

RECENT UNITED STATES DECISIONS.

Corporation—When Director is entitled to compensation for services.—Where directors of a corporation appoint one of their number to act as treasurer, secretary, or other ministerial officer of the corporation, he is *prima facie* entitled to reasonable compensation for his services as such officer.—*First National Bank of Fort Scott v. Drake*, Kansas Supreme Court, 29 Kansas Rep.

Accident Insurance Policy—Forfeiture.—An accident insurance contract provided that no claim should be made for death or injury caused by voluntary exposure to unnecessary danger, or by walking or being on the bridge of any railway. A train on which insured was riding at night stopped on a bridge. He went to the front platform of the car in which he was riding, and stepped off and through a hole in the floor of the bridge, causing his death. The bridge, with the exception of this hole, was well covered with plank and quite safe. *Held*, that he did not violate the provision of the policy, and the insurance company was liable on the contract for his death.—*Burkhard v. Travelers Ins. Co.*, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, 28 A. L. J. 388.

Railway—Negligence.—A female passenger got off a train at a refreshment station, and in returning, owing to the removal of the train in her absence and the insufficient lighting of the premises, she fell and was injured. *Held*, that the company was liable.—*Peniston v. Chicago, etc., Railroad Co.*, 34 La. Ann. 777.

GENERAL NOTES.

The Court of Appeal at Toronto, like that at Montreal, has about 100 unheard cases on its roll.

Judge Gowan, who has just retired from the county judgeship of Simcoe, was over forty years on the bench. He was the senior county judge of the province, and was elevated to the bench when he was only twenty-five years old. In 1873 he was appointed one of the Royal Commissioners to enquire into the charges in relation to the Pacific Railway contract. In the following year he was appointed one of the Commissioners for the revision and consolidation of the Statutes of Ontario, a work brought to a close in 1877.

Boston is not alone in suffering a downfall from its intellectual supremacy. The day is past for provincial centres of national intelligence. Edinburgh has been deposed like Boston from a rank yet more exalted.

Weimar has sunk to be a petty residence town. Geneva has gone into trade and politics. Florence is no more an intellectual centre. Oxford and Cambridge retain no dictatorship in letters. It may seem to be only a transfer of the intellectual headship from one locality to another. The change may be supposed to be nothing but an instance of the common law of the rise and decline of local greatness. London may be deemed simply to have taken precedence of Edinburgh, and New York of Boston.—*Times*.

La Signora Lydia Poet, a young lady who was recently admitted to the bar of Turin, has pleaded and won her first case. She was the advocate of a young painter whose pictures had been unjustly detained by his landlord, and much injured by the damp of the garret to which they had been consigned. The lady barrister obtained a great success by her humorous description of the subject of the pictures, and, amid much applause, obtained a verdict with damages in favor of her client. She was escorted home, still enveloped in her lawyer's robes, by a large concourse of people, who gave her a serenade in the evening, in which the tenor voice of the young painter was conspicuous for its deep expression.

In a French town, a drover and a butcher who had been adjusting their accounts in the market, went to a tavern to dine. During the meal the butcher took from his pocket a bank note of 100 francs value wherewith to pay the drover, but in handing it over let it fall into a dish of gravy. He snatched it out, and holding it between thumb and forefinger, waved it to and fro to dry it. The drover's dog accepted this movement as a friendly invitation, and, liking the smell of the saturated note, made a spring at it and swallowed it. The butcher was furious. "Give me my money," he demanded; "kill the dog and open it." "No," replied the drover; "my dog is worth more than 100 francs." "Then I owe you nothing. Your dog has collected for you before witnesses." "My dog is not my cashier. And besides, where is your receipt?" "The justice will have to settle this." "Let him." The justice, it is said, has been searching in vain for a precedent for such a case.

An extraordinary case was recently decided in the Queen's Bench, London. A young man named Devenish, who had previously been a sailor, had been apprenticed to Mr. Tubb, a plumber, to learn that business. One night Devenish, whose habits seem to have partaken of the freedom of his former life and who was fond of "larks," was found in the room of Miss Tubb, where, he said on being questioned, that he had gone to get a light. Miss Tubb screamed with fright at the presence of the intruder and called to her mother, who was ill, it appears, in an adjacent room. Thereupon Mr. Tubb and the doctor, Maunders, who happened to be attending Mrs. Tubb, came upon the scene, when Devenish, fearing evil consequences to himself, threw himself upon the bed and pretended to be in a deep sleep. All the efforts of Messrs. Tubb and Maunders to arouse him were in vain, and at last the latter thought of the expedient of heating a poker and applying it to his person. Devenish still persisted in feigning unconsciousness, though the doctor used the poker with evident effect, but finally he got up and ran away. Some time after, he entered an action for damages against his employer and the physician, and the case gave rise to a good deal of fun in court. Though it appeared that Devenish had no business in Miss Tubb's room, the verdict acquitted him of all evil purpose, and his master was fined £25 and Dr. Maunders £80 for the assault and burning.