

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1900.

The Sumter 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.

For two white men to be sentenced to the chain-gang at a single term of court is an unusual occurrence in Sumter county, and we do not recollect hearing of a similar instance. The county is to be congratulated on the fact that, as a rule the white people are law-abiding and appear infrequently in the criminal courts, but it is more to the credit of the county that white men are punished as they deserve when they commit crimes and are not permitted to escape. The presence of two white men on the chain-gang will have a wholesome effect upon others—both white and colored.

With "hog bears" in Florence and Darlington counties, and wolves in Sumter county, this section of the State is in a fair way to become a resort for the hunters of big game and fierce beasts. We would suggest that the people of Florence call to their aid Gov. Teddy Roosevelt, who, according to his own testimony is one of the mightiest of hunters.

WEBSTER AND HAYNE.

Wilmington Messenger.

The late ex-Senator K. W. Thompson, of Indiana, an able man and an interesting talker in his old age, is the subject of an article in the Indianapolis Sentinel. We copy the opening for a purpose, and it is besides interesting and judicious, as we believe. It says:

"Col R W Thompson was rich in reminiscences of distinguished public men whom he knew in early life. I asked him one day who, in his opinion, were the greatest orators he had known. He answered, 'Sargent S. Prentiss, of Mississippi; Robert Y. Hayne, of South Carolina; Daniel Webster, and William C. Preston, of South Carolina.' He said he would grade them in the order here stated. He said he had never heard Prentiss but once, and he thought he was the greatest orator ever produced in this country. For forensic oratory and forcible argument Webster had no superior, but for genuine eloquence he was not the equal of Robert Y. Hayne. In the great debate between these two famous men public opinion in the north has been nearly unanimous in favor of the superiority of Webster, but it is not so with many judicious critics who had read their speeches. 'I have often heard Hayne and Webster,' said Col. Thompson, 'and I have no hesitation in saying that Hayne was by far the superior of Webster for genuine and superb oratory. Webster's great speech as printed in the authorized edition is in several respects a decided improvement upon the speech actually delivered by him and reported and published at the time by Gales & Seaton. The fine grandeur and the wonderfully eloquent peroration were afterward interpolated by Webster.'

This is new to us. The files of the Messenger show that a few years since we published a long editorial on Col. Hayne's reply to Webster in which he achieved a decided victory over the 'godlike Daniel' as his idolatrous admirers used to designate him. We had a copy of Hayne's speech in full and it is a masterly and eloquent effort. We also quoted from several northern opinions at the time of the debate that gave the victory to Hayne. Col. Thompson had remarkable opportunities for hearing and his ability made him perhaps a sound safe judge.

The late ex-senator and Gen. Thomas L. Clingman, in 1876, in a long and delightful conversation, told us that George McDuffie, of South Carolina was the very greatest orator to whom he ever listened. He served long in congress, had heard Prentiss, Clay Webster, and others, and he put McDuffie above them all. He said Webster was solemn, solid, ponderous at his best, but the impression he had as he receded in time from him, that he was the greatest of all the men he had seen or known.

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup will cure throat and lung trouble without fail. For grippe, influenza and a deep-seated cough or cold, it is the best remedy offered to the public. Its doses are small and a bottle cost only 25 cents.

Washington, March 10.—The president today sent the following nominations to the senate: To be assistant in the marine hospital service—Thomas D. Berry of Texas, B. H. Earle of South Carolina and B. J. Lloyd of Texas.

British Determined to Crush the Boers.

Text of Telegram From Kruger and Steyn and Salisbury's Answer.

London, March 13.—A parliamentary paper containing the telegrams sent to the British government by the presidents of the South African republic and the Orange Free State and Great Britain's reply thereto was issued this afternoon. It first gives the telegram sent by the two presidents to the Marquis of Salisbury as follows:

"Bloemfontein, March 5.—The blood and the tears of thousands who have suffered by this war and the prospect of all moral and economic ruin wherewith South Africa is now threatened make it necessary for both belligerents to ask themselves dispassionately and as in the sight of the Triune God for what are they fighting and whether the aim of each justifies all this appalling misery and devastation. With this object and in view of the assertions of various British statesmen to the effect that this war was begun and is being carried on with the set purpose of undermining her majesty's authority in South Africa and of setting up an administration over all of South Africa independent of her majesty's government, we consider it our duty to solemnly declare that this war was undertaken solely as a defensive measure to maintain the threatened independence of both republics as sovereign international states and to obtain the assurance that those of her majesty's subjects who have taken part with us in this war shall suffer no harm whatever in person or property. On these conditions, but on these conditions alone, are we now, as in the past, desirous of seeing peace reestablished in South Africa; while, if her majesty's government is determined to destroy the independence of the republics, there is nothing left to us and to our people but to persevere to the end in the course already begun. In spite of the overwhelming preeminence of British empire we are confident that that God who lighted the unextinguishable fire of love of freedom in the hearts of ourselves and of our fathers will not forsake us and will accomplish His work in us and in our descendants. We hesitated to make this declaration earlier to your excellency as we feared that as long as the advantage was always on our side and as long as our forces held defensive positions far within her majesty's colonies such a declaration might hurt the feelings and honor of the British people. But now that the prestige of the British empire may be considered to be assured by the capture of one of our forces by her majesty's troops and that we have thereby been forced to evacuate other positions which our forces had occupied, that difficulty is over and we can no longer hesitate to clearly inform your government and people in the sight of the whole civilized world, why we are fighting and on what conditions we are ready to restore peace."

GREAT BRITAIN'S REPLY

The Marquis of Salisbury to the presidents of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State: "Foreign Office, March 11.—I have the honor to acknowledge your honors telegram, dated March 5, from Bloemfontein, of which the purport is principally to demand that her majesty's government shall recognize 'the contestable independence' of the South African republic and Free State as 'sovereign international states' and to offer on those terms to bring the war to a conclusion.

"In the beginning of October last peace existed between her majesty and the two republics under convention which were then in existence. A discussion had been proceeding for some months between her majesty's government and the South African republic, of which the object was to obtain redress for certain very serious grievances under which the British residents in South Africa were suffering.

In the course of these negotiations the South African republic had, to the knowledge of her majesty's government, made considerable armaments, and the latter had consequently taken steps to provide corresponding reinforcements of the British garrisons at Cape Town and in Natal. No infringement of the rights guaranteed by the conventions had, up to that point, taken place on the British side. Suddenly, at two days' notice, the South African republic, after issuing an insulting ultimatum, declared war upon her majesty; and the Orange Free State, with whom there had not even been any discussion, took a similar step. Her majesty's dominions were immediately invaded by the two republics. Siege was laid to three towns within the British frontier, a large portion of two colonies were overrun, with great destruction of property and life, and the republics claimed to treat the inhabitants of extensive portions of her majesty's dominions as if those dominions had been annexed to one or the other of them. In anticipation of these operations, the South African republic had been accumulating for many years past military stores on an enormous scale, which, by their character, could only have been intended for use against Great Britain.

"Your honors make some observations of a negative character upon the object with which these preparations were made. I do not think it necessary to discuss the questions you have raised. But the result of these preparations, carried on with great secrecy, has been that the British empire has been compelled to confront an invasion which has entailed upon the empire a costly war and the loss of thousands of precious lives. This great calamity has been the penalty Great Britain has suffered for having of recent years acquiesced in the existence of the two republics. In view of the use to which the two republics have put the position which was given them and the calamities their unprovoked attack have inflicted on her majesty's dominions, her majesty's government can only answer your honors' telegram by saying that they are not prepared to assent to the independence either of the South African republic or the Orange Free State.

London, March 13.—Lord Roberts telegraphs from Venters Vlei at 5 20 o'clock this morning as follows: 'I directed Gen French, if there was time before dark, to seize the railway station at Bloemfontein and thus secure the rolling stock. At mid night I received a report from him that after considerable opposition he had been able to occupy two hills close to the railway station which commanded Bloemfontein.

"A brother of President Steyn has been made a prisoner. 'I am now starting with the Third cavalry brigade, which I called up from the Seventh division near Petrusberg, and the mounted infantry to reinforce the cavalry division. The rest of the division will follow as quickly as possible.' The war office has received the following additional despatch from Lord Roberts at Venters Vlei, dated March 12, 9 30 p. m.: 'Our march was again unopposed. We are now about 18 miles from Bloemfontein. The cavalry division is astride the railway six miles south of Bloemfontein. There were 321 men wounded and about 60 or 70 were killed or are missing.'

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COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Thomas Belvin Goes Free—Corbitt Not Guilty.

The following is a complete record of the proceedings of court since our last issue: The State vs. Benjamin Brunson, larceny of live stock. Not guilty. The State vs. Henry Baker, larceny of live stock. Not guilty. The State vs. Henry Baker, larceny of live stock and grand larceny. Not guilty. The State vs. Hiram A. Bryant, bigamy. Plead guilty. Sentenced to one year. The State vs. David Edge, assault and battery. Continued to June term. The State vs. D. L. Reeves, assault and battery with intent to kill. True bill. Continued to June term. The State vs. John Lawson, housebreaking and larceny. Mistrial. The State vs. Richard A. Moore, adultery. Guilty. Sentence, one year on chain-gang or \$100 fine. This was reduced by the judge from \$200 as at first announced. The State vs. Jacob Davis, housebreaking and larceny. Continued. The State vs. James Cutler alias James Vaneer, highway robbery. Guilty. Sentence, 2 years. The State vs. John Bracey, assault and battery with intent to kill. Guilty of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature. Sentence, 1 year on chain-gang. The State vs. C. M. Rogan and Joe Hardin—Appeal from magistrate. Continued. The State vs. Peter Chatman and John Chatman, highway robbery and larceny and assault and battery with intent to kill. True bill. Continued. The State vs. Geo. McD. Barratt, malfeasance in office. There were five cases against Mr. Barratt. Three cases were heard, and in each one he was found not guilty. The remaining cases were thrown out. Last Wednesday the grand jury reported "no bill" in the case of the State vs. Thomas Belvin, charged with murder. On Thursday morning Solicitor Wilson handed a new indictment against Thomas Belvin for murder to the grand jury. He stated that he intended no reflection on the grand jury, but as Dr. S. C. Baker, an important witness was absent when the first indictment was acted on by that body he thought it his duty to draw another indictment. The jury after reviewing the case returned a true bill. The case was taken up Friday afternoon. A jury was selected without difficulty and the trial entered upon at once. The State put up Dr. S. C. Baker, and Lily House, Sallie Nelson, and Warren Nelson. Dr. Baker testified in reference to the wound received by Nelson, the operation performed for his relief and to the fact of his death from the wound. The statement made by Nelson a few hours prior to his death and reduced to writing by Dr. Baker in the presence of Dr. A. C. Dick was ruled out by Judge Townsend on the ground that it did not meet the requirements of an ante mortem statement. Lily House and Sallie Nelson, sisters of Arthur Nelson, and Warren Nelson, a brother, who were present when the shooting occurred, testified as to the facts and circumstances at the time the shooting occurred and the conduct of Belvin then and prior thereto. The defense put up no witnesses, and Belvin, the defendant, did not go on the stand to testify in his own behalf. Major Marion Morse made the opening argument for the defense, speaking only 25 minutes. He was followed by Solicitor Wilson for the State, and Col. R. D. Lee closed for the defense. Judge Townsend charged the jury at some length as to the law bearing upon murder, manslaughter, and excusable homicide, defining each offense and differentiating one from the other. The jury retired to the room and within a few minutes returned with a verdict of "not guilty."

The defendant, Mr. Thomas Belvin was discharged from custody at once and left the court house a free man.

The case of the State vs. John Q. Corbitt, for rape, was taken up when the court convened at 3 30 p. m. Monday, and was concluded soon after 3 o'clock. The verdict was not guilty. The jury was out not more than five minutes in this case and there was no apparent difficulty in arriving at the verdict acquitting Corbitt of the grave charge against him.

The case for the defense was well managed by John Clifton, Esq., assisted by B. Frank Kelley, Esq. The witnesses were examined by Mr. Clifton and he made the most of every point that could be used in behalf of his client. Mr. Kelley opened the argument for the defense in a speech of twenty minutes, and was followed by Mr. Clifton, who made a strong, logical and effective argument based on the evidence and collateral circumstances, and closed with an appeal to the jury that carried considerable weight. Mr. Clifton's management of the case, and his argument before the jury have been generally complimented, and it has been generally conceded that Corbitt was well and ably defended and that he gained rather than lost by relying upon the court to appoint counsel to defend him.

Solicitor Wilson conducted the prosecution with his usual force and earnestness and made a strong argument before the jury. For the prosecution Jane Kelly, the mother of the child said to have been raped by Corbitt, Charlotte Kelly, the eight-year-old victim of the assault, Annie Pettiford, a negro woman who examined the child the morning after the assault was committed, and Dr. C. P. Osteen who made an examination and prescribed for the child about three weeks after the crime, testified. Charlotte Kelly, the victim, appeared to be of average intelligence for a negro child of eight years, and she told a straight story under the examination of the solicitor and the cross examination by Mr. Clifton. She could not relate a connected narrative of the circumstances, but gave direct and positive answers to questions asked. She stated positively that she knew Corbitt and that he had assaulted her and gave sufficient details to convince anyone that she knew what she was talking about. It was impossible to make her contradict herself, for she did not appear to be able to state anything but actual facts of which she had a vivid and personal knowledge, and her testimony afforded no grounds for belief that she had been tutored. It is not to be believed that a child of her age and intelligence could have been trained to answer the questions of the lawyers as she did, without contradicting herself.

Jane Kelly testified as to where she found the child the day she was assaulted and her condition when she carried her home and made an examination. She exhibited her blood-stained garments. Annie Pettiford testified as to the child's condition when she examined her the next day. Dr. Osteen stated the child's condition when he examined her between two and three weeks after the assault was said to have been committed.

For the defense Mrs. Corbitt, wife of the defendant, Corbitt himself, Mr. Jim Davis, Rev. S. D. Yates and Mr. Tom Grier testified. Mrs. Corbitt testified that Corbitt was at home at the time (the crime was said to have been committed on his place) and as to his whereabouts subsequent to the crime until his arrest in December, and as to the character of Jane Kelly.

Corbitt denied all knowledge of the alleged crime, told about a row he had had with Jane Kelly and threats she had made, and gave an account of his movements from the time the crime was said to have been committed on June 29th and a warrant issued for his arrest, until he was captured in this city in December. Messrs. Yates, Davis and Grier testified as to seeing the child and as to her apparent condition within a few days subsequent to June 29th, and as to Jane Kelly's character and reputation.

In one sense there was strong evidence against Corbitt and on the other hand it was not positively proven that he assaulted the child, for no one saw him commit the deed, and the acquittal by the jury amounts to a verdict of not proven beyond the possibility of a doubt. Corbitt left the court house Monday night a free man, but many a negro has a retched sleep in Judge Townsend's court on evidence as strong as that which was sworn to on the stand Monday.

This trial is not an argument in favor of molasses in rape cases, but is rather a warning against precipitate action, for it is a demonstration of how easy it is to condemn a man in advance of a full and open trial and adjudge him guilty of the crime charged before all the evidence is in. Corbitt may have committed the crime as charged, but there was not sufficient evidence to convince the jury of his guilt, and, in consequence, he goes free. If mob law had been resorted to he would have been lynched out of hand, and would not have been given the benefit of the saving doubt.

The grand jury made their presentment Friday morning and were discharged. Judge Townsend commended the grand jury for the systematic and business like way in which all business had been handled and complimented them on the presentment. The presentment was as follows: PRESENTMENT OF THE GRAND JURY. To the Honorable D. A. Townsend, Presiding Judge. The grand jury beg leave to submit the following report: We have passed upon all bills which have been given us by the solicitor. In obedience to your Honor's wishes we have visited the jail as a body, went through and made examination, found the building apparently in good condition, and the prisoners well cared for. We required of several as to fare; they said they had enough well prepared food to eat and sufficient bedding to make them comfortable. We recommend that the cages in the jail be painted at once. We sent a committee to visit Poor House. They reported 34 inmates—23 white and 11 colored; went through different departments, found buildings comfortable and the poor well cared for and kindly treated, which they seem to appreciate. We recommend that a wash and wood shed be erected for their convenience and that the superintendent be required to see that all children of the inmates attend the public school in reach, and when good homes can be secured he is empowered to bind them out. The committee visited the Treasurer's, Auditor's, Sheriff's, Clerk of Court's, Judge of Probate's and School Commissioner's offices and found all things satisfactory, except as for keeping important papers in Sheriff's office, which we consider unsafe, and we advise the same to be put in order at once. The attention of the grand jury was called to the condition of the Deed and Mortgage Indexes in the office of the Clerk of Court, and gave the matter consideration, and will defer action until June term of court. We examined the County Commissioners' reports and found them correct, and expressed as reasonable as we could expect. Complainant having come before us from different sections of the county of the general bad condition of the public roads, and believing this to be attributable to the heavy rains and continuous hauling over the roads we advise that the supervisor appoint competent overseers on all roads and authorize them to have hands warned out as early as practicable and roads worked the full term of four days where necessary. We further suggest that the supervisor work the chain gang on roads leading to the principal towns in the county, not to exceed three miles on each road. We would make special mention of the excellent work which has been done by the chain gang of our county, but we fear that too much has been expected of the chain gang in some portions of the county, and the roads have been neglected, apparently under a disposition to wait for the chain gang. We return thanks to the Presiding Judge, the Solicitor and other court officials for the courtesy and consideration shown us in the discharge of duty at this term of court. Respectfully submitted, John Montgomery, Foreman. March 8, 1900.

CRIME, TOLD ABOUT A ROW HE HAD HAD WITH JANE KELLY AND THREATS SHE HAD MADE, AND GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIS MOVEMENTS FROM THE TIME THE CRIME WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN COMMITTED ON JUNE 29TH AND A WARRANT ISSUED FOR HIS ARREST, UNTIL HE WAS CAPTURED IN THIS CITY IN DECEMBER. MESSRS. YATES, DAVIS AND GRIER TESTIFIED AS TO SEEING THE CHILD AND AS TO HER APPARENT CONDITION WITHIN A FEW DAYS SUBSEQUENT TO JUNE 29TH, AND AS TO JANE KELLY'S CHARACTER AND REPUTATION.

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A CLEAR HEAD; good digestion; sound sleep; a fine appetite and a ripe old age, are some of the results of the use of Tutt's Liver Pills. A single dose will convince you of their wonderful effects and virtue.

A Known Fact. An absolute cure for sick headache, dyspepsia, malaria, sour stomach, dizziness, constipation, bilious fever, piles, torpid liver and all kindred diseases.

Tutt's Liver Pills



FIRE! FIRE! is an ominous sound to the man who isn't insured, when he sees his home disappearing in flames and smoke. We can hardly have any compassion on him, when it is so easy and at such a small outlay to provide against such loss. A policy in the Hartford Insurance Co. costs you but a small sum when we draw it for you, and gives you security as safe as the Bank of England.

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Feb 7. NOTICE. NOTICE is hereby given that Certificate No. 107 for 39 shares of stock in the Sumter Cotton Mill, issued to F. W. DAWSON, and dated May 23d, 1883, having been lost or destroyed, the undersigned will on the 26th day of March 1900, apply to the said Sumter Cotton Mills to issue a new certificate in lieu thereof. SARAH M. DAWSON, Executrix Estate of F. W. Dawson. Feb 28—0t