

Positively No New Display Advertisements Will be Received, or Old Ones Changed, Later Than Tuesday Morning.

NESMITH NOT GUILTY.

SUCH IS THE VERDICT RENDERED BY HIS COUNTRYMEN.

A Case that has Excited Unprecedented Interest Throughout Williamsburg County.

Seldom or never in the history of Williamsburg county has a trial in court excited such widespread interest or attracted so large a crowd as the case of the State against Mason Davis Nesmith for the killing of Eli Sauls at Cades, S. C., on the afternoon of February 7, 1902, which was begun on Wednesday morning of last week and concluded Friday afternoon. Many circumstances combined to make this an unusually interesting case. Both Nesmith and Sauls represented prominent families in the county. The defendant is a young man on the threshold of his career, and as was conclusively proven from the evidence adduced in court, it would be a difficult task to find a man of his age with a better reputation or who enjoys the esteem and friendship of a greater number of people. Then, too, the powerful counsel on both sides increased the interest in the case.

With such men as John S. Wilson, J. Monroe Johnson and LeRoy Lee to conduct the prosecution and ex-Judge Joshua H. Hudson and John A. Kelley representing the defense, a hard-fought intellectual battle was anticipated, and a contest involving the clash of brilliant minds arouses an interest second only to the actual din of a physical combat. Those who expected a battle royal between the distinguished advocates were not disappointed, for the arguments presented to the jury by them on Thursday and Friday were among the finest ever heard in our historic old "Temple of Justice." Each side fought stubbornly for every point, and each speaker in turn was listened to with the most profound attention.

The jury, which was selected at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning, was as follows: J. L. C. Moore, foreman; J. D. Cox, Lennie Howle, S. B. W. Courtney, W. H. McGhee, I. P. Mouson, J. A. Cockfield, J. A. Scott, R. E. Blakeley, W. C. Tuttle, J. Ed Coker and R. B. Smith, and it is generally conceded that as a whole it was an exceptionally intelligent body of men.

The evidence was concluded Thursday morning and LeRoy Lee, Esq., led off for the prosecution. In a speech of 30 minutes Mr. Lee presented his side of the case ably and well. He reviewed the testimony and claimed that the course of the bullet itself contradicted the position Sauls is said to have taken when shot—with one hand reaching toward his hip pocket. Although at least a score of years younger than the other attorneys Mr. Lee's speech according to its length, compared favorably with any of them.

Following Mr. Lee came Capt. Kelley for the defense. Of late years Capt. Kelley's services have been pretty well taken up with civil business so that it has been some time since he addressed a jury in a criminal case. On this occasion he showed that he has lost none of his old time vigor and eloquence and those who know him best say that this speech was one of the finest efforts of his life. Certainly it made a most profound impression on both the jury and the crowded court room. He held up in contrast the character of Nesmith and Sauls; a veritable host of

witnesses having testified as to the one being quiet, peaceable and law-abiding and to the other as violent, quarrelsome and turbulent. Is it probable that such a man as Nesmith would shoot down a man like Sauls without provocation? He referred several times to the distinguished solicitor of the 4th Circuit, whose ability as a prosecutor was recognized by everyone, and under the terrific fire of whose cross-questioning an angel from heaven, invested in all its habiliments of purity, would be made to appear to a human jury as guilty of equivocation. Mr. Kelley then reviewed the testimony. All the witnesses save one testified favorably to Nesmith. That one exception he could account for on the ground of personal feeling and business rivalry between him and the Nesmiths. Dying declarations are only to be taken as other evidence even in the best circumstances. In this case the deceased had made three ante-mortem statements, and was besides under the influence of morphine at the time. Capt. Kelley closed his argument with an effective peroration.

Solicitor Johnson spoke next for the prosecution. He made a powerful appeal in behalf of the dead man. The blood of Sauls cries out to you and his helpless widow and six little children look to you for justice. The honor of the State is at stake and it rests with you to vindicate it. The impression that in South Carolina a prominent man can shoot down another and go free is a mistake, although as a matter of fact human life is too cheap here. He then took up the case and gave his theory of the homicide, ingeniously fitting one circumstance into another and weaving them into a chain. In a criminal court Solicitor Johnson is one of the most logical reasoners in South Carolina and his effort was brilliant and elaborate on this occasion. At the close of Mr. Johnson's speech, which lasted until after dark, the court took a recess until Friday morning when Judge Hudson spoke for the defense.

He said he was no stranger here, having been presiding judge on his last visit. Now he came occupying a position than which there is none more responsible in human affairs, in that it involves the issue of life and death. He took up Solicitor Johnson's argument and addressed himself to replying to it. He declared that there was as much sentiment on Nesmith's side as on the dead man's. He felt sorry for Mrs. Sauls and her six fatherless children but are not the prayers of a widowed mother and the teaching devotion of a twin brother equally as conducive to sentiment? The facts in the case would excuse the homicide and he cited numerous authorities to sustain any legal ground that he took. Judge Hudson's speech was characterized by feeling, close reasoning and a thorough familiarity with the technical law involved. His speech took well and many of his old friends here were delighted to see him so hale, hearty and vigorous and in the full possession of his extraordinary faculties as a jurist.

The last speech for the prosecution was made by Solicitor John S. Wilson.

Those who know Mr. Wilson are fully aware that he never shirks a duty or responsibility. In this case he was, as usual, thoroughly in earnest, and for nearly two hours held the jurors' closest attention. He emphasized every point brought out in the prosecution, and when the dead man's

clothes were produced the scene was dramatic.

At exactly 3:27 o'clock the jury went into the room after the judge had delivered his charge, which was clear and concise and differentiated closely between murder, manslaughter and self-defense.

At 6:30 o'clock the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty," and the waiting crowd began to applaud. Their demonstration being nipped in the bud they crowded around Mr. Nesmith and congratulated him most fervently. Thus ended a case that is destined to be memorable.

Cades Chronicles.

Mr. L. Hatchel, of Effingham, is on a visit to friends at this place.

Mr. J. A. Campbell of Elm City, N. C., has been relieving the operator, W. A. Creech, for the past week.

W. M. Smith and W. C. Mum, of this place went up to Evergreen Friday to take in the closing exercises of the Evergreen school which took place Friday night. The entertainment was given by Miss Margie Bigham, the efficient teacher. The admirable manner in which the occasion was carried out reflected much credit on Miss Bigham and her pupils. We secured a copy of the program for you, Mr. Editor, if you can find space for it. It will doubtless be of interest to your readers.

Welcome, by the school. Evening song and prayer.

Recitation—"The Little Pet Girl."

Recitation—"A Gift."

Song by school—"Hold Your Right Hand Up."

Recitation—"Good Afternoon Folks."

Recitation—"What I have Learned."

Recitation—"Little Midget."

Recitation—"Tight Times."

Song, by school—"Scatter Sunshine."

Recitation—"Catch the Sunshine."

Recitation—"Something New."

Dialogue—"Week's Workers."

Dialogue—"Playing Store."

Dialogue—"The Biggest Lie."

Recitation—"The Two Little Babes."

Song, by school—"Jolly Old St. Nicholas."

Recitation—"Josephus."

Dialogue—"Tom's Practical Joke."

Dialogue—"Oh! Dear."

Dialogue—"Miss Edith helps things along."

Dialogue and song—"Which had you rather be?"

Song, by school—"Follow Me."

Queen and May-pole dance.

Dialogue—"Parting Lovers."

Fan drill.

Recitation—"Bill Mason's Ride."

Song, music and song.

IVANHOE.

\$5,000 WORTH CLOTHING At 25 Per Cent Discount.

We have decided to retire from the Clothing business in order that we may devote the entire time to the Dry Goods, Shoe and Millinery Business, and in order to close out our stock of clothing quickly we offer our entire stock of Clothing and Gents' Hats at 25 per cent discount.

We would also impress the fact upon our Williamsburg friends that our stock of

Staple Dry Goods, Millinery, Shoes and Notions

Was never more Complete.

We will give personal attention to all orders sent us.

W. E. JENKINSON,
Manning, S. C.

Patronize Home Industry.

To the Truck Growers of Williamsburg and adjoining Counties---

I am running my Veneering Machine at plantation near Cades, S. C. on full time and have now on hand

7,000 STRAWBERRY CRATES AND CUPS.

Am prepared to supply all demands and meet competition. Am now working from twenty-five to thirty-five employes daily. I am also manufacturing

Bean Baskets, Crates for Squashes and for every other Vegetable raised for Shipping Purposes.

Send in your Orders and they will be Filled on Short Notice.

Messrs. Green & Epps are my agents at Lake City. All orders entrusted to them will receive prompt attention.

J. J. M. GRAHAM,
Cades, S. C.

Observed at Outland.

Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Rhem and little daughter left March 10th for the Ivory City to take in the exposition.

Miss F. Edith Connor, of Charleston, after spending some time with Mrs. F. Rhem, returned home on the 11th, to the regret of her many friends and admirers.

Married, at Muddy Creek church Sunday, March 9th, at 11 a. m., Mr. Charlie Barrineau, of Georgetown, and Miss Lottie Huggins, of Venters.

Messrs James Munnerlyn and L. F. Rhem of Choppe and Rhems, respectively, after pursuing a business course at Pough-

keepsie business college, New York, are at home again.

Mr. D. W. Simmons, a popular salesman of Messrs W. C. Hemingway & Co., has accepted a position with Messrs, Cook & Co. and will be pleased to serve all customers.—Cor. Georgetown Outlook.

Vinegar as a Solvent for Glue

For all the fish glues vinegar is a good solvent. When gluing a piece of woodwork, if any particles of glue get on places where it is not desired, wet a bit of cloth with vinegar and rub it off. If the glue in the bottle becomes too thick, thin it with vinegar rather than water.— March Ladies' Home Journal.

GRAND OPENING SPRING CLOTHING, HATS AND FURNISHINGS.

You will find here the very newest and up-to-date Suits, Furnishing Goods and Hats.

We make a specialty of extra-size Suits and Slim Suits.

On receipt of your letter we will send you swatches of Suits if you are interested in any. In our tailor department we have over 500 samples for you to select your Suit or extra Pants from.

Suits made to your measure from \$15 to \$50. Pants from \$8 to 12.

All Mail Orders promptly attended to by a special salesman.

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Opposite Academy of Music.
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