

## CONVICIS REBEL.

### Four Hundred United States Civil Prisoners Make a Dash

### FOR THEIR LIBERTY.

### Only Twenty-six Escaped. One is Killed and Five Men

### Are Wounded in the

### FIGHT.

One man was killed, five others dangerously wounded and 26 desperate convicts are at large, as a result of a mutiny Thursday afternoon at the site of the new United States prison, two miles south of Lawrenceville, Ga., which was projected from the Federal penitentiary in charge of 3000 convicts, were at work.

When the trouble began the rebellious convicts had only two revolvers. These had been secreted in one of the walls of the building by some unknown person. The walls are partly completed and the remainder of the site of the building is occupied by high wooden stockades. Gun Parker of Anderson, S. C., one of the rebel leaders of the mutiny, under pretense of a necessity, wanted to the corner of the stockade, where the convicts were concealed, and under cover of some weeds secured them without being seen. He returned to the gang and passed one of the revolvers to Frank Thompson, a negro from South McAlester, I. T., who secreted it about his person. When T. E. Hines, superintendent of the construction, and three unarmed guards prepared to round up the men at the end of the day's work, the two armed convicts overtook them with the revolvers and encouraged by the other mutinous convicts forced the men to walk before them to the northwest corner of the stockade, where they expected to make a dash through an opening. On the outside of the stockade was an armed guard, and the convicts were met at the opening by C. E. Burrows, a guard, who fought them back, but who received two shots in the neck. The convicts then rushed over to the south wall to another opening and were met by Arthur Treloffer, an armed guard, who is in charge of all the convicts. Treloffer resisted the convicts and was shot twice, but not dangerously wounded. Defeated in their attempt to escape at this point, the men rushed to the guardhouse, a temporary frame structure, where the convicts had taken refuge. The guards from the main entrance at this point and succeeded in escaping. Most of the escaped men are from Indian Territory. Closely followed by the guards the men ran to a nearby forest and succeeded in evading their pursuers. The men went in the direction of Easton, Ga., and it is reported here that they had headed up farmers, taking horses and clothing.

## A FANATICAL MURDER.

### Says the Deed Was Demanded by the Almighty.

Elizabeth Nesbit, the wild woman of the notorious Red Expedition of St. Andrew's Parish, killed her paramour, Willie Robertson, on Sunday afternoon. The woman was arrested Thursday by Jack Holmes, one of Magistrate Strober's constables, and brought to Charleston and lodged in jail Thursday night.

Robertson and the woman had a quarrel. Both negroes had their usual supply of pop-shall liquor aboard and were in a fine humor to fight. Robertson called the woman by a name which suited her calling and she pulled a sharp pointed knife out of her stocking and with a flash and a stab into Robertson's neck. She stabbed only once, but her aim was good and the fatal wound was made. The woman, with her work and started to leave the scene. Robertson followed but soon fell to the ground and in seven minutes he was dead.

Elizabeth announced that she had been instructed by God to kill Robertson. It was a divine inspiration, she said, and at 6 o'clock Thursday afternoon she was to shake off the mortal coil and follow her paramour. Her prediction spread and the demons gathered. The woman hurriedly fled to the forest and hid in a thicket. The negroes continued to assemble, all expecting to see her lifted up bodily into heaven at the appointed hour, as she had predicted. She lay a short distance from the railroad track and when the afternoon train rolled up about the hour there were at least 500 negroes about her. She was lifted up, but only to the floor of the express car, and there was no mystery about it, either, as Constable Holmes said when he was helped by several negroes in lifting the body. The lifting process seemed to arouse the women from her state of coma and she launched off into a monologue, declaring that she was the people of R. D. and to be wiped out of existence by thunder and lightning. She was sent from the station to the jail in a patrol wagon. She soon exhausted herself and today she was resting as quiet as a lamb, having recovered from her excitement.—Charleston Post.

## LOVER WANTS OUT TO DIE.

### Young Man Shoots His Sweetheart and Kills Himself.

Walter F. Smecher, aged 22, shot and killed his sweetheart, Miss C. Richman, of the same age, Wednesday afternoon in the place of the Boulevard, the leaving man in a fine humor to fight. The woman had a quarrel with the man and she pulled a sharp pointed knife out of her stocking and with a flash and a stab into Robertson's neck. She stabbed only once, but her aim was good and the fatal wound was made. The woman, with her work and started to leave the scene. Robertson followed but soon fell to the ground and in seven minutes he was dead.

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## A MAN HUNT.

### The Escaped Convicts Being Captured

### Dead or Alive.

All the police, deputy sheriffs and farmers in the country adjacent to Lawrenceville were on the lookout Friday for the 26 Federal convicts who escaped from the stockade Thursday. As a result three convicts have been killed, another wounded and five captured unhurt. The convicts took place in a fight near Northville, Kas., and resulted in the death of captive of men.

The deputy James Hoffman, aged 25, white, a soldier convict; John Green, aged 21, white; the fourth, Willard Duke, white, aged 19, is wounded and recuperating, and the fifth, Fred Gore, aged 16, a negro, is recuperating unhurt.

The five men were discovered in the barn of Fay Webster, near Northville, Kas., about 3 o'clock Friday afternoon. Webster went into the barn and was ordered out to the point of guns. He rushed to Northville and gathered a posse of men, who with the regular officers and a few Winchester volunteers, hastened to the scene. The convicts saw the men coming and rushed from the barn. They had two shotguns and a running fight resulted. The convicts were at a disadvantage and their shots had no effect, while at every volley from the posse one of the convicts fell. After two of them had fallen, two of the others gave themselves up, one being wounded, the other unhurt. The fifth was fired 400 yards away when a man with a Winchester drew a bead on him and fired. He evidently had been hit, but tried to go on, a volley was fired at him and he fell dead.

## A GREAT SPEECH.

### Counsel Reynor's Splendid Defense of the Hero of Santiago.

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The climax of the Sobley court of inquiry Wednesday afternoon when Mr. Reynor, the chief counsel for Admiral Sobley, concluded a brilliant argument of over three hours with a protestation, so eloquent and impassioned, that all within the sound of his voice were profoundly touched. In vivid colors he painted the picture of the Brooklyn with Commodore Sobley on the deck, fighting the entire Spanish fleet until the vessel was reduced to a smoking wreck for the sake of his countrymen, he said, and Admiral Sobley's sailors' lives. He pictured the vicarious sufferings as few have suffered for three long years while the first of persecution leaped around him and now visited the hour of his vindication in the verdict of the court.

The scene in the court room as Mr. Reynor finished was thrilling. The audience had been large all day and the morning session had been equally so. The chief justice, Admiral Schley, sat in the center of the court, and on either side of him, many of whom were ladies, leaned forward in their seats. The spell of his oratory was over them and when he described the admiral's gallant deeds and the long persecution to which he had been subjected many of them broke down and wept. The members of the court displayed evidence of emotion and Admiral Schley himself was plainly moved. He sat, leaning back with his hands behind his head. His chin trembled and his counsel said he could afford to wait the verdict of posterity two big tears rolled down his cheeks. He moved uncessantly to conceal his emotion and under the pretense of adjusting his glasses brushed the tears aside. For full 30 seconds after Mr. Reynor closed there was not a sound.

Then the tension broke in a loud burst of applause. Admiral Dewey, after about a half minute, arose to remind the spectators that such a demonstration was out of place. A moment afterward the court adjourned. Judge advocate pleading that he could not well go on that day. The other remarkable thing happened. As soon as the gavel fell the entire audience of Admiral Schley and Mr. Reynor. The on-coming spectators fell back a moment as they saw Admiral Dewey and his associates move around the table, as if by a common impulse, and congratulate Admiral Schley and his counsel. Even Capt. Lemly, the judge advocate, came forward to join in the congratulations. Then the public hearing and for 15 minutes after the court adjourned Admiral Schley and Mr. Reynor were kept busy shaking hands.

Mr. Reynor made a plea for the consideration of questions from what was at that time Commodore Schley's point of view. "Let us," he said, "put ourselves in his place and see what the circumstances were. We all know now what it would have been to die."

"Dear Sir," he said, "I am now contented that the order conveyed in this message made it incumbent upon Commodore Schley to remain at Cienfuegos. He declared that this was the key to the whole case and that it did not admit of any other construction than that Commodore Schley should remain at Cienfuegos. Order No. 8, upon which the counsel on the other side had laid so much stress, he said, did not permit Commodore Schley to leave his position. That dispatch was not sent to Commodore Schley on the day that Admiral Dewey was sent to sea. Mr. Reynor said he read it as one of the most important in the campaign. When the order did not come out the next day he was satisfied he had agreed to do, Admiral Schley was still firmly convinced in the belief that Commodore Schley was in Cienfuegos.

Mr. Reynor devoted attention to messages said to have been carried by the English and to the Admiral Schley's own testimony. He said that Admiral Schley was honest when he informed the department of his increasing anxiety regarding the coal supply and that he acted according to the dictates of his own conscience. He said the question was not how long the coal would last, but whether the Brooklyn would be able to fight the Spanish fleet. Concerning the question of coal at sea, Mr. Reynor read the testimony of several witnesses to prove the great difficulty such a task involved. He said that all they wanted to prove was that Admiral Schley was honest when he informed the department of his increasing anxiety regarding the coal supply and that he acted according to the dictates of his own conscience. He said the question was not how long the coal would last, but whether the Brooklyn would be able to fight the Spanish fleet. Concerning the question of coal at sea, Mr. Reynor read the testimony of several witnesses to prove the great difficulty such a task involved. He said that all they wanted to prove was that Admiral Schley was honest when he informed the department of his increasing anxiety regarding the coal supply and that he acted according to the dictates of his own conscience.

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## SHAMEFUL ROBBERY

### Of the United States Treasury by So-Called Veterans

### UNDER PENSION SYSTEM

### Which Seems to be Rotten to the Core.

### Spanish-American

### Veterans Raiding by the

### Regiment.

In his annual report the commissioner of pensions discusses at length the faults of the present system of pensioning and the difficulties in the way of determining the merits of claims for pensions and increase. Attention is directed to the friction and unkind feeling that attends the administration of the act of Aug. 7, 1882, which provides that the open and notorious adulterous cohabitation of a widow pensioner shall operate to terminate her pension, but the absence of such a law would prevent an act of adultery and dishonor the memory of her soldier husband while still enjoying the bounty of the government, and on the other hand the widow who respects the law and honors society by legally entering into the marriage relation loses her pension.

The commissioner states that while the law is a most delicate and difficult one to administer, yet he cannot recommend its repeal. Attention is invited again to the necessity of repealing the act of Aug. 7, 1882, which swept away all limitations as to the filing of widows' claims under the general law, and he brought about conditions which are a standing invitation to the fraudulent claims, the arrears being so large and chances of detection so small. It is stated that widows' claims are usually filed within 30 days after the death of the soldier, but since the passage of the law of 1882, many claims have been filed by alleged widows of soldiers that died or were killed during the civil war. Referring to "slave marriages," the commissioner says that with a showing of witnesses, the government has no chance, and if the special examiners of the bureau endeavor to ascertain the facts, the interested parties cry aloud that "the spies" of the bureau are persecuting the poor widows.

In January, 1900, a rule was adopted requiring guardians of pensioners to render to the bureau annual accounts of their receipts and expenditures of pension money. Guardians were found to be craving pensions long after the death of their wards. Many cases were found where insane pensioners had been placed in asylums and other public institutions of indigent persons, and the officials had no knowledge that these persons were pensioners, while the pensioners had drawn the pension during the whole period. Other cases were revealed in which the guardians were appropriating the pension to their own use, while the wards were being maintained at public expense.

The report presents a number of interesting features connected with the filing of claims for pensions on account of the war with Spain and the insurance in the Philippine islands. While the civil war lasted four years and the Spanish-American war lasted only about four months with comparative few casualties, it is shown that three years after the close of the Spanish-American war, claims for pensions amounting to about 20 per cent of the number of soldiers engaged in that war had been filed, while in 1872, or seven years after the close of the civil war, only about 6 per cent of the soldiers engaged in that war had filed claims.

The commissioner states that he is not prepared to believe that those who engaged in the war with Spain, many of them sons of veterans of the civil war, were less patriotic than their fathers, or more covetous, but in his opinion it is the fault of the system of pensioning, with its active army of attorney, solicitors and crammers, who are practically licensed by the government with the promise of \$25 for each claim allowed.

## SHAMEFUL ROBBERY

### Of the United States Treasury by So-Called Veterans

### UNDER PENSION SYSTEM

### Which Seems to be Rotten to the Core.

### Spanish-American

### Veterans Raiding by the

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