

the expiring rocket of the pestilent "old sea loafer." The social condition of the city grew rapidly worse. Robberies, assaults and murders grew more and more common, until on the 19th of February audacity and crime reached its climax by an attack upon a Mr. Jansen in his own store on Montgomery street, early in the evening, by two villains, who knocked him down with a slung shot, robbed his desk of two thousand dollars, and left him for dead on the floor. This outrageous act created an intense excitement. Two men, Burdue and Windred were soon arrested and tried by the people outside of the law and the courts. An attempt was made to seize and hang these men by the people assembled by thousands around the City Hall. Speeches were made calling for their execution. However, a people's jury, judges, prosecutor, sheriff, and prisoner's counsel were appointed, and the prisoners were tried on the 24th of February. Nine of the jury were for conviction, three were opposed. Many of the people, much disappointed, cried aloud for their execution, but cooler counsels prevailed, and the crowd voted to adjourn. It was proved afterward that these two men were not guilty of the assault and robbery of Mr. Jansen. They were afterward tried by the court, found guilty, and sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment. Windred escaped from prison and left for Australia. Burdue, who had throughout all this excitement been believed to be one Stuart who had murdered Sheriff Moore of Auburn, was subsequently tried at Marysville for that offense, and sentenced to be hung. But before that sentence was carried into effect, the real Stuart had been arrested, tried, and found guilty by the Vigilance Committee which had been formed in San Francisco, had confessed the murder of Moore and the attack and robbery of Jansen, and was finally hung by them. Burdue was released in consequence. His personal likeness to Stuart was very remarkable, even to the loss of a portion of one of his fingers. Stuart's arrest and punishment seemed to partake of the Providential. He had returned to the city, visited the Mission, returned to the city over the sand hills to avoid observation, but in doing so fell among some members of the Vigilance Committee who were searching among the bushes in the vicinity of a recent robbery, and was arrested by them as the robber. Instead of being guilty of that crime, it led to his arrest, trial, conviction and execution for having committed the others. Truly, "murder will out."

William Walker—now President of Nicaragua—then one of the editors of the "San Francisco Herald," having commented pretty freely upon the conduct of Judge Levi Parsons of the District Court, so offended him that he had Mr. Walker brought before him, convicted him of contempt, fined him five hundred dollars, and ordered him into custody until the fine was paid. This aroused a storm of wrath among the people, who assembled upon the Plaza on the 9th of March, passed resolutions approving of the course of Mr. Walker and requesting Judge Parsons to resign. Mr. Walker was afterwards taken before the Superior Court on a writ of *habeas corpus*, and discharged. Judge Parsons was afterwards impeached by the Legislature, but he was not pronounced guilty by that body.

The "First Water Lot Bill" which ceded for ninety-nine years the interest of the State in the beach and water lots of the city, was passed on the 26th of March. This act was succeeded on the 1st of May by the "Second Water Lot Bill" ceding the State's right and interest to these lots forever. These two acts created much discussion and litigation. An Act to reincorporate the city, which enlarged its