

A SINGULAR will case is now before the Courts of San Rafael, Marin Co., Cal., the circumstances connected with which, as furnished by a cotemporary, in the hands of some of the story grinders for the cheap serials, would furnish material for a thrilling romance. Briefly told, they are as follows: A Scotch sailor boy, named James Black, deserted from his ship, in San Francisco Bay in 1835, and after numerous adventures among the Spaniards then inhabiting California, he settled at Mission San Rafael, and married into a Spanish family. He received a grant of land from the Mexican government, and, in time, acquired 10,000 acres more, and became the owner of immense herds of cattle. His wife had one child, a daughter, to whom, when she grew up, her father deeded one of his valuable ranches. This daughter, in 1864, married a Dr. Burdell, a dentist, of San Francisco. About a year after, Mrs. Burdell's mother, Mrs. Black, came to San Francisco, in order that her son-in-law might perform some dental operation for her, and while undergoing it she died from the effects of chloroform. This sad event almost drove our whilom sailor boy, her husband, distracted, and he took to dissipation to drown his grief, and being immensely rich, a Mexican widow, named Pacheco, thought him a prize worth angling for; she accordingly set her cap at him, and in a short time induced him to marry her.

The old man had been very much opposed to the marriage of his daughter to Burdell, and Widow Pacheco, or rather Mrs. Black No. 2, being aware of this, in order to prevent, if possible, Mrs. Burdell from obtaining any more of her father's property, used her influence with her spouse to induce him to will the remainder of his wealth to her, by persuading him that his daughter had mortgaged the rancho he had given to her. The old gentleman made several wills, tearing one up and replacing it by another, but in each one he disinherited his daughter; finally, while riding on a hill side, hunting cattle, he fell from his horse, struck his head on a rock and died from the injuries. After his death the family and friends assembled to hear the will, his daughter being one of those assembled; and she learned that she was disinherited, save the rancho she already possessed, the remainder of the property being worth \$750,000. After the reading of the will she asked permission to see it, and on it being placed in her hand, she tore off her father's signature, and would have torn the entire will into shreds if she had not been prevented. She was indicted for the offence, but nothing was done; and she now appears in the courts to contest the validity of the document, on the ground that her father was unsound in mind when it was made.

THE Nevada Gazette, of the 14th inst., contains the following paragraph:

"A mortgage for the sum of ten million dollars against the Central Pacific Railroad Company and in favor of Charles Crocker and Silas W. Sanderson, as Trustees, was filed to-day in the office of the County Recorder. The mortgage covers all the railroad lands in California, Nevada, and the Territory of Utah, belonging to the Central Pacific Railroad Company, but excepts the railroad track, and all fixtures and appurtenances of the road. The mortgage purports to be given to secure the payment of 10,000 bonds of \$1,000 each. No stamps accompany the mortgage, as the bonds themselves are stamped. The bonds are specified in the mortgage as payable in gold coin, in New York city, within twenty years, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum. This is the largest mortgage ever placed on record in this county."

This paragraph calls forth an editorial article from the Sacramento Union, in which it states that just about the holiday recess, the House Committee on Appropriations introduced a bill into Congress to secure the interest payments and principal to the United States in the second mortgage bonds of the Union and Central Pacific railroads. The bill provided that all the lands granted to both of the companies should be held in trust by the United States as such security, and that the proceeds of sale thereof shall go to the Government to make good any amount of interest and principal on said mortgage bonds which the companies neglect and refuse to pay. The share of the Central Pacific in these lands, it states, is 10,000,000 acres, worth, at \$1.25 per acre, \$12,500,000. It intimates that the transfer by the Central Pacific Railroad Company of its landed interest to Charles Crocker and S. W. Sanderson is done for the purpose of "flanking

Congress," and it earnestly calls the attention of the California Senators and Representatives to the case and urges them to take prompt action in relation to it. It wants an investigation of the alleged transfer, to ascertain whether or not it was made in good faith, and at the time stated in the instrument; or whether it was an after thought to flank the action taken by the House Committee on Appropriations. The instrument of transfer was filed for record on the 11th of January, 1871; but it bears the date, so says the Union, of Oct. 1st, 1870.

THE Germantown, Pa., Telegraph of the 11th inst. records a case of self-sacrificing devotion to duty, such as is seldom to be met with, and that calls forth an involuntary sigh for the hero, who lost his life on the occasion, Mr. Enos J. Hoopes, an engineer on the Pennsylvania railroad. A westward bound train had been brought to a halt through one of its cars losing a wheel; but the momentum of the train was carrying it down a grade, the three wheeled car pitching and bumping over crosstrees &c., and making the fire fly from the iron and rocks. An eastward fast freight train, the one on which Mr. Hoopes was engineer, came along at this time, but it was dark, and as the two trains neared each other Hoopes discovered that something was wrong, but not in time to avoid a calamity. A collision occurred, in which one of Hoopes' legs was broken in four places, one of his hips crushed, and half of one of his feet torn off, and he and the fireman and brakeman were thrown back, into the tank, every man on the engine being injured. The conductor and the other brakemen were in a rear car, and as the train was not sufficiently injured to stay its progress, they remained in ignorance of the accident. Mr. Hoopes knew that if his train was not promptly stopped it would run into the hind car of a train which must stop for water three miles ahead. Poor Hoopes, crushed and bleeding, dragged himself over the prostrate bodies of his companions, to the throttle valve of his engine and shut off steam, whistled down brakes, sounded the summons for the conductor, and fell back exhausted. When the conductor came he was trying to stem the flow of blood from his wounds, and said "It is all up with me: do the best you can for me." The poor fellow lingered on in great agony until next day, when he died, lamented and respected by all his friends. The name and memory of Enos J. Hoopes deserve to be treasured up and embalmed among the heroes of his country and age.

THE aspect now presented by many localities in France, furnishes a most forcible and fearful exemplification of the horrors of war; but none more so, probably, than the district of country lying between the cities of Orleans and Tours. It is said to be fearful to contemplate. Four times since the commencement of the present Franco-Prussian contest has this doomed district been the theatre of hostilities; and an army correspondent of the London News, writing from and describing that locality, says the towns are gutted, and the farm houses and villages between them are burned, but every village, and almost every house, is crammed with wounded soldiers—Prussians, Hessians, Bavarians, Hanseatics, Mecklenburgers and French; and the fields and roads are covered with dead horses and dead men, frozen and stiffened in hideous multiplication of fantastic contortion.

THE Boston Post relates a very singular case of insanity, induced by inoculation. The subject is a medical man, Dr. Mighell, a well known physician of North End, who while examining a patient, a little over a year ago, was inoculated with a poison, which affected his head only. Before insanity set in the doctor traveled over Europe, in hope of procuring aid, but all to no purpose. The inroads of the poison were slow but sure, culminating in insanity, and the unfortunate gentleman is now a raving maniac in the asylum, at Somerville, Mass.

REGISTERED LETTERS.—By a recent order from the Post Office Department at Washington, all parties sending registered letters, or packages, are required to place their name and address on the outside; the object of this being that, in case of non-delivery from the Post Office to which they are sent, they may be returned direct to the sender without going to the dead letter office.

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TELEGRAPHIC.
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