mouth. One of the deputies rounding the house at that moment, declared that Mrs. Lowman picked up an axe and started to her daughter's assistance. This deputy, Nollie Robinson, shot the mother dead.

Clarence and Demon Lowman, hearing the screams and shots, rushed to the house. Demon secured a revolver and Clarence a shotgun. According to two deputy sheriffs, Demon was at all times in front of the house exchanging shots with them. A few minutes later Sheriff Howard was killed in the rear of the house by pistol and shotgun bullets.

Bertha, Demon and Clarence Lowman were arrested and rushed to Columbia for safe-keeping. Demon had been wounded badly and Bertha and Clarence critically, and were not expected to live. Twelve days later the three were brought back to Aiken and in an atmosphere tense with hostility and mob threats were hastily tried and perfunctorily defended by lawyers assigned by the Court. The two boys were condemned to death and Bertha Lowman to life imprisonment. The Judge in an extraordinary charge to the jury eulogized the dead sheriff at length and closed with an apology for the white lawyers assigned to defend the Lowmans, declaring that "none of them wanted to do it."

Forty-eight hours after the shooting, officers went to the deserted Lowman home and claimed they found two jugs of whiskey buried behind a chicken coop. Sam Lowman was thereupon charged with possession of the liquor and sentenced to two years in the chain gang.

A Negro lawyer of Columbia, N. J. Frederick, was so outraged by the farcical trial of the Lowmans that of his own accord he appealed the case to the State Supreme Court of South Carolina. In October, 1926, he obtained reversal of the convictions and order for new trial. Mr. Frederick at his own expense retained a white attorney, L. G. Southard of Spartanburg, to assist in defending the Lowmans. The new trials were begun October 5, 1926. The two attorneys successfully contended that since the sheriffs invading the Lowman home had at no time given notice they were officers of the law, they were in fact the guilty ones, the Lowmans being entitled as citizens to defend their home. A motion for a directed verdict of "not guilty" was granted by Judge Samuel Lanham in the case of Demon Lowman. Judge Lanham ruled that the cases of Bertha and Clarence must go to the jury. Demon was immediately rearrested on a charge of assault and battery with intent to kill, and recommitted to jail.

Plans were at once made to lynch the prisoners that night. The plotters, according to the evidence obtained by the N. A. A. C. P., and sent to Governor McLeod of South Carolina, met in the office of a prominent attorney of Aiken who had recently been elected to the State Legislature.

Sheriff Nollie Robinson, according to his story, went to the jail about 3 A. M. on the morning of October 8 and there, with the jailer, Rupert W. Taylor, was overpowered by the mob which seized the prisoners. Affidavits and other information gathered by the N. A. A. C. P. and confirmed by the New York World show that Sheriff Robinson and certain of his deputies and other peace officers turned the prisoners over to the mob and actually participated in the lynching. The fourteen-year-old Clarence Lowman, it is reported, jumped from the automobile carrying him to the lynching scene. He was shot and recaptured. He was tied by a rope to the rear of the automobile and dragged, so that no tell-tale blood might stain the car.

Some 2,000 people are reported to have attended the public murder. The three prisoners were told to run, and a volley of shots were fired into their backs. Clarence and Demon Lowman fell dead. Bertha, wounded, crawled on the ground in agony, pleading for her life. A number of shots were fired into the squirming figure before one ended her life.

A coroner's jury and later the Grand Jury rendered the usual verdict that the victims had met death at the hands of parties unknown.

The Assistant Secretary, went to Aiken for the N. A. A. C. P., with an understanding with the New York World that they would be interested in information obtained, found and corroborated the facts recited above. Moreover, he obtained the names and addresses of the leaders of the mob with facts showing the part each had played in the lynching. These facts, on his return to New York, Mr. White forwarded in a seven-page letter to Governor McLeod, and the evidence he gave the New York World. This newspaper at once sent Oliver H. P. Garrett to Aiken and for 30 days the World carried front-page dispatches as well as editorials and cartoons on the lynching.

The World's bold and courageous action stirred the press of South Carolina, foremost in condemnation of the lynching being the Columbia Record of which R. Charlton Wright is editor. The