

June, and the roads were dry and dusty; and after being paraded through the main street, and held for an hour or more in readiness, awaiting the report of certain officials despatched to enquire into the truth of a rumor that a foreign flag had been hoisted somewhere in the vicinity, were finally discharged. Every man then fired his rifle in the air, re-loaded his piece, and started homeward, each on his own particular way. I, too, started for the "guleh;" and, until I reached there, never lost sight of the long train of fugitives scattered along the roads in every direction. Some were going North; some South; the great body was probably bound for home; some by way of the sea; others by Los Angeles and the Great Desert. Others, again, were scattering themselves over the country, to commence the career of bloodshed and cold-blooded atrocity which for months afterwards stained the pages of California history. Even those who were bound for home, often left behind them along the way, bloody traces of their deep-set hatred to Americans, or, perhaps, their natural thirst for massacre and pillage."

From the day described by Mr. Murray murders and robberies were of daily occurrence, until the whole community became terrified, and began to devise measures of defence.

The following account of a meeting held in Sonora on the 3d of July is copied from the Herald:

"PUBLIC MEETING.—In consequence of the continued acts of atrocity and bloodshed perpetrated on the inoffensive inhabitants of this county, by a band or bands of miscreants, who, as yet have escaped detection and consequently a merited punishment, a large meeting of the citizens of Sonora was held, on the evening of the 3d of July, to take into consideration what measures to adopt in the emergency before the community.

Dr. Shepherd was called to the chair, and Mr. Perkins appointed Secretary; E. C. Marshall, Esq., explained the object of the meeting in a very forcible and earnest manner. The following resolutions were then offered and adopted:

Resolved, That we will organize a company of twenty-five good men and true; that said company under an efficient captain, appointed by this meeting, shall immediately proceed to such portions of the county as have been the scenes of the late brutal murders and also to such other places as are likely to prove the hiding places of the murderers, and shall use all lawful means to bring to them justice.

Resolved, That a committee of three persons be appointed, whose duty it shall be to make application to the proper authorities for a company of United States dragoons to be stationed at this place.

Resolved, That the citizens of Sonora shall at this time contribute to the necessary funds to carry the foregoing resolutions into effect, and that the citizens of the other portions of the county be also requested to aid, and that a finance committee be appointed.

Resolved, That Justice Whitehead, of township No. 3, be requested to accompany the said posse; also Deputy Sheriff Stanley, of Sonora.

Resolved, That J. B. Litton be appointed Captain of the proposed company; also that

Messrs Tuttle, Marshall, Luckett, Perkins, Holden and Mehen be appointed to carry out respectively the provisions of the 2d and 3d resolutions.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Sonora Herald.

Resolved, That Capt. Litton shall at once raise the company of twenty-five men and report to the court of sessions now sitting.

The meeting was then adjourned.

The 10th of July, was the next great day of excitement. The Sonora Herald describes it as follows:

"Three Indians and a Mexican, named Pablo Martinez, Dionisio Ocho, Gabino Casias, Rinz Molina, were brought to Sonora, in the custody of ten Americans, named Thomas Shirley, J. B. Owen, George Hudson, and Thomas Hill, and the report immediately became current that another horrible murder had been committed at Green Flat Diggings, about eight miles from town. The entire population of the town immediately crowded to the office of the Justice of the Peace, and a thousand inquiries were made relative to the particulars of the affair; and as the horrible details were related, the observer could see in the angry exclamations and flashing eyes of the people a settled resolve to avenge the crime that had been committed. The prisoners were arraigned before Judge Barry, and then commenced a scene of confusion which baffled description. The universal cries were, "String 'em up." "Hang them." "We will have no mistake this time;" and a rope was actually prepared with which the people might at once hang the prisoners. The Sheriff, George Work, declared that the first man who interfered with the prisoners while they were in his charge, should do so only at the peril of his life. The evidence of the four Americans was then taken down in writing by Justice Barry, and it was to the following effect. They stated that they resided about a mile distant from the tent where the murdered men were found. On the previous evening a Mexican boy informed them that two Americans had been murdered at the Green Flat Diggings, but they took no notice of the report. In the morning, however, another Mexican called, and corroborated the report of the boy. Witnesses immediately proceeded to the spot indicated, and there found the four prisoners in the act of burning the tent, and the bodies of two men. They were immediately taken into custody, and brought into Sonora. It also appeared in evidence that a shovel and pick axe, the property of the deceased, were found in the hands of the prisoners. The defence set up by the prisoners that it was a custom of their countrymen to burn the bodies of their dead; that the bodies had been lying dead for several days, and had become offensive in consequence of their decomposition. The demeanor of the prisoners was calm and becoming to an extreme, which, amidst the tumult, excited in some minds a sympathy that was most marked. The personal appearance of three of the prisoners was very uncouth, but this is a peculiar attribute of their race. The Mexican's countenance was a pleasing one; he had a fine head and well formed features. By the time the evidence was taken.