

Prisoners at the Bar:

~~Have been tried~~

~~and convicted by a jury of your peers~~  
~~in this Court~~

At a former term of this Court you were tried and convicted, by a jury of your peers, of the highest private crime known to our laws. Since that time, by an appeal to the Supreme Court, your case has been heard by that august tribunal. The action of this Court has been reviewed and its judgment confirmed. You have had, from first to last, the benefit of learned and able counsel, who have persistently and skillfully conducted your defence. Every shield which the mercy of the law provides has been thrown before you. Every stronghold which the accidents of evidence or of legal procedure afford has been ~~abruptly~~ contested. But it is all of no avail - The proof of your guilt is too evident and damning, the circumstances of your crime

too gross and flagrant to per-  
 mit the subtleties of legal specu-  
 lation to shield you from ~~pun-~~  
 ishment - You stand here a-  
 gain, after the highest Tribunal  
 having cognizance of your cause  
 has spoken to receive the penal-  
 penalty of the law which you have  
 violated - <sup>It is your duty to inquire, what</sup> \* As the instrument of  
 if anything, you have to say why sentence  
 the law in the promulgation of this  
 of death should not be <sup>reversed upon</sup>  
 sentence, it is my duty to bid you  
<sup>you</sup> to prepare for death. The uncertain-  
 ty which ordinarily surrounds human  
 life is in your case changed now  
 into a moral certainty of early death.  
 Do not delude yourselves with the hope of  
 pardon commutation or reprieve.  
 The zeal of counsel or the partiality  
 of friends may hold before your  
 minds seductive pictures of ex-  
 ecutive clemency. Do not be de-  
 ceived. There is not in your case  
 a single one of those features, which

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ordinarily appeal to and sometimes  
merit and receive executive clem-  
ency. You are man of ma-  
ture years and yet with faculties  
unimpaired by age. You are man  
of undoubted sanity and of at  
least ordinary capacity. Your  
crime was deliberate and in-  
spired by passion. Your previous  
deeds speak of violence and crime  
and are voiceless <sup>and mute</sup> ~~for~~ good in your  
behalf. They bring no burden of  
good deeds to plead in extenua-  
tion of your fault. They afford no  
promise or reasonable hope  
of a better future should mercy  
prevail. Added to these considera-  
tions is the history and character of  
your crime. Who that traces the ~~high~~ cir-  
cumstances of that chill winter night, when in  
the calm and quiet of ~~the~~ earth with the  
thousand eyes of night looking ~~on~~

down in warning and reproof -  
 you violated that primal ordinance  
 of human society - "Thou shalt  
 not kill," - murdering a feeble  
 and innocent old man and  
 mutilating his form with an  
 unheard of barbarity, - bringing  
 even the bloodthirsty instincts of  
 savage beasts to ~~complete~~ <sup>fulfill</sup>  
 the enmity of your brutal ~~and~~  
 hate, and complete the mutilation  
 which nature had denied you  
 the means of committing -  
 Who that looks back through the  
 history of that night can feel  
 that your release would in  
 any wise comport with the  
 safety of society?

Let men then urge you not to de-  
ceive yourself with false hopes.

Accept the fact which reason for-  
bids that you should doubt - and  
give your energies to a preparation  
for that eternity whose exists are  
just before you now, whose waters  
touch your feet. Address your pray-  
ers to that Judge who knows the  
truth of every issue of fact and in  
whose court there is no error of law.

Whose wisdom <sup>sees</sup> the weakness of our  
frail nature, can trace acts to causes  
hidden from human ken, who from  
his very strength can rightly estimate  
and pity our weakness, and whose  
mercy broad and free is sufficient  
for all.

As the instrument of human  
justice it is my duty to pass upon you  
this sentence -

It is ordered by the court that you  
 Wm B Parker and Alfred Silvers  
 be taken hence by the Sheriff of Guilford  
 County, and by him safely kept  
 in the common jail of said County  
 where you came, until Friday the  
 27th day of October next: That  
 upon said day between the hours  
 of 12 o'clock ~~noon~~ and  
 3 o'clock P.M. you be taken by  
 said Sheriff from your respective  
 places of confinement in said jail  
 to the place of your execution there-  
 in, and that you be there and there  
 hanged by the neck until you are  
 dead - And may God have  
 mercy on your souls -

The Sheriff of Guilford  
 County is hereby charged with the  
 execution of this sentence -

State

W. G. Dutkes

Alfred Gilman

Centene

Health Centene

By T.

Rec'd from

Organization

or forward -