

pounds to the sack and costing \$1.10 a sack. This would build a wall six feet high and two feet thick, reaching from London to San Francisco and back—over 11,000 miles.

"If this flour were baked into bread it would furnish 200 one pound loaves to every family in the Union, or enough to feed the nation for nearly four months in the year.

"All this money is wasted in 240,797 saloons. If we allow eight persons to a saloon, that gives us nearly 2,000,000 persons who earn nothing, but feed and fatten on the earnings of their foolish customers.

"If these saloons were placed side by side, allowing ten yards to each, they would line a street on both sides over 700 miles long, capable of reaching from Denver to Salt Lake City."

### CHICAGO SATISFIED.

**SPEAKING** of the \$2,500,000 appropriation by Congress during the closing hours of its last session, the *Chicago News Record* says:

"The gift is more than the directors of the World's Fair asked of Congress. Their purpose was to secure \$5,000,000 in memorial coins from the government and to treat the government as a holder of stock to that amount, giving it back the same proportion of money from the proceeds as would be received by any other stockholder. The return of considerably more than half the money was well assured. Congress, however, has preferred to surrender all claim to the money appropriated."

It was supposed that the hesitation in the House to help the Fair would have some effect on Illinois politics, and hurt the prospects of the Democratic party there. Judging from the above it seems that the House after all has done better than the Illinois people expected.

### DISQUALIFICATIONS OF MARRIED WOMEN.

In many of the large cities of this country school boards have adopted regulations disqualifying woman as a teacher in the public schools immediately after she is married. Reasons that to some appear pertinent and logical are given, while to others they seem puerile and silly. However, the regulation obtains, and when the blithe young "school-marm" passes under the yoke of Hymen she must say good-bye to her former occupation.

Disclosures recently made reveal another office for which marriage disqualifies women. It was reported a short time since that the wife of Senator Hale was appointed to perform the ceremony of christening over a new war vessel to be launched from the Bath Iron works in a few weeks hence. The officers of the navy yards, and of the American fleet generally, received the intelligence with dismay. An old officer of the Brooklyn navy yard, when interrogated on this point, said:

"It is an ancient tradition that no married woman may baptize a new vessel. Such an innovation could not be tolerated, inasmuch as a superstition would follow the vessel that might make it difficult, if not impossible, to get a crew."

It appears that, according to naval etiquette, the launch of a new vessel

and all details relating to the performance rests with the builders subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Navy. There is also an unwritten etiquette among the Sons of Neptune which is just as binding and more religiously observed than any statutory enactment. It is that the ceremony of christening must be performed by a maiden, and on no account by a married woman.

This is said to explain the trouble with the christening of the "Baltimore" in 1888. It was at first announced that Mrs. Wilson, wife of the naval constructor, would perform the ceremony connected with the naming of the "Baltimore". Protests from naval officers came thick and fast to the Secretary. The baptism was postponed, and society at Washington was astonished that one of its prominent leaders did not officiate at the interesting ceremony. The vessel when launched some weeks later was named by a young maiden.

It is expected that Mrs. Hale must take a back seat at the rites of the "Ammen" ram a few weeks hence, and that some lady of tender years will take her place. The wishes, superstitions and traditions of the sons of Neptune will doubtless be respected.

### JOHNSON ISLAND.

**JOHNSON ISLAND**, the little speck in the South Pacific recently taken possession of by the British cruiser "Champion," is situated 900 miles southwest of the Sandwich Islands. The place is said to be uninhabited and valueless. However, there is a good deal of noise being made about the British occupation. It is claimed that it was discovered and taken possession of in 1852 by an American captain named Parker. Whether international complications may ensue or not it is difficult to tell. The United States has no use for a barren, uninhabited island 900 miles from the Sandwich Islands, unless for planting a colony of anarchists there with John Most as Grand Hierophant and Mrs. Parsons as Supreme Grand Seneschal.

### LIQUOR IN CONGRESS.

**PERHAPS** no man in the United States within the past half century has attained notoriety so suddenly as the Hon. Thomas E. Watson, a member of Congress from Georgia. He is a stern Prohibitionist. A short time ago he wrote a book in which he treated on the relations of Congress to the liquor traffic. The first edition of that book, 5000, is now exhausted, and the public appetite for its contents has only just been stimulated. In his description of Congress he says that "drunken members reel about the aisles—a disgrace to the republic."

Such a charge as this could not go unchallenged by the House when made by one of its own members. An investigation followed, as readers of our dispatches will remember, but it did not entirely disprove what Mr. Watson said. It was not shown that drunken members reeled about, hurrahing for the Fourth of July, but it was pretty clearly shown that in

about 20 cases honorable members were very unstable on their feet, and had to be propped to keep them upright in their seats while voting on important measures.

Mr. Watson contends that Congress could do the work of the people much more effectually without a bar for the sale of liquors than with one. On this question he says:

"This Congress is sent here to represent the people, and it ought to do what is right. We know that millions of the people are strong in the belief that liquor does vast harm; that it is the enemy of mankind; that it has killed husbands and fathers and ruined sons and daughters, and yet we authorize the establishment of a bar in the public building which is the property of these people as much as of the rest of our citizens.

"Why should it be strange if Congress, having become a bartender, should patronize that bar and feel the natural effect of that patronage? We have nothing to do with the bars all over the city; that does not make us so responsible as when we turn these marble halls founded by the Father of his Country, and which should be the light of the nation, into a mere barroom.

"When such things as this are done I do not think that any member of Congress ought to be restrained by any so-called ethics or by sentiments of personal friendship for his fellow members from denouncing such a monstrous evil. I don't believe a barroom is a necessary adjunct to the American public halls of legislation.

"I have treated this subject both in my book and in the paper which I publish at Atlanta in the manner in which I am sure my duty demands, and I have tried to base every statement on facts."

To Prove that matters were no better in the Senate, Mr. Watson quoted from a recent speech by Senator Vest, as follows:

"Every senator here knows that he can go into the Senate restaurant and get all the liquor he wants, if he has the money, and he can buy it from a citizen from Maine—from the headquarters of prohibition. You have a card, published officially from the Senate restaurant, with all the wines upon it, and you can obtain Bourbon whiskey ten degrees above proof, under the soubriquet of 'cold tea,' and they have even thrown off that disguise recently, and you can now drink it openly in the Senate restaurant."

In spite of the whitewashing report that was made in this matter, the people of the United States are keensighted enough to perceive the evils that it was intended to cover. And a great many citizens who are not strict prohibitionists consider the congressional traffic in alcoholic stimulants a disgrace to the capitol and to the nation.

### AN ANCIENT AMERICAN FORT.

**IN** Box Canyon, on the Gila river, several miles south of the Southern Pacific Railway in Arizona, is an ancient American Fort of singular construction. It has been for a long time a stronghold of the Indians, and during the gold excitement in California, it formed one of their great mustering points. As described by Mr. R. E. L. Robinson in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, this canyon is 200 feet in width, with walls of perpendicular stone from 300 to 500 feet in height. At its mouth is the fortification re-