

fyng undesirable parties who came to the city, to take their departure again, and no overt act was committed.

In February, 1866, Ferd Patterson, for years one of the most noted desperadoes on the coast, came down from the Boise mines. He expressed great contempt for the committee, and publicly insulted the head of the organization. Thomas Donahue, one of the night police, had once arrested Patterson in Portland, for the crime of murder, and when the latter saw him here he expressed an intention of killing him. Donahue heard of this threat, and decided to do the killing himself. Early in the morning of the fifteenth, he entered Boyle's barber shop and shot Patterson, who was sitting in a chair and being shaved. The wounded man jumped up and ran into Welch's saloon, whither Donahue followed him and dispatched him with two more shots from the revolver. After Donahue's arrest, the excited sports threatened to take him from the jail and hang him. Because Patterson was on their black list, the vigilantes endorsed the act of Donahue, and declared their intention of protecting him. The excitement was great, but the committee was too powerful to be resisted, and four months later they aided the prisoner to escape. In September he was arrested in San Francisco, but the vigilantes again came to the rescue, and paid the expenses of releasing him from the toils of the law in that city.

On the 9th of June, 1866, the committee published a manifesto, calling attention to the result of their efforts, and announcing that arrangements had been made whereby it would be rendered still more effective than in the past. A month later they made their last midnight raid. A man named Richa was accused of having attempted an outrage upon the person of a little girl, and he was seized by them and tried for the offense. The

family who were said to have suffered at his hands appeared at the trial and testified that he had done nothing beyond the making of an improper proposal to the young girl's mother. Richa was acquitted of the charge and released from custody by the committee, and for a time it was generally supposed he had taken his departure from the country; but on the morning of July 14th, 1866, his headless body was found under a tree on the bank of Walla Walla river, the head being still suspended from a rope secured to a limb of the tree above. It then transpired that four of the vigilantes, being displeased, for personal reasons, with the acquittal and release of Richa, had taken him from the farm house where he was employed, and hanged him, the body remaining suspended until it had been severed at the neck.

This was the last act of the committee, and it was fitting, that, when members could so take advantage of their connection with the organization to commit such outrages upon peaceful citizens with impunity, it should disband as having lived beyond the period of its usefulness. Thereafter the committee used its power only for the protection of its members, and to prevent any official investigation of its conduct. In the times of its greatest strength, both political parties had been brought under its complete control, and it dictated the election of county and city officers, and the selection of grand juries too blind to see these unlawful acts. It still maintained this political ascendancy, the people gradually arraying themselves into two factions, vigilante and anti-vigilante. In 1867, the law and order citizens called a mass meeting, nominated an independent ticket, and succeeded in electing the sheriff. The district judge advised no investigation, and thus the matter ended.

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