THE VAGRANT ACT.

We invite the special attention of our readers to "A bill provi[illegible] punishment of vagrants," passed by the Sena[illegible] of Virginia on the 15th instant. With [illegible]ws we greatly fear that most of the able-bodied freedmen will be driven from the State, to prevent being remanded to a servitude far less humane than that from which they were released, without any agency on their part, by the collapse of the Confederacy. We trust the General Assembly will do nothing to drive from the State the only class of labor on which we are now mainly dependent for the cultivation of the soil; and that, in attempting to suppress vagrancy, it will not pass laws compelling whites or blacks to work for such wages as their employers may impose. There are idle, dissolute whites and blacks, and proper vagrant laws may be necessary to make them provide for themselves, but such laws should be both just and humane. We ask a careful perusal of this bill, which reads as follows:

A Bill Providing for the Punishment of Vagrants.

Whereas, it is represented to the present General Assembly that there hath late been a great increase of idle and disorderly persons in some parts of this Commonwealth who are deemed rogues and vagabonds, and unless some stringent laws are passed to restrain and prevent such vagrancy and idleness the State will be overrun with dissolute and abandoned characters, to the great detriment of the public weal; for remedy whereof,

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly*, That the overseers of the poor, or other officers having charge of the poor, or the special county police, or any one or more or such persons, shall be, and are hereby empowered and required, upon discovering any vagrant or vagrants within their respective counties or corporations, to make information thereof to any justice of the peace of their county or corporation, and to require a warrant for apprehending such vagrant or vagrants, to be brought before him or some other justice; and if, upon due examination, it shall appear that the person or persons are within the true description of a vagrant, as hereinafter mentioned, such justice shall, by warrant under his hand, order such vagrant or vagrants to be employed in labor for any term not exceeding three months, and, by any constable of such county or corporation, be hired out for the best wages that can be procured, to be applied, except as hereafter provided, for the use of the vagrant or his family, as ordered by the justice. And if any such vagrant or vagrants shall, during such time of service, without sufficient cause, run away from the person so employing him or them, he or they shall be apprehended on the warrant of a justice and returned to the custody of such hirer, who shall have, free of any further hire, the services of said vagrant for one month in addition to the original term of hiring; and said employer shall then have the power, if authorized by the justice, to work said vagrants confined with ball and chain; or should said hirer decline to receive again said vagrant, then said vagrant shall be taken by the officer upon the order of a justice to the poor or work-house, if there be any such in said county or corporation, and be delivered to the overseer or superintendent, who shall work said vagrant for the benefit of said county or corporation, or, if authorized by the justice, to work him confined with ball and chain for the period for which he would have had to serve his late employer had he consented to receive him again; or should there be, when said runaway vagrant is apprehended, any public work going on in said county or corporation, then said vagrant, upon the order of a justice, shall be delivered over by said officer to the superintendent of such public work, who shall, for the like last-mentioned period, work said vagrant on said public works, confined with ball and chain, if so authorized by the justice. But if there be no poor or work-house in said county or corporation, and no public work then in progress therein, then, in that event, said justice may cause said vagrant to be delivered to any person who will take charge of him, said person to have his services free of charge, except maintenance, for a like last-mentioned period, and said person so receiving said vagrant is hereby empowered, if authorized by the justice, to work said vagrant confined with ball and chain; or should no such person be found, then said vagrant is to be committed to the county jail, there to be confined for the like period, and fed on bread and water.

Section 2. The following described persons shall be liable to the penalties imposed by law upon vagrants:

I. All persons who shall unlawfully return into any county or corporation whence they have been legally removed.

II. All persons who, not having wherewith to maintain themselves and their families, live idly and without employment, and refuse to work for the usual and common wages given to other laborers in the like work in the place where they then are.

III. All persons who shall refuse to perform the work which shall be allotted to them by the overseers of the poor as aforesaid.

IV. All persons going about from door to door, or placing themselves in streets, highways, or other roads, to beg alms, and all other persons wandering abroad and begging.

V. All persons who shall come from any place without this Commonwealth to any place within it, and shall be found loitering and residing therein, and shall follow no labor, trade, occupation or business, and have no visible means of subsistence, and can give no reasonable account of themselves or their business in such place.

Section 3. All costs and expenses incurred shall be paid out of the hire of such vagrant, if sufficient; and if not sufficient, the deficiency shall be paid by the county or corporation.

Section 4. This act shall be in force from its passage.

The undersigned offers his services to his friends and public generally as AUCTIONEER for the SALE REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY OF EVE DESCRIPTION, both in the city and country. He also attend to the RENTING OUT OF ALL KI OF PROPERTY. From his business experienc thirty years in this city, and from his extensive acq tance here, is confident of being able to give satisfa to all who may favor him with their patronage.

ja 1—1m E. A. J. CLOPTO

O. M. MARSHALL, with
HALL & HUTCHISON,
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS OF NOTIONS A
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No. 7 Fourteenth street, below Main, Richmond,
(ja 3—1s)

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STEARNS, WHITNEY & BRIDGES (W
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GEORGE E BRIDGES), dealers and agents for
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GREASE.
ALSO,
PORTABLE ENGINES and TOOLS
boring for oil,
PORTABLE SAW MILLS, with all th
cessary gearing no 2—

W. GODWIN & CO., UNDERTAKE
Ninth street, between Main and Franklin,
constantly on hand METALLIC BURIAL CASE
kinds of WOOD COFFINS, from the plainest to
finest MAHOGANY, WALNUT, BUTTONW
and PINE, together with all kinds of COFFIN T
MINGS, PLATES, &c. FUNERALS furnished i
best style; DISINTERMENTS promptly and care
attended to. de 25—2aw1

SAFES, SAFES—LILLIE'S SAFES
The celebrated CHILLED and WROUGHT IR
with COMBINATION LOCKS, for Banks, Bank
Jewelers and Merchants. Also, LILLIE'S HOUSE
FIRE-PROOF SAFES, VAULT DOORS, BANK
other VAULT LOCKS, without Keys. Other s
taken in exchange, and second-hand Safes for sale.
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KELLOGG & GIBSON, Agents, Richmond, Va.,
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MONTAGUE & WHITALL,
(LATE OF THE MERCHANTS' INSURANCE C
PANY OF RICHMOND.)
INSURE PROPERTY OF ALL KINDS
IN THE
MOST RELIABLE COMPANIES.

They also
EFFECT MARINE INSURANCE
AND
LIFE INSURANCE.

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Hotel. de 1—t

C. P. & J. H. WORD,
TOBACCO AND GENERAL COMMISSI
MERCHANTS,
CORNER OF SEVENTH AND CANAL STREE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA,
SOLICIT CONSIGNMENTS OF ALL KINDS
COUNTRY PRODUCE, to the sale of which they g
their personal attention. RETURNS MA
PROMPTLY. no 1 - 2aw6m

HOME AGAIN.—For seven month
past I have had no business, having lost my gall
ry and nearly my all by the great fire on the 3d of Apri
I have the pleasure now to announce to my friends an
the public that I have once more a GALLERY, locate
on the corner of Main and Ninth streets, with an en
trance on Main (through W. D. Cooke's bookstore) and
also on Ninth street. I am supplied with entirely new
and the most improved apparatus and stock, and have
secured the services of T. Jefferson Nimmo, "to the ma-
nor born," who has had over fifteen years' experience.
As in the past, so in the future I promise my patrons
good and satisfactory work.
G. W. MINNIS, Photographist,
oc 26—1y corner Main and Ninth streets.

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PRINTERS' FURNISHING WAREH
RICHMOND, VA.
Southern manufactures should be supported.
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Bishop metal, and the latest Scotch faces.
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Quoins, Metal Furniture, Mallets, Brass Rule, Pl
Brass Dashes, Shooting Sticks, Mitering Machines;
fact, every article requisite for a printing office, at Nort
ern prices.
PRESSES, new and second-hand, furnished to orde
This paper is printed in our type.
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se 7—1y Richmond, Va.

JAMES D. BROWNE WOULD RE
SPECTFULLY announce that he has resumed busi
ness on Bank street, near Ninth, and is prepared to do
all kinds of SMITHS' WORK for building purposes
Also, IRON RAILING, VERANDAHS, &c.; and i
addition thereto he is prepared with facilit
CLEANING and REPAIRING

Confidential.

Refugees. Freedmen & Abandoned Lands.

Quarters, Asst. Commissioner, State of Virginia.

RICHMOND, VA., January 24, 1866.

Major Genl. O. O. Howard
Commissioner, Bureau R. F. & A. L.
General,

I have the honor to report that the officers of the Bureau, in this state, are much embarrassed for want of men being themselves obliged in most instances to perform the duties of orderlies. They are without Guards, and I fear, without sufficient military force to command respect and obedience to their orders. The men of the Regular Army are not fit for service in the Bureau, but I suppose I must not ask for volunteers. Acts of injustice towards the Freedmen are increasing in frequency. Some relief from these embarrassments is hoped for from an order which Genl. Terry will issue to day, making Superintendents and Asst Superintendents of the Bureau, Provost Marshals.

I beg leave to call your attention to another matter. Orders from the Commissioner require

I have the pleasure now to announce to my friends an
the public that I have once more a GALLERY, locate
on the corner of Main and Ninth streets, with an en
trance on Main (through W. D. Cooke's bookstore) and
also on Ninth street. I am supplied with entirely new
and the most improved apparatus and stock, and have
secured the services of T. Jefferson Nimmo, to the ma-

that the same vagrant laws which apply to whites shall be applied to blacks. You will see that the enclosed act which passed the legislature on the 16th inst, will place the Freedmen entirely in the hands of the whites. They can make such rates of wages "usual" as they please. The venom is covered by not using the word "black" but it is well understood that it is meant to apply especially to the Freedmen — General Terry will issue an order prohibiting civil officers from applying its provisions to the Freedmen — I will forward a copy of the order as soon as issued — Please inform me whether I shall carry out the provisions of the former state law in regard to vagrants.

I am losing confidence in the present Legislature, it cannot be depended on to do what the Bureau will regard as necessary to secure justice to the Freedmen.

I am, General

Very respectfy, Your obt Servt

O. Brown

Col and Asst Commr

Richmond, Va. Jan. 24th 1866

Brown, O.
Capt. & Asst. Comm.

States that the Officers of the Bureau needs men for guards and orderlies. That the present vagrant laws place the blacks at the mercy of the whites. That Mr. Terry will countermand the law by an order.

Recd. Jan. 25th 1866

Richmond Ind.
Jan 24th 1866.

Maj. Gen O. O. Howard.

Sir. Enclosed I send you a communication from the Bureau Refs. I need not say to you, that I do not wish to go down there, if it can be avoided. Will you see Gen Townsend, & see if I can avoid it! My health just at present will not permit me to leave home, or I would come to Washington. If I am compelled to go, how are the expenses to be paid! Please arrange this for me if possible.

I am very truly yours
C. H. Streckland

Richmond Ind
Jan 24th 166 -

C. M. Strickland

Writes to know if he must attend the Court Martial at Charleston as requested by Maj Gen Sickles, and if so how the expenses are to be defrayed. —

Rec'd Brevet A.D.C. Jan 30th 166
Ans'd Jan 30 166 - See Chron Letter Book

Personal

Bureau of Refugees. Freedmen & Abandoned Lands. 104

Head Quarters, Asst. Commissioner, State of Virginia.

RICHMOND, VA., January 24 1866.

Maj Genl Howard
Commissioner &c

General – I enclose herewith "Times" of yesterday – You will see how determined the legislature is to contrive "how not to do it"

The Com appointed to confer with me (consisting of five from the Senate and ten from the House) after many "pow wows" became unanimous for the support of the "bill" abolishing the whole "Negro Code" but the News-papers began to warn them "against being influenced from Washington or by the Freedmens Bureau" and succeeded in frightening the legislature to such an extent, that the bill that will finally pass will be materially different from that first proposed

In regard to the "Republic"

over

(newspaper) I will give this item in its history —

About two weeks ago Mr Lewellen (the Editor and proprietor) came to me and stated that he should close the Office in five days and wished me to find a purchaser — I urged him to remain and promised to aid him in procuring funds to continue its publication — before the expiration of the time I secured for him the necessary means, and he will continue on — I have communicated with Northern friends and believe their assistance will not only keep up the paper, but if plans now on foot can be perfected, its tone, ~~and usefulness~~ will be greatly improved and its usefulness increased.

I am blessed with much

Your Obt Sr

O P Brown

Richmond, Va. Jan 25th 1866

Brown. O.
Col. & Asst. Comr.

States that the Legislature will not do justice to the freedmen.
Also that the "Republic" will probably not sustained.

Recd. Jan 25th 1866

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29 Mount Vernon Street

Boston January 24. 1866.

Major Gen. O. O. Howard
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir.

It will give me great pleasure if you will dine with me on Friday February 2d at six o'clock, to meet Governor Bullock and a small party. Hoping a favorable reply, I remain Very Truly Yours

Amory

Goldsboro, North Carolina
Wednesday Jan. 24th 1866 -

General =

Doubtless you are surprised upon opening this, and looking at the bottom, to see who penned it = and it is with the extremest diffidence, I take the liberty of intruding upon your valuable time - Did I think you would regard what is to follow as an application merely from an unpardoned "rebel" to one high in authority among the "loyal", for a favor which his position could grant, I had not commenced. All that has been told me of you by friend and foe, your distinguished career in the field and bureau, as set forth in the public prints, unite to convince me, that Oliver O. Howard, though changed in rank, is unchanged as a man - that the same qualities of mind and heart, which in the palmy days of yore won my admiration and regard, still remain unimpaired by time and circumstances - Believing this, I, who have experienced at your hands many kindnesses, and shall ever be grateful to you and your lady for the hospitalities you so generously extended to me as a Cadet, venture to ask at your hands what I cannot and would not ask from another's.

The 23 August 1865, under the belief that I came under the exception of the President's Amnesty Proclamation, regarding those educated at West Point, I wrote and forwarded through the Provisional Governor of Alabama, an application for Pardon - This set forth that I was a citizen of Dallas County Ala, a student at Law, who, having, at divers and sundry places, as an officer of the Confederate Army, opposed the constituted authority of the U. S. Government; and, having submitted to said authority, and taken the prescribed oath of am-

nesty, respectfully prayed to be restored to my rights of person and property as though I had never offended &c – The point I made was my extreme youth at the time hostilities commenced, being as you recollect but eighteen years of age – The principles involved concerned me little, as I did not understand them – I fought for home and kindred – Had I been a Northern man, I had fought with you – All I have done since the surrender has been in good faith – We fought for a large state, and lost – You for the same, and won – It owned no more become me to be sullen and revengeful, than for you to be exultant and tyrannical – I had thought our "rebels" owned be hanged, banished, or imprisoned for life – Your Government, – our Government – I should say – has been generous far beyond my anticipations – for the infliction of such punishment as I have enumerated for the simple crime of "rebellion", yet remains for the future –

Since the application left my hands I have heard nothing of it – As I left Alabama on the 27th – November, it is possible something concerning it may have been received there –

If it be not too much trouble, will you enquire at the Dept of State if such an application has ever been received, and if so what disposition has been made of it?

If none, may I further ask your influence with the Executive in procuring it favorable consideration? I have some doubts as to my coming under the exception, as I was not educated fully at the Academy, but only in part – What do you think of it? If not included will you withdraw my application, and return it to me, if

this be possible?
Am I unconscionable in my requests? Should you think so, merely acknowledge the receipt of this, and I will annoy you no more - Unless you do so, I shall not believe it has ever reached you, and may intrude again -
It may not be amiss to recall the fact that I owe you a letter, your two last having come duly to hand after I reached home in 1861 - Your introduction of myself to R. E. Lee procured me an acquaintance of which I shall ever feel proud - He was an excellent officer and gallant man who "nobly, fighting fell" at Malvern - I was there and must confess your folks gave us a terrible drubbing -
I must not forget to thank you for forwarding the letters which arrived at the Academy after I had left -
How are Mrs. Howard, and little Guy and Grace? Big Guy and Grace I expect they are now - I should like very much to see you all, and were I not so abominably poor would drop in to see you some fine morning in Washington - My last recollection of West Point, is of Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Wayne waving their handkerchiefs in token of good bye, from the Wharf, after I had crossed the river - Pleasant times those of '59 and '60 - pleasanter than any of us may see again -
I am now at home on a visit - Shall remain in Goldsboro until the first of March probably - after that my address will be Cahaba Ala -
I know you will be glad to know I still hold on to the Faith we both professed, when we used

to gather together in that dear old Prayer meeting room -
Is the prayer-meeting still kept up, or did it cease
with your departure?
I have written naturally and consequently arrive at
length, than I intended -
An old pupil, do you still regard as an old friend

Yours very truly
Richard M. Nelson

Genl. Oliver O. Howard
Washington City
D.C.

answ'd by O.O.H.

Bucksport Me. Jany. 25 '66

Maj: Genl. Howard

Dear Gen.

During my absence Rev. Mr. Whittemore wrote you a few days since requesting a lecture by you while on your approaching eastern tour. He did not know that you are to be in Boston the week before your lecture in Bangor. I therefore take this liberty to address you again, and urgently to request you to come to our place at any time and for any one most convenient for you during your visit to Maine. Our lectures in the course are on Wednesday eve; but I assure you

we are all so anxious to see you - to do you honor as one of our country's saviors under the Supreme Savior - through whom the nation - its constitution, - liberty - Justice & Righteousness triumph - — and to hear you — that we will give you an audience equal to our utmost capacity for accommodation; and it shall be an appreciative audience.

Now - dear Sir - I hope you will feel & appreciate the force of our wishes; and we wait your decision.

Yours with much respect
W. H. Tilbury

Bucksport, Me. Jan. 25/66

Pillsbury, B.W.

Desires Sen Ble.

to lecture in Bucksport Maine

New York Jan. 26th 1866

Major Genl O. O. Howard,
Commissioner &c.

Genl:

I beg leave to enclose herewith my letter published yesterday in the "Evening Post" in this city. The subject on which it treats is one in which you feel deep interest.

I am very glad to see that the Bureau bids fair to be sustained by Congress. I presume I have written a hundred letters intending to show the necessity for its continuance.

God holds the helm of this ship, and her safe arrival in the port of perfect justice becomes more and more certain.

That the President will sustain the Bureau is more certain in my mind than formerly. Perhaps in the light of his experience up to this time, he sees how indispensible it is to the peace and welfare of the country.

Mr. Chase writes me that the President will throw the weight of his influence on the side of justice

Under the new law I see how enormous will be your work. I suppose I ought to engage to assist you. I have written to Gen. Fisk and received a reply which expresses a desire for my services.

I have my regrets that I did not proceed to Nashville when you gave me an order so to do, but the prospect of going to Europe under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of this city, led me to feel that in no way could I do greater good, and so wrote you the letter on the subject which resulted in my receiving your order of acceptance of my resignation.

I see that several States not included in the first bill (act March 3d 1865.) are now to be embraced. This will give room for the appointment of additional Assistant Commissioners. Several of the best men in this city (and of those most cordially in sympathy with you and your work) urge my reappointment by the President. Although I feel that such an appointment would be no more than justice to me at the President's hands, yet I am so fully

satisfied you would assign me to such duty as you deemed me adapted to, that I should deprecate any effort to reach the President by any process which did not originate with you, or at least, have your consent and recommendation.

You see now that I am inclined to reenter the service of the Bureau. In announcing this readiness I feel fully inclined to accept such duty as you may designate. Should you feel desirous of appointing me with Gen. Fisk as was intended in the previous order, I will proceed there; should you consider it proper to recommend my reappointment by the President as Assistant Commissioner, I can procure the most cordial approval of Mr. Choate, Mr. Beecher, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Raymond, Gen. Banks and others, any of whom will go and see the President on the subject. I propose going to Washington very soon, and I will see you on this subject. I hope I do not annoy you.

Very truly Yours
Thomas W. Conway
742 Broadway.

New York City
Jan 26th 1866

D. W. Conway Esq

Encloses his letter published January 25th in the N. Y. Evening Post; is glad to find the Bureau will be continued, and feels more certain that the President will now sustain it; has written to General Dix, whose reply expressed a desire for his services; sees that several States not included in first bill are now to be embraced, and feels that an appointment to one of them would be no more than justice to him at the hands of the President; feels fully inclined to accept any duty to which the Commissioner might assign him. —

Recd. Jan. 27th 1866.

115

Topeka Ks
Jan 26th 1866

Maj Gen O. O. Howard.
Dear Sir.

I did not go through Washington D.C. as I thought I might when I spoke to you. Lincoln College has opened with thirty students. Three professors have been elected — two of them — Mr Butler Giles and myself are from Maine — I think they would like to get a man who hails from Maine and who has been a Maj Gen — in his arms to become it's President. this is "entre nous". Everything looks well —

Whenever you wish to remit the manuscript

Topeka Kansas
Jan 26th 1866

D. Bowker

Gen Howard the
ective of Lincoln
ol" and writes
ly letter.

of $100. You can send it
in a draft on New York
payable to S. D. Bowker,
or order —

Yours very truly
S. D. Bowker.
Lincoln College
Topeka,
Kansas