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CRIMINAL COURT.

The Case of John G. Davis Removed to the Superior Court.

The case of the State vs. John G. Davis was called in the Criminal Court yesterday morning, but upon application of defendant's counsel it was transferred to the Superior Court, which will convene in this city on the 18th of April next.

Mr. Davis was present with his counsel, Mr. John D. Bellamy, Jr., and Col. Thomas W. Strange, Col. E. R. Moore and Hon. A. M. Waddell, for the prosecution, were ready for the trial.

Col. Strange rose, and addressing the Court said: "If your Honor please, I hold in my hand a telegram from the Rev. Mr. Sawyer, who is an all-important witness for the defence, stating that he is ill to attend Court, and while the defence regrets it very much, we will have to ask for a continuance unless the State would agree to admit what we intend to prove by this witness."

Solicitor B. R. Moore resisted a continuance, and said that as the defence was to be insanity there was a multitude of other witnesses who knew the defendant much better than did Mr. Sawyer, and could testify as to whether Mr. Davis was insane or not. He said further, that the State would not admit anything, and the ends of justice required that the case should not be continued.

Mr. Bellamy said that if the State did not admit what he intended to prove and Mr. Sawyer he would state the ground and make affidavit for continuance.

Col. Waddell, for the State, objected to a statement being made in the hearing of the jury.

The Court asked the counsel for the defence to write the statement and he would read it privately.

The statement was prepared and the Court read it and said: "This is the home of the defendant, and he has come in contact with a large number of people, and has many friends, and a large number of people could testify as to his mental condition."

The Court ordered the clerk to make an entry. "That the counsel for the defence had suggested to the Court that the defendant was insane, and was incapable to plead, whereupon the Court ordered a jury to inquire into the sanity of the defendant."

Mr. Bellamy then, addressing the Court, said that he wished to make a motion for a continuance on the ground that Mr. Murphy, of the Morganton Insane Asylum, an expert who had been summoned for the defence, was not present.

The Court said that he had received a letter from Dr. Murphy, and asked Col. Waddell to read an affidavit of Dr. Murphy's which stated that he had about 600 insane patients under his charge, and one of his assistants was ill, and it would be impossible for him to leave his duty without jeopardizing the welfare of many and probably the life of some.

Mr. Davis rose from his seat against the protest of his counsel and brother, and said that Dr. Murphy would be against him if he should come, as he had sworn up a wound on his head once.

The Court said that this was the second time the defence had failed to get Dr. Murphy here, and he doubted very much if they ever would get him to attend. That they had one expert who was competent, and the case could not be prejudiced on that account.

Mr. Strange said that he was aware that he had Dr. Miller, of Goldsboro, who was a competent expert of twenty-three years experience with the insane, but the object was to throw all the light on the matter possible, and that was the reason he was so anxious to secure the testimony of Dr. Murphy, and that no one knew what Dr. Murphy would swear to.

The Judge ordered them to proceed with the case when Mr. Strange called the witnesses for the defence. Mr. Bellamy stated that out of 39 witnesses there were 17 absent, of whom several were very important. The Court said that he thought they had a sufficient number present to begin with and if the defence wished he would order capias issued and have these absent witnesses who resided in the city brought into Court and punished for contempt.

Messrs. Bellamy and Strange then asked permission to retire for a consultation. Permission was granted, they retired, returned and offered two affidavits, one of the defendant, and the other of Mr. Willis, his brother-in-law, stating that the defendant was indebted to the Judge in the sum of \$100 for house rent, and that on that ground he verily believed that he could not obtain justice in his Court.

The Judge then made some remarks, stating that he had always felt kindly towards Mr. Davis and had actually done him some favors, but that the case would be removed for hearing to the next term of the Superior Court.

The following is from the record: "When the prisoner was brought into Court and required to plead to the indictment, his counsel stated that the defendant was unable to plead, because of the defendant being insane; whereupon the Court ordered the issue as to whether the defendant is insane at this time to be submitted to the jury."

The defendant then, through his counsel, moved to continue his case for the absence of Dr. P. Murphy, an expert, and for the absence of Rev. J. R. Sawyer, a witness for the defence. The motion for continuance was denied by the Court.

A motion is then made to remove the case to the Superior Court, upon affidavit of the defendant that he, the defendant, could not obtain a fair trial before his Honor, Judge Meares. The motion is granted. The Court, upon the suggestion of the Solicitor, directs that a record be made of the fact that the defendant makes affidavit for the removal of this case to the Superior Court, which is not by his counsel for that purpose, notwithstanding the suggestion offered by the defendant that the defendant is now insane at the time of making the affidavit.

Work will be commenced on the building for the bank at an early date.

THE SHORT CUT.

How the Trains will Run—Only a Local Schedule for the Present.

As already announced in the STAR, the first regular schedule on the railroad from Fayetteville to Florence, known as the Short Cut, will go into effect next Monday. This portion of the Short Cut extends from Fayetteville to Pee Dee on the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta road, as the News and Courier states, runs through one of the most fertile districts and prosperous farming sections in the low-country. Beginning at Pee Dee the road runs nearly due north to Fayetteville, passing the following stations: Sellers, Latta, Dillon, Homer, Rowland, Elrod, Pembroke, Brice's, Bennett, Parkton, Hope Mills to Fayetteville. The route is amply provided at these stations with side-tracks, with a holding capacity of three hundred and ninety-two cars. The grades are exceptionally light and the curves are conveniently arranged.

The two freight trains which are to be put on next Monday will begin at once carrying all freight shipped to or from the section through which the Wilson Short Cut passes. The north-bound train will leave Fayetteville at 7.30 a. m., arriving at Florence at 5 p. m.

For the present the traffic over the Cut will only be local, and is impossible now to say when the through schedule of passenger and freight trains will go into effect. The officials of the Cut, however, will make most strenuous efforts to get the Cut ready for through traffic at the earliest date possible, as it shortens the time fully three hours between Charleston and New York, and is a very important item, especially at this season of the year, when the road is shipping great quantities of perishable freight. The Atlantic Coast Dispatch proposes to run the vegetable schedules over the Short Cut at the first practicable moment. The two trains referred to are what are known as "local freights."

FIFTH STREET CHURCH.

A Plan to Issue Bonds to Relieve the Church of its Financial Embarrassments.

The STAR feels interested in the prosperity of all our churches, but it feels a special interest in Fifth Street Methodist Church in its financial embarrassment. It takes pleasure, therefore, in printing the following paragraphs from an article in the last issue of the Atlantic Methodist, in which Rev. Dr. Nash, its pastor, suggests a plan for the issue of bonds to "help save Fifth Street Church," as he strongly expresses it.

We have made several propositions to the Methodist people, and the friends of Methodism in North Carolina, to get them to help save Fifth Street Church. As a last effort, we now propose to bond the debt. We will issue bonds of \$1,000 each, at \$85 each. Any one may take any number of these bonds, and each coupon will be paid when due. There will be a sinking fund to be paid on the maturity of the bonds, and they will be worth \$100 at maturity of one year's interest. At the end of ten years the bonds will fall due.

The directors of the Atlantic National Bank, the newly organized bank of that city, Mr. Norwood leaves Greenville to go to a broader field. He organized the Savings bank here several years ago, and it is now one of the safest banking institutions in the State. Although one of the youngest bank presidents in the State Mr. Norwood has long been recognized as a sound business man, standing at the head of the banking business. He has many friends who will regret to see him leave Greenville.