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### MATTHEWS HANGED

#### Suffered Death for the Murder of James Irwin.

### TRAGEDY OF ALLEN'S FRESH RECALLED

#### No Attempt at Violence by the Populace.

### PRISONER WAS PENITENT

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

LA PLATA, Md., Mar. 12.—George Matthews was hanged at 8:30 this morning for the murder of James J. Irwin at Allen's Fresh in August last.

Matthews was hanged in the jail yard. The drop fell at 8:30 o'clock, and in twenty minutes after the body was lowered into a coffin by the undertaker, and at 9 o'clock was being driven to St. Thomas' cemetery, where the burial will take place. From the time the condemned man reached the jail yard to the time the drop fell was just two

minutes, and every one is loud in praise of Sheriff Wade, who performed his duty without a hitch or the slightest sign of bungling.

The condemned man slept little last night, although he addressed a good word to bed. He was up late and spent considerable time in writing letters, one of them being to Mrs. Taylor, formerly Mrs. Wood, his foster mother. Fathers John E. Wade and J. J. Broderick were with the condemned man early this morning and remained with him until the end.

At 8 o'clock Matthews told his spiritual advisers that he would like to see State's Attorney Adrian Posey, and that gentleman went in and spent ten minutes with him. Matthews told Mr. Posey that he had nothing whatever against him for prosecuting him, as it was all his own fault, and he did not blame the prosecuting officer for the performance of his duty.

He told Mr. Posey that he never said he would like to have him in front of a loaded gatling gun, as had been reported, but he did say in a joking way he would like to have such a gun between him and the people of Charles county.

He said further to the state's attorney that he hoped he would be forgiven for his crime. While talking to Mr. Posey Matthews showed no nervousness, save a twisting of the hands, and talked in a strong, clear voice.

When Mr. Posey left the cell the guards began to bind and rope Matthews for the execution, and in a few moments he was carried to the gallows. He was preceded by Deputy Sheriff L. T. Barber, T. H. Medley and John Maloney, and he walked with firm step and bowed head, listening to the prayers of the priests beside him. When the rope was fastened to the stairway he was prevented from stepping freely up by his gown, and Deputy Barber took hold of his arm and assisted him to the top.

The Execution.

Deputy Medley put on the black cap and Deputy Barber pinioned his feet and adjusted the rope around the man's neck. Deputy Barber walked off the scaffold to the steps, and gave the signal to Deputy Foggett, who in turn signaled Sheriff Wade, who held the trap rope at a down-stairs window in the jail. The drop was eight and one-half feet. The man hung for a few seconds without making a motion, and he then struggled violently once or twice and was still.

Mr. Thos. S. Owens, health officer for Charles county, who was on duty at the present, and ten minutes after the drop fell he pronounced the man dead. He was carried down after hanging seven minutes longer. Dr. Owens said that the man's neck was not broken. The remains were then placed in a coffin, which was put in a covered wagon and driven away.

A guard of twenty-five men, under the command of Mr. P. R. Williams, surrounded the jail inclosure to prevent any disorders that might possibly occur, but owing to the early hour of the execution not over 100 persons were in and around the jail inclosure.

About twenty persons, including newspaper men, were on the inside of the inclosure, and witnessed the execution. Sheriff Wade, who has not been in the county for some time past, bore up well, and performed his duty without the slightest sign of nervousness.

Matthews was brought last evening to the county from Baltimore city jail, where he had been incarcerated since his conviction. He was in the custody of Sheriff George A. Wade and Deputy Sheriffs L. J. Foggett and J. Hugh Murphy, who had been his watch since the death warrant was read to him in January. Father John E. Wade, pastor of Newport Catholic Church of this county, was in Baltimore for the purpose of attending to the funeral of a man to the county, and met the sheriff at the Calvert street station and remained at the office until his arrival at La Plata. Father J. J. Broderick, pastor of St. Thomas' Catholic Church at Chapel Point, met the party at Bowie, and the two priests, unless in their efforts to cheer the doomed man while en route to the place of his death. They apparently succeeded, for at times while in the custody of the sheriff, Matthews laughed and talked apparently forgetting the awful doom to meet him on the morrow.

Arrival at La Plata.

When Matthews arrived at La Plata many persons were on the platform to see him, but he was hustled through the crowd, and, with the guards around him, he was placed in one of the cells downstairs and immediately locked in with his spiritual advisers and Father Foggett. The clergyman remained with him for an hour, and then left to get needed rest and refreshment, returning at an early hour this morning and remaining with him until the execution.

Sheriff Wade says that just before he left Baltimore the jail physician, Dr. Clark

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ATHENS, Greece, March 12.—The Cretan question is passing through a period of quiescence, a lull having followed the reply of Greece to the powers, and everybody seems to be wondering where and when the storm will break out afresh.

The split of the proposals made in the different capitals of Europe toward Greece it is remarked here that if this was the case the threatened coercion of Greece would have been an accomplished fact.

There seems to be but three ways out of the present difficulty. One is that the powers must accept the offers of Greece to withdraw her fleet and her army, and allow her army of occupation to remain nominally under the control of a foreign officer outranking Colonel Vassos, but actually under the control of the island, and when that is accomplished, a plebiscite shall decide whether the Cretans are to be annexed to Greece or not.

The second suggested solution is the coercion, real or seeming, of Greece by the blockade of the Greek coasts as well as the Greek ports.

This would be a dangerous and difficult task. In the first place it would require an immense fleet, owing to the blockade of the Greek coasts, and the Greek archipelago, to make such a blockade effective. Besides, Greece's reply to the ultimatum would probably be the lighting of the fires of war in Macedonia, the beginning of a conflagration which might spread over Europe. The most dangerous spot on the map of Europe is present is the frontier of Thessaly. If Greece is coerced or if she does not obtain the substance of her demands, she is liable to force the hands of the powers, and this might be done in more ways than one.

By crossing the border, trying to raise the flag of independence, and bringing about the long contemplated dismemberment of the Turkish empire.

The third solution is contained in the rumors that King George of Greece will stand taken by his eldest son, Crown Prince Constantine, Duke of Sparta, and his wife is the Princess Sophia of Prussia, sister of Emperor William of Germany. There are many persons who believe that the King's abdication would be the best way of clearing up the situation. While the Duke of Sparta is a young man, his abdication would be a popular step, as the populace has never quite forgiven the king for being a foreigner, while his sons, who were born in Greece, are regarded as being one with themselves.

The crown princess is known to be a true Greek, second son of the