

EMPHATIC DENIAL

Concerning Alleged New Evidence Against Evans

SWORN STATEMENTS

Claudius Dockery and O. H. Dockery, Jr. swear that neither gave John Evans the advice charged—the charge clearly refuted.

This paper stated Friday that the object of Mr. Sims' visit to Rockingham, was to examine two prisoners, who were in the jail with Evans before his trial and who claim to have overheard a conversation between Evans and one of the Messrs. Dockery, his attorney, in which the prisoner was advised not to give certain evidence.

Evans is now in jail here under sentence to die next Friday for a nameless crime committed at Rockingham last fall.

Mr. O. H. Dockery, Jr., telegraphed the Governor today:

"I returned from the country today and just heard of a reported conversation between myself and John Evans in jail. The whole thing is maliciously false. I will come to Raleigh tonight with affidavits and see you tomorrow morning. Postoffice action of council of State."

Mr. Claudius Dockery has given out the following statement which has been sent the Governor:

"I see a statement in the papers to the effect that when confined in Rockingham jail awaiting his trial John Evans was heard to tell me of his counsel, that after he got up at the livery stable on the morning of the rape he passed along the path where the assault was made and that he was going to the place where his sister cooked to get breakfast."

It is further stated that I was heard to tell John Evans never to repeat that statement that "if it were to get in as evidence it would hang him sure."

I don't know what two negroes gave this information. I don't know who got it or heard it was gotten. These questions are not material here.

I pronounce the statement untruthful and without equivocation, absolutely false in tota and in every particular and every detail.

There is not the slightest shadow of truth in any phase of the statement as a whole or in part.

John Evans most positively did not tell me in jail in Rockingham that he passed along the path where the assault was made on the morning of the assault or at any other time.

John Evans most positively did not tell me that he got breakfast on that morning or any other morning where his sister cooked.

I assert most positively that I never told John Evans to conceal any fact whatever at any time saying if it got in as evidence it would hang him.

I go further than this: I assert most positively that I never talked over his case with John Evans in Rockingham jail in my life. I never saw him in Rockingham jail in my life until after his trial and conviction.

About ten minutes after sentence had been pronounced upon Evans, I went to the jail in company with Sheriff Smith to tell him good bye as the officers were to leave with him in a few minutes.

There was no discussion of his case. I went with Sheriff Smith, I remained with Sheriff Smith, I came out with Sheriff Smith, and Sheriff Smith heard everything that was said. There are the facts and I swear to them.

I go further than this: I assert most positively that at no time, before his trial or since his trial has John Evans ever made the statement to me or to any one in my presence that he had ever passed along the path where the assault was made or gone for breakfast where his sister was at work.

John Evans never intimated to me or to any one in my presence by word or deed that such was the fact.

I assert most positively that no other persons has ever told me or intimated to me by word or deed that John Evans ever told him or intimated to him any word or deed that such was the fact.

But on the contrary: I assert most positively that John Evans has always maintained to me most positively that he not only did not know where his sister was working, but had not seen her since she had been living in Rockingham.

He has always protested his innocence to me in the most solemn terms, appealing to his God to witness the truth of his innocence.

All these are facts. I make the statement upon the honor of a gentleman, and a member of the legal profession and I swear to the same.

CLAUDIUS DOCKERY.

Sworn to and subscribed before this 25th day of March, 1898.

Z. F. GAYS, Clerk Superior Court of Richmond county.

TO THE GOVERNOR.

Hon. Daniel L. Russell, Governor &c:

Sir:—I enclose herewith a sworn statement bearing upon what is said in the papers to be new evidence recently discovered in the John Evans case. I know nothing of the discovery of this new evidence except what I see in the papers, and my excuse for forwarding the enclosed statement is my desire that, in determining the facts of John Evans' case, you may have the facts before you as they are and not as they are supposed to be. If John Evans is

guilty of rape he ought to be hung as a monster.

I would not raise my finger to shield him. If he is not guilty vengeance should not be visited upon him for the crime of another.

He may be but a pebble on the beach, yet life is sweet to him and should not be taken from him unless forfeited by some conduct of his own.

It is said the sentence should be executed because it follows the verdict of one of the most intelligent juries that could have been selected. I believe they did what they thought right and proper and just in the premises. But juries have been mistaken, and jurors are not infallible, especially in cases of this sort when the crime is so heinous, so revolting and of such recent commission that public sentiment is still aroused and indignant people thirst for revenge.

I have made an earnest effort to ascertain for my own satisfaction the true facts in this case.

I have tried to throw aside that zeal which every attorney naturally shows in his efforts in behalf of his client. I recognize the heinousness of the crime and the absolute necessity of preventing a repetition of such an assault again. I yield to no man in my desire to protect the fair women of my State. I yield to no man in my desire to throw around them every safeguard that a Christian citizenship can devise.

But I fail to see how these safeguards can be increased or strengthened by the hanging of an innocent man and the losing of the only one upon the community.

I have already communicated to you fully my views as to the guilt or innocence of John Evans. I expressed in that communication strong doubts as to the truth that was in me.

I see no reason yet to change my views. As long as I entertain this doubt I shall believe that the sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment.

There is a meeting called for this evening. But I can do no more than wait.

If you mention John Evans' case, the doubt is afterwards charged upon me and I am heard to say that I am a coward and that I am a coward.

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PLAN FOR ARMISTICE

Spain Agrees to McKinley's Plan for Arbitration

HE WANTS NO WAR

But Desires Peace on the Island

REPORT OF BOARD

The Report Was Sent to Congress This Afternoon With a Short Message From the President—The Excitement in Washington Is Tremendous

By Telegram to The Press-Visitor.

Washington, March 28.—Spain has agreed to accept President McKinley's plan in regard to Cuba. The following is the President's plan:

First—Armistice or truce between the Cubans and the Spaniards until October.

Second—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Third—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Fourth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Fifth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Sixth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Seventh—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Eighth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Ninth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Tenth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Eleventh—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Twelfth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Thirteenth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Fourteenth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Fifteenth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Sixteenth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Seventeenth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Eighteenth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Nineteenth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Twentieth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Twenty-first—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Twenty-second—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Twenty-third—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Twenty-fourth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Twenty-fifth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Twenty-sixth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Twenty-seventh—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Twenty-eighth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Twenty-ninth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Thirtieth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Thirty-first—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

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Thirty-seventh—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Thirty-eighth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Thirty-ninth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

Fortieth—The United States to feel the recommendations with Spain's consent.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

By Telegram to The Press-Visitor.

Washington, March 28.—Complete synopsis of the President's message is as follows:

In its finding the board says the battle ship was moored in five and a half or six fathoms of water by the regular government pilot, authorities having been previously notified of her coming. Discipline on the Maine was excellent, everything was in perfect order at the time of the explosion.

In the opinion of the court this effect could have been produced by the explosion of a mine situated under the bottom of the ship at about frame eighteen somewhere on the port side of the ship. The President adds the conclusions of the court are that the loss of the Maine is not in any respect due to fault or negligence on the part of any of the officers or members of the crew of that ship was destroyed by explosion of a submarine mine which caused the partial explosion of two or more forward magazines and that no evidence has been obtainable fixing the responsibility for the destruction of the Maine upon any person or persons.

The President adds that the Maine would forthwith sail at Havana.

This announcement was received by Spain with astonishment and friendly character, with notification of intention to return to the country by sending Spanish ships to principal ports of United States.

At the same time the President said that the Maine would forthwith sail at Havana.

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RELIGIOUS WORK

Special Service Begun at Central Methodist

EPWORTH REVIVAL

Rev. D. B. Parker, of Pennsylvania, at the First Baptist—Father Conley, of New Jersey, at the Church of Sacred Heart.

A series of special meetings were begun in the Central Methodist Church yesterday morning by the pastor, Rev. Edwin C. Glenn. His subject in the morning was, "Heaven, a place of Rest." He described beautifully and touchingly the place which God has prepared for his saints. Heaven is a place of perfect rest, of glory and beauty, but not illusive. God has justice for his beloved to perform on this earth. It is a place of activity for that, also for social intercourse. The Epworth League has set down together, does this not mean that he can talk over the trials and tribulations of this life and register together over the victories won. These meetings will be held each night this week.

Father Conley, of New Jersey, preached an excellent sermon at the Church of the Sacred Heart yesterday. Father Conley is in the South trying to secure his health. He has spent about two weeks in Raleigh. Recently he presented to the Church of the Sacred Heart a beautiful brass cross.

Yesterday morning at Christ Church, Rev. Dr. M. Marshall, at the request of the vestry, made a statement in regard to the financial condition of the church.

At the services at the Edenton Street Methodist Church yesterday morning, Rev. Dr. W. C. Newman announced that a series of special meetings would be held in about two weeks.

Rev. Dr. J. W. Parker preached yesterday morning at the First Baptist Church, at Raleigh. He is an intimate friend of Dr. Parker, who has spent about two weeks in Raleigh. Recently he presented to the Church of the Sacred Heart a beautiful brass cross.

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