

THE KUKLUX.

The Klan at Its Old Work in North Carolina.

Republican Meetings Attacked and the Stars and Stripes Insulted.

The Murder of John W. Stephens—Attempts to Intimidate Judge Settle—The Kuklux Cheering for Greeley as Their Candidate.

From Our Own Correspondent.

DANVILLE, Va., Wednesday, June 26, 1872.

During the month of June, 1870, Senator JOHN W. STEPHENS, of Caswell County, North Carolina, was murdered in the Court-house building (Grand-Jury room) at Yanceyville, while a public meeting in the interests of the Democratic Party was going on, and at the very time while the leader of Democracy in the district, Hon. JOHN KEER, Ex-Judge of the Superior Court, and Ex-Member of Congress, was addressing the meeting in the main hall of the building.

A SYSTEMATIC AFFAIR.

The murder of STEPHENS was the most systematic and well-arranged affair that I ever heard of. It being generally conceded that he was murdered by the Kuklux, and for political reasons, and because of his extensive popularity among the negroes. In fact, I have never heard this denied, while I have heard prominent Democrats applaud the deed.

STEPHENS' murder had been fixed for a long time; all that was needed was an opportunity to carry out the plan.

THE MURDER.

The original plan, which I need not tell you about, failed, and it was finally agreed to do away with him as was done. The Court-room was densely packed with persons of both political faiths. While JOHN KEER was speaking, STEPHENS was invited to the Grand Jury-room, (he then being in the audience up-stairs,) he being a Magistrate, and usually attending to his duties as a Magistrate in the Grand Jury-room. He came down, and by the time he got inside the door a rope was thrown around his neck, he choked to death, a knife sent to his heart, and his throat cut in one or two places. The plot was to leave him in the room where murdered until night, and then carry his body over to the negro school-house, so as to give the appearance that he was murdered by the negroes. But when the Democratic meeting adjourned the cry was, "Where is STEPHENS?" His wife, his brother, and the negroes, were on the look-out, but he could not be found. The court-house was searched, but no traces of STEPHENS. Every room was examined save the Grand Jury room, the key of which not even the officers of the Court knew about. At this stage GEORGE BOWE, a negro whom the Radicals nominated on Saturday, got a crowd of negroes together and informed them that he was under the impression that something foul had been done to their leader STEPHENS. He said it was awful strange that they could not get in the Grand Jury room. He thought it remarkable that the Court officers could not produce the key of that room. Said he, I believe that Mr. STEPHENS has been murdered, and I believe his body is in that building—and all who are willing to stand guard with me here to-night, will now have an opportunity of so doing. So BOWE put a guard around the Court-house, and there they remained until the dawn of day. I have heard that there were over fifty men disguised and mounted with a wagon within a mile of the Court-house, and it is said their business was to remove STEPHENS' body from the Court-house to the Negro School-house when day had fairly broke. BOWE and others proposed to break open the jury-room. After some consultation it was so agreed upon. BOWE broke open either the door or window, I forget which, and there they found the dead body of JOHN W. STEPHENS, cold in death, with the rope around his neck. One of his ankles was broke, which was caused, I think, by a scuffle which ensued, no doubt, between him and his murderers. STEPHENS was a powerful man, and it necessitated an unusual amount of physical force to handle him.

A CORONER'S JURY FARCE.

STEPHENS was buried not far from here, but I have yet to hear the first man deprecate the deed. A Coroner's Jury was empaneled, and that ended the farce of an attempt to bring his murderers to justice. His widow resides just over yonder in that frame-house on the hill-side. He was insured for \$10,000, which has been paid his widow in full. This is all I know about it, and I am of the opinion that it is correct and true. Your correspondent had heard about the same version of this before during the trial of Hon. W. W. HOLDEN, Governor of North Carolina, who was impeached by the Legislature of 1871.

REPUBLICAN MEETINGS.

I had determined to visit Yanceyville at the first opportunity. Sitting in the Exchange Hotel on Maine-street, in this city last week, I happened to pick up a newspaper, called the *New North State*, and reading in its political columns, I saw the announcement that Hon. THOMAS SETTLE, (the same who was President at the last National Republican Convention,) Col. M. F. HENDERSON, GEORGE M. ARNOLD, and others would address the people of Milton and Yanceyville, on Friday, 21st, and Saturday, June 22, 1872. On Friday I took the Richmond train here for Barksdale, Va., where I was to stage from to Milton. Aboard this train I met Judge SETTLE, Col. HENDERSON, and the negro orator, ARNOLD. I had no acquaintance with either of the two former, but having heard ARNOLD here last Fall, I introduced myself. I found him agreeable, well-informed, both in politics and literary matters. He is the son of a once very eminent lawyer of Bourbon County, Kentucky. His skin is as white as that of any man, he has regular features, and auburn hair, high forehead, dresses well, and has all the appearance of a planter or a country lawyer. In addition to this, I found him to be full of wit and natural humor. I learned from Col. —, at Milton, that ARNOLD was universally popular, not only with negroes, who worship him as a leader, but even with the malignant rebels. I asked him what was the reason for his popularity among them. Said he: "He, ARNOLD, is a fluent speaker and writer, and has a strong hold on the affections of the colored people, and we have all to thank him for the good and wholesome advice he gives the negroes, and the bold and manly course he takes in politics. He signs no petitions, and makes a political fight stand upon its merits. Then, again, he is of all the leaders, the most genial and agreeable."

AN OBJECT OF INTEREST.

Arriving at Milton, I found myself quartered at the Gordon House, a dingy hotel on a very antiquated plan. Having, as I presume I do, every appearance of a Yankee, I soon found that I was the object of a considerable attraction. Indeed a crowd gathered about the hotel steps, and were no doubt discussing me. I lasted as a sensation only for a few moments, for there was something of far greater capacity for attention than myself to dim their eyes.

THE STARS AND STRIPES.

Col. HENDERSON had brought with him an American flag, which he proposed should float over the speakers' stand, which had been erected out in the open street. Some colored men began the work of raising the Stars and

Stripes, and your readers can imagine the consternation and bewilderment of the white people when I remind them that this was the first American flag raised here since the close of the war.

DISGUSTED KUKLUX.

Instead of there being a shout of joy and gladness from all who heard it, the whites began to grow ugly and show their contempt in every conceivable way. But the negroes to a man got beneath its folds, and there they stood intending to remain until the meeting should adjourn. At 8 o'clock the meeting was called to order and officers chosen. Judge SETTLE came forward and began speaking. During the delivery of his speech missiles—such as rocks, pieces of brick, rotten eggs and clods of dirt, were thrown in the crowd promiscuously. The Kuklux attempted to scatter the meeting. Rotten eggs were hurled at the flag, but they missed their aim, and fell harmlessly on the crowd, injuring no one, simply disturbing the equanimity of a leading Democrat, who found himself the possessor of the remains of a rotten egg that had scattered its contents on the lapel of his coat. The Kuklux were baffled, but not beaten. Finding that they could not break up the meeting by rocks and rotten eggs, they opened then by throwing out the most insulting remarks they could produce to the speakers, but all was passed by unnoticed. The meeting finally adjourned with three cheers for GRANT, CALDWELL, SETTLE and the Republican Party.

YANCEYVILLE.

Saturday following Judge SETTLE, Col. HENDERSON and ARNOLD proceeded to Yanceyville, by appointment. The meeting was to have been held in Grove's Grove, but the clouds threatening rain it was considered best to hold the meeting in BOTEAL'S warehouse, which he had kindly offered for the occasion.

There were about six hundred people present, and about equally divided politically. The Democrats had been holding a meeting in the Court-house, which was now adjourned, and everybody was flocking to the warehouse, to hear Judge SETTLE and the Republican speakers.

THE MEETING ATTACKED.

Judge SETTLE was the first speaker. He had not proceeded long before the Kuklux began a general organized system of disturbances, such as asking impertinent questions and making boisterous noise. He would not notice them, and they were forced to resort to other measures. One of their members called out to Judge SETTLE, "What were you when secession began?" The Judge replied that he could not see the man who asked the question. This remark caused loud laughter, which had the effect of exasperating the little man, who came close up to the stand and dared the Judge down. This little offer was declined, and the speaker proceeded with his argument. And now the Kuklux found themselves beaten at their own game, so they began a fight among themselves, which consisted in a great deal of swearing, noise and coat-throwing, but no bloodshed—GREELEY was cheered and GRANT well cursed—after which, with only a few exceptions, the Kuklux withdrew from the building, leaving only the Democrats—five or six—and the Republicans to hear the speakers, and everything went on quiet and orderly. Judge SETTLE was born in the adjoining county of Rockingham, educated in the County of Caswell, and finally graduating at Chapel Hill. He is one of the leading white men of the State, and his standing at the bar is second to no man of his profession. His family connections are of the very first order. The enmity toward him is because he has steadily made war on the Kuklux Democracy since 1867.

"REGRETS" OF RESPECTABLE CITIZENS.

Many leading white men called upon Judge SETTLE and assured him that they regretted and condemned the way certain men had acted, but while they condemned it they were morally afraid to publicly denounce them.

GREELEY THE KUKLUX CANDIDATE.

The American flag has been insulted, an attempt made to outrage the person of a citizen only a few miles from his own birth-place, and a plot concocted to break up a Republican meeting in a free country, by the damnable Kuklux, and every one of them hurraing for GREELEY.

C. E. C.