

paper, and was until its downfall in 1862, one of the most influential organs of that party in the State. Though under the general management of Mr. Kerr, the paper was chiefly edited, especially in the political departments, by gentlemen whose names did not appear. Among them, A. C. Baine, A. C. Bradford, and others, then and since more or less prominently identified with political and other public affairs. On the 14th of June, 1853, the paper was changed from a semi-weekly to a tri-weekly publication, and in that form and under the same management it continued in a prosperous condition until December 29th, when it became a daily. On the 22d of January, 1854, Mr. Kerr sold the property to a new firm, composed of Joseph Mansfield, Holmes C. Patrick, J. B. Kennedy and James M. Conley. Under the management of the new proprietors the Republican maintained its commanding position, and enjoyed great prosperity until the outbreak of the memorable Vigilance Committee excitement of 1856, when, taking a bold and vigorous stand in opposition to the lawless proceedings of that body in San Francisco, which was almost unanimously sustained for the time throughout the State, the advertising patronage and subscription to the paper was almost totally destroyed in the course of a few days, and the concern received a shock from which it never recovered, though it continued its career for several years subsequently. On the 22d of June, 1854, Mr. Mansfield, one of the proprietors of the Republican, was shot and instantly killed by John Tabor, editor and publisher of the Daily Journal. This unfortunate affair grew out of the political and professional rivalries, then as now, and at all times, unfortunately too common among journalists. The shooting occurred at the corner of Centre and Levee streets, and appeared to have been wholly unprovoked on the part of Mansfield, who was unarmed and made no hostile demonstration toward his adversary. Tabor was tried and convicted of murder in the first degree, and sentenced to be hanged. Extraordinary efforts were made by the personal and political friends of the condemned man to save him through Executive clemency. These efforts were eventually successful. After the expiration of several reprieves, a full pardon was signed by the Governor (Bigler) on the night preceding the day of execution. The pardon was placed in the hands of the Sheriff the following morning, and was read to the prisoner a few minutes before the hour fixed for his fearful doom. He listened quietly to the reading, evincing outwardly less emotion than did the Sheriff, or any