

Daily Concord Standard.

Price \$4.00 Per Year.

CONCORD, N. C., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1899.

Single Copy 5 Cents

POLICEMAN KERNS KILLED.

A RECKLESS NEGRO PULLS HIS PISTOL AND FIRES UPON THE OFFICER-- A DEATH BLOW--THE BULLET STRIKES HIS HEART.

His Wife Reaches Him Shortly After His Death--Two Negroes In Jail--The Third One Escapes--A Wife, Child and Mother Left--A Member of the Jr. O. U. M.--The Funeral Services--A Mob Visits the Jail But Suppressed By Deputies.

On account of a reckless, unlawful and partly intoxicated negro the life of Mr. Will J. Kerns, who for some time has been serving as a special policeman and since the first of the month had been put on duty on account of Chief Harris leaving, was brought suddenly to an end when he was making an effort to enforce the law and preserve peace.

On last Saturday night after returning from his work at the depot he stopped at his home, which is the second house on this side of the depot, on the north side of West Depot street, and ate his lunch. After getting but a few steps away from the house coming up town he met three negroes, Will Edwards, Tom Carr and Robert Richardson. As to the conflict that followed we have to depend on the story told by the negroes. According to them Mr. Kerns met and passed them. Will Edwards had been cursing along down street and Mr. Kerns informed him that unless this ceased he would have to be taken up town. To this the negro, Will Edwards, told the officer to go on away and not bother him as he was doing nothing. As to the moments between this time and the shooting the two negroes, Carr and Richardson, can not tell, but both say that Richardson pulled his pistol and fired first, but they know not whether the first shot struck the officer. Both say that Mr. Kerns shot three times. One says that Edwards, he thinks, only shot once while the other says five or six shots were fired. Edwards hurriedly got away and has not since been seen. The other two negroes went on towards the depot but returned soon afterward.

But it was over now and a shot fired by one of the negroes, whichever one it was, entered the breast of the officer, striking the heart and killing him almost instantly. Both negroes say that they heard Mr. Kerns exclaim, "Lord have mercy." Mrs. Kerns, who of course heard the shooting soon ran to her husband but too late to find him living. The life of Mr. Kerns was ended. This took place almost in front of Mr. Turner's home and it was about ten minutes before 12 o'clock.

As above stated, two of the negroes, Richardson and Carr, re-

turned and viewed the dead body of the officer, who lay upon the street with his club at one hand and his pistol in the other.

The sad news was quickly spread through that part of town and between midnight and day-break these two negroes were found sleeping in a house at the depot. The house was entered and the negroes put in jail. An effort was made yet that night to capture Edwards but in vain. A large posse was out Sunday morning searching the homes of negroes beyond the depot, despite the refusal of some of the negroes to allow it. No definite news could be obtained as to what direction he took after passing the depot. Numbers think that he boarded a freight train which passed soon afterwards.

THE FUNERAL CONDUCTED.

The body of Mr. Kerns was taken to the home that night and the funeral conducted Sunday afternoon at Rocky Ridge by Rev. T. W. Smith. Mr. Kerns was a member of Cannonville Council No. 25 of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, which Council in a body attended the funeral and took part. Mr. Kerns was a young man of 25 years, of fine appearance, and was proving an efficient officer. He was reared only a few miles beyond the depot and has not here scarcely a year. He married Miss Alice Yates, daughter of Mr. Thad Yates, of Cannonville, who with one child now lives heart-broken over the loss of a kind and forbearing husband. Mr. Kerns had made numbers of friends here whole in service and sad were the faces Sunday when the news of his death was given. He also had a mother living with him who has now seen her husband and son precede her to the grave. It is sad to think of the life of one like this man being cut off on account of the disregard of our laws by a reckless negro, and to think of the grief-stricken and sad-hearted life companion whose face is buried in tears for her loved one.

ATTEMPTED A LYNCHING.

On Sunday afternoon shortly before dark the streets held numbers of persons who only were inquiring as to the capture of the third negro while there were

others on the streets who were planning with their crowd to take the law in their own hands that night and end the life of one or both of the negroes who were arrested the night before. The situation was realized by our officers and men were deputized to be in readiness in case any trouble might arise. The trouble did arise. The crowd kept hovering about the jail yard and a repetition of the night of the 29th of May, '98 seemed to be coming. But to end the life of these two negroes, who may or may not have committed the crime and thus cut off all evidence which will be needful for the trial of Will Edwards, the third negro, in case he is caught, should not be done and men, who are equally as anxious that death should be meted out to the murderer of Mr. Kerns, formed themselves at the jail porch and were determined that this mob should not lynch the negroes. The mob could be easily discerned in the jail yard as there was considerable space between it and the jail fence and when the leaders of the intended work would call for more help to take the jail by force the outsiders would show their disapproval of such an act and would stand perfectly still.

Mayor Means plead briefly but pointedly to the mob citing to them the efforts that are being made to capture the third one at different points in North and South Carolina, also pleading to them to spare the lives of the two jailed ones that their evidence may be used to find the guilty person. Mr. W. G. Means also made a few remarks. The mob would not move away and made threats that they would have their men. At last, seeing that some other means were necessary, the lawful one informed the mob that lives would be lost before the jail was entered, and at once made a rush into the crowd commanding them to disperse. The mob gave back and the deputies continued to order them out until the jail yard was cleared. In this rush while attempting to take a prominent member of the mob out Mr. R. F. Coble and Sheriff Peck were struck by some one, though not badly hurt. Some one of the mob during this trouble was flourishing a pistol about while attempting to release his friend from Mr. Coble and Sheriff Peck. After the jail yard was cleared a line was formed by the deputies; and with honor to them, the crowd was sent through the streets. By this time a crowd was equipped with shot guns and a guard was formed and stationed in different parts of town. It was a successful dispersion of the mob and no more talk of lynching that night was heard.

THE NEGROES BEING TRIED.

As we go to press this afternoon, a preliminary trial is being held in the court house of Robert Richardson and Tom Carr, the two negroes who were jailed Saturday night. Quite a number of witnesses were summoned for the trial, and it will very probably take a good amount of time, but will aid much in the settling of prevalent reports.

Has Returned from the Hospital.

Mr. Jno. A. Cline returned home Sunday morning after spending nearly six weeks in the hospital in Philadelphia where he went to be cured of an attack of neuritis in his arm and shoulder. He is still unable to return to his work but his arm and shoulder has been relieved.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

—Mr. Ernest B. Taylor, of Salisbury, is here today.

—D. B. Coltrane is spending the afternoon in Charlotte.

—Miss Kate Nicholson spent yesterday out at Mr. S. W. White's.

—Mrs. Jas. Deaton and children returned to Charlotte this morning.

—Morrison Fetzer returned home this morning from Asheville.

—Mr. Jay Harris, of the Savings bank, is off today at his home near Harrisburg.

—Mr. W. E. MacCarter, of the New York World, is registered at the St. Cloud hotel today.

—Miss Edna Lowe and mother, of Lowesville, arrived here this morning. They are visiting at Mr. Will Bingham's.

□—Mr. R. Lee Carr, of Rock Hill, spent yesterday here at Mr. M. E. Castor's. He and his family returned home this morning.

—Mr. Jno. B. Sherrill spent this morning in Salisbury. He accompanied his niece, Ollie Sherrill, that far on her return to Newton.

Punished for His Action.

On Sunday night when the lynching crowd was being dispersed by the deputies and when the streets were being cleared a man of our town refused to keep going and to Mayor Means command to move he responded that he would not move until he got ready. But his refusal caused his arrest and he was lodged in jail. Next morning he was tried and his actions, resisting the means taken by our law-abiding men to keep peace, to let justice be meted out and to relieve doubt as to the guilty person, cost him \$7.85. Another one was taken up but not confined to jail. At this time he has not been dealt with by the law.

Mack Boger Sends Word.

We have received a note over the supposed signature of Mack Boger, the negro who some time ago shot Jesse Koontz (col.) with some kind of excuse for shooting Jesse. We have found by comparison that this note is not Mack's handwriting and if he has any excuses to make let him seek other sources to prove his innocence.

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and fever is a bottle of Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic. Never fails to cure; Then why experiment with worthless imitations? Price 50 cents. Your money back if it fails to cure.

Thinks Neill's Figures Too High.

Col. J. R. Ashe, secretary and treasurer of York Cotton Mill, it is said, is not a gambler, but is willing to bet \$1,000 that Statistician Neill is mistaken in his estimate of the cotton crop by at least 1,000,000 bales, and that there will not be 11,000,000 bales raised in the South this season.

GLORIOUS NEWS

Comes from Dr. D. B. Cargile, of Washita, I. T. He writes: "Four bottles of Electric Bitters has cured Mrs. Brewer of scrofula, which had caused her great suffering for years. Terrible sores would break out on her head and face, and the best doctors could give no help; but her cure is complete and her health is excellent." This shows that thousands have proved that Electric Bitters is the best blood purifier known. It's the supreme remedy for eczema, tetter, salt rheum, ulcers, boils and running sores. It stimulates liver, kidneys and bowels, expels poisons, helps digestion, builds up the strength. Only 50 cents. Sold at Fetzer's Drug Store.

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