

hundred yards of the cabin, he would dismount and lead his animal a considerable distance beyond it. The alleged reason is obvious.

It is barely requisite to add that the lives of all stigmatized as "coppers," were rendered miserable by those superstitious fanatics; but the venom of that class was especially directed against the Bauers, they being credited with possessing the most potent power for evil.

On December 14th, 1854, a bitter, cold and stormy day, Bauer, *filis*, delivered a load of wood at one of the hydraulic mines, remaining upon the spot a short time, intently absorbed in the work of the miners. Just as he was about returning home, by a fatal coincidence, a disastrous cave occurred in that mine, killing three and seriously injuring five men. The latter were ignorant believers in the "copper" superstition, and they attributed the accident to supernatural manipulations on the part of young Bauer during his visit. This episode re-kindled the flame of hostility against Bauer and his son, and they were notified to leave the camp within twenty-four hours. The prevailing excitement was so intense that the friends of the persecuted father and son counselled them to absent themselves for a while, at least, as there was no predicting what outrage the infuriated fanatics were not capable of committing. This was at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon, and the Bauers agreed to exile themselves the following day.

Early the succeeding morning, as a peddler was driving from Camptonville, en route for Brandy City, he observed a man lying stock and stiff in death, across the threshold of Bauer's cabin. He hastened to the camp, without making an investigation, and gave an alarm. The intelligence he communicated gave birth to wilder excitement than was occasioned

by the accident of the preceding day, and one hundred and fifty men at once repaired to the scene, which proved to be one of a bloody tragedy. The dead man, frozen almost as hard as granite, was lying on his face, with a bullet hole in his right temple. When turned over, he was recognized as having been a "check guerrilla," bearing the euphonest *soubriquette* of "Poker Flat Pete." Then there was a crowding into the cabin, where all was lying about and heaped up in a topsy-turvy style. Upon a bed in a back room, was lying another gambler, "Spanish Joe," shot through the breast, and quite weak from the loss of blood. It was apparent that his sands of life were fast running down, so he was comfortably propped up and exhorted to reveal the circumstances attending the existing situation. The substance of his revelation was to this purport: He, the dead man, and four others, all known in the camp as exceedingly bad characters, were aware that it was the desire of all the gamblers, and many miners, to rid the camp of the Bauers, and as they (the six men) attributed the ill-luck, that had many months pursued them, to the "coppering" influence of the father and son, determined, on the preceding night, to take the matter into their own hands. With that fixed purpose, they visited the cabin at midnight, and demanded to be admitted. After interrogating their nocturnal visitors as to the object of their mission, and receiving no satisfactory response, the Bauers began shooting at the late comers, through a small window. The first volley brought Poker Flat Pete to his last accounting, and the second pierced the dying man's breast. At this juncture, the four others forced the cabin door, and after a fierce struggle, the father and son were gagged and spirited away. Now the dying man lost his power of speech, and soon after died.