

of many wealthy Spaniards, and the commercial center of all of Northern Mexico, a mule train started for the city of Mexico, says an Antonio correspondent.

There were thirty mules, each loaded with 8000 silver dollars and a considerable amount of gold coin, the total amount being about \$300,000.

The caravan was in charge of Captain Palacio Flores, a prominent and trusted employe of the Government. In addition to the drivers of the mule train there were about fifty well-armed and equipped guards. The old and well-worn national highway through San Luis Potosi and Monterey was taken and the dangerous mountain defiles south of Saltillo were passed without any attack on the train being made. The Rio Grande river was crossed a few miles above Laredo and the train made its way rapidly toward San Antonio.

In those days the national highway passed through what is now Dimmit county, Tex., following the bank of Pena creek for several miles. On the bank of that stream was a favorite camping-place, which is now called Brand Rock water hole. This hole is located at a sharp bend in the stream and is of unfathomable depths, although it evidently has a natural bottom, as the water in it does not pass into any interior cavity.

When this camping place was reached Captain Flores decided to remain there a few days resting the mules preparatory to making the 100 miles still remaining between there and San Antonio. He considered that all the dangerous portion of the country had been passed through, and only left ten men on guard the first night. Even this number seemed unnecessary, as there were no signs of any attack, and no pickets were posted on the following day.

It was about noon on that day when a band of brigands suddenly rushed upon the unprotected camp out of a dense live oak thicket. Captain Flores and his men were taking their noonday siesta when the attack was made, but they did not submit without a desperate struggle. The bags of gold and silver were piled in a heap near the deep water hole, and when Captain Flores found that the brigands were about to get possession of the wealth he ordered the drivers to throw it all into the placid pool. The command was obeyed and the brigands massacred every member of the mule-train party with the exception of a driver named Alejandro Lajero, who succeeded in making his escape, proceeding to San Antonio, where he gave an account of the terrible adventure, a record of which was made at that time and is still in existence there. His story was discredited until the parties to whom the money had been consigned made an investigation and found the bones of the victims and evidence that the bandits had made efforts to recover the wealth from the pool.

Attempts were then made to explore the hole, but without success. Heavy weights have been sunk to a depth of several thousand feet, but the bottom of the hole has never been reached. A few months ago James L. Morgan, an eastern capitalist and the owner of an extensive ranch in southwest Texas, was passing through Dimmit county, when he was told the story of the hidden wealth in the Brand Rock water hole. He visited the mysterious spot

and became so deeply interested in the remarkable tale that he decided to make a supreme effort to explore the depth of the hole in search of the \$300,000 and recover the wealth if possible.

### SANG HIS SONG.

John Howard Payne, the author of "Home, Sweet Home," once saved himself and friend from imprisonment by the singing of his famous song. This is the story, substantially as it was related by John Ross, the Indian chief, and published recently in the *Indian Arrow*, printed at Tahlequah, I. T.

When the Cherokee Indians were being removed from Georgia to their reservation west of the Mississippi river Payne spent a few weeks at the home of John Ross, a life-long friend, head chief of the tribe. Several prominent Cherokees were in prison and that portion of Georgia was scoured by armed squads of militia. One day as Payne and Ross were sitting before the fire in a hut the door was opened suddenly and eight militia-men entered. Ross and his presumed accomplice, suspected of influencing the Indians to cause trouble, were summarily arrested and taken off on horseback. Rain was falling. The journey lasted all night. Just after midnight, in order to keep awake, one of the soldiers began singing "Home, Sweet Home."

"Ah!" said Payne, sadly. "I never expected to hear that song under such circumstances as these."

"I guess not," his escort answered indifferently, "but I wasn't singing that for you."

"Do you know who wrote that song?"

"No. Do you?"

"Yes," said Payne, "I did."

"Of course you did," laughed his companion with an oath. "I bet you don't even know the words."

Payne slowly repeated the words of the song, reciting the whole of it. Then he sang it. The surroundings naturally heightened effect. As the last words of the melody died away the soldier said kindly:

"If you didn't write it, you can sing it as the man that did write it."

"He really wrote the song," said the Indian chief. "That is John Howard Payne."

The soldier was skeptical, but had, at least, been touched by Payne's singing of the song.

"Whether you wrote it or not," he said, "you shall not go to prison if I can help it."

And much to the surprise of both Ross and Payne they were released at Milledgeville—then the capital of the state—next day after a brief examination. The soldier was subsequently treated with especial respect and liberty.

"That song," the Indian chief declared, "subsequently saved both of us from insult and imprisonment, nor, perhaps, even worse treatment. I had heard Payne sing it before, but never as he sung it that rainy night on our way to prison at Milledgeville."

Avoid passion and excitement. A moment's anger may be fatal.

"Don't carry the whole world on your shoulders, far less the universe. Trust the Eternal."

### CITY COUNCIL.

The City Council met in regular session last night, President Loolbourov in the chair. The members present were Rich, Horn, Karrick, Hardy, Bell, Heles, Wantland, Evans, Lawson, Kelly, Beardsley, Moran, Simondi.

#### The Proceedings.

J. J. Corum and others asked for crosswalks over the Second West and Second South streets. Committee on streets with power to act.

J. J. Morlan and others asked for an extension of the sewer system south of Fifth South street. Committee on sewerage.

John C. Cutler asked to be allowed to lay a private water main on West Temple between Eighth and Ninth South street. Committee on water-works with power to act.

Charles Handly asked to lease the city factory lands in the mouth of Parley's canyon and to act as watchman of the city's water rights. Committee on public grounds.

Thomas Dangerfield asked permission to lay his own sidewalk. Board of public works.

John R. Williams asked to sell photographic views near the corner of the Temple block, without a license. Committee on license.

William Dunn and others asked that the work of grading Sixth North street, between Fifth and Eighth West streets. Committee on streets.

The Jennings Bros. Investment company and others asked that the city railway company be allowed to construct a passengers' waiting room at the corner of East Temple and First South streets. Committee on streets.

George Q. Cannon and others asked that some of the large surplus water canals on the south and west of the city be cleaned out for the reason that they believed that lands in that vicinity would soon be inundated by high water from the great amount of snow now in the mountains. Committee on Jordan canal and irrigation.

W. E. Smedley asked that Eleventh street be graded. Committee on streets.

E. J. Dimmick and others asked that B street be graded. Committee on streets.

Harriet M. Sells asked permission to lay her own sidewalk. Board of public works.

The Jennings Bros. Investment company sent in a protest against the Council leasing certain property for market purposes. Committee on markets.

Thomas E. Jeremy and others asked that Sixth West street between North Temple and First South streets be graded and put in passable condition. Committee on streets.

Guy Willis and others asked for an electric light on Jefferson street. Committee on improvements.

D. N. Swan and others asked that a flume be immediately placed across West Temple street and Vance street. Committee on Jordan canal and irrigation company.

#### AN EXTRA STREET ROLLER.

The street supervisor sent in a requi-