HENRY A. PARSONS, JR. - - Editor THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1878.

HON. ISAAC G. GORDON, Republican nomince for the Supreme Bench, is emphatically the architect of his own fortune. Commencing active life as a moulder's apprentice in Lewisburg, Union sounty, working regularly at the business until an accidental injury to one of his feet disqualified him for manual labor he began to read, and borrowing books from a friendly attorney, ventured upon the study of law, was in due time admitted to practice, speedily acquired reputation, and is now a candidate for the highest judicial office in our great Commonwealth. His example is well calculated to encourage young men struggling for success in the various eallings of life.

THE fact does not seem to be generally known that if Congress next winter repeals what is known as the increase of salary bill, such repeal would not effect either the salary of the President or those of the Judges of the Supreme bill passed last session. Article second of the Constitution provides that "the President shall at stated times, receive for his services a compensation, which can neither be increased or diminished during the period for which he shall article 3, provides that Judges of the Supreme Court and inferior Courts shall, at stated times, receive for their services a compensation which shall not be diminished during their continuance in

BRIGHAM YOUNG'S DIVORCE CASE. the Territory of Utah, in the divorce clerks. suit of Ann Eliza Webb, seventeenth wife of Brigham Young, has decided that it has no jurisdiction, and that the ease must be taken before the Territorial Probate Court. This is in direct opposition to the opinions of Judges Mc-Keen and Hawley, and virtually of the Supreme Court of the Territory. Three causes of divorce were alleged by the council of Mrs. Young-first, desertion; second, inability of the parties to live to- railroad companies have no right to gether in peace; third, the failure of the defendant to properly provide for her adequate support. The plaintiff asked \$1,000 a mouth pendente life, \$20,000 attorney's fees, and \$200,000 as her portion. The court refuseed to make any allowance, of course, after deciding the question of jurisdiction as it did. The case will come up before the Supreme Court, and this decision will probably

# Letter from Washington

WASHINGTON, D. C., Saturday, August 23d .- The investigation into the causes of the Wawaset disaster and the responsibility for the horrible sacrifice of human life, was concluded yesterday as to the taking of testimony. A large number of witnesses were examined, and notwithstanding the unfavora ble criticisms upon the manner of conducting the investigation made by the press, I am inclined to believe it about as thorough as it could have been made. It is to be regretted that so little was developed concerning the origin of the fire. In fact nothing whatever was discovered affording any light upon this question.

As to the responsibility for the immense and unprecedented loss of life perhaps nothing should be said until the officers appointed to investigate the matter have made their report. It seems that the duplicate copy of the inspectors' certificate on file in the office of the Supervising Inspector General of Steamboats, at the Treasury Department, authorizes the carrying of but fifty passengers. The steamer had on board at least a hundred and fifty at the time of the fatal disaster. The captain and offieers of the boat, and the officers of the company owning her, claim that the original certificate allowed the larger num- Columbia. ber. Several persons who had frequently been passengers on board also testified that they had read the certificate where it was hung up in the saloon, and that it said one hundred and fifty. The most positively that the duplicate is correct and that they would not have given a certificate for a hundred and fifty. The officers admit that the original certificate was first made out for fifty, but some other of customs at Georgetown to change it. These officers all testify that they never heard of the matter before. There is a mystery about this somewhere and it is to be regretted until this point was cleared up. It seems the certificate was tampered with after it was made out and signed by the inspectors. Whether this was done by some one connected with the custom house, or by some one connected with the steamboat company, of the trade, this is not to be considered ought to have been shown.

#### GENERAL NOTES

A distasteful ration-Botheration. The cloth of a baker's suit is doeskin. A red herring will keep a man dry better than an umbrella.

The softer the head the harder the work of driving anything into it. A woman's love for a military officer is generally uniform.

They have managed to squeeze 420 school districts into Rhode Island,

'When is an umbrella like a person convalescent? When it is recovered. The Persian monarch's smile must be

a sad one as it is simply a Shab grin. What nation is most likely to succeed in a dflicult enterprise? Detirmination. It is said that the Digger Indians are never known to smile. They are grave

Boys on land often play at the game of pitch-and-toss. When on sea still

A Detroit servant girl was recently attacted by rats in a cellar, and it required the efforts of several persons to drive off the vermin.

Edmund D. Scudder, of Trenton, N. J., recently died from congestion of the brain, brought on by overheating himself at a game of base ball.

A bed of peculiar clay is said to have been discovered in Jefferson county Court, which will remain as fixed by the Nebraska, from which bricks are made of a bluish singe, and of great hardness. A man in Colorado has shipped a hundred prairiedogs east, with the intention, it is thought, of raising the animals for the market

The cradle which Abraham Lincoln rocked in can be seen in thirteen differhave been elected," and section 1, of cut places in Illinois. They must have rocked him by sections.

The three oldest citizens of Philadelphia are Coddington Cheseboro, ninetyfour; Horace Binney, ninety-three; and Ambrose White, ninety-th:ee.

Another new order has been organized in Pennsylvania; and is called the "Knight's of the Golden Eagle." Its members are business men, merchants, -The United States District Court of | manufacturers, professional men and

The question of taxing church property is now widely discussed. Ohio loses \$470,000 in taxes yearly, because \$25,554,725 of church property is exempt from taxation.

A lunatic in Erie offers to jump from the top of the highest elevator in that city for twenty-five dollars. By all means raise the amount; it will prove the cheapest way of geting rid of him. The Supreme Court of New Hamp-

shire has just decided at Concord that grant to any party or parties exclusive privelage to carry express matter over

The new Masonic Temple in Philadel-phia is almost finished. The dedicatory The new Masonic Temple in Philadelceremonics will begin on the 25th of September and continue three days. It is estimated that over 100,000 members of the mystic tie will be present and assist in the caramonies.

It is noticeable that in the United States in 1870 there were 1,345 deaths v spicide while there were only 202 ha lightning; in other words an individual i. six times as likely to kill himself as lightning is to kill him .- [Hartford Courset.

A Lager Beer Protective Association his been formed in Syracuse. According to the rules, the members of the association are to assist only those dealers who sell beer on Sunday. All those who deal in other liquors on that day are ceusured by the association.

While a Troy man was in a beer sa loon, the other day, speaking to the toast, "Woman, God bless her," his wife waltzed in and led him out by the ear, and he now says that on the occasion of another festive meeting he will have that toast changed to woman something else-to which improved sentiment he will respond with an eloquence that will cast a cloud upon the fame of Daniel Webster.

The War Department promulgates in general orders the findings and sentences in the case of the Modoc captives, Captain Jack, Schonshin, Black Jim, Boston Charley, Barnetto, alias One-eyed Jim, and Sloluck, alias Cok, who were tried by military commission for the murder of General Canby and Commissioner Thomas, and assault with intent to kill other peace commissioners. They are found guilty of the specifications and charges, and sentenced to be hanged. The proceedings have been approved by the President and Secretary of War, and the sentence will be carried into effect at Fort Kalmath, Oregon, on the 3d of October, under the direction of the General commanding the department of

Overproduction, new wells, the extension of the oil fields, and a variety of other reasons, have united in preducing an unusual depression in the oil business the price now being but \$1.25 per barrel. Last year the average daily producinspectors, on the other hand, testify tion was 18,000 barrels, but the estimates for it at this time are 25,000 to 30,000 barrels. Some of the wells recently opened in Butler county are said to produce 600 barrels a day. The depression in price, compared with the cost of boring wells, raises an luteresting inthey subsequently got the inspector or quiry. A well lasts from five to six months, and the cost of boring it is from \$8,000 to \$10,000. One of these new wells, therefore, at present prices, has to yield 500,000 gallous of oil to pay for the mere outlay incurred in boring it. This leaves the business somewhat in the nature of a lettery. Only wells that produce largely can be made to pay at present prices, and oil men say that the smaller ones are run at a loss. There seems, however no such thing as the supply of petroleum being exausted. Whatever may be the varying fortunes

among its risks.

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