

SAVED BY HIS COOLNESS

Had a Rope About His Neck, but
Defied the Mob.

MAN WHO WAS NOT LYNCHED

the Leading Hangman He Would
Live to See Geese Picking
Grass On His Grave—

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spokester was T. J. Sykes, the tramp came so near being lynched by an angry mob of citizens of Atlanta, Ga., last summer, and only saved himself a remarkable coolness and nerve—a which is not displayed once in a lifetime to an ordinary man. There is some-

naturally interests and mystifies one:

clearly an enigma, and yet there is no
desire on his part to appear as
This now famous tramp hero is about
5 inches, weighs 140, has sandy
ache, is light hair, thin, tapering
and large, clear blue eyes. His case
is of the most remarkable that ever oc-
curred in Georgia, relates the Atlanta Jour-
the day of his trouble a tramp called
the house of Mr. George Crouch, a
r in the northwestern section of the
and asked for bread. The staff of life
given him, and then a trade was made
The tramp

the little daughter went running

the mother gave the alarm, and in a short time the report that a child had assaulted flew rapidly over the city. It was not long before there was a dense crowd of men, armed with rifles, guns and pistols, scouring the city and in search of the fiend. Later in the afternoon officers discovered a thin and gaunt man walking about the city. This was the man. He was thought to be the man had been to the Crough home, and was the answer he gave.

not believe that he had the right man, when Sykes was asked if he would go

his reply was that he would go anywhere as he had "been everywhere and a bit beyond."

A queer citizen of the road was taken to some of the little girl and there he was tied. It looked rather billions for Sykes, he held a tight grip on his courage and y remarked that he was as innocent as who had never seen the city of Colum- The crowd, or at least some of them, ready for the lynching, and a big or ran to a horse which was hitched by and cut the halter from his neck, with a yell he made a dive for Sykes faced it around his neck, while cries "ave him! Hang him!" went up from

will die an innocent man, hanged by

ly ruffian. "If you have any spark of
y you will give me a chance to show
I innocent of a crime which I detest
hor as much as any man."
ing the butcher squarely in the eyes,
did them the words which open this
Standing there on the roadside with
pe around his neck, with not a tremor
his frame, he looked the picture of a
r. Certain death seemed to be staring
in the face, but he never flinched. But
wonderful coolness he read the riot act
edified them to do their worst, declaring
they didn't have the "grit" to come at
me at a time, and that if they did he
wine up the whole "shooting match."

man's innocence, and these began to
up. After a time it was decided to

was carried to jail, quite a crowd followed the wagon, and when the jail was reached it again appeared that the effort to lynch might be renewed. Coolly Sykes told the jailer Phelps:

"I can give me a good gun and I'll take it myself, and don't you doubt it."

A preliminary trial was a remarkable one. There were two sets of witnesses, one swore that they had seen Sykes in the company of the Crouch residence early that morning, and the other that they had seen some man at the Union depot at the time the crime was alleged to have been committed.

that an actual attempt at assault had
made. Stokes was bound over, but his

sykes was bound over, but his
ey, Mr. H. V. Hargett, went out
the citizens and soon succeeded in
ing a subscription bond. Men who had
the truly wonderful bravery displayed
friendless man did not believe that
ld be guilty of the crime charged, and
were willing to back their judgment
their signatures to the bond for his
ance at court.

on the bond was signed and Sykes was
nd he thanked the gentlemen who had
nded him and told them they need
hemselves no uneasiness, he would be
t when wanted. He went right out
egan to hunt work, and succeeded in

here he has worked every day when
was anything to do ever since and it

credit went Mr. C. W. Chears, well known in Atlanta and throughout the state, that he is a faithful man.

At the week the grand jury failed to find a bill against him and he was declared Sykes was the picture of happiness and

"I told some of those duffers that I would see them later, and I will. I expect to stay just as long as I want to, and I want of those frisky fellows to try any with me and we will have a little fun enough."

"We does it feel to be lynched?"

"I have never feared death," Sykes said, "I suppose I was, about

harmless a living creature, though a
pain have done me, his fellow

No, I have *not* been—kin folks for instance, I was not bothered about where going to land if they did put me out way. I was not thinking about that. Thinking about what a disgrace it be for an honest man to be yanked off his hand-sawed specimens of humanity, it is all right to be blown up in a run over by an express wagon, starved out of a bit of charity, but I didn't e to be sent across the river by a of such men as charged upon me that I have 'no much respect for my good for anything like that. I had the goodness of knowing that I had never d a living creature, had never been

the feeling of really being almost at the end of my earthly career did not give

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