

In compliance with the judicious recommendation of Gov. Lincoln to the Legislature of *Massachusetts*, this subject has come under the consideration of that body. In a debate on the bill introduced for the purpose of meliorating the present system, Mr. Blake of Boston, and Mr. Baylies of Taunton, made the following remarks:—

Mr. Blake said the first section contained a provision which existed in most other States, and it was extraordinary it had never been established in this. For want of it, a man's property, to any amount, might be attached, on a charge of Debt, and ruin brought on him. This section provided that the plaintiff, before a writ could be issued in his favor, must swear that he believed the defendant owed him the amount for which he claimed the attachment. The severe laws against debtors which existed in ancient times, he said, were enacted because it was then unusual and unnecessary to get into debt—and the debtor was, therefore considered a criminal—but now nearly every body was more or less in debt, credit was the system of business, the system of the government.

Mr. Baylies called the attention of the house to the third provision of the bill, exempting females from imprisonment for debt. This exemption, he said, depended on principles which did not apply to other cases. Females possessed no civil rights. They could not come into this Hall to legislate for themselves; nor had they any part in the choice of those by whom the laws are made—and yet we inflicted upon them every severity of our laws. It was, too, a greater hardship for a female than for a man to be imprisoned. Their sensibilities were more acute, their sex more tender; and they were, therefore less able to undergo the punishment. From their position in society, the disgrace of imprisonment was tenfold greater to them