

# A FIEND CAUGHT

### And Narrowly Escaped Lynching For an Attempted Assault

# ON A LEXINGTON LADY

### The Fiend Watched the Home of the Lady Until Her Husband Left for His Work. When He Attacked Her in the Yard and Knocked Her Down and Choked Her.

A dispatch from Lexington says Coot Lever, the negro who attempted to criminally assault the young wife of a prominent Dutch Fork farmer, at her home near Piney Woods Church Monday afternoon between the hours of 1 and 2 o'clock, was lodged in the Lexington jail by Deputy Sheriff Miller Tuesday morning about 2 o'clock, after the most exciting race that officer has ever known. Lever was captured in the house of another negro near the town of Chapin.

The train for Columbia was soon due, and it was the first intention of the officer to carry his man by rail, but before the train arrived Mr. Miller heard the posse coming on horseback and he at once secreted the negro until a buggy could be secured. In the meantime the angry crowd was scouring the whole neighborhood round about, seeking the whereabouts of the deputy.

As soon as possible Constable L. L. Roof hitched up his horse and met Mr. Miller a few hundred yards away and the journey of fourteen miles to the court house was begun. As the party rode over the rough hills of Dutch Fork, they often imagined that they heard the sound of horses' feet right behind, and by the use of the whip the horse was made to increase his speed. When the river was reached, it was found that the ferryman, Mr. James Wise had gone "possum hunting." Realizing that the time must be lost, Mr. Miller told the wife of the ferryman that he would leave the flat on the other side, and the river was crossed.

Almost before the officers had crossed, however, they heard the crowd ride up to the banks of the river on the opposite side. But that was gone, and their plans were again foiled for the time being. By the time the parties on horseback crossed the river, the officers had almost reached Lexington. However, in the hope of overtaking the men with the negro, eight of the party rode on to Lexington, arriving there about fifteen minutes after the officers. They rode up to the jail armed to the teeth, and asked about the negro, but no attempt at violence was shown.

While Deputy Sheriff Miller was talking to the crowd, Constable Roof had Lever hid away in the garden, the posse arriving before the negro could be placed in a cell. Some of the horseback riders had come the whole distance of eighteen miles bareback, so determined were they to bring vengeance upon the assailant's head. The negro was kept in the jail until news was received that a mob was forming, when he was removed to the Penitentiary just in time to avert an attack upon the jail.

# SENTENCED TO BE HANGED

### For a Crime Committed in Berkeley Nine Years Ago.

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Following the killing Edwards left Berkeley county, and was not heard from until about six months ago, when his address was learned by Sheriff Causey through some letters which he wrote to persons living in Berkeley county. It was ascertained that he was living in Jacksonville, had married again and had several children by his second wife, and was working hard and living comfortably, although he is said to have been rather shiftless before he disappeared from Berkeley. He was brought back by Sheriff Causey, who is credited with some clever work in the matter, and the case was brought for trial at the last term of Court, and was continued.

Edwards is a man about 40 years of age. It is not anticipated that an appeal will be taken. He was represented at the trial by John O. Edwards, Esq., while Solicitor Hildebrand handled the case for the State.

# WON'T REACH TEN MILLION

### National Ginners' Association Issues Its Monthly Report.

From Memphis, Tenn., J. A. Taylor, president of the National Ginners' association, Friday issued the following bulletin:

"Complete returns indicate a maximum crop of 9,750,000 bales, not including linters or repacks. Minimum figures 9,456,000.

"The heavy falling off is over the belt except in Georgia and the Carolinas, where there is about as good a crop as last year on a little smaller acreage.

"Maximum report by States: Alabama, 969,000; Arkansas, 644,000; Florida, 60,000; Georgia, 1,870,000; Louisiana, 239,000; Mississippi, 958,000; Missouri, 848,000; Oklahoma, 287,000; South Carolina, 1,185,000; Tennessee, 253,000; Texas, 2,399,000. Total, 9,750,000.

"The ginners say the small yield is largely due to the smallness of bolls and low yield of lint. As the crop is so near ginned, we will probably not make our December estimate."

The cotton crop in 1908 was 11,581,829 bales, while in 1907 it yielded 13,550,750.

# Very Small Crop

United States Senator E. D. Smith is in receipt of a letter from Statistician R. L. Neal, with advance sheets of a circular to be sent out, showing that, after a trip over the South, the most careful estimates of the cotton crop this year indicate a possible cotton crop of 10,520,000 bales, agreeing with a recent estimate issued by Senator Smith. From exporters Senator Smith learns that it is expected, if the government confirms private advices, cotton will be found to reach family prices.

# Burns in the Air

At Hamburg on Tuesday Pequet was making a flight in an aeroplane at a considerable height when flames broke out. A moment later the benzene tank exploded. Pequet succeeded in gliding to the earth, but the danger of burning to death was so pressing that he jumped from the machine, while it was 15 or 20 feet in the air.

# Scalded to Death

A dispatch has been received from friends at Rock Hill from Dr. J. P. Crawford of Nashville, Tenn., conveying the sad intelligence of the death of the latter's oldest child, Edward. A few days ago while sitting at the supper table, he in some way overturned a pot of boiling water on himself and was severely burned, dying from the effects.

# Twelve Are Killed

A search lasting throughout the night in the mine of the Cambria Steel Company at Franklin, Pa., where an explosion occurred Sunday evening, failed to increase the number of fatalities. Twelve men were killed outright, one is dying and three are seriously injured.

# Pointed Paragraphs

You can tell how insecure a girl is by how sincere she seems.

The Lord made man the ruler of the world and woman the ruler of man.

Is the whiskey firm's delivery wagon what you would call a "pony cart"?

# TAKES CORN PRIZE

### A MARLBORO YOUTH OUTSTRIPS ALL HIS COMPETITORS.

### A. B. Usher Produces 132 1-2 Bushels on an Acre and Thereby Wins First Honor.

The Bennettsville correspondent of The State says the farmers of Marlboro county are very proud of the past as well as the present record enjoyed by Marlboro. As will be remembered, it was our own Capt. Z. J. Drake of Drake, Marlboro county, who a few years ago won the champion prize offered by the American Agriculturist for the largest yield of corn produced on one acre of land. This corn was weighed and measured by a sworn commissioner appointed under government requirements, the yield being 254 3-4 bushels, which so far has been the largest yield on one acre not only in the United States but in the entire world. Capt. Drake received the \$1,000 awarded by the United States government. The State correspondent saw this corn two or three times while growing, and he was not present when gathered and measured, yet he is frank to say that he never saw so much, since or before while growing on one acre of ground.

Last year and year before, B. E. Moore of Marlboro county, won the State prize, the yield last year being 172 bushels on one acre.

The United States government, through Dr. Knapp, this year organized what is known as the "Boys' contest" in many counties throughout the corn growing States of the United States. About one dozen boys, ranging in age from 14 to 18 years, entered the contest in Marlboro county. Last Monday specimens of this corn from various farms were artistically arranged in the court house, making a most attractive and creditable exhibit.

At 2:30 p. m. interesting exercises were held in the court house, speeches were made by Prof. D. N. Barrow of Clemson college, and Mr. W. A. Williams, State agent of the farm demonstration work.

Prof. Barrow emphasized the necessity and importance of properly selecting seed and imparting valuable information as to the growth and character of the plant. Mr. Williams explained in a most practical manner the aims and purposes of the farm demonstration work and urged the young men and boys present to enter the contest next year.

Prof. Barrow delivered the prize won by the boys in Marlboro county and each acre of corn was measured by a specific committee appointed by the farm demonstration officials in this State.

Master A. Bascome Usher of Trightsville township, received the 10 gold prize given for the largest yield on one acre, which was 132 1-2 bushels.

Master Ernest Fletcher of Brownsville township, received the 5 gold prize for the largest yield after oats—he having raised 45 bushels of corn on the same acre.

Mr. Williams stated that young Mr. Usher had outstripped all competitors from Virginia to Oklahoma, and would get the free trip to Washington city, and that the government would pay him \$2 per bushel for 25 bushels of his corn. So Marlboro remains in the front rank, and from the expression of determination in the faces of the boys who attended these exercises, she will continue to hold the "belt" as the champion corn growing county in the United States.

# SEVEN ESCAPE

### Prisoners Break Out of the Greenville Jail and Six Get Away

# KEEPER IS OVERPOWERED

### Warden Phillips, Who Was the Only Officer in the Jail When the Delivery Took Place, Was Badly Bruised in Attempting to Stop the Escaping Men.

Seven negro prisoners, several of whom were under life sentences, escaped from the Greenville jail Monday night and six of them got away, knocking Warden Phillips down and running out of the back door into the streets. The delivery occurred about 6:40 o'clock, there being no officer in the jail at the time with the exception of Warden Phillips. The latter is badly bruised but suffers no serious hurt.

One of the prisoners, Will McCullough, was captured soon after the occurrence by Reuben Magnoil, a constable for one of the magistrates. The jailer and several officers have gone in pursuit of the remaining six, but at last reports none of them have been captured.

Those prisoners who escaped were on the upper floor. Their names are: Daniel Gambrel, John Guffe, Sonnie Huff, Frank Deal, Arthur Johnson, Hubert Henry and Will McCullough. John Guffe was under sentence to be hanged for the murder of his wife, execution of this sentence having been postponed until the supreme court could decide upon the appeal, which has been made in the case.

It is stated that about 6:30 o'clock some one brought up some food or other stuff for the prisoners. They were taken up to the second floor of the jail and in order to carry the goods into the ward where the prisoners were Mr. Phillips, before unlocking the outer door, ordered the prisoners who were inside to go into their cells.

Some of the prisoners did so, and Mr. Phillips thinking that all had gone in, opened the door. It had grown very dark in the corridors, which the prisoners had been could not be distinctly seen. The seven prisoners secreted themselves in this end of the corridor and answered to the jailer, who thought they were all in the cells.

He opened the door and when inside, as he walked up the corridor he was suddenly seized by Arthur Johnson and slung backward toward the corridor. The remaining prisoners immediately made a break for the door and succeeded in reaching the street. Johnson attempted to follow them, but he was held by the jailer, and in his hurry to get away he dragged the latter half way down the stairs before he was released.

All reached the street through the back door and McCullough, who it seems, took a different route from the others, ran up toward Main street. He was captured within ten minutes after escaping.

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# THE SOUTH AS A CREDITOR

### What a Good Price for Cotton Does For This Section.

The New York Journal of Commerce of recent issue contained the following:

"The New York correspondent of Southern banks, according to statements made yesterday, during the past two weeks have received many requests from J. Lewis Mace and Dixon's line for the purchase of commercial paper in appreciable quantities. One large bank here within a week has received more than a dozen such requests, some of them aggregating as much as \$250,000. The bankers here point out that this is an unusual condition in the South. In other years at this season, when the cotton crop is moving, the banks of this section have been hard put to it to find enough money to supply the pressing needs of their customers. The high price of cotton prevailing and the prosperity in the iron and steel industry are principal reasons for the strong financial situation in the South, according to findings of those who have investigated."

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# A STAGE STRUCK

### Girl Lured From Her Home by Promises of a Lucrative Career is

# RESCUED BY THE POLICE

### The Poor, Foolish Young Woman Was Found Traveling With a Man Who Said He Was a Vaudeville Artist, But Who is Thought to Be a Forger.

While her grief-stricken mother and sisters for the past two weeks have been making futile efforts to locate pretty 17-year-old Lalla Vollmer, the girl lured by promises of a lucrative career in the glittering glare of the footlights, has been traveling through the South in company with Nathan C. Hill, alias N. H. Clark, a pseudo vaudeville artist.

Despite wires to every Southern city of any importance the mother of the young girl, Virginia Vollmer, of 294 Piedmont avenue, Atlanta, Ga., could find no trace of her until Tuesday night, when she received a wire from William J. Erwin, treasurer of the Lyric theatre in New Orleans, who stated that the girl was in the care of his wife in that city.

Miss Lalla Vollmer, an elder sister of the girl, immediately made arrangements to bring her back to her mother, and on Wednesday morning she left for New Orleans for that purpose.

According to dispatches received in Atlanta, Miss Vollmer was taken into custody by the New Orleans police at the request of Chief Jennings of Atlanta, who was acting with the mother in an attempt to locate the girl. She was not held in the police station, however, but given over to the care of Mr. Erwin, who had previously received a letter from her sister asking that he attempt to locate her. She will remain with Mrs. Erwin until her sister can bring her back to Atlanta.

According to the story said to have been told the police in New Orleans by Miss Vollmer, she had first met Clark or Hill through an advertisement in a local paper, in which he stated that he wanted a young girl to take a part in a vaudeville performance. Miss Vollmer answered the ad, it is said, and Clark immediately called on her at 612 Peters building, where she was working as a bookkeeper.

Clark made glittering offers, it is said, saying that he needed a partner in the vaudeville sketch in which he was booked at a number of well known houses. He offered the girl \$40 a week, it is claimed.

Fearing that parental objection would thwart her cherished ambition to go before the footlights, without saying that she was leaving her regular work, Miss Vollmer met Clark at the Terminal station, so she says, to learn of the proposed engagement.

According to the dispatch, Clark gave the girl drugged coca-cola, and then took her to a hotel, where they registered as man and wife. After that they traveled under different names, stopping at a number of cities en route to New Orleans. They were often in financial straits, it is alleged, and Clark is said to have attempted to cash a number of checks as well prevailing upon her to sign a check for \$10, using the name of Miss N. Clark.

Their last stop was in Meridian, Miss., where, so the police are informed, on account of lack of funds, Clark was forced to sleep in the park while Miss Vollmer registered at a hotel as Miss Clark.

On Monday it is said they scraped together enough money to pay their fares to New Orleans. There Miss Vollmer is said to have left Clark in an attempt to get work. She was then located by the police with the result that she was given over to the care of the Erwins.

Mrs. Virginia Vollmer, the mother, who went to Atlanta two years ago from North Carolina, states that she does not believe the report in full.

"Lula has been stage-struck for two years," she said, "and I have always feared that she would make an attempt to go on the stage. I believe that even if the man did lure her she would have come to her senses at once and left him. Further, I believe that they have been in New Orleans for the past two weeks instead of traveling around the country as the report says."

"Always hoping for a chance to go on the stage I am sure that she accepted the man's plausible story and once she feared that I would place obstacles in her way as I have always been opposed to her idea of going on the stage, she arranged to leave for the trumped up engagement in the New Orleans theatre, accepting the man merely as manager through which she could gain her cherished desire."

"Lula, my oldest daughter, left early Wednesday morning for New Orleans, and in two days I hope to have my daughter, whom I can not blame for anything except her girlish desire to go on the stage, with me again."

Miss Lalla Vollmer is well known in Atlanta. She at one time did newspaper work in North Carolina and has had several stories accepted by well known magazines.

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# FIGHTING THE FARMER

### WHAT A FARMER'S UNION PAPER SAYS ABOUT THE MILLS.

### Shutting Down, and Claims That It Is an Effort to Keep the Cotton Grower Down.

The following articles from the Farmers' Union News, of Union City, Ga., bring out some things about the mill curtailment that we never heard before. The first article says:

The presidents, vice presidents and owners of cotton mills throughout the South are organized into what is called the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association. Such men as S. B. Tanner and D. A. Tompkins of Charlotte, N. C., E. A. Smythe of Greenville, S. C., and others, who were worth no more than the rest of us, estimated at least in this world's worldly goods, until the recent rise of cotton mill this side of Mason and Dixon's line. They were some of the pioneers in this fabulously prosperous field of business. Their cotton mills and others have paid enormous dividends, in many cases as much as from ten to forty per cent profit on highly watered stock.

And yet the present president of the A. C. M. A., Mr. Lewis W. Parker of Greenville, S. C., at the instance of Smythe, Tompkins and Tanner, has just called a meeting of the board of governors for the purpose of fighting the increase in the price of cotton to thirteen cents by shutting down the mills, or at least running them on half or quarter time. Some of these men whose fortunes are increasing by leaps and bounds as a result of their manufacturing cotton, ride in automobiles live in the most luxurious homes, and even spend their summers abroad, enjoying all the very best things of life, while we producers of the raw material, the basis of their income, struggle from early morning until dewy eve in order to keep body and soul together.

And when we get together for the mere purpose of securing a fair price, we are the mere cost of producing cotton, they prepare to fight us tooth and nail, in this brutal fashion. But this is not the first instance. Mr. Dante Alighieri Tompkins of Charlotte, then president of the A. C. M. A., went abroad in 1907, the present president of the A. C. M. A., got up a conference of European cotton manufacturers for the purpose of diverting foreign immigration to the South in order to break the back of the Farmers' Union and increase the supply of cotton produced, so that only mere existence price for the raw materials would prevail. Yes, Mr. Smythe, Mr. Parker and other mill men of South Carolina even raised some twenty odd thousand dollars to send Commissioner Watson of South Carolina abroad to bring in two cargoes of foreigners for this purpose.

Gentlemen, gentlemen, you live among us, your lives and your families, and your property is mingled with ours, and your prosperity, your daily walks are among us, from those humble ranks you have risen upon our industry and toil. There is such a thing as having none of the milk of human kindness and being absolutely unsympathetic and callous to the struggling masses, their sorrows and hardships, around you, but have care, lest you kill the goose that are laying your golden eggs. If any one doubts our statement let him but read that well-known manufacturers' magazine, The Textile Record, August, 1908, published by Lord and Nagle, Boston and New York, page 538, where is printed a summary of Mr. Tompkins' speech, and it is stated among other things that Mr. Tompkins told the European manufacturers plainly what was and is the only way to increase adequately the world's supply of cotton, namely, to stimulate and divert foreign immigrants by the wholesale to the Southern States.

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Edwards is a man about 40 years of age. It is not anticipated that an appeal will be taken. He was represented at the trial by John O. Edwards, Esq., while Solicitor Hildebrand handled the case for the State.

# THE SOUTH AS A CREDITOR

### What a Good Price for Cotton Does For This Section.

The New York Journal of Commerce of recent issue contained the following:

"The New York correspondent of Southern banks, according to statements made yesterday, during the past two weeks have received many requests from J. Lewis Mace and Dixon's line for the purchase of commercial paper in appreciable quantities. One large bank here within a week has received more than a dozen such requests, some of them aggregating as much as \$250,000. The bankers here point out that this is an unusual condition in the South. In other years at this season, when the cotton crop is moving, the banks of this section have been hard put to it to find enough money to supply the pressing needs of their customers. The high price of cotton prevailing and the prosperity in the iron and steel industry are principal reasons for the strong financial situation in the South, according to findings of those who have investigated."

This shows how important it is for all of us, cotton mill included, to do all we can to keep the price of cotton up as high as we can. A good price for cotton means prosperity for all interests in the South. Then why should any Southern interest undertake to bear the cotton market.

# TOO MUCH BOOZE

### Being Used in Marlboro County to Suit Grand Jury.

Over in Marlboro county they have had prohibition for forty odd years, a long, long time before the old State dispensary system was ever conceived of, and when the dispensary did come Marlboro did not join in, but remained dry. The grand jury of that county has just made a presentment in which it calls attention to the large and increasing amount of whiskey consumed by the people of the county. The status of affairs will prove interesting in view of the fact that fifteen other counties of the State are about to embark upon the prohibition boat and the working of the law in these counties is going to be watched closely.

# USED THE TORCH

### TO HIDE THE MURDER OF SEVERAL PERSONS.

### To Secure Hired Gold Dollars Friends Slay a Family and Set Fire to Home.

The charred bodies of three members of the family of George Hood, an aged white man, were found Tuesday in the ruins of the Hood house at Harper, and the body of George Hood was removed while the flames were still at their height.

The house was destroyed by fire Monday night for the purpose, the police believe, of covering up a quadruple murder. Robbery is believed to have been the motive for the crime.

From the ruins the charred and blackened corpses of Washington Hood, aged 35 years, his sister, aged 27, and their niece, aged 12 years, were taken. The body of George Hood, 70 years old, had the head almost severed, as was seen when it was dragged from the house.

The burned building was a two-story frame structure, the upper floor being occupied by the Hoods, while in the rooms below was a restaurant conducted by a negro. The theory is that the house was fired after the inmates had been murdered, though there is not the slightest clue as to the perpetrator. Officers immediately went to the scene with bloodhounds, but it is said that the dogs failed to find a trail. The robbery theory was suggested by the fact that Washington Hood Saturday had shown over \$100 in the negro restaurant.

A younger Hood was attending services at a church near the home and it was from the church the flames were first seen. Hood rushed madly from the church. He fought his way into the home, which was already a roaring furnace, and forced his way up the steps until he stumbled over the corpse of his father. He managed to drag the body down the stairs and out into the yard, but when he attempted to go for his sister, brother and little child he found every entrance closed by the furious flames. When the flames had subsided, the ruins were searched and the charred corpses found.

There seems little doubt that Washington Hood's throat had been cut before the fire was started. The money that Washington Hood had exhibited in the negro restaurant the night before the fire, was all in gold, but no trace of it was to be found in the ruins.

# SENTENCED TO BE HANGED

### For a Crime Committed in Berkeley Nine Years Ago.

James Edwards was convicted of the murder