

THE DAMNING PROOF.

A Day's Journey Toward the Facts of the Danville Massacre.

More Evidence That the Murdered Black Men Were Unarmed.

Two Chivalrous Virginians Protect Their Friend Who Founds a "Nigger."

Direct Testimony That the Only White Man Hurt Was Shot by His Friends.

The senate subcommittee which is investigating the Danville massacre set yesterday from 10 o'clock a. m. to 6 o'clock p. m., with but forty-five minutes intermission. Senators Sherman and Lapham, assisted by Mr. John S. Wise, examined the witnesses, and Senator Vance assisted by Col. Cabell, cross-examined them. Senator Vance grew very weary toward the end of the long session, and wanted to adjourn. He complained that his adversaries were able to relieve each other, while he was compelled to work steadily for seven hours, but Senator Sherman insisted upon getting through with the witnesses present. The committee room was uncomfortably full all day, and among the audience were half a dozen ladies. Much of the testimony was rather tedious, as it went over the same ground as that of the witnesses present. hitherto unimportant facts were developed which were of great interest. Frequently the manner and demeanor of a witness were more convincing than his words.

The first witness was Edward M. Hatcher, a white man, who asserted that he had never carried a pistol or any other weapon than a pocket knife for twenty years. He did not remember seeing Jack Redd; did not remember him, but might know him if he saw him; did not think he struck anyone on the day of the riot, and did not see anyone strike Redd. He was not in the vicinity of the market when Redd was assaulted that day. He saw marks of bullets on the buildings in the rear of where the white people were standing at the time of the riot, and these bullets must have been fired by the negroes. This witness was a thick-set, black-bearded, unprepossessing individual.

The next witness, J. C. Logan, was not much more attractive. He had a full black beard, black hair, bull neck, and a sulky face. He met Senator Sherman's insinuating questions with a suspicious, snarling manner that did not give the highest opinion of his candor. He told his story of the riot and said that he rushed into a hardware store to borrow some axes, as he saw that it was going to be a hard hand fight. When Senator Sherman asked him if he struck any one in the presence of Col. Cabell he replied: "Don't know, but I did or don't think that a fair question. Don't think I'll answer it." He was asked if he fired at any man, and replied: "Didn't shoot at any man specially." A few minutes later he denied that he made that answer, but the stenographer read it from his notes.

"How many times did you shoot into the crowd that day?" asked Senator Sherman. "I shan't answer that," said the witness. He was examined by the other members of the committee, but they did not ask him about his being around or shooting. He thought there were twenty white men and 200 colored in the crowd, but the latter gathered like bees. Capt. Oliver, George D. Hays, and three negroes to disperse, but they said they wouldn't go away; they were not going to run away.

This witness, like all the other democratic white witnesses, replied to Senator Vance that it was necessary for the store to be in self-defense; that there was no premeditated plan to get up the riot to intimidate the negroes, and prevent their voting, and that there was no disturbance after the negro dispersal.

Senator Lapham said that he was unable to name any white men or colored men who fired pistols that day. He declined to say whether he fired or not. Without being asked about it, he managed to state three times that he had sent his family out of the town to get them away from danger. He was appointed a special policeman.

S. F. Terry, the next witness, was an honest appearing and honest talking young man, a clerk in a Danville store. He testified what he saw of the riot. He saw but one armed colored man; that one had a knife and cut the witness's finger, accidentally, as he believed, while running through the store. He saw Mr. Danes standing in the store door with a double barreled gun, but didn't know whether he used it. The witness was not armed. Saw no colored men fire pistols. The "niggers made a swaying" toward the white men about the time the firing became general.

Senator Vance asked a number of leading questions in the attempt to show that Holland could not have been shot by a white man, but the witness always insisted that he didn't know.

R. W. Glass, a small and bright young colored man, who said that he worked in a Danville tobacco factory, was asked by Senator Sherman to tell the story of the riot in his own way.

"I really don't feel safe," said he, "in saying what I do know about it."

Here Senator Vance said, "Humph" and laughed. Senator Sherman inquired why the witness was afraid.

"Well, I live in Danville and I've got to go back there, and I'm afraid. I've heard it said that if any nigger testified—"

"We don't want that," said Senator Vance. "But I've a right to know his reasons," said Senator Sherman.

The witness stated that he had heard these threats since the riot, and had heard before the riot that firing was expected. When he heard the first shot he ran to see what was the matter. There were seventy-five or one hundred negroes and twenty or thirty white men. He heard the white men say, "Leave here or you'll get hurt." The negroes said, "We've done nothing, and we don't intend to leave." He heard Hatcher say, "This is a white man's town, and white men have got to rule it, and if you niggers don't leave we're going to kill you." Then the white men drew and flourished their pistols. Freeman was trying to persuade the negroes to disperse. Hatcher, Len, Nat Covington and John Hays came to the front with pistols in their hands and Len said: "Fire!" They did fire, and then a great many more white men fell in and fired—thirty or forty before they got through. The colored people ran and the white men came running into the opera house. He saw the white men go into stores and get pistols, and come out again. The firing was in front of Woolfky & Blair's office, and the witness saw twenty-five or thirty pistols lying on a table in that office. He also saw in that office a half-bushel bag filled with cartridges. The witness was afraid to run and got away from the crowd of negroes and behind the white men. After the negroes ran the white people went out in the street and yelled, "Hurrah for our democrats." The witness saw Holland fall, and thought, from the position of the men, that one of the first four white men who first came to the front shot him. He saw the colored men shoot or have pistols, the four men were pointing their pistols toward Holland. After the negroes ran he heard some of the white men say: "Kill every d—n nigger you see," but Mr. Corbin said, "No; they have run and 'tain't no use to proceed after them." The witness thought it was planned to kill the colored people. The white men used to meet in Armory hall in the Virginia house, and witness had heard, through the open window, Henry Barkdale say in there, a week before the shooting, "We mean to carry this election, if not by fair means, then by foul." White people in Danville generally go armed, but the colored men do not, because if the white men know of a negro carrying a pistol they "had him up and made him pay."

The witness did not vote, not because he thought it unsafe if he went alone, but his single vote would do no good, and the colored people generally were afraid, as he was, that if they got in a crowd the whites would fire into them. The negroes generally did not vote. There were more colored than white

men there, but he had only heard one colored man say he voted.

Senator Vance, in his cross-examination, tried to belittle the witness's testimony by frequently mentioning "these desperate white men," the "free lunch of pistols," and asking why the negroes "played into the hands of the democrats by gathering to be shot, but the witness's story was not shaken. He said that he expected that they were going to make trouble for Mr. Sims, and for that reason he was on the street that day.

George A. Lea, a Danville tobacco commission merchant, was the next witness. He was a blond young man, with light hair, mustache, and little side whiskers. He had a long, determined chin and high forehead, was well dressed, and courteous in manner. He frequently said "I am not a politician," "I'm very slightly." On the afternoon of the riot he was doorkeeper of the gallery of the opera house, and had been directed to keep the "niggers" out, as it was a private meeting. No one came to see him, and was asked about his difficulty with a black man. Noel said that on account of the present excited condition of the people he would take no notice of the black man's insult until after election. Then Noel went away, but came back in five minutes and said: "That scoundrel has insulted me a second time, and I want you to come with me and see fair play." The witness had a Smith and Wesson revolver. He and Taylor went with Noel, and about four doors above the opera house the witness saw Lawson, with fifteen or twenty other negroes. Noel asked Lawson why he yelled at him in an insulting manner. Lawson stammered and said: "I didn't holler at you, but when they 'began made at each other and 'the nigger got a gentled thrashing, sir." Noel had the advantage of Lawson in reach of arm and did not get hit in the face. "Was there great excitement there?" asked Senator Sherman.

"There was not, sir. As soon as they went together the niggers started for them. Taylor and I drew pistols, sir, and demanded fair play. I saw arms on the nigger policeman, sir, Robert Adams, but none on the other niggers."

Senator Sherman asked some questions to get at the relative size of Noel and Lawson. "There stands Noel, sir, the picture of manhood," said Lea, with the utmost seriousness, pointing to a slight and puny looking young man who was standing behind the senator. Noel never blushed, or seemed in the least embarrassed by the rather flowery compliment.

Senator Sherman then put a suppositious case of three armed negroes attacking an unarmed white man, and asked if the white man's friends would not have hung the negroes.

"A crowd of white men in the south, sir, could have been cowardly enough to attack three men," said Lea. Then the senator put a number of questions concerning the chivalry of three armed white men going out to fight an unarmed negro, but Lea could not give any satisfactory answer. The senator and his other answer. The senator asked him what the negro policeman was doing.

"He did nothing, sir, until I told him to part those men, when I was afraid that Noel would kill Lawson with his fists."

"Then you took command?"

"Yes, sir."

"What right had you to command him?"

"Well, perhaps it wasn't a command; perhaps it was a request; but we usually speak that way in the south, sir, in speaking to that class of people. We generally command them."

Senator Sherman and the witness then got into a discussion as to the treatment of negroes and the trouble between the races. The witness stated that he had endured more "niggers" in Danville than he would from a gentleman.

Noel went away, said the witness, to wash the blood from his hands, and then the negroes started to fire at the man who had fired a pistol. The witness showed himself, and the negroes said, "We are going to have our rights; shoot them down."

"Did you see your pistol at that time?"

"I decline to answer that question."

"Why?"

"Because I have been advised that I have a right so to do."

The witness then gave his story of the firing, which he thought was begun simultaneously by both sides. He saw pistols in the hands of the "niggers," but could name none of them, as he knew but two or three in the crowd. The witness was complimented by a number of the negroes for the manner in which he secured a fair play for the white men Noel and Lawson. Some of those men were allowed to break through the line of white men. "Those who showed no hostile intention, sir, were treated very mercifully every time." The witness evidently forgetting that he had just declined to answer a question on the ground that it would tend to incriminate him, said that he began to shoot when the crowd of negroes began to shoot at him. "I conscientiously avoided picking out any one individual to shoot at, and I didn't give the command to fire, and I couldn't call anybody to mind who fired." He was appointed by the readjuster mayor as his private guard. He was not examined by the committee as to forty or fifty cartridges, but to the same things as he could. He had sent his family out of town because of threats made by the "niggers."

To Senator Vance's question the witness said, "Squire Talliver, a leading bridle-saddler, republican politician, said that a few North Carolinians were running the town, and he would show them they couldn't do it. My brother was attacked and insisted that I should carry a pistol. It was the first one I ever owned."

"I am, sir, and proud to say it." The witness thought that Holland could not have been shot by a white man. He thought if the white men had given way an inch, not only he, but their wives, sisters, mothers, and children would all have been murdered. He was reminded by Senator Sherman that during the war the negroes took excellent care of the Virginia women and children who were left in their charge. Lea admitted it, but said that then they were not incited to deeds of violence by bad leaders. He could only give the names of Ralston, revenue collector Major Johnson, "a North Carolinian. I am sorry to say, sir, by birth," and Colonel Hays, bad leaders, and he knew nothing against Ralston personally. He thought it would be a good thing if the negroes would divide politically and not vote solid. He had "no animosity toward the nigger, sir, but made 'nigger' had become turbulent." "One of the servants at home, sir," said the witness, "even went so far as to tell us that things had undergone quite a change of late." The negroes did not allow any of their number to vote the democratic ticket. Their wives threatened to leave them if they voted with the white men. Of the negro women have political clubs. Of the social position of republicans in Danville the witness said, "There's a republican on our visits at his house. He's a republican, though, and not a brindle-tail."

Charles D. Noel, the young man who, by his fight with the negro Lawson, brought on the massacre, gave his account of that difficulty. He had never seen Lawson until that morning. As he was passing rapidly down the street he was nearly tripped up by one of two negroes whom he passed. The negro apologized, and said he was trying to get out the way of a lady, and a white lady at that. This was said, according to Noel, in a most insulting manner. Noel said, "I didn't know it, and was passing, 'til when the other negro, Lawson, said, 'What difference does it make whether it is all right or not. He can't do a d—n thing about it.' 'I made some remark,' said Noel, "and he said he meant what he said. Then I struck him and they both struck me. They made motions as if to draw pistols." Noel had bought a pistol the day before, but hadn't it with him. He left when the negroes began to gather; went home and got his dinner and pistol and started to drive to the country. As he was driving along the street Lawson called out to him, "By—, here I am." Then I immediately turned around and drove back to the opera house.

"Did you consider that speech an insult which you must resent?" asked Senator Sherman.

"I did."

The witness then told the story of the fight and the riot, much as he had already told it. He did not feel reproached on the cause of the death of the negroes who were shot. He saw pistols in the hands of the white men, but not of the blacks. He

called them "niggers," and, in answer to a question of Senator Sherman, said he thought the term quite appropriate. He supposed that the Danville Grays and was on duty that night keeping the peace in Danville.

Charles D. Froeman, a white Danville policeman, told his story of the riot. His story did not differ materially from that of the other witnesses. He saw but one colored man with a pistol.

T. J. Corbin, a leaf tobacco dealer, told the same story as the other white men. He only saw one black man with a pistol, and didn't think he fired. He saw the white men fired to intimidate the colored people.

R. B. Murphy, a commercial traveler from Mobile, who happened to be in Danville on the day of the riot. He said there was some excitement, and Col. Cabell started the people. "He was not present when the firing was going on."

Matthew P. Jordan, business partner of Lea, told the same story as Lea. This witness also declined to say whether he fired his pistol. He said the "niggers" were "unfriendly and insolent." He saw no weapons in the negroes' hands.

Lemon Coleman was an old negro boarding house keeper of Danville. The important part of his testimony was that he saw one white man shoot another, and learned afterward that the man shot was Holland. Senator Vance tried for half an hour to shake or weaken his testimony on this point, but without effect. He said that he was looking straight at the man when he fired, saw which way his pistol was pointed, and saw Holland fall at the crack of the pistol.

There were some funny things about his testimony. A little boy said to him as the first shot was fired, "That one nigger is dead." The witness was summoned before the grand jury, but one of the jurors told him he was not wanted, and then he "disappeared."

Wiley L. Williamson, an intelligent young colored grocer of Danville, and John Stone, a colored employe of the Danville custom house, were the last witnesses, and were somewhat hurriedly examined. There was nothing of special importance in their testimony.

Executive Committee Meeting. The executive committee of the S. P. C. A. held a regular meeting in the parlors of the Y. M. C. A. yesterday afternoon, President MacArthur in the chair. Treasurer Trull reported \$194.57 in the treasury. Mr. Smiley, chairman of the committee on rooms, agents, &c., reported that his office had been secured at No. 1410 New York avenue as headquarters for the society, and that a telephone had been put in; also that an office would be put on duty in a few days. Mr. Smiley also presented a proposal for the employment of a general agent to more fully meet the wants of the society in the transaction of its rapidly increasing business, and on motion S. W. Russell was appointed special agent. Mr. Fendall presented a general offer from the Riggs Life Insurance company to allow the executive committee the use of a room in which to hold its meetings. A vote of thanks was passed, and a committee appointed to examine the rooms, confer with the company, and report. On motion of Mr. Douglas, the resolution providing for semi-monthly meetings of the executive committee was rescinded, to take effect immediately after the first meeting in March. The resignation of Mr. Tupper, secretary, was accepted, made imperative from pressure of private business, was accepted, and Mr. Russell appointed his successor. After an informal interchange upon the gratifying outlook of the society's affairs the committee adjourned.

Kindergarten Anniversary. The anniversary of the opening of the Pennsara free kindergarten was celebrated yesterday afternoon in St. George's hall, No. 510 Eleventh street northwest. The hall was filled with the parents and friends of the forty happy little ones, clad in holiday attire. Mrs. T. W. Riddell and Miss Maud Stillson, the teachers, took turns in leading the children through the various motion plays, which they sang and played in a manner showing that the spirit of order and harmony had entered their young hearts as a result of the foundation of this system of child training. Mrs. Louise Pollock, president of the Washington Kindergarten union, talked to the children, drawing their attention to the wonderful gift of the little fingers, each child mentioning some nice thing they could do with their hands. At the close of the exercises each little one received a pretty valentine, and some excellent cake was also passed round, the contribution of Mr. L. W. Woodbury, of the Washington baking school, who is one of the outstanding members of the Washington Kindergarten union.

Reception to a Pastor. A reception was given last evening by the ladies of the North Baptist church, on Fourteenth street, between R and S streets northwest, to their new pastor, Rev. N. J. Wheeler, and his family. The church was decorated with evergreens. Rev. S. M. Shute welcomed the pastor in behalf of the members. Remarks were made by S. H. Greene. Ice cream and cake were served at these exercises. The committee was composed of the following ladies: Mrs. Frank, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Glass, Mrs. Hall, and Mrs. Stupp.

At the Insane Asylum. About 600 inmates of the insane asylum attended a variety dramatic performance in the spacious opera hall of that institution last night. Outbursts of laughter greeted the funny routines.

The Uniformed Battalion. An adjourned meeting of the Uniformed Battalion of Patriarchs of I. O. O. F. was held last night. Considerable business of importance was transacted relating to the order.

OFFICIAL NOTICE. NAVY DEPARTMENT. WASHINGTON, February 15, 1884. The President invites the Officers of the Navy and Marine Corps in the District of Columbia and the ladies of their families to be present at the Executive Mansion on Tuesday evening, the 19th inst., from 8 to 10 o'clock, to meet the members of the Senate and House of Representatives. The Officers are requested to appear in "Special Full Dress." WILLIAM E. CHANDLER, Secretary of the NAVY.

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