

SHOT DOWN ON MAIN STREET.

Editor Gonzales, Un- armed, Laid Low by Jas. H. Tillman.

NOW AT POINT OF DEATH

Desperate Deed Was Totally Un-
expected and a Surprise
to All.

FULL ACCOUNT OF TRAGEDY WHICH SHOCKED COMMUNITY

Mr. Gonzales Had Said Nothing to the
Man Who Assaulted Him—The
Story as Told by The News
and Courier's Represen-
tative Here.

Mr. N. G. Gonzales, editor of The State, came to his office yesterday morning a picture of health and went about his duties as usual. At noon he went over to the capitol, having just dictated the editorial which appears today under the caption "Reciprocity With Cuba," a subject next his heart. About 1:30 o'clock he came back to the office, read over the typewritten pages, and then started home to lunch, walking. He spoke pleasantly to several persons on his way to the corner of Gervais street. He never passed the corner. He now lies at the Columbia hospital at death's door, the victim of a bullet from a deadly magazine pistol whose trigger was pulled by James H. Tillman, lieutenant governor of South Carolina. With the suddenness of a thunderclap from a cloudless sky Tillman drew his weapon and sent the bullet on its deadly mission. Mr. Gonzales was unarmed and said nothing to Tillman.

But the State's force for obvious reasons will not write the story of the deed. By courtesy of the Charleston News and Courier the full report of that paper's Columbia correspondent, as it will appear therein, is given.

The account follows:

THE FULL STORY

Mr. N. G. Gonzales, Editor of The State, is at the Columbia hospital in a critical condition as a result of a serious pistol wound inflicted by Mr. James H. Tillman, lieutenant governor of South Carolina.

The shooting occurred on Main street, just at the intersection of Gervais street, in full view of the State capitol. It was an awful tragedy in broad daylight and upon the most frequented street and corner in Columbia.

The bullet which pierced through one of the most distinguished editors of the entire South may end that brilliant life but if the best of surgery, the best of care and the most ardent of prayers and wishes avail for aught, that life ought to be saved.

A SHOCK.

It was just a few moments before 2 o'clock when the cry was passed along the streets that "Jim Tillman had shot N. G. Gonzales." It was a shocking and a startling announcement. It went like a thrill through all Columbia and there was a rush towards the scene of the tragedy to learn the facts and the condition of the distinguished editor. The office of The State is on the same block as the scene of the shooting and it took but a few moments for a great throng to assemble in front of the newspaper office.

TWO PISTOLS

The excitement and the indignation on the streets was intense. Policeman Boland immediately after the shooting arrested Lieut. Gov. Tillman and took him to police headquarters where he was relieved of two pistols—the one with which he shot Editor Gonzales and a second large revolver of 28 calibre. From the police station he was taken to the county jail where he is tonight in full protection of the officers.

There was no conflict and the only attenuated cause for the shooting by Lieut. Gov. Tillman is that during the recent primary election Editor Gonzales opposed Lieut. Gov. Tillman in his race for governor and in that editorial opposition Editor Gonzales had been severe in his opposition.

THE PROBABLE CAUSE

During the progress of that campaign Editor Gonzales in his fight to defeat Mr. Tillman had editorially called him a debauchee, "blackguard," and in fact denounced him as a "criminal candidate" and a proven liar. It was this and other such editorial expressions it is supposed that goaded Mr.

Tillman to the desperate deed of today. This was in August last and since the first primary, August 26, 1902, Editor Gonzales has had nothing to say about Mr. Tillman, except to comment on the result of the primary.

Editor Gonzales and Lieut. Gov. Tillman have passed each other in full view since the opening of the present session of the general assembly on Tuesday but there had been no encounter, no word passed, no nod or recognition of any kind and today it came like a thunderclap out of a peaceful sky when the shot was fired. It was absolutely unexpected and all thought that whatever soreness there was as a result of the primary of last August had passed away, but it seems otherwise.

THE STORY.

As to the shooting that is a simple story. Lieut. Gov. Tillman met Mr. Gonzales on the street, drew his pistol and fired into him. There was no fuss or feathers but when at close range Mr. Tillman opened fire, wiped his pistol on his coat sleeve, took aim as if to fire a second time changed his mind and let his pistol fall to his side. Lieut. Gov. Tillman was perfectly cool and collected, sober and unexcited to all appearances. Mr. Gonzales was unarmed. The shock from the magazine pistol paralyzed him and as Mr. Gonzales saw the deadly weapon aimed at him, perhaps for a fatal bullet, he cried out "Shoot again, you coward." Mr. Gonzales was in no way armed and had no pistol. If his life be spared, perhaps that expression which may have spared the second bullet was the magic of the occasion. Mr. Gonzales is a man of robust health, strong physique, and active, all of which are in his favor.

As he fell against the nearby transfer station to steady himself Mr. James Sims and Mr. Gamewell LaMotte came rushing up and gave Mr. Gonzales support and helped him to the business office of the newspaper which Mr. Gonzales had labored so hard and so faithfully to establish and make a leading factor in the affairs of his State. There with his head resting on a bundle of newspapers he requested that his wife be sent for and to stricken friends, most of whom were in tears, he told the story of the tragedy. Dr. B. W. Taylor, Dr. P. D. Kendall, Dr. Philipot and Dr. J. W. Hancock were soon at his side and in a few moments there were half a dozen or more physicians doing all they could to save life. It was promptly decided that the only hope was to perform an operation and get the true course of the bullet and try to repair the serious but then unknown damage.

TILLMAN SILENT

Lieut. Gov. Tillman was asked for a statement but said he had been advised by counsel to say absolutely nothing and he followed their advice to the letter.

THE MEETING

There appears to be no conflict of testimony as to the essential features of the tragedy. Mr. N. G. Gonzales was going home alone from his office to his lunch. To go home he had to go down Main street to Gervais and then turn east and go down that street. Mr. Gonzales was as usual walking.

Lieut. Gov. Tillman left the State house just after adjourning. He had presided at the senate's session and remained around the senate chamber for a while. As he came out of the State house he was accompanied by Senator Faibid of Beaufort, and Senator Brown of Darlington, and he was joined on his way up town by Congressman-elect Wyatt Alken and former Representative Dominick.

The meeting was just at the turn of Main and Gervais streets on the north side of the street, just at the street car transfer station. There was no encounter, no fist fighting, no laying out of hands. Lieut. Gov. Tillman, the testimony now all seems to be, simply drew his revolver and fired into Editor Gonzales. Most of those who saw the affair say there was nothing said until after the shot. One of Lieut. Gov. Tillman's escorts says he thinks Mr. Tillman said, "I received your message" and then fired. He is not certain on this but thinks so. The other escort of Mr. Tillman says he did not hear anything and did not see the affair but thinks he would have heard any words as he was in the very midst of the affair. Two or three others say they heard nothing until after the firing of the pistol.

MR. GONZALES' STATEMENT

Mr. Gonzales himself gave a perfectly plain and explicit statement of the whole affair prior to being put under the anaesthetics and he was very emphatic in saying that he had not sent any message to Lieut. Gov. Tillman at any time and that Mr. Tillman said nothing until after he had fired and then after the shot he said something about taking him (Gonzales) at his word. Mr. Gonzales took this to mean that Mr. Tillman told him that he was settling old issues face to face with him, Mr. Gonzales is certain that nothing was said until after the shot was fired. After the first shot Mr. Gonzales tottered to the transfer station, against which he leaned. Tillman was still pointing his pistol at him, whereupon Mr. Gonzales said "Shoot again, you coward." Then Lieut. Gov. Tillman lowered his pistol and walked away.

THE WOUND

There was only one shot fired and that entered the right side between the eighth and ninth ribs and passed through the fore part of the body coming out just above the free border of the ribs. At first it was thought the bullet had gone through the body from the front to the back but it did not, as it went through the fore part of the body, entering above the vest pocket on the right and coming out below and behind the vest pocket on the left side. The bullet was picked up on the pavement and it seems to be bright and new and in no way battered. It was a bullet from what is said to be a long range German make magazine pistol.

AFTER THE SHOOTING

Tillman after the shooting walked out into the middle of the street where he was arrested and taken to the station house on Gervais street. He was met there by several of his friends but said nothing. The police took from him the long range magazine pistol which had one empty cartridge and a large Colt's revolver.

Just as soon as Mr. Gonzales was taken into his office Dr. W. J. Murray arrived and made the wounded man comfortable. Dr. Griffith and Dr. Coward were the first to give medical assistance and gave an injection to relieve the intense pain. Gradually a pallor stole over the face of the stricken man but he seemed anxious to talk and to give the story of the shooting. He answered all inquiries and inquired particularly about the members of his

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SHOT DOWN ON MAIN STREET.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

devoted family, all of whom had by this time arrived.

TAKEN TO HOSPITAL.

Dr. B. W. Taylor, the eminent physician, was placed in charge and it was promptly decided that an operation would have to be performed. Arrangements were made to take Mr. Gonzales to the Columbia hospital. He stood the trip elegantly and after being taken into the building his pulse registered 72, and at no time had it gone below 60.

THE OPERATION.

It was exactly two hours after the shooting that Mr. Gonzales was placed on the operating table.

The operation lasted about two hours. The patient bore the operation well and after being put in bed had a pulse of 115-120 and respirations of 31. The operation was done by Dr. LeGrand Guerry, assisted by Dr. Lindsay Peters and Dr. J. H. McIntosh. Dr. D. S. Pope gave the anaesthetic. Dr. B. W. Taylor was chief consultant, with Dr. C. W. Barron and half a dozen other Columbia physicians were present, among them Dr. J. W. Babcock, Dr. Gibbs, Dr. Philpot, Dr. Watson, Dr. Griffith and Dr. Fishburne.

Before the operation Mr. Gonzales spoke to the physicians about himself and made some suggestions.

A STATEMENT.

In a statement Mr. Gonzales made it plain that he sought no difficulty, that to avoid a collision with Mr. Tillman who was walking with two senators he cut across the pavement and passed by without touching or speaking, and that Mr. Tillman pulled his pistol or had it in his hand and fired Mr. Gonzales spoke to Tillman and told him "shoot again, you coward." Mr. Gonzales said he saw Mr. Tillman two days before and Mr. Tillman saw him. As to sending any message to Mr. Tillman he said he had not done so and that he was positive that Mr. Tillman fired before he said a word.

The most serious wound is the cutting of the transverse colon for about an inch and a half, almost severing the intestine. This and the three other wounds of the intestine were carefully sewed. After the operation the physicians reported that the patient stood the ordeal beautifully and that the operation was as successful as it could be.

All during the afternoon messages came from all parts of the State inquiring into the condition of Mr. Gonzales and what hope could be offered was dispatched.

FROM EYE WITNESSES.

There is apparently no desire on the part of the eye witnesses to talk of the tragedy for publication. Senator Geo. W. Brown of Durlington, who was walking on the inside of the three and nearest to Mr. Gonzales said strange as it may appear, he did not see the shooting and knew but little. Just at the time he had turned to the side to speak to a lady friend who was passing and then while turned he heard the pistol fire. His friend ran and he tried to stop and assist her. He heard no words and went off to calm his friend who was much excited. He heard nothing pass between the two men but did not see the affair, and of course Senator Brown is absolutely candid in his statement.

Senator Talbird, who was one of the party walking along, does not care to talk for publication and says he heard Mr. Tillman say, "I got your message," and that he thinks the shot was fired after he used the expression. Both Senator Brown and Senator Talbird said they were so much surprised and amazed that they hardly realized what had happened but there was no quarrel or fight.

Congressman-elect Wyatt Aiken with Mr. Dominick did not hear any words and thinks he was near enough to have heard, while Mr. Dominick thinks they were a bit too far. Mr. Dominick thinks he and Mr. Aiken were as far as the Murray Drug company, about half a block away.

Arlidge Lyke, who attends to the fruit stand in the transfer station, was standing in the doorway and saw the tragedy. He saw what happened but says he heard nothing. He seemed to be impressed with the long blue steel pistol. He does not think there was anything at all said, prior to the shooting.

Mr. Sims, who was first to reach Mr. Gonzales first heard the pistol shot.

OF GREAT INTEREST.

The intense interest taken in every phase of the tragedy enacted in Columbia yesterday afternoon is probably unparalleled in the history of the State, not being surpassed perhaps even by that which caused the death of Capt. F. W. Dawson, editor of The News and Courier. The prominence of Tillman, as an individual, as well as because he was a son of the late Congressman George D. Tillman and a nephew of Senator Tillman, and the prominence of a different character of Mr. Gonzales, editor of one of the most influential daily papers in the State, caused telegrams to come north, east and west asking for the fullest particulars. The fact was recalled that George D. Tillman, father of Lieut. Gov. Tillman, was a friend of Mr. Gonzales and encouraged and supported him in his efforts to put The State upon a firm financial basis and to make it a paper of prominence and influence in the affairs of the State. Mr. Gonzales, though his editorials, standing as representative of the thought, in a large part, of the people of the State, was known largely throughout the country, and as the two men represented, in some degree, two opposite sides in political affairs in the State as well as in almost every respect antagonistic principles, it was perhaps but natural that all over the country people desired to have the fullest report as to the circumstances of the tragedy as well as those leading up to it and the thought and feelings of people in reference to it.

At midnight the physicians in charge stated that Mr. Gonzales' condition was much more satisfactory than they had hoped for. His pulse was 120, respiration 30 and temperature 99.1-5. He roused near midnight and asked about his condition and inquired as to others. His condition is altogether satisfactory but it will be 72 hours before the danger of peritonitis will have passed and until that period is past the physicians can only say there is hope and a good fighting chance.

SOME EXTRACTS.

In lieu of any statement from Lieut. Gov. Tillman and in full justice to him, extracts are made from the available editorials in The State which Lieut. Gov. Tillman's friends urge as the provocation for the tragedy and his justification.

August 25, 1902, the day before the primary.

"It was necessary that Jim Tillman who two years ago succeeded in getting himself elected lieutenant-governor because the majority of voters did not know his character should this year have that character made known when his candidacy for governor menaced South Carolina with supreme injury and disgrace. The interest of the public having been concentrated in 1900 on the fight for the governorship he literally lied his way into the secondary office, and it was somebody's duty to stand forth and show his falsity and depravity. The State senate had missed its opportunity and resigned its right to do this, and on the hus-

ings a new rule of courtesy had been adopted whereby the worst and most indefensible man who ever sought the Democratic nomination in South Carolina was exempted from a custom of criticism which had not spared the best of gubernatorial candidates since the primary system was adopted. Therefore it was obvious that if the press were not to undertake it the duty would not be performed, that the name and method which had won at the last might win again and South Carolina be cursed with blackguardism, debauchery and dishonesty in her highest and most responsible office.

"It happened that The State possessed larger proofs of the criminality of James H. Tillman than any other newspaper, and, although it would have preferred—for tactical reasons, and knowing the verbal unpleasantness of an issue with a blackguard—to second the efforts of another journal, rather than take the initiative its knowledge of the case prompted it, after months of reticence and the actual opening of the campaign to bring out the facts it held in store. For this reason the criminal candidate has had an excuse to concentrate his fire on The State, ignoring all the other journals attacking him but it may console those who read this an unfortunate to reflect that he would doubtless do this even if The State had only trailed behind other newspapers in declaring his unfitness—inasmuch as he has persistently attributed to The State the charges of its contemporaries. He thinks there are votes in such a policy—and there are some, no doubt—but the masses of Democracy in South Carolina are not so much concerned about the source of the charges as their truth, and Jim Tillman's silence has confined their truth. He has underrated the sense of patriotism of a majority of former Reformers in imagining that they would vote for a scoundrel because his name was Tillman or because The State opposed him."

"The issue once made, it has developed into an issue of the press of South Carolina against fraud and falsehood in high office—and thus it remains for the voters to pass judgment upon. One by one the newspapers have swung into line, until out of 11 daily journals in South Carolina 10 have pronounced against Jim Tillman. These newspapers, listed by cities, are as follows:

- 'Anderson, The Daily Mail
- 'Charleston, The Evening Post
- 'Columbia, The Evening Record.
- 'Columbia, The State.
- 'Florence, The Daily Times.
- 'Greenville, The Daily News.
- 'Greenwood, The Daily Index
- 'Spartanburg, The Daily Herald
- 'Spartanburg, The Evening Journal.
- 'Sumter, The Daily Item"

August 23, 1902, The State said:

"As one of the public prosecutors of James H. Tillman, in behalf of South Carolina's honor and welfare, this newspaper is proud of the enmity he manifests against it although in fairness to a number of its contemporaries which have so materially aided in bringing this issue to justice, The State could wish their services were also recognized."

Sept. 3, 1902, after the election, The State said:

"Jim Tillman has made what our local contemporary describes as a little stage play' in offering to resign his office of lieutenant governor if the editor will go to him and call him 'a liar and a blackguard or a coward.' The editor of The State is not playing in a melodrama and has no taste for it. In his paper he has called Jim Tillman what he was, and what, in public interest, it was necessary to call him and what he said about him he has proved."

"If any grievance exists it is not on the part of Mr. Gonzales, who proudly admits the election has given him full satisfaction. Therefore it would be quite superfluous as well as stale and cheap to do the DeCamp act over again after the curtain had been hung down."

A. K.