

MISCONDUCT OF JUDGE AND REVERSAL OF VERDICT.

Among the judges in the State of Washington in the neighboring republic is one whose conduct on the bench is, as "Truthful James" says, "painful and free." In a criminal case, while the defendant was giving his evidence, His Honor whiled away his time by conspicuously reading a newspaper, and during the cross-examination of a witness for the prosecution, whose testimony it was important the defendant's counsel should break down, this "wise and upright judge" thought there was no objection to exchanging pleasant remarks and confectionery with the witness. The verdict was reversed.

SUNDAY COURTS.

It is reported by the *Indian Jurist* that a judicial officer at Monghyr, India, holds court on Sundays, with the result that many of the litigants are deprived of the services of their pleaders. It is a fact that in the High Court in India the lists are very much congested; and even if this be the case also in the magistrates' courts, there must be some other very cogent reason to justify legal tribunals in breaking the spirit, if not the letter of the law, and to excuse also the ill effect such a course will have upon the native subjects of the Queen-Empress.

RIGHTS OF RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

The London, Chatham & Dover Ry. Co. recently sued a passenger to recover the difference in fare between a second and a third class ticket. The passenger was found with the latter ticket in a second class carriage, but defended on the public grounds that the third class carriage was not fit to travel in. The court gave judgment for the plaintiffs, *but without costs*. Perhaps the learned judge had once travelled in a certain third class carriage running between London (Eng.) and Newhaven, where some wag, suffering from the leaky roof, had obliterated the initial letter "t" in the fourth word of the notice at the end of the carriage, which then read "wait until the rain stops."

LYNCH LAW.

Still another explanation of the origin of this term. A writer in *American Notes and Queries* derives it from Col. Chas. Lynch, a Whig officer during the war of the Revolution. The gallant colonel, who had a Whig's customary hatred of Tories, used to hold magistrate's court at Avoca, Virginia, where each prisoner, tied to a particular walnut tree, was confronted by his accusers, and allowed to testify on his own behalf. If found guilty he was given "forty stripes, save one," and made to shout "Liberty forever!" He probably wished it from the bottom of his heart. The writer states that at a later period the death penalty was inflicted but he at the same time asserts most positively that Col. Lynch never himself caused the death of a prisoner.

MANITOBA MATTERS.

The Prairie Province is to be congratulated in that no case arising out of a crime committed since last autumn's assizes has come up for trial in any one of the