

' Murder ! murder ! help ! help !'

I jumped up, seized my revolvers, and darted out into the open air. The cries and screams still continued, coming from a point on the bend of the river about a hundred rods below. In a minute I was joined by five others, all well armed, and together we ran, as fast as we could, to the place from whence the sound proceeded.— When we arrived there, at least thirty men were collected in and about the tent of the dark man I have been describing, and he himself it was who had given the alarm. His partner and companion had been murdered and robbed, he himself had been slightly cut across the face, and gashed on the left arm, and was all excitement, lamenting his dearest friend, and vowing vengeance against the assassin. It was sometime before we could get at the particulars, and then we learned that both had been sleeping side by side, when an unknown robber had crawled under the canvass, stabbed one to the heart, and taken a large bag of gold from under his head. With this



A DESPAIRING SHRIEK CAME FROM THE LIPS OF THE GUILTY WRETCH.

he was escaping, when the present narrator awoke and seized him and received the wounds which had compelled him to relinquish his hold. Lights were brought, and there, sure enough, was the bloody confirmation of all that had been related.

I shall make no attempt to portray the intense excitement; the