

plenty to keep charge of her; my arrangements being already nearly made to leave with a party for the mines, including King, who was rather troublesome to put up long in town. In these circumstances I was in no anxiety to stay, mixed up as I was with the thing; and, seeing that no harm had been done to them, neither were Captain Simmerall nor his people. One morning it turned out that the *Cornucopia* had quietly gone off; after that I considered it unnecessary to be particular about my address in town, and so got dropped out of sight without much trouble. The authorities did not seem to take it to heart. No one knew when Whitaker was to be executed, nor what would be done with the other. The excitement throughout the town grew worse than ever, and on the afternoon of Saturday, the 23d August, the storm fairly burst.

In the midst of the hubbub the fire-bells commenced ringing, which showed that the regular night-men had begun to join; the semaphores toward the Bay and Fort were cut down, preventing notice to the Government force, while all communication by the streets had been stopped beforehand. A Vigilance watch had been kept on the jail, so that none of the three prisoners had had a chance of escape; and the attack was then made on a sudden. Colonel Duggins, the Alcalde, however, again showed himself too much for those at the head. It proved that he had had soldiers from Fort Montgomery hanging about all day, who were now got together in a twinkling. And besides these he had a force of rowdies and Irish collecting behind the Custom-house, as well as a couple of field-pieces ready inside. The whole of this then came along at a rush, cleared the street, and not only rescued the three men in the act of being carried off for the committee-rooms, but captured various of the active ringleaders as State criminals. The Governor and the Alcalde then began to talk very high about carrying out the State laws, telling the committee they were known, even mentioning some by name, who were advised to look out; among these, I believe, was Mr. Malloch. Colonel Duggins stated, whether truly or not, that the United States vessels in the bight had been warned in good time; and that at the first rocket he sent up, they would bring their broadsides to bear, while the marines and blue-jackets would come ashore in force. The plain fact was, that the whole movement had got quashed so far. If the authorities had only not made too sure, but brought round the ships as alleged, Vigilance might perhaps have been heard of no more; at any rate it would have been better for the

Alcalde himself, not to speak of others, if he had found the disturbance rather harder to put down.

Next day being Sunday, everything was much as usual toward the harbour in the morning. Numbers of people were out in that direction, of course along the wharf and on the piers, while very little work was going on. The crowd was immense where the Panama steamers came in; the excitement got evident here, though no mail had been expected that day. On a sudden there was a small flag sent up at the funnel-head of a ferry-boat from Oakland, and another went up next moment at the street-corner. The truth flashed on me at once; and I had not long to wait before making sure. A perfect whoop of triumph began to run into town, bringing out crowds upon crowds till the rush on the pier got tremendous. Colonel Rigg had let his crops stand for that day, it being a half-holiday with most people at any rate, and was coming to town after all. The news spread like wildfire, and as the steamer touched the pier, a carriage-and-four came dashing out to meet it, ready to bring him without delay to the Plaza. This was apparently scarce to his taste, as he was not the man to make much ceremony; but we had a better view of him and his five sons in consequence. They were all head and shoulders above most in the crowd—regular backwood stuff, too, with rifles to match. Two committee-men followed, who had gone over to him during the night; and one of them, as I could almost have guessed beforehand, was Mr. Malloch. The whole number were got into the carriage, and next minute they were rattling into town, after which the rush behind fairly swept one along.

This time it was a very different affair. The main attempts at resistance soon gave way before the popular side. A few shots were exchanged in the by-streets, and the Alcalde had made a stand about the jail, with some of the Irish Custom-house men and desperate rowdies who struck at him. The soldiers at his orders made a firm charge to clear Washington Street, which they certainly did. But the Vigilance people had now been too sharp for them, and down they came midway in a body, falling flat over what was called a hair-barricade, prepared for the occasion. They were then disarmed and secured with ease; the governor had by that time been captured, and the Alcalde's turn came to give in. The most unpleasant accident of the business now took place. Colonel Rigg still sat in the carriage, giving directions to his sons and others, among whom was Mr. Malloch seek-