

## NOT A TENDERFOOT.

### A Female Jehu Who Passed for Thirty Years as a Man.

Santa Cruz Surf: Early in the spring of 1848 there lived near the little village of Sandusky, in Ohio, Frederick M. Parkhurst, his wife and only daughter, Charlotte, the latter at that time a young woman of twenty, and as far as can be learned, prepossessing in appearance. About the time mentioned an acquaintance sprang up between Miss Parkhurst and the town postmaster, a dashing young westerner. Their acquaintance ripened quickly into affection and love upon Miss Parkhurst's part, which seemed also to be reciprocated by the young postmaster. The old, old story was told in the little town one April day when it was found that Charlotte or "Lottie" Parkhurst, as she was known, had disappeared—gone no one knew whither. The distracted father searched for the girl for months, without success, and finally concluded that she had destroyed herself.

The California mining excitement, with its attendant sensation throughout the country, broke out in the following year, and thousands flocked to the field of gold. The railroad was unknown, stages were the only means at hand for transporting the miners to different points in the gold fields, and experienced drivers to safely convey the human freight were in demand. Their perilous exploits with the mustang teams and Concord coaches were the stories of the cabins, the camp-fire and the bar-room, none were oftener mentioned, or their daring feats recounted more than were those of young Charley Parkhurst. He was, in fact, "the whip" of the hour and pride of the "profession."

For years Parkhurst was a stage driver and a decade ago manipulated the ribbons over a team running between this city and Watsonville. To know Charley Parkhurst, or "One-Eyed Charley," as he was called, was to respect and admire him. Tiring of stage driving, Parkhurst sought more congenial pursuits and was at one time a station agent for a stage company whose coaches plied between this city and Watsonville.

After an eventful career in California, extending over a period of more than thirty years, Parkhurst was, one morning, found dead in bed. Investigation by the authorities summoned to the bedside revealed the astonishing fact that Charley Parkhurst, pioneer and celebrated jehu, was a woman.

Subsequent investigations by parties interested in the settlement of a small estate left by the deceased developed the facts given in the narrative above.

The identity of Charlotte Parkhurst, or Charley Parkhurst, as she was known in California, was established beyond a doubt.

Miss Parkhurst died on the night of December 20, 1879, and it is a singular fact that until to-day, after a lapse of over six years, no effort has been made either by public officers or friends of the woman to settle up the estate she left. Indeed, the exact value or description of the estate seems yet to be shrouded in mystery. Miss Parkhurst had, previous to her decease, told many of her friends of her lack of confidence in banks, and that she had intrusted to nature's strong box, the earth, all of her sayings.

A written note found among her effects directed the payment to one of her friends of a small amount of money found in a buckskin purse in her cabin. This, so far as is known, is all of her estate administered upon.

It may be added that at one time "Charley" Parkhurst was put in possession of and held a disputed tract of land, now valued at \$20,000, when the struggle over the property was so bitter that only a brave and determined man was believed to be equal to the task of holding it.