

FOUND GUILTY

And Deposed from the Ministry and the Church.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

To the General Conference of the Church Given by Creighton, Who Says He Will Fight the Case to the Bitter End. Some Plain Talk.

The jury of thirteen from the South Carolina Conference appointed by Bishop Wilson to try the Rev. C. W. Creighton, of the Christian Appeal, for libeling the presiding elders of the conference in stating that they constituted a ring to control the conference and that for years they had been grafting on the people and the preachers by being able to control the appointments, reported its verdict to the conference Wednesday morning.

The verdict "sustains the charge" and finds that "he is hereby deposed from the ministry and is expelled from the membership of the Methodist Episcopal church, South."

Three of the thirteen voting members of the jury refused to sign the report. They are the Revs. J. B. Traywick, W. B. Wharton and W. H. Arlail.

Soon as the report was read, and it was received in silence, there being no discussion of it under the church law, Rev. A. C. Coker, a defense witness and a strong supporter of Mr. Creighton, arose to a question of personal privilege.

"All I want to say," he began trembling with emotion, "is that that verdict is true and correct, similar charges should be brought against three-fourths of the membership of the church in this state, for the same talk is being indulged in against the ring Mr. Creighton has attacked throughout this—"

"I rise to a point of order," said the Rev. Dr. John O. Wilson, at one time a presiding elder and for a number of years editor of the Southern Christian Advocate, jumping to his feet and interrupting Mr. Mann.

The point was at once sustained, and after the Rev. Dr. J. W. Daniel, attorney for Mr. Creighton, had given notice of appeal to the general conference which meets three years hence, the conference formally adjourned, the annual appointments were read.

About two-thirds of the members of the conference had left the city in spite of Bishop Wilson's request that members leave only on permission of the conference, and only a small crowd heard the verdict. Mr. Creighton did not appear on the floor of the conference.

He says he has just begun his fight against what he terms the ring controlling the conference and that he proposes to preach and lecture throughout the state in addition to carrying on a most stirring campaign in his newspaper. He says the lady knows that he is right.

"Of course the verdict is a severe blow," said Mr. Creighton, "but I do not feel cast down or discouraged. The jury was packed with men prejudiced against my case. The Rev. Mr. Walker, for instance, who heads the lit. conducts a negro school in Augusta, and everybody knows that I have attacked that sort of thing unsparringly as the cause of friction between the races in the south."

"There was ample evidence from the Rev. Messrs. C. B. Smith, A. B. Watson, P. A. Murray, A. Coker, Mann, and others, to sustain the charges I preferred against the presiding elders and others controlling this conference through the appointments, nine-tenths of which they dictate, that they constitute a ring to run things, and graft on the preachers and the people. They would not allow me to have a stenographer, but we will demand a transcript of the evidence from their stenographer, in order to perfect the appeal."

Following is a copy of the verdict: "The committee appointed to try the case of C. W. Creighton, charged with gross immorality, report that they have carefully and prayerfully considered the same and find as follows:

"Charge 1: Specifications 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 13 are sustained.

"Charge 2: Specifications 4 and 6 are sustained.

"And that these specifications sustain the charge, and he is hereby deposed from the ministry and is expelled from the membership of the Methodist Episcopal church, South."

(Signed) George Williams Walker, D. M. McLeod, A. N. Brunson, J. D. Crout, C. O. Herbert, W. M. Duncan, R. L. Holroyd, D. Tiller, John G. Beckwith, L. L. Bedenbaugh, committee.

"L. F. Baty, chairman; J. M. Steadman and S. B. Harper, secretaries."

It should be explained that charges 1 and 2 are not different except as to time. The offense under the first charge occurred prior to the last conference and others occurred since the last conference.

The presiding elders Mr. Creighton attacked were H. W. Bays, J. S. Beasley, John E. Carlisle, H. B. Brown, W. P. Meadows, Marion Dargan, R. H. Jones, E. P. Taylor and J. W. Kilgo.

Following is a summary of the charges against Mr. Creighton, on which the committee acted:

Charge 1: "We charge C. W. Creighton with gross immorality."

Charge 2: "We charge C. W. Creighton with gross immorality, which said gross immorality occurred subsequent to the last annual conference, but before the investigating committee began its work."

charges on which Creighton was found guilty and the report of the committee was based are, in brief, as follows:

"Specification No. 3: Under charge 1: The assertion made by Mr. Creighton that the presiding elders exercise the power of a self-perpetuating body, in violation of the laws of the church, this assertion being denounced on the specification as follows:

"Specification No. 4: The assertion that the presiding elders shelve men who for any reason do not sympathize with them and approve their methods, promote those who stand by them and support each other in doing it, this assertion being declared to be maliciously false."

"Specification No. 5: The assertion that the presiding elders agree upon a method of forcing up their salaries in violation of the law of the church."

"Specification No. 7: An editorial in the Christian Appeal of March 19, 1905, in which it was charged that the presiding elders were guilty of heartless conduct in grinding and exacting exorbitant proportion of the preachers' salaries."

"Specification No. 9: An editorial in which the following occurs: 'When we take into consideration the competency and efficiency of the presiding elders and the amount of service which they render to the church, we do not see a clear case of graft.' The presiding elders mentioned in this connection are Rev. W. J. Stokes, J. S. Beasley, J. W. Kilgo, H. B. Brown and H. W. Bays."

"Specification No. 10: refers to an editorial in the Christian Appeal, attacking the Rev. E. O. Watson, who was at that time acting as editor of the Southern Christian Advocate, and who had in that paper called on Mr. Creighton to specify what he meant by the use of the term 'graft.' Mr. Watson is referred to in this editorial in contemptuous terms."

"Specification No. 13 relates to an attack on Rev. Dargan, who had assumed personal support of a mission at an expense of \$7500."

The article calls this contribution by Rev. Mr. Dargan "A conscience fund."

Under charge No. 2, specification 4, relating to Creighton's charge that the presiding elders of the Southern Carolina conference brought charges against him that they knew to be false. Specification No. 6 relates to an article by Mr. Creighton, referring to Mr. R. H. Jones and co-conspirators, charging conspiracy of the part of the presiding elders."

The other specifications which are not referred to in the report of the trial committee, it is presumed, were not sustained for lack of sufficient evidence. They were of the same general character as those which were sustained and which are outlined above, being based upon other articles of the same nature in the Christian Appeal."

The character of Creighton was first attacked in conference two years ago and a committee of investigation was appointed. This committee consisted of Rev. M. L. Carlisle, Rev. T. C. Odell and Rev. W. B. Barber. The committee reported in 1905 at Spartanburg that they did not have sufficient evidence on which to go to trial of the charges and recommended that the case be left in the hands of the presiding elders, in whose district Mr. Creighton was stationed. This presiding elder was W. T. Duncan, of the Oakesburg district. Mr. Creighton appointed the following committee to investigate the charges: Rev. T. C. Odell, W. A. Massabomb and Peter Stokes. Their report was made at the present session and upon that report the committee of trial was appointed whose report was submitted Thursday."

Stew Seven Into Fragments.

One white man, five negroes and an Indian were literally blown into fragments by the explosion of dynamite in a tunnel on the right of way of the New South and Western Railroad Friday night at Charlotte.

The white man had been ordered to open a box of dynamite for blasting purposes and started to comply. On a blow from a hammer exploded the contents and only a small fragment of the white man, who was blown through the tunnel, has been found. Six others were severely injured. A mule and car were blown down the mountain side. The car was wrecked, but the mule escaped unscathed and of his own volition galloped off to the stable. Not a single person in the tunnel escaped injury. The construction force is tunnelling through a mountain in a remote corner of the State and owing to its inaccessibility and inability to secure telephone communication the names of the dead and injured cannot be learned. The Indian was a Cherokee from the reservation at Wialitsee, Swain County.

One More State.

The delegates elected to the Constitutional Convention in Oklahoma and Indian Territory assembled this week to begin the framing of the constitution of the state of Oklahoma.

Of 112 delegates nearly 100 are democrats. After the Constitution is finished it will be submitted to the two territories for ratification. State officers will be elected, and if the Constitution is ratified Oklahoma will, by proclamation of the President, become the forty-sixth State of the Union. The State officers will all be democrats. It will elect two United States Senators who will also be democrats. There will be five Congressmen, at least three of them will be democrats.

Water Comes High.

Water seems to be a scarce article in some parts of California. The Greenwater correspondent of the Sacramento Bee says there was a water famine in Greenwater last week, and for three days the precious fluid sold at \$20 a barrel and at \$1 a gallon in small quantities. The supply comes from Allen's well, thirty miles east of Greenwater, and when the teams played out under the heavy traffic the price jumped up. Finally new horses and a bigger tank were secured and the price dropped to \$7 a barrel. There are more than a thousand people in Greenwater, and the nearest water is thirty miles away. A full sized bath costs \$10.

HUNG AT LAST.

Old Man Rawlins and Alf Moore Side by Side.

PAY DEATH PENALTY

For the Murder of the Carter Children A Few Miles From Valdosta, Ga.

On the Gallows Rawlins Declared His Boys Innocent.

J. G. Rawlins and Alf Moore were hung at Valdosta, Ga., on Tuesday last week for the murder of Willie and Carrie Carter, two children of Rev. W. L. Carter, who lived on a farm adjoining Rawlins' a few miles from Valdosta. Both Rawlins and Carter were Baptist preachers. Several years ago a dispute arose as to the line between their respective farms. Litigation and bad blood resulted. Carter was wounded by a shot from ambush and had Rawlins arrested on the charge of attempted murder.

THE CRIME.

On July 13, 1905, a night attack was made on the Carter home. Two of the children, Willie and Carrie Carter, were shot just outside the house and shots were fired without effect at Carter and his wife and other daughter. The wounded boy managed to drag himself to the house and informed his parents that Milton and Jesse Rawlins had shot him. He died the next day. After shooting the children, the attacking party attempted to set fire to the house, but were fired upon and driven off without further casualties.

THE TRIAL.

The trial, which lasted two weeks, resulted in a verdict of death for the elder Rawlins, his sons Milton and Jesse, and Alf Moore, who was a negro. The third son, Leonard Rawlins, was given a life sentence, as accomplice. Every legal expedient was resorted to, but the verdicts have been sustained in each instance. The conviction of all the men was secured chiefly through the confession of Alf Moore, who claimed that he and the boys were present at the Carter home when the children were shot, but that the shooting was done by Milton Rawlins. Moore claimed that old man Rawlins was the instigator of the whole crime, and that he and the boys carried it out.

SIDE BY SIDE.

Side by side the white man and the negro, principals in the bloodiest tragedy that has ever shocked the heart of South Georgia, paid the penalty of crimes upon the gallows in Lowndes county jail, before an approving party of probably fifty witnesses. The scene leading to the execution was at times pathetic and then at times almost sensational in their human interest.

At 6 o'clock, Mrs. Rawlins and her two grown daughters, all dressed in black and weeping, were permitted to enter the prison corridor. They remained with the condemned husband and father until 9:50, when they left after the final good-bye had been said. As the heavily veiled women passed out, the great throng in the jail yard and streets made way for them, the men lifting their hats out of respect to their grief.

At 10 o'clock the newspaper men and several friends of the condemned men were admitted. Rawlins was dressed in a negligee shirt, without collar. He wore a black sack coat and plain trousers. He stood in the narrow corridor into which the door of his cell lead and at the other end of the corridor were his sons—Milton, Jesse and Leonard. Old man Rawlins, standing six feet and over, a perfect giant of strength and a picture of health, held his right hand high above his head on the bars of the cell and with his left made emphatic gestures.

PLEADS FOR HIS BOYS.

"Gentlemen," he said, "to one and all I want to say that my boys are innocent. I am standing in the presence of God and the very shadow of death. If what I tell you is a lie, then J. G. Rawlins is responsible to his maker. If you believe the lies of the negro, then you are responsible to your God. Hear me, men, my boys are innocent, they never had anything to do with the killing of the Carter children."

"Mr. Davis," he said to Captain E. H. Davis, a member of the jury, which convicted him, "I have no ill will toward you, you did what you thought was honest and right, but you are wrong and the truth will appear some day. I have forgiven you and I ask God to do the same thing." To others the old man made the same statements, thanking some for their kindness and good wishes, now and then denouncing his attorneys and then denouncing the jury.

"When you hang old man Rawlins today," he cried with feeling, "you will be lynching him; this is mob law and not justice that I am getting; I've been mobbed in Georgia, in the name of the law."

Then turning to the three boys, the old man would point his finger at them and declare their innocence. "I wonder what the matter with the sheriff, I wish he would come on," Rawlins declared. "I am tired of waiting. I wonder what the matter, what time is it?"

SPEAKS OF HIS WIFE.

Turning to the upturned faces, Rawlins said: "Please be kind to my boys, they are not guilty, but before God I would rather you would hang them next Friday and let them follow me than to send them to the penitentiary. The penitentiary will make educated devils of them."

Dr. McCord, Rawlins' spiritual adviser, pulled a stere type card from the pocket that the condemned man wore and Rawlins, half smiling, said: "If my wife had seen that she would have taken it off, poor woman, poor woman."

Rawlins walked from the steel corridor into the jail hall and placed his hands upon the bars and pressed his face close to the window. "Gentlemen and ladies, and all," he began, "listen to me; my boys are innocent. His plea for his three boys seemed to make his own peril pale into insignificance. Frequently he would almost yell at the crowds. "Now, do you understand me? Do I make myself plain?"

MOORE DENOUNCES RAWLINS.

Rawlins addressed the crowd for five minutes and at 10:25 Alf Moore, the negro, was led from his cell to the front second story window of the jail. Moore looked long and eagerly into the sea of faces, in which there were many black ones. Moore's denunciation of old man Rawlins showed great bitterness in the negro's heart, as he attributed his present condition to his partner in crime.

"Listen one and all of you white folks, and black folks," cried the negro, gesticulating wildly. "Milton Rawlins killed the Carter children. I swore this on the stand in the courthouse and I swear it again today. These will be my last words, people. Milton Rawlins killed the Carter children."

As the negro spoke old man Rawlins sat unmoved, not more than three feet away. "It's a lie," almost hissed Rawlins under his breath. Finally Sheriff Passmore ordered all in the street below to stop questioning the negro.

At 10:35 a. m., after speaking ten minutes, Moore cried: "Good-bye!" at the top of his voice and he and Rawlins were led toward the execution chamber. En route, Rawlins stopped for a photographer to make a picture of him.

"I do this just so my wife and children can have one," he repeated several times over to the photographer, during the process of taking the picture, the man never flinched a muscle and his expression was stolid and almost indifferent.

Into the execution room the jailers and guards and party were ushered. Rawlins leading the way and Moore following closely behind.

AT THE GALLOWS.

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At the foot of the steps leading to the gallows, Rawlins sat down on the first step. The negro walked toward him, holding out his hand. Then followed an almost heated colloquy in which both men told the other they had sworn the truth, each referred to the fact that he stood in the shadow of the gallows and on the very brink of death, but Rawlins maintained that his boys were innocent and the negro swore that the statement was not true, and that he himself, had told the truth.

The heated interview was brought to a close by the sheriff, who announced that a prayer would be offered, all hats were taken off, many kneeling on the steel floor, while above all loomed the grim death trap, decorated with weights and levers and ropes. The prayer, a most fervent one, was offered by Rev. W. W. McCord, formerly of Atlanta.

This was followed by a benediction and the party was in the act of moving towards the scaffold, when the negro began a prayer, wonderful for its wording and earnestness. But even in his final prayer to his Master, the negro's bitter heart showed there was no forgiveness there for Rawlins, whom he declared had brought him to his doom. When Moore had finished the two men took their positions on the scaffold, the trap was sprung and in a few seconds they were landed into eternity.

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"Fine," replied Rawlins and the conversation could be heard for blocks away.

"Then let us tell the Holy Ghost about it," the preacher shouted back. "All right, tell Him," answered Rawlins.

The street preacher prayed and sang at the top of his voice until the police were appealed to and he was made to move on.

Thus passed into eternity a man who at one time was an honored minister of the gospel. What, a solemn lesson the sad close of this man's life teaches us all. At some time he strayed out of the path of honor and entered the broad road of destruction, and according to his confession followed it to hell.

SHOT BY WOMAN

FORMER SENATOR FROM UTAH WOUNDED IN WASHINGTON.

Mrs. Anna Bradley, of Salt Lake City, Fires Three Shots Into His Body.

Former United States Senator Brown, of Utah, was shot in Washington last Saturday by Mrs. Anna Bradley of Salt Lake City. The shooting occurred in Senator Brown's apartment in the Raleigh Hotel, where Mrs. Bradley was registered under the name of "A. B. Brown." She was taken into custody and was locked up for the night in the matron's room of the first precinct police station.

Two shots were fired, one grazing Brown's forehead and the other entering the abdomen and lodging in the pelvic cavity. After working over him for nearly two hours the surgeons decided that at present at least they would make no further attempt to find the bullet. It was stated to-night that while Senator Brown's condition was critical his wounds are not necessarily fatal.

Mrs. Bradley arrived here shortly after noon after being assigned a room at the immediately went to Senator Brown's apartment. There was no witness to the shooting, but a floor maid heard the shots and notified the management. According to her statement, Mrs. Bradley came to Washington to demand that Senator Brown marry her. She said that their relations were well known in Salt Lake City. "I asked him if he was going to do the right thing by me," she said, "and he said that he would do his best. He said that he would do his best to do the right thing by me."

His reply was that he had put on his overcoat and started to leave the room and I shot him. I shot him in the back and in this case it was fully justified." While expressing no sorrow for her act, she was glad to know that Senator Brown might recover. "I was practically penniless when I got here Saturday," she said, "having only \$2.50, and after paying the hotel bill, all the money I had in the world was \$1." She says she urged Senator Brown to marry her, that he had been instrumental in the divorce between her husband and herself, and that as his wife was dead he now could "do the right thing" by her. This, she said, he positively refused to do.

Mrs. Bradley is a brunette, about 38 years old and of fair stature. Her first act, after being taken to the police station, was to send for Senator Sutherland, of Utah, who called on her Saturday and had a talk with her. Senator Sutherland regretted being brought into the case, but said that Mrs. Bradley had said for him because he was the only man there whom she knew. To him she told the story of her relations with Senator Brown. She alleged that two of her children owe their parentage to Senator Brown and that she had named one of them after him. Mrs. Bradley was reluctant to speak of her former husband, but questioning brought out the fact that he now is living in Nevada with a second wife.

Further questioning disclosed the fact that Mrs. Bradley for two years, 1900 to 1902, had served in the capacity of secretary to the Utah State Republican committee, and also at one time was editor of the official organ of the State Federation of Women's Clubs. She declared that she had a sister in the newspaper business in Salt Lake, but that she would not communicate with members of her family because she knew that they would come to her assistance.

Manager Talley, of the Raleigh, was notified of the shooting within two or three minutes after it occurred. He notified Senator Brown's room to ascertain the facts.

Sensor Brown, despite the seriousness and shock of the wound retained consciousness and was perfectly calm and collected. He made no statement to Mr. Talley beyond saying that he had been shot by Mrs. Bradley.

The woman continued in the room while Mr. Talley was attending to Senator Brown, but offered no assistance. Finally, Mr. Talley ordered her to leave the room. She declined with absolute coolness to comply with the order.

"I will remain here," she said, "I am the mother of his two children."

An officer from the first precinct police station placed Mrs. Bradley under arrest. She made no resistance and offered no further explanation of the shooting. She was asked for a statement of the incident, but referred all those who inquired to Senator Sutherland of Utah.

Assumes Office.

Wm. W. Finley, recently chosen as the successor of the late President Samuel Spencer of the Southern railway, assumes the active duties of his office Friday and will make his headquarters in this city. The policies of the late president will be carried out and no material changes in the system or the personnel of the active branch of the road are contemplated by Mr. Finley.

General Shooting Scrape.

Two persons dead, two seriously wounded and two slightly injured is the result of a fight which occurred at Greenville, Miss., Friday Felix Holman, a negro from Arkansas, shot and killed Celina Holman, a negro in a boarding house for negroes. One policeman was killed and another wounded before the murderer was arrested and put in jail.

HE TALKS OUT

Summary of President Roosevelt's Message to Congress.

PLAYS THE TRUST.

And Says They Should Not Be Allowed to Make Campaign Contributions.

Pleads for Army and Navy as Best Agency for Peace.

Other Suggestions.

The message of President Roosevelt read before the second session of the Fifty-ninth Congress, consists of nearly 25,000 words.

Only twenty-five words are devoted to the Panama canal. A special message will be sent congress later dealing with this most absorbing question.

For the first time in many years the message deals more with the past than the future. A feature of the message is the simplified form of spelling and is one of the first official documents given to the public since this abbreviated method was adopted.

His first recommendation is that in future inextinguishable laws be enacted prohibiting corporations from contributing to political campaigns.