

professor of mathematics. He then commenced the study of law, and in 1851 was appointed judge of the court of common pleas of Hamilton county. At the end of his term he was made secretary of legation at Paris, for John Y. Mason, under President Pierce's administration. When the minister was prostrated with an attack of apoplexy, Platt served as charge d'affaires for about one year. On his return home he engaged actively in the presidential canvass in behalf of John C. Fremont. During part of the civil war he was on the staff of Gen. Robert C. Schenck. Having been sent to observe the situation at Winchester previous to Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania, he, on his own motion, ordered Gen. Robert H. Milroy to evacuate the town and fall back on Harper's Ferry. The order was countermanded by Gen. Halleck, and three days afterward Milroy, surrounded by the Confederate advance, was forced to cut his way out, with a loss of 2300 prisoners. When Gen. William Birney was sent to Maryland to recruit colored regiments, he was chief of staff, with the rank of colonel. After the war he became Washington correspondent of the *Cincinnati Commercial*. He afterwards founded and edited the *Washington Capital*. His conduct of that journal was so vigorous, to use no stronger term, that during the presidential contest of 1876 he was indicted for conspiring to disturb the peace of the country. After that he retired to his residence at Mac-o-choe, Ohio, where he devoted himself to farming and literature. One of his works—"Memoirs of Men who Saved the Union" is characterized by keen criticism and caustic comment, in which the deceased journalist had few equals. Donn Platt was one of the most fearless men who ever wielded a pen, and delighted to be engaged in polemic warfare. He frequently took the unpopular side of a question, and in a controversy he was worthy the steel of the best writers that America has produced. The Saints have reason to retain a warm place for him in their memories, as he many times wrote in their defense when they were the objects of attack from almost every other quarter.

THE BEHRING SEA CONTROVERSY.

RECENT dispatches from Washington call attention once more to the Behring Sea controversy. What is known as the "Sayward" case is now before the United States Supreme Court. A few days ago when this case was opened, the chamber of the Supreme Court was crowded with men

distinguished in national politics. Mr. Bayard, Mr. Garland, Senator Edmunds, Senator Mitchell, Mr. Springer and several other celebrated lawyers and statesmen were present. When the hearing began a full court was also in session.

During the trial it became known that a settlement of the much talked of question was all but effected between both governments. Attorney General Miller stated on behalf of the Administration that the controversy was discussed recently between his government and that of Great Britain; and that a treaty was now completed which only required the ratification of the United States Senate, to have the whole matter settled amicably by arbitration.

The history of the Sayward case dates back into the early days of the trouble. The "W. P. Sayward" was a Canadian schooner, owned by Thomas Henry Cooper, a British subject. On July 9, 1887, this vessel, while the crew were killing seal in Bering Sea, 59 miles from land, was seized by the U. S. revenue cutter "Rush" and taken to Sitka Alaska. Here she was libelled by the United States District Court, and after a trial was declared forfeited. A writ of prohibition to stop the Alaska court from enforcing its decree being applied for, an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court at Washington. The ground of motion for the writ was that the Alaska court had no jurisdiction in the matter, the vessel being captured fifty-nine miles from land. Cooper, after lodging this appeal, reconsidered the situation and withdrew it, on the ground that by reason of non-jurisdiction the decree of the court was a nullity, and the case properly belonged to international diplomacy. It was expected that the mandate of the Supreme Court to the court of Alaska would be to enforce its decree. It will be remembered that about one year ago this appeared likely to be a critical stage in the dispute.

About that time Sir John Thompson, Attorney-General for Canada took up the matter and to the surprise of both Canadians and Americans brought the case before the U. S. Supreme Court, with her Majesty virtually as one party to the litigation. And as an individual, Thomas Henry Cooper is not known in the case at present. However, at the time that Cooper withdrew his appeal to the higher court, it was distinctly stated by several papers that it was clearly at the suggestion of his government. And when later on Calderon Carlisle, Sir John Thompson's counsel, renewed the appeal, Attorney General Miller was so taken aback that he required

two weeks from the Supreme Court to consider the matter.

The appeal was finally entertained and the revelations in the court a day or two ago indicate that a controversy which had at times a very threatening aspect is now all but peaceably settled.

INCREASE OF CRIME.

THE *Chicago Advance*, a religious journal, has a long article entitled "Increase of Crime." In very earnest language, it deplores the fact that notwithstanding all our education, religion, and other appliances of an advanced civilization, crime is on the increase. It then proceeds to give the causes.

The first and chief cause is the liquor traffic. According to the census and internal revenue reports, there are only five States in the Union where the number of liquor dealers is not more than one to one thousand of population. In Massachusetts there is one to every 514 inhabitants; in Pennsylvania one to 478; in Ohio one to 261; in Illinois one to 257; in New York one to 157; in California one to 91; in Montana one to 60. These figures are really startling.

It is almost universally admitted that liquor has in every age and in every climate been a source of crime. Unfortunately in our day and in our country its evils are more manifest. As a law-defying, crime-encouraging agent the saloon is notorious. It will be seen that the history of all great crimes, of all political crookedness and social rottenness, can primarily be traced to the saloon, and that where law-enforcing authorities are corrupt the saloonkeeper is identified with the corruption.

Gambling is the next great cause of crime. This vice has assumed gigantic forms outside of even the old stereotyped phases of the roulette table and faro lay out. The chief of police of Chicago recently said that it was sapping the very foundations of society. It was no longer confined to the upper chambers of saloons, but it held sway in the parlors of the wealthy and refined. He pointed to the crowds rushing to racecourses for no other purpose than gambling as a sorry indication of the spirit of the times. He alluded to the gambling in commercial transactions as also a factor in the destruction of legitimate industry and contented trading.

A third cause is found in poorly restricted immigration. A large number of persons who in their own lands are criminals seek these shores, where they turn liberty into license, and many of them gravitate to the prison.

But among the great causes which