

by two skilful discreet persons, not related to either party, and appointed by the orphans court, which two persons, before they proceed to act, shall swear, or affirm, as the case may be, before some judge or justice, that they will appraise the same without favour or prejudice, and to the best of their skill and judgment; and it shall be the duty of the appraisers to examine the estate, and estimate the annual value thereof, including any slaves, working beasts and stock, and utensils thereon belonging to the orphan, and proper to be leased with the land; they shall likewise set down, in writing, what dwelling houses, out-houses, orchards, gardens, meadows, enclosures; and other improvements, are on the land, and the condition thereof, and what proportion of the said land is in their estimation in woods; and they shall make out a certificate, under their hands and seals, of the whole they have done, to which shall be annexed a certificate of their appointment, and of their having taken the oath or affirmation as aforesaid, and the same shall be returned by the guardian to the orphans court, within three months as aforesaid; and the same shall be evidence against him, in case of any suit for misconduct brought against him.

7. No guardian shall commit waste on the land, but the court may, on his application, allow him to cut down and sell wood, and account for the same, in case it shall deem the same advantageous or necessary for the ward's education and maintenance.

8. And each guardian having a real estate under his care, shall either cultivate the same, with the slaves, stock and utensils, belonging to the ward, or to be purchased with his or her money, with the approbation of the court, or he shall lease the same from year to year or for any term not exceeding three years, and within the nonage of the ward; or he may, with the court's approbation, undertake the estate on his own account, and be answerable for the annual value, such annual value to be every third year ascertained, under the direction of the court.

9. Every guardian shall account for all profit and increase of the estate, or annual value as aforesaid, and shall not be answerable for any loss or decrease sustained without his fault, to be allowed by the orphans court.

10. And once in each year or oftener if required, a guardian shall settle an account of his trust with the orphans court; and the said court shall ascertain, at discretion, the amount of the sum to be annually expended in the maintenance and education of the orphan, regard being had to the future situation, prospects and destination, of the ward; and the said court, if it shall deem it advantageous to the ward, may allow the guardian to exceed the income of the estate, and to make use of his principal, and to sell part of the same, under its order; provided nevertheless, that no part of the real estate shall, on account of such maintenance or education, be diminished, without the approbation of the court of chancery, or general court, as well as of the orphans court.

11. And on the first account to be rendered by a guardian, he shall state the property by him received from an executor or administrator, or otherwise, belonging to his ward, and every increase, and the profits thence arising, if any.

12. In case the personal property of a ward shall consist of specific articles, such as slaves, working beasts, animals of any kind, stock, furniture, plate, books, and so forth, the court, if it shall deem it advantageous for the ward, may at any time pass an order for the sale thereof for ready money, or on credit, the purchaser, with security, giving bond to the said ward, bearing interest; and all proceedings relative to such sale shall be as herein directed with respect to sales by executors or administrators.

13. Every account of a guardian shall state his expenditures in maintaining and educating the ward, not exceeding the income of the estate, unless allowed by the court; and for no balance of money in his hands shall he be charged interest, unless he shall consent to take the same on interest; but the court may direct him to place the same at interest, taking bond to the orphan, with security approved by the court; and for the trouble and care of such guardian, the court may allow any commission, not exceeding ten per cent.

14. On a guardian's failing to account as herein directed, his bond shall be liable to be put in suit, and he shall also be liable to attachment and fine as aforesaid, but he shall not be liable to any fine in a court of law, any act to the contrary notwithstanding.

15. On the ward's arrival at age as aforesaid, the guardian shall exhibit a final account to the orphans court, and shall deliver up, agreeably to the court's order, to the said ward, or the husband, (as the case may require,) all the property of such ward in his hands, including