

gers, and speculators of all descriptions; it is entirely on one side, and gives no chance at all for the poor wretches entangled in its meshes. I shall relate two instances that came under my own observation before I point out the clauses in the act that are so open to abuse.

The first is a young man who had settled in one of our new townships. Being early in, he had his choice of the land in quantity and quality; he took up two hundred acres, according to custom, in a certain township. He sold his right of one and got some money down, with a promise of the rest in yearly payments. This induced him to go in debt for certain articles he wanted; but it turned out that the purchaser was not able to fulfill his agreement, and as he had possession of the land, the seller was obliged to borrow what he had paid him, on it, and give it to him and resume possession of his land again. The Indian peninsula coming into the market at this time, together with low prices, and light crops, there was no demand for lands in the County of Bruce. Perhaps the exceedingly high prices holders had been asking previously had something to do with it as well as the opening up of new settlements in other parts. However, he was sued, and in the spring of 1858, after putting in some little crop, he left home to look for work, in order to earn something to pay off these debts; he travelled for three weeks, until he had spent the few dollars he took with him for his expenses, and then had to return and beg his way home. In due time the execution came, and as I happened to be in the house or shanty at the time the bailiff came, I shall never forget the scene the longest day of my life.

The defendant in the case (as the legal document said), was a strong powerful man, about 25 years of age. I never beheld a man in such agony, in trying to suppress his emotion, although the tears fell like rain. Creeping about the floor was a stout child about 3 years old, another about 18 months was lying in a little cradle, a death-like paleness overspread its face, its lips were shrunk and parched-looking, and its eyes deeply sunk in their sockets; the wife was in the bed in one corner of the room, after being confined the night before; what her feelings were on hearing the dreadful news God only knows, for me; I thought it would have been the cause of her death. And what, will you say, is the

cause of this emotion? One little cow, their only hope for existence, was seized under this execution, and was to be sold on this day. What made their grief more poignant, if possible, was that the wife had earned the cow before she was married. This cow, or properly speaking, the milk of her was all that these five individuals had to subsist on, together with about half as much bran and shorts, and a little flour, as would last from May until the new food came in. This man had between 30 and 40 acres cleared, and could have paid his debt with ease in two years, had it not been for the cruel machinery of the law. The cow was taken and sold for \$5, and this did not pay the bailiff's fees; she was worth \$20 at a fair valuation.

This case is sufficient to illustrate the working of the system of itself, but I shall give another.

A respectable tradesman, with about \$800 in money, thought he would try his luck in Canada. Having heard of one of those splendid investments" that were everywhere to be seen on paper about four or five years ago, he made his way to this county, and then to this flourishing village, which bore the name of the one he left. He was very soon offered a splendid chance for his spare cash, which he unfortunately embraced, for before the end of two years the partners in the concern were no where to be found, and he was left to manage the whole concern, which consisted in paying what debts were contracted. The first, however, that he was pressed for was one of his own for a stove. When he was sued he started off to try to earn the money at his trade. He had paid one half, and was working away for the other, when the bailiff came and seized the stove, the only article he thought worth removing in the house. The poor woman, who happened to be one of that proud nation whose boast it is that every man's house is his castle, and not thinking that such an advantage would be taken of her in her husband's absence, was nearly paralyzed. She begged time until she could write to her husband, but the bailiff could grant her no more time than the execution allowed. The stove was duly advertised to be sold on a certain Monday in January, which turned out to be the coldest day in that cold winter either before or after. The dreadful day arrived, so did the detested official, but neither letter nor money from her husband. The rest is soon told, but tell it not in the South-