Los Angeles Herald.

Hanging Yankee Jim.

To the San Diego *Union* we are indebted for the following interesting record of a remarkable trial and execution:

In August 1852 there were three disagreeable men in San Diego, named James Robinson *alias* "Yankee Jim," James Grayson Loring and William Harris. They hailed from the early mining camps, and soon after their arrival came information of a reliable character which pointed out Yankee Jim as a dangerous character. It was said that he had loafed around various mining camps, and, watching his opportunity, had pounced upon miners in out-of-the-way places, murdered them and robbed them of their gold and trinkets. As long as he behaved himself he was not molested here. Yankee Jim was a Canadian Frenchman, six feet and three or four inches. in height and well developed physically. He had anything but a prepossessing appearance and was shunned by all respectable people.

STEALING A BOAT—GRAND LARCENY.

At the time we speak of, Yankee Jim and his two companions stole a boat here in the harbor, which they afterwards deserted and turned adrift outside the Heads. It belonged to Joseph C. Stewart and Enos Wall, who found their property a few days after it was stolen, washed up on the beach a few miles down the coast.

THE TRIAL.

The three men were arrested and arraigned before what was at that time known as the Court of Sessions, on a charge of grand larceny. This Court of Sessions consisted of the County Judge, John Hays, presiding, with two Justices of the Peace—J. Judson Ames and William T. Conlon.

James W. Robinson, father of Hon. Wm. N. Robinson, was at that time District Attorney, and conducted the prosecution. Agoston Haraszthy was Sheriff, and Philip Crosthwaite, our present Deputy Sheriff, acted in the double capacity of Clerk of the Court and Under Sheriff.

On the 18th day of August, 1852, Yankee Jim was tried and convicted of grand larceny.

THE JURY.

The following persons served as jurors in the trial: Cave J. Couts, foreman; Albert B. Smith, Thomas Fox, Wm. Conroy, Philip Hoof, Abel Watkinson, John C. Stewart, Enos Wall, George Wasson, James Donahue, C. C. Varney, Charles Lloyd.

THE VERDICT.

The following is the verdict, as taken from the records of the Court:

"Your jurors in the within case of James Robinson, have the honor to return a verdict of "Guilty," and to therefore sentence him, James Robinson, to be hanged by the neck until dead." CAVE J. COUTS,
Foreman of Jury.

FINAL SENTENCE BY THE COURT.

Judge Hays addressed the prisoner as follows:

"You, James Robinson, have been tried by a jury of your countrymen, selected by yourself, for grand larceny, and found guilty of the same, and the jury affixed the punishment of death as the penalty. You are now brought before the Court to hear the final sentence of the law pronounced by the Court. Have you anything to say why the sentence should not now be pronounced? (A pause.) Having none, the Court order, adjudge and decree that you, James Robinson, be taken to the jail of the county of San Diego and put in the custody of the Sheriff of said county, there to be safely and securely kept until Saturday, the 18th day of September next. Between the hours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 3 o'clock P. M., you will be taken from thence by the Sheriff of said county to the place of execution, and there hung by the neck until you are dead."

PREPARING FOR DEATH.

Yankee Jim thought, up to the moment he was swung off into eternity, that they would not hang him. He did not object to the two men, Stewart and Wall, from whom he stole the boat, sitting on the jury. He probably thought that they would not be hard on him, because they had recovered the boat uninjured. The Roman Catholic priests were attentive to his spiritual welfare, but he still entertained the impression that he would not need the intercession in this emergency. It is a matter of history that the pioneers of California were deliberate in making up their minds, but when once made up, the decree was unchangeable. And thus it proved in this case.

THE HANGING.

The gallows consisted of two beams planted in the ground with a heavy bar across the top. It was located in Old Town, on the spot where Whaley's brick house now stands. On the 18th day of September Yankee Jim was taken from his little adobe jail room, where he had been closely guarded, and placed in a wagon. Two Catholic priests accompanied him and did their utmost to convince him that his time was near and to impress him with the importance of being prepared for the future state. To the wagon was attached a span of mules with old Gustave Fisher as driver. On reaching the gallows the priest alighted and the wagon was driven under the fatal noose. The rope was adjusted around Yankee Jim's neck and he delivered his farewell speech to the large crowd that had gathered to witness the execution. He told them he had been a good man and given piles of gold to help poor men. Under-Sheriff Crosthwaite, who superintended the execution stood on the ground near the wagon and listened patiently to Yankee Jim's story until it was a quarter of three o'clock. He finally ordered Fisher to drive on, and the old man applied his whip freely to the mules. Yankee Jim kept his feet in the wagon as long as possible, but was finally pulled off. He swung back and forth like a pendulum, until he strangled to death. And thus ended the career of the dreaded desperado, Yankee Jim.

Subsequently his accomplices in the grand larceny were tried by the same jury, and sentenced to the State Prison for a year. They never returned to San Diego.

An Eminent Necessity.

EDITOR HERALD:—After a visit to many of the places of historic interest in Southern California, and observing the steady and sure destruction of a large number of these ancient and interesting monuments of the former times, it seems a fitting moment to urge the establishing in this favored and beautiful city, of the

LOS ANGELES HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

to collect and preserve all obtainable memorials of the State; forming both a museum and a library from the vast materials that may now be gathered, but which if longer neglected will soon be among the things that are not.

The romantic missionary age of California while under Spanish government, from 1767 to 1822, is full of fascinating interest, and all the archives of that period should be sacredly preserved, where the student of history can have continued access to their treasure.

The next great period, from 1822 to 1847, while under Mexican rule, is fresh in the minds of many of the eminent citizens of Los Angeles, and they would no doubt esteem it a pleasure to contribute from their libraries, by their pens, and by public lectures, much valuable information concerning their historic era. Since 1847, the foot-prints of history are fresh and easily followed, and many contributors can bring in a store of historical records. Let a spontaneous effort be made by every one, to contribute a book, a map, a geological specimen, a picture, a pamphlet, a parchment, an ancient relic of any kind. This is an enterprise in which all sects, and creeds, and parties, and nationalities can unite with emulation and enthusiasm. Do it, and Los Angeles will be known abroad as a place of enlightened culture, and will attract to itself the cultured of other lands, who will here find intellectual enjoyments combined with a matchless climate.

In this enterprise each citizen can do something, all can do great things. The obligations we owe to the swift-coming future of a great and conspicuous State, are upon us. Let us discharge them with a generous and bountiful hand. D. M. BERRY.

Eastern Bottles.

The "bottle" is a necessary article in the tent of Arabian shepherds. It holds water and other liquids, and is frequently used as a pitcher. The Eastern bottle is made of goat or kip skin, stripped off without opening the belly; the openings made by cutting off the tail and legs are sewed up, and when filled it is tied about the neck.

The Arabs and Persians never go a journey without a small leathern bottle by their side like a scrip. These skin-bottles preserve their water, milk, and other liquids in a fresher state than any other vessels they can use. The people of the East, indeed, put into them everything they mean to carry to a distance, whether dry or liquid, and very rarely make use of boxes or pots, unless to keep such things as are liable to be broken. They enclose these leathern bottles in woolen sacks, because their beasts of carriage often fall down under their load, or cast it down on the sandy desert. This method of transporting the necessaries of life has another advantage; the skin-bottles not only perserve them fresh, but defend them against the ants and other insects, which cannot pierce the skin; and they also prevent the fine dust, of which immense quantities are constantly moving about in the arid regions of Asia, from reaching them. It is for these reasons that provisions of every kind are enclosed in vessels made of the skins of animals.

These bottles are liable to be rent, when old or much used, and at the same time are capable of being repaired. In the book of Joshua we are informed, the Gibeonites "took wine-bottles, old and rent, and bound up." This is perfectly according to the custom of the East; and the manner in which they mend their old and rent bottles is various. Sometimes they sew in a piece; sometimes they gather up the torn place in the manner of a purse; sometimes they put in a round flat piece of wood, and by that means stop the hole.

The liability of skin bottles to rend. will explain a figure used in one of our Lord's discourses—"Neither do men put new wine into old bottles, else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish; but they put new wine into new bottles, andboth arepreserved." Being made of raw hide, they are, when new, capable of accomodating themselves to the swellings of the liquor as it ferments. But when they have been once stretched out in this way, and have become old and shrivelled through use, they do not admit of any further enlargement, and will therefore give way if new wine is poured into them.—[Early Days.

The *Fortnightly* claims that photography was discovered in London a century ago.

PROSPECTUS
—OF—
THE LOS ANGELES HERALD.

The first of October, THE LOS ANGELES HERALD, a daily and weekly newspaper, will make its appearance. The Daily will be a neat and tastily printed seven-column newspaper, newsy rather than literary in character. The Weekly will be a six-column, eight-page paper, and will contain the most important matter that has previously appeared in THE DAILY HERALD.

It is proposed that the HERALD shall be an unbought advocate of every interest pertaining to Southern California and Arizona, and a zealous worker in all things that shall tend to benefit the State. In a word it will be in close communion with the People. In its columns, from time to time will be found matters of interest to the California Farmer, Mechanic, Merchant, Laborer, and all classes of Producers; and it will also contain reading matter suited to the Home Circle.

The HERALD will be an Independent Democratic journal and its efforts directed to sweeping from power and place those now mismanaging the affairs of the Nation. For the accomplishment of this end, it will hail with satisfaction the co-operation of the members of all Parties, believing that the prosperity, perhaps safety, of the Nation depends upon the success of a movement of this character. It is "reform now or revolution hereafter."

The HERALD will advocate State Rights and oppose Centralization; it will encourage White and oppose Coolie Immigration. It will favor Free Trade, and oppose Protective Tariff; it will advocate a Greenback Currency for California, and oppose the present dwarfing and deadening policy which upholds the present ruinous rates of interest and shuts out Eastern capital. It will advocate the People and oppose Monopolies, no matter what guise they may assume.

While the HERALD will treat Slavery as a dead issue, it will earnestly advocate the right of every State, be it Northern or Southern—Massachusetts or South Carolina—to govern itself in accordance with the wishes of its people, and the dictates of the Federal Constitution, without national interference.

The HERALD will opppse thieving and peculation. No man rightly owns a dollar until he earns it. Every dollar which is taken from the public treasury or private purse without a just return is robbery, and he who takes this money is a thief. Believing this, the HERALD will oppose salary steals, custom steals, land steals, railroad steals, and every kind of steals.

Each day, the fullest Foreign and Domestic Telegrams will be published. The aim will be to supply, in this part of the State, the demand heretofore filled by the San Francisco dailies. No trouble or expense will be spared to make the HERALD, in this respect, equal to any newspaper on the Coast. It will also contain a full Review of the Local and Foreign Markets, and the Trades generally, honestly and carefully compiled.

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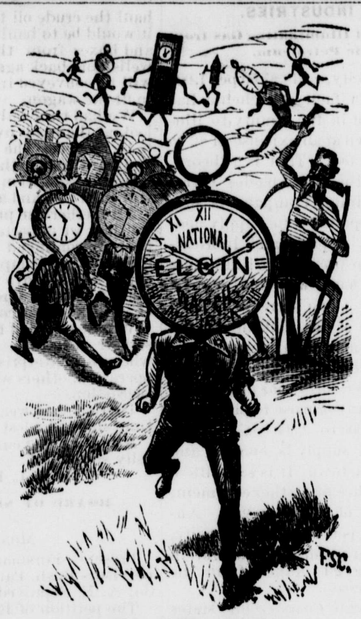

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