

The Watchman and Southron.

Published Wednesday and Saturday

—BY—  
OSTEEN PUBLISHING COMPANY  
SUMTER, S. C.

Terms:  
\$1.50 per annum—in advance.  
Advertisements:  
One Square first insertion.....\$1.00  
Every subsequent insertion.... .50  
Contracts for three months, or longer will be made at reduced rates.  
All communications which subserve private interests will be charged for as advertisements.  
Obituaries and tributes of respects will be charged for.

## CARMACK'S SLAYER TESTIFIES

ROBIN J. COOPER ON WITNESS STAND SATURDAY.

Young Man Who Did the Actual Killing Describes the Tragedy Enacted on the Streets of Nashville Last November—Makes Strong Impression on Jury and Spectators—X-Ray Brought Into Use.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 20.—This was the defence's day in the trial of Col. Duncan B. Cooper, Robin J. Cooper and John D. Sharpe, charged with the murder of former United States Senator Edward W. Carmack. Only one witness was examined, the boyish defendant, Robin J. Cooper, and he made a splendid witness. When Court opened it was expected that the State would offer one or more of its missing witnesses. At least three arrived last night, but the Attorney General decided either not to use them at all or to save them for his conspiracy fight in rebuttal. Both sides seemed sparring for time at the opening of the day's session. Finally the defence asked for thirty minutes' indulgence and took an hour and a half. It was presumed that a confession was on, but in reality the

defence in order that an X-ray photograph might be taken to learn if the bullet which Robin Cooper received in the shoulder was still there. Dr. Fort thought it was and so testified. However, the day after the shooting Robin Cooper found a bullet in the bed near his knees at the St. Thomas Hospital. It was a 38-calibre bullet. The gun found near Senator Carmack's body with two empty shells is a 38-calibre. The defence evidently wanted to be sure that the X-Ray showed no bullet in Robin's shoulder before they produced the missile found in the boy's bed. In this connection the State has an interesting theory that the revolver found near Carmack's body was not the one forced upon the dead editor by one of his staff a few hours before he was shot. The one picked up is a blue steel 38-calibre. Col. Cooper's revolver, secured a day or two later, is a nickelled 38-calibre, and apparently had never been discharged.

As soon as the X-Ray plate had been developed and disclosed no trace of a bullet the defence announced it was ready and called young Cooper to the stand. The boy is a slender, erect, clean-cut, high-bred type of a young man. His features are delicate, almost feminine, but he carries himself in an erect and manly fashion, and there is nothing effeminate in his manner. His voice is soft and well cultivated. He speaks slowly, almost with a drawl. He answered every question with a deliberateness and caution that at times seemed to exasperate his counsel, Judge Anderson, and put him in the light of an unwilling witness. But there is no doubt that his evident sincerity and disinclination to take advantage of a situation made a very strong impression on both jury and spectators. His cross-examination was postponed until Monday, when it will consume probably most of the day.

He said that he practiced law in the office of his uncle, James Bradford, and that on November 9, the day of the Carmack shooting, his father called at Bradford's office in the forenoon. Young Cooper, who gave his age as twenty-seven, referred to his father as "papa."

"When papa told me," he testified, "he was afraid he was going to have trouble with Mr. Carmack."

After a long argument of counsel, Cooper was allowed to explain such parts of his conversation as had been previously testified to by Miss Lee, who said she overheard parts of the conversation. The witness continued, speaking of his father:

"He said he was afraid of trouble. I asked him why. He said in substance that Mr. Carmack, in his paper, had been printing editorials attacking his character, and as he put it, shooting poisoned arrows. He said it was becoming unendurable. He

said he had seen Mr. Craig the night before and told him to tell Carmack that he must cease using his name in his paper. He said Mr. Craig returned and said he had seen Carmack, but Carmack would agree to nothing.

"As I remember it, Mr. Craig said to papa that Carmack was in a vicious humor or mood."

Robin said his father also told Craig to tell Carmack that unless he ceased using his name, the town was not big enough to hold them both.

"I was greatly worried," the witness continued, "and said I believed my uncle could bring influence to bear to show Carmack the injustice of his course. It was then that papa said, 'he had no right to use my name, and I have a right to protect myself.'"

The defence attempted to get in testimony by Robin tending to show that Col. Cooper's waiting for Carmack the day of the killing was merely to protest against the use of Cooper's name in the paper, but this testimony was ruled out.

Then Judge Anderson, in an impassioned plea, frankly admitted why this evidence was essential. The Court was unmoved.

Robin said after this talk he telephoned his sister, Mrs. Burch, for the purpose of getting her to find his father and keep him off the street.

"Why did you wish him kept off the street?"

"I feared Mr. Carmack might have resented the message papa sent him, and that there might be trouble."

"How old is your father?"

"He is sixty-seven years old."

"And his physical condition?"

"His right hand is crippled, the two smaller fingers of the hand are bent in and cannot be moved."

"What did you do then?" asked Cooper's counsel, again taking up Robin's movements during the morning.

"I went out and looked for papa, but failed to find him. I returned to my office and telephoned Governor Patterson to ask him if he knew about the trouble."

"Did you get a pistol that day?"

"I did. I got it from my uncle, Robin Jones. I called him up and asked him if he had one. My purpose in getting it was this: From what papa said, from telephone conversations, from the messages—"

"We object to his reasons," said State Attorney General McCarn.

"Well, the message father sent

## AGENTS WANTED

### An Unusual Opportunity For Those Who Have Spare Time.

We will appoint one agent in each neighborhood.

An energetic boy or girl can secure a sufficient number of subscribers to the Semi-Weekly WATCHMAN & SOUTHRON by working a few hours in the afternoons and on Saturday to pay handsomely for the time devoted to the work.

Next Saturday we will announce a list of premiums to be given agents.

The boy who wants to earn a Shot Gun, a Repeating Rifle, or any one of a dozen or more other prizes, should apply at once for appointment as our agent.

Those who prefer cash will be paid a liberal commission on each subscriber.

The Semi Weekly WATCHMAN & SOUTHRON is the best, biggest and cheapest twice-a-week county paper published in the State, and it should go into every home in Sumter and adjoining counties.

It is a clean family paper, all home print, live local, State and general news, and is interesting to every member of the family, from the oldest to the youngest.

At \$1.50 a year it is the bargain of the newspaper field.

The Agents who get to work first will reap the greatest rewards.

Apply at once for an agency, watch for the next issue, select the prize you wish and then get to work.

## Osteen Publishing Co.

said he had seen Mr. Craig the night before and told him to tell Carmack that he must cease using his name in his paper. He said Mr. Craig returned and said he had seen Carmack, but Carmack would agree to nothing.

"As I remember it, Mr. Craig said to papa that Carmack was in a vicious humor or mood."

Robin said his father also told Craig to tell Carmack that unless he ceased using his name, the town was not big enough to hold them both.

"I was greatly worried," the witness continued, "and said I believed my uncle could bring influence to bear to show Carmack the injustice of his course. It was then that papa said, 'he had no right to use my name, and I have a right to protect myself.'"

The defence attempted to get in testimony by Robin tending to show that Col. Cooper's waiting for Carmack the day of the killing was merely to protest against the use of Cooper's name in the paper, but this testimony was ruled out.

Then Judge Anderson, in an impassioned plea, frankly admitted why this evidence was essential. The Court was unmoved.

Robin said after this talk he telephoned his sister, Mrs. Burch, for the purpose of getting her to find his father and keep him off the street.

"Why did you wish him kept off the street?"

"I feared Mr. Carmack might have resented the message papa sent him, and that there might be trouble."

"How old is your father?"

"He is sixty-seven years old."

"And his physical condition?"

"His right hand is crippled, the two smaller fingers of the hand are bent in and cannot be moved."

"What did you do then?" asked Cooper's counsel, again taking up Robin's movements during the morning.

"I went out and looked for papa, but failed to find him. I returned to my office and telephoned Governor Patterson to ask him if he knew about the trouble."

"Did you get a pistol that day?"

"I did. I got it from my uncle, Robin Jones. I called him up and asked him if he had one. My purpose in getting it was this: From what papa said, from telephone conversations, from the messages—"

"We object to his reasons," said State Attorney General McCarn.

"Well, the message father sent

Carmack was very strong, and, knowing Carmack as I did, I feared he would resent it. I could not find papa. I know he was on the streets, so at noon my uncle brought me the automatic revolver. I determined to find my father, and he must be on the streets, to stay near him and protect him."

Robin testified that he found his father, and that he induced the latter to stay at the Maxwell Hotel until 3 p. m. The witness meanwhile tried a case in Court.

Robin said he did not hear his father using the violent language Miss Lee said she heard.

At 3 o'clock he again saw his father in Bradford's office.

"How long did you stay there?"

"Until father and I left."

"Where did your father say he was going?"

"To the mansion to see Governor Patterson."

"Why was he going there?"

"To meet Governor Patterson and Mr. Austin Cooley at Governor Patterson's request."

"Who told your father that Governor Patterson wanted to talk to him?"

"Gen. Tulley Brown."

"Did your father want you to go along?"

"He did not."

"Why?"

"He did not apprehend any trouble as he thought it was in process of settlement. He did not apprehend that he would meet Carmack."

"Had you received any information as to what was the result of the conference in Bradford's office which closed at 4 p. m."

"Yes, papa had agreed to refrain from sending the note and to disregard the —"

The State's objection to finishing this sentence was sustained.

Witness detailed the walk from Bradford's office to the scene of the shooting. They stopped at a drug store, bought some soda water and walked on up towards the Arcade.

"Papa spoke to several people on the way. I saw John Tindall, the newsboy, but neither of us said anything about 'getting' any one."

"At the middle of the alley intercepting the Arcade we met John D. Sharpe and Representative Matthews. We stopped and talked. I had not seen Mr. Sharpe for a long time."

Witness said they walked on in the direction of the Governor's Mansion, Mr. Sharpe accompanying them.

"Were you expecting to meet John Sharpe that day?"

"We were not."

"When we got to Vine street, or 7th avenue, I saw Mr. Carmack down on 7th avenue, near Church street, a block away. I turned to Mr. Sharpe and said: 'There comes Senator Carmack; don't let papa see him. I whispered, and then to papa I said: 'Let's hurry up, papa.'"

"When papa came up to me I got him by the arm and turned toward the Governor's Mansion. I began to hurry, and he pulled away, saying: 'What's the matter with you,' then he turned and exclaimed: 'Say, is that Senator Carmack? Yes, I'll go over and talk to him now.'"

"I said: 'Oh, no, papa, you must not now.'"

"He said: 'I know Carmack; he knows me, there will be no trouble,' I let him go about twenty feet. I did not know what to do, then I went over to him."

"If you believed his mission was peaceful why did you go with him?"

"Because he was my father and I believed it my duty to protect him, as he was unable to protect himself."

"Did you believe Senator Carmack knew of your father's changed attitude?"

"No, sir; I knew he did not. Father turned over and got on the sidewalk. I followed him in the street and got in the direction of the two posts. Papa was on the sidewalk, I was in the street almost even with him."

"Senator Carmack was about to pass Mrs. Eastman and was putting his hat back on his head. Papa spoke to him as he was passing her without expecting to speak. Papa said: 'Senator Carmack,' and instantly the Senator drew his revolver."

"It came out instantly, just like this." The witness illustrated the motion.

"It paralyzed me for a minute, and I sprang towards papa as Carmack began to back towards the pole."

"As I jumped a shot exploded in my face. The bullet struck my neck and went into my shoulder. I went after my gun, which was in my overcoat pocket. The second shot went through my sleeve and entered the post. I slipped around the post and found Carmack aiming at me again."

"What did you do then?"

"I began firing. I fired three times as fast as I could, leaning against the post with my left hand. I saw Carmack reel and fall, and I quit firing."

"Why did you stop?"

"Because I saw that he was hit."

"Did your father say anything about a coward?"

"Yes, sir. As Carmack drew his revolver and got behind Mrs. Eastman, he said something about a coward, hiding behind a woman's skirts."

"Where was your attention centered?"

"On Carmack and father."

"Did you see a pistol in your father's hand up to the time Carmack began to shoot?"

"No, sir."

"Did your father say to Carmack, 'pov you are here; we have the drop on you?'"

"No, sir; no such expression was used. The only expression was about a coward. The whole thing was over in a minute. I jumped eight or ten feet before I was shot and I moved very quickly."

"Papa put his arm around me and led me away."

"Did any one fire a shot before Senator Carmack?"

"No, sir, Carmack fired two shots first and I fired three. That was all that were fired—five shots."

The witness then described his wounds and testified about the X-Ray examination. Later his counsel asked:

"At the time you shot Senator Carmack, did you not believe that your life was in danger?"

"I believe if I had not done so, he would have killed me. I think in another instant he would have shot me again."

The witness denied ever having said to Chas. H. Harwick that Carmack "ought to have been dead and in hell twenty years ago."

After Robin Cooper testified that he had known Senator Carmack for many years and had never "had aught but friendly feelings for the Senator," the defence announced that they were through questioning him, and Court adjourned.

Doubtless their inability to read will spare certain members of that Tennessee jury some severe pangs.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Irrespective of legislation, prudent ocean-going steamship lines will equip their ships with the C. Q. D. apparatus.—Boston Journal.

Our national income is ample. It is our national outgo that is foolish and wasteful.—Rochester Herald.

### EVADING THE LAW.

#### ONE OF THE RESULTS OF PROHIBITION IN GEORGIA.

A Citizen Wanted "Extract," But Got "Corn" Instead and Filed a Complaint.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 19.—As one of the results of prohibition in the State of Georgia, the interesting question has arisen as to what really constitutes a "quart of corn" in the eyes of the law.

"A quart of corn is a quart of corn, be it in solid or liquid state," Justice A. D. Patterson decided.

Charging that he had obtained \$1 from him under false pretenses, Coy Fisher, a painter, prosecuted Elbert Bryant, 14 years old. The evidence showed that Fisher had been told that for \$1 a quart of "Georgia corn" might be had on the quiet. He instructed the led with the coin and at the appointed time went to the rear of a certain building where he expected to find his bottle.

To his keen disappointment, Fisher found, not a quart of "booze," but a quart of the corn in its original form—freshly shelled from the ear. He appealed for the return of his money, but the boy said the transaction was bona fide and that he had delivered what the contract called for.

"Receiving and retaining \$1 for the delivery of a quart of shelled corn is not getting money under false pretenses," said Judge Patterson in deciding the case, "though the contributing party may have separated from his coin under the impression that the corn was coming to him in liquid form. The transaction is held to be a practical joke, and not criminal."

Fisher paid \$1.50, the cost of the prosecution.

### SWIFT JUSTICE IN VIRGINIA.

#### Negro Rapist and Murderer Sentenced Within a Day After His Crime.

Roanoke, Va., Feb. 19.—Aurelious Christian, the negro, who yesterday criminally assaulted and then murdered Miss Mary Dobbs, the pretty fourteen-year-old daughter of a prominent Botetourt County farmer, was today sentenced to die in the electric chair in the State penitentiary on March 22. Christian was taken from Clifton Forge today to Fincastle and tried at a special sitting of the Court by Circuit Judge Anderson, who accompanied the negro and others to Fincastle. Christian was indicted by the grand jury, and Judge Anderson appointed three lawyers to defend him. At a conference between the lawyers and the prisoner, Christian made a confession, and Judge Anderson imposed the death sentence. The negro said he was hiding in the woods when Miss Dobbs passed by on her way to a store. He seized her, and after assaulting her cut her throat and stabbed her three times, to keep her from telling. Christian showed no signs of fright in court. The sentence came within twenty-four hours after the crime was committed, and Christian was sent to the Fincastle jail. The jail is being guarded tonight to prevent an attack that might be made by a mob. A mob gathered last night near Clifton Forge, but agreed not to attempt to lynch Christian while he "was at that place."

### STEEL SITUATION SERIOUS.

#### Tariff May be Reduced—Officers of Trust Hold Conference in New York.

New York, Feb. 18.—The steel situation was the absorbing topic in financial and other business circles today. This interest has been aroused by reports that the traffic in steel had been disappointing, that independent manufacturers are cutting prices and getting what business there was and by the fact that the officers of the United States Steel Corporation and the heads of that corporation's subsidiary companies held another conference today, at which conditions and the situation were thoroughly discussed.

On adjournment Judge Gary, chairman, announced that he would not have anything to say today in relation to the conference, but that he would tomorrow "make a general statement that will fully and frankly set forth the general conditions of the trade."

Mrs. Alma Lafferty, of Denver, is a member of the Colorado House of Representatives, the first woman to occupy a seat in that body for a number of years.