

ANOTHER OUTRAGEOUS ASSAULT.

Brutal Attack of a Colored Man on a Young Woman in Carroll County.

[Reported for the Baltimore Sun.]

The neighborhood of Mt. Airey, Carroll county, was thrown into excitement on Saturday afternoon by the intelligence of a criminal assault having been perpetrated upon Mrs. Carrie V. Knott, wife of John Knott, by a colored man named Townsend Cook. The Knotts live in a small two-story frame house on the county road leading from Mt. Airey to Watersville, and about two miles from the former place. The family consists of Mr. and Mrs. Knott and a child thirteen months old. The husband is employed as a hand on his father's farm, whose residence is about one mile away. At the time of the assault upon Mrs. Knott her husband was at work with his father. Mrs. Knott was seen by a SUN reporter Sunday at the residence of her father-in-law, Alexander Knott.

Mrs. Knott gave the story of the assault as follows: "It was nearly four o'clock Saturday afternoon when I was surprised at seeing a colored man push open the back door and walk in. He had a club in his hand. He asked me for something to eat, and I gave him two rolls, when he asked for a drink. I told him I had no water, but handed him a tin cup, saying he might go to the spring for it. The first thing I knew he struck me over the head with the club, and threw the bread and tin cup on the floor. He then choked me, and said if I hollered he would kill me. I knew no more until I recovered from the blow, and found that the man had disgraced me. When he got up to go he said: 'Must I kill you?' I said, 'For the Lord's sake don't kill me!' He said he would kill me if I told on him, and after asking me how to go to the railroad he left, going out the way he came. I at once went to the house of Mr. Pinkney Davis and told him what had been done."

Acting upon the description given by Mrs. Knott, Mr. Davis and Constable Phillip Detrick found Cook at the home of his mother, on the farm of Justice George A. Davis. He stoutly denied having been at Mrs. Knott's. He was taken to her house by Justice Davis and the constable, where Mrs. Knott identified him by a small protuberance or wart on the lid of the right eye. Cook told a story of his whereabouts during the afternoon, but upon investigation it was found to be almost wholly untrue. Justice Davis heard the evidence in the case in the house of Mrs. Knott in the presence of herself and husband, the prisoner and a number of residents of the neighborhood. Several demanded that Cook should be lynched on the spot, but moderation prevailed, and the justice was permitted to commit him for the action of the Carroll county authorities. Constable Detrick, Mr. Pinkney Davis, Thomas Hatfield and Emanuel Crawford took Cook in charge, and he was kept all night at Mr. Davis's house, a few hundred yards from the home of the Knotts. About daylight Sunday Cook was removed to Constable Detrick's house, near Mt. Airey, where he was given breakfast, and then transferred to the jail at Westminster.

Dr. B. H. Todd attended Mrs. Knott. He said she had received a very severe blow on the left side of the head, causing contusion, and sufficient to stun her for awhile. He found the muscles of the neck severely strained from choking, and the neck discolored by the man's fingers. There were also other evidences of the man having accomplished his purpose.

Cook is about 20 years old, and has a bad reputation. He was raised in the neighborhood. Mrs. Knott is 25 years old and her husband 22. She was formerly of Liberty, Frederick county.

Cook and his captors reached Westminster about 11 o'clock Sunday morning, while the residents were at morning church, and being in a closed two-horse carriage the prisoner attracted no attention. The fact of his arrival was not known until after he was safely lodged in jail. Then there was some excitement, but no other feeling than that the law should be allowed to take its course. There were rumors that a crowd of lynchings might be expected at night from the vicinity of the outrage, but it is clear that it is only idle talk among a few. Cook denies his guilt, and when seen in jail was perfectly cool and seemed entirely unconcerned. He is about 5 feet 8 inches high, stoutly and strongly built, light color, with heavy features and an ugly leer, but not stolid and brutal looking.

Constable Detrick says that he could see the prints of many feet at the point on the road where he would have been intercepted Saturday night had he attempted to take Cook to jail. The Westminster jail is a strong building and Sheriff Shower a determined man, so that it would not be very easy for a mob to get at the prisoner if there was a disposition to lynch the fellow.