

TESTAMENTARY SYSTEM.

to be inserted in some principal news-paper of Annapolis, Baltimore-town, Philadelphia, New-York, and the seat of the federal government, an advertisement, as follows, or fully to the following effect, viz. "This is to give notice, that the subscriber (or subscribers) of —, hath (or have) obtained from the orphans court of — county, in Maryland, letters testamentary (or of administration) on the personal estate of —, late of —, deceased; all persons having claims against the said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at or before the — day of — next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this — day of —."

15. It shall be the duty of an executor or administrator, within thirteen calendar months after the date of his letters, or within such further time, not exceeding four months longer, as shall be allowed by the orphans court, on his making oath (or affirmation) as aforesaid, respecting the insufficiency of the personal estate to discharge all just claims known to him, or pay each claimant his just proportion of the money then in his hands, (retaining as before directed;) it shall likewise be his duty, once in every term of six months, after the first distribution, to make distribution of the money which hath since come into his hands; until he shall have fully administered, and on failure his administration bond may be put in suit.

16. In case all the assets shall have been paid away, or delivered or distributed in the manner hereafter directed, and a claim shall afterwards be exhibited, of which the executor or administrator had not knowledge or notice, he shall not be answerable for the same; and if he be sued for any claim, and shall make it appear to the court in which suit is brought, that he hath so paid away, delivered or distributed, and the plaintiff cannot prove that the defendant had knowledge or notice as aforesaid before such payment, delivery or distribution, the court shall not proceed to give judgment, (although the amount of the claim against the deceased may be ascertained as herein before directed,) until the plaintiff shall be able to shew further assets coming into the defendant's hands; but if the plaintiff shall prove notice, or knowledge of the said claim, against the defendant, judgment may immediately be given for such sum as the plaintiff ought to have received at the dividend, and *feri facias* may issue and have effect, and further judgment may be given, as herein before directed on coming in of further assets.

17. In all cases where an executor or administrator is to make a payment or distribution amongst creditors, he may give notice, three weeks successively in some convenient news-paper, of the time and place for making it, and in case any creditor shall not attend in person, or by agent or attorney, to receive the amount or proportionable part of the claim, all interest on such claim or proportionable part shall cease from that time; provided, that the executor or administrator shall, at any time thereafter, on demand, pay the said claim, or proportionable part, to the party, his agent or attorney duly authorized; and whenever the executor or administrator shall proceed to make an additional payment or dividend, he may advertise as aforesaid, and interest shall stop as aforesaid; and if at any additional dividend a just claim established as hereafter directed shall be exhibited, the creditors shall be entitled to such sum as will place him on an equal footing with those who have already received a dividend.

18. In paying the debts of the deceased, an executor or administrator shall observe the following rules:

Judgments and decrees against the deceased shall be wholly discharged before any part of other claims.

After such judgments and decrees shall be satisfied, all other just claims shall be admitted to a distribution, on an equal footing, without priority or preference.

If there be not sufficient to discharge all such judgments and decrees, a proportionable division or dividend shall be made between the judgment and decree creditors, but no executor or administrator shall be bound to discover what judge-

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