

THE SEPARATE CAR LAW.

The Louisiana State Supreme Court yesterday affirmed the constitutionality of the law, act 111 of 1890, requiring railroad companies to provide separate but equal accommodations for passengers of both races.

This law has given great offense to certain classes of people, who are seeking to efface the social color line. They are not all to be found among the colored people, but, on the contrary, there are not a few whites who are opposed to any social distinctions on account of color. This act provides that "no person or persons shall be permitted to occupy seats in coaches other than the ones assigned to them on account of the race to which they belong." It will be thus seen that colored passengers are not only denied the right of sitting in cars appropriated for the white passengers, but the whites are refused the privilege of sitting in the cars devoted to the use of the colored passengers.

Thus it will be seen that there is no unequal discrimination on account of color. This case came up on appeal from the Criminal District Court of this city on the application of Omer A. Plessy, who had been brought into court on a charge of having violated the separate car law, in refusing to sit in a car assigned to passengers of the colored race. He denied the constitutionality of the law, and went to the Supreme Court, praying for a decree of prohibition forbidding the Criminal Court to proceed against him under the penal provisions of said law.

The Supreme Court maintained the constitutionality of the law, and the party who questioned it will now have to make answer in form to the charge of violation of the statute. The case is in Judge Ferguson's section of the Criminal Court. The claim of unconstitutionality was most elaborately argued in a brief for the appellant by Messrs. Albion W. Tourgee and James C. Walker.

"The Separate Car Law" in *The Daily Picayune*.
New Orleans, December 20, 1892.