

United States Commissioner Norrell. On behalf of the defendants O. W. Powers, so the *Tribune* reports, suggested that owing to the personal relations between the Court and one of the defendants it might be rather embarrassing for the Court to bear the case, and he went on to state that he was "perfectly willing to have the case transferred" if he could agree with the attorney for the prosecution. The case was "transferred," Judge Norrell refusing to hear it under the circumstances, and it went before Justice Kroeger.

As soon as the case was opened Powers objected to the transfer. He claimed that the Justice had no power over the defendants; that Judge Norrell had no power to make this "arbitrary transfer;" that no cause had been shown why he could not have gone on with the trial, and that the change had only been made at "the suggestion of the Court."

Mr. Critchlow, evidently surprised at such an apparent trick, showed that the objection was on a pure technicality and took the ground that the Justice had full jurisdiction. However, the Court thought it prudent to take time to consider the question and so the case went over until Monday afternoon.

Is not this what in other places is known as *pettifoggery*? And is it not quite compatible with the usual methods of the political juggler who has obtained so much notoriety of a certain kind in this Territory? And does it look as though the defendants were as anxious as he makes out for a speedy and impartial trial? Powers, Goodwin and Nelson, Goodwin, Nelson and Powers make a very harmonious trinity and are fittingly associated in this action.

THE CHURCH UNIVERSITY.

YESTERDAY Dr. James E. Talmage, after an absence of one month, returned from his trip to the east in the interest of the Church University. One of the objects of the journey was to arrange for the purchase of scientific apparatus, in which he was in every way successful. Much of the apparatus to be procured will have to be imported from Europe, and it will therefore be some time before it reaches this city.

Another reason for the trip of Dr. Talmage was to obtain information with regard to the arrangement and conduct of laboratories for scientific work in the most extensive and best conducted educational institutions of the country. Among the high class establishments visited were those of Howard, Yale, Johns Hopkin, and Clark. At each of them the Doctor was treated with marked courtesy and every desired facility was afforded him to secure the information sought.

The new building in which the university will begin a scientific course is being erected, as heretofore stated, on the grounds belonging to the Latter-day Saints' College. It is the intention to push it rapidly to completion.

The Board of Trade of Dubuque, Ia., has appointed a committee to prepare an exhibit for that city to be sent to the World's Fair.

TERRESTRIAL DISTURBANCES.

SANGIR, on which a thousand people were recently destroyed by a volcanic eruption, is an island located in the Malay Archipelago, between Celebes and Mindanio. It is thirty miles long and its average width is ten miles. Its surface is mountainous and the volcano is located near the centre of it.

The situation of the surrounding population is pitiable. In addition to the destruction of so many of the people, who were engulfed in streams of molten lava, an immense number of houses were demolished by rocks thrown over the island from the crater, and the crops are practically annihilated, so that a famine is threatened.

Volcanic activity has begun in a number of parts of the earth simultaneously. Etna is on the rampage, terrifying the inhabitants of the surrounding country. Volcanoes are recognized as the safety valves of the globe, enabling it to throw off matter generated under the surface that would otherwise cause tremendous terrestrial convulsions. While the volcanic operations doubtless moderate the earthquake producing forces, they by no means entirely eliminate them. In fact their operation is an indication of seismic disturbances being most likely to occur then when the volcanoes are silent. Earthquakes are among the peculiar conditions of the times. They were to be among the indications which were to be precursory of the coming of Christ, and therefore may be expected to take place in these days with more or less frequency. Some of the disturbances of this character of the last few years have been appallingly destructive, one of the most recent being that which engulfed a large number of people in Japan.

REMARKS ABOUT ASIATIC CHOLERA

THE Asiatic cholera always seems to originate in the Orient—particularly in India—and spread over Russia to the Baltic provinces and through Egypt and Turkey to southern Europe. The little animals, which are thought to be the cause of the dread disease, follow in their march of death regular geographical boundaries with but few variations.

The causes of the epidemic are but little understood beyond the fact—which is now generally accepted—that it is owing to the presence of unusually large numbers of bacteria which enter the human body and destroy it. But what are the conditions under which they are generated.

Some investigators claim to have traced them to a religious rite of the Mohammedan religion. The yearly pilgrimage to Mecca always is brought to a close by the great feast called *kurban heiram*, or feast of gifts. On that day thousands of devotees kill one or more animals, in remembrance of the intended sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, and also in honor of their dead ancestors. Vast herds of sheep and cattle are on that day gathered together in a valley in the vicinity of Mecca. Even the poorest will endeavor to offer a ram, while the wealthier peo-

ple kill camels. Instances are related of Khalife who have slain as many as a thousand animals. And it is said that after this feast, carcasses are strewn about on the ground in immense numbers. The whole Mohammedan world celebrates this day in a similar manner. Every city and village has its sacrifices, commencing with sunrise and continuing throughout the day. Along the sea coasts, where the billows wash away blood, entrails, etc., the effects are less noticeable, but near the inland cities, where the offal is left on the ground, the stench is simply indescribable. It was seriously questioned, a few years ago, whether the Mohammedan world should be allowed to continue a practice of this kind, which is evidently favorable to the generation of all sorts of epidemics, particularly that of cholera. The Turkish and Egyptian governments have in later years tried, by quarantine rules, to minimize the danger, but the precautions are insufficient.

A striking theory was originated some years ago in France and is beginning to attract attention among scientists. It is to the effect that the bacteria are supposed to be always present in the ground, where they are comparatively harmless. Certain conditions connected with the atmosphere calls them forth and develops them ready for their work of destruction. The conditions are supposed to depend, in the main, on such alterations in the rays of light as would be caused by the presence of sun spots in an unusual degree, or by the refraction of the rays of the sun through cometary matter before striking the atmosphere. This theory will no doubt be thoroughly investigated as possible. Should it be found well substantiated, it would seem to prove that the old traditions in which disasters on earth are connected with the luminaries of heaven are not altogether the results of superstition.

THAT TERRIBLE COMMERCE DESTROYER.

THE United States cruiser, launched at Philadelphia on Tuesday last, is said to be a marvel of naval architecture. She was christened "Columbia" by Miss Morton, daughter of the Vice-President. During the period of her construction in the yards she was known as the "Pirate." She is guaranteed by her builders, the Cramers, to sail around the world in one hundred days without re-coaling. Her bunker capacity is 2,000 tons of coal; a supply sufficient to last 109 days, making at the rate of ten knots an hour.

This vessel was built specially for destroying commerce, that of an enemy of course. In appearance she resembles the ordinary merchantman. She in no particular resembles a fighting ship, that is, on the outside. She is capable of a sustained speed of 21 knots an hour. Her indicated horsepower is 20,500, and displacement 7,300 tons. It is confidently asserted that she can outrun the swiftest of the trans-Atlantic greyhounds. In fact, if she cannot do this the government need not accept her. Her contract calls for 22 knots an hour on trial trips. The best hour's work on record is that of the "Teutonic," 21.6 knots, but she