UIT AGAINST THE SUPERINTENDENT AND MELTER AND REFINER AT SAN FRANCISCO.

The suit in the United States circuit court of California against the uperintendent and melter and refiner of the mint at San Francisco, or an alleged infringement of a patent issued to John Reynolds, to which I called attention in my report for 1880, was brought to a hearing, and a decree was rendered by the court in favor of the complainant, Reynolds, declaring the method of refining previously practiced at hat mint an infringement of the patent, and adjudging him entitled to amages.

The fact that silver bullion containing one-fourth part or less of gold eed not be melted or run into smaller bars or granulations to separate he two metals was known prior to the date of the patent, and there ppears to me to have been no novelty in a process for parting without nelting and granulating such bullion as the Comstock bars which conained gold in small proportions.

The United States, however, granted the patent, and although conested by the United States district attorney, the circuit court sustained ts validity, and decreed that the complainant should recover his damges.

To separate gold and silver in the manner employed at that mint, and ecided to be an infringement of the patent, was more economical and f pecuniary advantage to the Government, but of no personal benefit o the officers. It would, therefore, seem just and proper not only that he officers of the mint against whom the suit was brought should be elieved from personal responsibility in this matter, but also that Mr. Reynolds should be compensated to the extent that the Government has been benefited.