

THE FRONTIER.

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THE DEEP GIVES UP A SECRET.

The body of Barrett Scott has been found and the circumstances surrounding its discovery do not tend very strongly to prove the oft-heard and published expression that "he is alive and well, toasting his shins by some friendly fire-side." No indeed! Those who saw his remains lying frozen upon the ice of the Niobrara river last Sunday morning were easily convinced that he was dead. The rope tied about his neck, almost buried in the flesh, the bruised head and pinioned arms all had a tendency to satisfy their minds. But he was in the hands of his friends. Strong men sat under the over-hanging bluff in the wavering shadows of the campfire sobbing bitterly as they gazed upon the cold and silent figure below them. It was a sad sight, and the stillness of the early morning hours, the feeble light of the waning moon lent intensity to its solemnity. Deep and earnest were the curses that were pronounced upon the unhallowed hands that caused his death and bore him at the midnight hour to that lonely spot for interment beneath the cheerless wave, in the hope that the eye of man might never again behold him. It was almost more than human feeling could endure.

Our citizens who have worked so unremittingly in this search for the last three weeks are deserving of great praise, but the discovery of the body relieves them of but a small portion of their duty. They owe it to the public, to the family of the deceased and to themselves to continue the work with vigor until every guilty man has been embraced by the arm of the law and received his reward.

While we feel that the indignation of our citizens is not apt to result in any personal violence to the suspected guilty parties, there has been considerable talk and **THE FRONTIER** desires to caution the people that nothing of the kind must be done. The murderers deserve hanging, and in many communities would have received their deserts ere this, but the people of this community cannot afford any such luxury. We, as a people, have always advocated allowing the law to take its course and now that must be the guide to our actions in this case. While we admit that no man can view the remains of Barrett Scott, and recall in the presence of his corpse the circumstances leading up to his death and the torture inflicted upon him by the human devils, without feeling the blood boil in his veins, yet all deeds of murder must be left for the other fellows. "The mills of the gods grind slowly but they grind exceeding fine" and in due time the death of Scott will be avenged at the bar of justice.

We believe that the governor should offer a reward for the arrest and conviction of the criminals. He is authorized by statute to do this and should have done it long ago. We believe also that this is a matter for investigation by our supreme court whose hands Scott was in at the time he was assassinated by the mob.

The populists are beginning to deny the charge of murder before it has been directly made. The ghost of Barrett Scott will sit on the stump beside their speakers in next fall's campaign and they will be called upon to explain the co-incidence.

If perchance a republican sheriff had made the laughable mistake of blowing in the people's good money on a spirit-chasing tour to the Missouri river, would the Beacon Light have excused him without a column wallow in the mire of its low English?

The article in last week's *Smudge* purporting to have been written by a woman at Leonis is strictly in accord with the principles of the sheet that gave it publicity. Secret societies have withstood such attacks as that for years and no doubt they will manage to stand up under this latest onslaught. Kautzman may manage to prejudice the ignorant minds but in so doing he injures himself and the better element of society.

The Omaha Bee is to be congratulated upon having such a gentlemanly and shrewd reporter as Mr. Fowler in its employ. When he came into O'Neill to report the Scott murder he was confronted with every obstacle. Our citizens had not forgotten the false position the Bee took upon the Scott matter two years ago and they showed their resentment by turning a cold shoulder to Fowler. He, however, quietly pursued the even

tenor of his way, got the news as best he might, took the right side of the question and maintained it against all comers. By so doing he has made many warm personal friends for himself and incidentally a few for his paper. **THE FRONTIER** congratulates Mr. Fowler upon his ability to distinguish the right from the wrong, the false from the true and upon the courage with which he defends his convictions.

HEMMING, the World-Herald man who was present in O'Neill and reported the earlier happenings of the Scott tragedy, succeeded admirably in making a high grade chump of himself last Sunday. He loosed the cobwebs of his fertile imagination and as they scattered in divers ways with the wavering breeze of public opinion he carefully drew them in and indited over his own signature a two column article in which he undertakes to spread the belief that Scott had been spirited away by his friends. He not only did that but he most outrageously insulted Mrs. Scott and Miss McWhorter by an impotent attempt to impeach their testimony in regard to the capture and events that followed. **THE FRONTIER** is astonished that Hemming should have done this. He knew better. The least that he and his paper can now do in expiation of their libelous folly is to write a two column apology and publicly admit that they have made egregious asses of themselves.

MONDAY'S papers said that Representative Burns, of Lancaster, would offer a resolution Tuesday morning appropriating \$5,000 with which to prosecute the murderers of Barrett Scott. When this fact was learned in O'Neill, the following resolution was drawn up and telegraphed him. It was signed by a large number of our best citizens. The resolution read as follows:

HON. JOSEPH BURNS,
House of Representatives.
Greeting: In the matter of your anticipated resolution appropriating \$5,000 from the funds of the state of Nebraska for the arrest and conviction of the murderers of Barrett Scott, we, the undersigned residents of Holt and Boyd counties, irrespective of party affiliations, regarding our country as our family, hereby express our appreciation of your valuable services by the introduction of said resolution, which immures to the benefit and safety of our country by checking and restraining our young commonwealths from a tendency to lawlessness and utter destruction by further acts of violence at the hands of brutal murderers and more than brutal brigands who are evidently serving under some false god or gods.

The appropriation was not made, although we believe it should have been. The following resolution, however, was introduced and passed:

Whereas, It is apparent to all fair-minded men that Barrett Scott, of Holt county, Nebraska, has been murdered, and

Whereas, It is also apparent that the said murder of said Scott was the result of a deep-laid plan and a foul conspiracy; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the house of representatives, in regular session assembled, do hereby denounce any and all persons who assisted in the conspiracy and participated in the murder of said Scott; and, be it further

Resolved, To the end that speedy justice may be done, that we favor the offering of a liberal reward for the apprehension and conviction of all parties to said conspiracy, as well as all parties aiding, abetting and committing said murder.

The following appeared in Monday's World Herald: "Representative Robertson, of Holt, said that he had, from the information received, been inclined to lean to the theory that Scott had been run out of the county by his friends or those who were intimately connected with him in business transactions. Since the finding of the body, he is satisfied that those who did the deed were people who were afraid of being implicated by the confession of Scott, and who felt that their only safety was in fixing him so he could not talk. Representative Robertson does not believe that the vigilance committee had anything to do with the Scott case, from what he knows of the friendly relations which existed between those composing the vigilantes and Scott. He thinks from what he knows of the condition of affairs that there was no motive to cause the political enemies of Scott to do the deed. He calls attention to one point which he says seems suspicious to him, and bears out his theory, and this is that the searchers, after looking all over the country, all of a sudden and with one impulse, as it were, became convinced that the body would be found in the river." Nice man to represent anybody, this Robertson! The positive manner in which he speaks of the vigilance committee would lead one to believe that he is on very intimate terms with them; probably knows their oath of initiation. The people here know all about the "friendly relation" existing between Scott and this band of assassins. They need no information from sympathizer Robertson. His constituents are ashamed of him. They deny that he represents them, or that they know him. The most ardent pops in Holt county have been forced to drop Robertson's theory. Our citizens were so indignant when they read the expressions of this upstart that they immediately circulated the following, which was freely signed:

To John A. Robertson, House of Representatives, Lincoln, Neb.—Sir: Whereas, as shown by your published interview in the World-Herald of the 21st inst., you avow yourself acquainted

with those comprising the so-called vigilantes in this county, and,

Whereas, We are reliably informed by the president of such committee or association that you are a member in good standing, and,

Whereas, We are of the opinion that the principles and practices of such association and its members are inimicable to the best interests of the peace and well being of our community and that such association and influences totally unfit any person to properly represent any constituency except it be such organization, in such a body as that to which you have been exalted.

Therefore, we, the undersigned electors of your representative district most earnestly and emphatically demand your immediate resignation of the position which you now have the honor to hold.

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