

## A TERRIBLE STORY.

## CAPTURE OF A CRIMINAL AND CANNIBAL.

## NINE YEARS A FUGITIVE.

The following horrible particulars of the most heinous crime ever committed in Colorado are taken from the *Denver Tribune* of March 13th, and the truth of them was vouched for by General Adams, who related them to the *Tribune* reporter:

"In the winter of 1873 and spring of 1874 General Adams was Indian agent at the Los Pinos Agency, and the Ute reservation included the whole San Juan country, which was not thrown open to settlers, according to a treaty between General Adams and the Utes, until the summer of 1874. Hinsdale County had not yet been ceded, and Lake City was not thought of.

## THE CRIMINAL'S INTRODUCTION.

One cold morning in March, during the progress of a fierce wind storm, the employees of the Los Pinos Agency, as they were seated around the breakfast table, were startled by the appearance of a man at the door, who asked for shelter and food. He was invited to step in and take a seat at the table. He was given food, but was forced to keep from eating because he could retain nothing upon his stomach. This circumstance was hardly noticed, although its importance was afterwards seen, and the man explained that the derangement of his digestive organs was caused by protracted and enforced starvation. He did not have the appearance of having suffered from want of food. His face was bloated and he was apparently very healthy. His countenance was far from prepossessing, but no attention was paid to that at the time. He gave his name as Alfred Pacha, and claimed to be a nephew of Asa Pacha, of Pennsylvania. He said that he was one of a party of prospectors on their way to the newly-discovered San Juan mines. When not more than fifty miles from Los Pinos, he said, he had been taken ill, and while in that condition he had been deserted by his companions, who left him no provisions, but gave him a Winchester rifle with which to kill game if he discovered any. He regained his health and started for Los Pinos, where he arrived after several days of weary tramping, his only food being roots and a rabbit which he had killed. His story was believed, and he was taken in and kindly cared for. After remaining at the agency a few days to recuperate, he went to Saguache, which was then the nearest point to the agency and the most advanced of all the frontier towns.

## THE FIRST SUSPICION.

No more was thought of the matter until late in the month of April. At an early hour one night several Indians entered the main building, bearing in their arms the body of a man who had been found a few feet away in an exhausted condition. For twelve hours he could not speak, and then it was to tell of his companion, whom he had left behind a distance of about ten miles. This man came in two days later, after an unsuccessful search for him by the Indians. Both his feet were frozen, and he was badly "used up." In giving an account of themselves the men stated that they belonged to a party of Salt Lake prospectors on their way to San Juan in quest of gold. The party had numbered eighteen at the outset. When they reached Uncompahgre they found Chief Ouray and his followers in winter quarters. Ouray advised them to go no further, as, although there was no snow in the Uncompahgre valley, the mountain passes would be found obstructed with snow and impassable; game would be scarce, and, aside from all other dangers, the chances for death from starvation or cold would be found good. Ouray's advice was not heeded, but

## A DISSENSION AROSE

within the party as to the route to be followed. Los Pinos agency was the first point to be reached, from whence in would be an easy matter to cross the mountains to San Juan Eldorado. The man who created the dissension was named Pacha. He was in favor of reaching Los Pinos by going "across country," while the majority, with Ouray on their side, desired to follow the Gunnison river, which would bring them to the agency by a circuitous

but less dangerous route. Pacha claimed to be well acquainted with the country, and succeeded in securing five men to accompany him across the hills. These men were named Miller, Bell, Humphreys, Swan and George Noon. The two parties left on the same day, twelve men following the Gunnison, and Pacha and his followers making for Los Pinos "as the bird flies." That was the last ever seen of the six men. The party of twelve did not fare well from the beginning. They suffered from cold, storms beset them, and they lost their way. The provisions gave out, and they were in a fair way to

## STARVE TO DEATH

when they were providentially saved by a number of cowboys, who found them wandering aimlessly about. These boys belonged to a cattle ranch belonging to General Adams, which was situated where the city of Gunnison now stands. The twelve men secured food and shelter there, and there they remained until early in April. The snow had disappeared from the valley and was melting off the mountains, and two of the men considered it safe to begin the journey anew, the remainder of the party to follow in a few days. Well equipped with provisions, the men started out, and after a hard struggle the two prospectors reached the agency as described, more dead than alive. A few days afterwards the remainder of the men arrived, safe and sound, they having been favored with very propitious weather.

The incident of Pacha's arrival at the agency, and his story, was then related to the men. All of them discredited it. They were of the opinion that had he been sick the men would not have deserted him. They at once suspected

## FOUL PLAY,

and communicated their suspicions to General Adams. They said that the Winchester carried by Pacha belonged to another man, and a pipe belonging to another of the party was also identified. General Adams at once mounted an officer and sent him to Saguache for Pacha. The officer returned with his man and also brought the information that Pacha had spent several hundred dollars during his weeks' residence in Saguache, besides buying horses, etc. This information was communicated to the twelve men and convinced them that Pacha was a murderer and a robber, for it was known to them that he had but a very small amount of money when he left Salt Lake. Pacha told identically the same story to the men which he had told upon his first entry into the agency. He appeared to be greatly surprised that the men had not been heard from, and seemed to be concerned as to

## THEIR PROBABLE FATE.

There was no proof against him, however, and he explained his possession of so much money by saying it had been paid to him by a man in Saguache. It was determined to test this statement and to keep him at the agency until something definite could be ascertained. A courier was at once dispatched to Saguache, and he returned with the positive assurance that he had never been paid one penny by any one, but that he had arrived in the town with plenty of money. This was strong circumstantial evidence, but hardly enough to convict. A council of twelve men and the officers of the agency to settle the matter, was called. While it was in progress proceedings were interrupted by the entry of two very much excited Indians. The scene that followed was dramatic, sensational and decidedly sickening as to detail. The Indians bore in their hands strips of flesh, which they termed

## "WHITE MAN'S MEAT."

They had been out hunting, they said, and had found the flesh not far from the agency, on a hill. It was in good condition, the white skin, which firmly adhered, convincing all present that it had been cut from a human being; apparently from the thigh. The strips were long and thin. When Pacha caught sight of the flesh his face became livid, his breath came short, quick, and suddenly all strength left him, and with a low moan he sank to the floor. He weakened, and after begging for mercy promised to make a full confession. Liquors were applied, and he was revived sufficiently to speak fluently. Then followed a

## HORRIBLE REOITAL,

which was afterwards found to be true as to the death of Pacha's com-

panions, but untrue as to detail and causes. The twelve men were appalled by what they heard, and all except Pacha were horrified beyond expression. Pacha soon regained his composure and coolly told his awful story. His confession is given:

When the six men left Ouray's camp they carried what they thought to be provision enough for the long and arduous journey before them; but in this they were mistaken. Almost before they knew it their food had disappeared, and nothing was left but the few rabbits which they might kill with their rifles. These were hard to find, and in a day or two they found themselves on the point of starvation. Roots were dug out of the frozen ground, and on these they subsisted for some days. But roots as a means of subsistence were found to be not very nutritious. Soon there came into the eyes of the men a look of longing, recklessness and determination which has been described in sea stories, when men were offered up in sacrifice to save the lives of others. They looked at each other and they thought of how their lives might be saved by the flesh and blood of others. One day Pacha went out to gather dry wood for the fire, and when he returned he found that in his absence the first life had been

## SACRIFICED.

Lying upon the ground, dead, was the oldest man in the party, Mr. Swan. He had been felled with a club. His skull was fractured and his death had been instantaneous. Around him were congregated the four men remaining, besides himself, who were engaged in cutting up the body. Large pieces and strips were cut from the calves of the legs, thighs and breasts. Swan's money, amounting to several thousand dollars, was divided among the men. In two days the party was again out of food, and it was decided by three of the survivors that Miller, a young man, well built and stout, should be the next to go. Pacha confessed that Miller was chosen because of the great amount of soft flesh he carried. Miller was killed with a hatchet while stooping for a stick of wood. His body was dissected and the best part eaten. Humphreys and Noon followed in the same way, leaving only Pacha and Bell. In his confession Pacha described fully the feelings of the men toward each other—the distrust and fears entertained and the tendency of the men to wander off alone, fearful of meeting with their death at the hands of their companions.

Meanwhile the men had been traveling slowly, and when Pacha and Bell found themselves alone a

## SOLEMN COMPACT

was entered into between them, each one pledging himself by the living God not to kill the other, but to live as best they could, even if they starved to death. Each one had a rifle, Pacha having appropriated Swan's, and it was thought enough game could be killed to furnish two men. But the compact was speedily broken. After living several days on roots they reached a huge lake, which was skirted on one side by an extensive grove of hemlock trees. Pacha fully described this place in his confession. One day, while camped in this grove, Bell arose, seized his rifle and exclaimed, "I can stand this no longer; one of us must make food for the other right here." He clubbed his gun and endeavored to strike Pacha. The latter, who was always on the alert, parried the blow, and the rifle was broken by striking a tree. Pacha then struck Bell with a hatchet and

## KILLED HIM.

He was alone, and had no fear of death except by starvation. Cutting up the body of his companion, he ate as much as he could and then packed away considerable of the flesh about him for future use. He resumed his tramp, the sole survivor of a party of six, and in time from the top of a hill he espied the buildings of the Los Pinos agency close at hand. He threw away the human flesh he still had and arrived at the agency safe and sound. That flesh was the same the Indians had found and which had made him confess. He acknowledged that he had grown quite fond of human flesh, and coolly said that he found the breasts of the men the sweetest meat he had ever tasted.

Such was Pacha's story, coolly and carelessly related.

At the conclusion of the horrifying tale a consultation was held and it was decided to send out an expe-

dition in search of Bell's dead body. The twelve men who had listened to the confession did not believe it, and they wanted it proved or disproved. They said that Bell would have sacrificed himself rather than take the life of a friend and companion. The Indians who were consulted said that a lake such as Pacha described existed about fifty miles away, across the hills. Pacha consented to guide the expedition, which was at once formed. This search party consisted of twelve of the Utah men, two of the agency employees, and three or four Indians, all under the care of H. F. Lanter, now of Denver, and who was then clerk of the agency. The party was out about two weeks. Pacha made an excellent guide until the Lake fork of the Gunnison was reached, when he grew confused, and said that he was unable to proceed further. The party was therefore forced to return without having accomplished anything. During this trip Pacha made an attempt to

## MURDER MR. LAUTER,

whose prisoner he was, with a large knife which he had succeeded in concealing in his clothing. He was detected in the act, disarmed and placed in irons, in which condition he was sent to Saguache, where he was placed in jail.

All efforts to find the bodies of the men were abandoned by all but General Adams, who told the story of the affair to every passing prospector and advised him to keep an eye open for any signs or traces of the missing ones.

Early in June, 1874, the

## BODIES WERE DISCOVERED,

and Pacha's alleged confession was proved to be a lie. An artist named Reynolds, from Peoria, Illinois, while sketching along Lake San Christoval, near the present town of Lake City, came across the remains of the five men lying in a grove of hemlocks. The spot was the same described by Pacha as the place where Bell met his death. Four of the bodies were lying together in a row, and the fifth was lying away a short distance with his head completely severed. There were traces of a struggle about Miller, showing that the man had fought hard for his life. An examination showed that all five of the men had been assassinated. Holes made by rifle balls were found in the heads of Bell, Swan, Humphrey and Noon. Miller was clubbed to death, the instrument used being a rifle, which was found near by, broken in two. The four men lying together were undoubtedly asleep at the time. Blankets were found wrapped about two of them. The blankets had been removed from the other two for an obvious reason. All had been killed for their money. Valuable articles and money which the men were known to possess had disappeared. An inspection of the bodies showed that Pacha had actually been guilty of the revolting crime of

## CANNIBALISM.

Miller was badly mutilated and the breasts of two other men were cut away, leaving the ribs bare. Two men—those with blankets around them—were untouched. About 100 yards from where the bodies were found, and just outside the grove, a brush cabin was discovered. A beaten path led from the cabin to the spot where the bodies were found. In the cabin were found blankets and other things belonging to the dead men.

The indications were that the crime had been committed before the provisions of the party had been used up. After the murders, Pacha lived for some time in the rude cabin, and when the provisions were out he fed upon the bodies of his victims.

The discovery of the bodies created great excitement. An inquest was held and Pacha was charged with murder. When the proper officers went to Saguache to serve a warrant upon him, it was learned that only a few days before he had broke jail and

## MADE HIS ESCAPE.

Pacha was never afterward heard of until quite recently. About three years ago a man was found dead near Fort Defiance, Arizona, and as the description tallied with that of Pacha, it was thought the assassin had met his deserts by being murdered in turn. But that theory proved to be an erroneous one. On the twenty-ninth day of January last General Adams received a letter from Cheyenne, in which one of the twelve Salt Lake prospectors stated positively that he had met

Pacha face to face at that place, was traveling under the name John Schwartz, and was known to be a member of a

## GANG OF OUTLAWS

operating near Fort Fetterman, coming. Detectives were set to work, and yesterday word was received that Sheriff Sharpless, of La. County, had arrested the man Fetterman. The proper requisition papers will be made out, and the prisoner will be brought to City to expiate his crime upon gallows.

## Treatment for the Scarlet

It is as unnecessary for a child of the scarlet fever as it is for the adult to be blind with a candle. Let us see. At any time before the body has finished its internal struggle we are able to help by wonderful medicines, but the knowledge of anatomy and the application of common sense. We suit the sympathetic nerve, what it commands us to do, must give this child salt water; we must give it when it has fever and anorexia; it—not vinegar, but juice, because the first coagulum, and the latter does account of the surplus of which it contains. To imitate soothing mucus in the interior which is now wanting, and some respiratory food at the time, we add some gum arabic to restore and relieve the nerve, we apply moist warmth, practice we can fulfill all the following simple manipulations. Undress the child and bring it to the very first sign of sickness. Give it, if it has already fever, something but sourish warm lemon with some gum arabic in it. Cover its abdomen with some flannel. Take a well-folded sheet and put it in boiling water, wring it out dry by means of towels, and put this over the child's abdomen. Then the whole, and wait. The hot will, perhaps, require repeated. According to the severity of case, and its stage of progress, aspiration will commence in ten from ten minutes to two. The child is then saved; it falls asleep. Soon after the awakes, it shows slight symptoms of returning inclination food; help its bowels, if necessary, with injections of oil, soap water, and its recovery will be steady as the growth of a house plant, if well treated course, if the child was already ing, nothing could save it, has already effusions in the of the heart or brain, it is better that it should die. But above is applied in due time, the eyes and direction of a petent physician, I will guarantee that not one in a hundred child will ever die of scarlet fever. Know this will startle some of our readers, especially those who have lost children already, but I am still farther. I maintain that child will never get scarlet fever properly treated. If a child correctly mixed blood, it will catch the disorder if put in bed a sick child. This is still startling, but nothing is easier proof.—Good He h.

## BY TELEGRAPH

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH

## AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 15.—It is understood Secretary Folger has taken the position of Chief Clerk of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to John W. Corning, of Geneva, N. Y., at one time sergeant-at-law of the Legislature of New York, that he has virtually accepted appointment.

Secretary Folger is reported to-day, his improvement is, however, and it is feared his recovery will be slow.

Additional charges against visiting Architect Hill have been at the Treasury Department. The nature is not made public, said they relate to the contract expenditures for the new government building at Philadelphia. The matter is said to be of an unusual shape, and the charges reflected are not in the nature of titution of the old stories.

It is rumored to-day that General Terry may be selected president of the Hazen Court of Inquiry, two Colonels from the staff of the War Department.