

**THE BIGHAM-AVANT CASE.**

**COURT ROOM AT GEORGETOWN PACKED WITH SPECTATORS.**

Probing of the Tragedy, at Murrell's Inlet in Georgetown County in September, by Which Young Mrs. Bigham Lost Her Life, Begun Yesterday—Avant Admits Firing the Fatal Shot.

Georgetown, Oct. 21.—Two men, scarcely past the years of youth, are on trial here, charged with the killing of the girl wife of one of them. G. C. Bigham, the husband and W. B. Avant, the friend, are the only ones who know all that happened on the evening Ruth Crisp Bigham met her death. Out on a lonely beach, with no witnesses save the silent waters of the little inlet, the tragedy which resulted in the death of the wife of Dr. Bigham occurred. According to the two men, neither knew it was the wife of Bigham at whom the fatal shot was fired. Both claim that they had no knowledge of the identity of the woman that walked upon the beach shortly after sundown on September 4.

With her life cut short within two minutes of the firing of the gun, the woman had no chance to tell the world of the manner of the shooting. She could not tell those who hastened to her side at the sound of the report who shot her nor give a motive, if motive there was, for the shooting.

But from the lips of Avant himself it has developed that he fired the gun. It was he who sent to her death the wife of his friend. But why he killed her has not been established. The theories as to her death range from the possibility of a cold-blooded murder to that of a mere accident. From the moment the husband cried out in agony on the beach, "Oh, God, you have killed my little wife," to the time when the trial is entered into and the State's witnesses examined, the affair has remained a mystery. What further developments may come from the lips of those who were near cannot be guessed.

The State put up four witnesses today, and in early all details these witnesses' statements agreed. That Bigham and Avant were together on the evening of the tragedy, walked from Sunnyside, the home of Avant, out on the beach of Murrell's Inlet, followed an object that passed from around the home, and when, not receiving a response to their call as to what it was, the gun was fired by Avant at the request of Bigham, are statements made by the defendants on the night of the shooting. This and other explanations of various details of the affair were made by the State's witnesses. The main feature of the State's position was to show that it was not sufficiently dark for one to discern objects on the beach. To prove this tests have been made out at the inlet under the same conditions existing at the time of the shooting, as near as could be brought about. Last Saturday night, at about the same hour the shooting occurred, several of the witnesses went to the inlet and tested the sound of the voice, the flashes of a gun and the distances at which persons could be seen walking on the beach. From these tests it was apparent that in the dusk of an evening one hour after the sun had gone down a man could be recognized walking on the beach at some distance from Sunnyside.

On the evening the tragedy took place Ruth Bigham walked from her room in Sunnyside. Over the bathing suit that she wore was thrown a rain coat. As she turned the corner of the home her husband and Avant, according to what has been brought out today, in doubt as to what the object might be, ran into the house, secured a gun and followed her down the beach. "Who is it?" they say they cried out repeatedly. When no answer came, "Shall I fire," asked Avant. "Yes," said Bigham, perhaps little dreaming that it was his own wife whose death sentence he pronounced.

The stockholders of the Monarch Cotton Mills at Union are discussing plans for increasing the capital stock from \$750,000 to \$1,150,000.

Half a hundred people of Union County are attending federal court in Greenville.

**HOW'S THIS?**

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm. W. ALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN.

Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

**BIGHAM AND AVANT GUILTY.**

**MURDER TRIAL AT GEORGETOWN RESULTS IN CONVICTION.**

Defendants Found Guilty of Manslaughter in Having Shot Dr. Bigham's Young Wife to Death on Evening of September 4, at Murrell's Inlet—Sentence of Three and A Half Years in Penitentiary Imposed.

Georgetown, Oct. 22.—Three years and six months within the walls of the State penitentiary will give G. C. Bigham and W. B. Avant time to picture to themselves again and again that September evening when a gun in the hands of the one sent to her death the young wife of the other. To the husband will come the vision of the beautiful bride, near whom he stood and saw killed by his best friend. It is the verdict of the jury in the case of Bigham and W. B. Avant that they were guilty of manslaughter. It is the sentence of the court that the defendants shall be confined at hard labor in the penitentiary for three and a half years. The jury remained out a little more than two hours.

Retiring at 2 o'clock the verdict was returned at 4:15 o'clock this afternoon. The jurors asked for instructions from the Judge once. They were not decided as to whether or not they could find the defendants guilty of manslaughter with recommendation to the mercy of the court and what the effect would be on the sentence.

Refusing a motion for a new trial, admirably presented by Attorney Ragsdale, Judge Watts pronounced sentence upon the two young men. The principal ground of the motion for a new trial was based upon the argument that there was no evidence upon which to base the verdict returned, which should either have been an acquittal or a verdict of guilty of murder. The defendants were granted bail in the sum of \$1,500 each, upon notice of an appeal being taken to the Supreme Court. Judge Watts said after hearing the argument for a new trial that he did not think the verdict of the jury should be set aside, taking into consideration all the facts as brought out by the evidence in the case.

The plioners stood up to receive the sentence. When the jury brought in the verdict neither Avant nor Bigham showed any signs of emotion, but later, as they began to realize that they were found guilty of the killing of Mrs. Bigham, both showed that they were moved. Dr. Bigham completely broke down as he was receiving the sentence of the court.

"The solicitor worked hard, and got all he could out of the case," said Judge Watts. "The defendants were represented by able counsel. I have had considerable experience in criminal cases, but this is the most mysterious and unsatisfactory case I ever tried. I would not have been surprised if the two defendants had been acquitted or if they had been convicted of murder, but I am of the opinion that there was no intention on their part to kill Mrs. Bigham. Great recklessness was shown. The jury probably found that in the pursuit of an unlawful act a gun was handled in a grossly careless and negligent manner. They had a perfect right to find that this was an unintentional killing, constituting manslaughter."

Judge Watts pointed out that there should be more care in the handling of guns. "But I do not believe," said his honor, "that this was a malicious killing. You must have been frightened or rattled. I am going to give you the benefit of these doubts. The killing was pure recklessness. No doubt you have both suffered already and you will suffer more. In a moment of recklessness the life of a good woman was taken. I know we can't punish the guilty without also punishing the innocent. Your aged mother will suffer, Dr. Bigham. I must say, though, in justice to you both that there was no malice, in my opinion, in the killing. The sentence of the court is that each of you be confined at hard labor in the State penitentiary for a period of three years and six months."

The dispensary sold \$1,350 worth of liquors last Saturday, and for the week \$3,540. At this rate the entire stock will be sold out before November 15th. As only \$9,000 worth of stock was on hand after taking stock last Monday. Mr. Pate informs us that the Board has enough in the bank to liquidate all outstanding claims and has about \$5,000 over.—Lee County Vindicator.

Prof. F. Horton Colcock, head of the department of mathematics at the University of South Carolina, has made a report to Gov. Ansel which shows that there is in Marion county enough territory to spare Dillon 400 miles and yet leave Marion with 500. Another obstacle in the way of Dillon getting a new county has been removed.

**TWO VIEWS OF MOTHERHOOD.**

**The "Stone-Woman" of Tokio Would Be a Fashionable Person in New York.**

Some years ago, an American friend and I were passing through a street in the city of Tokyo, says Adachi Kinnousuke in The Delinquent for November. We came upon a gateway which smiled like a May-day festival, and, like it, was full of people.

"What's all this fuss about?" my friend asked me. "Have they hit a gold mine?"

No, they had not. To the good people the occasion meant a deal more than the discovery of gold. It was the coming of a baby. The proud parents were sending out messengers into the four corners of the city announcing the glad tidings of exceeding great joy. And I told my American friend:

"Do your people make such a fuss about a baby? Babies are born every day in this country, aren't they?"

Which was true. But we look upon this matter entirely in a different way. It may be that this is one of the relics of the past, but we put emphasis upon the continuation of a family line. Confucius, whose ghost is much more powerful in Japan of today than all the prophets and philosophers now living put together, made childlessness a just ground for divorce. The coming of the baby means to a mother more than meat, aye, more than a fashionable garment. It is the social insignium with the Japanese mother, nothing defines her social rank as finally as the baby.

The Nippon society is heartless to the childless mother; it brands her as "the stonewoman;" it exposes her to the galling pity of all her more favored sisters. In the sterner days of the samurai ideal, she was an object to be shunned, like a leper. The childless mother did not dare to impose herself upon society. A rather far cry, this, from the fashionable Fifth avenue atmosphere, isn't it?

**CHILD LABOR IN NEW ENGLAND.**

**Textile Delegates Say There is More There Than in the South.**

Washington, Oct. 21.—Whether shorter hours should be contested for in legislative bodies or through the medium of the strike was the subject of an animated discussion before the United Textile Workers of America at its session today.

Delegate Morgan, of Patterson, N. J., stirred up an active debate when he declared that the members of the legislature of his State were elected by corrupt methods. He added, "When they get their jobs they consider that they belong to them and therefore turn a deaf ear to the appeals of laboring men for remedial legislation."

He declared that textile workers should refuse to work more than eight hours, and when they do that, he said, legislatures will enact laws making eight hours a legal day's labor.

Delegate Hall, for 18 months a factory inspector of Pennsylvania, called down the plague upon all political parties as merely capitalistic organs and advocated the formation of workingmen's parties, so that labor laws might be enforced. While a Pennsylvania law forbids the employment of women and children more than 60 hours a week, he said it was constantly violated in Philadelphia department stores, and while he was in office the chief factory inspector had refused to take cognizance of these violations.

Delegate Thomas McMahon, of Rhode Island, insisted that laboring men in his State sell their votes and no complaint could be made against the action of legislators until that practice was broken up. He said that while a great furor was now being raised to abolish child labor in the South, there were more children employed in Massachusetts than in any State of the South, with the exception of North Carolina. The convention approved a committee recommendation that emergency committees be appointed in several sections of the country with power to order local strikes. Heretofore strikes could be ordered only by the executive council of the association.

A resolution was adopted commending to all local unions of textile workers the payment of accident benefits to their members.

**Pitied the General.**

A French general's wife, whose tongue-lashing ability was far-famed, demanded that an old servant, who had served with her husband in the wars, be dismissed.

"Jacques," said the general, "go to your room and pack your trunk, and leave—depart."

The old Frenchman clasped his hands to his heart with dramatic joy. "Me—I can go!" he exclaimed in a very ecstasy of gratitude. Then suddenly his manner changed, as with the utmost compassion he added: "But you, my poor general—you must stay."—Chicago Record-Herald.

**AMERICAN OPERA IN PARIS.**

**Metropolitan Company to Give Performances Next Spring.**

New York, Oct. 21.—A reversal of the usual—an invasion of Europe by an American opera company—is announced by the Metropolitan Opera Company in an official statement given out tonight.

With the close of the season in New York the principal elements of the Metropolitan Opera Company—its greatest artists, etc.—will be taken to Paris, there to appear during May and June, in a series of Italian operas at the Chatelet Theatre, the largest in the city.

The statement says, in part:

"Both the Parisian projectors and the Metropolitan officials feel that the season is so certain of success that they are confident of repeating the season in the months of May and June, 1911, when German operas, sung in German, and possibly French operas, sung in French, will be presented as duplicates of the performance at the Metropolitan Opera House."

The plan is undertaken, the statement adds, to demonstrate the artistic standard of the Metropolitan forces rather than for financial gain.

**STUDENTS HAVE HOOKWORMS**

**Campaign to Eradicate the Parasite At the University of Georgia.**

Athens, Ga., Oct. 21.—The prevalence of the hookworm which certain scientists have ascribed as the cause of laziness among students of the University of Georgia, is causing the faculty alarm and a campaign has been determined upon to eradicate the parasite.

Dr. J. C. Bloomfield, president of the city board of health, has been examining the students at the request of the faculty, and he reports that at least 30 per cent. are suffering from hookworms.

Many examined, Dr. Bloomfield states, are members of wealthy families, which, in his opinion, discredits the belief that the disease is prevalent only among the poorer classes.

One of the interesting sidelights of the recent dinner of the Newark board of trade was the meeting of Gov. John Franklin Fort, of New Jersey, and United States Senator Robert L. Taylor—"Fiddling Bob," of Tennessee—for the first time in 40 years. They were classmates at Pennington Seminary, at Pennington, N. J., but had not met since graduation day, 40 years ago, until the Newark meeting.

Mrs. Mabel R. Brown, who has been made superintendent of the schools of Portland, Ore., seems already to have proved that she has a good business mind, as the book agents have discovered. She says that it is folly not to consider that the increased cost of living affects teachers, as well as other people, with the necessity for higher salaries.

**It's a Top Notch Doer.**

"Great deeds compel regard. The world crowns its doers. That's why the American people have crowned Dr. King's New Discovery the King of Throat and Lung remedies. Every atom is a health force. It kills germs, and colds and a gripe vanish. It heals cough-racked membranes and coughing stops. Sore, inflamed bronchial tubes and lungs are cured and hemorrhages cease. Dr. Geo. More, Black Jack, N. C., writes, "It cured me of lung trouble, pronounced hopeless by all doctors." 50c, \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by Sibert's Drug Store.

**A GREAT FEATURE.**

**Of the South Carolina State Fair at Columbia Will be the Visit of President Taft.**

The Atlantic Coast Line announces very low round trip rates from all points in South Carolina to cover the above occasions, tickets to be on sale October 31 to November 6 inclusive, with return limit to leave Columbia up to and including, but not later than, midnight of November 8, 1909. Tickets will include admission to the fair and transportation to and from Fair Grounds on local trains of the A. C. L. which will make frequent trips.

Saturday, November 6th, will be TAFT DAY.

When the President will meet and address the people at the Fair Grounds and review the Military and Civic Parade.

Inquire of M. F. Duke, Agent, Sumter, or any Agent of the Atlantic Coast Line, for information as to rates, schedules and tickets.

W. J. CRAIG, T. C. WHITE, Pas. Traffic Mgr. Gen. Pas. Agt. WILMINGTON, N. C.

**CHARLESTON'S GALA WEEK Will Occur This Year From October 25 to 31, and the**

**ATLANTIC COAST LINE Offers Very Low Rates.**

As usual the progressive citizens of the City by the Sea, are out with announcements of their Gala Week, but this year with a longer list and a higher class and more pleasing attractions, than in former years, and they are accompanied by a cordial invitation to visit Charleston which promises a warm welcome.

The distinguishing feature will be the five great musical concerts. The Russian Symphony Orchestra, fifty pieces strong, will make its first appearance in the South and a chorus of more than two hundred picked voices will take part in these concerts.

Numerous torpedo boats, the completed navy yard, parades, decorations by day and illuminations by night, added to the assured hospitality of the people, will make this trip one long to be remembered pleasantly by every visitor.

Low rate round trip tickets will be sold to Charleston by the Atlantic Coast Line from all points in South Carolina, and from Gibson, N. C., Savannah, Ga., and intermediate points October 25 to 31, inclusive, good returning to leave Charleston up to and including, but not later than, midnight of November 1, 1909.

For tickets and information regarding rates, schedules, etc., call on M. F. Duke, Ticket Agent, Sumter, S. C., or any Agent of the Atlantic Coast Line.

W. J. CRAIG, T. C. WHITE, Passenger Traffic Mgr. Gen. Pas. Agt. WILMINGTON, N. C.

**Safe Either Way.**

An Elk county citizen who has just graduated from a law school, wrote to a prominent lawyer in an Arkansas town to find out what chance there would be for him in that part of the country.

"I am a Republican in politics," he wrote, "and an honest lawyer."

"If you are an honest lawyer," came the reply, "you will have no competition, and if you are a Republican the game law will protect you."—Kansas City Journal.

**EXCURSION TO CHARLESTON.**

**On Account of the Visit of President Taft.**

For the above occasion the Atlantic Coast Line offers very low round trip rates to Charleston from Sumter, Florence, Hardeeville, Young's Island, Ehrhardt, and Intermediate Points.

Tickets will be sold for trains scheduled to arrive Charleston by 5.15 p. m. November 5th, limited to return until the following day.

Mr. Taft is due to arrive Charleston Friday afternoon November 5th and will meet and address the people that evening, thereby giving every visitor an opportunity to see and hear him.

Inquire of M. F. Duke, Agent, Sumter, S. C., or any Agent of the Atlantic Coast Line for information as to rates schedules and other preliminaries.

W. J. CRAIG, T. C. WHITE, Pas. Traffic Mgr. Gen. Pas. Agt. WILMINGTON, N. C.

**PRESIDENT TAFT'S Visit to FLORENCE, S. C.**

The President is to visit Florence the evening of November 8, and address the people of that city and section of the State. For this auspicious occasion and the

PEE DEE INDUSTRIAL CONGRESS which convenes in Florence, November 8 and 9, the Atlantic Coast Line will sell round trip tickets at very low rates from Wadesboro, Bennettsville, Rowland, Chadbourne, Lanes, Sumter, Clio and intermediate stations.

Tickets will be on sale November 7 and 8, limited to return on or before November 10, 1909.

Rates, schedules, tickets and any desired information can be procured from M. F. Duke, Ticket Agent, Sumter, or by addressing the undersigned:

W. J. CRAIG, T. C. WHITE, Pas. Traffic Mgr. Gen. Pas. Agt. WILMINGTON, N. C.

**GEORGIA-CAROLINA FAIR.**

At Augusta, Ga., November 6-15, 1909.

The Atlantic Coast Line announces very low excursion rates to Augusta for the above occasion and for the visit of

**PRESIDENT TAFT.**

The President is scheduled to reach Augusta, Saturday evening November 6, spend Sunday there and meet and address the people of South Carolina and Georgia on Monday, November 8.

Another great event during the Fair will be the Football Game between the Clemson College and University of Georgia teams on November 10; and still another will be Children's Day, November 12th.

Round trip tickets will be sold from Savannah, Charleston, Congaree, Florence, Darlington, Camden, and intermediate points, Nov. 6 to 12, limit to leave Augusta not later than midnight of November 15th, 1909.

For tickets, rates, schedules and any desired information, call on M. F. Duke, Ticket Agent, Sumter or any Agent of the Atlantic Coast Line, or address:

W. J. CRAIG, T. C. WHITE, Pas. Traffic Mgr. Gen. Pas. Agt. WILMINGTON, N. C.

The Abbeville cotton mill has closed down for one week. The high price of cotton and the low price for goods is supposed to be responsible for the shut down.

**SALE OF Toilet Goods**

We have just received a new stock of

**HUDNUT GOODS**

Violet Sec Toilet Water, 4 ozs.	.75
Violet Sec Toilet Water, 8 ozs.	1.40
Ver Vine Toilet Water, 4 ozs.	.75
Ver Vine Toilet Water, 8 ozs.	1.40
Extreme Violet Toilet Water, 4 ozs.	.75
Marvelous Cold Cream, Tube,	.25
Marvelous Cold Cream, Jar,	.50
Cream Sec. Jar,	.50
Liquid Green Soap,	.50
Nailure,	.50
Curticle Acid,	.25
Violet Sec Soap,	.35
Strawberry Soap,	.25

We also have a large stock of all the Imported Perfumes and Soaps.

TELEPHONE 283. **SIBERT'S DRUG STORE, W. W. SIBERT.**

**Prophylactic**  
THE WORLD'S STANDARD TOOTH BRUSH. PRESERVES THE TEETH.