

exacting more to be fined 20s., or not less than 5s.; misbehaving 10s. to 20s. A ticket to be sent with every parcel, with the charge for carriage and portage marked on it, under a penalty of 40s., or not less than 5s. Parcels are to be delivered within six hours after arrival, under a penalty of 20s., or not less than 10s. Parcels arriving between four in the evening and seven in the morning, to be delivered in six hours from the latter period under the like penalty.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CARRIERS.

By 1 William IV. cap. 68, it is enacted, that mail contractors, coach proprietors, and carriers, shall not be liable for the loss of any parcel containing coin, gold or silver manufactured or unmanufactured, jewellery, watches, clocks, &c.; bills, bank notes, or securities for the payment of money; maps, writings, title-deeds, paintings, plated articles, glass, china; manufactured or unmanufactured silks, furs, or lace, where the value of such parcel exceeds

10l., unless delivered as such, and an increased charge be paid and accepted for the same, of which charge notice is to be affixed in offices and warehouses. Carriers, &c., are to give receipts, acknowledging such increased rate; and in case of neglecting to give receipt or affix notice, the party not to be entitled to the benefit of this act. The publication of notices is not to limit the liability of proprietors, &c., in respect of any other goods conveyed. Every office used to be deemed a receiving-house; and any one coach proprietor or carrier liable to be sued. Nothing in this act extends to annul, or in anywise affect any special contract between such mail contractor, stage-coach proprietor, or common carrier, and any other parties, for the conveyance of goods. This act does not protect any mail contractor, stage-coach proprietor, or other common carrier, from liability to answer for loss or injury to any goods arising from the felonious acts of any coachman, guard, book-keeper, or other servant, nor to protect any such coachman, servant, &c., from liability, for any loss or injury occasioned by his own neglect or misconduct.

NEW RAILWAY REGULATIONS.

By the act passed (cap. 85) by Parliament during the late session, and known as "Mr. Gladstone's Railway Bill," the following additional provision is made for the accommodation of the public by Railway conveyance:—

In order to secure to the poorer class of travellers the means of travelling by railway at moderate fares, and in carriages in which they may be protected from the weather, be it enacted, that on and after the several days hereinafter specified, all passenger Railway Companies which shall have been incorporated by any Act of the present session, or which shall be hereafter incorporated, or which by any Act in the present or any future session, have obtained, or shall obtain directly or indirectly, any extension or amendment of the powers conferred on them respectively by their previous Acts, or have been or shall be authorised to do any act unauthorised by the provisions of such previous Acts, shall by means of one train, to travel along their railway from one end to the other of each trunk, branch, or junction line belonging to or leased by them, so long as they shall continue to carry other passengers over such trunk, branch, or junction line, once each way, on every week day, provide for the conveyance of third class passengers to and from the terminal and other ordinary passenger stations of the railway, under the obligations contained in their several Acts of Parliament, and with the immunities applicable by law to carriers of passengers by railway; and also under the following conditions (that is to say)—

Such train shall start at an hour, to be from time to time fixed by the Directors, subject to the approval of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations.

Such train shall travel at an average rate of speed not less than twelve miles an hour, for the whole distance travelled on the railway, including stoppages.

Such train shall, if required, take up and set down passengers at every passenger station which it shall pass on the line.

The carriages in which passengers shall be conveyed by such train shall be provided with seats, and shall be protected from the weather, in a manner satisfactory to the Lords of the said Committee.

The fare or charge for each passenger by such train shall not exceed one penny for each mile travelled.

Each passenger by such train shall be allowed to take with him half a

hundred weight of luggage, not being merchandise, or other articles carried for hire or profit, without extra charge; and any excess of luggage shall be charged by weight, at a rate not exceeding the lowest rate of charge for passengers' luggage by other trains.

Children under three years of age, accompanying passengers by such train, shall be taken without any charge; and children of three years and upwards, but under twelve years of age, at half the charge for an adult passenger.

And with respect to all railways subject to these obligations which shall be open on or before the 1st day of November next, these obligations shall come into force on the said 1st day of November; and with respect to all other railways subject to these obligations, they shall come into force on the day of opening of the railway, or the day after the last day of the session in which the Act shall be passed by reason of which the Company will become subject thereto, which shall first happen.

And if any Railway Company shall refuse or wilfully neglect to comply with the provisions of this Act, as to the said cheap trains, within a reasonable time, or shall attempt to evade the operation of such order, such Company shall forfeit to her Majesty a sum not exceeding £20 for every day during which such refusal, neglect, or evasion shall continue.

Except as to the amount of fare or charge for each passenger by such cheap trains, which shall in no case exceed the rates hereinbefore in such case provided, the Lords of the said Committee shall have a discretionary power, upon the application of any Railway company, of dispensing with any of the conditions hereinbefore required in regard to the conveyance of passengers by such cheap trains as aforesaid, in consideration of such other arrangements: either in regard to speed, covering from the weather, seats or other particulars, as to the Lords of the said Committee shall appear more beneficial and convenient for the passengers by such cheap trains under the circumstances of the case, and shall be sanctioned by them accordingly; and any Railway Company which shall conform to such other conditions as shall be so sanctioned by the Lords of the said Committee, shall not be liable to any penalty for not observing the conditions which shall have been so dispensed with by the Lords of the said Committee, in regard to the said cheap trains and the passengers conveyed thereby.

No tax shall be levied upon the receipts of any Railway Company from the conveyance of passengers at fares not exceeding one ld. for each mile by any such cheap train as aforesaid.

NEW LAWS OF DEBTOR AND CREDITOR.

The following is an Analysis of the leading Clauses of the New Insolvent Debtors' Act, 7 and 8 Vic., cap. 96, for Abolishing Imprisonment for Debts of £20, and under; and of an Act for Facilitating Composition with Creditors, 7 and 8 Vic., cap. 70.

ANALYSIS OF AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW OF INSOLVENCY, BANKRUPTCY, AND EXECUTION.

Petition for Protection may be presented to any Court of Bankruptcy within district of which Debtor shall have resided twelve months.

Form of Petition—to be verified by Affidavit.

All Creditors to the amount of £5 named in the Schedule to Petition to have Notice; Advertisement in *London Gazette*, &c., appointing first Examination; Commissioner may adjourn Examination, permit Amendment of Schedule. Assignees to be chosen.

Property of Petitioner to vest in Assignees from Appointment—to be in every case possessed and received by the Official Assignee alone. Chancellor, &c., may make orders for security of the property.

Commissioners to have same power as under a Fiat for seizure of Property, compelling attendance of Witnesses, production of Documents, &c.

Prisoner in Execution not being a Trader, or whose Debts are less than £300, may Petition for Protection; Interim Order will discharge Prisoner without Fee; Judgment to remain in force until final order for Protection.

If Petitioner not entitled to be Discharged, may be brought up by Warrant. If Petitioner die, Commissioner may proceed in the discovery and distribution of Property.

Necessaries and Working Tools to the value of £20 excepted from the operation of this Act and 5 & 6 Vict., c. 116—to be valued and inserted in Schedule.

Pending appointment of Creditors' Assignees, Official Assignee to act as sole Assignee; Commissioner may order allowance to Petitioner; in case of death or removal of Official Assignee, Property to vest in his successor; If Petitioner dismissed, all Property undisposed of to re-vest in Petitioner.

Assignees may execute all powers which the Petitioner might have executed for his own benefit.

Assignees may sue in their own names, compromise debts, and submit differences with consent of major part in value of Creditors.

Creditors to vote at Meetings only on the balance of accounts due to them.

Goods in the reputed ownership of Petitioner, with the consent of true owner at the filing of Petition, shall vest in Assignee.

Landlord to recover but One Year's Rent; may prove for balance.

Preferences in contemplation of Petition void against Assignees; If made prior to three months before, and not in contemplation of Filing Petition, not void.

No Warrant of Attorney, Cognovit, or Bill of Sale to be acted on after Petition filed.

Final Order to protect the person of Petitioner against all debts included in the Schedule, whether due or otherwise.

Prisoner detained for any Claim from which he is protected by the Final Order, Commissioner may order his discharge.

Stock or Shares may be transferred by order of the Commissioner.

Commissioner not to make any Final Order of Protection where Debts contracted by Fraud, &c., but to remand to prison—if otherwise, Final Order of Protection to be given in default of cause shown, after notice to Creditors. Commissioner empowered to adjourn the consideration of Final Order *sine die*.

Commissioner may, where Final Order adjourned *sine die*, at a future time in his discretion after hearing Petitioner or any of his Creditors, or his or their Counsel or Attorneys, give an Order of Protection—Where Final Order refused, and Protecting Order not renewed, Debtor not to be imprisoned more than twelve calendar months for any Debt contracted before filing his Petition.

Petitioner taken or detained after such Order to be discharged without Fee.

Whenever after Audit sufficient funds for a Dividend shall be in the hands of the Official Assignee, Commissioner to order Dividend forthwith—Notice of sitting of Court to be given.

At the end of twelve months from filing Petition, Commissioner may order Sale of Outstanding Debts.

No Sale by Auction to be liable to Duty—No Letter o Attorney, Affidavit, Certificate, or Advertisement, or any other proceeding, to be liable to Duty—Sale to be by Licensed Auctioneer.

Wilfully omitting in Schedule any property otherwise than necessaries and tools to the amount of £20 a Misdemeanour, and punishable with imprisonment and hard labour for any period not exceeding three years.

False Oath or Affirmation perjury.

Fiat in Bankruptcy may issue against Trader who has filed a declaration of Insolvency, upon a Petition of the Trader himself.

No Arrest in any Action for Debt for any sum not exceeding £20, exclusive of the Costs, recovered by such Judgment.

The Court or a Judge shall, on application, after the passing of this Act, (9th Aug. 1844), order the Discharge of Prisoners for Debt, where the same shall not exceed £20, exclusive of Costs.

Judge who shall try Cause may, if it should appear that Defendant contracted Debt under False Pretences, or fraud or without reasonable assurance of being able to Pay, or shall have made away with or transferred Personal Property, order Imprisonment, whether or not execution against the Defendant's goods shall have issued.

Court or Judge making Order for the Payment of Money, in Default, to be Levied by Execution against Goods, &c.

Order being made for Payment by Instalment, Execution not to issue until Default—may then issue for over-due Instalments, or Balance, as Judge shall order.

Judge may, in cases of Sickness, or unavoidable Accident, suspend Execution until temporary cause of disability has ceased.

Execution superseded, on Payment of Debt and Costs.

If Bailiff neglect to Levy, amount of Execution recoverable from him by Action in Court where Execution recovered.

Landlord of Tenement let Weekly only to claim against Execution Creditor Four Weeks arrears—if for other term less than a Year, then the Rent accruing during four such terms.

In case of Claims to Goods taken in Execution, Court, on application of Officer, may summons the Parties, and adjudicate.