

HOLT'S SLAYER CONFESSES.

Solomon Shepard the Man—Calling Dr. N. M. Johnson to his Cell, Solomon Shepard Declares That He is the Man Who Slew Engineer Holt in the Southern Yards at Durham Last December—Was Alone in His Crime and the Fatal Shot Was Intended for a Brakeman Who Had Ejected Him From the Train.

Durham, June 27.—Solomon Shepard, the negro of mysterious action, has confessed that he killed Engineer Holt near Durham last December and that he had no assistant.

This startling turn in the dreadful affair came last night when Dr. N. M. Johnson went into the jail to attend a sick prisoner. Shepard had spent the day reading the Bible and getting religion. Why he took a notion to unburden himself to the doctor, is not known, but he did and said that he slew the engineer that night without the aid of anyone.

The negro tells a reasonable story. There never has been any large number of people who did not believe that Engineer Holt met death meant for another man. The wanton use of a shotgun was commonly called a Reubin Barbee characteristic, but nobody ever found the motive whereby Reuben Barbee became the assassin of Fred Holt. The brothers of the dead man believed that their kinsman had been murdered by mistake and the negro says so.

Shot Intended for Brakeman.

Shepard says that he was put off the train by a brakeman whose life he sought. The engine that Mr. Holt drove was an extra and the negro was on the lookout for another. There were several men on the cab at that time and the murderer expected to get the brakeman. He failed. Leaving the coal chute, he said he fired at it "just to scare somebody." It had the desired effect. The Greenbergs have not recovered. It was the Greenberg incident that had much to do with the arrest of Barbee. He had trouble with them, hated the family. The officers figured it out that the man who killed Holt, fired into that house. They knew that Barbee hated them, therefore Barbee fired the shot. But they reasoned only half right.

Shepard remained in Durham until about six weeks ago. The fact that another man was sweating for his crime kept him brave. He went over to Petersburg and was arrested there, but escaped after telling something of the connection he had with the Holt murder. What prompted him to confess cannot be guessed now.

It was not long after the murder before some of the officers got on Shepard's trail but having too little evidence for an arrest, never gave the case away. He had been seen the night of the assassination with a shotgun but he had not been more closely connected with the crime. That was two hours before the commission of the crime. After the arrest of Reuben Barbee, there was nothing to fear. In that connection, it was worthy of note that the tracks made by the murderer did not in a single wise correspond with the shoes of Barbee, but he was held and is still in jail.

The doctor tried hard to keep down the story that the negro gave him, but it leaked out last night and swept the city after midnight. It even reached other towns. The press of the North is following it closely and there is big demand for copy from local newspaper men.

A strange coincidence in this case is that noted by men who knew Shepard and Koonce Patterson. The only crime ever charged up against Shepard was that of seriously cutting Koonce Patterson. Both are occupying the same cell and each is charged with a capital felony, Patterson having broken into the house of Dr. J. W. Petty.

Had No Accomplish.

It is understood that Shepard had mentioned the name of a man who was with him and that the fellow left here the first of last week. The county officers inclined to the belief that he had a white accomplice but his confession settles everything.

Until this morning but little credence had been put in the Shepard story in Ohio. Reuben Barbee, who is regarded as a shrewd and calculating scoundrel, was supposed to have worked up this new excitement

and the scheme was believed to have been his own. But Barbee fought for trial a few days ago and that circumstance could not be explained. It now seems that a man with a bad name has spent six months in jail for a crime that had not been committed by him.

On the strength of the latest caper of Shepard, it is understood that the attorneys of Barbee will ask his release. Habeas corpus proceedings may be necessary. The trial of Shepard will take place in August at the regular term of court.

As murder of any sort is regarded as bad form, the plea of Shepard that he hit the 'wrong man isn't expected to avail him much. Until the court there isn't much else to talk about. The people are as interested now as when the murder was fresh.—Charlotte Observer.

Prohibition Sentiment Stronger.

Governor Kitchin, in a letter to Rev. W. B. Oliver, of Florence, S. C., in response to inquiries upon the effect of prohibition in North Carolina, says: "Business in this State is as sound and progressive as in any adjoining State. Prohibition has not demoralized labor. It is true that some negroes and some white men too, as for that, are violating the prohibition law, and our courts are constantly sending them to the roads for it. Considering the profits, the violations are not beyond what prohibitionists expected. The law is supported by public sentiment and is a great benefit to the State, though, of course, there are many good citizens who opposed prohibition and who still doubt its efficacy and wisdom. It is however, doubtless working as well and as satisfactorily in this State as in any other. It has not worked corruption and evil, though some men have engaged in corruption and evil under it. It never made a good man a bad one. It is not true that drunkenness is more common and prevalent than before prohibition. In my judgment there is not a county in the State that is spending as much money for or consuming as much whiskey per capita as before prohibition. There is not the slightest possibility that the next Legislature will repeal the law. I think the prohibition sentiment is sounder and stronger than heretofore."—Raleigh Cor. Charlotte Observer.

HANGED HIMSELF IN BARN.

Aged and Influential Physician of High Point, Ends His Life.

High Point, N. C., June 29.—Dr. J. W. Burton, one of High Point's oldest and most influential citizens and physicians, hung himself today. He left home about nine o'clock this morning and not returning in the afternoon a search was instituted and his daughter, Miss Allie, found him in a barn at the home on Lindsay street, stiff in death. He was devoted to his wife who died some time ago and since her death visited the graveyard daily to see her grave. Old age and sorrow on this account had dethroned his reason to an extent which had been noticeable to friends for some time.

Dr. Burton was 65 years of age and his father and several brothers and sisters and a large family survive.

MARRIED A CONVICT.

Young Woman Hopes to Reform Man Imprisoned for Burglary.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., June 26.—Ethel M. Booth, a young woman of this city, in the hope of obtaining his pardon and reforming him, yesterday married John H. Williams, a convict serving a five-year term in the reform penitentiary at Philadelphia for burglary. He was sentenced last fall.

Williams is a little more than twenty years old.

Miss Booth had known him for a year and was engaged to him at that time. She expressed her faith in him and declared she did not believe he was intentionally guilty, and said she would marry him in prison if he proved to be a good prisoner.

His conduct has been model, and yesterday she went to Philadelphia and married him in Warden McKenty's office. She now hopes to be able to induce the board of pardons to grant him his freedom.

SARAH ORNE JEWETT DEAD.

One of the Foremost Women Writers of America Passes away after an Illness Lasting Many Months.

South Berwick, Maine, June 24.—An illness lasting many months ended to-night in the death of Miss Sarah Orne Jewett, Litt D., regarded as one of the foremost women writers of America. She was a sufferer from apoplexy and paralysis.

It was while living in Boston, Mass. early in the year that Miss Jewett was stricken with the disease which proved fatal.

The house where Miss Jewett was born, September 3, 1849, and in which she died, has been in the possession of the Jewett family since 1740.

Miss Jewett wrote "The King of Folly Island," "The Tory Lover" and numerous other books. Bowdoin College conferred on her the degree of doctor of letters in 1901, and she was a member of the London lyceum.

Sheriff Gets Year in Prison.

Cumberland, Md., June 26.—William E. Hodel, sheriff of Allegany County, was sentenced to one year in the penitentiary to-day by Judge Boyd. Hodel was convicted of purjury by a jury last Wednesday.

Jail for Snoring Juror.

Mauch Chunk, Pa., June 24.—While the case of William Luckenbill, of Lehigh, vs. the Eastern Pennsylvania Railroad was on trial here, Edward Harkins, of Lansford, a juror in the case, fell asleep and snored so lustily that the court committed him to jail for twenty four hours in contempt. The case then went on with eleven jurors who kept awake.

BATES GETS THIRTY YEARS.

Judge Criticises Exaggerations of Durham's Criminal Record.

Durham, N. C., June 24.—In sentencing Wesley Bates for the murder of Jack Robertson last fall, Judge Biggs gave him thirty years in the penitentiary, and criticised the State newspapers which carry such glaring accounts of Durham's crimes. Judge Biggs said counties which he had visited had in their jails eleven men indicted on capital offenses, but the papers of that county would write editorials on Durham's lawlessness. He declared that there is a follow-up system of chronicling crimes here that makes the public think one takes place every week, while there has not been a homicide committed this year. His remarks were applauded.

First Bale New Texas Cotton Sold For \$425.

Houston, Texas, June 28.—"Before the war" prices were received on the floor of the cotton exchange today when the first bale of this season's cotton sold at auction for \$425. The bale came from Mercedes, Hidalgo county, and weighed 368 pounds. The first bale last year arrived on June 20.

Mixing Butter Into Dough.

Just to show that he is a jack-of-all-trades, Uncle Sam has issued a bulletin to the housewives in which he tells them how to get the best results from the mixture of butter and flour. The person who made the discovery, however, is Miss M. U. Watson, of the Ontario Agricultural College. She reports that she first mixed the shortening in the dough by rubbing or cutting it into the flour; then she made more dough and poured in the melted butter. Biscuits from the two were baked side by side, and they were equally good to look upon, but upon breaking them open it was found that the texture of the melted butter variety was tough, while that of the rubbed in would have made a Southern "mammy" sing for joy. Not so with the cookie. Both methods worked like a charm, and the expert taster couldn't tell one sample from the other.—Van Norden Magazine.

Fifteen dollars a year is the salary paid to the president of the republic of Anderra, in the Pyrenees. This is the smallest salary paid to the head of any Government.

HOCUTT-ELLINGTON WEDDING.

Popular Young Couple Married Thursday at Clayton Baptist Church.

One of the most beautiful weddings ever known in this section of the State was solemnized yesterday afternoon in the Baptist church at this place when Miss Mary Lucile Ellington, the beautiful daughter of Sheriff and Mrs. J. T. Ellington, became the bride of Dr. Battle A. Hocutt, a rising young physician of Clayton.

Never has Clayton society witnessed a more striking assemblage of fair young womanhood and handsome men than graced the occasion with their presence, and the bride and groom who were the central figures of the occasion in this instance have likewise been the leaders in society for several seasons since the bride was a debutante.

Immediately before the ceremony while those present were waiting Mrs. J. J. Young sang "For Your Sake."

Promptly at three o'clock to the strains of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" rendered by Miss Bessie Futrell, of Scotland Neck, the bridal party entered the church, which for nearly an hour had been packed with an eager throng of spectators from the town and surrounding country. In perfect time to the mellow notes from the organ the party advanced to the altar, where Dr. R. T. Vann, the distinguished president of Meredith College, of Raleigh, waited their approach. Advancing slowly up the isles the attendants arranged themselves in a semicircle around the rear of the chancel: Miss Katherine Futrell, of Scotland Neck, with Dr. Henry Best, of Wilson; Miss Kittie Pool, of Clayton, with Mr. Wilbur Bunn, of Raleigh; Miss Vallie Blanchard, of Raleigh, with Mr. Eric Ellington, of Clayton; Miss Mary Pritchard, of Chapel Hill, with Dr. Joel Whitaker, of Raleigh; Miss Emily Biggs, of Scotland Neck, with Mr. D. D. Ellington, of Clayton; Miss Mildred Young, of Clayton, with Mr. Carl Bell, of Wakefield; Miss Mary King, of Leaksville, with Mr. K. R. Ellington, of Clayton; Miss Cora Hocutt, of Wakefield, with Dr. W. S. Jordan, of Fayetteville; Miss Mabel Gower, of Clayton, with Dr. A. H. Rose, of Smithfield, Miss Louise Wyatt, of Raleigh, with Mr. D. W. Parbour, of Clayton; Ushers, Messrs. W. D. Young, J. H. Austin, J. T. Talton, and E. R. MacBride, of Laurinburg.

At the altar Miss Ellington was met by the groom, and with the gleam of the altar candles blending youth and beauty into a symphony of color they pronounced the vows which rendered them man and wife, using the beautiful ring ceremony of the Baptist church, receiving the golden symbol from little Jessie Eason, who carried the ring in the heart of a bouquet.

With the Recessional softly floating from the organ, the happy pair, with a new light in their eyes and a joyous glow on their faces, led the way down the aisle to the door where carriages were waiting to convey the bridal party to the depot. At the door, on account of a summer shower which had come up during the ceremony, the party was forced to wait for a few minutes, and here the couple held an impromptu reception, receiving the congratulations and good wishes of the friends who were crowding around.

The bride wore a going-away-gown of blue rajah silk, hat and gloves to match, and carried a shower bouquet of Lillies of the Valley and Brides Roses. The maid of honor, Miss Katherine Futrell, carried pink roses, while the bridesmaids carried white carnations.

Immediately after the ceremony the bride and groom left on the 3:30 train, for the "Land of the Sky and the Sapphire Country," where they expect to spend some time at the principal resorts of the state, Asheville, Toxaway, Waynesville and other points.

The church was decorated for the occasion with daisies, ferns, palms, and cut flowers, and was lighted from the chancel by myriad candles. The middle block of pews was reserved for the relatives of the bride and groom, and was filled with people many of them of statewide prominence. White satin ribbon was stretched on either side of the aisles of the seats reserved.

Miss Ellington comes of stock that is second to none in the state, and her father, who is known far and wide as "Sheriff Ellington," is a prominent figure not only in this section but over North Carolina. Beautiful in person, accomplished mentally, and attractive in disposition, the bride is one of the State's most popular young women.

The groom is a popular young doctor whose name is already becoming known over a large scope of country, and has a bright future before him in his chosen profession. His father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Hocutt, who were here to witness the marriage, are well known residents of Wake county and are prominent in their community both in church and social circles. Both are to be congratulated upon a son of this town although he has been in it but a comparatively short time.

On Wednesday evening before the wedding the bridal party was given a reception at the handsome old colonial home of the bride's parents, where they feasted and made merry until a late hour, when the wedding cake was cut. Miss Kate Futrell drew the ring, Miss Vallie Blanchard the dime, Miss Prichard the button, and Mr. MacBryde the thimble. The wedding gifts artistically displayed in the drawing room were numerous and costly, showing to some slight extent the popularity and prominence of the bride and groom. On the dining room table the same candlesticks were used which had served on the occasion of the marriage of the bride's mother some forty years before. Punch was served in the library, and later a delicious luncheon was served on the wide veranda of the beautiful home.—Clayton Enterprise, 25th.

NEW "TAR HEEL" HONOR.

Robs Wisconsin of Claim of Having Oldest Triplets.

Washington, D. C., June 27.—North Carolina has much to boast of besides the Mecklenburg declaration of independence, the first birth of a white child in North America and its wellknown motto of "First at Bethel, fathest at Gettysburg and last at Appamatox."

Congressman Charles H. Cowles is one North Carolinian who will not sit quietly by and allow any other State to claim anything to which Carolina rightfully has a claim. Consequently he has disputed with Byron, Wis., the honor of being the home of the oldest triplets in the United States, the Windeckers, who recently celebrated their sixty-first birthday.

Representative Cowles deposed that the Gibbs triplets, of Wilkes county, N. C., are 13 years, one month and several days older than the Windeckers, and on May 22 celebrated their seventy-fourth birthday right at their birthplace, Wilkesboro. They are hale and hearty, married and in great-grandfather stage. Each triplet carried a musket in the Confederate army.

WILL BIGGERS NOT GUILTY.

Jury at Charlotte Returned Verdict After Four and a Half Hour's Deliberation.

Charlotte, N. C., June 26.—After being out exactly four and one-half hours the jury in the case of Will Biggers for the murder of J. G. Hood this afternoon returned a verdict of not guilty.

The announcement of the verdict was greeted with cheers, the court room being transformed into a scene of wild confusion. Women, friends and relatives of the prisoner crowded around him and wept from sheer joy. When Judge Council had succeeded in restoring order he thanked the jurors for their work and adjourned court.

The Traction Engine to Stop Running.

Just before going to press we learn that an agreement has been reached whereby the traction engine belonging to Messrs. Rand & Lawrence will be taken off the roads of Smithfield township after July 17th. After finding that the people generally were so much opposed to it they agreed to take it off. About three hundred dollars was raised by citizens here for them to help bear the loss which will be incurred in selling the engine.

INSECTS' GIANT ANCESTORS.

Dragon-Flies in Jurrassic Times Were as Big as a Sea Gull is Now—Evil Appearance of Spiders Has Given Them Undeserved Reputation

This is scarcely the age of insects. In spite of the terrific appearance of the tarantula spider, it is a pigmy by the side of some of the insects of the Carboniferous Era, where the direct ancestors of most of the great insect groups are to be found. The Carboniferous ancestors of the locust were nearly all giants. Indeed, says the London Graphic, there were many of them the span of whose wings measured more than a half a yard. Professor Handsclrsch has traced the lineage of insects through Jurrassic times, when the locust and earwigs temporarily declined and the butterflies appeared. A Jurrassic dragon-fly was as large as a sea-gull of to-day. In that age, too, appeared the tsetse flies, of which Professor Cockerell has found two specimens in the Florissant shales in North America, and it is quite possible that just as the tsetse flies of to-day are extinguishing the big-game animals of Africa by infecting them with the parasite of Nagana fever, so in that age the great reptiles may have been swept away by some similar disease. One of the curiosities of the ancestry of the horse is that whereas a great deal of its evolution and development happened in America, yet it had entirely disappeared from both of the North and South Continents before the Age of Man. The wild horses of the Pampas are the relics merely of Spanish invasions; they are not the descendants of the primeval horse.

Insect Intelligence.

It is possible that the insects of those epochs were much longer-lived than their descendants to-day. It is hard to see otherwise how insects which only live a few hours or days could acquire the instincts which are so ingrained and so persistent in them, unless they inherited them from remote ancestors, who had a better chance of acquiring experience. We speak usually of the 'instincts' of insects and the 'intelligence' of human beings; but the dividing line is hard to draw. Man exhibits many instincts, but none of them is comparable in complexity or fixedness to those of insects, and, indeed, it has been urged that the activities that are called instinctive in insects are indicative of a high degree of intelligence, not of a lack of it.

Spider-Venom.

Usually the spider is regarded not as the victim, but as the rapacious and bloodthirsty executioner, and great powers have been assigned to the death-dealing properties of spider-venom. The tarantula spider was believed to be especially deadly. But Dr. Kobert, who has made an exhaustive study of spider-venom, has proved that extracts from the venom of this dreaded spider are quite innocuous, and this is the case with nearly all spiders, with the exception of the common garden spider, which does yield extracts having poisonous effects. Very often the evil-looking appearance of a spider gives it a notorious reputation; but in one case it is well deserved. This is in the instance of the Russian kara-kurte (black wolf) spider. The bite of this insect feels like a bee sting, and though there is no swelling, violent pains in the limbs follow it, and these are succeeded by difficulty in breathing. Both the heart and the central nervous system are affected, and the poison dissolves a number of the red blood corpuscles.

Dancing Epidemics.

Perhaps, however, the most curious thing about the tarantula's poison is that it was believed to have produced epidemics of dancing. Robert Boyle, the English physicist, made inquiries in 1693 into these "dancing epidemics," but it was clearly proved that the tarantula was not the cause. Similar dancing epidemics have been known in other parts of Europe, where they could not be attributed to spiders. There was notable one in the fourteenth century in the Rhine and Moselle districts, where men and women, old and young, danced from town to town, in the streets and in the churches.—Ex.

An honest man does not make himself a dog for the sake of a bone.—Danish.