve cents in a personal action brought by said William Pray against said Charles Stebbins, in which said action William Pray claims the premises described in his said writ, from which judgment the said Charles Stebbins appealed to the Superior Court to be holden at Lowell within and for the County of Middlesex for the transaction of civil business on the first Monday of September next. Now if the said Charles Stebbins shall enter and prosecute his said appeal at said Superior Court with effect, and satisfy any judgment which may be entered against him in said Superior Court, and all rent due or to become due, damages, and costs upon said appeal, and for costs within thirty days of the entry of such judgment then this obligation to be void, otherwise to abide in full force, power, and virtue."

Writ dated April 8, 1886.

The declaration alleged that judgment was rendered in the Superior Court, on appeal, against Stebbins, for the possession of the premises described in the writ in the original action, and for costs, and that the present action was brought to recover the rent, damages, and costs referred to in the bond. The answers severally filed by the defendants admitted the execution of the bond, but denied that the bond or the judgment in the Superior Court was valid; and an additional answer, filed by the defendants, averred that said Stebbins had paid the costs in full, that no rent was due or had ever become due to the plaintiff, and that no damages had been sustained by him.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Thompson*, J., it appeared that the writ in the original action, on the Pub. Sts. c. 175, which was dated July 10, 1884, alleged that Stebbins was in possession of "a room situated on the northeast corner of house on Vine Street," in Melrose, but described the house as standing on land bounding on Myrtle Street; that execution duly issued on the judgment in the Superior Court, by which, on March 16, 1886, possession was taken by an officer, to whom the costs were paid in full after the beginning of the

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present action; that a lease of premises on Myrtle Street in Melrose was made to the plaintiff on June 27, 1884, for the term of one year; that a notice to quit, dated on that day, was served the same day on Stebbins; that within forty-eight hours after the date and service of the notice Stebbins vacated the room, having exchanged it for another room in the same house, under an arrangement whereby possession of the room left by him was taken by his mother, who continued to occupy it until March 16, 1886; and that a second lease of the premises on Myrtle Street was made to the plaintiff, dated June 22, 1885, for a further term of one year from June 27, 1885, but it did not appear that Stebbins had any notice of the execution of the second lease.

The defendants asked the judge to rule that the plaintiff could not maintain his action against the defendants on the bond: 1. Because the bond in suit was not a proper bond, or one required by the statute, and was invalid, in that it appeared that it was dated August 13, 1884, was approved September 1, 1884, which was the first Monday of September, 1884, and was conditioned to appear on the first Monday of September next, at the Superior Court; that it included all the costs of both courts, and not of the court appealed to; and that it was in the alternative "for all rent due or to become due, damages, and costs," and not as provided by the Pub. Sts. c. 175, § 6. 2. Because the evidence showed that, Charles Stebbins having paid the entire costs demanded of him, there was nothing due the plaintiff on the bond for costs, and there was nothing due for rent, as it was uncertain what rent the bond referred to, not being in accordance with the terms of the statute. 3. Because the original writ was defective and was of no force, in not describing the premises or any part of the premises mentioned in the lease, not being on Vine, but on Myrtle Street.

The judge declined so to rule, but ruled that the bond was good and valid in law; that the date, August 13, 1884, did not render it invalid; that the appeal to the next Superior Court meant the court held on the first Monday of September, 1884, and was rightfully entered on that date, September 1, 1884; that the plaintiff could recover for damages only, and not the costs of court, and that the damages which could be recovered

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would be the rent due under the first lease until June 27, 1885, and under the new lease from that date until possession was taken under the execution; that the description of the premises as on Vine Street was not fatal, if the description was sufficient clearly to describe the premises; and that if Stebbins exchanged the room he occupied with another person, and, being notified to quit, put such person in possession thereof, that would not be a vacating of the premises in accordance with such notice, and that the occupation by such person under him upon such an agreement might be regarded by the jury as his occupation.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; and the defend ants alleged exceptions.

A. V. Lynde, for the defendants.

W. Schofield, for the plaintiff.

KNOWLTON, J. The defendants do not contend, and we think they could not successfully contend, that the security to be furnished upon an appeal under the Pub. Sts. c. 175, § 6, in a suit to recover possession of land should be by recognizance, and not by bond. See *Granger* v. *Parker*, 142 Mass. 186; St. 1882, c. 95.

The condition of the bond in this case differs in its language from that called for by the statute. A defendant, upon taking an appeal in a case of this kind, should bind himself "to enter the action, and to pay to the plaintiff if the final judgment is in his favor all rent then due, all intervening rent, and all damage and loss which he may sustain by reason of the withholding of the possession of the demanded premises, and by reason of any injury done thereto during such withholding, together with all costs until the delivery of the possession thereof to him." Pub. Sts. c. 175, § 6. The condition of this bond is to "enter and prosecute his said appeal at said Superior Court with effect, and satisfy any judgment which may be entered against him in said Superior Court, and all rent due or to become due, damages, and costs upon said appeal, and for costs within thirty days of the entry of such judgment."

If this were not a bond, but a recognizance, which would be void for want of jurisdiction in the magistrate if it purported to secure performance of more than the recognizor could lawfully be required to do, we should hesitate to declare it invalid by

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reason of its departure from the language of the statute. A change of form not affecting the substance of the condition would not render it so. *Martin* v. *Campbell*, 120 Mass. 126. Nor a failure to include in the statement of the obligation all that the statute prescribes. *Shaw* v. *McIntier*, 5 Allen, 423. And it is difficult to see what greater obligation as to rent, damages, or costs is stated in the bond, than is described in the statute which we have quoted.

But it is unnecessary to decide whether the contract is valid under the statutes, for, if not, it is binding at common law. It was entered into voluntarily, it contains nothing in conflict with the statute, and it is not otherwise illegal. Obligors who sign such an instrument are bound by it. *Morse* v. *Hodsdon*, 5 Mass. 314. *Sweetser* v. *Hay*, 2 Gray, 49. *Bank of Brighton* v. *Smith*, 5 Allen, 413. *Conant* v. *Newton*, 126 Mass. 105.

The date of the bond does not affect its validity. The paper upon its face shows an error in date; for it is dated August 13, and it recites proceedings in court as having occurred August 16. But it took effect when it was filed and approved, and the mistake created no ambiguity, and was not misleading. *Battles* v. *Fobes*, 21 Pick. 239. *Shaughnessey* v. *Lewis*, 130 Mass. 355.

The presiding judge correctly ruled, that, if the mother of the defendant in the original suit occupied the premises described in the writ under an arrangement with him that she should have them in exchange for other premises which she gave up to him, that might be regarded by the jury as his occupation. The ruling as to the description of the premises was also correct.

Neither the principal defendant nor his sureties, after having given this bond as a means of obtaining an appeal which has been prosecuted to final judgment without objection, can now be permitted to dispute the validity of that judgment on account of the difference which appears between the language of the bond and that prescribed by the statute. *Fall River* v. *Riley*, 140 Mass. 488. *Granger* v. *Parker*, 142 Mass. 186.

The only remaining question is whether the plaintiff was entitled to rent after the expiration of his first lease, while his title and right of possession continued under a second lease which took effect from the expiration of the first. It does not appear how this could have affected the rights of either party at the

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trial of the question of liability; for upon showing a breach of the bond in any particular, the verdict and judgment should have been for the penal sum named in it, and the amount for which execution was to be awarded should have been ascertained in a subsequent proceeding. Pub. Sts. c. 171, §§ 9, 10.

In determining that, the rental value of the premises was to be considered up to the time when the plaintiff obtained possession under his execution. It is unnecessary to determine what would have been the effect as to judgment and execution in the original suit if the plaintiff had not taken his second lease, and if the expiration of the first had been pleaded while the suit was pending. His right to recover when he commenced his action was established, and that entitled him to judgment and execution. In the absence of anything to show a change, his right continued under the new lease, and judgment and execution followed. A fair construction of the language of the bond, "all rent due and to become due," includes rent during the term of the second lease, as well as of the first.

Exceptions overruled.

JOHN W. CORCORAN & another, assignees, *vs.* F. M. WHITE.

Suffolk. January 25, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Replevin — Pleading — Parties to Action — Joinder.

A joint owner of a chattel cannot maintain replevin without joining his co-owners.

REPLEVIN of three horses by the plaintiffs, as the assignees in insolvency of George W. Davis.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., Davis testified that the horses were bought by his order, in May or June, 1886, and were boarded at the stable of the defendant, who was a stable-keeper. They were then sold and taken from the stable of the defendant, and afterwards they were repurchased through one Bridges, who brought them back to the stable

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of the defendant. On cross-examination, he testified that he furnished the money and Bridges transacted the business; that Bridges and himself shared both profits and losses; and that Bridges had no salary or fixed commission, though he denied that there was any partnership between them.

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The judge instructed the jury: "The plaintiffs must show that they are either the owners, or part owners, of the property replevied. If you find that the assignees were entitled to the possession of the property by being owners or part owners, they are entitled to the verdict in their favor. If Davis was not owner or part owner, the plaintiffs cannot maintain their action. If the defendant had no title to the property, a part owner would be entitled to maintain replevin. Whether Bridges was a part owner or not in the property has nothing to do with the case, if you find Davis was a part owner. The title of Davis passes to his assignees in insolvency."

The jury found for the plaintiffs; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

E. B. Callender & L. G. Girardin, for the defendant.

S. J. Thomas, for the plaintiffs.

KNOWLTON, J. At the trial the plaintiffs rested their claim to the replevied horses solely upon their title and right of possession as assignees in insolvency of George W. Davis. There was evidence tending to show that one Bridges was a part owner of the horses, but the jury were instructed in effect that it was immaterial whether Bridges was or was not a joint owner with the plaintiffs, and that if the plaintiffs showed that they were owners or part owners of the property replevied they could recover.

In the recent case of *Fay* v. *Duggan*, 135 Mass. 242, it was held, upon a review of the authorities, that one of two or more joint owners of a chattel cannot maintain replevin for it without joining the other part owners as plaintiffs. That case is decisive of the one at bar. *Exceptions sustained.*

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JOSEPH WEHRLE *vs.* SILAS GURNEY.

Suffolk. January 20, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Bail — Scire Facias — Notice — Officer's Return — Statute — Evidence.

Scire facias lies against bail under the Pub. Sts. c. 163, § 7, immediately upon a return of *non est inventus* on the notice issuable upon an application for an arrest on execution under the Pub. Sts. c. 162, § 19, without waiting for the return day of the execution.

An officer's return on such a notice, that after "diligent search" he could not find the judgment debtor "or any last and usual place of abode, tenant, agent, or attorney of his," and could make no service upon him, is sufficient, and is admissible in evidence on the *scire facias*, the words "tenant, agent, or attorney" being immaterial.

SCIRE FACIAS against a surety on a bail bond. Writ dated November 12, 1886. At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., without a jury, the following facts appeared:

The plaintiff brought an action against one Mapleson, who, upon his arrest on mesne process, on January 16, 1886, gave the bail bond as principal, with the defendant as surety. Judgment was obtained against Mapleson in that action, in which he appeared by attorney on November 1, 1886, and an execution issued on November 5, 1886, upon which there was no return. On November 8, 1886, a notice under the Pub. Sts. c. 162, § 19, returnable on November 12, 1886, at eleven o'clock, A. M., was duly issued by a magistrate, to whom the execution had been presented, and was placed for service in the hands of an officer, whose return upon the notice was as follows: "I have made diligent search for the within-named judgment debtor, but was unable to find him or any last and usual place of abode, tenant, agent, or attorney of his, within my precinct, and could make no service of citation upon him. Thos. Fee, Jr., Deputy Sheriff." This return was offered in evidence by the plaintiff, and admitted under objection.

The defendant requested the judge to rule that the action had been prematurely brought, and could not be maintained on the facts as matter of law. The judge refused so to rule, but ruled

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that the action had not been prematurely brought, and found for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

G. M. Hobbs, (*E. Avery* with him,) for the defendant.

G. L. Huntress, (*H. Albers* with him,) for the plaintiff.

KNOWLTON, J. It is provided in the Pub. Sts. c. 163, § 7, in relation to suits upon bail bonds, that "in case of the avoidance of the principal and a return on the execution that he is not found, or a return on the notice mentioned in section nineteen of chapter one hundred and sixty-two, that after diligent search by the officer serving the notice the principal is not found, his bail shall be obliged to satisfy the judgment," &c. The defendant contends that, after such a return on the notice, suit cannot be brought on a bail bond until the expiration of sixty days from the date of the execution. But no foundation for his contention is found in the language of the statute, or in the history of the legislation from which it is compiled.

The first alternative named in the section, "the avoidance of the principal and a return on the execution that he is not found," cannot occur until the expiration of sixty days from the date of the execution, for until then the execution is not returnable. *Niles* v. *Field*, 2 Met. 327. *Adams* v. *Cummiskey*, 4 Cush. 420. Nor unless a certificate authorizing an arrest is attached to the execution. *Rhodes* v. *Brooks*, 16 Gray, 170.

Upon the passage of the St. of 1877, c. 250, requiring notice to the debtor and a hearing by a magistrate before a certificate for arrest could be attached to an execution except in certain cases of fraud, it resulted that, when a debtor could not be found and notice could not be served upon him, no certificate for arrest could be obtained, and no effective return of *non est inventus* could be made upon the execution, and consequently *scire facias* could not be brought against the bail. To provide for such a case the St. of 1881, c. 263, § 4, was passed, which is incorporated in the Pub. Sts. c. 163, § 7, to the effect that upon an avoidance of a debtor, and a return on the notice that after diligent search by the officer serving the notice he is not found, his bail shall become liable.

The reason why sixty days must elapse before suit can be brought on account of an avoidance upon an execution with a certificate of arrest attached is, that until then the execution

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cannot be returned, and the avoidance is not complete. No such reason applies to an avoidance upon proceedings to obtain a certificate for arrest. The notice in such a case is returnable on the day fixed in it for the debtor's appearance. If a return of *non est inventus* is then made upon it, the avoidance is complete, the language of the statute is satisfied, and a suit may be immediately brought upon the bail bond.

The officer's return admitted in evidence was competent and sufficient. That part of it which referred to a "tenant, agent, or attorney" of the debtor was immaterial, and did not affect its validity. *Exceptions overruled.*

SAMUEL A. B. ABBOTT *vs.* HENRY W. FOOTE & another.

Suffolk. January 30, 1888. — March 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Trust and Trustee — Income — Assignment — Set-off — Probate Court.

A trustee cannot withhold the income of a trust fund from the beneficiary's assignee in order to repay to himself, by way of set-off, money lent by him to the beneficiary, prior to his appointment as trustee.

The Probate Court has no power to decide whether the trustee or the assignee is entitled to such income, and a decree allowing the trustee to credit himself with it towards his debt on an account, no personal notice of which was given to the assignee or the beneficiary, is void.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed December 6, 1886, against Henry W. Foote, trustee under the will of Eliza A. Dwight, and against Chapman Dwight, her son, to compel the payment of the income of a trust fund, created by the will for the latter's benefit, to the plaintiff as his assignee.

Hearing on the bill, answers, and agreed facts, before *C. Allen*, J., who reported the case for the consideration of the full court. The facts appear in the opinion.

J. G. Abbott, for the plaintiff.

M. Williams, for the defendant Foote.

MORTON, C. J. Mrs. Dwight, by her will, gave to the defendant Foote, as trustee, a fund, upon the trusts to pay the

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income to her son, Chapman Dwight, during his life, and upon his death to divide the principal among his children. After her death, Chapman Dwight, for a valuable consideration, assigned to the plaintiff all his interest under his mother's will; and this suit is brought to require the trustee to pay to the plaintiff the income of the fund. The defence is, that Chapman Dwight owes the trustee, in his individual capacity, a sum of money borrowed before Mrs. Dwight's death, and he claims the right to apply the income as it accrues, by way of set-off, to the payment of his debt until it is extinguished.

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The statute provides that, "in suits brought by or against executors, administrators, or trustees, in their representative character, no demand shall be set off that is due to or from such executors, administrators, or trustees in their own right." Pub. Sts. c. 168, § 15. It is clear that, in a suit at law, such a set-off as the defendant Foote claims could not be allowed. As is stated in *Spaulding* v. *Backus*, 122 Mass. 553, "In the matter of set-off, courts of equity follow the courts of law, except where there is some equitable ground, growing out of the transaction or the relation of the parties, which brings the case within the general jurisdiction of a court of equity, and justifies granting relief beyond the rule of law. The existence of cross demands is not a sufficient ground for interference; the party seeking the benefit of the set-off must show some peculiar equity which entitles him to be protected against his adversary's demand."

There may be cases in which a court of equity will practically extend the right of set-off existing at law. For instance, if a *cestui que trust* and a trustee, before any rights of other parties have attached, agree that the income coming to the former may, as it accrues, be applied to a debt due by him to the trustee, it may be that this would create an equitable lien in favor of the trustee, which a court of equity would enforce against the *cestui que trust*, or any one claiming under him. But equity will not enlarge the right of set-off at law, unless, by agreement or otherwise, such an equity or lien exists. *Spaulding* v. *Backus*, *ubi supra*. *Holbrook* v. *Bliss*, 9 Allen, 69, 77. *Upham* v. *Wyman*, 7 Allen, 499.

In the case at bar there was no such agreement, and there are no other circumstances which create an equitable lien or right

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of set-off in favor of the defendant Foote. The fact that he is a creditor of the *cestui que trust* is not sufficient. His appointment as trustee does not give him any advantage or superior rights over other creditors. His rights as a creditor remain unchanged. *Stickney* v. *Clement*, 7 Gray, 170.

In *Davis* v. *Newton*, 6 Met. 537, which was a suit in equity, it was held that an administrator who had in his hands a distributive share of his intestate's estate belonging to an insolvent debtor cannot withhold it from the debtor's assignee for the purpose of paying himself, by way of set-off, a debt due to him in his own right from such debtor. The same principle applies in this case, and we are of opinion that, as the trustee has no equitable lien and no legal or equitable claim superior to that of the other creditors or assignees of the *cestui que trust*, he has no right to retain the income given to Chapman Dwight under the will, and apply it to the debt due him in his private right. On the contrary, the plaintiff has the superior right and equity to this income, and is entitled to a decree in his favor.

The trustee contends that his right to a part of the income has been conclusively settled by a judgment of the Probate Court, and that this adjudication binds the plaintiff. The facts, as stated in the answer, are, that the trustee, having in his hands income to the amount of $116.38, payable under the will to Chapman Dwight, rendered an account to the Probate Court, in which he credited himself with this amount as paid and applied towards the discharge of his debt, and that this account was duly allowed by the Probate Court. Notice of this account was given by publication, but no personal notice was given to the plaintiff, or to Chapman Dwight. The plaintiff was not a party to this proceeding, and is not bound by it; but, further than this, the Probate Court had no jurisdiction of the question whether the plaintiff or the trustee had the right to the income. *Cowdin* v. *Perry*, 11 Pick. 503. *Hancock* v. *Hubbard*, 19 Pick. 167.

The claim of the defendant Foote to a right of set-off was a matter which the Probate Court has no power to hear and determine, and the allowance of his account, so far as it can be regarded as an adjudication of this question, is extra-judicial and void. *Decree for plaintiff.*

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JOHN J. DOREY *vs.* CITY OF BOSTON.

Suffolk. January 24, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

City — Mayor and Aldermen — Sewer.

A city is liable, under the Pub. Sts. c. 50, relating to sewers, for the cost of a sewer built by direction of the aldermen with the approval of the mayor.

In July, 1883, the board of aldermen of Boston, under the sewer ordinance of 1883, which provides in § 1 for the choice of a superintendent of sewers to "take charge of the building and repairs," and to make "all contracts for the supply of labor and materials" of all sewers, under its direction, passed an order directing the superintendent to construct a sewer in H. Street, and in January, 1884, passed a further order, directing him to act during that year under the orders of its committee on sewers. In August, 1884, the superintendent, acting alone, made a contract for the construction of a portion of the sewer in H. Street. *Held*, in an action to recover for the cost of that portion, that the order of January, 1884, did not supersede the ordinance or the order of July, 1883, and that the city was liable.

CONTRACT for work done and materials furnished in building a sewer in Heath Street, in Boston. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., who made a report of the case for the determination of this court, which, so far as material, was as follows:

The city clerk, called as a witness, produced the city records, which showed that on February 18, 1884, H. H. Moses was elected by the city government to be the superintendent of sewers for the year 1884, and that he entered upon the performance of his duties; and that the board of aldermen, on July 16, 1883, passed the following vote: "In Board of Aldermen, July 16, 1883. Whereas it appears to the board, that a necessity exists for the construction of a sewer in Heath Street, Ward 22, from its present termination to Day Street, and that public notice of such intent be given, — Ordered, that the superintendent of sewers be, and he is hereby, directed to construct a common sewer in said Heath Street, and to report a schedule of the expense to this board. Approved by Albert Palmer, Mayor." Also that the board of aldermen, on January 21, 1884, passed the following order: "Ordered, that the superintendent of sewers be author-

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ized, under the direction of the committee on sewers, to purchase materials and employ labor in the management of the sewer department during the present municipal year."

The plaintiff offered in evidence the city ordinance of 1883, in relation to sewers, section 1 of which is as follows: "There shall be chosen annually, by concurrent vote of both branches of the city council, a superintendent of sewers, who shall, under the direction of the board of aldermen, have the general supervision of all common sewers built and owned by the city of Boston, or permitted to be built or opened by its authority; shall take charge of the building and repairs of such sewers; and shall make all contracts for the supply of labor and materials therefor."

The plaintiff testified that he had been a sewer contractor and builder for twenty years; that he had built many sewers for the city of Boston; that he had built a part of this sewer on Heath Street, which was a part of the work comprised in the order passed by the board of aldermen on July 16, 1883; and that he did this work by the authority and direction of Moses, the superintendent of sewers, from whom he received his directions and orders on August 25, 1884, at his office in the city hall; but he offered no evidence that the superintendent of sewers in giving the order was acting under the direction of the committee on sewers.

The defendant contended that the order passed by the board of aldermen, on January 21, 1884, superseded the ordinance of 1883, and that it was incumbent on the plaintiff to show that whatever order was given him by the superintendent of sewers was by direction of the committee on sewers.

The judge ruled that the plaintiff could not recover, unless the plaintiff proposed to prove that the committee on sewers directed the superintendent to give such orders; that the order of January 21, 1884, superseded the ordinance of 1883; and, in the absence of such evidence on the part of the plaintiff, directed a verdict for the defendant. If the ruling was right, judgment was to be entered on the verdict; otherwise, the verdict was to be set aside, and a new trial granted.

P. A. Collins & J. H. Burke, (*G. A. Griffin* with them,) for the plaintiff.

R. W. Nason, for the defendant.

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C. ALLEN, J. The defendant now contends, though the objection does not appear to have been taken at the trial, that the city is under no liability to pay the cost of sewers built by direction of the aldermen with the approval of the mayor. But this ground of objection cannot be maintained. Sewers are built at the expense of the city, in the first instance, and a portion of the expense may afterwards be collected from persons whose estates are benefited. Pub. Sts. c. 50, §§ 1–4, 11. *Bennett* v. *New Bedford*, 110 Mass. 433.

The ground of objection relied on at the trial was, that the plaintiff could not recover, unless the work of building the sewer was done by the superintendent of sewers, under the direction of the committee on sewers; and the court so ruled, holding that the order of the board of aldermen passed on January 21, 1884, superseded that of July 16, 1883. This ruling we think erroneous. The Pub. Sts. c. 50, § 1, authorize the mayor and aldermen of a city to lay, make, and maintain sewers. The St. of 1882, c. 164, enacts that the words "mayor and aldermen" shall be construed to mean "board of aldermen." The city ordinance of 1883 provided for the annual choice of a superintendent of sewers, who should, under the direction of the board of aldermen, have the general supervision of all common sewers built and owned by the city, or permitted to be built or opened by its authority, and take charge of the building and repairs of such sewers, and make all contracts for the supply of labor and materials therefor. A superintendent of sewers was duly chosen, and on July 16, 1883, the board of aldermen passed an order that he be directed to construct a common sewer in Heath Street, and to report a schedule of the expense to the board. On January 21, 1884, the board passed another order "that the superintendent of sewers be authorized, under the direction of the committee on sewers, to purchase materials and employ labor in the management of the sewer department during the present municipal year."

The plaintiff's testimony was to the effect that he did the work in building the sewer in Heath Street, for which he now seeks to recover, by the authority and direction of the superintendent of sewers, received August 25, 1884; and if the last mentioned order of the board of aldermen superseded the first

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in respect to the sewer in Heath Street, the superintendent's power to act alone was taken away. But the two orders may well stand together. In relation to the sewer in Heath Street, the board of aldermen acted specially, and authorized the superintendent to construct it. The later order was more general in its character, and apparently was intended to relieve the board of aldermen to some extent of the care and duty which otherwise would have rested upon them during the current year; but not to make it necessary to obtain the direction of its committee in reference to this particular sewer, which the board itself had ordered the superintendent to construct.

In this view, it is not necessary to consider whether the board of aldermen could lawfully delegate such power to its committee; in respect to which see *Day* v. *Green*, 4 Cush. 433; *Lowell* v. *Simpson*, 10 Allen, 88; *Birdsall* v. *Clark*, 73 N. Y. 73; *State* v. *Paterson*, 5 Vroom, 163. *New trial granted.*

ROBERT POPE *vs.* ISAAC D. FARNSWORTH, executor.

Suffolk. January 25, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Will — Devise and Legacy — Trust — Interest.

If a testator by his will gives the income of a legacy to his son and to his son's wife, and provides that upon their death the legacy is to be paid over by the executor, "with interest and income to their son R. for his own use and on the decease of the said R., if he dies without children as he is unmarried," to the residuary legatee, R., who survives his parents, is married, and has children, has an absolute right to the legacy.

A beneficiary may authorize his trustee to do what otherwise would be a breach of trust, or release and agree to hold him harmless for such an act after it is done.

An executor, after making payments out of a trust fund and depositing the balance with a trust company for the benefit of a life tenant, to all of which the remainder-man agreed, made a further payment out of the fund, without his knowledge or agreement, to secure more frequent payments of income to the life tenant. After the latter's death the remainder-man made a demand upon the executor for the fund, stating that the trust company, which had agreed to repay the fund to the executor within sixty days of proof of the life tenant's death, was ready to pay it over. *Held*, that the remainder-man could not recover for the

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payments assented to by him, but that the executor was liable for the fund as undiminished by the unauthorized payment. *Held, also,* that interest was recoverable on the latter payment from the life tenant's death, and on the balance of the fund from the date of the demand.

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CONTRACT, under the Pub. Sts. c. 136, § 19, against the surviving executor of the will of Paschal P. Pope, for a legacy of $20,000 given to the plaintiff by the will, which was dated May 1, 1866. Writ dated August 14, 1885. The defendant died on January 16, 1886, and Charles A. Prince, who was appointed administrator with the will annexed of the estate of said Pope, was admitted to defend the action.

The case was submitted to this court on an agreed statement of facts, in substance as follows:

The will contained the following provision: "To Mr. Robert Pope, now of South Windsor, State of Maine, I give and bequeath the interest and income of twenty thousand dollars during his life to be paid him on his receipt made at the time, or on the receipt of his wife made at the time, if he should be unable to give it from infirmities he may then be suffering under, and to enable my executors to do this I direct that they shall deposit twenty thousand dollars in the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company. My executors will in this case consider the income of this twenty thousand dollars at the disposal of said Robert Pope or of his wife and on the decease of both they will pay over the said twenty thousand dollars with the interest and income to their son Robert Pope for his own use and on the decease of the said Robert, if he dies without children as he is unmarried, my executors shall pay over the said twenty thousand dollars to the person who shall be made by this will my residuary legatee."

On April 25, 1867, the executors under the will, having reserved out of the $20,000 the sum of $800 for the payment of a legacy tax, supposed to be due and payable, deposited with the Hospital Life Company the balance of $19,200, under a trust agreement which provided for the yearly payment by the company of the income of the trust fund to the life tenants. On September 1, 1867, the executors paid out of the $800 so reserved, $289.64 as a legacy tax, and $491.52 to the life tenants, under an agreement under seal, dated September 18, 1867, and

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executed by them and by the plaintiff, which, after reciting the above deposit and payments, and that they were made at his and their "especial instance and request," proceeded as follows: "Now in consideration of the premises we the said Robert Pope, Julia C. Pope and Robert Pope, Jr., do jointly and severally covenant and agree to indemnify and save harmless the said executors from all other claims on said fund and do acknowledge that the above payments are in full and entire satisfaction and discharge of said legacy and every part thereof; and they further agree to pay any further legacy or succession duty or tax that may be hereafter assessed upon said fund or any part thereof and to indemnify said executors against the payment of any such duty or tax, hereby ratifying all the doings of said executors in relation to said legacy." At the same time the executors, desiring to secure quarter-yearly payments of the income of the trust fund instead of the yearly payment provided for by the trust agreement, made, without the knowledge or subsequent agreement of the plaintiff, a further payment to the insurance company of $318.84, of which $300 was taken out of the $19,200 already deposited with the company, and $18.84 was the balance of the $800 remaining in their hands. The trust agreement was thereupon cancelled, and the balance of the fund, amounting to $18,900, was re-deposited by the executors with the insurance company under a second trust agreement, which provided for such quarter-yearly payments of the income, and that "in sixty days after proof of the decease" of the life tenants the principal sum, and all interest then due, should be paid over to the executors, or their successors, to be by them disposed of according to the provisions in the will.

Robert Pope, senior, died on July 14, 1870, and Julia C. Pope, his wife, died on May 9, 1885. The plaintiff who was a resident of Gardiner, Maine, and was married on June 4, 1868, and had two children born of that marriage living, made a demand on the defendant, as surviving executor, for the payment of the legacy of $20,000, on June 18, 1885, and again on June 29, 1885, by letters of the same tenor, which stated that "the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company informs me that the money deposited with them is ready for payment by them to you, and moreover that interest thereon is stopped." On May 28,

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1886, the administrator with the will annexed surrendered the second trust agreement to the insurance company, and received therefor the sum of $18,976.12, principal and interest due thereon.

If the plaintiff was entitled to maintain his action, judgment was to be entered for so much of the principal sum of $20,000 as the court should order, with interest thereon from the date of the last payment of income to Julia C. Pope to the date of her death, and interest thereon from the date of her death on May 9, 1885, or from the date of demand, as the court might determine, to the date of judgment, less such payments on account of interest as had been made by the administrator with the will annexed, the latter, as well as the rate of interest from April 1, 1885, to the death of Julia C. Pope, to be determined by an assessor, unless the parties could agree thereon. If the plaintiff was not entitled to maintain this action, such decree might be entered as to the disposition of the principal sum found to be due, and to preserve the rights of the parties thereunder, as equity might require; or, if he was not entitled to this legacy as absolute owner thereof, the court might make such decree for the purpose of ascertaining the fitness of Robert Pope to receive the same, with or without security, as might seem proper."

R. D. Smith & R. D. Weston-Smith, for the plaintiff.

R. Grant, for the defendant.

HOLMES, J. This is an action for a legacy of $20,000, brought under the Pub. Sts. c. 136, § 19. The main question is whether the plaintiff, Robert Pope the younger, has an absolute or defeasible interest under the will of Paschal P. Pope. The will provides, that, on the decease of both Robert Pope and his wife, to whom the income of the fund was given for life, the testator's executors "will pay over the said twenty thousand dollars with interest and income to their son Robert Pope for his own use and on the decease of the said Robert, if he dies without children as he is unmarried, my executors shall pay over the said twenty thousand dollars to the person who shall be made by this will my residuary legatee." The plaintiff has survived his parents, is married, and has children.

We are of opinion that the interest of the plaintiff is absolute, and that the provision in case he dies without children is only an

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alternative direction as to the person to whom the executors shall pay over the fund when the life tenants shall have died, and the contemplated moment comes for terminating the trust and paying over the principal. The governing thought in the sentence is, that at the death of the life tenants the fund is to be paid over; if Robert Pope, the son, is then alive, it is to be paid to him; if he has died without children, it is to be paid to the residuary legatee. Only one payment and only one time for payment are contemplated. It is not intended that, if the executors should have paid over once to Robert Pope, the son, they should get back the fund in a certain event thereafter, and pay it over a second time. Our construction is confirmed by the words in which the payment to the plaintiff is directed: "the said twenty thousand dollars with the interest and income . . . for his own use." These words express an absolute gift unequivocally. Capital as well as income is to be for his own use, if it is paid to him. Such a direction is hardly consistent with a construction of the next clause which would subject the fund to a contingent executory limitation over at his decease, in favor of the residuary legatee. See *Olivant* v. *Wright*, 1 Ch. D. 346; *O'Mahoney* v. *Burdett*, L. R. 7 H. L. 388, 397, 406; *In re Luddy*, 25 Ch. D. 394.

It is true that the words "and on the decease of said Robert," taken by themselves, look to his death at any time; but in view of the rest of the sentence, and the consequences of the different constructions contended for, we should read that and the following language as meaning "or in the event of Robert having died without children before that time," &c.

There may be a question whether the phrase "as he is unmarried" is to be read as merely explaining why the possibility of Robert's death without children is contemplated, or whether it still further qualifies the contingency, so that the sentence means in case of the death of Robert without ever having had any children because of his being unmarried or while unmarried. The last mentioned event can never happen, as Robert has married and has children. But as the plaintiff must recover for the reasons first given, it is unnecessary to consider this or other questions suggested by the clause.

The executors paid about eight hundred dollars of the princi-

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pal, partly for a legacy tax and partly to the tenants for life. The plaintiff then executed a sealed instrument, reciting that these payments (stated to be $308.48 and $491.52) and an investment of $19,200 in the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company were made at his request, covenanting to save the executors harmless from all other claims on the fund, acknowledging that the payments recited were in full satisfaction of the legacy, and ratifying all the doings of the executors. The plaintiff must stand to his agreement. There is no illegality in a *cestui que trust* authorizing an act which otherwise would be a breach of trust towards himself, or in his releasing or agreeing to hold harmless his trustee for such an act after it is done.

No authority or release is shown, however, for diminishing the capital directed to be deposited in the Hospital Life Company by $300 in order to secure quarterly instead of annual payments to the tenants for life. This sum must be added to the amount to be recovered.

As the contract with the Hospital Life Insurance Company was directed to be made by the will, and was accepted by the plaintiff in full satisfaction of his legacy, we think that the executors should not be charged with interest upon $18,900 after the death of Julia C. Pope, when it ceased to be paid by the company, until such time as they reasonably could have obtained and paid over the fund. The contract gives the company sixty days after proof of death. If, as stated in the demand, the company was ready to pay when the demand was made, interest may be allowed from that time. Interest will be computed upon the $300 misapplied from the date of Julia C. Pope's death. The payments heretofore made will be allowed as agreed.

Judgment for plaintiff for $19,200, *and interest, to be determined by an assessor.*

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GEORGIANNA WHALL *vs.* JAMES W. CONVERSE, trustee.

Suffolk. January 30, 1888. — March 30, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Will — Devise and Legacy — Heirs — Trust — Equitable Title.

If a testator by his will gives the income of a trust fund to his wife until her death or remarriage, and, in either event, to his son and daughter, the principal if the wife survives them and their issue, if any, to go on her death as she may direct by will, or, in default of a will, "then to my heirs at law," the bequest over is to those who are the heirs of the testator at the time of his death.

If the daughter dies intestate and without issue, and the son dies without issue, leaving his interest in the trust fund to a third person, who assigns it to the wife, the latter, who has never married again, acquires the equitable title to the whole fund, and has the right to terminate the trust.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed February 8, 1887, against the surviving trustee under the will of Joseph B. Whall, to terminate a trust created by the will, alleging the following facts.

Joseph B. Whall died in November, 1858, leaving a widow, the plaintiff, and, as his only heirs at law and next of kin, Joseph H. Whall, a son by a former wife, and Grace H. Whall, a daughter by the plaintiff. The will, which was admitted to probate on November 29, 1858, and appointed John Field and James W. Converse as trustees, contained the following provisions, which alone are material:

"I give to the said Field and Converse twenty thousand dollars in trust to pay the net income therefrom to my said wife, during her life, or until and not longer than she shall marry again, taking therefor her sole and separate receipt at or before the making of each payment; and upon her decease, or upon her being married again to dispose of the principal thereof as follows: to continue to hold the same in trust for the equal benefit of my children and to pay to my daughter three thousand dollars at any time when after she shall have attained the age of eighteen years she shall in writing request, and until such payment to pay the net income therefrom in equal shares to or for the use of my son and my daughter or the survivor of them during their his or her lives or life; and after such payment, to pay the net

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income from seven thousand dollars of said principal to my daughter and from ten thousand dollars of said principal to my son, to her and to his own use during his and her lives, but in each case and always upon his and her separate receipts to be taken at or before the making of each payment. If either of my children shall die before my wife leaving no issue living, then the whole of said income shall go as aforesaid to my surviving child, and if either or both of my children shall die before my wife and shall leave issue living, such issue shall take the share or shares of its deceased parent or parents, of said income during the life of my wife. Upon the decease of my children respectively, their several shares of the principal then in trust for their benefit shall after the decease of my wife go to their issue respectively, if they shall die leaving issue living, and if either of them shall die leaving no issue living his or her share as aforesaid shall be held still in trust for the benefit as above provided of the survivor, until his or her decease and shall then go after the decease of my wife to his or her issue or in default of issue to my heirs at law.

"In case my wife shall survive both my children and their issue, if any, the said principal shall go and be disposed of at her decease in accordance with her last will or any instrument in writing signed by her in the nature of a testamentary disposition of property or in default of a last will or other instrument as aforesaid, then to my heirs at law.

"All the rest residue and remainder of my estate and property, real personal and mixed, I give devise and bequeath to my said son and daughter, to have and to hold the same in equal shares to them their heirs and assigns forever.

"It is my will, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary hereinbefore provided I hereby order and require that all the estate and property other than income (excepting only the three thousand which she may receive upon her written request) which shall under this will come to my daughter shall not be paid over to her to her own use, but shall be retained or placed in trust for her benefit so that she shall during her life receive the net income therefrom upon giving therefor her sole and separate receipt at or before the making of each payment thereof and upon her decease the principal thereof shall be paid over

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appropriated and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of her last will or any instrument in writing signed by her in the nature of a testamentary disposition of property, or in default of such will or other instrument to her heirs at law."

The plaintiff had never married since the death of Joseph B. Whall, and had received since his death the net income of the trust fund from the trustees, and since the death of Field from the defendant as surviving trustee. Grace H. Whall was born on August 29, 1853, and died intestate and without issue on September 7, 1861, and leaving her mother and her brother surviving, in whom became vested all the property and rights which she had, including those which she had or could have in the trust fund. Joseph H. Whall died testate, never having been married, and without issue, on February 3, 1876, being at that time between thirty-one and thirty-two years of age, and by his will, which was admitted to probate on March 6, 1876, gave all his estate to Janet Cumston Lord, afterwards Janet Cumston Moody, in whom vested whatever rights or interest he had or could have in the trust fund. Janet Cumston Moody, by her assignment in writing, dated October 6, 1886, conveyed to the plaintiff, her executors, administrators, and assigns forever, all her right, title, interest, estate, and claim, whether contingent or otherwise, in and to the trust fund held by the defendant, as surviving trustee, including all rights that might accrue upon and after the marriage of the plaintiff, if she should marry again, or upon the death of the plaintiff without having disposed of the principal by will, or by any instrument in writing, signed by her, in the nature of a testamentary disposition of property. By the death of Grace H. Whall and Joseph H. Whall, both without issue, and the assignment from Janet Cumston Moody, the plaintiff had become entitled to the income of the trust fund in case she should marry again, and had become entitled to the principal of the trust fund even in case she should fail to dispose of the same by will or an instrument in writing, signed by her, in the nature of a testamentary disposition of property.

The prayer of the bill was, that the trusts upon which the defendant, as surviving trustee, held the trust fund, might be decreed to be terminated, and he might be ordered to pay over

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to the plaintiff the trust fund, principal and income, and all property representing the same, discharged of all trusts.

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The answer, after admitting the allegations of the bill, save as to any remarriage of the plaintiff, proceeded as follows: "This defendant says that he is advised that the rights of the plaintiff depend mainly upon the construction of said will of said Joseph B. Whall, and, if the plaintiff should marry again, whether the income of the trust fund during the residue of her life would then fall into the residuum, or go to those who were the heirs at law of the testator at the time of his death, or to those who would be his heirs at law at the time of the happening of that contingency, if he had then died intestate, or vested in his son, who survived his daughter; and whether, in case the plaintiff shall die without disposing of said trust fund by her last will or by an instrument in writing, signed by her, in the nature of a testamentary disposition of the property, the principal of said trust fund would then go to those who would then be the heirs at law of the testator, if he had then died intestate, or vested in those who were his heirs at law at the time of his death, are questions which this defendant should not undertake to decide, but questions which should be submitted to this honorable court."

The case was heard upon the pleadings and an affidavit, by *C. Allen*, J., who found as a fact that the plaintiff had never married after the death of her husband, Joseph B. Whall, and reserved the case for the consideration of the full court.

J. D. Ball, for the plaintiff.

W. H. Orcutt, for the defendant, submitted the case without argument.

HOLMES, J. The general rule is settled, that, in case of an ultimate limitation like that of the fund in question to the testator's heirs at law, the persons to take are those who answer the description at the time of the testator's death. *Dove* v. *Torr*, 128 Mass. 38, 40. *Minot* v. *Tappan*, 122 Mass. 535, 537. *Abbott* v. *Bradstreet*, 3 Allen, 587. The reasons for this rule are, that the words cannot be used properly to designate anybody else; that such a mode of ascertaining the beneficiary implies that the testator has exhausted his specific wishes by the previous limitations, and is content thereafter to let the law take its course; and,

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perhaps, that the law leans toward a construction which vests the interest at the earliest moment. There is nothing to take this case out of the general rule, and it requires no discussion beyond what will be found in the decisions cited.

It follows, without further construction of the words heirs at law, and whether or not any part of the income or principal in any event would fall into the residuum or pass as property undisposed of by the will, that the plaintiff and the testator's son and daughter took the whole fund among them. The plaintiff has now acquired the son's and the daughter's interests; *Whipple* v. *Fairchild*, 139 Mass. 262, 265; *Welsh* v. *Woodbury*, 144 Mass. 542, 545, and cases cited; and therefore has the equitable title to the whole fund, and the right to terminate the trust. *Inches* v. *Hill*, 106 Mass. 575. *Underwood* v. *Boston Five Cents Savings Bank*, 141 Mass. 305, 306. *Decree for plaintiff.*

JESSE ROGERS *vs.* THOMAS P. ELLIOTT.

Barnstable. January 31, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Private Nuisance — Bell Ringing — Malice.

The custodian of a church does not, by refusing to stop the ringing of its bell for the usual services, become liable to a person suffering from sun-stroke in an adjacent house, who is thrown thereby into convulsions which retard his recovery.

TORT for a nuisance, namely, the ringing of a church bell. At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., there was evidence tending to prove that the plaintiff, who lived with his father in a thickly settled portion of Provincetown, had received a sun-stroke, and was carried home and a physician called to attend him; that directly opposite his father's house across a street but twenty feet in width was a Roman Catholic Church, of which the defendant was the clergyman in charge; that one of the incidents of the plaintiff's illness was that loud noises might throw him into convulsions; that the defendant was in-

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formed by the physician and the plaintiff's father of the probable consequences to the plaintiff of the ringing the bell upon his church, and was requested not to ring it; that the defendant refused to refrain from ringing the bell, but caused it to be rung eight times upon the next Sunday, as usual, twice before each of the four services held upon that day; that the plaintiff, the windows of whose room were shut, was thrown into violent and painful convulsions at each time that the bell on the church was rung, as well as when other bells in the town were rung, or a whistle on a steamboat in the harbor was blown, and once when the town clock struck; and that the convulsions increased the illness and retarded the recovery of the plaintiff.

The judge ruled that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover, and ordered a verdict for the defendant; and reported the case for the determination of this court. If the ruling was wrong, the verdict was to be set aside and a new trial granted; otherwise, judgment was to be rendered on the verdict.

H. M. Knowlton, for the plaintiff, stated in his brief, that "the plaintiff does not rely upon any evidence of express malice on the part of the defendant. But he claims that, under all the circumstances of the case, the law would imply malice on his part."

J. J. McDonough, for the defendant.

KNOWLTON, J. The defendant was the custodian and authorized manager of property of the Roman Catholic Church used for religious worship. The acts for which the plaintiff seeks to hold him responsible were done in the use of this property, and the sole question before us is whether or not that use was unlawful. The plaintiff's case rests upon the proposition that the ringing of the bell was a nuisance. The consideration of this proposition involves an inquiry into what the defendant could properly do in the use of the real estate which he had in charge, and what was the standard by which his rights were to be measured.

It appears that the church was built upon a public street in a thickly settled part of the town, and if the ringing of the bell on Sundays had materially affected the health or comfort of all in the vicinity, whether residing or passing there, this use of the property would have been a public nuisance, for which there

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would have been a remedy by indictment. Individuals suffering from it in their persons or their property could have recovered damages for a private nuisance. *Wesson* v. *Washburn Iron Co.* 13 Allen, 95.

In an action of this kind, a fundamental question is, by what standard, as against the interests of a neighbor, is one's right to use his real estate to be measured. In densely populated communities the use of property in many ways which are legitimate and proper necessarily affects in greater or less degree the property or persons of others in the vicinity. In such cases the inquiry always is, when rights are called in question, what is reasonable under the circumstances. If a use of property is objectionable solely on account of the noise which it makes, it is a nuisance, if at all, by reason of its effect upon the health or comfort of those who are within hearing. The right to make a noise for a proper purpose must be measured in reference to the degree of annoyance which others may reasonably be required to submit to. In connection with the importance of the business from which it proceeds, that must be determined by the effect of noise upon people generally, and not upon those, on the one hand, who are peculiarly susceptible to it, or those, on the other, who by long experience have learned to endure it without inconvenience; not upon those whose strong nerves and robust health enable them to endure the greatest disturbances without suffering, nor upon those whose mental or physical condition makes them painfully sensitive to everything about them.

That this must be the rule in regard to public nuisances is obvious. It is the rule as well, and for reasons nearly if not quite as satisfactory, in relation to private nuisances. Upon a question whether one can lawfully ring his factory bell, or run his noisy machinery, or whether the noise will be a private nuisance to the occupant of a house near by, it is necessary to ascertain the natural and probable effect of the sound upon ordinary persons in that house, — not how it will affect a particular person, who happens to be there to-day, or who may chance to come to-morrow. *Fay* v. *Whitman*, 100 Mass. 76. *Davis* v. *Sawyer*, 133 Mass. 289. *Walter* v. *Selfe*, 4 DeG. & Sm. 315, 323. *Soltau* v. *De Held*, 2 Sim. (N. S.) 133. *St. Helen's Smelting Co.* v. *Tipping*, 11 H. L. Cas. 642.

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In *Walter* v. *Selfe*, Vice-Chancellor Knight Bruce, after elaborating his statement of the rule, concludes as follows: "They have I think established that the defendant's intended proceeding will, if prosecuted, abridge and diminish seriously and materially the ordinary comfort of existence to the occupier and inmates of the plaintiff's house, whatever their rank or station, whatever their age, or whatever their state of health."

It is said by Lord Romilly, Master of the Rolls, in *Crump* v. *Lambert*, L. R. 3 Eq. 409, that "the real question in all the cases is the question of fact, viz. whether the annoyance is such as materially to interfere with the ordinary comfort of human existence."

In the opinion in *Sparhawk* v. *Union Passenger Railway*, 54 Penn. St. 401, these words are used: "It seems to me that the rule expressed in the cases referred to is the only true one in judging of injury from alleged nuisances, viz. such as naturally and necessarily result to all alike who come within their influence."

In the case of *Westcott* v. *Middleton*, 16 Stew. (N. J.) 478, it appeared that the defendant carried on the business of an undertaker, and the windows of the plaintiff's house looked out upon his yard, where boxes which had been used to preserve the bodies of the dead were frequently washed, and where other objects were visible and other work was going on, which affected the tender sensibilities of the plaintiff, and caused him great discomfort. Vice-Chancellor Bird, in dismissing the bill for an injunction against carrying on the business there, said: "The inquiry inevitably arises, if a decision is rendered in Mr. Westcott's favor, because he is so morally or mentally constituted that the particular business complained of is an offence or a nuisance to him, or destructive to his comfort or his enjoyment of his home, how many other cases will arise and claim the benefit of the same principle, however different the facts may be, or whatever may be the mental condition of the party complaining. . . . A wide range has indeed been given to courts of equity in dealing with these matters; but I can find no case where the court has extended aid unless the act complained of was, as I have above said, of a nature to affect all reasonable persons, similarly situated, alike."

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If one's right to use his property were to depend upon the effect of the use upon a person of peculiar temperament or disposition, or upon one suffering from an uncommon disease, the standard for measuring it would be so uncertain and fluctuating as to paralyze industrial enterprises. The owner of a factory containing noisy machinery, with dwelling-houses all about it, might find his business lawful as to all but one of the tenants of the houses, and as to that one, who dwelt no nearer than the others, it might be a nuisance. The character of his business might change from legal to illegal, or illegal to legal, with every change of tenants of an adjacent estate; or with an arrival or departure of a guest or boarder at a house near by; or even with the wakefulness or the tranquil repose of an invalid neighbor on a particular night. Legal rights to the use of property cannot be left to such uncertainty. When an act is of such a nature as to extend its influence to those in the vicinity, and its legal quality depends upon the effect of that influence, it is as important that the rightfulness of it should be tried by the experience of ordinary people, as it is, in determining a question as to negligence, that the test should be the common care of persons of ordinary prudence, without regard to the peculiarities of him whose conduct is on trial.

In the case at bar it is not contended that the ringing of the bell for church services in the manner shown by the evidence materially affected the health or comfort of ordinary people in the vicinity, but the plaintiff's claim rests upon the injury done him on account of his peculiar condition. However his request should have been treated by the defendant upon considerations of humanity, we think he could not put himself in a place of exposure to noise, and demand as of legal right that the bell should not be used.

The plaintiff, in his brief, concedes that there was no evidence of express malice on the part of the defendant, but contends that malice was implied in his acts. In the absence of evidence that he acted wantonly, or with express malice, this implication could not come from his exercise of his legal rights. How far and under what circumstances malice may be material in cases of this kind, it is unnecessary to consider.

Judgment on the verdict.

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ELIZABETH O. P. STURGIS *vs.* ANN C. PAINE & others.

Suffolk. January 31, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Will — Devise and Legacy — Capital and Income — Trust.

A testator, after expressing his "desire" that a residue should go to his grandchildren, "reserving the use of the personal property and the net income of the real estate" to his son's wife, their mother, "during her life and widowhood" if she survived his son, "to this end" gave the residue to his son in trust to apply the income "at his discretion" for the care and education of such grandchildren; provided that, if his son should die, his son's wife while his widow "shall in like manner receive" such income "to her own use and for the education and support of my said grandchildren at her discretion"; and directed that neither his son nor his son's wife should be held to account for property personally occupied by them, and that proceeds of real estate should be applied to improve his estate, or for the grandchildren's education and support. *Held*, that the son's wife, as his widow, had the right in good faith to appropriate the whole income to her own use.

A devise of the residue of a testator's estate to his wife, to be "at her sole use and disposal," followed by this clause, "My said wife is fully acquainted with my reasons for this disposal of my estate, and will by her own last testament do what is right and just to my children and their natural heirs," does not create a trust in favor of the children, but gives the wife an absolute title.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed October 11, 1884, to establish trusts for the benefit of the plaintiff under the wills of her grandfather, William Paine, and of her father, Frederick William Paine.

The case was heard by *Field*, J., and reserved for the consideration of the full court, on the pleadings and an agreed statement of facts, and was in substance as follows.

William Paine died in 1833, leaving a will, whereby he devised the residue of his property as follows:

"Fourth. As to the residue of my property, it is my desire that the same should be secured for the benefit of my grandchildren, the children of my son, Frederick William Paine, reserving the use of the personal property and the net income of the real estate to Ann C. Paine, wife of said Frederick, during her life and widowhood, upon the contingency of her surviving her said husband; and to this end I give, devise, and bequeath all my estate, real, personal, or mixed, and wherever the same may be found, not before disposed of in this will, to my son,

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Frederick William Paine, and his heirs forever. To have, hold, and possess the same to him and them upon the trusts and to the uses hereinafter mentioned, and to no other use, trust, or purpose whatever; that is to say, the said Frederick shall annually receive the rents, interest, and profits of said estates, and, after deducting the necessary expenses for repairs, taxes, and other charges in and about the same, shall retain the balance in his own hands, to be applied by him at his discretion for the support, maintenance, and education of the children of the said Frederick and his present wife, Ann C. Paine, including the children now born as well as such as may at any time hereafter be born to them, either before or subsequent to my decease. And in the event of the decease of my said son, his said wife, so long as she shall survive him and continue his widow, shall in like manner receive the said rents, interest, and profits to her own use and for the education and support of my said grandchildren at her discretion. Upon the event of the demise of my said son, I direct that the judge of probate for said county of Worcester shall appoint one or more trustees to take upon him or them the execution of these trusts, who shall stand seised of said estates in the same manner as I have directed in case of my son Frederick during his lifetime, and as fully as if they were personally named in this will. And the said trustee or trustees so appointed shall hold said estates to the following trusts; that is to say, to pay over the balance of said trust funds to Ann C. Paine, my daughter-in-law before named, during her life or widowhood, and upon the event of her contracting a second marriage, then it is my will that said trustee or trustees shall stand seised of said real estates and hold and possess said personal property to the use of my said grandchildren, the children of Frederick William and Ann C. Paine, during their minority, and whenever either of said children shall arrive at full age, said trust, as it relates to him or her respectively, shall cease and determine, and said child shall stand seised in fee simple of his or her share in said real estate and personal estate, in the same manner as if it had been bequeathed to him or her without the intervention of trustees. Provided, however, that said trust shall not determine during the lifetime of my said son, nor until the death or second marriage of the said Ann C. Paine. Upon the

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termination of said trust, said property shall be equally divided between such of said grandchildren as may then be alive, and if either of them shall decease before a division of said property, leaving lawful issue, the issue of such deceased grandchild shall be entitled to the same share in the distribution as his or her ancestor would had they been living.

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"In case my son should not accept the trust hereby vested in him, or in case of his subsequent resignation of the same, or in case of a vacancy in the trust at any time, then one or more trustees shall be appointed by the judge of probate, the Court of Chancery, or other proper tribunal, in manner as is hereinbefore directed. And the said trustee or trustees so appointed shall stand seised of said estates and personal property to the uses herein specified. Provided, however, that no trustee shall be appointed during the lifetime of my said son without his consent.

"The trustees herein provided for shall in all cases render an inventory of said estates and funds from time to time, as they may be ordered by the proper tribunal, and shall give satisfactory bonds for the faithful execution of said trusts. Provided that no other security shall be required of my said son, while in the execution of said trust, but his own personal bond. Any other trustee shall pay over the net proceeds of said estates, real and personal, to the joint order of my said son and his said wife during their lives, and to the order of the survivor of them during life, or during the widowhood of the said Ann C. Paine, to be by them appropriated as is before provided. It is my further direction, that my said son or his wife shall never be held to account for the rent, income, or use of such parts of my property or chattels as they shall personally occupy, and such personal occupation shall not be construed to impair this trust.

"My trustees, whether appointed by me or by any proper tribunal, shall have power to sell and pass deeds of any part of my real estate (excepting the home farm and every part thereof), either in fee simple, absolute, or upon mortgage or any less estates, and for the proceeds of any such conveyances they shall render an account as is before provided, and the same shall be applied solely for the improvement of said estates, or for the education and maintenance of my said grandchildren."

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Frederick William Paine held the position of trustee under this will, from 1833 to September, 1869, when he died, and the defendant, Nathaniel Paine, was appointed trustee in his stead on November 16, 1869, and has so continued ever since. Nathaniel Paine proceeded to convert the greater part of the home farm so called into money by sales under a decree of the Probate Court, and established from the proceeds a trust fund, which, as increased by other sales from time to time, he invested in income-yielding securities. The income upon these securities, and the rents and profits of real estate remaining unsold, were paid over by the trustee, after deducting expenses and charges, to the defendant Ann C. Paine, without seeing to its application by her in any part for the support of the plaintiff, who is a child of Ann C. Paine and Frederick William Paine, and grandchild of William Paine, or that any part of the same was paid to her or accumulated for her use and benefit. Ann C. Paine invested the income, rents, and profits, including all accumulations not consumed by her in her own support, or in the support of her children other than the plaintiff, in various ways, and on or before May 1, 1884, gave large sums, as well as the mansion-house on the home farm purchased by her, to the defendant George S. Paine as voluntary gifts, and gave to the defendants George S. Paine and James P. Paine all of the accumulations of income, rents, and profits. The plaintiff has received no part of the income of the trust fund or rents and profits, and has, under the belief that she was entitled to a vested share and interest therein, allowed the same to accumulate for her future use and benefit.

Nathaniel Paine contended that, upon paying the income of the proceeds of the sales of the homestead farm and such rents and profits to Ann C. Paine, his powers and duties, as trustee under the will, regarding the income and rents and profits, ceased; and the defendant Ann C. Paine contended that by the terms of the will she became the absolute, sole, and exclusive owner of such income and rents and profits, with the right to dispose of the same to George S. Paine and James P. Paine, to the exclusion of the plaintiff and the children of deceased grandchildren of the testator, both before and after its accumulation and investment; that the gifts of accumulated income and rents

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and profits to George S. Paine and James P. Paine, not consumed in her personal support, or necessary for their personal support and maintenance, were made by her as of right, and that the plaintiff had no right, title, or interest in any part of the income derived from the proceeds of the sales of land of the homestead farm, or rents and profits, by reason of any devise, bequest, or trust in the will.

The plaintiff contended that, by the terms of the will, she had a vested right and interest in the income of the proceeds of sales of land of the homestead farm, and in the other rents and profits, and in all accumulations thereof; that she had a right to allow the same to accumulate for her future use and benefit, and was not thereby deprived of her right to the same; that both the trustee and Ann C. Paine were bound to see that the income, rents, and profits were applied or accumulated for her use and benefit, in common with the application and accumulation thereof for the use and benefit of Ann C. Paine and the other grandchildren of the testator; that the conveyances of the accumulated income and rents and profits by Ann C. Paine were in violation of her rights thereto under the will, and against the intention of the testator; and that the trustee, Ann C. Paine, George S. Paine, and James P. Paine, were bound to account to her for her share of such accumulated income and rents and profits.

On November 16, 1869, Frederick William Paine died, leaving a will. After directing his debts and funeral expenses to be paid, he devised the residue of his property as follows: "Fourthly. I give to my wife, Ann C. Paine, all the rest of my estate, whatever the same may be, to be at her sole use and disposal. My said wife is fully acquainted with my reasons for this disposal of my estate, and will by her own last testament do what is right and just to my children and their natural heirs." On the settlement of his estate, the residue in money was paid over to Ann C. Paine.

Ann C. Paine invested the money received by her on the settlement of her husband's estate in securities, all of which she assigned to George S. Paine and James P. Paine as gifts, and conveyed to them all of the real estate and other property received by her from that estate as their absolute property, to the

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exclusion of the plaintiff and the children of deceased children of Frederick William Paine, and retained no property in her hands or possession to be disposed of by will.

Ann C. Paine, George S. Paine, and James P. Paine contended that the will of Frederick William Paine vested Ann C. Paine with an absolute title, and the right to dispose of the same by deed and gift during her lifetime, to the exclusion of the plaintiff, and that the conveyances by her were valid under the will.

The plaintiff contended that Ann C. Paine had only the use of the property, and not the absolute title to it, and could dispose of the same by will only to her children and their natural heirs, and that her conveyances and gifts to George S. Paine and James P. Paine, in exclusion of the other children of the testator, were in violation of the intention of the testator as expressed in the will.

If the court were of opinion that the plaintiff had any title and interest in the income of the proceeds of the sales of the homestead farm under and as devised or bequeathed by the will of William Paine, or in the rents and profits of his unsold real estate, or any title or interest in the estate of Frederick William Paine under his will, the case was to be referred to a master to state the account thereof; otherwise, the bill was to be dismissed.

F. P. Goulding & C. A. Merrill, for the plaintiff.

I. The direction to Ann C. Paine by the testator, William Paine, is imperative, imports a trust, and gives each of the testator's grandchildren a beneficial interest in common with their mother. *Rich* v. *Rogers*, 14 Gray, 174, 176. *Loring* v. *Loring*, 100 Mass. 340. *Buffinton* v. *Maxam*, 140 Mass. 557. *Proctor* v. *Proctor*, 141 Mass. 165, 169. *Jubber* v. *Jubber*, 9 Sim. 503.

Ann C. Paine and her children had a vested joint interest in the rents, profits, and income, as and when they accrued. When received by her, their receipt was upon the double trust, "to her own use and for the education and support of my said grandchildren," the words "at her discretion" relating solely to the time and manner of enjoyment, and not to the title. The words "shall in like manner receive" refer to her quality of interest in the rents and income when received, similar to the interest

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in the income given her husband by the prior clause, and not to quantity of estate or time of receipt alone. If a trust was conferred upon her husband when he received the rents and income, her interest was limited to a trust. *Lumley* v. *Robbins*, 10 Hare, 624. *Woodall* v. *Woodall*, 3 C. B. 849, 379. *Milsom* v. *Awdry*, 5 Ves. 466. *Shanley* v. *Baker*, 4 Ves. 732. 1 Jarm. Wills, (5th Am. ed.) 747, note *q*. 2 Roper, Legacies, (2d Am. ed.) 1502.

If the words "shall in like manner receive the said rents, interest, and profits to her own use and for the education and support of my said grandchildren at her discretion," mean to apply at her discretion, by analogy to the discretion given her husband, the fund to be applied should be co-existent with the power to apply, during her widowhood, and allowed to accumulate when not needed for the specified uses. The direction to her husband is not to pay over, but that it should be received by him to be applied, whereby is signified the intention of the testator that the income as such should accumulate, in lieu of conferring a right upon his grandchildren to maintain an action therefor in assumpsit against their mother, as for a debt. *Hinckley* v. *Williams*, 1 Cush. 490, 493. If the direction means to receive and apply at discretion, the son's wife did not hold the rents and profits, or income, absolutely, but in trust; and the grandchildren can enforce its due appropriation in part for their benefit in equity, although they are not resident with their mother. *Whiting* v. *Whiting*, 4 Gray, 236. *Chase* v. *Chase*, 2 Allen, 101. *Williams* v. *Bradley*, 3 Allen, 270, 278. *Warner* v. *Bates*, 98 Mass. 274, 280. *Parker* v. *Parker*, 126 Mass. 433, 437. 1 Jarm. Wills, 399. Gray, Restraints on Alienation, §§ 116, 155 *et seq.*

"A legacy to a parent upon trust to be by him applied, or in trust for the maintenance and education of his children, will certainly give the children a right in a court of equity to enforce their natural claims against the parent in respect of the fund on which the trust is declared." Per Wigram, Vice-Chancellor, in *Thorp* v. *Owen*, 2 Hare, 607. If Ann C. Paine is to receive the income to be applied at her discretion for the specified uses, then she is to retain it in her own hands for such application, by the same analogy, and the duration of such retention is her life

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or widowhood. The gift of the accumulated rents and income is in violation of a direction to retain in her own hands the rents and income for application. A person having a power must execute it *bona fide* for the end designed; and that an exercise of the power otherwise is corrupt, and void in equity, is a well established rule. *Aleyn* v. *Belchier*, 1 Eden, 132; *S. C.* 1 White & Tudor's Lead. Cas. in Eq. (6th ed.) 437 and notes.

II. The meaning of the reservation to Ann C. Paine must be gathered from the context, and so construed as to avoid repugnancy, and to harmonize and give effect to all parts of the will. If the reservation is repugnant to the trust by which she is imperatively directed to receive the income to her own use and for the education and support of the testator's grandchildren, the trust should prevail, as the later indication and more certain statement of the final intention of the testator. *Bowers* v. *Porter*, 4 Pick. 198, 210. *Homer* v. *Shelton*, 2 Met. 194, 206. 1 Jarm. Wills, 472 and note 1. If the reservation is construed as a grant to her, it is like a grant followed by an habendum upon trusts, no part of which is repugnant to the other. The words "and to this end" point to this construction as in harmony with the testator's intention.

The unlikelihood that the testator should wholly suspend the provision for the support and education of his grandchildren during the widowhood of his daughter-in-law, which might occur at a time when they would most need it, and of necessity would occur when the support of their father was withdrawn, is strong evidence that a trust was intended for the grandchildren during their mother's life.

The provision that trustees other than the testator's son and son's wife are to pay over the net income to the joint order of said son and his wife, and to the order of the survivor, "to be by them appropriated as is before provided," shows that the testator intended them to receive it solely upon the trusts expressed, and upon its receipt it was to be by them so appropriated *Blake* v. *Dexter*, 12 Cush. 559, 568.

III. The right to occupy rent free a part of the land, uncertain in extent as to what part, of doubtful location till determined by actual occupancy, and dependent for duration upon such occupancy, does not include the right or title to the rents of other

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parts of the same land not actually occupied, or the income of the proceeds of such other parts when sold. The devise is not of the "free use" of the land, or the "use and occupation" of land, but is confined to personal occupancy. *Willmarth* v. *Bridges*, 113 Mass. 407. 1 Jarm. Wills, 798.

IV. Under the will of Frederick William Paine, the gift of the residue to his wife, "to be at her sole use and disposal," is absolute, and the fact that he acquainted his wife with his reasons for the gift does not change it. But the words, "and will by her own last testament do what is right and just to my children and their natural heirs," impose a trust, and limit his wife to a testamentary disposition of his property to the testator's children. The words are not, "I desire and hope that he will so provide by will or otherwise," as in *Hess* v. *Singler*, 114 Mass. 56, 59; or, "I wish my beloved wife, when she dies, to give," as in *Barrett* v. *Marsh*, 126 Mass. 213, 216; or, "I wish, at the death of my wife, that she should make an equal division," as in *Sears* v. *Cunningham*, 122 Mass. 538; or, "I assume that they" (the younger brothers) "on their part will not fail to do for him" (the older brother) "and his family all that in the circumstances the truest fraternal regard may require them to do," as in *Rose* v. *Porter*, 141 Mass. 309; and the case is stronger than *Warner* v. *Bates*, 98 Mass. 274, 277, where the words were, "in the full confidence that he will," &c., where a trust was held.

The words state the result of an undisclosed agreement between the testator and his wife, are obligatory, and such agreement to make a will in favor of their children need not be in writing *Glass* v. *Hulbert*, 102 Mass. 24, 39; *Nichols* v. *Allen*, 130 Mass. 211, 213; *Olliffe* v. *Wells*, 130 Mass. 221, 224; *Wellington* v. *Apthorp*, 145 Mass. 69; 2 Story Eq. Jur. § 1068; they denote at least a confidence or trust committed to his wife, and bring the case within the principle in 2 Sugden, Powers, (3d Am. ed.) 172, 173; *Wright* v. *Atkyns*, 17 Ves. 255; *Coates' appeal*, 2 Penn. St. 129; *Collins* v. *Carlisle*, 7 B. Mon. 13; *Bull* v. *Bull*, 8 Conn. 47; they are imperative, and not precatory or discretionary; 1 Sugden, Powers, 537. See *Robinson* v. *Smith*, 6 Madd. 194; *Malim* v. *Keighley*, 2 Ves. Jr. 333.

The trifling sums given his children outright, coupled with

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the statement that he had acquainted his wife with the motive or reasons for the gift of the residue to her, and his further provision for his children after his wife's death, point to a trust. The conveyance in fee is in harmony with this construction, enables the wife to carry out his direction by will, and gives effect to the trust clause. If the words "natural heirs" are used to distinguish the objects of his bounty from legal heirs, it is an estate of inheritance limited to heirs of a particular class and an estate tail, which is lawful for the testator to create, and does not defeat the estate of the children. *Wight* v. *Thayer*, 1 Gray, 284. The trust is not contrary to the statute forbidding perpetuities; *Lovering* v. *Worthington*, 106 Mass. 86, 88; and if it were, the trust is valid if its execution is kept within proper bounds. *Brattle Square Church* v. *Grant*, 3 Gray, 142. *Slark* v. *Dakyns*, L. R. 10 Ch. App. 35, 39. The trust is not to will his estate amongst his children, or to such as she may select, but to do what is right and just to all by will.

If this construction is correct, the case falls within the principle of *Aleyn* v. *Belchier*, *ubi supra*, and to protect the property for those ultimately entitled equity has jurisdiction. 1 Perry, Trusts, §§ 249, 250.

W. S. B. Hopkins, for the defendants.

HOLMES, J. This is a bill in equity seeking to establish a trust in favor of the plaintiff, under her grandfather's will, in respect of the income of the residue given to the defendant Ann C. Paine during her widowhood, and for the education and support of her children at her discretion. We shall assume that the plaintiff has a standing to maintain a bill, so far that, if it were shown that Mrs. Paine had not exercised in good faith the discretion given to her, this court might interfere. *Wilson* v. *Wilson*, 145 Mass. 490. But, in the absence of bad faith, we are of opinion that the testator's grandchildren have no equitable interest or title in or to the rents, income, and profits given to Mrs. Paine, unless and until she exercises her discretion in their favor, and that, so far as appears, Mrs. Paine was entitled to appropriate the whole to her own use, as she has done.

The testator begins by stating his desire that the residue of his property should be secured for the benefit of his grandchildren, the children of his son Frederick William Paine,

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"reserving the use of the personal property and the net income of the real estate to Ann C. Paine, wife of said Frederick, during her life and widowhood, upon the contingency of her surviving her said husband." Under these words, the gift to Mrs. Paine during her widowhood is as much a part of the testator's expressed desire as that to his grandchildren, and it is a gift of the beneficial interest. He next proceeds, "and to this end I give," &c., to his son in trust. The words "to this end" mean to the end of carrying out the above expressed desire in all its parts; and it is in the light of this statement of the general purpose that the following provisions are to be read.

The trusts are, first, that "the said Frederick shall annually receive the rents, interest, and profits of said estates, and, after deducting the necessary expenses, &c., ... shall retain the balance in his own hands, to be applied by him at his discretion for the support, maintenance, and education of the children of the said Frederick and his present wife, Ann C. Paine," &c. The will then goes on, "and in the event of the decease of my said son, his said wife, so long as she shall survive him and continue his widow, shall in like manner receive the said rents, interest, and profits to her own use and for the education and support of my said grandchildren at her discretion."

It is argued that the words "shall in like manner receive" mean that Mrs. Paine is to take upon the same trust as her husband, — that is, that the words "in like manner" qualify not only "receive," but also "to her own use" and what follows. But we think that, so far as they are more than a vague rhetorical introduction to the ensuing clause, they have no effect on any word except "receive." Looking back to the directions referred to, we think that only so much of these are meant as point out how Mr. Paine shall "receive" the rents, &c., and deduct expenses; not the subsequent directions to "retain" and "apply" the balance. Mrs. Paine cannot receive the income to her own use in like manner as her husband. It is not stated expressly that he shall receive it to his own use at all; and if she were to do so, as he did, the words would be inserted merely to arrest the legal title in her and leave her a dry trustee, whereas she is not to have the legal title after her husband's

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death, but the will provides that a trustee shall be appointed by the Probate Court.

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The words "to her own use" plainly mean that Mrs. Paine is to have a beneficial interest in the fund, as is further shown by the provision that on her second marriage the trustee shall hold to the use of the grandchildren. The following words mean just what they would have meant if the order had been changed, and they had read, "and, at her discretion, for the education," &c. If there were nothing in the will before the gift to Frederick, the husband, in trust, we should feel compelled to construe it as we have done; but when we see in addition that our construction carries out what the testator just before has declared to be his desire, we cannot feel any very serious doubt about the case. The provision is a most natural one, and it may be presumed that the testator was satisfied that he could leave the support and education of his grandchildren to their mother with safety. See *Hess* v. *Singler*, 114 Mass. 56; *Sears* v. *Cunningham*, 122 Mass. 538; *Barrett* v. *Marsh*, 126 Mass. 213; *Lambe* v. *Eames*, L. R. 10 Eq. 267; *S. C.* L. R. 6 Ch. App. 597; *In re Hutchinson & Tenant*, 8 Ch. D. 540; *In re Adams & Kensington Vestry*, 24 Ch. D. 199; *S. C.* 27 Ch. D. 394; and cases below.

The direction that the testator's son or his wife shall not be held to account for property personally occupied, does not affect the construction of the previous provisions. But for it, the son as trustee would be bound to account for such property. The wife receives from it an indirect authority to occupy, which, not being the trustee, she would not have otherwise; and she is exonerated from going through the form of accounting to the trustee, who, if she went through that form, would account to the court by paying back to her what he had received.

The direction that proceeds of conveyances of real estate shall be applied solely for the improvement of the testator's estates, or for the education and support of his grandchildren, concerns the capital, which goes to the grandchildren.

The complainant makes a further claim under the will of her father, the residuary clause of which is as follows: "I give to my wife, Ann C. Paine, all the rest of my estate, whatever the same may be, to be at her sole use and disposal. My said wife is fully acquainted with my reasons for this disposal of my

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estate, and will by her own last testament do what is right and just to my children and their natural heirs." The last words do not create a trust, but state the motive for not doing so. They express the testator's confidence that his wife will do what is just of her own motion, as a reason why he leaves the property to her unfettered disposition. See cases *supra*. *Thorp* v. *Owen*, 2 Hare, 607, 617. *Mussoorie Bank* v. *Raynor*, 7 App. Cas. 321. *Bill dismissed.*

LEMUEL CLARK, administrator, & others, *vs.* FLORA M. HOLBROOK & another.

Suffolk. February 1, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Bond — Administrator — Action — Equity — Heir — Real Estate — Equitable Attachment — Practice — Parties to Action — Misjoinder — Amendment.

A bond for support is not extinguished because the obligor's administrator is also the obligee's administrator, who in his latter capacity may sue the obligor's heir for sums that he could not in his former capacity use for the obligee's support.

The administrator of the obligor on a bond for support being ordered to retain a sum in his hands for such support unless a bond was given to expend it for that purpose, the guardian of the obligor's heir gave bond, and the sum was so expended, proving insufficient. The administrator and various creditors of the obligee thereupon brought a bill in equity against the heir and the guardian to reach and apply the obligor's real estate in payment of their claims. *Held*, on demurrer, that the administrator's remedy was by an action at law on the bond, and that of the creditors, if any, by charging the heir as trustee in a proceeding against the administrator. *Held, also*, that the misjoinder was a formal defect that might be cured by amendment.

BILL IN EQUITY, by the administrator and various creditors of Ruth Holbrook, against the sole heir of Joel Holbrook, and her guardian, to reach and apply to the payment of their claims certain real estate conveyed to Joel Holbrook upon his giving a bond conditioned to provide "all things necessary" for the "convenience, comfort, and necessity" of Ruth Holbrook so long as she might live. The defendant demurred to the bill for want of equity. At the hearing in the Superior Court the

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demurrer was sustained and the bill dismissed; and the plaintiffs appealed to this court. The facts appear in the opinion.

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J. V. Beal, for the defendants.

N. C. Berry, for the plaintiffs.

HOLMES, J. Joel Holbrook executed a bond to his mother, Ruth, conditioned for her support, and afterwards died in her lifetime. Lemuel Clark was appointed his administrator, and on Ruth's petition was ordered to retain the money remaining in his hands, namely, $710.45, for her support, unless bond was given to expend the same in support of her if necessary. Lydia Holbrook, guardian of Joel's only child, Flora, thereupon gave bond. The sum was expended for the purpose mentioned, but was not sufficient. Ruth died, Clark was appointed her administrator, and the question which is intended to be presented, and which counsel desire us to consider, is whether, as such administrator, he can reach the real estate of Joel in a suit against Joel's heir.

The fact that Clark, when appointed administrator of Ruth, the obligee, was already the administrator of Joel, the obligor, did not extinguish the bond, nor prevent a suit by Clark against Joel's heir for whatever sums Clark could not have appropriated to Ruth's support as Joel's administrator. Y. B. 12 Hen. IV. 21, pl. 11. *Woodward* v. *Darcy*, Plowd. 184, 185. *Wankford* v. *Wankford*, 1 Salk. 299, 304. See *Cock* v. *Cross*, 2 Lev. 73; *S. C.* 3 Keb. 116, and 1 Freem. 49.

We are of opinion that Clark's right to proceed against Joel's heir was not extinguished by what took place in the Probate Court. Assuming that § 8 of the Gen. Sts. c. 97, (Pub. Sts. c. 136, § 13,) applies to such a case as this, that section looks to the executor's retaining assets already in his hands. It does not contemplate the court's ordering him to sell real estate to meet the liability when it shall accrue. Still less does it contemplate such a sale to meet the chance of a liability which may never be incurred. Therefore it is not intended to bar a resort to the real estate in case the personal estate is retained and exhausted.

Turning to the sections which regulate the liability of heirs, the right to recover against them is given by the Gen. Sts. c. 101, § 32, to "a creditor whose right of action accrues after

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the expiration of said time of limitation, and whose claim has not been presented to the Probate Court, or if presented has not been allowed." (§ 27 of the Pub. Sts. c. 136, reads "whose claim could not legally be presented." *Pratt* v. *Lamson*, 128 Mass. 528.) It is plain that a claim which could not be allowed or provided for in full, as it turns out, for the reasons which we have mentioned, is within the spirit, if not within the letter, of this section, and it is within the letter of § 31 (Pub. Sts. c. 136, § 26), which expresses the general intent of the following provisions. By that section the heirs "shall be liable, in the manner provided in the following sections, for all debts which could not have been sued for against the executor or administrator, and for which provision is not made in chapter ninety-seven," which we have just considered.

Whatever might have been the effect if a bond had been given for the payment of the demand, as provided in Gen. Sts. c. 97, § 8, in this case, according to the bill, the bond was only to expend the $710.45 for Ruth's support. That has been done, the condition of the bond has been satisfied, and whether or not a claim the existence of which is contingent on the claimant's remaining alive is within the provisions of § 8, and whether, if that section applied, it was followed or not by giving such a bond as is alleged to have been given, the parties now stand exactly as if no bond had been given, and the money had been retained and spent.

There are some defects in the proceedings which will make it necessary to sustain the demurrer; but as they seem to be only formal, they may be cured by amendment. The plaintiffs and their several causes of action are improperly joined; and Clark, the principal plaintiff, has no standing in equity. Clark's claim is a right to sue at law upon the bond. The liability of heirs is now governed wholly by statute. *Grow* v. *Dobbins*, 128 Mass. 271. *Grow* v. *Dobbins*, 124 Mass. 560. *Hall* v. *Bumstead*, 20 Pick. 2. *Royce* v. *Burrill*, 12 Mass. 395. But, as at common law, it is a liability upon the contract of their ancestor. *Valentine* v. *Farnsworth*, 21 Pick. 176. *Russ* v. *Alpaugh*, 118 Mass. 369, 379. Gen. Sts. c. 101, §§ 31 *et seq.* Pub. Sts. c. 136, §§ 26 *et seq.* See *Norcross* v. *James*, 140 Mass. 188, 189. In this case there is only one person liable for the debt, and there-

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fore the jurisdiction in equity given by the Gen. Sts. c. 101, § 34, (Pub. Sts. c. 136, § 29,) does not exist. On the other hand, the other plaintiffs have no right of action on the bond, or otherwise directly against the heir. Their only rights, if any, are severally to charge the heir as trustee in a proceeding against Clark.

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Again, Clark's right is only to recover the amount reasonably necessary for the "convenience, comfort, and necessity" of Ruth so long as she lived, in excess of what has been paid by Joel's estate. The bill does not allege in terms that any sum above what was paid was necessary. The debts incurred by Ruth, and alleged to be due, may or may not be evidence of the amount necessary for her support, but they are nothing more.

Demurrer sustained.

GEORGE M. BAKER *vs.* JOSEPH D. BROWN & others.
MOSES E. ROWE *vs.* SAME.

Middlesex. February 1, 2, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Will — Married Woman — Husband — Support — Creditor — Equitable Attachment.

A married woman, alleged to be possessed of realty "of the value of $10,000 and other real and personal property of a value to the plaintiff unknown," by her will, gave pecuniary legacies amounting to $2,100 to two married daughters and to her son, who was her executor, and, after expressing a desire that her husband should be supported out of her property, left the residue of her estate to two adult unmarried daughters subject to the condition that they "support their father during his life." *Held*, that the husband had no interest under the will which a creditor could reach by a bill in equity under the Pub. Sts. c. 151, § 1, cl. 11.

TWO BILLS IN EQUITY, under the Pub. Sts. c. 151, § 1, cl. 11, to reach and apply, in payment of debts due to the plaintiffs from Joseph D. Brown, his interest in the residue of the estate of his wife, Lucy R. Brown. The bills alleged the following facts.

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The plaintiff in the first case recovered judgment against Joseph D. Brown, on October 17, 1884, for the sum of $545.39, damages and costs, no part of which had been paid; and the plaintiff in the second case recovered judgment against him on June 26, 1882, for $160.45, damages and costs, of which only $8.72 had been paid.

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Lucy R. Brown, who was seised of real estate in this Commonwealth "of the value of $10,000 and other real and personal property of a value to the plaintiffs unknown," died on March 24, 1886, leaving a will, which was duly admitted to probate, and which, with the exception of parts merely formal, was as follows:

"I give to my daughters Lucy R. Vialle and Elizabeth Worthley $1,000 each. I give to my son Joseph D. Brown, Jr., one hundred dollars. It is my desire that my husband should have his support out of my property during his life; therefore all the rest residue, and remainder of my estate both real and personal, after the payment of my just debts, funeral charges, and the legacies before named, which are to be paid within six months after my decease, I give and devise to my daughters Abby Brown and Mary Brown, and their heirs and assigns forever, subject to the condition that they support their father during his life. I hereby nominate my son Joseph D. Brown, Jr., to be the executor of this my last will and testament; as witness my hand and seal this 12th day of June, A.D. 1883."

Abby Brown and Mary Brown "accepted the above recited devise and bequest of Lucy R. Brown," and "Joseph D. Brown, under and by virtue of the said will, became entitled to a property right, title, or interest, legal or equitable, in the property and estate of said Lucy R. Brown, which cannot be come at to be attached or taken on execution in a suit at law against said judgment debtor."

The prayer of each bill was that Abby Brown and Mary Brown might be restrained from alienating the interest of Joseph D. Brown; that they might be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs sums equivalent to his support during his lifetime and until the debts were paid; and for general relief.

The defendants, Joseph D. Brown, Abby Brown, and Mary Brown, demurred to the bills for want of equity, and on the ground that Joseph D. Brown had no interest in his wife's

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estate that could be applied to the payment of the plaintiffs' debts; and the remaining defendant, Joseph D. Brown, Jr., demurred to the bills for want of equity, and because he was not a proper party. At the hearing before a single justice, the demurrers were sustained and the bills dismissed; and the plaintiffs appealed to the full court.

Samuel Hoar, for the defendants.

E. G. Loomis, for the plaintiffs.

C. ALLEN, J. It was decided in *Broadway National Bank* v. *Adams*, 133 Mass. 170, that the founder of a trust may secure the income of it to the object of his bounty, by providing that it shall not be alienable by him, or be subject to be taken by his creditors. Such provision need not be in express terms, but it is sufficient if the intention is clearly to be gathered from the instrument, when construed in the light of the circumstances. The only question in the present case is, whether enough appears to show such intention.

The existing circumstances are not so fully disclosed as might be wished, but it appears that the testatrix was a married woman, possessed of real estate in this Commonwealth of the value of ten thousand dollars; the averment of other property is too vague to be considered as of any significance; and in her will she expressed her desire that her husband should have his support out of her property during his life, and therefore, after giving $2,100 in pecuniary legacies to other persons, she gave all the residue of her estate to two daughters, subject to the condition that they should support their father during his life. In one of the two cases now before us, it appears that the plaintiff recovered a judgment against the husband for about $160, a year before the will was executed, on which less than nine dollars had been paid; in the other case, it does not appear when the plaintiff's claim accrued. There is no averment in either case that the real estate was income producing, or that the husband had any property, income, business, or means of support, except from his daughters.

In the absence of anything to show the contrary, it may fairly be inferred that the daughters upon whom this duty of supporting their father was cast were of age, and that they were unmarried and lived with their parents. They retained their maiden names. There is nothing to show how much the estate would be dimin-

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ished by the debts which are referred to in the will, and by the funeral charges and expenses of administration. The residue must necessarily be quite moderate in amount. The will does not provide that the income of this residue shall be paid to the beneficiary, or devoted in whole to his use; there is no provision for the payment of any money at all to him; but his daughters are to support him. His age is not given, but he had five children, two married daughters, a son old enough to be appointed executor of the will, and the two daughters to whom the residue was given. In the absence of any averment to the contrary, it is a fair inference that he was pretty well along in years, poor, and dependent upon the support to be furnished by his daughters. There was probably some good reason why no bequest was made directly to him; it may have been his age, infirmity, incapacity, condition of indebtedness, or other reason not disclosed. It is sufficiently apparent that the testatrix intended that the trust imposed upon her daughters should be discharged by them personally, by furnishing to their father from time to time food, clothing, fuel, shelter, medicines, care, and nursing, as he might need them, and probably this support was to be furnished on the premises where they all lived. Assuming it to be true that they lived in a house owned by the testatrix, the case would be stronger for implying that the support was, in their option, to be there furnished, than in *Parker* v. *Parker*, 126 Mass. 433, or *Dwelley* v. *Dwelley*, 143 Mass. 509, in both of which cases it was held that the beneficiary had no right to demand a support elsewhere.

Clearly, the beneficiary has no right to the income of the devised estate, which he can control, but, to use the language of Lord Hatherley, the trustees are to apply the same, "with their own hands, as it were," to the use of their father. *Chambers* v. *Smith*, 3 App. Cas. 795. The amount to be devoted to his support, and the manner of applying it, by continuing or receiving him as a member of their own household, by personal care and attention to his wants, or otherwise, rest wholly in their discretion, so long as they do not abuse their trust. Under this state of things, a court of equity will not put a valuation upon his necessary support, and order his daughters to pay it over to creditors, leaving him, it may be, to be supported by

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charity or by the town. A creditor's claim is not so high as that. *Broadway National Bank* v. *Adams*, *ubi supra*, and cases there cited. See also *Thackara* v. *Mintzer*, 100 Penn. St. 151; *Steib* v. *Whitehead*, 111 Ill. 247; *Lampert* v. *Haydel*, 20 Mo. App. 616; *Chambers* v. *Smith*, 3 App. Cas. 795, 806, 807, 811, 812. *Bills dismissed.*

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JOSIAH G. BRIDGE, executor, *vs.* PHILINDA BRIDGE.

Middlesex. February 2, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Will — Annuity — Capital and Income — Executor — Probate Court — Appeal — Master.

A testator gave to his wife an annuity of $400, "if the income of my estate not herein bequeathed to her or to the payment of said debts and funeral expenses shall amount to that sum," and left her the use of "the house in which we now live" for life, but requested his executor to furnish her with a suitable house elsewhere if she desired. The widow continued to live in the house, and the executor deducted from the gross income, applicable to the payment of the annuity, the amount paid out for repairs, taxes, water rates, insurance, and interest on a mortgage on the house. *Held*, on an appeal from a decree of the Probate Court allowing the executor's account, that the annuity was to be paid out of net income, and that the deductions were rightly made.

General expenses of administration incurred for the benefit of the whole estate are chargeable to capital, and not to income.

If a master on such an appeal declines to revise the compensation allowed to the executor, his report will be recommitted if the appellant so desires.

A stable in the rear of the house occupied by the testator, which was used by him in connection with it, was let by the executor, and the widow claimed the rent. The master did not set forth very clearly the connection between the house and the stable, nor whether he excluded the claim because the words "house in which we now live" could not include a stable, or on a finding that it was not so connected with the house as to pass with it. *Held*, that the testator's use did not necessarily establish that the quoted words included the stable, and that it could not be said that the master was wrong.

APPEAL, by Philinda Bridge, from a decree of the Probate Court, allowing the accounts of the surviving executor of the will of her husband, Abel E. Bridge. The will contained the following provisions, which alone are material:

"I give and bequeath to my wife Philinda four hundred dol-

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lars a year during her natural life if the income of my estate not herein bequeathed to her or to the payment of said debts and funeral expenses shall amount to that sum.

"I give and bequeath to my said wife Philinda the use of the house in which we now live to be occupied by her during her natural life unless she shall otherwise elect. If she should desire to live elsewhere I request my executors to furnish her a dwelling-house such as will be suitable to her welfare and comfort. . . .

"I hereby direct my said executors to use any income of my said estate and any accumulation of personal property in their hands in excess of the legacies and provisions hereinbefore made in paying and cancelling the mortgages so long as any exist, on my real estate. When my said wife Philinda shall have deceased I authorize my said executors and empower them to sell and convey by public or private sale the part of my said real estate then remaining unsold whenever after said decease of my wife such sale can be made to advantage. And I direct my said executors on and after the decease of my said wife to pay to my son Josiah G. Bridge the income of one third of my entire estate then remaining till such time as such one third part can be set off or paid to him which I direct to be done as soon after the death of my wife as may be.

"Out of the balance of said estate after my son Josiah has received one third thereof as above provided I direct that two thousand dollars shall be held in trust by my said executors and so invested as to draw a reasonable and safe income which I direct my said executors to pay yearly to my daughter Emily, and that one thousand dollars out of said balance be similarly invested and the income thereof paid yearly to my daughter Vesta by said executors and trustees thereof hereby duly appointed for the purpose. . . .

"At the death of my said wife, excepting said trusts and said provision for the heirs of said Emily, all the rest and residue of said estate I give and bequeath to my son Josiah G. and to his heirs.

"I also hereby make and create the said Josiah G. Bridge and the said Thomas B. Harris trustees of that part of said estate not herein disposed of by legacies, during the life of my wife

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Philinda, so far as it may be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this will."

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The case was referred to a master, who reported, in substance, that Philinda Bridge continued to live after the death of the testator in the same part of a double house, owned by him, which they had previously occupied; that the executor, before paying to her the $400 a year given her by the will, deducted from the gross income of the estate, and was allowed in his account, amounts paid out for repairs, taxes, water rates, insurance, and interest on a mortgage on the house; that the executor further deducted from the gross income, and was allowed in his account, the charges for the settlement of the estate, his commissions on collections, his attendance at court, and disbursements to counsel; and that from the net income thus produced the executor paid to the widow a sum less than $400 a year.

The master also stated in his report, that the appellant contended that the executor had charged the estate with commissions upon money collected from himself, and for his services in settling the estate, for attendance upon court, and for payments to counsel, which should not have been allowed; but "these matters seem to me so much within the better knowledge and discretion of the judge of the Probate Court that I decline to revise them."

The report of the master then proceeded as follows: "The appellant further claims, that, by the above quoted clause of the will which gives her the use of the house, she is entitled to the use of the stable within its curtilage. This stable, with an annexed hennery, is in the rear of the block of two houses, of which one is the same mentioned in the will, for the widow. It was used by the testator, from the time of its erection to the date of his death, in connection with the house occupied by himself and the appellant. The houses front on Alder Street and the stable fronts on Beach Street, the house occupied by the appellant being the one at the corner of the two streets; the space between the rear entrance of this house and the stable and Beach Street is concreted. The other house has always been occupied by a tenant, and its lot has no entrance to the stable. The two houses have no entrance in common, and their respective grounds are separated by a high, close fence, which runs to the stable.

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The lot on which the buildings stand extends about one hundred feet on Alder Street and one hundred and thirty feet on Beach Street. The executor has rented the stable, and during the time covered by his accounts has collected therefor two hundred and eleven and fifty one-hundredths dollars ($211.50). This amount the appellant claims should have been paid to her. As I do not consider that the devise of the use of the house carries with it the use of the stable, I disallowed this claim of the appellant."

The master further reported, that the net income as found by the Probate Court should be revised by adding thereto the deductions made by the executor out of the gross income, and that the executor should pay to the appellant the balance due to her upon her annuity.

Hearing upon the master's report, and exceptions of both parties thereto, before a single justice, who ordered the decree of the Probate Court to be affirmed, and the case to be recommitted; and this appeal was taken to the full court.

E. A. Alger, for the executor.

C. Abbott, for the appellant.

HOLMES, J. This is an appeal by the widow of Abel E. Bridge from a decree of the Probate Court allowing the accounts of her husband's executor.

1. The first question arises under the following clause of the will: "I give and bequeath to my wife Philinda four hundred dollars a year during her natural life if the income of my estate not herein bequeathed to her or to the payment of said debts and funeral expenses shall amount to that sum." The testator also gives her the use of his house for life, or, if she should desire to live elsewhere, requests his executor to furnish her a suitable house. She has continued to live in his house, and the executor deducts from the gross income applicable to payment of the four hundred dollars the amount paid out for repairs, taxes, water rates, insurance, and interest on a mortgage on the house. This is plainly right; the gift is of four hundred dollars a year, if the net income amounts to that sum. The charges mentioned all fall on income, not on capital, unless the will directs otherwise. *Watts* v. *Howard*, 7 Met. 478, 482. *Parsons* v. *Winslow*, 16 Mass. 361, 368. *Sohier* v. *Eldredge*, 103 Mass. 345, 354. *Plympton* v. *Boston Dispensary*, 106 Mass. 544, 547. We see nothing in this

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will to indicate that the usual rule is not to be applied. The case is not like *Smith* v. *Fellows*, 131 Mass. 20, where a gift of "one thousand dollars per year during her lifetime, the same to be paid from the income of my property," was held to be an absolute gift of the sum named, payable out of principal if necessary, and therefore payable out of gross income. The gift here is payable only from income, and the income available must be ascertained in the ordinary way.

2. The general expenses of administration should fall upon the corpus of the estate, as they are incurred for the benefit of the whole estate. See *Sawyer* v. *Baldwin*, 20 Pick. 378, 388; *Brown* v. *Kelsey*, 2 Cush. 243, 249. The decree of the Probate Court erred in charging them to income.

3. There is no doubt that, where an executor's final account comes to this court by appeal, the compensation allowed him is subject to revision, as well as the other items. *Blake* v. *Pegram*, 109 Mass. 541. Pub. Sts. c. 144, § 7; c. 156, §§ 5, 6, 17. The master having declined to revise this matter, the report must be recommitted if the appellant desires, upon this single point. If it be true, which does not appear, that a commission is allowed the executor for collecting his own debt, the allowance is improper. But possibly, if such an allowance was made, it was considered in determining the other compensation allowed, and it may be thought proper to increase that by a corresponding amount, leaving the total compensation the same. There is nothing in the facts now appearing to indicate that the allowances for attending court and for counsel fees were improper. Pub. Sts. c. 144, § 7. *Edwards* v. *Ela*, 5 Allen, 87. *Forward* v. *Forward*, 6 Allen, 494. *Blake* v. *Pegram*, *ubi supra*. *Turnbull* v. *Pomeroy*, 140 Mass. 117, 118.

4. There is a stable in the rear of the house occupied by the testator, which was used by the testator in connection with the house. The executor has let it and the appellant claims the rent. The mode of use in the testator's lifetime does not necessarily establish that the stable is included in the words "house in which we now live." 2 Wms. Saund. 401, n. 2. The connection between the house and stable is not set forth very clearly, nor does it appear very clearly whether the master excluded the allowance of the rent for the stable on the ground that, as matter

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of construction, the words could not include a stable, or on a finding that the stable was not so connected with the house as to pass with it. On the facts appearing, we cannot say that the master and judge of probate were wrong. It is unnecessary to consider whether in any case the widow would have had any other right than personally to occupy the stable if so minded.

Decree accordingly.

ELIAS HAM *vs.* THOMAS KERWIN.

Suffolk. February 2, 1888. — March 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Promissory Note — Signature — Special Denial — Amendment — Exceptions.

The special denial of the genuineness of the signature to a written instrument, required by the Pub. Sts. c. 167, § 21, if imperfect, is amendable within the judicial discretion, to which no exception lies.

CONTRACT upon a promissory note purporting to be signed by the defendant. The defendant's testatrix, who was admitted to prosecute the action, filed an answer, which, after a general denial, proceeded as follows: "And further answering, defendant denies the genuineness of the signature to the note declared on, and says that if any such note was made, and she denies that any such note was made by the testator during his lifetime, the same has been paid in full."

At the trial in the Superior Court, *Blodgett*, J., ruled that the answer was not sufficient, under the Pub. Sts. c. 167, § 21, to require the plaintiff to prove the genuineness of the signature, and the defendant thereupon moved to amend the answer so that it should read, the defendant "denies the genuineness of the signature thereof, and demands that it shall be proved at the trial." The plaintiff asked the judge to rule, as matter of law, that the amendment could not be allowed; but the judge declined so to rule, and allowed the amendment.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

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J. F. Wiggin & B. M. Fernald, for the plaintiff.
P. B. Kiernan, for the defendant.

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MORTON, C. J. Our statutes of amendments are very broad in their spirit and scope, allowing amendments at any time before judgment in a civil suit, in any matter either of form or substance, in any process, pleading, or proceeding in the suit which may enable the plaintiff to sustain the action or the defendant to make a legal defence. Pub. Sts. c. 167, §§ 41–44.

The special denial of the genuineness of the signature to a written instrument declared on, required by the Pub. Sts. c. 167, § 21, if not in strictness a part of the pleadings, is an important proceeding in the case. It is to be filed "within the time allowed for an answer," which by leave of court may be at any time before trial. It falls within the letter and the spirit of the statute, and if the special denial is imperfect we can have no doubt that it is within the power of the court to allow an amendment to the same extent that it might allow an amendment to an answer, and upon such terms as it deems reasonable. Such an amendment is within the discretion of the court, and no exception lies to the exercise of this discretion.

Exceptions overruled.

CATHERINE MAGUIRE, administratrix, *vs.* FITCHBURG RAILROAD COMPANY.

Suffolk. January 17, 1888. — March 5, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Railroad — Loss of Life — Negligence — Due Care — Evidence.

A laborer employed in a grain elevator, while assisting in unloading a railroad car, the brakes of which were set, was killed by other cars coming violently against it and forcing it from its position. In an action against the railroad, under the Pub. Sts. c. 112, § 212, it appeared that the car stood upon a single track, and filled, with the exception of eight inches, all the space between a platform and the side wall of the building; that the grain was being shovelled into hoppers under this platform; that it had been a part of the laborer's duty to sweep the loose grain falling on or near the track into the hoppers; that just before the accident, being dismissed from another part of the work, he took a broom and

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disappeared; and that after the accident he was found dead near the track with the broom. *Held*, that the jury might infer that he was in the exercise of due care when the accident occurred. *Held, also*, that evidence of his sweeping loose grain into the hoppers on former occasions was admissible to show the character of his employment.

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TORT by the administratrix of the estate of Daniel Maguire, for causing his death in the elevator of the Hoosac Tunnel Dock and Elevator Company, in Charlestown. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., who, after admitting certain evidence against the objection of the defendant, ruled, at its request, that there was no evidence that the intestate was in the exercise of due care at the time he was killed, and that the plaintiff could not recover, ordered a verdict for the defendant, and reported the case for the determination of this court. If the ruling was correct, or if the evidence was improperly admitted, judgment was to be entered upon the verdict; otherwise, a new trial was to be granted. The facts and evidence appear in the opinion.

H. W. Bragg and *J. A. Maxwell*, for the plaintiff.

G. A. Torrey, for the defendant, cited *Mayo* v. *Boston & Maine Railroad*, 104 Mass. 137; *Crafts* v. *Boston*, 109 Mass. 519; *Hinckley* v. *Cape Cod Railroad*, 120 Mass. 257; *French* v. *Taunton Branch Railroad*, 116 Mass. 537; *Corcoran* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 133 Mass. 507; *Riley* v. *Connecticut River Railroad*, 135 Mass. 292; *Blanchette* v. *Border City Manufacturing Co.* 143 Mass. 21; *Indiana, Bloomington & Western Railway* v. *Greene*, 106 Ind. 279; *Sorenson* v. *Menasha Paper Co.* 56 Wis. 338; *Wakelin* v. *London and South Western Railway*, 12 App. Cas. 41; *Chase* v. *Maine Central Railroad*, 77 Maine, 63; *State* v. *Maine Central Railroad*, 76 Maine, 357; *Starry* v. *Dubuque & S. W. Railroad*, 51 Iowa, 419; *State* v. *Philadelphia, Wilmington, & Baltimore Railroad*, 60 Md. 555; *State* v. *Baltimore & Ohio Railroad*, 58 Md. 221; *Curran* v. *Warren Chemical Co.* 36 N. Y. 153; *Cordell* v. *New York Central & Hudson River Railroad*, 75 N. Y. 330; *The Gladiolus*, 21 Fed. 417.

DEVENS, J. The only question presented by the case is whether any evidence was offered from which due and ordinary care could be inferred on the part of the plaintiff's intestate when the injury to him occurred. He was not the servant of the defendant, but of the Elevator Company, employed to per-

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form such duties as might be assigned to him, and "to make himself generally useful." As the evidence tended to show, he was engaged in the elevator building in assisting to unload grain from two cars, which had been brought in by the defendant, the brakes of which had been set and the cars thus rendered stationary. The defendant negligently, and without reasonable warning, while this operation was being performed, sent certain other cars into the building against the stationary cars with such violence as to force them a considerable distance from their position. Immediately afterwards the plaintiff's intestate was found dead, lying across one rail of the track. The track upon which the stationary cars thus being discharged stood was a single one, laid down between a platform (covering hoppers into which the grain was shovelled from the cars) and the brick wall on the other side of the building. The cars occupied the whole space between this platform and the wall, except about eight inches on either side. During the operation of unloading, it was common for grain to fall from the cars outside the hoppers, and upon or near the track, and grain had so fallen at this time. It was the custom to sweep the grain which had thus fallen into the hoppers. It was a part of Maguire's duty, with that of the other men, to do this, and at other times he had been thus engaged.

A few minutes before the accident, he had been seen standing on the platform, attending to the regulation of feed from the hopper to the elevator belt, by which the grain was raised to the bins in the upper story, which was done by means of a small wheel regulated by hand. The assistant to the second foreman testified that he had "told him that would be enough, to leave it," and did not know where Maguire then went to. "I went to the other hopper," the witness continued, "and heard my second foreman sing out, and the cars came then just as quick as anything; the men did not get time to let go of anything when the noise was made." The assistant foreman testified: "When the cars came in, I was standing on the platform, right at the door of the car where the men were working. I did not see Maguire at that particular time. I was talking with him about two minutes before that. I don't know where he went; he had a broom in his hand; he disappeared, and I don't know

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where he went." There was therefore evidence that, after having been dismissed at the wheel, he had taken his broom for the purpose of using it, and had used it on the platform. At the precise time of the accident he was seen by no one, and when he "disappeared," as stated by the assistant foreman, it was not shown that he had stepped down on to the track, but he was there found with his broom when the accident was over.

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While due care must be shown by a plaintiff in order that it may be seen that an injury to him was not occasioned by any contributory negligence on his part, it is not necessary that any positive act of care shall be proved. It may be inferred from mere absence of fault, when sufficient circumstances are shown fairly to exclude the idea of negligence on his part. If a person is in the place where he may rightfully be engaged in duties which he may properly there perform, under circumstances which do not require the exercise of especial caution on his part against the acts or the negligence of others, he is in the exercise of due care. A passenger sitting quietly in his seat in a railroad car is, so far as relates to the management of the train, in the exercise of due care. When laborers are set to work upon a railroad track upon the assurance, express or implied, that the use of such track is suspended, they are not guilty of negligence if they continue their work without constantly watching for coming trains.

In the case at bar the cars were in a building not belonging to the defendant, and were fixed there for the purpose of being unloaded. The laborers had a right to conduct that work as it was usually done, without watching constantly lest a train should suddenly be driven in, and upon the assumption that proper notice would be given of an incoming train. If after the collision the body of one of the men standing upon the cars and engaged in shovelling the grain had been found upon the ground, as if thrown down, there would have been sufficient evidence of due care from his employment when the collision took place.

The presence of the deceased on the track with his broom, as shown by the discovery of his body there, affords evidence that he was there for the purpose of sweeping. Whether he had actually begun or not is not important, if he was there for the

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purpose of commencing as soon as practicable. He had been dismissed elsewhere, and the sweeping the track was in the line of his duty. He was not bound any more than the shovellers to watch for approaching trains, but had a right to believe that the laborers upon the cars, or engaged in removing the loose grain, would not be disturbed without proper notice. The jury might well have believed that he was on the track in the performance of his duty, and in the exercise of all the care to be expected of a prudent man. If rightfully in the place of danger, it is not contended that he had any opportunity to escape.

The case is quite distinguishable from those cases where it has been held that the disclosure of the facts has been so limited that there could be no fair inference that a plaintiff was in the exercise of due care, or that the evidence was equally consistent with care or negligence on his part. If the only negligence of which deceased could have been guilty must have been that he was on the track with no rightful purpose, or under such circumstances that a prudent man would not have been there, and if the evidence and the inferences to be drawn from it tend to show affirmatively otherwise, the issue of due care may be sustained.

Without undertaking to examine in detail the numerous cases cited by the defendant, that upon which it principally relies is *Hinckley* v. *Cape Cod Railroad*, 120 Mass. 257. But that case does not sustain the defendant's contention. It was one where evidence was necessary in order to show what was the conduct of the party injured in regard to circumstances especially requiring care on his part. Without this it could not be determined whether he was or was not in the exercise of due care, and no such evidence was offered. It was said not to differ substantially from a case where the party injured might have been found lying on the ground, having been knocked down by a passing car on the railroad track, there being no evidence as to what his own conduct had been. Hinckley, who attempted to cross a side railway track in order to reach the station on the other side, as he approached a place known as Murphy's Corner, on his way thus to cross, had a view of the railway track for one hundred and fifty feet, and as he reached the track it could have been seen by him for the distance of half a mile. One Basset, who

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was some fifteen or twenty feet behind him, stopped at Murphy's Corner, and saw the car which subsequently struck Hinckley detached from the train on the main line. He called to Hinckley, but was probably not heard on account of the wind. It did not appear that Hinckley, either at Murphy's Corner, at any intermediate point, or when near the track and about to cross, exercised the precaution of looking to see whether anything was approaching. No circumstances were shown which would justify him in neglecting the usual and necessary precautions of those who are about to cross a railroad track upon which a train or a car might be approaching. In the utter absence of evidence as to what Hinckley did after the time when his conduct became a matter of importance, it was impossible to infer that he had exercised the care and circumspection properly to be demanded of him.

The case at bar differs from that class of cases in which it is necessary to show some positive act on the part of the plaintiff in order to prove that he was in the exercise of due care. The plaintiff's intestate had a right to believe, if engaged in any labor connected immediately with unloading the cars, that he would not be interfered with by a reckless incursion of the trains of the defendant. We are therefore of opinion that the inquiry whether the plaintiff's intestate was in the exercise of due care should have been submitted to the jury.

The evidence objected to by the defendant and received by the learned judge, that at other times the deceased had swept up the loose grain, was competent as showing the character of his employment. *New trial ordered.*

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AMERICAN CARPET LINING COMPANY *vs.* GEORGE W. CHIPMAN.

Suffolk. January 31, 1888. — March 5, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Equity Practice — Insolvent Debtor — Affidavit — Assignment.

If a suit in equity is heard on the bill and answer, the allegations of the answer must be taken as true where they conflict with those of the bill.

A petition for a warrant in insolvency against the estate of a debtor may be brought and sworn to by the assignor of a judgment against him, at the request and for the benefit of his assignee.

Under the Pub. Sts. c. 157, § 112, requiring a petition by a creditor for a warrant to seize the estate of an insolvent debtor to be "verified by oath," an affidavit that the allegations in the petition are true according to the best of the knowledge and belief of the affiant, is sufficient.

BILL IN EQUITY, under the Pub. Sts. c. 157, § 15, to vacate proceedings in insolvency instituted against the plaintiff upon the petition of the defendant.

The bill alleged, in substance, that a petition for a warrant in insolvency to seize the estate of the plaintiff was signed by the defendant and filed by him in the Court of Insolvency; that the petition set forth that the defendant, "who brings this petition for the use and benefit of Edward H. Bailey," was a creditor of the plaintiff, and was verified by the following affidavit, sworn to before a justice of the peace: "Personally appeared the above-named George W. Chipman, and made oath that the allegations contained in the foregoing petition are true, according to the best of his knowledge and belief"; that the defendant at the hearing in the Court of Insolvency, in order to establish his right to bring the petition, offered evidence tending to prove that he had recovered against the plaintiff a judgment, which on July 17, 1886, he had sold and assigned, by a deed of assignment in writing, to Bailey; that at such hearing "it was not claimed, and there was no evidence offered tending to prove, that the said Bailey had authorized or empowered the said Chipman to institute proceedings in insolvency against the American Carpet Lining Company, or that the said Chipman had any right or interest in the said judgment debt, or any part thereof, at any time

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after the said assignment was made as aforesaid, but it was admitted that the said Bailey was, at the time of bringing said petition and at the time of the hearing, the sole owner of said judgment debt"; that the Court of Insolvency ordered a warrant to issue against the plaintiff; and that the Court of Insolvency erred in deciding that a warrant should issue: "1. Because the said George W. Chipman was not a creditor of the American Carpet Lining Company. 2. Because said petition was not brought or signed by any creditor of the American Carpet Lining Company, either personally or by an attorney thereto duly authorized. 3. Because it did not appear that said Chipman was authorized or empowered by E. H. Bailey, who was assignee of the judgment debt, to institute proceedings in insolvency against the American Carpet Lining Company. 4. Because the said Bailey was the sole owner of the judgment debt upon which said insolvency proceedings were instituted at the time said proceedings were instituted, and was the only person legally entitled to institute proceedings in insolvency against the American Carpet Lining Company founded upon said judgment debt. 5. Because the petition in said insolvency proceedings was not verified by oath in the manner and form required by law."

The answer, so far as material, was as follows: "This defendant says that he, on the seventeenth day of July, 1886, assigned the judgment set forth in said petition to Edward H. Bailey, of New York City, authorizing him to enforce the collection of said judgment in my name, and as my attorney thereunto duly authorized, but for his own use; that the said Bailey employed Francis S. Hesseltine, counsellor at law, to institute proceedings against the plaintiff corporation in the Court of Insolvency for the county of Suffolk; and that this defendant, at the request of said Hesseltine as attorney of said Bailey, and on his advice that it was his duty by virtue of his assignment so to do, read, signed, and made oath to the said petition in insolvency; and the said petition was filed, not by this defendant, as alleged by the bill, but by said Hesseltine acting as counsel for said Bailey. That this defendant knows nothing of his own knowledge as to what proceedings took place in the Court of Insolvency upon the hearing upon said petition; that he is informed that Mr. Hesseltine, as attorney of Mr. Bailey, claimed in said court, and

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his claim was not called in question, that he was there proceeding in the name of George W. Chipman, judgment creditor, in behalf of said Mr. Bailey, and as his counsel, and that full and sufficient evidence was offered to support all the allegations in said petition; and that the court, after hearing all the evidence in the case, ordered the warrant to issue. That the said petition, and the oath to the same, was upon a blank form adopted and furnished by the said Court of Insolvency, and was in accordance with the practice of said court."

Hearing upon the bill and answer before *Field*, J., who ordered the bill to be dismissed; and the plaintiff appealed to the full court.

J. G. Abbott, for the plaintiff.

F. S. Hesseltine, for the defendant.

DEVENS, J. The case having been heard upon bill and answer, the allegations of the answer must be taken as true where they are in conflict with those of the bill. *Perkins* v. *Nichols*, 11 Allen, 542. From these it appears that Chipman, who had recovered a judgment against the petitioner, had assigned the same to one Bailey, with full authority to collect it in Chipman's name and as his attorney; that proceedings in insolvency against the plaintiff were instituted by Bailey, acting through his attorney, Francis S. Hesseltine, who was instructed to institute such proceedings; that the defendant, being advised that it was his duty so to do, read, signed, and made oath to the petition; and that the petition, which purported on its face to be for the use and benefit of Bailey, was not filed by the defendant, but by Bailey acting through his attorney. As to what took place at the hearing upon the petition in the Court of Insolvency the defendant avers that he knows nothing, but "is informed that Mr. Hesseltine, as attorney of Mr. Bailey, claimed in said court, and his claim was not called in question, that he was there proceeding in the name of George W. Chipman, judgment creditor, in behalf of said Bailey, and as his counsel, and that full and sufficient evidence was offered to support all the allegations in said petition." This certainly does not deny in clear terms the statement of the bill, that no evidence was offered at the hearing on the petition that Bailey had authorized or empowered Chipman to institute proceedings in insolvency against the plaintiff. It does not even

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aver the belief of the defendant of that of which he is informed. But if in fact the proceeding was instituted and conducted by Bailey through his attorney, Chipman acting only at his request as having the legal title to the judgment, and a warrant was issued on such a proceeding, whether proof of this was or was not made at the hearing, the warrant then issued should not be set aside, as it would be shown that the court actually had the jurisdiction which it exercised. That the proceeding was thus instituted and conducted appears clearly from the averments of the answer. Such a proceeding might be initiated by Bailey through Chipman. The legal title to the judgment debt was still in Chipman, and Bailey's interest was equitable only.

The general rule in Massachusetts is, that suits upon choses in action non-assignable in their character must be brought in the name of the assignor, but that the court will see that neither the rights of the assignee nor those of the defendant are prejudiced. *Clark* v. *Parker*, 4 Cush. 361. *Moore* v. *Coughlin*, 4 Allen, 335. *Goodrich* v. *Stevens*, 116 Mass. 170. *Moore* v. *Spiegel*, 143 Mass. 413. To this there are some statutory exceptions not necessary now to be noticed. Pub. Sts. c. 157, § 109. Whether Bailey might also have proceeded by a petition signed by himself, and setting forth the transfer to him of the judgment recovered by Chipman, it is not necessary now to decide.

The allegations of a petition, though on oath, are not evidence at the hearing. They form the ground for a notice to a debtor, and for a hearing of the case. While the statute requires that it shall be made by a creditor, it is settled that it may be made by his attorney. *O'Neil* v. *Glover*, 5 Gray, 144. On this principle, it certainly would seem that one having the legal title to a claim might properly bring such a petition at the request and for the benefit of his assignee; nor is the fact that Chipman has assigned his debt any reason why he may not make oath to its existence. The oath is to be construed in connection with the statement that the petition is for the benefit of Bailey, and alleges that it is made for the benefit of Bailey.

The plaintiff also urges that the original petition was not verified by oath, as required by law, the allegations therein being alleged to be true according to the petitioner's best knowledge and belief. This form of oath is obviously the only form that in

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many cases could be safely used, as the facts going to establish an act or acts of insolvency must often be numerous, complicated, and ascertained in various ways and from various sources. So far as we have been informed as to the practice in courts of insolvency, it has been in general use, and the forms provided by some at least of them contemplate that it will be adopted. The counsel attaches much importance to the words which declare that the petition shall contain a statement of the facts and the nature of the claim "verified by oath," and contends that these words can be satisfied only by a positive oath to the truth of the allegations, and that an oath "to the knowledge and belief" of an affiant in no way satisfies the requisitions of the statute. The St. of 1844, c. 178, § 9, providing for proceedings in involuntary insolvency, used the same phrase, and it was held in *O'Neil* v. *Glover*, *ubi supra*, after a full argument of the question, that an affidavit that the facts stated in a petition for a warrant in insolvency against a debtor are true, according to the best knowledge and belief of the party making it, was sufficient to justify the issuing of a warrant.

The cases in which it has been held that, where an affidavit must by statute have been made by some person described, who from the nature of his position had or should have had actual knowledge of the facts testified to, it was not sufficient that the verification should be according to the best knowledge and belief of the affiant, do not govern the case at bar. Thus, in *Taylor* v. *Wright*, 121 Ill. 455, cited by the plaintiff, it appears that by the statute of Illinois the purchaser of an estate sold for taxes, or his assignee, was required three months before the expiration of the two years limited for redemption to serve notice of his purchase upon the person in actual possession and occupancy of the land, if such person could be found in the county. If no such person could be found on diligent inquiry, publication of notice was to be made in some newspaper published in the county. It was then provided, "Every such purchaser or assignee, by himself or agent, shall, before he shall be entitled to a deed, make an affidavit of his having complied" with the previous provision, "stating particularly the facts," &c. It was held that such affidavit must state positively that it was made by the purchaser, his assignee, or his agent, and must also state as a

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fact that no one was in actual possession or occupancy of the land when the notice was served by publication, constructive possession or occupancy being contemplated by statute. It was further held, that, when the statement as to actual possession or occupancy was made upon belief only, the affidavit was not sufficient. It will be readily observed that in this case the affidavit was required to be made by a person who was not permitted to depend upon the information of others.

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The plaintiff relies much, also, upon the recent decision in *Hadley* v. *Watson*, 143 Mass. 27, as supporting his contention. For similar reasons this case is quite distinguishable from that at bar. Where a party seeks to control the certificate of a judge rendered under the sanction of his official oath, and to prove exceptions to alleged rulings made by him, which he declines to allow as not being in conformity with the truth, a corresponding directness of assertion to the contrary by affidavit is to be expected before the matter is to be investigated. Especially is this so when the facts are not complicated nor derived from various sources, nor dependent upon the intelligence or good faith of others, but, if they exist at all, must exist to the personal knowledge of the plaintiff himself or his counsel at the trial, and generally of both. There is no hardship in such a case in requiring that the affidavit which is intended to sustain his petition should be in positive terms. While the words used in regard to a petition to prove exceptions are the same as those used in reference to petitions by a creditor in involuntary proceedings in insolvency, they are applied to quite a different subject, and the construction to be given to them in either case must be that which is demanded by the connection in which they stand.

Bill dismissed.

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MASSACHUSETTS CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS *vs.* CATHERINE CALLAHAN & another.

Suffolk. January 9, 1888. — March 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Beneficiary Association — Statute — Beneficiary.

After the St. of 1882, c. 195, § 2, took effect, which enlarged the Pub. Sts. c. 115, § 8, so as to permit beneficiary associations to assist widows, orphans, "or other relatives of deceased members," an application for membership, designating the applicant's mother as a beneficiary, was accepted by an association whose constitution stated "its object" to be to make "suitable provision for the widow and the orphan." The member subsequently married, and his wife survived him. *Held*, that the designation of the beneficiary was binding upon the association, and was not revoked by the marriage.

BILL OF INTERPLEADER against Catherine Callahan and Hannah Keefe, to determine to whom a sum due upon the death of a member of a beneficiary association should be paid. Hearing before *Devens*, J., who reported the case for the consideration of the full court. The facts appear in the opinion.

J. P. J. Ward, for Catherine Callahan.

P. O'Loughlin, for Hannah Keefe.

DEVENS, J. The Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters is a beneficiary association, originally formed on July 30, 1879, under the St. of 1874, c. 375, as amended by the St. of 1877, c. 204 (Pub. Sts. c. 115). The directing and governing body of the organization or order consisted of what was termed a high court, which was composed of representatives from the subordinate courts to which the members of the order individually belonged. It is through the high court acting by means of requisitions on the subordinate courts that the sums payable on the decease of the members, respectively known as death benefits or endowments, are collected and paid. The association which brings this bill of interpleader concedes its liability, and avers its readiness to pay the sum of $1,000, which became due on the decease of John J. Callahan, to the person legally entitled thereto. John J. Callahan became a member of the order on June 10,

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1883, and remained in good standing until the day of his death, on February 24, 1886, having paid all assessments made upon him. In his application for membership, which was according to the form prepared by the association, he designated his mother, Catherine Callahan, as the person to whom the sum due as endowment should be paid in the event of his decease. John J. Callahan was not then married; he did not then or afterwards live with his mother, nor was she then or afterwards dependent upon or supported by him. He subsequently married Mary J. Callahan, who survived him, but who is now deceased. Hannah Keefe, who was the mother of Mary J. Callahan, has been appointed the administratrix of her estate. Mrs. Keefe is also the next of kin and sole heir of her daughter. The sum due from the association is claimed by Catherine Callahan under the designation made to her in the application for membership, which was never changed. It is also claimed by Hannah Keefe, (either as administratrix or next of kin, as the court shall deem most correct,) upon the ground that the designation of his mother as the beneficiary of the fund due on his decease could not legally have been made by John J. Callahan; and that under section 5, article 16, of the constitution of the subordinate courts, by which it is provided that "in case no direction has been made by a brother, either by will or entry in his application for membership, as to the disposal of his endowment, the trustees of the court of which he was a member may cause the same to be paid to the person or persons whom they may find entitled thereto," it should be held that Mary J. Callahan was the person entitled thereto.

Under the statutes of Massachusetts as they existed in 1879, when the corporation was originally formed, the only right which the association had to provide for or to accumulate a fund for the purpose of paying a sum upon the decease of its member was "for the purpose of assisting the widows, orphans, or other persons dependent upon deceased members." Pub. Sts. c. 115, § 8. This section was amended by the St. of 1882, c. 195, § 2, which provided that the fund thus authorized should be "for the purpose of assisting the widows, orphans or other relatives of deceased members, or any persons dependent upon deceased members." The association republished its constitution and

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by-laws in 1882, subsequent to the passage of the statute of 1882, with certain alterations made subsequent thereto, although the existence of that statute is not alluded to or noted. These changes had no reference to, nor were they occasioned by reason of, the larger powers with which the corporation was invested. They related to matters of detail only. It was under this constitution of 1882 that the association was conducting its business when John J. Callahan became a member, in 1883.

It is the contention of Mrs. Keefe, that although Catherine Callahan, as the relative of her son, might have been designated under the statute of 1882 as a beneficiary, yet this statute had never been adopted by the association. The statute required no formal adoption. It enlarged the powers of this and other similar beneficiary associations. When, after the passage of the statute of 1882, the association accepted the application of John J. Callahan and the designation which he might then lawfully make, it could not be said by it, or by any claimant, that it was exercising, and was only authorized to exercise, the more limited powers which it had under the earlier statute.

It is also contended, that by its constitution the association had so limited itself that it could not accept a designation of the mother. We have no occasion to consider whether a beneficiary association might not by its constitution so limit itself in its operations that its endowments should be only for the benefit of one or more classes of those whom it might lawfully entitle thereto, as for the widows only or orphans only of deceased members. We find no such intention manifested by this association. The argument on behalf of Mrs. Keefe is, that the constitution of 1882, under the title "Object," has the effect to limit the benefits of the association to two classes of persons only, widows and orphans. The "name and object" of the association are stated in a preamble to the constitution. It is declared that the object of the organization is to promote friendship, unity, and true Christian charity. It defines each, unity being defined as "unity in uniting together for mutual support, and in making suitable provision for the widow and the orphan." It would be a very forced construction to infer from this generality, that the association had thus excluded itself from making provision for those who were dependent on the deceased which

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it legally might make when the constitution was originally formed, or for his relatives which it might lawfully make when Callahan became a member. The constitution of 1879, which was the one originally made, and that of 1884, which was in force when Callahan died, are each prefaced by the same recital of "name and object," yet each constitution declares, in defining the duties and powers of the subordinate court, that the principal object of the association is to secure "to the dependents of its members" the sum of $1,000, payable on the death of such member. It is thus manifest, that under these two constitutions it could not have been intended to limit the benefits of this association to the widow and orphan, merely because they alone are mentioned in the declaration of its "name and object." In the constitution of 1882, in defining the powers of the subordinate courts, the phrase above quoted as to securing "to the dependents of its members" $1,000, is not used. Under that constitution, to hold that, because it had adopted as its preface a statement that among its purposes was a suitable provision for the widow and orphan, it could not provide for others, as "relatives" or "dependents," for whom the statute permits such association to provide, would not be a reasonable construction.

The deceased member had a right to designate as the beneficiary of the fund any person coming within the statutory provisions which enumerate those who may be thus designated. The law which permitted a relative merely, not being necessarily a dependent, to be designated, was in force when he made his designation. The designation of his mother by the deceased was therefore one to which the association had a right to assent, as it did assent, by accepting the order of the deceased. *Briggs* v. *Earl*, 139 Mass. 473. *American Legion of Honor* v. *Perry*, 140 Mass. 580. *Elsey* v. *Odd Fellows' Relief Association*, 142 Mass. 224. This was not revoked by the subsequent marriage of John J. Callahan, and his mother, Catherine Callahan, is now entitled to receive the fund of $1,000.

Decree accordingly.

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JOSHUA M. SEARS *vs.* CHARLES F. CHOATE & others.

Suffolk. January 9, 1888. — March 9, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Trust — Termination — Alienation — Equitable Attachment.

A testator, by his will, after giving the residue of his estate to trustees, in trust to hold, invest, and manage the same, and a sum of money to his only son and heir to be paid him at the age of twenty-one years, provided that "all such parts of the income of my estate, which may be necessary for the support and education of my son, I order to be used for that purpose, and when he shall be twenty-one years old I direct that $4,000 shall be paid to him annually, when he shall be twenty-six years old $5,000 a year, and $10,000 per year when he shall be thirty years old." *Held*, on a bill in equity brought by the son after reaching the age of thirty years, that the trustees held so much of the residue of the estate as was needed to produce the net income of $10,000 upon a simple trust to pay the son the annuity; that he was the absolute equitable owner of the trust fund and the income, both of which he might alienate and his creditors might reach; and that he was entitled to have the trust terminated.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed September 19, 1887, against the trustees under the will of Joshua Sears, to terminate a trust created for the benefit of the plaintiff in the residue of his estate. The bill alleged the following facts.

Joshua Sears died on February 7, 1857, leaving the plaintiff his only child and sole heir, then a minor, and a will, which named Alpheus Hardy, Horatio Harris, and Hugh Montgomery as executors and trustees, and contained the following clauses:

"All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate I give to said Alpheus Hardy, Horatio Harris, and Hugh Montgomery their heirs and assigns as joint tenants in trust to hold, invest, manage and take care of the same according to their best knowledge and discretion; and I wish them to invest one half part of my estate in favorable purchases of real productive estate, stores to be preferred, looking well to the value and titles thereof. And I wish them to invest one half part of said estate in bottom mortgages on estates which shall be considered of twice the value of the money loaned thereon, the titles of such estates to be well examined.

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"I give to my son Joshua M. Sears the sum of thirty thousand dollars to be paid to him at the age of twenty-one years. All such parts of the income of my estate which may be necessary for the support and education of my son, I order to be used for that purpose, and when he shall be twenty-one years old I direct that four thousand dollars be paid to him annually; when he shall be twenty-five years old six thousand dollars per year, and ten thousand dollars per year when he shall be thirty years old."

The will was duly admitted to probate, and the trustees named therein were duly appointed and qualified as such trustees. Upon the plaintiff's reaching the age of twenty-one years, on December 25, 1875, all the property then in the hands of the trustees, and constituting the residuary trust fund created by the will and not required to pay to the plaintiff the annuity bequeathed to him by the will, was adjudged by this court (120 Mass. 524) to be held upon a resulting trust in favor of the plaintiff, and thereupon was ordered to be paid, and was paid, to him as his own absolute property. Hardy, Harris, and Montgomery, the original trustees named in the will, have since deceased, and the defendants have been duly appointed and qualified as trustees in their stead, and are now acting as such.

Under the provisions and operation of the will, the plaintiff has the entire beneficial interest both in the income of the property held by the trustees for his benefit and in the property itself. The interest of the plaintiff in both the income and the principal of the trust fund is alienable at his pleasure, and is subject to the claims of his creditors. No reasons exist for the perpetuation of the trust, while the further continuance of the same causes the plaintiff unnecessary inconvenience and expense.

The prayer of the bill was, that it might be adjudged that the trust be terminated, and that the trustees might be directed to convey to him, for his own absolute use and benefit, all the trust property now held by them for his benefit.

The answer admitted the allegations of the bill except as to the construction of the will, as to which it also admitted that, "under the provisions and operation of said will of Joshua Sears, the plaintiff has the entire and beneficial interest in the income of the property held by them as such trustees, and also in the

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property itself; but whether or not the interest of the plaintiff in both the income and principal of said trust fund is alienable at the pleasure of the plaintiff and subject to the claims of his creditors, these defendants can neither admit nor deny, and most respectfully submit that the same are questions of law to be considered and determined by this court, as also the further question whether or not any reason exists for the perpetuation of the trust."

Hearing upon the bill and answer before *C. Allen*, J., who reserved the case for the consideration of the full court.

R. Olney, for the plaintiff.

J. F. Colby, for the defendants.

MORTON, C. J. In *Sears* v. *Hardy*, 120 Mass. 524, two cases were considered together. One was a bill in equity by the only child and heir of Joshua Sears, the prayer being that the trustees be ordered to convey to the plaintiff so much of the estate in their hands, and the surplus income thereof, as was not required for the payment of the annuities provided for by the will. The other was a bill by the trustees asking for instructions as to their duties under the will. The fourth prayer was broad enough to include the question raised in the case at bar, but the question was not in fact raised, both parties conceding that the trustees were to retain in their hands enough to support the annuities, and the only question discussed being whether the surplus of the estate should be paid over to the heir at law discharged of the trust. The question now presented was not raised or decided in those cases.

Under the decrees in those cases the trustees retained in their hands sufficient of the property to produce a net income of ten thousand dollars, being the amount of the annuity now payable to the heir at law.

The present bill alleges that the plaintiff has the entire beneficial interest both in the income of the property held by the trustees for his benefit and in the property itself, and prays that this trust may be terminated and the property conveyed to him.

The trustees now hold the trust estate upon the simple trust, as defined in the will, to pay the plaintiff ten thousand dollars per year. There is in the will no limitation over of the estate in any contingency to any other person; there is no discretion

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given to the trustees, and there is no provision that the income or the estate shall not be alienable by the plaintiff or attachable by his creditors. It cannot be doubted that under this will the plaintiff took an equitable estate which he might alienate, and which equity would apply to the payment of his debts. *Sparhawk* v. *Cloon*, 125 Mass. 263.

It is said in the opinion in the former case, that "it is conceded by all parties that, in order to carry out the plain intention of the testator to secure to his son an honorable support, during his life, not exposed to the risks of his improvidence or misfortunes, the trustees should retain in their hands enough of the estate to produce beyond question the annuity provided for in the will." It is quite probable that the testator had this idea or intention in his mind; but if he had, he failed to frame his will in such a way as to carry out his intention. This court has held that the founder of a trust may give an equitable life tenant a qualified estate in income which he cannot alienate and which his creditors cannot reach. *Broadway National Bank* v. *Adams*, 133 Mass. 170. But in order to give such a qualified estate, instead of an absolute one, the language of the founder must be clear and unequivocal to that effect. Taking this will as it is, we should not be justified in holding that the plaintiff took anything less than an absolute equitable estate both in the income and in the corpus of the trust.

There is no doubt of the power and duty of the court to decree the termination of a trust, where all its objects and purposes have been accomplished, where the interests under it have all vested, and where all parties beneficially interested desire its termination. Where property is given to certain persons for their benefit, and in such a manner that no other person has or can have any interest in it, they are in effect the absolute owners of it, and it is reasonable and just that they should have the control and disposal of it unless some good cause appears to the contrary. *Smith* v. *Harrington*, 4 Allen, 566. *Bowditch* v. *Andrew*, 8 Allen, 339. *Inches* v. *Hill*, 106 Mass. 575. *Stone, petitioner*, 138 Mass. 476. *Underwood* v. *Boston Five Cents Savings Bank*, 141 Mass. 305.

In the case before us the trustees hold the fund in question upon a simple trust; the plaintiff is the absolute equitable owner

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of the fund and the income; he may alienate them and they can be reached by his creditors. If the testator had the intention of guarding against his possible improvidence or misfortune, he failed to carry his intention into effect, and thus the reason for the existence of a trust fails.

We are of opinion that the plaintiff is entitled to a decree terminating the trust, according to the prayer of his bill.

Decree for the plaintiff.

CATHERINE O. MACTIER *vs.* HANNAH OSBORN.

Suffolk. January 11, 1888. — March 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Lease — Covenant to Insure — Forfeiture — Equitable Relief.

Equity will relieve against a forfeiture incurred by the breach of a covenant to insure in a lease of real estate, caused by accident or mistake, if no actual damage has been sustained by the lessor.

A lease of real estate contained a covenant that the lessee should keep the buildings "properly and fully insured, at all times during said term, in safe offices to be approved" by the lessor, to whom the insurance money was to be payable, and also contained the usual condition for re-entry on breach of any of the covenants without notice or demand. The lessee, a woman, at the expiration of policies which were satisfactory to the lessor, intending in good faith to have them renewed in the same amounts and form, took out through an insurance broker new policies, which, without her knowledge, were made payable to a mortgagee. The lessor, who had sustained no actual damage, without any demand upon the lessee, or any notice that the insurance was unsatisfactory, made an entry for an alleged breach of covenant, and thereafter refused to consult with the lessee as to changing the form of the policies. *Held*, that equity would relieve against such a breach of the covenant as was made by the lessee.

MORTON, C. J. This is a writ of entry to recover an undivided third part of a parcel of real estate in Boston.

On November 7, 1873, Edward J. Holmes and William E. Perkins, trustees, being the owners of the land, executed a lease thereof to Levi B. Gay for the term of twenty years from the first day of January, 1874. The estate subject to the lease is now held by conveyances from said trustees and others, one third by the demandant, one third by the tenant, and one sixth

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each by Julia M. Dehon and Sarah A. Treilhard. The tenant is now the lessee, holding the title of Gay by deed from him and by mesne conveyances. The lease contains the covenant that the lessee "will keep all buildings upon said premises during said term properly and fully insured, at all times during said term, in safe offices to be approved by said parties of the first part, and in such manner that the insurance money shall be payable to said parties of the first part, who shall deposit the same with the New England Trust Company or some safe bank; and such money shall be used in paying the expenses, as far as may be, of repairing or rebuilding said building or buildings by the party of the second part, and shall be drawn from the said company or bank at times and in amounts as needed for said purpose; and after said building or buildings shall have been so repaired or built, the remainder of such money, if any, shall be paid to said party of the second part. In case of failure by said party of the second part to repair or rebuild as aforesaid, said money, or so much thereof as may remain, shall belong or remain to the use of said parties of the first part." The lease contained the usual condition for re-entry on breach of any of the covenants, without notice or demand.

At the time the lease was assigned to the tenant there was insurance upon the building by several policies to the amount of thirty thousand dollars, payable in case of loss to the lessors, which was satisfactory to them. These policies were assigned to the tenant. At their expiration in March, 1886, one Osborn, acting for the tenant, took out, through a firm of insurance brokers, policies to the same amount, but they were made payable in case of loss to the Suffolk Savings Bank for Seamen and Others, to which bank the tenant was indebted to the amount of twenty thousand dollars for money borrowed to purchase the lease. In September, 1886, the demandant, having ascertained the form in which those policies were taken out, entered on the premises for an alleged breach of the covenant to insure, and on October 12, 1886, brought this suit to enforce the alleged forfeiture.

It appeared at the trial that neither the tenant nor the said Osborn had any knowledge until after the said entry by the demandant as to the form in which said policies were written, and

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both meant in good faith that the covenants in the lease relating to insurance should be observed to the same extent that they were observed in the first policies. It also appeared that the demandant prior to the entry made no demand upon the tenant, and gave her no notice that the insurance was not satisfactory, and after the entry refused to consult with the tenant as to changing the form of the policies.

The case comes before us on a report, which provides that, if there has been no breach of the covenant in the lease as to insurance, or if there has been a breach but it is one which equity will relieve against, then judgment may be entered for the tenant.

The statement of the case shows that the claim of the demandant is *strictissimi juris*. She seeks to enforce a forfeiture for an alleged breach of covenant, which has arisen from an accident or mistake such as is likely to occur innocently, particularly in the case of a woman not accustomed to business affairs, and which did not arise from any wilful default or culpable negligence on the part of the tenant.

The covenant in question is a peculiar one. It does not create a clear and exactly defined duty on the part of the lessee, as would be the case if it had been a covenant to keep the building insured in an amount and office named, by policies payable to the lessors. The amount, the office, and the form of the policy are not fixed, and the covenant clearly contemplates that these are to be arranged by a conference between the parties. Under such a covenant, it may fairly be argued that, if a lessee in good faith procures insurance intending to observe the requirements of the covenant, but fails to do so, the lessor could not, without notice, enforce a forfeiture. But however this may be, and assuming that the lessee must at his own risk see to it that he observes the covenant, and therefore that there has been a breach of covenant and a forfeiture at law in this case, we are of opinion that it is a case in which equity ought to furnish relief.

The demandant cites many cases, mostly English, to the point that courts of equity will not grant relief from a forfeiture for breach of a condition to insure. This may be so where there is a wilful and intentional neglect to insure according to the covenant. But where the failure to insure is the result of accident

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or mistake, each case must be determined by the circumstances of the particular case.

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Judge Story states the rule in England to be, that "in all cases of forfeiture for the breach of any covenant, other than a covenant to pay rent, no relief ought to be granted in equity, unless upon the ground of accident, mistake, fraud, or surprise." Story Eq. Jur. § 1323.

It has been held in this court that equity will grant relief from a forfeiture for the non-payment of rent on the day it was due. *Atkins* v. *Chilson*, 11 Met. 112. And the same principle was applied where there had been a forfeiture for breach of a condition to indemnify a grantor in a deed against an outstanding mortgage and interest on it. *Sanborn* v. *Woodman*, 5 Cush. 36. In *Hancock* v. *Carlton*, 6 Gray, 39, there had been a forfeiture for breach of a condition to indemnify against a mortgage. The court refused equitable relief, but it was upon the ground that the forfeiture was caused by the laches of the party seeking relief; and the intimation of the opinions is clear that relief would be granted upon the ground of accident or mistake if proved. We see no reason why the same principle should not apply to a breach of a covenant to insure, caused by accident or mistake, where no actual damage has been sustained by the lessor.

The result of the authorities, supported by sound principle, is, that where there has been a breach of a covenant to pay rent equity will relieve against a forfeiture although the breach is wilful on the part of the lessee; and where there has been a breach of a covenant to perform some collateral duty, such as to repair or insure, which has been caused by accident or mistake, equity will relieve if the lessor can by compensation or otherwise be placed in the same condition as if the breach had not occurred. *Sanders* v. *Pope*, 12 Ves. 282, and note. *Livingston* v. *Tompkins*, 4 John. Ch. 415, 431. *Henry* v. *Tupper*, 29 Vt. 358.

In the case at bar, where the former policies, which were satisfactory to the lessors, expired, the lessee in good faith intended to have them renewed in the same amounts and form. By accident, or by a mistake of the insurance brokers, they were renewed in a form which does not fairly meet the requirements of the

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covenant. This was not wilful or voluntary on her part. It was not an accidental forgetfulness to renew the policies. The property has been all the time fully insured. It was an occurrence not anticipated by her, and not known to her until after the demandant entered to enforce a forfeiture. No misconduct or culpable fault can be attributed to her. The lessors have not in fact been injured by the accident, and can now be put *in statu quo*. It is against equity and good conscience that the demandant should insist upon a forfeiture of a valuable leasehold estate.

We do not think that the tenant's acts in making a change in the policies after the demandant's entry have any important bearing upon the case. She applied to the demandant for a conference as to the form of the policies, but the demandant refused to treat with her. The tenant is willing to make insurance in a form which will comply with the covenant.

Under all the circumstances of this case we are of opinion that equity should relieve the tenant from the forfeiture, and that, according to the terms of the report, there should be

Judgment for the tenant.

J. C. Gray & A. P. Loring, for the demandant.

R. M. Morse, Jr., (*W. P. Blake* with him,) for the tenant.

CITY OF LOWELL *vs.* COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIDDLESEX.

Middlesex. January 17, 1888. — March 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Tax — Appeal — County Commissioners — Abatement — Notice — Month — Complaint — Amendment — Evidence — Expert — Certiorari — Proceedings and Practice.

An appeal lies to the county commissioners, under the Pub. Sts. c. 13, § 41, upon the refusal of assessors to abate the tax of a corporation after the tax commissioner has fixed a less value upon its real estate and machinery, although the corporation without excuse has omitted seasonably to file a sworn list of its estate with the assessors, as provided by c. 11, § 72.

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Notice should be given by assessors refusing to abate a tax to the corporation, and the month within which, under the Pub. Sts. c. 11, § 71, complaint must be made to the county commissioners for an abatement, will begin to run from the date of such notice.

County commissioners may allow an amendment to such a complaint made by a corporation, the effect of which is to limit it to certain parcels of its property.

On such a complaint, or on an amendment thereto, it cannot be shown that any of the property of the corporation has been undervalued by the assessors.

At the hearing on such a complaint made by a manufacturing corporation, evidence of the value of its land for manufacturing purposes, and of the value of water power in another place, the conditions in the two places not appearing to be unlike, is admissible.

Whether a witness is qualified to testify as an expert at such a hearing is largely within the commissioners' discretion, which will not be revised on certiorari if it does not appear to have been wrongfully exercised.

Evidence was admitted at such a hearing as to the market value of the shares of the corporation. *Held*, that a writ of certiorari, it not appearing that the petitioner was prejudiced, would not issue therefor.

County commissioners, in reply to a petition for a writ of certiorari, instead of filing an answer, should make a return stating their rulings and proceedings.

THREE PETITIONS for writs of certiorari to quash the proceedings of the county commissioners of Middlesex in abating taxes assessed upon certain corporations by the city of Lowell.

IN THE FIRST CASE the petition alleged in substance that the assessors of the city of Lowell, on May 1, 1886, duly assessed a tax upon the Merrimack Manufacturing Company, a corporation having its usual place of business in that city; that the corporation did not file with the assessors a list of its estate liable to taxation in the city for that year, duly subscribed and sworn to by it, within the time specified by the assessors for bringing in such lists; that the tax commissioner of the Commonwealth determined the value of the real estate and machinery of the corporation taxable in the city for the year 1886 at a less value than that determined by the assessors, and gave it notice thereof on September 27, 1886; that the corporation applied in writing, in pursuance of the notice from the tax commissioner, on October 19, 1886, to the assessors for an abatement of its tax; that on October 28, 1886, the corporation filed with the assessors a list of all its real estate and machinery liable to taxation in the city for that year, and made oath thereto, and at the same time a hearing was had before the assessors upon its application; that the assessors on November 16, 1886, refused to abate the tax, of

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which they gave notice to the corporation on December 8, 1886; that the corporation made a complaint to the county commissioners of Middlesex for a reduction of the valuation by the assessors of all its real estate and machinery, and for an abatement of the tax, and filed the same with the clerk of the commissioners on December 17, 1886; that notice of the complaint was duly given, and the petitioner appeared before the commissioners at the hearing thereon; that the commissioners found that the corporation did not file with the assessors a list of its estate liable to taxation in the city for the year 1886, subscribed and sworn to, within the time specified by the assessors in their notice for bringing in such lists; that the commissioners also found that there was no good cause why such list was not seasonably brought in or filed by the corporation; and that thereupon the petitioner moved that the complaint be dismissed, on the ground that no such list had been brought in or filed by the corporation with the assessors within the time specified by them, and no good cause had been shown why such list had not been seasonably brought in or filed; but the commissioners overruled the motion, and ruled that they had jurisdiction in the premises, and legal right and authority to hear and determine the matter of the complaint, upon the ground that the tax commissioner had placed a lower value than the assessors upon the property of the corporation, and so notified the corporation, and ordered the hearing to proceed.

The petition also alleged that the assessors valued all the machinery and real estate of the corporation in various lots; that at the hearing before the commissioners, and before any evidence was offered, the corporation filed an amendment to its complaint, which set forth that four lots only, covering its cotton and print yards, so called, were overrated, and that "your petitioner will not contend at this hearing as to the assessment of its other property by said assessors"; and that the amendment was allowed by the commissioners, against the objection of the petitioner that they had no right or authority to allow the same, and that it was too late so to do.

The petition further alleged, that the corporation, at the hearing before the commissioners, called as a witness Charles H. Dalton, who then was and had been the treasurer of the corporation

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since October, 1877, and previously thereto for more than twenty years had been treasurer and manager of similar corporations, but had not bought or sold any land for manufacturing purposes in Lowell; and that he was permitted to testify, against the objection of the petitioner on the ground that it was incompetent and irrelevant, as to the number of shares of stock in the corporation held by trustees, guardians, charitable institutions, corporations, and individuals, as to what was the market value of the stock on or just before May 1, 1886, and as to what the corporation's land in its cotton and print yards was worth for manufacturing purposes.

The petition further alleged, that the petitioner offered to show by competent evidence the fair cash value of all the real estate and machinery of the corporation on May 1, 1886, but the evidence, against the objection of the petitioner, was excluded by the commissioners; that the commissioners ruled that, under the amendment to the complaint, they were limited in their inquiry and determination to the fair cash value of the property specified in the amendment, but that they would hear the evidence as bearing upon the value of the property in the cotton and print yards; that the commissioners also ruled that, as matter of law, they could not determine the true value of all the real estate and machinery on that day; that the commissioners further ruled that the inquiry before them was not to determine the true value of all the real estate and machinery, or to determine between the valuations thereof made by the tax commissioner and the assessors, but only the value of the items of property of the valuation of which the petitioner complained; that the commissioners further ruled that the petitioner was bound by the valuation by the assessors of all property not included in the amendment to the complaint; and that the commissioners, upon evidence of the fair cash value of the real estate and machinery specified in the amendment to the complaint, abated a certain portion of the tax.

The petition averred that the commissioners erred in making the abatement, for the following reasons: "1. In that they overruled the motion of said petitioner to dismiss said petition. 2. In that they ruled that, notwithstanding no list had been brought in as aforesaid, and no good cause had been shown

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why the same had not been seasonably brought in or filed, they had jurisdiction in the premises, and legal right and authority to hear and determine the matter of said petition. 3. In that they allowed said amendment to said complaint. 4. In that they admitted the evidence aforesaid of Charles H. Dalton. 5. In that they excluded the evidence of said city to show the fair cash value of all said real estate and machinery on May 1, 1886, except for the purposes aforesaid. 6. In that they ruled, as matter of law, that they could not hear evidence or determine the true value of all said real estate and machinery on May 1, 1886. 7. In that they ruled that the inquiry before them was not to determine the true value of all said real estate and machinery on May 1, 1886, or to determine between the valuation made by said tax commissioner of all said real estate and machinery, and the valuation of the same made by said assessors. 8. In that they did not find and determine the value of all said real estate and machinery. 9. In that they, without hearing evidence as to the true value of all said real estate and machinery, undertook to find its true value. 10. In that they entertained jurisdiction of said company's petition filed as aforesaid. 11. In that they abated a portion of the tax on said machinery. 12. In that they abated any portion of the tax."

IN THE SECOND CASE, the petition was substantially like that in the first case, except that it alleged that the Boott Cotton Mills, which was the corporation assessed, brought in to the assessors a list of all its estate liable to taxation in 1886 within the time specified by the assessors; and that, at the hearing before the commissioners on its complaint for an abatement of the tax and an amendment thereto, the corporation called as a witness Charles J. Goodwin, agent of the Indian Orchard Cotton Mills, who, after testifying that he had been agent of these mills since 1868, and had been engaged in cotton manufacturing in New Hampshire for thirty years prior thereto, and had not examined the land of the corporation, was permitted to testify, against the objection of the petitioner that the same was incompetent, that he thought that twenty cents a foot would be the outside price of land in Massachusetts for manufacturing purposes.

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IN THE THIRD CASE, the petition was substantially like that in the first case, except that the Tremont and Suffolk Mills, which was the corporation assessed, at the hearing before the commissioners on its complaint for an abatement of the tax and an amendment thereto, called as a witness Henry F. Coe, formerly agent of the Washington Mills of Lawrence, who, after testifying that he had had to do with the purchase of mills with water power in Lawrence and in Vermont, was permitted to testify, against the objection of the petitioner that it was incompetent, what mill water power was worth in Lawrence.

An answer filed to the petition in each case by the commissioners alleged "that the facts and rulings therein set forth are correctly stated, and that the copies thereto annexed are true copies of the originals, and that no error appears upon their record, and that said petition does not set forth any legal cause for granting the prayer thereof." Hearing upon the petitions and answers before *Devens*, J., who reserved the cases for the consideration of the full court.

J. N. Marshall, (*W. F. Courtney* with him,) for the petitioner.

T. L. Livermore, for the corporations.

H. C. Bliss, Assistant Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

MORTON, C. J. The object of the thirteenth chapter of the Public Statutes is to provide for an excise or duty upon the franchises of corporations payable to the Commonwealth. *Commonwealth* v. *Hamilton Manufacturing Co.* 12 Allen, 298. The provisions which affect this case are contained in §§ 38 to 41. The general scheme of the statute is that the tax commissioner shall determine in the first instance the taxable value of the franchise. To do this he is to ascertain the fair market value of all the shares of the capital stock of the corporation, and deduct therefrom an amount equal to the value, as determined by him, of its real estate and machinery subject to local taxation. For this purpose he may take the amount at which such real estate and machinery are assessed at the place where they are located, but such local assessment is not conclusive upon him.

It is clear that, under the provisions thus far referred to, if the valuation of the tax commissioner of the real estate and machinery is less than the valuation by the local assessors, the corporation

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would be subjected to double taxation on a part of its property. To prevent this injustice the statute provides that in such case the tax commissioner shall notify the corporation, which may within one month after the date of such notice apply to the local assessors for an abatement of the local tax, and, if they refuse to grant an abatement, may forthwith appeal to the county commissioners, whose decision is final, and conclusive upon all parties. When the case gets before the county commissioners, the corporation may have no interest in the question, and can have but a slight interest. The tax commissioner on behalf of the Commonwealth, and the town or city in which the real estate and machinery are located, become the actors and parties interested, the main object of the hearing being to determine what valuation shall be binding upon each of them, thus affecting the amount of the excise or tax which each is entitled to assess and collect. Such being the purposes and character of the statute, we do not think that it was the intention of the Legislature that the appeal should be defeated by the previous failure of the corporation to file a sworn list of its property under § 72 of c. 11 of the Public Statutes.

The statute we are considering provides that the tax commissioner shall notify the corporation of his determination, "and if it does not, within one month from the date of such notice, make application to said assessors for an abatement, and does not, in case of the refusal of said assessors to grant an abatement, forthwith prosecute an appeal in accordance with the provisions of section seventy-one of chapter eleven, and give notice thereof to the tax commissioner, such determination shall be conclusive upon said corporation." Pub. Sts. c. 13, § 41. Section 71 of the Pub. Sts. c. 11, provides that, "if the assessors refuse to make an abatement to a person, he may, within one month thereafter, make complaint thereof to the county commissioners by filing the same with their clerk, and if upon a hearing it appears that the complainant is overrated, the commissioners shall make such an abatement as they deem reasonable." This, standing alone, gives the unlimited right to apply to the county commissioners for an abatement of the valuation of the assessors, and points out the way in which this may be done. Section 72 of the Pub. Sts. c. 11, provides that no abatement shall be had unless the person

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has filed a sworn list with the assessors. Section 41 of the Pub. Sts. c. 13, refers only to the Pub. Sts. c. 11, § 71, and adopts the mode therein established for the revision of the valuation of the assessors. It does not directly refer to § 72, or provide that the failure to file a sworn list shall defeat the right to an abatement.

The two chapters have different purposes in view; and we do not think we can read in the thirteenth chapter by construction such a provision, thus subjecting the corporation to double taxation. Such a construction would defeat the main purpose of the Legislature, which is to adjust as between the Commonwealth and the town or city the proportions of the whole tax or excise to be paid by the corporation, and not to expose it to double or excessive taxation. We are therefore of opinion that the county commissioners correctly ruled that their jurisdiction was not defeated by the fact that the corporation had without excuse failed seasonably to file with the assessors a sworn list of its property.

The petitioner also contends that the county commissioners had no jurisdiction, because the corporation did not seasonably file its complaint with the clerk. The statute provides that, "if the assessors refuse to make an abatement to a person, he may, within one month thereafter," file his complaint. The facts as stated in the petition are, that the corporation applied to the assessors for an abatement on October 19, 1886; that a hearing was had on October 28, 1886; and that the "assessors on November 16, 1886, refused to grant said abatement, of which they gave notice to said company, December 8, 1886." The complaint was filed on December 17, 1886, which we think was seasonable. The assessors do not keep records of such transactions, which, like those of a court of justice, are notice to the world. It would be a hardship upon applicants to make their rights depend upon the secret action of the assessors without any notice to them, and the assessors can easily give them notice of the refusal. The assessors of Lowell understood this to be their duty, and we think that their notice on December 8 was the completion of their act of refusal, and that the corporation was entitled to file its complaint within one month from that date.

The assessors of Lowell, in assessing the property of the corporation, made separate valuations of different lots or parcels

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of the property. After filing its complaint to the county commissioners, the corporation filed an amendment, by which it limited its complaint to four specified parcels of property, which it alleged was assessed above its fair value, and alleged that it would not contend as to the assessment of its other property by the assessors. The amendment is in effect nothing but a waiver of its objections to the assessment of all its property not specified therein. It was properly allowed, and the petitioner has no ground of complaint. It might restrict the corporation in its proofs to the parcels named in it, but it could not affect the rights of the petitioner either as to these or as to the parcels not named in it.

The ground of the objection to it is, that under the original complaint the county commissioners were required to reassess the value of all the parcels, and that the petitioner had the right to show that some of them were undervalued by the assessors, and should be valued and assessed at a larger sum. But this ground cannot be maintained. The statute provides for an application to the assessors "for an abatement," and, if this is refused, for a complaint in the nature of an appeal to the county commissioners. The word "abatement" is used in the same sense in which it is used in the other parts of the tax statutes. Authority is not given to the assessors nor to the county commissioners to make a revaluation of the whole property, but only to make an abatement in the same manner in which they may abate under the Pub. Sts. c. 11.

It was held in *Lowell* v. *County Commissioners*, 3 Allen, 546, that, where a tax is assessed upon an individual or a corporation by a valuation of the separate parcels of real estate belonging to them, and the complainant proves that any one or more is overvalued, he is entitled to an abatement, and that the inquiry whether other lots have been valued at too low a rate is not open to the town or city. It cannot ask that the valuation on other property of the complainant shall be raised in order to make a set-off against that part of the assessment which is shown to be excessive. Neither the assessors nor the county commissioners have any jurisdiction or authority to increase the valuation or assessment made by the assessors on any parcel of property. The decision and reasoning of the court in that case

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are applicable to and decisive of the case at bar on this point. Neither under the original complaint nor under the amendment could the city show that its assessors had valued and assessed some of the parcels at too small an amount. The rulings of the county commissioners upon this point were therefore correct.

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The petitioner before the county commissioners objected to certain testimony of Charles H. Dalton. It appears by the record that the commissioners adopted the proper test, that is, the fair cash value of the property on the 1st of May. They had the right to consider its value for manufacturing, as well as for other purposes. The question whether the witness had sufficient knowledge of the value of property to enable him to give his judgment upon the matter in question, was largely for their determination, and within their discretion, and we cannot see that this discretion was wrongfully exercised. *Swan* v. *Middlesex*, 101 Mass. 173. It is difficult to see how the testimony of the witness as to the market value of the shares of the corporation was admissible upon the issue pending before the commissioners; but it is equally difficult to see, from anything disclosed in the record before us, that its admission was prejudicial to the petitioner. It was not used as a test of the value of the property of the corporation, as in *Chicopee* v. *County Commissioners*, 16 Gray, 38. There was much other evidence as to the value.

A petition for a writ of certiorari is addressed to the discretion of the court; and it has always been the practice, when unimportant evidence has been erroneously admitted, to refuse the writ of certiorari, unless it appears that the petitioner has been prejudiced by its admission, or if it appears that the findings are justified by the other evidence. *Cobb* v. *Lucas*, 15 Pick. 1. *Gleason* v. *Sloper*, 24 Pick. 181. *Farmington River Water Power Co.* v. *County Commissioners*, 112 Mass. 206.

Upon the whole case, we are of the opinion that substantial justice does not require that the writ should issue. To prevent this case from being used as a precedent as to the proper mode of proceeding, we refer to the fact that the case is not brought before us in proper form. Instead of answering, the county commissioners should make a return stating their rulings and proceedings. *Tewksbury* v. *County Commissioners*, 117

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Mass. 563. But as all parties are desirous of an early decision of the merits, we overlook the error in form.

In the first case, and in the second case, which is governed by the first, the entry must be *Petitions dismissed.*

All the questions raised in the third case, except that as to the admissibility of the testimony of Henry F. Coe, are considered, and decided in the first case. He was permitted to testify "what mill water power was worth in Lawrence." If the conditions which affect the value of water power are substantially the same in Lawrence as in Lowell, his testimony would aid the county commissioners in determining its value in Lowell. It does not appear that the conditions are not the same, and therefore the petitioner fails to show that the evidence was incompetent. *Petition dismissed.*

WILLIAM T. EUSTIS *vs.* CHARLES H. BOLLES & others.

Suffolk. January 24, 1888. — March 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Partnership — Dissolution — Bankruptcy of a Partner — Notice — Evidence — Pleading — Insolvent Debtor — Composition with Creditors — Constitutional Law — Election — Waiver.

The bankruptcy of a partner after a firm has dissolved is as effective notice of the dissolution to a creditor as if it had been caused by the bankruptcy.

Evidence of such bankruptcy to prove such notice is admissible in an action by the creditor against the partner, though not set up in the answer.

A creditor whose debt accrued before the passage of the St. of 1884, c. 236, as amended by the St. of 1885, c. 353, providing for compositions with creditors in insolvency, by accepting the benefit of such a composition, waives his right to object that those statutes are void as to his debt as impairing the obligation of contracts.

CONTRACT against Charles H. Bolles, George F. Wilde, and Francis D. Hall, on a promissory note dated January 1, 1880, payable to the plaintiff or order, and signed by "B. Callender & Co." Writ dated June 9, 1887. The answer of the defendant

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Hall was: 1. A general denial. 2. A special denial that he ever made or signed the note, with a demand that the signature be proved at the trial. 3. That on January 1, 1880, he was not a member of the firm of B. Callender & Co. The answer of the defendants Bolles and Wilde, as amended, was: 1. A general denial. 2. Certificates of discharge upon a composition with creditors under the St. of 1884, c. 236, as amended by the St. of 1885, c. 353. The plaintiff demurred to the answer of the defendants Bolles and Wilde, on the ground that those statutes were unconstitutional and void, for the reason, among others, that they impaired the obligation of contracts.

At the trial in this court, without a jury, *C. Allen*, J., overruled the demurrer, and reported the case for the consideration of the full court. The facts appear in the opinion.

C. Reno, for the plaintiff.

J. B. Richardson, for the defendants.

MORTON, C. J. This is a suit upon a note dated January 1, 1880, signed by "B. Callender & Co." It was signed and delivered to the plaintiff by B. Callender, and at that time the only parties composing the firm were the said Callender and the defendants Bolles and Wilde. The defendant Hall, who was formerly a partner, had withdrawn from the firm on July 2, 1877, and notice of the dissolution was given by publication in the Boston Daily Advertiser, but no personal notice was given to the plaintiff. The note in suit was given in renewal of a former note which the plaintiff held at the time of the dissolution.

It further appears, that the defendant Hall, in December, 1877, filed his petition in bankruptcy, was adjudicated a bankrupt, and thereupon, in June, 1878, received his discharge.

Upon these facts, we are of the opinion that the defendant Hall is not liable in this action. The only ground upon which he could be held is that the plaintiff had no legal notice of the dissolution of the firm. If the firm had not been previously dissolved, the bankruptcy of Hall would have dissolved it. The bankruptcy, like the death, of a partner, dissolves the partnership; and, as it is a public and notorious proceeding, all creditors are bound to take notice of it, and no further notice need be given. The publication of bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings

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is legal notice to all persons, by which they are bound. Story, Part. §§ 332–336. *Arnold* v. *Brown*, 24 Pick. 89, 94. *Marlett* v. *Jackman*, 3 Allen, 287. *Butler* v. *Mullen*, 100 Mass. 453.

The plaintiff was a creditor of Hall at the time of his bankruptcy; he is presumed to have had notice of it, and this is notice that at that time the partnership had been dissolved. It is as effective notice that the old copartnership no longer existed as it would be if the bankruptcy itself had worked the dissolution.

The plaintiff objects that evidence of the bankruptcy is not admissible under the pleadings; but the fact is put in evidence, not as a bar to the plaintiff's claim, but as evidence that he had notice of the dissolution, and therefore need not be set up in the answer. We are therefore of opinion that the defendant Hall is entitled to judgment.

The defendants Bolles and Wilde rely upon discharges under our insolvent law. Their discharges were obtained under the St. of 1884, c. 236, as amended by the St. of 1885, c. 353. These statutes made a material change in our insolvent laws. Before they were enacted, an insolvent debtor was obliged to surrender all his property which was not exempt from attachment to his assignee, for distribution among his creditors, and he was entitled to a discharge if he paid fifty per cent of the debts proved, or, if he paid less than that, by procuring the assent in writing of a majority in number and value of his creditors who had proved their claims, to be filed within six months after the date of the assignment. Pub. Sts. c. 157. Under the composition statutes, he may, after his petition and schedules are filed, instead of following the further proceedings of the Public Statutes, c. 157, file "a written proposal for composition with his creditors," setting forth the amount he offers and the times of payment; if he offers fifty per cent or more, he must obtain the written assent of a majority in number and value of all his known creditors to the proposal; if he offers less than fifty per cent, of three fourths in number and value of such creditors; and thereupon the court may order that the composition be confirmed and the amount offered be paid into court. Upon such payment, the court shall grant to the debtor a certificate of discharge from his debts. The debtor retains all his property

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except what is paid into court. The money paid into court is to be paid out by the register to those entitled to it, and if any part is not called for within a year by any creditors it is, after notice to such creditors, to be paid over to the debtor or to the person who deposited it. This is a general outline of the two methods of proceeding.

We assume, in favor of the plaintiff, that the composition statutes above cited, as they undertake to discharge debts due to creditors upon conditions materially different from those existing prior to the time of their passage, are as to such prior creditors unconstitutional, as impairing the obligation of their contracts. But they are not wholly unconstitutional and void. They are clearly valid as to all debts between citizens of the State which accrue after the statutes went into effect; and a prior creditor, if he elects to avail himself of the composition proceedings and to accept their benefits, may waive his right to object that they are invalid as to his debt. The principal question in this case is whether the plaintiff has thus waived his rights.

He proved his debt in insolvency, and voted for assignee; but this he had a right to do, as the proceedings were commenced under the Public Statutes, and if they had been pursued according to these statutes his debt would have been discharged, and he would have been entitled to his share of the debtor's property. After the composition was proposed, at a hearing thereon on March 10, 1887, he objected to it, on the ground that the composition statutes were unconstitutional and void as to his debts. So far it is clear that there was no waiver of his rights. But it further appears, that on May 14, 1887, the plaintiff received the sum of $8,020, being fifty cents on the dollar of his claim, and gave a receipt reciting that it was "according to the composition confirmed by the court in the case," being like the receipts signed by all the other creditors. He thus voluntarily received all the benefits and fruits of the composition. We think that, when the composition was confirmed, he was put to his election whether he would avail himself of the composition offer, or would reject it, and rely upon his right to enforce his debt against the debtors notwithstanding their discharge.

The offer was to pay him fifty per cent, not in part payment

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of his debt, but in full discharge of it. The offer may be an amount larger than could be realized from the debtors' assets if administered in insolvency. The statute contemplates that the money offered may be, and it often is in fact, paid into court by the debtor's friends, and in such case it is paid over to the person who deposited it, if not called for within a year by any of the creditors. It is clearly a violation of the whole purpose and spirit of the composition for any creditor of the insolvent to draw out his share of the money and apply it in part payment of his debt, holding the insolvent liable for the balance. It is unjust to the person who deposited the money. As the plaintiff saw fit to accept the offer, he thus made himself a party to the composition, and such acceptance was inconsistent with the right to enforce the balance of his debt, in violation of the terms of the composition. We are of opinion that he has waived his right to object that the discharge is invalid as to him.

A similar question was decided in *Clay* v. *Smith*, 3 Pet. 411, where it was held that the plaintiff, by proving his debt and taking a dividend under the bankrupt laws of Louisiana, waived his right to object that the law did not apply to his debt, he being a creditor residing in another State.

The plaintiff relies upon the cases of *Kimberly* v. *Ely*, 6 Pick. 440, and *Agnew* v. *Platt*, 15 Pick. 417. The last named case was, as is stated by Chief Justice Shaw in *Beal* v. *Burchstead*, 10 Cush. 523, "decided on the ground that the defendant was not an inhabitant or citizen of New York, and had no right to avail himself of the State insolvent law of that State." The case of *Kimberly* v. *Ely* more nearly resembles the case of the plaintiff. But in regard to both of these cases it must be said that, so far as they uphold the doctrine that a foreign creditor who voluntarily proves his debt, and receives his dividend, in insolvency proceedings before a court of competent jurisdiction, is not barred by the discharge, they are in conflict with the later decisions. The accepted doctrine now is that such creditors waive their right to object that as to their debt the law is unconstitutional. And the same rule applies *a fortiori* to a citizen of this State who elects to prove his debt contracted before the law took effect, and receives all the benefits of the law. *Bigelow* v. *Pritchard*, 21 Pick. 169, 174. *Fisher* v. *Currier*,

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7 Met. 424. *Gilbert* v. *Hebard*, 8 Met. 129. *Clark* v. *Hatch*, 7 Cush. 455. *Marsh* v. *Putnam*, 3 Gray, 551, 565.

We are therefore of the opinion that the discharges of the defendants Bolles and Wilde are a bar to the plaintiff's claim against them. *Judgment for the defendants.*

EDWIN A. ALGER, administrator, *vs.* NORTH END SAVINGS BANK.

Suffolk. January 24, 1888. — March 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Practice — Report — Savings Bank — Deposit in Trust — Gift — Evidence.

Upon the report of a case for the determination of this court, whether a judge who tried the case without a jury was warranted in making a finding, the only question is whether there was any evidence to sustain the finding, not whether the evidence is worthy of belief.

Evidence that a savings bank depositor "in trust," who kept the deposit-book, shortly before his death told the person named as beneficiary that the deposit "I put in for you" in the savings bank, "that money is yours," will justify a finding that there was a perfected gift to that person.

CONTRACT, to recover a deposit in the defendant bank by the administrator with the will annexed of George C. Trumbull. Achsie J. Wood intervened as a claimant of the fund, under the Pub. Sts. c. 116, § 31. At the trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Mason*, J., it appeared in evidence that Trumbull, who was treasurer of the defendant bank, in his lifetime made a deposit of $1,000 in the bank in the name of "Geo. C. Trumbull, trustee for Achsie J. Wood"; that the claimant, who had been a housekeeper for Trumbull and his wife for eleven years before his death, contended that the deposit was a gift or payment to her for her services; and that the bank-book was found by the administrator, after Trumbull's death, among his papers.

The claimant testified that during the first year she received for her services four dollars a week, and subsequently three dollars and five dollars; that Trumbull, when she talked with him

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about further compensation, "told me several times that he should provide for me, that I should be well paid as far as money would pay me"; and that in November or December, 1883, "after he made his will, just before the 1st of January, . . . I asked him some question in regard to investing some money in some way, which led him to think I was not feeling satisfied with my wages; and he said, 'You will feel better when you know what I have done for you, Mrs. Wood. I have made my will, in which I have willed you twenty-five shares in the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad. I have made a will which is deposited with Mr. Alger, in which I left you twenty-five shares of the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad, and if I live till the 1st of January there will be one thousand dollars in the North End Savings Bank in trust for you, and if I die and leave that as I intend to, you will call for the book, and it is yours'; and he explained at length about the law, how it used to be so that people put in money all they could in their own name, and then deposited it in the names of different members of their family, but he said it was all their money just the same when they died; but he said a very strict law was made at such a time, making it a law that if money was put in in this way in trust by some one, he has control of it while he lives, but if he dies, it goes to whoever it is in trust for; and he said, 'All you have to do is to call for the book, and it will go to you.'"

The claimant further testified, that, later, during the last sickness of Trumbull, when "we were talking business affairs, and I asked him in regard to some money that had been put in trust for a friend of mine, and he explained about it, he said, 'That is on the same principle as the one thousand dollars that I put in for you in the North End Savings Bank'; he said, 'The law is strict in that way, and that money is yours'"; and in reply to the question, "Now, was there any other talk about the money in the bank beside those two conversations?" she said, "No, sir; those two times; he told me just before he died that it was there, and it was mine; that 's all."

On cross-examination the claimant testified that "there was a mutual understanding between Mr. Trumbull and I when I first went there, that I should be paid well, and whatever I thought would satisfy me"; that "there was a nominal price set upon

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for my wages, but it was understood that I was to have a good deal more than that"; that "Mr. Trumbull told me a good many times that he would make a provision for me"; that on one occasion Trumbull said to her, "Achsie, I see you are feeling anxious about your future, and you will feel better when you know what I have done for you"; and proceeded to tell her, "I have made my will, which is deposited with Mr. Alger, in which I have willed you twenty-five shares of Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad stock; if I live until the first of January, there will be a thousand dollars in the North End Savings Bank in trust for you, and if I die, you call for the book, and it will go to you"; and that on one occasion when she asked Trumbull how an old lady of whom she knew could get money that had been deposited in trust for her, he replied, that "it would go to the old lady," and said further, "that is on the same principle as the thousand dollars I put in trust for you."

The counsel for the plaintiff then proceeded to put the following question to the witness: "He said in substance that he had put a thousand dollars in on the same principle; that he had put a thousand dollars in for you, and if he left it there, if he died, as he expected he should —" At this point the witness interrupted the counsel, and said, "No, sir; he did n't at all; he said it was there; the last time he spoke of it he said it was there, and it was mine." The witness further testified, in reply to questions put to her by the counsel for the plaintiff, that Trumbull "told me he had put a thousand dollars in the bank; he said it was in the bank for me, and it was mine"; that "he told me that it was there for me, and it was mine; he offered to give me another thousand, for fear he had n't paid me enough"; but that he never gave her or offered to give her the deposit-book, "or anything of the sort."

The plaintiff testified that he asked the claimant to tell him all that Trumbull ever said to her in regard to the deposit, and that she "replied that he gave her to understand that he had deposited one thousand dollars of his own money in the North End Savings Bank in his name, in trust for her, and that it was to remain his money; he was to take the interest on it and the dividends during his life, and after his death it was to be hers; she spoke of the matter several times, and never varied in regard to

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it"; but the claimant, on being recalled, denied that Trumbull had ever so spoken to her, or that she had ever so replied to the plaintiff.

The judge found for the claimant, and reported the case for the determination of this court, on the question whether the evidence was sufficient as matter of law to sustain the finding.

J. G. Abbott, (*A. B. Alger*, with him,) for the plaintiff.

W. C. Williamson, for the claimant.

DEVENS, J. This is an action of contract for one thousand dollars deposited by George C. Trumbull, the plaintiff's testator, with the defendant bank, Achsie J. Wood intervening as claimant under the Pub. Sts. c. 116, § 31. The judge, before whom the cause was tried without a jury, found for the claimant, and has reported it for the determination of this court, on the question whether the evidence is sufficient in law to sustain this finding.

This sum of money, which was Trumbull's own, was deposited by him in the defendant bank, of which he was treasurer, in his own name, as trustee for Achsie J. Wood. The question presented is whether there was evidence of a perfected gift of the sum thus deposited in his lifetime to Mrs. Wood, or whether it continued under the control and in the possession of Trumbull until his death, and was only intended to become the property of Mrs. Wood in the event that he should see fit to leave it undisturbed at the time of his death. If the deposit was of the latter character, it would be an attempt to make a testamentary disposition of the sum without observing the forms of law, and the administrator would be entitled to the possession of it. *Nutt v. Morse*, 142 Mass. 1.

The Pub. Sts. c. 116, § 32, provide that, when a deposit is made by one in trust for another, and when no other notice of the terms of the trust has been given in writing, the deposit may, in the event of the death of the trustee, be paid to the person for whom such deposit is made. But this is intended solely for the protection of the bank, and the rights of those who deem themselves entitled to the deposit are not thereby affected as between themselves.

The difficulty in this case, as in similar cases where deposits have been made by one in his own name as trustee for another,

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is rather in the application of the law to the facts, than in the principles which should govern. The very large number of deposits in the savings banks of this Commonwealth, and the convenience in many instances of adopting this form of deposit, have caused it often to be carefully considered.

While, if Trumbull retained the control over this fund until his death, intending that no title to or interest in it should pass until that time, there would have been no perfected gift, it is also true, that, if he deposited the money in the bank intending it to be at the time a gift to Mrs. Wood, although he himself kept the deposit-book, and informed her of it, and she assented to it, this would be equivalent to a delivery and an acceptance of a chattel on delivery, and the gift would have been perfected. *Scott* v. *Berkshire County Savings Bank*, 140 Mass. 157.

In *Gerrish* v. *New Bedford Institution for Savings*, 128 Mass. 159, it is said that it is enough for the purpose of making a party trustee for the benefit of another "if it be unequivocally declared in writing, or orally if the property be personal, that it is held in trust for the person named. When the trust is thus created, it is effectual to transfer the beneficial interest, and operates as a gift perfected by delivery." It was there held that evidence which the claimants offered of declarations which the testator, the alleged trustee, made to them at different times in language which fairly implied that he intended to give to them an immediate equitable title in the principal fund, reserving to himself only the income for life, should have been admitted.

But a mere declaration of trust by the owner, not communicated to the donee and assented to by him, or a mere deposit of the fund in his own name as trustee, or a deposit in the name of another, will not be of themselves alone sufficient to prove a complete gift or voluntary trust. *Sherman* v. *New Bedford Savings Bank*, 138 Mass. 581, and cases cited.

The case at bar, although the evidence as to the ownership of the deposit is fully stated, does not require us to decide whether we should have found as did the presiding judge who has reported the case, but only whether there was sufficient evidence, as matter of law, to sustain his finding.

If all the declarations were of the character of that first testified to by the claimant, this would be difficult. She testified

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that the compensation she was receiving in the way of weekly wages was nominal, and that it was always understood that some provision would be made for her in addition. In November or December of 1883, Trumbull recited to her the provisions of his will, by which he had bequeathed to her twenty-five shares in the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad, adding, "And if I live until the first day of January there will be a thousand dollars in the North End Savings Bank in trust for you, and if I die and leave that as I intend to, you will call for the book and it will be yours." The money was not then in the bank, and this conversation only indicates an intention to put it there, and to leave it there so that the claimant might receive it at his death. It is of the same character as the conversations to which the claimant testifies when she states, "Mr. Trumbull told me a good many times that he would make a provision for me." But the statement made by the claimant as to what was said by Trumbull shortly before his death, and after the deposit of the one thousand dollars was actually made, is of a different character. He explained to her (referring to a deposit made by another, and for the benefit of another person than the claimant) that money put in trust in a savings bank for a person would go to that person, saying, "That is on the same principle as the one thousand dollars that I put in for you in the North End Savings Bank"; he said, "The law is strict in that way, and that money is yours." The claimant in her testimony repeated this declaration with some slight change of phraseology, but each time as an explicit statement by Trumbull that the money then in the North End Savings Bank was hers. Thus she states, "He told me just before he died that it was there, and it was mine." To the inquiry, on cross-examination, "He said . . . that he had put a thousand dollars in for you, and if he left it there, if he died as he expected he should," the claimant, interrupting, said, "No, sir; he did n't at all; he said it was there; the last time he spoke of it he said it was there, and it was mine."

These statements, if believed, establish a perfected gift of the one thousand dollars assented to by the claimant. They are made when the money is actually in the bank, and they assure the claimant without qualification that it is hers. There is no

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reason, as matter of law, why the court might not have placed confidence in them. We cannot review the evidence or the argument by which it was sought to show that they were not in fact worthy of credence. *Heywood* v. *Stiles*, 124 Mass. 275.

Judgment on the finding for the claimant.

GEORGE WHITE *vs.* ROSALBA C. STANFIELD & others.

Suffolk. January 30, 31, 1888. — March 5, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Will — Devise — Trust — Heirs at Law — Administrator.

A testator devised a farm, being the only real estate described in his will, to a son, and created several independent trust funds, one of which was for the benefit of his son, directing the trustee to "invest the same in such manner as he shall deem safe and judicious," and to "pay over the net income" to him "during his natural life and the principal of said fund on his death to his heirs at law." Each beneficiary was to receive interest out of the estate, the first payment of which was to be in advance, until his trust fund was formed, and the fund for the benefit of the son was always invested in personal securities. *Held*, that the term "heirs at law" meant next of kin, or persons entitled under the statute of distributions relating to personal estates.

The administrator of a beneficiary for life under a trust is entitled, under the Pub. Sts. c. 136, § 25, to that portion only of the income of the fund which accrued between the last payment to the beneficiary and his death.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed January 14, 1887, by George White, trustee under the will of Henry Robinson, against Rosalba C. Stanfield, Anna E. Robinson, Dora Hidell, and Clifford Brigham, administrator of the estate of Edward Gray Robinson, for instructions as to the disposition of a trust fund.

The bill alleged that Henry Robinson made a will, dated October 14, 1848, which was, with the exception of parts merely formal, as follows:

"I give to my wife Isabella Robinson all my wearing apparel household furniture horses, carriages, plate, watches, and jewelry, and also my library.

"I give to my son Edward Gray Robinson, my farm in the State of Michigan, to have and to hold the same to him his heirs and assigns to his and their use in fee simple.

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"I give to my daughter, Mrs. Rosalba Cecilia Stanfield the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, and if her husband Mr. M. M. Stanfield shall at my decease be indebted to me by note or otherwise either solely or jointly with others, then this bequest shall be applied to the payment of any such indebtment of said M. M. Stanfield.

"I give to William W. Stone and Thomas Lamb, both of said Boston, the sum of fifty thousand dollars to be held by them in trust for the benefit of my said wife during her natural life. They shall invest the same in United States six per cent stock payable in eighteen hundred and sixty-eight if the same can be done on reasonable terms, if it cannot, then in such other manner as they shall judge safe and judicious, and they shall pay the net income of said fund, to my said wife in equal quarter-yearly payments during her natural life for her sole separate and individual use, and upon her decease the principal of said fund shall be disposed of as part of the residue of my estate. The provision which I have herein made for my said wife shall be in lieu and in full satisfaction of her right or claim to dower or thirds from or out of my estate.

"I give to the said Stone and Lamb the further sum of twenty thousand dollars to be held by them in trust for the benefit of my adopted daughter Rosalla Peale (the daughter of the late Rembrandt Peale) during her natural life. They shall invest the same in such manner as they shall judge safe and judicious, and shall pay the net income, of said fund to said Rosalla, in equal quarter-yearly payments during her natural life for her sole separate and individual use, free from the control or interference of any husband with whom she may at any time intermarry, and such payments shall be made only on her own individual receipts or orders, executed on or after the days when they shall respectively become payable and upon her decease the principal of said trust fund shall be disposed of as part of the residue of my estate.

"I give to the said Stone and Lamb the further sum of ten thousand dollars, to be held by them in trust for the benefit of my said daughter Rosalba Cecilia Stanfield during her natural life. They shall invest the same in such manner as they shall judge safe and judicious, and shall pay over to her the net income

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of said fund in equal quarter-yearly payments during her natural life, for her sole separate and individual use, free from the control or interference of her present husband or any husband with whom she may at any time hereafter intermarry, and such payments shall be made only on her own individual receipts or orders, executed on or after the days when they shall respectively become payable; and upon her decease the said trustees shall pay over and distribute the principal of said trust fund to and among her lawful issue the lawful issue of any deceased child of my said daughter taking their parent's share. But if my said daughter shall leave no lawful issue living at the time of her death, then the said trustees shall pay over and distribute the principal of said trust fund to and among her heirs at law.

"I give to the said Stone and Lamb the further sum of fifteen thousand dollars, to be held by them in trust for the benefit of my three grandsons Henry Hugh and George the sons of the said Rosalba Cecilia Stanfield. The said trustees shall invest the same in such manner as they shall judge safe and judicious and they shall expend the net income of the said fund quarter-yearly for the maintenance and education of my said grandchildren until they shall respectively attain the full age of twenty-one years, and as each one attains that age they shall make over to him one equal third part in value of the principal of said fund, but if either of them shall die under that age his share shall go in equal parts to the survivors or the whole to the survivor if only one shall live to reach that age, such additional share or shares not to be paid to him or them until he or they respectively shall reach the said age of twenty-one years, provided however that if my said daughter should have other children born to her they shall have the benefit, in equal proportions among themselves, of the share or shares, of any one or more of my said three grandsons who may die under the age of twenty-one years in the same manner that such deceased grandson or grandsons would have if living, but if only one of my said three grandsons should live to become twenty-one years of age, and only one after-born child of my said daughter should live to reach that age, then the principal of said trust fund shall be divided between them equally, their respective shares to be paid them when they become twenty-one years of age. But if no child of my said daughter shall live to become twenty-one

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years of age, then the principal of said fund shall be disposed of as part of the residue of my estate.

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"I give to my nephew John Henry Towne of Philadelphia the sum of twenty thousand dollars to be held by him in trust for the benefit of my son Charles Robinson during his natural life. He shall invest the same in such manner as he shall judge safe and judicious, and shall pay over the net income of said trust fund to my said son Charles in equal quarter-yearly payments during his natural life, and the principal of said fund upon his decease to his heirs at law.

"I give to said John Henry Towne the further sum of ten thousand dollars to be held by him in trust for the benefit of my son William Gwynn Robinson during his natural life. He shall invest the same in such manner as he shall judge safe and judicious, and shall pay over the net income of said trust fund to my said son William Gwynn in equal quarter-yearly payments during his natural life, and the principal of said fund upon his decease to his heirs at law.

"I give to said John Henry Towne the further sum of ten thousand dollars to be held by him in trust for the benefit of my son Edward Gray Robinson aforenamed during his natural life. He shall invest the same in such manner as he shall judge safe and judicious and shall pay over the net income thereof to my said son Edward Gray in equal quarter-yearly payments during his natural life, and the principal of said fund on his decease to his heirs at law.

"I give to the parties who may be entitled to the income of the several trust funds aforesaid, to each of them a sum equal to one quarter-year's interest in advance on their respective funds, said sums to be paid to them as soon as may be after my decease, with interest on said sums from the day of my death until paid. It is also my intention that the said parties shall receive full interest on the amounts of their respective funds at the expiration of each quarter after my decease, and therefore until the aforenamed trustees shall have received from my executors the full amounts which they will be entitled to claim for the establishment of the said several funds, I direct my executors at the expiration of every three months after my decease to pay to each of the said parties any deficiency there may be in the

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income of their respective funds to make up full interest on the respective sums which I have directed shall be invested for their benefit.

"I also give to the aforenamed Stone and Lamb the further sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, to be held by them in trust for the benefit of my brother, Mr. John Robinson, and my sister Mrs. Hannah Ganott, both of Coventry, England, during their joint lives. The said trustees shall invest the said sum in such manner as they shall judge safe and judicious, and during the joint lives of my said brother and sister they shall pay over to my said brother two thirds of the net income of said trust fund, and to my said sister one third part of said net income, in equal half-yearly payments, and upon the decease of my said brother two thirds of the principal of said trust fund, and upon the decease of my said sister one third part of the said principal shall be disposed of as part of the residue of my estate, and upon the decease of either of them the remaining two thirds or one third part of the same trust fund, as the case may be, shall continue to be held in trust by the said trustees, and the net income thereof shall be paid to the survivor of my said brother and sister, during his or her natural life. All sums to be so paid to my said sister are to be for her sole separate and individual use free from the control or interference of her present husband or any husband with whom she may hereafter intermarry, and shall be paid only on her individual receipt or orders, executed on or after the days when the several sums to be paid her shall become severally due and payable.

"It is my will that neither of the said trustees shall be required to give bond for the faithful discharge of the duties of the said trusts or either of them. They shall have authority from time to time to change the mode of investment of the several trust funds committed to them respectively as they shall judge judicious, they shall not either of them be accountable for any loss, or diminution in value, which may happen or accrue to either of the said funds by reason of any error of judgment on their part. The said Stone or Lamb shall neither of them be accountable for the acts or doings of the other, and each of the said trustees shall be accountable only for his own actual receipts, and his own wilful defaults.

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"All the rest, residue, and remainder of the property and estate of which I may die seised or possessed, including the reversions of the several trust funds aforesaid, which I have directed shall be disposed of as part of the residue of my estate, I give, devise, and bequeath to my son, George Mosher Robinson, to have and to hold the same to him, his heirs, executors administrators and assigns to his and their use and behoof forever, provided however, and it is hereby declared that this bequest is contingent as to the several reversions of the said trust funds and as to each of the said reversions, the same shall not vest in the said George unless he shall survive the party or parties upon whose decease the said reversion shall fall into the residue of my estate, and if the said George shall not be living when any one or more of the said reversions shall fall in, then I give and bequeath such reversion or reversions to the lawful issue of said George, who may be then living, the lawful issue then living of any deceased child of the said George taking their parent's share. But if neither my said son George nor any lawful issue of said George shall be living at the time of the falling in as aforesaid of any one or more of the said reversions, then from the amount of such reversions, I give the sum of ten thousand dollars to my adopted daughter the aforenamed Rosalla Peale, the sum of ten thousand dollars to my nephew Henry Robinson of Glasgow Scotland, son of my brother John Robinson aforenamed. The sum of ten thousand dollars to my said wife Isabella Robinson, and the sum of ten thousand dollars to each of my three grandchildren, Henry, Hugh and George sons of my aforenamed daughter Rosalba Cecilia Stanfield, making in the whole, the sum of sixty thousand dollars thus charged upon the said reversions in case of the death of my said son George and failure of his issue as aforesaid, and if there shall afterwards be any surplus, remaining of said reversions, or either of them, I give the same to my nephew the aforenamed John Henry Towne. But if there shall not be a sum sufficient to pay said six bequests in full of ten thousand dollars each, then they shall be abated equally, and in case any one or more of the said seven legatees shall die before the happening of the contingencies which would entitle them to receive the said sums so bequeathed to them, then it is my will, that

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his, her, or their legal representatives whether legatees or heirs at law shall stand in his, her, or their stead in all respects and be entitled to demand and receive the said several sums in the same manner that he she or they would if living and if by reason of depreciation in value or from any other cause, there shall not be realized from my estate, an amount sufficient to pay in full the legacies herein given and to establish in full the several trust funds which I have directed shall be created, and leave besides a surplus of ten thousand dollars, for my son George Mosher Robinson as residuary legatee, then and in such case, a ratable abatement shall be made from the said several trust funds, except the fund for the benefit of my wife, (which is at all events to be made up to the full amount of fifty thousand dollars,) to such extent as may be needful to secure to my said son George as residuary legatee the full sum of ten thousand dollars. And if such abatement shall be made, from the said trust funds, then upon the death of my said wife and my said adopted daughter, Rosalla Peale, or either of them, the principal of their respective trust funds shall be appropriated as far as need be to make up and restore to the several funds so reduced the amounts so abated, from them respectively with interest thereon from the time of my death, before the said principal of said funds, or either of them, or any part of the same shall be paid to the person or persons who may then under the foregoing provisions be entitled to receive the same."

The bill also alleged, that this will was duly admitted to probate on November 27, 1848; that John Henry Towne was duly appointed trustee under the will on December 17, 1849; that as trustee he received the sum of $10,000 in shares of stock and cash from the executor of the will, and invested it in personal securities, paying the income thereof to Edward Gray Robinson as directed by the will; that Towne died in April, 1875, and the plaintiff was on January 10, 1876, duly appointed trustee under the will; that the plaintiff as such trustee received from the executor of Towne the capital of the trust fund in personal securities and cash; that he had invested it in mortgages, and it amounted to the sum of $11,420.25, the income of which had been paid to Edward Gray Robinson each year during his life, the last payment having been made to him on July 1, 1886; that Edward

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Gray Robinson died on October 16, 1886, leaving a widow, Anna E. Robinson, a sister, Rosalba C. Stanfield, and a niece, Dora Hidell; that Clifford Brigham had been appointed administrator of the estate of Edward Gray Robinson; and that these were the only persons who claimed to be heirs or legal representatives of Edward Gray Robinson, or entitled to receive the fund.

The bill further alleged, that Brigham, as administrator, claimed the whole of the trust fund, both principal and interest; that the wife claimed the whole of the trust fund, except the income accruing between July 1 and October 16, 1886; and that the sister and the niece each claimed one half of the fund, except the income accruing between the same dates.

The prayer of the bill was that the plaintiff might be instructed as to what parts of the fund, if any, the defendants were entitled.

The answer of the defendant Brigham alleged that he claimed that the income of the trust fund accruing between July 1, 1886, and October 16, 1886, should be paid to him as personal property of Edward Gray Robinson of which he died intestate, "and as to the principal of said trust fund, this defendant submits to such order or decree as to this honorable court shall seem meet and proper."

The answer of the wife admitted the allegations of the bill, "excepting that she claims to receive from complainant only one half of the principal of said trust fund."

The answers of the sister and niece each admitted the allegations of the bill.

Hearing upon the bill and answers before *C. Allen*, J., who reserved the case for the consideration of the full court.

J. A. Loring, for the wife.

H. D. Chapin, for the sister.

W. C. Loring, for the niece.

G. B. Ives & C. Brigham, for the administrator, filed a brief.

DEVENS, J. The case at bar has been argued somewhat at cross purposes by the counsel who have respectively represented before the court, on the one side, the widow, and on the other, the sister and niece of Edward G. Robinson.

The claim as made on behalf of the widow is, that the fund of $10,000 of which the testator's son Edward G. was to have

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the income during life is to be treated as a gift of personal property upon his decease to those who were then his next of kin or his distributees, and that by the words "to his heirs at law" the testator intended to designate those who would have taken as the distributees of his personal property had the fund actually been the property of Edward G. at his decease; and thus, as he left a widow, but no issue, she is entitled to one half thereof as his personal property, such being the law of Massachusetts when the will was made and when the testator died. By the law as it now exists, the widow in such case is entitled to $5,000 of the personal property of the husband and one half of the excess above $10,000. These sums amount together to the sum of $5,710.12, which is the same amount as one half of the personal property; so that this change in the law as applied to the case at bar makes no difference in the amount to be received by the beneficiary, if the claim on her behalf is maintained.

On behalf of the sister and niece it is urged that the words "heirs at law" cannot be interpreted as meaning next of kin or distributees; that they apply solely to the realty, and designate as those who are to take the fund in controversy those who at the decease of Edward G. were entitled to estates of inheritance in his real property; that by the law in force when the will was made and when the testator died the widow did not inherit any part of her husband's real estate, but it would have been divided between his sister and his niece, so that she cannot have been designated as an "heir at law"; and that although by the law in force (St. 1880, c. 211) when Edward G. died his widow would have been entitled to his real estate to the amount in value of $5,000 and an estate for life in his remaining real estate in lieu of dower, the will must be construed by the law which prevailed when the will became operative. It was further urged, that even if this is not so, and if the present law is to govern in determining what persons come within the meaning of a gift to "heirs at law," the St. of 1880, c. 211, did not make the widow in any proper sense an heir of her husband, as it did not cast upon her an estate of inheritance in his lands upon his decease, but gave her only a right to a certain provision to be made therefrom.

While it has not been urged on behalf of the widow that she was entitled to take as one properly designated as an heir at law

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by virtue of the statute of 1880, but her claim has been rested upon the ground of her rights to which she would be entitled as distributee in the personal property of her deceased husband, and while the amount which she would receive in the two events would differ, it is to be presumed that this claim might be made on her behalf if that originally made by her is rejected. It does not appear by the bill for instructions and the answers thereto to have been distinctly set forth, but these are of course susceptible of amendment, and it might be necessary to consider it unless the widow shall be found entitled on the ground first taken on her behalf.

An examination of the will leads to the conclusion that the testator intended that the sum of $10,000 should be dealt with as personal property during the lifetime of his son, and that it should be distributed as such at the decease of the son, unless the use of the words "heirs at law" in describing those to whom it is to pass shall compel us to hold otherwise. The only real estate described in the will of the testator was a farm in Michigan, which he devised to Edward G. The instrument contains several distinct and independent trusts, which consist of funds to be held for the benefit during life of certain *cestuis que trust*, and which at their decease respectively are variously disposed of.

The trust for the benefit of Edward G. was the sum of $10,000, to be held by the trustee during the natural life of Edward G., to pay to him the income thereof, and "to pay over . . . the principal of said fund on his decease to his heirs at law." The fund was to be invested by the trustee as he might think safe and judicious, but there is no suggestion that it should be invested in real estate, nor do we find anything looking to its division as such. The parties entitled to the income of the various funds were to receive "a sum equal to one quarter-year's interest in advance on their respective funds," and, as there might be delay after the decease of the testator in the formation of such funds, the beneficiaries for life were until that time to receive quarterly full interest on the amount of their respective funds. The fund created for Edward G. consisted of personal securities, and has always remained thus invested. It is fairly to be inferred from the direction that the fund should be paid over on the decease of

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Edward G., from the fact that interest is to be paid on an equal amount until the fund is formed, and from the other circumstances of the case, that it was to be kept and dealt with as personal property.

Where, even in the case of a gift of personal property at the decease of one who was to enjoy a life income therefrom, it was clear that the testator intended that "heirs at law" strictly so termed should take the property from which such income was drawn, they would so take, not as such, but as persons whom the will described, and who might be described by the class to which they belonged as well as by their names. Where a gift of the income of personal property has been made, and then such property is bequeathed to "his heirs," or his "heirs at law," many English decisions have held that those who are strictly so must take to the exclusion of the next of kin or distributees. *Smith* v. *Butcher*, 10 Ch. D. 113. *Low* v. *Smith*, 2 Jur. (N. S.) 344. *De Beauvoir* v. *De Beauvoir*, 3 H. L. Cas. 524.

Such has not been so clearly the tendency of the decisions in Massachusetts, which have paid more regard to what seemed the intention of the testator, and, ascertaining this, have endeavored to follow it. While words must certainly receive the sense which they ordinarily have, yet it may be shown by the context that the testator has sought to impress upon them a different sense, and if so, this will then be followed. *Minot* v. *Harris*, 132 Mass. 528. In *Loring* v. *Thorndike*, 5 Allen, 257, where a bequest of personal property was made by a codicil in lieu of a devise of real estate to the same person in the will, and this was so expressed in the codicil, it was held that the intention of the testator was clearly indicated that the word "heirs" as applied to the personal property should bear its legal sense. But in *Houghton* v. *Kendall*, 7 Allen, 72, where the gift was of a sum of two thousand dollars at the decease of one entitled for life to the income thereof, it is said: "In this Commonwealth we find no authority which would conflict with the adoption of the construction which seems to us reasonable, that when the word 'heirs' is used in a gift of personalty, it should primarily be held to refer to those who would be entitled to take under the statute of distributions, and to indicate that they should take in the same manner and in the same proportions as if it had come to them as

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intestate estate of the person whose 'heirs' they are called." Upon this ground the case is decided. To the same effect is *Sweet* v. *Dutton*, 109 Mass. 589.

The sister and the niece rely much on the cases of *Merrill* v. *Preston*, 135 Mass. 451, and *Fabens* v. *Fabens*, 141 Mass. 395. In *Merrill* v. *Preston*, the will in terms authorized "the fund to be invested in real estate, and looked to its possible division in that form," although it was personalty when it was handed over. But it is said, "If the deed before us had contemplated a trust of personalty only, there would have been a stronger, although not necessarily a conclusive, argument in favor of construing an ultimate limitation to heirs in a sense adapted to the mode in which personal property devolves." *Fabens* v. *Fabens* belongs to the same class of cases as *Clarke* v. *Cordis*, 4 Allen, 466, and *Lombard* v. *Boyden*, 5 Allen, 249, in which it is held that where real and personal estate are blended in a single provision, and the rents, profits, dividends, and income are to be paid to one for his life, and at the death of the life tenant the trustee is to convey and pay over the same to his legal heirs, there being no indication that more than one class is intended, or that the two kinds of property are to go in different directions, the whole property will go to those who are technically described as "heirs." In *Fabens* v. *Fabens* the trust property devised and bequeathed consisted of real and personal estate, the life income of which went to the wife and children of the testator. The language of the court is: "The heirs of the children do not take in their parents' place, by way of substitution to the same estate, but they take an independent, substantive gift of the whole property, subject to a life interest therein which is given to the testator's wife and children. There is nothing in the will which shows any intention that the real estate should go in one direction and the personal in another. The provision is a single one, and is found at the beginning of a separate paragraph."

In the case at bar those who are to take after the life estate do not take by way of succession or substitution, but an independent substantive gift; but that which they are to take is personal property, intended to be kept as such, and thus to be paid over at the decease of the life tenant, and notwithstanding the use of the words "heirs at law," it should be paid to his distributees,

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and one half thereof to his widow, as a person so entitled under the statute. The words do not appear to have been used technically, nor would it have occurred to a testator, unless his attention had been called to it by legal advice, that he was in danger by use of them of sending this property in a different direction from that it would have taken if it had actually been the property of his son. Indeed, his object was not, we think, so much to make an additional bequest after providing carefully for the income of his son for life, as to relinquish the property from which it was derived to the disposition of the law. It is said in *Minot* v. *Harris*, *ubi supra*, that "the phrase used by the testator," who had bequeathed his property to his wife for life, and at her "decease 'to my legal heirs as the law provides,' while redundant, shows an intention to refer the subsequent disposition of his estate to the law as it exists, and of which the statutes form a part." Where a testator establishes a fund consisting of personal property for the purpose of providing an income for life for his son, and this is apparently his principal object, and when after his son's decease he directs it to be paid over to the son's "heirs at law," his intention is not so much to make a bequest of it, or direct further how it shall go, as it is to surrender the disposition of the fund, as if it were actually the son's, to those upon whom the law would in such case devolve it.

As in our view the fund is to pass as personal property, it will be unnecessary to consider what would be the character of the widow's estate therein if treated as real property.

While the bill sets out that the administrator of Edward G. Robinson claims the whole estate, this was not seriously contended. He is entitled to that portion of the income of the fund which accrued between July 1 and October 16, the day of the life tenant's death. Pub. Sts. c. 136, § 25. *Adams* v. *Adams*, 139 Mass. 449.

The widow as distributee of the personal property is entitled to one half the trust fund, and the sister and niece respectively to one quarter. *Instructions accordingly.*

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EDWARD B. HOLT *vs.* JOSEPH BENNETT & others.

Suffolk. January 16, 1888. — March 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Corporation — Creditor — Payments to Directors — Fraud.

Payments made by a corporation, intending in good faith to go on and develop valuable patents owned by it, to its directors of money borrowed from them in the ordinary course of business, are not recoverable from such directors by a creditor of the corporation whose debt at the time was not due and payable.

DEVENS, J. This is a bill in equity, in which a creditor of a corporation, the Purifying and Maturing Process Company, seeks to have a certain mortgage made by it declared fraudulent, and the individual defendants, who were its directors, and two of whom were also creditors, decreed to pay the debt owing to the plaintiff. Whether the plaintiff is entitled as a creditor to maintain such a bill on his own behalf, neither joining other creditors nor making the corporation a party, even if the mortgage transaction by which its assets were transferred was a fraudulent one, and also whether, the mortgage having been heretofore held valid in a suit at law in which the defendant Cushing was summoned by the plaintiff as trustee, the plaintiff is now estopped to assert otherwise, are questions which, although raised and discussed, we shall have no occasion to decide.

The case has been referred to a master, and the facts as reported by him do not show that the plaintiff has any just cause of complaint. On December 28, 1881, the corporation owed one Hayden $1,000, and two of the directors now sued had indorsed the note; it also owed Cushing, one of the directors, $1,350, and the secretary, Burgett, $450; all of which indebtedness was contracted in good faith, and in the ordinary course of business. It also owed the note held by the plaintiff, but the same was not due and payable until four months thereafter. On the same day the treasurer was authorized to borrow $6,000 for the use of the corporation, to give its note or notes therefor, to obtain the necessary indorsers thereon for the security of the loan to the lender, and to convey the stock and assets of the corporation, or

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such part thereof as might be necessary, to some person as trustee, the same to be held as collateral security to indemnify and save harmless the indorsers of the proposed note or notes. A promissory note was executed to Hayden, who advanced the $6,000, signed by the directors of the corporation, including Cushing, and the treasurer of the corporation made a conveyance of the stock, goods, and assets of the corporation to Cushing, in trust to hold, sell, or dispose of the same in order to pay the note of $6,000, and indemnify and save harmless the indorsers thereon.

This $6,000 was practically all that ever came to the hands of the corporation after December 28, 1881. It was used partly to pay the debts of the corporation then due, and it may be inferred that it was intended it should be so used when the loan was negotiated. These debts were those heretofore stated as due to Hayden, Cushing, and Burgett. It does not appear that any others existed. They amounted in the aggregate to $2,800. The remainder was used to purchase materials and to defray the legitimate expenses of the corporation before the complainant's note matured. The whole transaction is found to have been done in good faith, with the intent to put the corporation on a better footing, to go on with its business and develop its patents, which were deemed to be valuable.

Although the corporation failed to pay the plaintiff's note when it became due, we can see no ground upon which to charge the defendants, who were the directors at the time of this transaction, or those whose debts were thus paid, with any liability to the plaintiff. The property conveyed in trust to Cushing, so far from being in excess of the $6,000 borrowed, proved, at a sale where its full market value was obtained, to be worth only $5,046; so that no case is presented where the trustee has received any security in excess of the liability incurred. Even if, when this deed was made, the property of the corporation, outside of the value of the letters patent possessed by it, was insufficient to pay its debts in full, the process patented was honestly believed to be of great value, and indeed has since been made successful, although by another corporation.

The position of the plaintiff appears to be, that a corporation intending in good faith to proceed with its business, and to render

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the patents available which it possesses, cannot pay its directors money which it has borrowed from them in the ordinary course of business without rendering them responsible for the amount which they thus receive to any of its creditors whose debts may then be owing from it, although not then due and payable. This is quite untenable. The cases cited by the plaintiff, which hold that where a corporation is insolvent it cannot make conveyances of its property in contemplation of such insolvency, for the security of its directors who are also its creditors, to the exclusion of others, do not require examination or discussion. They have no relation to a case like that at bar. There was no reason why this corporation should not conduct its business in the ordinary manner, even if incidentally debts for borrowed money were paid to its directors, this being done fairly and in its prosecution of the object for which it was formed. Nor was there any reason why the plaintiff should have his debt paid in advance because the money of the corporation was being used to pay debts then payable, to purchase materials, and to defray other legitimate expenses. *Bill dismissed.*

Z. S. Arnold, for the plaintiff.

C. F. Perkins & A. M. Lyman, for the defendants.

JOHN MAY *vs.* WINTHROP M. B. HAMMOND & another.

Suffolk. January 20; February 13, 1888. — March 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Poor Debtor — Debt — Promissory Note — Indorser — Evidence — Record — Amendment.

The contingent liability of the indorser of a promissory note is a "debt" within the Pub. Sts. c. 162, § 17, cl. 5, which may be contracted "with an intention not to pay the same."

Oral evidence of a magistrate, before whom the examination of a poor debtor is had, is inadmissible to contradict his record.

TWO ACTIONS OF CONTRACT upon poor debtor recognizances, entered into under the Pub. Sts. c. 162, § 28, by the first-named

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defendant as principal, and the other defendant as surety, and containing the usual conditions. The cases were tried in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in each case, which, so far as material, was as follows:

It appeared in evidence that Hammond was duly arrested upon an execution in favor of the plaintiff, judgment having been recovered against him as indorser of a promissory note made to the plaintiff by one Ames. The affidavit of the plaintiff, upon which the certificate of the magistrate authorizing the arrest was issued, set forth that the plaintiff believed, and had "good reason to believe, that the debtor, Winthrop M. B. Hammond, has property not exempt from being taken on execution, which he does not intend to apply to the payment of the judgment creditor's claim; and further, that I believe and have good reason to believe that the debtor, Winthrop M. B. Hammond, contracted the debt with an intention not to pay the same." The judge refused to rule, as requested by the defendants, that the liability of an indorser is not a "debt" within the meaning of the Pub. Sts. c. 162, § 17, cl. 5, and that the charge contained in the affidavit upon which the certificate of arrest was issued, that the debtor contracted the debt with an intention not to pay the same, did not apply, and that the arrest was invalid, as the first charge alone did not authorize an arrest.

The magistrate before whom Hammond delivered himself up for examination was permitted to testify that a hearing was appointed for July 25, 1885, at nine o'clock; that before the expiration of the hour, Hammond's attorney, who was present, stated that his client would be present, and moved that the hearing be kept open for him to come in, or be adjourned; that while this motion, which the witness admitted he entertained at the time it was made, was being argued, and before any default had been entered, except in the magistrate's "mind," the defendant came in, at six minutes past ten o'clock; and that he stated at the time of the discussion that he had no jurisdiction in the case after ten o'clock, which point was combated by the attorney. The magistrate's record showed that Hammond was defaulted because he did not appear personally within the hour. The judge ruled, upon the plaintiff's objecting to this evidence, that oral evidence outside of the magistrate's

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record was inadmissible to contradict it, and directed a verdict for the plaintiff in each case. The defendants alleged exceptions.

S. J. Elder, for the defendants.

B. C. Moulton, for the plaintiff.

C. ALLEN, J. 1. The Pub. Sts. c. 162, § 17, cl. 5, include the liability as indorser of a promissory note.

2. It is true that the statutes do not, in express terms, require magistrates who hear applications for the discharge of persons arrested on mesne process and execution to keep records of their proceedings, but, as they act in a judicial capacity, it is proper for them to keep such records, and such records when so kept are to be taken as their official statement of what they have done, and are the proper evidence thereof; and it is competent for such magistrates to amend their records, and when amended such records are evidence of the truth of what they contain. *Henshaw* v. *Savil*, 114 Mass. 74. *Lincoln* v. *Cook*, 124 Mass. 383, and cases cited. It results from this that the oral testimony of such a magistrate is incompetent, upon a trial, to contradict his record. If the record fails to express the truth, the proper course is to amend it. *Sewall* v. *Sullivan*, 108 Mass. 355. *Cook* v. *Berth*, 108 Mass. 73, 77. In the present case such a record was kept, and was put in evidence, and the ruling of the court was correct that the oral testimony of the magistrate was inadmissible to contradict it. That record showed that the debtor was defaulted because he did not appear personally within the hour; and, as it stands, a verdict was properly ordered for the plaintiff.

Exceptions overruled.

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THOMAS H. BOARDMAN & another *vs.* BOSTON MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Suffolk. January 20, 1888. — March 12, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Marine Insurance — Freight — Abandonment — Total Loss — Cargo — Evidence.

A loss of more than half a cargo of coal *in specie* by perils insured against authorizes the abandonment and a claim for a total loss of freight, insured under a valued policy, though the actual freight lost and the cost of forwarding the cargo left is less than one half the valued freight.

In an action on such a policy upon freight on a cargo of two hundred and seventy-four tons of coal, also insured by the defendant, there was evidence that the defendant had paid the owners of the cargo as for a total loss; that forty or fifty tons were thrown overboard to save the vessel; that "great seas" washed some coal out of her; that thirty to forty-five tons were lightered; that a "very little" was used by the steam pumps of a wrecking company; and that she was not further discharged until she reached a port, where forty tons remaining were taken out of her. *Held*, that a jury would be warranted in finding that more than half the cargo was lost by perils insured against.

CONTRACT upon a policy of insurance on freight of the schooner Theresa. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Brigham*, C. J., who reported the case for the determination of this court, which, so far as material, was as follows.

The policy, which was taken out by the plaintiffs, who were the owners of three fourths of the vessel, for the benefit of all the owners, was for "twenty-five hundred dollars on freight on board or not on board sch. 'Theresa,' from September 19th, 1885, to September 18th, 1886, both days inclusive, ... freight valued at $2,500 unless a larger amount at risk, then at actual freight," and contained the following printed clauses, the blank used being that habitually used by the defendant for policies on vessels or freights:

"It is further provided that the insurers shall not be liable . . . . for any loss of freight on ice or lime, unless the entire quantity shipped shall be destroyed because of stranding, sinking, or fire; nor for any loss of ice in general average except it be occasioned by jettison, and in all cases of loss by jettison the same shall be settled on the principle of general average only, but shall not be liable for general average, or general contribu-

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tion, in case of the jettison of the deck load. And in case of claim for loss or damage, there shall be deducted from the cost of metal, sheathing, calking under the metal or sheathing, and docking, first the value of the old metals and nails, and from the remainder two and a half per cent for each month that the metal or sheathing shall have been on said vessel when the same is taken off, and if it has been on three years, the cost shall be wholly borne by the insured; and from all other repairs, except upon anchors, there shall be deducted one third. And it is agreed, that the insured shall not have the right to claim for total loss on account of the estimated amount of repairs exceeding the valuation of the vessel, nor under any circumstances to abandon, provided the vessel remain *in specie*, unless the amount which the insurers would be liable to pay (exclusive of all general average charges, and charges for getting off or raising and bringing into port a vessel stranded or submerged, and of all repairs consequent upon decay) under an adjustment, as of partial loss, after making all the usual deductions, including the proportion or whole of cost of remetalling, docking, and calking, as provided for in this policy, shall exceed half the value of said vessel, as declared in this policy; and the highest valuation under which the vessel is insured, in any policy, shall be the basis for ascertaining a technical total loss of freight under this policy. It is also agreed that the assured shall not have the right to abandon, or to claim total loss of, freight upon goods perishable in their own nature, unless the vessel carrying said goods shall be actually or technically a total loss according to the terms of this policy, or the goods themselves be totally lost caused by sinking, stranding, burning or collision with another vessel. It is also further agreed that voyage policies on freight on board or not on board shall attach at the first port specified, as soon as the inward cargo is landed, and no sooner, whether the vessel be under charter or not, and shall terminate at port or ports of destination with the landing of cargo, in proportion as amount hereby insured bears to full amount of freight or charter for the whole voyage insured. Time risks on freight shall attach and terminate in the same manner, applying to each cargo (or voyage, if in ballast and not chartered) successively, or to each charter successively in case vessel be chartered."

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The vessel was insured by three policies in companies other than the defendant, the valuation in each policy being $8,000. On December 22, 1885, the schooner sailed from Philadelphia for Newburyport with a cargo of two hundred and seventy-four tons of coal, at a freight of $1.90 per ton, including discharging, or $1.65 per ton without. The cargo was insured by the defendant for the consignees, who were the owners.

While on this voyage the schooner, on January 5, 1886, in a heavy gale, dragged both anchors, and went ashore on a bar near Hyannis. On the same day an ineffectual attempt was made by wreckers to get the vessel off, and on January 7 a further attempt was made by the Boston Tow-Boat Company under a contract, but on January 9 a violent gale compelled the company to leave her and abandon the contract, under the belief that she was going to pieces. On January 9 the owners of the cargo abandoned it to the defendant, and on January 16 the defendant, having at first declined to accept the abandonment, paid them in full, as for a total loss of the cargo. The plaintiffs on January 10 abandoned the vessel to the insurers, who, after declining to accept the abandonment, paid them in full, as for a total loss under their policies. On the same day the plaintiffs by telegram also abandoned the freight to the defendant, and confirmed their abandonment of it by letters on January 11 and 12; but the defendant replied, "In absence of proof of the loss, we decline to accept the abandonment."

On January 21 another contract was made by the underwriters, on vessel and freight, with the Boston Tow-Boat Company, to get the vessel and cargo off, and deliver them at Hyannis, and on February 3 the company succeeded in bringing her into the harbor of Hyannis, with some part of her cargo remaining on board. She was brought in full of water, and, after going in as far as she could go, was left on the bottom. On February 4, 1886, the defendant, after paying the owners of the coal as for a total loss, wrote the plaintiffs a letter, signed by its vice-president, as follows: "As the coal is full of sand, it will not pay to bring it to destination. If I abandon it to you for its frt., you would not get full frt. for it. In order to stop expense on it, I am willing to take it at Hyannis, if you will make a proper reduction of frt. What will you take off, and have

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voyage end where she is?" To which letter the plaintiffs replied, on February 6, 1886: "We are in receipt of your favor of 4th inst. In the matter of sch. Theresa and her cargo, as we do not consider ourselves the owners of the vessel, having, upon January 11th, abandoned her and her freight to the underwriters, you will see the impropriety of our discussing with you the question of what shall be done with vessel or her cargo."

On the same day the defendant wrote to the owners of the cargo, "Please send me the B–L of the coal, as I propose to sell it; the buyer will require it." The owners thereupon sent the defendant the bill of lading, as requested. On March 15, 1886, the vessel, the cargo having been first removed from her, was taken to New Bedford for repairs, and afterwards sold by the insurers.

A shipbroker testified: "A fair coal freight from Hyannis to New Bedford for the cargo of the Theresa, supposing the vessel not to be under water, and the cargo to be at the port of Hyannis, knowing what I do about it, would be — I should have wanted something like $2.25 a ton. I am figuring this coal in good condition. I suppose it would cost 25 cents a ton for loading it from the wharf, 6 cents for trimming, and 25 cents for discharging, and this is included in the $2.25." On cross-examination he testified: "The lowest rate of freight in January would be $2.25, whether a vessel was already at Hyannis or sent there. The danger of season makes that rate. In the summer I think it could be carried at the ordinary rate, $1.25."

Lincoln F. Baker testified: "I was the wreck-master for the Boston Tow-Boat Company. Have been in that business six years, and had experience in the wrecking of vessels. I first heard of this wreck at Boston, January 5. I telegraphed to the Storm King, our tug-boat, then at Wood's Holl, to proceed to the wreck immediately with our steam lighter. I went to the wreck on the morning of the 7th, met Mr. Boardman, the owner, and made the contract with him for $2,000 to deliver vessel at Vineyard Harbor or New Bedford; no success, no pay. I hired some men ashore, not having sufficient men aboard, and went on board the schooner at once; we hauled the lighter alongside; the steam pumps were already aboard the lighter; the Storm King lay alongside the lighter. We put the steam pump down

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the fore hatch; that was the only place it was valuable, the main hatch being full of coal. Immediately after making fast, in the afternoon of the 7th, we started the p.. ..o and began to throw coal overboard. We threw the coal over .. n the main hatch; this was done to lighten the vessel as fast as ossible. We worked till towards midnight on the 7th, and again on the morning of the 8th. It was impossible to keep the main pump down in the main hatch till we took out coal enough to let the suction pipe go down. The first of this coal we threw overboard. In the morning of the 8th, we began to put coal on the lighter's deck; about noon we placed the second pump alongside down the main hatch and started both pumps together. We kept at work on the coal till one or two o'clock, and it being then high water we made an attempt to haul the vessel off; this was one or two o'clock of the night of January 8. We had a couple of cables to the Storm King, about one hundred and fifty fathoms, and with them tried to haul her off; found she was imbedded in the sand; it was impossible to start her. The Storm King hauled off again, and the lighter hauled alongside the Storm King to give her some of the coal on the lighter's deck. The lighter was then brought back alongside the schooner. We went to work immediately throwing coal overboard. We continued at work till about ten o'clock at night, so as to allow the suction pipe of the pump to suck the water. At 10 P.M. the wind from east-northeast had freshened to a violent storm.

"When it broke daylight, some of the men were on deck and some hanging to the weather rail, taking the seas as they broke over them on their hands and knees. It was impossible to do anything; the surf was so bad that the men on shore could n't get to us. Two men volunteered to get into the dory. They got ashore. We hauled up the surf-boat and dropped into it from the main boom, and rowed to the lighter. . . . . On Sunday, January 10, A.M., the Storm King towed us to Hyannis. We had been out ever since the 7th. The storm was the most severe I ever saw. As soon as I arrived at Hyannis I notified the master that I would have nothing further to do with the vessel. I did this because I did n't consider her of any value whatever. Her forward house was gone, her cabin washed out,

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and I supposed her port bilge was entirely stove in. I did not think I could save vessel or cargo at that time. During the gale our pumps and things listed to the leeward. This soft coal was very light, and great seas breaking over the deck would put the coal in motion, and it would go down in the lee waist. It would go overboard; the bulwarks were knocked out. I should think we threw overboard forty or fifty tons of the coal. Thirty or thirty-five tons, in my judgment, was taken aboard the lighter. From what was put on the lighter we coaled the Storm King during the first part of the storm. This was necessary. As a matter of judgment, fifteen or twenty tons were put on the Storm King. Perhaps ten tons were thrown over from the lighter. We had some ten or fifteen tons aboard the lighter when we reached Hyannis. I don't think I could give any estimate how much of the cargo was washed out of her, because the vessel was carried entirely under water, so that during the gale and shifting of the cargo it would be impossible for me to tell much about it. There was sand in the hold of the vessel, because we pumped sand up from the fore hatch through our pumps. The coal was mixed with sand. After I got to Hyannis Harbor, I reported to the captain, abandoned the cargo, and told him that I was through with the contract. . . . . When I got to Boston I notified the general manager of the Tow-Boat Company that I was done with the Theresa; that I did n't think there was sufficient vessel to save. After that he made a contract himself, under which I made a further attempt to save her. . . . . On February 3 we hauled her to Hyannis Harbor. We carried her in full of water. She went as far in as she could go, and remained there, on the bottom. I left her so and went home. I did not return to her till March 12. On that day she lay alongside the pier at Hyannis, nearly filled with water. She had coal in her then. I took it out; I took out about forty tons, I judged. After that I patched her bottom and carried her to New Bedford, delivering her there March 15, something more than two months after she was wrecked. I don't think it would have been possible to discharge the coal from the schooner at the place where she was ashore, unless by using the pontoons as we did. The expense per day of the boilers, lighters, pontoons, steam pumps, steam tugs, and men would have been rising $400

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per day. To discharge the cargo we should have to lift the vessel and take her somewhere. It would take three days to lift her, and I think it would have taken five days to lift her to take her somewhere and discharge the cargo, the best we could have done."

On cross-examination he testified: "I didn't see the vessel out of water at New Bedford, but there was an inspection made by divers. They found her keel gone and garboard seam next the keel all open. . . . . The coal thrown over January 7 was from the main hatch. During the 7th and 8th I judge forty or fifty tons were thrown over; that is merely my judgment and guess-work. At the same time we filled the lighter twice. We put on thirty to thirty-five tons; out of that we put fifteen or twenty tons aboard the Storm King. We then filled up the lighter again from the Theresa, and in going into Hyannis had to throw over part of the load to save her, I should think from eight to ten tons; about sixteen tons got to Hyannis on the lighter. I can't estimate how much coal washed out through the bulwarks; it would be impossible. This soft coal, being very fine, went through the pumps. What fell through the hatch was piled up on the leeward side; it was washed up out of the hatch, and caught up by the bulwark on the lee side. I judge some of it must have gone out through the places in the bulwark. There was no breaking in of the vessel below the deck; it was above the deck. The quantity lost in this way couldn't be very little; I don't know whether more than two or three tons. I did not see any go overboard through these places in the bulwarks, for the simple reason that the vessel was entirely submerged. . . . .

"The whole quantity of coal taken out on the lighters and the Storm King was forty-five tons, about, when we left the vessel on the 10th. We shovelled overboard forty or fifty tons, to the best of my judgment. I don't know how much coal washed out of her, or how much remained in the vessel. I don't know whether any went out through the bottom; possibly the fine coal might have gone out in the seam. Nothing but fine coal. Getting her into Hyannis after the 23d involved no removal of coal. What coal there was we lifted up with the pontoons in the vessel, except what little was used by the steam pumps, —

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very little; they would not use over a ton a day for each pump if we drive them steady. We had been using that on the 8th, 9th, and 10th. We were out there January 30 and February 1 and 2. While taking the vessel into Hyannis, or on the 23d, I had not in mind at all how much coal remained on board the vessel. You could see, by looking down the main hatch, some coal there; the hole I dug with the steam pump was levelled up. I left her then. The next time I came there, March 12, she was alongside of the wharf. She was not discharged of coal before I got there the 12th; she was filled full of water. Between February 3 and March 12, I don't know whether any coal was taken out of her; somebody else was in charge. We had three steamboats there; whether they used any of it I can't tell. I estimate forty tons remaining in her, March 12, merely from the coal piled up on the wharf. There was no measurement. It was taken out of the vessel, March 12."

On re-direct examination to the question, "Now don't you believe that under the circumstances that that vessel lay in there, with a storm of two or three days, her hatches open, water in amongst her cargo, and the waves breaking over her, that that cargo was extensively washed out?" he replied, "Well, the cargo was in motion, no doubt"; and to the further question, "Don't you believe that her cargo of light, soft coal, in the condition that that was, with her hatches open, would wash out under those circumstances?" he replied, "I don't think I am hardly competent to answer that, because in my experience I don't ever have chances to take observations. There is no question that some of the coal came out of the hatch. In the subsequent storms after January 10, there would not be the same chances for the cargo to wash out; not so much, because this was a tremendous gale of wind. We never have such seas as on that night. She never righted a foot while we were there; she lay at an angle of about forty-five degrees. On the 23d the water was running into her hatch, and had been ever since the 10th. It depends on the motion what effect that would have on the soft coal. I could n't tell how far below deck the coal was as I looked down the hatch. She still had some list to port as we took her into Hyannis. I could see into the hold and see coal there, but could not tell how far below deck it was. It was levelled off;

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the sea did that; it carried the same list the vessel did. I could not judge, looking through the hatch, what portion of the cargo remained after arriving at Hyannis."

The defendant asked the judge to rule that the plaintiffs upon the evidence were not justified in abandoning the freight insured, and could not recover as for a total loss of the freight under the policy. The judge refused so to rule, ordered a verdict for the plaintiffs as for a total loss, and reported the case for the determination of this court. If the plaintiffs were entitled to recover as for a total loss, the verdict was to stand; if the plaintiffs were entitled to a partial loss only, a new trial was to be ordered.

W. E. Russell, (*C. T. Russell* with him,) for the plaintiffs, contended that there was a total loss of freight; 1. by the actual or constructive loss of the vessel, or of her voyage, within the terms of the policy; 2. by the actual or constructive total loss of cargo; or 3. either by loss of the voyage, the expense of forwarding cargo, the delay, impossibility, or uselessness of so doing, or any facts showing that the assured had actually lost more than one half of the freight.

F. Dodge, for the defendant.

HOLMES, J. This is an action upon a policy of insurance on freight on board or not on board schooner Theresa for one year. The freight is "valued at twenty-five hundred dollars, unless a larger amount at risk, then at actual freight"; and the policy provides that time risks on freight shall apply "to each cargo (or voyage, if in ballast and not chartered) successively, or to each charter successively in case vessel be chartered." *Thwing* v. *Washington Ins. Co.* 10 Gray, 443, 453. The only question is, whether the court erred in refusing to rule that upon the evidence the plaintiffs could not recover for a total loss.

The defendant's main reliance is upon the following clause in the policy: "And it is agreed, that the insured shall not have the right to claim for total loss on account of the estimated amount of repairs exceeding the valuation of the vessel, nor under any circumstances to abandon, provided the vessel remain *in specie*, unless the amount which the insurers would be liable to pay (exclusive of all general average charges, and charges for getting off or raising and bringing into port a vessel stranded or submerged, and of all repairs consequent upon decay) under an

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adjustment, as of partial loss, after making all the usual deductions, including the proportion or whole of cost of remetalling, docking, and calking, as provided for in this policy, shall exceed half the value of said vessel, as declared in this policy; and the highest valuation under which the vessel is insured, in any policy, shall be the basis for ascertaining a technical total loss of freight under this policy." The defendant contends that all parts of this clause apply to insurance on freight, and limit the right to abandon it to the case there expressed.

We have not found it necessary to consider whether this clause in any way limits the right to claim for a total loss of freight, except to provide that when the claim is based upon a constructive total loss and abandonment of the vessel as the foundation, the value of the vessel is to be taken at the highest valuation in any policy, and then to leave the question to be determined as in *Ellicott* v. *Alliance Ins. Co.* 14 Gray, 318, 320, so far as the defendant is concerned. For even if we should follow the plaintiff's argument to that extent, still it would be impossible to make out a total loss of freight on this footing consistently with the statement in *Thwing* v. *Washington Ins. Co.* 10 Gray, 443, 457, 458, — that where the cargo can be forwarded at a cost of less than half the stipulated freight, there is no total loss, — if in a case like the present the freight is to be taken at the valuation in the policy for the purpose of determining that question. *Thwing* v. *Washington Ins. Co.* at p. 461. *Whitney* v. *New York Firemen's Ins. Co.* 18 Johns. 208, 210. *Allen* v. *Commercial Ins. Co.* 1 Gray, 154, 157.

But we think it too plain for argument, that, whatever its scope, the clause does not extend beyond the case where the claim for a total loss of freight is based upon the loss of the ship. It has no application where the claim is based upon the loss of the cargo. If it did apply to a claim on the latter ground, it would do so simply in the sense of excluding it altogether. But nothing of that sort is intended, as the next sentence regulates a claim for freight based upon loss of perishable goods, and an earlier one deals with loss of freight on ice or lime caused by destruction of those articles.

The plaintiff claims on the ground of the loss of cargo *in specie* by perils of the seas, as well as on that of the loss of the ship.

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The whole cargo, which consisted of two hundred and seventy-four tons of coal, was not lost. The whole actual freight was only five hundred and twenty dollars and sixty cents, or much less than half the valuation in the policy. If, therefore, we are to follow the rule which has been applied in this Commonwealth for the purpose of determining whether there is a constructive total loss of a ship under a valued policy, there has been no constructive total loss of freight, and there could not be so long as a single ton remained which could be forwarded for less than about seven hundred and thirty-two dollars, or half the valued freight less the actual freight supposed to be lost. We have no disposition to depart from the rule so far as it is settled, but in the existing state of the decisions elsewhere it should not be extended. *Bradlie* v. *Maryland Ins. Co.* 12 Pet. 378, 398, 399. *Irving* v. *Manning*, 1 H. L. Cas. 287, 306. *Stewart* v. *Greenock Ins. Co.* 6 Ct. of Sess. Cas. (2d series) 359. Phillips, Ins. § 1539. It is to be noted that in *Allen* v. *Commercial Ins. Co.* 1 Gray, 154, 157, while the rule is adhered to, some stress is laid upon the fact that it was embodied in the words of the policy before the court, as is usual in Boston. Phillips, Ins. § 1539, n. It is to be noticed further, that the reasons offered in *Deblois* v. *Ocean Ins. Co.* 16 Pick. 303, 312, other than that abandonments for technical total losses are not to be favored, have no application here. The actual value of the vessel will fluctuate, according to the time when and place where the loss occurs. Furthermore, it is a matter of estimate, on which opinions may differ widely. It may well be said that such estimates are excluded by the agreement of the parties, and that, as the only way of ascertaining whether the loss is more than half is by comparing the cost of repairs with some valuation, the valuation in the policy must be accepted.

But in the case at bar there is no element of fluctuation or of valuation. If the freight of a whole homogeneous cargo is conclusively presumed to be worth the valuation in the policy, there seems to be no reason why the freight of one half of it should not be presumed to be worth one half of that valuation. A loss of one half of the cargo *in specie* by perils of the seas entails a loss of one half of the actual freight, and the policy establishes that that freight is worth twenty-five hundred dollars. In any case

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of loss of freight by loss of cargo, the question whether the loss is total can be determined by the simple rule of three. There being no question of fraud, or suggestion that the ship did not take a full cargo, or at least all that she could get, (*Coolidge* v. *Gloucester Ins. Co.* 15 Mass. 341, 344,) we are of opinion that a loss of more than half the cargo *in specie* by the perils insured against authorized the plaintiffs to abandon the freight, and claim for a total loss. See *Denoon* v. *Home & Colonial Ass. Co.* L. R. 7 C. P. 341, 351. *Clark* v. *United Ins. Co.* 7 Mass. 365, 373. *Fay* v. *Alliance Ins. Co.* 16 Gray, 455, 459.

We are also of opinion that there was evidence from which the jury would have been warranted in finding that there was such a loss of more than half the cargo. We do not say that they might not have found otherwise, but as the defendant did not wish to go to the jury after the court had declined to take the case from them by a ruling in its favor, we have nothing to do with that possibility.

The total amount of coal was two hundred and seventy-four tons, one half of which is one hundred and thirty-seven. The witness Baker estimated that on March 12 he took forty tons out of the vessel at Hyannis, the port to which she was taken when raised. It is true that he says he does not know whether any coal was taken out between February 3, the day of arrival, and March 12, when he got there. But plainly he means merely that he does not know by the direct evidence of his senses; for he also says, "She was not discharged of coal before I got there, the 12th; she was filled full of water." So that it is a fair inference from what he saw, that no coal was taken out before. Baker further estimates that they threw over forty or fifty tons in a vain effort to save the vessel, which was abandoned, and that there were put on board the lighter thirty or thirty-five tons; in another place he says forty-five, of which ten or fifteen tons reached Hyannis, and the rest was used or thrown overboard. The coal was very light, and the great seas washed it out of the vessel, but he could not say how much. Giving the defendant the benefit of all the above amounts, (see *Forbes* v. *Manufacturers' Ins. Co.* 1 Gray, 371, and *Griswold* v. *Union Ins. Co.* 3 Blatchf. C. C. 231,) and of the highest figures stated, they are only one hundred and thirty-five tons, or less than half, unless the "very

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little" used by the steam pumps is to be added, and exceeded two tons, and the fair inference is that the rest was lost by perils of the sea. The only reason for doubt is in the vagueness of Baker's estimates. But they seem to have been the best evidence to be had under the circumstances, and the jury would have been warranted in accepting them, and would have accepted them perhaps the more readily in view of the fact that the defendant paid the owners of the cargo for a total loss. If then the jury had inferred that the coal not accounted for by Baker was lost by the perils insured against, and that it amounted to more than half the cargo, the verdict could not have been set aside as not warranted by the evidence. *Verdict to stand.*

WARREN S. DAME & others *vs.* DANIEL E. KEMPSTER & others.

Suffolk. March 7, 1888. — March 12, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Partnership — Agreement — Net Profits.

An agreement between three persons to carry on a manufacturing business under a firm name, recited that two of them were to assign to the third an interest in a patent; that the third was to buy materials and sell the product, control the finances, and furnish the capital; that if he failed to furnish the capital, the others might assume the management and control of the business; that each was to receive compensation for his services; that the "net profits" after "deducting expenses," including such compensation, should be divided equally between them; and that neither should sell or assign his interest in the business without the written consent of the others. *Held*, that the three persons were partners.

CONTRACT against Daniel E. Kempster, William L. Faxon, and Stiles Frost, as copartners, doing business under the firm name of the Kempster Roller Skate Company, to recover for certain boxwood rolls sold and delivered to them.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., the plaintiffs introduced evidence tending to show that, although all bills and statements for the rolls had been rendered by them in the name of the defendant Faxon as purchaser, they in fact

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sold the rolls to the Kempster Roller Skate Company; and the question upon whose credit the goods were furnished was submitted to the jury under instructions not objected to.

On the issue whether the defendants were copartners, the plaintiffs offered in evidence the following agreement, signed by the defendants:

"Memorandum of agreement made this sixteenth day of March, 1885, by and between Daniel E. Kempster and Stiles Frost, both of Boston, Mass., and William L. Faxon, of Quincy, Mass. Whereas, said Kempster has invented an improvement in roller skates, for which an application for letters patent of the United States is now pending. And whereas, said Kempster has heretofore sold and assigned one half of his interest in said invention, and any letters patent which may be granted therefor, to said Frost. And whereas, said Faxon is desirous of obtaining an interest in said invention and letters patent, and of joining with said Kempster and Frost in the business of manufacturing and selling said skates, — now, therefore, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements of the said parties herein contained, the said parties mutually covenant and agree with each other as follows, viz.:

"*First.* The said Kempster and Frost agree to assign to said Faxon an undivided one-third interest in said invention and letters patent, for which said Faxon agrees to pay the sum of two thousand dollars, of which five hundred dollars is to be paid in cash on or before March 25, 1885, and the remaining fifteen hundred dollars on the issuing of letters patent for said invention, and the delivery to him of a written assignment of said one-third interest therein.

"*Second.* It is agreed, as a further consideration for the assignment aforesaid, that whatever capital may be necessary to carry on the business of manufacturing and selling roller skates, under said letters patent as hereinafter provided, shall be furnished by said Faxon, and that he shall be allowed interest thereon at the rate of six per cent per annum. Should either of the other parties at any time advance any portion of the capital employed in said business, he shall be allowed interest thereon at the same rate. It is understood and agreed that all capital furnished as aforesaid shall be at the risk of the business, and

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that none of the parties hereto shall be personally liable to make good any deficiency therein, nor shall their interest in said letters patent and invention be liable therefor.

"*Third.* The business of manufacturing and selling roller skates under said letters patent shall be carried on by said parties under the name of the Kempster Roller Skate Company of Boston.

"*Fourth.* It is agreed that said Faxon shall have general charge of the financial department of said business, including the purchase of materials and sales of skates, and that for such services he shall receive a salary of two thousand dollars per annum. It is, however, expressly understood and agreed that he shall give no notes, nor borrow money on account of said business, in the names of the other parties hereto, or on their credit.

"*Fifth.* It is agreed that said Kempster shall have the entire superintendence and management of the manufacturing department of said business, including the employment and direction of help, and that he shall receive for such services the sum of fifteen hundred and sixty-five dollars per annum, payable weekly.

"*Sixth.* It is agreed that said Frost shall receive for such special services as he may render a fair compensation, to be determined by mutual agreement.

"*Seventh.* It is agreed that the net profits resulting from the manufacture and sale of said skates, after deducting expenses, including the special compensation of the parties as above provided, shall be divided equally among the parties hereto.

"*Eighth.* It is agreed that accurate accounts of the said business shall be kept, which shall always be open to the inspection of all parties hereto, and that once in every six months, commencing November 1, 1885, a statement of such accounts and of the profits made during the preceding six months shall be furnished to each party, and the share of profit due to each party paid to him within thirty days thereafter.

"*Ninth.* It is agreed that neither of the parties shall sell or assign his interest in said letters patent and invention, or in the business of manufacturing and selling said skates, or license any other party to manufacture skates under said letters patent, without the written consent of the other parties hereto.

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"*Tenth.* It is agreed that, in case the said Faxon shall fail to furnish the capital necessary for the successful development of said business, the other parties hereto may assume the management and control of the said business in his place, in which case they shall be subject to the same obligations and entitled to the same privileges as are herein specified with reference to said Faxon."

The judge ruled that, under this agreement, the defendants Kempster and Frost were liable for the contracts of Faxon within the scope of the business for which they were associated.

It further appeared in evidence, that the defendants did business under and according to the above agreement, and the defendant Kempster requested the judge to rule that, as he was employed at a stated and agreed price for his services in conducting the business, payable at given periods, and was not liable for any losses of the business, he was not, either as to his employers or third persons, a partner, and that the plaintiffs could not recover against him in this action, although he was entitled to a specific portion of the profits. The judge declined so to rule, and the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs. The defendants Kempster and Frost alleged exceptions.

A. K. P. Joy & F. Joy, for Kempster and Frost.

M. Holbrook, for the plaintiffs, was not called upon.

MORTON, C. J. The Superior Court correctly held that the agreement between the defendants made them partners. By it they were to carry on the business of manufacturing and selling roller skates, under the name of the Kempster Roller Skate Company. Faxon was to furnish the capital, and to have the general charge of the financial department of the business, and of buying materials and selling skates; each party was to receive a certain compensation; and then it is provided that "the net profits resulting from the manufacture and sale of said skates, after deducting expenses, including the special compensation of the parties as above provided, shall be divided equally among the parties hereto." It is further provided, that, if Faxon should fail to furnish the necessary capital, the other parties may assume the management and control of the business in his place. It is impossible to construe this agreement so as to hold that

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Faxon was the only principal in the business, and that the other defendants were his agents.

On the contrary, it is clear that the materials purchased and the skates manufactured were the property of the three defendants, and that they shared in the profits of the business, and to some extent at least in the losses. Each defendant is entitled to a share of the profits as profits, and he has a lien upon them and upon the stock as against the private creditors of either of the other defendants. In other words, there is in the three defendants a community of interest in the property or stock engaged in the business, and a community of interest in the profits. This, according to all the authorities, made them partners.

Exceptions overruled.

JAMES COULTER *vs.* WARREN HAYNES.

Middlesex. March 16, 1888. — March 19, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Chose in Action — Assignment — Action — Assignee — Assent — Indorsement for Costs.

If the assignor of a chose in action brings an action thereon while the assignment is in force, the appearance of the assignee in court, and his statement that "he did not desire through his assignment to prevent the recovery in this action," ratifies the bringing of the action, and will authorize the assignor to prosecute it; and the assignee need not indorse the writ.

An indorser for costs can be secured only by application to the court, under the Pub. Sts. c. 167, § 30.

CONTRACT to recover a balance due for wages. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Knowlton*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows.

On October 15, 1885, the plaintiff assigned in writing all his wages then due, or that might become due, from the defendant, to John K. Harriman, until October 1, 1886, to secure a grocery bill. When the action was brought, the plaintiff was still indebted to Harriman, and so remained at the time of the trial. Harriman testified that he never authorized the plaintiff, or any

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one, to bring the action, and had not consented to its maintenance; that he had known for a long time that the action had been brought, and had seen the plaintiff frequently, and had never objected to it; and that if there was anything due from the defendant, he did not desire through his assignment to prevent the recovery of it in this action.

The defendant asked the judge to rule: "1. That a suit brought in the name of an assignor of wages, without the consent of the assignee, and not sanctioned by said assignee before trial, cannot be maintained by the plaintiff, the assignor still being in debt to the assignee. 2. That said action could not be maintained and carried on unless the assignee indorsed the writ, and became liable for taxable costs of suit."

The judge refused so to rule, and the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff. The defendant alleged exceptions.

J. W. Reed, for the defendant.

J. T. Joslin, for the plaintiff.

By the Court. The suit was properly brought in the name of the plaintiff, although he had assigned his claim to Harriman. The assignment is not a defence to the action. If any authority from the assignee was necessary to enable the plaintiff to maintain the action, the appearance of the assignee in court, and his statement that "he did not desire through his assignment to prevent the recovery" in this action, ratified the bringing of the suit, and was a sufficient authority to the plaintiff to prosecute the action. *Moore* v. *Spiegel*, 143 Mass. 413.

The assignee was not required to indorse the writ; but if it was a case where an indorser for costs ought to be required, the defendant's remedy was by an application to the Superior Court under § 30 of c. 167 of the Public Statutes.

Exceptions overruled.

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GYLES MERRILL *vs.* BYRON L. PEASLEE & others.

Essex. November 5, 1887. — March 30, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Husband and Wife — Promissory Note — Consideration — Public Policy.

A husband guilty of extreme cruelty to his wife, who thereupon left him and consulted counsel as to obtaining a divorce and alimony, gave a note to a trustee for her benefit, in consideration that she would drop the divorce proceedings and "return to him and live with him as his wife"; and the wife returned to him and lived with him as his wife until his death. *Held*, that the consideration for the note was illegal. — C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ., dissenting.

CONTRACT upon a promissory note for $5,000, dated October 29, 1875, payable to the order of the plaintiff on demand, and signed by Hiram Peaslee, the defendants' testator. The answer set up want of consideration. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Brigham*, C. J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows.

The plaintiff introduced evidence tending to show that Hiram Peaslee was married to Abby D. Rowe on January 20, 1873, and that they lived together as husband and wife until October 13, 1875; that at the wedding of his daughter, which occurred at his house on that date, and in the presence of some of the guests, Hiram Peaslee was guilty of extreme cruelty and abusive treatment towards his wife, entitling her to a divorce; that she then left him, and consulted counsel with a view to obtaining a divorce and alimony, he being worth about seventy-five thousand dollars at the time; that Hiram Peaslee agreed with her, that, if she would not proceed against him for a divorce or alimony, and would return to him and live with him as his wife, he would secure to her benefit the sum of five thousand dollars; and that in pursuance of the agreement Hiram Peaslee signed the note, and delivered it to the plaintiff, from whom at the same time he took the following agreement under seal, signed by "Gyles Merrill, trustee":

"Be it known that Hiram Peaslee of Haverhill, in the county of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on this twenty-

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ninth day of October, A. D. 1875, has made and delivered to me, Gyles Merrill of said Haverhill, for value received, his promissory note for five thousand dollars, payable to me or order on demand, without interest, subscribed by him in the presence of a witness, and so made and delivered the same to me in trust, for the following purposes, viz.: I as such trustee am to retain said note in my keeping and control until the decease of said Peaslee, and then as soon as may be after such decease to collect the amount of the same in money from the estate of said Peaslee, and to pay such amount over to Abby D. Peaslee, wife of said Hiram Peaslee, provided she shall then be the widow of said Hiram, and shall have lived with him as his wife, and not have separated herself from him until his decease, unless for good cause hereafter arising. But if said Abby D. Peaslee shall have so separated herself from said Hiram, and at his decease shall not be his widow, then I, said trustee, am to deliver said note to the legal representatives of the estate of said Hiram, and to receive my reasonable charges for services in the premises from said estate."

The plaintiff introduced further evidence tending to show that the note was given by Hiram Peaslee in consideration that his wife would return to him, and live with him as his wife, and in consideration that she would not institute proceedings for a divorce and alimony, and that there was no other consideration for the note, excepting the acceptance of the trust by the plaintiff and the above agreement on his part; and that the wife, in consideration of the making and delivery of the note, thereupon returned to and lived with him as his wife until his death, and thereby relinquished her right to institute proceedings for a divorce and alimony, and did not institute such proceedings.

The judge ruled that there was no evidence of a legal consideration for the note, and that as matter of law the action could not be maintained, and ordered a verdict for the defendants. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

The case was argued at the bar in November, 1887, and afterwards was submitted on briefs to all the judges.

H. Carter & B. B. Jones, for the plaintiff.

W. H. Moody, for the defendants.

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W. ALLEN, J. The note was given to carry out a contract between husband and wife, by which, in consideration that she should live with him as his wife during their joint lives, he was to cause to be paid to her five thousand dollars after his decease, if she survived. The consideration of the note was the agreement, or the performance of the agreement, of the wife to live in marital relations with her husband. It was not to perform some service for him which could be hired, as to keep his house, or to nurse him in sickness, but to give him the fellowship and communion of a wife. This is not a service which the wife can sell or the husband buy. Perhaps a husband can hire his wife to do anything for him which a servant can be hired to do, or can buy of her anything that is the subject of barter; but a servant cannot be hired to fulfil the marital relation, and the fellowship of the wife is not an article of trade between husband and wife. Like parental authority and filial obedience, conjugal *consortium* is without the range of pecuniary considerations. The law fixes and regulates it on public considerations, and will not allow the parties to discard and resume it for money.

It is the same when the misconduct of one party has given to the other the option to withdraw conjugal fellowship. It is not a mere personal right affecting only the parties to the marriage, but a right which is an incident of the status of marriage, and which affects children, the family, and society, and which must be exercised upon considerations arising from the nature of the right. It is given to the injured party to be used in the interests of justice and of society. It is as much against public policy to restore interrupted conjugal relations for money, as it is to continue them without interruption for the same consideration. The right of condonation is not exercised for the sake of justice to the injured party, or with regard to the rights of others or the interests of the public, when it is sold for money, and the law cannot recognize such a consideration for it; it implies forgiveness founded on the supposed penitence of the wrongdoer and the hope that he will not again offend. The resumption of marital intercourse after a justifiable separation without such forgiveness, and only for money, shows connivance rather than condonation. See *Copeland* v. *Boaz*, 9 Baxter, 223; *Van Order* v. *Van Order*, 8 Hun, 315; *Roberts* v. *Frisby*, 38 Tex. 219; *Miller*

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v. *Miller*, (Iowa,) 35 N. W. Rep. 464; *Adams* v. *Adams*, 91 N. Y. 381; *Garth* v. *Earnshaw*, 3 Y. & C. 584; *Gipps* v. *Hume*, 2 Johns. & Hem. 517; *Brown* v. *Brine*, 1 Ex. D. 5.

In the present case the wife had left her husband, and had a good cause of divorce from him on account of extreme cruelty. But the agreement did not look to a provision for the separate support of the wife, nor to a bar against proceedings by her for a divorce, except as that was involved in the resumption by her of marital relations. Had the consideration of the note been an agreement not to prosecute proceedings for a divorce, a different question would have been presented, upon which we express no opinion. See *Newsome* v. *Newsome*, L. R. 2 P. & D. 306. When the wife, who was living separate from her husband for justifiable cause, voluntarily returned to him, the law conclusively presumed that she returned because she had condoned the offence, and not because she was paid to live with him; and it will not enforce or recognize as valid a promise of the husband to pay money to the wife to induce her to return to him, or to condone the offence. In the opinion of a majority of the court the entry must be, *Exceptions overruled.*

HOLMES, J. We must assume, and the majority of the court do assume, that a consideration furnished by a married woman who is a *cestui que trust* will sustain a promise by her husband to her trustee. Whatever might be thought upon this point as a new question, it has been settled, not without discussion, and we are bound by the decisions. *Butler* v. *Ives*, 139 Mass. 202. See *Nichols* v. *Nichols*, 136 Mass. 256.

In the case at bar the evidence tended to show that the defendant's testator had been guilty of extreme cruelty to his wife, entitling her to a divorce, and that she had separated from him, and had consulted counsel with a view to obtaining a divorce and alimony. The consideration for the note in suit was, that "she would not proceed against him for a divorce or alimony, and would return to him and live with him as his wife." This consideration, however construed, was fully furnished. She did not proceed against him, and she did return and did live with him as his wife until his death.

I do not understand it to be denied that this conduct on the

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wife's part was such a change of position, or detriment in the legal sense of that word, as to be a sufficient consideration for a promise, if not an illegal one. We must take it that the wife had a right to refuse to return to cohabitation, and it seems to follow that, apart from illegality, the return itself was sufficient consideration for the note. *Burkholder's appeal*, 105 Penn. St. 31, 37. The case is not like those where the wife was only doing what she was legally bound to do. This was the ground of decision in *Miller* v. *Miller*, (Iowa, Dec. 13, 1887,) 35 N. W. Rep. 464, and, so far as appears, was the fact in *Copeland* v. *Boaz*, 9 Baxter, 223; *Roberts* v. *Frisby*, 38 Tex. 219. The last two cases seem to go in part also upon the ground that a contract by a husband upon a consideration moving from the wife is void, notwithstanding the intervention of a trustee, which cannot be taken here, in view of the cases first cited.

At all events, the giving up or refraining from proceedings for a divorce and alimony, which the wife is entitled to maintain, is both a sufficient and a legal consideration. *Wilson* v. *Wilson*, 1 H. L. Cas. 538, 574; *S. C.* 14 Sim. 405; 5 H. L. Cas. 40. *Hart* v. *Hart*, 18 Ch. D. 670, 685. *Sterling* v. *Sterling*, 12 Ga. 201, 204. So that I understand the precise reason on which the decision of the majority goes to be that coupling the wife's return to cohabitation with the legal consideration of giving up her divorce suit made the contract illegal.

I find no decision or dictum in favor of this proposition. On the other hand, the Court of Errors and Appeals of New York has unanimously sustained the validity of a note given by a husband to a trustee for his wife upon substantially the same consideration as in the case at bar, and has declared itself unable to see anything against public policy in the transaction. It seems probable that the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania would decide in the same way, and it is hardly open to doubt that the same view would be taken in England. *Adams* v. *Adams*, 91 N. Y. 381. *Burkholder's appeal*, 105 Penn. St. 31, 37. *Newsome* v. *Newsome*, L. R. 2 P. & D. 306. *Jodrell* v. *Jodrell*, 9 Beav. 45, 56, 59, and cases *supra*. *Symons* v. *Burton*, Monro, Acta Cancellariæ, 266.

It seems to me that reason as well as authority is opposed to the decision. The actual return to cohabitation was perfectly

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lawful, whatever the motive which induced it. I cannot think that it is unlawful to make a lawful act, which the wife may do or not do as she chooses, the consideration of a promise, merely because, by reaction, the making of the promise tends to mingle a worldly motive with whatever other motives the wife may have for renewing cohabitation. No one doubts that marriage is a sufficient consideration for a promise to pay money. Pub. Sts. c. 78, § 1, cl. 3. I do not quite understand why it should be more illegal to make such a promise for the resumption than for the assumption of conjugal relations.

I agree too to what is said in *Adams* v. *Adams*, *ubi supra*. The arrangements "tended to restore peace and harmony between husband and wife, and renew their conjugal relations. Agreements to separate have been regarded as against public policy, but it would be strangely inconsistent if the same policy should condemn agreements to restore marital relations after a temporary separation had taken place. While the law favors the settlement of controversies between all other persons, it would be a curious policy which should forbid husband and wife to compromise their differences, or preclude either from forgiving a wrong committed by the other."

I am authorized to say that Mr. Justice Charles Allen and Mr. Justice Knowlton concur in this opinion.

LAWRENCE RILEY *vs.* WILLIAM E. HALE.

Middlesex. March 26, 1888. — April 2, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Judgment — Review — Absence — Laches.

A judgment by default in a civil action against a defendant, on whom personal service was made and by whom an appearance was entered, is not rendered in his "absence," within the Pub. Sts. c. 187, § 22, and a petition for a review, filed more than a year after it has been rendered, but within a year after he had notice thereof, is too late.

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PETITION, filed August 5, 1886, for a review of a judgment rendered upon the petitioner's default, by the Superior Court, on June 30, 1883, alleging that it was filed within one year after he first had notice of the judgment.

Hearing before *W. Allen*, J., who found that the petitioner had shown such probable ground of defence to the original action as might entitle him to a writ of review, but that he had not used such diligence as to entitle him to it; that the writ in that action was duly served on him, and he entered his personal appearance therein; that the action was continued, and he did nothing further about it, under the mistaken belief that it was not necessary to do anything further; and that nothing was done by the plaintiff in that action, or by his attorney, to induce such a belief.

The judge refused, as matter of law, to grant the petition; and the petitioner alleged exceptions.

H. N. Allin & W. Howland, for the petitioner, cited *Hutchinson* v. *Gurley*, 8 Allen, 23.

W. F. Slocum, for the respondent.

BY THE COURT. This is a petition filed on August 5, 1886, to review a judgment of the Superior Court rendered on June 30, 1883. In the original suit, personal service was made upon the petitioner, and he entered his personal appearance therein. The judgment was not rendered in his absence, within the meaning of § 22 of c. 187 of the Public Statutes, and therefore the presiding justice who heard this petition for review properly ruled that it could not be maintained. *Matthewson* v. *Moulton*, 135 Mass. 122. *Smith* v. *Brown*, 136 Mass. 416.

Exceptions overruled.

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SUSANNAH KENNISON *vs.* INHABITANTS OF BEVERLY.

Essex. November 2, 1887. — April 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Watercourse — Surface Water — Town — Way.

A town is not liable if surface water, collected in catch-basins or gutters constructed by its agents or by its highway surveyors beneath the surface of a highway, percolates thence through the soil into the cellar of an adjoining owner, to his injury.

TORT for damages caused by surface water, accumulated in a catch-basin in Bartlett Street in Beverly, percolating into the cellar of the plaintiff. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions in substance as follows.

The plaintiff testified that water ran into her cellar from the drain in front of her house a great deal every year after it was moved, fifteen years before, until since this action was commenced; that a large amount of water draining from a street called Cabot Street was collected in drains by the road-side, and conducted into other drains by the side of Bartlett Street, where it mingled with all the surface water which drained from Bartlett Street, and flowed along the side of that street, and in part through a culvert or drain constructed across it, until it came into a pit or catch-basin on the side of Bartlett Street directly opposite her house, and from eight to ten feet therefrom, whence it flowed through the soil and the wall into her cellar, causing damage to her property at all times when the water flowed through the culvert in consequence of storms, showers, or the melting of snow.

Henry A. Foster, in addition to the above facts, testified that a great deal of water from another street, called Lovett Street, also flowed into the drain by the side of Bartlett Street, and into the catch-basin; that the plaintiff's house was moved to its present location by the defendant fifteen years before; that at that time some alteration in the drains or gutters was made, and the catch-basin, which was an extension of the culvert, and was about four

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feet deep and two and a half feet wide, was constructed about ten feet from the plaintiff's house, having its sides made of loose rocks uncemented; that a small pipe under ground was its only outlet, which, on examination just before the action was brought, was found to be completely choked up with sticks and leaves; and that some repairs were made on the drain two or three years before the action was begun.

Daniel Foster testified that there was a drain on one side of Cabot Street which took the water for a distance of six hundred feet from the corner of Bartlett Street into the drain on that street; that the drain on Bartlett Street took the drainage from that street a distance of two hundred or two hundred and fifty feet further, into the catch-basin; and that these drains and streets had been there for more than forty years.

The chairman of the board of selectmen of the defendant town at the time the plaintiff's house was moved, testified that Bartlett Street, Cabot Street, and Lovett Street were public highways, and that the gutters, culvert, and catch-basin were under the charge of the highway surveyors.

The judge ruled that the action could not be maintained, and ordered a verdict for the defendant; and the plaintiff alleged exceptions.

W. H. Gove & S. A. Fuller, for the plaintiff.

H. P. Moulton, for the defendant.

FIELD, J. The plaintiff complains that her land is injured by surface water, which is collected in drains or gutters by the sides of streets, and is thereby conducted into a pit, or catch-basin, on the side of Bartlett Street, directly opposite to her house, and from eight to ten feet therefrom, whence the water passes "through the soil and the wall into her cellar." There was evidence that this catch-basin was constructed with "its sides made of loose rocks uncemented," and that a "small pipe under ground was its only outlet," and that this was "completely choked up with sticks and leaves." The streets were public ways. The evidence does not show by whom the drains or gutters and the catch-basin were constructed, but we think that there was evidence that they were maintained by the town as a part of the system of highways which it was bound to keep in repair. The drains and catch-basin were within the limits of

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the highways. We are of opinion that the principles declared in *Flagg* v. *Worcester*, 13 Gray, 601, *Barry* v. *Lowell*, 8 Allen, 127, *Franklin* v. *Fisk*, 13 Allen, 211, and *Turner* v. *Dartmouth*, 13 Allen, 291, govern this case. See *Emery* v. *Lowell*, 104 Mass. 13, 16; *Merrifield* v. *Worcester*, 110 Mass. 216, 220.

If a town by its agents, or if the highway surveyors of a town, in constructing or repairing highways, cause the surface water to flow upon the land of an adjoining proprietor, there is no remedy by action. The owner of the adjoining land can protect himself by such barriers as he may choose to build, and in some cases he has a remedy under the Pub. Sts. c. 52, § 12 or § 15.

We can find no distinction in respect to legal liability between an injury to land from surface water collected in gutters and catch-basins which are below the surface of the adjoining land, and from which the water percolates through the soil, and an injury from surface water which, overflowing the gutters and catch-basins, runs over the adjoining land, or which is turned directly upon it. *Exceptions overruled.*

ROBERT BISHOP *vs.* ELISHA L. PALMER & others.

Suffolk. November 10, 11, 1887. — April 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Contract — Consideration — Covenant — Restraint of Trade.

A purchaser promised to pay in instalments for a business plant and property, in consideration of its sale and delivery, and the performance of three particular covenants and agreements by the seller, the first of which was a general agreement, without any limitation of space, that for and during the period of five years he would not either directly or indirectly continue in, carry on, or engage in that business or any business of which that might form any part. *Held*, that the covenant was void as being in restraint of trade, and that, not being severable from the rest of the consideration, no action would lie on the promise for instalments of the price.

CONTRACT. Writ dated November 1, 1886. The first count of the declaration alleged that the defendants owed the plaintiff

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$2,500 for breach of a written agreement signed by the parties and annexed thereto, the material parts of which were as follows:

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"This agreement, made this sixteenth day of March, A. D. 1886, by and between Robert Bishop, of Boston in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, party of the first part, and Elisha L. Palmer, Frank L. Palmer, Edward A. Palmer, and George S. Palmer, copartners together, doing business under the firm name and style of Palmer Brothers, at Montville in the State of Connecticut, parties of the second part; and the Massasoit Manufacturing Company, a corporation doing business at Fall River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, party of the third part, witnesseth:

"That whereas said party of the first part is engaged in the business of manufacturing and selling bedquilts and comfortables, and is also engaged in the business of buying, selling, and dealing generally in cotton waste; and whereas he is desirous of selling out his business as a manufacturer of bedquilts and comfortables, together with all his plant, machinery, and stocks, manufactured and unmanufactured, now on hand, and of wholly giving up and going out of said business for the next five years, and is also desirous of selling that part of his cotton waste business which is done or transacted in whole or in part in the city of Fall River, in said Commonwealth, and with any and all of the mills doing business in said city:

"Now therefore, in consideration of the premises, and of the sum of five thousand dollars ($5,000) to be paid by the parties of the second and third parts in the manner and at the times hereinafter specified, the party of the first part hereby sells, assigns, transfers, and delivers unto the parties of the second part his entire business plant and enterprise as a manufacturer of and dealer in bedquilts and comfortables, together with the good will of said business, and all and singular, the machinery, implements, and utensils used by him in said business, and constituting said manufacturer's plant. . . . .

"And for the consideration aforesaid, said party of the first part hereby sells, assigns, transfers, and conveys to the party of the third part all that portion of his waste business which is transacted or done in the city of Fall River, in the Common-

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wealth of Massachusetts, with any and all corporations doing business in said city; and he hereby assigns and transfers to said party of the third part all his existing contracts, whether verbal or written, with any of such corporations, or with firms or persons, and all rights thereunder, including rights of renewal; and also the good will of his said business and trade with the corporations in said city of Fall River. This clause does not have reference to buying and selling from individuals. It being the intention of said party of the first part absolutely and completely to sell and transfer to said party of the third part his entire cotton waste business, trade, and dealings, and the exclusive right to deal and do a cotton waste business with and purchase cotton waste of any and all of said corporations, for the period of five years from the date hereof.

"And said party of the first part hereby, for himself, his executors, administrators, and assigns, covenants and agrees with said parties of the second and third parts and each of them, and their executors, administrators, successors, and assigns respectively, that for and during the period of five years from the date hereof he will not either directly or indirectly, in his own name or in the name of any other person or persons, continue in, carry on, or engage in the business of manufacturing or dealing in bedquilts or comfortables, or of any business of which that may form any part.

"And he further covenants and agrees as aforesaid, that for and during said period he will not enter into the cotton waste business in said city of Fall River with any corporation, firm, or person located and doing business in said city; and especially that he will not, directly or indirectly, in his own name or in the name of any other person, buy, or influence, or procure other persons to buy, any cotton waste from said mills, in said city of Fall River, or belonging to or controlled by any corporation located in said city, and that he will not, either directly or indirectly, make any bid therefor, or influence any other person so to do, in connection with the waste business in said city, or the purchase of waste from such parties.

"And he further covenants and agrees that he will not buy or offer to buy of any person whatever the waste produced by the corporations known as the Granite Mills, Troy Cotton and

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Woolen Mills, Richard Borden Manufacturing Company, and Pocasset Manufacturing Company.

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"And the said parties of the second and third parts, in consideration of the sale and delivery of said business, plant, and property, and said cotton waste business and contracts, and the faithful performance of the covenants and agreements herein made by the party of the first part, agree to purchase said business plant and property, and said cotton waste business, and to pay therefor to said party of the first part the sum of five thousand dollars in ten equal monthly instalments, the first five hundred dollars to be paid on the first day of July, 1886, and the remaining instalments on the first day of each month thereafter, until all are paid."

The declaration contained a second count, upon an account annexed, for the recovery of the same amount.

The defendants demurred to the declaration, assigning the following grounds of demurrer:

"1. That the allegations, matters, and facts set forth in said declaration, and in each count thereof, do not in law constitute a cause of action against these defendants, or either of them. 2. For the reason that the contract annexed to the plaintiff's declaration, a breach of which is set forth in the first count thereof as the cause of action relied on therein, and which contract is referred to in the second count of said declaration, for a breach of which the sums claimed in said second count purport to be due, is an unlawful contract and a contract in restraint of trade, is against public policy and void, and cannot be enforced at law. 3. That both counts appear to be for the same cause of action, and the cause of action set forth in each count arises under said contract for a breach thereof by the defendants in failing to pay the plaintiff the amount claimed in said counts; but it appears by said contract that one of the considerations for said payments was the covenants and agreements of the plaintiff therein not to manufacture or be interested in the manufacture or sale of bedquilts and comfortables, as therein set forth, anywhere whatever, and without any limitation as to place, during the period of five years therein named, and also the covenants and agreements of the plaintiff in said contract to the effect that he will not enter into competition with the Massasoit Company,

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one of the defendants, at Fall River, for the purchase of cotton waste, or bid therefor directly or indirectly against or in competition with said company for said waste; all of which agreements, covenants, and considerations are illegal and void, in restraint of trade and against public policy, and fraudulent, and said contract is illegal and void, in restraint of trade and contrary to public policy, and cannot be enforced by the plaintiff. 4. That it appears by said contract that the considerations of any and all the agreements and undertakings of the defendants therein, for a breach of which the plaintiff sues, are illegal and void, and that said contract is illegal and void, and in restraint of trade and contrary to public policy, and void."

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The Superior Court sustained the demurrer, and ordered judgment for the defendants, and the plaintiff appealed to this court.

W. Gaston & C. L. B. Whitney, for the plaintiff.

R. D. Smith & H. E. Bolles, for the defendants.

C. ALLEN, J. The defendants' promise which is declared on was made in consideration of the sale and delivery of the business, plant, property, and contracts of the plaintiff, and of his faithful performance of the covenants and agreements contained in the written instrument signed by the parties. The parties made no apportionment or separate valuation of the different elements of the consideration. The business, plant, property, contracts, and covenants were all combined as forming one entire consideration. There is no way of ascertaining what valuation was put by the parties upon either portion of it. There is no suggestion that there was any such separate valuation, and any estimate which might now be put upon any item would not be the estimate of the parties.

It is contended by the defendants that each one of the three particular covenants and agreements into which the plaintiff entered is illegal and void, as being in restraint of trade. It is sufficient for us to say that the first of them is clearly so; it being a general agreement, without any limitation of space, that for and during the period of five years he will not either directly or indirectly continue in, carry on, or engage in the business of manufacturing or dealing in bedquilts or comfortables, or of any business of which that may form any part. Thus much is virtually conceded by the plaintiff, and so are the authorities. *Taylor*

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v. *Blanchard*, 13 Allen, 370. *Dean* v. *Emerson*, 102 Mass. 480. *Morse Twist Drill Co.* v. *Morse*, 103 Mass. 73. *Alger* v. *Thacher*, 19 Pick. 51. *Oregon Steam Navigation Co.* v. *Winsor*, 20 Wall. 64. *Davies* v. *Davies*, 36 Ch. D. 359. 2 Kent Com. 466, note *e*. Met. Con. 232.

Two principal grounds on which such contracts are held to be void are, that they tend to deprive the public of the services of men in the employments and capacities in which they may be most useful, and that they expose the public to the evils of monopoly. *Alger* v. *Thacher*, *ubi supra*.

The question then arises, whether an action can be supported upon the promise of the defendants, founded upon such a consideration as that which has been described. As a general rule, where a promise is made for one entire consideration, a part of which is fraudulent, immoral, or unlawful, and there has been no apportionment made or means of apportionment furnished by the parties themselves, it is well settled that no action will lie upon the promise. If the bad part of the consideration is not severable from the good, the whole promise fails. *Robinson* v. *Green*, 8 Met. 159, 161. *Rand* v. *Mather*, 11 Cush. 1. *Woodruff* v. *Wentworth*, 133 Mass. 309, 314. *Bliss* v. *Negus*, 8 Mass. 46, 51. *Clark* v. *Ricker*, 14 N. H. 44. *Woodruff* v. *Hinman*, 11 Vt. 592. *Pickering* v. *Ilfracombe Railway*, L. R. 3 C. P. 235, 250. *Harrington* v. *Victoria Graving Dock Co.* 3 Q. B. D. 549. 2 Chit. Con. (11th Am. ed.) 972. Leake Con. 779, 780. Pollock Con. 321. Met. Con. 247.

It is urged that this rule does not apply to a stipulation of this character, which violates no penal statute, which contains nothing *malum in se*, and which is simply a promise not enforceable at law. But a contract in restraint of trade is held to be void because it tends to the prejudice of the public. It is therefore deemed by the law to be not merely an insufficient or invalid consideration, but a vicious one. Being so, it rests on the same ground as if such contracts were forbidden by positive statute. They are forbidden by the common law, and are held to be illegal. 2 Kent Com. 466. Met. Con. 221. 2 Chit. Con. 974. *White* v. *Buss*, 3 Cush. 448, 450. *Hynds* v. *Hays*, 25 Ind. 31, 36.

It is contended that the defendants, by being unable to enforce the stipulation in question, only lose what they knew or were

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bound to know was legally null; that they have all that they supposed they were getting, namely, a promise which might be kept, though incapable of legal enforcement; and that if they were content to accept such promise, and if there is another good and sufficient consideration, they may be held upon their promise. But this argument cannot properly extend to a case where a part of an entire and inseparable consideration is positively vicious, however it might be where it was simply invalid; as in *Parish* v. *Stone*, 14 Pick. 198. The law visits a contract founded on such a consideration with a positive condemnation, which it makes effectual by refusing to support it, in whole or in part, where the consideration cannot be severed.

The fact that the plaintiff had not failed to perform his part of the contract does not enable him to maintain his action. An illegal consideration may be actual and substantial and valuable; but it is not in law sufficient.

The plaintiff further suggests that, if the defendants were to sue him on this contract, they could clearly, so far as the question of legality is concerned, maintain an action upon all its parts, except possibly the single covenant in question. *Mallan* v. *May*, 11 M. & W. 653. *Green* v. *Price*, 13 M. & W. 695; *S. C.* 16 M & W. 346. This may be so. If they pay to the plaintiff the whole sum called for by the terms of the contract, it may well be that they can call on him to perform all of his agreements except such as are unlawful. In such case, they would merely waive or forego a part of what they were to receive, and recover or enforce the rest. It does not, however, follow from this that they can be compelled to pay the sum promised by them, when a part of the consideration of such promise was illegal. They are at liberty to repudiate the contract on this ground; and, having done so, the present action founded on the contract cannot be maintained; and it is not now to be determined what other liability the defendants may be under to the plaintiff, by reason of what they may have received under the contract.

Judgment affirmed.

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INHABITANTS OF NEEDHAM *vs.* CHARLES W. MORTON & others.

Middlesex. January 17, 18, 1888. — April 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Tax — Collector of Taxes — Bond — Interest.

A collector of taxes, who was chosen by a town as being the lowest bidder, paid over, in accordance with his bond, the full amount of the taxes committed to him, whether actually collected or not, at the dates specified, but withheld the interest added to all taxes unpaid after a certain time by a vote of the town under the Pub. Sts. c. 11, § 67, and collected by him from the delinquent taxpayers. *Held*, that he was entitled to such interest.

CONTRACT upon two bonds given to the plaintiff, in the years 1883 and 1884, by the first-named defendant as principal, and by the other defendants as sureties, the condition of each bond being as follows:

"The condition of this obligation is such, that whereas said C. W. Morton having been chosen and duly sworn as collector for said town of Needham, for the ensuing year, — now, therefore, if the said Morton shall during the current year faithfully discharge the duties of his office by collecting all taxes to him committed by the assessors of said town, and by making all payments agreeable to collector's warrant, then this obligation shall be void, otherwise remain in full force."

Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Hammond*, J., who reported the case for the determination of this court, in substance as follows.

In both 1883 and 1884, following an ancient practice of the town, the office of collector of taxes was sold at public auction at the annual town meeting to the lowest bidder, and such lowest bidder was subsequently duly elected as such collector. In both years Morton was the lowest bidder, and was subsequently elected collector.

The warrant for each annual meeting contained an article "to see how the town will have its taxes collected the ensuing year," and the votes of the town thereat recited that "the col-

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lection of taxes be put out to the lowest bidder"; that "interest at the rate of one half of one per cent a month shall be charged on all taxes remaining unpaid after the first day of November"; and that "the collector shall guarantee and be held to pay to the treasurer the full amount of taxes committed to him for collection, except such as may be abated by the assessors, and shall not receive his commission for collecting except as he pays to the treasurer. He shall pay to the treasurer the taxes from time to time as he collects them; on or before the tenth day of November, he shall have paid him a sum equal to one half the amount of the taxes committed to him for collection; he shall pay the county tax as required by the warrant of the county commissioners; and on or before the first day of January, 1885, shall pay to the treasurer a sum equal to one half of the remainder of said taxes, and the balance on or before the first day of February, 1885. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to collect from the collector forthwith all sums not paid by him within the time specified in his warrant."

In each year the assessors issued to Morton, as collector, their warrant, which, after reciting that he was to levy and collect a State, county, and town tax, and pay over the first two taxes on certain dates, set forth that the last-named tax was to be paid over to the town treasurer on or before the dates mentioned in the above votes, and in specified amounts, aggregating the entire tax, and that "for services for collecting said taxes, by vote of said town, you are to have, as compensation therefor, the sum of one and one half per cent on the total amount, as collected by you, of the taxes contained in said list. And you are hereby ordered, in accordance with a vote passed by said town, at said meeting, and in accordance with the laws of said Commonwealth, to collect interest at the rate of six per cent upon all taxes not paid on or before the first day of November next, until fully paid." Pursuant to these warrants, the defendant Morton paid over, less his commissions to the town treasurer, in each of said years, the full amounts specified therein to be payable upon different dates, (unless the interest directed to be charged to individual tax-payers after November 1 upon uncollected taxes, by the above recited votes, should have been included in said amounts,) either upon said dates, or shortly

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subsequent thereto; and whenever delay occurred in making any of such payments, interest at the rate of six per cent from the date called for by the warrants to the date of such payments was also paid by Morton to the treasurer.

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In each year, between the time fixed by the above votes at which interest upon taxes should begin to accrue, and the time at which, under the warrants, Morton's full and final payments were required to be made, he collected from individual tax-payers various sums as interest on their overdue taxes, at the rate established, which sums, together with other sums which ought to have been so collected and paid over to the treasurer, if Morton was bound to collect and pay over to him all interest received from individual tax-payers, exceeded the actual amount of interest paid by Morton to the treasurer. For such sums received as interest from individual tax-payers, and for those which should have been collected from them if the contention of the town is valid, Morton refused to account, or to pay over to the town treasurer, claiming that by the payments made by him he had fully complied with the terms of the warrants, and with his duty as collector. The plaintiff contended that, in addition to the payments made by him, Morton was liable to account for and pay over to the treasurer all sums received by him as interest on overdue taxes from individual tax-payers, and all sums chargeable as interest to individual tax-payers, whether or not the same was wholly or partially collected.

The judge also found the following to be facts, if material. For many years the town of Needham had annually elected its collector, in the manner and according to the proceedings above stated; its assessors had issued their warrants in substantially the same form as the above; and the collector had accounted with the treasurer on the basis claimed by the defendants to be the true one. During the same years the annual reports of the treasurer had been accepted by the town. All these facts were known to Morton when he bid off the taxes, and subsequently qualified as collector, and no other rule of settlement had ever been claimed by the plaintiff until after the election and qualification of Morton in the year 1884. In each of the years 1883 and 1884 Morton also accounted for and paid over to the treasurer, under his assumption and guaranty of the tax lists, large

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sums which were uncollectible, and which were paid to the treasurer out of his private funds.

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The judge ruled that upon these facts the plaintiff was entitled to recover, and found for the plaintiff for the penal sum of each bond. If the ruling was wrong, judgment was to be entered for the defendants; otherwise the case was to be sent to an assessor.

The case was argued at the bar in January, 1888, and afterwards was submitted on the briefs to all the judges.

F. D. Ely, for the plaintiff.

C. A. Mackintosh, for the defendants.

DEVENS, J. To let out the collection of taxes to the lowest bidder whom the town will accept has been held not to be illegal. *Alvord* v. *Collin*, 20 Pick. 418. *Howard* v. *Proctor*, 7 Gray, 128. Such was in effect the transaction between the plaintiff town and the defendant. After the vote of the town prescribing the terms of the contract to be made by the collector, and after the bid was made, Morton was formally elected collector of taxes. The previous proceedings must be deemed to have taken place subject to the contingency that Morton should be elected, and derive their validity from such election. It is competent for the town to determine the compensation which the collector shall receive, the mode in which he shall perform his duties, and to some extent the responsibility he shall be subjected to in their performance.

By the condition of his bonds, which are here in suit, Morton was bound faithfully to "discharge the duties of his office by collecting all taxes to him committed by the assessors of said town, and by making all payments agreeable to collector's warrant." By the vote of the town the collector was held to pay to the treasurer the full amount of the taxes committed to him for collection except such as might be abated by the assessors, and his bond required him to pay these in certain specified sums at certain dates. These payments added together amount to the sum of the whole tax. He was obliged to make these payments whether he had or had not, using all reasonable diligence, actually made sufficient collections therefor at the dates specified. These payments he has made substantially at the times specified in his bond, paying interest on all the sums overdue

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according to his contract when any delay has occurred in such payments.

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The Pub. Sts. c. 11, § 67, provide that the town "may vote that, on all taxes remaining unpaid after a certain time, interest shall be paid at a specified rate, ... and the interest accruing under such vote . . . . shall be added to, and be a part of, such taxes." The town by its votes fixed a certain time when interest would begin to accrue on taxes overdue, and the warrant authorized Morton to collect the same, and various sums were collected by him as interest on overdue taxes, which sums added to other sums of interest on overdue taxes, which ought to have been collected and paid over to the treasurer, if Morton was bound to collect and pay over all interest due from individual tax-payers, exceeded the amount of interest paid by Morton on delayed payments as above stated. It is the contention of the plaintiff, that Morton was liable to account for and pay over to the treasurer all sums thus received by him as interest on overdue taxes from individual tax-payers, and also on all sums chargeable as interest to individual tax-payers, whether or not the same were wholly or partially collected.

It would not be doubted, in case of a collector paid by a fixed salary or commissions, and not made responsible to pay over the whole tax at specified dates fixed arbitrarily by the town for its own convenience, that the town would be entitled to insist upon the collection of the sums of interest due from individual tax-payers, and the payment of them to the treasurer. But the interest thus collected is intended to compensate the town for the inconvenience to which it has been subjected by the delinquency of the tax-payer, and not as a substantive addition to its revenue. Whether the individual tax-payer paid promptly or not, by the contract it had made it received the original tax at the precise times it required. Even if the taxes were never collected except so far as they were abated by the assessors, the town was to receive, and did receive, the full amount of them. It is found that in each of the years to which the bonds relate, Morton has accounted for and paid over to the treasurer, under his assumption and guaranty of the tax lists, large sums which were uncollectible, and which were in fact paid from his private funds. Neither delay in payment nor actual non-payment made

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any difference to the town under the contract it had made; the collector bore the burden of each. While the statute authorizes these sums of interest to be treated as a part of the taxes, the fair construction of the defendant Morton's bond is, that he is to account for the taxes there described, which are the taxes originally assessed, and not for additions thereto which arise from the default of individuals. The payments which he is bound specifically to make are arithmetical divisions which together equal the sum assessed. There is no provision that in any event he shall pay more. If he is obliged to do this, the curious anomaly results that the town may receive interest twice on the same sum, once on account of non-payment by the collector to it, and again by the failure to pay the collector.

In consideration of the guaranty of its taxes, and of the payment of them at the specified times, the town intended to place the collector in its own situation so far as the collection of them was concerned, and to give to him the same remedies with which it was provided when there was delinquency on the part of the tax-payer. Such was the object of the vote imposing interest upon the delinquent, and it should go to him who, under the contract between the plaintiff and the defendant, has suffered by the delay. The bond was not made with reference to it, nor could it have been so made in the form adopted for the payment of specified sums at fixed dates, as it was entirely uncertain what sum the interest upon these overdue payments would amount to, or indeed whether there would be any.

Without considering whether the plaintiff is estopped by reason of its conduct in former years, or by any assent given to settlements of former contracts with its treasurer on this basis, it certainly tends to show that the construction we have given is the natural one, when it is observed that the town officers, and, so far as known to it, the town, have recognized this as the one to be adopted. *Judgment for the defendants.*

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BRAINTREE WATER SUPPLY COMPANY *vs.* INHABITANTS OF BRAINTREE.

Norfolk. January 23, 24, 1888. — April 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Corporation — Water Company — Contract — Rescission — Commissioners.

The St. of 1886, c. 269, chartered a water company, and in § 10 authorized it to sell its franchise and property, and a town to purchase them by a two-thirds vote at a meeting called for that purpose, and provided for the appointment of commissioners to fix the price in case of disagreement. At such a meeting, under an article in the warrant "to see if the town will vote to purchase the same," the requisite vote was in the affirmative, but at a subsequent meeting the vote was rescinded. *Held*, that the vote to purchase completed a contract, from which the town could not withdraw.

The water company, which organized without observing the Pub. Sts. c. 105, § 9, as to notice, before its capital was paid in or entirely subscribed for, made a price to the town after its vote to purchase through a town committee, and, upon no action being taken thereon, filed a petition for the appointment of commissioners. *Held*, that the company must be taken to be legally organized, and that the petition was properly brought in its corporate name.

PETITION praying for the appointment of commissioners under the St. of 1886, c. 269, § 10, to determine the price to be paid by the respondent for the franchise and property of the petitioner, alleging that the parties were unable to agree on such compensation. Hearing before *Field*, J., who dismissed the petition and reported the case for the consideration of the full court, upon an agreed statement of facts, in substance as follows.

The records of the petitioner showed that, pursuant to the call of one of the incorporators named in the St. of 1886, c. 269, § 6, a meeting was held on June 9, 1886, for the purpose of organization, when four out of the six persons named in the statute were present. A temporary chairman and temporary clerk were chosen, also a board of directors, and a president. A clerk was also chosen and sworn. There was no other evidence of the notice of this meeting, or that the temporary clerk was elected by ballot, or sworn. The records further showed, that the second meeting was held on September 15, 1886, at which the written resignations of two directors were received, and others were chosen in

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their places. It was voted that a tract of land be taken for the purposes named in the statute, and that the taking be recorded in the registry of deeds, which was subsequently done; that the capital stock be fixed at $100,000, and that books be opened for subscriptions; and "that the corporation authorize the directors to contract for the complete construction of the works of the company, and to pay therefor by the issue of stock and bonds not exceeding the full amount authorized by the charter, and do hereby authorize the issue of bonds bearing interest at a rate not exceeding six per cent per annum, the same to be secured by a mortgage on the franchises and other property of the corporation, to an amount not exceeding its capital stock actually paid in, and the directors are hereby authorized to execute said mortgage and to issue said bonds, and to take such other action as may be necessary for the full carrying out of this vote."

Eight persons subscribed, under date of September 20, 1886, for one share each, but no certificates of stock were ever issued thereon, and no payments were ever made on account of the subscriptions.

On October 18, 1886, an adjourned meeting was held, at which it was voted to contract with Wheeler and Parks, contractors, for the construction of the works, and on October 19, 1886, the petitioner entered into a contract with them, by which the franchise and other property was to be mortgaged to secure an issue of bonds, to be delivered to them, and all the bonds and stock less the subscriptions which could be issued under its charter were to be turned over to them in payment for the building of the works.

A meeting of the respondent town was held on January 12, 1887, in pursuance of a warrant containing the following: "Article 3d. To see if the town will vote to purchase the franchise, corporate property, and all the rights and privileges of the Braintree Water Supply Company, according to the provisions of section ten of chapter two hundred and sixty-nine of the Acts and Resolves of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of the year 1886, and to appoint any committee which it may deem expedient in relation thereto." It was voted "that the town proceed to ballot — yes or no — by

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the use of the check list, on the third article of the warrant." Tellers were appointed by the moderator to check the list, and were sworn by the town clerk. The ballot having been taken, the moderator announced the result as follows: Whole number of ballots, 313. Yeas, 256; noes, 57. Necessary for its adoption, 209; being two thirds of the whole number of ballots cast. The moderator then declared the motion adopted. The meeting was then adjourned to January 25, 1887, when it was further voted that a committee be chosen to "negotiate on behalf of the town with the duly authorized officers of the Braintree Water Supply Company, for the purpose of ascertaining what price or compensation shall be paid by the town for the franchise, corporate property, and other rights and privileges of said corporation; that this committee be and hereby is instructed to examine all records, votes, books of account, and vouchers, relating to the formation and business affairs of said corporation; to examine all contracts entered into by said corporation, to report at a town meeting to be called for the purpose of hearing said report and acting thereon; to cause said report to be printed and circulated throughout the town three days at least before the day of the holding of said meeting, and to do such other things as may be necessary in the premises"; and a committee of five was appointed.

This committee met the directors of the petitioner on February 5, 1887, at which time the president said that the company was not in the market for sale; that the directors did not wish to sell, but they recognized the right of the town to purchase under the statutes; that the meeting was somewhat preliminary; and that the company at an early date would submit to the committee a proposition in writing. On February 9, 1887, the proposition was submitted to the committee by the president, which, after reciting the making of the contract with Wheeler and Parks, stated that the petitioner "will sell to the town of Braintree, for the sum of twenty-three thousand dollars ($23,000) our franchise, corporate rights and privileges, together with all the rights and interests in any contract which we now have for supplying water to persons or corporations, and will assign all our rights in the contract for the building of the works, provided that the contractors assent to the same."

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A few days after this proposition was received, a sub-committee visited the office of the company, and an opportunity was there given them to examine the records, contracts, and other papers of the company, which was availed of. The next town meeting was held on February 23, 1887, at which the report of the committee, which had been previously printed and circulated throughout the town, was read, and immediately laid upon the table, without any further action whatsoever upon it.

The next meeting of the town was held on March 10, 1887, at which it was duly voted "to rescind its vote passed January 12, 1887, to purchase the franchise, corporate property, and all the rights and privileges of the Braintree Water Supply Company, according to the provisions of section 10 of chapter 269 of the Acts and Resolves of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of the year 1886."

R. M. Morse, Jr., & M. Morton, Jr., for the petitioner.

B. F. Butler & E. Avery, for the respondent.

KNOWLTON, J. By the St. of 1886, c. 269, the Braintree Water Supply Company was incorporated, for the purpose of furnishing the inhabitants of the town of Braintree with water. The act of incorporation conferred upon the company extensive powers, and also secured to the town the right to obtain the property and franchise of the corporation, and to control the business of supplying its inhabitants with water, whenever it should choose so to do. Section 10 of this act is as follows: "The said town of Braintree shall have the right, at any time during the continuance of the charter hereby granted, to purchase the franchise, corporate property, and all the rights and privileges of said corporation, at a price which may be mutually agreed upon between said corporation and the said town; and the said corporation is authorized to make sale of the same to said town. In case said corporation and said town are unable to agree, then the compensation to be paid shall be determined by three commissioners, to be appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court, upon application of either party and notice to the other, whose award, when accepted by said court, shall be binding upon all parties. This authority to purchase said franchise and property is granted on condition that the same is assented to by said town by a two-thirds vote of the voters present and

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voting thereon at a meeting called for that purpose." The fundamental question in the case is, What were the rights and obligations of the respective parties under this section?

An important part of the chapter relates to the powers and duties of the town in managing the business of furnishing water in case it should purchase the property and franchise of the petitioner, and the intention of the Legislature to give the town the right to take this business in charge is manifest.

The authority conferred was not the power to take property by an exercise of the right of eminent domain, but it was somewhat analogous to it. It was an authority to the town to determine absolutely by its own act in the form of a two-thirds vote, at any time during the continuance of the charter, that the petitioner's property and franchise should become its own. The statute calls it a right to purchase, and seems to contemplate a transfer of title in the form of a sale, and the execution of some proper instrument as evidence of the transfer. For if the town should vote to purchase after the petitioner's works had been constructed, there might be a great variety of property, real and personal, to be transferred, and no way is pointed out in which the town could obtain and preserve in convenient form the evidence of its title except through an instrument of sale. But as a preliminary to fixing the rights of both parties, of one to have the franchise and property, and the other to have the pay for it, no writing and no negotiation was required, — nothing but the vote of the town declaring its determination.

The Legislature conferred upon the company the corporate franchise, with a condition annexed in favor of the town. By accepting its charter, the corporation impliedly agreed to sell, whenever the town by vote should decide to buy. The legal relation of the parties was as if the corporation had made in writing a continuing offer to sell, at a price to be subsequently agreed upon by the parties, and in default of agreement to be fixed by commissioners. The vote of the town to buy was an acceptance of the offer, which completed the contract. The rights of the parties were then the same as if both had signed an executory contract, binding one to sell and the other to buy, at a price to be agreed between them, or determined under the statute. Neither party could then defeat the right of the other

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to have the contract executed. By the terms of the statute, it was to be specifically performed.

The town might, if it had chosen, have declined to avail itself of the offer, held out to it under this statute, to purchase at a price to be afterwards fixed, and have voted, under the authority of the Pub. Sts. c. 27, § 27, and perhaps of this statute also, to negotiate with the corporation in reference to making a purchase at a price to which both should agree. But the vote taken at the meeting of January 12, 1887, was not to make a purchase if a satisfactory price could be agreed upon. It was plainly an exercise of the town's legal right to buy, at a price to be subsequently fixed. The article in the warrant under which the ballot was taken was carefully drawn, with express reference to the provisions of the section which we have quoted. The committee appointed on January 25, 1887, was, in the language of the vote, "for the purpose of ascertaining what price or compensation shall be paid by the town for the franchise, corporate property, and other rights and privileges of said corporation." The town's original action was correctly interpreted by the town itself, when it voted at a subsequent meeting "to rescind its vote passed January 12, 1887, to purchase the franchise, corporate property, and all the rights and privileges of the Braintree Water Supply Company, according to the provisions of section 10 of chapter 269" of the statute of 1886. And this action gave the petitioner rights which the subsequent rescission of the vote could not take away. *Nelson* v. *Milford*, 7 Pick. 18. *Woodbridge* v. *Cambridge*, 114 Mass. 483. *Hall* v. *Holden*, 116 Mass. 172.

It is argued that the petitioner entered into a contract with Wheeler and Parks, which prevented the vote from taking effect. But this argument is not well founded. The corporation might go on under its charter, and make any proper contracts for the construction of its works, and for conducting its business. No contract that it might make could deprive the town of the right to purchase its property and franchise under the statute, or prevent the appointment of commissioners to determine the price to be paid. Any contract in terms inconsistent with the exercise of that right would be contrary to the statute, and void as against the town. Any contract properly made in carrying on

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its business would be binding upon it. Section nine of its charter authorized a mortgage of its franchise and property under certain limitations, but it does not appear that the mortgage mentioned in the vote of September 15, 1886, and stipulated for in the contract of October 30, 1886, was ever made.

The respondent contends that the corporation was never so organized as to be capable of selling its franchise or property, or of maintaining this petition. It must be remembered that this is a corporation created by a charter, and that neither payment for its capital stock, nor even subscription for all of it by individuals, was a necessary preliminary to organization, or to the transaction of business by it. The provisions of the Pub. Sts. c. 105, § 9, in relation to organization, are merely directory, and are intended to secure to all members of a corporation their right to participate in its proceedings. If all the members consent to an organization which disregards the statute requirements as to notice, the organization is valid. *Newcomb* v. *Reed*, 12 Allen, 362. *Walworth* v. *Brackett*, 98 Mass. 98. The proof of the act of incorporation, of the action under it, and of the dealings of the respondent with the petitioner as such corporation, is presumptive evidence that the corporation was legally organized, and is sufficient for the maintenance of a petition in the corporate name. *Narragansett Bank* v. *Atlantic Silk Co.* 3 Met. 282. *Middlesex Husbandmen* v. *Davis*, 8 Met. 133. *Worcester Medical Institution* v. *Harding*, 11 Cush. 285. *Appleton Ins. Co.* v. *Jesser*, 5 Allen, 446. *Topping* v. *Bickford*, 4 Allen, 120. *Hawes* v. *Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co.* 101 Mass. 385.

The neglect of the town to act upon the report of its committee containing the offer of the petitioner, shows that the parties were unable to agree upon the compensation to be paid. Indeed, bringing this petition, without evidence of negotiation or of attempts to negotiate, would be enough to satisfy the requirements of the statute in regard to that. *Burt* v. *Brigham*, 117 Mass. 307. *Ætna Mills* v. *Waltham*, 126 Mass. 422.

Upon the facts agreed, we think the allegations of the petition are established, and that commissioners should be appointed to determine the compensation to be paid by the respondent for the franchise and property of the petitioner.

Ordered accordingly.

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MARK SENNOTT'S CASE.

Suffolk. February 8, 1888. — April 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Habeas Corpus — Juvenile Offender — Writ of Error.

A juvenile offender sentenced by a police court to be "committed to the State Board to be sent to the Lyman School" for breaking and entering, and placed in that school under a mittimus, issued after the St. of 1886, c. 101, § 5, took effect, which, omitting his age, ordered his delivery to the State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity, cannot be discharged on habeas corpus, but his remedy is by writ of error.

HABEAS CORPUS to the superintendent of the Lyman School for Boys, issued on November 7, 1887, upon the petition of Martin Sennott, verified by his oath, which represented that his son, Mark Sennott, a minor of the age of fourteen years, was unlawfully restrained of his liberty by the superintendent of that school; and that the superintendent was holding him upon a mittimus issued by the Police Court of Fitchburg upon a judgment of that court rendered against him upon a complaint charging him with breaking and entering, the record of which judgment was as follows:

"Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Worcester ss. By virtue of a warrant issued on this complaint, the defendant is before the Police Court of Fitchburg, in the county of Worcester, on the eighth day of July, A. D. 1887, and said complaint is read to him, and he says that thereof he is not guilty. Continued to July 12, when, after hearing all matters and things concerning the same, it is adjudged by the said Police Court, that said defendant is guilty. Continued to August 9, for sentence. When it is thereupon ordered by the said Police Court, that the said defendant be committed to the State Board, to be sent to the Lyman School. Committed. Wylm G. Hayes, Clerk."

The mittimus was as follows:

"Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"Worcester ss. To the sheriff of our county of Worcester, his deputy, any constable of the Commonwealth, or any con-

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stable of any town or city in said county, the State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity, the visiting agent of said board, or either of his assistants, Greeting:

"You are hereby commanded, in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, forthwith to convey and deliver into the custody of the State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity, the body of Mark Sennott, a boy between seven and seventeen years of age, now before the Police Court of Fitchburg, in said county, on complaint of C. H. D. Stockbridge, made under oath, against said defendant, for that said defendant, heretofore, to wit, on the third day of July, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, at Fitchburg, in said county, the store of W. W. Smith, there situate, did break and enter, with intent the goods and chattels in the same store then and there being to steal, take, and carry away, and then and there, two revolvers, of the value of six dollars, of the money, goods, and chattels of W. W. Smith, in the same store then and there being found, then and there in the same store did steal, take, and carry away.

"And, after hearing all matters and things concerning the same, and all persons entitled thereto, having been duly summoned and notified of the pendency of said complaint, as required by law, it is adjudged by said court that said defendant is guilty, and it appears that he is of the age of years and months, and upon request of the visiting agent of the State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity, said board is hereby authorized to take and indenture, or place in charge of any person, or in the Lyman School, said boy, till he attains the age of twenty-one years, or for any less time; and if said boy prove unmanageable, to transfer and commit him to the State Reform or Industrial School, subject to such conditions as are now defined by law for admission to said schools, till he attains the age of twenty-one years, or for any less time, or until he is otherwise discharged in due course of law.

"Witness, Thornton K. Ware, Esquire, at Fitchburg, this ninth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven. Wylm G. Hayes, Clerk."

The return upon the mittimus, dated August 9, 1887, and signed by a constable of Fitchburg, set forth that "by virtue of this warrant I have this day conveyed and delivered the body of

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the within named defendant into the custody of the State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity, as within directed."

At the hearing before *Devens*, J., where it appeared that Mark Sennott was a boy between seven and seventeen years of age, and that he was held in custody by the superintendent solely by virtue of the mittimus, the petitioner moved that he be discharged from his imprisonment for the following reasons: "1. Because he says the Police Court had no jurisdiction, and its judgment is void, in that the record discloses the fact that the case was disposed of contrary to the laws of said Commonwealth which provide for the trial of juvenile offenders. 2. Because the mittimus issued on said judgment is irregular, and contrary to the laws of said Commonwealth, and the imprisonment of said boy by virtue thereof is unlawful."

The judge overruled the motion, and ruled that, the judgment having been rendered by a court which had jurisdiction of the person and offence, the validity of its judgment and commitment could not be inquired into on a writ of habeas corpus, but must stand until reversed on a writ of error; and reported the case for the consideration of the full court. If the ruling was right, the prisoner was to be remanded; otherwise he was to be discharged.

T. F. Gallagher, for the petitioner.

H. C. Bliss, Assistant Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

KNOWLTON, J. This is a writ of habeas corpus to the superintendent of the Lyman School for Boys, at Westborough, issued by the Superior Court, upon a petition alleging that the petitioner's minor son, Mark Sennott, aged fourteen years, was unlawfully imprisoned and restrained of his liberty by said superintendent. It appeared at the hearing that this boy was held under the authority of a mittimus issued upon a judgment of the Police Court of Fitchburg, and the record of the case was introduced. The petitioner contends that the Police Court had no jurisdiction, that its proceedings were irregular, and that its judgment was void, because it appears by the record that the case was disposed of contrary to the laws in relation to the trial of juvenile offenders. He also contends that the mittimus was irregular and illegal, and that therefore the boy should be discharged from imprisonment.

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The record shows that Mark Sennott was brought before the court to answer to a complaint in due form, charging him with breaking and entering a building with intent to commit the crime of larceny therein, and with stealing two revolvers in said building. He was between seven and seventeen years of age.

Upon these facts there can be no doubt that the court had jurisdiction of his person, and of the offence with which he was charged. Pub. Sts. c. 89, §§ 18–24. St. 1883, c. 110. St. 1884, c. 255, § 11; c. 323. The record is not full enough certainly to show whether or not there was any irregularity in the proceedings prior to the imposition of sentence, but so far as appears every requirement of the law was complied with. The final judgment was that he was guilty, and that he should "be committed to the State Board, to be sent to the Lyman School." If there was in the sentence or the prior proceedings any irregularity affecting the validity of the judgment, it can be corrected upon a writ of error. But neither irregularities nor errors, so far as they were within the jurisdiction of the court, can be inquired into upon a writ of habeas corpus. *Clarke's case*, 12 Cush. 320. *Herrick* v. *Smith*, 1 Gray, 1, 50. *Adams* v. *Vose*, 1 Gray, 51. *Ex parte Watkins*, 3 Pet. 193. *Ex parte Siebold*, 100 U. S. 371, 373. *In re Underwood*, 30 Mich. 502. *Platt* v. *Harrison*, 6 Iowa, 79.

That a writ of habeas corpus cannot perform the functions of a writ of error, in relation to proceedings of a court within its jurisdiction, is universally agreed. The only conflict of authority touching the subject is in regard to what acts are open to inquiry upon the question of jurisdiction. It is held in this State, and by good authorities elsewhere, that the constitutionality of a law which a court is attempting to apply, lies at the foundation of the jurisdiction under it, and may be called in question upon habeas corpus. *Herrick* v. *Smith*, 1 Gray, 1, 49. *Ex parte Siebold*, 100 U. S. 371. *People* v. *Roff*, 3 Park. Cr. Rep. 216. But this doctrine has been contradicted, and action founded upon an unconstitutional law has been held a mistake which can only be corrected upon a writ of error. *In re Harris*, 47 Mo. 164. So there has been diversity of opinion among different courts as to sentences which are not authorized by law. The better rule seems to be, that where a court has jurisdiction of the person, and of the

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offence, the imposition by mistake of a sentence in excess of what the law permits is within the jurisdiction, and does not render the sentence void, but only voidable by proceedings upon a writ of error. *Ross's case*, 2 Pick. 165. *Feeley's case*, 12 Cush. 598, 599. *Semler, petitioner*, 41 Wis. 517. *Ex parte Shaw*, 7 Ohio St. 81. *Ex parte Van Hagan*, 25 Ohio St. 426. *Phinney, petitioner*, 32 Maine, 440. *Kirby* v. *State*, 62 Ala. 51. *Lark* v. *State*, 55 Ga. 435. It has sometimes been held that such a sentence is legal so far as it is within the provisions of law, and void as to the excess. *People* v. *Jacobs*, 66 N. Y. 8. *People* v. *Baker*, 89 N. Y. 460. *Bigelow* v. *Forrest*, 9 Wall. 339.

The leading cases of *Ex parte Lange*, 18 Wall. 163, and *People* v. *Liscomb*, 60 N. Y. 559, do not decide that a sentence which is merely erroneous and excessive through a mistake of law is void, in such a sense as to make an officer liable for executing it, or to call for a discharge upon habeas corpus of a person held under it. Indeed, in the former case, Mr. Justice Miller in his opinion, at page 174, asserts that it is not. The principle upon which this case goes is, that when a court has once imposed a sentence, whether in accordance with law or not, which has been served or performed in whole or in part, it has no jurisdiction to impose another, either in addition to or in substitution for the first. And the case of *People* v. *Liscomb* rests upon similar grounds. See also *People* v. *Jacobs*, 66 N. Y. 8.

The rule to which we have referred does not necessarily imply that every judgment which a court having jurisdiction of a person and of his offence might render would be held to be within its jurisdiction, and not open to inquiry upon habeas corpus. It is always a pertinent question, whether or not the act under consideration was done in the exercise of the existing jurisdiction. *Clarke's case*, 12 Cush. 320. *Adams* v. *Vose*, 1 Gray, 51. And we can conceive of a sentence so foreign to the law, and to the case before the court, and so far in excess of the power conferred upon the court, as to furnish ground for an argument that it was not merely erroneous, but entirely outside of the jurisdiction.

But it is unnecessary to determine how such a sentence should be regarded, for the irregularity of that in the case at bar was nothing more than an error. Under the Pub. Sts. c. 89, § 23,

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the boy might be committed to the State Reform School, now the Lyman School for Boys. St. 1884, c. 323. By § 22 of the same chapter it is provided that the court, "upon request of the State Board, may authorize said board to take and indenture, or place in charge of any person, or in the State primary school, or, if he or she prove unmanageable, to commit to the reform or industrial school such boy or girl till he or she attains the age of twenty-one years, or for any less time." The record shows that the defendant was to "be committed to the State Board, to be sent to the Lyman School." No part of this sentence was in excess of the authority of the court. The law authorized commitment directly to the Lyman School under § 23, or commitment to the custody of the State Board of Lunacy and Charity under § 22, with authority in them to commit him to the Lyman School if he proved unmanageable. Construing the language of the record strictly, it seems to contemplate a disposition of the boy not in accordance with the provisions of either section of the statute, but depending in part upon one, and in part upon the other. This is an error which does not entitle the defendant to a discharge upon habeas corpus, and which can be corrected only by proceedings looking directly to that end. Under such proceedings, the court can render such judgment as should have been rendered at first. Pub. Sts. c. 187, § 13.

The mittimus follows the judgment, and most of the objections to it are covered by what we have already said. If the directions contained in the Pub. Sts. c. 89, § 24, as to certifying in the warrant for commitment the boy's age, place of residence, and such other particulars as can be ascertained concerning him, are applicable to a commitment under § 22, they are merely directory, and the omission of them does not invalidate the warrant.

The State Board named in two places in the mittimus is called the State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity. The St. of 1886, c. 101, § 5, provides, that "the board heretofore known as the State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity shall be hereafter called the State Board of Lunacy and Charity." The judgment of sentence used the words "State Board" alone, which are the words of § 22 of the Pub. Sts. c. 89, and which mean, under the present law, State Board of Lunacy and Charity. The

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mittimus recites the record, but uses the former name of the board. Under the mittimus the defendant was taken to the Lyman School, which is under the general supervision of this board. Pub. Sts. c. 79, §§ 2, 3, 5. Taking the mittimus in all its parts, and reading it in connection with the statutes of the Commonwealth, it is so manifest that the name "State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity" was so written by a clerical error, and that the State Board of Lunacy and Charity was meant, that we cannot hold the process void. Besides, we have the judgment before us. The imprisonment rests upon the judgment, and the mittimus is important only as a direction to the officer, and as evidence of the authority which the judgment gives. *People* v. *Baker*, 89 N. Y. 460. See also *Ex parte Gibson*, 31 Cal. 619; *Ex parte Kellogg*, 6 Vt. 509, 511. *Prisoner remanded.*

JAMES W. DUNPHY *vs.* TRAVELLER NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION & others.

Suffolk. February 1, 1888. — April 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Corporation — Equity Pleading — Multifariousness — Laches.

A bill in equity by a stockholder, for himself and other stockholders, brought against the corporation and a part only of the directors, for wrongful mismanagement, is not maintainable unless it shows that redress has been sought of the corporation itself, or of the existing board of directors, or that such seeking would be useless; and this requirement is not satisfied by an allegation that one of the directors, who is a party defendant, controls the majority of the stock, and elects such a board as he may choose, but with no averment of fraud or misconduct on the part of the other directors.

The joinder, in a bill in equity by a stockholder to secure the payment of dividends, of a request that such be paid out of moneys on hand, and a demand that the corporation should seek the restitution of moneys misapplied by it for the making of further dividends, does not make the bill multifarious.

Such a bill is not maintainable for former dividends wrongfully withheld from certain stockholders not made parties plaintiff.

A bill in equity, filed in December, 1886, alleged that improper investments had been made by a corporation, the last but one being in 1881, as appeared in its books, while the plaintiff was a director or treasurer, but did not aver fraud in the

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making or objection, or ignorance on his part; that the salary of the president had been raised for a term ending in 1875; and that a loan of money had been obtained in 1874, upon which interest was thenceforth paid. *Held*, that the plaintiff had been guilty of such laches as to prevent his maintaining the bill.

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KNOWLTON, J. The plaintiff brings this bill in equity, filed on December 18, 1886, as a stockholder in the defendant corporation, in behalf of himself and such other stockholders as may join him therein, alleging that Roland Worthington, one of the defendants, is the president and treasurer of said corporation, and is and for a long time has been the owner or controller of a majority of the shares of its capital stock, and by means of his ownership and control has chosen such persons to be directors as he has seen fit; and has improperly used and invested large sums of the money of the corporation in certain specified ways, and has kept other large sums of its money on hand drawing no interest, and has improperly received large amounts as his salary as president of the corporation, and as rent for a building owned by him and occupied by it, and has prevented the making of dividends upon the capital stock, and has otherwise improperly managed the affairs of said corporation, to the great damage of the plaintiff and other stockholders. The plaintiff prays that said Worthington may be directed to render accounts of all his dealings with the assets of the corporation, and to refund all moneys improperly received or paid out by him, and to pay to certain stockholders such sums of money as shall equalize among all the stockholders certain distributions alleged to have been irregularly made among some of them, and to file a correct statement in detail of all the present assets and liabilities of the corporation, and hereafter annually to render accounts of his dealings with it as treasurer so long as he holds that office. He also prays that all funds of the corporation on hand in excess of five thousand dollars be ordered distributed among the stockholders at once, and that the corporation be required hereafter to declare dividends as often as the cash on hand shall equal five per cent of the amount of its capital stock, and for general relief.

Courts of equity are swift to protect helpless minorities of stockholders of corporations from the oppression and fraud of majorities. But the legal relations into which the members of a

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corporation enter require them to seek redress for supposed wrongs done them as stockholders from its officers, and from the corporation itself, before applying elsewhere. Misconduct in dealing with a corporation, or in the management of its affairs, can affect its members only through the corporation itself. The wrong in such a case is done primarily to the corporation. It is the duty of its directors or other managing officers to protect it from those who would do it injustice, and to seek compensation for any injury which it receives. Stockholders in a corporation impliedly agree, when they join it, to act in the corporate business through officers chosen to represent them, or by vote at meetings of the members regularly called. And so, if they deem themselves aggrieved as shareholders by the dealings of others with it, or by the acts of its managers, they are bound to seek their remedy through corporate channels, first, by application to the officers in charge, and, failing there, secondly, to the corporation itself, at a meeting of its members. If they can obtain justice at the hands of neither, the courts are open for their relief.

It would be contrary to the fundamental principles of corporate organization to hold that a single shareholder can at any time launch the corporation into litigation to obtain from another what he deems to be due to it, or to prevent methods of management which he thinks unwise. Intelligent and honest men differ upon questions of business policy. It is not always best to insist upon all one's rights; and a corporation acting by its directors, or by vote of its members, may properly refuse to bring a suit which one of its stockholders believes should be prosecuted. In such a case the will of the majority must control. It is only when the action of a corporation in refusing to proceed at the request of a stockholder is fraudulent as against him, or in disregard of his rights, that he can maintain a suit in his own name in the corporate right. The court cannot interfere with the management of corporations in matters which are properly within their discretion, so long as their discretion is fairly exercised, and it is always assumed until the contrary appears, that they and their officers obey the law, and act in good faith towards all their members. Even when their acts are *ultra vires*, or otherwise illegal, a complaining member must

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first seek his remedy within the corporation. The only exception to the rule that a stockholder must apply to the directors, and also if need be to the corporation, for redress of a wrong done it, before he can sue in a court of equity, for himself and in behalf of other stockholders, is when it appears that such application would be unavailing to protect his rights. *Brewer* v. *Boston Theatre*, 104 Mass. 378. *Allen* v. *Wilson*, 28 Fed. Rep. 677. *Hawes* v. *Oakland*, 104 U. S. 450. *Detroit* v. *Dean*, 106 U. S. 537. *Dimpfell* v. *Ohio & Mississippi Railway*, 110 U. S. 209. *Foss* v. *Harbottle*, 2 Hare, 461. That may happen when the directors themselves are the wrongdoers, or are in fraudulent combination with them, or when the corporation is controlled by them, or when it is necessary that action should be taken too speedily to leave time for a corporate meeting of stockholders.

In the case at bar there is an averment that Roland Worthington, the alleged wrongdoer, has for a long time controlled a majority of the stock, and has elected such persons directors as he chose. That states a sufficient reason for not applying to the corporation, at a meeting of its members, for action to redress its wrongs. But it is not alleged that the plaintiff ever attempted to move the directors in the interest of the corporation in the matters complained of, or that any good reason existed for his failure so to do. It does not even appear who or how many the directors are. It is said that the defendants Roland Worthington and Roland Worthington the younger are directors, but no others are named. The law provides that there shall be at least three, and it is to be presumed that there are others besides these defendants. Rev. Sts. c. 38, § 3. Pub. Sts. c. 106, § 25. There is no allegation of fraud, or of wrongful combination with Roland Worthington, or of other misconduct, on the part of any of them. And it cannot be presumed, in the absence of such averments, that they would refuse to do their duty if their attention were called to it.

In *Brewer* v. *Boston Theatre*, *ubi supra*, — a much stronger case for the plaintiff than this, — an allegation was in these words: "A majority of the present board of directors of said defendant corporation are acting in the interest of, and are under the control of, Tompkins and Thayer," the authors of the alleged

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frauds; and it was held that this allegation did not set forth a sufficient reason for bringing a suit without first requesting the directors to do it.

For the reasons which we have stated the demurrer must be sustained; but inasmuch as the bill may be amended, it may be well to consider some other objections made by the defendants.

It is contended that the bill is multifarious because it joins a claim for a restitution of property to the corporation with a claim for a payment of a dividend, and it is argued that in one part of his case the plaintiff moves through the equity of the corporation against a wrongdoer, and in the other he moves directly against the corporation itself. Looking at these parts of the case as separate proceedings, the argument has great weight. But we think the relief sought should be more broadly viewed. Upon the plaintiff's theory, he and other stockholders have been wronged by a course of proceeding in which all the defendants have participated. The substance of his complaint is, that they have kept from him profits to which he is entitled, and he brings his bill to obtain those profits. He suggests misconduct of the corporation in refusing to make dividends of money which it has on hand, and alleges that Roland Worthington is the author of this misconduct, and has personally joined in it as controller of the corporate action. He suggests that other profits which should have been divided have been kept from him through misconduct of said Worthington in improperly paying out and investing money of the corporation, and in improperly appropriating its money to his own use, and that the corporation has participated in this wrong, in not preventing it nor taking measures to redress it. He prays for a dividend of moneys in the hands of the corporation which it refuses to divide, and of other moneys in the hands of Worthington which it should first obtain and then divide. Both branches of the case are essential to the complete relief of the plaintiff. Worthington and the corporation are parties interested in both, and there is no difficulty in trying both together. We are of opinion that the bill is not multifarious. See *Lenz* v. *Prescott*, 144 Mass. 505; *Pointon* v. *Pointon*, L. R. 12 Eq. 547; *Coates* v. *Legard*, L. R. 19 Eq. 56; *Kennebec Railroad* v. *Portland Railroad*, 54 Maine, 173.

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It is obvious that the bill cannot be maintained to obtain payments for the stockholders Morss and Spaulding of the sums which it is alleged should have been paid them when distributions were made to other stockholders in 1869, 1870, and 1871. Their rights in relation to these distributions cannot be affected by this suit. They are not made parties to it, and this plaintiff is not in a position to represent their equity before the court.

It is contended that, as to most of the matters complained of, the bill shows such knowledge and acquiescence on the part of the plaintiff as precludes him from obtaining equitable relief, and that, even if he made objection, he is barred by reason of laches. It is a familiar principle of equity jurisprudence, that long continued acquiescence in a course of conduct by one interested in it, especially when the rights of others are affected thereby, will induce the court to refuse him relief upon his subsequent complaint of it. *Dimpfell* v. *Ohio & Mississippi Railway*, 110 U. S. 209. *Allen* v. *Wilson*, 28 Fed. Rep. 677. *Burt* v. *British Assurance Association*, 4 DeG. & J. 158. *Ffooks* v. *South Western Railway*, 1 Sm. & G. 142. *Graham* v. *Birkenhead Railway*, 2 Macn. & G. 146.

As to the alleged improper investments there is no averment that they were fraudulently made, or that the plaintiff objected to them, or that he was ignorant of them. The presumption is, that he knew of them, and did not object; for they all appear upon the books of the corporation, of which he was a director from 1871 to 1879, and the treasurer from 1879 to 1884, and all but the last of them were made as long ago as 1881, and most of them many years before that time. So long as he was a director, or the treasurer, it was his duty to know of all the investments of the company's money, and to object to them and endeavor to prevent them if they were illegal or improper. In view of his official position, and the lack of any averment or intimation that he objected to these investments until the expiration of more than three years after the last was made, and more than thirteen years after the first during his directorship, he can hardly complain if he is held to have so far acquiesced in them as to have lost his right to recover on account of them. If he intended to rely on them as a cause of action, he has certainly been guilty of laches, and for that reason he cannot be heard to

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complain of them at this late day. *Peabody* v. *Flint*, 6 Allen, 52. *Royal Bank of Liverpool* v. *Grand Junction Railroad*, 125 Mass. 490.

These considerations apply also to some of the other matters relied on; especially to the increase of Worthington's salary as president for a term which ended May 15, 1875, to the loan of money obtained from Job E. Worthington in 1874, and to most of the payments of interest upon it. *Demurrer sustained.*

W. G. Russell & G. Putnam, for the defendant.

J. Lowell & E. M. Johnson, for the plaintiff.

GEORGE W. CUMMINGS, executor, *vs.* CHARLES H. CUMMINGS & others.

Suffolk. February 2, 1888. — April 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Will — Bequest — Blood Relations — Per Stirpes or Per Capita — Capital and Income.

If a testator gives the income of a residuary fund to his wife during her life, and directs that the principal at her death be divided "equally between my blood relations of the degree which the law permits," the bequest over is to those who are the heirs of the testator at the time of his death, each of several classes taking *per stirpes* and not *per capita*.

A gift by a testator, the net income of whose estate amounts to six thousand dollars, to his wife of "twelve hundred dollars in money, to be paid to her annually in quarterly payments during her life," is payable out of income, and not out of principal.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed April 8, 1887, by the surviving executor of the will of George Cummings, to obtain the instructions of the court as to the payment of the annuity mentioned in the second clause, and the distribution of the residue provided for in the sixteenth clause. The will, omitting the parts merely formal, was as follows:

1. "Imprimis. My will is that all my just debts and funeral charges, and the legacies hereinafter given shall by my executors hereinafter named be paid out of my estate, as soon after my decease as shall by them be found convenient.

2. "Item. I give, devise and bequeath to my beloved wife Abigail Cummings my dwelling-house, land and barn in said

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Medfield with all my household furniture, my horses, carriages and harnesses, and my library with all the books and pictures therein. Also, twelve hundred dollars, in money, to be paid to her, annually, in quarterly payments, during her life, by my executors hereinafter named; also, the lot in Mount Auburn Cemetery, which is owned by me together with my brother Daniel Cummings of Boston, Mass. And my will is, that after the decease of my wife my household furniture shall be divided, equally, between her surviving sisters, and that my dwelling-house and my horses, carriages and their harnesses be given to William Chenery and his wife, of said Medfield.

3. "Item. I give to my brother Daniel Cummings of Boston, Mass., five thousand dollars, and to his sons, Charles H. and George W. Cummings, one thousand dollars each.

4. "Item. I give to my executors, in trust, five thousand dollars, of which the income shall be by them paid annually to my sister Mrs. Stephen Smith of Derry, New Hampshire, during her life; the principal thereof to be equally divided, at her decease, between her surviving children. I also give one thousand dollars to each of said children.

5. "Item. I give and bequeath to my sister Mrs. Maria S. Keyes of Lancaster, Mass., the farm on which she now lives, with all the appurtenances thereof during her life. Also I give to her five thousand dollars, of which the income only shall be paid to her, annually, during her life. And it is my will that, at her decease, the principal of the said sum, and the said farm and its appurtenances shall be divided, equally, between her daughters, Hattie A. and Maria A. Keyes. I also give to my executors, in trust, one thousand dollars, of which the income only shall be paid to Sarah Keyes during her life; and at her decease the principal thereof shall be divided, equally, between Hattie A. and Maria A. Keyes. I also give to said Hattie A. and Maria A. and to Charles Keyes one thousand dollars each.

6. "Item. I give to my sister Mrs. Maria S. Keyes of Lancaster, Mass., in trust, one thousand dollars, towards the support of her two grandchildren, the children of her eldest son, W. S. Keyes.

7. "Item. I give to the children, if they be living at my decease, of my late sister Julia Irene Albee of Lancaster, Mass., one thousand dollars each. I also give and bequeath to John

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Albee of said Lancaster, husband of my late sister aforesaid, the use and improvement of the farm on which he now lives, during his life. And it is my will that, at his decease, the said farm be divided equally between his surviving children.

8. "Item. I give to my two nieces, Mrs. Ephraim Avery and Mrs. Emeline Gowing of Lancaster, Mass., one thousand dollars each. And also to the surviving children of my late sister Lydia Thorn one thousand dollars each. I also give and bequeath to Callie Thorn of Clinton, Mass., the house in which she now lives.

9. "Item. I give to Abby Ann and Frederica Lewis, the daughters of Henry P. Lewis, late of Cambridge, Mass., one thousand dollars each. Also to Tabitha R. Simpson of Boston Highlands, Mass., and to Charlotte C. Simpson of Malden Centre, Mass., the use and improvement of the houses and lands which they now occupy, during their lives. And my will is, that, at their decease, the said houses and lands be divided, equally, between their surviving daughters.

10. "Item. I give to the First Baptist Church and Society in Medfield, Mass., four thousand dollars, to be safely invested and only the income thereof to be annually expended towards defraying the expenses of said church and society.

11. "Item. I give to the Union Church in Westford, Mass., my native town, one thousand dollars, in token of my respect for my dear mother, who was a member of that church.

12. "Item. I give to the public library in Medfield, Mass., one thousand dollars, of which the income only shall be expended annually, for the purchase of books to replenish or increase said library. I also give to said library, after the decease of my wife, my portrait, to be placed in a prominent position therein.

13. "Item. I give to the Society in Mass. for the aid of destitute widows of Baptist ministers, one thousand dollars; to the Society for the aid of poor Baptist ministers one thousand dollars; and to the Convention for the support of poor Baptist Churches one thousand dollars.

14. "Item. I direct my executors to cause a suitable monument to be erected in my lot in Mount Auburn Cemetery, at an expense not exceeding one thousand dollars, and to deposit with the trustees of said cemetery corporation a sum not exceeding

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five hundred dollars, — the income only of which sum shall be expended for perpetually keeping the lot in such order as they shall approve or require.

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15. "Item. It is my will that my wife shall relinquish her right of dower to all the real estate, which I have herein devised and bequeathed to her and my relatives.

16. "Item. I direct my executors, hereinafter named, to keep safely invested all the rest and residue of my estate after payment of the several legacies herein bequeathed, and of my just debts and funeral charges, and to pay the income thereof to my dear wife during her life, and at her decease to divide the principal thereof equally between my blood relations of the degree which the law permits."

Hearing before *Holmes*, J., who reported the case for the consideration of the full court, in substance as follows. The following facts were admitted. The testator, a business man of large intelligence and ability, died on July 7, 1881. The will, dated February 28, 1880, was drawn up by a clergyman without the assistance or advice of persons learned in the law, and was duly admitted to probate on September 7, 1881. The testator's widow, Abigail Cummings, died on March 10, 1887, leaving a will, which was duly admitted to probate. The widow and her executors had received all the net income of the testator's estate that accrued during her widowhood, and such income amounted to about six thousand dollars per year. No claim for any further payment was ever made by her or on her behalf until after her death, and no part of the principal was ever paid to her, and the provision for her in the second item of the will was sufficient for her comfortable support.

The testator had six brothers and sisters: Daniel Cummings, Angelina Smith, Maria Keyes, Charles Cummings, Julia I. Albee, and Lydia Thorn. The first-named three survived him, and the last-named three died before him, leaving issue surviving him; but all of them died before March 10, 1887, when the testator's widow died.

The heirs of the testator at the date of the will, February 28, 1880, and that of his death, July 7, 1881, according to the statute rules of the descent of real estate, consisted of seventeen persons, made up of the surviving brother and sisters of the testator, and

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of the children of the deceased brother and sisters. The persons who would have been the heirs of the testator if he had died on March 10, 1887, the date of the widow's death, according to the same rules, were thirty-three in number, consisting of the children of Daniel Cummings, Maria Keyes, Charles Cummings, and Lydia Thorn, and the surviving children and the children of deceased children of Angelina Smith and Julia I. Albee. All the survivors of these, the representatives or heirs of those deceased, the executor of the will of Wright S. Keyes, the husband of Maria Keyes, who, surviving her, died on March 21, 1883, and the executors of the testator's widow, were made defendants.

The children of Daniel Cummings and Charles Cummings, and the executor of the will of Wright S. Keyes, contended that the residuary estate of the testator, George Cummings, vested at the time of his death; and that it then vested (subject to deductions to be made therefrom in the administration of his will and estate) in equal sixth parts, *per stirpes*, according to the number of his brothers and sisters, one sixth part in each of the two sisters and brother then surviving, and one sixth part in the issue then living of each of the two sisters and brother deceased; and that the estate now in the hands of the plaintiff, subject to distribution, should be divided in accordance with such vested interests; and in the case of the death since the death of the testator of any such persons seised of such vested interests, the share of the estate now payable on account of such interests should be paid to the executors or administrators of such person dying seised of said interest.

The children of Lydia Thorn contended that the residuary estate of the testator vested at his death; but that it vested equally among the seventeen persons who were his then next of kin, and should now be distributed equally among them *per capita*, as of the time of his death.

The issue of Maria Keyes, Angelina Smith, and Julia I. Albee, contended that the residuary estate of the testator did not vest until the death of the widow of the testator, on March 10, 1887, and that it then vested equally in the nephews and nieces of the testator then surviving, the issue of any deceased nephew or niece taking the parent's share. According to this

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contention the estate would be divided into twenty-six equal parts, one part for each of twenty-three nephews and nieces living on March 10, 1887, and one part for the issue of a deceased nephew and two deceased nieces.

The executors of the will of the widow of the testator contended that twelve hundred dollars annually, in quarterly payments, should have been paid to her out of the principal of the estate independently of the income, and that there is now due to her estate the sum that these payments would have amounted to if paid, but without interest, because the widow had received the interest of the whole estate.

E. Tappan, for the plaintiff, read the papers in the case.

J. B. Warner, for the executors of the widow.

T. P. Proctor, for the children of Daniel Cummings and Charles Cummings, and the executor of Wright S. Keyes.

E. H. Bennett, (*G. R. Wheelock* with him,) for certain issue of Maria Keyes and Angelina Smith.

P. E. Tucker, for the children of Lydia Thorn.

H. C. Hartwell, for the children and grandchildren of Julia I. Albee.

A. F. Butterworth, for a child of Maria Keyes.

KNOWLTON, J. This case presents three questions: First, Is the estate of the residuary legatees to be deemed to have vested in those who were the testator's heirs at the time of his death, or is it to be distributed among those who were his blood relations at the time of the death of his widow? Secondly, Do these legatees take *per stirpes* or *per capita?* Thirdly, Was the annual payment of twelve hundred dollars to the testator's widow, under the second clause of the will, to be made from the income of the estate in the hands of the executors, or from the principal?

It seems very clear that the gift of the residuum was to those who were the testator's blood relations at the time of his death, in accordance with the principle recognized in many cases, that when a bequest is made to one or more for life, and remainder to the testator's heirs, the bequest is to those who are heirs at the time of his decease, unless there are words indicating a clear intention that it shall go to those who may be in that relation at the time of the happening of the contingency upon

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which the estate is to be distributed. *Blanchard* v. *Blanchard*, 1 Allen, 223. *Fay* v. *Sylvester*, 2 Gray, 171. *Pike* v. *Stephenson*, 99 Mass. 188. *Gibbens* v. *Gibbens*, 140 Mass. 102, 105.

The term "blood relations" in the sixteenth clause of the will is equivalent in this case to heirs, and the words "equally between my blood relations of the degree which the law permits" seem to have been used to denote the mode of distribution provided by the statute. The will was not drawn by a lawyer, and the language was not accurately used, but it clearly indicates that the testator had in mind the relative rights of heirs differing in relationship to a deceased person, under the law. The word "equally" in this connection is not inconsistent with this view. The testator probably meant by it, with equal regard to the rights of every one as defined by law. Viewing the whole expression most favorably to those who seek a distribution *per capita*, it was merely equivalent to "equally among my heirs," and where that is the language the division is according to the Statute of Distributions. "A devise to heirs designates, not only the persons who are to take, but also the manner and proportions in which they take." *Rand* v. *Sanger*, 115 Mass. 124. See also *Balcom* v. *Haynes*, 14 Allen, 204; *Holbrook* v. *Harrington*, 16 Gray, 102; *Hall* v. *Hall*, 140 Mass. 267; *Booth* v. *Vicars*, 1 Collyer, 6; *Fielden* v. *Ashworth*, L. R. 20 Eq. 410; *In re Campbell's Trusts*, 33 Ch. D. 98.

There is much in the situation of the testator in reference to the number of his heirs of different classes, and the effect which the opposite construction would have upon the distribution of his estate, and in the manifestation of his intention towards different heirs in other parts of his will, to strengthen this view. We are therefore of opinion that the distribution among the legatees under this clause should be made *per stirpes*, and not *per capita*.

By the second clause of the will the executors were required to pay to the testator's widow twelve hundred dollars annually, in quarterly payments, during her life; and by the sixteenth clause, to keep the residue invested, and pay her the income thereof for the same period. The legacy of twelve hundred dollars annually was an annuity, and the testator contemplated the retention in the hands of the executors of the means of

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paying it. *Swett* v. *Boston*, 18 Pick. 123. *Stephens* v. *Milnor*, 9 C. E. Green, 358. The annual income of the entire fund in their hands under the will was about six thousand dollars, and the question is whether the annuity was payable from the income or the principal. The very nature of an annuity suggests, when those charged with the payment of it have in their hands a fund producing income sufficient to pay it, that the payment should be made from the income, and not from the principal. In this case the payments were to be made quarterly, and the income regularly accruing would naturally be expected to be used for them, rather than sums deducted from the fund. It has been expressly held, that, where a testator gives an annuity without stating from what source it is to be paid, and then divides the rest of his estate among several persons, it is the duty of the executors before distributing the capital, either to appropriate a sufficient amount of the capital to purchase an annuity, or to reserve enough of it to yield an income amply sufficient to meet the annuity, leaving such portion of the capital to be the subject of another distribution when the annuity has ceased. *Treadwell* v. *Cordis*, 5 Gray, 341. See also *Wroughton* v. *Colquhoun*, 1 DeG. & Sm. 36; *Richardson* v. *Hall*, 124 Mass. 228.

That rule applied to the present case would have left the widow, under the sixteenth clause of the will, only that portion of the entire income which remained after deducting sufficient to pay her annuity of twelve hundred dollars under the second clause. Her executors, therefore, are not entitled to the amount which they now claim.

Decree accordingly.

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* CERTAIN INTOXICATING LIQUORS, ZEPHRIN LUCIA, claimant.

Middlesex. February 8, 1888. — April 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Intoxicating Liquors — Complaint — Search-warrant — Description — Notice — Service.

A complaint on the Pub. Sts. c. 100, § 30, averred that intoxicating liquors were kept by a certain person in a "hotel and barn" on the north side of a street in H., "known as the Valley House and barn in the rear thereof, next east of the bakery building, occupied in part by" a third person. The search-warrant recited in substance the averment of the complaint. *Held*, that the complaint and warrant sufficiently described the building to be searched so as to identify it.

The notice required by the Pub. Sts. c. 100, §§ 34, 35, was addressed to the person complained against as "of H.," and described the liquors as "seized in a certain building" occupied by him in "said H." A warrant directed the officer to serve this notice by posting a copy on the barn, and his return thereon recited that he posted such a copy on the barn "in the rear of the hotel," "next east of the bakery building occupied in part" by such third person, "being the same building in which the liquors" were seized. The person complained against appeared as a claimant of the liquors. *Held*, that the notice and the service thereof were sufficient.

COMPLAINT on the Pub. Sts. c. 100, § 30, to James T. Joslin, a trial justice for the county of Middlesex, alleging that, on August 29, 1887, certain intoxicating liquors were "kept and deposited by Zephrin Lucia of said Hudson, in a certain hotel and barn situate on the north side of Main Street, in Hudson Centre, known as the Valley House and barn in the rear thereof, next east of the Bakery Building, occupied in part by Geo. W. Davis, in said Hudson, and occupied by said Zephrin Lucia as a hotel and barn, having a place of common resort kept therein," for sale contrary to law. The warrant issued upon this complaint set forth that the liquors were "kept and deposited by Zephrin Lucia of said Hudson, in a certain hotel and barn situate on the north side of Main Street, in Hudson Centre, next east of the Bakery Building, so called, known as the Valley House and barn in the rear thereof, said Bakery Building occupied in part by Geo. W. Davis in said Hudson and occupied by

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said Zephrin Lucia as a hotel and barn, having a place of common resort kept therein," for sale contrary to law.

Certain liquors were seized on the warrant, and a warrant to serve notice was issued, which directed the officer "to serve the annexed notice, by delivering an attested copy thereof into the hands of Zephrin Lucia of Hudson, in the county of Middlesex, or by leaving an attested copy thereof at his usual place of abode, and also by posting up another attested copy thereof on the barn in the rear of the Valley House, so called, in the centre of Hudson, on the north side of Main Street, and being the building next east of the Bakery Building, occupied in part by Geo. W. Davis, said barn being on the premises of said Lucia, and the same being the building in which the intoxicating liquors described in said notice were seized."

The notice annexed to this warrant was addressed to Zephrin Lucia, and recited that the liquors had been "seized in a certain building occupied by the said Zephrin Lucia in said Hudson," and the return of the officer upon the warrant set forth that he had served the notice, by giving in hand an attested copy thereof to "Zephrin Lucia, and on the same day posted a like attested copy thereof on the barn in rear of Valley Ho[illegible] of said Zephrin Lucia, in the rear of the hotel of said Lucia, on the north side of Main Street, in the centre of said Hudson, next east of the Bakery Building occupied in part by Geo. W. Davis, in said Hudson, being the same building in which the liquors, and vessels containing the same, described in said precept, were seized."

In the Superior Court, on appeal, Lucia, who appeared as claimant, renewed a motion which was made before and overruled by the trial justice, to quash the complaint for the reasons that "there is no sufficient, certain or definite description in said complaint and warrant of the buildings or place wherein intoxicating liquor is alleged to be illegally kept for sale"; that "said place or buildings are alleged to be occupied in part by George W. Davis, a person other than the one who is alleged to do the illegal keeping, and the warrant as prayed for and granted authorizes a search of the premises of both"; that "the description of said buildings and place is not the same in said complaint and warrant, but different places are described in

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each"; that "the allegations in said complaint and warrant as to the place or building in which said liquors were kept, and as to the illegal keeping, are uncertain, insufficient, and ambiguous"; and that "the notice is insufficient in form, and the service thereof is bad." The motion was overruled; the liquors were adjudged to be forfeited; and the claimant appealed to this court.

J. W. Corcoran, for the claimant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

KNOWLTON, J. The questions of law in this case arise upon the claimant's motion to quash. It is contended that in the complaint, and also in the warrant, the description of the buildings or place wherein the intoxicating liquor was alleged to be kept was fatally defective.

By the Pub. Sts. c. 100, § 32, it is provided that the complaint and warrant in cases of this kind shall "particularly designate so as to identify the building, structure, and place to be searched." The language of the complaint, properly construed, called for a hotel and barn in the town of Hudson, occupied by Zephrin Lucia, known as the Valley House and barn in the rear thereof, situated on the north side of Main Street in Hudson Centre, next east of the bakery, which was occupied in part by George W. Davis. The allegations of the warrant in relation to the buildings, with slightly changed phraseology, were the same in substance as those of the complaint. Nothing appears to indicate that this description was not strictly accurate, and the fair inference from the record is that it perfectly identified the place to be searched. The objection to the complaint is that its grammatical construction was doubtful, and that it was ambiguous. While its language was involved, and not perspicuous, we think it had no such ambiguity as to prevent identification of the buildings and place referred to. *Commonwealth* v. *Intoxicating Liquors*, 97 Mass. 63. *Commonwealth* v. *Intoxicating Liquors*, 107 Mass. 386. *Commonwealth* v. *Intoxicating Liquors*, 109 Mass. 371, 372. *Commonwealth* v. *Intoxicating Liquors*, 113 Mass. 208. *Commonwealth* v. *Intoxicating Liquors*, 122 Mass. 36.

The warrant to serve notice to persons interested in the liquors, and the return upon it, show that the notice was prop-

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erly served. The description in the notice of the place where the liquors were seized was not so definite as is desirable. But it does not appear that the claimant occupied any other building in Hudson than the hotel and barn, which were together upon the same premises, and we cannot say, as matter of law, that, as applied to the facts of this case, the notice was insufficient. Besides, it is enough as against the claimant, although not as to others, that, having had actual notice, he appeared in the case generally, and presented his claim. *Commonwealth* v. *Intoxicating Liquors*, 97 Mass. 601, 602. *Commonwealth* v. *Intoxicating Liquors*, 110 Mass. 182, 187. The motion to quash was rightly overruled. *Judgment affirmed.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JOHN V. SCHAFFNER.

Suffolk. February 3, 1888. — April 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Milk — Indictment — Motion to Quash — Evidence — Election — Witness — Credibility — Impeachment.

A motion to quash an indictment because it "sets forth no crime or offence known to the law," made after the impanelling of the jury, is filed too late; nor does it assign "specifically the objection relied on," within the Pub. Sts. c. 214, § 25.

An indictment on the St. of 1886, c. 318, § 2, alleging that the defendant had in his "possession milk to which a certain foreign substance had been added, to wit, annatto coloring matter," with intent unlawfully to sell the same, is sufficient without naming the quantity.

Evidence offered at the trial of such an indictment as to two samples of milk, taken from the defendant's possession at substantially the same time, is competent, and the government cannot be required at the time of the offer, if ever, to elect which sample it will rely on.

The addition of the annatto coloring matter, whether injurious to health or not, is punishable under the statute.

Evidence that the "milk was of low grade" is competent, although it may tend to prove another offence.

If a chemist, called as an expert by the defendant, identifies a letter written by him nearly three years before to a third person in relation to another matter, but assumed at the trial to contain a suggestion derogatory to his character, the letter is not admissible to impeach his credit.

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INDICTMENT on the St. of 1886, c. 318, § 2, alleging that "the jurors for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on their oath present, that John V. Schaffner, of Boston aforesaid, on the fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, at Boston aforesaid, unlawfully did have in his possession milk to which a certain foreign substance had been added, to wit, annatto coloring matter, a further description of which said jurors cannot give, with intent then and there unlawfully to sell the said milk within this Commonwealth."

In the Superior Court, after the jury was impanelled and sworn, the defendant moved to quash the indictment for the following reasons: "1. The indictment sets forth and describes no crime or offence known to the law. 2. A complaint for the same cause, and founded on the same identical facts, was sworn out against this defendant, and has been disposed of in this court." *Bacon*, J., overruled the motion.

At the trial, it appeared that two samples of milk were taken from the defendant's wagon, on the same day, and substantially at the same time. The defendant requested the judge to require the government to elect as to which sample it should rely upon; but the judge refused to comply with this request, and admitted evidence as to both samples, against the defendant's objection.

A milk inspector, called by the government, who testified that, upon testing the milk, he found it to contain some annatto coloring matter, was asked, on cross-examination, whether the quantity found would be injurious to health, but, upon objection by the government, was not permitted to answer. A chemist, called by the government, testified that he had analyzed both the samples taken to ascertain the standard quality of the milk, and was asked to state what he found the quality of the milk to be, and replied, under the defendant's objection, that "the milk was of a low grade."

One Bowker, called by the defendant as an expert, was asked, on cross-examination, if he wrote a certain letter, to which he replied in the affirmative. To impeach the testimony of this witness the government was permitted to introduce in evidence, against the defendant's objection, a letter, addressed by the

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witness to one Tarbell, in relation to the coloring of vinegar, which was as follows: "Office of Dr. H. L. Bowker & Co., Manufacturing Chemists, 295 and 297 Franklin Street. Dr. H. L. Bowker, State Assayer for Massachusetts. Boston, July 17, 1884. Mr. E. Tarbell: Dear Sir, — Your vinegar tests am't $4\frac{47}{100}$ per cent of acetic acid, or 30 grains soda test. The new law requires 5 per cent, and nothing short. You can use a little of our vinegar acid, and fetch it up at small expense. Yours, H. L. Bowker & Co."

After the evidence was all in, the defendant asked the judge to rule that the indictment was not sufficient to warrant a verdict of guilty, because it did not describe or set forth any crime or offence known to the law; but the judge ruled that it was sufficient, and so instructed the jury. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. A. McGeough, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

C. ALLEN, J. 1. The motion to quash was filed too late, so far as any informalities in the indictment are concerned; nor does it set forth specifically the objections relied on in the first cause assigned. Pub. Sts. c. 214, § 25. *Commonwealth* v. *Fitchburg Railroad*, 126 Mass. 472. *Commonwealth* v. *Murray*, 135 Mass. 530. The second cause assigned in the motion to quash was not relied on in the argument.

2. The objection that, apart from mere informality, the indictment does not set forth an offence known to the law, cannot be sustained. The St. of 1886, c. 318, § 2, includes as an offence, and makes punishable, the having in possession, with intent to sell, milk to which water or any foreign substance has been added. The indictment follows this language. It was not necessary to allege the quantity; *Commonwealth* v. *Conant*, 6 Gray, 482; and if it were, the objection on this ground would be merely formal, and came too late, and was not specifically set forth.

3. It was clearly competent for the court to admit evidence as to both samples, and it was not necessary at that stage of the case, if ever, to require the government to elect which sample it would rely on. *Commonwealth* v. *Bennett*, 118 Mass. 443. *Commonwealth* v. *Pratt*, 137 Mass. 98.

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4. It was immaterial whether the addition of the annatto coloring matter was or was not injurious to health. The addition of pure water is punishable under the statute.

5. It was competent for the chemist to testify that the milk was of low grade. Testimony having been introduced to show that a particular foreign substance had been added, it was proper to show just what the milk was, independently of that. The defendant contends that, as it is a separate offence under the St. of 1886, c. 318, § 2, to have in possession, with intent to sell the same, "milk not of good standard quality," this testimony must have tended to prejudice the jury, and was on that account inadmissible. But all evidence relevant and material to prove the offence which is charged is competent, though it may also show the commission of another offence. *Commonwealth* v. *Choate*, 105 Mass. 451, 457, 458. *Commonwealth* v. *Scott*, 123 Mass. 222, 235.*

6. The admission of the letter of the witness Bowker was erroneous. We are aware that in England and in some of the United States this latitude of cross-examination has sometimes been allowed; though not without protests that the practice ought to be restricted. Taylor, Ev. §§ 1459–1461. *People* v. *Irving*, 95 N. Y. 541. Stephen, Ev. (Chase's Am. ed.) 225, 277. 1 Whart. Ev. §§ 541, 542. In Massachusetts, the rule has been that a witness cannot be asked on cross-examination, in order to affect his credibility, about his part in transactions irrelevant to the issue on trial. *Holbrook* v. *Dow*, 12 Gray, 357. *Smith* v. *Castles*, 1 Gray, 108, 112. *Commonwealth* v. *Shaw*, 4 Cush. 593. See also *Commonwealth* v. *Quin*, 5 Gray, 478; *Commonwealth* v. *Mason*, 105 Mass. 163, 168. The case of *Commonwealth* v. *Hersey*, 2 Allen, 173, which is apparently in favor of a larger liberty, was not so in reality. The case is too briefly reported on this point. The indictment was for poisoning by strychnine a woman who was pregnant with child, under pretence that it would produce a miscarriage. A reference to the full report of the trial (Trial of Hersey, 122–126) shows that the witness Morrill, called by the government, testified in his direct examination, that he was practising medicine in Boston, though not

* See also *Commonwealth* v. *Robinson*, *post*, p. 571.

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regularly educated as a physician; that the prisoner came to his office twice, at times near enough to the time of the alleged poisoning to be relevant and material, and said he had been looking over the newspapers and had seen Morrill's advertisements of medicines for females; that conversation then ensued in respect to medicines and operations for procuring abortion, and the prices and danger thereof; after which the prisoner, at the last interview, asked if Morrill would sell him some strychnine. On cross-examination, the witness admitted certain medical advertisements, published in Boston newspapers, which were shown to him, to be his; and the advertisements were allowed to be read to the jury, for the purpose of showing the nature of his medical practice, and affecting his credit; and the report of the trial adds, to show "that the statements there made and the testimony of the witness were contradictory." Even if not directly contradictory, the advertisements were properly admitted in explanation of his habits, occupation, and way of life, and in illustration of his character, especially in view of his testimony in chief. *Hathaway* v. *Crocker*, 7 Met. 262, 266.

In the present case, the letter of Bowker was written nearly three years before the matters testified to by him, and had no relation thereto. It appears to have been assumed on all hands, at the trial, that the suggestion made in the letter was derogatory to his character. The course of the trial afforded him no opportunity to object, or to explain it. It might be, that the proper effect of the letter could only be determined by further evidence, to show whether his suggestion in the letter would or would not be dishonest or discreditable. The letter was admitted in order to impeach his testimony, and it may have had that effect with the jury. The case thus falls within the rule which has prevailed in this Commonwealth, and we are satisfied that both witnesses and parties ought to be protected from being obliged to encounter such collateral charges. For this reason only, the entry must be,

Exceptions sustained.

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JOSEPHINE MARTIN & others *vs.* ANN MARTIN.

Suffolk. March 3, 1888. — April 6, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Mortgage — Assignment — Redemption — Interest — Married Woman — Husband — Tenant by the Curtesy.

A married woman, who is the assignee of a mortgage given by her husband's former wife, is entitled to interest on the debt while he is in possession of the mortgaged premises as tenant by the curtesy.

BILL IN EQUITY, filed August 19, 1887, to redeem land from a mortgage. Hearing before *Devens*, J., who reserved the case, on the bill, answer, and agreed facts, for the consideration of the full court. The case was submitted on briefs to all the judges. The facts appear in the opinion.

R. W. Light, for the plaintiffs.

J. M. B. Churchill, for the defendant.

KNOWLTON, J. The defendant is the assignee of a mortgage of real estate, given on June 1, 1873, to secure payment of eleven hundred dollars and interest thereon at seven per cent per annum, and has been in possession of the mortgaged premises since June 20, 1887, receiving the rents and profits thereof. A balance of four hundred dollars of the principal remains due, and no interest has been paid since the assignment to the defendant, on April 15, 1881. The plaintiffs bring their bill to redeem, and contend that the defendant is not entitled to interest, because her husband, to whom she was married a short time before taking the assignment, and who died on April 28, 1887, was formerly the husband of the mortgagor, and joined in the mortgage for the purpose of releasing his right as tenant by the curtesy initiate, and after the death of his former wife was in possession of the mortgaged property as tenant by the curtesy until his death.

He had no relation to the mortgage except through his right in the mortgaged estate. He was not legally liable upon the debt secured, and as between himself and his wife, the assignee

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of the mortgage, he was under no obligation to pay it or the interest upon it. In principle this case is precisely like *Bemis* v. *Call*, 10 Allen, 512, in which it appeared that a married woman mortgaged her separate real estate to secure her husband's debt, and after his death married another man, who took an assignment of the mortgage, and held it for several years until his death. It was decided that his administrator could enforce it against her for the benefit of his estate. See also *Cormerais* v. *Wesselhoeft*, 114 Mass. 550; *Tucker* v. *Fenno*, 110 Mass. 311. *Bemis* v. *Call* is decisive of this; in neither of them was the mortgage debt to be paid by the husband or wife of the person holding the mortgage; and in neither of them is there any conflict with the doctrine stated in *Chapman* v. *Kellogg*, 102 Mass. 246, and *Abbott* v. *Winchester*, 105 Mass. 115, to the effect that the union of two persons in marriage extinguishes all debts which either owes the other, and that the purchase by either of a note against the other deprives it of validity, so that it cannot be collected if subsequently sold to another person. But since these two cases were decided, the Sts. of 1871, c. 312, and 1874, c. 184, have been enacted, (see Pub. Sts. c. 147, §§ 1–7,) and a more liberal and equitable rule has been adopted, which is in harmony with modern legislation; and it is now settled in this Commonwealth, that the purchase by a husband of a mortgage given by his wife to secure her note does not invalidate the security, but merely suspends the right to enforce it. *Butler* v. *Ives*, 139 Mass. 202. *Model Lodging House Association* v. *Boston*, 114 Mass. 133.

The plaintiffs concede that the defendant is entitled to the principal of the mortgage debt, but contend that the interest should have been paid by the life tenant of the property, who was her husband, and that she has lost her security for that part of her claim. But the law recognizes no such distinction between principal and interest. Payment of the interest as well as of the principal was secured by the contract. *Brannon* v. *Hursell*, 112 Mass. 63. *Quinby* v. *Cook*, 10 Allen, 32. And the fact that her husband was in possession of the mortgaged estate as tenant by the curtesy put upon him, no obligation to her, legal or equitable, in reference to the interest upon the mortgage debt. As between him and the plaintiffs, who owned the

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remainder after the termination of his life estate, it was his duty to pay the interest and keep down the incumbrance. But that was a duty which did not relate to her, and of which, if she had not been his wife, she could have taken no advantage. *Plympton* v. *Boston Dispensary*, 106 Mass. 544. *In re Morley*, L. R. 8 Eq. 594.

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By redeeming the mortgage, the plaintiffs might at any time have put themselves in a position to enforce payment of interest by the life tenant, and to save themselves from risk of loss by his neglect. Upon the facts as now presented, they are entitled to redeem by paying the defendant $400, and interest thereon at seven per cent from April 15, 1881, less such deductions as should be made on account of her receipt of rents and profits.

Decree accordingly.

ELLEN M. CLAPP *vs.* MASSACHUSETTS BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

Suffolk. January 16, 1888. — April 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Beneficiary Association — Certificate — Warranty or Representation — Evidence — Burden of Proof — Exceptions.

A certificate of benefit insurance was issued on condition that the statements of the application, which were made a part of the contract, were "in all respects true," and an acknowledgment at the end of the application recited that the applicant does "hereby warrant each of the foregoing statements to be true, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I have not" concealed any material information, agreeing that any "untrue or fraudulent statements" made by or for him should forfeit the insurance. *Held*, that the words "best knowledge and belief" qualified the words "untrue and fraudulent statements" as well as the word "true."

The burden of proving a representation upon which the certificate was based untrue, to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief, is upon the beneficiary association.

At the trial of an action on the certificate there was much evidence that material statements of the applicant were not in fact correct, and the defendant association presented its case on the theory that it was entitled to a verdict if any such statement was shown to be untrue, alleging exceptions to a refusal of the

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presiding judge so to rule. *Held*, that the question whether the evidence that a statement was false, and that the applicant knew or believed it to be so, was so conclusive as matter of law as to so entitle the association to a verdict, was not open upon the exceptions.

CONTRACT to recover $3,000 on a certificate of membership in the defendant association, issued to Edward A. Clapp for the benefit of his wife, Ellen M. Clapp. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Bacon*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows.

The plaintiff introduced in evidence the proofs of the death of Clapp, by which it appeared that he died on February 3, 1886, of Bright's disease, and the certificate, which was dated February 1, 1885, and contained the following condition: "The statements and declarations made by and on behalf of said member in his application to become a benefit member of said association, which are hereby referred to as the basis of this contract, and are a part thereof, and on the faith of which this certificate is issued, are in all respects true, and that no fact has been suppressed relating to his health or circumstances affecting the interests of said association, or their inducement to accept the risk."

The defendant introduced in evidence the application upon which the certificate was issued, and which contained the following questions and answers: Question 10. "Have you had, since childhood, ... disease of the urinary organs?" Answer. "No." Q. 11. "What sickness, disease, or injury have you ever had?" A. "Rupture." Q. 12. "How long since you were under the care of a physician, and for what cause?" A. "About two years ago. Inflammation of bowels." Q. 13. "Have you now any disorder, infirmity, or weakness?" A. "No." Q. 17. "Has any proposal or application to insure your life ever been made to any company or agent upon which a policy has not been issued? If so, state full particulars." A. "No." Q. 18. "Name and residence of your usual medical attendant?" A. "Dr. Wesselhoeft, Cambridge, Mass."

The application bore at the end thereof the following acknowledgment subscribed by Clapp: "I, Edward A. Clapp, of West Manchester, county of Essex, State of Massachusetts, do hereby warrant each and all the foregoing particulars and statements to be true, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I

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have not, in this application for above-named contract, concealed or withheld any material circumstance or information concerning the past or present state of my health or habits of life; and I do hereby acknowledge, consent, and agree that any untrue or fraudulent statement made above, by me or any one else, or to any medical examiner of said Massachusetts Benefit Association, or any concealment of facts, by me or any one else, may forfeit and cancel all rights to any benefit under the above-named contract. Dated at Boston, State of Massachusetts, this 13th day of February, 1885. Edward A. Clapp, Applicant. Witness: S. T. Elliot."

Benjamin F. Dyer, secretary of the New England Mutual Aid Society, called by the defendant, testified that on December 18, 1883, Clapp made an application for additional insurance on his life in that society; that the application was declined, and that fact was communicated by him to Clapp; that Clapp was advised to communicate with his attending physician; that Clapp insisted on knowing what the difficulty was, and was informed; that he told Clapp "that the analysis of the urine was unsatisfactory"; that he had conversations with Clapp at several different times; and that Clapp said he had seen his physician, thought that we had been too particular in declining his application, that there was no real difficulty, that it was something that was only temporary, and that he would soon recover from the difficulty." On cross-examination, he said that he thought he had not given Clapp any written notice that his application had been declined; that he did not tell him that the application was declined because they did not wish to increase the risk, but his recollection was that he informed him that they would not accept him for an additional sum for the reason that his application was unsatisfactory; that after he had told him that he declined to take the additional insurance Clapp came in and discussed the question a half-dozen times, and that their conversations were within three or four months after the examination was made; that he did not know that he ever showed Clapp the indorsement upon his application, "Declined," but his impression was that the application was before them; that Clapp's object in the conversations appeared to be to convince the doctor and himself that some mistake had been made in regard to the analysis of the urine; and that Clapp was a man of cheerful, sanguine temperament,

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of robust frame, in the prime of life, and to all appearance a well man.

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Dr. J. A. Follett, the medical examiner of the New England Mutual Aid Society, called by the defendant, testified, that upon examining Clapp he refused to pass him or recommend him as a safe risk, basing his decision upon a single examination of the urine, in which he found a very large amount of albumen; that he told him that the application was declined because of the presence of albumen in the urine; that Clapp wished to know what that meant; that in quite an extended conversation he told Clapp that it was what was commonly called Bright's disease; that he told him that he preferred not to use the words "Bright's disease," because those words covered sundry different conditions, but preferred to call it, and so called it, "albumen in the urine, or chronic nephritis, or acute nephritis"; that Clapp wished to know if it was a curable disease; that he told him that he did not think it was curable, although patients having it sometimes apparently had recovered; that he saw Clapp at least three times, and thought it was seven or eight; and that at one of their interviews Clapp told him that he had consulted Dr. Morrill Wyman, who did not discourage him quite so much as he did.

Dr. Morrill Wyman, called by the defendant, testified, that Clapp first came to see him in the latter part of December, 1883, and that after that he attended him at his house for a nervous affection, with convulsive movements; that he did not think he made up his mind to what to attribute it; that he examined the urine, and found a certain amount of albumen; that he continued to treat Clapp, who continued in a somewhat similar condition until May or June, 1884; that he did not know that the nervous condition to which he referred was due to the condition of the urine. On cross-examination, he said that in February, 1884, Clapp had a severe illness, which confined him to his house for six weeks; that he was his attending physician during that illness; that he first began to treat him as a patient some time in December, 1883, and continued to do so until March 23, 1885; that he treated him for a nervous affection, with convulsive movements, in February, 1884; that he found albumen to a certain extent in Clapp's urine, his last examination being made on March 23, 1885; that he made a careful examination of the urine

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a good many times; that it would have been rash in any physician to say that he had Bright's disease; and that a physician could safely say that he had symptoms pointing towards Bright's disease.

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The plaintiff testified that her husband had some disease of the kidneys, for which he was treated by Dr. Wyman, in the early part of 1884, and that he was attended by Dr. Wesselhoeft at some time in 1883, before he was attended by Dr. Wyman, but not afterwards.

After the evidence was in, the defendant requested the judge to rule that on the whole evidence the plaintiff could not recover, and that a verdict should be returned for the defendant.

The judge refused so to rule, and the defendant requested the following rulings:

"1. That each one of the questions in the application of Clapp, the deceased member, was made material to the risk assumed by the defendant association, and if any one of the answers was untrue, from design or otherwise, the plaintiff cannot recover in this action, and the verdict should be for the defendant.

"2. If Edward A. Clapp, the deceased, at any time before February 13, 1885, had any disease of the urinary organs, then his answer to the tenth question was untrue, and the plaintiff cannot recover, but the verdict must be for the defendant.

"3. If the said Clapp, before February 13, 1885, had any sickness, disease, or injury other than rupture, then his answer to the eleventh question was untrue, and the verdict should be for the defendant.

"4. If at any time after July, 1883, said Clapp was under the care of a physician for any cause other than inflammation of the bowels, then his answer to the twelfth question was untrue, and the verdict should be for the defendant.

"5. If at the time said Clapp made his answers to the questions contained in the application made by him to the defendant association he had any disorder, infirmity, or weakness, then his answer to the thirteenth question was untrue, and the verdict must be for the defendant.

"6. That as it appeared by uncontradicted evidence that said Clapp made a proposal or application for insurance on his life to the New England Mutual Aid Society, in December, 1883,

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upon which proposal or application a policy was not issued, his answer to the seventeenth question was untrue, and therefore a verdict must be rendered for the defendant.

"7. That the representations and agreements contained in the application were a part of the contract of insurance, and were warranties, and, inasmuch as those relating to the sickness of Edward A. Clapp, and his condition of health, and his employment of a physician, were untrue, the plaintiff cannot recover."

The judge refused so to rule, and instructed the jury as follows:

"The only thing that is in dispute is whether or not the deceased acted in good faith in making his answers to the questions that were contained in the application, because, if in his answers to the questions in the application he did not state the thing truly, and intentionally did not state it truly, then the present plaintiff cannot recover in this case if he did not state it truly to his best knowledge and belief.

"The application here contains this clause: 'I, Edward A. Clapp, of West Manchester, county of Essex, State of Massachusetts, do hereby warrant each and all the foregoing particulars and statements to be true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.' And that is the extent to which he can be held. He must make his statements truly, according to his best knowledge and belief. If he stated anything in these answers which was not true, and which he knew or had reason to believe was not true, if he did not make his answers in good faith to any of these questions, then that will be a defence to this action. It also adds, 'and that I have not, in this application for above-named contract, concealed or withheld any material circumstance or information concerning the past or present state of my health or habits of life, and I hereby acknowledge, consent, and agree that any untrue or fraudulent statement made above, by me or any one else, or to any medical examiner of said Massachusetts Benefit Association, or any concealment of facts, by me or any one else, may forfeit and cancel all rights to any benefit under the above-named contract.' He does not use the same language in connection with this clause that is used in the preceding clause, but I say that in law that

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language is applicable to the sentence that follows. He says that all the foregoing particulars and statements are true, to his best knowledge and belief, and what is added is to be qualified by the qualification here given in the first place, that it is to his best knowledge and belief. What is added is, 'and that I have not, in this application for the above-named contract, concealed or withheld any material circumstances or information concerning the past or present state of my health or habits of life, and I do hereby acknowledge, consent, and agree that any untrue or fraudulent statement made above by me,' that is, any untrue or fraudulent statement made with the knowledge of the fact that he is making an untrue statement, or knowledge of the fact that he is making a fraudulent statement; and it applies throughout. So that I shall instruct you, that in order to maintain this defence to this action, it is necessary for the defendant to prove that the deceased did not state, to the best of his knowledge and belief, some fact which he did state, and that he did not do the other things provided in this same certificate where the terms are used, to his best knowledge and belief; and it is for you to say whether he did or did not.

"Now, the question arises here as to the burden of proof. Ordinarily, the rule is, in all cases where fraud is alleged, that it must be proved by the party alleging it. A defendant coming into court and alleging that a plaintiff has committed a fraud, is bound to prove it, and the burden of proof is upon him to prove that fraud. A defendant coming into court and alleging that the plaintiff did not make his answers truly, in this case, according to his best knowledge and belief, is bound to show that fact, and to satisfy you of it by a fair and reasonable preponderance of the evidence; and if he does not do it, if he does not satisfy you that he made these statements contrary to his best knowledge and belief and not as he alleges, then, so far as this part of the defence is concerned, you should find for the plaintiff. The burden is on the defendant to prove what he alleges is a fraud, and what he alleges is an untrue statement contained in this application, and if he does not prove it, if he does not convince your minds by a fair preponderance of the evidence, then the plaintiff would be entitled to a verdict. Now, the several questions and answers which have been relied upon

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by the defendant in this case are the tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, and seventeenth. . . . .

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"It is for you to say whether the deceased did answer these questions according to his best knowledge and belief. . . . . If you are satisfied that these questions were answered in good faith, without any intention to defraud the company or to commit any fraud on the rights of the company or the association, if you are not satisfied that the deceased failed to state these facts in his answers according to his best knowledge and belief, you will render a verdict for the plaintiff, because the burden is on the defendant to show you, by a fair and reasonable preponderance of the evidence, that he did not so answer, and if he does not show you that, the presumption is that he did answer according to his best knowledge and belief, and you have a right to decide the case on the evidence."

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, and the defendant alleged exceptions. The case was argued at the bar in January, 1888, and afterwards submitted on the briefs to all the judges.

E. Avery & A. E. Avery, for the defendant.

I. The questions and answers contained in the application, which by the terms of the condition set forth in the certificate enter into and form a part of the contract itself, are warranties. *Daniels* v. *Hudson River Ins. Co.* 12 Cush. 416, 423. *Miles* v. *Connecticut Ins. Co.* 3 Gray, 580. A warranty, in insurance, enters into and forms a part of the contract itself. It defines by way of particular stipulation, description, condition, or otherwise, the precise limits of the obligation which the insurers undertake to assume. *Campbell* v. *New England Ins. Co.* 98 Mass. 381, 389. *McCoy* v. *Metropolitan Ins. Co.* 133 Mass. 82.

II. If the application does not form a part of the contract itself, and the answers to the questions contained therein are not warranties, to be strictly and literally true, but are mere representations, as to which substantial truth in everything material to the risk is all that is required of the applicant, (*Phœnix Ins. Co.* v. *Raddin*, 120 U. S. 183, 189,) the questions and answers contained in this application were material to the insurers to enable them to estimate the risk to be assumed; and if the answers in any respect were materially untrue, they avoided the policy, even if they were made ignorantly and in good faith.

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The judge erred in refusing to give the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth requests for rulings asked for. *Curry* v. *Commonwealth Ins. Co.* 10 Pick. 535. *Wilbur* v. *Bowditch Ins. Co.* 10 Cush. 446. *Kimball* v. *Ætna Ins. Co.* 9 Allen, 540. *Towne* v. *Fitchburg Ins. Co.* 7 Allen, 51. *Davenport* v. *New England Ins. Co.* 6 Cush. 340, 341. *Miles* v. *Connecticut Ins. Co.* 3 Gray, 580. *Vose* v. *Eagle Ins. Co.* 6 Cush. 42, 49. *Campbell* v. *New England Ins. Co.* 98 Mass. 381, and cases cited. *McCoy* v. *Metropolitan Ins. Co.* 133 Mass. 82. *Ryan* v. *World Ins. Co.* 41 Conn. 168. *Richardson* v. *Maine Ins. Co.* 46 Me. 394. *Britton* v. *Mutual Benefit Ins. Co.* 3 Th. & C. 220, 442. *Edington* v. *Ætna Ins. Co.* 100 N. Y. 536. *Jeffries* v. *Life Ins. Co.* 22 Wall. 47. *Moulor* v. *American Ins. Co.* 111 U. S. 335. *New York Ins. Co.* v. *Fletcher*, 117 U. S. 519. *Phœnix Ins. Co.* v. *Raddin*, 120 U. S. 183.

III. The judge erred in refusing to give the seventh request for a ruling asked for by the defendant in writing. The application and policy in this suit are substantially the same, so far as the questions involved are concerned, as the application and policy referred to in *McCoy* v. *Metropolitan Ins. Co.*, *ubi supra*, in which *Field*, J., says, "In an action at law in this Commonwealth on such a policy, to recover the amount of the insurance, the application is considered as a part of the contract, and if in fact the representations in it are in a material respect untrue, the action cannot be maintained."

IV. If we assume the true rule of law to be that the defendant was bound to prove that the answers were known by the assured to be untrue, or that he believed them to be untrue, it is respectfully submitted that the defendant sustained this burden, not by a preponderance of opposing or conflicting evidence, but by uncontroverted testimony, the truth of which was not questioned. That the assured knew he was being treated for a physical disorder, infirmity, or weakness by Dr. Wyman, in February, 1885, the very time he made his application, is proved most conclusively, and virtually admitted by the plaintiff; that he knew a policy had not been issued on his application to the New England Mutual Aid Society is as clearly proved as the issuing of the policy by the defendant corporation.

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V. The acknowledgment or certificate attached to the application, is divisible into two parts: 1. A warranty that the statements made are true to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief. 2. An agreement that any untrue or fraudulent statement may forfeit the contract. The terms "untrue" and "fraudulent" are separate or distinct in meaning and intent, and are used with a disjunctive to indicate two distinct and independent states of facts. The legal distinction between them is clear. The one may exist without any intent to deceive, while the other can only exist by reason of such intent. The language in the certificate or policy is as follows: "that the statements and declarations made, &c. are in all respects true." The construction given to these clauses in the charge to the jury was erroneous. The true construction is, that any untrue statement intentionally or ignorantly made would avoid the policy.

R. M. Morse, Jr., for the plaintiff.

DEVENS, J. The certificate or policy on which the plaintiff relies was issued on the condition that "the statements and declarations made by and on behalf of said member in his application to become a benefit member of said association, which are hereby referred to as the basis of this contract, and are a part thereof, and on the faith of which this certificate is issued, are in all respects true, and that no fact has been suppressed relating to his health or circumstances affecting the interests of said association, or their inducement to accept the risk." The application must thus be treated as a part of the contract, — as if it had been incorporated, and thus in terms been made a part thereof. Whether the statements in the application claimed by the defendant to be erroneous are to be treated as warranties which enter into and define, by way of stipulation, description, or otherwise, the precise limits of the obligation which the insurers intended, and which must be literally complied with, whether material or immaterial to the risk, or whether they are representations to be substantially complied with so far as material to the risk, which is often an inquiry of delicacy, does not seem to be of importance in the case at bar. If representations only, they clearly seem to relate to matters material to the risk, and there was much evidence that they were not in fact correct.

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The seven rulings requested by the defendant are based upon the theory that it was entitled to a verdict if the answers of Clapp in reference to such matters were in fact untrue, although made honestly and in good faith. Whether it was so entitled or not must depend upon the construction to be given to the acknowledgment or certificate which was subscribed by the deceased as a part of the application, and which from its language must be held to have controlled and governed the answers to which it referred.

This acknowledgment as it is termed is as follows:

"I, Edward A. Clapp, of West Manchester, county of Essex, State of Massachusetts, do hereby warrant each and all the foregoing particulars and statements to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I have not, in this application for above-named contract, concealed or withheld any material circumstance or information concerning the past or present state of my health or habits of life; and I do hereby acknowledge, consent, and agree that any untrue or fraudulent statement made above, by me or any one else, or to any medical examiner of said Massachusetts Benefit Association, or any concealment of facts by me or any one else, may forfeit and cancel all rights to any benefit under the above-named contract. Dated at Boston, State of Massachusetts, this 13th day of February, 1885. Edward A. Clapp, Applicant."

The presiding judge ruled that the matter to be passed upon by the jury was "whether or not the deceased acted in good faith in making his answers to the questions that were contained in the application, because if in his answers to the questions in the application he did not state the thing truly, and intentionally did not state it truly, then the present plaintiff cannot recover in this case if he did not state it truly to his best knowledge and belief." He further held, that the words "to the best of my knowledge and belief," found in the first clause of the acknowledgment, were applicable to the second clause, and qualified it as they qualified the earlier clause, and thus that the deceased had not consented or agreed that the contract should be forfeited except it were shown that an untrue or fraudulent statement had been made by him with the knowledge or belief that it was untrue or fraudulent.

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Undoubtedly the acknowledgment may grammatically be separated into two parts; the first a warranty that the statements made are true according to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief, and the second an agreement that any untrue or fraudulent statement may forfeit the contract. But, if susceptible of such a grammatical construction, it can hardly have been intended that it should have been thus understood. Nor would it be a natural construction, and one that would suggest itself to an applicant. He could not suppose that, while he was only required to warrant that his answers were true according to his "knowledge and belief," his certificate or policy was to be forfeited if an answer honestly made should prove in fact untrue. The language used in the form of acknowledgment does not suggest any idea so much in the nature of a contradiction as this.

These forms are prepared by the insurer with great care and great minuteness of detail. They are often signed in comparative haste. If the association had intended to impose a forfeiture of his certificate upon the applicant because of an untrue statement, while it had only required him to warrant that his statements were true to the best of his knowledge and belief, a contract so anomalous should have been clearly expressed. It must be presumed that the defendant prepared its forms of application and certificate with the intention both of protecting itself against fraud and of securing the just rights of the assured under a valid contract. It is reasonable that its words should be construed against itself, rather than in such a manner that one dealing with it should by any ambiguity be deceived as to his rights.

The defendant urges that the words "untrue or fraudulent," used in the disjunctive and thus expressing different states of things, show that by the use of the first word it was intended that the policy should be avoided if any material thing was untrue, although stated without fraudulent intent. The connection in which the word is used shows otherwise. In following the earlier clause, it means a statement which is untrue in opposition to the sense in which it has been promised that it shall be true. Again, while in strictness a statement is untrue which is not in precise conformity with the facts, yet in a more general sense the word "true" is often used as a synonym of honest or

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sincere, without evasion or fraud. Such is the sense in which it is used in the acknowledgment. *National Bank* v. *Insurance Co.* 95 U. S. 673. *Moulor* v. *American Ins. Co.* 111 U. S. 335. When in the certificate it is said that "the statements and declarations," &c. "are in all respects true," as this must be construed with the application, it must mean that they are true as stated by the applicant to be true, namely, according to his best knowledge and belief. In this respect the case is quite distinguishable from *McCoy* v. *Metropolitan Ins. Co.* 133 Mass. 82, on which the defendant much relies.

We are of opinion, therefore, that the presiding judge rightly refused the rulings requested. He also correctly ruled that the burden of proof was on the defendant to show that the representations made by Clapp were false to the best of his knowledge and belief. *Campbell* v. *New England Ins. Co.* 98 Mass. 381.

The defendant further contends, that, even if the rule be that it is necessary for it to show that Clapp's answers were untrue, and known or believed by him to be so, it has successfully sustained that burden in several instances, and that the jury should have been instructed to render a verdict in accordance with the facts thus established. As an instance, take that in answer to the seventeenth question, "Has any proposal or application to insure your life ever been made to any company or agent upon which a policy has not been issued? If so state full particulars." To this the applicant replied, "No." The defendant urges that it is proved conclusively by the testimony of Mr. Dyer and Dr. Follett that he had made an application to the New England Mutual Aid Society, of which they were respectively the secretary and the consulting physician, on December 18, 1883, for additional insurance, which application was declined, and, further, that the interviews and other circumstances connected with it, and fully testified to, were such that the deceased must have remembered it, and therefore that the defendant was entitled to a verdict.

We do not find that the question thus suggested is fairly raised by the exceptions. The defendant did indeed, by its sixth request, desire the court to rule that, as it appeared that Clapp had made application for insurance on his life to the New England Mutual Aid Society, upon which proposal or application a policy had

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not been issued, the answer to the seventeenth question was untrue, and therefore the defendant was entitled to a verdict. This request we have heretofore held was erroneous, as it left out the element of Clapp's knowledge or belief, as indeed did the general request that a verdict should be ordered for it. The defendant nowhere requested a ruling that the proof made by it of the application of Clapp to another insurance company, of the refusal or failure of that company to grant a certificate, and of Clapp's own knowledge or belief of these facts, was so conclusively proved that it was entitled to a verdict.

Similar remarks are applicable to the inquiry whether the deceased had any sickness or disease other than rupture before February 13, 1885, the defendant claiming to have shown by the testimony of Dr. Wyman that the answer of Clapp to the eleventh interrogatory was untrue, and asking by its third request that it should be ruled that it was therefore entitled to a verdict.

The case was presented by the defendant on the theory that it was entitled to a verdict if Clapp's answers were shown in any material respect to be untrue. This was rejected by the presiding judge, who held that it must be shown also that such statements were known or believed to be untrue. We nowhere find that the defendant ever requested, in regard to either statement of Clapp which was in controversy, a ruling that the proof that it was false, and that Clapp knew or believed it to be so, was so conclusive that, as matter of law, it was entitled to a verdict. It would not be possible in justice to the plaintiff, therefore, to consider now whether such a request could properly have been made. In each request for a ruling, the defendant omitted the element of Clapp's knowledge and belief. This was the point of conflict between its contention and the position taken by the presiding judge, who throughout his instructions insisted that not only must the answers of Clapp be proved untrue, but that they were so according to his knowledge and belief.

Exceptions overruled.

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WILLIAM F. DUFF & another *vs.* MARY LEARY.

Suffolk. March 3, 1888. — April 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Adverse Possession — Evidence — Declarations.

Evidence that a tenant, a single woman, in a writ of entry took possession of the demanded premises under an alleged verbal gift from an uncle and occupied them for twenty years, but "never did anything without consulting him" during that period; that she told her friends that she was the owner of the premises; that she let a portion, with her uncle's approval, and collected the rent thereof; that, as she testified, "as regards the tenants, to them I always acted as owner"; that the members of her father's family, who lived with her for much of the time, paid her no rent; that she did "papering or whitewashing, or something like that," to the premises; that her uncle paid the family expenses before and during the twenty years till he died; that he paid for insurance, water rates, repairs, and the taxes, which were assessed to him, as afterwards to his heirs; and that sisters of her uncle, who acknowledged his ownership, occupied part of the premises rent free before and after the tenant took possession, one of whom, as his agent, collected rents of certain tenants, contracted for repairs, and paid therefor with money furnished by him, will not authorize a finding that the tenant acquired a title by adverse possession.

Declarations of an alleged donor of land thereafter as to his ownership, and how the donee occupied it, and his entry of it in an inventory of his property, are incompetent on the questions whether there was a gift, and whether the donee held it by adverse possession.

WRIT OF ENTRY, dated May 29, 1884, to recover a parcel of land on Oak Street in Boston. Plea, *nul disseisin*. The action was brought in accordance with the decision in *Leary* v. *Duff*, 137 Mass. 147, and trial was had in the Superior Court, before *Thompson*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows.

It appeared that one John Duff, the father of the demandants and the uncle of the tenant, on April 30, 1859, bought the demanded premises subject to a mortgage which he assumed and agreed to pay; that on May 2, 1864, he paid off the mortgage, which was duly discharged of record; that he died on October 6, 1880, leaving a will, in which no specific devise was made of any real estate, but the residue of his property, real, personal, and mixed, was devised in equal portions to his three children, the demandants and John R. Duff; that at the date of the

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will the testator owned real estate besides the demanded premises; that on April 17, 1882, John R. Duff conveyed his undivided interest in the demanded premises to the demandant William F. Duff; that from the time John Duff purchased the demanded premises, two of his sisters, Mary Duff and Mrs. Hannah E. Manning, a widow, occupied the house thereon free of rent till the spring of 1860; that the tenant, who was fifty-six years old, was the daughter of Catherine Leary, another sister of John Duff; that there had been some estrangement between her uncle and mother, and that the tenant had not spoken to her uncle for twenty years prior to 1860, except once in 1856 or 1857 on the street; that the demandants claimed title as tenants in common of the demanded premises under the residuary devise in the will; and that the tenant claimed title under a verbal gift to her, made in May or June, 1860, by John Duff, of the demanded premises, of which she had had the open, continuous, and exclusive possession ever since.

The tenant testified as follows: "I first saw my uncle at my aunt's, Mrs. Manning's, at No. 41 Oak Street, in March or April, 1860. Miss Mary Duff had left, and Mrs. Manning was about going. He came in to see my aunt. I was visiting her. He said he would like to do something for me; asked about the affairs of the family, about my mother, said he had not seen the family for twenty years. I told him about the family, my father being aged. He asked me about my work, how much I earned, how I got along. I told him in the seasons, fall and spring, I could do very well, the hardest thing I found to do was to pay the rent. He said he would like to do something for me, and he said, 'If you will stop your work now, and get you a house of suitable character, and tell me the price, I will look at it, and buy it for you.' He told me to go the next day and begin to look for a house, and remain with my aunt, and he would pay me the same wages each week as if I was at work in the shop; told me to remain with my aunt until she broke up housekeeping, as she would be lonely. I remained until she moved away. My brother and I helped her move, and the house was shut up. There was a house on Middlesex Street that was for sale, and he asked me to go into it on trial. I moved into it, and paid the rent in advance. I remained about

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four weeks, and I went to see him, met him at the Providence Depot, and told him I did not like the house. He says, 'I will give you a house on Ball Street.' He told me to go and see the owner, he was on the premises. I asked the owner how much one of those houses was. He named the price; I forget what the price was. I went and told my uncle, who was on the street waiting for me. He said, 'Go back, and tell the owner that you want to buy the house if he will give it to you for $200 less than what he asks for it.' I went back and saw the owner, and he would not come to the terms. I went back to my uncle, who was waiting for me, and told him, and he said we had better take the cars and go down to Oak Street. We went down to Oak Street, and he sent me over to the corner grocery to get the key, and we went into the house and looked it over. He said he was to meet my aunt there in Oak Street, and the time was drawing near when he had to meet his train at one o'clock. As we were going out, we met my aunt. He said he could not stay but a few minutes, but would see her in a few days; that he was glad she came out; that he had given me the house, given it to me as mine, and he wanted me to be the sole owner of that house. He then asked me which house I would like best, the one on Ball Street or the present house. I preferred that in Oak Street, being in the central part of the city, and I told him so. He said, 'You take this house, I will make it a present, and give it to you, and you consider yourself the sole owner of it, as a present; you can tell your folks so.' It was after that that Mrs. Manning came, just as we were going out. He had not time to say much to her, only he had given me the house, made me a present of it. She said she hoped I would like it better, and stay in it longer than she did. He asked me when I should move. I told him that day. He said he would come in to the house, then, in Oak Street, the next day. I went and got a teamster, and hired a woman, and moved in that afternoon, and prepared for the family that afternoon, as soon as I could. All got in that evening. He came as he promised, the next day, at a quarter of eleven, and asked me if he could see my mother, he had not seen her for many years, and should not know her. I went upstairs, and told her that uncle wanted to see her. She was very much embarrassed, but she came down. I introduced

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them, and she thanked him for the house, said she could not find words to express herself. He said he had given the house to me, and asked if she would look upon it as my being the sole owner, as I was to take care of my father and mother. She said she would, with tears in her eyes, and she did, until the day she died, look up to me as the owner. My mother died on June 22, 1878, aged seventy-nine years. My father died in October, 1879, aged ninety-three years."

The tenant testified further, that she paid no taxes on the demanded premises; that as to repairs "she did a little papering, whitewashing, or something like that, each fall and spring, in regard to spring cleaning and so forth"; that her uncle "always furnished money for the house, especially at Christmas or Thanksgiving, giving me liberally quite large sums"; that he always paid the grocery and other bills; and that Mrs. Manning came back to live in the house on Oak Street in 1870 or 1871, in regard to whose return her testimony was as follows: "She was visiting us, and told me she had a room in Chester Park, paid a week in advance, and felt sad and lonely to go there. I asked her why could not she come there and take a room. She said she did not know whether my uncle would like it or not. I told her I would meet him, and I went and met him next day, on Temple Place. I told him I was glad to meet him, because I wanted a little business with him. I asked him about my aunt, told him she had left Mr. Willard's, and would like a room there. He did n't seem to approve of it. He said, 'I don't think you had better have her, as she would not continue there when I put her there years ago.' I said it was bad for her to go alone, she was under the doctor's care, and I asked him if he would not let me have her as my tenant, and perhaps I would be different from what my Aunt Mary was. I told her the house was out of repair, and she must put on her own repairs if she came there. She said she would do so if Mr. Duff did n't object to her coming in."

On cross-examination the tenant was asked as to her acts of ownership on the demanded premises, and testified that she lived there and "as regards the tenants, to them I always acted as owner"; that she "collected rents of the tenants"; that Mrs. Manning collected rents, but "not of all the tenants, only

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one or two"; that she told everybody that she "owned the house, — everybody thought I owned the house, — friends of mine, who knew I never had money enough to buy the house"; and that "I did and acted according to my uncle's wishes. If there was anything to be done, he always told me to act as the owner. I do not know as there is anything particularly in the ownership, only claiming the rent and calling it my house, accepting it as a gift. I considered I was the owner by my uncle giving me the title of ownership. I never did anything without consulting him during those twenty years."

Mrs. Symonds, a sister of the tenant, testified, for the tenant, that John Duff told her, as late as 1876, that he had given the house to the tenant, her conversation with John Duff being as follows: "I told him that my sister said that he gave her the house as a present, and that my aunt found a great deal of fault with her, and said she did not believe it. He said Mary was correct, that he did give her the house, and that he told her that he wanted every one to know that the house belonged to her. I told him that my father asked her why she did not have it in black and white, in case anything should happen to Mr. Duff, and he said that was all settled. I asked him if his son John R. Duff knew about the house, and who lived in it. He said he did, and if he died that night that it could be settled just the same as if he was living."

The brother of the tenant testified for her that John Duff told him, in 1861, he had given the house to the tenant.

One Richardson, called by the tenant, testified that his family and himself occupied rooms in the house from 1870 to 1874; that Mrs. Manning was in the house during a part of the time; that he hired his rooms of the tenant and paid rent to her; and that on one occasion, desiring some repairs to be made, he spoke to the tenant, and the repairs were made immediately.

It appeared that John Duff paid the rent of the house on Middlesex Street, for the month previous to the tenant's moving into the house on Oak Street; that, soon after the tenant and her family moved into the house on Oak Street, Mary Duff came back and lived there six or eight years, till she died, in 1868; that Mrs. Manning came there in 1870 or 1871, and lived there till she died, on April 8, 1882, occupying exclusively two or

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three rooms; that the tenant's brother as well as her father and mother always lived there, except for about four years, and her sister lived there till after November, 1883, none of these relatives ever paying to the tenant any rent; that the tenant let a small portion of the house to Richardson for three or four years, and collected and received the rent therefor; and that John Duff knew of and consented to such letting, she consulting him about it, and about the occupancy of the house.

It also appeared, or was admitted, that the taxes on the premises were regularly assessed to John Duff, from 1859 to his death, and paid by him, and since his death to his heirs, and paid by them; that John Duff kept the house insured against fire in his own name; that he paid the water rates for the house, and made or paid for all the repairs on it; that Mrs. Manning, every year, from 1870 to her death, while she occupied two or three rooms, as above stated, collected rents of one or two tenants, ordered and contracted for most of the repairs on the house, directed how the same should be made, and paid for the same, the bills for such repairs being made to her and in her name, though John Duff furnished the money, or gave her the amounts she paid for such repairs, and that the bills were given to him, and that she did not pay rent for her rooms.

The demandants introduced in evidence, as a declaration of a person occupying a part of the premises, the following letter: "Boston, January 19, 1881. John R. Duff, Esq. Dear Sir: I enclose with this the water tax for 1881 of the house No. 85 Oak Street, in which I am living. This house, as you are doubtless aware, belongs to the estate of your late father. He purchased it many years ago and gave the free use of it to me and my sister, intending, as he said, that we should remain in it during our lives should we feel so inclined. It was his custom, also, to pay all the bills on the estate, and to allow us what was necessary for our support. It would be a relief to me if you would be kind enough to let me know whether you propose to continue your father's kindness to us, or what disposition you propose to make of the estate in which we now live. I should not trouble you were it not necessary that I should know what lays before me in the immediate future. I am yours, very respectfully, Hannah E. Manning, No. 85 Oak Street."

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The demandants contended that John Duff allowed his sisters and relatives to live in the house on Oak Street free of rent, and paid the taxes, water rates, repairs, and furnished them money for the purpose of assisting them, and in that way gave them the use of the house; and offered evidence to prove that John Duff, at different times between 1860 and his death, made statements and declarations as to his ownership of the house, and as to how his relatives occupied it, inconsistent with the alleged gift and claim of the tenant; but the judge ruled that the evidence was not admissible for any purpose, and excluded it, it not appearing that the declarations were made on the premises, or in the year of the alleged gift, or in the presence of the tenant. The demandants also offered in evidence an inventory, which was excluded, of the estate of John Duff, made by him on April 1, 1866, in which appeared the entry, "House, 41 Oak Street."

The demandants, among other requests not material, asked the judge to rule: "That there is no evidence that will justify the jury in finding that Mary Leary had disseised John Duff, or obtained a title good against the demandants."

The judge declined so to rule, but gave other instructions, under which the jury returned a verdict for the tenant; and the demandants alleged exceptions. The case was submitted on briefs to all the judges.

A. Hemenway & C. G. Keyes, for the demandants.

S. J. Thomas & J. A. Maxwell, for the tenant.

KNOWLTON, J. The dwelling-house which constitutes the demanded premises became the property of John Duff by a deed dated April 30, 1859. He died on October 26, 1880, and the demandants are two of his children, who hold, under his will and by a deed from their brother John R. Duff, the title which he had at the time of his death. They are entitled to recover, unless the tenant has acquired a title by adverse possession.

The tenant testified, and introduced to corroborate her the testimony of her brother and sister, that John Duff, who was her mother's brother, made to her a verbal gift of the demanded premises in the spring of 1860, and that she, and her father and mother and brother and sister, immediately moved into the house, and that she has been in occupation as owner ever since. If the

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gift was made as she testifies, it was ineffectual to change the ownership of the property. She therefore rests her claim of title upon an alleged disseisin and adverse possession. The principal question before us is whether there was evidence to warrant the jury in finding in her favor upon this claim. The evidence in relation to the gift is immaterial, except as it bears upon the character of her occupation. Both parties must be presumed to have known that the legal title remained in John Duff, and her subsequent acts must be scrutinized, to see whether they constituted actual, open, exclusive, and adverse possession of the real estate for twenty years or more. *Sumner* v. *Stevens*, 6 Met. 337. *Motte* v. *Alger*, 15 Gray, 322.

In the language of the bill of exceptions, "It appeared, or was admitted, that the taxes on the premises were regularly assessed to John Duff from 1859 to his death, and paid by him, and since his death to his heirs, and paid by them; that John Duff kept the house insured against fire in his own name; that he paid the water rates for the house, and made or paid for all the repairs on it; that Mrs. Manning, every year from 1870 to her death, while she occupied two or three rooms, as above stated, collected rents of one or two tenants, ordered or contracted for most of the repairs on the house, directed how the same should be made, and paid for the same, the bills for such repairs being made to her and in her name, though John Duff furnished the money, or gave her the amounts she paid for such repairs, and that the bills were given to him, and that she did not pay rent for her rooms."

The failure on the part of the tenant ever to claim recognition, either as owner or possessor, in regard to the taxation of the property, or the insurance of the house, or the charging of water rates, was hardly consistent with an exclusive possession adverse to the true owner. In making or paying for all the repairs, he, and not she, performed acts of control and management appropriate to possession as well as to ownership. From 1870 to her death in 1882, Mrs. Manning, a sister of John Duff, was in possession of a part of this house. It is evident that her occupation was not under the tenant, for she not only paid no rent, and collected rents all the time of one or two other tenants, but she acted apparently as agent and manager for the owner, in

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ordering most of the repairs on the house, directing how they should be made, paying for them, and giving the bills to John Duff, and receiving from him the amounts which she paid. Her letter, introduced as an accompanying declaration characterizing her occupation, is confirmatory evidence that her possession was under her brother, and not under the tenant. And the same fact appears in the testimony of the tenant, that, when Mrs. Manning was spoken to in 1870 or 1871 about coming back there to live, she was in doubt whether her brother would like it or not, and finally came only after the tenant had obtained his consent, and she was told that he did not object to it.

The acts on which the tenant relies to establish her title are her occupation, and doing "papering or whitewashing, or something like that," and her telling her friends that she was the owner, and her collection of certain rents. She was examined fully and particularly as to her acts of possession, and her general statement that she acted as owner must be taken to mean merely that she acted in the ways specified. *Richmond Iron Works* v. *Wadhams*, 142 Mass. 569, 570. But it is conceded that her occupation was with her father's family, that her brother lived there all the time except about four years, her sister until after November, 1883, her mother until she died in 1878, and her father until he died in 1879, and that none of them ever paid any rent. It is conceded also, that John Duff paid rent for the house where they all lived immediately before moving into this; and that his sisters Mary Duff and Mrs. Manning had occupied this house without charge for rent from the time he bought it until just before the alleged gift to the tenant, and that, soon after, Mary Duff came back into the house and lived there without paying rent until she died, in 1868; and that Mrs. Manning was there from 1870 or 1871 until she died, in 1882. As bearing upon the character of her occupation, it also appeared from the tenant's testimony that her uncle always furnished her money for the house, and paid the grocery and other bills, giving her liberally quite large sums. As to the occupation of the only tenant with whom there was evidence that she ever made an arrangement, it appeared that she consulted her uncle, and that he consented to the letting. In another part of her testimony, she said, "I never did anything without consult-

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ing him during those twenty years." A mortgage, put upon the property before he bought it, was paid by John Duff, and was discharged of record, in May, 1864. Upon the undisputed facts and the tenant's own testimony, it is difficult to see where there was any evidence that she maintained for twenty years a possession, either exclusive, or adverse to the true owner. We think the jury were not warranted in finding that she acquired a title, and the first instruction requested should have been given.

The evidence of declarations of John Duff, made at sundry times, as to his ownership of the house, and how his relatives occupied it, and of his entry of it in the inventory of property belonging to him on April 1, 1866, was rightly excluded. As declarations in his own favor, they were not competent upon the question whether there was a gift, and they had no relation to the alleged acts of possession upon which the tenant rested her case. *Exceptions sustained.*

GEORGE ALLENDORFF *vs.* IGNAZ M. GAUGENGIGL.

Suffolk. March 19, 1888. — April 7, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Mortgage — Life Estate — Married Woman — Title.

If a married woman, the sole owner of land, who signs with her husband a mortgage thereof to secure his note, habendum to the grantee, "his heirs and assigns," and containing the usual power of sale, is mentioned for the first time in a clause near the end, in which she purports to "relinquish all my right, title, and interest . . . . to said grantee, and do hereby release to the said grantee and his heirs and assigns" all right of dower in homestead therein, she conveys only a life estate to the grantee; and a purchaser upon a sale under the power cannot give a "good and clear title" within the meaning of an agreement to sell.

CONTRACT for the breach of an agreement in writing, dated November 12, 1887, by the plaintiff to sell and by the defendant to purchase, at a price named, a parcel of land in Brockton, "containing fourteen acres, more or less. Said premises are to be conveyed on or before December 21, 1887, by a good and

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sufficient warranty deed of the party of the first part, conveying a good and clear title to the same free from all incumbrances, except a certain mortgage for two hundred and fifty dollars given to and now held by said Gaugengigl, dated September 15, 1885."

The case was submitted to the Superior Court, and, after judgment for the defendant, to this court, on appeal, on an agreed statement of facts in substance as follows:

On May 7, 1863, Abby P. Young, the wife of J. Albert Young, became the owner of the fourteen-acre lot, subject to a mortgage, which was afterwards duly discharged of record when a release was made to her. On December 26, 1876, Abby P. Young, together with her husband, to secure a note signed by him alone, signed and delivered to the plaintiff a mortgage deed, which, after reciting that "I, J. Albert Young of Brockton in the county of Plymouth and State of Massachusetts, in consideration of one thousand dollars, to me paid by George Allendorff of said Brockton, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said George Allendorff, his heirs and assigns,' the fourteen-acre lot and other land described, "to have and to hold the granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said George Allendorff and his heirs and assigns, to their own use and behoof forever," set forth the usual covenants and a power of sale to be exercised by the grantee after any breach of the condition, "the grantor or his heirs or assigns" to execute deeds to confirm any sale, and concluded as follows: "And for the consideration aforesaid, I, Abby P., wife of said J. Albert Young, do hereby relinquish all my right, title, and interest in either of the afore-described premises to said grantee, and do hereby release unto the said grantee and his heirs and assigns all right of or to both dower and homestead in the granted premises. In witness whereof, we, the said J. Albert Young and Abby P., wife of said Young, hereunto set our hands and seals, this twenty-sixth day of December, in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-six."

In May, 1880, the plaintiff foreclosed the mortgage for a breach of condition, and, under the power of sale, duly sold the premises to one Sumner, by whom they were subsequently con-

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veyed to the plaintiff. On September 15, 1885, the plaintiff gave to the defendant the mortgage mentioned in the agreement to sell, and after the execution of that agreement duly tendered to him a deed of the land in question, sufficient in form; but the defendant refused to take it, or to pay the price agreed upon, on the ground that the plaintiff did not have a good title.

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If on these facts the plaintiff could give a good and clear title to the premises described in the agreement, saving and excepting the mortgage in said agreement mentioned, then judgment was to be entered for the plaintiff; otherwise, judgment for the defendant.

H. R. Bailey, for the plaintiff.

W. R. Richards, for the defendant.

C. ALLEN, J. The original title was in Mrs. Young, and the plaintiff's title depends on the question whether her title was conveyed by the mortgage of December 26, 1876. She was not a party to the earlier part of the mortgage, and her participation in it as a grantor was limited to the clause near the end, wherein she relinquished her right in the premises to the grantee, and released to the grantee and his heirs and assigns all right of dower and homestead. Her relinquishment of her general title was merely to the grantee, and not to his heirs and assigns. The suggestions of the plaintiff's counsel that the word "grantee" included the grantee and his heirs and assigns, and that the words "heirs and assigns," used later, may be taken as referring back so that the relinquishment to the grantee included his heirs and assigns, are quite inadmissible. So also the suggestion that she was a party to the power of sale in the mortgage, and that her title was concluded by the exercise of that power. The mortgage therefore only included a life estate in the lot now in question; and the title offered by the plaintiff is not good. *Bruce* v. *Wood*, 1 Met. 542. *Raymond* v. *Holden*, 2 Cush. 264.

Judgment affirmed.

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JOHN HEARD & others *vs.* JAMES STURGIS & another, assignees.

Suffolk. November 11, 1887. — April 25, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, FIELD, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Alabama Claims — War Premiums — Gift — Bankruptcy — Assignee.

Money paid by the United States, out of the Geneva Award, under the U. S. St. of June 5, 1882, for the reimbursement of war premiums paid from 1861 to 1865, constitutes a gift to one who paid such premiums, and will not pass to his assignee in bankruptcy under an assignment made in 1875. — FIELD & W. ALLEN, JJ., dissenting.

CONTRACT for money had and received. The case was submitted to this court upon an agreed statement of facts, in substance as follows.

The plaintiffs, citizens of the United States, were engaged between April 13, 1861, and April 9, 1865, as partners, under the firm name of Augustine Heard & Co., in the business of buying and shipping steamers for China, of receiving and selling merchandise from China, and of insuring merchandise and vessels. During that period the plaintiffs bore true allegiance to the government of the United States, and after the sailing of the first Confederate cruiser paid in the course of their business certain enhanced payments of insurance, otherwise called payments of premiums for war risks, or war premiums, on such merchandise and vessels.

On May 31, 1865, the firm of Augustine Heard & Co. was dissolved by the agreement of the members thereof. On August 5, 1875, the plaintiffs were severally adjudicated bankrupts in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts; on September 11, 1875, assignments in bankruptcy in the usual form were made to the defendants; and on July 20, 1877, the plaintiffs received their discharge in bankruptcy. The firm, and each of the plaintiffs individually, were solvent when it was dissolved, and all the debts owed by the plaintiffs at the time of their adjudication in bankruptcy were incurred after the dissolution. The estate of the bankrupts received by

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the defendants hitherto has proved insufficient to pay in full the debts of the bankrupts.

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In December, 1886, an award was made by the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims to the defendants, as assignees in bankruptcy of the plaintiffs, in proceedings in that court to which the plaintiffs were parties, on account of such payments of war premiums by the plaintiffs, and was in part paid to the defendants by the United States, the amount of the Geneva Award unappropriated being insufficient to pay the war premium awards in full. Of the sum so awarded and paid, there remained in the hands of the defendants, after paying the reasonable expenses of prosecuting the claim before the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims and collecting the award, the sum of $13,612.85.

The Treaty of Washington between the United States and Great Britain, promulgated July 4, 1871; the decisions rendered by the Tribunal of Arbitration at Geneva, and the final decision and award made by that tribunal, on September 18, 1872; the acts of Congress of June 23, 1874, and of June 5, 1882, respectively, creating and re-establishing the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims; and the several acts of Congress relating to that court and the payment of its awards, are to be treated as facts in this case, and may be referred to at the argument.

No controversy or question existed between the parties as to the proportions in which the plaintiffs were entitled, if at all, to the sum recovered, or as to its distribution. If, upon the facts, the plaintiffs were entitled to recover, judgment was to be entered for them, and the case was to stand for the assessment of damages; otherwise, judgment for the defendants. In either event, the expenses of this action and reasonable counsel fees to each party to be paid out of the fund.

The case was argued at the bar in November, 1887, and afterwards was submitted on the briefs to all the judges.

H. W. Putnam, for the plaintiffs.

C. A. Williams, for the defendants.

HOLMES, J. The plaintiffs in this case are parties who paid enhanced premiums for insurance on war risks from 1861 to 1865. The defendants are their assignees in bankruptcy, under an assignment made in 1875. They have received money from

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the United States, according to a decision of the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims under the act of Congress of June 5, 1882, in respect of the war premiums paid by the plaintiffs; and the question is whether they are entitled to hold that money under the assignment, which it will be noticed was made before the act was passed, by force of which the money was paid by the United States.

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It is settled that the adjudication of the commissioners is not conclusive between the parties. That adjudication only decides upon the amount and validity of the claim as against the United States, sets apart and identifies the fund for the benefit of whoever ultimately may prove entitled to it under the proper construction of the statute, and leaves the rights of all persons claiming to be entitled to the sum awarded to the ordinary course of proceeding in the established courts. *Leonard* v. *Nye*, 125 Mass. 455, 466. *Comegys* v. *Vasse*, 1 Pet. 193, 212. The Court of Commissioners have expressed and acted on this view of the law. *McLeane* v. *United States*, Davis's Report of Decisions of Commissioners, 112. 44th Cong. 2d Sess. Senate Ex. Doc. No. 21. *The Bankruptcy Question*, March, 1884, in Rules, Opinions, &c. of Court of Comm. of Ala. Claims, Washington, 1885. The only question is whether the right of the defendants is equally established by *Leonard* v. *Nye* and *Comegys* v. *Vasse*, or whether there is a satisfactory distinction to be taken between those cases and the case at bar.

There is no need of stating in detail well-known cases in easily accessible reports. It is enough to say, that the American decisions establish that when this government collects a sum from a foreign government in respect of wrongs to our citizens, and subsequently passes a law to distribute the fund collected to the parties wronged, this government is to be regarded as having stood from the beginning *quasi* in the position of an agent to collect on behalf of its subjects, and a trustee of the fund when collected, and thus that the payment when made is to be treated as if made in pursuance of a duty on its part, and in satisfaction of a vested right of the subject, and not as a pure gratuity and gift. *Comegys* v. *Vasse*, and *Leonard* v. *Nye*, *ubi supra*. *Bachman* v. *Lawson*, 109 U. S. 659, 663. *Gracie* v. *New York Ins. Co.* 8 Johns. 237, 245. So as to claims against the

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government for proceeds of captured property. *Erwin* v. *United States*, 97 U. S. 392. It follows from this view, and it is decided, that such claims pass to an assignee in bankruptcy or insolvency under an assignment earlier in date than the act providing for the payment of the claims. *Leonard* v. *Nye*, *ubi supra*. *Jones* v. *Dexter*, 125 Mass. 469. *Comegys* v. *Vasse*, *ubi supra*. *Phelps* v. *McDonald*, 99 U. S. 298. *Plater* v. *Scott*, 6 Gill & J. 116.

We are bound by these decisions as far as they go. Undoubtedly, if the acts with which they deal had been in force before the respective assignments, no one would have felt any hesitation about the result merely by reason of his opinions as to the relations of subject and sovereign, or the impossibility of the former having a right in a strict juridical sense against the latter; and perhaps it would not have mattered whether the sum given by the act was a pure gratuity, or was founded upon a moral consideration, so long as the government positively undertook to pay. Compare *Ex parte Huggins*, 21 Ch. D. 85; *Ex parte Webber*, 18 Q. B. D. 111. Undoubtedly, too, an act may be passed at any time providing expressly or by implication that the sums distributed shall be paid to the use of such persons as would have been entitled at the time of payment, if the claims forming the moral consideration of the statute had been legal claims from the beginning. Furthermore, there is a very intelligible reason for giving that effect to a statute which distributes a fund, collected as we have supposed, to sufferers in respect of whose sufferings the claim was collected. The commercial and practical, rather than strictly juridical, light in which we are in the habit of regarding the sovereign power, makes it natural and easy to adopt such a view.

But it must be remembered, whenever a new statute comes up for consideration, that although it may be found by construction to give what it gives as if in pursuance of a legal duty, there is no such legal duty in fact, and no antecedent right on the part of the persons who receive its benefits. It is only tautologous to say that the law knows nothing of moral rights unless they are also legal rights, and from before the days of Hobbes the argument has been public property that there is no such thing as a right created by law, as against the sovereign who makes the law by which the right is to be created. *Bur-*

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nand v. *Rodocanachi*, 7 App. Cas. 333, 336. Hobbes, De Cive, c. 6, § 14 (Op. Lat. ii. 227); Leviathan, c. 26 (Eng. Works, iii. 250–252). Sir John Eliot, De Jure Maiestatis, c. 3. Bodin. De Republica, I. c. 8. Bentham, Fragment on Government, c. 5 (Works, i. 292, 293). Austin, Jurisprudence, Lect. 6, pp. 286, 287 (3d ed.).

In every case, then, some reason must be found, either in the words of the distributing statute, or in what we have called the moral consideration for it, as that the fund if received by a private person would have been charged with a trust, or that the sovereign but for his sovereignty would be bound to indemnify the distributees for some previous loss, before the distribution can be regarded as anything more than a simple gift.

In the present case there is no pretence that the United States received the money paid over by the Geneva Award upon any trust in favor of those who paid war premiums, even in the attenuated sense in which it may be said to have done so for those whose vessels were destroyed by the Alabama, &c. On the contrary, claims for war premiums, as such, were expressly withdrawn from the consideration of the Geneva tribunal. Protocols 5, 6, and 7 of the Conferences of the Arbitrators. Message and Documents, Department of State, Part 2, Vol. IV., 1872–73, pp. 19–22. The corner-stone of the decision in *Leonard* v. *Nye* is wanting. The ground on which that case went may be seen from the following extract from the opinion:

"The claims for the destruction of property of citizens of the United States by the Alabama and the Florida, and by the Shenandoah after her departure from Melbourne, through the violation by Great Britain of her international duty, were claims for which the owners of the property destroyed were justly entitled to compensation from Great Britain, although they could not obtain their rights in the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, but only by petition to the British government, or through the interposition of their own government. Compensation for those losses was demanded by the United States from Great Britain as a matter of right, and as such was awarded by the decision of the Tribunal of Arbitration created by the treaty between the two governments. The act of Congress for the adjudication and disposition of the moneys received from Great Britain, pursuant

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to that decision, provided for their application to the payment of claims directly resulting from the damage caused by those insurgent cruisers; and the sum awarded to this defendant by the commissioners appointed under that act of Congress was upon such a claim. It must therefore be treated as awarded and paid to him by reason of his interest in property so destroyed, and of his right to compensation for its destruction, and as capable of passing by an assignment from him, in any form recognized by law, though made after the destruction of the property and before the award of indemnity." 125 Mass. 465, 466.

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This language follows the same lines as *Comegys* v. *Vasse*, and marks the limit beyond which we cannot go.

We do not understand it to be argued that the plaintiffs had any claim against the United States government for indemnity irrespective and outside of a claim sounding in trust against the fund received from Great Britain, so that apart from trust the allowance made by the statute should be construed as recognizing a pre-existing obligation. The allowance is in respect of war premiums generally. It is not confined to those which possibly might found a claim by way of subrogation to the insurer on the ground that the premiums were paid to mutual companies and were used to pay losses. Inasmuch as presumably the cost of the war premiums in general ultimately fell upon the purchasers of insured goods, a claim against the government for indemnity in respect of them would resolve itself finally into a claim of all the members of the community for increased cost of living on account of the war.

If the plaintiffs had no claim for indemnity against the United States, it is not material whether they had a claim against Great Britain or not, so long as no part of the fund received by the United States was paid in respect of any such claim. But it may be noticed that the Geneva tribunal, certainly a respectable authority, expressed the opinion "that these claims do not constitute, upon the principles of international law applicable to such cases, good foundation for an award of compensation or computation of damages between nations, and should, upon such principles, be wholly excluded from the consideration of the tribunal in making its award." Protocol 5, *ubi supra*. Even if the United States had not yielded to this opinion, but still

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asserted a liability on the part of Great Britain, such an assertion would not be equivalent to an assertion of its own liability to indemnify its citizens. And as it certainly never has admitted such a liability, and as it has received no money from Great Britain in respect of the claim, there are no grounds outside the words of the act of June 5, 1882, for saying that it recognizes a pre-existing right against the United States on the part of all who paid war premiums.

The decisions to which we have adverted do not go on the language of the statutes which were under discussion, but upon the nature of the claims forming what we have called the moral consideration for the respective acts. There is nothing decisive in the language of the act before us, but the circumstances and the words used are at least as favorable to the view that this payment of war premiums was by way of gratuity, as to any other. The act was not passed until the persons whose claims were within the scope of the Geneva Award had been satisfied, and dealt with a surplus left over from the sum in gross awarded. Claims under the act for war premiums are subordinated to claims for destruction of property; and it may be noticed for what it is worth, that, while the act of June 23, 1874, § 12, provides for deducting compensation or indemnity received by the party injured or his assignees, the act of June 5, 1882, § 6, does not mention assignees, and does not use the word "compensation," but only "indemnity, dividend, set-off," &c., possibly indicating a recognition that the "claims" upon the Alabama fund created by the statute were claims in respect of which no one ever had had a right to compensation, and which had never passed by an assignment, because they had no existence until the statute created them. This construction is helped by the well-known fact that Congress hesitated long between several competing applicants for a share in the surplus fund, including the insurance companies and the Treasury itself.

If the sum in controversy was a pure gift to the plaintiffs, to which they had no claim as of right in any sense, it did not pass to their assignees. *Emerson* v. *Hall*, 13 Pet. 409. *Gillan* v. *Gillan*, 55 Penn. St. 430. Even if assignees in bankruptcy are universal successors, they succeed only to the rights and interests which the bankrupt has at the time, not, of course, to anything

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which he afterwards may acquire by a title wholly subsequent. U. S. Rev. Sts. § 5044. Executors stand in a different position. They "represent the person of the testator." St. 9 Ed. III. st. 1, c. 3. Littleton, § 337. *Overton* v. *Sydall*, Poph. 120, 121; *S. C.* Gouldsb. 120, pl. 6. *Boyer* v. *Rivet*, 3 Bulstr. 317, 321. *Bain* v. *Cooper*, 1 Dowl. Pr. Cas. (N. S.) 11, 14. They would take, if their testator had died before the act of 1882 was passed; and if the will contained a residuary clause, it might be construed to apply to the sum received by them as representing him, in accordance with the rule laid down by Lord Hardwicke in *Green* v. *Ekins*, 2 Atk. 473, 476, that, "if the personal estate is increased by any event after the death of the testator, it is part of the residue, and will pass as such." *Grant* v. *Bodwell*, 78 Maine, 460, 465. *Pierce* v. *Stidworthy*, 79 Maine, 234. Our decision is in accordance with *Brooks* v. *Ahrens*, 68 Md. 212, and *Taft* v. *Marsily*, 47 Hun, 175. *Judgment for the plaintiffs.*

FIELD, J. I cannot assent to the opinion of the court.

It is said that the plaintiffs in the case at bar had no right or property in any claim to be repaid the war premiums paid by them until this right or property was created by the act of Congress of June 5, 1882; that Great Britain paid no money to the United States on account of war premiums; that no trust in any sense in favor of the plaintiffs attached to the money received under the Geneva Award; and that therefore in 1875, when the plaintiffs became bankrupts, and an assignment of their property in the usual form was made to the defendants as their assignees, the plaintiffs had no property in the claim which could pass under the assignment.

In *Leonard* v. *Nye*, 125 Mass. 455, the defendant was adjudged a bankrupt in February, 1868, and in January, 1875, he presented a claim to the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims for damages sustained by the destruction of merchandise by the insurgent cruiser Shenandoah, after her departure from Melbourne, and a sum of money was awarded to him as damages on April 5, 1876, which was paid him on September 15, 1876; and the plaintiff, being the defendant's assignee in bankruptcy, recovered it in the action. It is said in the opinion, at page 466, that although the assignment in bankruptcy was

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before the Treaty of Washington, and before the passage of the act of Congress of June 23, 1874, yet the money must "be treated as awarded and paid to him by reason of his interest in property so destroyed, and of his right to compensation for its destruction, and as capable of passing by an assignment from him, in any form recognized by law, though made after the destruction of the property and before the award of indemnity." The distinction taken between that case and this is, that the money paid by Great Britain was paid and received as compensation for the destruction of property, in which was included the property of the defendant in *Leonard* v. *Nye*, but was not paid or received as compensation for the war premiums which the plaintiffs in the case at bar had paid. The case of *Leonard* v. *Nye* states the settled law of the United States as to money paid to claimants under the act of June 23, 1874, and other similar statutes. *Comegys* v. *Vasse*, 1 Pet. 193. *United States* v. *Hunter*, 5 Mason, 62; *S. C.* 5 Pet. 173. *Frevall* v. *Bache*, 14 Pet. 95. *Milnor* v. *Metz*, 16 Pet. 221. *Erwin* v. *United States*, 97 U. S. 392. *Phelps* v. *McDonald*, 99 U. S. 298. *Bachman* v. *Lawson*, 109 U. S. 659.

The decision of the House of Lords in *Burnand* v. *Rodocanachi*, 7 App. Cas. 333, is clearly the same as would have been rendered here, whatever criticisms might be made upon some of the language found in the opinions.

The money awarded under the act of June 23, 1874, or under that of June 5, 1882, was perhaps, in a strict legal sense, a gift by the United States, because the United States were under no legal obligation to pay the money received from Great Britain to any one. Neither was Great Britain in the matter of the Alabama claims under any legal relations to citizens of the United States. *United States* v. *Diekelman*, 92 U. S. 520, 524. But governments often recognize obligations towards each other, or towards their own citizens, or towards the citizens or subjects of foreign states, which are analogous to the obligations enforced in judicial courts between litigants. To what extent they will do this, when they will follow and when depart from the rules which prevail in judicial courts, is in the discretion of the sovereign power, and in the case at bar it must be determined from the acts of Congress whether the money thereby appropri-

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ated was intended as a gratuity, or as compensation for services rendered or for money paid, or for property lost, taken, or destroyed. *Milnor* v. *Metz*, *ubi supra*.

It is apparent, I think, that Congress, in enacting the St. of June 5, 1882, as well as that of June 23, 1874, did not intend that the money appropriated to claimants under these acts should be a gratuity, because it is appropriated on account of a loss of property, and as compensation for the loss, for which claim had been made from a time anterior to the Treaty of Washington. If the United States had submitted the distribution of the fund received from Great Britain to the judicial courts without any directions other than those which the rules of municipal jurisprudence afford, it may be that the fund would have been distributed among the owners of property destroyed by the inculpated cruisers, or the representatives or assigns of such owners, and that insurance companies which had paid a loss would have been subrogated to the rights of the assured. But Congress saw fit to give explicit directions in regard to the appropriation of the money in both the St. of June 23, 1874, and in the St. of June 5, 1882. Neither of these statutes deals with any money except that received from the Geneva Award, and Congress by these statutes has in fact appropriated it all to the payment of claims for the loss of property, and for the expenses of the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims; and Congress was the only tribunal competent to determine to whom, and in what manner, if at all, the money should be appropriated and the claims satisfied. If Congress intended by these statutes to appropriate the money to certain persons as a gratuity, the only matters for the Court of Commissioners to deal with would have been the persons intended by the statutes, and the amounts given to each, and it is difficult to see how a judicial court could re-examine the distribution made by the Court of Commissioners unless the persons to whom that court awarded the money claimed and received it in some representative capacity. The judicial courts determine the ownership of the money awarded only on the ground that it follows the ownership of the property as compensation for which the awards were made. Congress did not, however, in these statutes, specify the persons entitled to receive the money

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otherwise than by describing the claims to be admitted, except that it provided for the exclusion of claims for the loss of property insured to the extent of the indemnity received from the insurance, and that no claim should be allowed "in favor of any person not entitled at the time of the loss to the protection of the United States in the premises," nor "in favor of any person who did not at all times during the late rebellion bear true allegiance to the United States."

The Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims were, under the St. of June 23, 1874, § 11, to adjudicate upon all claims admissible under the act "directly resulting from damage caused by the" inculpated cruisers, and under the St. of June 5, 1882, § 5, upon claims "directly resulting from damage done on the high seas by Confederate cruisers during the late rebellion," and "claims for the payment of premiums for war risks." Under each of these statutes the Court of Commissioners held that the persons to present the petitions were the persons who owned the property damaged, or who had paid the war premiums, or their personal representatives if they were dead, or their assigns if the claims had been assigned either by voluntary conveyance or by operation of law, although an assignee might prosecute the claim in the name of the assignor, or the assignor might prosecute it if the assignee did not intervene. The practice and proceedings under which assignees in bankruptcy were admitted as claimants were established under the St. of June 23, 1874, being c. 459 of the acts that year, and were well known when the St. of June 5, 1882, was passed, and the latter statute provides, in § 4, "that the practice and proceedings established and directed by said chapter four hundred and fifty-nine shall be followed and had in regard to all claims provable under this act, and it shall be the duty of the said court hereby re-established in the mode, and subject to all the conditions, limitations, and provisions of said chapter four hundred and fifty-nine, except as changed and modified by this act, to receive and examine the claims mentioned in section five of this act," &c.

The claimants for property destroyed, and for war premiums paid, both made their claims originally on the grounds of natural justice and international obligation; but until the treaty, the rules by which the conduct of Great Britain was to be

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tested were in dispute between the governments, and the fact that Great Britain had violated those rules was first conclusively established by the Geneva Award. It was for the United States to determine on what trusts, if any, they received the money, and to appropriate it as they saw fit, and it is not competent for this court to decide whether Congress in fact rightly appropriated it or not. If the acts of Congress appropriated the money to certain persons as a gratuity, the awards of the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims must be held by the judicial courts as gifts; but if these acts appropriated the money as a compensation for the loss of property, the judicial courts must so treat the awards. The legal connection between the awards and the money received from Great Britain, or the awards and the money appropriated by the United States, is established by the acts of Congress, construed in connection with the subject and the circumstances, and not by any opinion of a moral equity not recognized by the acts.

The question whether any distinction could be recognized between claims under the St. of June 23, 1874, and claims under the St. of June 5, 1882, in reference to the rights of assignees in bankruptcy, or assignees under voluntary assignments, was presented before the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims, and it was decided in an elaborate opinion that no distinction could be made. It was said in the opinion, that "Neither of the acts can properly be regarded as creating a bounty for these claimants. Both alike were the acts of the sovereign state dispensing justice, and not distributing alms to its citizens. . . . . Our government had always insisted that all these claims were just demands upon Great Britain, and the acts of 1874 and 1882 reaffirmed that position, and provided a way by which all these sufferers alike might be reimbursed to the extent of the fund awarded at Geneva, giving the preference to those who had sustained direct losses. And this recognition of the right of the claimants in this fund must be held to relate back to the time when their losses occurred." French, J., in *The Bankruptcy Question*, March, 1884, in Rules, Opinions, &c. of Court of Comm. of Ala. Claims, Washington, 1885.

A similar question arising in the administration of the estates of deceased persons has been decided in the same way, and for

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the same reasons, by the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine, in *Grant* v. *Bodwell*, 78 Maine, 460, and in *Pierce* v. *Stidworthy*, 79 Maine, 234. The Supreme Court of New York, in *Taft* v. *Marsily*, 47 Hun, 175, and the Court of Appeals of Maryland, in *Brooks* v. *Ahrens*, 68 Md. 212, decided that the money appropriated by the act of 1882 was a gratuity, and that no claim existed before the passage of the act which would pass to assignees in bankruptcy. In the opinions in these last two cases *Emerson* v. *Hall*, 13 Pet. 409, is cited as authority.

In *Emerson* v. *Hall*, Chew, Emerson, and Lorrain were respectively collector, surveyor, and naval officer of the port of New Orleans, and they seized and procured the condemnation of the Brig Josepha Secunda for an infraction of the laws against the slave trade, and by the District Court they were allowed one half of the proceeds. This part of the decree was reversed by the Supreme Court of the United States, on the ground that the statutes giving one half of the proceeds of condemned property to the seizing officers did not apply to such a case. The seizure was in 1818. In 1828 Emerson died, leaving heirs. On March 3, 1831, Congress passed an act entitled "An Act for the relief of Beverly Chew, the heirs of William Emerson, deceased, and the heirs of Edward Lorrain, deceased." The act directed the District Court to pay over the one half of the proceeds "to the said Beverly Chew and the legal representatives of the said William Emerson and Edward Lorrain respectively." A part of this money was received by the minor children of Emerson as his legal representatives, and the suit was to compel the tutor and curator of these children to pay out of this money a judgment which had been recovered against Emerson in his lifetime. The court held that it was a gift by Congress, that the act intended that the money should be paid to the heirs of Emerson, as the persons designated in the act as his legal representatives. The language of the act of Congress, as construed by the court, shows that it was not the intention of Congress that the money should be paid as a part of the estate of Emerson, but should be given to his heirs.

In *Milnor* v. *Metz*, 16 Pet. 221, Milnor and Thompson had been gaugers at the port of Philadelphia for the years 1836 and 1837, upon a salary of $1,500 a year. The act of July 4, 1836,

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reduced the duties on wines, under which they were required to regauge the wines. They presented a memorial to Congress in January, 1838, for extra pay for their services. In December, 1838, Milnor applied for the benefit of the insolvent laws of Pennsylvania, and in accordance with these laws he executed an assignment of his property, on January 11, 1839, and he mentioned this claim against the United States in the statement of his property which he was required to make; he received his discharge in the same January. Congress, on May 2, 1840, passed an act "that the Secretary of the Treasury be, and is hereby, directed to pay to Robert Milnor and John Thompson the sum of two thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven dollars and twenty-three cents, being the amount of fees equitably due" to them for extra services, &c. 6 U. S. Sts. at Large, 798. Metz, the assignee in insolvency of Milnor, made no claim before Congress, but after the act he claimed one half of the amount (it being admitted that Milnor's share was one half); his claim being rejected, thereupon he brought suit against the Secretary of the Treasury, Milnor, and others, and the court held that the money belonged to the assignee.

I cannot distinguish the principles which should govern the case at bar from those declared in *Comegys* v. *Vasse*, and the other cases cited. I think that the claim of the plaintiffs was a claim growing out of and relating to property; that it has been so treated by Congress in the act of June 5, 1882; that the money appropriated by Congress was appropriated in satisfaction of this claim; and that the money awarded is a part of the estate of the plaintiffs which passed to the assignees under the assignment in bankruptcy.

Mr. Justice William Allen concurs in this dissent.

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COMMERCIAL WHARF COMPANY *vs.* AUGUSTUS WINSOR & others.

Suffolk. January 26, 1888. — May 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Indenture — Covenant — Equity Pleading — Parties — Statute.

A covenant in an indenture between the owners of adjacent wharves as to the use of an intervening dock, beneficial to the covenantee and restricting its use by the covenantor, is enforceable in equity by a grantee of the covenantee against a lessee of the covenantor with notice; and the covenantor is a proper party defendant.

An indenture between the owners of C. Wharf and T Wharf established an intervening dock over their flats as far as low-water mark, and provided that a part of the dock should be kept open as a common passageway. Mutual covenants provided that they should not "obstruct or incumber said common highway or passageway, or any part thereof, nor authorize or consent that the said highway, or any part of it, shall be obstructed or incumbered in any manner." Subsequently C. Wharf was conveyed by a deed bounding it at low-water mark, and both wharves were extended to a new line by statutes, referring to the common passageway as a boundary only, and providing against an impairment of the rights of either owner thereby, the statute as to T Wharf, however, giving its owner "the right and privilege of using and occupying the flats adjacent to said wharf so extended at the end and sides thereof in the same manner in which they have hitherto occupied and enjoyed the flats and docks adjoining said wharf as it now is." The owner of T Wharf leased it, and the lessees authorized and consented to vessels so lying thereat as to project into the common passageway. *Held*, that the grantee of C. Wharf was entitled to maintain a bill in equity against the owner and lessees of T Wharf to restrain such use of the common passageway above, but not below, low-water mark.

BILL IN EQUITY to restrain the defendants, who were the lessees and owners of T Wharf, from using a common passageway between the private docks of Commercial Wharf and T Wharf as a berth for vessels. The defendants demurred to the bill, among other grounds, for want of equity, and because the owners of T Wharf were not proper parties. Hearing before *Gardner*, J., who made certain findings of fact, and reserved the case for the consideration of the full court. Certain plans were used at the hearing, a copy of so much of which as is material appears in the margin of the next page. The case was argued at the bar

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in January, 1888, and afterwards was submitted on briefs to all the judges. The facts appear in the opinion.

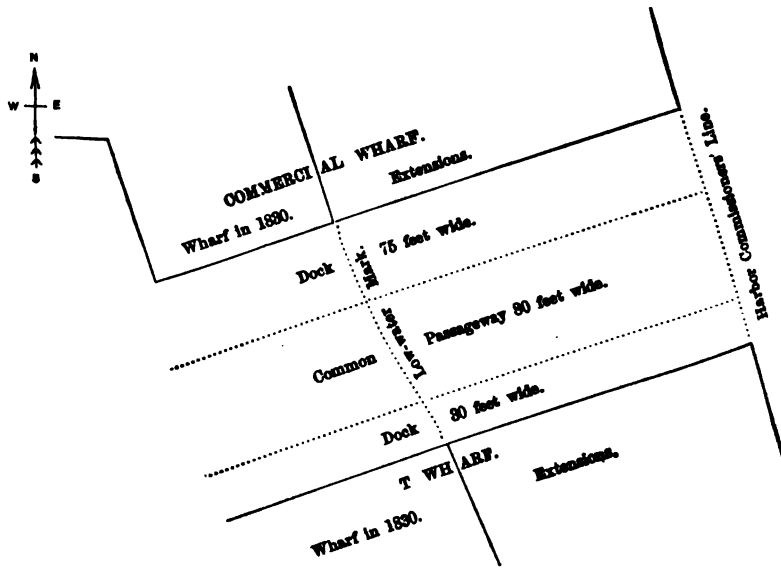
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G. O. Shattuck & J. C. Ropes, for the plaintiff.

E. R. Hoar & J. D. Bryant, for the owners of T Wharf.

J. O. Teele, for the lessees.

W. ALLEN, J. This is a bill to enforce covenants made by the owners of T Wharf with the Mercantile Wharf Corporation, contained in a tripartite indenture made by the city of Boston, the Mercantile Wharf Corporation, and the owners of T Wharf, on December 3, 1830. The object of the indenture was to establish and to regulate the use of a dock over flats owned by the parties, for the benefit of their adjoining lands and wharves. The dock as established extended from the harbor channel westerly to Commercial Street, a distance of about twelve hundred feet. The greater part of the dock has since been filled up, and only five or six hundred feet of the easterly part as established remains. T Wharf extended the whole of this distance on the southerly side of the dock. Commercial Wharf, which belonged to the Mercantile Wharf Corporation, and has since been conveyed by it to the plaintiff, extended on the northerly side of the



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dock for the distance of about one hundred and fifty feet from the harbor channel.

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By the indenture a portion of the dock eighty feet in width was to be kept as a "common highway or passageway" for the use of the parties for the purpose of going to and from their respective wharves. The part of the dock between the common passageway and the southerly line of the dock, on which was T Wharf, was to be the private dock of the owners of T Wharf, and the part between the common passageway and the northerly line of the dock, on which was Commercial Wharf, was to be the private dock of the Mercantile Wharf Corporation. The whole width of the dock was one hundred and eighty-five feet, thirty feet of it being the dock of T Wharf, eighty feet the common passageway, and seventy-five feet the dock of Commercial Wharf. The indenture provided in regard to the common highway or passageway that it should forever be kept open and unincumbered for the use of vessels passing to or from the respective wharves of the parties; that the owners of T Wharf should have no right of anchorage, wharfage, or dockage, in any part of the dock except the thirty feet next their wharf; and the owners of T Wharf covenanted with each of the other parties that they would not "obstruct or incumber the said common highway or passageway, or any part thereof, nor authorize or consent that the said highway, or any part of it, shall be obstructed or incumbered in any manner," with an exception which is not material. Corresponding provisions and covenants were made in respect to and by the Mercantile Wharf Corporation; and there were provisions and covenants in regard to the use of the private docks of the respective parties. These covenants of the owners of T Wharf with the Mercantile Wharf Corporation were clearly for the benefit of the land of the covenantee, and put a restriction in favor of that land upon the use by the covenantors of the common passageway, which can be enforced by the grantee of the covenantee against the grantees with notice of the covenantors. *Whitney* v. *Union Railway*, 11 Gray, 359. *Long Wharf* v. *Central Wharf*, 14 Allen, 271.

The plaintiff is a grantee, by a recorded deed, from the Mercantile Wharf Corporation, of a parcel of the land for the benefit of which the covenants were made, and is entitled to enforce the

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covenants and restrictions, as far as they are for the benefit of that part of the land, against the defendants, who, as lessees and owners, hold the estate of the covenantors to which the restrictions attach.

The evidence sustains the finding of the justice who heard the case, that it has been frequent that vessels two and three tiers deep have lain at T Wharf, attached to it or to that vessel nearest the wharf, all but the inner tier of which have been within the common highway or passageway, and that this has been authorized and consented to by those of the defendants who are the lessees of the wharf. If they allowed vessels moored in that way to discharge at their wharf, and took wharfage therefor, they cannot be permitted to say that they did not authorize or consent to that mode of using their wharf. They thereby asserted a right in the flats under the common passageway which was not the public right of navigation over them, but the private right of wharf-owners to the exclusive occupancy of them by vessels moored to or discharging at the wharf, such as might work a disseisin of an owner of them. See *Tufts* v. *Charlestown*, 117 Mass. 401, and cases cited. By allowing vessels to lie at their wharf in the manner shown by the evidence, the defendants clearly violated the covenants of the indenture. It does not appear that the plaintiff suffered any damage or inconvenience from vessels so lying on the flats included in the indenture; but the proper method in which the plaintiff can vindicate its right, which is infringed and denied by the defendants, is by a suit in equity, and it is therefore entitled to a decree in order to preserve its rights. There is no evidence to sustain the defence that the plaintiff by its conduct has waived its rights, or estopped itself from asserting them. The owners of T Wharf are proper parties defendant to the bill, as the rights of their lessees under the lease are involved.

The plaintiff contends that the restrictions of the indenture apply not only to the land described in it, but to the space between T and Commercial Wharves as they were extended beyond low-water mark after the indenture. The dock established by the indenture was bounded easterly by the edge of the harbor channel, which was a fixed line, and, it is agreed, was at low-water mark. The deed from the Mercantile Wharf Corporation

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to the plaintiff extended to and bounded definitely and expressly on this line. T Wharf and Commercial Wharf extended to this line. The statute which incorporated the plaintiff, and authorized the purchase by it of Commercial Wharf, authorized the extension of the wharf below low-water mark to a certain line (St. 1832, c. 51), and by a statute passed on the same day T Wharf was authorized to be extended to the same line (St. 1832, c. 57). Subsequently, by the St. of 1837, c. 229, the line of the harbor was established still farther to the east, beyond low-water mark, and it was provided that no wharf should ever be extended beyond that line, and that none should be extended towards it, unless under authority already given, without leave of the Legislature. Both of the wharves were subsequently extended to that line, under the St. of 1839, c. 25, and the St. of 1839, c. 77. The extensions of Commercial Wharf were considerably more than the length of the wharf on the dock before the extension. The plaintiff contends that the space between the wharves as extended beyond low-water mark is subject to the agreements, covenants, and restrictions of the indenture. This certainly cannot be by force of the indenture.

Even if the extension had the effect to give to the respective owners of the wharves the title to the flats between the wharves as extended, it could not thereby extend the covenants of the indenture over such newly acquired property. But the authority to extend the wharves gave no title to the flats not occupied by them when extended. The establishment of the new harbor line did not carry out low-water mark, and the line of private ownership remained as it had been, at the old line of the harbor channel. The only private right either party had within the harbor channel was that given it by the statutes authorizing the extension of its wharf, namely, a right to extend into the harbor channel, within certain lines, a wharf built on piles; and to the plaintiff the right to lay vessels at its wharf, (Sts. 1832, c. 51; 1839, c. 25,) and to the owners of T Wharf "the right and privilege of using and occupying the flats adjacent to said wharf, when so extended at the end and the sides thereof, in the same manner in which they have hitherto occupied and enjoyed the flats and docks adjoining said wharf as it now is." Sts. 1832, c. 57; 1839, c. 77. These provisions do not give to the owners of T Wharf any private right to the flats between the extended

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wharves beyond thirty feet from their wharf to which the covenants and restrictions of the indenture could attach.

The plaintiff argues that, by force of the acts authorizing the extensions of the wharves, the dock and common passageway provided for in the indenture of 1830 are extended, with the covenants and restrictions of the indenture relating to them; and that the acts of extension were accepted by the owners of T Wharf subject to that condition. The St. of 1832, c. 51, incorporated the plaintiff as the Commercial Wharf Company and authorized it to hold certain real estate described, which included Commercial Wharf, and to extend the wharf to a certain line in the harbor channel. The real estate it was authorized to hold was bounded easterly "by that part of the harbor channel to which said company is hereby authorized to extend their wharves," and southerly by the common highway in the dock established by the indenture of 1830. The act authorized the extension of the wharf into the harbor or channel as far as a described line, and provided that no wharf should be built in the channel excepting on piles, and parallel with the line of the dock or common passageway established by the indenture of 1830. Similar provisions are in the act authorizing the second extension of Commercial Wharf. St. 1839, c. 25. No other mention is made of the dock or common passageway in any of the acts authorizing extensions of the wharves. The plaintiff never acquired any real estate below low-water mark, except the rights given by the statute authorizing its extension.

The language of the act authorizing the extension of T Wharf (St. 1832, c. 57) is, that it shall be "extended within the lines of said wharf, as it now exists, continued easterly to the limit aforesaid." The first act authorizing the extension of T Wharf contained the proviso that "nothing herein contained shall have the effect to enable said proprietors of said T Wharf, their heirs or assigns, to violate any covenants or engagements they have made or entered into with any person or persons, or bodies corporate, and which are now subsisting, nor to infringe the rights or estates of any person or persons whomsoever." St. 1832, c. 57. The similar provision in the second act for the extension of T Wharf is, that "nothing herein contained shall impair the rights of any other persons whatever." St. 1839, c. 77. The provisions in the acts for the extensions of Commercial Wharf are,

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that "nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize the said company to lessen or injure the rights or property of the owner or owners of any wharf or wharves adjoining those of said company," (St. 1832, c. 51,) and that "nothing herein contained shall in any way interfere with the legal rights of the owner or owners of any wharf or wharves adjoining that of said company." St. 1839, c. 25. The purpose of all these provisions, which in substance are commonly found in acts of the kind, is to preserve existing covenants, engagements, rights, and estates, not to enlarge them nor to create new ones. The suggestion that these provisions amount to enactments, or conditions, that the dock and common passageway which had been established by the owners of the respective wharves and another party over flats which were their private property, and the mutual covenants and restrictions of the parties relating thereto, should be extended and applied to the public waters between the extended wharves, probably arose from the somewhat peculiar language of the provisions in the first act extending T Wharf. But the language does not indicate the intention, and will not bear the meaning suggested. The other provisions are not capable of such a construction, and to give that meaning to this provision and not to the others, and to hold that the Legislature intended by it to extend the covenants of the owners of T Wharf in regard to the common passageway above low-water mark to the flats below low-water mark, is to find the intention that such covenants and rights, mutual in the indenture, should be extended only in favor of the Commercial Wharf and against T Wharf, and is a construction which cannot be entertained.

The covenants of the indenture do not apply to any flats below low-water mark, and the damages sustained by the plaintiff by the occupation and obstruction of the flats below low-water mark by the occupants of T Wharf are not in consequence of any violation of the covenants of the indenture for which the plaintiff seeks redress. The result is, that the plaintiff is entitled to a decree enjoining the defendants against laying vessels at their wharf within the common passageway, with the exception mentioned in the indenture, westerly of the harbor channel as it was at the time of the indenture. The decree must be settled by a single judge. *Decree for the plaintiff.*

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* JAMES T. WELLINGTON.

Norfolk. April 2, 1888. — May 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Intoxicating Liquors — Possession — Evidence — Intent — Exceptions.

On an indictment for keeping and maintaining a tenement used for the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, evidence that a druggist, at whose store liquors were seized, had pending at the time an application for a druggist's license under the St. of 1887, c. 431, which was granted five days later, is competent to explain his possession of the liquors, no sale of liquors having been proved.

INDICTMENT, returned into the Superior Court on September 10, 1887, alleging that the defendant kept and maintained a common nuisance, to wit, a tenement in Stoughton, used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping of intoxicating liquors, on January 1, 1887, and on divers other days and times between that day and August 9, 1887. Trial before *Pitman*, J., who, after a verdict of guilty, allowed the following bill of exceptions:

"The government introduced the testimony of three constables of said town of Stoughton, Callahan, Vanston, and Lane, each of whom testified to a seizure of liquors made at the defendant's drug store, in said Stoughton, on the sixteenth day of July, 1887, of rum, gin, and whiskey, in quantities of less than three quarts each, contained in six ordinary druggist's ornamental shelf bottles, and one cocoa wine bottle. The latter was, at the time of seizure, on the prescription case, and the former were on the shelves of the store with other similar bottles, in an ordinarily conspicuous position. In the back room was a keg that had contained whiskey, and a bottle with some ale, and in the cellar a number of empty ale and porter bottles. No other intoxicating liquor was found. It was in testimony that the defendant's store was an ordinary druggist or apothecary store, with the stationery, fancy goods, cigars, medicines, and soda fountain usually found in an ordinary country drug store. The defendant was not present at the time of the seizure. There was also evidence that on the night of the 4th of June, 1887, the defendant and one Roach came out of the back

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door of said store in a state of intoxication; that persons had been seen coming from the shop under the influence of liquor; that persons who came out on the street drank from bottles, and that on two occasions the defendant had been seen to fill bottles from bottles in the store, and give them to customers, and had been seen to conceal from the sight of the officers bottles which he had filled for customers, as the officers stepped in. There was no evidence of a sale of liquor by the defendant. The Commonwealth rested.

"The defendant first called Hiram Blanchard, one of the selectmen of said Stoughton and the clerk of the board, and offered to show by the records of said board of selectmen, that at the time of the seizure said defendant had made application to said board of selectmen for a license of the sixth class under the statutes of 1887, and that five days after the complaint was made, which was the foundation of this indictment, such license was granted to the defendant, and was still in force; but the evidence was excluded by the court. The defendant called one Amasa Lucas, who testified that he lived next door to the defendant's said drug store, and never saw any drunken people go in or out of said store, and never bought or knew of any one else buying liquor of said defendant. Upon cross-examination by the district attorney, he was asked if he had not complained of the place to constable Callahan, to which he replied that he never had, but that he once had some conversation with Callahan alone on the street about the defendant's store. The district attorney asked what the conversation was, to which the defendant objected. The objection was overruled, and the question was put.

"The defendant, among other things, asked the court in charging the jury, to rule that, 'in determining the intent with which the defendant kept liquors which may have been upon his premises, the jury are to consider all the evidence in the case, including the evidence of his purchasing the stock as a whole from his predecessor, the evidence of the officer as to a license, the brief period which elapsed between the date of the finding the liquors and the granting of the license, and the situation in the store in which the liquors seized were kept.' This ruling was given as far as the words 'including the evidence,'

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&c., with the following comment: 'Then follows a recital of evidence, supposed to be favorable to the defendant, which I omit because I am not bound to select any particular parts of the evidence, as the Supreme Court have said, in order to help out an argument for the defendant.' The court also instructed the jury, in regard to the license of the defendant, as follows: 'There was no license at this time, and it is entirely immaterial whether there was a license afterwards, because no man is justified in selling liquor in anticipation of getting a license later on.'"

The case was submitted on briefs.

J. F. Simmons, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

C. ALLEN, J. This case is submitted to us merely on printed briefs, so that we have no opportunity of obtaining from counsel any explanations to aid us in a correct understanding of the bill of exceptions, respecting which we have been somewhat at a loss. The indictment, which was returned into court on September 10, 1887, charged the defendant with having kept a tenement used for the illegal sale and illegal keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors, from January 1, 1887, to August 9, 1887. The defendant kept a drug store. A seizure was made on July 16, 1887, and certain kinds and quantities of liquor were found, and an empty keg which had contained whiskey, and also some empty ale and porter bottles. There was no evidence of a sale. There was other evidence tending to show that the defendant was guilty, but the seizure was also relied on as material and significant evidence tending to establish his guilt; and we must necessarily treat it as important.

The defendant, for the purpose of explaining his possession of liquors at the time of the seizure, offered testimony to show that he had then made an application for a druggist's license, under the St. of 1887, c. 431, which license was granted to him five days after the making of the complaint which was the foundation of this indictment. It is thus to be inferred that there had been such a complaint before a trial justice, though the date of it is not ascertainable from the record before us, and is not absolutely essential. This evidence was excluded. The fact of the subsequent granting of the license could have no other sig-

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nificance than as it might tend to show the defendant's good faith in applying for it, and his reasonable expectation of its being granted. But the defendant contends that the fact that he had pending an application for a druggist's license was competent to be considered by the jury in explanation of the fact of his having the liquors on hand. The application for a license would certainly furnish no good explanation of the empty whiskey keg, or the empty ale and porter bottles; but possibly some other explanation might be given in respect to them. So far as the liquors on hand were concerned, it seems to us that the fact of his application for a license might properly be considered by the jury. Take a strong case. Suppose the defendant had previously had a license, and before its expiration made application for a renewal of it, but a delay happened in the granting of the new license, so that for a few days he had no license. The fact that he had liquors on hand during the interval would properly have less weight against him, if these other facts were shown. The existence of a previous license, which had shortly before expired, or the reasonable expectation of obtaining a license upon an application already made, no actual sale being shown, might have some proper weight in the minds of the jury in determining whether the liquors kept by him were intended for illegal sale.

In the instructions to the jury which were requested, reference is made to "the evidence of the officer as to a license," and this request, and the manner in which the court dealt with it, suggest a doubt whether, after all, evidence was not finally admitted that the defendant obtained a license, and had an application therefor pending at the time of the seizure. We are apprehensive that there may have been some inadvertence in signing the bill of exceptions. But we find nothing stated with sufficient distinctness to relieve us from the necessity of determining the bald question whether evidence of the fact that the defendant had an application for a license pending at the time of the seizure might have a material bearing upon the question of his intent in keeping the liquors. We are of opinion that it was admissible. *Exceptions sustained.*

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COMMONWEALTH *vs.* ANTONIO FUNAI.

Suffolk. April 3, 1888. — May 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Intoxicating Liquors — Evidence — Declaration of Wife — Admission of Husband — Exceptions — Waiver.

A declaration by a wife, speaking of a bottle of whiskey on her person, "We will sell liquor in spite of all the officers of Station 1," uttered in the presence of her husband, who was not then under arrest or duress, is competent on a complaint against him, as an implied admission and assertion that both of them were engaged in selling liquor, and that the sale was illegal.

COMPLAINT alleging that the defendant, on November 26, 1887, at Boston, unlawfully exposed and kept for sale intoxicating liquors, with intent unlawfully to sell the same in this Commonwealth. Trial in the Superior Court before *Sherman*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, which, so far as material, was as follows.

The evidence tended to prove that the defendant resided with his wife in the same building where there was an eating saloon, and at the date mentioned in the complaint police officers visited the place with a warrant to search for intoxicating liquors; that in the saloon there was a bar or counter, bottles and glasses, &c.; that in a closet back of the counter, under the stairs, after removing a board or trap door, they found twenty-five bottles of lager beer; and that while they were making the search, the defendant and his wife being present, she said, speaking of a bottle of whiskey upon her person, "We will sell liquor in spite of all the officers of Station 1." This declaration of the wife was admitted, against the objection of the defendant.

The defendant requested the judge to rule "that declarations or statements of the wife are not sufficient to warrant a conviction of the husband," and the judge said, "That is so, gentlemen, and her declarations in his presence are only competent as bearing upon the question of his approval or non-approval of the language used by her."

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

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W. G. Frye & B. Hall, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, for the Commonwealth.

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HOLMES, J. The declaration by the defendant's wife, "We will sell liquor in spite of all the officers of Station 1," contained, or might have been found to contain, an implied admission and assertion that she and her husband were engaged in selling liquor, and also that the sale was illegal. Having been uttered in the presence of her husband, and he not having been under arrest or duress at the time, it was some evidence of an admission on his part, if the declaration was understood by him in the sense first mentioned, and if the circumstances were such that according to human experience he naturally would have repudiated it, if the implied assertions were not true. *Commonwealth* v. *Brailey*, 134 Mass. 527, 530. *Commonwealth* v. *Galavan*, 9 Allen, 271. *Commonwealth* v. *Kenney*, 12 Met. 235. *Sturtevant* v. *Wallack*, 141 Mass. 119, 123. Whether the declaration was also admissible on other grounds, we need not consider. *Commonwealth* v. *Ratcliffe*, 130 Mass. 36. *Commonwealth* v. *Locke*, 145 Mass. 401.

The other exceptions are waived. *Commonwealth* v. *McCue*, 121 Mass. 358, 360. *Exceptions overruled.*

COMMONWEALTH *vs.* SARAH J. ROBINSON.

Middlesex. April 2, 1888. — May 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Murder — Evidence — Antecedent Acts.

Antecedent acts rendering the commission of a crime easier, safer, more certain, and more effective to accomplish an object, if done with that intention and purpose, are so connected with the crime as to be admissible at the trial of an indictment therefor, although themselves criminal.

It is for the presiding judge at the trial to decide, in the first instance, whether there is proof enough to connect such acts with the crime alleged so as to render evidence thereof admissible, in determining which it is only necessary that there should be so much proof as to make it proper to submit the whole evidence to the jury, and not that he should be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt.

At the trial of a woman indicted for murder, it appeared that the deceased was insured in a beneficiary association, his wife, who was the prisoner's sister, being

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the beneficiary; that the wife died after an illness of about three weeks; that immediately after her death the insured went to live with the prisoner and duly made her his beneficiary; that he died soon after by arsenic, being ill about six days; and that the prisoner, who from a period prior to the wife's death had been harassed by creditors, received the insurance money, and out of it paid off her debts. To prove a scheme on the prisoner's part to obtain the insurance first through a murder of the wife and then of the husband, evidence was offered that before the wife's death the prisoner knew of the insurance; that during the wife's illness she expressed the opinion that her sister would never recover, saying that she had had a terrible dream, and that when she had such a dream one of the family always died; that before, as well as after, the death of the insured, she expressed a wish to have him live with her, and asked others to urge him to do so; that on the day of the wife's funeral she said that his sister wished him to live with her so as to get the insurance, but that she, the prisoner, had the best right to it and wanted it; that on the same day she asked the insured if the insurance was made over to herself, and afterwards said she was afraid it would not be; that on the day the insured was taken ill, and afterwards, she sent to the association to see if the papers were right, and if she would get the insurance in case anything happened to him; that she was told before his death by the secretary that the papers were all right; and that she asked the secretary not to tell his sister about the insurance. *Held*, that the evidence was sufficient to warrant the introduction of further evidence that the prisoner poisoned the wife.

INDICTMENT for the murder of Prince Arthur Freeman by poisoning. At the trial, before *Field* and *Knowlton*, JJ., there was evidence tending to prove the following facts.

In February, 1885, Freeman occupied a tenement in South Boston with his wife, Annie Freeman, who was a sister of the defendant, and their two children. On February 20, 1885, the defendant called upon her sister, staying but a short time, and on February 23, 1885, again went to her sister's house to take care of her, and there stayed until Mrs. Freeman died, on February 26, 1885, after an illness of about three weeks. The children had been taken to the defendant's house in Cambridge on February 22, and, immediately after the death of his wife, Freeman went to live with the defendant, and there remained, with his children, one of whom died in April, 1885. In 1882 Freeman took out a certificate of insurance for $2,000 in the United Order of Pilgrim Fathers, his wife being the beneficiary named in the certificate, and after her death, on or about May 13, 1885, appointed the defendant his beneficiary under the certificate, as authorized by the by-laws of the order. Freeman, while still an inmate of the defendant's family, died, on June 27, 1885, after an illness of about six days, from the effects of arsenic

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administered to him by the defendant. From a period prior to 1885, the defendant had been indebted to different persons to the amount of six or seven hundred dollars, which she was unable to pay, and for which she had been hard pressed by her creditors, and this indebtedness she paid off out of Freeman's insurance, which she duly received from the order on September 23, 1885.

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The government contended — and offered, for the sole purpose of establishing the defendant's motive in killing Freeman, evidence to prove — that prior to the death of Annie Freeman the defendant had formed the plan and intention of securing to her own use the $2,000 of insurance, and as a means of accomplishing this result, and as a part of the scheme, determined first to kill her, then to induce Freeman to make her the beneficiary under the certificate, and then to kill him. Upon this offer the court ruled as follows: "If evidence direct or circumstantial is offered and admitted tending to show that this defendant knew before her sister's death of the existence of the insurance, and that it could be transferred on the death of her sister to herself, and made payable to herself on the death of her brother-in-law, and that she before her sister's death had formed in her own mind a plan or intention to obtain this insurance for her own benefit, and this plan or intention continued to exist and be operative up to the time of the death of the brother-in-law, then we are of the opinion that evidence may be offered that her sister died of poison, and that this defendant administered it as a part of the method employed by her to carry this plan or intention into effect, in connection with evidence that she administered poison to her brother-in-law as another part of the same plan or intention. We think that evidence of this knowledge and plan or intention on the part of the defendant, if there be any, should first be offered, that the court may judge whether it is sufficient to warrant the introduction of evidence that the sister died of poison administered by the defendant."

The government thereupon offered evidence to prove such a scheme on the part of the defendant, which was admitted. This contention of the government, and offer of evidence of the alleged scheme and intention of the defendant, the arguments of counsel, and the above ruling of the court thereon, were all made in open

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court, in the presence of the defendant, but in the absence of the jury. The evidence so far as material was as follows.

Susan S. Marshall testified that the defendant remarked to her that Prince Arthur Freeman was insured in or had joined the order about the time he joined it in 1882; that during the sickness of Mrs. Freeman, at the defendant's request, she assisted in taking care of her; that while she was there the defendant expressed the opinion that Mrs. Freeman would not live; and that immediately after Mrs. Freeman's death the defendant requested her to use her influence with Freeman to take his children and come to live with her.

Mrs. Mary J. Wright testified that she lived in the same house with Mrs. Freeman in South Boston at the time of her death; that she frequently saw the defendant while she was taking care of her sister; that she frequently heard the defendant say, before her sister's death, that she was satisfied her sister would never recover; that on one occasion the defendant said that she had had a terrible dream, and that she knew her sister would never get any better, as whenever she had a dream like that there was always one of the family died, and that she knew her sister would never recover; that at the time the defendant came, Mrs. Freeman seemed to be getting better, when, all at once, she seemed to sink very fast; that the defendant asked her, before and after Mrs. Freeman's death, to use her influence with Freeman to come and live with her with the children after her death; that on one occasion the defendant requested Freeman to go into the chamber where his wife was, and when she came out she said, "There, I have fixed it all right now, — any little rings, or anything that Annie has, I have had distributed so that there will be no trouble if anything should happen to her, and the children are to come to me"; and that the defendant expressed the opinion that Mrs. Freeman would not recover, and within a day or two after she came to take care of her said to various persons who came in that her sister would never recover.

Mary L. Moore testified that on three occasions during Mrs. Freeman's sickness, and while the defendant was there, she took care of her during the night; that the defendant did not seem to think her sister would recover; that the defendant desired her to use her influence with Freeman to come and live with her

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after his wife's death; that Freeman's life was insured, and that it was in her sister's name; and that after Mrs. Freeman's death the defendant told her that the Freemans were going to live with her, and that she did not wish them to live with his relatives.

Belle M. Clough testified, that she was an intimate friend of the defendant's family; that she attended the funeral of Mrs. Freeman at South Boston, and returned in a carriage with the defendant from the cemetery; that on the way she had a conversation with the defendant about the insurance, and the Freemans living with her; that the defendant said she wished them to live with her, but that Mrs. Melvin, a sister of Freeman, was very anxious to have him live with her; that the defendant said that all Mrs. Melvin wanted was to get the insurance made over to her, but that she had the best right to it, and it was her sister's request that it should be made over to her, and she wanted it; that the defendant said that she had requested her daughter to use all her influence upon her uncle to go and live with them, as her daughter had a great deal of influence over him; that at the supper after the funeral at Freeman's house, the defendant had a conversation with him about the insurance; that she was very anxious to have him come as soon as possible to her house to live, and he said that he would come just as soon as he could get the things at the house straightened out; that the defendant wanted to know if the insurance was made over to her, and he said it was not, but should be; that the defendant said that his mother and sister were anxious to have him come with them now that they saw he had an insurance, but before that they did not care anything about him; that the subject of insurance was afterwards quite frequently spoken of by the defendant, who said that she was afraid that Freeman would not make the insurance over to her; that he was going over to his folks every Sunday, and she thought they had a good deal of influence over him, as he had changed considerably, and was not as pleasant at the house with her; that on the evening that Freeman was taken sick, June 22, the defendant asked the witness to go over to Boston with the defendant's daughter, to a colony of the order of which he was a member, to see if all the papers were right in case anything happened to him, whether the defendant

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would get the insurance, and if all the assessments were paid up; that the defendant sent over to see about the insurance once or twice afterwards before his death; and that some time after Freeman's death the defendant said that the insurance was made over to her to take care of the child, and that after she had paid all of Freeman's bills there was very little left for the boy.

Florence A. Stanwood testified, that she was secretary of the colony of which Freeman was a member, and went over to the defendant's house the day before Freeman's death, because of a message from her daughter and the witness Clough; that there was a conversation about the insurance in the presence of the defendant and Freeman; that she informed them that the papers were all right; that after the interview the defendant went with her into the parlor, and there requested her not to tell about the insurance; and that the defendant said that Mrs. Melvin, as soon as there was some money coming, would want to take care of the children for the sake of it.

William Foster testified, that he was at the defendant's on the day of Mrs. Freeman's death, and had a conversation with the defendant, who said that there was an insurance of two thousand dollars in the colony of the Pilgrim Fathers, and that the insurance had been made over to her; that she would not have taken Freeman if the insurance had not been made over to her; that probably Freeman's friends would want the insurance papers, but that she did not think they would find them, for they had been put away where she thought they would be unable to get them.

The government offered evidence tending to prove the death of Annie Freeman by arsenic, knowingly administered by the defendant.

The defendant objected to the admission of this evidence, on the ground that no evidence, and no sufficient evidence, had been offered to prove the alleged scheme and intention of the defendant; that no sufficient foundation had been laid for the introduction of any evidence relating to the cause of the death of Annie Freeman, or the defendant's connection therewith; and that it was not competent, notwithstanding any evidence of the scheme or intention, to prove the cause of the death of Annie

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Freeman, or the defendant's connection therewith; but the court overruled the objection, and admitted the evidence.

The court ruled, and instructed the jury, that, upon a trial of a defendant for the commission of a crime, evidence that at another time he committed a similar crime could not be received or considered as tending to show that he committed the crime for which he was on trial; that evidence tending to show that the defendant killed her sister, Annie Freeman, was not to be considered as indicating that she would be likely to kill Prince Arthur Freeman; and that all the evidence in relation to the death of Annie Freeman was only to be considered so far as it bore upon the question whether the defendant, at the time of the alleged murder of Prince Arthur Freeman, was actuated by the motive which was imputed to her by the Commonwealth, to obtain for her own use the life insurance money payable on his death.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

J. B. Goodrich & D. F. Crane, for the defendant.

A. J. Waterman, Attorney General, (*H. C. Bliss*, Assistant Attorney General with him,) for the Commonwealth.

C. ALLEN, J. We have given to this case a degree of attention commensurate with its importance, and have come to the conclusion that there was no error in the conduct of the trial.

While it is well settled in this Commonwealth, that, on the trial of an indictment, the government cannot be allowed to prove other independent crimes for the purpose of showing that the defendant is wicked enough to commit the crime on trial, this rule does not extend so far as to exclude evidence of acts or crimes which are shown to have been committed as part of the same common purpose, or in pursuance of it. *Commonwealth* v. *Jackson*, 132 Mass. 16, 18. *Commonwealth* v. *Blood*, 141 Mass. 571, 575. In such cases there is a distinct and significant probative effect, resulting from the continuance of the same plan or scheme, and from the doing of other acts in pursuance thereof. It is somewhat of the nature of threats or declarations of intention, but more especially of preparations for the commission of the crime which is the subject of the indictment. If, for example, it could be shown that a defendant had formed a settled

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purpose to obtain certain property, which could only be got by doing several preliminary things, the last of which in the order of time was criminal, the government might show, on his trial for the commission of that last criminal act, that he had formed the purpose to accomplish the result of obtaining the property, and that he had done all of the preliminary things which were necessary to that end. This would be quite plain if the evidence of the purpose were direct and clear; as if a letter in the defendant's handwriting should be discovered, stating in terms to a confederate his purpose to obtain the property by the doing of the several successive acts, the last of which was the criminal act on trial. In such case, no one would question that proof might be offered that the defendant had done all the preliminary acts referred to, which were necessary steps in the accomplishment of his purpose. But such purpose may also be shown by circumstantial evidence. It is, indeed, usually the case, that intentions, plans, purposes, can only be shown in this way. Express declarations of intention, or confessions, are comparatively rare; and therefore all the circumstances of the defendant's situation, conduct, speech, silence, motives, may be considered. The plan itself, and the acts done in pursuance of it, may all be proved by circumstantial evidence, if they are of themselves relevant and material to the case on trial. And in such a case it makes no difference whether the preliminary acts are criminal or not; otherwise, the greater the criminal, the greater his immunity. Such preliminary acts are not competent because they are criminal, but because they are relevant to the issue on trial; and the fact that they are criminal does not render them irrelevant. Suppose, for further example, one is charged with breaking a bank, and there is evidence that he had made preliminary examinations from a neighboring room; the fact that his occupation of such room was accomplished by a criminal breaking and entering would not render the evidence incompetent. It is sometimes said that such evidence may be introduced where the several crimes form part of one entire transaction; but it is perhaps better to say, where they have some connection with each other, as a part of the same plan, or induced by the same motive. Precedent acts which render the commission of the crime charged more easy, more safe, more

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certain, more effective to produce the ultimate result which formed the general motive and inducement, if done with that intention and purpose, have such a connection with the crime charged as to be admissible, though they are also of themselves criminal.

We do not understand that this general view, stated thus, is distinctly controverted by the counsel for the prisoner, and it is supported by a great number of decisions, only a few of which are here cited. *Commonwealth* v. *Scott*, 123 Mass. 222. *Commonwealth* v. *Choate*, 105 Mass. 451. *Swan* v. *Commonwealth*, 104 Penn. St. 218. *Goersen* v. *Commonwealth*, 99 Penn. St. 388. *Shaffner* v. *Commonwealth*, 72 Penn. St. 60. *Mayer* v. *People*, 80 N. Y. 364, 375. See also *Jordan* v. *Osgood*, 109 Mass. 457. For cases where such connection was not shown, but where the principle was recognized, see *Commonwealth* v. *Jackson*, 132 Mass. 16; *State* v. *Lapage*, 57 N. H. 245, 295; *People* v. *Sharp* (opinion by Peckham, J.), 107 N. Y. 427, 466.

The ruling at the trial, therefore, was correct, that if evidence should be offered and admitted tending to show that the prisoner knew before her sister's death of the existence of the insurance, and that it could be transferred on the death of her sister to herself, and made payable to herself on the death of Freeman, and that before her sister's death she had formed a plan or intention to obtain this insurance for her own benefit, and this plan or intention continued to exist or be operative up to the time of Freeman's death, then that evidence might be offered to show that her sister died of poison, and that the prisoner administered it as a part of the method employed by her to carry this plan or intention into effect, in connection with evidence that she administered poison to Freeman as another part of the same plan and with the same general intention. The court therefore properly held that evidence of this knowledge and plan or intention on the part of the prisoner should first be offered, that the court might judge whether it was sufficient to warrant the introduction of evidence that the sister died of poison administered by the prisoner. This claim and offer of proof on the part of the government, and the arguments of counsel, and the said ruling of the court thereon, were all made in open court, in the prisoner's presence, but in the absence of the jury.

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The government accordingly proceeded to introduce, with its other evidence to the jury, certain testimony in support of said alleged scheme or intention on the part of the prisoner, which is recited in the bill of exceptions; and after said testimony had been received, it offered evidence tending to prove the death of the prisoner's sister by arsenic, knowingly administered by the prisoner. This evidence was objected to, on the ground that no sufficient evidence had been offered in proof of said alleged scheme or intention, and on other grounds; but the court overruled the objection, and admitted the evidence, subject to the prisoner's exception.

In seeking a new trial on account of the admission of this testimony, the argument of the prisoner's counsel, briefly stated, is as follows: Preliminary evidence must be given to show that the acts offered to be proved were done in pursuance and as a part of some plan or scheme to accomplish the particular result; it is the exclusive province of the court to determine if such evidence is sufficient; the decision of the court, admitting the evidence, is subject to revision in the present case, the testimony upon which that decision was founded having been reported for the purpose; it is not enough that there was some evidence, but the preliminary evidence must amount to proof; the ruling of the court did not expressly affirm the necessity of such proof, that is, as we understand the argument, the necessity of such amount or degree of proof; and, finally, this court, upon a revision of the preliminary evidence reported, should now hold that it was not sufficient to warrant the introduction of evidence to show that the prisoner poisoned her sister, Mrs. Freeman. The last three of these propositions are the only ones which need any further attention.

A consideration of the nature of the question which is presented to the court, when it is called upon to decide upon a preliminary question of fact, in order to determine whether offered evidence shall be received, will show that its determination reaches no further than merely to decide whether the evidence may or may not go to the jury. The decision upon this particular question of the admissibility of the evidence is ordinarily conclusive, unless the judge sees fit to reserve or report the question for future revision. *Dole* v. *Thurlow*, 12

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Met. 157. *Gorton* v. *Hadsell*, 9 Cush. 508, 511. *O'Connor* v. *Hallinan*, 103 Mass. 547. *Walker* v. *Curtis*, 116 Mass. 98. And in this respect the rule is the same in criminal cases. *Commonwealth* v. *Hills*, 10 Cush. 530. *Commonwealth* v. *Mullins*, 2 Allen, 295. *Commonwealth* v. *Morrell*, 99 Mass. 542. *Commonwealth* v. *Culver*, 126 Mass. 464. *Commonwealth* v. *Gray*, 129 Mass. 474.

But where, in a case like the present, the admissibility of testimony depends upon the determination of some prior fact by the court, there is no rule of law that, in order to render the testimony admissible, such prior fact must be established by a weight of evidence which will amount to a demonstration, and shut out all doubt or question of its existence. It is only necessary that there should be so much evidence as to make it proper to submit the whole evidence to the jury. The fact of the admission of the evidence by the judge does not in a legal sense give it any greater weight with the jury; it does not affect the burden of proof, or change the duty of the jury in weighing the whole evidence. They must still be satisfied, in a criminal case, upon the whole evidence, beyond a reasonable doubt. Ordinarily, questions of fact are exclusively for the jury, and questions of law for the court. But when, in order to pass upon the admissibility of evidence, the determination of a preliminary question of fact is necessary, the court in the due and orderly course of the trial must necessarily determine it, as far as is necessary for that purpose, and usually without the assistance, at that stage, of the jury. If, under such circumstances, testimony is admitted against a party's objection, it may often happen that he may still ask the jury to disregard it.

Numerous illustrations of the foregoing view might be given, but a few must suffice us. In an indictment for murder, where the question was as to the admissibility of certain statements in the nature of confessions, which were objected to as having been obtained by means of inducements, it was held by this court as follows: "When a confession is offered in a criminal case, and the defendant objects that he was induced to make it by threats or promises, it necessarily devolves upon the court to determine the preliminary question whether such inducements are shown. . . . . If the presiding judge is satisfied that there were such

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inducements, the confession is to be rejected; if he is not satisfied, the evidence is admitted. But if there is any conflict of testimony or room for doubt, the court will submit this question to the jury with instructions that if they are satisfied that there were such inducements, they shall disregard and reject the confession." *Commonwealth* v. *Piper*, 120 Mass. 185, 188. Similar questions arise when it is objected that a witness is not of sufficient capacity to testify intelligently; or that a third person, whose declarations or acts are offered in evidence against a party, was not a partner, agent, or co-conspirator, and did not stand in such a relation as to make his declarations or acts admissible; and in other cases.

In *Commonwealth* v. *Brown*, 14 Gray, 419, which was an indictment for causing the death of a woman by means of an attempt to procure a miscarriage, the judge at the trial decided, as matter of fact, on the preliminary question, that there was *prima facie* evidence that the defendant and two other persons were jointly acting in combination and concert, and aiding and assisting each other in carrying out a common enterprise of procuring an abortion, so as to make the acts and declarations of those two persons competent, and admitted the evidence; and then left the question to be determined by the jury whether they were acting in concert with the defendant or not, with instructions that, if so, the acts and declarations might be considered by them, otherwise not. This course was held by this court to be correct (pp. 425, 426, 432); the court saying, "The conspiracy of the parties was first satisfactorily made to appear to the court." In *Commonwealth* v. *Crowninshield*, 10 Pick. 497, a similar doctrine was held.

In all such cases, the court, in deciding to admit the offered testimony, does no more than to hold that enough has been shown to make it proper to submit the testimony to the jury, leaving its weight and credit for their determination. The decision of the judge does not relieve the party offering the testimony from the necessity of establishing every material fact to the satisfaction of the jury. See also *Commonwealth* v. *Scott*, 123 Mass. 222, 235; *Commonwealth* v. *Waterman*, 122 Mass. 43, 59; *Commonwealth* v. *Preece*, 140 Mass. 276; *Ormsby* v. *People*, 53 N. Y. 472; *Swan* v. *Commonwealth*, 104 Penn. St. 218.

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1 Greenl. Ev. §§ 49, 111. Steph. Ev. (Chase's ed.) art. 4. In this view of the law, it was not necessary that the court should find that the preliminary evidence amounted to full proof, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the prisoner poisoned her sister in pursuance of a general plan or scheme, in which the poisoning of Mr. Freeman was a later step.

We are further of the opinion, that the preliminary evidence which was before the court was sufficient to warrant the introduction of evidence to show that the prisoner poisoned her sister, Mrs. Freeman. Certain facts were not in dispute. Prince Arthur Freeman, the person whom the prisoner was charged in the indictment with having poisoned, held a certificate of membership in a society which provided for the payment of $2,000 upon his death to the beneficiary named therein, with a power of substitution; his wife, who was the prisoner's sister, was named as beneficiary; she died on February 26, 1885, after an illness of about three weeks; the prisoner called at Freeman's house in South Boston on February 20th, and on February 23d went there to take care of Mrs. Freeman, and stayed till her death; immediately after Mrs. Freeman's death, Mr. Freeman, with his two children, went to live with the prisoner at her house in Cambridge; one of the children died in April; on or about May 13th, Mr. Freeman appointed the prisoner as beneficiary under the certificate of membership; he died on June 27th, after an illness of about six days, from arsenic; the prisoner, on September 23, 1885, received $2,000 from the society upon said certificate. Prior to 1885 the prisoner was owing several hundred dollars, which she was unable to pay, and for which she was hard pressed by her creditors, and which she paid out of the $2,000 so received by her.

As tending to prove the plan or scheme on her part to obtain this life insurance money through the murder of Mrs. Freeman, and then of Mr. Freeman, there was evidence to the effect that before Mrs. Freeman's death the prisoner knew of the certificate of membership insuring Mr. Freeman for his wife's benefit; that during Mrs. Freeman's illness the prisoner expressed the opinion that her sister would never recover, and said that she (the prisoner) had had a terrible dream, and whenever she had a dream like that one of the family always died; that before, as well as

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after, Mrs. Freeman's death, the prisoner expressed the wish to have Mr. Freeman with his children come and live with her, and asked different persons to urge him to do so; that on the day of Mrs. Freeman's funeral the prisoner said that Mr. Freeman's sister, Mrs. Melvin, was very anxious to have him live with her, and that all Mrs. Melvin wanted was to get the insurance made over to her, but the prisoner said she herself had the best right to it, and it was her sister's request that it should be made over to her, and she wanted it; that on the same day she talked with Mr. Freeman about the insurance, wanted to know if it was made over to her, and he said it was not, but should be; that quite frequently afterward she said she was afraid he would not make it over to her; that on June 22d, the same day when he was taken sick (which was after it had been made over to her), she sent to the society to see if the papers were right, in case anything happened to Mr. Freeman, and whether she would get the insurance, and to see that all assessments were paid up; that the appointment for the money to be payable to her was recorded in the books of the society not earlier than June 23d; that she also sent over to see about the insurance once or twice afterwards, before his death, and had an interview with the secretary of the society upon the same subject in Mr. Freeman's presence, the day before his death, and was told that the papers were all right, and afterwards, when not in his presence, requested the secretary not to tell Mr. Freeman's sister about the insurance. This evidence certainly tended to show a scheme and plan, entered into before Mrs. Freeman's death, to have the insurance money made payable to the prisoner. *Exceptions overruled.*

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FRANK T. KELLEY & others *vs.* AARON N. SALTMARSH & others.

Essex. April 3, 1888. — May 3, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Deed — Right of Way — Change of Grade — Support — Extrinsic Evidence.

Under a deed of the fee to the centre of a private way as laid out on a plan, and of a right of way over it, subject to a like right in the grantor, the latter has no right to cut down the grade of the way to the injury of the grantee; and evidence of an oral agreement conferring such a right is inadmissible.

BILL IN EQUITY to restrain the defendants from cutting down the grade, eight or ten feet, of a private way, called Myrtle Street, in Haverhill. The case was heard on a master's report, and exceptions thereto, by *C. Allen*, J., who ordered a decree for the plaintiffs; and the defendants appealed to the full court. The facts appear in the opinion.

J. P. Jones & S. L. Whipple, for the defendants.

I. A. Abbott, for the plaintiffs.

MORTON, C. J. The defendants, being the equitable owners of a large tract of land, laid it out in streets and lots, delineated on a plan. One of the streets was Myrtle Street, twenty-five feet wide. They sold to the plaintiffs respectively lots on Myrtle Street, by deeds in which the boundaries ran to Myrtle Street, and thence by Myrtle Street to monuments named. These deeds conveyed to the plaintiffs respectively the right of way over Myrtle Street as laid out, and also the fee to the centre of the street, subject to the right of way in the defendants and their grantees. *Peck* v. *Denniston*, 121 Mass. 17.

As is stated in *Killian* v. *Kelley*, 120 Mass. 47, where there are several owners in common of a private way, each owner may make reasonable improvements and repairs which do not injuriously affect his co-owners, but he cannot make any alteration of the course of the way, or any change in its grade or surface which makes it less convenient and useful to any one who has an equal right in the way.

In the case at bar, the defendants have the right to level and work the surface of the way so as to make it convenient and

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practicable as a way, so far as they can do so without injuring the plaintiffs or the other co-owners of the way. But they have no right to cut down the grade, as they propose to do, eight or ten feet. The master has found that this would materially injure the plaintiffs' lots, and endanger their buildings, unless proper support is furnished to the soil of the plaintiffs. Even if such support is furnished, yet it would make a material change in the way and diminish the convenience of the plaintiffs in the use of their rights of way. The plaintiffs cannot be compelled to submit to such a change of their rights against their wills. *Killion* v. *Kelley*, *ubi supra*. *Meehan* v. *Barry*, 97 Mass. 447.

Such being the rights of the parties under the deeds, it was not competent for the defendants to prove a previous or contemporary oral agreement that they should have the right to cut down the grade of Myrtle Street eight or ten feet. The deeds to the plaintiffs were made by William Hale, but he was acting merely as the trustee or agent of the defendants, who alone were beneficially interested, and they are to be regarded in the same light as if the deeds were made directly by them. There is no ambiguity in the deeds which calls for oral testimony to explain them. The rights of the parties under them are clear. The deeds settle their rights, and it is not competent for the defendants to enlarge their rights, or to restrict or limit the grant to the plaintiffs by proof of an oral agreement made before or at the time the deeds were made. *Miller* v. *Washburn*, 117 Mass. 371.

Decree affirmed.

JOHN MOYNIHAN *vs.* HILLS COMPANY.

Hampshire. September 28, 29, 1887. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., FIELD, DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Master and Servant — Negligence — Due Care — Fellow Servant — Personal Injuries.

Evidence that a servant, while properly using a machine, not known to him to be out of repair, was injured by the breaking of an iron rod thereon, the break not appearing to be a fresh one, and that the master had caused the rod, which had been used for nearly two years without inspection and was subjected to a strain

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tending to make it brittle, to carry double the weight placed on it by the maker of the machine, warrants a finding that the servant was in the exercise of due care, and that the master was guilty of negligence.

If a master, who is not a mechanic and who has no practical knowledge of machinery, intrusts the reconstruction of a machine to a machinist in his employment, to adapt it to a new use, tells him to act according to his own judgment in so doing, and directs him to take charge of it when done, and to repair it when necessary, the negligence of such machinist is imputable to the master.

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TORT for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff, on May 10, 1884, while in the defendant's employment. At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Barker*, J., there was evidence tending to prove the following facts.

The defendant, a corporation engaged in the business of manufacturing and finishing straw hats, in 1880, purchased, upon the recommendation of its superintendent, new machinery, to be operated by steam power, for pressing the crowns of hats, from a manufacturer of such machinery in Norwalk, Connecticut. The defendant's officers were not mechanics, and had no practical knowledge of machinery. Each of these machines was constructed with a ball suspended upon a rod, and weighing one hundred and thirteen pounds, which acted as a counterbalance to that portion of it called the dome, by which the pressing was done, and which weighed about six hundred pounds. In 1882 or 1883 the defendant caused four of the machines to be rebuilt, so as to press the brims of hats as well as the crowns at the same time. The dome in each was made larger and heavier in order to accomplish this, and the counterbalancing weight was increased by placing another ball of equal weight upon the rod already in use in each machine. Mitchell Marcil, a competent and skilful machinist, had charge of the defendant's machinery, and was given the entire charge by it of the reconstruction of the four machines, having for that purpose three assistants. The machines were set up on a bench, through which the weights passed vertically while they were in operation. The weights in passing up and down acquired a pendulum motion, the weights sometimes striking the side of the building and the floor, wearing away a portion of each, and the rods striking certain iron pipes along the side of the building. The blows so received by the weights and the rods themselves had a tendency to cause a rod of iron so situated to take on a crystalline structure and become

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brittle, the proper method of preventing which was by annealing the rod from time to time.

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On May 10, 1884, the plaintiff, who was twenty-seven years old, was pressing hats upon one of the reconstructed machines in a usual and proper manner, when the rod sustaining the weights on it broke, and let the dome down upon the plaintiff's hand and wrist, crushing the bones, so that it became necessary to amputate the hand. Prior to the accident, the plaintiff had worked upon the different hat-pressing machines more or less for three years, and had some knowledge of their construction and operation, and the danger attending the use of them, but he had not worked on the machine in question for more than a month, and had no knowledge that it was out of repair. The rod broke at a point that was slightly discolored, as if it were not a fresh break, and as if there had been a flaw there. The rods in the four machines were examined, at the time of the reconstruction, by an assistant of Marcil, and they were examined again in January, 1883, when an extra nut was put upon each rod below the weights; but there was no inspection of them at any time by Marcil.

Albion F. Bemis testified that he was the defendant's secretary and treasurer, its superintendent, and a director; that there were three directors, neither of whom was a machinist; that he had no practical knowledge of the use of tools and machinery; that he had not examined the rod prior to the accident; that Marcil was the defendant's general machinist, and had charge of the machinery; that he was called upon to do any work that required a machinist, and was directed to see what needed to be done, and to do it; that supplies, tools, and proper material were furnished to keep all these machines in proper condition; that Marcil "had charge of the building these machines, fixing them over"; that "the matter of changing them over was intrusted entirely to" Marcil; that Marcil "was left to do the fitting up of that machine on his own judgment." As to the broken rod he testified as follows: "I saw both parts where it broke; I saw it again in the office before I sent Walker, the clerk, to the blacksmith shop, relative to getting another rod to keep the press running; as I remember it, it was a break nearly straight across; it appeared to me it was not of equal brightness all the way across, as though there had been a check there, or

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something of that sort; it broke very nearly square across; as I remember it, there was a slight discoloration there, as though there had been a flaw; it was slightly discolored, as if it was not a fresh break. I don't think it was very noticeable; it was not a black spot, but it appeared to me as though the iron had not freshly parted. . . . . My attention was particularly called to the break, but I did not notice anything outside of that; of course I must have looked the rod over at the time, but my attention was mainly directed to the break. I examined each end; it appeared dull or cloudy like; it seemed to me as though there had been a flaw or check there, or something of that sort."

Marcil testified that he was the defendant's head machinist; that he had worked as a machinist at different places for about twenty-four years; that he was placed in charge of the defendant's machinery; that the hat-pressing machines were used at first without success, and that he thought that he could make a success of them, and could fix them, and was told so to do; that it took him about four weeks, after he got the castings and various parts, to rebuild the machines, with the assistance of three men; that the balls were placed on the machines to counterbalance the dome; that he never weighed the balls, but thought that the rods on which they were placed were strong enough; that the rods looked all alike to him, and he thought they were safe; that at the time he set up the machines he noticed the rod which broke only long enough to put on the balls and nuts; that he must have handled the rod at that time; that he saw no appearance of any defect whatever; and that none of the rods in the other machines had broken that he knew of. On cross-examination he testified: "I did not put this machine together the first time; I did not notice this rod at any time; I did not notice it the second time any more than to put it on; I did not inspect it; I did not accustom myself to look this machine over, any more than when I got it done I thought it was all right; when I got it done I did not look at it again until the time of the accident; I do not remember ever inspecting that rod from the time it was set up until the day Moynihan was hurt; I do not remember having any instruction from Bemis about it in any way whatever; I do not believe I ever noticed that hole in the floor until after Moynihan was hurt; I do not remember as

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I ever noticed about the flaw until after Moynihan was hurt; I do not remember as I ever noticed the worn spot on the side of the rod; I do not remember as I ever noticed the wearing on the floor or on the water pipe; I do not remember about the wall; I never was instructed to go through that room and inspect the machines, only when they come to tell me something give out."

The defendant asked the judge to rule, that on the evidence the plaintiff was not entitled to recover; that there was no evidence that Marcil was not a competent man for the defendant to employ and intrust with the reconstruction and repair of the machine; that the defendant was not negligent in so employing him and so intrusting him; and that if the accident happened by reason of the negligence of Marcil, the plaintiff could not recover.

The judge declined so to rule, but instructed the jury that there was evidence tending to show that Marcil was employed by the defendant in order to make repairs and reconstruct the machine; that there was evidence that he was an experienced and skilful mechanic, and no evidence tended to show that he was otherwise; that upon the evidence the defendant was not negligent in intrusting to him the repairs and reconstruction of the machines; that it was a question of fact for them to decide, whether Marcil was negligent in making those repairs and in reconstructing this machine; and that if Marcil was negligent, then his negligence would not be that of a fellow servant, but of the defendant, for which the defendant would be answerable if such negligence was the sole cause of the injury.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for $4,125; and the defendant alleged exceptions. The case was argued at the bar in September, 1887, and afterwards was submitted on briefs to all the judges.

D. W. Bond & J. I. Cooper, for the defendant.

J. C. Hammond, for the plaintiff.

KNOWLTON, J. The defendant's request for a ruling that upon the evidence the plaintiff was not entitled to recover, was rightly refused. There was testimony tending to show that the plaintiff was using the machine in a proper manner, and that he did not know it was out of repair. This would warrant a find-

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ing that he was in the exercise of due care. The fact that the machine broke, in the manner described, from the use for which it was intended, was evidence that it was defective and unsafe, and the fact that the defendant was then using it in its business, if left unexplained, was some evidence of the defendant's negligence. *White* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 144 Mass. 404. But, beyond that, it was proved that the rod which broke was designed to carry one iron ball weighing about one hundred and thirteen pounds, and that under the defendant's direction the machine had been reconstructed, and the rod made to carry two such balls. There was also testimony that it had been subjected to a use which caused the iron in the rod to vibrate while under a strain, and which tended to crystallize it and make it brittle, and that there had been no inspection of it to ascertain its condition for nearly two years before the accident. The defendant's secretary and treasurer, who was also its superintendent and one of its directors, testified that the rod was slightly discolored at the place of the fracture, as if the break was not fresh, and that it appeared to him as if the iron had not freshly parted. Upon this evidence it was for the jury to decide whether or not the defendant was negligent.

The court was also requested to rule, that, if the accident happened by reason of negligence of Marcil, the plaintiff could not recover. This ruling was refused, and the jury were instructed that negligence of Marcil in making the repairs and reconstructing the machine would be negligence of the corporation, for which the corporation would be answerable if it was the sole cause of the injury. The principal question in the case is whether or not this instruction was correct.

The rights of a plaintiff who has been injured by defective machinery of a defendant for whom he was working, depend upon the contract, express or implied, under which he was employed. In making a contract for service, if the business is to be carried on by many persons working together in a factory, the parties naturally contemplate the existence of machinery, tools, and appliances, and the presence of other employees, who will be fellow servants of him who is contracting to serve. In the absence of an express stipulation, the master impliedly agrees to provide and maintain reasonably safe and suitable machinery and appliances,

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so far as the exercise of proper care on his part will secure them, and the servant agrees to assume all the ordinary risks of the business, and among them the risk of injury from negligence of his fellow servants. This obligation which the master assumes is personal, and pertains to him in his relation to the business as proprietor, and in his relation to the servant as master. It has been repeatedly held that he cannot discharge it by delegating the performance of his duty to another. *Ford* v. *Fitchburg Railroad*, 110 Mass. 240. *Kelley* v. *Norcross*, 121 Mass. 508. *Killea* v. *Faxon*, 125 Mass. 485. *Elmer* v. *Locke*, 135 Mass. 575. *Lawless* v. *Connecticut River Railroad*, 136 Mass. 1. *Flike* v. *Boston & Albany Railroad*, 53 N. Y. 549. *Hough* v. *Railway*, 100 U. S. 213. And if he employs agents or servants to represent him in the performance of this duty, they are to that extent agents or servants for whose conduct he is responsible.

The very nature of the implied contract created by the hiring, whereby he undertakes to use proper care in always providing safe tools and appliances, is inconsistent with his delegation of the duty to a fellow servant, for whose negligence he is not to be responsible. His obligation involves the exercise of every kind of care and diligence which is necessary to give him knowledge of the condition as to safety of his machinery and appliances, so far as such knowledge is obtainable by reasonable effort. His duty relates to the condition of these articles when they come to the hands of his servants for use, and the performance of that duty must carry him just so far into details as it is reasonably necessary to go, in view of the nature and risks of the business, to enable him reasonably to protect his servants from a danger which he should prevent.

It is obvious that difficult questions arise in cases of this kind in determining the implied obligations of the respective parties under peculiar circumstances. In many kinds of business the condition of a machine as to safety is constantly changing with the use of it, and it is safe or unsafe at a given moment according as it is properly or improperly used and managed by the servant who operates it. Moreover, certain kinds of repairs can be conveniently and properly made, under direction and supervision, by servants regularly employed in the business. In such cases both parties to the contract of service must be presumed

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to have contemplated that, to a certain extent, fellow servants would be employed by the master to do work in keeping the machinery safe. Work negligently done within that field, if an accident should happen from it, would seem at first to introduce a conflict between the obligation of the master to hold himself liable for want of due care in keeping his machinery safe, and the obligation of the servant not to claim damages resulting from negligence of a fellow servant. It becomes necessary therefore to consider the rights of the parties in such cases. The application, in each particular case, of any general rules which may be laid down will involve a consideration of two questions of fact: First, what is the nature and character of the business, and the usual and proper general method of conducting it? Secondly, in such a business, what is reasonably necessary to be done on the part of the master to secure for the use of the workmen machinery and appliances which will always be reasonably safe?

First, there is that class of cases in which the condition of a machine as to safety is constantly changing with its use, so as to require from the persons tending it, as a part of the ordinary use of it, reconstruction or readjustment of parts, as they become worn out or displaced, from materials or new parts supplied by the master for that purpose. Such work is a part of the regular business of the servant in using the machine, and not of the master in maintaining it. Negligence in doing it is, as to all other employees, negligence of a fellow servant. So far as the condition of machinery depends upon this kind of attention, the master does his duty if he employs competent and suitable persons, and supplies them with everything needed for their work.

A second class of cases includes those in which repair or reconstruction of a machine is necessary, of such a kind as is commonly done, or may properly be done, under the direction of the master, by servants engaged in the general business. Both parties to the contract must be presumed to have contemplated that such work would be done by fellow servants of the employee, and he must therefore be held to have assumed all risks from their negligence in doing it. But this, it must be remembered, is a part of that work for the results of which, in the completed machine, the master agrees to hold himself responsible, so far as

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good results can be insured by his exercise of proper care. And so he is bound to bring to this department of the business, either in his own person or by an agent, such intelligence, skill, and experience as is reasonably to be required in one to whom in an important particular the safety of others is intrusted, and he is bound also to be reasonably diligent and careful in the use of his faculties. One who represents him in this field is not acting as a fellow servant with his other employees, within the meaning of the rule which we are considering, but is his agent or servant, for whose care and diligence he is accountable.

There may be still a third class of cases, in which a machine is of such a kind, and the nature of the business in which it is used is such, that the parties could never reasonably have contemplated that any servants employed in the business would build or reconstruct it. A proprietor might buy such a machine, or send an agent or servant to buy it. In either case the purchase would be in the line of the master's duty, and he would be liable for the consequences of negligence in making it. He might hire privileges and men in a machine-shop in a distant city, and build it there. His servants in that work would not be fellow servants with an employee engaged in an entirely different business. And under the doctrine of *respondeat superior* he would be held liable for the consequences of their negligence. If he saw fit to construct or reconstruct it, in the same way, in or near the building in which it was to be used, the result would be the same. Upon our hypothesis it would be inconsistent with his implied contract to employ fellow servants of his employee in this work, and he therefore could not relieve himself from his general obligation as to the safety of his machinery by setting up that his servants in the construction or reconstruction were fellow servants with his employees in the business in which it was to be used.

It is believed that the decision in every case in this Commonwealth founded upon alleged negligence of a master in relation to his machinery, tools, or appliances, will be found, upon the view of the facts taken by the court, to be governed by the principles which we have stated. *Elmer* v. *Locke*, 135 Mass. 575. *Johnson* v. *Boston Tow-Boat Co.* 135 Mass. 209. *Rogers* v. *Ludlow Manufacturing Co.* 144 Mass. 198. *Holden* v. *Fitch-*

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burg Railroad, 129 Mass. 268. *Spicer* v. *South Boston Iron Co.* 138 Mass. 426. *McGee* v. *Boston Cordage Co.* 139 Mass. 445. *Arkerson* v. *Dennison*, 117 Mass. 407. *Gilman* v. *Eastern Railroad*, 10 Allen, 233, and 13 Allen, 433. *King* v. *Boston & Worcester Railroad*, 9 Cush. 112; *S. C.* 129 Mass. 277, n. See also *Northern Pacific Railroad* v. *Herbert*, 116 U. S. 642; *Benzing* v. *Steinway*, 101 N. Y. 547.

The facts in this branch of the case at bar are undisputed. The defendant was carrying on the business of manufacturing and finishing straw hats. The plaintiff was injured upon one of several heavy iron machines operated by steam power, manufactured for the defendant in Norwalk, Connecticut. The defendant reconstructed this and three other machines, so as to make them press the brim of hats as well as the crown, they having originally been built to press the crown only. This very materially changed the machine. Mitchell Marcil, who had charge of the work, testified that, after they got the castings and everything ready to put on it, it took him and three other men about four weeks to rebuild it.

None of the officers of the defendant corporation were mechanics, or men having practical knowledge of machinery. They left the reconstruction of the machines entirely to Marcil, to be done upon his own judgment. He also had charge of the machines all the time, and was directed to see what was needed to be done, and to do it. Assuming that this was a machine upon which the defendant might, under its implied contract with the plaintiff, employ his fellow servants in the work of reconstruction, it is evident upon the undisputed testimony that Marcil, while he did some work appropriate for an ordinary servant, was, in relation to the reconstruction and to the charge of this machine, set to do the master's duty. The defendant's officers were personally incompetent to use that skill and judgment in regard to keeping these machines safe which the law required of the defendant, and they left to Marcil the whole business, not only of determining what should be done in reconstructing the machines, and how it should be done, but also of determining what was their condition as to safety when they were finished, and of supervising them in reference to their condition afterward. Taking charge and having supervision of the reconstruction,

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and of the machines afterward, was a part of the master's duty under his implied contract with the plaintiff. Inasmuch as the defendant assumed to do it through Marcil, it is liable for the consequences of his negligence. To hold otherwise would be to permit a master, who is incompetent to perform a duty which the law puts upon him in relation to the condition of his machinery, to relieve himself from all responsibility for the performance of it by employing another to represent him. In the opinion of a majority of the court there was no error in the instructions.

Exceptions overruled.

BENJAMIN B. NEWCOMB *vs.* BOSTON PROTECTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Suffolk. January 25, 1888. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, C. ALLEN, HOLMES, & KNOWLTON, JJ.

Personal Injuries — Violation of Ordinance — Contributory Negligence — Evidence.

The fact that a person is injured while violating a city ordinance, through another's negligence, will not defeat his right to recover, unless his unlawful act was a contributing cause of the injury.

Such unlawful act, if it directly contributed to the injury, is a conclusive bar to such recovery, and not merely evidence of contributory negligence.

The St. of 1874, c. 61, § 8, in giving the Boston Protective Department the "right of way while going to a fire," does not relieve it from liability for an injury, caused by its negligence, to a person who is in the exercise of due care, and whose unlawful act does not contribute to the injury.

TORT for personal injuries occasioned to the plaintiff, a cab-driver, by a collision between the cab and a wagon of the defendant.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Blodgett*, J., evidence was introduced tending to show that the defendant was incorporated under the St. of 1874, c. 61,* for the protection of life

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* Section 3 of this statute is as follows:

"The officers and men of the Boston Protective Department, with their teams and apparatus, shall have the right of way, while going to a fire, through any street, lane, or alley in the city of Boston, subject to such rules

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and property at fires in the city of Boston, and that the collision occurred while one of its wagons, with its regular complement of men, was responding to a fire alarm; that the wagon was proceeding along Washington Street in a northerly direction; that the cab, upon which the plaintiff was sitting, was one of several cabs standing in a line upon the easterly side of Washington Street between the easterly track of a street railway and the curbstone; that the plaintiff's cab and horse were not drawn up lengthwise of the street and as near as possible to the curbstone, but that the horse was facing the sidewalk at an angle so that the body of the cab projected eighteen or twenty inches into the street beyond the line of the other cabs; and that the wagon of the defendant was driven negligently into the cab, causing the accident.

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The defendant asked the judge to instruct the jury as follows:

"1. If the plaintiff, at the time of the accident, was violating the ordinance of the city of Boston, to wit, 'Every owner, driver, or other person having the care and ordering of a vehicle shall, when stopping in a street, place his vehicle and the horse or horses connected therewith lengthwise with the street, as near as possible to the sidewalk,' that was an unlawful act, and he cannot recover in this action. 2. If that unlawful act contributed to cause the alleged injury, the plaintiff was not in the exercise of due care, and therefore he cannot maintain this action. 3. Under section 3, chapter 61, of the Acts of 1874, 'The officers and men of the Boston Protective Department, with their teams and apparatus, shall have the right of way, while going to a fire, through any street, lane, or alley in the city of Boston,' said defendant is not liable for an accident caused by the collision of one of its teams, while going to a fire, with a vehicle standing in the streets, in violation of either of the city ordinances. 4. If the plaintiff, at the time of the action, was violating the ordinance of the city of Boston, to wit, 'Every

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and regulations as the city council and the fire commissioners may prescribe, and subject also to the rights of the Boston Fire Department; and any violation of the street rights of the Boston Protective Department shall be punished in the same manner as is provided for the punishment of violations of the rights of the Boston Fire Department in chapter three hundred and seventy-four of the acts of eighteen hundred and seventy-three."

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driver of a vehicle shall remain near it while it is unemployed or standing in a street, unless he is necessarily absent in the course of his duty and business, and he shall so keep his horse or horses and vehicle as not to obstruct the streets,' that was an unlawful act, and he cannot recover in this action. 5. If that unlawful act contributed to cause the alleged injury, the plaintiff was not in the exercise of due care, and therefore he cannot maintain this action."

The judge refused to give these instructions, but instructed the jury as to the effect of a violation of the ordinance as to the position of a vehicle and horse while standing in a street, stating that the rule was applicable to both ordinances, as follows:

"Bearing in mind the provision of the regulation as to the position of a vehicle when not in motion, I instruct you as to the law, that if, at the time of the injury to the plaintiff, he allowed his carriage to stand in the street in violation of this ordinance, such violation is evidence of negligence on his part; and, if such negligence directly contributed to the injury, the plaintiff cannot maintain the action. It cannot be said, as matter of law, that the fact that the plaintiff was violating a city ordinance necessarily shows negligence that contributed to the injury. Whether the position of the plaintiff's horse and carriage, in violation of an ordinance, did or did not contribute to the injury, is a question of fact for the jury; and in determining this question, the jury will take into consideration all the surrounding facts and circumstances. . . . . The plaintiff must prove that his position was not so carelessly taken as to contribute to the collision; and the fact that his position was in violation of the ordinance is not conclusive proof of negligence which contributed to the injury. Or, stating the general rule in a somewhat different form, the fact that the plaintiff is engaged in violating the law does not prevent him from recovering damages of the defendant for an injury which the defendant could have avoided by the exercise of ordinary care, unless the unlawful act contributed proximately to produce the injury. . . . . If, applying these rules, you are of the opinion that there was no negligence, in other words, no carelessness, on the part of the plaintiff, which directly contributed to the injury, then the plaintiff is entitled to maintain this action, if he proves

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another proposition; and as to that, the burden is upon him. And that proposition is, that the defendant's servants, in the care and management of this wagon, at the time the plaintiff was injured, were negligent."

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

R. M. Morse, Jr., for the defendant.

W. Gaston & C. L. B. Whitney, for the plaintiff.

KNOWLTON, J. The plaintiff brought his action to recover for injuries received while sitting upon his cab, from the negligent driving of a wagon against it by a servant of the defendant corporation. There was evidence tending to show that, at the time of the accident, he was violating an ordinance of the city of Boston, by waiting in a street without placing his vehicle and horse lengthwise with the street, as near as possible to the sidewalk, and that this illegal conduct contributed to the injury. There was evidence applicable in like manner to another similar ordinance, which requires every driver of a vehicle standing in a street so to keep his horse or horses and vehicle as not to obstruct the streets.

As to the alleged violation of each of these ordinances, the defendant asked the court to instruct the jury as follows: "If that unlawful act contributed to cause the alleged injury, the plaintiff was not in the exercise of due care, and therefore he cannot maintain this action." The presiding judge declined to give this instruction, and gave none which we deem to be equivalent to it. He instructed the jury in these words: "If, at the time of the injury to the plaintiff, he allowed his carriage to stand in the street in violation of this ordinance, such violation is evidence of negligence on his part; and, if such negligence directly contributed to the injury, the plaintiff cannot maintain the action. It cannot be said, as matter of law, that the fact that the plaintiff was violating a city ordinance necessarily shows negligence that contributed to the injury." In another part of the charge it was indirectly intimated that, if the plaintiff's unlawful act contributed proximately to produce the injury, he could not recover, but it was nowhere expressly stated.

The question before us then is, whether or not the defendant was entitled to this instruction, — in other words, whether, if

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the plaintiff's unlawful act contributed to cause his injury, it was a bar to his recovery, or merely evidence of negligence which might or might not bar him, according to the view which the jury should take of his conduct as a whole, in its relation to the accident.

It has often been held that a violation of law at the time of an accident, by one connected with it, is evidence of his negligence, but not conclusive. *Hanlon* v. *South Boston Horse Railroad*, 129 Mass. 310. *Hall* v. *Ripley*, 119 Mass. 135. *Damon* v. *Scituate*, 119 Mass. 66. In recent times a large number of penal statutes have been enacted, in which the Legislature has seen fit to punish acts which are not *mala in se*, and sometimes when in a given case there is no actual criminal intent. On grounds of public policy, laws have been passed under which a person is bound to know the facts in regard to the subject with which he is dealing, when under possible circumstances ignorance would not be inconsistent with proper care. One who sells milk must know that it is not adulterated. An unlicensed person must know that what he sells is not intoxicating liquor. *Commonwealth* v. *Boynton*, 2 Allen, 160. And if in a possible case he trespasses in innocent ignorance, the law gives him no relief. He can only appeal to the sense of justice and the discretion of the public authorities to save him from the punishment which the law would inflict. It is obvious that in suits for negligence, if the contributing conduct of the plaintiff is to be considered as a whole, it may sometimes be found that he has not been guilty of actual negligence or fault, although he has violated the law. One element of his action may be neglect of a duty prescribed by a statute, when there are other concurring elements which show that his course was entirely justifiable.

As a general rule, in deciding a question in relation to negligence, each element which enters as a factor into one's act to give it character is to be considered in connection with every other, and the result is reached by considering all together. But, for reasons which will presently appear, illegal conduct of a plaintiff directly contributing to the occurrence on which his action is founded, is an exception to this rule. Such illegality may be viewed in either of two aspects: looking at the trans-

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action to which it pertains as a whole, it may be considered as a circumstance bearing upon the question whether there was actual negligence; or looking at it simply in reference to the violated law, the act may be tried solely by the test of that law. In the latter aspect it wears a hostile garb, and an inquiry is at once suggested, whether the plaintiff, as a transgressor of the law, is in a position to obtain relief at the hand of the law. In the first view, the illegal conduct comes within the general rule just stated; in the second, it does not. This distinction has not always been observed. A plaintiff's violation of law has usually been discussed in connection with the subject of due care.

In *Bosworth* v. *Swansey*, 10 Met. 363, Chief Justice Shaw, after referring to the rule that a plaintiff must be free from "imputation of negligence or fault," says, in reference to unlawful travelling on the Lord's day, "This would be a species of fault on his part, which would bring him within the principle of the cases cited."

In *Jones* v. *Andover*, 10 Allen, 18, Chief Justice Bigelow says, "The term 'due care,' as usually understood in cases where the gist of the action is the negligence of the defendant, implies not only that a party has not been negligent or careless, but that he has been guilty of no violation of law in relation to the subject matter or transaction which constitutes the cause of action."

In *Steele* v. *Burkhardt*, 104 Mass. 59, an action for negligence in driving against the plaintiffs' horse, which was left standing in a street in violation of an ordinance, Chief Justice Chapman considers the general subject of the plaintiffs' due care, and then treats particularly the contention of the defendant that the plaintiffs were compelled to prove their violation of law in order to establish their case.

McGrath v. *Merwin*, 112 Mass. 467, was an action founded on the defendant's alleged negligence in starting the machinery of a mill, while the plaintiff was at work in the wheel-pit making repairs on the Lord's day, and Mr. Justice Morton, in delivering the opinion, deals with the case solely upon the principle that courts will not aid a plaintiff whose action is founded upon his own illegal act, and says, "The decisions in this Commonwealth are numerous and uniform to the effect that the plaintiff, being engaged in a violation of law, cannot recover, if his own

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illegal act was an essential element of his case as disclosed upon all the evidence." He further states the rule in such cases to be, that, "if the illegal act of the plaintiff contributed to his injury, he cannot recover; but though the plaintiff at the time of the injury was acting in violation of law, if his illegal act did not contribute to the injury, but was independent of it, he is not precluded thereby from recovering."

In *Davis* v. *Guarnieri*, 45 Ohio St. 470, Owen, C. J. states, as the second of three considerations upon which the doctrine of contributory negligence is founded, "the principle which requires every suitor who seeks to enforce his rights or redress his wrongs to go into court with clean hands, and which will not permit him to recover for his own wrong."

No case has been brought to our attention, and upon careful investigation we have found none, in which a plaintiff whose violation of law contributed directly and proximately to cause him an injury has been permitted to recover for it; and the decisions are numerous to the contrary. *Hall* v. *Ripley*, 119 Mass. 135. *Banks* v. *Highland Street Railway*, 136 Mass. 485. *Tuttle* v. *Lawrence*, 119 Mass. 276, 278. *Lyons* v. *Desotelle*, 124 Mass. 387. *Heland* v. *Lowell*, 3 Allen, 407. *Steele* v. *Burkhardt*, 104 Mass. 59. *Damon* v. *Scituate*, 119 Mass. 66. *Marble* v. *Ross*, 124 Mass. 44. *Smith* v. *Boston & Maine Railroad*, 120 Mass. 490. And it is quite immaterial whether or not a plaintiff's unlawful act contributing to his injury is negligent or wrong when considered in all its relations. He is precluded from recovering, on the ground that the court will not lend its aid to one whose violation of law is the foundation of his claim. *Hall* v. *Corcoran*, 107 Mass. 251.

While this principle is universally recognized, there is great practical difficulty in applying it. The best minds often differ upon the question whether, in a given case, illegal conduct of a plaintiff was a direct and proximate cause contributing with others to his injury, or was a mere condition of it; or, to state the question in another way, appropriate to the reason of the rule, whether or not his own illegal act is an essential element of his case as disclosed upon all the evidence. Upon this point it is not easy to reconcile the cases. It has been unanimously decided that in *Gregg* v. *Wyman*, 4 Cush. 322, there was error

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in holding a plaintiff's illegal conduct to be an essential element of his case, when in fact it was merely incidental to it. *Hall* v. *Corcoran*, *ubi supra*. But whatever criticisms may have been made upon the decisions or the assumptions in certain cases, that illegal action of a plaintiff contributed to the result, or was to be treated as a concurring cause, or upon language in disregard of the distinction between a cause and a condition, there has been none upon the doctrine that, when a plaintiff's illegal conduct does directly contribute to his injury, it is fatal to his recovery of damages. *Baker* v. *Portland*, 58 Maine, 199. *Norris* v. *Litchfield*, 35 N. H. 271. *Sutton* v. *Wauwatosa*, 29 Wis. 21.

The plaintiff relies with great confidence upon the case of *Hanlon* v. *South Boston Horse Railroad*, 129 Mass. 310, in which the presiding judge at the trial refused to rule, that, "if the defendant was driving at a rate of speed prohibited by the ordinance of the city of Boston, and this speed contributed to the injury, this fact would itself constitute negligence on the part of the defendant, and would entitle the plaintiff to recover if he was in the exercise of due care," and his refusal was held right by this court. In giving the opinion, after pointing out that driving at a rate of speed forbidden by the ordinance might have occurred without fault of the driver, and might have been justified by circumstances authorizing the jury to find that there was no negligence, Mr. Justice Colt said, "It is not true that, if an unlawful rate of speed contributed to the injury, that alone would give the plaintiff a right to recover, if he was without fault." There are intimations, without adjudication, to the same effect, in *Wright* v. *Malden & Melrose Railroad*, 4 Allen, 283, and in *Lane* v. *Atlantic Works*, 111 Mass. 136. See also *Kirby* v. *Boylston Market Association*, 14 Gray, 249; *Heeney* v. *Sprague*, 11 R. I. 456; *Brown* v. *Buffalo & State Line Railroad*, 22 N. Y. 191; *Flynn* v. *Canton Co.* 40 Md. 312.

But there is nothing in the language used in *Hanlon* v. *South Boston Horse Railroad* inconsistent with the principle which we have already stated. That decision related to the liability of a defendant. It may be, where a penal statute does not purport to create a civil liability, or to protect the rights of particular persons, that a violation of it will not subject the violator to an action for damages, unless his act, when viewed in connection

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with all the attendant circumstances, appears to be negligent or wrongful. And at the same time courts may well hold that, in the sanctuary of the law, a violator of law imploring relief from the consequences of his own transgression will receive no favor.

The instruction requested in the case at bar would have become applicable only upon a finding by the jury that the plaintiff's unlawful act contributed to cause the injury. The jury may have so found; and we are of opinion that upon such a finding, irrespective of the question whether viewed in all its aspects his act was negligent or not, the court could not properly permit him to recover. The instruction, therefore, should have been given.

The court rightly refused the instruction requested, that the plaintiff could not recover if at the time of the accident he was violating the ordinance, and so doing an unlawful act. This request ignored the distinction between illegality which is a cause, and illegality which is a condition of a transaction relied on by a plaintiff, or between that which is an essential element of his case when all the facts appear, and that which is no part of it, but only an attendant circumstance. The position of a vehicle, which has been struck by another, may or may not have been one of the causes of the striking. Of course it could not have been struck if it had not been in the place where the blow came. But this is a statement of an essential condition, and not of a cause of the impact. The distinction is between that which directly and proximately produces, or helps to produce, a result as an efficient cause, and that which is a necessary condition or attendant circumstance of it. If the position of the plaintiff's vehicle was such as, in connection with ordinary and usual concurring causes, would naturally produce such an accident, that indicates that it contributed to it. But, even in that case, external causes may have been so exclusive in their operation, and so free from any relation to the position of the vehicle, as to have left that a mere condition, without agency in producing the result. What is a contributing cause of an accident is usually a question for a jury, to be determined by the facts of the particular case; and such it has been held to be in many cases like the one before us. *Damon* v. *Scituate*, 119 Mass. 66. *Hall* v. *Ripley*, 119 Mass. 135. *Welch* v. *Wesson*, 6 Gray, 505.

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Spofford v. *Harlow*, 3 Allen, 176. *White* v. *Lang*, 128 Mass. 598. *Baker* v. *Portland*, 58 Maine, 199. *Norris* v. *Litchfield*, 35 N. H. 271. *Sutton* v. *Wauwatosa*, 29 Wis. 21.

The defendant's third request for an instruction was rightly refused, for reasons which have already been stated. The statute referred to does not relieve the defendant from liability for negligence to a plaintiff whose unlawful act or want of due care does not contribute to his injury. In the opinion of a majority of the court the entry must be *Exceptions sustained.*

WILLIAM B. STEWART *vs.* BOSTON AND PROVIDENCE RAILROAD COMPANY.

Suffolk. March 6, 1888. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Railroad — Personal Injuries — Passenger — Negligence.

A passenger, through his own fault, took an express train instead of a local train as he intended, and, after the train started, was told by the conductor, "You will have to ride as far as C. Junction, take the two rear cars, and come back," at a later hour. He immediately started for those cars, and in going from one car to another was thrown from the platform by a lurch of the train and a collision with another passenger, and was injured. *Held*, that the facts did not show negligence of the railroad company causing the injury.

TORT for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff by being thrown from a car of the defendant. Trial in the Superior Court, before *Pitman*, J., who ordered a verdict for the defendant, and reported the case for the determination of this court, in substance as follows.

The plaintiff testified that he lived on the line of the defendant's railroad, and that on the afternoon of December 15, 1885, instead of taking a train that stopped at his station, as he intended, he entered another train by mistake; that after the train had started, the conductor, on looking at his ticket, told him that the train was an express train that did not stop at his station; that the conductor then said to him, "You will have to ride as

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far as Canton Junction, take the two rear cars, and come back at half-past eight"; that he "immediately got up to take the two rear cars"; that while on his way, as he was passing from one car to another, he met a woman coming towards him; that he had just time to turn on his heel to let her pass, "when the train gave a lurch to the left, threw me off my balance, and I instinctively threw out my left hand to grasp the railing between the two cars, and this lady was thrown against me, and the next thing I knew I found myself lying on the track and that I had been hurt"; and that there was no gate on the platform of the car.

If the plaintiff was entitled to go to the jury on the above facts, then the verdict was to be set aside, and a new trial granted; otherwise, judgment was to be entered on the verdict.

G. A. Perkins, for the plaintiff.

G. Putnam & T. Russell, for the defendant.

MORTON, C. J. The plaintiff took the wrong train through his own fault. After the train had started, the conductor discovered this, and informed the plaintiff that he could not stop at the point to which he wished to go, but that, by taking one of the two rear cars, he could get off at a station beyond, and return to his destination at a later hour. This was not a command or direction by the conductor that the plaintiff should go from the car he was in to the rear car, which justified him in doing so at the risk of the defendant. In going from one car to another of a rapidly moving train, merely for his own convenience, the plaintiff took upon himself the risk of all accidents not arising from any negligence of the defendant. While crossing over one of the platforms between the cars, the plaintiff came in collision with another passenger crossing the platform in an opposite direction, "the train gave a lurch to the left," and he was thrown from the platform. There is nothing to show that the lurch was extraordinary, or anything more than a usual and inevitable incident of a swiftly moving train. The evidence fails to show any negligence of the defendant which caused the accident, and the Superior Court therefore rightly directed a verdict for the defendant. *Judgment on the verdict.*

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ASA B. FOSTER *vs.* RANFORD WORTHING.

Suffolk. March 6, 1888. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Promissory Note — Payment — Evidence — Witness — Contradiction.

On the issue whether a note made by a mining company and indorsed by its directors was to be paid by them or by the plaintiff as an accommodation indorsee, a witness, who was a director, testified that the note was to be paid by the plaintiff, and, to contradict him, a letter of his to the plaintiff was introduced in evidence, requesting him to procure a renewal of the note by a note of the company with the old note, duly protested, attached. *Held*, that the letter was rightly admitted.

CONTRACT, against Ranford Worthing and Henry E. Irvine, upon two promissory notes, dated November 14, 1881, and payable in two months, made by the El Gachi Mining Company, and indorsed by them and other directors of the company. The plaintiff discontinued as to Irvine.

Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Mason*, J., who allowed a bill of exceptions, in substance as follows.

The defendant contended, and introduced in evidence the deposition of Irvine as tending to show, that as between the plaintiff and the defendant the notes, which had been indorsed by the plaintiff to a bank for discount, were without consideration; that they were indorsed by the defendant and the other directors for the accommodation of the plaintiff, in order to enable him to raise money and carry out a contract between the plaintiff, who was also a director, and the other directors, binding him to furnish the necessary funds to carry on the company's mine for six months from October 26, 1881; and that when the notes became due, the plaintiff, as between himself and the directors, was to take care of the notes and pay them. The plaintiff was permitted to introduce in evidence, as tending to contradict Irvine's testimony in his deposition, a portion of a letter, dated December 22, 1881, and written by him to the plaintiff, as follows: "Should we not be able to make any payment on the first note of $5,000, due the Eastern Township Bank on the 17th of January next, please instruct them to renew the same on the issue of the note of the

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company, with old note (duly protested) attached. This will do away with the necessity of our sending a renewal to each of the indorsers for their indorsement."

The judge found for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

G. D. Ayers & G. C. Hodges, for the defendant.

C. L. B. Whitney & F. C. Manchester, for the plaintiff.

C. ALLEN, J. The principal question was, whether, as between the plaintiff and the defendant, it was the plaintiff's duty to provide for the payment of the notes in suit. The defendant contended that it was, and introduced in evidence the deposition of Irvine, tending to prove that it was so understood at the time the notes were made. As tending to contradict Irvine, the plaintiff was then allowed to introduce a letter written by Irvine to the plaintiff, shortly before the notes became due. The defendant now contends that this letter did not contradict Irvine, but was consistent with his testimony. It is not necessary, in order to make the letter competent, that there should be a contradiction in plain terms. It is enough if the letter, taken as a whole, either by what it says or by what it omits to say, affords some presumption that the fact was different from his testimony. And in determining this question, much must be left to the discretion of the presiding judge. Declarations or acts, or omissions to speak or to act when it would have been natural to do so if the fact were as testified to, may be shown by way of contradiction or impeachment of the testimony of a witness, when they fairly tend to control or qualify his testimony. *Clement* v. *Kimball*, 98 Mass. 535. *Brigham* v. *Clark*, 100 Mass. 430. *Snow* v. *Moore*, 107 Mass. 512. *Hook* v. *George*, 108 Mass. 324. *Hayden* v. *Stone*, 112 Mass. 346. *Perry* v. *Breed*, 117 Mass. 155, 165. *Brigham* v. *Fayerweather*, 140 Mass. 411, 416. The letter of Irvine in the present case falls within this rule. It related directly to the subject of making payment of the first note, and it bore upon the probability of Irvine's testimony. It was, of course, open to explanation, and its weight is not for us to consider; but it was competent. *Exceptions overruled.*

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CHARLOTTE V. NICKERSON *vs.* HENRY C. THACHER.

Barnstable. March 8, 1888. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Trespass — Title — Dower — Evidence — Probate Court.

A person in actual occupation of land may maintain trespass against any one except the real owner, or one having the right of possession.

A dowress in occupation of land may, in an action of trespass against a stranger, put in evidence, on the question of her possession, probate proceedings setting off the land to her, which, whether valid or invalid, have never been doubted.

TORT for breaking and entering the plaintiff's close, and taking away sand, wood, trees, and cranberries.

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Staples*, J., it appeared that the plaintiff occupied the locus as a part of land set off to her as dower. The plaintiff was permitted to introduce, as evidence of her title and possession, proceedings in the Probate Court by which it appeared that commissioners duly appointed to set off dower made a report reciting that the dower as set off was equal to one half of the estate of her deceased husband; that Josiah Taylor and Sophia Taylor, being the only heirs of her husband, assented in writing to the report; and that on April 16, 1878, the Probate Court made a decree accepting the report, "all parties interested . . . . having assented thereto in writing," and assigning the land so set off to the plaintiff as tenant in dower. The only objection by the defendant to the plaintiff's recovery was to the admission of such report and decree, on the ground that the commissioners had no power to set off one half of the estate as dower, and that the decree was void. The jury found for the plaintiff; and the defendant alleged exceptions.

T. C. Day, for the defendant.

H. P. Harriman, for the plaintiff.

C. ALLEN, J. One who is in the actual occupation of land may maintain trespass against any person except the real owner, or the person having a right of possession. *Barnstable* v. *Thacher*, 3 Met. 239. *Sweetland* v. *Stetson*, 115 Mass. 49. There was nothing to show that the defendant had any right whatever to

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go upon the land; but the stress of his argument is, that the plaintiff's title was not good. We need not enter upon that question; although we may remark that those in whom the title stood, if not in her, not only have never questioned, but expressly affirmed her title. The utmost that we have to decide is, that the proceedings setting off the land to her, whether valid or invalid, never having been doubted, might be put in evidence upon the question of her possession of the land. And of this we have no doubt. *Allen* v. *Taft*, 6 Gray, 552, 554. *Motte* v. *Alger*, 15 Gray, 322. *Exceptions overruled.*

LUCY K. GILLESPIE & others *vs.* JOSIAH W. ROGERS.

Barnstable. March 9, 1888. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Deed — Name — Registration — Constructive Notice.

The registry of a deed executed by J. N. H., in which he calls himself J. H., by which latter name he is equally well known in the town where he lives, is constructive notice to all persons of the transfer of the title.

WRIT OF ENTRY to recover a parcel of land in Chatham. At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Mason*, J., without a jury, evidence was introduced tending to show the following facts.

On February 27, 1851, James N. Howes, who was then the owner of the demanded premises, conveyed them to his brother, Henry N. Howes, by a deed, duly recorded on July 26, 1851, in which he called himself James Howes, and which he so signed. On March 21, 1870, Henry N. Howes conveyed the premises to the demandants, who were the daughters of James N. Howes, and who thereupon took possession of the same. James N. Howes on September 13, 1886, then holding under the demandants, conveyed the demanded premises to the tenant, who was his stepson, by a deed which recited his full name, and was signed James N. Howes. This deed was duly recorded on September 15, 1886, and the tenant entered into possession. The tenant at the time he took his deed had no actual notice of the deeds to

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and from Henry N. Howes. James N. Howes was as well known in Chatham by the name of James Howes as by that of James N. Howes, both at the date of the deed to Henry N. Howes and at the date of that to the tenant.

The judge found for the demandants, and reported the case for the determination of this court. If the evidence was sufficient to sustain the finding, and was properly admitted, judgment was to be entered for the demandants; otherwise, a new trial was to be granted.

H. P. Harriman, for the tenant.

J. M. Day & T. C. Day, for the demandants.

C. ALLEN, J. There can be no doubt that the deed which was executed by James N. Howes, in which he called himself James Howes, was good as against him and his heirs and devisees. The omission of the initial letter of his middle name did not vitiate the grant. And it was competent to show that he was as well known without a middle name as with one. Shep. Touch. 232, 233. 3 Washb. Real Prop. (5th ed.) 278, 281. *Games* v. *Stiles*, 14 Pet. 322, 327. The same rule exists in case of a mistake in the name of the grantee. *Hall* v. *Leonard*, 1 Pick. 27, 30. *Thomas* v. *Marshfield*, 10 Pick. 364, 367. *Scanlan* v. *Wright*, 13 Pick. 523. *Peabody* v. *Brown*, 10 Gray, 45. And it is not absolutely necessary that either grantor or grantee be named at all, if so described that he can be clearly ascertained. *Shaw* v. *Loud*, 12 Mass. 447. Shep. Touch., and Washb. Real Prop., *ubi supra*. *Reeves* v. *Watts*, 7 B. & S. 523. *Maugham* v. *Sharpe*, 17 C. B. (N. S.) 443.

It is contended, however, that the record of the deed signed James Howes did not give a good constructive notice of a conveyance of the title of James N. Howes. But since the deed was valid as against the grantor and his heirs and devisees without registration, it would seem that the registration would make it valid as against all persons. Such seems to be the effect of the statute. Rev. Sts. c. 59, §§ 1, 28. The title passed by the deed, not by the registration. But to give this title full effect, and prevent its being questioned by purchasers and creditors of the grantor, there must be actual notice of the deed, or registration, which is constructive notice. *Dole* v. *Thurlow*, 12 Met. 157, 162. *Earle* v. *Fiske*, 103 Mass. 491. And such actual or constructive

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notice has the effect to bind others, in like manner as the grantor and his heirs and devisees are bound by the mere execution and delivery of the deed. It makes no difference if the constructive notice provided for by law proves insufficient. A deed is considered to be recorded when it is noted by the recording officer as having been received for record in the book kept for that purpose. Rev. Sts. c. 59, § 24; Gen. Sts. c. 17, § 93; Pub. Sts. c. 24, § 15. And if the recording officer places upon it his certificate that it has been so received, even though he afterwards fails in his duty by recording it inaccurately, by omitting material portions of it, or even by altogether suppressing it from the records, yet in contemplation of law the whole world has constructive notice of it, just the same as if it had been accurately copied in full upon the records. *Tracy* v. *Jenks*, 15 Pick. 465. *Ames* v. *Phelps*, 18 Pick. 314. *Jordan* v. *Farnsworth*, 15 Gray, 517. *Fuller* v. *Cunningham*, 105 Mass. 442. *Adams* v. *Pratt*, 109 Mass. 59. *Wood* v. *Simons*, 110 Mass. 116. *Sykes* v. *Keating*, 118 Mass. 517, 519. *Getchell* v. *Moran*, 124 Mass. 404. It is obvious that, under this rule, one searching the records may fail to find all that is necessary for his protection; but nevertheless he will be bound. In other respects, also, the records of deeds may fail to give full information as to the title. For example, an apparently perfect record title may be bad, because the grantor in a deed may have been disseised or insane, or because the title has been defeated by an adverse possession. In either of these cases, resort must be had to extrinsic evidence to determine where the title is, and whoever searches the title upon the records, if he would be absolutely safe, must do so with a knowledge of facts not disclosed by the records themselves.

In like manner, where deeds or other instruments requiring to be recorded are given or received by persons or corporations known by different names, the records may fail to furnish exact and literal information; and yet, where the instrument itself is a genuine one, and has been executed in good faith, the record has been held sufficient to furnish constructive notice of the real transaction. A striking illustration of this is found in a former decision of this court. The St. of 1865, c. 43, § 2, provided that no assignment of future earnings should be valid against a trustee process, unless recorded in the town or city clerk's office

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before the service of process. A man by the name of Germain Sirois, who was also sometimes called John Keever, made an assignment of his future earnings under the name of Joseph Cyr, which name he signed by his mark, being unable to read or write. This was duly recorded. There was no intention of misleading anybody by the wrong name affixed to the assignment; it was a mistake, the man being an ignorant foreigner, who could not speak English. Afterwards a creditor brought a trustee process. It was held that the assignment was good as between the original parties to it, and being recorded was good as against attaching creditors. *Ouimet* v. *Sirois*, 124 Mass. 162. See also *Gifford* v. *Rockett*, 121 Mass. 481; *O'Connor* v. *Cavan*, 126 Mass. 117.

So in the present case, it being found as a fact that the grantor was as well known in the town where he lived by the name of James Howes as by his true name of James N. Howes, the record of his deed under the name of James Howes to Henry N. Howes was constructive notice of the real transaction between those parties. Nor can it be doubted that it would have proved sufficient for the protection of the tenant, if he had taken pains to examine the records. *Judgment for the demandants.*

HORACE B. TAYLOR *vs.* DEXTER ENGINE COMPANY.

Suffolk. March 8, 1888. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Pleading — Declaration — Bill of Particulars — Implied Promise — Storage.

A declaration for use and occupation, according to a bill of particulars for the "use of store basement" between certain dates, was amended so as to read "for warehouse room furnished by the plaintiff for the storage of an engine, the property of the defendant," according to the same bill. *Held*, that the amended declaration and the bill of particulars were sufficient.

If a lessor, who takes possession of the leased premises upon the tenant's failure to pay rent, notifies the owner of an engine put in for the tenant's use, that, if he does not remove it, he will charge him for each day it continues to remain there, a promise on such owner's part to pay storage for the time thereafter elapsing may be implied.

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CONTRACT. The original declaration was for use and occupation of certain premises, according to an account annexed, the several items of which were for the "use of store basement, corner of Hartford and Wendell Streets," in Boston, between dates specified. The plaintiff filed an amended declaration "for warehouse room furnished by the plaintiff for the storage of an engine, the property of the defendant," according to the same account annexed. Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Thompson*, J., who found for the plaintiff, and made a report of the case, of which the pleadings were a part, for the determination of this court. The facts appear in the opinion.

C. W. Bartlett, for the defendant.

Sherman Hoar & S. D. Charles, for the plaintiff, were not called upon.

C. ALLEN, J. By the amended declaration, the plaintiff sought to recover "for warehouse room furnished by the plaintiff for the storage of an engine, the property of the defendant." This is according to the form contained in the schedule of forms appended to § 94 of the Pub. Sts. c. 167. At the outset, the engine had been lawfully put into the basement of the plaintiff's building, but, upon a failure of the tenant of the premises to pay rent, the plaintiff took possession, and notified the defendant corporation that, if it did not remove the engine, he should make a certain charge to the defendant for every day it remained there. The engine was left there awhile longer. At the trial, which was without a jury, and which resulted in a finding for the plaintiff, the defendant contended that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover, under the pleadings; and at the argument in this court the defendant supports this contention, on the ground that the bill of particulars, which is for the "use of store basement," is descriptive of a claim for use and occupation. It is true that the bill of particulars would be good under the original count for use and occupation; but it is equally good under the amended count. The defendant now further contends that the facts stated in the judge's report of the case were insufficient to support this count. But no such question appears to have been taken at the trial, and the report is not made with reference to any such question. Besides, we think the facts are sufficient, even as stated, and a promise to pay for storage might

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fairly be implied from them. 2 Greenl. Ev. § 108. *Horton* v. *Cooley*, 135 Mass. 589. It is suggested that the defendant might have intended to abandon the engine to the plaintiff, instead of paying for the storage. But the judge might properly find the contrary. It is to be inferred that the defendant finally removed it. No error appears in the finding for the plaintiff.

Judgment on the finding.

BENJAMIN LANCY *vs.* JOHN C. P. HAVENDER.

Suffolk. March 8, 1888. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Illegal Contract — Champerty — Insolvency Court.

An agreement by creditors, signed by them, to pay a person employed "to collect or aid us in collecting our several claims" one half of the amount collected, whether the debtor "shall settle with or without going into insolvency, — the undersigned to pay no expenses not even from their one half of whatever may be received," — is unlawful and void for champerty.

CONTRACT to recover $819.56, for breach of the following agreement, signed by the defendant and others: "Provincetown, January 17, 1879. Having employed Benjamin Lancy, of Provincetown, to collect, or aid us in collecting, our several claims against the Union Wharf Company, of said Provincetown, we hereby agree to pay him fifty per cent of any amount received on our several claims, whether said company shall settle with or without going into insolvency, — the undersigned to pay no expense, not even from their one half of whatever may be received."

At the trial in the Superior Court, before *Hammond*, J., there was evidence that the plaintiff by his efforts, and through proceedings in the Court of Insolvency instituted by him, and at his own cost and expense, collected for, or caused to be paid to, the defendant, the sum of $1,639.13 of the latter's claim against the wharf company.

The judge ruled that the agreement was champertous, ordered a verdict for the defendant, and reported the case for the deter-

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mination of this court. If the ruling was correct, judgment was to be entered for the defendant; otherwise, for the plaintiff.

J. M. Day & T. C. Day, for the plaintiff.

G. Z. Adams & G. R. Blinn, for the defendant.

W. ALLEN, J. By the agreement, the plaintiff was to have one half of the amount recovered, and was to make no charge for his services and expenses; and the action is not to recover for services rendered and money paid, but for breach of the agreement. The agreement was clearly champertous under the decisions of this court. *Thurston* v. *Percival*, 1 Pick. 415. *Ackert* v. *Barker*, 131 Mass. 436. *Belding* v. *Smythe*, 138 Mass. 530. In *Blaisdell* v. *Ahern*, 144 Mass. 393, the plaintiff's compensation was to be paid by the defendant, and the amount which might be recovered was referred to only to limit the amount with which the plaintiff might charge the defendant; in the case at bar the plaintiff undertook the collection of the debt for one half of the avails, and his only claim against the defendant is for withholding the plaintiff's share of the amount recovered.

It is argued that the agreement does not mention a suit, and that the debt might have been collected without one. But the agreement clearly contemplated legal proceedings, and the proceedings in the Insolvency Court constituted a suit.

Judgment for the defendant.

PHILIPPE DE SÉNANCOUR *vs.* SOCIÉTÉ LA PRÉVOYANCE.

Suffolk. March 13, 1888. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Libel — Publication.

A beneficiary association appointed a committee to investigate a bill presented by a member, and the committee made without authority a libellous report in print at a regular meeting, by placing on the secretary's desk copies thereof, which were then freely taken from the desk by the members present. The association then voted to hold a special meeting for action on the report, at which meeting a vote was passed to adopt it. *Held*, that there was no publication of the libel by the association.

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TORT for libel. The declaration also contained counts for damages for the expulsion of the plaintiff from membership in the defendant society, and for the lapse of his certificate of insurance.

Trial in the Superior Court, without a jury, before *Barker*, J., who found for the defendant, and reported the case for the determination of this court, in substance as follows.

The defendant was a beneficiary association for persons speaking the French language, which, in addition to insuring the lives of members, made them a certain allowance a week when they were ill, and paid for those things which the attending physician might prescribe. The plaintiff had suffered from a long illness during the summer of 1885, and at the regular society meeting in October presented a bill for his weekly allowance. At that meeting the society voted to appoint a committee to investigate this bill among others, and a committee of three were appointed for that purpose. At the next regular meeting the committee made a report in print, by placing on the secretary's desk copies of this report, which were then freely taken from the desk by members present, and then passed about in the meeting. This report contained libellous and defamatory references to the plaintiff's character, and recommended that he be expelled from the society. Some of these copies afterwards came into the hands of persons not members, but there was no publication of them by the society other than the distribution of them at the meeting, as above stated. It was voted to hold a special meeting to act upon the report, at which the report was adopted by an almost unanimous vote. The plaintiff was notified subsequently that he had been expelled from further membership in the defendant society, and was threatened with bodily harm if he again appeared at its meetings.

The judge found that the committee of investigation were not specially directed or authorized by any vote or regulation of the society to make their report in print, and ruled that, upon the facts, the defendant could not be held responsible for any publication of the libel, that the plaintiff remained a member of the society, notwithstanding the vote of expulsion, and that the certificate of insurance was not annulled. If the rulings were correct, judgment was to be entered on the finding for the defendant; otherwise, such disposition of the cause was to be made as law and justice might require.

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E. B. Goodsell, for the plaintiff.

C. J. Noyes & E. B. Callender, (*L. Girardin* with them,) for the defendant.

C. ALLEN, J. The defendant corporation appointed a committee to investigate certain bills presented by the plaintiff, without specially directing or authorizing them, by any vote or regulation of the corporation, to make their report in print; and, in the absence of any usage to that effect, there was no express or implied authority to the committee to make or circulate a report on a subject of this nature in print. Such an act cannot be said to have been done in the due course of their employment, there being nothing to show, or to raise any inference, that the corporation had any reason to expect or understand that it would be so done. The committee, however, made a report in print at a regular meeting, by placing on the secretary's desk printed documents or reports, which were then freely taken from the desk by members present in the meeting, and which were libellous. In all this, there was nothing for which the corporation was responsible. It was only the individual acts of the committee, and of certain members. The omission of the secretary to prevent members from taking the reports from his desk was not sufficient, as matter of law, to put upon the corporation the responsibility for their circulation. All that the corporation did at that meeting in respect to the report was to vote to hold a special meeting to pass upon its adoption. At the next meeting, the corporation voted to adopt the report; but this was not a publication of it, and no fact is stated which shows that the corporation gave to the report any currency or circulation, or any sanction to its previous circulation. It is not as if the corporation, after adopting the report, had circulated it. *Philadelphia, Wilmington, & Baltimore Railroad* v. *Quigley*, 21 How. 202. *New Brunswick & Canada Railway* v. *Conybeare*, 9 H. L. Cas. 711, 725. Under these circumstances, there was no evidence of any publication of the libel by the defendant.

The court did not reach the question of privilege, having disposed of the case on the ground that there was no publication, and that question, therefore, is not to be considered here.

The plaintiff at the argument did not insist on his claim for damages for the vote by which the defendant assumed to expel him from membership. *Judgment for the defendant.*

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GEORGE L. THORNDIKE, administrator, *vs.* WELLS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.

Suffolk. March 14, 1888. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Action — Party Wall — Demand — Interest.

If the adjoining owners of city lots in an agreement for a party wall to be built by one of them provide that the other, upon using it, shall pay the one building it for the portion used, the value to be fixed by an appraisal by third persons, a demand for payment, and an action to recover therefor, before such an appraisal is made, or something done to prevent or avoid it, are premature.

Interest is not recoverable on the sum due, either from the date when the use began, or from that of the demand.

CONTRACT to recover one half the cost of a party wall. Writ dated November 23, 1886. At the trial, without a jury, in the Superior Court, before *Mason*, J., the following facts were agreed.

On June 19, 1880, William H. Thorndike, the plaintiff's intestate, and Caroline A. Brewer, trustee, being the owners of adjoining lots of land in Boston, entered into an agreement in writing, which provided that Thorndike should build the wall for the benefit of both lots; that for that purpose he might enter upon and use so much of Brewer's lot as might be requisite, provided the wall should be begun and finished within a year from the date of the agreement; that Brewer should have the right to elect to build the wall in like manner, if Thorndike failed so to do; and that "whichever of said owners shall build such wall, the owner of the adjoining parcel, when using the same, shall pay the then market value of so much of said wall as he, she, or they shall use, such market value at the time of such use to be ascertained by the appraisal of two or more competent builders."

Thorndike built the wall in 1880, and the defendant, who claimed title under Brewer, began to use it on August 1, 1882, such use being notorious and known to Thorndike. Thorndike died on December 26, 1884, and the plaintiff, having been duly appointed administrator of his estate, on or about December 10,

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1885, made a demand on the defendant for payment of the sum due under the agreement. No attempt had been made by the parties to ascertain by appraisement the value of the portion used; but it was agreed that the market value of one half of so much of the wall as the defendant used was $1,566.40, on August 1, 1882, and that it had not varied from that amount. The defendant tendered to the plaintiff the sum of $1,600, and subsequently paid it into court.

The plaintiff asked the judge to rule, that he was entitled to interest either from August 1, 1882, or from the date of his demand upon the defendant for payment, but the judge refused so to rule, and found for the defendant. The plaintiff alleged exceptions.

A. D. Bosson, for the plaintiff.

F. V. Balch & F. Rackemann, for the defendant.

C. ALLEN, J. The sum which the defendant was bound to pay, upon using the wall, was "the then market value of so much of said wall as he, she, or they shall use, such market value at the time of such use to be ascertained by the appraisal of two or more competent builders." Until an appraisement by builders, or until something done by the defendant to prevent or avoid it, the defendant was in no such default as to entitle the plaintiff to maintain an action upon the agreement. The contract did not make it the duty of the defendant to go forward and appoint appraisers, of its own motion, independently of the plaintiff's concurrence, and without any request to that effect from the plaintiff. The plaintiff's demand of payment was therefore premature, because the sum to be paid was not ascertained. *Haley* v. *Bellamy*, 137 Mass. 357. *Hood* v. *Hartshorn*, 100 Mass. 117. *Humaston* v. *Telegraph Co.* 20 Wall. 20, 28. *Thurnell* v. *Balbirnie*, 2 M. & W. 786. *Clarke* v. *Westrope*, 18 C. B. 765, 785. The plaintiff's demand did not entitle him to interest, the sum due to him being unliquidated. *Palmer* v. *Stockwell*, 9 Gray, 237.

Exceptions overruled.

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CHARLES JENNINGS & others *vs.* FITCHBURG RAILROAD COMPANY.

Suffolk. March 15, 1888. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Action — Negligence — Railroad — Drawbridge.

A superintendent of a railroad drawbridge has no right to open it within the fifteen minutes allowed to a train, by the Pub. Sts. c. 112, § 150, to cross the draw before and after it is due by its schedule time.

A declaration in an action against a railroad corporation, alleged that the plaintiff's schooner, while waiting to pass its drawbridge, got her stern caught under the draw, which was closed; that the master requested the superintendent to open the draw, and he wilfully and negligently refused; and that, as the tide was rising, she was thereby sunk and lost; but did not aver that the request was made at a time when the plaintiff or the master had a right to have the draw open. *Held*, that no cause of action was shown.

TORT. The declaration, as amended, alleged that the plaintiffs were the owners of a schooner, which was proceeding up the Charles River with a cargo of sand; that the defendant, as authorized by statute, owned and maintained a drawbridge for the passage of trains across that river; that the defendant was required by law to open the drawbridge and afford all proper accommodation to vessels having occasion to pass the same; that the schooner, having occasion to pass the drawbridge, and while waiting to pass it, caught her stern under the draw, which was closed, in such a manner that she could not be released except by opening or partially opening the draw; that the draw might easily and quickly, and without damage, injury, or delay to the defendant, its trains or passengers, have been opened slightly, and the schooner released; that the master and crew of the schooner requested the defendant or its agents in charge of the draw so to open it, but they wilfully and negligently refused to do so, or to allow the draw to be opened, whereby the schooner was pressed entirely under water as the tide rose, and with her cargo and appurtenances was sunk and totally lost. The defendant demurred to the declaration, on the ground that there was no allegation of any wrongful act or omission on the part of the defendant. In the Superior Court the demurrer was sus-

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tained, and judgment was ordered for the defendant; and the plaintiffs appealed to this court.

F. Dodge, for the plaintiff, contended, among other things, that the discretion given by the Pub. Sts. c. 112, § 149, to the superintendent of a railroad drawbridge as to the passage of vessels, could be exercised within the fifteen minutes allowed by § 150 for the passage of trains before and after they were due, and that it was immaterial that the declaration did not set forth that the vessel was caught outside of that limit.

G. A. Torrey, for the defendant.

MORTON, C. J. The defendant corporation is authorized to maintain a bridge across Charles River, having two draws for the safe and convenient passage of vessels, and is required to "keep the draws in good repair, and open the same, and afford all proper accommodation to vessels having occasion to pass the same by day or night." St. 1847, c. 200. St. 1869, c. 352. In 1855 a general law was passed "regulating the passing of vessels through railroad drawbridges," and its provisions have been substantially continued to the present time, and are now found in the Public Statutes. St. 1855, c. 484. Pub. Sts. c. 112, §§ 148–155.

We must look to these provisions to ascertain the rights and duties of the railroad corporation, and of the owners or masters of vessels who have occasion to use the draw. The railroad company is required to appoint a competent superintendent, who shall have charge of the draw, shall at all hours of the day and night be ready to open it, shall decide in what order vessels are to pass, and furnish proper facilities for such passing, allowing a reasonable time for vessels to pass, having regard to the convenient and secure passage of engines and trains. But the statute contains the provision that "a railroad train shall be allowed fifteen minutes to cross a draw before and after it is due by its time-table, and any approaching train shall be allowed a further reasonable time to pass." Pub. Sts. c. 112, § 150. This is an important provision, designed to guard the safety of passengers on the railroad. By necessary implication, it forbids the opening of the draw at any time within fifteen minutes of the time when a train is due by its time-table, and within fifteen minutes after, unless the train which is due passes the draw. If within

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that time the master of a vessel applies to pass the draw, it is the duty of the superintendent to refuse to open it. He could not open it without violating the statute, and exposing himself and the railroad company to severe penalties.

In the case at bar, the declaration alleges that the plaintiff's vessel, having occasion to use the defendant's draw, by some negligence or accident for which the defendants were not responsible got her stern caught underneath the drawbridge, which was closed, and as the tide was rising she was thereby sunk; and that the master requested the superintendent to open the draw, and he refused. It does not allege in any way that this demand was made at a time when the owner or master of the vessel had a right to have the draw open. For aught that appears, it may have been made within fifteen minutes of the arrival of an approaching train, when the superintendent was forbidden by the statute to open the draw. The declaration does not contain sufficient averments to show that it was the duty of the superintendent to comply with the request and open the draw. It therefore shows no negligence for which the defendant is liable. *Judgment affirmed.*

FREDERICK A. LOCKWOOD *vs.* GEORGE W. TWITCHELL & another.

Suffolk. March 16, 1888. — May 4, 1888.

Present: MORTON, C. J., DEVENS, W. ALLEN, C. ALLEN, & HOLMES, JJ.

Promissory Note — Accommodation — Defence.

It is no defence to a promissory note that the maker signed it at the request of one for whose accommodation it does not appear to have been given, under his promise, express or implied, to indemnify the maker.

CONTRACT against George W. Twitchell and John Eliot, as former copartners under the name of George W. Twitchell and Company, on a promissory note payable to the order of the plaintiff, and signed by "Geo. W. Twitchell & Co." The answer of the defendant Eliot contained a general denial, and

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set up want of consideration and payment, and concluded as follows:

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"And said Eliot further says that he signed said note as surety for his co-defendant, Twitchell; that the plaintiff knew at the time of taking said note that said Eliot was surety for said Twitchell upon said note; that subsequently the plaintiff, without the knowledge or consent of said surety, Eliot, made a valid and binding agreement with the principal debtor, Twitchell, to extend the time of payment of said note; whereby said defendant Eliot was wholly discharged from liability upon said note. And said defendant Eliot further says that he was induced to sign the note in suit by the fraud of the plaintiff and of Jotham Twitchell, and of the co-defendant George W. Twitchell; and that said plaintiff, Jotham Twitchell, and George W. Twitchell have secretly and fraudulently colluded together to charge said defendant Eliot on said note."

Trial in the Superior Court, before *Hammond*, J., who allowed the following bill of exceptions, alleged by the defendant Eliot:

"The defendant John Eliot offered to prove that said Lockwood is suing for the benefit of one Jotham Twitchell, and as his agent or trustee; that the note in suit was signed by said Eliot in the name of his firm of George W. Twitchell & Co., at the request of said Jotham Twitchell, and to enable him to raise money from said Lockwood, which was done to be given to said Jotham Twitchell's son, the principal defendant, George W. Twitchell, and to be used by the latter for his own private purposes, and not for the benefit of said Eliot, nor of the firm of George W. Twitchell & Co. But the judge ruled that these facts would constitute no defence for said Eliot, and ordered a verdict for the plaintiff."

C. Reno, for the defendant Eliot.

S. W. McCall, for the plaintiff.

MORTON, C. J. This bill of exceptions is brief and obscure. It states that the defendant Eliot "offered to prove that said Lockwood is suing for the benefit of one Jotham Twitchell, and as his agent or trustee; that the note in suit was signed by said Eliot in the name of his firm of George W. Twitchell & Co., at the request of said Jotham Twitchell, and to enable him to raise money from said Lockwood, which was done to be given to said

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Jotham Twitchell's son, the principal defendant, George W. Twitchell, and to be used by the latter for his own private purposes." We treat the case as if Jotham Twitchell were the plaintiff, having in some way become the owner of the note. If the offer of proof could be construed as meaning that the defendant Eliot signed the note for the accommodation and benefit of Jotham Twitchell, it would be a defence. But to sustain the defence that a note was signed for the accommodation of the plaintiff, it must appear that it was given for his benefit, and upon an express or implied promise that he would hold the maker harmless on the note. If it have this character, then, as between the plaintiff and defendant, it is without consideration. *Corlies* v. *Howe*, 11 Gray, 125. *Kellogg* v. *Barton*, 12 Allen, 527.

But it is not enough for the defendant Eliot to prove that he signed the note for the accommodation of George W. Twitchell at the request of Jotham Twitchell. In the absence of any agreement, the law will not imply a promise by Jotham Twitchell to indemnify the defendant, from the mere fact that he requested the defendant to sign the note for the accommodation of George W. Twitchell. The note was good in the hands of any *bona fide* holder; Jotham Twitchell was not a party to the note, and if he became the holder, he can enforce it. As we construe the exceptions, the offer of proof does not go far enough to constitute a defence. We cannot fairly enlarge the words "at the request of said Jotham Twitchell," so as to make them mean that the note was signed for his accommodation.

This construction of the exceptions is fortified by the fact that the answer does not allege that the note was signed for the accommodation of Jotham Twitchell. It alleges that the defendant Eliot "signed the note as surety for his co-defendant," and that he was induced to sign it by the fraud of the nominal plaintiff and of the two Twitchells.

We are therefore of opinion that the ruling of the Superior Court was correct. *Exceptions overruled.*

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INDEX.

ABANDONMENT.

Lease, breach of covenant no evidence of, when, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
Freight, when justified, *Boardman* v. *Boston Ins. Co.* 442.

ABATEMENT OF TAX.

Appeal on non-abatement of corporation tax, *Lowell* v. *Co. Com'rs*, 403.

ACCEPTANCE.

Lease, by assignee in insolvency, *Bowditch* v. *Raymond*, 109.

ACCORD AND SATISFACTION.

Mortgage debt, transaction *held* not to show, *Dooley* v. *Potter*, 148.
Note, agreement *held* not to show, *Hunt* v. *Brown*, 253.

ACCOUNT.

Surviving partners, rendering, by, *Robinson* v. *Simmons*, 167.

ACCOUNT ANNEXED.

Bill of particulars *held* sufficient, *Taylor* v. *Dexter Engine Co.* 613.

ACTION.

Assent of assignee of insolvent debtor to, *Herring* v. *Downing*, 10.
Administrator of payee may bring, when, *Converse* v. *Johnson*, 20.
Pitfall in way, maintained for leaving, *Toomey* v. *Sanborn*, 28.
Arrest not questionable in, on recognizance, *Everett* v. *Henderson*, 89.
action for malicious prosecution, the remedy, *Ib.*
Statute of limitations bars, on demand note, when, *Fenno* v. *Gay*, 118.
Cemetery, for negligent burial, *Donnelly* v. *Boston Cath. Cem.* 163.
Master not liable in, to boy injured, *Ciriack* v. *Merchants' Woolen Co.* 182.
Seaman, master not liable for wages to, *Rosenberg* v. *Doe*, 191.
Contractor not liable to experienced workman, *Murphy* v. *Greeley*, 196.

Digitized by Google

Beneficiary association not liable to creditor, *Skillings* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 217.
Caution of manufacturer to public, not actionable, *Boynton* v. *Shaw Co.* 219.
Railroad not liable under declaration, *Allerton* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 241.
Former judgment *held* no bar to, *Hunt* v. *Brown*, 253.
Employer not liable to, as for negligence, *Goodnow* v. *Walpole Mills*, 261.
Railroad killing trespasser not liable to, *Granger* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 276.
Husband to recover for wife's funeral expenses, *Constantinides* v. *Walsh*, 281.
Father *held* liable on contract made by son, *Ford* v. *Linehan*, 283.
Beneficiary association liable to administrator, *Rindge* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 286.
Carrier *held* liable for breach of contract, *North* v. *Merchants' Trans. Co.* 315.
City *held* liable for cost of sewer, *Dorey* v. *Boston*, 336.
Church custodian not liable for bell ringing, *Rogers* v. *Elliott*, 349.
Administrator's, on a bond for support, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
Railroad causing loss of life *held* liable, *Maguire* v. *F. Railroad*, 379.
Assent of assignee of chose in action to, *Coulter* v. *Haynes*, 458.
Town not liable for surface water flowage, *Kennison* v. *Beverly*, 467.
Master *held* liable to servant for negligence, *Moynihan* v. *Hills Co.* 586.
Violator of ordinance to maintain, when, *Newcomb* v. *Boston Prot. Dep't*, 596.
Passenger not to maintain, against railroad, *Stewart* v. *B & P. Railroad*, 605.
Storage of property, *held* to lie for, *Taylor* v. *Dexter Engine Co.* 613.
Party wall agreement, *held* premature on, *Thorndike* v. *Wells Mem. Assoc.* 619.
Railroad not liable for damage from closed drawbridge, *Jennings* v. *F. Railroad*, 621.

ADMINISTRATOR AND EXECUTOR.

Statute of limitations no bar to action, *Converse* v. *Johnson*, 20.
Probate of will at any time, *Haddock* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 155.
Deceased partner's, to have interest or profits, *Robinson* v. *Simmons*, 167.
bill for an account, payment to heirs directly on, *Ib.*
Capital of deceased partner reduced by debts, when, *Ib.*
Heir's agreement with, no payment of note, *Taylor* v. *Lewis*, 222.
Testatrix's husband to recover funeral expenses of, *Constantinides* v. *Walsh*, 281.
Beneficiary association liable to, for heirs, *Rindge* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 286.
Trust not continuable for benefit of, *Slater* v. *Hurlbut*, 308.
Release of breach of trust by legatee, *Pope* v. *Farnsworth*, 339.
Obligor and obligee with common; effect, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
action lies against obligor's heir, when, *Ib.*
bond for support of intestate, remedy on, *Ib.*
Charges by, *held* to be properly allowed, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
expenses of administration chargeable to capital, when, *Ib.*
Cestui que trust's, right to income, *White* v. *Stanfield*, 424.

ADMISSION.

Attorney, evidence *held* inadmissible as showing, *Pickert* v. *Hair*, 1.
Owner's opinion as to land value, competent as, *Patch* v. *Boston*, 52.
Declaration of wife *held*, of husband, *Com.* v. *Funai*, 570.

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ADVERSE POSSESSION.

Evidence of drawing water, insufficient to establish, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
Title not gained by, as against railroad, *Littlefield* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 268.
Facts not evidencing title by, *Duff* v. *Leary*, 533.
Declarations of alleged donor, excluded as to, *Ib.*

AFFIDAVIT.

Civil arrest not questionable as got by false, *Everett* v. *Henderson*, 89.
Affiant's knowledge and belief that true, sufficient, *Am. Carpet Co.* v. *Chipman*, 385.

AGENT.

Delivery of pledge to, no divesting of title, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 60.
Private sale by broker *held* valid, *Ib.*
Carrier the, of consignor of goods C. O. D., *Lane* v. *Chadwick*, 68.
Covenant against incumbrances, insertion by, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
U. S. tax receipt as evidence of liquor sale by, *Com.* v. *Uhrig*, 132.
Broker to sell, falsity of representation by, *Schramm* v. *Boston Ref. Co.* 211.
Son, of father in making contract, *Ford* v. *Linehan*, 283.

AGREED FACTS.

Sale on credit, construction as to, *Blanchard* v. *Fitzpatrick*, 24.
Assumption in argument not warranted by, *Brock* v. *O. C. Railroad*, 194.

AGREEMENT. See CONTRACT.

ALABAMA CLAIMS.

Money reimbursing war premiums *held* a gift, *Heard* v. *Sturgis*, 545.

AMENDMENT.

Declaration not stating consideration, of, *Herring* v. *Downing*, 10.
Misjoinder of parties cured by, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
Special denial of genuineness of signature, of, *Ham* v. *Kerwin*, 378.
County Commissioners, of tax complaint to, *Lowell* v. *Co. Com'rs*, 403.
Magistrate's record, when amendable, *May* v. *Hammond*, 439.

ANALYSIS.

Milk inspector may testify as to results of, *Com.* v. *Holt*, 38.

ANNUITY.

Net income of estate, payable out of, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
Income, *held* payable out of, *Cummings* v. *Cummings*, 501.

ANSWER.

Certiorari petition, filing, by County Commissioners, *Lowell* v. *Co. Com'rs*, 403
Evidence of bankruptcy not set up in, competent, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.

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APPEAL.

Forcible entry and detainer, validity of, bond, *Pray* v. *Wasdell*, 324.
Master's refusal to act on probate; effect, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
Tax, to county commissioners, *Lowell* v. *Co. Com'rs*, 403.
non-abatement of corporation tax upon, *Ib.*

APPLICATION.

Lease of Great Pond, notice of, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.

AQUEDUCT.

Grant of right to maintain pipes, as to, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
Evidence not establishing right by adverse user, *Ib.*
Incumbrance within a covenant against, not an, *Ib.*

ARREST.

Bail bond *held* effective on acceptance, *Bell* v. *Pierce*, 58.
Civil, legality not questionable as got by fraud, *Everett* v. *Henderson*, 89.
Scire facias lies on return of notice, when, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.

ASSENT.

Assignee of insolvent debtor, to action, *Herring* v. *Downing*, 10.

ASSIGNMENT.

Bail bond, ineffective to bind sureties, *Bell* v. *Pierce*, 58.
Assignee's assent to insolvent's action, *Herring* v. *Downing*, 10.
Acceptance or surrender of lease by insolvency, *Bowditch* v. *Raymond*, 109.
Assignee entitled to income as against trustee, *Abbott* v. *Foote*, 333.
Assignor of judgment, filing of insolvency petition by, *Am. Carpet Co.* v. *Chipman*, 385.
Assignee's assent to assignor's action, *Coulter* v. *Haynes*, 458.
assignee need not indorse writ, when, *Ib.*
Assignee of mortgage *held* entitled to interest, *Martin* v. *Martin*, 517.
Bankruptcy assignee not to take repaid war premiums, *Heard* v. *Sturgis*, 545.

ASSUMPSIT.

Work and materials under entire contract *held* to lie, *Gilbert Co.* v. *Butler*, 82.
Account annexed *held* sufficient, *Taylor* v. *Dexter Engine Co.* 613.

ATTACHMENT.

Trustee process, husband charged as trustee, *Porter* v. *Wakefield*, 25.
Equitable attachment of intestate obligor's land, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
husband's interest under wife's will, of, *Baker* v. *Brown*, 369.
trust fund and income, of, *Sears* v. *Choate*, 395.

ATTESTATION.

Release of wages by seamen valid without, *Rosenberg* v. *Doe*, 191.

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ATTORNEY AND COUNSEL.

Admissions of, evidence *held* inadmissible as, *Pickert* v. *Hair*, 1.

ATTORNEY, POWER OF.

Insertion of covenant against incumbrances under, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.

AUCTION.

Trustee need not sell by, a year after license, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.

BAIL.

Bond *held* effective on acceptance, *Bell* v. *Pierce*, 58.
Scire facias lies on return of notice for arrest, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.

BAILMENT.

Pledge by wife to husband *held* invalid, *Porter* v. *Wakefield*, 25.
Pledgee, title *held* to pass to, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 60.

BANKRUPTCY.

Partner's, is notice of dissolution of firm, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.
Assignee not to take award for war premiums, *Heard* v. *Sturgis*, 545.

BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION.

Creditor of member not "dependent," *Skillings* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 217.
Promise to pay creditor *held* void, *Ib.*
Waiver of forfeiture of certificate by, *Rice* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 248.
Heirs not "friends" to recover from, *Rindge* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 286.
Administrator's action *held* to lie, *Ib.*
Waiver of forfeiture of certificate by, *Ib.*
Designation of mother as beneficiary binding, *Mass. Foresters* v. *Callahan*, 391.
Certificate and application, construction of, *Clapp* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 519.
"best knowledge and belief," effect of words, *Ib.*
Burden of proof on association, when, *Ib.*
Question not open to, on exceptions, *Ib.*
Libel, no publication by, *Sénancour* v. *La Prévoyance*, 616.

BEQUEST. See DEVISE AND LEGACY.

BETS.

Crime of registering, definition of, *Com.* v. *Ferry*, 203.

BETTERMENTS.

Sewer, levy and collection of, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.

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BILL OF LADING.

Pledge, title not divested by indorsement of, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 60.
Carrier disposing of, *held* liable, *North* v. *Merchants' Trans. Co.* 315.

BILL OF PARTICULARS.

Storage of property, *held* sufficient as to, *Taylor* v. *Dexter Engine Co.* 613.

BILLS AND NOTES. See PROMISSORY NOTE.

BOND.

Bail bond effective on acceptance, *Bell* v. *Pierce*, 58.
Coupon bonds, not entitled to grace, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.
Appeal, in forcible entry and detainer, validity, *Pray* v. *Wasdell*, 324.
Bail, *scire facias* lies against, when, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.
Support, for; enforcement, non-extinguishment, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
Collector of taxes, rights under, *Needham* v. *Morton*, 476.

BOSTON.

Court-house, assessment of land damages for, *Patch* v. *Boston*, 52.

BOSTON PROTECTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Negligence, liability to action, *Newcomb* v. *Boston Prot. Dep't*, 596.

BREACH.

Lease of Great Pond, of covenant in, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
Bill of lading, by carrier, *North* v. *Merchants' Co.* 315.
Covenant to insure, of; relief in equity, *Mactier* v. *Osborn*, 399.
Indenture between wharf owners, of; effect, *Commercial Wharf* v. *Winsor*, 559.

BROKER.

Private sale of pledge through, *held* valid, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 60.
Representation in sale, *held* not fraudulent, *Schramm* v. *Boston Ref. Co.* 211.

BURDEN OF PROOF.

Servant to prove master's negligence, *Murphy* v. *Greeley*, 196.
Petitioner for writ of certiorari, upon, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.
Beneficiary association, *held* upon, *Clapp* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 519.

BURYING-GROUND.

Cemetery corporation, not a public charity, *Donnelly* v. *Boston Cath. Cem.* 163.
negligent burial, liability for, *Ib.*

BY-LAW AND ORDINANCE.

Sewer ordinance of Holyoke, construed, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.
Order of aldermen *held* not to supersede, *Dorey* v. *Boston*, 336.
Violator may recover for injuries, when, *Newcomb* v. *Boston Prot. Dep't*, 596.

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CAPITAL CASE. See MURDER.

CAPITAL AND INCOME.

Trustee not to pay own debt with income, *Abbott* v. *Foote*, 333.
Widow to take entire income of bequest, *Sturgis* v. *Paine*, 354.
Annuity payable out of income, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
Administrator of *cestui que trust* takes income, *White* v. *Stanfield*, 424.
Annuity payable out of income, *Cummings* v. *Cummings*, 501.

CARRIER.

Consignee of goods C. O. D. not to replevy from, *Lane* v. *Chadwick*, 68.
Breach of contract as to bill of lading, *North* v. *Merchants' Trans. Co.* 315.

CASE STATED.

Sale on credit, construction of, *Blanchard* v. *Fitzpatrick*, 24.
Assumption in argument not warranted by, *Brock* v. *O. C. Railroad*, 194.

CEMETERY.

Negligent burial, corporation liable for, *Donnelly* v. *Boston Cath. Cem.* 163.
Public charity, corporation *held* not a, *Ib.*

CERTIORARI.

Answer to petition taken as true, when, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.
City sewer assessment, revision by, denied, *Ib.*
Aldermen's answer taken as true on, *Ib.*
Tax appeal, writ refused to revise, *Lowell* v. *Co. Com'rs*, 403.
County commissioners to make a return to petition, *Ib.*

CHAMPERTY.

Agreement by creditors *held* void for, *Lancy* v. *Havender*, 615.

CHARITY.

Cemetery corporation *held* not a public, *Donnelly* v. *Boston Cath. Cem.* 163.

CHATTEL MORTGAGE.

Lien for horse's board, as to, *Howes* v. *Newcomb*, 76.
non-creation by mortgagor as against mortgagee, *Ib.*
Tender to mortgagee replevying, when effective, *Roberts* v. *White*, 256.

CHILD.

Employer not guilty of negligence, *Ciriack* v. *Merchants' Woolen Co.* 182.

CITY AND TOWN.

Lease of Great Pond, notice of application for, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
breach of covenant in, no evidence of abandonment, when, *Ib.*
Road commissioners, not liable for acts of, *Clark* v. *Easton*, 43.
de facto commissioners, certain, *held* to be, *Ib.*

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Deed of selectmen did not pass title, *Littlefield* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 268.
Vote to refer sale of land to selectmen, as to, *Ib.*
Mayor and aldermen may build sewer by committee, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.
committee of city council may build, *Ib.*
Sewer assessments, levy of, *Ib.*
division into classes, *Ib.*
mayor and aldermen may have assistants to make, *Ib.*
Ordinance of Holyoke as to sewers, construed, *Ib.*
Mayor and aldermen, a continuous tribunal, *Ib.*
Sewers duly built, liable for cost of, *Dorey* v. *Boston*, 336.
building by committee of board, as to, *Ib.*
Ordinance not superseded by aldermen's order, *Ib.*
Surface water, not liable for damage from, *Kennison* v. *Beverly*, 467.

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CLUB.

Evidence that whiskey belonged to and was not for sale, admitted, *Com.* v. *Geary*, 139.

COERCION. See DURESS.

COLLATERAL SECURITY.

Title *held* to pass to pledgee, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 60.
Private sale of, *held* valid, *Ib.*
Pledge by wife to husband *held* invalid, *Porter* v. *Wakefield*, 25.

COMMISSIONERS.

Inland fishery, lease of Great Pond, notice of hearing by, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
Road, public officers, *Clark* v. *Easton*, 43.
de facto, certain, *held* to be, *Ib.*
Street, to assess land damages in Boston, *Patch* v. *Boston*, 52.
Shipping, as to release of wages before, *Rosenberg* v. *Doe*, 191.
County, tax appeal to, *Lowell* v. *Co. Com'rs*, 403.
certiorari, to make return to petition for, *Ib.*
Appointment to fix price under statute, *Braintree Water Co.* v. *Braintree*, 482.

COMMISSIONS.

Trustee of firm *held* entitled to charge, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 60.
Pledgee *held* entitled to reasonable, on sale, *Ib.*
Trust not continuable to pay, to executor, *Slater* v. *Hurlbut*, 308.

COMMON CARRIER.

Consignee of goods C. O. D. not to replevy from, *Lane* v. *Chadwick*, 68.
Breach of contract as to bill of lading, *North* v. *Merchants' Trans. Co.* 315.

COMPLAINT AND INDICTMENT.

Averment of landlord's "control," how negatived, *Com.* v. *Wentworth*, 36.
Surplusage, averment that defendants were "partners," *Com.* v. *Rowell*, 128.

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Date, evidence of keeping liquors before, excluded, *Com.* v. *Purdy*, 138.
Lottery, charging the setting up and promotion, good, *Com.* v. *Sullivan*, 142.
Surplusage, averment of exposing liquors rejected as, *Com.* v. *Tay*, 146.
Averment of exposure and keeping proved by keeping liquors, *Ib.*
Registering bets and selling pools, for, *Com.* v. *Ferry*, 203.
Duplicity, for selling pools *held* not bad for, *Ib.*
Tax complaint to county commissioners, *Lowell* v. *Co. Com'rs*, 403.
Forfeiture of liquors, *held* sufficient on, *Com.* v. *Intox. Liquors*, 509.
Milk acts, *held* sufficient under, *Com.* v. *Schaffner*, 512.
Motion to quash too late and vague, *Ib.*

COMPOSITION OF CREDITORS.

Waiver of objection as to statutes by acceptance, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.

CONDITION.

Entire contract, recovery on non-performance of, *Gilbert Co.* v. *Butler*, 82.
Railroad coupon ticket, *held* valid upon, *B. & M. Railroad* v. *Chipman*, 107.
Acceptance of insurance premium on; effect, *Rice* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 248; *Rindge* v. *Same*, 286.

See COVENANT; DEED; MORTGAGE.

CONSIDERATION.

Declaration not stating, amended, *Herring* v. *Downing*, 10.
Insolvent debtor's contract, for, *Ib.*
Compromise proving beneficial *held* sufficient, *Hunt* v. *Brown*, 253.
Promissory note, evidence to show, excluded, *Brigham* v. *Holden*, 259.
Husband's note for wife's benefit on illegal, *Merrill* v. *Peaslee*, 460.
Contract in restraint of trade on illegal, *Bishop* v. *Palmer*, 469.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.

Posted U. S. tax receipt as evidence of liquor sale, *Com.* v. *Uhrig*, 132.
Waiver of objection that contract impaired, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.

CONTRACT.

Consideration for, with insolvent debtor, *Herring* v. *Downing*, 10.
assent of assignee to action on, *Ib.*
Pledge to husband by wife *held* invalid, *Porter* v. *Wakefield*, 25.
Extrinsic evidence to vary written, immaterial, *Hagan* v. *Sartwell*, 33.
Special, immaterial that poor milk was sold under a, *Com.* v. *Holt*, 38.
Entire contract, recovery on part performance, *Gilbert Co.* v. *Butler*, 82.
Representation inducing, *held* to amount to distinct, *Knowlton* v. *Keenan*, 86
Condition on railroad coupon ticket, valid, *B. & M. Railroad* v. *Chipman*, 107.
Mutual release of wages by master and seamen, *Rosenberg* v. *Doe*, 191.
None implied that builder will guard opening, *Murphy* v. *Greeley*, 196.

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Use and occupation, none implied from, *Brooks* v. *Allen*, 201.
False statement to induce, *held* that no, *Schramm* v. *Boston Ref. Co.* 211.
Rescission of sale of unselected article, *Ib.*
Shipping sugars by "schooner," *held* satisfied, *Ib.*
Beneficiary association's, with creditor, void, *Skillings* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 217.
Heir's, with administrator, no payment of note, *Taylor* v. *Lewis*, 222.
Time of the essence of, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.
Consideration, compromise *held* a sufficient, *Hunt* v. *Brown*, 253.
Son *held* to be his father's agent in making, *Ford* v. *Linehan*, 283.
Designation of beneficiary did not avoid, *Rindge* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 286.
Amendment to conform to agreement, *Spalding* v. *Conant*, 292.
Construction, as meaning gross, not net, amount, *Logan* v. *Dockray*, 296.
Carrier *held* liable for breach of, *North* v. *Merchants' Trans. Co.* 315.
Husband's, with trustee for wife's benefit, void, *Merrill* v. *Peaslee*, 460.
Consideration illegal as in restraint of trade, *Bishop* v. *Palmer*, 469.
Town's, with water company, binding, *Braintree Water Co.* v. *Braintree*, 482.
Partnership, *held* to constitute a, *Dame* v. *Kempster*, 454.
Storage, implied promise to pay for, *Taylor* v. *Dexter Engine Co.* 613.
Champerty, agreement by creditors *held* void for, *Lancy* v. *Havender*, 615.

CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE. See NEGLIGENCE.

CONVICTION.

Credibility of witness, evidence to affect, *Com.* v. *Ford*, 131.

CORPORATION.

Bonds, issue, redemption, or conversion, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.
Shares, conversion of bonds into, *Ib.*
Merger of corporations, effect on securities, *Ib.*
Insurance company may realize on illegal investment, *Ib.*
Tax appeal to county commissioners, *Lowell* v. *Co. Com'rs*, 403.
admission of evidence at hearing, *Ib.*
Payments to directors by, *held* good, *Holt* v. *Bennett*, 437.
Special charter, organization under, *Braintree Water Co.* v. *Braintree*, 482.
Petition properly brought in corporate name, *Ib.*
Dividends, bill by stockholder to secure, *Dunphy* v. *Traveller Newspaper*, 495.
necessary parties plaintiff to such a bill, *Ib.*
Stockholder's remedy for mismanagement, *Ib.*
Minority of stockholders, remedy in equity, *Ib.*
Bill by stockholder *held* not multifarious, *Ib.*
Laches, stockholder *held* guilty of, *Ib.*

COSTS.

Foreclosure suit, allowing interest on, *Dooley* v. *Potter*, 148.
Indorser for, how secured only, *Coulter* v. *Haynes*, 458.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Certiorari, to make a return to petition, *Lowell* v. *Co. Com'rs*, 403.
Complaint to, on non-abatement of corporation tax, *Ib.*
amendment to tax complaint, allowance, *Ib.*
limit within which to be filed, *Ib.*
Experts before, as to qualifications, *Ib.*

COUPON.

Railroad tickets, condition *held* reasonable, *B. & M. Railroad* v. *Chipman*, 107
Coupon bonds not entitled to grace, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.
Interest coupons not entitled to grace, *Ib.*

COURT-HOUSE.

Assessment of land damages for Boston, *Patch* v. *Boston*, 52.

COVENANT.

Lease, breach no evidence of abandonment, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
Incumbrance, right to take water not an, within, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
Power of attorney authorizing insertion of, against incumbrances, *Ib.*
Forfeiture by breach of, to insure; relief, *Mactier* v. *Osborn*, 399.
Consideration, illegal as in restraint of trade, *Bishop* v. *Palmer*, 469.
Wharf owners', enforcement in equity, *Commercial Wharf* v. *Winsor*, 559.

CREDIT.

Title *held* to pass where sale on, *Blanchard* v. *Fitzpatrick*, 24.

CREDITORS.

Pledge to husband by wife, void as to her, *Porter* v. *Wakefield*, 25.
Absolute conveyance *held* to be a mortgage, *Cullen* v. *Carey*, 50.
Question of fact whether fraud in voluntary conveyance, *Cook* v. *Holbrook*, 66.
Arrest of debtor not questionable as got by fraud, *Everett* v. *Henderson*, 89.
"Dependent" on debtor, *held* not to be, *Skillings* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 217.
Obligor's heir liable to obligee's, when, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
Husband's interest under wife's will not attachable, *Baker* v. *Brown*, 369.
Affidavit on involuntary insolvency petition, *Am. Carpet Co.* v. *Chipman*, 385.
Equitable attachment of trust fund and income, *Sears* v. *Choate*, 395.
Composition, acceptance a waiver that statute void, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.
Payments by corporation to directors good as to, *Holt* v. *Bennett*, 437.

CURTESY.

Tenant's wife as mortgagee, entitled to interest, *Martin* v. *Martin*, 517.

CUSTOM.

Builders', as to guarding openings in floors, *Murphy* v. *Greeley*, 196.
Fences and gates, as to maintenance of, *Short* v. *Devine*, 119.

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DAMAGES.

Boston Street Commissioners to assess, *Patch* v. *Boston*, 52.
Evidence of fall of price competent, when, *Schramm* v. *Boston Ref. Co.* 211.

DAYS OF GRACE.

Coupon bonds not entitled to, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.
Interest coupons not entitled to, *Ib.*

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DEATH. See LOSS OF LIFE.

DEBT.

Contingent liability of indorser of note is a, *May* v. *Hammond*, 439.
See CREDITORS.

DECLARATION.

Amendment of, not stating consideration, *Herring* v. *Downing*, 10.
evidence *held* sufficient to sustain, *Ib.*
Action, maintenance against railroad under, *Allerton* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 241.
Surplusage in, against beneficiary association, *Rindge* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 286.
Storage of property, *held* sufficient as to, *Taylor* v. *Dexter Engine Co.* 613.
Cause of action, not setting out, *Jennings* v. *F. Railroad*, 621.

DECLARATIONS.

Donor's, as to land, *held* incompetent, *Duff* v. *Leary*, 533.
Wife of alleged liquor seller, admitted, *Com.* v. *Funai*, 570.

DECREE.

Guardian, to support spendthrift's wife, void, *Kavanaugh* v. *Kavanaugh*, 40.
Trustee, to pay private debt, void, *Abbott* v. *Foote*, 333.

DEED.

Equities of redemption, severance by, *North* v. *Dearborn*, 17.
Absolute, in form *held* to be a mortgage, *Cullen* v. *Carey*, 50.
Voluntary conveyance, whether fraudulent, *Cook* v. *Holbrook*, 66.
Grant of right to maintain and repair pipes, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
Reservation of privilege to convey water; effect, *Ib.*
Trustee's, tendered upon private sale, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.
Right of way, reservation; construction, *Short* v. *Devine*, 119.
Selectmen's, did not pass title of town, *Littlefield* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 268.
Special denial of signature, amendable, *Ham* v. *Kerwin*, 378.
Life estate only conveyed by, *Allendorff* v. *Gaugengigl*, 542.
Covenants of wharf owners, how enforced, *Commercial Wharf* v. *Winsor*, 559.
Extrinsic evidence to vary terms of, excluded, *Kelley* v. *Saltmarsh*, 585.
Grade of way not to be changed under, *Ib.*
Registry, constructive notice of conveyance, *Gillespie* v. *Rogers*, 610.

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DEFENCE.

Breach of agreement need not be set up, when, *Hunt* v. *Brown*, 253.
Equitable, when available in replevin, *Roberts* v. *White*, 256.
Signing note at another's request *held* no, *Lockwood* v. *Twitchell*, 623.

DEFINITIONS. See WORDS.

DELIVERY.

Sale on credit, title *held* to pass by, *Blanchard* v. *Fitzpatrick*, 24.
Consignee not to replevy from carrier before, *Lane* v. *Chadwick*, 68.

DEMAND.

Party wall agreement, *held* premature on, *Thorndike* v. *Wells Mem. Assoc.* 619.

DEMAND NOTE.

Note stating no time of payment *held* a, *Converse* v. *Johnson*, 20.
Statute of limitations a bar to action on, *Fenno* v. *Gay*, 118.

DEPOSITION.

Variance as to name of deponent, *Parker* v. *Parker*, 320.
Testimony of writer as to variance excluded, *Ib.*
Failure to exclude, at former trial, a waiver, *Ib.*

DEVISE AND LEGACY.

Devisee with notice compelled to reconvey land, *Cullen* v. *Carey*, 50.
Gift with power to sell and convey, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.
Trust *held* not to be created by, *Slater* v. *Hurlbut*, 308.
Legacy vested in remainder-man absolutely, *Pope* v. *Farnsworth*, 339.
Bequest over to testator's heirs at his death, *Whall* v. *Converse*, 345.
Trust *held* not to be created, *Sturgis* v. *Paine*, 354.
Income to widow to her own use, *Ib.*
Husband *held* to have no attachable interest under, *Baker* v. *Brown*, 369.
Annuity payable out of net income, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
"House," whether included stable, *Ib.*
"Heirs at law" meant next of kin or distributees, *White* v. *Stanfield*, 424.
Annuity *held* payable out of income, *Cummings* v. *Cummings*, 501.
Bequest over to those who were heirs at testator's death *per stirpes*, *Ib.*

DIVORCE.

Husband charged as trustee of wife after, *Porter* v. *Wakefield*, 25.

DOMICIL.

Extra-State, statute of limitations as to, *Converse* v. *Johnson*, 20.

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DOWER.

Dowress allowed to sue stranger for trespass, *Nickerson* v. *Thacher*, 609.
probate proceedings put in evidence on question of possession, *Ib.*

DUE CARE. See NEGLIGENCE.

DURESS.

Release of wages by seaman without, valid, *Rosenberg* v. *Doe*, 191.
Wife's declaration in presence of husband not under, *Com.* v. *Funai*, 570.

EASEMENT.

Aqueduct, right to maintain and draw water, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
Reservation of right of way; construction, *Short* v. *Devine*, 119.
Indenture between wharf owners, as to, *Commercial Wharf* v. *Winsor*, 559.

EJECTMENT. See FORCIBLE ENTRY AND DETAINER.

ELECTION.

Government need not make, as to lottery, *Com.* v. *Sullivan*, 142.
Lessor may validate lease got by fraud, *Brooks* v. *Allen*, 201.
Conversion of bonds into stock, as to, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.
Samples of milk, government need not elect as to, *Com.* v. *Schaffner*, 512.
Creditors', to accept composition a waiver, when, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.

ELECTIONS.

Road commissioners *de facto*, as to, *Clark* v. *Easton*, 43.

EMINENT DOMAIN.

Boston court-house, taking of land for, *Patch* v. *Boston*, 52.
Filing of railroad location is notice of taking, *Brock* v. *O. C. Railroad*, 194.

ENTRY.

Lease of Great Pond, for breach of covenant, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
See REAL ACTION.

EQUITABLE ATTACHMENT. See ATTACHMENT.

EQUITY.

Absolute conveyance *held* a mortgage, *Cullen* v. *Carey*, 50.
Mortgage, case of bill to redeem, *Dooley* v. *Potter*, 148.
Specific issue of bonds for stock denied, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.
market value of shares decreed to bondholder. *Ib.*
Equitable defence available in replevin, when, *Roberts* v. *White*, 256.
Railroad *held* not to have title in, *Littlefield* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 268.

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Set-off, not to enlarge right of, when, *Abbott* v. *Foote*, 333.
Trustee denied right of set-off in, *Ib.*
Administrator's and creditors' bill, dismissed, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 206.
Forfeiture by breach of covenant to insure, relief, *Mactier* v. *Osborn*, 289.
Accident or mistake in getting insurance, relief, *Ib.*
Minority of stockholders, remedy in, *Dunphy* v. *Traveller Newspaper*, 225.
Stockholders' bill to secure dividends, *Ib.*
Wharf owners' covenant, enforced in, *Commercial Wharf* v. *Winsor*, 269.
Injunction, wharf owner *held* entitled to, *Ib.*
Injunction to prevent cutting down of way, *Kelley* v. *Saltmarsh*, 595.

EQUITY PLEADING AND PRACTICE.

Payment on administrator's bill directly to heir, *Robinson* v. *Simmons*, 107.
Master, allowances on bill to redeem *held* correct, *Dooley* v. *Potter*, 146.
Answer conflicting with bill, taken as true, *Am. Carpet Co.* v. *Chipman*, 235.
Multifarious, stockholders' bill *held* not, *Dunphy* v. *Traveller Newspaper*, 225.
Parties plaintiff to stockholders' bill for dividends, *Ib.*
Lessor *held* a proper party to bill, *Commercial Wharf* v. *Winsor*, 269.

EQUITY OF REDEMPTION.

Sale on execution of, in different parcels, *North* v. *Dearborn*, 17.

ERROR.

Juvenile offender, remedy by writ of, *Sennett's case*, 489.

ESSEX COUNTY.

Support of lunatic, to remover for, when, *Newburyport* v. *Creesden*, 134.

ESTATE FOR LIFE.

Mortgage of wife *held* to convey only, *Allendorff* v. *Gaugengigl*, 542.

ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS. See ADMINISTRATOR; DEVISE AND LEGACY; TRUST; WILL.

EVIDENCE.

Admission of attorney, *held* inadmissible as, *Pickert* v. *Hair*, 1.
Contradiction of witness, *held* inadmissible for purpose of, *Ib.*
Breach of covenant in lease no, of abandonment, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
Insolvent debtor, sufficient to sustain action by, *Herring* v. *Downing*, 10.
Milk inspector may give results of his analysis, when, *Com.* v. *Holt*, 36.
Poor milk sold under special contract, *held* immaterial that, *Ib.*
Value, *held* admissible on question of, *Patch* v. *Boston*, 52.

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Cost of addition to house *held* inadmissible, when, *Ib.*
Price at which neighboring estates were sold *held* competent, *Ib.*
Admission, owner's opinion as to land value admitted as an, *Ib.*
Fraudulent promise not to vary writing, *Knowlton* v. *Keenan*, 86.
Adverse user of water, insufficient to prove, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
Extrinsic, to vary writing *held* immaterial, *Hagan* v. *Sartwell*, 83.
Waiver of condition on ticket, as to, *B. & M. Railroad* v. *Chipman*, 107.
Possession of milk, *held* competent as to, *Com.* v. *Rowell*, 128.
Conviction to affect witness's credibility, what, *Com.* v. *Ford*, 131.
Posting U. S. tax receipt, whether *prima facie*, *Com.* v. *Uhrig*, 132.
Liquor, of keeping prior to date, excluded, *Com.* v. *Purdy*, 138.
Club, that whiskey belonged to, and not for sale, admitted, *Com.* v. *Geary*, 139.
Cross-examination, exclusion on, *held* correct, *Com.* v. *Sullivan*, 142.
Lottery, *held* to describe as matter of law, *Ib.*
Keeping liquors, as to, sufficient, *Com.* v. *Tay*, 146.
Making of will by woman, of capacity, *Haddock* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 155.
Burden to prove master's negligence on servant, *Murphy* v. *Greeley*, 196.
Due care, usage competent as to exercise of, *Ib.*
Usage of builders as to guarding openings, competent, *Ib.*
Presumption on appeal that crime is that charged below, *Com.* v. *Ferry*, 208.
Sales of pools in same room prior to date, as to, *Ib.*
False representation of fact, as to, *Schramm* v. *Boston Ref. Co.* 211.
Fall of price of article, *held* competent as to, *Ib.*
Plea of payment, not supported by, *Taylor* v. *Lewis*, 222.
Contract *held* sufficient, of consideration, *Hunt* v. *Brown*, 258.
Note, incompetent to show consideration, *Brigham* v. *Holden*, 259.
Finding that son was father's agent warranted by, *Ford* v. *Linehan*, 288.
One conversation admitted to disprove another, *Hoar* v. *Abbott*, 290.
Burden upon petitioner for certiorari, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.
Deposition and interrogatories, variance between, *Parker* v. *Parker*, 320.
Testimony as to variance in deposition, excluded, *Ib.*
Failure to exclude deposition *held* a waiver, *Ib.*
Cross-examination, of prior slanders excluded on, *Sullivan* v. *O'Leary*, 322.
limit of judicial discretion as to cross-examination, *Ib.*
Officer's return on notice for arrest, admitted, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.
Character of employment, admitted to show, *Maguire* v. *F. Railroad*, 379.
Tax complaint, what competent at hearing on, *Lowell* v. *Co. Comm'rs*, 408.
Experts before county commissioners, qualifications, *Ib.*
Partner's bankruptcy, competent to prove notice, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.
Bankruptcy not set up in answer, of, *Ib.*
Magistrate's oral, not to contradict record, *May* v. *Hammond*, 439.
Credit of witness not impeachable, when, *Com.* v. *Schaffner*, 512.
Adulterated milk, *held* competent as to, *Ib.*
Burden of proof on beneficiary association, *Clapp* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 519.
Declarations of alleged donor, excluded, *Duff* v. *Leary*, 538.
Admission of husband, wife's declaration so *held*, *Com.* v. *Funai*, 570.
Druggist's application for liquor license, admitted, *Com.* v. *Wellington*, 566.
Murder, of another murder by accused, admitted, *Com.* v. *Robinson*, 571.

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Extrinsic, to vary deed, excluded, *Kelley* v. *Saltmarsh*, 585.
Unlawful act no, of negligence, *Newcomb* v. *Boston Prot. Dep't*, 596.
Witness, letter admitted to contradict, *Foster* v. *Worthing*, 607.
Probate proceedings setting off dower admitted, when, *Nickerson* v. *Thacher*, 609.

EXCEPTIONS.

Discretionary to refuse to re-instruct jury, when, *Com.* v. *Ford*, 131.
Full court confined to questions raised, *Com.* v. *Uhrig*, 132.
Request for instruction rightly refused, *Com.* v. *Geary*, 139.
Cross-examination, exclusion of question discretionary, *Com.* v. *Sullivan*, 142.
Refusal to instruct the jury to consider statute, correct, *Com.* v. *Tay*, 146.
Instructions to jury could not have misled, *Com.* v. *Ferry*, 203.
Amendment of special denial, discretionary, *Ham* v. *Kerwin*, 378.
Question *held* not open upon bill, *Clapp* v. *Mass. Benefit Assoc.* 519.
Waiver by non-argument of, *Com.* v. *Funai*, 570.

EXECUTION.

Equities of redemption in different parcels, levy and sale, *North* v. *Dearborn*, 17.
Levy on land conveyed title in mortgage, *Cullen* v. *Carey*, 50.
Arrest, not questionable as got by fraud, *Everett* v. *Henderson*, 89.
Scire facias lies against bail, when, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.

EXECUTOR AND ADMINISTRATOR.

Statute of limitations no bar to action, *Converse* v. *Johnson*, 20.
Probate of will at any time, *Haddock* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 155.
Deceased partner's, to have interest or profits, *Robinson* v. *Simmons*, 167.
Bill for an account, payment to heirs directly on, *Ib.*
Capital of deceased partner reduced by debts, when, *Ib.*
Heir's agreement with, no payment of note, *Taylor* v. *Lewis*, 222.
Testatrix's husband to recover funeral expenses of, *Constantinides* v. *Walsh*, 281.
Beneficiary association liable to, for heirs, *Rindge* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 286.
Trust not continuable for benefit of, *Slater* v. *Hurlbut*, 308.
Release of breach of trust by legatee, *Pope* v. *Farnsworth*, 339.
Obligor and obligee with common; effect, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
action lies against obligor's heir, when, *Ib.*
Bond for support of intestate, remedy on, *Ib.*
Charges by, *held* to be properly allowed, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
Expenses of administration chargeable to capital, when, *Ib.*
Cestui que trust's, right to income, *White* v. *Stanfield*, 424.

FEE.

Estate in, *held* to vest in trustee, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.

FENCE.

Right to maintain partition, as to, *Short* v. *Devine*, 119.

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FISHERIES.

Lease of Great Pond, notice of application; abandonment, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.

FORCIBLE ENTRY AND DETAINER.

Appeal bond given in, validity, *Pray* v. *Waedell*, 324.

FOREIGN ATTACHMENT. See TRUSTEE PROCESS.

FORFEITURE.

Waiver by beneficiary association of, *Rice* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 248; *Rindge* v. *Same*, 286.
Breach of covenant to insure, relief against, *Mactier* v. *Osborn*, 399.

FORGERY.

Guaranty on lease, effect of, by lessee, *Brooks* v. *Allen*, 201.

FRAUD.

Receipt, immaterial whether obtained by, *Hagan* v. *Sartwell*, 33.
Voluntary conveyance, question of fact as to, *Cook* v. *Holbrook*, 66.
Evidence of, to vary written contract excluded, *Knowlton* v. *Keenan*, 86.
Arrest on execution not to be questioned as got by, *Everett* v. *Henderson*, 89.
Release of wages by seamen without, valid, *Rosenberg* v. *Doe*, 191.
Lease procured by forged guaranty; effect, *Brooks* v. *Allen*, 201.
Payments by corporation to directors *held* not, *Holt* v. *Bennett*, 437.

FRAUDULENT REPRESENTATION.

Representation inducing contract *held* not a, *Knowlton* v. *Keenan*, 86.
Broker *held* not to make, in sale, *Schramm* v. *Boston Ref. Co.* 211.

FREIGHT.

Constructive total loss of, *Beardman* v. *Boston Ins. Co.* 442.

GARNISHMENT. See TRUSTEE PROCESS.

GIFT.

Trustee had power to sell and convey, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.
Savings bank deposit, perfected, *Alger* v. *North End Savings Bank*, 418.
Facts *held* not to show, of land, *Duff* v. *Leary*, 533.
Money reimbursing war premiums *held* a, *Heard* v. *Sturgis*, 545.

GRACE.

Coupon bonds not entitled to, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.
Interest coupons not entitled to, *Ib.*

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GRANT. See DEED.

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GREAT POND.

Lease, notice of application for, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
breach of covenant, no evidence of abandonment, *Ib.*

GUARANTY.

Forgery by partner on a lease, effect of, *Brooks* v. *Allen*, 201.

GUARDIAN.

Spendthrift's, decree to support wife, invalid, *Kavanaugh* v. *Kavanaugh*, 40.

HABEAS CORPUS.

Juvenile offender not dischargeable on, *Sennott's case*, 489.

HEIRS.

Deceased partner's, right to interest or profits, *Robinson* v. *Simmons*, 167.
Bequest over to, at testator's death, *Whall* v. *Converse*, 345.
Obligor's, chargeable as trustee by obligee's creditor, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
"Heirs at law," definition of, *White* v. *Stanfield*, 424.
Bequest to, at testator's death *per stirpes*, *Cummings* v. *Cummings*, 561.
See DEVISE AND LEGACY.

HOLYOKE.

Sewer ordinance, construction of, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.

HUSBAND AND WIFE.

Contracts and transfers between, as to, *Porter* v. *Wakefield*, 25.
Pledge to husband by divorced wife for borrowed money, invalid, *Ib.*
Trustee of divorced wife, husband charged as, *Ib.*
Husband's negligence in causing pitfall, liability, *Toomey* v. *Sanborn*, 28.
Decree that guardian support wife void, *Kavanaugh* v. *Kavanaugh*, 40.
Wife's making will, evidence of capacity, *Haddock* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 155.
Funeral expenses of wife, husband to recover, *Constantinides* v. *Walsh*, 281.
Will of wife, no attachable interest in husband, *Baker* v. *Brown*, 369.
Husband's note for wife's benefit, void, *Merrill* v. *Peaslee*, 460.
Wife as mortgagee to have interest on debt, when, *Martin* v. *Martin*, 517.
Wife's mortgage *held* to convey life estate only, *Allendorff* v. *Gaugengigl*, 542.
Declaration of wife an admission of husband, *Com.* v. *Funai*, 570.

INCOME.

Trustee not entitled to, in payment of own debt, *Abbott* v. *Foote*, 333.
Widow *held* entitled to entire, of bequest, *Sturgis* v. *Paine*, 354.

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Annuity payable out of net, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
Administrator of *cestui que trust* to take, *White* v. *Stanfield*, 424.
Annuity *held* payable out of, *Cummings* v. *Cummings*, 501.

INCUMBRANCE.

Right to take water not an, within covenant against, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
Power of attorney *held* to authorize insertion of covenant against, *Ib.*

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INDENTURE.

Covenant between wharf owners enforced in equity, *Commercial Wharf* v. *Winsor*, 559.

See DEED.

INDICTMENT AND COMPLAINT.

Landlord's "control," averment how negatived, *Com.* v. *Wentworth*, 36.
Surplusage, averment that defendants were "partners," *Com.* v. *Rowell*, 128.
Date, evidence of keeping liquors before, excluded, *Com.* v. *Purdy*, 138.
Lottery, charging the setting up and promotion, good, *Com.* v. *Sullivan*, 142.
Surplusage, averment of exposing liquors rejected as, *Com.* v. *Tay*, 146.
Averment of exposure and keeping, proved by keeping liquors, *Ib.*
Registering bets and selling pools, for, *Com.* v. *Ferry*, 203.
Duplicity, for selling pools *held* not bad for, *Ib.*
Tax complaint to county commissioners, *Lowell* v. *Co. Comm'rs*, 403.
Forfeiture of liquors, *held* sufficient on, *Com.* v. *Intox. Liquors*, 509.
Milk acts, *held* sufficient under, *Com.* v. *Schaffner*, 512.
Motion to quash, too late and vague, *Ib.*

INDORSER OF WRIT.

Indorsement for costs, how secured, *Coulter* v. *Haynes*, 458.

INJUNCTION.

Wharf owner entitled to, against adjoining, *Commercial Wharf* v. *Winsor*, 559.
Way, to prevent change of grade, *Kelley* v. *Saltmarsh*, 585.

INLAND FISHERIES.

Great Pond lease, notice of application; abandonment, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.

INSANE PERSON.

Essex County, recovery for support by, *Newburyport* v. *Creedon*, 184.

INSOLVENT DEBTOR.

Assent of assignee to action by, *Herring* v. *Downing*, 10.
Sales of goods by pledgee *held* valid, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 60.
Assignee, acceptance or surrender of lease, *Bowditch* v. *Raymond*, 109.
Rent under lease *held* not a provable claim, *Ib.*
Firm *held* not liable for use and occupation, *Brooks* v. *Allen*, 201.


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Involuntary proceedings by judgment assignor, *Am. Carpet Co.* v. *Chipman*, 385.
Affidavit on creditor's petition, *held* good, *Ib.*
Composition with creditors, acceptance a waiver, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 418.
Insolvency Court, proceedings *held* a suit, *Lancy* v. *Havender*, 615.

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INSURANCE.

Company may realize on illegal investment, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.
Forfeiture by breach of covenant as to, relief, *Mactier* v. *Osborn*, 399.
Freight, constructive total loss of, *Boardman* v. *Boston Ins. Co.* 442.
Abandonment of freight, when justified, *Ib.*
War premiums repaid by United States, a gift, *Heard* v. *Sturgis*, 545.
See BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION.

INTEREST.

Mortgage note, *held* not to cease on, *Dooley* v. *Potter*, 148.
Costs of foreclosure suit, allowance on, *Ib.*
Taxes, allowance on redemption of mortgage upon, *Ib.*
Partial payments, reckoning according to rule of, correct, *Ib.*
Partner's heirs entitled to, on capital, *Robinson* v. *Simmons*, 167.
Interest coupons not entitled to grace, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.
Executor *held* liable for, to remainder-man, *Pope* v. *Farnsworth*, 339.
Collector entitled to, on unpaid taxes, *Needham* v. *Morton*, 476.
Assignee of mortgage *held* entitled to, *Martin* v. *Martin*, 517.
Party wall, not recoverable on value of, *Thorndike* v. *Wells Mem. Assoc.* 619.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

Landlord's "control" over nuisance, how negatived, *Com.* v. *Wentworth*, 36.
U. S. tax receipt, as to posting being evidence, *Com.* v. *Uhrig*, 132.
Evidence of keeping prior to date, excluded, *Com.* v. *Purdy*, 138.
Club's ownership, evidence of, admitted, *Com.* v. *Geary*, 139.
Proof of keeping *held* enough, *Com.* v. *Tay*, 146.
Forfeiture, complaint and warrant, good, *Com.* v. *Intox. Liquors*, 509.
notice and service *held* sufficient, *Ib.*
Druggist's application for license, evidence admitted, *Com.* v. *Wellington*, 566.
Declaration of wife of alleged seller, admitted, *Com.* v. *Funai*, 570.

JOINDER.

Co-owners, in replevin, *Corcoran* v. *White*, 329.
Stockholders' bill, of parties in, *Dunphy* v. *Traveller Newspaper*, 495.

JUDGMENT AND DECREE.

Guardian, for support of spendthrift's wife, void, *Kavanaugh* v. *Kavanaugh*, 40
Action on agreement, *held* no bar to, *Hunt* v. *Brown*, 253.
Waiver to right to a review on, *Smith* v. *O'Brien*, 294.
Appeal bond, non-impeachable in action on, *Pray* v. *Wasdell*, 324.

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Trustee, to pay private debt, void, *Abbott* v. *Foote*, 333.
Assignor of, filing of insolvency petition by, *Am. Carpet Co.* v. *Chipman*, 385.
Review, petition for, filed too late, *Riley* v. *Hale*, 465.
"Absence" of defendant, *held* not to be rendered in, *Ib.*
See SENTENCE.

JURY AND JURORS.

Discretionary to instruct, to "stick to his judgment," *Com.* v. *Ford*, 131.
Refusal to instruct, to consider statutes, correct, when, *Com.* v. *Fay*, 146.

JUVENILE OFFENDER.

Habeas corpus, not dischargeable on, *Sennott's case*, 489.
Remedy *held* to be by writ of error, *Ib.*

LABOR AND MATERIALS.

Entire contract, recovery on part performance, *Gilbert Co.* v. *Butler*, 82.

LACHES.

Petitioner for review of judgment guilty of, *Riley* v. *Hale*, 465.
Stockholder seeking relief guilty of, *Dunphy* v. *Traveller Newspaper*, 495.

LANDLORD AND TENANT.

Lease of Great Pond, notice of application, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
breach of covenant no evidence of abandonment, *Ib.*
Landlord's "control" over liquor nuisance, *Com.* v. *Wentworth*, 36.
Fall of snow from roof, liability for, *Clifford* v. *Atlantic Mills*, 47.
Acceptance or surrender of lease by assignee, *Bowditch* v. *Raymond*, 109.
use and occupation, of agreement for, *Ib.*
Lease, no rescission till after insolvency, *Brooks* v. *Allen*, 201.
Use and occupation, insolvent firm not liable for, *Ib.*
Forgery of guaranty upon lease, effect, *Ib.*
Notice to quit to fraudulent lessee, effect, *Ib.*
Forcible entry and detainer, validity of appeal bond, *Pray* v. *Wasdell*, 324.
misdescription of premises in writ not fatal, when, *Ib.*
Notice to quit, effect of exchange of rooms, *Ib.*
Rent recoverable under new lease, when, *Ib.*
Lease, relief against forfeiture under, *Mactier* v. *Osborn*, 366.
Lessor *held* a proper party to bill in equity, *Commercial Wharf* v. *Winsor*, 559.
Lessor *held* entitled to recover for storage, *Taylor* v. *Dexter Engine Co.* 613.

LAW AND FACT.

Voluntary conveyance, question of fact as to fraud, *Cook* v. *Holbrook*, 66.
Lottery, evidence describing, as matter of law, *Com.* v. *Sullivan*, 142.
Libel, character of, a question of law, *Boynton* v. *Shaw Co.* 219.

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LEASE.

Great Pond, notice of application for, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
breach of covenant no evidence of abandonment, when, *Ib.*
Landlord's "control" of liquor nuisance, *Com.* v. *Wentworth*, 36.
Fall of snow from roof, liability under, *Clifford* v. *Atlantic Mills*, 47.
Acceptance or surrender of, by insolvency assignee, *Bowditch* v. *Raymond*, 109.
Forgery of guaranty upon, effect of, *Brooks* v. *Allen*, 201.
Rescission, none till after insolvency, *Ib.*
Notice to quit to fraudulent lessee, effect, *Ib.*
Rent recoverable under new, as well as old, *Pray* v. *Wasdell*, 324.
Forfeiture by breach of covenant to insure, relief, *Mactier* v. *Osborn*, 399.
Lessor *held* a proper party to bill in equity, *Commercial Wharf* v. *Winsor*, 559.
Lessor *held* entitled to recover for storage, *Taylor* v. *Dexter Engine Co.* 613.

LEGACY. See DEVISE AND LEGACY.

LIBEL AND SLANDER.

Caution of manufacturer to public, not actionable, *Boynton* v. *Shaw Co.* 219.
Evidence of prior slandering, excluded, *Sullivan* v. *O'Leary*, 322.
Association, no publication by an, *Simonsen* v. *La Prévoyance*, 616.

LICENSE.

Private sale by trustee, limit as to, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 160.
Druggist's application for liquor, evidence admitted, *Com.* v. *Wellington*, 566.

LIEN.

Banker's lien for advances, as to, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 66.
Mortgagor of horse not to create, as against mortgagee, *Howes* v. *Newcomb*, 76.

LIFE ESTATE. See ESTATE FOR LIFE.

LIFE, LOSS OF. See LOSS OF LIFE.

LIMITATIONS, STATUTE OF. See STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

LIQUORS. See INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

LOSS OF LIFE.

Due care, one killed not in exercise of, *Allerton* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 241.
Contributory negligence of person killed, *Granger* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 276.
Railroad causing, *held* liable for negligence, *Maguire* v. *F. Railroad*, 379.

LOTTERY.

Indictment charging the setting up and promoting, good, *Com.* v. *Sullivan*, 142
Evidence *held* to describe, as matter of law, *Ib.*
Government need not elect one transaction, when, *Ib.*

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LUNATIC.

Essex County to recover for support, when, *Newburyport* v. *Creedon*, 134.

MALICE.

None implied from bell ringing to plaintiff's injury, *Rogers* v. *Elliott*, 349.

MALICIOUS PROSECUTION.

Action for, the remedy for fraudulent arrest, *Everett* v. *Henderson*, 89.

MARRIAGE.

Non-effect on benefit insurance, *Mass. Foresters* v. *Callahan*, 391.

MARRIED WOMAN.

Pledge to husband by wife, *held* invalid, *Porter* v. *Wakefield*, 25.
Husband charged as trustee of divorced wife, *Ib.*
Decree that husband's guardian support, invalid, *Kavanaugh* v. *Kavanaugh*, 40.
Making will, evidence of capacity, *Haddock* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 155.
Separate estate liable for funeral expenses, when, *Constantinides* v. *Walsh*, 281.
Will, no attachable interest in husband under, *Baker* v. *Brown*, 369.
Husband's note for benefit of, *held* invalid, *Merrill* v. *Peaslee*, 460.
Interest on assigned mortgage, to have, *Martin* v. *Martin*, 517.
Mortgage *held* to convey life estate only, *Allendorff* v. *Gaugengigl*, 542.
Declaration of liquor dealer's wife admitted, *Com.* v. *Funai*, 570.

MASTER.

Allowances on redemption of mortgage, *held* correct, *Dooley* v. *Potter*, 148.
Report on probate appeal, confirmed, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
Executor's compensation, effect of refusal to revise, *Ib.*

MASTER AND SERVANT.

Master not liable to boy injured, *Ciriack* v. *Merchants' Woolen Co.* 182.
Contractor not liable to experienced workman, *Murphy* v. *Greeley*, 196.
Negligence of master, no evidence of, *Goodnow* v. *Walpole Mills*, 261.
Machinist and engineer, no recovery by, *Ib.*
Master *held* guilty of negligence, *Moynihan* v. *Hills Co.* 586.

MATERIALS AND LABOR.

Entire contract, recovery on part performance, *Gilbert Co.* v. *Butler*, 82.

MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

Sewer assessments, levy by, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.
Board as a tribunal continuously the same, *Ib.*
Assistance to lay sewer assessments, may call in, *Ib.*
Committee, may build sewer by, *Ib.*

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Division of sewer assessments into classes, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.
City liable for cost of sewers built by, *Dorey* v. *Boston*, 336.
Committee, as to building sewers by, *Ib.*

MERGER.

Corporations, of; effect on bonds, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.

MILK.

Inspector may testify as to analysis, *Com.* v. *Holt*, 38.
Evidence that poor, was sold under special contract, immaterial, *Ib.*
Averment in complaint *held* surplusage, *Com.* v. *Rowell*, 128.
Evidence as to possession of, *held* competent, *Ib.*
Indictment as to possessing adulterated, good, *Com.* v. *Schaffner*, 512.
Addition of non-injurious matter, punishable, *Ib.*
Evidence at trial of indictment, competency, *Ib.*

MISJOINDER.

Formal defect cured by amendment, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.

MITTIMUS.

Statute as to form *held* directory, *Sennott's case*, 489.

MORTGAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Lien for horse's board, as to, *Howes* v. *Newcomb*, 76.
mortgagor not to create, as against mortgagee, *Ib.*
Tender to mortgagee replevying, when effective, *Roberts* v. *White*, 256.

MORTGAGE OF REAL ESTATE.

Equities of redemption, severance and sale, *North* v. *Dearborn*, 17.
Absolute conveyance *held* to amount to a, *Cullen* v. *Carey*, 50.
Waiver by mortgagor *held* to validate, *Dooley* v. *Potter*, 148.
Allowance for deficiency of land *held* right, *Ib.*
Foreclosure, allowance of interest on costs, *Ib.*
Misdescription of note *held* immaterial, *Ib.*
Assignee *held* entitled to interest, *Martin* v. *Martin*, 517.
Married woman *held* to convey life estate only, *Allendorff* v. *Gaugengigl*, 542.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. See CITY AND TOWN.

MOTION TO QUASH.

Non-specific and filed too late, *Com.* v. *Schaffner*, 512.

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MURDER.

Evidence of another, by accused, admitted, *Com.* v. *Robinson*, 571.

NAME.

Middle initial is a part of, *Parker* v. *Parker*, 320.
registry of deed omitting, constructive notice, *Gillespie* v. *Rogers*, 610.

NEGLIGENCE.

Person leaving a pitfall in private way liable, *Toomey* v. *Sanborn*, 28.
Fall of snow from roof, liability, *Clifford* v. *Atlantic Mills*, 47.
Cemetery corporation liable for, in burial, *Donnelly* v. *Boston Cath. Cem.* 163.
Master *held* not guilty of, towards boy, *Ciriack* v. *Merchant's Woolen Co.* 182.
Contractor not guilty of, to experienced workman, *Murphy* v. *Greeley*, 196.
Usage of builders as to guarding openings, competent, *Ib.*
Due care, no evidence of exercise of, *Allerton* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 241.
Railroad *held* not liable to action under declaration, *Ib.*
Employer *held* not guilty of, *Goodnow* v. *Walpole Mills*, 261.
Contributory, of person killed, *Granger* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 276.
Due care, deceased was in exercise of, *Maguire* v. *F. Railroad*, 379.
Railroad causing loss of life *held* liable, *Ib.*
Due care, exercise by servant, *Moynihan* v. *Hills Co.* 586.
Master *held* liable to servant for fellow servant's, *Ib.*
Violator of law may recover, when, *Newcomb* v. *Boston Prot. Dep't*, 596.
Contributory, by violator of ordinance; effect, *Ib.*
Railroad *held* not liable to passenger for, *Stewart* v. *B. & P. Railroad*, 605.
Railroad with closed drawbridge, not liable, *Jennings* v. *P. Railroad*, 621.

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS. See PROMISSORY NOTE.

NOTE. See PROMISSORY NOTE.

NOTICE.

Lease of Great Pond, of application, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
Sale of trust estate, *held* sufficient for, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.
Filing of railroad location sufficient, of taking, *Brock* v. *O. C. Railroad*, 194.
Betterment, *held* sufficient for collection of, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.
Sewer, of lay-out and assessment need not be given, *Ib.*
Scire facias against bail on what return on, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.
Assessors not abating corporation tax to give, *Lowell* v. *Co. Comm'rs*, 403.
Partner's bankruptcy after dissolution, effective, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.
Forfeiture of liquors, *held* sufficient, *Com.* v. *Intox. Liquors*, 509.
Registry *held* constructive, of conveyance, *Gillespie* v. *Rogers*, 610.

NOTICE TO QUIT.

Rescission of lease, *held* not to effect, *Brooks* v. *Allen*, 201.
Exchange of rooms by tenant, effect on, *Pray* v. *Waudell*, 324.

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NUISANCE.

Liquor, "control" by landlord over building, *Com.* v. *Wentworth*, 36.
Fall of snow from roof, liability, *Clifford* v. *Atlantic Mills*, 47.
Church bell ringing, not a private, *Rogers* v. *Elliott*, 349.

OFFICER.

Road commissioner a public; town not liable for acts, *Clark* v. *Easton*, 48.
Return on a notice for arrest, sufficiency, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.
scire facias against bail, admitted on, *Ib.*

OFFICER DE FACTO.

Road commissioners *held* to be, *Clark* v. *Easton*, 48.

OPTION. See ELECTION.

ORDINANCE. See BY-LAW AND ORDINANCE.

PARTIES TO ACTION.

Joinder of co-owners in replevin, *Corcoran* v. *White*, 329.
Misjoinder cured by amendment, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
Joinder in stockholders' bill, *Dunphy* v. *Traveller Newspaper*, 495.
Lessor, a proper party to bill in equity, *Commercial Wharf* v. *Winsor*, 559.

PARTNERSHIP.

Accounting by surviving partner for capital, *Robinson* v. *Simmons*, 157.
Compensating surviving partner out of profits, *Ib.*
Deceased partner, rights of representatives to interest or profits, *Ib.*
Partner's fraud in getting lease; effect of, *Brooks* v. *Allen*, 201.
Bankruptcy of partner will dissolve, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.
Partner's bankruptcy, notice of dissolution, *Ib.*
Agreement *held* to constitute, *Dane* v. *Kempster*, 454.

PARTY WALL.

Action on agreement for, *held* premature, *Thorndike* v. *Wells Mem. Assoc.* 619.
Interest *held* not recoverable on sum due for use of, *Ib.*

PASSENGER. See RAILROAD.

PAYMENT.

Note stating no time of, payable on demand, *Converse* v. *Johnson*, 20.
Heir's agreement not amounting to, of note, *Taylor* v. *Lewis*, 222.
Acceptance of overdue, by beneficiary association, a waiver, *Rice* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 248; *Rindge* v. *Same*, 286.
Waiver to right of review by part, on judgment, *Smith* v. *O'Brien*, 294.
Corporation to directors, by; effect, *Holt* v. *Bennett*, 437.
Promissory note, evidence admitted as to, *Foster* v. *Worthing*, 607.

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PERJURY.

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Arrest on execution not to be questioned as got by, *Everett* v. *Henderson*, 89.

PERSONAL INJURIES.

Person leaving pitfall causing, *held* liable, *Toomey* v. *Sanborn*, 28.
Fall of snow from roof causing, liability, *Clifford* v. *Atlantic Mills*, 47.
Employer *held* not liable to boy for, *Ciriack* v. *Merchants' Woolen Co.* 182.
Contractor not liable to experienced workman, *Murphy* v. *Greeley*, 196.
Railroad *held* not liable for, *Allerton* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 241.
Machinist and engineer did not recover for, *Goodnow* v. *Walpole Mills*, 261.
Non-liability for bell ringing aggravating, *Rogers* v. *Elliott*, 349.
Master *held* liable to servant for, *Moynihan* v. *Hills Co.* 586.
Violator of law to recover for, when, *Newcomb* v. *Boston Prot. Dep't*, 596.
Railroad *held* not liable to passenger for, *Stewart* v. *B. & P. Railroad*, 605.

PLAN.

Railroad location, filed not misleading, *Brock* v. *O. C. Railroad*, 194.
Land owner's right to, of railroad location, *Ib.*
Change of grade enjoined, *Kelley* v. *Saltmarsh*, 585.

PLEADING.

Amendment of declaration not reciting consideration, *Herring* v. *Downing*, 10.
Declaration, evidence in action by insolvent debtor *held* to sustain, *Ib.*
Plea of payment, not supported, *Taylor* v. *Lewis*, 222.
Declaration in action against railroad, bad, *Allerton* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 241.
Breach of agreement need not be set up, when, *Hunt* v. *Brown*, 253.
Plea of tender must be made, when, *Roberts* v. *White*, 256.
Surplusage in beneficiary association's, *Rindge* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 286.
Answer to petition for certiorari, taken as true, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.
Joinder of co-owners in replevin, *Corcoran* v. *White*, 329.
Misjoinder of parties cured by amendment, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
Special denial of signature, amendable, *Ham* v. *Kerwin*, 378.
Answer, evidence of bankruptcy not set up in, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.
Declaration for storage of property *held* good, *Taylor* v. *Dexter Engine Co.* 613.
Bill of particulars as to the storage *held* good, *Ib.*
Cause of action, not set out in declaration, *Jennings* v. *F. Railroad*, 621.

PLEDGE.

Wife's, to husband *held* invalid, *Porter* v. *Wakefield*, 25.
Title not divested by release of custody, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 60.

POISONING.

Evidence of prior, by accused, admitted, *Com.* v. *Robinson*, 571.

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POND.

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Great Pond, lease of; breach, abandonment, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.

POOLS.

Definition of offence of selling, *Com.* v. *Ferry*, 208.

POOR DEBTOR.

Invalid bail bond good on acceptance, *Bell* v. *Pierce*, 58.
Arrest not questionable as got by fraud, *Everett* v. *Henderson*, 89.
Defence that affidavit of arrest is false, not open, *Ib.*
Scire facias lies against bail, when, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.
Indorser's liability a "debt," *May* v. *Hammond*, 439.
Magistrate's oral evidence not to contradict his record, *Ib.*

POWER.

Trustee *held* to have, to sell and convey, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.

POWER OF ATTORNEY.

Covenant against incumbrances, insertion under, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.

PRACTICE.

Declaration not stating consideration, amendment of, *Herring* v. *Downing*, 10.
Criminal trial, reinstruction of jury, *Com.* v. *Ford*, 131.
Defence, breach need not be set up in, *Hunt* v. *Brown*, 253.
Judgment, action on agreement *held* no bar to, *Ib.*
Equitable defence in replevin, *Roberts* v. *White*, 256.
Review, waiver by part payment, *Smith* v. *O'Brien*, 294.
Judgment, impeachment of, *Pray* v. *Wasdell*, 324.
Writ in forcible entry and detainer, *Ib.*
Appeal bond in forcible entry and detainer, validity, *Ib.*
Scire facias lies against bail, when, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.
Amendment, misjoinder of parties cured by, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
Appeal, master's refusal to act on probate; effect, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
Amendment of special denial of signature, *Ham* v. *Kerwin*, 378.
Judgment, insolvency petition by assignor, *Am. Carpet Co.* v. *Chipman*, 385.
Tax appeal to county commissioners, *Lowell* v. *Co. Comm'rs*, 403.
Report of jury-waived case, question on, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.
Magistrate's record, when amendable, *May* v. *Hammond*, 439.
Indorsement for costs, how secured, *Coulter* v. *Haynes*, 458.
Review, petition filed too late, *Riley* v. *Hale*, 465.
Judgment not rendered in defendant's "absence," *Ib.*
Criminal trial, as to admission of evidence, *Com.* v. *Robinson*, 571.
Defence, signing note by "request" no, *Lockwood* v. *Twitchell*, 623.

See EQUITY PLEADING AND PRACTICE; EVIDENCE; EXCEPTIONS.

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PRESUMPTION.

Crime on appeal, of being that charged below, *Com.* v. *Ferry*, 203.

PRINCIPAL AND AGENT.

Road commissioners, not town agents, *Clark* v. *Easton*, 43.
Private sale by broker *held* valid, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 60.
Delivery of pledge to agent did not divest title, *Ib.*
Carrier the agent of consignor of goods C. O. D., *Lane* v. *Chadwick*, 68.
Covenant against incumbrances by agent, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
Tax receipt as proving liquor sale by agent, *Com.* v. *Uhrig*, 162.
Broker's contract to sell, false representation, *Schramm* v. *Boston Ref. Co.* 211.
Son as father's agent in making contract, *Ford* v. *Linehan*, 288.

PRINCIPAL AND SURETY.

Assignment of bail bond not binding on surety, *Bell* v. *Pierce*, 58.

PRIVATE SALE.

Trustee's, more than year of license, valid, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.

PRIVATE WAY.

Negligence in leaving pitfall in, liability, *Toomey* v. *Sanborn*, 23.
Cutting down grade, enjoined, *Kelley* v. *Saltmarsh*, 585.

PROBATE COURT.

Decree that guardian support spendthrift's wife, void, *Kavanaugh* v. *Kavanaugh*, 40.
Will provable at any time, *Haddock* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 155.
Decree that trustee pay private debt from income, void, *Abbott* v. *Foote*, 366.
Executor's account, allowance proper, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
Appeal, master's refusal to revise charges on; effect, *Ib.*
Dower, proceedings setting off, admitted in evidence, *Nickerson* v. *Thacher*, 609.

PROMISSORY NOTE.

Demand note, if stating no time of payment, *Converse* v. *Johnson*, 20.
Statute of limitations, no bar to action by payee's administrator, *Ib.*
Statute of limitations barred demand note, *Fenno* v. *Gay*, 118.
Misdescribed mortgage, allowance on redemption, *Dooley* v. *Potter*, 126.
Payment, heir's agreement not amounting to, *Taylor* v. *Lewis*, 232.
Accord and satisfaction, agreement not showing, *Hunt* v. *Brown*, 262.
Consideration, evidence incompetent to show, *Brigham* v. *Holden*, 269.
Special denial of signature, amendable, *Ham* v. *Kerwin*, 378.
Indorsement creates "debt" within poor debtor law, *May* v. *Hammond*, 429.
Husband's, for wife's benefit, invalid, *Merrill* v. *Peaslee*, 469.
Payment, evidence admitted on issue of, *Foster* v. *Worthing*, 607.
Signing at another's "request," no defence, *Lockwood* v. *Twitchell*, 623.

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PUBLIC CHARITY.

Cemetery corporation *held* not a, *Donnelly* v. *Boston Cath. Cem.* 168.

PUBLIC OFFICER.

Road commissioner, town not liable for acts, *Clark* v. *Easton*, 43.

RAILROAD.

Coupon ticket, condition and waiver of, *B. & M. Railroad* v. *Chipman*, 107.
Plan of location not misleading, *Brock* v. *O. C. Railroad*, 194.
Filing of location a notice of taking, when, *Ib.*
Passenger ceases to be such, when, *Allerton* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 241.
Declaration, not liable to action under, *Ib.*
Due care, no evidence that deceased exercised, *Ib.*
Equitable title to land, none in, *Littlefield* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 268.
Adverse possession, giving title by, as against, *Ib.*
Grade crossing, exclusive use by, when, *Granger* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 276.
Contributory negligence, trespasser killed guilty of, *Ib.*
Loss of life by negligence of, *Maguire* v. *F. Railroad*, 379.
Negligence towards passenger, not guilty of, *Stewart* v. *B. & P. Railroad*, 605.
Drawbridge, superintendent not to open, when, *Jennings* v. *F. Railroad*, 621.
Negligence, not guilty of, in keeping drawbridge closed, *Ib.*

REAL ACTION.

Trespass, town not liable for, *Clark* v. *Easton*, 43.
Writ of entry by owner of land taken by railroad, *Brock* v. *O. C. Railroad*, 194.
Trespass, maintenance against stranger, *Nickerson* v. *Thacher*, 609.

RECEIPT.

Extrinsic evidence to vary, *held* immaterial, *Hagan* v. *Sartwell*, 33.

RECOGNIZANCE.

Arrest not questionable in action on, as fraudulent, *Everett* v. *Henderson*, 89.
Poor debtor not to avoid, as got by fraud, *Ib.*

RECORD.

Amendment of magistrate's, *May* v. *Hammond*, 489.
Magistrate's, not contradictable by his oral evidence, *Ib.*

REDEMPTION.

Equities in different parcels, levy and sale, *North* v. *Dearborn*, 17.

REGISTRATION.

Constructive notice of transfer of title, *Gillespie* v. *Rogers*, 610.

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RELEASE.

Mutual, by master and seaman, of wages, *Rosenberg* v. *Doe*, 191.
Agreement *held* collateral and not a, *Hunt* v. *Brown*, 253.
Trustee's breach of trust, of, *Pope* v. *Farnsworth*, 339.

RENT.

Proof of claim for, under lease, disallowed, *Bowditch* v. *Raymond*, 109.
New lease as well as old, recoverable under, *Pray* v. *Wasdell*, 324.

REPLEVIN.

Goods sold on credit, not to lie for, *Blanchard* v. *Fitzpatrick*, 24.
Consignee not to maintain, against carrier, when, *Lane* v. *Chadwick*, 68.
Mortgagee of horses allowed to maintain, *Howes* v. *Newcomb*, 76.
Equitable defence not available, when, *Roberts* v. *White*, 256.
Assignee of chattel mortgage, maintenance by, *Ib.*
Joint owner must join co-owner in, *Corcoran* v. *White*, 329.

REPORT.

Master's, on probate appeal, as to, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
Jury-waived case, only question on, *Alger* v. *North End Savings Bank*, 418.

RESERVATION.

Aqueduct, of right to maintain; effect, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
Right of way in deed, of, *Short* v. *Devine*, 119.

RESTRAINT OF TRADE.

Covenant *held* void as being in, *Bishop* v. *Palmer*, 469.

RETURN.

Officer's, admitted on *scire facias* against bail, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.
Notice on application for arrest, sufficiency of, *Ib.*

REVIEW.

Waiver of, by part payment, *Smith* v. *O'Brien*, 294.
Petition for, of judgment, filed too late, *Riley* v. *Hale*, 465.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

De facto, certain, *held* to be, *Clark* v. *Easton*, 43.
Public officers for whose acts town not liable, *Ib.*

SALE.

Equities of redemption in different parcels, of, *North* v. *Dearborn*, 17.
Credit, title *held* to pass, *Blanchard* v. *Fitzpatrick*, 24.
Milk under special contract, as to, *Com.* v. *Holt*, 38.
Private sale of pledge *held* valid, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 60.
Trustee *held* to have power of, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.

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Notice as to, of trust estate, *held* sufficient, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.
Trustee's private sale more than year after license valid, *Ib.*
Broker, no false representation by, *Schramm* v. *Boston Ref. Co.* 211.
Rescission of contract for unselected article, as to, *Ib.*
Evidence that price has fallen *held* competent, *Ib.*
Water company, of property to town, *Braintree Water Co.* v. *Braintree*, 482.
Seller unable to give "good and clear title," *Allendorff* v. *Gaugengigl*, 542.

SAVINGS BANK.

Deposit in trust, perfected gift of, *Alger* v. *North End Savings Bank*, 418.

SCIRE FACIAS.

Bail, against before return day of execution, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.
Officer's return on notice for arrest, admitted on, *Ib.*

SEAL.

Release of wages by seaman need not be under, *Rosenberg* v. *Doe*, 191.

SEAMAN.

Wages, release of; making, conclusiveness, *Rosenberg* v. *Doe*, 191.

SEARCH-WARRANT.

Intoxicating liquors, *held* sufficient for, *Com.* v. *Intox. Liquors*, 509.

SELECTMEN.

Deeds of, did not pass town title, *Littlefield* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 268.

SENTENCE.

Mittimus, statute directory as to, *Sennott's case*, 489.

SEPARATE SUPPORT.

Wife's, decree that spendthrift's guardian pay for, void, *Kavanaugh* v. *Kavanaugh*, 40.

SET-OFF.

Trustee not to use income to pay own debt, *Abbott* v. *Foote*, 333.

SERVICE.

Forfeiture of liquors, of notice, *Com.* v. *Intox. Liquors*, 509.

SEVERANCE.

Equities of redemption in two parcels, of; sale, *North* v. *Dearborn*, 17.

SEWER.

Betterment assessments, levy of, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.
Division of betterment assessments into classes, *Ib.*

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Committee of city council may build, *Collins* v. *Holyke*, 298.
Holyoke, construction of ordinance as to, *Ib.*
City liable for cost of, duly built, *Dorey* v. *Boston*, 336.
Committee, as to building by, *Ib.*
Ordinance of Boston *held* not to be superseded, *Ib.*

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SHERIFF.

Assignment of invalid bail bond to, ineffective, *Bell* v. *Pierce*, 58.
Return admitted on *scire facias*, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.
Notice on application for arrest, sufficiency of return, *Ib.*

SHIPS AND SHIPPING.

Release of wages by master and seamen, *Rosenberg* v. *Doe*, 191.

SIGNATURE.

Amendment of special denial of genuineness, *Ham* v. *Kerwin*, 378.

SLANDER AND LIBEL. See LIBEL AND SLANDER.

SNOW.

Landlord not liable for fall of, from roof, *Clifford* v. *Atlantic Mills*, 47.

SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE.

Conversion of bonds into stock, denial for, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.

SPENDTHRIFT.

Decree that guardian pay for wife's support, void, *Kavanaugh* v. *Kavanaugh*, 40.

SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS. See INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

STATUTE.

Beneficiary association, did not apply, *Skillings* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 217.
Waiver of objection as impairing contract, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.
Boston Protective Department, as to, *Newcomb* v. *Boston Prot. Dep't*, 596.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

Administrator, *held* not to bar action by, *Converse* v. *Johnson*, 20.
Visitor from another State, did not run in favor of, *Ib.*
Demand note, bar to action on, when, *Fenno* v. *Gay*, 118.

STATUTES CITED, EXPOUNDED, ETC.

ENGLISH STATUTES.

3 & 4 Anne, c. 9.	Promissory note	233
9 Ed. III. St. 1, c. 3.	Executors	552
32 & 33 Vict. c. 71, § 23.	Bankrupt	117

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STATUTES OF THE UNITED STATES.

June 23, 1874.	Alabama Claims	556
June 23, 1874, § 11.	" "	555
June 23, 1874, § 12.	" "	551
June 5, 1882.	" "	556
June 5, 1882, § 6.	" "	551
June 5, 1882, §§ 4, 5.	" "	555

REVISED STATUTES OF THE UNITED STATES.

§ 4506.	Shipping Commissioner	198
§ 4552.	" "	192
§ 5044.	Bankrupt	552

GENERAL STATUTES OF CONNECTICUT.

1875, tit. 18, c. 11, § 11	Probate	161

REVISED STATUTES OF MAINE.

c. 64, § 1.	Probate	161

STATUTES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

1824, c. 130.	Grace	233
1832, c. 51.	Commercial Wharf	565
—— c. 57.	" "	564
1836, c. 228, § 2.	Insane Asylum	134
1837, c. 229.	Boston Harbor	563
1839, c. 25.	T Wharf	565
—— c. 77.	"	564
—— c. 131, § 5.	Insane	135
1841, c. 114, §§ 3, 4, 5.	Cemetery	166
1843, c. 66, § 2.	Support	136
1844, c. 178, § 9.	Insolvency	389
1846, c. 154, §§ 1, 2.	Essex County	134
1847, c. 200.	Fitchburg Railroad	621
1851, c. 292.	Boston Catholic Cemetery Association	163
1852, c. 76.	Bonds	238
1854, c. 55.	Eastern Branch Railroad	195
1855, c. 434.	Railroad Drawbridge	621
1860, c. 60, § 1.	Sale	102
1861, c. 100.	Railroad	276
1864, c. 104.	Worcester	54
—— c. 137.	Sale	106
1865, c. 43, § 2.	Trustee Process	612
1869, c. 352.	Fitchburg Railroad	622
1871, c. 158.	Road Commissioner	45
—— c. 312.	Married Woman	518
1873, c. 195.	Great Pond	9
1874, c. 61, § 3.	Boston Protective Department	596
—— c. 135.	Great Pond	9

Digitized by Google

1874, c. 184.	Married Woman	518
—— c. 205.	Husband and Wife	42
—— c. 372, § 107.	Railroad	276
—— c. 375.	Associations	218, 287, 391
1876, c. 148.	Support of Prisoners	136
1877, c. 204.	Associations	218, 287, 391
—— c. 250.	Poor Debtor	332
1879, c. 133.	Husband and Wife	27
—— c. 245, § 1.	Insolvent Debtor	115
1880, c. 64.	Husband and Wife	42
—— c. 103, §§ 3, 4.	Middlesex Railroad	235
—— c. 211.	Descent	432
1881, c 263, § 4.	Poor Debtor	332
1882, c. 95.	Appeal Bond	327
—— c. 113.	Pauper	134
—— c. 141.	Married Woman	282
—— c. 164.	Mayor and Aldermen	338
—— c. 195, § 1.	Associations	218, 289
—— —— § 2.	"	392
1883, c. 110.	Juvenile Offenders	492
—— c. 223, § 14.	Equitable Defence	259
1884, c. 132.	Husband and Wife	27
—— c. 236.	Composition	415
—— c. 255, § 11.	Reform School	492
—— c. 310, § 4.	Milk	39
—— c. 323.	Reform School	494
1885, c. 183.	Assessment Insurance	219, 289
—— c. 342, § 1.	Pools	204
—— c. 353.	Composition	415
—— c. 377.	Boston Court-House	53
1886, c. 101, § 5.	Lunacy and Charity Board	494
—— c. 229.	Street Railway	239
—— c. 269, § 6.	Braintree Water Co.	482
—— —— § 10.	" "	485
—— c. 318, § 1.	Milk	40
—— —— § 2.	"	39, 515
1887, c. 332, § 3.	Probate Appeal	42
—— c. 414.	Intoxicating Liquors	133
—— c. 431.	" "	568

REVISED STATUTES.

c. 33, §§ 5, 6.	Grace	283
c. 38, § 3.	Corporation	498
c. 39, §§ 46–48.	Railroad	195
—— § 58.	"	196
—— § 75.	"	195
c. 59, §§ 1, 28.	Deed	611

Digitized by Google

c. 59, § 24.	Deed	612
c. 126, § 20.	Receiving Stolen Goods	208
c. 143, §§ 15, 16.	Support	135

GENERAL STATUTES.

c. 17, § 93.	Deed	612
c. 53, § 6.	Bonds	233
—— §§ 15, 16.	Grace	233
c. 74, § 2.	Essex County	135
—— § 6.	Insane	136
c. 97, §§ 5–8.	Estates of Deceased Persons	23
—— § 8.	" " "	368
c. 101, § 32.	" " "	367
—— § 34.	" " "	369
c. 102, § 47.	Sale	102
c. 155, §§ 9, 10.	Statute of Limitations	22
c. 178, § 58.	Support of Poor Prisoners	136

PUBLIC STATUTES.

c. 11.	Tax	411
—— § 67.	"	480
—— §§ 71, 72.	"	410
c. 13, §§ 38–41.	"	408
—— § 41.	Corporation Tax	410
c. 24, § 16.	Deed	612
c. 27, § 27.	Town	487
—— §§ 74–78.	Road Commissioners	44
c. 36, §§ 2, 7, 9.	Fences	123
c. 49, §§ 14, 84, 86.	Way	54
c. 50, § 1.	Sewer	307
—— §§ 1–4, 11.	"	338
—— § 4.	"	308
c. 52, § 12 or § 15.	Way	469
c. 77, § 4.	Bonds	233
—— § 8.	Payment of Bills, &c.	234
—— §§ 9, 10.	Grace	233
c. 78, § 1, cl. 3.	Statute of Frauds	465
c. 79, §§ 2, 3, 5.	Lunacy and Charity Board	495
c. 87, §§ 47, 49.	Insane	134
c. 89, §§ 18–24.	Juvenile Offender	492
—— §§ 22, 23, 24.	" "	494
c. 91, §§ 13, 14.	Great Pond	9
—— § 27.	Inland Fisheries	6
c. 100, § 20.	Intoxicating Liquors	38
—— § 30.	" "	509
—— § 32.	" "	511
—— §§ 34, 35.	" "	509
c. 101, §§ 6, 8, 9.	Nuisance	37

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Digitized by Google

c. 105, § 9.	Corporation	488
c. 106, § 25.	"	498
c. 112, §§ 148–155.	Railroad Drawbridge	622
——— § 212.	Railroad	379
——— §§ 212, 213.	"	247
——— § 213.	"	241
——— § 215.	"	276
c. 115, § 8.	Associations	218, 392
c. 116, §§ 31, 32.	Savings Bank	421
c. 119, § 55.	Insurance Company	240
c. 134, §§ 1–11.	Estates of Deceased Persons	105
c. 135, § 3.	Distribution	282
c. 136, §§ 1, 9.	Estates of Deceased Persons	22
——— § 13.	" " "	367
——— § 19.	Legacy	342
——— § 25.	Estates of Deceased Persons	436
——— §§ 26, 27.	" " "	368
——— § 29.	Equity	369
c. 137, § 1.	Insolvent Estates	282
c. 139, §§ 1, 8, 29, 30, 38.	Guardian	42
c. 140, §§ 1, 3, 18.	"	105
c. 141, §§ 20, 21.	Trust	105
——— § 21.	"	100
c. 142, §§ 8, 18.	Sales, &c.	105
——— § 18, cl. 4.	"	100
c. 144, § 7.	Accounts	377
c. 146, § 24.	Divorce	27
c. 147, §§ 1–7.	Husband and Wife	518
——— § 3.	" "	27
——— §§ 33, 34.	" "	42
c. 151, § 1, cl. 11.	Equity	369
c. 156, §§ 5, 6, 17.	Probate Court	377
c. 157.	Insolvency	415
——— § 15.	"	385
——— § 26.	"	115
——— § 109.	"	388
——— § 112.	"	385
c. 162, § 17, cl. 5.	Poor Debtor	441
——— § 19.	"	331
——— § 28.	"	89, 439
——— § 49.	"	91
c. 163, § 2.	Bail	60
——— § 7.	"	332
c. 167, § 20.	Answer	223
——— § 21.	Signature	379
——— § 30.	Indorsement of Process	459
——— §§ 41–44.	Amendment	379
——— § 94.	Pleading	614

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Digitized by Google

c. 168, § 15.	Set-off	334
——— § 16.	"	223
c. 169, § 18, cl. 1.	Witness	26
——— § 19.	"	132
c. 171, §§ 9, 10.	Judgment	329
c. 175, § 6.	Forcible Entry and Detainer	327
c. 187, § 13.	Sentence	494
——— § 22.	Review	466
c. 192, § 32.	Lien	77
c. 197, §§ 11, 12.	Statute of Limitations	22
c. 209, § 1.	Lottery	144
c. 214, § 25.	Complaint and Indictment	514
c. 220, §§ 60–63.	Support of Prisoners	135
——— § 61.	Support of Poor Prisoners	136

www.libtool.com.cn

STREET. See WAY.

STREET RAILWAY.

Middlesex Railroad, merger; effect on bonds, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.

SUPPORT.

Wife's, invalid decree of Probate Court for, *Kavanaugh* v. *Kavanaugh*, 40.
Essex County may recover for, of lunatic, *Newburyport* v. *Creedon*, 134.
Bond for intestate's; extinguishment, enforcement, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.
Wife's will providing for husband's, effect, *Baker* v. *Brown*, 369.

SURETY.

Assignment of bail bond *held* not to bind, *Bell* v. *Pierce*, 58.

SURPLUSAGE.

Criminal defendants, averment that "partners," *Com.* v. *Rowell*, 128.
Averment of exposing liquors rejected as, when, *Com.* v. *Tay*, 146.
Declaration against beneficiary association, in, *Rindge* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 286
Officer's return, in, *Wehrle* v. *Gurney*, 331.

SURRENDER.

Lease of Great Pond by town, acceptance of, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
Lease by assignee in insolvency, of, *Bowditch* v. *Raymond*, 109.

TAKING.

Filing of railroad location a notice of, when, *Brock* v. *O. C. Railroad*, 194.

TAX.

Allowance of interest on, upon mortgage redemption, *Dooley* v. *Potter*, 148.
Appeal upon non-abatement of corporation, *Lowell* v. *Co. Com'rs*, 403.
Assessors not abating, to give notice, *Ib.*
Complaint for abatement, undervaluation not to be shown upon, *Ib.*
Collector entitled to interest on unpaid, *Needham* v. *Morton*, 476.

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TENANT BY THE CURTESY.

Wife of tenant *held* entitled to interest, *Martin* v. *Martin*, 517.

TENDER.

Trustee's, of deed *held* valid, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.
To mortgagee replevying goods, when effective, *Roberts* v. *White*, 256.

TIME.

Essence of the contract, *held* to be of the, *Chaffee* v. *M. Railroad*, 224.

TITLE.

Sale on credit, *held* to pass by delivery, *Blanchard* v. *Fitzpatrick*, 24.
Absolute conveyance *held* to be a mortgage, *Cullen* v. *Carey*, 50.
Evidence of drawing water, insufficient to establish, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
Trustee *held* to take, with power to sell, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.
Mortgage, *held* valid upon waiver by mortgagor, *Dooley* v. *Potter*, 148.
Railroad, adverse possession as against, *Littlefield* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 268.
Facts not evidencing title by adverse possession, *Duff* v. *Leary*, 533.
Seller *held* unable to give good, *Allendorff* v. *Gaugengigl*, 542.
Occupier of land may sue stranger for trespass, *Nickerson* v. *Thacher*, 609.
Registry of deed, constructive notice, *Gillespie* v. *Rogers*, 610.

TORTS. See ACTION; NEGLIGENCE; TRESPASS.

TOWN AND CITY.

Lease of Great Pond, notice of application for, *Com.* v. *Eliot*, 5.
breach of covenant, no evidence of abandonment, when, *Ib.*
Road commissioners, not liable for acts of, *Clark* v. *Easton*, 43.
De facto commissioners, certain, *held* to be, *Ib.*
Deed of selectmen did not pass title, *Littlefield* v. *B. & A. Railroad*, 268.
Vote to refer sale of land to selectmen, as to, *Ib.*
Mayor and aldermen may build sewer by committee, *Collins* v. *Holyoke*, 298.
committee of city council may build, *Ib.*
Sewer assessments, levy of, *Ib.*
division into classes, *Ib.*
mayor and aldermen may have assistant to make, *Ib.*
Ordinance of Holyoke as to sewers, construed, *Ib.*
Mayor and aldermen, a continuous tribunal, *Ib.*
Sewers duly built, liable for cost of, *Dorey* v. *Boston*, 386.
Building by committee of board, as to, *Ib.*
Ordinance not superseded by aldermen's order, *Ib.*
Surface water, not liable for damage from, *Kennison* v. *Beverly*, 467.

TRESPASS.

Town not liable for, by road commissioners, *Clark* v. *Easton*, 43.
Occupier of land to maintain against stranger, *Nickerson* v. *Thacher*, 609.

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TRIAL.

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Reinstruction of jury at criminal, discretionary, *Com.* v. *Ford*, 131.
Criminal, as to admission of evidence, *Com.* v. *Robinson*, 571.

TRUST.

Trustee of insolvent firm, entitled to commissions, *Moors* v. *Wyman*, 60.
Trustee, title and power to sell, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.
Private sale by trustee, a year after license, valid, *Ib.*
Notice of a sale by trustee, *held* sufficient, *Ib.*
Trustee, not to be continued for benefit of, *Slater* v. *Hurlbut*, 308.
Devise *held* not to create, *Ib.*
Trustee, not to withhold income for private debt, *Abbott* v. *Foote*, 383.
decree of Probate Court as to, held void, *Ib.*
Beneficiary may release breach by trustee, *Pope* v. *Farnsworth*, 339.
Termination, on acquiring whole equitable title, *Whall* v. *Converse*, 345.
Devise to wife created no, in favor of child, *Sturgis* v. *Paine*, 354.
Husband's interest, not attachable, *Baker* v. *Brown*, 369.
Termination of simple trust to pay annuity, *Sears* v. *Choate*, 395.
Gift of savings bank deposit *held* in trust, *Alger* v. *North End Sav. Bank*, 418.
Administrator of life tenant under, rights of, *White* v. *Stanfield*, 424.
Wife's trustee unable to enforce note, *Merrill* v. *Peaslee*, 460.

TRUSTEE PROCESS.

Husband charged as trustee of divorced wife, *Porter* v. *Wakefield*, 25.
Obligor's heir chargeable to obligee's creditor in, *Clark* v. *Holbrook*, 366.

USAGE.

Fences and gates, as to maintenance of, *Short* v. *Devine*, 119.
Builders', as to guarding openings in floors, *Murphy* v. *Greeley*, 196.

USE AND OCCUPATION.

Acceptance or surrender of agreement for, by insolvency assignee, *Bowditch* v. *Raymond*, 109.
Insolvent firm not liable for, *Brooks* v. *Allen*, 201.
Declaration for, amended to cover storage, *Taylor* v. *Dexter Engine Co.* 613.

VARIANCE.

"Control" over liquor nuisance, as to, *Com.* v. *Wentworth*, 86.
Deposition, evidence as to, excluded, *Parker* v. *Parker*, 320.

VENDOR AND PURCHASER.

Seller unable to give "good and clear title," *Allendorff* v. *Gaugengigl*, 542.
See SALE.

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WAGER.

Definition of offence of registering bets, *Com.* v. *Ferry*, 203.

WAGES.

Mutual release by master and seamen of, *Rosenberg* v. *Doe*, 191.
Action for, by assignor after assignment, *Coulter* v. *Haynes*, 458.

WAIVER.

Condition on railroad coupon ticket, of, *B. & M. Railroad* v. *Chipman*, 107.
Mortgage *held* valid upon, by mortgagor, *Dooley* v. *Potter*, 148.
Forfeiture of insurance, by insurer, *Rice* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 248; *Rindge* v. *Same*, 286.
Review of judgment, by part payment, *Smith* v. *O'Brien*, 294.
Failure to exclude deposition at former trial, a, *Parker* v. *Parker*, 320.
Acceptance of composition of creditors by, *Eustis* v. *Bolles*, 413.
Non-argument of exceptions *held* a, *Com.* v. *Funai*, 570.

WARD.

Decree that spendthrift's guardian pay for wife's support, invalid, *Kavanaugh* v. *Kavanaugh*, 40.

WARRANT.

Forfeiture of liquors, *held* sufficient, *Com.* v. *Intox. Liquors*, 509.

WARRANTY.

Contract *held* to contain no, of quality of sugar, *Schramm* v. *Boston Ref. Co.* 211.

WATER AND WATERCOURSE.

Aqueduct, reservation as to; adverse possession, *Johnson* v. *Knapp*, 70.
Grant of right to lay and repair pipes, *Ib.*
Surface water, town not liable for damage from, *Kennison* v. *Beverly*, 467.

WATER COMPANY.

Special charter, organization under, *Braintree Water Co.* v. *Braintree*, 482.
Sale to town, when complete, *Ib.*
Petition properly brought in corporate name, *Ib.*

WAY.

Private, negligence in leaving pitfall in, *Toomey* v. *Sanborn*, 28.
Reservation of right of, construction of, *Short* v. *Devine*, 119.
Surface-water, town not liable for damage, *Kennison* v. *Beverly*, 467.
Grade of private, not to be changed under deed, *Kelley* v. *Saltmarsh*, 585.

WIDOW.

Making of will, evidence of legal capacity, *Haddock* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 155.
Dowress, rights against trespasser, *Nickerson* v. *Thacher*, 609.

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WIFE. See MARRIED WOMAN.

WILL.

Devisee with notice compelled to reconvey land, *Cullen* v. *Carey*, 50.
Gift to trustee with power to sell, *Boston Safe Dep. Co.* v. *Mixter*, 100.
Probate at any time after testator's death, *Haddock* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 155.
Making, evidence of woman's legal capacity, *Ib.*
Trust *held* not to be created by, *Slater* v. *Hurlbut*, 308.
Legacy invested in remainder-man absolutely, *Pope* v. *Farnsworth*, 339.
Bequest over to testator's heirs at his death, *Whall* v. *Converse*, 345.
Trust *held* not to be created, *Sturgis* v. *Paine*, 354.
Income to widow to her own use, *Ib.*
Husband *held* to have no attachable interest under, *Baker* v. *Brown*, 369.
Annuity payable out of net income, *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
"House," whether included stable, *Ib.*
"Heirs at law" meant next of kin or distributees, *White* v. *Stanfield*, 424.
Annuity *held* payable out of income, *Cummings* v. *Cummings*, 501.
Bequest over to those who were heirs at testator's death *per stirpes*, *Ib.*

See TRUST.

WITNESS.

Contradiction of, evidence held inadmissible for, *Pickert* v. *Hair*, 1.
Milk inspector competent, when, *Com.* v. *Holt*, 38.
Conviction to affect credibility, what competent, *Com.* v. *Ford*, 131.
Credit not impeachable by irrelevant matter, *Com.* v. *Schaffner*, 512.
Contradiction, letter admitted for purpose of, *Foster* v. *Worthing*, 607.

WORDS.

"Abatement." See *Lowell* v. *County Com'rs*, 403.
"Absence." See *Riley* v. *Hale*, 465.
"Blood relations." See *Cummings* v. *Cummings*, 501.
"Control." See *Com.* v. *Wentworth*, 36.
"Debt." See *May* v. *Hammond*, 439.
"Dependent." See *Skillings* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 217.
"Equally." See *Cummings* v. *Cummings*, 501.
"Fraudulent." See *Clapp* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 519.
"Friends." See *Rindge* v. *N. E. Aid Soc.* 286.
"Heirs at law." See *Whall* v. *Converse*, 345.
"Heirs at law." See *White* v. *Stanfield*, 424.
"House." See *Bridge* v. *Bridge*, 373.
"Lottery." See *Com.* v. *Sullivan*, 142.
"Passenger." See *Allerton* v. *B. & M. Railroad*, 241.
"Pool." See *Com.* v. *Ferry*, 203.
"Request." See *Lockwood* v. *Twitchell*, 623.
"Schooner." See *Schramm* v. *Boston Ref. Co.* 211.

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"Strip" (of land). See *Short* v. *Devine*, 119.
"True." See *Clapp* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 519.
"Untrue." See *Clapp* v. *Mass. Ben. Assoc.* 519.

WORK AND LABOR.

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Entire contract, recovery on part performance, when, *Gilbert Co.* v. *Butler*, 82.

WRIT.

Forcible entry and detainer, misdescription not fatal, *Pray* v. *Wasdell*, 324.
Indorser for costs, how secured, *Coulter* v. *Haynes*, 458.

WRIT OF ENTRY.

Owner of land taken by a railroad could not maintain, when, *Brock* v. *O. C. Railroad*, 194.

WRIT OF ERROR. See ERROR.

WRIT OF REVIEW.

Waiver of review by payment on judgment, *Smith* v. *O'Brien*, 294.

WRITTEN INSTRUMENT.

Amendment to make it conform to agreement, *Spalding* v. *Conant*, 292.
Construction as meaning gross, not net, amount, *Logan* v. *Dockray*, 296.
Amendment of special denial of signature, *Ham* v. *Kerwin*, 378.

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