

roll county, to settle his accounts as guardian to William L. Haines, in the Orphans' Court of Baltimore city, and to deliver over the estate to his said ward."

By this bill the guardian of William L. Haines is authorized to pass his final account as such, during the minority of his ward, and to settle with his said ward, whose receipt, although he is a minor, is to have the same effect as if he were of full age; and the minor, from and after the passage of the said bill, is to be answerable for all debts, contracts and liabilities made and entered into by him, and may sue and be sued as fully as if he were of full age.

By the existing law of the State, which applies as well to the case of William L. Haines as any other minor, a guardian who has property of his ward in his hands, cannot relieve himself from liability by passing a final account, and during the minority of his ward, obtaining from him a receipt or release.

The existing law presumes the minor not to have sufficient capacity to decide as to the accuracy of the account passed by the guardian, and disqualifies him from executing a receipt or release, the correctness of which he cannot dispute upon coming of age. It also, because of this presumption of incapacity, makes all his contracts, except for necessities and educational purposes, avoidable upon his coming of age, and only allows him to sue by guardian or next friend.

These provisions of the law are founded upon the soundest principles of public policy, which imperatively require, in order to avoid the inextricable confusion and uncertainty which would result from making special laws for special cases, that some uniform age should be established by law, at which, among sane persons, full legal capacity should begin, and no benefit could be derived from setting them aside in the case of any particular minor, which would not be more than counter-balanced by the evils which would flow from so dangerous a precedent. Besides such legislation is in controvention of the spirit, if not the letter, of Article III., section 33, of the State Constitution, which provides that "The General Assembly shall pass no special law for any case for which provision has been made by any existing general law."

A further objection to said bill is contained in its second section, which enacts "that the said Hashabiah Haines, in settling his account, shall be allowed for all monies *bona fide* paid by him to and for the use of said William L. Haines, and for liabilities assumed and entered into by him on his account, up to the time of said settlement with said Court, provided the said Court shall deem the same reasonable."

Unless this clause is intended to authorize the Orphans'