THE HERALD.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
—AT—
PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA.

OFFICE:
On Main Street, between 4th and 5th, Second Story.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF CASS COUNTY.

Terms, in Advance:
One copy, one year.....$2.00
One copy, six months.....1.00
One copy, three months.....50

NEBRASKA HERALD.

J. A. MACMURPHY, Editor. "PERSEVERANCE CONQUERS." TERMS: $2.00 a Year.

VOLUME X. PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1874. NUMBER 15.

THE HERALD.

ADVERTISING RATES.

SPACE.	1 w.	2 w.	3 w.	1 m.	3 m.	6 m.	1 yr.
1 square..	$1 00	$1 50	$2 00	$2 50	$5 00	$8 00	$12 00
2 squares..	1 50	2 00	2 75	3 25	6 50	10 00	16 00
3 squares..	2 00	2 75	4 00	4 75	8 00	12 00	20 00
¼ column.	5 00	8 00	10 00	12 00	20 00	28 00	35 00
½ column.	8 00	12 00	15 00	18 00	25 00	40 00	60 00
1 column.	15 00	18 00	21 00	25 00	40 00	60 00	100 00

☞ All Advertising bills due quarterly.

☞ Transient advertisements must be paid for in advance.

Extra copies of the HERALD for sale by H. J. Streight, at the Postoffice, and O. F. Johnson, corner of Main and Fifth streets.

HENRY BŒCK,
DEALER IN
Furniture,
SAFES, CHAIRS,
Lounges, Tables, Bedsteads,
ETC., ETC., ETC.,
Of All Descriptions.
METALLIC BURIAL CASES.

Wooden Coffins
Of all sizes, ready-made, and sold cheap for cash.

With many thanks for past patronage, I invite all to call and examine my
LARGE STOCK OF
Furniture and Coffins.
jan28

DRUGS
AND
MEDICINES
AT
J. H. BUTTERY'S,
On Main Street, bet. Fifth and Sixth.

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in
Drugs and Medicines, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Patent Medicines, Toilet Articles, etc., etc.

☞ PRESCRIPTIONS carefully compounded at all hours, day and night. 35-1y

J. W. SHANNON'S
Feed, Sale and Livery
STABLE.
Main Street, Plattsmouth, Neb.

I am prepared to accommodate the public with
HORSES,
Carriages, Buggies, Wagons,
AND
A No. 1 Hearse,
On Short Notice and Reasonable Terms.

A HACK
Will Run to the Steamboat Landing, Depot, and all parts of the City, when Desired.
jan1-tf

First National Bank
Of Plattsmouth, Nebraska,
SUCCESSOR TO
Tootle, Hanna & Clark.

JOHN FITZGERALD.....President.
E. G. DOVEY.....Vice-President.
JOHN R. CLARK.....Cashier.
T. W. EVANS.....Assistant Cashier.

This Bank is now open for business at their new room, corner Main and Sixth streets, and are prepared to transact a general
BANKING BUSINESS.
Stocks, Bonds, Gold, Government and Local Securities
BOUGHT AND SOLD.
Deposits Received and Interest Allowed on Time Certificates.
DRAFTS DRAWN,
Available in any part of the United States and in all the Principal Towns and Cities of Europe.

ACENTS FOR THE
CELEBRATED
INMAN LINE and ALLAN LINE
OF STEAMERS.
Persons wishing to bring out their friends from Europe can
PURCHASE TICKETS FROM US
Through to Plattsmouth.

Excelsior Barber Shop.
J. C. BOONE,
Main Street, opposite Brooks House.
HAIR-CUTTING,
Shaving and Shampooing.
ESPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO
CUTTING CHILDREN'S HAIR
Call and See Boone, Gents,
And get a boon in a
CLEAN SHAVE.
n41-1y

GO TO THE
Post Office Book Store,
H. J. STREIGHT, Proprietor,
FOR YOUR
Books, Stationery, Pictures, Music,
TOYS, CONFECTIONERY,
Violin Strings,
Newspapers, Novels,
Song Books, etc., etc.
POST OFFICE BUILDING,
8-tf PLATTSMOUTH, NEB.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Condensed from Telegrams of Accompanying Dates.

MONDAY, June 29.—A Madrid dispatch announces the defeat of 10,000 Carlists under Prince Alphonzo after two days' fighting. On the 28th Gen. Concha, in the midst of a terrible storm, surprised three of the outlying defenses of Estella. The dispatch states that the Carlist loss was very heavy, and that they would be forced to return into the province of Alava. Orders have been issued from Carlist headquarters directing all Generals to carry on the war hereafter without truce or parley....The nephew of the Czar of Russia, who stole his mother's diamonds and squandered them upon an American adventuress, has been sentenced to deprivation of his military rank and decorations and to banishment to Caucasus for life....From Havana comes the report of the capture by the Cubans, near Santiago de Cuba, of 400 Spaniards and forty car-loads of provisions, and that the prisoners were shot in retaliation for similar executions by Spanish troops....Another case of hydrophobia is reported in New York, a butcher named McCormick having died of that disease, caused by the bite of a dog received a little over a month before....The West Wisconsin Railway Company officially denies a recent report that they had issued an order for trains not to stop at Hammond, Wis., because the station agent there had been fined for violating one of the provisions of the Potter law.... Mary Maloney, of Chicago, is another victim of the careless practice of lighting fires with kerosene oil. She was in a hurry for her dinner, and had recourse to the oil-can. The oil exploded and set fire to her clothes. She was fatally burned, and died....The Chicago *Tribune* publishes reports of the condition of the crops at stations along the lines of the Michigan Southern and Chicago & Northwestern Railroads. According to the reports the prospects for all grains in Indiana and Michigan are excellent, but in Ohio wheat is in bad condition, varying from one-third to two-thirds of a crop. There is not more than two-thirds of the average yield of hay in any of these States. Fruits are doing remarkably well. Returns from the country traversed by the Northwestern Road in Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois are to the effect that the acreage of grain is large, the prospects better than for many years past, and the amount on hand at the stations small.

TUESDAY, June 30.—Late dispatches received at Madrid by the Spanish Government announced the killing of Marshal Concha commander of the Republican forces, in an attack upon the Carlist intrenchment at Muro, near Estella. When the national troops learned of the death of Concha they returned to their former positions. Gen. Zabala, Minister of War, succeeded to the command. Besides Marshal Concha, one Brigadier and several staff officers were killed. The entire loss of the national troops is stated in official dispatches to have been 1,500 in killed and wounded....The Secretary of the Treasury has instructed the Assistant Treasurer at New York to sell $1,000,000 in gold on each Thursday during July.... Recent Washington dispatches state that it has been discovered that, by the provisions of a bill which was quietly passed by Congress at its recent session, on complaint for libel in Washington an editor of a newspaper can be arrested anywhere and conveyed to the national capital for trial....The United States Circuit Court at Springfield, Ill., has granted the petition of the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company to transfer the question of jurisdiction in the pending cases for violation of the State Railroad Passenger and Freight Tariff law to the United States Supreme Court.

WEDNESDAY, July 1.—A Washington dispatch says Minister Cushing has made a peremptory demand upon the Spanish Government for a full indemnity for the Virginius prisoners who were slain by order of Gov. Burriel, of Cuba, and for consequential damages. The same authority makes Secretary Fish say that the American Government has made a prompt demand, and one quite as decided and peremptory as that made by the British Government, for indemnity for the prisoners who were destroyed and the loss to their families. Secretary Fish had also stated that this demand is in accordance with the protocol concerning the settlement of the Virginius affair, apart from the duty imposed upon the Government to claim satisfaction for such wrongs....The sums designated by the Appropriation bills as finally passed by Congress during its recent session amount in the aggregate to $177,018,719.40. The total amount appropriated by the same bills last year was $291,389,176.65....The New York Liberal Republican State Convention is to be held at Albany on the 9th of September....By the explosion of a boiler in a saw-mill and salt works at Carrollton, Mich., on the 30th ult., Joseph Hudson, Benjamin Chapman, John P. Avery and George Watson were instantly killed, and four others were severely injured—Wm. Quinett fatally. ....Mrs. Harriet Beard, living near Du Quoin, Ill., undertook a few evenings ago to fill a lighted lamp with kerosene oil. The can exploded and she was fatally burned....The Illinois Prohibitionists met in State Convention at Bloomington on the 30th ult., seventy-five delegates being present. D. L. Bunn, of Decatur, was elected President. Resolutions were adopted—denouncing the traffic in liquor as a dishonor to Christian civilization; favoring moral as well as political action by temperance men; demanding the reduction of official salaries and perquisites; advocating the election of President, Vice-President and Senators by direct popular vote; commending the course of temperance women in their efforts to stem the tide of intemperance, and requesting them to continue their efforts in the same direction until they shall be given the ballot, and favoring the substitution of greenbacks for National currency and the return to a specie basis as speedily as compatible with the public interests. The following nominations were made: State Treasurer, Maj. Little, of Pana; Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Jennie F. Willing, of Bloomington, Professor in the Wesleyan University.

THURSDAY, July 2.—It is reported that an accidental fire in two houses near Estella was made a pretext by the Carlists for massacring all the wounded Republicans who fell into their hands at the battle of Muro.... A Paris dispatch says the Sub-Committee of Thirty had drawn up a new Constitutional bill providing for the continuance of the title of "President of the Republic;" for a second Chamber; for a personal septennat to terminate with the expiration of MacMahon's seven-year term, or sooner in case of his death or resignation. No provision is made for a successor to the President, thus leaving an opportunity for the restoration of the empire or the monarchy when the septennat ends....Hon. Eugene Hale has declined to accept the office of Postmaster-General, to which he was appointed by the President. Impaired health is given as the reason of his declination.... Among the last acts passed by the Massachusetts Legislature at its recent session was one declaring women eligible to serve on school committees....The people of Arkansas have declared by a large majority in favor of a Constitutional Convention.... A St. Paul (Minn.) telegram states that all accounts from the southwestern part of the State and Northwestern Iowa agree that the grasshoppers are rapidly destroying everything green in a large extent of country ....The Iowa Republican State Convention met at Des Moines on the 1st. Hon. Theodore Guelick, of Des Moines, was made permanent Chairman, and Capt. J. Griffiths, of Johnson, and J. E. Williams, of Dallas, Secretaries. The following nominations were made: Hon. T. D. Young, Secretary of State; Capt. P. C. Christy, State Treasurer; B. R. Sherman, Auditor; David Secor, Register of the State Land Office; M. E. Cutts, Attorney-General; E. F. Holmes, Clerk of the Supreme Court; J. S. Runnels, Supreme Court Reporter. George C. Heberling, of Jackson, was elected Chairman of the State Central Committee. Resolutions were adopted—favoring free banking and a return to specie payments as speedily as consistent with the material and industrial interests of the country, insisting that the obligations of the Government shall be paid in specie; declaring that the power to regulate inter-State commerce, whether by railroad or water highways, vests in Congress, and that that body should legislate so as to prevent extortion, and that it should provide for the improvement of the great natural water-ways; that the State has power to regulate railway transportation within its own limits, and demanding the enforcement of the State Railway law; favoring appropriate legislation for the full and equal protection of all citizens; congratulating the party on the $27,000,000 reduction in the estimated expenses of the General Government for the current fiscal year; demanding the election of President and Vice-President by popular vote; favoring a modification of the Patent laws; commending the position of the party in instituting investigations of corruption in office, and favoring the submission of an amendment of the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women to the people for their decision.

A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT.

How a Little Kindness of Heart Saved the Character of a Young Woman and Paid Magnificent Dividends in the End—A Pleasant Story of Real Life.

In 1864 Mr. Barnum organized a troupe to give exhibitions in various portions of New England. This troupe, after a successful tour, arrived at Whitehall, N. Y., and took a short rest. Wm. L. Miller was the manager of the concern. He was passionately fond of fishing, and started out to enjoy his favorite sport, leaving the net accumulations of the season, amounting to $2,000, behind at the hotel, in charge of Tom Thumb, who was one of the constituent members of the troupe. The little man and his wife took a notion to walk about town, and thoughtlessly left the door of their room open and the cash-box in an exposed place. Miller returned with a string of fish, and wishing to write a letter went to the cash-box for pen and ink. He discovered that the $2,000 package of greebacks was gone. It was quickly ascertained that the chambermaid of the hotel was gone too. The Thumbs explained that they had been out walking and had forgotten all about the box. The case looked quite clear. The chambermaid was hunted up. She was found, dusty and travel-worn, fifteen miles out of town, and increasing the distance every step. She was brought back, acknowledged the theft and gave up the money. She explained that she expected to be married soon and wanted an outfit. She went into the room, saw the money, and the temptation was so strong that she could not resist it. She was very sorry, and begged not to be prosecuted, as such exposure would blast all her life-prospects. The girl had always borne an excellent character. The little people pleaded for her, and Mr. Miller's heart, already softened with the beauty of the poor young thing, relented, surrendered, almost broke. He left town with his troupe, kept the matter quiet, and the girl kept her place. She finally married a rich lumber merchant, and he soon died and left her a wealthy young widow. She had a profitable lumber business and a good deal of cash. She was not in the market for a second marriage venture, but she thought much of Miller and his kind treatment of her in 1864.

A short time ago there was an inquiry in the papers for a certain William L. Miller who was manager of Barnum's show in 1864. He turned up in New York, living in a quiet, small way, entirely out of the public eye. He wondered what anybody could have to tell him for his advantage, but he went to see. He learned that about two months ago the widow of a lumber dealer of Whitehall had died and left her entire estate to William L. Miller, who was manager of a show and visited Whitehall with Tom Thumb and party in 1864. The bequest, it was expressly stated, was in gratitude for Miller's act of forbearance toward her, which saved her good name and made her fortune. Miller was not long in identifying himself as the man inquired after, and received $100,000 in cash, and a lumber yard worth $50,000, as the proceeds of a little kindly investment years before.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

JULY 3, 1874.

COTTON.—Middling upland, 17½@17¾c.

LIVE STOCK.—Beef Cattle—$11.50@12.50. Hogs—Dressed, $7.75@7.87½. Sheep—Live—$4.00@5.75.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour—Good to choice, $6.20@6.60; white wheat extra, $6.60@6.90. Wheat—No. 2 Chicago, $1.34@1.35; Iowa spring, $1.35@1.36; No. 2 Milwaukee spring, $1.37@1.38. Rye—Western and State, $1.05@1.10. Barley—....@.... Corn—Mixed Western afloat, 74@75c. Oats—New Western, 55@59c.

PROVISIONS.—Pork—New Mess, $18.12½@18.25. Lard—11½@11⅝c.

WOOL.—Common to extra, 45@68c.

CHICAGO.

LIVE STOCK.—Beeves—Choice, $5.85@6.10; good, $5.50@5.75; medium, $4.75@5.40; butchers' stock, $3.75@4.75; stock cattle, $3.25@4.50. Hogs—Live, $5.40@6.00. Sheep—Good to choice, $3.75@4.50.

PROVISIONS.—Butter—Choice, 21@24c. Eggs—Fresh, 11@12½c. Pork—New Mess, $17.75@18.00. Lard—$11.20@11.25.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour—White Winter Extra, $6.25@8.00; spring extra, $5.00@5.50. Wheat—Spring, No. 2, $1.15½@1.15¾. Corn—No. 2, 58¾@59¾c. Oats—No. 2, 42¼@42½c. Rye—No. 2, 82@83c. Barley—No. 2, ...@....

WOOL.—Tub-washed, 45@50c.; fleece, washed, 40@44c.; fleece, unwashed, 30@33c.; pulled 37@38c.

LUMBER.—First clear, $50.00@55.00; second clear, $47.00@49.00; Common Boards, $11.00@12.00; Fencing, $11.00@12.00; "A" Shingles, $3.25@3.50; Lath, $2.25@2.37½.

CINCINNATI.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour—$5.75@6.00. Wheat—$1.22. Corn—63@65c. Rye—90c. Oats—47@56c. Barley—.....

PROVISIONS.—Pork—$18.00@18.25. Lard—10¾@11¼c.

ST. LOUIS.

LIVE STOCK.—Beeves—Fair to choice, $5.00@6.25. Hogs—Live, $5.00@6.00.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour, XX Fall, $5.00@5.50. Wheat—No. 2 Red Fall, $1.22@1.30. Corn—No. 2, 58@58½c. Oats—No. 2, 46½@47c. Rye—No. 2, 78@80c. Barley—.....

PROVISIONS.—Pork—Mess, $18.75@19.00. Lard—10½@11½c.

MILWAUKEE.

BREADSTUFFS.—Flour—Spring XX, $5.70@5.90. Wheat—Spring, No. 1, $1.22@1.22¼; No. 2, $1.20@1.20¼. Corn—No. 2, 57@58c. Oats—No. 2, 44@44½c. Rye, No. 1, 86@87c. Barley—No. 2, ...

DETROIT.

BREADSTUFFS.—Wheat—Extra, $1.48@1.48½. Corn—66@67c. Oats—50@51½c.

TOLEDO.

BREADSTUFFS.—Wheat—Amber Mich., $1.23@1.23¼; No. 2 Red, $1.21@1.22. Corn—Mixed, 63¼@64¼c. Oats—53@53½c.

CLEVELAND.

BREADSTUFFS.—Wheat—No. 1 Red, $1.24@1.25; No. 2 Red, $1.19@1.20. Corn—70@72c. Oats—52@54c.

BUFFALO.

LIVE STOCK.—Beeves—$5.00@6.25. Hogs—Live, $5.50@6.00. Sheep—Live, $4.50@4.75.

EAST LIBERTY.

LIVE STOCK.—Beeves—Best, $6.25@6.80; medium, $5.75@6.00. Hogs—Yorkers, $5.90@6.10; Philadelphia, $6.40@8.60. Sheep—Best, $5.00@5.25; good, $4.00@4.75.

Public Debt Statement.

THE following statement shows the condition of the public debt July 1:

Six per cent. bonds	$1,213,624,700
Five per cent. bonds	510,628,050
Total coin bonds	$1,724,352,750
Lawful money debt	$14,678,000
Matured debt	3,216,590
Legal-tender notes	382,076,735
Certificates of deposit	58,760,000
Fractional currency	45,881,295
Coin certificates	22,825,100
Interest	38,939,087
Total debt	$2,290,729,555
Cash in Treasury—	
Coin	$74,205,304
Currency	14,576,010
Special deposits held for the redemption of certificates of deposit, as provided by law	58,760,000
Total in Treasury	$147,541,314
Debt less cash in Treasury	$2,143,088,241
Decrease during the month	2,180,196
Bonds issued to the Pacific Railway Companies, interest payable in lawful money, principal outstanding	$64,623,512
Interest accrued and not yet paid	1,598,705
Interest paid by the United States	22,286,691
Interest repaid by the transportation of mails, etc.	5,252,036
Balance of interest paid by United States	17,134,655

The Pension Law.

A WASHINGTON dispatch of the 1st gives the following information of interest to pensioners:

The act approved June 18, 1874, entitled "An act to increase pensions in certain cases," provides that all persons who are now entitled to pensions under existing laws, and who have lost an arm at or above the elbow, or a leg at or above the knee, shall be rated in the second class, and shall receive $24 per month; provided that no artificial limbs or commutation therefor shall be furnished to such persons as shall be entitled to pensions under this act. This act, by its terms, was to take effect from and after June 4, 1873. Gen. Baker, Commissioner of Pensions, to-day announces that persons embraced within the provisions of this act can secure the benefits of the same without formal application and without the intervention of an attorney. A power of attorney will not be recognized in an application for increase of pension provided by this act. A letter of the pensioner addressed to the Commissioner of Pensions, inclosing his pension certificate and giving his postoffice address, will be sufficient presentation of his claim.

National Bank Reserves.

In a letter to the Cashier of a Chicago bank the Comptroller of the Currency gives the following construction of the new Currency act in reference to the reserve required to be held by National Banks:

My construction of the act of June 20, 1874, in reference to the reserve of the National Banks is that the reserve upon circulation is abolished, but that the National Banks are required to keep reserve upon deposits, as provided in Sections 31 and 32 of the National Bank act, certain proportion of which must be kept on hand and certain other proportion with the reserve agents in the city enumerated in the sections referred to. The banks are also required to keep an amount equal to 5 per cent. of their circulation on deposit with the Treasurer of the United States, which amount may be deducted from the aggregate amount of the reserve required to be kept upon deposits.

A Black Samson.

THERE is a negro Samson named Nelson de Lisle in New Orleans. He is a horse-dealer by profession, and the trick of his trade is to take possession of horses in an unauthorized manner. He was denominated a horse thief before a court in New Orleans in 1869 and sent to the State prison, where he stayed only six days of the five years awarded him. He broke jail by snapping iron bars as if they had been pine sticks, and carrying the outer gate, and fled and hid. The police have been on the lookout for him, and afraid they would find him. The other day two or three of them got hold of him, and he broke loose and laid them out on the pavement with one blow each of his mighty arm. De Lisle then ran, and the cry of "Stop thief" was raised, and a gathering crowd surged in pursuit. A policeman fired three shots without any apparent effect, and he was at length brought to a halt by running as it were in a crowd of a thousand men that had collected about him, both before and behind, in his flight. The friction of such a mass was too much for him, and he saw the living wall close around him. He had no jawbone of an ass or any modern weapon to wield, or he might have waded through that thousand men and been free. It took twelve muscular white Americans to take him to the station-house, as he kept up a skirmishing fight all the way. He was put in the stocks and it was found a pistol ball had passed through his thigh and a club had indented his forehead over the eye. His vitals, which were covered with a heavy coating of upper leather, were unharmed. The authorities are thinking of putting De Lisle to performing feats of strength for their amusement, as the Philistines did Samson of old. He is not of exaggerated size, being a little over medium size, but his mold is herculean and his endurance is equal to that of steam engine of twenty horse-power.—*Baltimore American.*

A Chicago Hotel.

THE following is a translation of an article in a Berlin paper, which will convey an idea of the German estimates of the coming American hotel: "The latest American progress in building will be the 'mammoth hotel,' soon to be erected in Chicago. This enormous hotel is to have a frontage of three English miles long, and a depth of six miles; the height of seventy-seven stories will measure 3,480 feet from the ground floor to the roof. The hotel will have no stairs, but 500 balloons will always be ready to take visitors up to their rooms. No room-waiters are to be employed, but visitors will be served by a newly-patented automatic, put up in every bedroom, who will do all shaving, shampooing, etc., to the guests by a very simple and ingenious mechanism. Supposing the guest requires hot water, the automatic will be able to call down stairs: 'A bucket of water up to room number one million three thousand one hundred and seven,' and the water will be up in seven seconds by a patented elevator. Half an hour before *table d'hote*, instead of the ringing of bells, a gun (24-pounder) will be fired on each floor to call the guests to get ready for their meals. The tables in the dining-rooms will measure four miles each, attendance to be performed by twelve waiters on horseback on either side of the table. Music during *table d'hote* will be played—gratis—by eight bands of seventy-seven men each. For the convenience of visitors a railway will be built on each floor as well as telegraph offices. The price for one bedroom will be from $1 to $10. The cost of this building is estimated to be $680,000,000. The billiard room will contain 900 American, ninety-nine French, and one English table, and as most of the visitors are expected to be Americans, the billiard-room will be fitted out with a spittoon of 100 feet in circumference."

ONE who makes human nature his study says that when a girl takes her handkerchief and moistening it with her lips wipes a black spot off a young man's nose, a wedding between the parties is inevitable.

ONWARDS.

Let me go on!
I know the way behind me seemeth fair,
I know the sun shone brightly, warmly there.
And on before lieth a broad, dim meadow;
And what awaits me there is draped in shadow.
And yet I would press on.

Not back, but on!
I know the past was full of pleasant things;
The song of birds, the rustle of their wings.
I know the future holds no sounds of singing,
No sounds of laughter or of glad tones ringing.
And yet I would go on.

Steadily on!
What though the past was a smooth, even road;
What though the present holds no heavy load,
And all the future way is rough and hilly,
Whose snows are endless and whose winds are chilly.
But yet I would keep on.

Aye, up, and on!
I hate this even, uneventful life;
Give me the scenes of labor and of strife.
My path is rugged, but it is ascending,
And I shall stand exalted at the ending.
And so I will press on.

AN ADVENTURE IN COLORADO.

I AM a dweller in towns and a lover of them. To me, meaningless are the rhapsodies of those who delight in the majestic solitude of nature and the wild, glorious freedom of the untrodden desert. Central Park, and that portion of New York lying within a mile of it, was always wild enough and varied enough for my taste; the Jersey City or Staten Island ferries were marine enough for me. As for the tales of adventure from the frontier, I only shuddered at them, and held the whole race of gold-miners, above all, in something like terror. Yet it was fated that I should become a gold-digger, by proxy at any rate, and a most successful one too, and this is how it came to pass:

It is not so many years back since my wife's brother died in Colorado. He had always been a wild sort of fellow, fit only for a life among miners, yet we liked him much, for he had many good qualities. He was injured by the falling of some rocks; and the nearest doctor—they had one not more than sixty miles away—said that although he might linger a good while, even months, perhaps, he must die from the accident. So Dick got a comrade, who was going eastward, to send me a telegram as soon as he got where telegraphs existed, detailing what had happened and begging me to go to him. I need scarcely say how little this was to my taste, but we did not hesitate a moment; we liked poor Dick, and I thought it very probable that he was lying on a bed of pain without a friend and without a dollar. My wife was naturally even more solicitous about him than myself.

The trip westward has been told too often to need any description from me. I journeyed through what seemed almost interminable space, and at last reached that gathering of (then) mean habitations called Denver. (I was there again last year and found it slightly changed.) The place where Dick lay was, I found, about a hundred miles from Denver; and I found also that the best, if not the only, way to get there was on horseback; and now the real horrors of my journey began. I traveled by myself, or, if by chance I had companions for a few miles, those were so so rough, wild, and uncouth that I was always heartily glad to be rid of them; and the same when the monotony of the mountain track was broken by descending teams, or parties of horsemen; their presence frightened me a great deal more than their absence, yet I cannot recall a single instance of even rudeness on their part; but I was scared generally.

I had, of course, taken care to ascertain before starting on my lonely ride that there was no fear of Indians, who had all, it seemed, temporarily left the district; so one great cause of fear was removed. Briefly, then, I reached Inauguration Town, so called because of the day when the first tent was pitched there, and found it a miserable place. A dozen log huts, five of them being saloons, and about forty tents formed the "city," as it not unfrequently styled itself. In a wretched room at the back of the largest saloon I found poor Dick, in a sad state. He was very glad to see me, but it was plain he was not long for this world; he knew this well enough, and talked of his death as calmly as though he had been speaking of some one else. On one point I was quite surprised—so far from needing help in money matters, he was really a rich man, and handed me deposit notes amounting to some thousands of dollars, and made over to me the gold and valuables which were lying to his credit at the "bank." Everything was done in a most informal way; but a complete answer to all my doubts and queries was given by saying that such was "Miners' Law;" and, anyhow, I had the proceeds of the gold duly handed to me the day after Dick's death.

When the poor fellow was gone I had nothing to detain me at Inauguration Town, and so left it, as I had approached it, on horseback. I could have had company, as the landlord of the saloon told me there was an "outfit" starting for Denver on the next morning; and taking it for granted that I should embrace the opportunity, he introduced several of the "boys" to me at once; but such a wild desperate-looking set I never saw, and would not have traveled with them for the world. Very greatly to my host's astonishment I called for my horse, and rode off at mid-day, more nervous on the score of my possible companions than of any roadside enemies.

I had got on very well that day, and slept at a house where I had stopped on my upward journey. The citizen who dwelt there seemed glad to see me, after the apathetic fashion of these Western people, but seemed astonished, too, I thought, and when I was going away he, in his rude way, complimented me on my courage; he said I had more *grit* than any down-easter he had ever seen. "In fact, boss, there's many a Western man would be skeary at riding alone through this locality now the Utes is back so thick, and so nasty as they are, too; but," he went on, "you have the real grit, I can see." I rode off, completely staggered by his speech; and I doubt if any man in the world was ever so utterly cowed by a compliment of his courage. I resolved to ride very slowly, and allow the wild "outfit" from Inauguration to overtake me; but one can't control one's fate. I had not ridden half a dozen miles before I saw winding up a hill, to the brow of which I had just climbed, at least a score of Indians. They were, luckily, at least a couple of miles from me, and so there was every opportunity for me to avoid them.

I did not like the idea of riding directly back, so I determined to take advantage of a ravine which ran parallel to the road I was pursuing, and which latter was little better than a ravine itself, especially as, from my elevated position, I thought I could see where it issued into the plain below. I hesitated no longer, but turned into the ravine, and was glad to find traces of a road and of travelers there; so, judging one way was used about as much as the other, I jogged cheerfully on.

I saw no house at which to get my midday meal, but I did not mind that, as, from the rate at which I had been descending, I reckoned I should soon strike the plain. I dismounted by the side of a little spring, and, with my flask and some crackers and sardines, managed pretty well. I had just lighted my cigar, and was lying under the shelter of a solitary tree, when suddenly a mounted figure came over a little stony ridge just behind me. I started up and he started back. A more suspicious-looking character it would be difficult to imagine. He was a tall man, wearing a felt or leathern hat, squeezed into no shape at all; his black hair had probably not been cut for a twelvemonth; he was clad in buckskin from neck to ankle; a buffalo robe covered his saddle, by the side of which hung an eighteen-shot repeating rifle; on each hip he carried a large revolver; and a straight knife in a leathern sheath hung in his belt. At the sight of me he recoiled, as I have said, and half drew one of his revolvers, but seeing that I was alone and quite in his power he came slowly on, keeping, however, his eye on me all the while. I thought conciliation best, so said: "Good morning."

"Good evening," he replied, as everybody out there would have replied, whatever the time of day.

"Will you have a drop of brandy?" I asked, by a sudden impulse. He grimly smiled assent, and drank, pronouncing it "good;" then he said: "Where's your hoss, stranger?"

I looked round, and, to my dismay, saw that my steed had vanished—"had vamoosed," the stranger said; then he continued: "I thought I saw a hoss in the gully over there, and when I see you I thought it might be yourn. Here, come this way."

I scrambled over the rugged slope after him, but the horse was nowhere in sight. The stranger pointed to where he had seen it, and then by signs totally unintelligible to me we tracked it for some half a mile until we found it in a perfect maze of rocks and gullies. I thanked him very heartily and made an offer of reward; but with the same apathy which had marked his conversation all through he declined it, and bidding me "good night" rode slowly off, first having conducted me back to the track.

I followed the road for a long time, until I began to grow uneasy at the time which elapsed before I struck the plain. I could no longer see the base of the hills, and although I believed I knew the exact direction I ought to follow I at last began to conceive the possibility of my having lost my way. To get back to my original road before nightfall was impracticable, and I pushed desperately on until nothing but the highest peaks of the tremendous mountains behind me were tinged by the setting sun. In a very short time this died away, and the valleys and ravines below became more dense and gloomy every minute.

All this time I saw no living thing, save that twice a mountain wolf crossed my path a few score yards ahead of me. To make matters worse I found that my horse was nearly exhausted, and could only limp painfully along the rough track. It was growing more out of heart with my situation than I ever was in my life, when, on turning an angle, I found that I had come upon a large tract of level ground, and that not a hundred yards ahead stood a shanty, from which a light feebly gleamed. My jaded horse pricked up his ears and stumbled briskly along, and in another minute I was knocking at the rude door. It was thrown open by a gaunt-looking fellow in an old blue army cloak, and who held although he partially concealed it, a pistol in his right hand. The interior, as I could see, was of the most uninviting character—scarcely an article of furniture, and lighted by a lamp which, void of glass, flared on the window-ledge.

I told my case, and sullenly bidding me turn my horse into the corral by the side of the house, and then enter, he moved away. When I had secured my steed in the inclosure, and the door of the shanty swung to behind me, I was almost sorry I had not chosen to sleep with the wolves in the mountain gullies. My host was silent and sullen, showing very plainly his intention not to talk; presently, however, he said: "Guess you'll want supper. There's water in that pail; there's whisky in that bottle; there's beef in that locker. You can't have nothing else."

I said, which was partly true, that I was too tired to eat. I certainly could not have eaten or drank in his dirty hovel, or of such uninviting food, especially with so forbidding a ruffian for my companion.

"Then you'll want to go to sleep," he said, roughly, and kicked a bundle apart disclosing a couple of buffalo robes, with two rude pillows. "There you are. Go to bed then."

It was of no use betraying any fear, and he was evidently giving up his bed to me, so I lay down and in a short time was dozing, when I was aroused by hearing the tread of a horse, and then the door opened. I half rose from my bed, and to my surprise saw enter the man whom I had met at mid-day on the mountain. He recognized me, too, but said nothing distinct.

"Well, how is it, Joe?" said the other man, with a very serious, if not anxious, look.

"Bad," said my friend, or "Joe"—"very bad. It's all correct."

"And are they—are the boys ——" began the other.

"Yes," said Joe, filling up the pause; "they mean coming. They may come to-morrow—perhaps to-night. We shall have to vamoose."

They conversed in undertones as they sat on their rude stools by the low wood-fire chewing or smoking, and occasionally drinking from a whisky bottle; their discourse seemed very grave and disquieting, and from a word or two I caught, and from their glances, I fancied they were often referring to me. At last, in spite of myself, I fell asleep, and tired as I was might have slumbered till morning, but a tremendous crash awoke me, and rising I saw that the door had been burst open, and that the shanty was filling with strangers, all armed, while Joe and his comrade had drawn suddenly to my side of the room. On the instant half a dozen men surrounded them and took their firearms.

"Hallo!" exclaimed one of the newcomers, as he caught sight of me, "who is this? Are there three in the gang?"

All eyes being upon me, although I did not quite understand the situation, I explained briefly who I was; and the account seemed satisfactory.

"Now, Joe Blakey, and you, Phil Marll, I reckon you know why we have come?" said the man who seemed spokesman.

"Guess we do," said Joe, in his usual apathetic tone.

"You expected a visit," continued the man. "We have heard all your bragging agin the Vigilantes"——

"Never said so," interrupted Joe.

I was amazed at these words. Here was I in the presence of the promptest, most terrible tribunal of modern times, and I divined only too clearly their errand. The Vigilantes, or Vigilance Committee, as may be known, is a self-constituted body, which, in the remote parts of the United States, springs into spontaneous existence to remedy in a rough fashion the monstrous defects of the prevalently imperfect courts of justice. Acting without and, in fact, in defiance of law, these committees, though doing things roughly, help materially to make life endurable for well-disposed citizens. Without the sense of justice which these vigilant and self-constituted bodies exercise, the great Western wildernesses, with their sparsely-settled population and feeble judicial administration, would not be tolerable.

I soon understood the purport of the visit as addressed to my host. "You've been a terror to this here neighborhood," continued the spokesman; "you've stole horses and cattle for more than two years past, and tried to put it all on the Indians. You have murdered men; and this here traveler would never have seen daylight again if we hadn't come in. You got the Jew from Santa Fe into your shanty and robbed and killed him"

"No, Captain!" burst out Joe; "I bar that. I don't deny the horses nor the cattle; and I may hev killed a man or two; so may hev Phil; but I never touched the Jew, nor killed a man in my own shanty; and this here traveler should have gone his way a safe man." Then, turning to me, he said: "*You* don't believe I meant killing of you, stranger?"

"I do not!" I said very emphatically, for I meant it."

"Well, there's enough agin you without that," said the spokesman, "though we know you ain't so bad as Phil. You've been warned to go, time after time."

"Not reg'lar warned, Captain," argued Joe; "and now we are agoin."

"No, you ain't, you bet," said the Captain, with a meaning smile, which ran responsively through his band; "no, you ain't. Your time has come; but you shall have a fair trial from the Vigilantes here assembled, and what their judgment is you must abide by."

In an instant a sort of formality was given to the assembly, the Captain and another being the center of a semi-circle, while opposite to them were the two prisoners, guarded by four men. I suppose there must have been seventeen or eighteen of the Vigilantes altogether. With a rapidity that almost stunned me the trial began and concluded. The prisoners offered no particular defense; they seemed conscious of its inutility, and the "evidence" against them was chiefly accusation—but it sufficed. When the Captain asked the verdict, there was a unanimous reply of "Guilty;" and he addressed the culprits thus: "Say, Joe Blakey and Phil Marll, you hev heard the evidence in this honorable Committee of Vigilantes, and the verdict of guilty. We therefore intend to string you up, and we mean to clear the country of all the thieves, right away. You have ten minutes allowed you to leave any message you wish."

The apathy of the two men was extraordinary. Phil only scowled savagely at the speaker; while Joe absolutely turned to his nearest guard and asked him for a "chew;" and the guard, pulling a cake of tobacco from his breast, handed it to Joe, who broke a piece off, and began masticating it with apparent relish. Just then I caught his eye, and I thought it was fixed on me with such a hopeless yet appalling look that I could hesitate no longer. With an energy that surprised myself I broke out into an appeal for the lives of the condemned, explained how I had been received by them, and given the best they had, and how Joe had helped me to find my horse in the day. "I will be security," I concluded, "that they leave the neighborhood. I bear letters from good houses in New York to several persons in this vicinity, some of whom may be known to you, and which will prove I can bear out my offer." I drew my letters from my pocket and read the addresses: "Capt. Hiram Danks, Maj. Jul