A ROBBING GANG

EARLY DAYS OF GOLD MIN-ING IN MONTANA.

A Sanctimonious Sheriff Who Was the Leader of a Band of Highwaymen.

A few days ago Abraham Case of Portland, Oregan, passed through Philadelphia on a visit to his former home, in Maine. Mr. Case was one of the Argonauts, landing in California from a whale ship in '49 and his recollection of the early gold settlements are very interesting, perticularly the breaking up of the Plumer gang of outlaws in 1863. Mr. Case was a member of the Vigilantes who performed this service to be silent. the community.

In 1862 Bannock City, Mostana. was founded, and the gold discoveries on Salmon river at once attracted a numerous class of settlers, most of whom came from west of the mountains. Many of these were outlaws and ruffians of the worst kind. Mr. Dempsey, the first Sheriff of Beaverhead county, was not able to deal with these desperate characters, and Henry Plumer, a man of approved courage, waselected to succeed him.

The new Sheriff was a well-known resident, who had crossed the plains in the fifties. He had a very genial manner and as a church member was a shining light among religious people, leading in prayer and occasionally preaching at several meetings. Some of the old timers had less confidence in his morality than the general public and there were stories afloat of his intimacy with some of the bad men that had been killed or driven out of the mines.

PLUMER'S APPARENT RARNESTNESS.

The former Sheriff had done his best to put down lawlessness, and he knew well say: "We must have more than once he complained that the Dutchman, boys, or there'll be the ruffians who infested the town trouble; knife him at once if you were aided and abetted by certain find him." The poor fellow recogofficials, but he was never able to nized the speaker as his neighbor, bring these men to book. Plumer Henry Plumer. So unsuspicions went to work with apparent cornest- was he that he was about to call for ness to rid the town of its criminal aid, but refrained. Then some one population, but there was still a called out that there were men comgreat deal of horse stealing and ing down the road, and to his great murdering going on. It was notic- relief Lutz heard the murderers ed that when a handsome reward crashing through the brush. In ten was offered for a stolen horse the minutes a party of horses

around his neck looked as if it had for my life?" been twisted. A GOOD RIDDANCE.

Plumer, as usual, self-possessed and pleasant manner, said it was a good riddance and would save the the scoundrel broke down, toid all and begged for his life. But his stantiate. country expenses and the party recaptors were resolute men and in no turned to Bannock. The brothers, mood to be merciful. In ten mintaking the boy with them, saw utes Fink's saloon was surrounded James Sutton, a leading merchant, and nine men taken. Although all and told their story. Sutton comdesperadoes of the worse kind they municated with some friends and it made no resistance. was determined to watch Plumer.

He had evidently strangled McCoy By ten o'clock Plumer and his to prevent him talking. All parties associates, securely guarded and were enjoined to keep the matter a followed by almost the entire popusecret and the boy was given \$20 lation of the town, made their way and a promise of more if he would slowly up the street. The Sheriff was scarcely able to walk and ming-

About this time there came a sucled prayers with appeals for mercy. cession of daring stage robberies Ten men were strung up. that excited the public indignation.

Within six weeks Butterfield's stages were attacked three times, a driver and two passengers killed and the treasure boxes, taken. The stage agent, Mr. Regan, consulted the Sheriff, who made many efforts to

catch the thieves, without success, and then he put men on the coaches as guards and those were not molest- such as Consumption, Inflammation ed. But the truth was soon to come out. In August, 1864, astage pended upon. in the box and two passengers. About three o'clock in the morning. at a place called Bow Hill, thirty miles from the city a volley of

balls from the thicket that lined the road killed the driver and one passenger. The other, a German named Lutz, although shot through the body, managed to get out of the coach and into the brush. Here he fell into an old prospect hole and

lay concealed. RECOGNIZES PLUMER. After a time he heard the rebbers

searching for him and a voice that

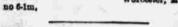
silk handkerchief that he wore out a trial. You'll give mea chance Commendable,

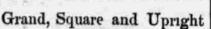
high character of Syrup of Figs are purposely avoided by the Cal. Fig "You'll have just the same chance you gave Sam Parry and Mr Lutz-Syrup Company. It acts gently on We propose to hang you inside of the kidneys, liver and bowells, cleans an hour," was the answer, and then sing the spstem effectually, but it is not a cure-all and make no pretension that every bottle will not sub-

Advice to Mothers.

rs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup should always be used for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoes. Twenty-five cents a bottle, sep 27-d-w-1v

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WAREROOMS: 112Fifth Avenue. New York, 22 and 24 E. Baltimore St., Balti. 817 Market Space, Washington, D. C. sept 18. RALEIGH & GASTON BAILBOAD. To take effect 9:30 a. m., Sunday, April 28, 1889. Trains moving North. No. 38, No. 52, Stations. Mail train. Fast Fr't. Le Raleigh, 7 10 p. m. 11 45 a. m. Wake, 12 27 8 25 Franklinton, 12 51 9 04 Kittrell, 1 10 9 35 Henderson, 1 3010 05 Litileton, Ar. Weldon, 242 p. m. 12 05 3 25 1 20 a.

Trains moving South. No. 41, No. 53, Stations: Mail train. Fast Fr't. 11 35 p.m. 1 40 a.m. 1218 2 56

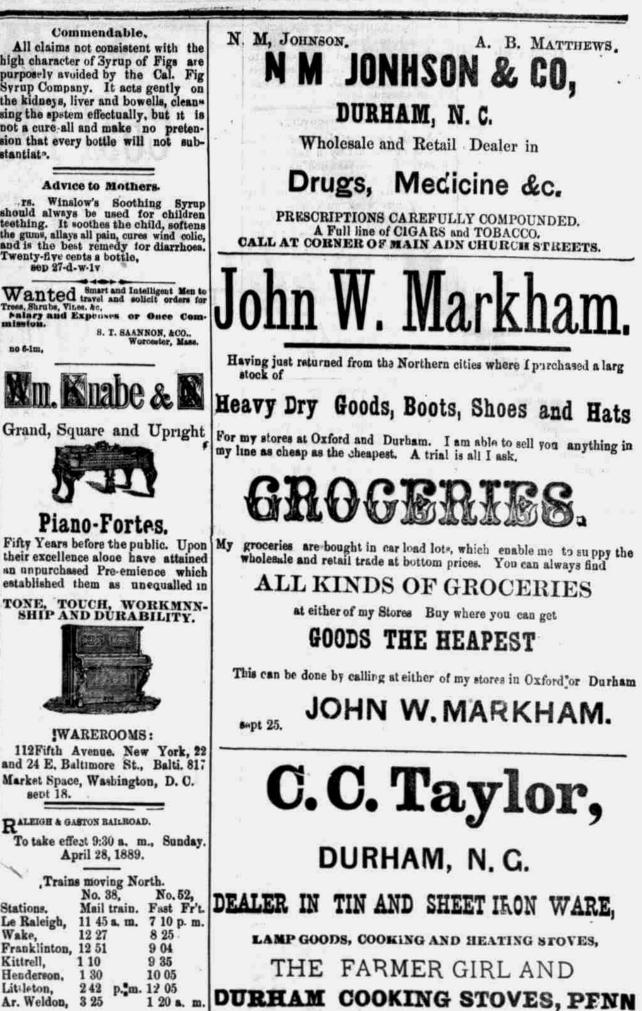
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Superintendent,

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Sheriff nearly always succeeded in up and Lutz's name was called and getting it, and while certain ruffians in a few minutes he was telling his were vigorously hunted down and story to a strong party of citizens equally bad were let alone. As pecting trouble. The wounded man everybody was making money and and the dead were placed in the driving trade but little attention was coach and all started for Bannock given to the rumors, and Plumer City. kept up his credit by occasionally raiding dance houses and the smal- man was seen crossing the road and ones were not disturbed.

In no community in the West halted he raised his gun and was at were there- more bad men at this once brought down by a charge of time, and miners coming to town to buckshot. He was charged with to be waylaid by highwaymen and the stage. After several denials he sometimes killed.

WAYLAID BY MASKED ROBBERS. One instance of this kind attracted much notice. Three brothers, named Conwell, were running a mine on Horntail creek, about twenalive and no more.

Plumer sent the two brothers in- street. Entering they listened for more. When the Canwells got back | ed and he became defiant. the robber was dead, and thd black "You can't hang me anyhow with

uen roue

horse thief named Buck. When

sell their gold were almost certain being with the party that rebbed offered for a pint of whisky to tell the truth. This was given him and the story came out.

THE SHERIPP MASKED, Plummer was the leader of the gang that had killed the driver and ty miles west from Bannock. They passengers and he had planned all started to come in, bringing about the murders and robberies that had \$3,000 worth of dust. Two miles been done within the past year, Affrom town five masked men halted ter this last outrage he and his party of them, and in the desperate fight had gained their horses and were that ensued two of the road agents making their way to the town. were shot down and John Conwell Back's horse had fallen and broken killed. The survivors horried into his leg, and so he was left to get town and notified the Sheriff. He back on foot. As he was evidently set out accompanied by the brothers dying a further supply of liquor was and a boy. When they came to the furnished him and the man left the place one of the robbers was dead, road. About 8 o'clock the party, and the other, a notorious villain numbering twenty men, got to tewn known as "Red McCcy," was just and without stopping rode to Plumer's bouse, a neat cottage on Main

to the brush to get some poles to a moment at the dinning room door. make a litter and they, taking the The scoundrel was at the breakfast boy with them a short distance, sent table saying grace, "asking God to him back to watch, as they suspect- bless the work of his hands. As ed the Sheriff for certain reasons. they entered he started up with a The boy heard Plumer tell the pleasant greeting, but grew livid as wounded man to keep his mouth Mr. Sutton seized him and said: shut and all woull come right; but "Plumer, it has all come out. We the robber cursed the Sheriff and know you now, you villain." His threatened to blow on him. The pale little wife screamed out: "Oh, next instant Plumer's hands were Henry, I knew this would be the on the man's throat and he said no end of it." Plumer's manner chang-



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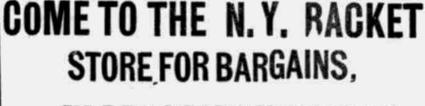
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