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**THURSDAY
October 1, 1903**

And to invite ALL the ladies and the public generally TO COME and see these lines. We know that you will be pleased.

Thanking you for your patronage and asking you to keep the good work up, we are,

Respectfully,

Lancaster Mercantile Company

THE FARCE IS ENDED

AN INSIGHT INTO THE PROCEEDINGS.

The Testimony at Lexington Declared "Incompetent" in the Court—Statement of the Motives of N. G. Gonzales.

By Jas. A. Hoyt, Jr., of The State.

Nine months ago yesterday N. G. Gonzales was mortally shot by James H. Tillman. Yesterday the assassin walked forth into the world, pronounced not guilty of murder by a jury of twelve men.

To one who has set day after day in yon Lexington court house as the "investigation" into the murderer's guilt has proceeded the verdict came as no surprise. It was expected within 30 minutes after the judge closed his charge. Expected, although the whole history of criminal trials might be searched and not another case as strong and clear be found as that which was made out there by the prosecution. Expected, although one who knew the truth could scarce restrain a cry to God as he sat and listened to the assassination of Truth by Perjury and Misrepresentation—a cry to God that His own Truth was being done to death in the Temple of Justice.

This newspaper has stood for Law against Lawlessness, has stood for the integrity of the courts, for faith in the judiciary and in the jury box. N. G. Gonzales stood for these things, just as he stood for purity in public office, just as he represented nobility in private life. The State will not now abandon the principles which he made its guiding star. No judicial system in this free republic has ever had to withstand the influences which have been brought to bear in this trial; for, besides that political power which the dead man fought so bravely and ably yet unsuccessfully, to the saving of the assailant's life there has been devoted an element from his own faction. The combination of Political Power, Prejudice, Perjury and Ingratitude is very strong. It has worked out an acquittal.

THE LIVING VS. THE DEAD.

The theory is that our judicial system is constructed so as to reveal the truth and determine justice. This is the ostensible purpose of the technicalities of the law, the law which proceeds upon the idea that every man is presumed to be innocent until his guilt is proved. We might go further and justly say that every dead man whom a defendant is charged with murdering is deemed guilty from the start. At least such has been the case in this instance. In other words,

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there were brought out at Lexington certain alleged facts which gave a totally false conception of the character and disposition of N. G. Gonzales, and yet it was not "competent" to disabuse the minds of the jurors of this erroneous impression. It is competent to present that evidence to the people of South Carolina, and I present myself as a witness. There is no need to be sworn by any other oath than fidelity to a dead friend.

Unless J. H. Tillman has been justified in killing N. G. Gonzales for the editorials put in evidence, then he has been acquitted because the jury believed the defendant's plea of self defense—that he shot because he thought himself in danger of death or serious bodily harm, and that any man of ordinary reason and firmness would have reached that conclusion under the same circumstances. These circumstances consisted of alleged threats and an alleged demonstration made by the deceased. Let us first consider the threats.

THE ALLEGED THREATS.

One is narrated by one T. D. Mitchell. He swore that he approached N. G. Gonzales on the street and remonstrated with him for his persistent denunciation of Jim Tillman. "No," the scholarly editor was quoted as saying "he is a cur and I am going to fight him as long as he offers for public office." Then comes the gist of Mitchell's testimony, as follows: "Q. Did you reply to that? A. I replied to that. I said what I thought about it, and he said, "if he ever bats his eyes at me I will fill him so full of lead that he will not be able to tote it off."

"If he ever bats his eyes at me!" These the words of N. G. Gonzales. "I will fill him so full of lead that he will not be able to tote it off!" That the expression of a master of English style? The readers of The State know that its editor, now dead, wrote only the purest and cleanest language but only a few of them may know that in conversation he was as careful and exact and clean as in his editorials. I haven't any doubt that N. G. Gonzales never in his life, certainly not in his mature days, used such language as T. D. Mitchell attributed to him. His speech was so precise, his words so well chosen, his enunciation