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Savage Fight Over Testimony In the Trial of Taylor Case

Daughter of Dr. Taylor and Others Testify That He and Miss Clara Saunders Were Immorally Intimate—Defense Points to Contradictory Testimony—Defense Now At Bat.

With the attorneys savagely fighting every inch of ground, with the witnesses subjected to fierce grilling and with the testimony nearly always bordering on the unprintable, often getting over the border line, the case against Dr. J. W. Taylor, well known Greensboro optometrist, and his secretary, Miss Clara Saunders, charged with immoral relations, was begun in Guilford Superior court yesterday morning.

At the outset the case gave promise of occupying several days' time, but in the afternoon it gathered momentum. The state finished with the presentation of its witnesses and the defense made a beginning with its own. The defense has a large number to offer; when they were sworn in a body they clogged the space between the bench and the bar.

The defense showed its line of action almost at the start. O. L. Sapp tried to bring out in his cross examination of Mrs. Thelma Linker, daughter of Dr. Taylor, that she is actuated by hate of her father and a desire to come into possession of his property. It was also evidently the purpose of the defense to try to prove that the

prosecution, relying on the statements of the wife and daughter of Dr. Taylor, is based on the allegations of abnormal women.

When the state had finished with its testimony a wave of cation seemed to sweep over the Taylor part of the courtroom. There was evidence startlingly damaging put forward, but some of it was in contradiction to other evidence submitted at the preliminary hearing of the case in Municipal court here.

Mrs. Linker (married since the beginning of the sensational charges against Dr. Taylor) and Minnie Reeves, a negro cook for the Taylor family, testified that they had stated in Municipal court at the preliminary hearing of the case that there was nothing wrong in the relations of the defendants because they were afraid of physical harm at the hands of Dr. Taylor should they testify otherwise. They, Mrs. S. T. Coggins and Mrs. S. T. Smith, all of Greensboro, were free and frank in stating that they thought the relations of the two were very immoral, covering a period of several years.

Mrs. Linker was the first witness.

She answered all questions readily, both on examination and cross examination. In substance her testimony was:

That she had seen Miss Saunders and Dr. Taylor in bed together; that she had seen them retire at night together and that they were waked together in the mornings; that her mother would kiss Dr. Taylor and Miss Saunders good night and leave them to retire; that she was afraid to testify to this effect before, stating that Dr. Taylor had threatened to kill her if she did so; that she and her mother acted friendly with Miss Saunders because of fear of her father.

She was put through a most rigorous cross examination by Col. John A. Barringer and O. L. Sapp, for the defense. In answer to a question of Mr. Sapp that after the alleged summoning of the pair from the room of a morning by her mother, "was everything pleasant?" Mrs. Linker replied, "It had to be."

Mr. Sapp endeavored to show that Mrs. Linker had been disobedient to her father; that she greatly worried him by accepting the attentions of Dr. Linker before marriage. She admitted that she had accepted those attentions against the will of her father; that she introduced him to her father shortly before her father spanked her (which, with other things, including an alleged assault upon Mrs. Taylor by her husband caused Dr. Taylor to be tried and convicted of assault upon a female).

Minnie Reeves, negro, former cook of the Taylor family, testified that she, too, had testified at the preliminary hearing that she had known nothing wrong because Dr. Taylor had threatened her. But she is through

"telling stories," Minnie said; she "does not intend to suffer torment" by telling them any more and she testified freely that Dr. Taylor and Miss Saunders had slept together; that she had purchased medicine for Miss Saunders, and that the bed clothing of Miss Saunders was in such condition as she had never seen a "single" woman's. Minnie testified that Miss Saunders had grown "stout," that she had been confined to her room; that Dr. Taylor had waited on her in her illness and that after she got well she was not as stout; and that the bed clothes were in very bad shape to have come off a single woman's bed. Minnie had had staiding at the hands of defense attorneys. They brought up her testimony in municipal court; which she repudiated; she was afraid of Dr. Taylor at the time, she said.

Mrs. S. T. Coggins and Mrs. S. A. North, of Greensboro, gave testimony damaging to the defendants. Mrs. Coggins told of Miss Saunders having been ill when the family lived on Morehead avenue near her, of visiting her in her room; of seeing Dr. Taylor there nursing her; of the pair riding out late at night alone; of the "stoutness" and "thinness" that Minnie had testified to; and of the discoloring of bed clothing. This, she said, occurred early in 1911.

Mrs. North, an elderly woman, testified as to the stoutness and the thinness and the bed clothes also. She said her home was next to the Taylor home and that she could hear Dr. Taylor and Miss Saunders alone in a room upstairs in Dr. Taylor's home, laughing and playing with each other. A window pane was knocked out at one such time, Mrs. North stated.

Other witnesses included Mrs. W. T. Breeden, who testified that she thought the conduct of the pair in public was too intimate; Policeman Wolfe, of the Greensboro police department, who said Mrs. Coggins' character was good; Chief of Police George Crutchfield, who said that the defendants were often together alone (Chief Crutchfield lived next to the Taylor family on McIver street), and who testified to a policeman having the warrant taken out at his instructions; Lorenzo Law, a negro who had been an elevator boy in the Tanner building, where Dr. Taylor has his office, who said that the door was fastened at times with Dr. Taylor and Miss Saunders alone in the office.

Several of the witnesses testified as to the good character of Mrs. Thelma Linker and Mrs. Taylor.

Miss Janet McNeely, a witness for the defense, stated that she had boarded at the Taylor home while teaching and had seen nothing wrong between the two defendants. Cross-examined, she said that she had been busy with her work and had not looked for anything out of the ordinary.

Miss McNeely's sister, J. S. McNeely, who lives about seven miles from Greensboro, gave Dr. Taylor a good character; he said that he had known him for several years; that Dr. Taylor and his family and Miss Saunders had driven out to see him and he had seen nothing wrong between the defendants.

W. W. Smith, of near Guilford college, also stated that Dr. Taylor's reputation was good. Dr. Joseph Dickson, of Greensboro, N. C., said that Dr. Taylor's character had been above reproach; on cross-examination stating that it had been a number of years since he had seen much of him. Dr. Kerner M. Day, of Winston-Salem, a former optometrist, testified as to the good character of Dr. Taylor.

On cross examination, Dr. Day stated that he did not remember telling other members of the board that he believed that Dr. Taylor is guilty of the charge brought against him. He could neither affirm nor deny it. He also admitted that Dr. Taylor had confessed to him a number of years ago that he had had immoral relations with a woman.

There the case rested for the day. About an hour was consumed in getting a jury. All the jurymen were closely questioned, especially by the defense, as to having formed or expressed an opinion as to the guilt of the defendants; as to their knowledge of the case. The defense asked each man if he is married and how many children. The majority of the jury are well in middle age, and all of them married, with the number of children ranging up to 11. For some reason it seemed to please Colonel Barringer the more children a juror had.

The jury, after seven men had been excused, some of them for admitting that they had formed an opinion that Dr. Taylor is guilty, is composed of: W. S. Busiek; L. W. Martin; D. L. McDonald; L. L. Kirkman; M. E. Futral; T. E. Fuller; W. W. Fulk; R. R. Wyatt; A. E. Fryer; W. G. Phillips; C. P. Edwards and J. L. Fountain.

Judge R. C. Strudwick and E. L. Altman, Jr. are assisting Solicitor General in the prosecution of the case; appearing for the defense are Col. John A. Barringer, A. L. Brooks, Judge N. L. Epre and O. L. Sapp.

VILLA TAKES LEADERSHIP OF AN AGRIAN LEAGUE (Continued from Page 1) Mexico City, Nov. 26.—Francisco Villa, one time bandit, has taken the leadership of an agrarian league in the Laguna cotton district in the state of Durango, where wide unemployment has given rise to some disturbances, according to advices received here. Villa called a conference of all landowners and presided at a meeting in which he urged the capitalists of the state to co-operate in an effort to relieve the unrest, promising his personal support of any measure looking to that end.

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10045—Holy Night (Adam) Tenor Mario Chamlee and Chorus	30011—Ave Maria (Soprano and Violin) in Latin Florence Easton and Max Rosen
5032—Night Before Christmas (Recitation) Ernest Hare	"De Sandman" (Protheroe-Griffin) Criterion Male Quartet
5001—Wayside Cross (Palmer) Criterion Male Quartet	Church in the Wildwood Criterion Male Quartet
13002—Christ in Flanders (Stephens) Tenor Theo. Karle	The Lord Is My Light (Allittsen) Tenor Theo. Karle
5033—Adesde Fideles (Oh, Come All Ye Faithful) (Portugal) Collegiate Choir	Joy to the World (Handel) Collegiate Choir
5053—Still, Still With Thee (Garrison) Criterion Male Quartet	Son of God Goes Forth to War (Cutler) Criterion Male Quartet
5017—Abide With Me (Monk) Soprano and Contralto Marie Tiffany and Elizabeth Lennox	Almost Forsworn (Bliss) Soprano and Contralto Marie Tiffany and Elizabeth Lennox
5022—Angel's Serenade (Braga) Soprano Cradle Song (Brahms) Soprano Marie Tiffany	

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