

FOUND GUILTY

And Deposed from the Ministry and the Church.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

To the General Conference of the Church Given by Creighton, Who Says He Will Fight the Case to the Bitter End. Some Plain Talk.

The jury of thirteen from the South Carolina Conference appointed Bishop Wilson to try the Rev. O. W. Creighton, of the Christian Appeal, for libeling the presiding elders of the conference in stating that they constituted a ring to control the conference and that for years they had been grafting on the people and the preachers by being able to control the appointments, reported its verdict to the conference Wednesday morning. The verdict "sustains the charge" and finds that "he is hereby deposed from the ministry and is expelled from the membership of the Methodist Episcopal church, South."

Three of the thirteen voting members of the jury refused to sign the report. They are the Revs. J. B. Traywick, W. B. Wharton and W. H. Atrial.

Soon as the report was read, and it was received in silence, there being no discussion of it under the church law, Rev. A. O. Coker, a defense witness and a strong supporter of Mr. Creighton, arose to a question of personal privilege.

"All I want to say," he began trembling with emotion, "is that if that verdict is true and correct, similar charges should be brought against three-fourths of the membership of the church in this state, for the same talk is being indulged in against the ring Mr. Creighton has attacked throughout this—"

"I rise to a point of order," said the Rev. Dr. John O. Wilson, at one time a presiding elder and for a number of years editor of the Southern Christian Advocate, jumping to his feet and interrupting Mr. Mann.

The point was at once sustained, and after the Rev. Dr. J. W. Daniel, attorney for Mr. Creighton, had given notice of appeal to the general conference which meets three years hence, the conference formally adjourned and the annual appointments were read. About two-thirds of the members of the conference had left the city in spite of Bishop Wilson's request that members leave only on permission of the conference, and only a small crowd heard the verdict. Mr. Creighton did not appear on the floor of the conference.

He says he has just begun his fight against what he terms the ring controlling the conference and that he proposes to preach and lecture throughout the state in addition to carrying on a most stinging campaign in his newspaper. He says he is laity knows that he is right.

"Of course the verdict is a severe blow," said Mr. Creighton, "but I do not feel cast down or discouraged. The jury was packed with men prejudiced against my case. The Rev. Mr. Walker, for instance, who heads the list, conducts a negro school in Augusta, and everybody knows that I have attacked that sort of thing unbecomingly as the cause of friction between the races in the south.

"There was ample evidence from the Rev. Messrs. C. B. Smith, A. B. Watson, P. A. Murray, A. Coker, and others, to sustain the charges I preferred against the presiding elders and others controlling the conference through the appointments, nine-tenths of which they state, that they constitute a ring to run things, and graft on the preachers and the people. They did not allow me to have a stenographer, but we will demand a transcript of the evidence from their stenographer, in order to perfect the appeal."

Following is a copy of the verdict: The committee appointed to try the case of O. W. Creighton, charged with gross immorality, report that he has carelessly and prayerfully considered the same and find as follows:

Charge 1: Specifications 3, 4, 5, 10 and 13 are sustained. Charge 2: Specifications 4 and 6 sustained.

And that these specifications sustain the charge, and he is hereby deposed from the ministry and is excluded from the membership of the Methodist Episcopal church, South.

(Signed) George Williams Walker, I. McLeod, A. N. Brunson, J. D. C. O. Herbert, W. M. Duncan, H. Holroyd, D. Tiller, John G. Smith, L. L. Bedenbaugh, committee.

F. Beatty, chairman; J. H. Homan and S. B. Harper, secretaries.

It should be explained that charges

1 and 2 are not different except as to time. The offense under the first charge occurred prior to the last conference and others occurred since the last conference.

The presiding elders Mr. Creighton attacked were H. W. Bays, J. S. Beasley, John E. Carlisle, H. B. Brown, W. P. Meadows, Marion Dargan, R. H. Jones, E. P. Taylor and J. W. Kilgo.

Following is a summary of the charges against Mr. Creighton, on which the committee acted:

Charge 1. "We charge O. W. Creighton with gross immorality."

Charge 2. "We charge O. W. Creighton with gross immorality, which said gross immorality occurred subsequent to the last annual conference, but before the investigating committee began its work."

This alleged gross immorality consisted of lying and slander as specified in the detailed charges.

The specifications under these two charges on which Creighton was found guilty and the report of the committee was based are, in brief, as follows: "Specification No. 3, under charge 1: The assertion made by Mr. Creighton that the presiding elder exercise the power of a self-perpetuating body, in violation of the laws of the church, this assertion being denominated on the specification as follows: Specification No. 4: The assertion that the presiding elders shelve men who for any reason do not sympathize with them and approve their methods, promote those who stand by them and support each other in doing it, this assertion being declared to be maliciously false.

Specification No. 5: The assertion that the presiding elders agree upon a method of forcing up their salaries in violation of the law of the church. Specification No. 7: An editorial in the Christian Appeal of March 19, 1905, in which it was charged that the presiding elders were guilty of heartless conduct in grinding and exacting exorbitant proportion of the preachers' salaries.

Specification No. 9: An editorial in which the following occurs: "When we take into consideration the competency and efficiency of the presiding elders and the amount of service which they render to the church, we discover a clear case of graft." The presiding elders mentioned in this connection are Rev. W. J. Stokes (since deceased), Revs. W. P. Meadows, J. S. Beasley, J. W. Kilgo, H. B. Brown and H. W. Bays.

Specification No. 10 refers to an editorial in the Christian Appeal, attacking the Rev. E. O. Watson, who was at that time acting as editor of the Southern Christian Advocate, and who had in that paper called on Mr. Creighton to specify what he meant by the use of the term "graft." Mr. Watson is referred to in this editorial in contemptuous terms.

Specification No. 13 relates to an attack on Rev. Dargan, who had assumed personal support of a missionery at an expense of \$750.

The article calls this contribution by Rev. Mr. Dargan "A conscience fund."

Under charge No. 2, specification 4 relates to Creighton's charge that the presiding elders of the Southern-Carolina conference brought charges against him that they knew to be false. Specification No. 6 relates to an article by Mr. Creighton, referring to Mr. R. H. Jones and co-conspirators, charging conspiracy of the part of the presiding elders.

The other specifications which are not referred to in the report of the trial committee, it is presumed, were not sustained for lack of sufficient evidence. They were of the same general character as those which were sustained and which are outlined above, being based upon other articles of the same nature in the Christian Appeal.

The character of Creighton was first attacked in conference two years ago and a committee of investigation was appointed. This committee consisted of Rev. M. L. Carlisle, Rev. T. C. O'Dell and Rev. R. W. Barber. The committee reported in 1905 at Spartanburg that they did not have sufficient evidence on which to go to trial of the charges and recommended that the case be left in the hands of the presiding elder, in whose district Mr. Creighton was stationed. This presiding elder was W. T. Duncan, of the Cokesbury district. Mr. Creighton appointed the following committee to investigate the charges; Rev. T. C. Odell, W. A. Massabean and Peter Stokes. Their report was made at the present session and upon that report the committee of trial was appointed whose report was submitted Thursday.

Water Comes High. Water seems to be a scarce article in some parts of California. The Greenwater correspondent of the Sacramento Bee says there was a water famine in Greenwater last week, and for three days the precious fluid sold at \$20 a barrel and at \$1 a gallon in small quantities. The supply comes from Allen's well, thirty miles east of Greenwater, and when the teams played out under the heavy traffic the price jumped up. Finally new horses and a bigger tank were secured and the price dropped to \$7 a barrel. There are more than a thousand people in Greenwater, and the nearest water is thirty miles away. A full sized bath costs about \$10.

New Jersey was carried by the Republicans, but the Legislature is so constituted that Senator Dryden may fail of re-election. In the Chicago election a negro was elected municipal judge and another a county commissioner. An official of the Provisional Government of Cuba declared it would be impossible for the Americans to get away in nine months. Heroism is generally a foolish act with a successful termination. The President has announced the appointment of Attorney General Moody as justice of the Supreme Court. Governor Hooh, of Kansas, is still in danger, but the Republicans confidently claim his re-election. The Democrats charge fraud. We have observed that the better the family the less fuss there is made over the announcement of a wedding in it. When a married woman hears about women who are working on salaries she is liable to say: "Well, I earn all I get." President Roosevelt will receive the Ute Indian chiefs at Washington as soon as he returns from the Panama Canal zone.

HUNG AT LAST.

Old Man Rawlins and Alf Moore Side by Side.

PAY DEATH PENALTY

For the Murder of the Carter Children a Few Miles From Valdosta, Ga.

On the Gallows Rawlins Declared His Boys Innocent.

J. G. Rawlins and Alf Moore were hung at Valdosta, Ga., on Tuesday of last week for the murder of Willie and Carrie Carter, two children of Rev. W. L. Carter, who lived on a farm adjoining Rawlins' a few miles from Valdosta. Both Rawlins and Carter were Baptist preachers. Several years ago a dispute arose as to the line between their respective farms. Litigation and bad blood resulted. Carter was wounded by a shot from ambush and had Rawlins arrested on the charge of attempted murder.

THE CRIME. On July 13, 1905 a night attack was made on the Carter home. Two of the children, Willie and Carrie Carter, were shot just outside the house and shots were fired without effect at Carter and his wife and other daughter. The wounded boy managed to drag himself to the house and informed his parents that Milton and Jesse Rawlins had shot him. He died the next day. After shooting the children, the attacking party attempted to set fire to the house, but were fired upon and driven off without further casualties.

The trial, which lasted two weeks, resulted in a verdict of death for the elder Rawlins, his sons Milton and Jesse, and Alf Moore who was a negro. The third son, Leonard Rawlins, was given a life sentence, as accomplice. Every legal expedient was resorted to, but the verdicts have been sustained in each instance. The conviction of all the men was secured chiefly through the confession of Alf Moore, who claimed that he and the boys were present at the Carter house when the children were shot, but that the shooting was done by Milton Rawlins. Moore claimed that old man Rawlins was the instigator of the whole crime, and that he and the boys carried it out.

THEIR LAST VISIT. Side by side the white man and the negro, principals in the bloodiest tragedy that has ever shocked the heart of south Georgia, paid the penalty of crimes upon the gallows in Lowndes county jail, before an approving party of probably fifty witnesses. The scene leading to the execution was at times pathetic and then at times almost sensational in their human interest.

At 9 o'clock, Mrs. Rawlins and her two grown daughters, all dressed in black and weeping, were permitted to enter the prison corridor. They remained with the condemned husband and father until 9:50, when they left after the final good-by had been said. As the heavily veiled women passed out, the great throng in the jail yard and streets made way for them, the men lifting their hats out of respect to their grief.

At 10 o'clock the newspaper men and several friends of the condemned men were admitted. Rawlins was dressed in a negligee shirt, without collar. He wore a black sack coat and plaid trousers. He stood in the narrow corridor into which the door of his cell lead and at the other end of the corridor were his sons—Milton, Jesse and Leonard. Old man Rawlins, standing six feet and over, a perfect giant of strength and a picture of health, held his right hand high above his head on the bars of the cell and with his left made emphatic gestures.

PLEADS FOR HIS BOYS. "Gentlemen," he said, "to one and all I want to say that my boys are innocent, I am standing in the presence of God and the very shadow of death. If what I tell you is a lie, then J. G. Rawlins is responsible to his maker. If you believe the lie of the negro, then you are responsible to your God. Hear me, men, my boys are innocent, they never had anything to do with the killing of the Carter children."

"Mr. Davis," he said to Captain E. H. Davis, a member of the jury, which convicted him. "I have no ill will toward you, you did what you thought was honest and right, but you are wrong and the truth will appear some day. I have forgiven you and I ask God to do the same thing." To others the old man made the same statement, thanking some for their kindness and good wishes, now and then denouncing his attorney and the judge.

"When you hang old man Rawlins today," he cried with feeling, "you will be lynching him; this is mob law and not justice that I am getting; I've been mobbed in Georgia, in the name of the law."

Then turning to the three boys, the old man would point his finger at them and declare their innocence. "I wonder what's the matter with the sheriff, I wish he would come on," Rawlins declared, "I am tired of waiting, I wonder what's the matter, what time is it?"

SPEAKS OF HIS WIFE. Turning to the upturned faces, Rawlins said: "Please be kind to my boys, they are not guilty, but before God I would rather you would hang them next Friday and let the n follow me than to send them to the penitentiary. The penitentiary will make educated devils of them."

Dr. McCord, Rawlins' spiritual advisor, pulled a store tag from the new coat that the condemned man wore and Rawlins, half smiling, said: "If my wife had seen that she would have taken it off, poor woman, poor woman."

Rawlins walked from the steel corridor into the jail hall and placed his hands upon the bars and pressed his face close to the window. "Gentlemen and ladies, and all," he began, "listen to me; my boys are innocent."

His plea for his three boys seemed to make his own pale face into significance. Frequently he would almost yell at the crowds. "Now, do you understand me? Do I make myself plain?"

MOORE DENOUNCES RAWLINS. Rawlins addressed the crowd for five minutes and at 10:25 Alf Moore, the negro, was led from his cell to the front second story window of the jail. Moore looked long and eagerly into the sea of faces, in which there were many black ones. Moore's denunciation of old man Rawlins showed great bitterness in the negro's heart, as he attributed his present condition to his partner in crime.

"Listen one and all of you white folks, and black folks," cried the negro, gesticulating wildly. "Milton Rawlins killed the Carter children. I swore this on the stand in the courthouse and I swear it again today. These will be my last words, people; Milton Rawlins killed the Carter children."

As the negro spoke old man Rawlins sat unmoved, not more than three feet away. "It's a lie," he hissed Rawlins under his breath. Finally Sheriff Passmore ordered all in the street below to stop questioning the negro.

At 10:35 a. m., after speaking ten minutes, Moore cried: "Good-bye" at the top of his voice and he and Rawlins were led toward the execution chamber. En route, Rawlins stopped for a photographer to make a picture of him.

"I do this just so my wife and children can have one," he repeated several times over to the photographer, during the process of taking the picture, the man never flinched a muscle and his expression was stolid and almost indifferent.

Into the execution room the jailers and guards and party were ushered. Rawlins leading the way and Moore following closely behind.

AT THE GALLOW. At the foot of the steps leading to the gallows, Rawlins sat down on the first step. The negro walked toward him, holding out his hand. Then followed an almost heated colloquy in which both men told the other they had sworn the truth, each referred to the fact that he stood in the shadow of the gallows and on the very brink of death, but Rawlins maintained that his boys were innocent and the negro swore that the statement was not true, and that he himself, had told the truth.

The heated interview was brought to a close by the sheriff, who announced that a prayer would be offered, all hats were taken off, many kneeling on the steel floor, while above all loomed the grim death trap, decorated with weights and levers and ropes. The prayer, a most fervent one, was offered by Rev. W. W. McCord, formerly of Atlanta.

This was followed by a benediction and the party was in the act of moving towards the scaffold, when the negro began a prayer, wonderful for its wording and earnestness. But even in his final prayer to his Master, the negro's bitter heart showed there was no forgiveness there for Rawlins, whom he declared had brought him to his doom. When Moore had finished the two men took their positions on the scaffold, the trap was sprung and in a few seconds they were landed into eternity.

SAID HELL AWAITED HIM. The night before he was hung Rawlins denounced the editors, the lawyers and the preachers, saying they were all cowards. He said there is no such thing as justice in all the world, and that his hanging would be assassination. He said he had never killed a man in his life, and that the negro did the crime for which he was to be lynched. He said that the sheriff was the luckiest man that ever lived because he heard that old Carter was going to make him move out of the county: "How lucky it would have been for me if I had dropped dead before I got in trouble with Carter," he said.

"The Bible tells of the evil spirits that live to haunt men; we are distinctly told of the evil spirits that went from a man into a drove of hogs causing them to drown themselves in

the sea. I want my spirit when I am dead and gone to haunt the court official to the end of their days."

He also jumped on the newspapers. He said he believed that nine hundred and ninety-nine in a thousand of the editors would go to hell because they were too cowardly to fight against public sentiment. Rawlins declares that he will go to hell, but that it will only give him an opportunity of piling coals of fire upon his enemies.

FACED HIS CELL. The fact that it was the last night on earth did not appear to be a source of much worry on the part of the old man, who paced up and down his narrow steel cage talking, singing or praying as the opportunity presented itself. He was visited by his wife and daughters and many friends called at the jail during the evening, some being admitted, while others were satisfied to stand on the sidewalk and talk to the prisoner through the second story window.

Although Rawlins could not be seen through the window, he listened attentively to all that was said and would shout back his answers in strong voices. Just before midnight a minister of the gospel who had known the condemned man when the latter was preaching, drove up to the jail, held a shouted conversation with the prisoner, sang a hymn, repeated a brief but earnest prayer and drove away.

It was just midnight when Rawlins' last visitor disappeared and everything became quiet about the jail. The old man slept a portion of the night, but very little, for at 2 o'clock in the morning a noted evangelist, Sam Griffin, with strong lungs and zealous prayers, took his stand in the middle of the street in front of the jail and just opposite the cell of the condemned man.

"Hello, Rawlins!" he shouted through the window. "How are you feeling?" "Fine," replied Rawlins and the conversation could be heard for blocks away.

"Then let us tell the Holy Ghost about it," the preacher shouted back. "All right, tell Him," answered Rawlins.

The street preacher prayed and sang at the top of his voice until the police were appealed to and he was made to move on.

Thus passed into eternity a man who at one time was an honored minister of the gospel. What a solemn lesson the sad close of this man's life teaches us all. At some time he strayed out of the path of honor and entered the broad road of destruction, and according to his confession followed it to hell.

One More State. The delegates elected to the Constitutional Convention in Oklahoma and Indian Territory assembled this week to begin the framing of the Constitution of the state of Oklahoma. Of 112 delegates nearly 100 are democrats. After the Constitution is finished it will be submitted to the two Territories for ratification. State officers will be elected, and if the Constitution is ratified Oklahoma will, by proclamation of the President, become the forty-sixth State of the Union. The State officers will all be democrats. It will elect two United States Senators who will also be democrats. There will be five Congressmen, at least three of them will be democrats.

Killed by Elevator. Three men were killed, one was fatally injured and five others were severely hurt at Waynesboro, Pa., Thursday by the fall of an elevator in the Geiser Manufacturing company's shops. Eleven men were on the lift, together with a five-ton mill machine and heavy truck, when a cable parted. The men were dropped 25 feet with the machinery into a pit and George Freeman, John Torsion and Marar Poplan were crushed to death. Nicholas Brunson was fatally injured. All of the injured were brought to the hospital in this city.

Lost At Sea. The Asateague life saving station reported Friday that the three-masted schooner Florence I Lookward, from Norfolk for New York with a cargo of lumber, stranded on Williams shoal off Assateague, Virginia, Friday night and is a total loss. Capt. Taylor and his crew were rescued by the life savers. The schooner went aground during a heavy gale and quickly pounded to pieces in the heavy sea. The schooner was built at Norwalk, Connecticut, and was owned by J. H. Smith of Boston. The vessel was 103 feet long, had a beam of 30 feet and a depth of 6 feet.

Two Men Killed. Two men were killed in an explosion of a magazine of Oriental powder works near Uniontown, Pa., Friday morning. The building was totally wrecked. The body of an Italian was burned almost to a crisp, but a man named Hickie lived a few minutes after being rescued from the debris. The explosion occurred at 8:45 o'clock and shook the earth for miles around. Windows were rattled in Fairbance, two miles away, and in Uniontown, five miles away. A large force of men were working in the mill adjoining the magazine, but none were injured.

FATAL FIRE.

Four Students and Three Firemen Loose Their Lives in

A BURNING BUILDING.

Three Students Burn Up in a Dormitory and Three Volunteer Firemen Are

Crushed Under Falling Walls at Ithaca, N. Y., on Friday.

At Ithaca, N. Y., seven persons met a tragic death Friday morning in the worst disaster that ever befell Cornell university. Three of the victims were volunteer firemen of the city of Ithaca and four were students of Cornell university. The firemen all were prominent in the city. They were:

A. S. Robinson, attorney; John Runsey, hardware merchant; Esty Landon, a salesman.

The students were: O. L. Schuauk, Hanover, Pa.; F. W. Grelle, South Orange, N. J.; W. H. Nichols, Chicago; J. M. McCutcheon, Pittsburg. Schuauk got out of the building, but went back for his room-mate, Nichols, and in the attempt to rescue his comrade he was so seriously injured that he died in the hospital.

One student, O. J. Pope, a freshman of East Orange, N. J., was seriously injured, and three others were slightly injured. They are R. E. Powers, a senior of Atlanta, Ga.; W. W. Goetz, a sophomore of Milwaukee, Wis., and H. M. Curry, Jr., a sophomore of Pittsburg.

Runsey, Landon and Robinson, the Ithaca volunteer firemen, had managed to train a hose on the north side of the house when the wall tottered. There was a cry of alarm and several men standing near managed to get out of the way, but the three named were caught under the mass of debris and killed.

A few minutes after the flames were discovered the Chi Psi chapter house was all ablaze, the flames, fanned by a strong north west wind, and the students were trapped in the dormitory on the third floor. Many of the boys jumped to safety, while those who hesitated were carried to the ground by the falling walls.

No alarm was turned in until half an hour after the fire had been discovered and it was an hour later before the volunteer fire department could get to work. There was a long climb from the lower part of the city to the college grounds and by the time the firemen arrived the interior of the building was almost burned out. They could do nothing but prevent the adjoining buildings from taking fire.

The money loss is nearly \$200,000, since the original cost of the building erected by Mrs. Jennie McGraw Flske was about \$150,000 and extensive interior decorations had been made.

The cause of the fire is unknown, though it is supposed that it started in the kitchen. Cornell university is immeasurably appalled by the terrible catastrophe and academic work is almost suspended.

The burned building was built by Jennie McGraw Flske, the benefactor of Cornell, whose will was contested by her husband, Prof. Willard Flske. She abroad, seeking help for an incurable disease, and never entered her beautiful mansion alive. Her body was taken there for the obsequies.

Want To Re-Enlist. At the instance of Secretary Taft Sergt Mingo Sanders and Private Elmer Brown, of the 25th Infantry, colored, Saturday filed with the military secretary applications for re-enlistment in the army. One of these has been referred to the President in order that he may determine whether or not any of the men of the 25th Infantry who were recently discharged without honor shall be re-enlisted and if so on what conditions.

Assumes Office. Wm. W. Finley, recently chosen as the successor of the late President Samuel Spencer of the Southern railway assumes the active duties of his office Friday and will make his headquarters in this city. The policies of the late president will be carried out and no material changes in the system or the personnel of the active branch of the road are contemplated by Mr. Finley.

General Shooting Scrape. Two persons dead, two seriously wounded and two slightly injured is the result of a fight which occurred at Greenville, Miss., Friday. Felix Holman, a negro from Arkansas, shot and killed Colina Holman, a negro in a boarding house for negroes. One policeman was killed and another wounded before the murderer was arrested and put in jail.

Missouri has returned to the solid Democrats having elected a state ticket and twelve out of a Congressmen.

Some people are so agreeable that they are disagreeable.

New Jersey was carried by the Republicans, but the Legislature is so constituted that Senator Dryden may fail of re-election.

In the Chicago election a negro was elected municipal judge and another a county commissioner.

An official of the Provisional Government of Cuba declared it would be impossible for the Americans to get away in nine months.

Heroism is generally a foolish act with a successful termination.

The President has announced the appointment of Attorney General Moody as justice of the Supreme Court.

We imagine a man in a dry goods store feel like a woman would feel should she go into a saloon.

Governor Hooh, of Kansas, is still in danger, but the Republicans confidently claim his re-election. The Democrats charge fraud.

We have observed that the better the family the less fuss there is made over the announcement of a wedding in it.

When a married woman hears about women who are working on salaries she is liable to say: "Well, I earn all I get."

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