

The Watchman and Southerner.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11.

The Bowman-Keels Tragedy.

Comments of the State Press.

Disapproval of the Jury.

Orangeburg Times and Democrat.

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ment of enforcing the law when the

weapon has been used wrongly or

unnecessarily.

We stand for the enforcement of the

law and the infliction of legal discipline

after due examination through the pre-

scribed machinery.

Camden Journal.

This whole affair can be attributed to

the utter disregard of the concealed

weapon Act by our juries both grand

and petit.

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as criminal as wilful and deliberate

violations of the law. The difference

between such 'accidental' homicide

and deliberate murder is one of degree

and not of kind, speaking from the

standpoint of human law. It is a pity

that our law provides for no punishment

commensurate with such a crime as this

one. Partly accidental, though it may

have been still a man should be made

to suffer for a carelessness that places

human life in jeopardy, and perchance

leads to the destruction of human life.

The blood of the dead man may not call

for vengeance but the security of life in

the future demands that a repetition of

that bloody encounter be made impossi-

ble.

The affair was one of deep disgrace

to the State even with the feature of

murder eliminated from it. It was the

more disgraceful that it was a repeti-

tion of similar occurrences which have

recently taken place in other portions

of the State. It shows the spirit of

lawlessness that pervades every class

of our society. It illustrates the contempt

in which the law is held. It illus-

trates how easily and readily the flimsy

barrier of the law may be torn down

and trampled upon when it stands in

the way of the murderer and the

object of his hate and vengeance. Hu-

man life is cheap with us, too cheap.

The law does not afford the protection

that it should. It is too easy for the

criminal to escape the penalty of his

crimes. The violation of any law

should be followed by certain and

speedy punishment. In the certainty

of punishment, more than in its degree,

lies the greatest safeguard of society,

and to the ease with which one may

escape and the just penalty of any offence

must be attributed the lamentable pre-

valence of crime in our country.

Every violation of law that is allowed

to pass unpunished is simply paving

the way to more flagrant violations in

the future. The protection of the life

and property of every individual in the

State demands a stricter enforcement of

the law. An example must be made at

some time and the interests of the

State will be served by making that

example before too many lives are sac-

rificed at the altar of passion, prejudice

and hate.

Clarendon Enterprise.

The tragic affair is greatly deplored.

It seems to us that the sad difficulty

might have been averted. Surely seven

officers of the law could have managed

five prisoners two of whom appear to

have been unarmed. Such, however,

is the case, and the affair is greatly to

be regretted by all good citizens. Oh,

that men would think before they act rashly!

Charleston Budget.

The recent shooting affair at Sumter,

by which Trial Justice Haynsworth

lost his life, was, of course, a most

deplorable affair, and all of the parties

concerned in it are deserving of the

severest censure. Some one killed Mr.

Haynsworth, but just who did it, it

is by no means easy, at the present time,

to ascertain. The law is emphatic in

declaring that when a person engaged

in the commission of any unlawful act,

is compelled to participate in a crime of

greater magnitude, he is before the

face of outraged order, guilty of the

latter offence.

As every actor in the terrible drama

had a revolver about his person on the

fatal day, and as the very act of carry-

ing concealed weapons is in itself an

illegal act, it would seem at first blush

that every one of the participants in the

bloody affair was guilty of murder, as

murder actually resulted. This is the

view of the matter taken by some of our

contemporaries, who assume in all mat-

ters, to act as grand jury, judge and

trial jury, before the parties authorized

his oversight too harshly, especially as

he has always been considered a true

gentleman, a model citizen, and (until

now) a most efficient official.

Wipe it Away!

Foreign News and Herald.

Within the short space of a year

there have been in South Carolina three

crimes committed, which, aside from

others are the blackest stains upon the

fair name of the State. First, the killing

of Col. J. B. Jones at Newberry; second

the killing of a negro by J. D. Rat-

terree at Chester; and third the late

affray at Sumter. All of these, be it

remembered, occurred in Courts of

Justice, the one place of all that should

be free from such profanation. In each

case some life went out. One case has

been finally settled by the acquittal of

the offender. The others remain to

be settled.

Looking at them from any standpoint

they were all monstrous outrages