

IN THE SUPREME COURT.

THE FIRST CENTURY OF THE NATION'S HIGHEST TRIBUNAL.

A Glimpse at the History of Long Ago Precedents, and a Succession of Chief Justices...

Washington, Jan. 30.—Next week completes the first century of the supreme court of the United States...

The formal history of the supreme court could be easily written, for just across the corridor, in the old Capitol building...

"Young man, I see you have found some of Chief Justice Jay's snuff."

"The means," said Mr. McKenney, "then in turning over the leaves of the old book you have disturbed some of the snuff which the first chief justice, John Jay, is supposed to have dropped between the leaves of a century ago."

"Here," said Clerk McKenney, "are the minutes of the first session of the court. Notice with what perfect black ink it is written, and in what a beautiful hand it is as plain as printing."

"The first page of this minute book reads as follows: At the supreme judicial court of the United States, begun and held at New York..."

On the following day, Tuesday, Feb. 3, Chief Justice Jay and Associate Justices Cushing, Wilson and Blair were present.

present, a quorum, and the court proceeded to the transaction of business. According to the minutes, "letters patent" to these gentlemen from the president of the United States...

At this second day's session of the court Richard Weyman was appointed "court clerk" and at the next day's session John Tucker, of Boston, was appointed clerk.

was a man named to it. An examination was ordered that the seal of the court shall be the arms of the United States engraved on a circular piece of steel of the size of a dollar...

On Feb. 4 there was no session of the court, and I am therefore unable to say why that day was selected for the anniversary, except in the Metropolitan Opera-house, New York city.

Friday, Feb. 5, the court reconvened, and the minutes show that Elias Bondi, of New Jersey, Thomas Hartley of Pennsylvania and Richard Harrison of New York were admitted to practice before the court.

Feb. 8, Fisher Ames and Robert Morris were admitted to practice, and on the following day Edward Livingston and others whose names were afterwards conspicuous in their country's history.

February Term, 1791. Nicholas Vassallophos and Jacob Vassallophos vs. The State of Maryland.

Ordered, that Roger J. Callender, Joseph Smith, Peter Skene Ogden, Christian Van Alphen, Nicholas Bondi, P. C. Mahony and William Willcutt be appointed commissioners to take depositions in this case.

One extract from the first docket book will show that even in the old days the lawyers and judges knew very well by familiarity the traditional delays of the law.

1800—Aug. 2, continued. 1800—Aug. 14, continued. 1801—December, continued. 1802—August, continued.

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GOLD IN PAVING STONES.

THERE MAY BE LOTS OF THE METAL IN NEW YORK STREETS.

Suggests Picked by a Boy from a Contractor's Pile—Quartz Specimens Taken of Probable Deposits in the Catskills and Adirondack Mountains.

New York, Jan. 30.—"Do you seriously mean that valuable specimens of gold have been picked from piles of rocks lying around loose in the streets of New York?"

"I do most seriously, and if I could have found the source from which they came, I would today be twenty times a millionaire."

The speaker was an old and well known resident of the city, and the facts mentioned by him in the following narrative are familiar to a number of persons.

"One morning a young son coming in from play his mother discovered that his pockets were filled with these pebbles, which, boy like, he had gathered because, as he said, 'they were pretty.'"

"In order to satisfy him still further I cracked a specimen in a number of places, but rich, glistening flakes of gold were seen in the cracks."

It was with genuine interest that I watched Archer put the gowns on the backs of the justices—big, broad backs the most of them are, too.

WALTER WILLMAN. LOUNSBERRY'S DEFALCATION. It Has Caused Loss of Esteem in New York and Hackensack, N. J.

New York city's political circles are greatly agitated, and Hackensack, N. J., is plunged in grief, by the suicide of George H. Lounsberry; and about his act and its causes there is a mystery which excites angry controversy.

And, strangely enough, this last statement appears to be true, for he was partner in a large feed store with one of his bondsmen, drew profits therefrom which sometimes amounted to over \$15,000 a year, and at the time of his death a considerable sum was due him.

Deceased was about 43 years old, a native of Montgomery county, N. Y., where his aged parents still reside. His old friends there indignantly repel the charge against him.

Der wisdoms of dis worldz was sometimes bring choy to der afflicted und much many troubles to der broserous.

A TRIP ON A CATTLE BOAT.

A CURIOUS EXPERIENCE ON THE RACING MAIN.

Some Information as to the Manner in Which Live Cattle Are Transported from America to England—A Big Wave and the Havoc It Wrought.

"Early in November," said an acquaintance to me the other day, "I found myself a man of leisure in New York looking about in quest of some form of occupation."

"I was 'received' by a beetle broved fellow, with fat, dirty hands and muddy boots."

"'Good sailor?' he asked, after I had told him that I had come in answer to the advertisement."

"'Fairly good,' captain," I replied. "'Don't ye call me 'captain.' I ain't got nothin' to do wid the sailin' of the boat. I'm de boss de cattle gang.'"

"I will first explain that the cattle are carried from the yards on lighters which drift alongside the steamer, where they are driven aboard. The interior arrangements of these cattle boats are practically all alike."

"Ten miles from Fredericksburg, Va., on the Rappahannock river, gold existed in paying quantities; and coming still further north, even to Nova Scotia, you frequently find the precious metal in quantities more tangible than a mere trace."

"Why not?" inquired the writer. "Because it is in that neighborhood I obtained the specimens you see. Some of the richest I found in streams not far from Peekskill. There is gold in Putnam and Delaware counties, and what is known as the Fishkill mountains, and gold in the range which enters Orange county from New Jersey."

"Here is a picture of 'Old Silver' Flint, one of the greatest of ball players. After a period of fifteen years on the ball field, he has decided to retire, leaving behind a party of years past he devoted to many a catcher would be proud to claim."

"The following is record of the games he caught: In 1877, with Indianapolis—130 out of 131 games. In 1878, with Indianapolis—56 out of 60 games."

"A Clear Waste of Time. 'What nonsense!' 'What?' 'A Rochester man has just patented a voting machine. It can't vote until it's twenty-one, and then the patent will have expired.'—Puck.

THE SEA NOW POUCHED DOWN UPON OUR DECK.

"Men, to the hatch!"

"Men, to the hatch!" came the stern command of officers to crew. Every ventilator was forced down air tight. But the work seemed like driving nails into the face of providence.

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According to the minutes, "letters patent" to these gentlemen from the president of the United States, appointing them chief justice and associate justices respectively, were read in open court, and also letters patent of similar nature to Edmund Randolph, of Virginia. I noticed that in his first spelling of the name "Wilson" the clerk had used two "i's," and that he had afterward gone over the book with his knife and scratched out one of them.

I also noticed that Edmund Randolph was the only one of the justices whose letters patent contained the name of the state whence he came, and the thought occurred to me that even in that early day the Virginians were more proud of their province and commonwealth than those of other communities, as they might well have been, considering that it was from Virginia that the chief man of those times and many of his compatriots hailed.

To this day, a century later, the men from the state of George Washington are glad to add to their signatures the words, "of Virginia."

At this second day's session of the court Richard Weyman was appointed "court clerk" and at the next day's session John Tucker, of Boston, was appointed clerk.

On this day the clerk, in entering the minutes, made that mistake which is still so common, of putting down the old year instead of the new, and there it is in the blackest of ink and most legible of writing, "Feb. 3, 1790," though this was afterward corrected.

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