

The Watchman and Southron. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1.

The Sunter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southron in 1866. The Watchman and Southron now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

THE BARNWELL TRAGEDY.

The town of Barwell on Friday night last was the scene of one of the most horrible tragedies ever enacted in South Carolina and one that ought to bring the blush of shame to the cheek of every white man in the State. Eight negro men were taken from the jail by a mob of masked men and shot to death in cold blood.

The following is a brief history of the crime as detailed by the correspondent of the Columbia Register:

BARNWELL, S. C., Dec. 28.—An armed and masked mob of one hundred men went to the County jail this morning between 3 and 4 o'clock, overpowered the jailer, took eight negro prisoners to a point about one mile from town, tied them to trees and shot them to death—literally riddled their bodies with bullets.

Two men came to the jail and asked the jailer to receive a prisoner, and as he opened the gate he was seized by them and the keys taken from him. The men lynched were two of the Jefferson murderers, Ripley Johnson and Mitchell Adams; Peter Bell, who was held for the murder of young Robert Martin on the night of the 24th; Herb Johnson and Hugh Fense, who were held as accessories, with "Judge" Jones, Robert Phoenix and Roper Morrall, who were held as witnesses.

The Sheriff was notified by the jailer, and he summoned the town marshal and the writer, and we three proceeded a lantern at 5 a. m. and proceeded to see if all were killed. As we walked silently up the road the rays of the light fell upon the most horrible sight we ever witnessed—eight men lying around the waist, hand and feet, to trees, riddled with bullets. It seems as if they were tied with their backs to the trees, standing up, but some had slipped down and some were hanging with their feet and hands down. They were within five feet of the road, and the men stood in the road and fired. From empty shells lying on the ground, there was a number of volleys fired, all of which was heard by many of the citizens, but they thought it was fireworks.

The lynchings were quiet as lambs and as determined as bulls. The crowd of over 100 men rode in town with no more noise than if two gentlemen had leisurely rode in. They passed right beneath the window where the writer was innocently standing.

The news of the lynching was not known in town till we returned at 6 o'clock a. m. The negro women rushed to the jail with wild shrieks, and men were prowling over the town with a revengeful look. The Sheriff at once wired to Blackville, Bamberg and Wilton for help, and also to Governor Richardson. Things had a bad appearance until the train came in with about forty men, who formed a line and marched straight to the Sheriff, under the command of Col. D. L. Copeland, of Bamberg, and are now subject to his orders.

Acting Coroner Hammet summoned a jury and held an inquest which rendered the usual verdict: Came to death by gunshot wounds inflicted by parties unknown to the jury.

The lynchings came from the country, and no one here has the slightest idea who they were, for the affair was a great surprise to the town.

Samuel Lee, a barber, who is held as accessory to the Jefferson murder, was taken out of jail and put back, as the party thought him innocent. Everything is now quiet.

After the terrible event—enough to drive any officer—the Sheriff requested five prominent citizens to act with him as advisors; to devise ways and means to meet the exigencies of the situation. These gentlemen, to wit the whole water before the public, have issued a statement of the causes leading up to the tragedy Friday night. The following is their statement:

In consequence of the lynching which took place here last night, the undersigned were requested by the Sheriff to act as an advising committee, to counsel such steps as may be deemed best to secure order. We at first proceeded to investigate, and deem it right to put the public in possession of the facts of the occurrence, and the causes which we believe led to it, as far as we have gathered them.

On October 30 last, John J. Heffner, a prominent young merchant and brave public spirited citizen, was shot and killed in Barwell by negroes. Public indignation ran very high. Threats of lynching were freely made, but diverted by cooler counsel. At the last term of court the grand jury found true bills against his murderers and the accessories, but the cases were continued. The white people were disappointed, and the negroes, it is thought, were emboldened by this disposition of the matter.

On the 19th of December, Mr. James L. Brown, a prominent planter and leading citizen of Fishpond township, was shot to death on his own premises by negroes, with the slightest justification or excuse. These murders have not been arrested.

On the 18th of December, while going from his store at Martin's station to his home, a mile away, Mr. Robert Martin, a young man of most exemplary character, and of the highest standing as a man and citizen, was followed by a negro and shot in the back with a gun loaded with slugs, on the public road which passes through his father's plantation, in hearing of many of the negroes whose houses were all around the spot where he was shot, and who admitted that they heard the shot and his cries when shot, and not one of whom went to his relief, and none of them went to liberate, although they lay in the road all night, and for several hours after daylight, in plain view of them all. And it was satisfactorily established that his murder was the result of a conspiracy to remove him, in order that they might have the plantation of his father might be greater. The murderer—that is, the negro who fired the shot—was an accessory, six in number, after being clearly identified by the coroner's jury, were arrested and lodged in jail.

These several brutal murders of prominent white men by negroes caused a state of indignant resentment among our people that can be better imagined than described; but cannot be imagined by any one not present on our midst and sharing it. Last night a large body of armed men in disguise, at about 2 a. m., called at the jail, overpowered the jailer, took out the six murderers of Martin and two of Heffner, took them to the limits of the corporation and shot them to death.

Robt. Aldrick, Mike Brown, Geo. H. Bates, Wm. McNab, Jas. A. Jenkins, Committee.

We hardly know what to say about this horrible affair. We have nothing but words of condemnation for the crime and denunciation for its brutal perpetrators. Our language has no word by which to call the crime but murder, willful, cowardly, inhuman and brutal murder. It is an atrocious violation of the laws of God and of our country, without excuse or any possible justification. There was nothing brave about it, naught of justice in it—simply diabolical, fiendish murder. It can not be ascribed over by specious criticisms on the frequent miscarriage of justice in the Courts. The explanations of the causes leading to the deed, as made by the "Advisory Committee" are simply apologetic and altogether unsatisfactory as an excuse or extenuation of the deed.

However revolting the crimes supposed to have been committed by those upon whom this vengeance was wreaked, these men who have taken the law into their own hands and usurped the place of the courts, are conspirators against the peace and liberties of their country. It is a disgrace to the State that will tolerate such acts of inhumanity and crime.

All the parties lynched were not accused of murder, in fact, three of the victims were simply held as State witnesses. The mob exercised no discrimination in favor of these three, it wanted the lives of eight negroes, and to get so many it became necessary to shed the blood of innocent men, which it did without compunction. It looks more like retaliation against a race, than vengeance or justice upon mere criminals.

It is this brutal disregard for the sanctity of human life that has brought disgrace upon our State. It shows a depraved moral sense, a deplorable and lawless sentiment, that ought to fill us with alarm for the future of our country.

If there is any virtue in our laws, if violence and bloodshed are not to override peace and order, if our Courts and public officers are not to be overthrown by threats and influenced by the unwritten law that such crimes are not to be punished, if society and order are to be maintained, if human life is to be respected, if our jails and prison houses are not to become mere man traps for the easy butchery of those the law holds in derision, then should Friday night's awful crime be punished, and to this end it should become our Governor's duty to exhaust every expedient and resource of his office to bring to trial and punish the Barnwell mob of murderers and cowardly assassins. But, of course, as in all such cases, "the parties to the jury unknown" will forever remain to the jury unknown. God help us.

Since writing the above the Governor has published his proclamation offering a reward of Two Hundred Dollars each for information that will lead to the conviction of the lynchings.

BLOODSHED IN GEORGIA.

An attempt to arrest a drunken negro at Jessup, in Southwestern Georgia, on the S. F. & W. R. R. on December the 25th, precipitated a riot which resulted in the killing of many negroes and the wounding of as many more. A town marshal and his assistant were killed and two others wounded, all white. All the other killed and wounded were negroes. Barring the melee the conflict resolved itself into one of a band of whites against a band of blacks, with the latter in the wrong and the precipitators of the riot. The blacks retreated to a dense swamp on the outskirts of the town and a hundred white men quickly surrounded it. Gov. Gordon ordered some of the military to the scene of trouble. The negroes sent runners for reinforcements from the surrounding County, and for a long time it looked as if more bloodshed was probable. The leader is a desperate black named Bob Brewer. He seems to be a brave fellow. It was the attempt on the part of the town marshal to arrest Brewer that was the cause of the trouble. Brewer deliberately shot one of the marshals dead in his tracks and wanted the other in the legs. The wounded marshal fled and Brewer with his crowd retired to the fastnesses of the swamp. The town of Jessup was soon in a whirlwind of excitement and the negroes were followed into the swamp by several citizens, among whom was William Wood, Jr. of Ridgeland, S. C., who there lost his death, receiving a shot in the head from a rifle in the hands of the desperado Brewer. Wood's father, who had accompanied his son in the pursuit, was wounded in the face by the same rifle and narrowly escaped with his life. After detecting this outbreak the negroes ran further into the swamp and occupied the houses with strong discussions in progress and in war, two of the negroes of our county were shot and the destruction of its property and staining of its name.

The third statement, "Prisoners taken," The Grand Lodge of South Carolina—

Responded by M. G. Ryndberg, L. K. Col. Valski's speech, that of M. G. Ryndberg imparted valuable and exceedingly interesting historical information to his hearers, who listened throughout to his chaste and elegant diction with wrapt attention. The following is a brief synopsis of Mr. Ryndberg's speech, which ought to be preserved in the archives of the Lodge:

The present M. W. Grand Lodge can be historically traced back for a period of 141 years, including 131 of the true old Grand Lodges in the United States of America. It derived its charter from the Grand Lodge of England in 1737 and John Hancock, Robert A. Taft and John Jay were present at the Provincial Grand Master of South Carolina at the meeting of the Grand Lodge of England in 1738. The first Lodge organized in this State was Solomon's Lodge No. 1, which was organized in 1759. The Grand Lodge of South Carolina issued a charter to several South Carolina lodges in Charleston, for which they transmitted the same to the Grand Lodge of England for use of their poor, and the Lodge was entered upon its registry as Union No. 28, and is now known by that name.

On the 17th of 1777, by a simple resolution, the Grand Lodge threw off its provincial and subordinate character, by a refusal to recognize any longer the authority of the Grand Lodge of England and created Bannard Elliott as its first Grand Master of Masons of the State of South Carolina. There were several charters issued by the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, and on the 24th of March of that year they formed a Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of South Carolina. From that time on until the Dec. 1817, two Grand Lodges of Freemasons existed in South Carolina, when by the consideration of brethren from each Grand Lodge, a union was formed under the name of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of South Carolina, with brother Thos. W. Becht as M. W. Grand Master. Thus, my brethren, has the Grand Lodge of South Carolina continued to grow in strength and prosperity, and now has an active membership of over 5,000 members under its jurisdiction.

The fourth toast, South Carolina—Small in size, with large heart and open arms, she holds a glowing shield over the weak and the oppressed. Responded to by Major J. M. Moore. The Major's speech more than satisfied the expectations of his friends. He briefly but eloquently reviewed the history of South Carolina from her earliest settlement to the present day and showed that every crisis of her life she had been true to her love of liberty and to her sentiments of civility and honor that have always distinguished her.

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas passed off in Sumter without casualities. There was very little frolic. A few fights on the street without injury to any one, causing more fun than bad blood. There were only incidents that disturbed the general good feeling that prevailed among all classes. The small boy popped his fire crackers and shot his Roman candles, those a grade above in age rode about the streets grotesquely attired in masks, dominoes and other unnatural apparel, the "old boys" stayed at home and sipped their egg nog in dignified ease, and for all, the Sumter Cornet band, seated in a large wagon drawn by four superb covies from Harby's stables, drove through the streets playing all the tunes they knew and which they did not know.

To the evening a large congregation assembled to hear the Christmas carols at the Episcopal Church. After the conclusion of the singing by the Sunday School children the Rector made a short address and delivered Christmas cards to the papils and teachers. Oh! we had lots of fun Christmas!

HENRY W. GRADY.

We publish to-day a sketch of the life, death and funeral ceremonies of Henry W. Grady. His early death has brought sorrowful disappointment to the whole South. He was her most gifted son, and had become her eloquent herald to the world. He was worth to the South millions of treasure, and thousands of men. He was the genius of the new dispensation. In the brief space of his life he did more for his country than any other, but died when his work had just begun.

MASONIC BANQUET.

Music Hall, on Friday night last was the scene of one of the most enjoyable events of the season, and those who were privileged to attend will long remember the occasion with a sense of pleasure. This was the annual banquet of the Grand Lodge A. F. M. The Masons first met in their hall and installed the officers recently elected for the next Masonic year. After the installation of the officers the Rev. John Kerkow delivered the annual address before the Lodge.

At the conclusion of Mr. Kerkow's speech a large number of the Lodge, aided by a lady in white, repaired to the Music Hall where they were soon joined by about thirty invited guests. The entire floor of the hall was covered with tables groning under the burden of good things, there were all kinds of salads, cakes, breads of all kinds, salads, fruit, cakes and sweetmeats of every conceivable description were spread before them to a hundred men in prodigal and varied profusion. It was a treat to the palate of the most fastidious epicure. The gathering was a merry one, and joyous peals of laughter rang out repeatedly along the festive boards. More than half an hour was given up wholly to feasting on the tempting table laden with the delicacies of the banquet, after which in his place and the first toast.

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The next toast, Clement Lodge No. 61—Under the new regime, may her future success equal her past brilliant career. Responded to by Cal. T. V. Walsh, the veteran in masonry, in way to his last. A perfect Cal. Walsh speech was an interesting review of the early history and of Clement Lodge No. 61. He said: On the 6th of July, 1874, my Master Mason, those of whom are now living, met in the Ordinary's office on South Main Street, and after a long and anxious conference, they decided to form a lodge, and they called it Clement Lodge No. 61. A. F. M. From that time on until 5th of July, 1875, (31 weeks ago) they were some irregularities in their relations with the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, but on April 20, 1875, they were recognized as a lodge, and they have since that time been a part of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina.

The eighth toast, by Gen. E. W. Moore, in response to the sentiment, "The safety of our country." This brought out the able young legislator, R. F. Wilson. The same was one suited to the taste, parents and recognized accomplishments of the speaker each was handled with ability and enthusiasm. Mr. Wilson showed that the grand rank which has always been held by South Carolina among her sister States was mainly due to her zealous attention to education, and that her future would be dependent on her schools and colleges.

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Responded by M. G. Ryndberg, L. K. Col. Valski's speech, that of M. G. Ryndberg imparted valuable and exceedingly interesting historical information to his hearers, who listened throughout to his chaste and elegant diction with wrapt attention. The following is a brief synopsis of Mr. Ryndberg's speech, which ought to be preserved in the archives of the Lodge:

The present M. W. Grand Lodge can be historically traced back for a period of 141 years, including 131 of the true old Grand Lodges in the United States of America. It derived its charter from the Grand Lodge of England in 1737 and John Hancock, Robert A. Taft and John Jay were present at the Provincial Grand Master of South Carolina at the meeting of the Grand Lodge of England in 1738. The first Lodge organized in this State was Solomon's Lodge No. 1, which was organized in 1759. The Grand Lodge of South Carolina issued a charter to several South Carolina lodges in Charleston, for which they transmitted the same to the Grand Lodge of England for use of their poor, and the Lodge was entered upon its registry as Union No. 28, and is now known by that name.

On the 17th of 1777, by a simple resolution, the Grand Lodge threw off its provincial and subordinate character, by a refusal to recognize any longer the authority of the Grand Lodge of England and created Bannard Elliott as its first Grand Master of Masons of the State of South Carolina. There were several charters issued by the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, and on the 24th of March of that year they formed a Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of South Carolina. From that time on until the Dec. 1817, two Grand Lodges of Freemasons existed in South Carolina, when by the consideration of brethren from each Grand Lodge, a union was formed under the name of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of South Carolina, with brother Thos. W. Becht as M. W. Grand Master. Thus, my brethren, has the Grand Lodge of South Carolina continued to grow in strength and prosperity, and now has an active membership of over 5,000 members under its jurisdiction.

The fourth toast, South Carolina—Small in size, with large heart and open arms, she holds a glowing shield over the weak and the oppressed. Responded to by Major J. M. Moore. The Major's speech more than satisfied the expectations of his friends. He briefly but eloquently reviewed the history of South Carolina from her earliest settlement to the present day and showed that every crisis of her life she had been true to her love of liberty and to her sentiments of civility and honor that have always distinguished her.

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas passed off in Sumter without casualities. There was very little frolic. A few fights on the street without injury to any one, causing more fun than bad blood. There were only incidents that disturbed the general good feeling that prevailed among all classes. The small boy popped his fire crackers and shot his Roman candles, those a grade above in age rode about the streets grotesquely attired in masks, dominoes and other unnatural apparel, the "old boys" stayed at home and sipped their egg nog in dignified ease, and for all, the Sumter Cornet band, seated in a large wagon drawn by four superb covies from Harby's stables, drove through the streets playing all the tunes they knew and which they did not know.

To the evening a large congregation assembled to hear the Christmas carols at the Episcopal Church. After the conclusion of the singing by the Sunday School children the Rector made a short address and delivered Christmas cards to the papils and teachers. Oh! we had lots of fun Christmas!

HENRY W. GRADY.

We publish to-day a sketch of the life, death and funeral ceremonies of Henry W. Grady. His early death has brought sorrowful disappointment to the whole South. He was her most gifted son, and had become her eloquent herald to the world. He was worth to the South millions of treasure, and thousands of men. He was the genius of the new dispensation. In the brief space of his life he did more for his country than any other, but died when his work had just begun.

MASONIC BANQUET.

Music Hall, on Friday night last was the scene of one of the most enjoyable events of the season, and those who were privileged to attend will long remember the occasion with a sense of pleasure. This was the annual banquet of the Grand Lodge A. F. M. The Masons first met in their hall and installed the officers recently elected for the next Masonic year. After the installation of the officers the Rev. John Kerkow delivered the annual address before the Lodge.

At the conclusion of Mr. Kerkow's speech a large number of the Lodge, aided by a lady in white, repaired to the Music Hall where they were soon joined by about thirty invited guests. The entire floor of the hall was covered with tables groning under the burden of good things, there were all kinds of salads, cakes, breads of all kinds, salads, fruit, cakes and sweetmeats of every conceivable description were spread before them to a hundred men in prodigal and varied profusion. It was a treat to the palate of the most fastidious epicure. The gathering was a merry one, and joyous peals of laughter rang out repeatedly along the festive boards. More than half an hour was given up wholly to feasting on the tempting table laden with the delicacies of the banquet, after which in his place and the first toast.

Masonry—a system of morality, veiled in allegory and represented by symbols. Responded to by Mr. Kerkow in his happy style. The speaker spoke directly in response to the sentiment. He spoke as he always speaks on so grand a theme, and was listened to with appreciative attention to the close of his speech when the hall broke with the hearty applause of his hearers.

The next toast, Clement Lodge No. 61—Under the new regime, may her future success equal her past brilliant career. Responded to by Cal. T. V. Walsh, the veteran in masonry, in way to his last. A perfect Cal. Walsh speech was an interesting review of the early history and of Clement Lodge No. 61. He said: On the 6th of July, 1874, my Master Mason, those of whom are now living, met in the Ordinary's office on South Main Street, and after a long and anxious conference, they decided to form a lodge, and they called it Clement Lodge No. 61. A. F. M. From that time on until 5th of July, 1875, (31 weeks ago) they were some irregularities in their relations with the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, but on April 20, 1875, they were recognized as a lodge, and they have since that time been a part of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina.

The eighth toast, by Gen. E. W. Moore, in response to the sentiment, "The safety of our country." This brought out the able young legislator, R. F. Wilson. The same was one suited to the taste, parents and recognized accomplishments of the speaker each was handled with ability and enthusiasm. Mr. Wilson showed that the grand rank which has always been held by South Carolina among her sister States was mainly due to her zealous attention to education, and that her future would be dependent on her schools and colleges.

The ninth toast, by Mr. W. B. H. Moore, in response to the sentiment, "The safety of our country." This brought out the able young legislator, R. F. Wilson. The same was one suited to the taste, parents and recognized accomplishments