

whiskers, now mixed with gray. His eyes are bright. His frame is short, lithe and wiry, and every atom of it is made up of muscle. He is the busiest man in the Capitol building and he knows how to do work quickly. He dictates all of his correspondence, and his ordinary conversation, which is clean cut and exact, is as classic as the mass of books which surround him. I always feel afraid to report him. He says just what he means and if you misplace a word or a figure you feel that it will cause his black hair to stand on end in indignation when he reads it. He is with all this a very accessible man, and to people who have business with him there is no one more ready to talk. I told him what I wanted and he took me into a little cubby hole in one corner of the library and then rattled off answers to my questions at the rate of 100 words a minute.

I asked him as to the story of the library and as to the new building. He said: "Before Congress came to Washington it had access for a time to the books in the Loganian Library in Philadelphia. The little city contained a number of scholars and there was not much trouble in getting information. When the capital was moved to Washington, however, Congress found itself in the woods and there were no books of reference or general libraries. When Jefferson became President, the library was first established and an appropriation of \$1,000 a year was devoted to it. In 1814 we had here about 3,000 volumes. Then the British came and burned the Capitol and the books went up in smoke. A short time after this, President Jefferson, who had gotten into financial straits at Monticello, offered his library for sale to Congress. He had, all told, between six and seven thousand volumes, many of which were valuable and rare. Congress paid him \$23,000 for them, which was, it is said, just about half of what they cost him, and they were hauled in wagons from Monticello to Washington. Parton, Jefferson's biographer, says they made sixteen wagon loads of books and that Jefferson was very sorry to lose them. In 1851 the library had increased to 55,000 volumes. Then another fire occurred and 35,000 of these were burned, including many of the most valuable. The fire took place from defective flues, and only 20,000 volumes were saved from the ruins. By this time Congress thoroughly appreciated the need of a good library and the year following \$72,000 were appropriated for new books, and the appropriations have gone on from that time to this until we now have 680,000 volumes and 220,000 pamphlets. Last year we added about 18,000 volumes to the library and the copyrights are now increasing our stock at the rate of 50,000 and upward per year."

"Tell me something about the new library."

"It will be one of the finest libraries of the world, and it will be as perfect as modern invention and modern science can make it. The three great enemies of books are dust, heat and moisture. As to heat and fire, we have prevented this by putting the heating arrangements away from the main structure and there will be no possible chance for anything to catch fire. There will be nothing in the building that would burn except the

books, and I hope to have the heat so arranged that the whole building will never be at a higher temperature than 68. The windows are so fixed that the building will be dust proof. It is situated in a park and surrounded by streets which are not much used. The windows, save those of the top, will never be opened, and it will be one of the cleanest buildings in the world. As to moisture, we went down fifty feet to get the foundations in order that there might be no dampness connected with them, and our heating arrangements are such that there will be no possible danger from dampness. Another great advantage will be the having of all the work connected with the library under one roof. As it is now we send valuable books every day from here to the government printing office to be bound. The danger of loss is in many ways great, and I tremble when I let them go."

"How about the binding of books, Mr. Spofford?"

"It is a science in itself, and all librarians should watch very carefully the binding of their volumes. It is only a man of books who knows how a book should be bound. I examine and pass upon every book that comes from the bindery, and this is now a great task. I began it when the library was small and keep it up today. There is great danger that a title will be misspelled or that the book will be improperly stitched or covered. I am strongly in favor of the binding of books in leather rather than calf and it pays to use the best of materials. Leather bound books are first laced to the boards by twine or cords, to which the leaves are sewn. The leather is pasted over this and it makes a strong and durable covering. There is a vast difference in the qualities of leather, and the best covering is a genuine Levant morocco. I do not like calfskin. It is too brittle and it breaks at the joints. The average morocco is often colored sheepskin. This is soft and easily worn out. Russia leather also breaks at the joints, while as for the shoddy substitutes for leather and calf, they ought never to be used in a public library. As to color, I am strongly in favor of red. It does not fade and it livens up the dark colored books. This question of binding books, however, is one that will admit of a great deal of discussion. As for myself, I believe that the very best binding is the cheapest in the end. I think that magazines ought always to be bound with the covers and advertisements, as these are sometimes very valuable as historical material, giving the date and price of each number, and as time goes on matter which becomes very interesting."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

THE LEGISLATURE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

One of the most perplexing subjects now engaging the attention of the Legislature is the payment of the costs of criminal prosecutions. For many years the Territory has practically been without a law regulating this matter, and it has come before each succeeding session of the Assembly in a more or less vexatious form, for many years. In 1874 Congress passed what has since been known as the Poland law, one provision of which expressly states

that the costs of criminal prosecutions in this Territory shall be paid out of the territorial treasury. But the justices' criminal practice act makes such costs, in justices' courts, a charge against the county, while the general government has right along been paying costs in many cases of criminal prosecutions had in the district courts. The Territory has also paid for a portion of such costs, and there appears to have never been an established rule for determining what costs in district court criminal cases should be paid by the Territory, and which should be paid by the general government. It is understood that the general government has charged up to the Territory all amounts paid by the former for criminal prosecutions had under the laws of the Territory since the passage of the Poland law, and that in this way has accrued the account for about three-quarters of a million which is being made to figure as a bar to statehood for Utah.

In the various counties of the Territory, costs of justices' courts, sitting as trial courts or committing magistrates, in criminal cases, have sometimes been paid out of the county treasury and sometimes they have not. There appears to have been no established rule governing the matter save the caprice of the selectmen; consequently constables, sheriffs, justices of the peace and jurors and witnesses in the courts of the latter, have received their fees, and sometimes they have not.

Sanpete is one of the counties that have regularly paid their constables, sheriffs and justices, and the costs of criminal cases in the justices' courts, ever since the Poland law was passed; and the total amount thus expended is \$12,262.70. On the 12th inst. Johnson presented in the House, a claim against the Territory for that sum. Doubtless there are other counties that could present similar or larger claims, and the question is, what is the Legislature going to do about it? A law of Congress makes criminal costs a charge against the Territory, but territorial law has provided for payment out of the territorial treasury. The officers in the several counties have, in many cases, refused to act unless the county authorities would guarantee their fee, and there the matter stands.

What is to be done in respect to the past is uncertain, but it is thought the Legislature will repudiate all state claims of this kind. But a memorial to Congress is pending in the House, asking for such a modification of the Poland law as will provide for the payment of costs in felony cases out of the Territorial treasury, and of all prosecutions for offenses less than felony, out of the county treasury.

The usual bill, which has been introduced in one house or the other of the Utah Legislature, for many successive sessions, prohibiting an insolvent assignor from designating preferred creditors, is now engaging the attention of the Council. The arguments that have killed it at one session have not been sufficient to prevent its resurrection at the next, and there is no telling where this routine will end. It is uncertain what fate the Council will decree for it.