THE COURTS

SUPREME COURT—Before Chief Justice Lowrie, and Justices Woodward, Strong, Thompson and Hughes.—The Court met this morning at 9 o'clock. The Chief Justice announced that Jeremiah S. Black, Attorney General, had been appointed Secretary of State, vice Lewis Cass, jr., resigned, and had entered upon the duties of his office.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Ludlow.—In the case of Rudolph Hoffman, charged with stealing a hat, the jury this morning rendered a verdict of not guilty.

An interesting episode took place during the trial of this case. While Judge Dyer was making his closing argument one of the jurors picked up a Bible and began reading to himself. The counsel for the defendant said that the rights of his client, and respect for himself, required the jury to pay attention to his remarks. The juryman said the protection of the court was necessary to enable him to perform his duty to the defendant, as well as to the prisoner, and not by the speeches of counsel.

Judge Dyer said that the trial jury were bound to pay attention to what the counsel said, whether they were controlled by them or not.

Judge Ludlow said that he did not know that the jury were bound to listen to everything the counsel might say, for it frequently happened that the counsel spoke longer than the circumstances of the case warranted, and did not confine their remarks to the evidence developed. Under the old English system, the counsel for the defendant addressed the jury after the evidence.

Judge Dyer said that was in the older time; before the rights of the people were secured to them by liberal Constitutions. Now, the counsel for the prisoner is the only person in the Commonwealth that is not sworn to speak the truth. He could, if he chose, say anything he pleased to the jury, and they could not punish him for it.

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United States Circuit Court—Judge Grier.—The Court met at 10 o'clock this morning, and was occupied with motions and argument of causes. The case of the United States against Peter Smith, charged with making counterfeit quarters, was tried by the District Attorney Van Dyke, on the part of the United States, and Messrs. Ingersoll and Butler for the defendant. The defendant was charged with having in his possession a number of moulds for making the coin of the United States, and the counterfeit money with his counsel and the jury, and the latter soon rendered a verdict of not guilty.

The case of Thomas Fairlie, of Pittsburg, against Hunter, Brothers & Co., of the same place, for infringement of a patent for improvements in carpet-sewing machines, was tried by the plaintiff's counsel, Messrs. Cadwalader and Ashmead, and the defendant's counsel, Messrs. Meredith and Cuyler. The jury rendered a verdict for the plaintiff, assessing the damages at $1,000.

The case of Wm. Wilson, of Pittsburg, against the Steamboat Ben Franklin, was tried by Messrs. Ingersoll and Butler for the plaintiff, and Messrs. Meredith and Cuyler for the defendant