

Decision in Bankruptcy.

Judge Rives, of the United States District Court of Virginia, decided a case involving a new question in bankruptcy. The petitioner, Daniel Jones, of Bedford county, Va., purchased, under a decree and sale of real estate by the circuit court of Bedford, a part of that realty, for which he gave his bonds, waiving all exemptions. This purchase was made previous to the act of Congress of June, 1872. Since that amendment has become a law the petitioner asks the benefit of the exemption and a rebate in his bonds given for the purchase money of the land sold under the decree. Judge Rives takes occasion to declare the amendatory bankruptcy act to be constitutional, and that bankrupts are entitled to homestead exemption provided by different State constitutions, however variant they may be, and held that the exemption in Virginia must be allowed, notwithstanding the decision of the State Supreme Court against its constitutionality. He regards the amendments to the bankruptcy law, passed March 3d, 1873, as declaratory of the meaning and effect of the act of June, 1872, and must be held as giving the bankrupts of Virginia the bona fide homestead exemption provided in the constitution of 1868, which exempts as well to debts contracted previous as subsequent to the constitution of 1868, and also as to all liens of judgments in State courts. This law must be administered as a State exemption and in accordance with State law, except so far as the act of Congress may have changed State law. He further decides that it cannot be allowed where the bankrupt has been discharged; and in the particular case in question he decides it cannot be allowed where rights have been vested which it would be necessary to disturb; as for instance where a man's lands have been sold for the benefit of creditors, there is no part of the land to be exempted, because it has been sold and the rights of the purchaser must be respected, nor can the purchase money be exempted, because that has already been adjudged as belonging to the creditors.

THE YELLOWSTONE LAKE.—Leaving the Great Canyon and ascending the river we pass through forests of pine clothing the foothills, crossing hundreds of streams, which feed, from mountain springs, the waters at our feet, we behold the river sweeping along in majestic curves and easy flows, with a motion which charms the artistic mind. We pass numerous hot springs of interest, which we cannot now describe. We catch glimpses, too, as we move into the open land, of grottoes, boiling springs and steaming cauldrons. Arriving at the lake and approaching it, we view a vast sheet of water of a most delicate ultramarine, a scene no where equaled, and filling all beholders with enthusiasm. One writer says: "Such a vision is worth a life-time, and only one of such marvelous beauty will ever greet human eyes." In fact the lake has been often compared to the human hand. Some of the shore lines are of great beauty. The curves being as perfect as if drawn by the hand of art. Growing in the lake is a quantity of vegetation, which the waves break off and cast in huge windrows upon the shores. The greatest depth is 300 feet, the temperature that of cold spring water. The salmon trout is about the only fish found in the lake or adjacent streams. All along the margin of the lake are high banks and terraces. At most times the lake is a quiet sheet of water, scarcely a ripple ruffling its surface, while the varied hues of its bosom, changing from the most vivid green to the mildest blue, presents a picture to wake the dullest to enthusiasm.

THE BOOMERANG.—The Ploche Record says: This weapon has been thought unknown to the American tribes, but it is now said that it takes the place of the gun and the bow and arrow among the Moqui Indians of Northern Arizona and New Mexico. It is used more especially in killing rabbits, the motion by which it is thrown for this purpose being similar to that of a stone made to skip on the surface of the water. At a distance of twenty-five or thirty yards the rabbit is rarely missed, however rapidly he may be moving. The rabbit furnishes the principal meat eaten by these Indians, while its skin is worked into rugs and robes.

THE Sacramento Record has this of Gen. Jefferson C. Davis, who passed through that city on the 25th ult., on his way to the Lava Beds: "In conversation with General Davis he said that he did not propose to make any promises about what he was going to do when he got into the Modoc country. He should do the best he could, and if the people did not get in too much of a hurry he could render a good account.

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