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A full line of
**Watches, Clocks,
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and every piece guaranteed.

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Temperance Place. All meals 25c.
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VOL. XII. SCOTLAND NECK, N. C. THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1896. NO. 7

THE BONNER TRIAL.

GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY?

Did Uriah Bell, Sherrill Bell, David Cre-
dle and Will Brantley Murder
J. B. Bonner?

THIS THE JURY SHALL ANSWER.

(Editorial Correspondence.)
WASHINGTON, N. C., Jan. 29, 1896.

W. T. Hooker was the next witness.
His testimony corroborated that of other
witnesses about noise behind Ben
Thompson's store in Idalia the night
Credle said he fell over some boxes
there.

J. M. Griffin was the next witness,
and his evidence was the same as Gas-
kins'.
Dave Watson, colored, was the next
witness. He was in Aurora the day
Uriah and Sherrill Bell were arrested,
and heard Uriah tell Sherrill in a back
lot not to tell anything, that Brantley
had not told anything and he (Uriah)
would not.

[Here it will be remembered that
the Bell boys had been informed of the
charge before they were arrested.]
Mr. Moore for defense asked the wit-
ness if he had been in jail. Witness
said he had.

"What for," asked Mr. Moore.
"I will not answer that unless the
law makes me do it."

Here Mr. Moore called upon the
Court to make the witness answer, but
Judge Hoke said, "You can not make
a man discredit himself unless you
show it by record."

"When were you in jail?" asked Mr.
Moore.
"When I was a boy."
"What for?"
"Shant answer."
The Court said he could not be forced
to answer.

The next witness was Samuel M.
Watson. His testimony was to the ef-
fect that Dave Watson had told him he
heard Uriah tell Sherrill not to tell
anything.

B. D. Rowe was the next witness.
He lives five miles from Aurora. His
testimony showed that he met Brant-
ley Sunday morning about 11 o'clock
going from Aurora towards John Flow-
ers'. This witness corroborated almost
all the testimony before him, touching
the time he was in Aurora after the
murder. He was one of the guard over
Credle and Brantley and his evidence
was regarded important.

Lawrence Rowe was next witness.
His testimony corroborated that of B.
D. Rowe, and about the shell being
taken from Brantley's fire-place.

The next witness was Mrs. Mary
Best, wife of Wyatt Best. Uriah and
Sherrill Bell boarded at her house when
Mr. Bonner was killed. Brantley and
they were together that day. She came
into her sitting room where Brantley
and the Bell boys were and heard Brant-
ley say as she came in, "I thought
we'd give him a serenade to-night."

The Bell boys had a room at her
house, and after supper Saturday night
of the murder she did not see them.
Uriah usually came in at a back door
and she didn't know when he came in.
He did not eat any breakfast next
morning. Did not get up until about
9 o'clock, but he usually took breakfast
with the family.

The next witness was Mrs. Gray, the
old lady that lived up stairs over Brant-
ley's rooms. She corroborated Credle's
testimony about Brantley's sending his
wife up to see her one night when he
wanted to confer with the Bell boys
and Credle, and also about stopping in
Brantley's room the night of the mur-
der as she came from church.

Brantley leaned forward to hear what
this witness said, and as she was feeble
and could not talk loud the jury listen-
ed very intently.

The last witness for the day was Dan-
iel Pauli, who corroborated Credle's
testimony about Uriah Bell passing him
and Credle Sunday night while
sitting at a store door and Uriah beck-
oning to Credle, when Credle said
Uriah gave him the key.

At 6 30 p. m., court was adjourned.
SIXTH DAY—SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH.

When the prisoners came into Court
Uriah Bell looked somewhat indifferent
to his surroundings but Sherrill looked
thoughtful. Brantley looked tired
and leaned against his wife almost
shivering. The parents of Brantley
looked very tired, but his wife looked a
little hopeful.

The first witness for the day was W.
T. Bryan. He corroborated the facts
testified to by others about the place
where the body was found.

John W. Flowers, Jr., was next called
and gave evidence that corroborated
Credle's testimony about Credle work-
ing with his father; how Brantley
came on the Thursday named in Cre-
dle's story and was hired; about Brant-
ley's staying in Credle's room at wit-
ness' father's Sunday night after the
murder; and said very little about the
murder while there. That he overtook
Brantley and wife that evening near
Aurora and carried them home with
him. On cross-examination counsel
for Bells did not question him but
counsel for Brantley did.

There was a discrepancy between his
testimony and Credle's about who car-
ried Credle to Aurora two nights of the
week prior to the week of the murder.

DETECTIVE FOWLER'S EVIDENCE.
Mr. John Fowler, chief of police of
Washington, was next witness. He
saw Brantley and Credle arrested.
They were arrested on a sham warrant
because they were afraid they did not
have evidence enough to charge them
with the murder.

Witness searched them and found a
32 calibre pistol on Brantley's person.
Credle had nothing.
"Did you make threats to Credle?"
asked State's counsel. "No; on the
contrary I told him when I was ques-
tioning him that he need not answer
my questions if he did not want to."

"Did you try to persuade him to im-
plicate any one else?"
"No."
He showed Brantley two pistols, one
taken from his person and the other
from his house. Brantley said the one
from his house was his.

"Whose did he say was the other?"
Counsel for defendants objected.
Court said it was competent against
the Bells. He then answered that
Brantley said it was Uriah Bell's.

Witness went to hall next morning
to see Credle.
"Say what Credle stated."
Counsel for defense objected.
"Why?" asked Judge Hoke.
"Because," said Mr. Beckwith, "Credle
did not detail the same statement here
in his evidence." Court ruled with the
State and the defense asked for an ex-
ception.

Credle told witness that he was per-
suaded to do what he had done. Said
there were three others besides himself,
and it was Brantley and the Bell boys.
The whole thing was detailed again
in Credle's statement to this witness,
about as Credle's own story put it.

The key that Credle told Fowler how
to find was presented in court and
identified by witness as the same key
and that it unlocked Bonner's store.
Counsel for the State asked Mr. Fow-
ler, "Has any one agreed to pay you
for your services in this matter?"
He answered, "Not a penny."

"Do you expect any remuneration
for your services?" asked State's coun-
sel.
"I do; either acquitted or convicted."

FOWLER'S CROSS-EXAMINATION.
The cross-examination was lively and
long, and only the sharper points can
be given. It brought out substan-
tially what the direct did.

Mr. Moore conducted it in defense
of the Bells.
"On what do you base your expecta-
tion of pay?" was the first question.
"Because I know Mr. Bonner's fam-
ily, and I do not think they would let
me do this work for nothing."

"Then you are not in this for noth-
ing?"
"No; and neither are you," answered
witness.
"Are you not a general detective?"
"I am, sir."

"Does not your future success de-
pend on your finding out things when
you are employed to do so?"
"Certainly."

"Didn't you tell Credle that Brant-
ley had made a confession?"
"I did not."

"Didn't you tell Credle that a man
in the lock of the fence saw him?"
"I did not."

"Was that true?"
"No."
"Was that for intimidation?"
"What was the purpose?"
"I wanted the truth about the mur-
der of Mr. Bonner."

"How did you think it would bring
the truth?"
"I knew he was the man who went
through the field."

"What did you think the effect
would be? Was not your purpose to
frighten Credle?"
"No; I did not want to frighten
him."

Here witness refused to answer the
questions as to what he thought about
it and Mr. Moore asked the court to
force an answer.

Court said, "Ask the question."
"Did you not make that statement
to him in the hope of alarming him
into making a confession?"
"No," answered the witness, and the
court was adjourned for dinner.

In the afternoon the cross-examina-
tion was continued by Mr. Moore for
some time, in about the same way,
bringing out no new evidence, and later
in the afternoon the witness was
turned over to Mr. Simmons, counsel
for Brantley.

It was still lively.
"Did you tell Brantley that you were
a detective?"
"No."
"Did he know it?"
"I don't know."

"Did you advise him to confess?"
"No."
"Did you tell him that Credle had
made damaging statements about him?"
and that Credle was going to confess?"
"I told him their statements were
far apart."

"What did you mean by that?"
"That they contradicted each other."
"Did you mean to impress it upon
Brantley that Credle had implicated,
or exculpated him?"
"Neither."

"Have you said that you expected to
get \$10 per diem or \$500 for your
work?"
He did not answer.

Same question was put again.
"I shall not answer."
Mr. Simmons appealed to the Court
to force an answer, but the Court said
it was hardly a fair question.

When Mr. Simmons pressed the
matter the court said witness would
better answer.
Witness then answered that he did
not expect to be paid per diem.

"Any more or less in proportion to
success?"
"No," said witness, "success has noth-
ing to do with it."

"Do you expect to quit with this
job?"
"No, sir."

"Do you expect to get \$25?"
"I am out more than that in the case
already," answered witness.

"For what purpose have you been
spending money in the case, pray?"
"Travelling and other expenses."
"Do you expect \$500?"
"No."

"How much less?"
"I don't know."

The cross-examination continued
quite at length, and was lively to the
end.

He asked towards the close of the
cross-examination about telling Credle
a man in the lock of the fence saw
him.

"Is that the role of a detective, to get
at the truth by lying?" asked Mr. Sim-
mons.
"He that is without sin, let him cast
the first stone," answered witness.

The next witness was T. B. Bonner,
Jr. He was third cousin to J. B. Bon-
ner. He saw Sherrill Bell the night
of the killing, and his evidence was
about the movements of Sherrill that
night. His evidence did not have a
great deal in it.

R. L. Jones was the next witness.
On Sunday after the murder he saw
Credle as he came by his place about
night, coming from John Flowers'.
Credle asked him something about
the blood-hounds.

Told about the Jesse James book,
and heard Uriah Bell say that it was
a good book. He had read part of it
himself.

In the cross-examination by Mr.
Beckwith of counsel for the Bells, Mr.
Beckwith asked, "Did reading the book
make you feel like killing any one?"
The witness said it did not.

Simmons for Brantley said, "Stand
aside."
Robert Best was the next witness. The
Bell boys roomed at his brother's house.
They were visited by Brantley occasion-
ally and on several occasions just before

the murder, the very day, they were
together in the woods back of his
house. He had also read the James
book, and on cross-examination, Mr.
Beckwith put his same questions about
it making him feel like killing any one
with the same negative answer that
he had received from the others.

Uriah Bell had a room in his house
and came in at a back door whenever
he wished. Sometimes he came in
late at night, sometimes earlier, and
sometimes not at all.

J. G. Gardner, col., was next witness.
He testified that he sold wine about
one mile from Aurora. On the night
of the killing Uriah Bell and two other
young men came there about 10 o'clock,
bought and drank five quarts of wine,
and went away, and about 4 o'clock in
the morning Uriah came back, called
him up and asked him to let him in to
warm.

Uriah listened intently to this wit-
ness.
Robert Best was the last witness put
on for the day. He is the husband of
the Mrs. Best that testified the day be-
fore, and brother of the witness who
preceded him. His testimony corrob-
orated that of his wife and his brother.
This closed the first week of the trial.
All were tired. The prisoners seemed
weary and everybody was glad that
it was Saturday night so all could rest
Sunday.

SEVENTH DAY—MONDAY, JAN. 20TH.
When the court opened for the con-
tinuation of the Bonner trial, there
was not much of a crowd, but the court
room soon filled up. The attorneys
were rested, Judge Hoke looked fresh
and the jury seemed ready to hear more
evidence.

[The remainder of this report in THE
DEMOCRAT will be largely taken from
the Norfolk Virginian, for which the
editor of THE DEMOCRAT has given
daily reports.]

The prisoners were brought into the
court at the ringing of the bell. Brant-
ley and wife conversed in low whispers
several minutes while arrangements
were being made to proceed to the
work of the day. Brantley looked
sleepy and almost as tired as when
he left the court-room Saturday night.
He noticed no one as the crowd gathered,
but paid strict attention to what
his wife was saying to him. Mrs.
Brantley looked haggard and sick. Her
face was flushed and she looked like
she might have been crying. She was
wrapped in a black shawl and wore a
thin black veil.

Brantley's mother rested her chin in
her left hand and gazed affectionately
at her son, across his wife's shoulders.
The Bell boys seemed fresher than
on Saturday, and watched the crowd-
gather. Mr. Moore of counsel for Bell
boys, shook hands with them when he
came into the bar.

When Judge Hoke said, "Call the
next witness for the State," Mr. War-
ren, of counsel for the State, surprised
all in the court-room by announcing
that the State would rest.

Counsel for defendants asked for
time to consult, as they were not ex-
pecting this turn, and after consulting
a few minutes, they returned to pro-
ceed. A number of ladies had been
brought into court and when they
stood up in their seats and were sworn
they looked a little embarrassed to kiss
the soiled Bible.

TESTIMONY FOR DEFENDANTS.
The first witness for the defense was
Mrs. Hugh Bell, wife of the Bell boys'
brother; Mr. Beckwith conducting ex-
amination. She said the Bell boys had
a room at her house, in Aurora, and
that they stayed there mostly on Sat-
urday nights, though they lived about
a mile and a quarter from town.

The testimony was introduced to
prove an alibi for the Bell boys for the
nights Credle's evidence said they were
meeting him at Brantley's in the week
prior to the week of the murder. On
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
nights of that week the young people
of Aurora were to have a dance. Wed-
nesday night they were disappointed
about the music and did not have much
of a dance. She did not attend the
dance. Thursday night Uriah Bell
stayed at her house, but she did not
know what time he came in. Saw him
about 7 o'clock. He came to her house
with some shoes in a box, went up
stairs and dressed and returned, and
sat on the lounge, put on his slippers
for the dance and left.

Counsel for Brantley asked her no
questions.
On cross examination for the State
the examination was conducted by Mr.
Rodman.

Her cross-examination showed no
discrepancies in her statements on her
direct examination.
Mrs. Ida Thompson, wife of L. T.
Thompson, was next examined. She
attended the dances referred to. One
on Wednesday night and one on Thurs-
day night, but none on Friday night.
She left home about 8 o'clock, went di-

rectly to the hall where the dance was
held and was amongst the first ladies
there. Uriah Bell was standing on the
platform outside when she got there.
Thought Uriah Bell danced all the sets
that night.

The hall broke up about 1 o'clock.
Uriah Bell went home with Miss Mary
Crawford. She saw him outside after
he returned when she was going home
from Mr. Snell's, and she told him he
would better go home.

"Are you interested in this case?"
asked counsel for defendants.
"Yes, I am," she answered. "I want
the guilty persons punished, but I do
not believe the Bell boys are guilty."

She stated that she was related by
marriage to Mr. Bonner, but not to the
Bell boys.
Brantley's counsel asked this witness
no questions and she was turned over
to counsel for the State.

Mr. Rodman asked, "Who was with
Uriah Bell on the platform at the hall
when you saw him?"
"I don't know," answered the wit-
ness.

The third witness for the State was
Miss Sydney Crawford. She lives at
Edwards' Mills five miles from Aurora.
She was at Aurora, at the dance on
Wednesday night of the week in ques-
tion, but saw neither Uriah nor Sherrill
Bell there. She went to the hall Thurs-
day night and she thought Uriah Bell
was waiting when she got there about
8 o'clock. Saw him through the night.
He went home with her sister, Mary
Crawford. The hall closed about 1
o'clock. Uriah Bell was not related to
her, but she was a second or third
cousin to Mr. Bonner.

Her cross-examination was short.
The next witness was Miss Carrie
Harvey. She remembered the balls
spoken of. Uriah Bell was not at the
hall Wednesday night, and there was
no ball Friday night.

She left home for the hall about 8
o'clock Thursday night, and she found
they had just stopped waiting when
she got there. The hall lasted until
about 1 o'clock, and she had no recol-
lection of Uriah Bell's leaving the hall
until the hall closed.

At the conclusion of this witness'
testimony all the ladies retired from the
court-room.

The next witness was L. C. Guilford.
Was at Thursday night's dance; ar-
rived there about 8 o'clock. Uriah
Bell was there that night. He remem-
bered until the hall closed. He said
there was intermission from three to
five minutes between the dances. Gen-
erally the sets were half an hour long,
but it was not necessary that every one
should be in every dance all the time.
He said his aunt married Hugh Bell,
brother of the defendants.

Brantley's counsel asked him no
questions.
The cross-examination by the State's
attorney was short.

Mr. Rodman, of counsel for State,
asked him if his father or brother had
not been active for the defense in this
case, and he said not as he knew.

Witness was asked to name the per-
sons who were at the hall, and he named
several, but could not name them all.

"Will you swear," asked Mr. Rod-
man, of counsel for state, "that Uriah
Bell did not leave the hall at all that
night?"
"No, sir, I will not," answered the
witness.

Mrs. Hugh Bell was recalled, but
there was nothing material brought out
in her testimony.

State's counsel asked her if Uriah
Bell came to her home the day of Mr.
Bonner's death, but she did not know.
He came to her house about 6 o'clock
at night; but she did not know what
he did nor where he went afterwards.
She had just lighted the lamps. He
came to her home Monday night about
dark, ate supper, went out and return-
ed in about half an hour. Sherrill Bell
was there also that night, and did not
go out.

There was some delay of the court as
the witnesses for the defense were not
at hand every time.
Counsel for defense asked at 12 noon

Continued on second page.

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Donahoe, Forth Co., N. C.
DR. R. V. PIERCE: Dear Sir—For some six
or seven years my wife
had been an invalid. Be-
coming convinced that
it was her only hope,
we bought six bottles of
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Prescription and "Golden
Medical Discovery."
To the surprise of the
community and the joy
of myself and family, in
one week my wife com-
menced to improve, and
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taken the last bottle she
was able to do her own
work, she had not been
able to do it before for
seven years, and when
she had taken the last
of the medicine she was
soundly cured.
Yours truly,
Rev. T. H. STIMPSON.

For women suffering from any chronic
"female complaint" or weakness, for women
who are run-down or overworked; at the
change from girlhood to womanhood; and
later, at the critical "change of life."
"Favorite Prescription" is a medicine that
safely and certainly builds up, strengthens,
regulates, and cures.

Mrs. STIMPSON.
The medicine she was soundly cured.
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