

Mrs. Jay Talks of the Awful Killing

To An Uncle of Dr. Jay From Rutherford.

SHE BELIEVES JAY IS INSANE

Mrs. Jay Says Her Husband Was Sober—Says all Kinds of False Rumors are Afloat—Says She Don't Want Him Executed, But Only Confined

Mr. W. A. Geer, of Rutherford, uncle of J. V. Jay, who killed his three children at Barnardsville, twenty miles northwest of Asheville, last week, returned from the scene of the killing Saturday. He spent Wednesday with Mrs. Jay, and from her he secured the truth of the terrible affair up to the time of the killing.

"There has been all sorts of rumors," said Mr. Geer, "about what Mrs. Jay had said, most of them being without foundation. I am here to tell you the truth of the sad affair as given out by her to me last Wednesday."

Mr. Geer related the story to The Sun, he says, just as it was told him by the wife of Dr. Jay.

He says Dr. Jay came home Friday night perfectly sober. Brought his little girl a pair of shoes, and cloth for a dress. That night he sat down and played with his children until nine o'clock, when all went to bed. About eleven o'clock he screamed and called for Mrs. Jay, who hastened to the room as quickly as possible. She found him perfectly stiff and speechless and could not raise him from the bed. After rubbing him with camphor and alcohol she then ran to her uncle's, Mr. Thomas Dillingham, a distance of about 200 yards. She said she was gone four or five minutes. Upon her return, accompanied by her uncle, they found he had torn his night clothes into small strips, and gone from the room. Mrs. Jay asked her little five year old daughter, who was sleeping with him, where her father had gone. She replied that he had gone into the kitchen. Mrs. Jay and her uncle entered the kitchen and found the stove and dining table turned upside down and most of the dishes broken into a hundred pieces, but Dr. Jay was not to be found. After searching for some time they found him under the porch, without a rag on his back, wet, smutty and bloody—looking perfectly awful. He had a dipper in one hand pecking on a rock. He could not speak and was still stiff as a board. The two endeavored to raise him and carry him into the house, but with no effect. Mrs. Jay then went to a neighbor's (whose name Mr. Geer has forgotten) for more help. When she returned with the gentleman, she found that her uncle had succeeded in getting the doctor into the house by means of making him crawl. He was placed in a chair in front of the fire and a large quilt was spread over him. At this juncture he spoke, asking where he had been and who had scarred him up so badly. He asked that his feet and face be washed. Mrs. Jay complied with his wishes. He then asked to be put to bed and for a bottle of medicine. He was put to bed and the medicine given him. In a few minutes he was asleep.

The neighbor returned to his home and Mr. Dillingham remained for the night. Early the following morning all were up but the doctor. Mrs. Jay asked her uncle to remain with Dr. Jay until she went to a neighbor's house and phoned for Dr. McClain.

Nearing the house, upon her return, she heard an awful fuss just inside, and began to run. When she reached there she met her uncle coming out of the house running. He screamed to her to go back. Dr. Jay followed him as fast as he could run. Mrs. Jay followed the doctor.

When Mr. Dillingham came to a barbed wire fence he crawled through. Dr. Jay went against it as though there was no fence there, and fell over it on the other side. By the time Jay got up his wife had reached him. She asked him "what was the matter and what was he doing?" He did not answer, but crossed back over the fence where she was, picked her up and started as fast as he could run with her towards the creek. He had gotten but a short distance when he stumbled and fell over a little embankment into bushes and briars. Quick as a flash he sprang to his feet and started to the house as fast as his feet could carry him. At this point Mrs. Jay remembered that her children were

alone in the house, and she began screaming at the top of her voice for help. Hearing her pitiful screams, her uncle and another gentleman returned and went immediately to the house, sending Mrs. Jay to a neighbor's where she might rest and get over her fright. When the two gentlemen reached the house Dr. Jay had battered the three children to death with a claw hammer and they lay dead on the front porch. The men entered the room in which Dr. Jay was, and found him packing chairs, clothing and other fixtures in front of the fire place, which they supposed he intended putting a match to, and burning the house and himself.

Mrs. Jay said when they started to jail with her husband he wrote her a note, but that she could not read anything in it except "pray for me." The note was not answered at all.

Mrs. Jay told Mr. Geer she did not want her husband hanged, but that she never did want him turned loose again. She said she believed the doctor was insane, that he positively had not been drinking, and that half the newspapers printed reports that were not true.

Mr. Geer says Mrs. Jay was not sick when he left her—that she was helping with the work about her brother's or uncle's house.

Mrs. Jay did not see her children after they had been killed. She said she had rather not see them and that she never expected to see her home again as long she lived.

She told Mr. Geer that she had stood more than she had thought she could—that one never knew what they could stand until they had it to do.

Mrs. Jay says she knows her husband is or was insane—that no sane man could have committed such a deed. That Dr. Jay loved his children dearly and was always kind to them.—Rutherford Sun.

BREVARD EPWORTH SCHOOL

Opened With Appropriate Exercises.

The Brevard Epworth School opened this week with a faculty of four teachers. The opening exercises were held in the spacious chapel in the presence of a large and appreciative audience. Miss Belle Bennett, of London Kentucky, president of the general board of the Woman's Home Mission Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and Mrs. M. J. Branner, of Waynesville, president of the board of the society in the Western North Carolina Conference, were present and made very pleasant and instructive addresses. There were addresses also from Rev. F. Taylor, the founder of the school, and from Rev. W. G. Mallonee, the confederate agent of the school. As the closing exercise a popular subscription was taken to raise \$500 to lift the land mortgage that was on the lot, and \$445 was raised and the balance secured the next morning; so the land is now paid for. The meeting closed with singing the long meter doxology with good old-time Methodist fervor. This institution for furnishing good common school, normal and industrial education for girls at a normal cost is a grand monument to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of our State, and an institution of which our town is justly proud. At present there are 60 beds in the boarding pupils, with kitchen, laundry, class rooms, etc. School opened with an enrollment of 50 pupils.

Mr. Richmond Pearson Fined for Insulting a Railway Official.

Rome Dispatch, 24th.

Richmond, Pearson, formerly United States consul at Genoa, and now minister to Persia, has been fined \$60 and \$15 cost for insulting an Italian railway official last December, previous to his appointment as minister. The government was desirous of settling the incident by pardoning Mr. Pearson, but the King's clemency, as prescribed by law.

Mr. Pearson, on December 2, had some words at the railroad station at Genoa with some other passengers, about seats in a car, and an employed of the road intervened, whereupon Mr. Pearson, it is claimed, used insulting language in addressing the employe. The train left and the incident would have been closed if Mr. Pearson on returning to Genoa, had not made a report to the station master against the employe repeating the alleged insults compelling the employe to defend himself. The latter used the consul general's letter as evidence before the judicial authorities and Mr. Pearson not appearing, he was sentenced by default.

T. F. Davidson For Governor.

"Mountain Men's Candidate. THERE IS NONE MORE WORTHY

Democrats of the West Will Ask That He Be Nominated—His Services to Party and State—Sacrifices For Party.

To the Editor of THE NEWS:

The "Mountain Men" will ask the Democrats of North Carolina to nominate Hon. Theodore F. Davidson, of Buncombe, for Governor next year, and I ask the courtesy of space in your columns in which to give what I deem good and sufficient reasons why this request should be gladly granted.

That Gen. Davis on the equal of any of the gentlemen named for this distinguished honor will not, I take it, be seriously questioned by any well informed man in the State. For more than a third of a century Gen. Davidson has been prominently and honorably known in North Carolina affairs. Returning from the war, which he entered as a lad of 16 years, this sturdy mountain boy showed metal worthy of his forebears by the manly way in which he met the difficulties which that mighty struggle had brought upon his State and section. Taking up his studies at the noted school for boys in Asheville, conducted by Col. Stephen Lee (a cousin of Gen. R. E. Lee), he soon prepared himself for the study of the law, and under the direction of that model jurist, Judge J. L. Bailey, in 1867 was admitted to the bar and associated himself with his distinguished father, Col. Allen T. Davidson, in the practice of his profession. He was almost immediately elected solicitor for the county of Clay, and later, coming to Buncombe to live, was chosen chairman of the Democratic committee of the county which position he filled with recognized ability for ten years, covering the most trying as well as the most eventful period in our State history—a period in which the foundations of the present democratic party in North Carolina were laid. In 1878-'80 Gen. Davidson was chosen State Senator from the district then composed of the counties of Buncombe and Madison, and in the Legislature of those years was given the chairmanship of the committees on corporations and the judiciary, respectively, the latter carrying with it acknowledged leadership in the upper house. In 1882 he was appointed judge of the "Inferior Court," and in 1884 was elected Attorney General, and four years later was named his own successor without opposition. On retiring as Attorney General, Gen. Davidson resumed his residence in Asheville and in 1895 was elected mayor of the city and in the fall of 1901 was chosen a member of the General Assembly from Buncombe by a large majority.

This briefly states the more important public services which Gen. Davidson has rendered the State. In integrity, ability and patriotic devotion

to his people, he stands the equal of the foremost living North Carolinians to-day, and his friends feel that the ambition he has to be Governor of the State which gave him birth, and to which he has given such faithful service, is a proper and laudable one.

Profoundly familiar with the history of North Carolina, proud of her past and hopeful of her future, with a pure private life and a clean public record; a speaker of genuine force and a gentleman of broad culture, with great executive ability and a rare capacity for details, possessed of unusual fitness for the executive chair, Theodore F. Davidson would make a fit companion in the hall of history for the greatest of North Carolina's Governors.

So much for our mountain man. Now a word as to the claims of our section.

For fifteen years the storm centres—the real hand to hand battles in North Carolina politics—have been in these mountains. It is nothing more than truth to say that political research will hardly disclose a parallel to the devotion and unflinching loyalty which western North Carolina has always displayed towards her white brethren in the east. We have fought to our own hurt and changed not, though many times it seemed as if the overthrow of Democracy in the mountains must be the inevitable price of white supremacy in the east. During the long and acrimonious county government fight, when each succeeding year showed the Democrats of the North that the Republicans were augmenting their forces by the cry, "Give us local self-government," no Macedonian cry from the east ever went unanswered by our mountain people, but when the final contest came, when in the councils of the Democratic party of the State it was determined to dissipate at once and forever the black cloud from the east, did not our mountain men stand? Was not the eye to eye struggle in the west? Did not the rank and file of our people ring clear and true, though through Republican misrepresentation not a few of our local strongholds were swept away by the declaration that "the whites will be disfranchised alike with the blacks if this amendment is ratified?"

Gentlemen of the east, the man we ask you to nominate for Governor next year did yeoman service in all these contests for your deliverance, as did his ancestors for the independence of 1776. We counted the cost before the struggle began, and have no regrets. We have helped you to elect Governors Vance, Jarvis, Scales, Fowle, Carr, and Aycock. Is it immodest or unreasonable in us to ask that you help us to repair some of our waste places by aiding us to name Hon. Theodore F. Davidson for Governor next year? He is in every way worthy—our section is surely deserving. We ask his nomination as a recognition of our section and people.

JNO. P. KERR.
Asheville, N. C., Oct. 17, 1908.

Thanksgiving Proclamation Issued By the President

Washington, Oct. 31.—The President to-day issued his annual Thanksgiving proclamation in the following terms.

By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

The season is at hand, when, according to custom of our people, it falls on the President to appoint a day of praise and thanksgiving to God.

During the last year the Lord has dealt bountifully with us, giving us peace at home and abroad and a chance for our citizens to work for their welfare unhindered by war, famine or plague. It behooves us not only to rejoice greatly because of what has been given us, but to accept it with a solemn sense of responsibility, realizing that under heaven it rests with us ourselves to show that we are worthy to use aright what has thus been entrusted to our care. In no other place and at no other time has the experiment of the people, by the people and for the people been tried on so vast a scale as here in our own country in the opening years of the twentieth century. Failure would not only be a dreadful thing for us, but a dreadful thing for all mankind, because it would mean loss of hope for all who believe in the power and the righteousness of

Diaz Confronts an Assassin's Weapon

Five Times the Pistol of Toscano Barked. LUCKILY NO ONE WAS HURT

GRAD JURY INVESTIGATING

Biltmore Irregularities to Be Aired in Court.

It is Believed True Bills Will Be Returned Against Two Former Employees—About That Lease—The Auditorium

Asheville, Oct. 29.—The Sensational fact became known this afternoon that charges of irregularities and peculations on the Biltmore estate were being investigated by the grand jury. Several weeks since when these stories found their way into the press of the country, the presumption was generally expressed that the affair would be hushed up in deference to the known wishes of Mr. Vanderbilt. Among the witnesses were Mr. Harding, who has for several weeks been engaged in making an examination of Books in the Biltmore office. It is believed that the grand jury will return true bills tomorrow against at least two men whose names have figured prominently in public prints.

In conversation with Dr. Schenck, head of the forestry department of the Biltmore estate, the fact was ascertained that Mr. Vanderbilt really looks with favor upon the proposition of leasing the hunting and fishing rights on the entire estate to a club of sportsmen. The fish and game preserves which cover a track of 125,000 acres of Buncombe, Haywood and Transylvania counties, has been reserved by a staff of rangers and guards for eight years, so at the present moment it is probably a fact that no hunting preserve in the United States equals it in attractions. The reserve contains a very large number of deer, bear, turkeys, grouse and quail and over 3,000 miles of trout streams.

Committees for the Auditorium Company, who yesterday at noon started upon the work of securing subscriptions to a new Auditorium, have met with encouragement at every hand and the stock is being rapidly subscribed. When the committee suspended last evening over \$3,000 had been secured and although the committee did not get out this morning at all, something over \$500 came into Secretary Randolph's office voluntarily.

Asheville, Oct. 31.—Mr. Howard A. Banks has accepted the position of editor of The Gazette-News, the present editor of the paper, Mr. Hildebrand, having arranged to remain in Washington during the session of Congress as representative of the State and of the Charlotte Observer. Asheville is Mr. Banks' home, and it seems peculiarly fitting that he should link his fortunes with the Asheville paper.

The auditorium committee was today successful in raising funds, the \$6,000 mark having been passed. This practically insures the erection of a new edifice.

It was ascertained to-day that the grand jury, which this week investigated rumors of irregularities by former employes of the Biltmore estate, did make presentments before it was discharged yesterday and that it is morally certain that bills of indictment against George Tennent and D. C. Champlain, charging them with misappropriation of funds, will be presented by the solicitor to the next grand jury, together with the testimony given by E. J. Hardin and F. A. Hull, when summoned before the grand jury Thursday. It was rumored today that Mr. Champlain had left the State. A gentleman here from Black Mountain this morning, when asked concerning this rumor, said that Champlain left there on an early train a few days ago, ostensibly for New York, and that so far as he knew had not returned.

Vanderbilt to Let Biltmore.

Biltmore, the magnificent 130,000 acre estate owned by George W. Vanderbilt, in North Carolina, may be converted into a vast hunting and fishing preserve for the use of one of the most exclusive and fashionable sportsmen's clubs in the country.

Edgar E. Moore, proprietor of Kenilworth Inn, North Carolina, now an all year round resort, has received a proposition from Mr. Vanderbilt to lease his property for a term of years to be used as a hunting ground for a club which Mr. Moore is forming. There has been no hunting or fishing in the preserve during the ten years. Mr. Vanderbilt has owned Biltmore, and it is full of game.

"I expect to organize a club of from seventy-five to 100 members," said Mr. Moore today, "to include the leading gentlemen devotees of the rod and gun in America."

Upon leaving New York Mr. Moore will visit Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington in the interest of the club. Mr. Vanderbilt is in Paris.—Philadelphia Ledger.

One of the President's Staff Rushed Upon the Would-be Murderer and Disarmed Him—Diaz Was Perfectly Cool Throughout the Excitement

Gunsajato, Mexico, Oct. 27.—Great excitement was caused here today by an attempt on the life of President Diaz, who was a guest of the State government during the festivities here. The President, his staff and guest were passing by the Cantagor Garden in a street car when a man of the lower class named Elis Toscano approached the car shouting, and fired five shots from a revolver at the car, finally doing no harm.

Packo Escandon, of the President's staff, rushed out of the car and caught the man, wrenching the revolver from his grasp. The police took Toscano to prison. He is a man with a bad criminal record and was but recently released from Greanditas, where he had served a term for homicide. The matter will be investigated.

The President remains perfectly cool and was acclaimed by the crowd of citizens who showed their joy at his escape. Toscano's evil record renders the theory of a deliberate attempt at assassination. The President received the congratulations of the citizens and diplomatic corps.

SAFETY SWITCHES PLACED

To Prevent Runaway of Trains on Saluda Mountain.

Saluda, Oct. 28.—Big changes were made in the road-bed of the Asheville & Spartanburg road at the foot of Saluda Mountain today. The tracks were changed to the new grade which take out two curves and puts the line in shape for safety track No. 2, which will be put in operation Saturday 31st. Grading forces have been at work on these changes since August 30th, which have cost the company thousands of dollars, but with both the safety tracks in operation and in charge of competent men, makes the handling of trains over the grade perfectly safe. As the safety tracks are 400 feet long and very steep, and the switches always set for the safety tracks, it will be impossible to have any runaway wrecks. General manager C. H. Ackart, General Superintendent S. J. Collins, Superintendent A. Ramseur, of the Asheville division; Superintendent P. T. Wells, of the Savannah division and Trainmaster R. E. Simpson, came to Saluda just after the big wreck, August 13, in which three men lost their lives, to plan some way for handling trains over this grade with safety and this is the plan they adopted. Put in two safety tracks, one half-way down the mountain, and one at the foot. Place competent men as switchmen at these switches both day and night, and the engineer approaching these tracks, if he has his train under control, gives the switch tender a signal and he throws the switch and lets him have the main line, but if the engineer fails to give the proper signal he is turned into the safety track. They also placed car inspectors at the top of the mountain to inspect all brakes. If a car is found in a train with defective brakes it is set out and repaired before it is allowed to be taken down the mountain. The report that the railroad commission ordered this done was all a mistake, as this work was well under way before they made their tour of inspection. General Manager Ackert is the man that ordered this work done. The report from Spartanburg that the safety switches were set for open mistake, as two are fitting it for Ballenger will install Ballenger and press Ballenger of Troy, N. C., on Tuesday at the depot of the the bride in J. C. Mr. Ballenger, accompanied by his brother, Edgar T. Ballenger, will leave for Troy, N. C., where Mr. Ballenger is engaged in the general merchandise business, will be the permanent home of Mr. and Mrs. Ballenger. Spartanburg Herald.