

Resolved, That in the event of any future aggression by the individual who claims this garden, or by his abettors, we pledge ourselves to rid this region of their presence.

Resolved, That this meeting pledge their sacred honor to carry out these resolutions, and to render their assistance, if necessary, in apprehending the various parties; also to use their influence in preventing the use of fire-arms, in determining such disputes in future.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the Sonora Herald.

It was with difficulty that the crowd could be restrained from more violent measures. It was proposed to hang Mr. Holden forthwith, and to give the gamblers one hour to quit Sonora on penalty of being hung. But the counsels of a few calm and resolute men prevailed.

The Grand Jury afterwards found true Bills of Indictment against Mr. Holden and all the persons who made the attack; but, owing to the absence of witnesses, or some other cause, the cases were never prosecuted to conviction.

Sunday June 15, 1851, was another day of great excitement in Sonora. Two of the murderers of Capt. George W. Snow were arrested here in the morning, and taken to Shaw's Flat to be tried. About 11 o'clock, the same morning, a difficulty occurred between two Chileans. Marshal McFarlane arrested one of the parties. Just then another Chilean came up and snatched the prisoner's belt from around him, with his pistol. In a few minutes he came up to the Marshal who cocked, a crowd of Spaniards being gathered around. McFarlane fired at him and wounded him. The rescuing party fired three shots nearly at the same time. Americans immediately came out with their revolvers, and the Spaniards were dispersed.—The Chilean who made the attack upon the Marshal, fought with desperation, and at last fell, pierced through the body with three balls, any of which must have proved fatal. During the remainder of the day—that night—and for several days and nights afterwards, there was considerable excitement, caused by mutual jealousy and fear.

John Shelden rushed to the assistance of the Marshal, in the manner above described, and shot the Chilean while in the act of aiming at Mr. McFarlane. It was for this act that revenge was harbored for more than three years, until a favorable opportunity was presented, and Mr. Shelden, acting as night police, was stabbed.—One of the murderers has since been hung.

Next came the hanging of Jim Hill in Sonora, on the evening of Sunday, June 29. He had been tried and condemned at Campo Seco, but was rescued by the Sheriff, and brought to Sonora. Before reaching the jail a crowd took him away by force, and hung him. He had confessed his guilt, having been connected with a band of robbers and horse thieves. An attempt having been made to fire the city the night previous, there was great excitement, and a regular patrol was established. The next day a vigilance committee was formed, which was in session several times each day for several weeks. Under this committee a large night watch was established. Many petty crimes were punished by whipping, and suspicious persons were ordered to leave the county. To the

credit of the members of the committee be it said they refrained from all excesses, and turned over to the officers of the law the only man that came before them charged with a capital offense. Order being restored, the committee disbanded, and the detection and punishment of offenders was left to the regularly constituted officers.

**FLETCHER'S GOLDOMETER.**—The early history of Sonora would be incomplete without a description of the visit of the mysterious man with his mysterious instrument in the Fall of 1850. A Mr. Fletcher, at Murphy's Camp, in Calaveras county, professed to have invented an instrument by which he could detect where there was gold, before digging. It consisted of a rod three feet long with a ball at one end of it. The rod was made of steel, cane, or some other elastic substance, twined around with silken thread. What the ball contained no one was allowed to know. Mr. Fletcher said the instrument would not act in other hands, as it depended upon the peculiar electrical condition of his system. Still he would not allow any one to examine it. All was mystery!—mystery! Taking the lower end of the rod in both hands, the rod being in a perpendicular position, he walked over the ground. If there was gold in the vicinity, the rod would bow or bend towards that particular locality; if there were two or more deposits it would wave semi-circularly,—at least, so he said. To use his own explanation, "the motive power was an animal-magnetic influence acting through a metallic agency, the action of the instrument depending upon his peculiarity of temperament, and therefore it would not work in other hands."

Mr. Fletcher had all the bearing of an enthusiast, and hence his partial success in duping others. He visited Sonora and other mining localities exhibiting his goldometer, and making shrewd contracts with the credulous. He charged nothing in advance for showing where the gold was; only he was to have a certain proportion of all the gold taken out from such places. Scarcely a hole was sunk, with or without the advice of the goldometer, that did not pay something, and of course he had a good thing of it. He met with no success in Sonora, but had some disciples at Carson's, and quite a number at Murphy's. The following communication from a Dr. Sprague, published in the Sonora Herald of September 7th, 1850, will be read with more interest now than at that time.

"Agreeable to several requests I submit a brief, but, I believe, candid statement of facts upon the subject of Mr. Fletcher's instrument for finding gold. I will, firstly, describe the instrument; secondly, its operations; and, thirdly, its practical results. First, the instrument. It is a substance, bulb, or ball, of metallic or other combination, attached to a single or double stem, which is elevated from ten to fifteen inches above his hands. Second, its operation. It is carried erect, and on coming to a lead or deposit of gold, it instantly drops and continues declined, more or less, until the gold is crossed, when it rises, unless attracted in a reverse line to its erect position. It apparently determines the edge of the lead with peculiar exactness. It operates over rocks and earth alike. In some places where there is no attraction at one part