

BOB FORD'S CAREER.

How the Slayer of Jesse James Met His Fate.

HE DIED WITH HIS BOOTS ON.

Some Insight Given Into the Desperado's Character and Habits—His Capture of the Mexican Town of Vegas and His Ignominious Surrender.

Correspondence of the New York Advertiser.

Bob Ford, the slayer of the notorious bandit Jesse James, was this evening shot to death in his saloon, at the new mining camp of Creede, by Marshal Kelley. It is a curious coincidence that Ford died much in the same manner as did his victim, Jesse James. He was taken by surprise, and shot down without the slightest opportunity to defend himself. It seems that Kelley and Ford had quarreled over a game of cards, in Pueblo, about a week before the shooting, and that each had sworn to "shoot at sight." For a week or more their paths did not cross, but this evening Ford, who was standing in his own dance house in Creede, was caught sight of by Kelley, who, raising a Winchester quickly to his shoulder, before Ford could draw his pistol, fired, and sent a 45-caliber bullet tearing through the throat of his enemy. Ford fell as though stricken by a lightning bolt, the blood gushing from the severed jugular, and with a gasping, inarticulate cry, died, as he always claimed he would die, "with his boots on."

Bob Ford was a well-known character in Colorado, and was not considered, on the whole, as a "bad man" in the peculiar Western meaning of the term. He was a saloonkeeper and gambler by profession, and for several years carried on his dual business in Walsenburg, Col., where he made a little money, and was tolerated as a sort of necessary evil, of no especial danger to the peace and good name of the town; but yet not exactly an object at which the decent citizens could "point with pride." There was always a cloud over Bob Ford. Even the men of his own class could never bring themselves into a state of hearty comradeship with him. He was not a bad companion; he was lavish with his money, entertaining in his conversation, "square" in his gaming; yet nobody could forget the manner in which he killed his old companion, Jesse James, and this fact created a deep-seated distrust in the minds of all who had anything to do with him, a distrust which was never openly shown, but which, none the less, was felt by him.

In spite of an air of bravado and an appearance of reckless gaiety, Bob Ford was known to be anything but a happy man by those who were in his confidence. The quiet and good order of Walsenburg palled upon him, and when the excitement broke out at Creede Camp he was among the first to join the stampede for the new discovery. He did not rush into Creede Camp fired by the prospector's ambition; he did not expect to become rich through the discovery of a great mine; but he did expect to find something more precious to him than gold, more necessary to him than silver, and that was excitement.

He plunged into every whirlpool of dissipation that eddied between the forming cliffs which shut in the camp at Creede. He gambled wildly, drank deeply, and when these diversions grew tame he would go up to Denver or Pueblo to attend the races, to find new excitements and to drown that sense of loneliness which was one of the punishments he experienced for the killing of Jesse James.

Human nature, in such the same thing, in essence, the world over. The high and the low, the rich and the poor, the good and the bad, have, to begin with, the same general characteristics. Circumstances, environment, personal endeavor, modify the individual and mold the class, but parallels in thought and action run through all classes.

So it was with the class to which Ford belonged. It had its popular men, its leaders, its followers, its pariahs, its models, its outcasts, just as has good society and respectable communities. Among the gamblers at Creede Camp "Soppy Smith" was considered a "square man" and worthy of due respect and consideration; on the other hand, "Monte Barker" was not considered "straight" and was relegated to the "fringe of society" as a "tin-horn" gambler. Bob Ford was neither admired nor despised by his associates. He occupied a sort of neutral position, being considered "square" but not exactly the right kind of a man to "tie to."

Ford confided to his intimates his belief that he was doomed to die with his boots on, and was often heard to say: "I'm not afraid to pass in my checks that way, boys, but if I know who the fellow was that's going to get the drop on me, wouldn't I down him? Well, you can just bet I would." But predestination doesn't work that way, and Marshal Kelley, who heard Bob Ford make the remark quoted, didn't know then that he was fated to be the avenger of Jesse James and the vindicator of outraged society.

As a general rule Bob Ford was not a quarrelsome man, but occasionally when drunk he was irritable, overbearing and dangerous. At such times those who knew him gave him a wide berth, for he was quick with his revolver and always carried two. His pistols were curious looking weapons, being forty-fives "sawed off," that is, the barrel of each had been shortened or sawed off an inch and a half or two inches, so that it would not occupy so much room in the hip pocket.

With these "guns," as Westerners call all firearms irrespective of the size or shape, Ford once terrorized the town of Vegas and kept it in a state of siege for five hours, and then he surrendered, not to the authorities, but to the more potent influence of whisky. It seems that Ford took offense at a Mexican in a Vegas dance house, and drawing his pistol, would have killed the "greaser" on the spot had he not, with surprising nimbleness, leaped through an open window and escaped. This enraged Ford to such an extent that he cleared the dance hall of its occupants, and, shooting out all the lights, stepped to the front door and announced that he proposed to "run the town," and that no one could pass up or down the street until he gave permission.

This was early in the morning, dance halls generally closing up at daylight; but Bob had rather prematurely closed the festivities in the one in question. As soon as it became light Ford crossed the street, and sitting down on the ground with his back to the adobe wall, laid his pistols in front of him and ordered the dance hall bartender to bring him a drink. The poor barman, half dead with fright, poured out a glass of whisky, placed it on a tray, and brought it out into the room. Ford ordered him to place it just within his reach, pointing a pistol at his head during the

operation. Then Bob drank the whisky and the bartender was allowed to retire, until called upon again to serve his importunate customer.

Crowds of people gathered at either end of the street, but out of the range of Ford's pistols, and to these he confided his fixed intention to get as many of the board of aldermen and constables of the town of Vegas as long as it suited his humor. The Mexicans were at a loss how to raise the embargo on their commerce of their main street, and finally decided to mount their best man on horseback and have him dash up to Ford and capture or kill him. The experiment was tried, and as Ford killed the horse and wounded its rider with one shot, it was concluded that the scheme was very far from being a success.

In the meantime, Ford was getting very much intoxicated, and just five hours after stopping—traffic on the streets of Vegas, he fell over, stupidly drunk, and was triumphantly carried off to the station house by the exultant Mexicans.

Such exploits as the one related above were not frequent in the history of Bob Ford. He was far from being the ideal desperado of the yellow-covered boy, which the small boys buy for a nickel and gets a thousand-dollar worth of thrill out of. He was no swash-buckler, no loud-talking braggart, no quarrelsome, trouble-hunting bully; on the contrary, he was quiet, and, as a rule, law-abiding, though at times, when under the influence of whisky, he became a terror.

He was not popular in Colorado. There have been "bad men" there who were popular; but Ford was not one of these, and there will be little regret in any quarter that he has "passed in his checks." His career has in it few elements of romance, and much that is sordid and low, and his end will serve to make more deeply emphatic the truth that "whose sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."

WHITELAW REID. His Experiences as War Correspondent in West Virginia. After speaking of Whitelaw Reid's early life and education at Miami University, his two years editorship of the Xenia (O.) News, his identification directly after leaving college with the Republican party, his support in the News of Mr. Lincoln for the Presidential nomination, his influence in the election of a Lincoln delegate from the Xenia District, thus strengthening the break in the Ohio column, his services for the Cincinnati Times, the Cleveland Herald and the Cincinnati Gazette, the New Tribune says of Mr. Reid as a war correspondent:

"At the beginning of the civil war, McClellan, then a captain in the regular army, and stationed at Cincinnati, was sent to West Virginia. With this movement Mr. Reid (he had been city editor of the Cincinnati Gazette), by order of the Gazette company, took the position of its war correspondent. General Morris had command of the advance, and Mr. Reid, as representative of the then foremost journal in Ohio, was assigned to duty as volunteer aid-de-camp, with the rank of captain. Then over the signature of 'Agate,' he began a series of letters which attracted general attention and largely increased the demand for the Gazette.

"After the West Virginia campaign terminated in the death of General Garnet's army, and the victory of General Grant himself at Carrick's Ford, on Cheat river, Mr. Reid returned to the Gazette office, and for a time wrote editorial leaders. He was sent back to West Virginia, and given a position on the staff of General Rosecrans. He served through the second campaign that terminated with the battles of Carnifex Ferry and Gauley Bridge. These battles he wrote an account of, and then, returning to the Gazette office, resumed his editorial duties, and helped organize the staff correspondents the publishers of that journal had found it necessary to employ.

"Fairly established as a journalist of much promise, only brief mention can be made of the brilliant service that marked his subsequent career in the West. In 1861-62 he went to Fort Donelson, recorded the Tennessee campaign, arrived at Pittsburg Landing weeks in advance of the battle fought there, and, leaving a sick bed, was the only correspondent who witnessed the fight from its beginning to its close. It was his account of this battle, one of the most important of the war, that stamped him as a newspaper correspondent of the first class. Those ten columns of the Gazette were widely copied and published in extras by St. Louis and Chicago papers, and the writer was complimented by an advance in his already liberal salary.

"At the siege of Corinth Mr. Reid was appointed chairman of a committee of the correspondents to interview General Halleck upon the occasion of the latter's difficulty with the gentlemen of the press; which ended in their dignified withdrawal from the military lines."

No Superhuman Strength, but Natural Vigor. To attain the muscularity of the individual who snaps steel shackles like twigs by simply bending his arm is vouchsafed to few. But to acquire a reasonable amount of physical power and constitutional energy, to eat, sleep and digest well, to possess an equable, quiet nervous system, is possible to the nervous, enfeebled and dyspeptic invalid who begins and pursues a course of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. The fraction of his hopes is not remote either. Speedily felt are the tonic effects of the inimitable invigorant, and they are no less permanent than the course of attainment. The bowels, the liver, the stomach, the kidneys—all co-operate under the benign influence of this comprehensive medicine, to insure those noble guarantees of health, harmony, regularity, vigor of action. Never was there discovered a medicinal motor better calculated to invigorate and keep moving the machinery of healthful vitality. Use it for malaria, rheumatism, indigestion, biliousness, kidney complaint, jaundice.

A Good Suggestion. From the Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph. The adjourning of the impeachment court last Saturday, on account of Gen. Weaver's belly-ache, cost the people of the commonwealth nearly \$500. One dose of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy would have saved this expense; and we suggest, as a matter of economy and humanity, that the state provide against future contingencies of this nature, by furnishing each senator with a bottle of that valuable remedy. 25 and 50 cent bottles for sale by druggists.

Half Fare to Chicago. The Baltimore & Ohio railroad announces the sale of round-trip tickets from all stations to Chicago, June 16 to 20 inclusive, at rate of one fare for the round trip, on the occasion of the National Democratic Convention, on June 21. Tickets will be valid for return journey until July 8 inclusive.

Be sure you get the genuine Bastin's Cough and Consumption Cures for coughs and colds.

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Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

FAIRMONT.

Children's Day at the Various Churches. Baccalaureate Sermon. Special Correspondence of the Intelligencer.

FAIRMONT, W. Va., June 12.—The second Sabbath in June has become an interesting day in this town, as it has been turned over to the children of the Sabbath schools and recognized by the churches as "Children's Day."

The Methodist Episcopal church was finely decorated and interesting services were held. The church had prepared a specially interesting programme entitled the "League of Honor," which was pleasing to the large audience present.

The Methodist Protestant church Sabbath school had built the deck of a ship taking up the entire end of the church, and from its deck the exercises were held, a cantata entitled the "Voyage of Life."

This school has for a number of years been deeply interested in foreign missionary work. Its first pupil was a little girl in Japan, whom they undertook to educate as a Bible reader. She had progressed so far as to be able to read, but she took sick and died.

At present they are contributing about \$40 a year to the education of a Japanese boy.

The Baptist Sabbath school had a most pleasant time in the afternoon. That denomination has no church here at present, but occupy the hall of the state normal school. Efforts are being made for the erection of a church in the near future.

An immense audience assembled in the A. M. church last night to listen to the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class of the state normal school by the Rev. W. E. Powell, of Parkersburg. Rev. Powell is the editor of the Journal and Messenger.

\$100 Reward. \$100. The readers of the Commercial will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

B. & O. SUNDAY EXCURSIONS. Wheeling to Pittsburg and Washington, Pa. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets to Pittsburg and Washington, Pa., every Sunday during the summer months at the popular rate of \$1.50 to Pittsburg and return; and \$1 to Washington, Pa., and return; tickets good for Sundays only. Trains leave Wheeling at 6:10 and 7:20 a. m.; returning leave Pittsburg at 4 and 7:30 p. m. For further particulars call on T. C. BURKE, City Passenger and Ticket Agent, Wheeling, W. Va. E. D. SMITH, Division Passenger Agent, Pittsburg, Pa.

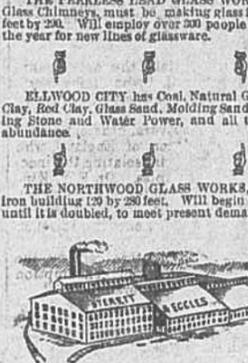
Are you troubled with corns or bunions? If so, let us give you a little advice. Pare them down as closely as possible without drawing blood; then soak them in warm water to soften them, and apply Chamberlain's Pain Balm twice daily, rubbing them vigorously for a few minutes at each application. A corn plaster should be worn for a few days to protect them from the shoe. As a general liniment for sprains, bruises, lame back or rheumatism, Pain Balm is all that can be desired. 50 cent bottles for sale by druggists. Beware of cheap imitations.

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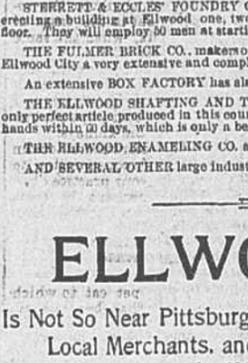
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THE PERRLESS LEAD GLASS WORKS, formerly of Pittsburgh, makers of the celebrated Lead Glass Chimneys, must be making glass in Ellwood City by August 15, in their new building, 110 feet by 230. Will employ over 200 people at the start, and will greatly increase their force during the year for new lines of glassware.



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