

the excitement of the crowd was so great, it was proposed that the matter should at once be brought to an issue, and a jury of citizens be empanelled. This was done, as the best alternative that could be adopted. But Mr. McAlpine and others objected to serve upon it, wishing that the law should take its course. Another tumult ensued, and the court retired to consult. During its absence the people elected a Judge from among themselves, and Peter Mehen was, with acclamation, proposed for the office. A rope was then passed round the necks of the prisoners, and they were led in this manner to a hill in the immediate neighborhood of the town, where the trial was commenced anew. Several hundred persons were present. A second jury was empanelled; the prisoners found guilty, and sentenced to be hung. The Mexican was to be the first victim, and the cord was passed over the limb of a tree. He knelt down, kissed a cross he had in his bosom, muttered a few words in prayer, and with the calmest resignation, resigned himself to his fate. Just at this moment Judges Tuttle, Marvin and Radeliffe, and others arrived on the spot. Judge Tuttle begged the people to cease these violent proceedings, and in a powerful, feeling, and eloquent address urged them to respect the laws. The crowd became incensed, but Mr. Wm. Ford, throwing himself into it, was of the most material assistance in saving the lives of the prisoners, who were then again seized by the officers and taken to the prison.

We may be allowed to urge the public to calm the excitement in which they are now involved. Far better would it be that a hundred guilty men should escape than the lives of four innocent men be sacrificed. Let us do to others as we would they should do unto us. Let no blind passion determine them to hang a man before he is proved guilty. There appears to be some mystery in this case. The coroner states that the deceased have been dead several days; that he found maggots in their skulls. Let every circumstance be calmly considered, and justice be done."

The next week was Court week, the County and the District Courts being both in session, for the first time. It was emphatically a week of excitement. We copy again from the Sonora Herald of July 20th..

GREAT EXCITEMENT—AN ARMED FORCE IN SONORA—110 MEXICANS ARRESTED.—On Monday morning last our town was thrown into a state of great excitement by the appearance in our streets of a company of about eighty men, armed with guns and rifles, bearing the American flag and marching "a la militaire." Besides this band, which presented a most imposing aspect, about 300 miners arrived at an early hour in town, armed with revolvers, knives, lances, &c. The effect on this community here may be better imagined than described. These people came from the scene of the late murder, where the four Mexicans were found burning the bodies of two Americans, to see the laws carried out in the punishment of the men caught in that act. They were highly excited and would scarce submit to any delay. They halted opposite the court house, where Judge Tuttle appeared and addressed the throng, urging them to be moderate, and assuring them

that the criminals would be tried as soon as possible, and that justice would be done; that if they were found guilty they would speedily meet their just deserts, and if not guilty, they should surely be acquitted. He further urged them to respect and sustain the laws, and acquiesce in the decision of the jury whatsoever it might be. At the conclusion of this sound advice, three cheers were proposed by some one in the crowd, but the excited people were not disposed to quietly await the delays of the law, and they sullenly marched back to the prison, and thence to their encampment in the neighborhood. A strong guard was placed over the Mexicans from the ranks of the Company.

In the course of the morning, Mr. Hinell, Captain of the company, waited upon Judge Creanor, and informed him that his company would not brook delay in the trial of the prisoners, and intimated that they must be tried that day (Monday). The Judge replied that such could not be the case, since there was no grand jury empanelled, and the court would only that day commence its sitting. The Captain said that the company was resolved the trial should take place. The judge calmly but warningly advised them not to attempt any interference in the matter.

A rumor having reached town that the prisoners were colloqued with a number of suspicious persons in a Mexican camp some three or four miles distant, about twenty armed Americans accompanied our energetic sheriff, Mr. Work, to that place, who arrested and marched into town about one hundred and ten men,—nearly all the males in the camp. It appears that the four Mexicans who were first apprehended were part of a company of 40 men, who worked at the aforesaid camp in the employment of a Mexican, who it was supposed, had not the fairest character, and that in all probability others of this company were implicated in the unhappy murder.

TUESDAY.

During the night of Monday, some hundreds of armed men entered the town, and on Tuesday morning there could not have been less than 2,000 riflemen in the streets. As may well be imagined, the excitement of the people was most intense, and groups of men might be observed in various places discussing the events of the past few days, some arguing in favor of Judge Lynch, while others as resolutely supported the law as at present constituted. The proceedings in the District Court opened this morning with one or two civil cases. At three o'clock, the trial of the four Mexicans, for the murder of the two Americans at the Green Flat Diggings. The prisoners were arraigned, when a circumstance took place which threw the court into the utmost confusion. When the prisoners plead "not guilty," one of the guards, who was standing on a bench, dropped his double-barrelled gun, the hammers of which struck against a box, and both barrels went off with a violent explosion. Numberless revolvers were forthwith drawn, and the tumult became indescribable. One man in his haste to get out struck his gun against a board and it likewise went off. The effect of this incident can only be imagined. The struggle to quit the room on the part of the multitude was ter-