

Friday, March 12, 1874.

Swearing in of Chief Justice Waite.
INTERESTING SCENE IN THE SUPREME COURT.

Hon. Morrison R. Waite, the new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, took the oath of office at noon to-day, and at once entered upon the discharge of his important and responsible duties. The courtroom was crowded by a large throng, one-third of whom were ladies who came to witness the ceremony of the new Chief Justice's induction into office. Among the distinguished gentlemen present were W. M. Evarts, J. H. Austin, E. R. Hoar, Senator Cooper, T. J. Durant, Gen. Garfield, Representatives Eugene Hale and Kellogg, and many others. The district bar was also largely represented. Precisely at noon to-day the clerk of the court, Mr. Seward, read the names of the approach of the Associate Justices, as is customary, as follows: "The honorable, the Associate Justice of the Supreme Court!"

The members of the bar in court rose, and the Associate Justices, headed by Mr. Justice Clifford and marshaled by Mr. John G. Nicolay, marshal of the court, approached with Chief Justice Waite in full robes bringing up the rear. The Associate Justices then took their seats, the Chief Justice taking a seat near the desk of Mr. Middleton, clerk of the court. The clerk then opened the court by crying, "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! All persons having anything to do before the Honorable the Supreme Court of the United States, stand and draw near, and attend, and then shall be heard. God save the United States and the Honorable Court!" The clerk of the court then read the commission of the new Chief Justice. The latter then rose and read aloud the following oath, the clerk adding to its conclusion, "So help you God!"

"I, Morrison R. Waite, do solemnly swear that I will administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incident on me as Chief Justice of the United States to the best of my abilities and understanding, agreeably to the constitution and laws of the United States. So help me God."

The Chief Justice then recited to the above oath, and subsequently passed behind the bench, and entering the court, took his seat in the vacated chair of Chief Justice Chase, the Associate Justices standing and bowing as he assumed his seat.

Associate Justice Field then began the reading of the opinion of the court in case 198, being that of Cook, McGuffey, et al., assignees of Benjamin Homans, Jr., bankrupt appellants, versus Jeremiah C. Tillis, the case being on appeal from the circuit court of the United States for the southern district of Ohio.

Previous to entering the court room this morning the Chief Justice took the iron-clad oath in the clerk's office.

The court room was thronged all this afternoon by persons anxious to observe the new Chief Justice in his high honor. Judge Waite, in his personal appearance, reminds one considerably of Senator Fenton, the main difference in the resemblance being that the hair and beard of the Chief Justice are not so gray as those of the New York Senator. On the bench, his associates, the Associate Justices, stand in a little under medium height—Washington Star, March 4.

ARIZONA NOT A DESERT.
The Arizona Miner is indignant because General Sherman, "who has never visited Arizona," when before the committee on military affairs, pleading for non-reduction of the army, spoke of Arizona as that "miserable desert land," and agreed to dispense with two regiments of cavalry if Congress would give that Territory back to Mexico. The Miner comments thus:

"A miserable desert, indeed! What an ignorant summary to come from the lips of so great and intelligent a soldier as all know Gen. Sherman to be. Is it a desert, General, that in the first year of 'partition' peace produced 20,000,000 pounds of corn, wheat, barley, etc., with vegetables in proportion? Is it a desert, General, which, according to your report, has the largest army according to Whipple, Beale, and many other truthful army officers who have explored it, is the best country between the Missouri and the Pacific Ocean? Is it a worthless country that has one forest of over 200 miles in length by from 25 to 75 miles in width? Is it worthless because in the past five years it has produced more of everything than the Army and its citizens have been able to use up? Is it of no account because it has produced millions of dollars worth of silver, copper and other minerals, and will soon double the amount already produced?"

"Can a country with such mineral, grazing and agricultural resources as Arizona possesses, be a worthless desert? Surely, no. Its climate is superb; and, go where you will, over its broad surface, you will find springs and streams of water, grass and timber of various kinds. Then it is, in keeping for the most, the key to the new West, through it run the only routes for transcontinental railroads, upon which such roads can be built and operated every day of the year."

"It has, of course, a few barren stripes, but even they are not deserts, in the strict meaning of the word, as upon all of them, vast herds of cattle, sheep and horses will yet subsist."

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