oaths and affirmations in all matters incident or belonging to the duties of his office, and to take affidavits to be used before any court, judge, or officer within this district.

Record. Certified copies.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That each notary public shall keep a fair record of all his official acts, except such as are mentioned in the fifth section of this act; and when required shall give a certified copy of any record in his office to any person, upon payment of the fees therefor.

Notarial seal.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That each notary public, before he acts as such, shall provide a notarial seal, with which he shall authenticate all his official acts, which seal, together with his records and official documents, shall not be liable to be seized on by any execution. He shall deposit an impression of his official seal in the office of the clerk of the supreme court of said district.

To be exempt from execution.

Records in case of death, resignation, &c.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That on the death, resignation, or removal from office of any notary public, his records, together with all his official papers, shall be deposited in the office of the clerk of the supreme court of said district.

Original protest to be prima facie evidence of facts stated therein.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the original protest of a notary public, under his hand and official seal, of any bill of exchange or promissory note for non-acceptance or non-payment, stating the presentment by him of such bill of exchange or note for acceptance or payment, and the non-acceptance or non-payment thereof, and the service of notice on any or all of the parties to such bill of exchange or promissory note, and specifying the mode of giving such notice, and the reputed place of residence of the party to whom the same was given, and the post-office nearest thereto, shall be *prima facie* evidence of the facts contained therein. The certificate of a notary public, under his hand and seal of office, drawn from his record, stating the protest and the facts therein recorded, shall be evidence of the facts in like manner as the original protest.

Certificate to be like evidence.

Fees of notaries public.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the fees of notaries public shall be as follows: For each certificate and seal, fifty cents; taking depositions or other writings, for each one hundred words, ten cents; administering an oath, fifteen cents; taking acknowledgment of a deed or power of attorney, with certificate thereof, fifty cents; every protest of a bill of exchange or promissory note, and recording the same, one dollar and seventy-five cents; each notice of protest, ten cents; each demand for acceptance or payment, if accepted or paid, one dollar, to be paid by the party accepting or paying the same; each noting of protest, one dollar. And any notary public who shall take a higher fee than is prescribed by this act shall pay a fine of one hundred dollars and be removed from office by the said supreme court.

Penalty for taking higher fees.

Repealing clause.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

APPROVED, April 8, 1864.

CHAP. LII. — *An Act to authorize the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind to confer Degrees.*

April, 8, 1864.

Columbia Institution for the deaf and dumb and the blind may confer degrees.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the board of directors of the Columbia Institution for the instruction of the deaf and dumb and the blind be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to grant and confirm such degrees in the liberal arts and sciences to such pupils of the institution, or others, who, by their proficiency in learning or other meritorious distinction they shall think entitled to them, as are usually granted and conferred in colleges; and to grant to such graduates diplomas or certificates, sealed and signed in such manner as said board of directors may determine, to authenticate and perpetuate the memory of such graduation.

APPROVED, April 8, 1864.

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